

LOK SABHA DEBATES **(English Version)**

Third Session
(Eleventh Lok Sabha)



(Vol. VIII contains Nos. 21 and 22)

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
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(English Version)

Thursday, December 19, 1996/ Agrahayana 23, 1918 (Saka)

<u>Sol/Line</u>	<u>For</u>	<u>Read</u>
5/14 (from below)	You	Your
59/13(from below)	Shri Diler Kishan-	Shri Kishan Lal Diler
	Lal	
137/6 (from below)	Shri Guman Mal-	Justice Guman Mal Lodha
	Lodha	
252/6 (from below)	Add 'I' before the	
	Sentence.	
304/1	Delete (Translation)	

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LOK SABHA

Thursday, December 19, 1996/Agrahayana 28,
1918 (Saka)

(The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock)

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

OBITUARY REFERENCE

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members, I have to inform the House with a deep sense of sorrow of the passing away of one of our former colleagues, Shri Kanhaiyalal Bherulal Malvia.

Shri Kanhaiyalal Bherulal Malvia was a Member of Second Lok Sabha representing Shajapur parliamentary constituency of Madhya Pradesh during 1957-62.

A social and political worker, Shri Malvia worked hard for the removal of many a social evil and also took an active part in the removal of untouchability. He devoted his whole life for the welfare of the poor and the down-trodden.

Shri Kanhaiyalal Bherulal Malvia passed away on 27th September, 1996 at Indore at the age of 69 years.

We deeply mourn the loss of this friend and I am sure the House will join me in conveying our condolences to the bereaved family.

The House may now stand in silence for a short while as a mark of respect to the deceased.

11.02 hrs.

(The Members then stood in silence
for a short while.)

[English]

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (Hooghly) : What has happened in Mumbai day before yesterday is not only serious...

SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA (Andaman and Nicobar Islands) : I have given a notice for an Adjournment Motion.

MR. SPEAKER : Let us hear the Leader of the Opposition first.

[Translation]

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE (Lucknow) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, just now, we have made a obituary reference, but joy and sorrow are interrelated. We have got a good news from Lucknow. It is related with the verdict of Allahabad High Court. Allahabad High Court has quashed the proclamation of imposing President's Rule and suspending Legislature Assembly for an indefinite period in Uttar Pradesh...(Interruptions).. and

directed the Government for taking further necessary action.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, this proclamation was made by the Union Government. At that time we had warned that it was an illegal step. When this matter was raised before you, you also said that the case was subjudiced. Now the matter has been decided in the court. We have won, we want decision of this House also. These Bills are worthless now. I ask the Union Government to resign. After the elections, the constitution was killed, the democracy was killed and the Article 356 was misused. All though all the constituents of the United Front Government oppose the Article 356, but when the question of depriving B.J.P. from forming Government was considered, they all forgot their manifestos. Today you are lost and you should accept your defeat. Further, you should not block the way of a popular Govt.'s formation in U.P. Do something, so that the Union Govt. is not allowed to run then the Government here, in the Centre may also collapse.

[English]

SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA : I have given a notice for an Adjournment Motion.

MR. SPEAKER : I have received your notice. We will take it up after Question Hour.

SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA : Sir, Kindly allow me. I have always remained a disciplined Member, but with a heavy heart, I must draw the attention of this House to the fact that since September the entire development work in Andaman and Nicobar Islands has been stopped.

No development work and no construction work can be done there because of the ban order issued by the Ministry of Environment and Forests on collection of sand and stone.

MR. SPEAKER : I understand that.

SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA : So, a serious situation has arisen and more than 20,000 people have become jobless. Under such conditions, I think this House should take a note of it, because we do not have an Assembly or anything there. On a number of occasions I raised this issue and you had also given a direction to the Government twice on this matter. But no reaction has come from the Central Government so far...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : This is not Zero Hour.

SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA : Sir, I have always remained a disciplined Member. The Central Government has not done anything so far. So, I seek your protection...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : This is Question Hour.

[Translation]

KUMARI UMA BHARATI (Kharajpur) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I, too have to raise a issue relating to several murders took place in Ghaziabad, Hamirpur and Barabanki in U.P.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : You want to convert everything into Zero Hour!

SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA : Sir, Andaman and Nicobar Islands is a remote, isolated and backward area. The island area being a Union Territory, it is the responsibility of the Central Government to provide a good governance there.

MR. SPEAKER : This is not the way. Shri Bhakta, I have understood the seriousness. Please take your seat.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Bhakta, I fully understand your sentiment. I have informed the hon. Minister to be here in the House at 12 o'clock and make a statement on that issue. I have already given him a direction.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Now, Question No. 401, Shrimati Bhavna Chikhalia.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : This is not Zero Hour. How can you convert Question Hour into Zero Hour?

(Interruptions)

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES (Nalanda) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Allahabad High Court has already set aside the President's rule in Uttar Pradesh.

MR. SPEAKER : I think Shri Vajpayee has already said about it.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : Sir, he has only said that the Government should act. But what is the Government's response? It should not be delayed by a second.

MR. SPEAKER : No; please take your seat.

Shri Shivraj Singh Chauhan, please ask the question now.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

11.09 hrs.

[Translation]

Sorting Machines

+

*401. SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH :

SHRIMATI BHAVNA BEN DEVRAJ BHAI
CHIKHALIA :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to install sorting machines in each Head Post Office in the country;

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

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) the number of sorting machines proposed to be installed in the country during the years 1996-97 and 1997-98; and

(e) the time by which the sorting machines are proposed to be installed in all the Post Offices in the country?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) to (e). A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

There is no proposal with the Government for installing sorting machines in each Head Post Office in the Country. However, two automated mail processing Centres, each with two letter sorting machines, are operating in airport sorting offices in Mumbai and Chennai respectively where there are concentration of large volumes of mail. It is also proposed to consolidate and expand the programme of automated mail processing during the IX Plan period.

A sorting machine having capacity for sorting about 30,000 letters per hour, can be justified only in offices having about 4.5 lakhs machineable mails for sorting per day. None of the Head Post Office in the Country presently justifies use of such machine. Processing of letter through sorting machines requires printing of Bar Code through Bar Coding Machines. The printed Bar Code on the letter is deciphered by the sorting machine. A strategy to use Bar Coding Machine in a few large and more important post offices in Mumbai which generate large volume of mail is being tried out. Nine Stand-Alone Bar coding Machines-five in Mumbai GPO, two in Sion Post Office, one each in Ghatkopar and Chembur Post Offices-are proposed to be installed in Mumbai during the year 1996-97.

SHRI SHIV RAJ SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon'ble Minister has stated in his reply that there is no proposal for installing sorting machines in post offices and there seems no justification also in it. I want to say that the number of letters sent through post has been increasing and specially in the metropolitan cities, post and telegram are lying in bulk and they are not being delivered to the concerned people in time. Though the letters may be sorted out manually, yet there is a limit of it. Due to strike in recent past, bulks of posts were piled up and it took too much time to deliver. I want to ask a question through you that while the number of letters sending by post is increasing even than you may not installed machine, but for delivering the letters in time, what system you are going to adopt? Hon'ble Minister has stated in his reply that installation of sorting machine in Post Office is justifiable only if 4.5 lac letters are received daily for sorting. I would like to ask Hon'ble Minister that what is the number of such post offices, where you want to install such sorting machines and by when these machines would be installed there?

SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, in our country there are two sorting machines, one is installed in Mumbai and other is in Chennai. In installing these machines, the problem is this that the mail-material should have a specific standard. This machine is very costly, which costs about 20 crore rupees per machine. It is not manufactured in our country. We have to import it. Two machines are installed and these are not getting job upto their full capacity. Today, bulk mail comes specially from commercial houses, before it they themselves sorted out their posts but now they assigned this job to the Postal Department. Now the post is being delivered in time and the Department is also being benefitted. But this sorting machine may cause one more problem that in our increasing population, the people, who are getting job now, may loose employment opportunity. We installed these machines after paying money to foreign countries. Even then during ninth plan installing of lowes barfooting machines is under consideration.

SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, in our great and vast country there are more than 5 lacs cillages and according to the annual report of the Department of Post there is one post office per 23.12 sq.km. of rural development which covers so many villages, in such hard situation and even after the full willingness of a postman, he can't deliver the letters daily. Therefore, specially, in rural areas, remote areas where the mail is delivered that is not received for many days, and on several occasions the letter is received, when it's purpose is already lost. It may be sad news or a happy news about marriage etc., It may be a notice of district council or district Panchayat's meetings. I belong to a village which comes in a remote area. I also received my letters too late there and most of the times they loose their purpose. Therefore, I want to ask Hon'ble Minister that in remote areas the mail would reach in time and should be delivered daily and properly. At present letters are not reaching in rural areas properly. I want to ask hon'ble Minister what steps he would like to take in this matter?

Number two...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : No number two further, you had already completed you number one and this one is number two.

SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA : The network of posts in our country is the biggest in the world. However, China is more populated than us, but we have three times more post offices in our country and I have an information according to which post is being delivered in each and every village.

SHRI SHIV RAJ SINGH : Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, No it's not so. This information is wrong.

SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA : First let me complete. However, the doubt which has been shown by hon'ble member we are also concerned and we doing our best efforts. Recently we have made certain specific

arrangements for post in cosmopolitan cities for X'mas and New year's day. To deliver Pongal greeting cards in Tamil Nadu, separate arrangements has been made. And we will send senior officers of Headquarters, to find in the states that the letters are delivering in time or not, as hon'ble Members has doubt about it. The information according to which post is delivered daily in villages, is right or wrong I myself will ensure it.

SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH : Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, post is not received for months together...(Interruptions)

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT : Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, I want to ask a question from the hon'ble Minister whether the Govt. fixed any criteria to open post offices? Whether a post office should be open in a village whose population is more than 1000? If there is such criteria, whether the Govt. will open post offices in all those villages, whose population is more than 1000 up to December, 1997.

SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, there are more than 6 lacs villages in our country and the number of post offices is about 1,53,000 and a post office is open at the population of 3000 and 1/3 revenue is recieved. Now during Ninth Plan, we will try to open post offices according to our criteria.

SHRI VIJAY ANNAJI MUDE : Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, I want to ask from the hon'ble Minister through you the reasons for delay in distribution of Dak. Whether it is due to less salary of workers working there. Whether the Govt. propose to enhance their salary so that the mismanagement of the post would get away?

SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA : The concern of Hon'ble Member is justifiable. Justice Talwar committee has been constituted for E.D. employees. The limit of their gratuity has been increased to Rs. 16000 from Rs. 5000, two-three months back. We have also concern about E.D. employees and we are making arrangements for Talwar Committee...(Interruptions)

[English]

Investment on R and D Public and Private Steel Sector

+

402. **SHRI ANNASAHIB M.K. PATIL :**
JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA :

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) the investment/spending on Research and Development in public and private steel sector during the last three years and the results achieved therefrom;

(b) whether the Government have decided to encourage more investment in Research and Development in production of quality steel keeping in view the global trends in quality and cost effectiveness;

(c) if so, the details thereof alongwith the order of investment likely to be made in public and private sector of steel industry during the current year and next three years; and

(d) the present status of ongoing Research and Development projects in public/private sector and the projects under consideration?

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

STATEMENT

(a) The investment/spending on Research and Development in public and private steel sectors during the last three years is given below :

(Rs. in crores)

	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96
<i>Public Sector</i>			
Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL)	40.18	45.13	50.12
Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Ltd. (RINL)	2.50	2.50	2.50
Sub-total	42.68	47.63	52.62
<i>Private Sector</i>			
Tata Iron and Steel Co. Ltd. (TISCO)	10.45	11.55	11.30
Mukand Limited	00.52	00.54	00.61
Bihar Alloys and Steel Ltd.	00.52	00.57	00.57
Usha Martin Industries Ltd.	00.20	00.19	-
Kalyani Steel Ltd.	00.10	00.08	00.05
Sunflag Iron and Steel Co., Ltd.	1.22	-	-
Mahindra Ugine Steel Co. Ltd.	-	00.27	00.50
Sub-total	13.01	13.20	13.03
Total	55.69	60.83	65.65

Results achieved

SAIL

R and D efforts during the above period have resulted in improvement or performance indices of the steel plants. Besides, a number of knowhow transfer and consultancy work have been executed by RDCTS, SAIL which has also led to external earning during 1994-95 and 1995-96.

RINL

R and D activities helped to develop suitable alternative raw material, improvement in productivity and efficiency in sinter machines, hammer crusher, iron and steel making plants. This enabled improvement in quality of iron and steel produced.

TISCO

In the past three years, a number of projects were handled and this brought about improvements in raw material, iron and steel making and down stream processing. Further, new products such as Corrosion Resistant Reinforcement Steel. Steel for automobile forged components were introduced for the first time in India.

Other Private Sector Steel Plants

The Research and Development projects undertaken by these plants covered mainly the following thrust areas :

- New product and process development through adaptation and as well as indigenous development for iron and steel technologies.
- Cost reduction.
- Energy conservation.
- Waste utilisation.

(b) and (c). The matter is under consideration.

(d) SAIL

There are 87 projects planned for completion in different units of SAIL by the end of March'97. The projects are running well. As on 30th November, 1996, number of projects completed is 26.

Some of the projects completed and those ongoing have led to various technological benefits which are enumerated in the Annexure.

RINL

All the R and D schemes taken up till 1995-96 have been completed. The following R and D projects which have been taken up during the current financial year are under various stages of completion :

- (i) Studies for improvement of lining life of Converter.
- (ii) Development of binding wires.
- (iii) Use of LD Slag in Sinter making in place of limestone.
- (iv) Initial studies for using Soft Coal in the coal blend.
- (v) Production of FE 500 grade of reinforcement bars in Wire Rod Mill.

TISCO

A number of projects (Total 42) in various areas are going on in raw material, iron and steel, products and characterisation. The projects are running satisfactorily.

ANNEXURE

A. Selected Ongoing Projects :

Development of Structural of IRS:M-41 Grade Steel Through ASP IISCO Route: ASP

A trial rolling of ingots was carried out at IISCO using the technological parameters jointly decided by RDCIS, ASP and IISCO. The product rolled was IS-250 channels against the requirements of Railways. The test results have shown that the long product meets the strength properties requirements of the above specification with YS:409 mpa and UTS:512 mPa against the minimum specified value (f 340 mPa and 480 mPa respectively along with bend formability of IT.

Measurement of Mould Heat Transfer Coefficient and Heat Extraction Capability of Spray Nozzles of Slab Caster; BSP

Continuous measurement of mould temperature in the slab caster has been made in three heat. The study involved simultaneous measurement of temperature at 64 different locations in the mould along with data logging of casting parameters. This kind of measurement, which has been made for the first time in the country, coupled with already developed mathematical model will be the input to wide ranging improvement in concast at BSP, viz, modification of secondary cooling for enhanced casting speed, minimisation of defects in cast slabs, and software for air mist cooling.

Improvement in Quality of Silicon Steel; RSP

The results of first campaign of 8 heats made in April, 96 were analysed and change in chemistry with higher Al (0.25-0.40%) and SL (2.40-2.60%) was recommended with modified reheating temperature of 1250°C. Using the above modified practice, 15 heats have been made since July, 1996. The results of 20 fully processed coils show that 17 have passed in M-36 grade and remaining 3 in M-27 grade. This is very encouraging from the view point of stabilisation of commercial production.

Incorporation of Precision Leveller in Slitting Line No. 3 of CRM: BSL

The shape of the cold rolled strip needed a correction to improve flatness. In order to overcome the defect, a precision leveller has been installed and commissioned in slitting Line # 3 on August 21, 1996. This facility has improved the flatness of the sheets considerably. It has been observed that the flatness has improved by 50-55% from the initial waviness is of the

order of 15-20 mm. The improvement is about 70% if the initial waviness of 10 mm.

Quality Improvement of Galbo Coils to Meet Requirements of Coil Coating Industry, BSL

Developmental efforts were made at BSL for the optimisation of process technology to control the surface morphology of Hot Dip galvanized (HDG) sheets. Spangles on HDG sheets were controlled from a mean value of 5000 microns to <200 microns through bath control (Pb<0.10%, Al 0.20-0.22% and Fe-0.06%), together with accelerated air-water mist cooling and temper rolling of coated strip. M/s. J.C. Coach Builders, Chandigarh have accepted the entire lot of 55 tonnes of Galbo coils for use in bus body construction. About 200 tonnes of Galbo coils have been accepted by such diverse market segments as colour coaters, manufacturers of security equipment and home appliances.

PROJECTS COMPLETED

Optimisation of Deoxidation Practice for Semi-killed Steels Through Twin Hearth Furnace at SMS-1; BSP; June 1996

Deoxidation of IS 2062 grade of steel (semi killed) through Twin Hearth furnaces at SMS-1 of BSP has been optimised by modified deoxidation practice with SiMn and HCFeMn. This has resulted in smooth teeming practice with flat top ingots without any Al addition in mould and improvement in Si and Mn recoveries from 18.8 to 41.4% and 69.8 to 75.5% respectively, thereby reducing FeSi and HCFeMn consumption by 0.50 Kg/ton and 0.60 Kg/ton respectively.

Identification of Reasons for Motion Core and Pipe in Blooms and Billets and Remedial Measures thereof; BSP; September 1996

To reduce the occurrence of molten core at SMS-1, 25 trial heats were carried out during April-Sept 1996 using; deoxidation with FeMn and SiMn; reduced soaking temperature to 1340°C; nitrogen lancing of ladle to reduce heterogeneity; and control of carry over slag. As a result of improved deoxidation and reduced soaking pit temperature, the molten core at 1000T shear in blooming mill reduced from 1.2% to about 0.7%. Based on this, the shop has worked out the implementation plan.

Improvement in Design of Burner, Skid insulation and Solid Refractories of the Reheating Furnace, Plate Mill; BSP; October 96

6 modified oil fired burners have been designed, fabricated and tested in reheating furnace # 3. Skids with LCC incorporation ceramic fibre have been cast in situ in Furnace #1 whereas pre-cast to pre fired blocks made from LCC have been used on the skids for Furnace # 3. The steam thus generated through skid

pipe coaling has reduced by 28% (from 8.07t/hr to 5.77t/hr). The skid life has also increased to 10 months against 6-7 months before innovation.

Utilisation of Acid Sludge Generated in Acid Washing of Crude Benzol; BSP; October 1996

An environment-friendly technology has been successfully developed by BSP and RDCIS for recovering acid from sludge generated during acid washing of crude benzol through detailed laboratory and pilot scale investigations. A 10 tpd commercial plant based on the above technology has been designed, installed and commissioned. So far about 250 tonnes of acid has been produced in this plant. This waste-utilisation technology can be horizontally transferred to other steel plants.

Improvement in Productivity for Machining difficult to Machine Materials; DSP; April 1996

Plasma aided hot machining has been introduced in CEM Shop at DSP for machining difficult materials with hardness above 350 BHN. This system has been indigenously developed. The material removal rate has increased by more than five folds with high degree of dimensional accuracy in comparison to conventional machining processes while machining S.G. Iron rolls. The test results show that there was no adverse effect on material due to hot machining. The surface temperature of the rolls remained below 125°C and there was no drop in hardness of the roll.

Development of Micro-alloyed Steel for Coach and Wagon Wheel and inclined Hole Drilling Technology for Loco Wheels at W and AP; DSP October 1996

Two micro-alloyed steel heats with addition of 0.16%V, 0.019% Nb and 0.07-0.13% Mo were made on experimental basis in electric arc furnace and subsequently processed for coach and wagon wheels as per IRS-R-19-93 specification. Mechanical and metallurgical properties in normalised condition achieved without the use of existing procedure of rim spray quenching and tempering treatment, are: UTS; 876mPa, % Elong: 17%, BHN; 248-255, CVN Energy: 18.7J and Fracture Toughness (KK): 57 mPa√m. The steel has potential of increasing productivity with significant cost saving.

Process Optimisation for New Sinter Plant; DSP; October, 1996:

Productivity was improved from 0.87 (average of Feb. 1995 Jan. 1996) to 1.17t/m²/hr. (average of Feb. 1996-Sept. 1996) despite some key parameters like fuel, crushing index, blend mix and gas pressure not being as per DPR norms. This was achieved by optimising balling regime leading to increased vertical sintering speed. Mean size of sinter was also increased from 13.9mm to 20mm by compaction of the sinter-mix bed.

Condition Monitoring of Equipment Through Wear Analysis by Direct Reading Ferrography; RSP; June, 1996

Five major production units viz. Captive Power Plant I and II, Oxygen Plant, Blooming and Slabbing Mill and Sintering Plant were identified for condition monitoring. Altogether 29 critical equipments were monitored through contaminant analysis at RDCIS using Duplex Ferrograph Analyser and inductively Coupled Plasma technique. The shape, size, colour and texture of the worn out particles were determined. Based on these analysis, failures of Coal Mill Gear Boxes in CPP II and fluid film bearings of Hydraulic Slab Shear in Blooming and Slabbing Mill were averted which could be catastrophic in nature.

Integrated data acquisition system for CPP-II; RSP; June 1996

A comprehensive feasibility study has been conducted and a report has been prepared for retrofitting an Integrated Data Acquisition System in Captive Power Plant-II of RSVP, Rourkela. The report discusses in detail various objectives, functions of modern Integrated Data Acquisition System in power plants like Maintenance, Operator, Trending and Alarm, Data Logging and Sequence of Event Recording, Control, Report Generation, etc. The report also presents two different system configuration schemes giving details of system architecture, on line Turbine and Boiler efficiency calculations and Machine Running hour calculation. It gives complete details of Field signals along with cables, project cost estimation and mandays required.

Improvement in the Quality of TIG Welding of Silicon Steel Coils; RSP, September, 1996.

Two Hot Rolled Silicon Steel Coils are welded to increase the productivity of annealing-pickling line and cold rolling mill. The failure of coils at the welded joints was very high and rollable welds were only to the extent of 45%. By optimising the welding parameters and changing the geometry near weld joint using the stress analysis techniques, the acceptance level was increased to 79%.

Development of On-Line Transaction Processing Software for Front End Financial Accounting, RSP; November 1996.

Two large and complex areas of financial accounting namely Raw Materials Bills and Accounts and Operations Bills and Accounts have been computerised through a developed in-house software. The software program consists of 1,30,000 lines of program code in Oracle, C and Unix. The computerised system handles the accounting per year for 6 million tonnes of raw materials; Rs. 1100 crores in turnover, 50,000 bills and documents; and the workload of 47 persons. The on-line system is working successfully since April 1996.

Process Intensification in BF #5; BSL; June 1996

The performance of this rather sick furnace was improved through; scaffold removal; modification of throat diameter; opening blanked tuyeres; increased humidification of the blast; optimisation of RAFT and corrective action in burden distribution. As a result, the productivity of the furnace has improved from a level of 1.06 11t/m³/day (July-Dec.'95) to 1.25/m³/day (June'96).

Introduction of Advanced Oil Coating System in HDGL and DCRL for better Customer Satisfaction; BSL; August 1996.

an improved oil coating system with high precision flat jet nozzles has been introduced in DCRL for on-line coating of sheet gauge products. Another oil coating system with atomising spray gun is also introduced in HDGL for on-line oil coating of Galbo Coils. Both the systems provide a very fine and uniform oil coating with thickness of 1.0-1.5mm. whereby the specific all consumption has produced from 1.0 litre/tonne to 0.5 litre/tonne in HDGL and from 0.8 litre/tonne to 0.35 litre/tonne in DCRL.

Integrated Alignment System for Coke Pushing Operation at Coke Oven Battery #4; BSL; August 1996

An Integrated Alignment System has been designed, developed and installed in Coke Oven battery #4. The system is based on Gamma Ray Interlock to ensure alignment between pusher and guide cars. A VHF Communication Network has also been set up to establish voice and digital communication between quench car and pusher car operators. The system is now of its kind and utilises single radio frequency carrier for transmitting both voice and digital data signals simultaneously. Introduction of this systems eliminates wrong pushing due to misalignment pusher and guide cars.

Production of Improved Quality E-38/E-34 Automotive Steel Plates; BSL, September, 1996

E-38/E-34 grade of steel is used for making long chassis member in 5-7 thickness. This was being supplied through ASP (EAF-CC)-BSL route to the automobile manufacturers. Production of E-38/E-34 steel was taken up at Bokaro Steel Plant using LD-ingot route due to techno-economic consideration. Both the grades of steel have been successfully produced with the required formability property (close bend achieved against specified requirement of 0.5t for E-38 grade and close bend for E-38). The other mechanical properties achieved (E-38: : YS: 372-450mPa, TS:441-503mPa, Elong:28% and E-34: : YS: 342-412mPa, TS: 440-466mPa, Elong: 29% min.) conform to the specifications. Press forming trials have been carried out at TELCO., Pune satisfactorily.

Improvement in the Productivity of Cold Rolled Stainless Steel Strip; SSP; July 1996

Commercial production of thinner gauge (<1.0mm) ferritic stainless steel through batch annealing process of hot rolled bands is most time and energy consuming. About 100 tonnes of ferritic stainless steel were processed through continuous annealing line in place of batch annealing resulting in increase in production rate from 3t/hr to 30t/hr. The final annealing cycle of cold rolled steel was also modified and the strips were annealed at 880°C in place of 860°C. This has resulted in final processing of the strip in the Skin Pass Mill with only 3 no. of passes in place of 5 passes required earlier to overcome stretcher strains and impart desired surface quality. This has increased the productivity by 40% in the Skin Pass Mill.

Evaluation of Texture Profiles in Extra Deep Drawing (EDD) Aluminium and Killed Sheet Steel by Orientation Distribution Function (ODF) technique and Mathematical Modelling of Forming Limit Diagrams (FLD) from ODF data; RDCIS; June 1996

The commercially produced EDD Steel Sheets of 0.8, 1.0, 1.25, 1.60 and 2.0 mm thickness were used to determine the texture profiles and also the forming limit diagrams (FLD). The investigation reveals that 1.25 and 1.60 mm thick sheets possess the (111) type texture, which is desired for deep drawing applications. In 0.8, 1.0 and 2.0 mm thick sheets random textures are the main attributes. Accordingly, the forming behaviour of 1.25 and 1.60 mm sheets are superior to that of the remaining sheets. Furthermore, the theoretically calculated and the experimentally determined FLD and plastic anisotropy (r) values are in very close agreement i.e. within <10% and <5% respectively with each other. FORTRAN softwares for determining FLD and plastic anisotropy have been also developed.

Development of Super Ferritic Stainless Steel; RDCIS; June 1996

Super ferritic stainless steel of 29Cr 4Mo type have been melted and hot rolled at RDCIS. Characterisation study has been carried out with respect to Ductile-Brittle Transition Temperature (DBTT), micro structure. Steel with 2% Ni has exhibited DBTT to near 0°C as well as excellent corrosion resistance properties no failure even after 100 hr of SCC test (ASTM G-123) standard and pitting potential (SCE) >900 mv in a 0.1 N NaCl solution at ambient temperature; and >500mv at 60°C. Being totally immune to chloride attack, super ferritic stainless steel is suited for application in sea water/brine.

Preparation of Compendium of Welding of Steel; RDCIS; June 1996

A 'Compendium on Welding of Steel' has been prepared in line with the Memorandum of Understanding signed by Director, RDCIS and Director, Commercial on Application Engineering Work. The compendium

comprises two parts, part I contains an overview on welding, designed specially for the field CMO executives who interact with various customers and are often required to advice on certain basic aspects of welding. Part II comprises comprehensive evaluation of weldability properties of 5 grades of steel (Tor, Cu-TMT, Cu-Cr TMT, SAILMA-450H1, ASTM-537C1.1). The study has helped in optimising the welding condition and formulate safe welding practice which will ensure high integrity of the fabricated products.

Influence of Low Reheating Temperature and Low Finishing Temperature on the Cold Rollability of the Hot Band; RDCIS; July, 1996

Investigation was undertaken to collate the effect of rolling low carbon steel in three distinct regions (y, 4 + y and regions) on roll load and torque. The maximum in-flow stress (-180 Mpa) is reacted at around Ac3 (-890°C). In the mixed (d+y) region, the flow stress decreases to -155 MPa with decrease in rolling temperature down to -800°C and starts rising thereafter. Thus current mill practice of finishing at 870°C can be brought down to -750°C without overloading the mill. A sharp increase in mean flow stress in ferritic region forbids rolling below this temperature.

Study on Multilayered-Multiphased Reinforced Castable Composites; RDCIS, September 1996

Studies on different combinations of Clay Based Castables (CBC) with LCC, ULCC and NCC were conducted. CBC was varied in the range of 10 to 60%. The composites were evaluated based on HMOR, binary strength diagram, spalling resistance and mechanical strength. The optimisation study revealed that a maximum of 10% clay based castables could be used with new generation castables without in any way affecting the key parameters (hot strength, spalling resistance). This would result in cost reduction during commercial application.

Integrated Financial Accounting System; RDCIS; November 1996

An on-line computerised system has been developed to take care of the financial accounting of all SAIL units at Ranchi. The software package caters to a turnover of Rs. 55 crores through 40,000 vouchers annually. The scope of work includes on-line voucher preparation to final closure of accounts and on-line queries, MIS, DSS, generation of receipts, vouchers and cheque printing.

This can be made adaptable to other SAIL units with some customisation to handle their accounting needs.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

New Technology/Process/Product Developed

- Integrated alignment system for coke pushing operation at coke oven battery #4 has helped in

eliminating wrong pushing due to misalignment of pusher and guide cars.

- Production of improved quality E-38/E-34 automotive steel plates has been standardized at BSL through LAD-Ingot route. Press forming trials, have been carried out at TALC Pun satisfactorily for making long chassis member.
- Multilayered-Multiphased reinforced castables composites have been developed at RDCIS without effecting the properties. This will result in cost reduction during commercial application.
- Development of rule base for effective thermal control of BF process at RDCIS will help in prediction of Si in hot metal.
- Methodology for estimation of CRI-CSR indices of BF coke has been standardised.
- Development of Super Ferritic Steel at RDCIS will help in using the steel in sea water/brine media.

Productivity improvement

- Identification of reasons for molten core and pipe in blocks and billets in SMS-I of BSF has helped in reducing the molten core at 1000 T shear in Blooming Mill from 1.2% to 0.7%.
- Productivity of cold rolled stainless steel strip at skin pass mill of SSP has been increased by 40%.
- Process intensification in BF #5 at BSL has improved the productivity of the furnace from a level of 1.06t/m3/day to 1.25t/m3/day.
- Process intensification and modification of operating regimes have led to increased average BF productivity and decreased coke rate at BF #5 of BSL and BF #4 and IISCO.
- Development of liquid resin bonded mudgun clay of BF #7 at BSP has increased the cast house availability and productivity.
- An on-line system for remote viewing of slabs has been introduced in reheating furnaces #1 and 2 of HSM, RSP. As a result reduction in charging delays, improvement in productivity and reduction in manpower is expected to be achieved.
- Modified deoxidation practice for the production of stainless steel through EAF-VOD route at ASP has increased the chromium recovery as well as the productivity.

Yield Improvement

Edge condition of HR coils at BSL has been improved as a result of thorough investigation and subsequent implementation of the recommendations made. The incidence of coils with defect free edges increased from 18% to 58%.

- Developed process technology for production of wheel steel through BOF-Ingot route at DSP. This

has been associated with an improvement of overall yield from ingot steel to finished wheel.

Modification in roll pass design and other process parameters at ASP have reduced the total rejection in mill defects in rolled bars for ball bearing steel.

Reduction in Energy Conservation

- Introduction of a coke injector in the EAF of ASP for generation of foamy slags resulted in a reduction in overall electrical energy consumption.
- Modification of the reheating furnaces in Forge shop at ASP with low thermal mass ceramic fibre lining has enabled to achieve an annual saving of 7000 GCal.
- Development and introduction of dual fuel burners at the Heat Treatment and Reheating furnaces has enabled VISL to utilise the available BF gas. This has resulted in a reduction of oil consumption by 90%.

Quality improvement

- Improvement in quality of TIG welding of silicon steel coils at RSP has helped in increasing the acceptance level of rollable welds from 45% to 79%.
- Introduction of advanced oil coatings system in HDGL and DCRL at BSL has helped in providing a uniform oil coating in sheet gauge products for better customer satisfaction.
- Uniform heating of sinter charge under ignition hood along-with monolithic casting of Ignition hood roof in sinter plant II of BSP have improved the sinter strength and reduced the gas consumption as well.
- Strip quality of hot rolled coils at RSP has been improved with the achievement of the desired strip crown (< 80 micron) by optimising the initial roll crown, roll barrel temperature and re-scheduling of hot reduction regimes.
- Edge cracking of HR coils at RSP has been reduced from 8% to 5% through modification of chemistry and controlling other process parameters like mould preparation, leeming practice finish rolling temperature etc.
- Surface conditions of hot rolled coils at BSL have been improved through modification in hydraulic descaling system and the mill practice.

SHRI ANNASAHIB M.K. PATIL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, in reply to my question, the hon. Minister has stated that the public and private sectors have spent only Rs. 100 crore on an average, on research and development. But according to the information that I have collected from various places, the amount that was spent by various companies in the public and private sectors is like this. In a turnover of Rs. 12,000 crore to Rs. 15,000 crore by SAIL, the money spent on research and

development is hardly Rs. 50 crore which comes to about 0.3 to 0.4 per cent. Similar is the case with TISCO where in a turnover of Rs. 4,000 crore to Rs. 5,000 crore, the money spent on research and development is hardly Rs. 8 crore to Rs. 10 crore and that comes to about 0.14 or 0.15 per cent.

MR. SPEAKER : Please ask the question.

SHRI ANNASAHIB M.K. PATIL : Sir, this is the position now. If we want to stand in the international market, we must strengthen our research and development to have a cost effective production. Fortunately, we have an abundance of iron ore and cheap manpower. So, we must have good quality and also marketability.

SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I do agree with the hon. Member.

SHRI ANNASAHIB M.K. PATIL : Sir, I have not put the question.

I would like to know from the hon. Minister, as to what has been the allocation and actual expenditure on utilisation of these funds.

Then, there is a Steel Development Fund also which is collected to the tune of Rs. 600 crore per annum and the amount spent is hardly Rs. 100 crore. So, I would also like to know from the hon. Minister what was the amount that had been allocated and spent in the field of research and development during the last three years.

MR. SPEAKER : You are making a speech while asking the question. I am going to disallow you now.

SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA : Sir, I would agree with the hon. Member that the investment on research and development in the steel sector of our country is quite inadequate. I would also agree that the investment on research and development in SAIL is only 0.3 per cent of sales turnover. Now, the Government have taken several measures to improve and increase the investment on research and development.

Recently, the Government took a decision to invest Rs. 150 crore annually on research and development. This matter is in process for placing before the Cabinet now. As soon as we get the approval of the Cabinet, we are going to invest Rs. 150 crores annually on research and development and we are going to take this money from the Steel Development Fund.

SHRI ANNASAHIB M.K. PATIL : Sir, in reply to parts (b) and (c) of my question, the hon. Minister has stated that the matter was under consideration. But the then Secretary Shri Bagchi has stated that Rs. 150 crore had been set aside for research and development in the steel sector as demands exist. These are the words of the then Secretary. These are the words of the then Secretary. There was a Committee of experts under the Chairmanship of Dr. M.K. Sengupta to formulate a strategy for export and domestic consumption. I would like to know whether this expert group has submitted its

report; if so, the details, particularly with regard to various recommendations and measures to be taken in the field of R and D.

SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA : Sir, for this I need a separate notice as this is not related to research and development. But I would like to inform the House that the rate of steel consumption in our country is very low as compared to the developed countries. Our consumption rate is only 22 Kg.

As far as the Report of the Sengupta Committee is concerned, I need a separate question.

JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA : I would like to know from the hon. Minister, whether it is a fact that the Indian iron ore price is four to five times lower than the world price and the labour cost is also five per cent to 20 per cent less than the cost in the developed countries of the world. It is 32 per cent in the United States. In spite of that the steel industry in India is lagging behind and the world competitors are purchasing iron ore from India and then sending the finished goods to India at a much cheaper price with the result the Indian steel industry is ruined. Is it a fact that under the Steel Development Fund on March, 1995, Rs. 4521 crore was collected by way of cess but only Rs. five lakh was disbursed for study, survey and research work? It appears that as of today this Research and Development Fund has been closed; if it is so, I would like to know the reasons for it.

SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA : Sir, I do agree with the hon. Member Lodha Ji that the cost of labour in our country is quite low and also that the iron ore is very cheap. I do not agree with the hon. Member when he said that the Indian steel industry is in ruins. Steel industry in India is doing well. At the time of independence our country produced only 1.4 million tonnes of steel and today we are producing about 21.4 million tonnes of steel. Our country will be self-sufficient in steel production after the completion of the Ninth Five Year Plan. I have already informed the House that the utilisation of the funds towards research and development is quite inadequate in our country. It is also true that there is a huge fund in the form of Steel Development Fund. Now, the Government has decided to invest Rs. 150 crore annually for research and development and we are processing the proposal for the approval of the Cabinet.

SHRI PRADIP BHATTACHARYA : There are so many mini-steel plants in our country. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government is thinking in terms of developing these mini-steel plants in our country.

SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA : Our main problem is, most of the mini steel plants in our country small size furnace technology, which is no longer in existence in developed countries of the world.

So, we have to develop the technology to develop our steel plants. Due to lack of investment in technology, the cost of production is very high in our country. Now, the Government is seriously thinking of taking certain measures for the mini steel plants of our country.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : I would like to know whether the information on the following matters is available with the hon. Minister. Even after spending Rs. 150 crore, what would be the percentage in our total expenditure which we are incurring on research and development in the steel sector and what is the international standard? I would also like to know whether CSIR and DRDO institutions - they do deal with the metal sector - have been involved in this research and development of steel products. We do not produce many items and research is also necessary there. Lastly, what kind of incentives are being given? Are you satisfied with the kind of incentives that are being given? In fact, there is an incentive for research and development, but that is only one hundred per cent. Earlier, it was more than one hundred per cent. Are you considering to give more incentives and have you approached the Finance Ministry for that?

SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA : At present, the expenditure against research and development in our country is 0.3 per cent only. Even after utilising Rs. 150 crore, the expenditure against research and development would be less than one per cent. In most of the developed countries like the U.S.A. and Japan, they investment is about two to three per cent in research and development.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : The other part of the question has not been answered. I wanted to know whether they are collaborating with CSIR and DRDO laboratories for doing research on steel.

SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA : Sir, the hon. Member wanted to know about the incentives being given for research and development of the steel industry in our country. At present, the Research and Development Unit of SAIL is located at Ranchi and they are looking after it. In addition, the Rashtriya Ispat Nigam, the Defence Laboratories and the Metallurgical Department at Jamshedpur are also looking after it.

[Translation]

PROF. RITA VERMA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister as to how much expenditure has been incurred on Research and Development work during the last three years. He should also apprise the House of the non-productive expenditure and the money spent on P.R., advertisement, foreign trips, and guest houses etc. The hon'ble Minister should compare, the expenditure and till the ratio of R and D and non-productive expenditure. What is the outcome of the expenditure incurred on R and D? The Government has made very tall claims. I

am telling about Bokaro Steel Plant. This incident had taken place in July. A bearing in the Plant had been installed by Russians there and they had assured that it would function smoothly upto 100 years. This bearing kept on functioning well till 20-25 years but later on, the engineers felt that all these bearings should be replaced.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : How do you expect a Minister to answer this specific thing? It is a policy matter.

[Translation]

PROF. RITA VERMA : It is very important. Later on, that bearing was removed but your scientist could not replace it with another bearing.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : You cannot expect a Minister to know about the bearings.

[Translation]

PROF. RITA VERMA : Please listen to my questions. You might have heard about a poem:

[English]

"For want of a shoe, a horse was lost;
For want of a horse, a chariot was lost, and
For want of a chariot, a battle was lost".

[Translation]

In the absence of a bearing, production remain suspended for three months which has resulted in loss of million of rupees. Whether the hon'ble Minister will conduct an inquiry into the expenditure incurred on R and D work and the achievements made in this regard? A bearing was removed unnecessarily and its replacement could not be made available. Whether he would also conduct an inquiry in this regard?

[English]

SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA : I need a separate notice of this...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : I fully agree with the hon. Minister. You cannot expect the hon. Minister to answer this.

Tele-Serials

*403. SHRI MURALIDHAR JENA : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) the criteria fixed for screening and completion of the commissioned serials on Doordarshan Network;

(b) the number of tele-serials sanctioned on commission basis on Doordarshan during each of the last three years;

(c) the amount sanctioned by the Government for these serials.

(d) the number of serials completed and pending with Doordarshan during the above period, and

(e) the reasons for delay in clearing the remaining serials?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) to (e). A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

(a) Producer of the commissioned serial is required to complete the serial as per written agreement entered into by him with Doordarshan. The serial is telecast only after it is found complete and telecast worthy by the Preview Committee. The scheduling of the serial for telecast is done as per the programme requirements of Doordarshan and availability of time slot.

(b) The details are as under :

1993-94	158
1994-95	491
1995-96	281

(c) Rs. 133 crores, Sir.

(d) 702 serials have been completed. 228 serials are yet to be completed and these are at various stages of production.

(e) Due to certain exigencies such as non-availability of technical crew and professionals, problems in location-shooting, changes in cast etc. the serials are not completed by the producers as per schedule. Budgetary constraints have also contributed to delay.

SHRI MURALIDHAR JENA (Bhadrak) : What is the present policy of the Government for making tele serials? How many individuals and companies had defaulted to produce tele serials?

SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM : There is a policy regarding making the tele serial...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MURALIDHAR JENA : I am asking about the policy.

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI : The hon. Minister should explain it...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM : There is a detailed policy and there are three different programmes. One is commissioned Programmes. The second are Sponsored Programmes. For this, there are guidelines for consideration of the proposals. The guidelines are laid down in great detail. But the Information and Broadcasting Ministry has nothing to do as far as this Ministry and these programmes are concerned because in day to day matters, we will never interface. For

evaluation, there are two Committees. One is Casting Committee and the other is Evaluation Committee. The Evaluation Committee consists of the Deputy Director General (Programme), Controller of Programmes, Deputy Controller of Programmes and Assistant Controller of Programmes. For historical themes, one historian will be called. For Casting, there are Chairman (DG), Vice-Chairman (ADG), Member (DDG) of the Programme concerned and Member (DDG) of the Commissioning Programme. Thus seven Members are there. They will be deciding the casting and approval of the programmes.

KUMARI FRIDA TOPNO : I would like to know whether the Government have any proposal to commission telefilms on Doordarshan, on the lives and activities of freedom fighters on the completion of 50 years of our independence and, if so, what steps are being taken for commissioning the 13 Episode telefilm on Birsa Munda, the legendary tribal son of India from the Statue Committee, Rourkela, and whether the Government has accepted the proposal for commissioning the telefilm.

[Translation]

SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM : Sir, usually, the commissioned programmes are prepared on the lives of the freedom fighters under the Historical Policy. She has drawn my attention towards this point and I will certainly consider it.

KUMARI UMA BHARATI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, thank you very much. Through you, I would like to ask a small question from the hon'ble Minister. In the month of August, while replying to one of my question, in hon'ble Minister had said that he would constitute a Committee consisting of MPs of all the parties to put a check on the vulgarity obscenity and degradation of culture shown in the programmes on Doordarshan so that a criteria can be fixed in regard there to. He has said that this Committee would be constituted soon. I would like to know as to whether that Committee has been constituted and if so, what are the party-wise names of the MPs included therein.

SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM : We have not constituted that Committee so far.

KUMARI UMA BHARATI : I would like to know as to why that Committee has not been constituted? Why are you taking it so lightly...(Interruptions)

SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM : Please listen to me first.

KUMARI UMA BHARATI : What should we listen? The way television is ruining the society and our country...(Interruptions)

SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM : I am also coming to that point.

KUMARI UMA BHARATI : You can't take me in charming reply. You never give correct reply to my

questions. The Welfare Minister and you always avoid answering...(Interruptions)

SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM : I would like to thank the hon'ble Member.

[English]

I am grateful to her.

[Translation]

KUMARI UMA BHARATI : You are my brother.

SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM : You are my sister...(Interruptions)

We could not constitute this Committee as I have said about 'Prasar Bharti Bill' that we want to give autonomy twice on this subject in the Consultative Committee of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. After holding discussion with all the leaders of the opposition, we had put the whole matter before the Cabinet yesterday itself...(Interruptions) As soon as we received information from there.

[English]

Then Doordarshan and All India Radio will get the autonomy. A separate sort of a Board will be there. Then, they will decide accordingly. That is why we have not made it.

[Translation]

KUMARI UMA BHARATI : What about the constitution of the committee of MPs...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI S.K. KARVENDHAN (Palani) : Sir, most of the breweries are advertising about their production of alcohol and also their products through the private television channels and the Doordarshan. These advertisements are affecting the mind of the youth. Some of the beer blending units are using our ancient Bharathanatyam for their beer advertisements in order to promote their products and sales. I would like to know whether the Government is going to ban these things.

SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM : I will look into it.

MR. SPEAKER : Question No. 404. Shri S.B. Thorat.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw your attention towards part (b) of this question...(Interruptions) in which it has been asked as to how many teleserials have been sanctioned on commission basis on Doordarshan during each of the last three years. In reply, the hon'ble Minister has given a figure in which it has been mentioned that 158, 491 and 281 teleserials had been sanctioned during the year 1993-94, 1994-95 and 1995-96 respectively. Since

you have sanctioned serials on commission basis. I would like to know as to who got the commission i.e. who is the beneficiary...*(Interruptions)* Who is giving commission...*(Interruptions)* The hon'ble Minister has not given reply with regard to commission.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : It is not allowed.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Smt. Sushma, we have already gone to the next question. Do not break the rule, please. That question has already been answered.

Supply of Labourers to International Market

*404. SHRI SANDIPAN THORAT : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Israel Government have expressed interest to get labourers from India particularly for its construction industry;

(b) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken to send our skilled/semi-skilled workers to Israel and other countries like South Korea;

(c) the present policy of the Government in this regard and existing network for channelising the labour supply to the international market;

(d) total number of registered remitting agencies and number of persons sent abroad through them during each of the last three years and perception of such demand of trades/skills in international market; and

(e) the number of details of cases wherein the agencies have indulged in various exploitative practices alongwith the details of such agencies and the action taken thereon during the above period?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) to (e). A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

The Israeli Government has indicated such interest in recent bilateral discussion. It is expected that movement of manpower would be channelised mostly through Private Sector on both sides. However, the two Governments may in due course devise procedures as required to facilitate this in accordance with their respective laws and regulations. The deployment of Indian workers to South Korea would depend on allotment of reasonable quota from the Korea Federation of Small Business, South Korea.

2. Recruitment and deployment of Indian workers for overseas employment is regulated under the provisions of the Emigration Act, 1983 and the rules

framed thereunder. Opportunities for supply of Indian workers for overseas employment are found out by the Recruiting Agents registered with this Ministry under the Act or by the Project Exporters for execution of the project Exporters for execution of the projects undertaken by them.

3. 2813 Recruiting Agents have been registered upto 15.12.96. During the years 1993, 1994 and 1995, 4.38 lakh, 4.25 lakh and 4.15 lakh workers respectively sought clearance from the Offices of the Protectors of Emigrants for overseas employment.

4. During the last three years, 1993-94, 1994-95 and 1995-96, 187 complaints were received against the Recruiting Agents for violation of different provisions of the Emigration Act, 1983. Complaints were enquired into with the help of Police authorities and the concerned Indian Missions abroad and action as appropriate has been taken in each case in accordance with the provisions of the Act and the rules framed thereunder. Registration Certificates of the following Recruiting Agents were suspended/cancelled during the last three years for violation of terms of Registration Certificates :

S.No Name of Recruiting Agent

1. M/s. Expo India, Mumbai.
2. M/s. R.K. Enterprises, Mumbai.
3. M/s. Allwyn Travels, Mumbai.
4. M/s. Business Aids, Mumbai.
5. M/s. Sultan Travel and Recruiting Agent, Mumbai.
6. M/s. S.K. Enterprises, Mumbai.
7. M/s. Jasper International, Mumbai.
8. M/s. Samreen Travel, Mumai.
9. M/s. Pasha Enterprises, Mumbai.
10. M/s. Al-Samit International, Mumbai.
11. M/s. Al-Karim Overseas Cons. Trading Co. Pvt. Ltd., Mumbai.
12. M/s. Reliance Staffing Services, Mumbai.
13. M/s. R.K. Enterprises, Delhi.
14. M/s. A.J. International, Delhi.
15. M/s. Pride Travels, Moga.
16. M/s. Hans Agencies, Jalandhar.
17. M/s. Al-Rahman Associates, Delhi.
18. M/s. Shambros, Delhi.
19. M/s. Allied Enterprises, Cochin.
20. M/s. Athena Travels, Cochin.
21. M/s. K.V. Exports, Kollam.
22. M/s. Palakkal Associates, Cochin.

SHRI SANDIPAN THORAT : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am rather satisfied with the answer given in the statement by the Ministry but not fully. My question is about the recruitment of the Indian workers abroad. Being a former Labour Minister, Sir, you know very well about the Indian workers. You have also an important role in this regard.

MR. SPEAKER : What is your question?

SHRI SANDIPAN THORAT : I am putting my question. Let me formulate my question. The Indian workers, who are going abroad, are earning much more in order to invest in India. On the contrary, the Indian Government has nothing to spare on their education whereas it spends much more on the education of the intellectuals in India just like doctors, engineers and scientists who go abroad and settle there. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government of India has any special incentive scheme for the Indian workers who go abroad, earn much more and in turn send the money back to India. This is my first question.

SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM : I will try to satisfy the Member. As you know, our Government is helping to establish educational institutions abroad where our Indian workers are working. These are meant for the welfare of the children of the workers. Apart from that, wherever there is any problem arising from the workers, we will take it up with the Embassy and through the Embassy we will take it up with the other Government.

SHRI SANDIPAN THORAT : Sir, I want to know from the Minister whether he has taken a fresh initiative to send much more workers abroad.

SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM : Sir, it is an on-going exercise. We are simplifying the procedure then and there.

SHRI N.K. PREMCHANDRAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, part (4) of the answer says: "During the last three years, 1993-94, 1994-95 and 1995-96, 187 complaints were received against the Recruiting Agents for violation of different provisions of the Emigration Act." A lot of cheating is going on in recruiting or employing the workers in foreign countries. So, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government of India has a proposal to constitute an Overseas Employment Development Corporation so as to recruit the workers abroad. That is part one of my question.

In the second part of my question, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether there is a ban in the Kingdom of Saudia Arabia in issuing visas. A particular set of people are being denied the visa. During the time of the former Prime Minister, the late Shrimati Indira Gandhi, such a move was there and the Government of India had interfered into the matter. The problem had then been solved by providing a ratio of 60:40. I would like the hon. Minister to answer these two parts of my question.

SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM : Sir, as you know, the setting up of a Central Manpower Promotion Council has been under consideration of the Government for the past three years. The matter was discussed at a meeting of the State Labour Secretaries on 26.10.1996. In the meeting, it was recommended that such a Council may be set up and that the composition etc. of the Council would be decided in consultation with the other concerned Ministries/Departments of the Government of India.

Coming to the second part of the question, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is insisting on a particular section of people to be recruited. This matter had been taken up with that Government earlier also. So, this has been taken up with that Government.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN : Sir, I thank the hon. Minister for his answer to the last part of the question that in recruitment, there will not be any discrimination against any community. He has already given a list of agents who have been blacklisted. There are agents who recruit workers, collect a lot of money from them and do not send the workers and do not even refund the money. In my constituency and in the State of Kerala, there are thousands of such cases which have come to our notice. Neither did they send the workers abroad nor did they return the money. Likewise, after sending them, they do not give the salary which has been agreed upon in the contract. There are thousands of cases where after being sent, the workers got a much lower salary than what was agreed upon in the agreement. I find that these workers cannot change... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Prof. Kurien, you are going on narrating the things. You ask the question.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN : Therefore, Sir, I would like to know what action the Government will take in both these cases. Will they prosecute them and will they also take up the matter with the concerned Government so that whatever salary is agreed upon, is given to the workers?

SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM : Sir, I have stated in the main answer also that whenever we received a complaint, we used to suspend or cancel the agency.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN : That is not enough. That is what I am saying. It is cheating. It is a criminal offence. It is not enough only to cancel the agency.

SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM : Sir, let me answer the question. When an employer who is employing the workers in his country is doing any mischief, our Embassy is taking up the issue with the Government concerned and then they are taking action as per their law. Recently, when I was in the UAE, I had taken up certain issues with the Labour Minister of the UAE Government. He had assured me that action would be taken according to their law.

International Programme for Elimination of Child Labour

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*405. SHRI SNANTILAL PARSOTAM DAS PATEL :
SHRI DINSHA PATEL :

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the funds made available under International Programme for Elimination of Child Labour during the last three years have been fully utilised, and

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the extent to which success has been achieved?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) and (b). The allocation for India under International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour (IPEC) for the two biennia 1992-93 and 1994-95 was US \$ 3.65 million. The allocation for the year 1996 is US \$ 0.5 million. Out of this total allocation of US \$ 4.15 million during 1992-96 so far an amount of US \$ 3.3 million has been released by IPEC to the implementing agencies. Under IPEC a total of 118 Action Programmes have been funded, directly benefiting around 80,000 working children.

[Translation]

SHRI SHANTILAL PARSOTAMDAS PATEL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, whether any scheme has been formulated to monitor the programmes prepared by the Government? If so, the details of that should be furnished. In which year, 950 children that were engaged in the work have been identified in Gujarat? The actual number of children may far exceed this. Much more children are engaged in the work in each of the states. I would like to know the procedure of identification adopted by the Govt. and the progress made in this scheme in Gujarat during the last three years.

[English]

SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM : Sir, the hon. Member is confused with various programmes. We have three programmes in the Government in the area of child labour. One is the IPEC. Of course, it is an ILO sponsored programmes. As you know, we have the Grant-in-Aid Scheme which is a small scheme of about Rs. 1 crore per year. The third programme is the National Child Labour Project. This particular question is related to the international programme. As far as this programme is concerned, it has so far covered around 80,000 children.

MR. SPEAKER : Is there any project under IPEC working in Gujarat? I think, that is what he would like to know.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : You can find out and inform the hon. Member later on.

[Translation]

SHRI SHANTILAL PARSOTAM DAS PATEL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, when it is not provided at present, how can it be given later on...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM : I have the figures. In Gujarat, we have approved five projects covering about 1,350 children...(Interruptions)

SHRI SANAT MEHTA : Why have you identified only this many children in such a scheme?

[Translation]

SHRI DINSHA PATEL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, though, he has admitted that the Gurupad Swamy Committee has submitted its report on Child Labour, to the Government but he has not told as to what action has been taken by the Government on that report. The hon. Minister has told that out of 4.15 million, only 3.3 million have been allocated. What are the reasons for this shortfall? In which state the number of Child Labour is the highest and what is their number in Gujarat? Whether the Government has any plan to cover them.

[English]

SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM : This question is concerned with IPEC. As far as the IPEC programme is concerned, 22,890 children have been covered in West Bengal. This is the largest number in any State which this programme has covered. As far as Gujarat is concerned, as I said, about 1,350 children have been covered.

I need a separate notice for the other question which he has asked about the commission.

[Translation]

SHRI DINSHA PATEL : I have asked as to what are the reasons for less allocation?... (Interruptions) What are the reasons for curtailing the allocation from 4.15 million to 3.3 million?

[English]

SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM : This is an international programme. We have to do it. They have given this much amount to our country. This programme has so far covered about US \$ 3.3 million and the balance will be given to other aiding agencies.

[Translation]

PROF. OM PAL SINGH "NIDAR" : Speaker, Sir, this is a vital issue. Unfortunately, we have not made any difference between mastering an art and labour as we are following the western culture. I have a small question. I would like to know that if the child labours are covered under the programmes, what arrangements

have been made or proposed to be made by the Govt. for the survival of those families in which children are the only earning hands for their dependent old mother, grandmother or grandfather?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Do you have any programme to compensate the earnings of those children who have been removed from the work?

SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM : Sir, we have a 'National Project on Elimination of Child Labour'. Under that scheme, those children who have been taken out from hazardous industries, have been paid a subsidy at the rate of Rs. 100 per child.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri A.C. Jos. One sentence question, please.

SHRI A.C. JOS : Sir, nothing is moving in this country regarding elimination of child labour. Wherever there is child labour, they are still in persistence.

In this regard, public awareness is very much essential. Is the hon. Minister or the Central Government ready to involve the trade unions as well as non-governmental organisations to give publicity to eliminate the child labour? Is there any scheme with the Government to get the involvement of public, the trade unions and the non-governmental organisations in this regard?

SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM : Yes, Sir, we are including the trade unions and the non-governmental organisations.

Recently the Supreme Court had given a verdict in this regard. We have to go through that judgement thoroughly and I think after that, we have to re-look the entire issue.

Objectives of BOLT Scheme

*406. SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the objectives of own your wagon scheme and BOLT scheme launched in 1992 and 1994 respectively;

(b) whether the schemes have had very poor response in attracting the private investment;

(c) the details of achievements of the schemes and reasons for poor performance; and

(d) the reaction of the Government about further implementation of these schemes?

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (d). A Statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

STATEMENT

(a) The objective of 'Own Your Wagon' and 'BOLT' Schemes is to supplement the resources of the Railways for expansion of rail transport capacity through private sector participation in funding.

(b) The response to 'Own Your Wagon' Schemes has been, by and large, encouraging. The response to 'BOLT' Scheme has not been encouraging for fixed infrastructure projects.

(c) and (d). Since inception of 'Own Your Wagon' Scheme in August, 1992, orders for 11580 wagons (in terms of four wheelers) have been received and 7043 wagons (in terms of four wheelers) have been procured till November, 1996. Under the 'BOLT' Scheme, 2 gauge conversion projects (Mudkhed-Adilabad and Viramgam - Mehsana) and one rolling stock project (for 3050 wagons in terms of four wheelers) have been awarded. The poor performance of 'BOLT' Scheme for infrastructure projects is attributable to high cost quoted by the bidders and inadequate response to the Scheme. However, on the experience gained, efforts are made to make the schemes more attractive.

[English]

SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS : Sir, the objective of the wagon scheme is to free the railways from investing in the procurement of wagons, acquisition of rolling stock and expansion of the railway network into the backward areas, and to attract the small private investment in the industrial and commercial activities and in new railway lines so that overall development in the railways could be accelerated.

But only 7043 wagons have so far been procured during the five years of inception of your own wagon scheme. It shows the failure of the scheme to attract private investors.

Therefore, Sir, I want to know from the Government as to what specific measures are being taken to attract private investment in the railways so that the railways could be free from investing in wagon and other developments.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon'ble Member has rightly said that the scheme was started in 1992 under 'Own Your Wagon Scheme'. Since we do not have enough resources to meet all the requirements, hence own your wagon scheme was launched in 1992. Our target was to acquire 5 thousand wagons every years there from but the scheme did not prove very successful and did not evince special interest. So improvements were made in the scheme. The lease charges which were initially 14.5 percent for ten years in 1992, were hiked to 16 percent for 10 years in 1994. Besides, we have also provided several exceptions which inter alia means that

such leasing company was also included which was not there in the last scheme. Design loan and service charges which were 6.5 per cent were reduced to 3 percent. In case of direct procurement, these charges were reduced to 1.5 percent from 2.5 percent. We have also said that if Railways would fail to provide prescribed number of wagons in time, then it will pay compensation Rs. 4 per tonne. It proved very effective. In 1994-95, we had orders for 797 wagons and in 1995-96, we received orders for 4572 wagons and up to November 1996-97, we received orders for 4650 wagons. I think that this trend is very encouraging and we have been successful in attracting the investors.

[English]

SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS : There is poor maintenance in regard to the cloak room, provision of bed rolls in mail and express trains in Rayagada, Langigarh road, Kesinga, Titilagarh, Kantabanji, Khariar Road, Sambalpur, Rourkela Stations. So, I would like to know from the Government as to what specific steps are being taken to improve the maintenance of the above mentioned railway stations and what amount has been provided so far for this purpose.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, there are mainly two parts of the scheme. One is 'Wagon Scheme' and the other one is 'BOLT'. Hon'ble Member has said about maintenance. This issue was deliberated in the supplementary budget of Railway till one O'clock in the night yesterday and we have explained this position in this regard. We are keeping a close watch with regard to maintenance. So far as bed rolls etc. are concerned, we have categorically stated that there would be no shortage in AC II Tier and so far as maintenance is concerned, special cells have been set up for this purpose. We are strictly taking action also. I assure hon'ble Member that so far as two parts of maintenance is concerned—one is maintenance of bed rolls etc. and the other is maintenance of coaches—we are improving the maintenance of coaches and bogies. We have shortage of sufficient number of coaches, but we are improving the condition of coaches that are available with us, by getting them repaired and through other means. Besides, we are also seriously talking measures to overcome the shortage of the coaches.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Question No. 407, Shri V.M. Sudheeran - not present. Question No. 408, Shrimati Vasundhara Raje - not present. Question No. 409, Shri Anant Kumar Hegde - not present. Question No. 410, Shri George Fernandes - not present. Dr. Laxminarayan Pandey - not present.

Question No. 411, Dr. M. Jagannath.

DR. M. JAGANNATH : Question No. 411, Sir.

Government Policy on Pvt. Telecom Operators

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*411. DR. M. JAGANNATH

SHRI GOPALKRISHNA T.

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned 'Government Policies throttle Pvt. telecom operators', appearing in the Economic Times dated November 21, 1996,

(b) if so, the facts thereof and reaction of the Government thereon;

(c) whether telecom regulatory body has been constituted; and

(d) if not, when it is proposed to be constituted?

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) to (d). A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

The news item emphasises that refusal of the Government to permit long distance service, the ceiling on tariff set by the Government, the arbitrary fixation of interconnect and port charges and the limit on the number of Circles that an operator can implement have made private investment in basic services unprofitable. The parties which responded to the tenders were aware of the Government's stand on long distance service, the ceiling on tariff and also the number of Circles in which a private operator would be allowed to operate as these were clearly spelt out in the tender documents. The Government, therefore, do not agree with the contentions made in the news item. The prospective operators, however, have drawn Government's attention to the problems that have arisen on account of the non-transferability of the licence and also expressed the apprehension that their projects will not be financially viable. These problems are being looked into by the Government.

The Bill for constitution of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India has been introduced in the Lok Sabha and was referred to Standing Committee on Communications whose report has been laid on the Table of Lok Sabha on 21st Nov., 1996 and on the Table of Rajya Sabha on 26.11.96. Further action is being taken in the matter.

[English]

DR. M. JAGANNATH : The IIM, Bangalore has said that private operators would not get more than 2.5 per

cent annual return for their investment. I would like to know whether the operators are not allowed to provide long distance services. 55 per cent of the revenue of the Department of Telecommunications comes from domestic and long distance services. Then, why is it that the Government is not allowing this? I would like to know whether the basic service operators would not get 2.5 per cent return. Is it true? Why, no national policy has been not evolved yet?

MR. SPEAKER : The Minister is standing to give a reply to you. Please sit down.

[Translation]

JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA : He has not understood the question.

MR. SPEAKER : Translation is time consuming.

SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA : It will have to be looked into. Pragmatic approach would be adopted in this regard.

12.00 hrs.

[English]

SHRI T. GOPALKRISHNA : Sir, I would like to know what the hurdles in achieving the objectives enunciated in the National Telecom Policy and also the reasons for the delay in appointing the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India.

[Translation]

SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA : The Telecom Regulatory Bill was introduced in this House it was referred to the Select Committee. The Committee has submitted its report. After taking a final decision on that, it will be laid on the Table of the House.

SHORT NOTICE QUESTION

12.00½ hrs.

Ban on Use of Oxytocin Injection

SNQ 1. SHRI MANABENDRA SHAH : Will the Minister of ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the newsitem, appearing in the 'Hindustan Times', dated December 6, 1996 regarding injecting the cows and buffaloes with Oxytocin for increasing the milk output;

(b) if so, whether the Government have taken any steps to ban its use;

(c) whether the Oxytocin induces poison in the milk;

(d) whether the Government have made any investigation in this regard; and

(e) if so, the findings thereof?

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH) : (a) to (e). A statement is laid on the table of the House.

STATEMENT

(a) Yes Sir. The Government is aware of the news item published in Hindustan Times dated 6-12-1996. Oxytocin is sometimes used in the cows and buffaloes which suffer from let down problem. In such situation, animal's own oxytocin is not released in the circulation. Use of this injection, however, does not increase the milk output.

(b) Oxytocin is a scheduled - "H" drug. Therefore, as per the provisions of Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940; Rules 1945 (Rule 65) sale of oxytocin injection is permitted only against the prescription of a registered medical practitioner (this includes veterinary practitioners also). The powers to implement the Act is vested with the Drug Controller of India and the State Drug Controllers. The Drug Controller of India has already given instructions to the State Drug Controllers to regulate manufacture and distribution of oxytocin.

(c) No Sir.

(d) and (e). Since Oxytocin is a peptide hormone, it can not directly pass from blood to the milk. Thus elimination of oxytocin in the milk does not appear to represent an important path. Moreover, it is fast eliminated from circulation (its half life is about 1-5 minutes only) and is destroyed by the kidney and liver apart from being utilized by the mammary gland/udder for let down of milk.

[English]

SHRI MANABENDRA SHAH (Tehri-Garhwal) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the reply given by the hon. Minister does not categorically state that oxytocin is harmful to human beings. All that the Minister has said is that it gets diluted. Therefore, I would like to know what preventive steps are taken by the Government prior to the milk being supplied in the market so that any trace of oxytocin is diluted or diffused. No satisfactory categorical reply

has been given on this issue, which is a harmful hazard I would like to know what steps does the not Minister propose to take.

[Translation]

SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, oxytocin is a hormone secreted by a particular gland present in the bodies of human beings as well the animals. Whenever the calf of a mammal such as cow or buffalo dies, there is a problem in lactation. At that time the oxytocin hormone is injected in order to aid the process of lactation. This drug has been prescribed after getting it thoroughly tested by the Drug Controller so as to present the ill effects on the body of the animal or its milk. It does not affect the health of either human being or animal.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Silence, please. There has to be order in the House.

(Interruptions)

SHRI MANABENDRA SHAH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, how can a Drug Controller check up all the cattle that are supplying milk in all the cities? I challenge his statement, I would like to be satisfied by a proper reply. I would like to have an assurance as to how they propose to check all the cattle.

[Translation]

SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, when this newsitem was published in the newspaper that the poisonous element is mixed in the milk when this injection is given to the animal and is injurious to health, we got on enquiry conducted by the three institutes, I.A.I.I., I.C.A.R. and N.D.R.I. It was found that when the oxytocin hormone is injected in the body, the needle does not remain in the body for more than one or one and a half minute. Hence it does not affect either the body or the milk. Therefore, it is not injurious to health. Whenever hormone level goes down in one's body, only then this injection is given.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Vacancies of Presiding Officers

*407. SHRI V.M. SUDHEERAN : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether there are large number of vacancies of Presiding Officers in the Labour Courts;

(b) if so, the present position thereof; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) to (c) There are at present four vacancies of Presiding officers of Central Government Industrial Tribunals-cum-Labour Courts out of 12 such Courts set up for adjudicating industrial disputes in the Central sphere. Recommendations for filling up three of these vacancies have been received and those for the fourth have been invited.

Minerals in Rajasthan

*408. SHRIMATI VASUNDHRA RAJE : Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

(a) the different kinds of mineral reserves in Southern Rajasthan;

(b) the steps taken to exploit the hidden mineral wealth in this area;

(c) whether the Government propose to prepare a definite policy and programme for the proper exploitation of mineral in the State; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) As per the information furnished by the Indian Bureau of Mines, District-wise recoverable reserves of minerals in Southern Rajasthan are given in the enclosed Statement.

(b) The exploitation of the minerals in the State is Governed by the Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Act, 1957 and the rules made thereunder. As per the information available, there are 649 mining leases for the major minerals, 6363 mining leases for the minor minerals and 10085 quarry licences for minor minerals in the area.

(c) and (d). The Central Government has already formulated National Mineral Policy 1993 for non-fuel and non-atomic minerals for the country as a whole for the exploration and development of mineral resources in the country. Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Act 1957 has been amended in 1994 in line with the New Mineral Policy announced in 1993. The Government in October, 1996 have issued guidelines for grant of Prospective Licence under Section 6 of MMRD Act, 1957 for areas larger than 25 Sq. kms. to encourage induction of foreign technology and private investment in exploration and exploitation of the Minerals. Rajasthan Government has also formulated Mineral Policy, 1994 for exploration and Development of the minerals in the State.

STATEMENT

District-wise Recoverable Reserves of Minerals in Southern Rajasthan (as on 1.4.1990)

Mineral	District	Unit	Recoverable reserves (as on 1.4.90)
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
Quartz/	Bundi	000' tonnes	11080
Silica Sand	Kota	-do-	7440
	Sirohi	-do-	0.8
	Udaipur	-do-	1.0
	Bhilwara	-do-	7581
China Clay	Bundi	-do-	4142
	Chittorgarh	-do-	24120
	Udaipur	tonnes	683735
Pyrophyllite	Dungarpur	-do-	41100
Wollastonite	Sirohi	-do-	2749839
	Bhilwara	Kg	1681738
Mica	Banswara	tonne	440116
Graphite	Banswara	000' tonnes	271
	Bhilwara	-do-	16761
	Chittorgarh	-do-	42
	Dungarpur	-do-	4796
	Sirohi	-do-	5
	Udaipur	-do-	12414
	Chittorgarh	-do-	826572
	Sirohi	-do-	347082
Limestone (including Chalk)	Kota	-do-	249337
	Udaipur	-do-	662520
	Bhilwara	tonnes	121020
	Sirohi	-do-	5005000
Garnet	Udaipur	-do-	1500
Sillimanite	Bhilwara	000' tonnes	926
	Udaipur	-do-	2550
Dolomite	Banswara	tonnes	19340
Rock	Udaipur	-do-	67894885
Phosphate	Bhilwara	-do-	519631
Felspar	Chittorgarh	-do-	7853175
	Udaipur	-do-	3110821
	Bhilwara	000' tonnes	3419
Copper Ore (1.4.93)	Bundi	-do-	1998
			(conditional resources)
	Chittorgarh	-do-	2289
	Dungarpur	-do-	763
	Sirohi	-do-	3920
	Udaipur	-do-	2439

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
Lead-Zinc Ore (1.4.93)	Bhilwara	000 tonnes	58843
	Chittorgarh	-do-	607
	Sirohi	-do-	750
	Udaipur	-do-	91456
	Rajsamand	-do-	8253
Kyanite	Bhilwara	Tonnes	500 (conditional Resource)
Calcite	Bhilwara	-do-	7725
	Sirohi	-do-	1789284
	Udaipur	-do-	197962
Apatite (Rock Phosphate)	Udaipur	-do-	30000
Tungsten Ore	Sirohi	-do-	29230
Barytes	Bhilwara	-do-	1294
	Bundi	-do-	15954
	Udaipur	-do-	1535760
Asbestos	Bhilwara	-do-	243
	Dungarpur	-do-	2592
	Udaipur	-do-	807919
Fluorspar	Dungarpur	-do-	631117
	Sirohi	-do-	42500

Board of Airports Authority of India

409. SHRI ANANT KUMAR HEGDE : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) the composition of the Board of the Airports Authority of India;

(b) whether most of the members of the Board are only associated with the AAI as part-timers;

(c) if so, whether this has adversely affected its functioning; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken to appoint full time Board Members as a measure to improve the functioning of the Board and the standard of air travel safety in the country?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) At present, the Board of Airports Authority of India consists of the Chairman one whole-time Member, one Ex-officio member (DGCA) and five Part-time Members.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) No, Sir.

(d). The post of Whole-time Member (Operations) has been filled w.e.f. 17.10.1996. Proposals for the

appointment of three more whole time members, namely Member (Pers. and Admn.), Member (Planning), Member (Finance and Accounts), are being processed. However, the standard of air travel safety in the airports of the country is not adversely affected due to the vacancies in the Board of Airports Authority of India.

Leasing Out Bailadila Mines

*410. SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES :

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY :

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether negotiations for leasing out Beiladila Iron ore reserves to private parties are continuing;

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

(c) when the mines are likely to be transferred?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) to (c). Based on the Government approval to National Mineral Development Corporation Ltd. (NMDC) for development of Bailadila Deposit 11-B through joint venture, NMDC signed a joint venture agreement with NDIL on 10th July, 1995 and a new JV Company namely Bailadila Mineral Development Company Ltd. (BMDC)

was incorporated on 31st July, 1995. Further, NMDC submitted its application to the Government of Madhya Pradesh for transfer of 11-B mining lease in favour of the JV company.

The Government of Madhya Pradesh recommended the proposal vide their letter dated 06/1/96 and sought prior approval of the Central Government from the Ministry of Mines, as required under the provisions of the MMRD Act, 1957. The State Government also proposed to incorporate certain conditions such as involvement of the State Govt. in the equity of the JV Company to the extent of 20%, setting up of a steel plant by the new Joint Venture Company in Madhya Pradesh preferably in Bastar District, recruitment of manpower from the State especially from District Bastar, establishment of schools/hospital in the area by the JV Company etc. The Ministry of Mines approved the proposal on 21st March, 1996 subject to observance of the provisions of MMPD Act, 1957 and Mineral Concession Rules, 1960 and also that the State Govt., the proposed joint venture company, i.e., Bailadila Mineral Development Company Ltd., and NMDC should arrive at a uniform and agreed set of conditions for the transfer and incorporate them in an agreement or any other appropriate legal instrument.

Ministry of Mines vide their letter dated 13/6/96 requested Government of Madhya Pradesh to inform whether NMDC has consented to the conditions that the State Government proposed to incorporate under Rule 27 (3) of the MCR, 1960. The State Government of Madhya Pradesh has requested Ministry of Steel vide their letter dated 19/6/96 and 3/8/96 to advise NMDC to send their consent to the conditions proposed by the State Government.

Shri Gurudas Dasgupta and Shri Jibon Roy, Hon'ble Members of Parliament had filed a Writ petition before the Hon'ble Calcutta High Court for grant of stay on the decision to transfer the lease of 11-B iron ore mines in favour of the Joint Venture Company. The Writ petition had been dismissed by the Calcutta High Court on grounds of jurisdiction on 10/5/1996. An interim stay of 3 weeks was granted by the High Court which was subsequently ordered by the Court to be suspended till the disposal of appeal preferred by the Joint Venture Company against the interim stay and the appeal preferred by Shri Gurudas Dasgupta and Shri Jibon Roy against the order dismissing the original Writ petition. These appeals are to come up before the regular bench.

A Public Interest Litigation (PIL) has also been filed in the High Court of Delhi in July, 1996 against the transfer of Bailadila Deposit 11-B. The case has been adjourned to 13/1/1997 for final argument.

The subject is very important and needs detailed examination on various aspects. However, since the matter is pending before the Courts, the Government would like to await the judicial verdict.

IA Growth in Domestic Traffic

*412. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the expectations of Indian Airlines for a growth of 15% in domestic traffic in the first six months of current year has fallen through recording zero growth;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the expected growth in the next six months of the year; and

(d) the steps being taken to achieve the target?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) In the last six months of the current financial year the growth in passenger carriage projected by Indian Airlines is 14.5% over the same period of the year 1995-96.

(d) The following steps have been taken to achieve the expected growth in traffic :

(i) Increased utilization of fleet through increased production of commanders, induction of commanders on contract in Alliance Air, wholly owned subsidiary of Indian Airlines and increased number of aircraft rostered per day as a result of increased productivity of engineers.

(ii) Attracting passengers by product improvement, innovation/aggressive marketing strategies, improved on-time performance and dissemination of information regarding the strengths of the company.

Task Force for Exploration

*413. SHRI N. DENNIS :

DR. RAMKRISHNA KUSMARIA :

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have recently contemplated a new action plan to explore the availability of minerals in the country particularly in the National Capital Territory of Delhi and North-Eastern region;

(b) whether a Task Force has been set up for this purpose;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the achievements made by the Task Force, so far; and

(d) the break-up of expenditure involved in this action plan?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) to (d). Exploration and exploitation of minerals through the country including the North-Eastern Region and the National Capital Territory of Delhi are on going plan activities of the Government. However, as a part of the overall economic development in the North-Eastern Region Government of India have recently constituted a Task Force for evolving an Action Plan to identify possibilities and thrust areas to facilitate proper exploration and exploitation of mineral resources in the North-Eastern States. Among other things, the Terms of Reference of the Task Force are to identify thrust areas for geological, environmental and mineral studies, to identify individual mineral deposits for exploitation and to recommend neogessary administrative infrastructure for mineral development in the North-Eastern States. No Task Force has been constituted for the National Capital Territory of Delhi by the Ministry of Mines, Government of India.

The Task Force has started preliminary activities and so far no expenditure has been incurred in this regard. The actual amount for exploration and exploitation of mineral resources in the country including the North-Eastern Region are as per the provisions in the Annual Plan and Five Year Plan of the country.

Import/Export of Steel

*414. SHRI SOUMYA RANJAN : Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

(a) the quantity of steel produced, imported and exported during 1994-95, 1995-96 and 1996-97 (so far);

(b) the capacity utilisation of the installed and operational steel plants in the country, separately for public and private sector during these years; and

(c) the steps taken or being taken during 1996-97 to improve the capacity utilisation?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) The quantity of finished steel produced, imported and exported during 1994-95, 1995-96 and April-November, 1996-97 is as under :

(In Million Tonnes)

	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97* (April-November) (Provisional)
Production	17.82	21.40	14.80
Import	1.70	1.57	1.04
Export	0.92	1.07	0.65

Partly Estimated.

(b) The capacity utilisation of public and private sector steel plants in production has been estimated as under :

	Public Sector	Private Sector
1994-95	86%	68%
1995-96	87%	67%
1996-97 (April-Nov.)	87%	62%

(c) In a market economy capacity utilisation would depend on several factors such as demand, availability, prices etc. In order to improve capacity utilisation, SAIL has taken up modernisation of its plants at Rourkela, Bokaro and Durgapur. Other steps being taken by SAIL include improving the quality of inputs, improving operating and maintenance practices, maximising captive power generation and improving inter-plant synergy. Similarly, Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited (RINL) has taken measures to improve capacity utilisation by setting up of balancing facilities, imparting training and skill development to the employees, taking up modifications to the plans and equipment to improve production and productivity capital restructuring, cost reduction etc.

Acquisition of Electric Passenger Locomotives

*415. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Railways has acquired AC 3 phase 6,000 horse-power electric passenger locomotives from M/s. Asea Brown Bover (ABB) of Switzerland under an agreement for technology transfer;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of passenger and freight locomotives ordered from ABB and the respective haulage capacity of these locomotives; and

(d) the time by which the process of technology transfer is likely to be completed and indigenous manufacture of ABB locos likely to commence?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. Indian Railways have acquired 10 Nos. of 5440 HP Electric passenger locomotives alongwith one passenger locomotive to serve as bank of spares at total Free-on-Board cost of Swiss Francs 54268500 + Deutche Marks 42042000 equivalent to Rs. 259 Crores from ABB/Switzerland. These locomotives were acquired by the Railways between Oct. '95 to Sept. '96 against the supply contract placed in July '93.

(c) Ten passenger and twenty freight locomotives were ordered on M/s. ABB in July '93. In addition, 1

passenger loco and 2 freight locos were also ordered to act as bank of spares. Their haulage capacity is as below

Passenger Locomotives

26 coaches at 120Km/h: or

18 coaches at 160 Km/h

Freight Locomotives

4700 Tonne at 100 Km/h on level: or

4700 Tonne at 53 Km/h on 1:200 gradient

(d) The contract for the Transfer of Technology will spread over a period of ten years and would be completed by 2004. The indigenous manufacture of high horse power electric locomotives is planned at Indian Railways' Unit, Viz., Chittaranjan Locomotive Works as under :

1997-98	- 10 locomotives
1998-99	- 30 locomotives (Tentative)
1999-2000	- 50 locomotives (Tentative)

Welfare Scheme for Agricultural Labourers

*416. SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) the welfare schemes approved by the Union Government for agricultural labourers in Delhi and other States during each of the last three years, and the current financial year so far;

(b) the extent to which the agricultural labourers have been benefited by these schemes;

(c) the amount allocated for the purpose during the above period;

(d) whether the Government propose to take some more steps in this regard; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) to (c). A statement is attached.

(d) and (e). The Government are considering enactment of a comprehensive legislation to regulate employment and conditions of service and to provide for welfare of agricultural workers.

STATEMENT

There are no welfare schemes approved by the Union Government only for the agricultural workers of Delhi as such. However, some of major schemes undertaken for the welfare of rural population below poverty line, including agricultural workers under special

employment and poverty alleviation programmes include :

(i) Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP)

Under this scheme, financial assistance is provided for acquiring income generating assets, comprising of a varying mix of subsidies and term credit at differential rates for small farmers, marginal farmers, agricultural labourers and rural artisans with special provision for SC/STs and women. Number of families assisted under the scheme upto October, 1996 is 615166. Total funds allocated during the years 1994-95, 1995-96 and 1996-97 were 1098.22 crores, 1097.21 crores and 1097.21 crores respectively.

(ii) Jawahar Rojgar Yojna (JRY) -

This scheme aims at generation of additional gainful employment and creation of productive community assets. Employment generation under the scheme during 1996-97 (Upto October, 1996) was 1656.46 lakh mandays. Funds allocated during the years 1994-95, 1995-96 and 1996-97 were Rs. 2800 crores, Rs. 3240 crores and 2236.79 crores respectively. This schemes has been intensified in 120 backward districts of the country where there is concentration of unemployment and underemployment.

(iii) Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS) -

On 2nd October, 1993, a new scheme known as 'Employment Assurance Scheme' was launched in 1752 identified backward blocks throughout the country which seeks to provide assured wage employment of 100 days of unskilled manual work in lean agricultural season. The scheme mainly benefits agricultural workers. This scheme has since been extended to 3206 blocks. No targets are fixed under this scheme. Number of persons registered upto October, 1996 since beginning under this scheme is 22325379. Employment generated under this scheme upto October, 1996 is 1347.16 lakh mandays. Allocation of funds for the years 1994-95, 1995-96 and 1996-97 was Rs. 1200 crores, Rs. 1278.09 crores and Rs. 777.37 crores respectively.

(iv) Development of Women and Children in Rural Areas (DWCRA) -

A scheme known as Development of Women and Children in Rural Areas (DWCRA) was launched in 1982-83 for bringing about economic and social upliftment of rural women belonging to families below the poverty line using a group approach for taking up income generating activities suited to their skills and aptitude. The scheme operates in conjunction with IRDP and Training of Rural Youth for Self Employment (TRYSEM).

(v) National Social Assistance Scheme (NSAS) -

The Government of India have announced a NSA Scheme for the poor. This contemplates old age pension

@ Rs. 75/- p.m. to destitute persons over 65 years of age, lump-sum family benefit of Rs. 5000/- and Rs. 10000/- respectively to the families for natural death and accidental death of the primary bread winner and maternity benefit of Rs. 300/- per pregnancy for two live births. The scheme is expected to benefit 5.3 million, 3.5 lakh beneficiaries and 4.5 lakh women workers respectively.

In addition to the above, the Central and the various State Governments have taken up several Insurance and Social Security Schemes like Rural Group Life Insurance Scheme, Group Insurance Scheme for Landless Agricultural Labourers in 1987 under the Social Security Fund of the LIC for providing insurance cover to all landless agricultural labourers in the age group of 18-60 years and the insurance schemes for IRDP beneficiaries in 1988. Besides, State Governments are running old age pension schemes with varying eligibility criteria and pension rates.

[Translation]

Necessity of English in Entrance Examination

*417. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the medium of entrance examination for courses in Railway Engineering and other trades organised by railways is English;

(b) if so, the names of training and educational institutions and examinations for jobs for which English as a subject is compulsory; and

(c) the hurdles is removing compulsion of English language in all training and educational institutions and entrance examinations for jobs held by his Ministry along with other places where it is compulsory?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PAWAN) : (a) to (c). No Sir, Indian Railways do not conduct entrance examination for such Courses. However, for recruitment to Group 'A' posts, examinations are conducted by Union Public Service Commission.

Question papers of examinations for jobs conducted through Railway Recruitment Boards for Group 'C' posts are set in bilingual form i.e. English and Hindi. Progressively, in a phased manner, the questions in General English are now asked with questions in Hindi of equivalent marks with option to attempt either of the two. This system has been introduced for 30 categories. The possibility of extending this scheme to another 35 categories is being explored. In the next phase other categories will be considered except in case of posts where knowledge of English is considered necessary e.g. English Teacher, English Stenographer etc.

For examinations for jobs in Railways, English as a subject is not compulsory in training and educational institutions.

[English]

Fibre Optic System

*418. SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI
PROF. JITENDRA NATH DAS

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received any proposal for linking all major cities along the coast with a submarine fibre optic system for high quality telecommunication network;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any survey has been conducted to know the cost effectiveness of such project, vis-a-vis current long distance DOT network;

(d) whether such super information system will also be extended to cities of the Gangetic plains to achieve the objectives of the Indian Telecom Policy;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. A proposal was received from VSNL during 1994 for a project named "JALMALA" which was for providing connectivity to 26 Stations around the coast of peninsular India starting from Bhavnagar in Gujarat to Calcutta. The proposal was laying a submarine optic fibre cable for a total distance of 4800 kms with a 2+1 system of 2.5 Gbps having a channel capacity of 60000 circuits and with a total cost of Rs. 760 crores.

(c) The estimated cost per km in this project works out to approximately 3 times the cost of current long distance DOT optical fibre projects.

(d) to (f). There was no proposal from VSNL to extend this project to cities of gangetic plains. However, DOT has planned very high capacity optical fibre networks to link all the major cities proposed in the above project as well as the cities in the Gangetic plains. The details of the 10 projects planned by DOT are furnished in the enclosed Statement.

STATEMENT

*Details of 10 High Capacity Projects
Planned by DOT.*

1. ND-Ambala-Chandigarh-Ludhiana-Jalandhar-Bhatinda-ND STM-16 Ring
2. ND-Moradabad-Lucknow-Varanasi-Allahabad-Kanpur-Agra-ND STM-16 Ring
3. Cal-Patna-Varanasi-Ranchi-Calcutta-STM-16 Ring
4. ND-Agra-Bhopal-Indore-Jaipur-ND- STM-16 Ring
5. Mumbai-Indore-Ahmedabad-Mumbai STM-16 Ring

- 6 Mumbai-Pune-Bidar. Hyd-Bangalore-Mangalore-Mumbai STM-16 Ring
- 7 Bangalore-Chennai-Vijaywada-Hyd-Bangalore STM-16 Ring
- 8 Calcutta-Raipur-Nagpur-Hyd-Vijaybrada-Cuttak-Calcutta STM-16 Ring
- 9 Chennai-Bangalore-Coimbatore-Enk-Tvm-Madurai-Chennai STM-16 Ring
- 10 Mumbai-Pune-Bida-Nagpur-Bhopal-Indore-Mumbai STM-16 Ring.

**Unemployed Workers of
M/s Instrumentation Ltd.**

*419. SHRI TARACHAND BHAGORA : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the jobs of over 3000 workers are at risk in M/s. Instrumentation Ltd. at Kota as the Government undertaking has become sick; and

(b) if so, the steps taken or proposed to be taken to revive the unit and protect the job of the workers?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) and (b). The case of M/s. Instrumentation Ltd., Kota was referred to BIFR in October, 1993 and the company was declared as a sick unit under Sick Industrial companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985 by BIFR on 19.1.1994. BIFR have appointed IDBI as the operating agency for formulation of a revival plan. After inviting bids for takeover/merger of this company, IDBI received certain offers which have not been found acceptable by BIFR. M/s. Instrumentation Ltd., Kota has submitted another revival plan to the IDBI and Government.

Welfare Project for Working Children

*420. SHRI HARIN PATHAK : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) the details of voluntary agencies being financially assisted by the Government for taking up welfare projects for working children under the Grants in aid scheme in different parts of the country State-wise/project-wise; and

(b) the achievements made by the above agencies during the last two years?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) and (b). A list of agencies assisted under the scheme of Grants in aid to voluntary organisations, during the years 1994-95 and 1996 is enclosed in the Statement.

2. Activities taken up by the voluntary agencies with financial assistance from the Government include measures for prevention of child labour, taking up of welfare projects wherein the children are provided non-formal education, vocational/skill training, supplementary

nutrition and health care etc. All the voluntary agencies taken together covered 2820 and 4545 children during 1994-95 and 1995-96 respectively.

STATEMENT

*List of Organisations Assisted Under
Grants-In-Aid Scheme*

1994-95

1. The Congregation of the Sisters of the Cross of Chavanad, Tiruchirappalli.
2. Indian Council for Child Welfare, New Delhi.
3. Ruchika School, Bhubaneswar.
4. Karnataka State Council for Child Welfare, Bangalore.
5. Institute of Psychological and Educational Research, Calcutta, West Bengal.
6. India International Rural Centre, New Delhi.
7. Amrit Child Labour Welfare Society, Ahmedabad, (Gujarat).
8. Vivekananda Education Society, Calcutta, West Bengal.
9. Shramik Vikas Sewa Ashram, Allahabad, Uttar Pradesh.
10. Central Young Mizo Association, Aizawal, Mizoram.
11. Indian Council for Child Welfare, New Delhi.

1995-96

1. The Congregation of the Sisters of the Cross of Chavanad, Tiruchirappalli, Tamil Nadu.
2. Indian Council for Child Welfare, New Delhi.
3. Ruchika School, Bhubaneswar, Orissa.
4. Karnataka State Council for Child Welfare, Bangalore, Karnataka.
5. Institute of Psychological and Educational Research, Calcutta, West Bengal.
6. India International Rural Centre, New Delhi.
7. Vivekananda Education Society, Calcutta, West Bengal.
8. Shramik Vikas Sewa Ashram, Allahabad, Uttar Pradesh.
9. Gramin Sansadhan Vikas Parishad, Buxur, Bihar.
10. United Club, Ujini, Orissa.
11. Jibaramjee Club, Orissa.
12. Gram Vikas Seva Samity, Allahabad, Uttar Pradesh.
13. Karimpur Social Welfare Society, Dist. Nadia, West Bengal.
14. India Council for Child Welfare, Tamil Nadu.
15. Vijayapuram Praja Seva Samithi, Chittoor, Andhra Pradesh.
16. Bandhuwa Mukti Morcha, New Delhi.
17. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai Shiskha Samity, Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh.
18. Gram Swaraj Abhiyan Sansthan, Baishali, Bihar.

19. Mahatma Gandhi Khadi and Gramodyog Samity, Khurda, Orissa.
20. Gopal Samaj Kalyan Pratishthan, Nalanda, Bihar.
21. Mithila Gram Vikas Parishad, Dharbanga, Bihar.
22. KATHA, New Delhi.
23. Navachaitanya Academy for Youth Advancement, Vishakapatnam, Andhra Pradesh.
24. All India Santhal Welfare and Cultural Society, New Delhi.

Scandal in Air India

3978. SHRI JAI PRAKASH (HARDOL) : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government have been drawn to the news-item captioned, 'Air India Ki Amdni Bandhane Ke Naam Par Teen Arab Ki Heraferi Ka Ijam' appearing in the 'Jansatta' dated October 16, 1996;

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

(c) if so, the details and outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) Yes, Sir. To minimise distribution costs and financial risks, Air India has decided to review the distribution network in the USA region.

(b) No, Sir. However, Air India Limited has been directed that the selection of the General Sales Agents, if any, being made by Air India, should be done strictly on merit and scrupulously according to the procedure laid down by the Company.

(c) Does not arise.

Stoppage of Profitable Airline

3979. SHRI N.K. PREMCHANDRAN : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) the reasons for the stoppage of the Profitable Airline services viz Thiruvananthapuram-Dubai, Thiruvananthapuram-Abudhabi and Thiruvananthapuram-Muscat;

(b) whether the decision for discontinuing the above flights is proposed to be revived;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken to introduce additional flights to the Gulf countries from Thiruvananthapuram?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) There has been no stoppage of flights from Thiruvananthapuram to Dubai, Abudhabi and Muscat.

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

(d) The present air services operations from Thiruvananthapuram to Gulf Countries are adequate to take care of the present traffic requirements

ILO Funds for Elimination of Child Labour

3980. SHRI B.L. SHARMA 'PREM' : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Ministry has indicated to the International Labour Organisation that it would not need its funds for programmes like elimination of child labour;

(b) if so, the criteria for taking such a decision; and

(c) the funds received from ILO during the last three years, project-wise?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) to (c). As part of the Technical Cooperation programme of the ILO, India has been participating in the Inter-national programme on the Elimination of Child Labour (IPEC) since 1992. For the two biennia, 1992-93 and 1994-95, the allocation for India under IPEC was US \$ 3.65 million. The allocation for the year 1996 is US \$ 0.5 million.

In addition, the Government efforts to tackle the child labour problem was also assisted through another ILO project viz 'Child Labour Action and Support Programme' (CLASP). Allocation under the project for the year 1992-95 was US \$ 0.63 million.

India had conveyed to ILO in 1995 that it would not seek external assistance for elimination of child labour and prefer to depend on its own resources to curb this social evil particularly in view of the budget constraints which ILO was facing. It was further conveyed that the existing approved projects of ILO in India would run their whole implementation period. CLASP has already completed its normal implementation period. As per the Memorandum of Understanding IPEC will continue till December, 1996.

Air India and Alliances

3981. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether his attention has been invited to the news-item captioned "Air-India and alliances, it's a dogfight; and they move in packs" appearing in the "Hindu-Business Line" dated October 8, 1996;

(b) if so, the facts of the matter reported therein;

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(d) the impact of such tie-ups on the growth with equality of the India's national carrier?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. A number of airlines are entering into alliances to increase their market share.

(c) and (d). To meet the situation Air India is also continuously exploring the possibility of expanding its Code-Share operations in co-operation with European, American and South East Asian Carriers. Such Code-Share/Joint Venture arrangements are already operative with Scandinavian Airline System, United Airlines, Kuwait Airlines, Malaysian Airlines, Gulf Air and Air Mauritius.

Accident of Aircraft of Bokaro Steel Plant

3982. PROF. RITA VERMA : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) the number of aircrafts belonging to Bokaro Steel Plant damaged during 1995 and 1996, so far;

(b) the reasons for each of the accidents alongwith the extent of loss suffered in each case during the above period;

(c) the details of the enquiries conducted in this regard and the action taken against the persons found guilty; and

(d) the steps taken to stop recurrence of such accidents?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) and (b). Bokaro Steel Plant (BSL) have only one aircraft. During the years 1995 and 1996 it was involved in only one ground incident and got damaged. This ground incident took place in 1996.

This incident took place while checking of brake effectiveness on ground. Actual cost of repair except the inspection charges of the engine is Rs. 22,19,641/-. The charges for inspection of engine shall be available after inspection by overhauling agency i.e. M/s. Pratt and Whitney, Canada. As the Aircrafts is insured, necessary claim has been lodged with the insurance company.

(c) Enquiry has been conducted by Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA). The concerned engineer has been warned to be more careful in future and has been advised not to taxi the Aircraft in future.

(d) The concerned engineer has been directed by BSL not to taxi the Aircraft to avoid recurrence in future.

Delay in Introduction of passenger Trains

3983. SHRI AJOY MUKHOPADHYAY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the reasons for delay to introduce passenger trains from Kharagpur to Bardhaman and Sealdah, Naihati to Howrah, Bandel to Sealdah, Purulia to Bardhaman and Chittaranjan to Bardhaman/Asansol inspite of availability of existing infrastructure;

(b) whether the marginal investment has been made for creation of additional infrastructure in order to mitigate commuters' hardship in course of transshipment en-route; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Introduction of passenger services in the Kharagpur-Sealdah/Bardhaman section is presently not feasible as the route via Andul link is not fit for passenger train operations. Introduction of services from Naihati to Howrah via Bandel involves the problem of reversals at Bandel. The Howrah bound passengers of Naihati will have to avail changeover at Bandel. Bandel is already connected with Sealdah by 4 pairs of trains. Further, Sealdah bound passenger of Bandel can avail of changeover at Naihati. Regarding passenger services between Purulia-Bardhaman convenient connecting changeover services are available at Asansol. Direct service between Purulia and Bardhaman is not feasible, at present, due to operational and resource constraints including non-availability of maintenance facilities at Purulia. Chittaranjan-Asansol section is, at present served by Diesel push-pull and other services in addition to direct train services connecting Chittaranjan and Bardhaman.

(b) and (c). For introduction of EMU services between Kharagpur and Sealdah, a reconnaissance type engg. cum traffic survey has been taken up and investments as found feasible and justified can be made only after the survey is completed.

[Translation]

Financial Assistance to Municipal Bodies

3984. SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that due to financial assistance not being provided to the municipal bodies of Agra and Fatehpur Sikri as per their demand, the tourists, other citizens and institutions have complained of cleanliness, poor amenities around tourists spots and at places where tourists stay;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Supreme Court has also made some recommendation and expressed concern in this regard while dealing with public interest petitions;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether any time bound remedial action plan is under the consideration of the Government in this regard; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and the time by which the work is likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA) : (a) and (b). The Department of Tourism does not provide financial assistance to Municipal bodies for maintenance of

cleanliness and other maintenance. However, the financial assistance is provided to the State Governments for tourism infrastructure projects based on their merits, inter se priority and availability of funds.

(c) to (f). The information is being collected from the State Government of Uttar Pradesh and the Central Pollution Control Board.

[English]

Entrance of persons in the Cabin Holding Reservation-cum-Journey Tickets

3985. SHRI UTTAMSINGH PAWAR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Attendant in the 1st Class compartment can force the family of four in a cabin holding Reservation-cum-Journey Tickets to take any number of persons in the cabin; and

(b) if so, the number of persons the Attendant can make sit in the cabin/coupe in the day time and at the night time?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b). In a four berths cabin in a First Class Coach, during the night hours i.e., 2100 to 0600 hours, four passengers having the reserved accommodation are permitted to travel. During the day time, six passengers are permitted to travel. Two persons are permitted in a two-berth coupe during night hours and three during day time.

Creation of Separate Ministry for Pilgrim Affairs

3986. SHRI RAM NAIK : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that there is a public demand to create a separate Ministry for pilgrim affairs to look after the welfare of the devotees and maintenance of the sacred atmosphere, beauty and facilities at the holy sites;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government are also aware of the public demand to demarcate pilgrimage from tourism as the pilgrims trekked to inaccessible places in the face of implement whether conditions should not be equated with tourists; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA) : (a) No Sir, the Department of Tourism, Government of India is not aware of such a public demand.

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

Survey Regarding Traffic Potential of Railway Line

3987. SHRIMATI MEIRA KUMAR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any survey has been conducted on the daily traffic potential on each of the eight sections of railway lines at Kanpur junction so as to introduce rapid transport system;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is any proposal to introduce rapid transport system at least between Kanpur-Lucknow, Kanpur-Fatehpur and Kanpur-Ghatampur; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Provision of additional bottle of Mineral Water

3988. SHRI RUP CHAND MURMU : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are considering to provide additional bottle of mineral water to the passengers of Rajdhani Express;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government have justified that one bottle of water is sufficient for the entire journey;

(d) if so, whether the water coolers of the coaches are proposed to be installed again; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (c). No, Sir. Only one bottle of 1000 ml. water is admissible to each passenger and additional water bottle is given on payment. Mineral water bottles are made available for sale at various stations enroute and on trains.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Progress in Doubling work of Delhi-Gwalior Railway Line

3989. SHRI ASHOK ARGAL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the progress made in respect of doubling of Delhi-Agra-Dholpur-Murena-Gwalior Railway line;

(b) whether it is a fact that progress of the work on Dholpur-Murena section undertaken by private contractors is very slow;

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

(d) the percentage of work completed for the construction of railway bridge over river Chambal for double line;

(e) whether doubling work on above line has been completed as per schedule;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) if not, the time by which the doubling work on above line is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (g). A statement is attached.

(a) The entire route between Delhi and Gwalior is with double line, except for the portion of Chambal Bridge between Hetampur and Gher, where work has been taken up.

(b) Only the progress of earthwork at Delhi end of the bridge is slow.

(c) The contracts given to the Contractors executing the work on earthwork, have been terminated and fresh tenders are being invited at risk and cost.

(d) The overall progress is 23%.

(e) and (f). Work has already been taken up on 8 out of 15 well foundations and substantially completed, and on the remaining 7 well foundations, work will be commenced during the current year.

(g) The entire work is likely to be completed by March, 1999.

[Translation]

Ban on Booking of Parcel and Luggage

3990. SHRI DILER KISHAN LAL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the reasons for imposing ban on booking of Parcel and luggage from Delhi to Hathras Fort;

(b) whether any railway booking agency has been opened in Hathras city by Hathras Fort Railway Station and whether complaints have been received about the irregularities in the functioning of this agency and not providing facilities to common man in connivance with the Railways;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) In order to rationalise the handling of parcel traffic in Hathras area, it has been decided to temporarily close booking of parcels to Hathras Killah Station. However, personal and merchandise luggage is permitted to be booked to this station. The parcel traffic is being booked to Hathras Jn. which is hardly 9 kms. from Hathras Killah.

(b) to (d). A City Booking Agency is being operated at Hathras City by an agent appointed by the Railways. Complaints received by the Railways have been investigated and suitable action has been taken including imposition of fines on the Agency.

[English]

Vulgarity in Programmes

3991. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether vulgarity and obscenity continue to be displayed all over the country unchecked;

(b) whether the Government propose to amend I.P.C. and Representation of Women (Prohibition) Act, 1986 and other related Acts; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the time by which this is likely to be amended?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Review of laws is a continuing process. The National Commission for Women has a mandate to examine various laws relating to women which provide constitutional and legal safeguards to them. The Commission's recommendations are sent to the concerned Departments/Ministries. Presently, the Ministry of Human Resource Development (Department of Women and Child Development) is in the process of reviewing the legislation "Indecent Representation of Women (Prohibition) Act, 1986" in consultation with the concerned Departments/Ministries. This exercise is likely to take some time.

Experiment on Super Conductive Track

3992. PROF. P.J. KURIEN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any experiment on super conductive track has been done in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether such experiments have been conducted in other countries; and

(d) if so, the result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) No. Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No. Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Shares of M.T.N.L.

3993. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited has floated its shares in the market;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether employees of the Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited have been offered these shares;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VERMA) : (a) and (b). MTNL shares held by the Govt. were disinvested to the extent of 34.27% in 3 branches.

Month/Year of disinvestment	No. of Shares disinvested	%age
Feb., 1992	120000000	20.00%
March/April, 1994	76935300	12.82%
Oct., 1995	8685660	1.45%
	205620960	34.27%

No fresh issues of shares were made by MTNL.

(c) to (e). No Sir, this was not found feasible in view of the employees of MTNL being on deemed deputation from DOT, Government of India.

[Translation]

Sphatic Reserves in Bihar

3994. SHRI N.J. RATHWA : Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether 'sphatic' (quartz) reserves have been found near Lohardaga in Bihar;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the traders of Calcutta and Orissa are illegally purchasing the said mineral in large quantities from the villagers; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor and the action taken or proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) and (b). Occurrences of quartz (sphatic) in the hard rock

terrain of South Bihar including Lohardaga are geologically possible. However, being a low value mineral, Geological Survey of India has not done any systematic estimation of reserves of quartz in the area.

(c) and (d). Government of India have no information about such illegal purchase of mineral from the villagers. This being a State subject, the State Government of Bihar have directed the District administration at Lohardaga to keep vigil and take appropriate legal action wherever such illegal activities are noticed.

Child Labour in Aligarh

3995. SHRI CHINTAMAN WANAGA : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether a number of child labourers are working in lock industry of Aligarh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of child labourers employed therein and details of their age-group, average working hours and monthly income; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government for their welfare?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) to (c). According to Sample Survey conducted by Uttar Pradesh Development System Corporation Limited (U.P. DESCO), around 15,000 children are working in the lock industry in Aligarh. These children work on an average for 8-10 hours a day and their average monthly income is Rs. 254.15 per person. According to this sample survey, 70.70 per cent of these working children are in the age-group of 11 to 14.

(d) A National Child Labour Project was started in 1987 with a view to rehabilitating children withdrawn from hazardous occupations including lock industry in Aligarh and putting them in special schools where they are provided with non-formal education, vocational training, nutrition, health check and stipend. So far under the Aligarh Child Labour Project 30 special schools have been sanctioned to rehabilitate 2500 children. Funds have also been sanctioned for conducting surveys and awareness generation against the evils of child labour.

[English]

Discontinuation of Bogies in Punjab Mail

3996. SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that in the Punjab Mail running from Delhi to Bombay via Bhopal, a first class bogie which was a part of the rake has since been discontinued and replaced by an AC-3 tier coach;

(b) if so, the reservation quota of berth reservation allotted to Bhopal prior to this change;

(c) the present berth reservation quota of Bhopal for journey to Bombay and to New Delhi;

(d) whether the berth reservation quota of Bhopal has been reduced or discontinued; and

(e) if so, the time by which it will be revived or even raised to a higher number?

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

(b) A reservation quota of 12 berths by 1038 Punjab Mail for Bombay and 2 berths by 1037 Punjab Mail for Ferozpur was available.

(c) to (e). Instructions have been issued to restore the quota of 12 berths earlier available at Bhopal in first class by 1038 Punjab Mail in AC-3 tier class. A reservation quota of 4 berths in AC 3-tier has already been allotted to Bhopal by 1037 Punjab Mail w.e.f. 6-11-96.

Import Amount of Railways

3997. SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the value of imports of rolling stock and other equipments including track renewal materials made during the Seventh Five Year Plan period and during 1994-95, 1995-96 and 1996-97 upto October 31, 1996;

(b) whether the Government have imported huge quantity of British Rail ignoring the product of SAIL;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether cracks have been exposed in the British Rail which have been laid in the track in few places endangering the security; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (e). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Restructuring of Railways

3998. SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Prakash Tandon Committee has recommended the restructuring of the Railways;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b). A committee to study organisational structure and

management ethos of Indian Railways under the Chairmanship of Shri Prakash Tandan was constituted and the recommendations of the Committee were made in March, 1994. The recommendations of the Committee cover the areas of modern financial information systems, developing of business centered approach with focus on the customer, improving the investment planning system, human resource development and organisational restructuring.

(c) The Committee's report conceptual in nature suggested setting up of various committee/task forces to consider the implementability of various recommendations. Keeping in view this suggestion, Ministry of railways have set up various committees/task forces as under :

(I) *Identify Cost and Profit Centres*

(II) *Modernising Financial Management Information System*

Hasan Iqbal Committee set up on 30.8.94 for identification of cost and profit centres, development of accounting system and modernisation of financial management information system on Indian Railways, has submitted its Final Report on 15.4.96. Board has decided that the recommendations will be implemented on Western Railway as a Pilot Project.

(III) *Capital Restructuring*

A.V. Poulse Committee set up on 2.5.94 for fresh indepth review of the separation of railway finances to fulfill the original objective and review of capital structure on the Railways, has submitted its Final Report on 30.4.96. The salient feature of the Report include :

(i) A charter for Indian Railways which should specifically deal with the policy aspects on role of the Railways, its financial objectives, investment policy, pricing principles, delegation of powers and autonomy and parliamentary control.

(ii) There can not be total withdrawal of investment support, which will have to continue for undertaking projects required under national policy not yielding immediate returns. This capital should be dividend free.

(iii) Balances under the Railway Depreciation Reserve Fund should be solely for renewal and replacement of assets and the Fund should be entirely at the disposal of the Railways without being subjected to plan ceiling or the control of Ministry of Finance.

(iv) Metropolitan Transport Projects should be in the List (II) of the seventh Schedule (Concurrent List) of the Constitution of India to make it clear that state Govt. are also responsible for this type traffic.

- (iv) *Develop Computer Aided Long Range Decision Support System - Task Force set up with World Bank Assistance.*

The development of software-based Investment Planning model, the LRDSS has made considerable progress with in the scope of the terms of reference and resources available. Till date, LRDSS has completed the Freight Forecasting Model and made freight forecasts for the year 2000-01. The LRDSS team has also identified the sections where bottlenecks are likely to occur in 2000-01. Based on the progress made, Railway Board has accorded approval for the full blown development of a Long-range Decision Support System for aiding investment planning and augmentation of capacity on Rail Network.

- (V) *Unification of various services*

Gupta-Narain Committee set up on 15.4.94 to examine unification of various railway services in a common cadre, had submitted its Part-II Report in October, 1995. The salient features of the report are as under :

- (aa) The Committee has recommended that merger of all Railway services into one would neither be feasible nor in the best interest of the organisation. They have suggested the following :
- (i) IRSME and IRSEE should be merged into one service;
 - (ii) All Transportation and Commercial posts at Divisional levels (except Junior Scale posts) may be converted into combined Traffic post;
 - (iii) An integrated inter-seniority list should be prepared and several other measures as recommended by the Committee, taken for improvements in the inter-personnel service.
- (bb) The Committee has recommended that the system of CRB not holding any Departmental portfolio should be reintroduced.
- (cc) The Committee has suggested no change in the entry level educational qualifications but has recommended various measures for greater in-service training inputs including crash courses in relevant disciplines for officers of various services.
- (dd) The age limit of 56 years for empanelment for the post of GM may be reduced to 55 years.

- (ee) The age limit for Departmental candidates working in Group 'B' Service and wishing to appear in the Engg. Service Exam and Civil Services Exam may be raised to 35 years.

[Translation]

Trains Cancelled During Gulf War

3999. SHRI BRAJ MOHAN RAM : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the names of the trains cancelled during the Gulf war;

(b) the names of the trains out of them which have been started again; and

(c) the reasons for not starting Hatia-Varanasi train again?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) A statement is enclosed.

(b) All these train were restored.

(c) Hatia-Varanasi Express was cancelled on 25-1-91 and was restored to run on 30-4-91. However, it was subsequently cancelled from 1-7-91 due to poor patronisation.

STATEMENT

(a) List of trains cancelled during the Gulf War :

1.	3133/3134	Sealdah-Mughalsarai Express
2.	4047/4048	Delhi-Balamau Express
3.	8631/8632	Hatia-Varanasi Express
4.	4265/4266	Dehradun-Varanasi Express
5.	7339/7340	Dadar-Nagpur Express
6.	1269/1270	Bhopal-Rajkot Express (on Rajkot-Ujjain section)
7.	2853/2854	Durg-Bhopal Amarkantak Express
8.	9809-9810	Ahmedabad-Bhavnagar Express
9.	5717/5718	Katihar-Guwahati Dooars Express
10.	3039/3040	Howrah-Delhi Express (on Howrah-Mughalsarai section)
11.	3283/3284	Bhiwani-Danapur Ganga-Yamuna Express
12.	3213/3214	Bhiwani-Danapur Ganga-Yamuna Express
13.	3049/3050	Amritsar-Howrah Express
14.	9903/9904	Ahmedabad-Delhi Express

15.	6511/6512	Madras-Dadar Express
16.	1057/1058	Dadar-Amritsar Express
17.	4309/4310	Dehradun-Ujjain Ujjaini Express
18.	2473/2474	Delhi-Muzaffarpur Shaheed Express
19.	2449/2450	Delhi-Muzaffarpur Saryu-Yamuna Express
20.	7489/7490	Cochin-Varanasi Express
21.	7491/7492	Tirupati-Varanasi Express
22.	8089/8090	Tirupati-Howrah Express (on Howrah-Vijaywada section)
23.	6093/6094	Madras-Lucknow Express
24.	6017/6018	Kanniya Kumari-Jammu Tawi Himsagar Express
25.	6687/6688	Jammu Tawi-Mangalore Navyug Express
26.	5045/5046	Ahmadabad-Gorakhpur Express
27.	5011/5012	Cochin-Gorakhpur Express
28.	7081/7082	Cochin-Indore Express
29.	5089/5090	Gorakhpur-Hyderabad Express
30.	6365/6366	Trichy-Cochin Express
31.	3035/3036	Howrah-Muzaffarpur Express
32.	2159/2160	Howrah-Gwalior Chambal Express
33.	2181/2182	Howrah-Agra Express
34.	2161/2162	Dadar-Agra Lashkar Express
35.	1171/1172	Howrah-Indore Shipra Express
36.	2537/2538	Guwahati-Howrah Express
37.	4245/4246	Surat-Varanasi Tapti Ganga Express
38.	4247/4248	Vadodara-Okha Express
39.	4647/4648	Delhi-Amritsar Flying Mail
40.	6591/6592	Bangalore-Hospet Express
41.	6307/6308	Ernakulam-Cannanore Express
42.	6179/6180	Madras-Tirunelveli Express
43.	6799/6800	Madras-Rameswaran Express (on Madurai-Rameswaran section)
44.	7021/7022 and 8651/8652	Nizamuddin-Secunderabad/Visakhapatnam Dakshin/Link Express
45.	9017/9018	Bombay-Hapa Express
46.	329/330	Pune-Hyderabad Passenger

[English]

Free Education

4000. SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any agreement according which the management of the Steel Plants under SAIL have to provide free education to the children of the employees upto matriculation standard;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) number of such schools running in the Bokaro Steel City?

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

(b) A provision for providing free education to the employees children upto Matriculation standard in the schools run by the steel plants of SAIL, was made in the memorandum of agreement reached at NJCS level on 30.7.1975 at New Delhi.

The facility still continues as the same has been retained in the subsequent memoranda of agreement reached at NJCS level.

(c) The number of such schools running in the Bokaro Steel city, are mentioned below :

Level of the School	Number of Schools
Middle School level	15
High School level	4

[Translation]

Waiting List in M.P.

4001. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of persons in the waiting list of telephone connections in Madhya Pradesh, district-wise; and

(b) the time by which waiting list is likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VERMA) : (a) The number of persons in the waiting list of telephone connections in Madhya Pradesh, district-wise as on 30.11.96 is in the attached Statement.

(b) The target for providing telephone connections in M.P. during 1996-97 is 45,000 lines, of which 20,378 lines have been provided up to 30.11.96. Another about 25,000 lines are likely to be provided by 31.3.97. The remaining waiting list will be cleared during 1997-98.

STATEMENT

S.No.	Name of District	Waiting list as on 30.11.96
1.	Bhopal	8042
2.	Sehore	640
3.	Jabalpur	5503
4.	Khargone	419
5.	Mandsaur	926
6.	Jhabua	337
7.	Ratlam	1649
8.	Datia	379
9.	Gwalior	1995
10.	Bhind	582
11.	Morena	648
12.	Indore	5046
13.	Dhar	613
14.	Ujjain	2068
15.	Dewas	958
16.	Raipur	2989
17.	Durg	7483
18.	Rajnandgaon	1032
19.	Jagdalpur	1392
20.	Hoshengabad	1895
21.	Khandwa	1357
22.	Betul	1358
23.	Chhindwara	988
24.	Balaghat	294
25.	Mandla	90
26.	Narsingpur	760
27.	Seoni	160
28.	Sagar	1206
29.	Bilaspur	6102
30.	Raigarh	632
31.	Rewa	1132
32.	Sidhi	484
33.	Panna	196
34.	Satna	1503
35.	Sarguja	1213
36.	Shahdol	1199
37.	Chhatarpur	586
38.	Damoh	241
39.	Tikamgarh	99
40.	Guna	363
41.	Rajgarh	352
42.	Shajapur	217
43.	Shivpuri	543
44.	Raisen	510
45.	Vidisha	426

[English]

Shortage of Coaches

4002. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA :

DR. ASIM BALA :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that there are shortage of coaches and the use of defective or overaged coaches may create risk of life to passengers and employees;

(b) if so, whether the Government are considering to build a third coach manufacturing plant; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) There is no shortage of coaches for meeting with the bare requirement of scheduled train services. Railways do not use defective coaches. All coaches are given periodic maintenance schedules and are inspected after each trip. No defective coach is allowed to carry passengers.

The term overaged means end of theoretical useful economic life and is used for planning. As and when the coaches approach the end of their theoretical useful economic life, they are examined and based on their condition, they are phased out.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) The current manufacturing capacity is adequate to meet the requirement of the Railways.

Introduction of Trains

4003. SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received any communication dated July 2, 1996 from the Howrah-Amta-Champdhanga-Shiakhala Jatri Samity for the introduction of more trains, increase in frequency of trains and speed up services in Howrah-Bargachia section;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether more trains have to be provided in this section; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b). A representation from the Howrah-Amta-Champdhanga-Shiakhala Jatri Samity has been received regarding improvement of train services in the Howrah-Bargachia section.

(c) and (d). Introduction of additional services, including those in the Howrah-Bargachia section, is a

continuous process subject to operational feasibility, resource availability and traffic justification. Introduction of new services in Howrah-Bargachia section is presently not proposed on account of operational and resource constraints.

[Translation]

Running of Railway Trolley Passenger

4004. SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the railway trolley passenger of the Western Railway in Rajkot Division runs between Rajkot to Khambhaliya and Khambhaliya to Rajkot on broad gauge line and arrives at Khambhaliya at 10 p.m. and after halting there for eight hours departs from Khambhaliya in the morning for Rajkot;

(b) if so, whether it is not the misuse of diesel of trolley passenger by halting it for eight hours at Khambhaliya;

(c) if so, whether the public has demanded to extend it upto Dwarka railway station instead of halting it at Khambhaliya for all these eight hours so that the people get benefited by extending it upto Dwarka, the famous place of pilgrimage in the world;

(d) if so, the time by which the said trolley train is likely to be extended upto Dwarka;

(e) whether the Government have received representations, memoranda and letters from the Members of Parliament to extend the above train up to Dwarka;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the action taken by the Government thereon along with the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) At present, no rail trolley passenger is running between Rajkot and Khambhaliya. However, 203/204 Mixed Fast Passenger is running between Viramgam and Khambhaliya which arrives Khambhaliya at 22.00 hrs.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d). Extension of 203/204 Mixed Fast Passenger upto Dwarka has been examined but neither found operationally feasible nor desirable due to inconvenient timings at Dwarka.

(e) to (g). Representation has been received from Shri Chandresh Patel, MP for extension of Rajkot-Khambhaliya trolley passenger upto Dwarka. There is no such proposal to extend 203/204 Mixed Fast Passenger upto Dwarka.

[English]

Agreement for Rail over Bridges

4005. KUMARI FRIDA TOPNO : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Railways have entered into agreements with private entrepreneurs for replacement of railway crossings by high level rail over bridges; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) Does not arise.

Income of Doordarshan/Akashvani by Advertisements/Serials

4006. SHRIMATI LAKSHMI PANABAKA :
SHRI DATTA MEGHE :

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

(a) the income accrued to Akashvani and Doordarshan from advertisements, serials and other programmes during each of the last three years, till date; and

(b) the amount of profit in the total income, separately during the above period?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) The gross revenue of Akashvani and Doordarshan from advertisements, serials and other programmes during each of the last three years, is as under :

(Rs. in crores)		
Year	Akashvani	Doordarshan
1993-94	64.35	372.98
1994-95	64.39	398.02
1995-96	80.97	430.13
1996-97	47.10	313.32
(upto October, 96) (upto November, 96)		

(b) Akashvani and Doordarshan are not commercial organisations and therefore, the question of earning any profit does not arise.

Damage to Farmers land by KRC

4007. SHRI CHURCHILL ALEMAO : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the grave damage done to the farmers land by the Konkan

Railway Corporation contractors in village Kalay in South Goa;

(b) if so, whether any petition for payment of compensation has since been received by the Government in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the time by which the compensation is likely to be paid; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Konkan Railway alignment does not pass through the village Kalay.

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

[Translation]

Serial on Freedom Fighters in Uttar Pradesh

4008. SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to telecast any serial based on the lives of the prominent freedom fighters in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) whether the Government have received any proposal from the State in this regard; and

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

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). Thirteen proposals under commissioned category on the lives and achievements of freedom fighters from Uttar Pradesh have been received from outside producers based in that State. These proposals are under process.

[English]

Waiting List in Kerala

4009. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government is aware that thousands of applicants are on the waiting list for telephone connections at various Telephone Exchanges under Cannanore Secondary Switching Area in Kerala;

(b) if so, the details regarding the exchanges and the number of applicants on each of the exchanges; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to expand the exchanges and to clear the backlogs within a short time?

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

(b) The details regarding the exchanges and the number of waiting applicants exchange-wise as on 30.11.96 is as per enclosed Statement.

(c) it is proposed to expand the switching capacity of exchange and add about 20000 telephone connections during '96-97 to clear part of the waiting list. The remaining waiting list will be cleared progressively during the next plan periods.

STATEMENT

Details of number of applicants in the waiting list in Cannanore Secondary Switching Area as on 30.11.96.

S.No.	Name of Exch.	Waiting List
1	2	3
1.	Achikanam	358
2.	Alacode	613
3.	Ambalathara	224
4.	Anjarakandy	2000
5.	Aralam	410
6.	Attenganam	414
7.	BPM-Baliapattam VI	1129
8.	BPM-Baliapattom VII	0
9.	Balal	211
10.	Bandadka	225
11.	Bedadka	395
12.	Beamandy	328
13.	CNN-Cannanore VI	4414
14.	CNN-Cannanore VII	0
15.	Chapparapadavu	269
16.	Cheemeni	414
17.	Chemperi	337
18.	Chengala	795
19.	Cherukunnu	1483
20.	Cherupuzha	534
21.	Cheruvancherry	184
22.	Cheruvathur	1210
23.	Chittarikkal	466
24.	Chittariparamba	197
25.	Delampadi	119
26.	Edakkad	1206

1	2	3
27.	Ettikulam	46
28.	Ichilangode	137
29.	Irikkur	468
30.	Iritty	998
31.	Kadachira	905
32.	Kadiroor	947
33.	Kalichanadukkom	193
34.	Kanhangad	2813
35.	Kaniyala	110
36.	Karivelloor	577
37.	Kasaragod VI	2931
38.	Kasaragod VII	0
39.	Kattathadka	458
40.	Kelakom	680
41.	Kiliyanthara	713
42.	Kolassery	1325
43.	Kolayad	157
44.	Kololam	677
45.	Koothuparam	647
46.	Kottiyoor	231
47.	Kudiyamala	250
48.	Kumbala	726
49.	Kunhimangalam	334
50.	Kuttikole	258
51.	Mahe	2038
52.	Maippady	129
53.	Maloth	374
54.	Malur	466
55.	Mathram	1170
56.	Manakkadavu	475
57.	Mangattuparamba	971
58.	Manjeshwar	670
59.	Mathamangalam	646
60.	Mathil	355
61.	Mattannur	1472
62.	Mattool	795
63.	Mayyil	630
64.	Muliyar	384
65.	Mulleria	486
66.	Munderi	624
67.	Naduvil	327
68.	Nileswar	1642
69.	Paivalika	407

1	2	3
70.	Palakode	108
71.	Pallikara	764
72.	Panathady	339
73.	Panathur	144
74.	Panoor	2544
75.	Parappa	354
76.	Payyangadi	1549
77.	Payyannur	1772
78.	Payyavur	457
79.	Peravoor	960
80.	Perdala	547
81.	Peringathur	1414
82.	Peringome	120
83.	Periya	485
84.	Perla	585
85.	Perumpadavu	227
86.	Peruvamba	99
87.	Pilathara	434
88.	Pudukkунnu	202
89.	Pulingome	390
90.	Rajagiri	72
91.	Rajapuram	575
92.	Ramanthali	137
93.	Srikandapuram	510
94.	TLI-Tellicherry VI	3359
95.	TLI-Tellicherry VII	0
96.	Thaliparamba	2314
97.	Therthally	239
98.	Thillankeri	290
99.	Thoovakkunnu	1529
100.	Tirumeni	126
101.	Trikarapur	1384
102.	Uduma	1705
103.	Ulikkal	536
104.	Uppala	1054
105.	Urdoor	126
106.	Valakkai	315
107.	Valiaparamba	241
108.	Vaniyappara	176
109.	Vengad	220
110.	Vorkady	288
111.	Yethadka	265
Total :		77542

Distribution of Post

4010. SHRI JAYSINH CHAUHAN : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the distribution of post is not being done timely by the postal employees;

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

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government for the timely distribution of post?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) to (c). In general, distribution of mail is done as per norms laid down by the Department. However, instances of delays do occur due to various reasons such as cancellation/late running of buses, trains and planes, natural calamities like floods, landslides and due to sudden and exceptionally heavy volume of mails like Corporate mail and Greetings mail. Difficulties are encountered in the conveyance of mails by State Road Transport buses or private buses in some States. Delivery mails in large cities and towns, especially in the newly developed colonies and suburbs, is also under stress due to inadequate delivery manpower. The additional work, is however, being managed through re-deployment of the staff to the extent possible. Where ever the instances of delay in delivery caused by postal employees are noticed, suitable action is taken against such employees.

2. The Department has taken various steps to improve the despatch and delivery of mails. These are :

- Sorting of machineable mail in Bombay and Madras on Letter Sorting Machines to expedite sorting.
- Installation of very Small Aperture Terminals (VSATs) to speed up transmission of money orders. 72 such VSATs are already operational.
- A new service called Express Parcel Service has been introduced for speedier transmission of parcels from the 8 metropolitan cities to major State capitals. Besides, the Speed Post Service is strengthened for speedier transmission and delivery of premium mail.
- In the case of mails posted in bulk, the mailers are encouraged to do pre-sorting to ensure expeditious transmission of such mails to the destination.
- Special arrangements are made to sort and despatch Corporate Mails and Festival Greeting Mails posted in the peak season of June to December.
- Rationalisation of mail processing by prioritised and segmented handling of mails

of different categories according to their time-sensitivity.

- Regular check of payments of money orders, particularly in villages and efforts to ensure supply of adequate funds for money order payment.
- The transmission and delivery of mails and money orders is continuously monitored at various levels and routing of mails is revised periodically after review.
- Use of Private Airlines, in addition to Indian Airlines for conveyance of mails.
- Supply of mopeds to postmen serving in heavier beats of selected cities.
- Computerisation of registration sorting work in major Mail Offices in a phased manner.
- Modernisation of Mail Offices to improve the efficiency of operation by supplying modern operational equipments and furniture

Excess Billing

4011. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state

(a) the number of complaints pending before the Delhi Telephone Authorities regarding excess telephone bills, as on April 1, 1996;

(b) the number out of them are from Members of Parliament;

(c) the time by which these are likely to be disposed of;

(d) the amount involved in these complaints for settlement;

(e) whether there are bills pending against the former MPs and Ministers; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) The total number of complaints pending before the Delhi Telephone Authorities regarding excess billing as on 1-4-1996 is 2002.

(b) Five complaints were from MPs out of the above complaints:

(c) These complaints are expected to be disposed of in a period of about 2 months.

(d) An amount of Rs. 255.77 lacs is involved in these complaints.

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) Outstanding telephone bills against former MPs and Ministers as on 30-11-96 furnished in the enclosed Statement.

STATEMENT

Outstanding Telephone Bills of former MPs/Ministers

S.No.	Particulars	No.	Amount in Rs.
1.	VIIth Lok Sabha	56	559058
2.	VIIIth Lok Sabha	132	8149130
3.	IXth Lok Sabha	136	5007267
4.	Xth Lok Sabha	280	56643347
5.	Ex. MPs Rajya Sabha	194	14368421
	Total	798	84727223

Progress in Ratlam Railway Station

4012. DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state the details of the progress of the work of construction of railway tracks, doubling, electrifying, expansion of platform, construction of over-bridge and the expansion of rail facilities being provided in Ratlam Railway Division under Western Railway during 1995-96 and 1996-97, till date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : Details of the progress of work in Ratlam Railway Division is as follows :

	Heads	Year	Name of Project	Present Status
	1	2	3	4
I.	NEW LINES	1995-96	Godhara-Indore via Dahod, Sardarpur, Dhar and Dewas-Maksi (316 kms) new B.G. line.	Work on the 1st phase i.e. Dewas-Maksi section has recently been defrozen to start the work.
		1996-97	Nil.	Nil.
II.	GAUGE CONVERSION	1995-96 and 1996-97	Nimach-Ratlam section.	Work is in progress
III.	DOUBLINGS	1995-96	(A) Ujjain-Bhopal section- Doubling between a. Bairagarh-Bakanian-Bhaunri b. Bakanian-Bhaunri-Phanda c. Kalapipal-Phanda d. Maksi-Bairagarh-Four Block Section	Work commissioned on 04.07.95. Work commissioned on 08.08.95. Work Frozen. One tender for earthwork and minor bridges has been awarded and another tender is under finalisation.
		1996-97	B. Anas bridge No. 142 on Ratlam-Godhara section Ujjain-Bhopal section-Doubling between Pirumrod-Bercha (11.67 kms) section.	Work commissioned on 15.1.96. Work commissioned on 14.11.96.
IV.	OTHER TRAFFIC FACILITY WORKS	1995-96	Nil	Nil
		1996-97	1. Godhra-Additions and alternations in yard. 2. Nagda-Remodelling of yard with additional passenger Platform.	Detailed estimate under consideration in the Ministry/Railways. -do-

1	2	3	4
V. ROAD OVER-BRIDGES			
	1995-96	Nil	Nil
	1996-97	1. Sant Road-Piplod Road over bridges in lieu of level cross- ing No. 20B.	Work will be taken in hand after State Govern- ment start the work on approaches.
		2. Ratlam-(Jaora Road) Road over bridge of level crossing No. 192-A	-do-
		3. Indore-Road over bridge in lieu of level crossing No. 246	-do-
		4. Nagda-Road over bridge in lieu of level crossing No. 1.	Work is in progress.

Medical Facilities at Railway Stations

Direct EMU Services

4013. SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE :
SHRIMATI KAMAL RANI :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the facility of First Aid/Chemist Stalls/Corners have been provided within the Book-Stalls at various important stations in Northern Railway;

(b) if so, whether this facility has been provided on each platform at Kanpur, Ambala Cantt. Amritsar, New Delhi, Hazrat Nizamuddin, Jullundar city, Ludhiana and Jammu Tawi stations;

(c) if not the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Government have received various Members of Parliament's suggestions for providing of this facility on each platform at important stations; and

(e) if so, the steps taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (e). Yes, Sir. Chemist corners within book stalls have been provided at New Delhi, Delhi Sarai Rohilla, Delhi Cantt. Hazrat Nizamuddin, Varanasi, Attari, Amritsar, and Chandigarh stations on Northern Railway. It is not provided at Kanpur, Jammu Tawi, Jullundar, Ludhiana and Ambala Railway stations at present. Applications have been invited for operating chemist corners from existing book stalls contractors at major stations.

4014. SHRI HARADHAN ROY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the demand of the people of Calcutta for direct EMU services between Sealdah and Kharagpur and between Barddhaman and Kharagpur;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that crowd at Howrah station is likely to be reduced if such services are introduced;

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

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (e). Yes, Sir. Some representations have been received in this regard including from Shri Haradhan Roy, MP. The route between Kharagpur to Sealdah/Barddhaman is via Andul link. Introduction of direct EMU services between Kharagpur and Sealdah/Barddhaman has not been found feasible as the route is not fit for passenger train operations. Such through passengers have to avail of changeover facilities.

Railway Line in Sunderban Area

4015. DR. ASIM BALA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are considering to construct railway line from Joynagar to Raidighi and from Lakshikantapur to Ram Ganga;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that less investment is required for these two lines;

(d) if so, whether the Government propose to conduct a survey for these railway lines;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

(f) Constraint of resources.

SC/ST Employees in Doordarshan/AIR, Madhya Pradesh

4016. SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHLE : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) the number of employees belonging to Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe working in the Doordarshan/AIR Kendras, category-wise and kendra-wise;

(b) whether the reservation policy is not being implemented in these kendras;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the number of posts lying vacant, category-wise and the time by which these are likely to be filled up?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) to (d). The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

Introduction of Express Train

4017. SHRI GIRIDHAR GAMANG : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to introduce Express train from Bhubaneswar/Puri to Delhi via Berhampur-Vizianagaram-Rayagada; and

(b) if so, the time by which the train is likely to be introduced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) There is no such proposal at present.

(b) Does not arise.

STD/ISD in Tamil Nadu

4018. SHRI A.G.S. RAM BABU : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of applications for setting up of PCO's have STD/ISD facilities pending clearance in Tamil Nadu; and

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

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) Number of applications for STD PCOs pending in Tamil Nadu are 6829.

(b) These applications will be processed by 31st March, 1997. The PCOs will be provided during the next financial year i.e. 1997-98.

Telephone Connections Provided in Andhra Pradesh

4019. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of telephone connections provided in Andhra Pradesh during the last six months, District-wise;

(b) the number of telephone connections disconnected in the rural areas of Andhra Pradesh, District-wise;

(c) the details and reasons of disconnections;

(d) whether the Government propose to provide/install tower type telephone connections in A.P. particularly in Guntur District; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) 56,366 telephone connections were provided during the last six months (June to November '96). District-wise details are given in the enclosed Statement-I.

(b) and (c). 831 telephone connections were disconnected in the rural areas of Andhra Pradesh. District-wise details and reasons for disconnections are given in the enclosed Statement-II.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) In Andhra Pradesh 8,488 nos. of village public telephones using MARR (tower type) were provided up to 30.11.96. In Guntur district there are 1019 villages, out of which 400 nos. have been provided with tower type telephones and the remaining 619 villages have been provided telephone connections on other media.

STATEMENT-I

S.No.	Name of District	DELs provided from June'96 to November 96
1.	Adilabad	1233
2.	Ananthapur	1727
3.	Chittoor	3445
4.	Cuddapah	1508
5.	East Godavari	4802
6.	Guntur	3053
7.	Hyderabad	19343
8.	Karimnagar	907
9.	Khammam	1195
10.	Krishna	5886
11.	Kurnool	1296
12.	Mahaboobnagar	1050
13.	Nalgonda	1242
14.	Nellore	395
15.	Nizamabad	645
16.	Prakasham	615
17.	Sangareddy	1589
18.	Srikakulam	1223
19.	Visakhapatnam	2235
20.	Vizianagaram	616
21.	Warangal	903
22.	West Godavari	1458
Total :		56366

STATEMENT-II

Telephone Connections Disconnected in the Rural Areas of Andhra Pradesh District-wise

S.No.	District	Subs. Reasons	Non-Payment of Dues	Total
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Adilabad	Nil	2	2
2.	Ananthapur	24	12	36
3.	Chittoor	1	8	9
4.	Cuddapah	6	14	20
5.	East Godavari	4	42	47
6.	Guntur	Nil	126	126

1	2	3	4	5
7.	Hyd.Tel.Dist. and Rangareddy	2	24	26
8.	Karimnagar	Nil	46	46
9.	Khammam	2	14	16
10.	Krishna	Nil	94	94
11.	Kurnool	16	65	81
12.	Mahaboobnagar	Nil	111	111
13.	Medak	Nil	30	30
14.	Nalgonda	Nil	19	19
15.	Nellore	21	22	43
16.	Nizamabad	Nil	2	2
17.	Prakasham	Nil	12	12
18.	Srikakulam	Nil	25	25
19.	Visakhapatnam	Nil	49	49
20.	Vizianagaram	2	12	14
21.	Warangal	7	4	11
22.	West Godavari	5	8	13
		90	741	831

Nationalisation of Mines in Orissa

4020. SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR : Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Orissa is the richest State in terms of mineral wealth;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose for proper exploration of mineral or nationalise the mines of Orissa; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) and (b). As per information available, Orissa has large reserves of minerals like iron ore, manganese ore, bauxite, limestone, dolomite, chromite, fireclay, graphite, rare earth, semi-precious stones, etc.

(c) and (d). Exploration agencies like Mineral Exploration Corporation, Geological Survey of India, Coal India Ltd., Steel Authority of India Ltd., National Aluminium Company Ltd., Orissa Mining Corporation, and State Undertakings of Orissa, etc. are already engaged in exploration for various minerals in the State. There is no proposal to nationalise the exploration of mineral wealth in Orissa. Mineral Concessions for exploration and exploitation are granted by the State Government as per the provisions of Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Act, 1957 and rules made thereunder.

Opening of Post Offices in Bihar

4021. SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of proposals/representations received from Nalanda, East Champaran and Darbhanga districts for opening post offices;

(b) whether any proposals/representations for opening post office at Machhaldiha under Noorsarai block and Singhwara block of Darbhanga districts have also been received by the Government; and

(d) if so, the time by which the post offices are likely to be sanctioned in the said villages?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) 13 (thirteen) proposals/representations for opening of Post Offices in Nalanda District, 20 proposals in East Champaran District and 16 (sixteen) in Darbhanga District have been received.

(b) Yes Sir, the proposals for opening of Post Office at Machhaldiha Village under Noorsarai Block and Saraiya and Katesa in Singhwara Block of Darbhanga District have been received.

(c) Post Offices are opened subject to fulfilment of norms and availability of resources.

Running of Long Distance Trains

4022. SHRI RAMSAJEEVAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether long distance trains from Sitapur-Gonda-Delhi etc. have been introduced after converting the metre gauge railway line of Sitapur-Budhval into broad gauge;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the expansion of the Sitapur Cantonment railway station has not been made for accommodating all the trains;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether no shade has been constructed on the platform for the passengers and regular coach attendant and conductor have not been provided for the trains;

(f) if so the reasons therefor;

(g) whether there are many irregularities such as non-availability of sufficient railway staff, security arrangements in the trains and no proper arrangement of sanitation; and

(h) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

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

(b) 4047/4048 Delhi-Gonda Express and 5209/5210 Barauni-Amritsar Jansewa Express are being run on the converted route.

(c) and (d). Sitapur Cantonment is at present provided with one platform which is adequate for the present volume of traffic.

(e) to (h). Platform shed measuring 21 Sq. mts. is provided. In addition a waiting hall is also available for the waiting passengers.

The reserved coaches of 4047/4048 Delhi-Gonda Express and 5209/5210 Barauni-Amritsar Express are being manned by the staff regularly. Making of Security arrangements in the trains is the responsibility of the State Govts. concerned which they discharge through their GRP (Govt. Railway Police). Close liaison is being maintained with the GRP to provide adequate security.

Parcel Room

4023. SHRI LINGARAJ VALYAL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to install modern (digital) scale for weighing in Parcel Room at each railway station;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (c). Provision of digital weighing scales will be a part of the computerisation of parcel office workings wherever necessary.

Employment Exchanges in Rural Areas

4024. SHRI A. SAMPATH : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to establish new Employment Exchanges in the rural areas during 1997; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) and (b). The decision to set up new Employment Exchanges has to be taken by the respective State/UT Government under whose administrative control the Employment Exchanges operate. The Central Government would support initiatives taken by the State/UT Governments on the matter.

[Translation]

Allotment of stalls at Railway Stations of Western Railway

4025. SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Railway Stations under Western Railway where shops (stalls) were allotted during the year 1993-94, 1994-95 and 1995-96 alongwith the type and number of these shops (stalls):

(b) the names of the Railway Stations in Ratlam division in Western Railway where shops, trolleys and stalls were allotted during the said period alongwith the type thereof and the names of the persons to whom these were allotted:

(c) whether any advertisements were issued for the allotment of shops, stalls, trolleys:

(d) if so, the names of the places for which these were issued:

(e) the number of shops, stalls and trolleys out of them allotted without issuing any advertisement during the said period: and

(f) the names of the officers who allotted these shops etc. without issuing any advertisement and the rules under which it was made?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) :

(a) Year	No. of Station	Type of stall	Trolley	
1	2	3	4	
1993-94	14	Tea Stall -	14	
	1	Chemist - stall	1	
	2	Refreshment Stall	2	2
	1	Fruit Juice-Stall	1	
Total	18	18	2	
1994-95	17	Tea Stall -	15	9
	1	Puri, Namkin stall	1	
	6	Refreshment Stall	6	
	3	Fruit Juice Stall	3	
	1	Ice-Cream		2
Total	28		25	11

1	2	3	4	
1995-96	5	Tea Stall	7	1
	1	Refreshment Stall		7
	1	Fruit Juice-Stall	1	
Total	7		9	1

(b) On Ratlam Division four allotments of catching/vending units have been made during the last three years as follows :

Year	Name of Station	Type of Unit	Name of Licencee
1993-94	Chittorgarh	Tea stall	Md Yusuf
	Ujjain	Two Trolleys	Imrathibai
1994-95	Ujjain	Tea Stall	Mohd. Farooque
	Nagda	Two Trolleys	M/s Iqbal and Co
1995-96	-	Nil	-

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Two tea stalls and four trolleys were allotted in favour of four persons in Ratlam Division.

(f) These allotments were made by the orders of Ministry of Railways.

[English]

Underground Cabling

4026. SHRI LALIT ORAON : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have any scheme of underground cabling from Gadhi Kundal to Nahara exchange at Sonepar (Haryana);

(b) if so, whether the Government have received any proposal/representation in this regard: and

(c) if so, the time by which the said scheme is likely to be completed?

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

(b) Yes, Sir. Representation has been received from the subscriber for laying underground cable between Nahara and Gadhi Kundal.

(c) Underground cable between Nahara and Gadhi Kundal can not be laid at present because there is only one connection working between Nahara and Gadhi Kundal.

Non-Involvement of Child Labour

4027. SHRI AYYANNA PATRUDU :
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY :
SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI :
SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA :

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that issue relating to the miserable conditions of child labourers in India has been discussed in the Parliament of any European country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have opposed all the allegations in this matter;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government propose to object to American laws regarding stationing of Child Labour Inspectors for the abolition of the evil practice of child labour;

(f) if so, the details thereof;

(g) whether the export of the country is being adversely affected due to the boycott of goods by some European countries on the pretext that child labour is engaged in the production of these goods;

(h) if so, the details thereof; and

(i) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Organisation called Human Rights Watch, which has offices in different parts of the world including Brussels, has brought out a report titled "The small hands of slavery: bonded child labour in India" recently. The Director of the organisation's office in Brussels sent a summary of this report to members of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, the Sub-Committee on Human Rights and the Committee on External Economic Relations of the European Parliament. A draft Resolution was also circulated on 15th October, 1996 by the organisation for sympathetic Member to propose for plenary session of the European Parliament. Some MEPs declared the intention to introduce a Resolution on bonded child labour but there are no unanimity amongst the different political groups in the European Parliament and the proposal was, therefore, dropped for the time being.

(c) Yes Sir.

(d) Indian Mission to the European Union took up the issue individually with all the Member States in the European Community conveying the Government of India's position in the matter. In addition, in bilateral meeting with high level officials from the concerned countries, the issue was taken up with different countries and our position was conveyed.

(e) There is no American law as yet whereby the child labour inspectors were to be stationed in India. However, India will be opposed to any extra-territorial laws which may authorise stationing in India of child labour inspectors to ensure non-involvement of child labour.

(f) Does not arise in view of the reply to 'e' above.

(g) and (h) Indian exports are being affected by the campaign in some European countries like Germany, on account of the so-called concern about some of these goods being produced with the use of child labour in India e.g. carpets, garments.

(i) Apart from the corrective steps being taken by Government of India, to progressively eliminate the social phenomenon of child labour, the Ministry of External Affairs and Indian Missions abroad have taken appropriate steps to inform and clarify the matters and to sensitise European and North American leadership, opinion makers, media and importers against adopting a trade related penal approach and have instead sought development and cooperational approach to deal with the phenomenon of child labour at its roots.

Users of VSNL GIAS Facilities

4028. SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI NAVINCHANDRA MEHTA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the criteria for conferring concessions to users of VSNL GIAS facilities;

(b) whether any age limit is contemplated for students; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) The criteria for conferring concessions to users of VSNL GIAS facility is in the enclosed Statement.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Upper age limit for students is 30 years.

STATEMENT

Category	Type of Access	Criteria for concession
1	2	3
Students	Terminal Dial-up	Studying full time in Std. 11 and above in recognised institutions and should not have any source of income including stipend/scholarship; required to furnish bonafide certificate from Principal on letterhead each year.

1	2	3
Educational Institutions	Dial-up Leased line	Recognised by Govt. of India/State Govt. authorities.
Govt. Organisations	Leased line	Recognised non-Commercial Organisations.
Software Exporters and 100% Export Oriented Units.	Leased line	Annual export earnings more than US \$ 100,000 per connection.

[Translation]

Railway Culvert

4029. PROF. OMPAL SINGH NIDAR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn towards the fact that railway culvert at Chandrawar gate between Firozabad and Shikohabad railway station in Uttar Pradesh is in deteriorating condition;

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

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether any measures are being taken by the Government to avoid any kind of untoward accident at the above place; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (e). The Culvert is in sound condition.

[English]

Attendants Facility to Retired Railway Pensioners

4030. SHRI K.P. NAIDU : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether retired railway pensioners, who are senior citizens are not allowed to take their attendants, in the same class while travelling on Railway Pass;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government propose to help the senior retired railway pensioners by allowing their attendants to travel in the same class to assist them in their old age; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (d). Serving/Retired railway employees who are eligible for First Class Passes are permitted to take an attendant in Second Class who is exclusively employed on salary in their personal service. There is no proposal to liberalise the existing facilities.

Telephone Exchanges in Andhra Pradesh

4031. SHRI B. DHARMABIKSHAM : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of exchanges functioning in Nalgonda District, Andhra Pradesh;

(b) the number of persons in waiting list, category-wise and exchange-wise; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to clear it?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) 74 (Seventy four)

(b) As per enclosed Statement.

(c) It is planned to provide majority of the connections out of the present waiting list of 31 Stations of Nalgonda District during 96-97. The remaining Stations will be covered progressively during the early part of the 9th Plan period.

STATEMENT

Exchange wise W/L Postion as on 31.10.1996-Nalgonda District.

S.No.	Name of the Exchange	OYT	Special	General	Total W/L
1	2	3	4	5	6
** Nalgonda					
1.	Alair	0	1	197	198
2.	Anantharam (BNG)	0	0	0	0
3.	Aravapally	0	0	1	1
4.	Atmakur	0	0	7	7

1	2	3	4	5	6
5.	Azmapur	0	0	0	0
6.	B.Vellumala	0	0	49	49
7.	Bethavolu	0	0	19	19
8.	Bhuvanagiri	1	8	224	233
9.	Bibinagar	0	13	163	176
10.	Chandampet	0	0	0	0
11.	Chandoor	0	0	125	125
12.	Cherukupally	0	0	15	15
13.	Chinthapally	0	0	117	17
14.	Chityal	0	0	148	148
15.	Choutuppal	0	0	134	134
16.	Deverakonda	0	0	15	15
17.	Dindi	0	0	5	5
18.	Edulur	0	0	13	13
19.	Gaddipally	0	0	5	5
20.	Godipally	0	0	0	0
21.	Gundrampally	0	0	36	36
22.	Gurrampode	0	0	2	2
23.	Halia	0	0	40	40
24.	Hill	0	0	135	135
25.	Huzurnagar	0	6	200	206
26.	Kanagal	0	0	10	10
27.	Kattangur	0	0	63	63
28.	Kethapally	0	0	17	17
29.	Kodad	1	3	550	554
30.	Koyalagudem	0	0	24	24
31.	M. Thurkapally	0	0	6	6
32.	Madhapur	0	0	5	5
33.	Madhavaram	0	0	13	13
34.	Mallepally	0	0	15	15
35.	Marriguda	0	0	12	12
36.	Mattampally	0	0	15	15
37.	Mattapally	0	0	2	2
38.	Mellacheruvu	0	1	48	49
39.	Miryalaguda	0	0	385	385
40.	Moth-kur	0	0	48	48
41.	Munagala	0	0	28	28
42.	Munugode	0	0	12	12
43.	Nadigudem	0	0	20	20
44.	Nagireddipally	0	0	39	39
45.	Nakrekal	0	5	402	407

1	2	3	4	5	6
46.	Nalgonda	0	110	830	940
47.	Namavaram	0	0	1	1
48.	Nampally	0	0	19	19
49.	Narayanapur	0	0	38	38
50.	Narketpally	0	0	91	91
51.	Nemmikal	0	0	27	27
52.	Neredcherla	0	1	80	81
53.	Nidamanoor	0	0	38	38
54.	Nuthankal	0	0	3	3
55.	Padamatapally	0	0	3	3
56.	Pedavoor	0	0	12	12
57.	Penpahad	0	0	10	10
58.	Pochampally	0	0	246	246
59.	Puttapaka	0	3	108	111
60.	Rajapet	3	1	19	23
61.	Ramannapet	6	35	102	143
62.	Shaligowraram	0	0	23	23
63.	Suryapet	4	88	678	770
64.	Thipparthi	0	0	3	3
65.	Thripuraram	0	0	18	18
66.	Thungathurthy	0	1	12	13
67.	Tirumalgiri (MYG)	0	0	12	12
68.	Tirumalagiri (SRT)	0	0	78	78
69.	Valigonda	0	0	46	46
70.	Velisala	0	0	2	2
71.	Vemulapally	0	0	11	11
72.	Vishnupuram	0	0	134	134
73.	Yadagirigutta	0	0	16	16
74.	Yerravaram	0	0	8	8
		15	276	5920	6211

Illegal Mining

4032. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO : Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the illegal mining of iron ore, bauxite and chromite in Orissa and Bihar; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken or proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) and (b). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Approval for Mining Lease

4033. SHRI MUKHTAR ANIS : Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

(a) the details of mining leases granted to any foreign company and to Indian subsidiary for the exploration and extraction of gold and precious stones. State-wise;

(b) whether any such leases require the prior approval of the Union Government;

(c) if so, whether any proposals are under consideration; and

(d) the details thereof. State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA : (a) to (d). The Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Act, 1957 prescribes that mining leases for gold and precious stones can be given by a State Government with the prior approval of Central Government only. No approval for grant of mining leases have yet been accorded by the Central Government to any foreign company or their Indian subsidiary for gold and precious stones. However, certain proposals had been sent by the Governments for grant of prospecting licence. These have been returned to the respective State Government for modification in line with recently issued guidelines dated 30.10.1996 on the subject.

STATEMENT-I

Connection provided during the year

Telephone Connections in Uttar Pradesh

4034. DR. CHHATRAPAL SINGH : Will the Minister COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of telephone connections provided in Uttar Pradesh during 1993-94, 1994-95 and 1995-96 till date, district-wise;

(b) the number of persons in the waiting list, district-wise till November, 1996;

(c) the time by which the waiting list is likely to be cleared, district-wise;

(d) whether any special scheme has been prepared or expansion and development of telephones in U.P., particularly in Meerut Division;

(e) the amount allocated for the purpose, district-wise, during 1996-97; and

(f) the details and action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) The number of telephone connections provided in Uttar Pradesh during 1993-94, 1994-95 and 1995-96 till date (upto Nov'96) is as per the Statements attached. For U.P. (West) Telecom Circle as per Statement-IV. For U.P. (West) Telecom Circle as per Statement-I.

(b) the number of persons in the waiting list, district-wise till November 96 is as in Annexures mentioned below For U.P. (West) Telecom Circles as per Statement-IV. For U.P. (West) Telecom Circle as per Statement-II.

(c) The time by which the waiting list will be cleared is as in Statements mentioned below. For U.P. (West) Telecom Circle as per Statement-IV. For U.P. (East) Telecom circle as per Statement-II.

(d) No. Sir.

(e) and (f). The funds are allotted Circle-wise. The details of fund allocation for the year 1996-97 are given below.

(Figures in crores)

	Cash	Stores
U.P. (W)	135.99	37.85
U.P. (E)	303.58	48.09

S.No	District	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96
1.	Allahabad	2540	4766	7876
2.	Azamgarh	300	356	922
3.	Bahraich	389	393	420
4.	Ballia	375	334	595
5.	Banda	965	1035	750
6.	Barabanki	1130	430	-
7.	Basti	587	350	502
8.	Bhadoi	-	-	503
9.	Deoria	705	-	-
10.	Etawah	850	1284	1842
11.	Faizabad	655	476	1744
12.	Farrukhabad	443	1389	2216
13.	Fatehpur	217	376	512
14.	Gazipur	234	376	516
15.	Gonda	807	790	1298
16.	Gorakhpur	1159	931	4068
17.	Hamirpur	377	-	280
18.	Hardoi	279	283	317
19.	Jalaun	260	700	862
20.	Jaunpur	267	469	1469
21.	Jhansi	1161	1637	5213
22.	Kanpur	6076	6642	6538
23.	Kanpur Dehat	475	897	728
24.	Lakhimpur	132	474	1336
25.	Lalitpur	300	686	328
26.	Lucknow	2299	8061	10021
27.	Maharajanj	728	-	676
28.	Mainpur	869	1025	547
29.	Mahoba	-	-	126
30.	Maunathbhanjan	15	459	1215
31.	Mirzapur	175	912	581
32.	Padrauna	-	-	638
33.	Pratapgarh	297	162	453
34.	Raibareilly	65	95	788
35.	Sahajahanpur	82	1211	1318
36.	Siddharthnagar	186	344	174
37.	Sitapur	288	983	866
38.	Sone Bhadra	139	659	1206
39.	Sultanpur	346	283	1521
40.	Unnao	658	1508	1117
41.	Varanasi	2462	2881	6783
42.	Ambedkarnagar	-	-	180

*Connections provided Division-wise
1-4-96 to 30-11-96*

S.No.	Name of Division/ District	Connections
1	2	3
1.	GMTD. Kanpur	
	(a) Kanpur District	972
	(b) Kanpur Dehat Distt.	
	(c) Unnao Distt.	
2.	GMTD. Lucknow Distt.	6155
3.	GMTD. Varanasi	
	(a) Varanasi Distt.	1988
	(b) Bhadohi Distt.	
4.	TDM Mau	
	(a) Mau District	447
	(b) Deoria Distt.	
	(c) Padrauna Distt.	
5.	GMT (EA) Varanasi	
	(i) TDE Azamgarh	262
	(a) Azamgarh Distt.	
	(ii) TDE Ballia	1383
	(a) Ballia Distt.	
	(b) Basti Distt.	1356
	(iii) TDE Gonda	
	(a) Gonda Distt.	
	(b) Basti Distt.	
	(c) Bahraich Distt.	1133
	(d) Siddharthnagar Distt.	
	(iv) TDE Mirzapur	714
	(a) Mirzapur Distt.	
	(b) Jaunpur Distt.	
	(c) Sonbhadra Distt.	3709
	(v) TDE Sultanpur	
	(a) Sultanpur Distt.	
	(b) Pratapgarh Distt.	3351
6.	TDM Allahabad	
	(a) Allahabad Distt.	3351
7.	TDM Gorakhpur	
	(a) Gorakhpur Distt.	1923
	(b) Maharajganj Distt.	
8.	TDM Jhansi	
	(a) Lalitpur Distt.	1923
	(b) Jhansi Distt.	

1	2	3
9.	Director Telecom (CA) LW.	
	(i) TDE Barabanki	1197
	(a) Barabanki	
	(ii) TDE Faizabad	695
	(a) Faizabad Distt.	
	(b) Ambedkar Nagar Distt.	
	(iii) TDE Lakhimpur	424
	(a) Lakhimpur Distt.	
	(iv) TDE Shahjahanpur	319
	(a) Shahjahanpur Distt.	
	(b) Hardoi Distt.	
	(v) TDE Sitapur	332
	(a) Sitapur Distt.	
10.	Director (Task Force) KP	
	(i) TDE Banda	1531
	(a) Banda Distt.	
	(b) Jalon Distt.	
	(c) Hamirpur Distt.	
	(d) Mahoba Distt.	1132
	(ii) TDE Etawah	
	(a) Etawah Distt.	
	(b) Mainpuri Distt.	886
	(iii) TDE Farrukhabad	
	(a) Farrukhabad Distt.	723
	(iv) TDE Raibareli	
	(a) Raibareli Distt.	
	(b) Fatehpur Distt.	

STATEMENT-II

S.No.	Name of Division/ District	Waiting List as on 30.11.96
1	2	3
1.	GMT. Kanpur	
	(a) Kanpur District	15042
	(b) Kanpur Dehat Distt.	
	(c) Unnao Distt.	
2.	GMTD. Lucknow	16953
3.	GMTD. Varanasi	
	(a) Varanasi Distt.	7035
	(b) Bhadohi Distt.	

1	2	3
4	TDM Mau	
	(a) Mau District	4394
	(b) Deoria Distt.	
	(c) Padrauna Distt.	
5.	GMT (EA) Varanasi	
	(i) TDE Azamgarh	
	(a) Azamgarh Distt.	2836
	(ii) TDE Ballia	
	(a) Ballia Distt.	1110
	(b) Basti Distt.	
	(iii) TDE Gonda	
	(a) Gonda Distt.	5007
	(b) Basti Distt.	
	(c) Bahraich Distt.	
	(d) Siddharthnagar Distt.	
	(iv) TDE Mirzapur	
	(a) Mirzapur Distt.	2653
	(b) Jaunpur Distt.	
	(v) TDE Sultanpur	
	(a) Sultanpur Distt.	
	(b) Pratapgarh Distt.	
6.	TDM Allahabad	
	(a) Allahabad Distt.	4442
7.	TDM Gorakhpur	
	(a) Gorakhpur Distt.	5012
	(b) Maharajganj Distt.	
8.	TDM Jhansi	
	(a) Lalitpur Distt.	1949
	(b) Jhansi Distt.	
9.	Director Telecom (CA) LW	
	(i) TDE Barabanki	
	(a) Barabanki	1026
	(ii) TDE Faizabad	
	(a) Faizabad Distt.	1012
	(b) Ambedkar Nagar Distt.	
	(iii) TDE Lakhimpur	
	(a) Lakhimpur Distt.	800
	(iv) TDE Shahjahanpur	
	(a) Shahjahanpur Distt.	2320
	(b) Hardoi Distt.	
	(v) TDE Sitapur	
	(a) Sitapur Distt.	642

1	2	3
10	Director (Task Force) KP	8844
	(i) TDE Banda	
	(a) Banda Distt.	Director (Task Force) Kanpur
	(b) Jalon Distt.	
	(c) Hamirpur Distt.	
	(d) Mahoba Distt.	
	(ii) TDE Etawah	
	(a) Etawah Distt.	-do-
	(b) Mainpuri Distt.	
	(iii) TDE Farrukhabad	
	(a) Farrukhabad Distt.	-do-
	(iv) TDE Raibareli	
	(a) Raibareli Distt.	
	(b) Fatehpur Distt.	

STATEMENT-III

S.No.	Name of Districts	Time by which Waiting list is likely to be cleared
1	2	3
1.	Allahabad	March.98
2.	Ambedkar Nagar	June.97
3.	Azamgarh	March.97
4.	Bahraich	March.97
5.	Ballia	March.98
6.	Banda	March.98
7.	Barabanki	Dec..96
8.	Basti	March.98
9.	Bhadoi	March.98
10.	Deoria	March.98
11.	Etawah	March.98
12.	Faizabad	March.98
13.	Farrukhabad	March.98
14.	Fatehpur	March.98
15.	Ghazipur	March.97
16.	Gonda	March.97
17.	Gorakhpur	March.97
18.	Hamipur	March.97

1	2	3	1	2	3
19	Hardoi	June 97	31	Mirzapur	March 97
20	Jalaun	March 98	32	Padrauna	March 98
21	Jaunpur	March 97	33	Pratapgarh	March 97
22	Jhansi	March 97	34	Lalitpur	March 98
23	Kanpur (S)	March 97	35	Raibareilly	March 97
24	Kanpur (R)	March 97	36	Shahjahanpur	March 97
25	Lakhimpur	March 97	37	Siddharth Nagar	March 97
26	Lucknow	March 97	38	Sitapur	March 97
27	Maharajganj	March 98	39	Sonbhadra	March 98
28	Mahoba	March 97	40	Sultanpur	March 98
29	Mainpuri	March 98	41	Unnao	March 97
30	Mau	March 98	42	Varanasi	March 97

STATEMENT-IV

CGMT (WEST) DEHRADUN

PQ DY. NO 3142

Name of Rev. Distt.	No of Tele. Connections Provided in the year				No. of persons on W/L	Target for W/L Cirnce
	93-94	94-95	95-96	96-97	(upto Nov. 96)	(upto Nov. 96)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Agra	5058	10601	8371	3348	7563	97-98
Ferozabad	522	184	985	535	2966	-do-
Almora	657	190	429	900	1041	Mar.97
Pithoragarh	684	69	372	149	269	-do-
Aligarh	280	638	2713	1540	4268	-do-
Bareilly	160	1110	2037	2406	3445	-do-
Bijnore	-	2284	2012	1304	2686	-do-
Dehradun	1233	4051	4977	4037	12741	-do-
Etah	1184	2544	721	333	14450	-do-
Ghaziabad	6710	14131	16412	6402	17155	-do-
Bulandshahar	801	2120	2084	560	4965	-do-
Mathura	931	531	2998	839	3824	-do-
Meerut	3254	12183	14010	2732	3302	-do-
Muzaffarnagar	2073	1901	4068	3835	5500	97-98
Moradabad	2400	3436	2717	2288	6299	-do-
Nainital and US Nagar	967	2197	5412	3088	6908	Mar. 97
Saharanpur	828	2010	4584	3272	4531	-do-
Hardwar	2177	4061	3596	1050	3898	-do-

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Pauri	947	826	782	843	1487	Mar. 97
Chamoli	172	268	709	343	689	-do-
Uttarkashi	133	124	300	396	273	-do-
Tehri	292	241	583	342	301	-do-
Rampur	467	626	886	1255	2070	-do-
Pilibhit	277	442	632	383	497	-do-
Budaun	224	610	680	517	443	-do-
Total :	32431	67408	83070	42697	98566	

Panagarh Station Overbridge in Dilapidated Condition

4035. SHRI MEHBOOB ZAHEDI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is as fact that the over bridge at Panagarh (of ER's Asansol Division) is in a dilapidated condition and that may cause accident at any time.

(b) whether it is also a fact that in this station, electric light is not provided at the platforms causing great inconvenience and danger to passengers.

(c) whether it is also a fact that the quota of seats from this station by Coalfield Express has been reduced from four to one and there is no quota by Asansol Express.

(d) whether at this station, monthly ticket to stations falling on Bardhaman-Howrah via Main, have been stopped.

(e) if so, the reasons in respect of (a) to (d) above; and

(f) if not, the present conditions/positions in respect of (a) to (d) above?

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

(b) No, Sir.

(c) (e) to (f). At present a quota of one AC Chair Car and two seats in second class by 3030 Coalfield Express and two seats in second class by 3029 Coalfield Express is available at Panagarh station which is adequate to meet the present level of demand. As regards Asansol Express, due to limited availability of reserved accommodation, it is not feasible to allot any quota at this station.

(d) Season Tickets are issued for various stations from Panagarh on Panagarh-Howrah Section via Main upto a distance of 150 Kms only.

[Translation]

Contracts for Bailadilla and Rajmor Mines

4036. SHRI VIJAY GOEL : Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the State Government of Madhya Pradesh has decided to invite tenders from foreign companies undertaking mining work in Bailadilla and Rajmor mines;

(b) whether the Union Government have received complaints in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether an enquiry has been conducted in this regard;

(e) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(f) the policy of the Union Government to invite foreign companies in the field of mines?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) As per information received from the State Government of Madhya Pradesh, no such decision to invite tenders from foreign companies to undertake mining work in Bailadilla and Rajmor Hills has been taken by the State Government.

(b) to (e). Does not arise.

(f) Mining rights are granted by the concerned State Governments in accordance with the provisions of Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Act, 1957 and the rules made thereunder. As per the 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 1st Schedule of the Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Act, 1957, no prospecting licence or mining lease shall be granted except with the previous approval of the Central Government.

[English]

Recruitment of Persons in Assam

4037. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of persons recruited in Railways in Assam during each of the last three years category-wise; and

(b) the number of persons likely to be recruited in the State in each category during the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) The number of persons recruited in Group 'C' and Group 'D' in the years 1993-94, 1994-95 and 1995-96 is as follows :

Category	Years		
	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96
Group 'C'	97	128	197
Group 'D'	270	266	539

(b) It is not possible to predict the exact number of persons likely to be recruited during the whole of the current year. However, the number of persons recruited in Group 'C' and Group 'D' in the current year upto November 1996 is as follows :

Category	Year	
	1996-97 (Upto 30.11.1996)	
Group 'C'	115	
Group 'D'	138	

Sales Agents/Consolidators for Air India in USA

4038. SHRI NAMDEO DIWATHE : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) the number of General Sales Agents/Consolidators operating for Air India in USA and their performance as per latest review;

(b) the policy of the Government in appointing such Agents/Consolidators alongwith the guidelines and procedures to be followed to ensure transparency in such appointment;

(c) the number of General Sales Agents/Consolidators appointed by Air India in USA and other countries during the last three years and proposed to be appointed during the current year alongwith the details of the parties;

(d) whether the prescribed procedure was followed in the appointments made; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) At present, there is no General Sales Agent (GSA)/Consolidator for Air India in USA.

(b) A GSA for any area is appointed or changed by Air India when the market conditions and local custom so require. The appointment is made according to a well established and exhaustive procedure laid down which *inter-alia* includes scrutiny of applications received in response to advertisement, by an inter-departmental committee consisting of senior officers of Finance and Commercial departments of Air India, site inspection, activity assessment and approval by the competent levels in management.

(c) Air India has not appointed any GSA/Consolidator in the USA. In other countries, the following GSAs have been appointed :

- (i) M/s. Open Sky Limited in Israel
- (ii) M/s. Jetworld Air Services (P) Limited in the State of Western Australia.
- (iii) M/s. Yusuf Bin Ahmed Kanoo in the Western and Southern provinces of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

At present there is a proposal for appointing 3-4 Consolidators for USA region only.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Partnership of Japanese Entrepreneurs in Hotel Construction

4039. SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH :
SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have invited the Japanese entrepreneurs for partnership in hotel construction, development of airports and other related activities;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reaction of the Government of Japan in this regard;

(d) whether any agreement has been signed in this regard between the two countries; and

(e) if so, the details of terms and conditions of the said agreement?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) to (c). A Japanese delegation comprising top executives of companies, banks and other institutions arrived in Delhi to participate in an open session

organised by Deptt. of Tourism on 30th Oct., 1996. The open session was meant to promote tourism and investment in India. The State Govts. of Kerala, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Karnataka and Orissa gave presentations regarding investment opportunities in their States.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Recovery from Mid East Steel Co. Ltd. by SAIL

4040 SHRI S. RAMACHANDRA REDDY :
SHRI AJMEERA CHANDULAL :

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the SAIL propose to sue against Mid East Steel Company Limited for recovery of Rs. 5.2 crore;

(b) whether bank guarantee and provision of payment of interest was not included in MoU signed by SAIL in 1994;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the action proposed to be taken against the erring officials?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) Yes, Sir. SAIL has already filed a suit against Mid East Steel Company Ltd. for recovery of Rs. 5.2 crores.

(b) to (d). SAIL has intimated that provision of interest payment, for delay in payment beyond the interest-free credit period, was included in the MOU. However, considering the potential of sale volume and party's standing, they were exempted from submission of Bank Guarantee which is permissible as per the marketing policy of SAIL.

Users Charge at Calicut Airport

4041. SHRI T. GOVINDAN :
SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state

(a) the amount of "Users Charge" collected at Calicut airport during each of the last three years;

(b) whether "Users Charge" is also proposed to be levied at other airports of the country;

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the justification of levying the said charge at Calicut airport only;

(d) whether the Government propose to discontinue collection of "Users Charge" at Calicut airport and extend funds for the development of the airport; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) Collection of "user charge" commenced only from 1st Oct., 1995 and an amount of Rs. 228.52 lakhs has been collected during 1995-96.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Airports Authority of India (AAI) could not have taken up the upgradation of Calicut Airport immediately without financial assistance from Malabar International Airport Development Society (MIADS). MIADS agreed to provide an interest free loan of Rs. 60 crores to AAI for the purpose of extension of runway. For payment of interest on loan amount provided by MIADS, Govt. has agreed to the levy of "user charge" of Rs. 500 per embarking passenger till the project of extension of runway is completed at Calicut Airport.

(d) and (e). The matter is under examination.

Evaluation about Viewership of Parliament News

4042 SHRI R. DEVADASS : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether any evaluation has been done about the viewership of the Parliament News relayed in Hindi and English when the Parliament is in Session;

(b) whether the viewership is poor;

(c) whether those slots could be used for sponsored programmes to increase the revenue of Doordarshan; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) and (b). Doordarshan has not conducted any specific evaluation about the viewership of these News bulletins. However, as per ratings available from a limited number of cities, the viewership of these programmes is not very high.

(c) and (d). Since these bulletins serve the useful purpose of informing the viewers in the country about the proceedings of the Parliament, there is no proposal for using these slots for sponsored programmes.

First Class Managership Examination

4043. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received a representation and letters from various Associations/M.P.s requesting to exempt Graduate Mining Engineers for appearing in First class Managership Examination;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the Graduate Mining Engineers had mass-boycott of the First Class Managership Examination in 1990;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government have constituted an Inter-Ministerial Committee to review/amend the system of examination;

(e) if so, the outcome of such Committee report; and

(f) the action taken by Government thereof and to publish the committee report?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) Yes Sir.

(b) and (c). While the number of candidates appearing in the First Class Managership Examination (Metal) ranged between 399 and 436 during 1990 to 1994, in the First Class Managership Examination (Coal) only 28 candidates appeared in 1990. In the subsequent years, the candidates appearing in First Class Managership Examination (Coal) ranged 1190 in 1991 to 2100 in 1994.

(d) Yes sir.

(e) and (f). The Committee inter alia, recommended continuance of the existing system of granting two levels certificate of competency for managerial personnel (i.e. 2nd class Manager's certificate and 1st class Manager's certificate), enhancement of academic qualifications for 2nd class Manager's examination, increase in service experience for inhouse candidates etc. The system of grant of two levels certificate of competency for managerial personnel is accordingly being continued. Other recommendations of the Committee have been accepted with some modifications for implementation.

Flights of UN Military Observers over Srinagar

4044. SHRI AJIT KUMAR MEHTA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the United Nations Military Observer Group (UNMOG) in India and Pakistan has been operating flights from Islamabad to Delhi with an unauthorised halt at Srinagar;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the implications involved in operating the flights by the UNMOG in India and Pakistan to Delhi and its illegal halt at Srinagar; and

(d) the action taken by the Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) to (d). On 7th November, 1996 UN-KBZ Beechcraft Air-100, belonging to KENN BOREK AIR Ltd. operated from Islamabad to Srinagar. The flight was authorised to fly vide AOR No. 796 dated 1st November, 1996 from Islamabad to Srinagar, Srinagar to Rajouri, Rajouri to Jammu, Jammu to Srinagar and Srinagar to Islamabad.

The operation of this aircraft was permitted under the Air Headquarters authority since the Air Traffic Control at Srinagar Airport is under the Indian Air Force.

Development of Bellary Airstrip in Karnataka

4045. SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to develop Bellary airstrip in Karnataka;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the estimated cost involved therein; and

(c) the amount proposed to be spent during 1996-97 thereon?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) to (c). No, Sir. Bellary airstrip belongs to the State Government of Karnataka. Airports Authority of India has no plans to develop this aerodrome.

Misbehaviours with Employees of SAIL

4046. SHRI SUKH LAL KUSHWAHA : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the oppressive incident occurred on March 24, 1996 on the workers of Steel Authority of India Limited unit located at Babupur (M.P.) in which the workers of the unit were manhandled and misbehaved by the security forces at the behest of the management of the unit, and

(b) 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) and (b). No incident involving manhandling etc. of workmen of SAIL unit located at Babupur (Satna), Madhya Pradesh, took place on March 24, 1996. However, an incident of physical assault/manhandling of a senior officer of the Company, and not manhandling of the workmen, did take place on March 24, 1995 (and not 24.3.1996). The Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) which intervened to protect the officer, when the workmen turned violent, also subsequently lodged an FIR against the persons involved in the assault/manhandling. Thirteen workmen directly involved in the assault were suspended/chargesheeted and departmental proceedings were initiated against them.

Irregularities Levelled against SAIL Officials

4047. SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have asked CBI to look into allegations of irregularities levelled against

the SAIL's commercial alliances between 1992 and 1994:

(b) if so, the details of commercial alliance held by SAIL between 1992 and 1994:

(c) whether the Government propose to investigate and take action against the involved officials of SAIL who conducted irregularities in allotment of steel to various traders; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) to (d). Allegations of irregularities, as and when received, are inquired into and action taken on merits. Ministry of Steel has not asked for any CBI enquiry; there is no specific scheme known as commercial alliance under which SAIL supplies materials to its customers. SAIL has in fact various schemes in vogue under which it supplies materials to its customers. All the eligible customers under the various schemes are allowed to book the materials uniformly without any discrimination. The schemes which SAIL operated during the year 1992-93 to 1994-95 under the extant guidelines are as under :

Year	Schemes
1992-93	- Demand Registration scheme.
	- Annual Booking scheme.
	- Long Term Booking Scheme.
	- Quarterly Booking scheme.
1993-94	- Annual Booking scheme.
	- Long Term Booking scheme.
	- Quarterly Booking scheme.
	- Memorandum of Understanding scheme.
	- Continuous Booking scheme.
1994-95	- Memorandum of Understanding scheme.
	- Annual Booking scheme.
	- Quarterly Booking scheme.
	- Continuous Booking scheme.

Deputation to V.S.N.L.

4048. DR. BALIRAM : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to refer to reply given to Unstarred Question No. 3252, on August 29, 1996 and state :

(a) the date of issue of order for repatriation of the Chief Financial Officer in Videsh Sanchar Nigam Limited

who was on deputation from Department of Telecommunications, to the parent cadre.

(b) whether this officer has been relieved by the Chairman, Videsh Sanchar Nigam Limited.

(c) if not, the reasons thereof and the action taken against the Chairman, Videsh Sanchar Nigam Limited for not obeying the orders of the Government; and

(d) if so, the date of joining of that officer in Department of Telecommunications?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) to (d). Order for repatriation of the Chief Financial Officer Smt. Annie Moraes in Videsh Sanchar Nigam Ltd. (VSNL) to Department of Telecommunication was issued on 21st August, 1996. The officer was relieved from VSNL on 29th November, 1996. She joined the parent organisation i.e. Department of Telecommunication on 5th December, 1996.

Discrimination with Backward Class Employees

4049. SHRI MRUTYUNJAYA NAYAK : Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether some employees of general category dismissed from service on serious charges were reinstated by the Hindustan Copper Limited whereas some helpers (Mines) belonging to backward class have not been reinstated though they remained absent from duty on grounds of illness after having informed the office as reported in Hindi daily 'Public Asia' dated February 7, 1996:

(b) if so, the details thereof and reasons for such discrimination:

(c) the steps taken to reinstate the above helpers (Mines); and

(d) the action taken against the officials found guilty in this regard?

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

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

Employees Working in Centaur Hotel

4050. SHRI GULAM RASOOL KAR : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) the strength of the employees in Centaur Hotel at Srinagar as on April, 1994, 1995 and 1996:

(b) the amount of profit earned/loss incurred by the above hotel during the last three years:

(c) the reasons for losses, if any; and

(d) the steps taken to make the hotel profitable?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) The details are as under :

	Staff strength
As on April, 1994	368
As on April, 1995	356
As on April, 1996	347

(b) to (d). Losses incurred by Centaur Lake View Hotel, Srinagar were due to the disturbed situation in the valley which resulted in stoppage of tourist flow. Details are as under :

Year	Amount of Loss (Rs. in lakhs)
1993-94	544.02
1994-95	551.01
1995-96	330.55

[Translation]

Code VT

4051. SHRI MANHARAN LAL PANDEY : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Code VT given by International Aviation Organisation to Indian Planes stands for viceroy territory; and

(b) if so, the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to get this word changed?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) There is no information on record which suggests that the letters 'VT' stand for Viceroy Territory.

(b) Does not arise.

[English]

Intelligent Network Services

4052. SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA :
DR. RAMKRISHNA KUSMARIA :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state : (a) whether the Government propose to introduce Intelligent Network (IN) Services in the country;

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

(c) the salient features thereof?

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

(b) It is proposed to start services based on the Intelligent Network during the financial year 1997-98.

(c) A number of IN services such as Free Phone, Premium Rate, Virtual Private Network, Virtual Card Calling, Universal Numbers, Televoting etc. is planned to be introduced in a large segment of the network.

Production of Blue Films by Computers

4053. SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN :
SHRI DADA BABURAO PARANJPE :

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

(a) whether some companies are engaged in producing computerised Blue films in Jabalpur in Madhya Pradesh.

(b) whether these films have been supplied to other States and Gulf countries;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) to (d). In terms of the provisions contained in the Cinematograph Act, 1952 no film can be released for public exhibition unless the same has been certified by the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC). The CBFC do not have any information either about production of computerised blue films in the country or about distribution/export thereof. The enforcement of the Cinematograph Act, 1952 rests with the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations and it is for the concerned District/Police Authorities to take necessary action under the relevant provisions of law relating to such offences.

Sale of Indian Airlines Tickets

4054. SHRI PRAMOTESH MUKHERJEE : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) the amount of sale of tickets has been registered during the last three years by Indian Airlines branches in Lucknow and Kanpur;

(b) whether it is a fact that despite increase in sales turnover at these stations, the Indian Airlines is failing to provide proper customer services by putting *inter-alia* operational flights; and

(c) if so, the facts and reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) The amount of sale of tickets registered by Indian Airlines branches in Lucknow and Kanpur for

the last three years are as under :

Year	(Rs. in Lakhs)	
	Lucknow	Kanpur
1993-94	765.57	279.65
1994-95	823.59	268.41
1995-96	806.42	259.01

(b) and (c) The sales turn over at Kanpur has declined during the last 3 years. At Lucknow, while there was an increase in sales turnover by 7 and 1/2% during the year 1994-95, it has declined by 2% in 1995-96.

Bagghi Paryatan Pariyojna in Mumbai

4055. SHRI MAHESH KUMAR M. KANODIA : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a proposal to launch "Bagghi Paryatan Pariyojna" in Mumbai to attract the foreign tourists;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the cost likely to be incurred on the said project;

(d) whether there is any proposal to launch similar scheme in other States of the country to attract the foreign tourists; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA) :

(a) to (c) The Government of Maharashtra with the assistance of private business houses have launched a Victorian Tour (Buggy Ride) to introduce tourists to the heritage Monuments of the Raj era in South Mumbai. The duration of the Victorian Tour is for one hour from 9 p.m. to 10 p.m. at the rate of Rs. 250 per head for a buggy of four. The total cost incurred on the project is approximately Rs. 1.00 lakh.

(d) and (e) No Sir, does not arise.

Permission to Indian Aircrafts

4056. SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Britain is not permitting Indian Aircrafts enroute to Chicago to land at London;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the course of action being taken by the Government to resolve the issue?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) to (c). Under the Inter-Governmental arrangements between India and UK, Air India has traffic

rights and frequency entitlements to operate B747-400 services to Chicago via London with full 3rd/4th and 5th freedom traffic rights. However, the Heathrow authority could not allot convenient airport slots for operation of the flights. Such matters are resolved through Inter-Governmental Civil Aviation talks.

Code Sharing Arrangement

4057. SHRI T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether code sharing arrangement between Indian Airlines and Air India has been finalised;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor; and

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

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) to (c). The Government has directed Air India and Indian Airlines to Code-share on selected domestic sectors. The procedural details are being worked out by the two airlines. Implementation of the directive is being closely monitored by the Government.

Hike in Freight Charges by CONCOR

4058. SHRI SATYAJITSINH DULIPSINH GAEKWAD : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Container Corporation of India (CONCOR) has hiked the haulage charges recently;

(b) if so, the detail thereof;

(c) whether the freight charged by road transport is lower than the charges charged by the CONCOR;

(d) if so, the total gap between the freight;

(e) whether this hike has adversely affected exporters from the Northern region; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir, CONCOR has increased the rail haul charges by 10% based on the hike in Railways haulage rates as per the annual Railway Budget.

(c) Generally, the road transportation charges of containers are higher than the rates charged by CONCOR.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) No, Sir, CONCOR's freight hike constitutes an insignificant part of the total cost incurred by an exporter in shipping a container.

(f) Does not arise.

Government Departments Possessing Aircrafts

4059. SHRI I.D. SWAMI : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the Government departments, ministries, public sector undertakings and autonomous bodies possessing aircrafts;

(b) when they acquired the aircrafts and how much those aircrafts have been flown till date;

(c) the purpose for which the aircrafts were purchased; and

(d) the instances of misuse of those aircrafts noticed by the Government during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) to (d). Information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

[Translation]

Train Accident on Gaya-Kodarma Rail Line

4060. SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR SINGH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of train accidents took place on Gaya-Kodarma line of Eastern Railway during the last three years;

(b) whether the Gaya-Kodarma rail line is more prone to train accidents in comparison to other places;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the total loss suffered by the Railways due to the said accidents;

(e) whether the Government are not paying special attention in this regard;

(f) if so, the details thereof;

(g) whether the accidents are taking place due to the negligence of employees and officers of Railways; and

(h) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) The number of consequential train accidents on Gaya-Kodarma section of Eastern Railway during 1993-94, 1994-95 and 1995-96 was 4, 2, and 2 respectively.

(b) Part of this is ghat section and such comparisons are not possible.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The approximate cost of damage to railway property on account of these accidents was Rs. 82.94 lakhs.

(e) and (f). Safety is accorded the highest priority on Indian Railways. Railways have been continuously endeavouring to minimise the number of accidents by various preventive and remedial measures. Since it is a ghat section, special monitoring of drivers and trains is done on the section.

(g) and (h). Out of the 8 accidents, 6 were due to lapses of railway staff.

Airport within Kanha National Park in M.P.

4061. SHRI FAGGAN SINGH KULESTE : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal for construction of an airport within Kanha National Park in Bhandla district of Madhya Pradesh; and

(b) if so, the time by which the work of construction of airport is likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

[English]

Registration of Newspapers

4062. DR. VALLABH BHAI KATHIRIA : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) the number of applications received for granting registration for various newspapers in Hindi and English from various States during 1996, till date;

(b) the number of applications cleared/pending during the above period;

(c) the time by which the pending cases are likely to be cleared, and

(d) the norms fixed for granting registration?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) The number of applications received for registration of newspapers in Hindi and English during 1996 (upto 13.12.96) was 2805.

(b) Certificate of registration were issued in respect of 1100 applications during the above said period. 1705 applications could not be cleared owing to incomplete information given by the publishers.

(c) Pending cases will be cleared as soon as the publishers submit complete documents required for registration in terms of the Press and Registration of Books Act, 1867 (PRB Act).

(d) Newspapers are registered by the Registrar of Newspapers for India (RNI) under the various provisions of the PRB Act, 1867, as amended from time to time.

The basic norms for registration are verification of the title by RNI, authentication of the declaration of the publisher by the District Magistrate concerned and commencement of publication within the time prescribed in the PRB Act.

Selling of Scrap in Kanpur Zone

4063. SHRIMATI KAMAL RANI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the quantity of scrap sold in Kanpur Division by his Ministry during 1995-96 and the amount received therefrom;

(b) whether it is a fact that scrap has been stolen in large quantity from the Railway workshop, Locomotive Engine Repair Shed in Kanpur;

(c) if so, the steps taken by the Government to check the theft of scrap;

(d) whether several tonne of Iron has been seized in the raids by the police on the shops of scrap traders; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) During 1995-96 approx. 5200 MTs scrap had been sold in Kanpur area under Allahabad Division and Rs. 3.9 crores received therefrom.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) No such incidence has been reported to this Ministry.

(e) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Mining with the Assistance of Public/Private Sector in Bihar

4064. SHRI SUKDEO PASWAN :

SHRI R.L.P. VERMA :

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the quantity of vast mineral deposits found in Bihar has been ascertained;

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

(c) whether the Government propose to formulate any scheme for development and mining of these minerals with the assistance of public and private sector which can play an important role in alleviating poverty and unemployment from Bihar;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) to (e). Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

New Post Office in U.P.

4065. SHRI SOHANBEER :

SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have fixed targets for opening of Post Offices in Uttar Pradesh during 1995-96 and 1996-97;

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

(c) whether the Government of Uttar Pradesh has sent any demand in this regard;

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

(e) the time by which the said demand is likely to be fulfilled?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) Yes, Sir. The year-wise targets for opening of Post Offices in Uttar Pradesh are given below :

	EDBOs	DSOs
1995-96	12	16
1996-97	12	16

(b) The allocation of targets is made Postal Circle-wise. The opening of Post Offices and their location depend upon the norm based justification and merits of each case.

(c) and (d). Yes, Sir. The Government had sent only one demand for opening of a Post Office in Saifai, District Etawah.

(e) A Departmental Sub-Post Office at Saifai, District Etawah has been sanctioned on 24.11.1996.

Construction Work of Railway Station

4066. SHRI SURESH PRABHU : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have stopped the construction work of Railway station between Rajapur Road and Vaibhav Wadi by leaving the work incomplete;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to provide adequate funds for the completion of the above station?

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

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

[Translation]

Pending Projects of Gauge Conversion

4067. SHRI KACHARU BHAU RAUT :

SHRI MADHUKAR SARPOTDAR :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether several proposals regarding conversion of metre gauge lines into broad gauge lines in Maharashtra are pending with the Government for approval;

(b) if so, the details of each project alongwith the amount of funds allocated therefor;

(c) whether any new project has been taken up for gauge conversion;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the criteria adopted for their selection;

(e) the time by which these projects are likely to be completed; and

(f) the present position regarding laying of new railway lines in Maharashtra?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

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

(f) The present position regarding laying of new railway lines in Maharashtra is as under :

Name	Present Status	Target Date for Completion
1. Amravati-Narkhed	Land acquisition is in progress. Part work on earthwork in Narkhed Yard is in progress. Work on new station building at Amravati and foot-over-bridge at Narkhed is in full swing.	2001-02
2. Panvel-Karjat	Work has been cleared by Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs. Tenders for earth-work, minor and major bridges and single line tunnel have been invited.	1998-99

[English]

Upgradation of Suburban Train Facilities in Karnataka

4068. SHRI ANANTH KUMAR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to upgrade the suburban train facilities in Karnataka;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the number of new trains proposed to be provided stoppage at Bangalore, Hubli, Bijapur, Davangere, Gulbarga, Hassan, Mangalore and Mysore?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (c). Improvement of travel facilities, including for suburban travel, is an ongoing process on Indian Railways subject to traffic justification, availability of resources (including DMU/Push Pull/EMU/MEMU rakes for suburban services) and operational feasibility. There is no proposal at present to introduce additional trains for suburban commuters in Karnataka. However, as and when new trains are introduced in future serving Karnataka, provision of the stoppages at Bangalore, Hubli, Bijapur, Davangere, Gulbarga, Hassan, Mangalore and Mysore can be provided subject to traffic justification.

[Translation]

First Air Taxi Service in M.P.

4069. SHRI DADA BABURAO PARANJPE :

SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government is aware of the fact that Sam Verma has started a company on January 7, 1992 under the name Continental Aviation Private Limited for providing the first air taxi service in Madhya Pradesh by private sector and after operating the air service for eighth months the company winded up the business on May 22, 1993 after duping crores of rupees from National Airports Authority of India and other institutions;

(b) if so, the reasons for failure of this air service;

(c) the amount of loss incurred to the Government on account of this company; and

(d) the efforts being made by the Government for recovering the due amount?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) Permit to operate air taxi services was

issued to M/s. Continental Aviation Pvt. Ltd. on 17th June, 1991. The Permit was valid for one year.

(b) The Company did not seek renewal in the validity of the said Permit.

(c) The amount of dues outstanding against the Company is as under :

	Amount (Rs. in lakhs)	As on
Customs authorities (Inland Air Travel Tax) -	74.86	17.12.96
Airports Authority of India (AAI) -	71.21	31.10.96

(d) The Customs authorities had distrained/arrested one aircraft of the Company at Bombay in February 1995 for recovery of the outstanding dues. On a suit filed by the Tourism Finance Corporation of India Ltd., the High Court at Delhi has issued direction in January, 1995 not to dispose off the aircraft and also not to create any third party interest. On filing an intervention by the customs authorities for vacation of the aforesaid order, the Hon'ble High Court has transferred the case to Debt Recovery Tribunal where the matter is still pending decision. AAI has a lien on the aircraft and a court case has been filed to recover the dues.

Submission of Claims for Loss of Wagons

4070. SHRI BHANU PRATAP SINGH VERMA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of coal wagons lost till 1994 for which claims have been submitted by the Uttar Pradesh State Electricity Board;

(b) the reasons for not receiving wagons loaded with coal by the Uttar Pradesh State Electricity Board;

(c) whether the Railway officers have sold the coal somewhere;

(d) if so, the names of officers, Station-wise involved in this regard; and

(e) the time by which the payment is likely to be made in regard to all the claims of Uttar Pradesh State Electricity Board?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b). A statement is attached.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) The claims and counter claims for short supply/excess supplied coal wagons are offset by means of periodical reconcillisation, which is a continuous exercise.

STATEMENT

Coal rakes booked for Power Houses are normally not interfered with except in very exceptional circumstances like accidents, breaches, civil commotion, heavy congestion etc. or for meeting the demands of various Power Houses in the broader national interest, to avoid disruption to power generation. In such circumstances, the rakes of coal booked for a particular Power House are diverted to other Power House. As on June, 1996 4962 coal wagons have been short supplied to Uttar Pradesh State Electricity Board's Power Houses located on Northern and Central Railways while on Eastern and North Eastern Railways 7405 coal wagons have been excess supplied to them. Thus railways have supplied 2443 excess coal wagons to Uttar Pradesh State Electricity Board over and above their due wagons.

[English]

Electronic Telephone Exchanges

4071. DR RAM LAKHAN SINGH : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have set up electronic telephone exchanges in the country during the year 1995-96;

(b) the names of States where electronic telephone exchanges are proposed to be set up during 1996-97;

(c) whether any decision has been taken regarding setting up of electronic telephone exchanges at some places of Bhind; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) During 1996-97, electronic exchanges are proposed to be set up in all States of the country.

(c) No, Sir. There is no such proposal at present.

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

[Translation]

Channel of Doordarshan

4072. SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) the number and names of Doordarshan channels at present;

(b) the amount earned from each channel during 1995-96;

(c) whether the Government have any proposal to increase the number of channels; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) There are 19 channels as follows

Channel	Service
DD-1	National Network Delhi LPT
DD-International	
DD-2	Metro
DD-3	Infotainment and Movie Club
DD-4	Kerala
DD-5	Tamil Nadu
DD-6	Orissa
DD-7	West Bengal
DD-8	Andhra & Punjab
DD-9	Karnataka
DD-10	Maharashtra
DD-11	Gujarat
DD-12	Merged with DD-3
DD-13	Assam and North East
DD-14	Rajasthan
DD-15	Madhya Pradesh
DD-16	Uttar Pradesh
DD-17	Bihar
DD-18	DD-CNN
DD-19	J and K

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

(c) No. Sir, not at present.

(d) Does not arise.

Introduction of Train from Mughalsarai to Varanasi

4073. SHRI S.P. JAISWAL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state

(a) whether the Government have received any

proposal to introduce a local train from Mughalsarai to Varanasi and vice-versa;

(b) if so, whether the Government have taken a final decision in this regard;

(c) whether the DMU train plying from Patna and Buxar to Varanasi has been terminated at Mughalsarai;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the action being taken to restore the said train upto Varanasi?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b). Some representations have been received in this regard and these have been examined.

(c) and (d). The Push Pull services between Buxar and Varanasi were terminated at Mughalsarai due to technical/operational constraints arising out of frequent theft of equipment on this push pull rakes and their subsequent conversion into conventional rakes.

(e) There is no proposal at present to restore this train upto Varanasi.

[English]

Expenditure on Advertisements

4074. SHRI ILIYAS AZMI : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state the total amount spent by various Ministries/Departments on advertisements given to newspapers, directly or through Directorate of Audio-Visual Publicity during 1995-96 till date. Ministry-wise and language-wise?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : Directorate of Audio-Visual Publicity maintains details of amount spent by Ministries/Departments on advertisements given to newspapers, which are routed through DAVP. The details of amount spent by various Ministries and Departments on advertisements given to newspapers through DAVP during 1995-96 and till date, Ministry-wise and language wise are indicated in Statement-I and II respectively.

STATEMENT-I

Statement Showing Ministry/Department-wise Committed Expenditure during the year 1995-96

S.No.	Ministry/Department	Committed Expenditure (In rupees)
1	2	3
1.	Ministry of Health and Welfare	15765611
2.	Ministry of Commerce	833913
3.	Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas	1798410

1	2	3
4.	Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pension	62442112
5.	Ministry of Communications	29421831
6.	Ministry of Home	27139560
7.	Ministry of Environment and Forests	4293008
8.	Ministry of Food	744941
9.	Ministry of Civil Supplies	2769407
10.	Ministry of Steel	41444
11.	Ministry of Mines	1079926
12.	Department of Electronics	4071866
13.	Ministry of Civil Aviation	266429
14.	Ministry of Urban Development	16157267
15.	Ministry of Rural Development	16356717
16.	Ministry of Human Resources Development	16293890
17.	Ministry of Industry	4118805
18.	Ministry of Science and Technology	2135184
19.	Ministry of Textiles	4208373
20.	Ministry of Planning and Programme Implementation	1767875
21.	Ministry of Law, Justice and Company Affairs	393204
22.	Ministry of Power	226524
23.	Ministry of Coal	52955
24.	Ministry of External Affairs	410645
25.	Ministry of Tourism	103955
26.	Department of Ocean Development	382078
27.	Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs	1044489
28.	Department of Space	6433527
29.	Department of Atomic Energy	8630835
30.	Ministry of Water Resources	2231721
31.	Ministry of Labour	11059352
32.	Ministry of Finance	26185475
33.	Ministry of Agriculture	7815122
34.	Ministry of Information and Broadcasting	61722838
35.	Ministry of Defence	50843634
36.	Ministry of Surface Transport	2721078
37.	Ministry of Welfare	7561143
38.	Ministry of Food Processing Industries	91940
39.	Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers	192530
40.	Prime Minister's Office and Cabinet Secretariat	491839
41.	President Secretariat	91220
42.	Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources	17291772
-Total		41,76,84,445
Autonomous Bodies and Public Sector Undertakings		3,82,43,146
Grand Total		45,59,27,691

*Statement Showing Ministry/Department-wise Committed Expenditure
during the year 1996-97 (upto 30.11.96)*

S.No. Ministry/Department	Committed Expenditure (In rupees)
1. Ministry of Health and Welfare	9079969
2. Ministry of Commerce	713735
3. Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pension	44813489
4. Ministry of Communications	19430443
5. Ministry of Home	9624975
6. Ministry of Environment and Forests	1612268
7. Ministry of Food	267679
8. Ministry of Civil Supplies	195268
9. Ministry of Mines	165945
10. Department of Electronics	1027395
11. Ministry of Civil Aviation	271370
12. Ministry of Urban Development	8220769
13. Ministry of Rural Development	1914582
14. Ministry of Human Resources Development	7888459
15. Ministry of Industry	1719786
16. Ministry of Science and Technology	1203754
17. Ministry of Textiles	569041
18. Ministry of Planning and Programme Implementation	1215369
19. Ministry of Law, Justice and Company Affairs	466866
20. Ministry of Power	41594
21. Ministry of External Affairs	103354
22. Ministry of Tourism	68039
23. Department of Ocean Development	375817
24. Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs	288000
25. Department of Space	4299561
26. Department of Atomic Energy	4175377
27. Ministry of Water Resources	1131219
28. Ministry of Labour	3467381
29. Ministry of Finance	11438933
30. Ministry of Agriculture	3029363
31. Ministry of Information and Broadcasting	25851927
32. Ministry of Defence	26063876
33. Ministry of Surface Transport	923782
34. Ministry of Welfare	2687463
35. Ministry of Food Processing Industries	95495
36. Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers	191259
37. Prime Minister's Office and Cabinet Secretariat	391342
38. President Secretariat	50401
39. Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources	562233
Total	19,56,37,579
Autonomous Bodies and Public Sector Undertakings	2,76,74,971
Grand Total	22,33,12,550

STATEMENT-II

Language-wise Breakup of Committed Expenditure on Advertisements issued by D.A.V.P. on behalf of Ministry/Department/Autonomous Bodies etc. during the year 1995-96

No	Language	Amount Committed (Rs.)
1	English	167272574
2	Hindi	153388705
3	Urdu	20602814
4	Punjabi	9370184
5	Marathi	18173466
6	Gujarati	14968291
7	Sindhi	690968
8	Assamese	2828430
9	Bengali	11374121
10	Oriya	7614846
11	Tamil	1130124
12	Telugu	5218343
13	Malayalam	13699761
14	Kannada	9016437
15	Sanskrit	32280
16	Nepali	156051
17	Mizom	251248
18	Khasi	99553
19	Konkani	15130
20	Manipuri	114266
Total Commitment :		455927591

Language-wise Breakup of Committed Expenditure on Advertisements issued by D.A.V.P. on behalf of Ministry/Department/Autonomous Bodies etc. during the year 1996-97 (Upto 30.11.96)

S.No	Language	Amount Committed (in rupees)
1	2	3
1	English	102510301
2	Hindi	65051029
3	Urdu	8228099
4	Punjabi	4128835
5	Marathi	7571695
6	Gujarati	6226743
7	Sindhi	291923

1	2	3
8.	Assamese	1073867
9.	Bengali	7926433
10.	Oriya	3266504
11.	Tamil	5399368
12.	Telugu	2401468
13.	Malayalam	5541595
14.	Kannada	3413753
15.	Sanskrit	20377
16.	Nepali	72619
17.	Mizom	147365
18.	Khasi	12406
19.	Konkani	8182
20.	Manipuri	19988
Total Commitment :		223312550

Air Line Companies other than AI and IA

4075. SHRI P.C. THOMAS : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government of India have airline companies other than Air India and Indian Airlines;

(b) whether 'Alliance Airlines' is such a company of subsidiary company;

(c) whether Air India and Indian Airlines have surplus staff;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether formation of alliance airline has necessitated more staff recruitment and if so, the details thereof.

(f) whether formation of alliance airline has also caused additional expenditure on the exchequer and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) and (b) Besides Air India and Indian Airlines, there is one more scheduled airline named as Alliance Air, under the Government of India. Alliance Air is a wholly owned subsidiary of Indian Airlines.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) For all its manpower requirements, Alliance Air initially taps the resources of Indian Airlines/Short Haul Operation Department by calling for volunteers, and only thereafter approaches the open market. The present staff strength of Alliance Air is 319 out of which 70 are

from Indian Airlines and the remaining 249 have been appointed from the open market on contract basis

(f) No, Sir.

(g) Does not arise.

Steel Production in the Country

4076. SHRI GUMAN MAL LODHA :

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI :

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the rate of steel production in the country is far less as compared to the international level;

(b) if so, the international and domestic rate of steel production, respectively; and

(c) the likely rate of steel production, both international and domestic by the end of Ninth Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) to (c) As per the report "The Steel Market in 1995 and the outlook for 1996 and 1997" published by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development in 1996, 747.8 million tonnes of crude steel was produced in the world in 1995. India, with the production of 21.942 million tonnes of crude steel in 1995-96, is the tenth largest producer of steel in the world. As per the projections made for 2001-02 AD, terminal year of the ninth plan, it has been estimated that about 43.26 million tonnes of crude steel would be produced indigenously in the country.

[Translation]

Doubling of Railway Line

4077. SHRI AMAR PAL SINGH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to construct double line between Muradnagar and Meerut;

(b) if so, whether the funds have been allocated for this purpose;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the reasons for non-commencement of work so far, despite the allocation of funds?

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

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Rs. 4.50 crores have been allocated during 1996-97.

(d) The work was earlier planned under BOLT Scheme. However due to unsatisfactory response to

that Scheme it was decided to take up this work with Railway funds. This resulted in some delay. However the Railway is making preliminary arrangements for taking up the work.

[English]

Lignite Reserve

4078. SHRI SANAT MEHTA : Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of mines which have possibility of commercial mining of lignite in the country;

(b) the estimated reserves of lignite in these mines, State-wise; and

(c) the details of such reserves, reserved for power generation?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) The total number of mines which have possibility of commercial mining of lignite in the country are 16 (Tamilnadu-5, Rajasthan-7, Gujarat-4).

(b) Estimated reserves of lignite in these mines, state-wise are :

State	Estimated Reserves (in M.T.)
Tamilnadu	3244.00
Rajasthan	807.08
Gujarat	664.56

(c) Most of the lignite reserves indicated above though not specifically reserved, can be utilised for power generation.

Development of Historical Sites

4079. SHRI RAMENDRA KUMAR : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have any plan for the development of important historical and religious sites for tourism in Bihar;

(b) if so, the places identified for the development of tourism;

(c) whether the Jaimangalagarh in Begusarai district, which is an important historical and religious place of north Bihar and where birds visit from Siberia and other remote regions would also be included in this plan; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA) : (a) and (b). Development of important historical and

religious sites for tourism is primarily the responsibility of the State Government. However, the Department of Tourism provides financial assistance to State Governments on specific proposals based on their merits, *inter se* priority and availability of funds.

For the development of infrastructure along the Buddhist Circuit covering Bodhgaya, Nalanda, Rajgir and Vaishali, Overseas Economic Co-operation Fund of Japan has provided loan assistance amounting to Rs. 143.18 crores.

(c) and (d). The Department of Tourism has not received any proposals from the Government of Bihar for development of Jaimangalagarh in Begusarai District.

[Translation]

Recovery of Outstanding Provident Fund

4080. SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM :

SHRI HARIN PATHAK :

SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR :

SHRI A. SAMPATH :

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether a large amount of Employees Provident Fund and Employees States Insurance is outstanding against the Public/Private sector industrial units during the last three years;

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

(c) the action taken for strengthening the enforcement mechanism in this regard;

(d) whether the Government propose to increase the rate of interest on the payment of delayed amount; and

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

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) and (b). The information relating to State-wise arrears of the EPF and ESI dues outstanding against the defaulting establishments including PSUs during the last three years is as given in Statement-I. The details of Industry-wise arrears of the EPF dues are as given in Statement-II. The ESI scheme is being implemented area-wise in a phased manner. Therefore the information about details of ESI arrears Industry-wise is not available.

(c) The progress of recovery of outstanding ESI/EPF arrears is under constant review. In order to

expedite recovery of dues/arrears the ESIC and the EPFO both have set up their own recovery machinery throughout the country. Necessary inspection and other legal action as provided under the ESI/EPF and MP Acts is also being taken against the defaulting establishments.

(d) and (e). At present under the ESI Scheme the employers who fails to pay the contribution within the prescribed time limit is liable to pay interest at the rate of 15% per annum. In addition he is also liable to pay damages ranging from 5% to 25% depending upon the period of default. Under the EPF Scheme in the case of delayed payment the employer is liable to pay damages at the rate 17% to 37% depending upon the period of default. These penal provisions are considered adequate.

STATEMENT-I

A. ESI Dues

(Rs. in Crore)

Name of the Region	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96
Andhra Pradesh	14.96	15.18	14.92
Assam	2.16	2.56	3.34
Bihar	8.08	9.05	9.99
Delhi	3.19	3.23	2.35
Gujarat	12.51	13.94	18.08
Haryana	4.46	4.08	4.51
Karnataka	7.50	9.02	9.62
Kerala	6.34	6.83	7.69
Madhya Pradesh	16.51	16.91	18.65
Bombay	24.64	25.08	28.73
Nagpur	2.14	2.83	3.23
Pune	7.67	7.80	8.88
Goa	0.99	1.10	1.35
Orissa	4.61	4.43	4.48
Punjab	8.00	9.87	11.61
Rajasthan	2.94	3.27	3.75
Tamil Nadu	7.57	7.56	8.49
Pondicherry	0.59	0.77	0.78
Coimbatore	1.95	2.05	2.89
Madurai	2.83	2.86	3.41
Uttar Pradesh	13.36	14.99	21.81
West Bengal	62.45	77.35	95.87

B. EPF Dues

Region	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96
1	2	3	4
Andhra Pradesh	1618.22	1132.22	1374.61
Bihar	1116.18	843.96	940.57
Delhi	364.80	254.65	2266.09
Gujarat	620.08	1036.12	943.06
Haryana	338.84	1389.07	2173.24
Karnataka	508.80	688.09	739.26
Kerala	350.35	411.28	530.15

1	2	3	4
Madhya Pradesh	1989.56	2361.43	2007.04
Maharashtra	3137.41	3089.11	2902.70
NE Region	232.15	294.13	278.00
Orissa	425.30	601.80	400.47
Punjab	1595.54	1900.84	1107.09
Rajasthan	331.22	429.07	625.72
Tamil Nadu	923.92	009.31	1166.13
Uttar Pradesh	3511.26	3836.57	4526.07
West Bengal	18536.47	15454.76	13574.12

STATEMENT-II*Industry-wise Provident Fund Arrears*

S.No. Type of Industry	No. of Defaulting Estts.	Amount (Rs. in lakhs)
1. Textile	621	9078.30
2. Electrical, Mach. and Gen. Engg.	1800	6266.00
3. Education Institutions	536	1627.46
4. Trading and Commercial	940	1430.84
5. Sugar	222	1172.62
6. Road and Motor Transport	274	3245.92
7. Heavy and Fine Chemicals	265	1117.20
8. Tea and Tea Plantation	52	327.52
9. Jute Industry	46	9466.57
10. Paper and Paper Product	64	322.30
11. Iron and Steel	173	276.30
12. Cement	48	166.00
13. Banks	19	154.03
14. Cinema	473	130.96
15. Building and Construction	57	145.97
16. Newspapers	67	141.26
17. Hotels and Restaurants	151	88.86
18. Printing and Press	62	69.62
19. Edible Oil	37	55.56
20. Hospitals	66	2259.43
21. Others	5709	6332.63
Total :	11682	42139.86

Expenditure on Publicity of Public Sector Companies

4081. SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) the amount spent on publicity of Public Sector Companies during 1995 and 1996 till date;

(b) whether the Government propose to curtail this amount; and

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

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) to (c). All Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) handle their publicity directly as per their requirements and not through the Directorate of Advertising and Visual Publicity (DAVP) falling under the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. Therefore, the details of amount spent on various publicity measures by the PSUs are not available in DAVP. Also, the DAVP do not exercise any control over the amount spend by PSUs on publicity. Six Public Sector Undertakings had, however, routed their Press advertisements of classified nature through DAVP during 1995 and 1996 amounting to Rs. 353849.00 and Rs. 401787.00 respectively.

[English]

HPT Tower Bhuj

4082. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) the progress made so far on 300 meter RCC tower for HPT at Bhuj District, Gujarat;

(b) whether the construction work on the said tower has been stopped;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) the time by which it is likely to be completed;

(e) whether delay in work is likely to increase the original cost of the tower; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) The HPT tower has been constructed upto a height of 127.5 metres.

(b) and (c). The work on the tower had temporarily slowed down from September, 1995 to August, 1996

due to an arbitration case. The steel fabrication work for the remaining height has since resumed.

(d) The 300 M tower is expected to be completed by December, 1997.

(e) and (f). This delay on account of slow progress on the tower work for nearly a year is expected to cause a marginal increase of about Rs. 3.5 lakh in cost.

Unauthorised Occupation of Quarters

4083. DR. ASIM BALA : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether he is aware of large scale unauthorised occupation of quarters in Bokaro steel City;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of the persons involved with the number of quarters occupied by each of them;

(d) the steps to take possession of those quarters.

(e) whether there is any criterion to distribute quarters to the trade unions; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) to (f). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Payment of Provident Fund and Gratuity

4084. DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of workers of the National Textiles Corporation (NTC), Indian Drugs and Pharmaceutical Limited (IDPL) and several other PSU's have not been paid statutory dues like provident fund and gratuity;

(b) whether it is a fact that even the bonus has not been paid to every worker;

(c) if so, the reasons for these lapses; and

(d) the steps taken to pay the dues to the workers?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) to (d). The issue of non-payment of wages and other statutory dues like Provident Fund, gratuity, Bonus etc., to the employees of certain Public Sector Undertakings has been raised repeatedly by several Members of Parliament and trade unions in different formal/informal forums. As per the available information, some of the sick Central PSUs are not in a position to pay statutory dues in time due to financial

constraints. The Ministry of Labour has already taken up the matter with concerned administrative Ministries as well as the Ministry of Finance.

Employees in J and K

4085. SHRI P. NAMGYAL : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of employees of Post and Telecom Department in Jammu and Kashmir till date, district-wise, category-wise;

(b) whether various posts are lying vacant;

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

(d) the time since when these are lying vacant alongwith reasons thereof; and

(e) the time by which these posts are likely to be filled up?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) :

No. of employees

Department of Post

(a) No. of employees in Department of Posts in Jammu and Kashmir Circle is as follows :

Name of the Division	Categories of Staff			
	Group 'A'	Group 'B'	Group 'C'	Group 'D'
(i) Kashmir	2	8	498	157
(ii) Jammu	4	5	677	186
(iii) Baramulla	Nil	1	111	78
(iv) Udhampur	Nil	1	239	68
(v) Ladakh	Nil	1	52	94

(b) Yes Sir.

(c) The following posts are lying vacant :

Name of the Division	Categories of Staff			
	Group 'A'	Group 'B'	Group 'C'	Group 'D'
(i) Kashmir	Nil	Nil	3	22
(ii) Jammu	Nil	Nil	Nil	13
(iii) Baramulla	Nil	Nil	6	2
(iv) Udhampur	Nil	Nil	6	2
(v) Ladakh	Nil	Nil	1	Nil

(d) All these are normal current year vacancies.

(e) The action is already under way and the posts are likely to be filled up shortly.

Department of Telecom

(a) The number of employees of Telecom Department in Jammu and Kashmir Circle as per Telecom District-wise (SSA-wise) are as below :

	Group 'A'	Group 'B'	Group 'C'	Group 'D'
(i) SSA Jammu	05	30	667	202
(ii) SSA Srinagar	08	25	626	509
(iii) SSA Udhampur and Rajori	02	14	220	072
(iv) SSA Leh	01	03	029	021
(v) Circle office (at Jammu)	10	25	108	011

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The vacancy position in J and K Circle SSA-wise is as follows :

	Group 'A'	Group 'B'	Group 'C'	Group 'D'
(i) SSA Jammu	-	03	20	-
(ii) SSA Srinagar	02	02	18	-
(iii) SSA Udhampur and Rajori	-	03	08	-
(iv) SSA Leh	-	-	02	-
(v) Circle office	05	06	-	-

(d) (i) 4 Grp 'A' post of Engineering side are lying vacant since recently due to transfers/retirements.

3 posts of accounts side are lying vacant for the last approximately 3 years due to disturbed area.

(ii) 12 Grp 'B' posts of Engineering side are lying vacant since 22.8.95 due to court case.

2 Grp 'B' post of account side are lying vacant for the last approx. 2 years due to disturbed area.

(iii) Grp 'C' post in JTO cadre are vacant since 1995 and for which recruitment is under process.

(e) (i) Grp 'A' post of Engineering side will be filled up shortly.

(ii) Grp 'B' post of Engineering side can not be filled up due to court case and post of Accounts side are not being filled due to disturbed area.

- (iii) Grp 'C' posts are likely to be filled in 1997 after conduction of examination and result declared thereof.

Construction of New Railway Lines

4086. SHRI K. PARASURAMAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have considered for construction of new railway lines between Chengalpattu Junction and the famous tourist resort of Mahabalipuram via Kalpakkam and Tirukkazhikunram;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Constraint of resources.

Bonded Labours

4087. SHRI UDDHAB BARMAN : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the National Authority for the Elimination of Child Labour has adopted an annual action Plan entitled "Identification, Release and Rehabilitation";

(b) if so, the details of the action plan; and

(c) the progress made in identifying, releasing and rehabilitation of the child labour, under the above plan, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) to (c). The National Authority for the Elimination of Child Labour has adopted a plan of action titled "Identification, Release and Rehabilitation of Child Labour" to tackle the problem of child labour in the country. Briefly, it calls for a convergence of services and schemes of the Central and State Governments at the implementing level the district to effectively handle the identification and rehabilitation of child labour, the economic rehabilitation of the family with child labour and stricter enforcement of relevant laws. By the end of the year 1995-96, a total of 76 child labour projects were sanctioned in 11 states for rehabilitation of 1.5 lakh children. As per the available information, so far 104,615 children have already been covered under different projects as per the details below.

States	No. of School opened	No. of children covered
1	2	3
Andhra Pradesh	610	36,249
Bihar	173	10,094

1	2	3
Gujarat	23	1,254
Karnataka	24	1,200
Madhya Pradesh	87	6,524
Maharashtra	24	1,200
Orissa	239	14,972
Rajasthan	54	2,700
Tamil Nadu	307	14,684
Uttar Pradesh	105	7,488
West Bengal	164	8,250
Total	1810	104,615

Doordarshan/Akashvani Programmes in Maharashtra

4088. DR. G.R. SARODE :

SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT :

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

(a) the total population covered by the T.V. transmitter in Maharashtra;

(b) whether the Doordarshan/Akashvani programmes are not received in large parts of the State;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Government propose to install more HPT/LPT in the State during the current year and Ninth Five Year Plan Period; and

(e) if so, the details thereof, location-wise?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) to (c). Whereas TV service is available in the entire State of Maharashtra through Satellite using suitable dish antenna, 85.2% population and 74.1% of area of the State are covered terrestrially by TV Transmitters. Existing coverage in respect of All India Radio in Maharashtra is 99% by areas and population. Barring few pockets the entire State is covered by one or more BW/FM Transmitters. These pockets, however, are expected to be covered on SW Band.

(d) and (e). Yes, Sir. The 9th Five Year Plan is still under formulation and it will not be possible to give details at this stage. However, the details of TV projects, location-wise presently under implementation in Maharashtra is given in the enclosed Statement.

STATEMENT*TV Projects (As on 30.11.96)*

State	Under Implementation
Maharashtra	PPC
	Mumbai (Exp.)
	Nagpur (Aug.)
	Pune
	LPT
	Shirpur
	Navapur
	Mangaon
	Khopoli
	Mahad
	Umrakhed
	Satana
	Sironcha
	Chandur
	Aheri
	Chikoli
	Ambet
	VLPT
	Malwan
	Malkapur
	Bhokar
	Badlapur

Indian Post Office Act, 1898

4089. SHRI KASHIRAM RANA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it has been brought to the notice of the Government that the present Indian Post Office Act, 1898 has become obsolete in view of the change in the present modern day system;

(b) if so, whether the Government have set up any committee to examine the whole issue and suggest ways and means for amending the present status;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) The Indian Post Office Act, 1898 has stood the test of time but in view of the changing socio-economic scenario worldwide, some of its provisions need to be amended.

(b) A Committee was set up by the Government to review the Indian Post Office Act, 1898.

(c) The main recommendations of the Act Review Committee are :

(i) Partial relinquishment of the exclusive privilege of the Central Government to carry letters and allowing private courier to carry letters on obtaining licence under certain given terms and conditions.

(ii) Assumption of more liability by the Postal Department for operation failures;

(iii) Incorporation of suitable, enabling provisions for the introduction of new services; and

(iv) Modifications of the regulations relating to treatment of undeliverable postal articles.

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

[Translation]

Revenue Earned by Railways

4090. PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA :
SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Rs. 162 crores less reveue has been earned by the Railways under the head rail freight during the first half of the current financial year;

(b) if not, the facts thereof;

(c) whether in the absence of any concrete steps to improve the efficiency of railways the said amount is likely to increase during the next half of the current financial year;

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government to improve the administration and working of the railways; and

(e) the target fixed for earning freight tariff for the financial year 1996-97?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b). No Sir, the actual shortfall in freight revenue during the first half of the current financial year is Rs. 129.44 crores. This shortfall is with reference to the proportionate target upto September, 1996.

(c) and (d). Even though target for quantum of traffic has been achieved, the earnings have fallen short of the target due to change in traffic mix and steps have been taken to carry more high profit yielding commodities.

(e) The target fixed for earning freight traffic for the financial year 1996-97 is Rs. 16975.00 crores.

[English]

Telephone System

4091. SHRI HANSRAJ AHIR : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the telephone system is constantly deteriorating due to repeatedly breaking down of crossbar telephone exchange;

(b) whether the Government propose to convert these Exchanges into E-90-B electronic Exchanges; and

(c) if so, the time by which these Exchanges are likely to be converted into Electronic Exchanges?

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

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. There is a programme to scrap all crossbar exchange and replace them by digital electronic exchanges, during the 9th Plan period.

MEMU Trains

4092. SHRI VIJAY PATEL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether MEMU trains started between Ahmedabad and Vadodara were previously proposed to be started between Gandhinagar and Vadodara;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government propose to review the said decision; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

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

[Translation]

Metre Gauge Rail Line in Purnea Division

4093. SHRI RAJESH RANJAN alias PAPPU YADAV : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the total length in Kilometre of metre gauge rail lines in Purnea Division;

(b) the steps being taken for gauge conversion of these important metre gauge rail lines connecting India and Nepal; and

(c) the time by which the pending work of Jogbani rail line connecting Bihar and Nepal is likely to be converted into broad gauge?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Purnea is not a Railway division. Also, information regarding railway route kilometrage is maintained only Railway

Zone-wise and State-wise and not civil Division or region-wise.

(b) and (c). A survey for gauge conversion of Katihar - Jagbani line has been taken up. Further consideration of the project will be possible once the survey report becomes available.

[English]

Labour Market Reforms

4094. SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI :

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ :

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the newsitem under the captioned "Need for Labour Market Reforms" appearing in the daily 'Tribune' dated September 2, 1996;

(b) if so, whether after the adoption of the policy of liberalisation in the country during the Eighth Five Year Plan the labourer class is facing new challenges and problems;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to safeguard the interest of the labourers under threat ever since the setting up of highly technical and capital intensive industries?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) Yes Sir.

(b) to (d). **Restructuring** of industries is a natural phenomenon **associated** with industrial growth. The impact of the **new Industrial Policy** has been studied by the Government **in regard** to technological upgradation and **modernisation of units** as a consequences of liberalisation. **Government** established the **National Renewal Fund in 1992** to provide a social safety net for the **workers affected** by industrial restructuring, **technology upgradation** and **modernisation of industry**. It *inter alia envisages* assistance, counselling, retraining and re-employment of workers who may become redundant.

Resignation by Doctors

4095. SHRI SOMJIBHAI DAMOR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of regular posts of doctors lying vacant alongwith the doctors working on contract basis in Western Railway;

(b) whether the Government are aware that the doctors appointed on regular basis in Railways are being harassed and forced to quit jobs;

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

(d) the measures being taken by the Government to prevent the exodus of doctors?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) :

- (a) Vacancies - 60
No. of contract doctors - 47

- (b) No Sir. No such incident has come to notice.
(c) Does not arise.
(d) Does not arise.

Amount Provided in Budget

4096. SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the amount provided in the current year's Budget (zone-wise):

(b) whether the amount provided in the Budget 1996-97 for North East Frontier Railway sector is the minimum in comparison to other Railway zones:

(c) if so, the reasons therefor:

(d) the criteria being adopted and basis on which the Budgetary provisions are made while preparing the Budget: and

(e) the estimated amount in the Budget of Railways for 1997-98 zone-wise?

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

(b) No Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The Budgetary provisions to the zonal Railways are made keeping in view the number of works in progress, their priority and proposed new works.

(e) The Annual Plan for 1997-98 is yet to be finalised.

STATEMENT

(a) The Net outlays provided to different zonal Railway during 1996-97 is as follows :

(In thousands of rupees)

Railway	Plan Outlay
Central	481.02.49
Eastern	285.04.00
Northern	473.13.33
North Eastern	186.85.22
Northeast Frontier	256.58.93
Southern	461.41.39
South Central	305.50.05
South Eastern	505.16.37
Western	388.78.61

[Translation]

Conversion of Rail Lines

4097. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there has been a proposal for conversion of Kathgodam-Bareilly-Mathura-Agra and Bareilly-Pilibhit rail lines: and

(b) if so, the time by which the said conversion work is likely to be started?

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

(b) In the IXth Plan.

[English]

ESI Hospital in Punjab

4098. SHRI SUKHBIR SINGH BADAL : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) the number of ESI dispensaries functioning in Punjab district-wise:

(b) the number of persons benefited therefrom:

(c) the details of the schemes formulated to upgrade and modernise these dispensaries;

(d) whether the Government propose to set up more ESI dispensaries in Punjab: and

(e) if so, the details thereof, district-wise?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) and (b). The requisite information about number of ESI dispensaries in Punjab is given in the Statement attached. There are 14,77,300 beneficiaries eligible for ESI medical care from these dispensaries.

(c) to (e). The responsibility for administration of medical care under the ESI Act in the State vests in the Government of Punjab. The ESI Corporation has fixed norms for staffing of dispensaries, provision of equipments, medicines etc. The Corporation meets 7/8th of the expenditure incurred on running of ESI medicals care in the State. Upgradation and modernisation of dispensaries, according to felt needs, is a continuous process. There is at present no proposal to open more ESI dispensaries in Punjab.

STATEMENT

District-wise Number of Dispensaries in Punjab

District	No. of Dispensaries
1	2
Ludhiana	13
Ropar	3

1	2
Patiala	7
Jalandhar	5
Amritsar	5
Kapurthala	6
Hoshiarpur	8
Gurdaspur	4
Abohar	1
Sangrur	4
Fathegarh Sahib	3
Bhatinda	3
Barnala	2
Faridkot	4
Mansa	1
Moga	1
Total :	70

Survey of Railway Line

4099. SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA :

SHRI S. AJAY KUMAR :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the survey for Kuttipuram to Guruvayoor railway line has been completed;

(b) if so, the major findings of the survey including the estimated cost and the total distance of the route;

(c) whether any change of route has been contemplated; and

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

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

(b) to (d). The results of the survey are under finalisation in consultation with the Railway. The details would be available once the alignment is finalised.

[Translation]

Satellite Phone Service

4100. SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to start Satellite telephone service in the country;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) INSAT Satellite System is already being used as a long distance media to provide telephone service in the country.

(b) Satellite media is being used to provide long distance media to State Headquarters/Sub-Divisional Head Quarters/Tehsils/Tourist Centres/Pilgrimage places etc. in the country. This is also being used to provide transportable/mobile phone service.

(c) The service has already started.

[English]

Mining Operation

4101. SHRI PRADIP BHATTACHARYA : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that NMDC Limited has planned out a detailed programme to the mining operation and to privatise its own mines; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

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

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

Mine-Accidents

4102. SHRI DATTA MEGHE : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) the number of mine-accidents took place during the last two years, district-wise, and mine-wise;

(b) the reasons for increase in mine-accidents; and

(c) the measures taken by the Government to stop the mine-accidents?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(b) and (c). There is fluctuating trend in mine-accidents. Provisions for safety of persons employed in mines are contained in the Mines Act, 1952, and the Rules and Regulations framed thereunder. The Directorate General of Mines Safety also issues guidelines in the form of circulars to the management for improving safety measures. These provisions are required to be complied with by the mine managements. The officers of the Directorate General of Mines Safety inspect the mines periodically to oversee the status of compliance with the safety provisions, and to take action as provided for under the Mines Act, 1952, in case of default.

Besides the legislative measures, the Government is promoting a number of other initiatives, such as-

(i) Conference on safety in mines.

- (ii) Self-regulation by managements.
- (iii) Workers' participation in safety management
- (iv) Tripartite and Bipartite reviews at various levels.
- (v) Training of workpersons.
- (vi) Observance of safety weeks and Safety campaigns.
- (vii) National Safety Awards.

The Directorate General of Mines Safety has taken special drives to identify danger from inundation, status of flame proof equipment in the underground working in highly gassy mines i.e., mines in third degree of gassiness have been completed and mine managements have been addressed to take suitable precautionary measures. An exercise has been recently undertaken to review danger to surface structure workings, belowground in Jharia coal fields.

[Translation]

Development of Tourism in Uttar Pradesh

4103. SHRI D.P. YADAV : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the certain areas of Uttar Pradesh which are important from the point of view of tourism are being neglected;

(b) if so, whether the 'Chetna Kendra' situated near the Ganga in Narora, district Badayun, Uttar Pradesh is not being maintained properly; and

(c) if so, the amount proposed to be spent for the development of the above mentioned tourist spot so as to attract the national and international tourists?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA) :

(a) to (c). Maintenance and upkeep of tourist areas is primarily the responsibility of the State Government. However, the Department of Tourism provides central financial assistance to State Government for specific projects based on their merits, *inter se* priority and availability of funds. The Department of Tourism has not received any proposal from Government of Uttar Pradesh for 'Chetna Kendra'.

[English]

Doordarshan/AIR Kendras, Karnataka

4104. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR :

SHRI ANANTH KUAMR :

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

(a) the number of Doordarshan/Akashvani Kendras in Karnataka at present, capacity-wise and location-wise;

(b) the total population of the area being benefited by their coverage.

(c) the number of Akashvani Kendras broadcasting the Commercial Service of Vividh Bharti; and

(d) the time by which the HPT at Mysore is likely to be commissioned?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) As in the enclosed Statement-I and II.

(b) Whereas Doordarshan covers 69.9% population in Karnataka, All India Radio caters to 96% of population.

(c) Two All India Radio Kendras broadcast commercial service of Vividh Bharti.

(d) The Government has proposed to set up a HPT at Mysore. Such scheme takes three years for completion after financial sanction subject to availability of infrastructure facilities and *inter-se* priorities.

STATEMENT-I

TV Projects (As on 30.11.96)

State	Existing	Capacity (in Watts)
1	2	3
Karnataka	PPC	
	Bangalore	
	Gulbarga	
	HPT	
	Bangalore	10K
	Dharwad	10K
	Gulbarga	1K
	Shimoga	10K
	LPT	
	Arsikere	100
	Athani	100
	Bangalkot	100
	Bantwal	100
	Belgaum	100
	Bellary	100
	Bhatkal	100
	Bidar	100
	Bijapur	100
	Chickmaglur	100
Chikodi	100	
Chitradurga	100	
Davangere	100	

1	2	3
	Gadag Betgari	100
	Gangawati	300
	Hassan	100
	Hospet	100
	Hungond	100
	Karwar	100
	Kolar Gold Field	100
	Kumta	100
	Mandya	300
	Mangalore	100
	Medikeri	100
	Mudigere	100
	Mysore	100
	Pavagada	100
	Raichur	100
	Ramadurg	100
	Ranibenhur	100
	Sandur	100
	Sirsi	100
	Tiptur	100
	Udipi	100
	Bangalore (DD II)	100
VLPT		
	Sakleshpur	10

STATEMENT-II

Location of Air Station	Capacity
Bhadravati	20 KW MW Tr.
Dharwad	(i) 200 KW MW Tr. (ii) 1 KW MW Tr. (VB)
Gulbarga	10 KW MW Tr.
Mangalore/Udipi	1 KW MW Tr. (Mangalore) 20 KW MW Tr. (Udipi)
Mysore	1 KW MW Tr.
Bangalore	(i) 200 KW MW Tr. (ii) 1 KW MW Tr. (VB)
Hassan	6 KW FM Tr.
Chitradurg	6 KW FM Tr. (LRS)
Hospet	10 KW FM Tr. (LRS)
Raichur	6 KW FM Tr. (LRS)
Mercara	6 KW FM Tr.
Karwar	3 KW FM Tr. (LRS)

Voluntary Retirement from Doordarshan

4105 SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether a number of Indian Information Service Officers, Programme Cadres staff and Engineers working under the Ministry have resigned or sought voluntary retirement during the years 1994, 1995 and so far in 1996

(b) if so, the details thereof and reasons therefor and to what extent this exodus has affected the functioning of the AIR and Doordarshan;

(c) the steps Government propose to take to encourage their staff and to check this practice;

(d) the rules governing the voluntary retirement of officers referred to in part (a) above; and

(e) the Government's present policy in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). During the years 1994, 1995 and 1996 six Indian Information Service Officers, seven Indian Broadcasting (Programme) Service Officers and twelve Indian broadcasting (Engineering) Services Officers have resigned/sought voluntary retirement from AIR/Doordarshan either due to personal reasons or for joining other Government organisations. The number of officers who have left the two organisations is negligible when compared with their large set up. Infact, a number of eligible officers are available to fill up the resultant vacancies. The position is, therefore, not considered alarming.

(d) and (e). The voluntary retirement of the officers are Governed by Fundamental Rule 56(k) and Rules 48 and 48 (A) of Central Civil Services (Pension) Rules, 1972. The resignation/request for voluntary retirement received from Government Servants, when fulfilling the conditions as laid down in the relevant rules, are normally accepted as it is not-considered in the interest of Government to retain an unwilling Government Servant in Service.

Conversion of Rupsa-Bangriposi Railway Line

4106. SHRI RANJIB BISWAL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Rs. 50 crores were sanctioned for conversion of Rupsa-Bangriposi narrow gauge railway line to broad gauge;

(b) whether tenders for the same were finalised, but the Railways did not release funds for taking up the work; and

(c) if so, the reasons for not releasing the funds?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) No, Sir. An amount of Rs. 50 lakhs has been provided in Budget 1996-97 for this work.

(b) and (c). The work had been included in the Budget to be taken up after the necessary clearances had been obtained. The work could not be started till Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs clearance was obtained. Now that the clearance has become available, the work is being taken up.

Setting up of Telecom Factory in Bihar

4107. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to set up a telecom factory/industry in Bihar.

(b) if so, the details thereof, and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) Question does not arise.

(c) At present, there is no proposal under Government's consideration for setting up any new Telecom Factory as there is no requirement.

On-Going Rail Projects in Vidarbha Region

4108. SHRI ANANT GUDHE : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the on-going new rail projects in Vidarbha region;

(b) the project-wise cost and funds allocated, released and actually utilised during 1995-96 and provision of funds made during the current year particularly for Amravati-Narkhed new rail-link project;

(c) whether the provision of funds is inadequate for the completion of these projects, particularly Amravati-Narkhed new rail link—within the stipulated time-schedule;

(d) if so, the steps taken/proposed to ensure provision of adequate funds during the current year to accelerate tempo of execution of ongoing works and avoid cost and time over-run;

(e) the details of over-bridges projects pending clearance for Vidarbha region; and

(f) the steps taken for their clearance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b). The details of the projects, currently in progress in Vidarbha region, are as under :

(Rs. in Crores)				
Name	Cost	Outlays		Expenditure
		1995-96	1996-97	Upto March '96
NEW LINES				
1. Amravati-Narkhed	Rs. 182.77	Rs. 2.00	Rs. 5.49	Rs. 2.53
DOUBLING				
1. Sewagram (Wardha East)-Chitoda	Rs. 3.39	New project included in Budget, 1996-97.	Rs. 0.28	New project included in Budget, 1996-97.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) An amount of Rs. 5.49 crores has been provided for Amravati-Narkhed new line, which is considered adequate for the purpose, as only the land acquisition has been taken up at present.

(e) and (f). No projects of Over bridges in Vidarbha region are pending for clearance. However, 16 proposals under BOT (Build, Operate and Transfer) Scheme or "deposit works" are under various stages of planning by State Government.

New Coaches to Trains

4109. SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any step has been taken to provide new coaches to trains in Kerala;

(b) if so, the number of coaches provided alongwith the names of trains; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b). During 1996-97, 158 new coaches have been allotted to Southern Railway for conversion of 2625/2626 Kerala Express into air brake.

(c) Does not arise.

Constitution of Passenger Services Committee

4110. DR. C. SILVERA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Passenger Services Committee has been constituted;

(b) if so, the composition and terms of references thereof;

(c) the guidelines prescribed for selection/appointment of Chairman and Members of the Committee;

(d) whether this Committee is different to the Passenger Amenities Committee;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether both these Committees have preference for Headquarters reservation quota on all trains and in all classes; and

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

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

(b) A statement is attached

(c) The Chairman and Members are publicmen and as such, no eligibility criteria have been fixed for such appointments.

(d) and (e). The Passenger Amenities Committee has been constituted to monitor the passenger amenities provided at Railway Stations and on trains, whereas the Passenger Services Committee has been constituted to look into the various aspects of Catering/Vending Stalls/Trolleys/Book Stalls/Tourist Informations Centres on Railway premises etc.

(f) and (g). The Chairman and Members of the Committees are given due preference for allotment of Emergency Quotas while travelling on duty. The requests sent by them sponsoring allotment of quota in favour of other persons are considered alongwith other such requests on merit and no special preference is given to them.

STATEMENT

The composition of Passenger Services Committee is as under :

- | | |
|--|----------|
| (a) Shri Shiv Prasad Singh.
Advocate Hajipur, Distt.
Vaishali (Bihar) | Chairman |
| (b) Shri S.A. Hashmi
Jamiat Building.
Gali Qasim Jan.
Ballimaran.
Delhi | Member |
| (c) Shri R.K. Sisodia
V and PO Bhaura
Distt. Dhanbad.
Bihar | Member |
| (d) Smt. Swaraj Lamba.
No. 306, Building No. 34.
Adhishwar Apartments.
Ferozshah Road.
New Delhi | Member |
| (e) Shri Suryamani Bhiogade
Joginagar, Post
Bhagwanpur.
Nagpur | Member |

The terms of reference of the Committee are as under :

- (i) To review the size, design and location of catering/vending stalls/trolleys and all others stalls like book stalls and other miscellaneous stalls PCO/ISD/STD booth, and recommend measures for standardisation of the design, size as well as the location so as to ensure that they not only match with the aesthetics of the station, but also take up minimum space and do not create hinderance to movement and circulation of passengers. They would specifically recommend steps to reduce congestion at important stations and platforms caused due to proliferation of such services and their installation in a haphazard manner.
- (ii) The Committee would study the problem of unauthorised hawking/vending at stations and in trains, identify vulnerable locations, sections and trains, recommend concrete measures to eliminate this menace.
- (iii) The Committee would also review the items which are presently permitted to be sold at these various stalls and suggest their standardisation. They would recommend items which would be included for sale to public without any risk to health and hygiene

and in no way offend public taste and sensivity.

- (iv) The Committee would examine and recommend on the requirement for setting up of tourist information booths as well as kiosks for guiding travelling public regarding availability of other modes of transport, city maps etc.
- (v) The Committee would examine and recommend regarding sale of books and publications depending on the regional and territorial requirements as also sale of literature for permitting themes of national integration, social justice, communal harmony, rural development etc. The Committee would also examine the kind of music to be played in trains at Railway Stations as also the messages given through the visual media like CCTVs at Stations etc.

Cellular Telephone Instruments

4111. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the major companies are selling cellular telephone instruments in the country;

(b) if so, the prices of such instruments in the country as on November 1, 1996;

(c) the prices of the same instruments of the respective companies in London, New York, Tokyo and Singapore alongwith the comparison of prices with the instruments available in India;

(d) the reasons for allowing such expensive instruments to be sold at such higher prices; and

(e) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

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.

Remuneration of Artists, Tirupathi

4112. SHRI SUBRAHMANYAM NELAVALA : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether All India Radio Tirupathi has not paid remuneration to artists since May, 1996;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken to expedite the payment?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) Yes, Sir.

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

[Translation]

Halt of Manmad Mumbai/Panchvati Express Train at Igatpuri Railway Station

4113. SHRI BHIMRAO VISHNUJI BADADE : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Manmad-Mumbai Panchavati Express Train does not halt at Igatpuri railway station;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to provide halt to the said train at Igatpuri Railway Station for the benefit of vast industrial area;

(c) if so, the time by which the halt is likely to be provided;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the Government propose to fully/partially convert the train into an airconditioned train; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) 1401/1402 Manmad-Mumbai Panchvati Express is already stopping at Igatpuri in both the directions.

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

(e) and (f). At present, there is no proposal to convert 1401/1402 Panchvati Express into a fully air-conditioned train. However, an air-conditioned Chair car is available in 1401/1402 Panchvati Express.

[English]

Setting up of A.C.D.C. Locomotive in Panchavati Express

4114. SHRI RAJARAM P. GODASE : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the Government propose to setup an A.C.D.C. locomotive in the Panchavati Express running between Nasik and Mumai;

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

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Yes Sir.

(b) 5 Nos AC/DC locomotives are available in Central Railway and are undergoing services trials.

(c) Does not arise.

Telephone Exchanges in Bihar

4115. SHRI DINESH CHANDRA YADAV : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether telephone exchange in many villages of Saharsa and Supaul districts of Bihar are on the verge of closure due to ill-maintenance; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to make them perfect?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) There are 21 exchanges in Saharsa District and 14 exchanges in Supaul District. All of them are electronic exchanges. These are working satisfactorily.

(b) A number of these exchanges are connected to their parent exchanges on open wire lines, which are prone to thefts and faults. It is planned to replace the open wire lines, by reliable transmission media progressively during next two years to improve the performance of Telecommunication services in the area.

Ahmedabad-Bhavnagar and Bhavnagar-Tarapur Lines

4116. SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VERMA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a long standing demand from various organisation and Chambers of Commerce and Industries for Ahmedabad-Bhavnagar and Bhavnagar-Tarapur broad gauge railway lines;

(b) whether a number of representation have been received by the Government in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof and action taken thereon;

(d) the details of Engineering and traffic survey conducted on the above broad gauge; and

(e) the time by which the construction work on above broad gauge lines are likely to start?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir.

(c) Following Hon'ble MPs and others have forwarded representations in this regard :

- (i) Shri Somnath Chatterjee, MP.
- (ii) Shri Sanat Mehta, MP.
- (iii) Shrimati Urmilaben Patel, MP.
- (iv) Shri Dileep Sanghani, MP.
- (v) Shri Rajendrasinh Rana, MP.
- (vi) Shri Gordhanbhai Javia, MP.
- (vii) Shri Narottambhai Patel, MLA/Gujarat.
- (viii) Shri Jindra Upadhyay, Member/State Parliamentary Board/Gujarat
- (ix) Federation of Kutch Saurashtra Chambers of Commerce and Industry.
- (x) Amreli Chambers of Commerce.

(d) and (e). The work of gauge conversion between Surendranagar and Bhavnagar, Dhola-Dhasa-Mahuva with extension upto Pipavav has already been included

in the supplementary Budget 1996-97 and would be taken up after the necessary clearances have been obtained.

There is, however, no proposal for construction of a new line from Bhavnagar to Tarapore at present

[Translation]

Stoppage of Express Trains at Bina Junction

4117. SHRI VEERENDRA KUMAR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to provide stoppage to Goa Express, Kerala Express, Pushpak Express and Superfast Shatabdi Express at Bina Junction;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government for the development of Bina Junction?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Neither commercially justified nor operationally feasible.

(d) Development of stations is a continuous process and the same is undertaken wherever so warranted by traffic needs. Amenities commensurate with the volume of traffic handled has already been provided at Bina station. Work of extension of platforms 3/4 has been taken up at Bina station.

[English]

Indian News Casters Association

4118. SHRI PINAKI MISRA : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Indian News Casters Association has been agitating to Press for their demands;

(b) if so, the details of the demands; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) No, Sir.

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

[Translation]

Small Mine Owners

4119. PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the problems of small mine owners;

(b) if so, the details thereof.

(c) whether any representation has been given by Rajasthan Khanij Udyog Mahasangh in this regard.

(d) if so, the details thereof.

(e) the steps taken by the Government to encourage small mine owners; and

(f) the achievements made regarding discovery and mining of minerals in the mineral rich Arawali ranges in Rajasthan alongwith the role of Indian Bureau of Mines in this regard?

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

(b) Some of the problems emerged from discussions held with the small mine owners by Indian Bureau of Mines are . Shortage of qualified surveyors and mining engineers; an elaborate format for the preparation of mining plans; difficulties in carrying out mining operations when mine owners do not have surface rights alongwith mineral right; etc.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Amendments have been made in Mineral Conservation and Development Rules, 1988 simplifying the earlier Forms and Notices, and even reducing their frequency of submission. Recently, a special Cell has been formed in Indian Bureau of Mines for helping the small mine owners. The charges for Technical Consultancy, Chemical Analysis and Ore Dressing Investigations by Indian Bureau of Mines are concessional for small mines. The State Government in the year 1994 amended the Rajasthan Mines Mineral Concession Rules, 1986 to increase minimum size of lease area from 50Mx50M. to one hectare. The State Govt. has also offered to bear 50% cost of construction of roads, schools, hospitals and other labour welfare amenities provided 50% of the cost is borne by the lessees. The State Govt. has also undertaken construction of roads at its own cost in the case of cluster of small mines.

(f) A large number of potential mineral deposits have been discovered and investigated in the Aravali range, many of which have gone into production. The important mineral among non-metallic minerals are rock phosphate deposits of Udaipur district. Barytes deposits. Fluorite deposits of Rahila and Pandokpal districts. Dungarpur, Karara in Jalore district, marble and cement grade limestone deposits of Chittor, Bundi, Banswara, Sawai Madhopur, Pali and Udaipur districts. Among metallic minerals state department has located Deri Poly metallic deposits (Cu, Pb, Zn) and basemetal deposits at Basantgarh, Pipela areas all in Sirohi district. Agucha Zinc-Lead deposit in Bhilwara district. Pando Ki Pal copper deposit in Dungarpur district and Anjani

basemetal deposit in Udaipur district. Indian Bureau of Mines does not take up work relating to mineral exploration.

National Vocational Training System

4120. SHRI A. C. JOS : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the German Government has offered any assistance for revamping the National Vocational Training system and major areas of training;

(b) if so, the details and terms and conditions thereof.

(c) the areas in which the financial assistance is proposed to be utilised; and

(d) the fields for which collaboration has been made/ proposed to be made for technical co-operation with Germany?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) to (d). The German Government is considering the proposal to provide technical cooperation to DGE and T in the Ministry of Labour in the following areas :

- (i) Restructuring of the National Vocational Training System including (a) planning for National Trade Testing and Certification Authority, (b) planning for a nodal institute for Instructors' Training;
- (ii) Development of a nodal institute for Research, Executive Staff Training, Central Information and Documentation Services, by restructuring the existing functions of the Central Staff Training and Research Institute (CSTARI), Calcutta;
- (iii) Development of a nodal institute for Curriculum, Media and Trade Testing by restructuring the existing functions of the Central Instructional Media Institute (CIMI), Chennai.

The above proposals are in the process of negotiations. However, under the existing Development Co-operation with Germany in the field of vocational training, the German Government is providing assistance to CIMI, Chennai for the development of instructional media packages for the use of trainees and trainers under Craftsman Training and Apprenticeship Training Schemes.

Doubling and Electrification of Railway Tracks

4121. DR. RAM CHANDRA DOME : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government had conducted the techno-economical survey for doubling and electrification programme on the Andal-Sainthia section of Eastern Railway;

(b) if so the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the work on above section is likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) No. Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Disruption of Rail Traffic

4122. SHRI ANIL BASU :

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIA :

SHRI HARADHAN ROY :

SHRI VIJAY GOEL :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there has been frequent disruption of rail traffic due to derailment of passenger and goods trains during the last three years.

(b) if so, the details thereof, zone-wise and location-wise:

(c) the number of trains cancelled due to such traffic disruption and details of loss of life and material suffered as a result thereof in each case alongwith the details of cancellation or diversion of rail traffic during the last three years:

(d) whether the poor maintenance of rolling stock, locomotives and the railway tracks are mainly responsible for such frequent derailments and

(e) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken to ensure proper maintenance of the rolling stocks and particularly the railway tracks as a safeguard against any derailment of passenger and goods trains?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b). Railway zone-wise break-up of derailments on Indian Railways during the last three years namely, 1993-94, 1994-95 and 1995-96 is as under :

Rly.	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96
CR	41	46	43
ER	37	28	24
NR	43	54	33
NER	25	16	21
NFR	40	49	20
SR	36	31	35
SCR	47	39	27
SER	91	84	62
WR	41	41	31
Total	401	388	296

(c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

(d) No. Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Negotiations with Manila

4123. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government have been drawn to the news item captioned, "DoT team to leave for Manila to negotiate Rs. 595 crore ADB loan," appearing in "Indian Express" dated October 13, 1996.

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government in this regard;

(c) whether DoT team has been able to negotiate and

(d) if so, the details of the teams and conditions and the projects likely to be undertaken under this scheme?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. DOT Team has gone to Manila on 16.10.96 to negotiate for getting ADB loan for the Rural Telecommunication Project.

(c) and (d). Yes, Sir. The Team alongwith the officers of Deptt. of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance have been able to negotiate this loan and the Bank has approved a loan of Rs. 400 crores for project of DOT for providing Village Public Telephones in 31,788 villages of 42 districts of Uttar Pradesh (East). This loan has been obtained under the standard terms and conditions of the Bank and will be repaid in 24 years including a grace period of 4 years. The scheme under this project will be implemented during 1997-2000. A tender has already been floated in October, 1996 and the trial project will begin in the 2nd half of 1997.

Committee on Outstanding Dues

4124. SHRI NARAYAN ATHAWALAY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a Committee of Secretaries has worked out the modalities for recovery of huge outstanding dues of Railways from NTPC, DESU and other SEBs;

(b) if so, the details of the proposal along with present status of outstanding dues, Public Sector Undertaking-wise and extent of back-log accumulated over the last three years;

(c) whether the problem was reviewed in depth in the past at the highest level and details of the steps/remedial action suggested and implemented as a result thereof; and

(d) the time by which the report of the panel is likely to be made available and pending/submission of report, financial relief sought by the Railways to overcome resource crunch is extended?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b). As per the decision taken by the Cabinet on 13.8.96 the matter about recovery of outstanding dues of Railways from NTPC, DESU and Other SEBs has been referred to Committee of Secretaries for working out the modalities to recover the old outstanding dues. This report has not been received.

The back-log of outstandings accumulated over the last three years is as under :

(Figs. in crores)

Year	NTPC	DESU	Other SEBs	Total
1.4.94	499.18	67.07	348.04	914.29
1.4.95	554.47	79.37	197.25	831.09
1.4.96	675.88	97.94	121.03	894.85

(c) Yes, Sir. Regular efforts were made by Chairman, Railway Board/Minister for Railways who took the matter with Ministry of Finance, Power, Home and Chief Minister of Delhi. Ministry of Railways proposed that (i) In order to stop fresh accrual, movement of coal to Power Houses of all SEBs including BTPS and DESU be permitted only on pre-payment of freight; (ii) For clearing past outstanding dues, it was suggested that certain amounts be adjusted from the budgetary support given to the Ministry of Power and to the Government of Delhi. The alternative of setting off the dividend payable by Railways to the general revenue against the dues from BTPS and DESU, was also suggested.

As a result of efforts made by the Ministry of Railways, the matter was discussed in the Meeting of Cabinet held on 13.8.96. The following decisions were taken in this Meeting :

- (i) The Cabinet approve, in principle, the proposal that coal may be transported to Power Houses by the Railways only on pre-payment of freight and decided that this may be implemented w.e.f. 1st Oct., 1996.
- (ii) The issue regarding the outstanding freight charges be referred to the Committee of Secretaries to examine the manner in which the dues could be liquidated.

As regards Item (i) above, the scheme of pre-payment for carriage of coal consignments to all Power Houses has been imposed w.e.f. 1.10.96. But this decision has been deferred in case of Badarpur Thermal Power Station of NTPC temporarily for a period upto 31.12.96.

As regards decision of the Cabinet at Item (ii) above, the matter has been referred to the Committee of Secretaries for study.

(d) Ministry of Railways is not aware of constitution of such panel.

[Translation]

Post Offices in U.P.

4125. SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT "BACHDA" : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of branch post offices, sub post offices and extradepartmental post offices sanctioned during each of the last three years in the hilly regions of Almora, Pithoragarh, Uttar Pradesh, location-wise;

(b) whether these post offices have started functioning;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the time by which they are likely to be made functional?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) The number of Extra Departmental Branch Post Offices, Sub-Post Offices sanctioned during the last three years in Almora and Pithoragarh in Uttar Pradesh is 3 and 4 respectively. Details are as follows :

S. No.	Year	Number of Departmental Sub Post Offices	Number of Extra Departmental Branch Post Office	Location
1.	1993-94	-	6	Almora 1. Syulda 2. Chaturda Pithoragarh 3. Bagoti 4. Jamku 5. Duni 6. Samkot
2.	1994-95	-	-	Almora 1. Kota Giwai
3.	1995-96	-	-	-

(b) Yes, Sir. All have started functioning except Kota Giwai in District Almora.

(c) and (d). The Post Office at Kota Giwai has been sanctioned recently and shall be opened by 28.2.97.

[English]

Radio Telephone Network

4126. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR KHANDELWAL : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware about the non-functioning of Radio Telephone Network in the Entire Rural area of Betul district in Madhya Pradesh; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to revive the system?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) and (b) Out of 21 Base stations of the Radio Telephone network of Betul, only three are non-functional. In all, 165 village telephones (VLTs) out of 336 are faulty. Action is being taken on priority to make all Base Stations and VPTs fully functional by 31st Jan., 97.

[Translation]

TV Transmitter, Rajasthan

4127. VAIDYA DAU DAYAL JOSHI : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) since when the TV transformer is functioning in Bundi, Rajasthan alongwith its installed capacity;

(b) the total Megawatt of power utilised by the transformer during the last three months;

(c) whether due to non-operation of the transformer at its full capacity the T.V. sets of common man get burned and also the reception is of poor quality; and

(d) the reasons for running the transformer below the installed capacity?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) 100 W Lower Power TV transmitter (LPT) was commissioned at Bundi on 8.9.1989 which was subsequently replaced by a 10 KW High Power TV transmitter (HPT) w.e.f. 27.6.1993.

(b) The total power utilised by the HPT during the last three months is 91.146 MW.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

[English]

Conference of General Managers

4128. SHRI JANG BAHADUR SINGH PATEL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a two-day conference of General Managers of all Railway Zones, production units

and Calcutta Metro was held in Delhi in November, 1996;

(b) if so, the points discussed in the conference; and

(c) the decisions taken therein?

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

(b) and (c). Performance of various Zonal Railways including Metro Calcutta and the Production Units were discussed and guidelines given towards achieving the targets set for earnings, freight loading and production of coaches and locomotives in the Railway Production Units. During the Conference along with other issues, the Safety and Punctuality performance of the Railways were also reviewed and guidelines given for necessary corrective action wherever needed.

[Translation]

Computerisation of Exchanges

4129. SHRI GANGA RAM KOLI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of computerised exchanges in the country;

(b) whether all the telephone exchanges in the country are proposed to be computerised by 1996-97; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, by when they are likely to be computerised?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) There are 20715 computer controlled exchanges in the country as on 31.3.96.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) It is proposed to convert all the electromechanical exchanges into computer controlled exchanges during 9th Five Year Plan.

[English]

Grievances of Travelling Passengers

4130. SHRI UDAYSINGRAO GAIKWAD : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any unit is working under Zonal Railways as well as in the Ministry to take note of grievances of travelling public as and when these are brought to notice through media;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith its functions;

(c) whether these units have taken note to grievances of travelling public brought to notice through Media in November, 1996;

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

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. In each Zonal Railway and in the Ministry, there is a full-fledged Public Relations Office. Complaints received through Media are put up to the Railway Board/General Manager/Addl. General Manager/Principal Head of Department who further send them to the concerned officers/Divisions for taking necessary action. Special Monitoring Cells have been set up to monitor grievances related to punctuality, passenger amenities and catering.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) and (e). Grievances brought to the notice through the media are put up by the Public Relations Office to the concerned authorities as brought out above. Action is taken by the concerned departments on grievances pertaining to their area. The Public Grievances Cell monitors grievances received from the public.

[Translation]

Shramshakti and Kurla-Varanasi Express

4131. SHRI SHATRUGHAN PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Shramshakti and the Kurla-Varanasi Express cease to operate from Barauni and no other train has been provided for Mumbai in lieu of the above train, as a result of which the passengers of that area are facing a lot of difficulties; and

(b) if so, the time by which the train facility will be provided from Barauni to Mumbai, Ahmedabad and Madras?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) As part of reorganisation and provision of additional train services from Muzaffarpur/Patna to Mumbai, daily services were provided from Muzaffarpur and Patna to Kurla in lieu of existing services between Muzaffarpur and Kurla via Barauni.

(b) Barauni is already linked to Mumbai by 5645/5646 Guwahati-Dadar biweekly Express and to Madras by 5011A/5012A weekly express. There is no proposal at present to introduce direct train between Barauni and Ahmedabad.

Agreement for Construction of Railway Line by SAIL

4132. SHRIMATI CHHABILA ARVIND NETAM : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) has entered into any agreement on cost sharing

basis in the construction of Dalli-Rajhara-Jagdalpur railway line; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

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

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

[English]

Proposal for International Airport in Karnataka

4133. SHRI B.L. SHANKAR : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) the names of international Airports in the country; and

(b) the names of domestic and international Airports proposed to be established in the Karnataka State?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) There are five international airports in the country, namely, Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose International Airport, Calcutta; Indira Gandhi International Airport, Delhi; Chennai International Airport, Chennai; Mumbai International Airport, Mumbai and Thiruvananthapuram International Airport, Thiruvananthapuram.

(b) The Govt. proposes to upgrade the airstrip at Hassan for operation of 50 seater aircraft for domestic operations. The Govt. has also given its 'No Objection' to Govt. of Karnataka to develop an airport of international standard at Devanahalli near Bangalore with private participation.

Air Service to North-East

4134. SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV :
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether with a view to provide better air services to North-East region, the Government have decided to set up a Committee of MPs;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the main objects of the Committee;

(d) whether the Committee has since been set up;

(e) if so, the time by which it is likely to submit its report;

(f) whether private airlines have also been asked to provide better air services in North-East region; and

(g) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) to (g). The Government have constituted a Committee comprising one member of Parliament from each of the 7 States in North East and Sikkim, representatives of private airlines, Indian Airlines, Alliance Air, Chairman, Airports Authority of India and Director General of Civil Aviation as convenor to review the operation of air transport service in the North East and suggest improvement in the airports of the region, which is a continuous process. Two meetings of the Committee have already been held on 4.10.96 and 14.12.96 respectively.

Welfare for Cashew Labourers

4135. SHRI N.K. PREMCHANDRAN : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) what are the welfare measures undertaken by the Government for the development of cashew labourers at present;

(b) whether the Government propose to undertake any new welfare measures such as provision of House Building advance, Educational Assistance, and any other family welfare activities etc. for cashew labourers; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) to (c). The cashew labourers fulfilling the prescribed conditions get the benefits under the Employees State Insurance and the Provident Fund Acts. However, there is now new proposal before the Government for provision of House Building Advance, Educational Assistance etc. for the welfare of the cashew labourers.

Attachment of Coaches with Long Distance Trains

4136. SHRI RUP CHAND MURMU : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the demand to attach AC-3 coaches with all long distance trains;

(b) if so, whether the Government are considering to fulfil this demand;

(c) whether the Government also considering to provide bedrolls to the passengers of AC-3 coaches free of costs;

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

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) AC-3 tier coaches are being deployed on Air brake long distance Mail/Express trains involving night

journey in a phased manner and so far 46 pairs of these trains (including Rajdhani) have been provided with this accommodation.

(c) No, Sir., except on Rajdhani Express where it is already being provided without collection of any charges.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Many passengers may not like to avail this facility and because provision of bedrolls to all passengers may require enhancement of fare.

Introduction of Superfast Train between Solapur and Bombay

4137. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that traffic between Solapur and Bombay, both ways, has increased manifold since Sidheshwar Express was introduced over twenty years ago;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to introduce another superfast train between Solapur and Bombay;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the reasons for the delay in introduction of the said superfast train?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (d). At present 14 pairs of trains including 1023/1024 Sidheshwar Express are running from Mumbai and passing through Solapur. The reserved accommodation available by Sidheshwar Express is not being fully utilised. As the existing trains are adequate to cater to the present traffic, there is no commercial justification to run an additional train between Mumbai and Solapur.

Sidheshwar Express was introduced over twenty years ago. Details of traffic offered at the time of introduction of Sidheshwar Express are not available.

Sending of Labourers Abroad

4138. SHRI SOUMYA RANJAN : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have entered into agreements with some countries recently for sending labourers abroad;

(b) if so, whether provisions have also been made in the agreements with regard to wages and other facilities to be provided to labourers; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the names of the places where these labours are proposed to be sent?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) No, Sir.

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

[Translation]

**Introduction of Train between
Moradabad and Dehradun**

4139. SHRI KISHAN LAL DILER : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to introduce a new train between Moradabad and Dehradun;

(b) if so, the time by which the said train is likely to be introduced; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Due to operational and resource constraints.

[English]

**Gauge Conversion of New Jalpaiguri-
Siliguri Line**

4140. PROF. JITENDRA NATH DAS : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether conversion of New Jalpaiguri-Siliguri line has been taken up for execution;

(b) if so, the time by which it is likely to be completed; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) It is proposed to be taken up and completed during the 9th Plan period.

(c) Does not arise.

**Booklet Published by Mode Advertising
Private Ltd.**

4141. SHRI RAM NAIK : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the booklet entitled "Goa-sea, sand, sun, frolic and fun", published by Mode Adversing Private Limited for the Tourism Department of Union Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government are also aware of the various mistakes/misrepresentation about Goa and its culture published in this book-let and the protest of Goan people and demand of immediate withdrawal of the book-let; and

(d) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA)

(a) and (b). The Department of Tourism had produced 1,00,000 copies of a folder on Goa entitled "Goa-Sea, Sand, Sun, Frolic and Fun" through M/s Mode Advertising Pvt. Ltd. in 1995-96 at a total cost of Rs. 3.39 lakhs. This advertising agency was selected after resorting to competitive tendering.

(c) and (d). Write-ups in the local Goan print media about mistakes/misrepresentation about Goa was brought to the notice of the Department of Tourism and immediate instructions were given to all Government of India Tourist Offices in India and abroad for its withdrawal. The Manager, Government of India Tourist Office, Goa has been told to forward the corrected version of the text matter to this Department so that rectifications can be made in the folder, at the expense of M/s Mode Advertising Private Limited. The Agency has already been black-listed by the Department of Tourism.

Derailments

4142. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state the parts of the country where maximum number of derailments have taken place?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : Statistics of train accidents are maintained Railway zone-wise. During April-November '96, maximum number of derailments - 36 - has taken place on South Eastern Railway, followed by 29 on Northern Railway and 28 on Central Railway.

Use of Safdarjung Airport

4143. SHRI SANDIPAN THORAT : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned, "Out of use Safdarjung Airport may face closure" appearing in the "Financial Express" dated August 21, 1996;

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

(c) details of the plans worked out and proposals under consideration for putting Safdarjung Airport to optimum use?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) At present, Safdarjung airport is used by Pawan Hans Helicopters Ltd. and BSF (Border Security Force) in addition to the Delhi Flying Club and Gliding Club. Occasionally VIP flights are operated from this airport.

(c) Keeping in view its location and operational restrictions, this airport is being put to optimum use.

Opening of new Branches of Post Offices in Thane District

4144. SHRI CHINTAMAN WANAGA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of proposals pending for opening new Branches of Post Offices in Thane district in Maharashtra as on June 30, 1996;

(b) the period of pendency and reasons therefor; and

(c) the time by which the new branches of post offices are likely to be opened?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) Two proposals for opening of new Post Offices in Thane District of Maharashtra were pending as on June 30, 1996

(b) These two proposals namely Nane (Wada) and Akloli were pending for 2 and 3 months respectively as on June 30, 1996 as the targets for opening of Extra-Departmental Branch Post Offices in Maharashtra for the year 1996-97 were completed.

(c) Post Offices are opened progressively under Annual Plan Schemes based on fulfilment of norms depending upon merits of each case and subject to availability of targets and resources.

[Translation]

Funds Allocated for Conversion of Meter Gauge Lines

4145. SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA VERMA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the percentage of funds allocated for converting meter gauge line into broad gauge *vis-a-vis* the total railway budget during the last three years;

(b) whether it is a fact that more funds are being spent on the work of gauge conversion whereas the amount which was to be spent on the maintenance of the existing rail lines is not being spent;

(c) whether as a result of decline in the percentage of expenditure on the maintenance of rail lines, trains are derailed quite often now a days.

(d) whether the railway officers have drawn the attention of the Government on this situation; and

(e) if so, the steps being contemplated to bring about improvement in the above situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) The percentage allocation for Gauge Conversion works for the last three years is as under :

1994-95	21%
1995-96	18%
1996-97 (BE)	12%

(b) No. Sir. Sufficient funds are being allocated for Gauge Conversion and maintenance of rail line works based on the traffic needs, priority of works/projects etc.

(c) There is no direct link between percentage of expenditure and derailments.

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

[English]

Tenders for Import

4146. SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the areas where Railways had already obtained orders of import and the areas where Railway had issued Tenders for import during June 1996 to October 31, 1996;

(b) whether Railways are contemplating to have import substitution in most of our fastest train track renewal programme; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

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

Introduction of Christmas Special Trains

4147. SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to introduce "Christmas Special Trains" in Kerala this year; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b). A daily special train on the Broad Gauge between Madras Central and Quilon, a tri-weekly special on the Metre Gauge between Madras Egmore and Quilon and a weekly Broad Gauge special between Vijayawada and Kottayam are being run to clear extra rush of passengers on the occasion of Christmas and Sabarimalai season.

Corporate Guarantee

4148. SHRI T. GOVINDAN : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to restore the facility given to M/s. Traco Cable Company Limited, a Kerala Government Undertaking to execute Corporate Guarantee instead of Bank Guarantee for the purchase order of Jelly filled cables as the same is withdrawn

which amounts of heavy financial burden on the company; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) Like all other Public Sector Units M/s. Traco Cable Company Ltd. is also required to furnish bank guarantee in accordance with the guidelines of Bureau of Public Enterprises (No. BPE/1(4)/ADV(F)/ 69 dated 3.11.72) which read as "Since the transactions between public sector enterprises and the Govt. Dept. are of commercial nature, it would not be appropriate to exempt the public undertakings from the bank guarantees in lieu of the security deposit for fulfilment of the contract. Such guarantees show the earnestness of the public sector enterprises for the fulfilment of the contract and in such cases the normal commercial principles shall be followed."

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

Allotment of Berths out of H.O.R. Quota

4149. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the norms and guidelines laid down by the Railway Board for allotment of berths out of H.O.R. quota;

(b) whether such norms and guidelines are being followed by the Commercial Officers in Allahabad Division of the Northern Railway;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Government have received the complaints regarding berths earmarked for H.O.R. quota are being sold through agents at Allahabad by a Commercial Officer; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (c). A limited number of berths/seats have been earmarked as emergency quota to meet the urgent travel requirements of High official requisition holders, Minister, MPs/MLAs, VIPs and other emergent demands.

Requests received from various quarters for release of berths/seats out of emergency quota are given due priority taking into account factors like status of the passengers travelling, nature of urgency like Government duty, bereavement, sickness etc. These guidelines are being strictly followed by the Commercial Officers of the Northern Railway.

(d) One such complaint was received.

(e) The complaint was of general nature without quoting any specific instance. However, constant watch is kept to prevent any misuse of the reservation quota.

Serious Track Condition

4150. SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that track condition between Santragachi and Bargachia is very serious;

(b) if so, the steps proposed to be taken to improve the track to increase the speed of the trains;

(c) whether any steps are being taken to provide minimum passengers amenities in all the stations of Bargachia section; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d). All Railway stations are provided with amenities commensurate with the volume of passenger traffic.

Appointments on Compassionate Grounds

4151. SHRIMATI LAKSHMI PANABAKA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that a number of appointments on compassionate ground are lying pending since 1990 with South Central Railway;

(b) if so, the details of such cases in general and SCs and STs in particular;

(c) the reasons for delay in providing employment; and

(d) the time proposed to be taken for clearing all the cases of appointments on compassionate ground?

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

Optical Fibre Cable in Delhi

4152. SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to install optical fibre cables for increasing the Telephone facilities in Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon?

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

(b) and (c). Optical Fibre Cable has been inducted to a large extent in Junction Network and approximately 979 KMs of Optical Fibre Cable has been laid in inter exchange Network of Delhi. Plans have been drawn to induct Optical Fibre Cable in Subscriber local loop also. During the current year 190 KMs of Optical Fibre Cable has been laid in the network.

Expansion of Exchanges in Kerala

4153. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the steps taken by the Government to expand the telephone exchanges in North Wynad of Kerala which is the most backward, hilly and tribal area;

(b) whether there is any proposal to start new telephone exchanges at Pariya and Valad in North Wynad; and

(c) if so, the time by which these are likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) All the six exchanges in North Wynad namely Mananthody, Panamaram, Thalapaoya, Vellamunda, Karthikulam and Korome are planned to be expanded during 1997-98. The exchange at Mnanthody will be expanded in 1996-97 also.

(b) and (c). There is no proposal to start a new telephone exchange at Periya. However, a 256P C-DOT electronic telephone exchange has been planned at Valad during the year 1997-98.

Intra-City Radio Connectivity

4154. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have permitted the intra-city radio or microwave connectivity for computer data, and/or voice;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the frequency band which has been or likely to be allowed to common users and upto what maximum and minimum distance?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. The Government have granted licences for inter-city computer connectivity in various frequency bands, like 300 MHz and 2.4 GHz bands.

(c) The requirements of users can be considered on case by case basis depending on their needs. The distance for such operations would depend on various technical propagational factors.

Telephone Facilities in Gujarat

4155. SHRI JAYSINH CHAUHAN : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that rural areas of Gujarat lack sufficient telephone facilities;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether there is any demand/scheme/proposal for opening of Telephone Exchange in Gujarat;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) and (b). The Government is aware that there is scope for improvement in telephone facilities in rural areas of Gujarat. However Gujarat has about 66% villages covered with Village Public Telephones (VPTs).

(c) and (d). The proposals based upon the demand for opening Telephone Exchanges in Gujarat for 1996-97 are enclosed in the Statement.

(e) The Government is taking all the necessary steps to improve the telephone facilities and opening new Telephone Exchanges wherever feasible on the basis of justified demands.

STATEMENT

*Details of Rural Automatic Exchanges
Planned in Gujarat Circle
During 96-97*

S.No.	Location	District	
1	2	3	
1.	Sachana	Ahmedabad	
2.	Sonara	"	
3.	Galudan	"	
4.	Vavera	Amreli	Commissioned
5.	Bhader	"	-do-
6.	Chamardi	"	
7.	Rustampura	Baroda	
8.	Jhagadia (GIDC)	Bharuch	Commissioned
9.	Paguthan	"	
10.	Ikher	"	
11.	Sisdara	"	
12.	Gajera	"	
13.	Varedia	"	
14.	Devpar	Bhu]	
15.	Vadasar	"	

1	2	3
16.	Khirsara	Jamanagar
17.	Mandasani	"
18.	Baghla	"
19.	Motingajhar	"
20.	Mota Barunkia	"
21.	Mandorna	Junagarh Commissioned
22.	Kanesar	Godhra
23.	Ratanpur	"
24.	Baska	"
25.	Virania	"
26.	Pansar	Mehsana
27.	Rajpur	"
28.	Runwara	"
29.	GIDC Lodhika	Rajkot
30.	Vadasar	"
31.	Nani-Parvadi	"
32.	Khokhadar	"
33.	Ambaradi	"
34.	Vajrangjhalia	"
35.	Arab Timbdi	"
36.	Jamdadar	"
37.	Dedava	"
38.	Unchchhal	" Commissioned
39.	Khajed	"
40.	Kherava	Surendranagar
41.	Ramgadh	"
42.	Issanpur	"
43.	Adiruyana	"
44.	Sili	Valsad Commissioned
45.	Vandervadla	" -do-
46.	Kukrali	"
47.	Pindval	"
48.	Ambajangal	"
49.	Pangalwari	"

[Translation]

Construction Work of Over Bridge in Nagda

4156. DR. SATYA NARAYAN JATIA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the present status of over bridge being constructed at Nagda under Western Railways;

(b) the time by which the above bridge is likely to be completed;

(c) the time by which the construction work of foot over bridge connecting Birlagram and Nagda Mandi is likely to be renovated; and

(d) the present status of renovation of platform at Nagda station?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Progress of Railway portion 80%.

(b) Railway portion will be completed by June, 97.

(c) The foot over bridge does not require renovation.

(d) No such work has been taken up at Nagda.

[English]

Proper Berthing of Trains

4157. SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any procedure/criteria for proper berthing of the trains on different platforms at Delhi, New Delhi and Hazrat Nizamuddin Railway Stations;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether at the time of preparing the berthing sheet the passenger trains are equally distributed on each platform on these stations; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (d). Yes, Sir. When preparing berthing sheet, the express and Passenger trains are distributed on platforms at Delhi, New Delhi and Hazrat Nizamuddin stations keeping in view the availability of platform, duration of halt of train, destination of train etc. The actual berthing of platforms however gets changed some times due to late running, detention outside station and other operation exigencies at the stations.

Daily running of New Delhi-Puri Express Train

4158. SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the demand of the people to run New Delhi-Puri Express daily instead of four days a week;

(b) if so, whether any steps have been taken to provide another rake to fulfil this demand;

(c) whether any steps have been taken to attach AC-3 coaches with it;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b). Some representations have been received in this regard. Increasing the frequency of 2815/2816 New Delhi-Puri Express has been examined but not found feasible on account of operational constraints.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e). Due to technical difficulties as AC 3-tier coaches are having air brake system whereas Puri Express is running with vacuum brake rakes.

Setting up of Terminal Station at Tala

4159. SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any steps are being taken to set up a Terminal Station at Tala on the circular Railway track to operate EMU service;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the progress of the work in this regard?

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

(b) Proposal is under consideration.

(c) Does not arise.

Running of Train Via Grand Chord

4160. SHRI HARADHAN ROY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are considering to run 2305/2306 via Grand Chord instead of main line;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that demands have been raised from different quarters to run this train via Grand Chord to save foreign exchange (fuel) and increase revenue;

(c) if so, the steps taken in this direction; and,

(d) if not, the justification of running this train via main line after introduction of 2309/2310?

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

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) 2309/2310 Rajdhani Express provides bi-weekly service between New Delhi and Patna via Lucknow and Varanasi.

[Translation]

Airstrips at Chakarbhata Airport in M.P.

4161. SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHLE : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to develop airstrips at the Chakarbhata airport of Bilaspur district in Madhya Pradesh to facilitate operation of flights;

(b) whether the Government also propose to equip it with full facilities;

(c) if so, the expenditure likely to be incurred thereon alongwith the details thereof;

(d) the time by which approval is likely to be accorded in this regard and the airstrip is proposed to be developed

(e) whether some private companies had sent proposals to undertake operation of flights from the said airport;

(f) whether the said private companies were operating their flights from the said airport earlier; and

(g) if so, the reasons for discontinuation of flights at the said airport?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) and (b). The existing airstrip at Bilaspur airport is suitable for 50 seater aircraft. There is no proposal to upgrade this airstrip due to lack of traffic potential.

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

(e) No, Sir.

(f) and (g). Do not arise.

[English]

Funds for Construction of Road Over Bridge at Rayagada

4162. SHRI GIRIDHAR GAMANG : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the funds provided by the Union Government and the Government of Orissa for construction of Road over-bridge at Rayagada town under South Eastern Railway so far, year-wise;

(b) whether the construction of the over-bridge has been completed but the road portion of the bridge is yet to be completed;

(c) if so, the reasons for delay in opening the bridge for traffic; and

(d) the alternative arrangement made by the Railway authorities for movement of general public by feet, rickshaw and cycles while replacing existing level crossing thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Funds provided by Railways year-wise are :

1990-91	Rs. 5.00 lakhs
1991-92	Rs. 5.00 Lakhs
1992-93	Rs. 196.00 Lakhs
1993-94	Rs. 63.86 Lakhs
1994-95	Rs. 85.14 Lakhs
1995-96	Rs. 43.21 Lakhs
1996-97	Rs. 10.60 Lakhs

No information is available about funds provided by the State Govt. of Orissa.

(b) and (c). Railway portion of work is completed. Work on approaches and opening of Road Over bridge to traffic is done by State Govt.

(d) Footpath has been provided on the Road Over bridge for pedestrians. Vehicles have to use the Road Over Bridge.

Expenditure on Providing Facilities to Vaishnodevi Pilgrimage

4163. SHRI R.L.P. VERMA : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government and the State of Jammu and Kashmir incur any expenditure on providing facilities for Vaishnodevi pilgrimage;

(b) if so, the expenditure incurred during each of the last three years; and

(c) the estimated number of pilgrims who benefited therefrom during the above period?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA) :

(a) and (b). The Department of Tourism, Govt. of India has provided financial assistance amounting to Rs. 37.83 lakhs during the last three years to the State Government of Jammu and Kashmir for development of tourists facilities at Vaishnodevi. In addition the State Govt. built a Yatrika at Katra at an expenditure of more than Rs. 1 crore for the use of pilgrims visiting Vaishnodevi.

(c) During the last three years 1.11.06.807 pilgrims visited Vaishnodevi.

Modernisation of Railway Stations

4164. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the funds earmarked to modernise the Railway Stations in Andhra Pradesh during the current financial year;

(b) the details of funds proposed to be spent on each railway station;

(c) the target fixed for achievement of modernisation of Railway Stations where works are in progress;

(d) whether the Guntur Railway Junction has been included for its modernisation during the current financial year;

(e) if so, the details of work proposed to be undertaken; and

(f) if not the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (c). Allocation of funds for modernisation of various railway stations are provided to the Railway Zones according to their requirements and no state-wise bifurcation of allocations are maintained. During the current year adequate funds are provided to Central, South Central and South Eastern Railways to undertake various passenger amenity works in the State of Andhra Pradesh. Works taken up are progressing as per schedule.

(d) to (f). Guntur Junction railway station has already been provided with amenities commensurate with the volume of traffic handled and therefore, there is no proposal at present.

Indian Manpower Lease Bill

4165. SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to introduce a 'Indian Manpower Lease Bill' taking into consideration the need of highly qualified Indian professionals to execute various major and mega projects in India due to economic reforms; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the time by which the decision in this regard is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

New Railway Line

4166. SHRI RAMSAJEEVAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are considering to include new railway line for which survey has already been completed from Sitapur to Bahraich in Budget for 1997-98;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b). The survey report has been sent to the Planning Commission for their consideration.

(c) Does not arise.

Upliftment of Tourist Facilities

4167. SHRI A. SAMPATH : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government propose to uplift the tourist facilities at Varkala and Ponmudi in Kerala so as to make them international tourist centres;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA) :

(a) to (c). Development of tourist facilities is the responsibility of the State Governments. However, the Department of Tourism provides financial assistance to State Governments on specific proposals based on their merits, *inter se* priority and availability of funds.

The Department of Tourism has provided financial assistance to Government of Kerala for following projects at Varkala and Ponmudi :

(i) Beach Resort at Varkala.

(ii) Tented accommodation for ponmudi.

Maintenance of Railway Colonies in Delhi

4168. SHRIMATI MEIRA KUMAR :

SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the location-wise details of the railway colonies in Delhi as on date;

(b) whether the Government are aware that the Railway colonies in Delhi are not being maintained properly and lacking basic civil amenities;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to provide maintenance and basic civil amenities in these railway colonies;

(e) whether funds have been allocated for maintenance and providing basic civil amenities in railway colonies during the last three years;

(f) if so, the details thereof, year-wise;

(g) whether the Government have received some complaints during the above period from the allottees of railway quarters; and

(h) if so, the action taken thereon?

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

(b) to (h). Basic amenities i.e. individual bathrooms, latrines and kitchens were lacking in a few staff quarters. These Amenities had been provided progressively during last 3 years. Only 179 quarters are left where these basic amenities are yet to be provided. Entire arrears will be wiped out during 1997-98.

Maintenance of staff quarters is a continuous process. complaints as and when received are attended through departmental/contractual resources as per the nature and extant of the problem.

Expenditure incurred on maintenance and basic amenities during the last three years is as under .

(In lakh rupees)

Year	Maintenance	Basic Amenities
1993-94	383	30
1994-95	418	35
1995-96	464	40

In addition to normal maintenance improvement to the water supply, roads, drainage etc. is taken up as per the needs. Recently, 7 tubewells have been drilled to augment the existing water supply system.

STATEMENT

(a) Colony-wise and type-wise list of Railway Quarter in Delhi Area are as under :

S.No.	Colony	Type-I	Type-II	Type-III	Type-IV	Type-IV Spl.	Type-V	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1.	Ajmeri Gate	28	8	-	-	-	-	36
2.	Azadpur	10	1	-	-	-	-	11
3.	Babar Road	-	15	-	-	-	-	15
4.	Boulevard Road	6	-	-	4	-	11	21
5.	Brarsquare	46	4	-	-	-	-	50

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
6.	Central Place	21	-	-	-	-	-	21
7.	College Lane	24	24	42	-	-	-	90
8.	Dayabasti	80	70	1	-	-	-	151
9.	Daya Basti (RPSF)	98	30	7	1	3	-	130
10.	Delhi Cloth Mills	-	142	-	-	-	-	142
11.	Gas Factory	4	6	-	-	-	-	10
12.	Hamilton Road	167	14	4	1	-	-	186
13.	Yamuna Bridge	20	2	-	-	-	-	22
14.	Delhi Kishanganj	896	1074	64	1	-	-	2035
15.	Lajpat Nagar	15	261	-	-	1	-	277
16.	Lajpat Nagar- Gulabi Bagh	-	92	-	4	5	-	101
17.	Lodi Colony	12	72	-	-	-	-	84
18.	M.K. Road	-	37	-	-	-	-	37
19.	Mata Sundri Place	28	28	-	-	-	-	56
20.	Shivaji Bridge	190	76	-	-	-	-	266
21.	Bara More Sarai	-	25	29	-	-	-	54
22.	Chota More Sarai	312	20	1	-	-	-	315
23.	Moti Bagh	141	90	-	6	2	-	239
24.	Moti Bagh	2	2	-	-	-	-	4
25.	Nizamuddin	64	2	-	-	-	-	66
26.	Between NZM-OK	20	-	-	-	-	-	20
27.	Naya Azadpur	39	7	-	-	-	-	46
28.	Okhala	131	9	1	-	-	-	41
29.	P. Ganj P.K. Road (B. Lane S.E. Road Chelmsford Road	451	233	44	1	129	63	1050
30.	Patel Nagar	20	8	4	-	-	-	32
31.	Pul Bangash	1	7	1	-	-	-	9
32.	Ram Nagar	26	32	-	-	-	-	58
33.	Ram Pura	7	-	-	-	-	-	7
34.	Railway Lane	-	-	4	-	-	-	4
35.	New Subzimandi	42	148	80	-	-	-	270
36.	Old Subzimandi	117	14	2	-	-	-	133
37.	Sadar Bazar	113	55	8	6	4	-	186
38.	Delhi Safdarjung	4	1	1	-	-	-	6
39.	Salimgarh, Delhi	50	-	-	-	-	-	50
40.	S.P. Road	11	4	-	-	35	48	98
41.	Sarojini Nagar	125	172	-	-	64	-	664
42.	Sewa Nagar	1	200	-	-	-	-	20
43.	Shakurbasti	361	262	26	11	4	-	361
44.	Punjabi Bagh	320	16	12	-	-	-	348
45.	S.P. Marg	33	3	-	1	6	-	43

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
46.	Sriram Road	10	40	-	-	5	1	56
47.	Tilak Bridge	12	40	-	-	-	32	84
48.	Thompson Road	42	94	14	1	-	-	151
49.	Tughlakabad	657	309	43	12	5	2	1028
50.	S.E. Road, T. Camp and Rest House.	-	-	-	-	52	-	52
51.	Wazirpur, Delhi	15	15	-	-	-	-	30
52.	P. Methai	45	11	1	-	-	-	57
53.	S. Phoos	-	16	3	-	-	-	19
54.	T. Walan	47	-	-	-	-	-	47
55.	L. Gate	27	7	1	-	-	-	35
56.	D. Sarai Rohilla Stn.	89	29	2	1	-	-	121
57.	P. Nagar	67	8	4	-	-	-	79
58.	D. Cantt	61	23	-	-	-	-	84
59.	L. Colony D. Sarai Rohilla	304	360	7	-	-	-	571
60.	Palam	24	5	-	-	-	-	29
61.	Brij Washan	8	3	-	-	-	-	11
Total		5344	4108	406	179	315	157	10509

[Translation]

Modernisation of Ferozabad Railway Station

4169. PROF. OMPAL SINGH NIDAR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the amount spent by the Government on modernisation/developmental of Ferozabad railway station during each of the last three years, uptill now;

(b) whether there was any scheme to construct bridge at the above railway station;

(c) if so, the reasons for not constructing the same, and

(d) the time by which the construction work of bridge at the above situation is likely to be commenced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) :

(a)	Year	Amount
	1993-94	1.00 lakh
	1994-95	2.20 lakh
	1995-96	1.20 lakh

No expenditure has been incurred on modernisation work during the current year.

(b) No Sir.

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

[English]

Memorandum of Demands from STD/ISD/PCO Association

4170. SHRI B. DHARMABIKSHAM : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether STD/ISD/PCO Association has submitted any memorandum of their demands;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

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

(b) They have demanded permission for conference facility on STD PCOs inclusion of PCO representatives on TAC. Waiving of additional security deposit, revision of existing rates of commission of STD PCOs and modification of terms and conditions of agreement

(c) Rates of commission have been revised w.e.f. 1.1.1996. Demand for conference facility of STD PCOs is under consideration of the Govt. Other demands have not been found to be justified.

Evaluation of Diamond and Gold in Orissa

4171. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO : Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the proper evaluation of gold, diamond and other precious stones available in Orissa have been made;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) Geological Survey of India has carried out investigations for proper evaluation of gold and diamond in Orissa but proper evaluation of the gemstone resources were not carried out as the occurrences are small and highly sporadic in nature.

State Government of Orissa under UNDP assistance has undertaken exploration for diamond and coloured stones in different parts of the State. An area of 2070 Sq. Km. was covered through mapping and detailed sampling. The work was undertaken in districts of Angul/Dhenkanal, Sambalpur, Deogarh, Bolangir, Subarnapur, Boudh, Kalahandi, Nuapada, Rajagada and Phulbani.

(b) to (d). Preliminary search for gold in Orissa was carried out in Gorumahisani-Badampahar belt, Mayurbhanj district, Bonai-Keonjhar belt in Keonjhar district and in laterites in Sukinda chromite field in adjoining areas in Jajpur district. Recently surveys have been carried out for locating source rock for diamond and to find out potential area for diamond occurrence in Mahanadi, ONG, TEL, Suktel-Udanti and IB river basins in parts of Kalahandi, Nuapara, Bolangir, Padampur, Jharsuguda, Sundargarh and Sambalpur districts of Orissa. Under the programme, interpretation of remote sensing data over 50,000 Sq.Kms., 225 Line Km. of geophysical survey using magnetic, resistivity and EM methods has already carried out and collected about 1000 stream sediment and other samples for various studies. Three programmes are proposed to be taken up during 1996-97 FS for diamond investigations in Orissa. Investigations for precious and semi precious stones in Kalahandi, Koraput, Sambalpur and Bolangir districts of Orissa during 1979-80 to 1985-86 FS were also carried out.

Stalls at Madurai Junction, Tamil Nadu

4172. SHRI A.G.S. RAM BABU : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of various stalls presently exists in Madurai Junction, Tamil Nadu;

(b) whether the Government propose to award any licence for opening of stalls keeping in view the convenience of travelling public;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

(e) whether any representation has been received for awarding licences for these stalls, and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) The following facilities are available at present at Madurai Junction :

1. Vegetarian Refreshment Room (Departmental)
2. Non Vegetarian Refreshment Room (Licencee)
3. Fast Food Stall (Licencee)
4. Automatic Vending Machine (Licencee)
5. Apple Juice Stall (HPMC)
6. Fruit and flower stall (Licencee)
7. Travel and Trinity stall (Licencee)
8. Sarvodaya Book stall (Licencee)
9. Higgin Botham Book stall (Licencee)

(b) and (c). Yes, Sir. Proposal for one Fast food stall in the new west entry of the Madurai Junction is under process.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

Out-of-Turn Allotment of Telephone Connections

4173. SHRI MUKHTAR ANIS : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of out-of-turn allotment of telephone connections made since July 1, 1996 by the Government; category-wise, State-wise, and

(b) the criteria/procedure adopted for such allotment?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) The total number of out of turn telephones allotted since 1.7.96 is 845 (eight hundred and forty five) by the Telecom Commission Headquarters excluding such telephone connection recommended by Hon'ble Members of Parliament from their respective quota of twenty five telephones in a calendar year. All the telephones have been allotted under non-OYT (General) category. The State-wise list is in the enclosed Statement-I.

(b) Such telephone connections from Telecom Commission Headquarters are now being allotted by a High Powered Committee in the light of the guidelines is given in the Statement-II attached.

STATEMENT-I

State-wise List of out of Turn Telephone Connection Issued by Telecom Commission Headquarter since 1.7.96

State (Telecom Circle/Telephone District)	No. of Telephone
Andaman and Nicobar Islands	Nil
Andhra Pradesh	009
Assam	Nil
Bihar	007
MTNL Mumbai	002
Calcutta Telephones	005
MTNL New Delhi	135
Gujarat	003
Haryana	008
Himachal Pradesh	Nil
Jammu and Kashmir	015
Karnataka	028
Kerala	019
Madhya Pradesh	010
Madras Telephones	006
Maharashtra	008
North-East	Nil
Orissa	001
Punjab	005
Rajasthan	012
Tamil Nadu	002
Uttar Pradesh	569
West Bengal	001
Total	845

STATEMENT-II*Guidelines***(B) CRITERIA FOR GRANT OF OUT OF TURN PRIORITY FOR TELEPHONE CONNECTIONS**

- Applicants suffering from prolonged and serious illness like Cancer, serious kidney diseases, cirrhosis of liver.
- Widows, genuinely placed in highly adverse social condition
- Genuine victims of natural calamities and man-made catastrophes who do not have telephone facilities. This should include cases of terrorist threats only.

- Senior Citizens of India (70 years and above).
- Public servants performing arduous nature of duties but not provided with telephone at residence by their employers.
- Statutory, Government aided and Government recognized Educational Institutions and Accredited Journalists.
- Physically Handicapped persons with more than 60% disability.
- Any special or extraordinary case deserving compassionate consideration (including recognized Social Workers).

Post Offices in Uttar Pradesh

4174 DR. CHHATRAPAL SINGH : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of post offices functioning in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) the number of post offices, out of them are functioning in rural areas alongwith the number of villages having no post offices at all; and

(c) the time by which the post offices in these villages, particularly in the villages of Meerut Division are likely to be opened?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) The number of Post Offices functioning in Uttar Pradesh is 20084.

(b) The number of Post Offices functioning in rural areas is 17990. 94814 villages in Uttar Pradesh are without Post Offices, out of total number of 112804.

(c) Post offices are opened progressively subject to norm based justification and availability of resources. During the current Annual Plan, 31 Extra Departmental Branch Post Offices sanctioned in Uttar Pradesh

[Translation]

Loss to Deptt. of Posts

4175. SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Department of Posts had to suffer heavy losses during the past few years particularly in case of foreign parcel mail because of the domination of the private couriers services in the market although there has been a sufficient increase in the domestic speed post service;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps proposed to be taken by the Union Government to deal with the situation; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) There have been no heavy financial losses to the Department of Posts as such in case of foreign parcel mail during the past few years. However, there has been a decline in the traffic of foreign parcels sent from India to foreign countries (outward) and received from foreign countries for delivery in India (inward). The decline in traffic is mainly due to the availability of more providers of this services in the market like private couriers, air freight companies, freight forwarding agents, etc.

(b) The details of the decline in the traffic of foreign parcels in last four years is as follows :

Year	Outward Parcel	Inward Parcel
1992-93	1.81.168	2.87.654
1993-94	1.61.300	2.65.763
1994-95	1.22.090	2.53.750
1995-96	1.10.203	2.30.301

(c) Continuous efforts are made to improve the quality of parcel service to face the competition posed by the other providers of the services.

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

Out of Order Telephones

4176. SHRI VIJAY GOEL : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether several Exchanges in Delhi are not working properly, particularly in Shakti Nagar;

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

(c) the measures being taken by the Government for providing better telephone facilities?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) Majority of the Exchanges in Delhi, which are digital electronic are working properly. However, some electromechanical exchanges such as at Shakti Nagar, do not provide sophisticated facilities at par with digital electronic exchanges. It is proposed to replace all electro machanical exchanges by digital electronic during the 9th Plan period.

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

(c) (i) Replacement of old and life expired exchanges by modern technology exchanges.

(ii) Replacement of fault prone underground cables by jelly filled cables.

(iii) Laying of cables in ducts.

(iv) Introduction of modern tools and testing aids in the network.

(v) Provision of 100% junction network on digital Optical Fibre Cables (OFC).

(vi) Introduction of wireless technology on local loop

(vii) Upgradation of external plant.

(viii) Training to the staff to increase skill in modern technology.

(ix) Computerisation of various customers services

[English]

Postal Service in Village Panchayats of West Bengal

4177. SHRI AJOY MUKHOPADHYAY : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of village Panchayats in West Bengal, which have been provided with Post and Telegraph Office facility so far.

(b) the number of P and T offices proposed to be provided during 1996-97.

(c) the time limit fixed for providing this facility in every village Panchayat.

(d) the number of Post Offices under village Panchayats where STD facility is available.

(e) whether there is any time bound scheme for providing STD facility in every village Panchayat Post Offices.

(f) if so, the details thereof, district-wise; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) 3320 Gram Panchayat Villages in West Bengal have been provided with Post Office facility so far.

Telegraph : 1579 villages have been provided Telegraph facility in West Bengal.

(b) Post : There is a target to open 4 Departmental Sub Post Offices and 2 Extra Departmental Branch Post Offices in West Bengal during 1996-97.

Telegraph - Nil

(c) Post

Post Offices are opened progressively under Annual Plan Schemes on norms based justification subject to availability of resources and plan targets. Hence no time-limit can be fixed for providing the facility in every Village Panchayat.

Telegraph

No target is fixed as the Telegraph facility is provided on demand and justification of traffic.

(d) 12 village Panchayats have been provided with STD facility in West Bengal.

(e) No.

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

(g) No demand is pending with the Circle as STD facility is provided only on specific request from Village Panchayats.

New Post Offices in Bihar, Maharashtra and U.P.

4178. SHRI BRAJ MOHAN RAM : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have received any proposals from the Government of Bihar, Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh for opening of new post offices in their States;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken/being taken thereon, State-wise;

(c) whether the Government propose to upgrade any post offices in the above States;

(d) if so, the details thereof, district-wise;

(e) whether the Government propose to expand the speed post services in the above States; and

(f) if so, the details thereof, district-wise?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) and (b) No proposal from the Government of Bihar and Maharashtra for opening of new Post Offices has been received. One proposal for opening of a new Post Office in village Saifai, District Etawah, U.P. was received from the Government of Uttar Pradesh. The Post Office has been sanctioned.

(c) and (d) Post Offices are sanctioned/upgraded subject to norm based justification, availability of resources and depending upon merits of each case.

(e) No, Sir, at present there is no proposal to expand Speed Post Services in Bihar, Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh.

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

Selection of Films

4179. SHRI NAMDEO DIWATHE : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether some private distributors/producers have been ignored for their offer for providing weekend night films and National Film Development Corporation has been preferred for this assignment;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) whether MRTPC has given directive to Doordarshan authorities in this regard;

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

(e) the present status of the proposal;

(f) whether the Government have received complaints in this regard; and

(g) the details of the films which have been shown twice in a year, twice in two years and reasons therefor and steps taken to ensure fair selection of films?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) and (b). With a view to ensuring the telecast of good films and earning of revenue, Doordarshan signed a Memorandum of Understanding with National Film Development Corporation (NFDC) on 8-8-96 for telecast of films on Fridays/Saturdays on DD-1 whereby NFDC was authorised to procure films from private producers/distributors.

(c) to (e). On a petition made to the Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices (MRTP) Commission, the Commission has directed Doordarshan on 29-8-96 to consider the offers of private producers at par with NFDC till the date of next hearing. This direction of MRTP Commission is being followed by Doordarshan. The next date of hearing of the case has been fixed for 23-12-1996.

(f) No, Sir.

(g) No film has been shown twice in one year on DD-1 and only one film "Deewar" offered by NFDC has been shown twice in two years as a special case because of its popularity. Proposals of films from NFDC and other private parties are received *suo-moto*. All the films are telecast which are found telecast worthy by the Preview Committee.

Illegal Construction

4180. DR. BALIRAM : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware about the illegal construction on the land of the Department of Communication, in Delhi;

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

(c) the time by which the above constructions are likely to be demolished; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to stop illegal construction in future?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) :

(a) *Departments of Post and Telecom*

Yes, Sir.

(b) Department of Post

The Department purchased a plot of land measuring 200 sq.mts. from DDA at Jamianagar (Noornagar), New Delhi on 9.3.84. Subsequently during July 1994, it was found that the plot had been encroached upon and construction of a school building was in progress.

Department of Telecom

Details are given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) Department of Post

The Department is pursuing with the DDA for the allotment of an alternative plot of land. The time taken depends on the response of the DDA.

Department of Telecom

Details are given in the enclosed Statement.

(d) Department of Post

1. Erection of boundary walls wherever

necessary and putting up signboards subject to availability of funds.

2. Ensuring regular monitoring of the state of the vacant plots at circle level.

Department of Telecom

1. Erection of fences and boundary walls.
2. Putting up of prominent signboards on vacant plots stating that the plot belongs to the Department of Telecom
3. Trying to construct buildings in vacant plots as early as possible subject to the availability of funds.
4. Instructing officials to be more vigilant and report the illegal construction to the Revenue Authority and Police promptly

STATEMENT

S.No.	Location of the illegal construction	Time by which the illegal construction is likely to be removed
	Part (b)	Part (c)
Department of Telecom :		
(1)	Mukherji Nagar	Slum wing of MCD has been requested for surveying and removal of JJ clusters. It is not possible to give a specific time limit.
(2)	Behind Eastern-Court	The relocation charges of Rs. 14.21 lacs have already been paid to the slum wing of the MCD. Case is being pursued vigorously. Specific time limit cannot be indicated.
(3)	DIZ area	Rs. 4.3 crores have already been sanctioned by DOT as relocation charges. Department is pursuing with the slum wing of MCD for vacation.
MTNL, New Delhi		
(1)	Keshavpuram (Lawrence Road)	It depends upon the response of MCD (Slum Wing) for providing alternate accommodation. It is not possible to give a specific time limit. The case has already been taken up with the MCD (Slum wing)
(2)	Jawaharlal Nehru Marg	Major portion of the illegal construction has already been removed in March 95. Case is being pursued with the MOUD/MCD (Slum wing) for removal of pending illegal construction. It is not possible to give any specific time limit.

Bokaro Steel Plant Land

4181. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether about 210 acres of land belonging of Bokaro Steel Plant has been sold out illegally;

(b) whether any case has been registered against the management of Bokaro Steel Plant in this regard in October, 1996;

(c) if so, the details thereof and

(d) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) to (d). No. Sir, Bokaro Steel Plant has not sold any land to anyone illegally, and no case has been registered against the management of Bokaro Steel Plant in this regard in October 1996. However, a criminal case has

been registered by the Government of Bihar (Cooperative Department) against the former office bearers of Bokaro Steel Employees Cooperative House Construction Society Limited for violating the norms of allotment of BSL land to its members.

Equipments Orders

4182. DR. M. JAGANNATH : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the value of equipment orders placed by the Department of Telecommunications for the last three years, year-wise;

(b) the value of the orders placed on the Private Firms and public sector companies separately;

(c) the reasons for placing more orders with private companies;

(d) the names of the top 10 private companies in terms of value on which DOT placed orders;

(e) the irregularities detected so far in ordering the equipments; and

(f) the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) Value of the orders placed by

DOT for the last three years is indicated below :

Year	Value of the orders placed (Rs. Crores) Appx.
1993-94	3224.23
1994-95	3676.80
1995-96	4941.61

(b) Private Firms

1993-94	1811.22
1994-95	2181.25
1995-96	3527.83

Public Sector Companies

1993-94	1413.01
1994-95	1495.55
1995-96	1413.78

(c) Orders are normally placed by inviting open tenders in which eligible companies both private as well as public sector can participate and get orders on the basis of their ranking in the tenders. However, orders upto 35% of the total requirements are reserved for DOT PSUs i.e., ITI and HTL.

(d) Statement is enclosed.

(e) and (f). Some of the case files have been requisitioned by CBI.

STATEMENT

	1993-94		1994-95		1995-96	
	Name of Company	Value of Orders (Rs. Crores)	Name of Company	Value of Orders (Rs. Crores)	Name of Company	Value of Orders (Rs. Crores)
1		2	3	4	5	6
1.	M/s. Finolex	164.96	SIIL	228.01	SIIL	244.46
2.	Vindhya Telelink Ltd (VTL)	123.54	UBL	127.63	Finolex	219.09
3.	Sterlite Industries India Ltd (SIIL)	114.11	Finolex	117.34	VTL	202.72
4.	Usha Belltron Ltd. (UBL)	95.05	VTL	91.75	AMNS	197.80
5.	Himachal Futuristic Company Ltd. (HFCL)	94.03	GTC	89.79	UBL	196.19
6.	ARM Ltd.	90.25	RPG	77.53	RPG	148.41
7.	RPG Telecom Ltd.	87.65	AT & T	76.56	HFCL	125.01

	1	2	3	4	5	6
8.	Telephone Cables Ltd. (TCL)	73.97	Natelco	63.44	GTC	118.36
9.	Shyam Telecom	67.49	Alcatel Modi Network Systems (AMNS)	58.31	Siemens	114.95
10.	Gujarat Telephone Cables (GTC)	64.50	UPCOM Cables Ltd.	56.01	TCL	111.05

Modification of Mining Licence

4183. DR. RAMKRISHNA KUSMARIA :

SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO :

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has modified the conditions for grant of prospecting licences for mining;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the said modifications are likely to come into effect?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) to (c). Prospecting licenses are granted as per the provisions of the MMRD Act, 1957 and the Mineral Concession Rules, 1960 and no change in the provisions of the Act/Rules relating to the grant of prospecting licence has been made after 1994. Section 6 of the MMRD Act, 1957 provides that the Central Govt. in the interest of development of minerals may permit any person to acquire one or more prospecting licences in excess of the ceiling limit of 25 sq. kms. The Central Govt. has decided that it would consider request from State Govt. for grant of area in excess of the ceiling limit of 25 sq.kms. for which necessary guidelines have been issued to the State Govts. on 30.10.96. As per the guidelines the request for grant of area in excess of the ceiling limit would be considered under the following conditions :

(i) The Central Government would consider the requests of State Governments for grant of prospecting licences for larger areas only when the party seeking grant of such licence undertakes to carry out aerial prospecting over the area.

(ii) Such recommendations for grant of areas made by State Governments should not exceed 5,000 sq.kms. for a single prospecting licence, and the total aggregate area held by one single company shall not exceed 10,000 sq.kms. for the whole country.

(iii) This grant of large areas for prospecting licence shall be linked to a scheme of relinquishment. The area granted should be progressively surrendered so that after the completion of one year the area would be reduced to 1,000 sq.kms. or 50% of the area granted whichever is less. 50% of the remaining area would be surrendered on the completion of the second year. The area would have to be further relinquished so that the licensee is left with an area of 25 sq.kms. at the end of the third year.

(iv) The grant of larger areas would be linked to a minimum expenditure commitment or specific physical targets. State Governments would ensure that these targets/expenditure commitments are adhered to, failing which the prospecting licence would be cancelled.

(v) During aerial prospecting by private parties, besides conditions as may be imposed by the DGCA and Ministry of Defence, a representative of the Geological Survey of India would be ordinarily present during the aerial survey operations.

(vi) All data collected would be made available to the Indian Bureau of Mines as per the existing rules. This data would be stored in the Indian Bureau of Mines and would be available to the public after a gap of two years. However, data pertaining to the area for which a company seeks to apply for mining lease would be kept confidential so as not to hurt the commercial interests of the company.

Tourists Visits to Andaman and Nicobar Islands

4184. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that tourists intending to visit Andaman and Nicobar Islands are reluctant to go there by ship;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that sailing schedules are irregular and documentation process is too much complicated for tourists;

(c) if so, whether the Government propose to simplify the procedure and regularise the sailing schedules; and

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

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA) :

(a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d). The sailing schedules are drawn well in advance by the Andaman and Nicobar Administration. However, these schedules are deferred for a day or two due to adverse weather conditions or other technical problems.

There is no complicated documentation process for tourists.

Documentary Serials on River Valley Development

4185. SHRI SUKH LAL KUSHWAHA :
SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV :

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

(a) the procedure for telecasting documentary on development programmes on Doordarshan Network;

(b) the number of documentaries on river valley development prepared and telecast during the each of the last three years;

(c) whether the Hindi serial 'Pani ke Akshar' has been discontinued;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to re-start it on Doordarshan?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) Documentaries on Development Programmes are telecast by Doordarshan on its National Network as well as by its Regional Kendras from time to time depending upon the availability of programmes and time slots.

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

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e). Does not arise.

Payment of Lease Rent by AI

4186. SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Air India did not utilise the space available in Atma Ram Mansion of Connaught Place during the lease period from December, 1987 to October, 1994 but continued to pay the lease-rent to the owner of the building;

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

(c) if so, the findings of the enquiry and action taken to check the misappropriation of public money in future?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) The space available in Atma Ram Mansion, could not be used by Air India from December 1987 to October 1994. The company, however, stopped payment of rent from September 1993.

(b) An inquiry into the matter has been instituted by the Government in pursuance of the direction of Division Bench of the Delhi High Court.

(c) The matter is sub-judice.

Rehabilitation of Workers in Closing PSUs

4187. SHRI PRAMOTHES MUKHERJEE : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have worked out detailed proposal to rehabilitate or offer alternative employment of personnel working in various Public Sector Undertakings which are likely to be closed down;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether some Central Government Undertakings dealing with leather and allied products have also been identified for closure without any substantial relief to existing employees; and

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

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) and (b). The National Renewal Fund established by the Government in 1992, has been providing counselling, retraining and redeployment assistance to workers affected by technology upgradation, modernisation and industrial restructuring of Indian Industry through Employee Assistance Centres set up by the Nodal Agencies, in 49 locations spread over 16 States.

(c) and (d). According to available information from Deptt. of Heavy Industry, Tannery and Footwear Corporation (TAFCO), a sick Central Public Sector Undertaking, was referred to BIFR in 1992. The possibility of rehabilitating the employees of TAFCO by organising multiple small scale co-operatives were

explored. However, in the absence of any positive viable proposal, BIFR recommended for winding up of the company and forwarded its recommendation to Allahabad High Court where the winding up proceedings of the company are pending. The Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985, provides for payment of compensation to the workers affected by winding up of a company.

Stoppage of Ahmedabad-Bombay Janta Express at Karjan Railway Station

4188. SHRIMATI BHAVNA BEN DEVRAJ BHAI CHIKHALIA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received any representation for the stoppage of Ahmedabad-Bombay Janta Express at Karjan railway station (Gujarat); and

(b) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

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

(b) Examined but not found operationally feasible.

Private Producers in Doordarshan

4189. SHRI ANNASAHIB M.K. PATIL :
SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL :

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

(a) whether the Doordarshan has recently relaxed norms about the role of private producers in the making of new programmes;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the rationale behind this relaxation;

(c) the impact of the changes on operational and financial position of Doordarshan;

(d) the details of the other proposals under consideration for other programmes on Doordarshan network;

(e) the new guidelines for dropping of anchor persons hosting shows on other private channels besides Doordarshan from the national network; and

(f) the difference between news programmes and current affairs programmes?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) No, Sir.

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

(d) Proposals from outside producers are considered under various categories depending upon Doordarshan's programme requirements and quality and contents of the proposed programmes.

(e) Persons anchoring Current Affairs programmes telecast on Doordarshan channels are not supposed to anchor any other programme on any channel other than a Doordarshan Channel.

(f) A new programme is similar to a news bulletin in which events and developments are reported as news items, whereas a current affairs programme presents the background and analysis of a current development in a field of activity.

Electrification of Railway Routes

4190. SHRI MURLIDHAR JENA :
SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have sanctioned the electrification of railway route from Kharagpur to Vizag via Khurda;

(b) if so, whether the first phase from Kharagpur to Bhubaneswar (320.kms) is proposed to be completed during 1996-97;

(c) if so, the progress as on date; and

(d) the expected date of the completion of the electrification of the entire route?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Yes, Sir. The section Kharagpur to Vizag (Vishakhapatnam) is proposed to be electrified in two phases as under :

Phase I : Kharagpur-Bhubaneswar section including Paradeep-Talcher branch line.

Phase II : Bhubaneswar to Vishakhapatnam.

(b) to (d). Electrification in first phase from Kharagpur to Bhubaneswar is planned for completion upto March 2002 and Bhubaneswar to Vishakhapatnam upto March 2002.

Casual Staff in Delhi Doordarshan

4191. SHRI SHANTILAL PARSOTAMDAS PATEL :
SHRI NAMDEO DIWATHE :

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

(a) whether a large number of Assistants are working on casual basis for over 10 years in Delhi Doordarshan;

(b) if so, the category wise details thereof and the reasons for not regularising their services so far;

(c) the steps taken or propose to be taken by the Government to regularise these Assistants; and

(d) the number of persons absorbed on regular basis during the last five years?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The category wise details of such Casuals are enclosed as Statement.

(c) A scheme for regularisation of Casuals was framed in the year 1992 which was subsequently modified in the year 1994. The Casuals who are eligible as per the scheme are being regularised as and when the vacancies become available.

(d) 140 persons have so far been regularised in the categories of Assistants.

STATEMENT

Details of Casuals working in Doordarshan for over 10 years

Category	Total No. of Casuals	Eligible as per scheme	Ineligible	Regularised so far
1. Production Assistant	20	19	01	17
2. Floor Assistant	74	71	03	49
3. Lighting Assistant	13	12	01	11
4. General Assistant	29	22	7	11

Contract Labour

4192. SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry has submitted a proposal to the Government for allowing contract labour in certain non-core service areas, and suggesting introduction of two tier wage structure for contract labour, and calling for a change in the provision for employment of contract labour;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry has suggested following changes to be made in the Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition) Act, 1970 :

(i) Change Definition of contract labour to permit its use in non-core areas.

(ii) Replace explanation to Section 10(2) by clear guidelines permitting contract labour; and

(iii) Introducing a two tier wage structure for contract labour (i.e. permitting payment of a lower wage to a contract workers).

(c) All of the amendments to the Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition) Act, 1970, as proposed, are not considered necessary.

[Translation]

Pay Scale of Doordarshan/AIR Programme Assistants

4193. SHRI FAGGAN SINGH KULESTE :
SHRI P.S. GADHAVI :

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 3319 on August 29, 1996 regarding pay Scales of Doordarshan/AIR's Programme Assistants and state :

(a) whether a decision has since been taken in the matter;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons for delay in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The issue is linked with the Fifth Central Pay Commission's Report, which is awaited.

Inadequate Facilities to Passengers at Alleppey Railway Station

4194. SHRI V.M. SUDHEERAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the difficulties being faced by the passengers due to the inadequate facilities at Alleppey Railway Station; and

(b) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) No specific instance has come to the notice of the Government. Amenities such as high level platforms, platform shelters, waiting hail, seating arrangements, drinking water supply, refreshment stalls and toilets, commensurate with the volume of traffic handled exist at the station.

(b) Does not arise.

Railway Reservation Facility

4195. SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the railway reservation facilities are not available for several trains at Jhalawar and Bara in Rajasthan;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to provide reservation facilities at the above places?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (c). Reservation quota in six trains at Baran and two trains at Jhalawar Road is available. An analysis of utilisation of these quotas has revealed that the same is adequate to cater to the present level of traffic.

Involvement of Financial Institutions

4196. SHRI ANANT KUMAR HEGDE : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether his Ministry has decided to involve Banks and financial institutions to participate in privatisation of basic services and cell phone operation in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) and (b). The Private companies selected for provision of Basic Telephone Service and Cellular Mobile Telephone Service in the country, have expressed difficulties in getting their projects funded by the banks and financial institutions for want to assignability of licences. Government is making efforts to resolve the issue.

Newspaper Price

4197. SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES :
SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA :
SHRI NANDKUMAR SAI :
SHRI VIJAY PATEL :

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

(a) the number of daily, weekly and other newspapers/journals published in the country, category-wise;

(b) whether some of them are likely to face closure;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Government approve of the unethical price war going on between certain newspapers in the country;

(e) if so, the reasons therefor;

(f) whether the Government propose to take any steps to prevent the evil effects of such a price war on the freedom of the press at one level and on the viability of certain newspapers on the other; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) As per records maintained in the office of the Registrar of Newspapers for India (RNI), the number of dailies, weeklies and other newspapers/journals registered as on 31.12.95 is as under :

Dailies	-	4341
Weeklies	-	12946
Others	-	23191

(b) and (c). The Government do not have any information.

(d) to (f). The Government do not have any control over the pricing of newspapers.

(g) Does not arise.

Airport at Kanyakumari

4198. SHRI N. DENNIS : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal under the consideration of the Government to open an Airport at Kanyakumari in view of the increasing number of National and International tourists, Pilgrims and others visiting this place;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) No, Sir.

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

Non-Payment of Minimum Wages to Handloom Weavers

4199. SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that the weavers attached to Handloom Corporation at Nagpur are not getting minimum wages inspite of the decision by the Supreme Court;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) whether the Government have also been directed by the Supreme Court to treat them as Industrial workers; and

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

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) to (d). The information is being collected and the same will be laid on the Table of the House.

Doordarshan Kendra, Port Blair

4200. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether Doordarshan Kendra at Port Blair has been upgraded with the opening of a Studio for production of programmes there;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether important events/functions in A and N Islands are also broadcast from the above Kendra;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the remedial measures proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) and (b). A Low Power TV transmitter was initially set up at Port Blair, which was commissioned into service in November, 1982. Subsequently, Programme Production Facilities comprising a Studio of 50 sqm. size alongwith associated equipment were provided at this Centre. The Studio Centre was made operational w.e.f. 2.2.96.

(c) Yes, Sir.

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

[Translation]

Passenger Coaches in Ordinary and Local Trains

4201. SHRI MANAHARAN LAL PANDEY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the minimum number of passenger coaches in ordinary and local trains;

(b) whether the passenger coaches are less in number in various passenger and local trains plying under the Bilaspur railway division; and

(c) if so, the steps being taken to increase the number of passenger coaches in them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) One coach.

(b) and (c). The normal composition of Passenger trains plying in Bilaspur Division varies from 3-8 coaches depending upon the traffic offering, distance for travel and availability of coaches etc.

Encroachment Clearance

4202. SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR SINGH : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the houses of only poor people have been demolished under the encroachment clearance campaign undertaken by the management of Bokaro Steel Plant;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the houses of officers of BSP in the same encroached areas have not been demolished;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken for rehabilitation of the people whose houses have been demolished?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) to (d). No, Sir. However, SAIL has informed that in deference to the order from Hon'ble High Court, Patna in CWJC. 2290/90, unauthorised structures were removed in coordination with local administration irrespective of the category of persons. In two cases of Bokaro Steel Plant employees (one Executive and other non-executive) who have constructed house on BSL land, thereby causing encroachment, could not be removed because of the stay order of Hon'ble High court (Patna Bench).

Half of Train at Morena Railway Station

4203. SHRI ASHOK ARGAL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to provide halt of any Mail/Express train such as of Mahamaya Express, Goa Express and G.T. Express etc. at Morena Railway Station;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) the reasons for not making half of any Mail/Express Train at Morena Railway Station for the last five years;

(d) whether the Government propose to construct any footbridge at Morena Railway Crossing; and

(e) if so, the time which it is likely to be constructed?

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

(b) and (c). Lack of commercial justification, as 15 Mail/Express trains in Down direction and 14 Mail/Express trains in Up direction already stop at Morena.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

[English]

Branch Post Offices in U.P.

4204. SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to open branch post offices in rural areas of Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any target has been fixed in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) Post Offices are opened progressively under Annual Plan Schemes subject to norm based justification and availability of resources.

(c) and (d). It was proposed to open 12 Extra Departmental Branch Post Offices in the rural areas of Uttar Pradesh during the Annual Plan, 1996-97. However 31 Extra Departmental Branch Post Offices have been sanctioned for Uttar Pradesh till date.

Postal Division in Kerala

4205. SHRI KODIKKUNNIL SURESH : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have considered the bifurcation of Pathamanthitta Senior Postal Division located at Punalur in Kerala.

(b) whether the Union Government have received any request in this regard

(c) whether the Government of India is aware of the fact that Pathamanthitta SSP Office covered vast area

and people of Punalur areas find it very difficult to reach at Pathamanthitta SSP office; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) to (d). The Department considered the bifurcation of Pathamanthitta Post Division located at Punalur in Kerala on receipt of a representation from the Public Representative. The case was examined on the basis of report received from CPMG, Kerala Circle. Bifurcation is not justified as per departmental norms.

District Telecom Advisory Board

4206. SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS :

SHRI S. AJAY KUMAR :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have re-constituted the District Telecom Advisory Boards;

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

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

(d) the expected time by which these are likely to be reconstituted?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) Telecom Advisory Committee (Not Telecom Advisory Boards) have been re-constituted in 100 units.

(b) Details of reconstituted Telecom Advisory Committees (State-wise) are given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) and (d) Formation/re-constitution of TACs for other field units will be made in near future after receiving recommendations of names from various sources

STATEMENT

List of existing TACs as on 30.11.96

Name of SSA	Headed by	TAC Tenure up to
1	2	3
ANDHRA PRADESH		
1. Anant Pur (Guntakal)	TDM	31.01.1998
2. Chittoor (Tirupathi)	TDM	31.12.1997
3. E. Godavari (RMY)	GM	31.12.1997
4. Guntur	GM	31.01.1998
5. Krishna (VW)	GM	31.12.1997
6. Nellore	TDM	31.01.1998
7. Visakhapatnam	GM	31.12.1997

1	2	3
8. W. Godavary (Eluru)	TDM	31.12.1997
9. Warrangal	TDM	31.03.1998
10. Assam	CGM	31.03.1998
11. Kamrup (Guwahati)	TDM	31.03.1998
12. Lakhimpur (Dibrugarh)	TDM	31.11.1997
BIHAR		
13. Patna	GM	30.04.1997
14. GUJARAT	GM	30.11.1996
15. Ahmedabad	CGM	31.01.1997
16. Bhavnagar	GM	31.01.1997
17. Jamnagar	TDM	31.01.1997
18. Kutch-Bhuj	TDM	31.11.1997
19. Panchmahal (Godhra)	TDM	28.02.1998
20. Rajkot	GM	31.01.1997
21. Surat	GM	31.01.1997
22. Vadodara	GM	31.01.1997
23. Valsad	GM	31.11.1997
24. HIMACHAL PRADESH	CGM	31.08.1997
25. Haryana	CGM	31.03.1998
26. Ambala	GM	31.01.1998
27. Faridabad	GM	28.02.1998
28. Hissar	GM	31.03.1998
29. Rohtak	TDM	28.02.1998
KERALA		
30. Alleppey	GM	28.02.1998
31. Calicut	GM	31.12.1997
32. Cannanore	GM	28.02.1998
33. Ernakulam	GM	30.11.1996
34. Kottayam	GM	31.12.1998
35. Palghat	GM	30.11.1996
36. Quilon	GM	31.12.1997
37. Trichur	GM	31.12.1997
38. Trivandrum	GM	31.12.1996
KARNATAKA		
39. Belgaum	GM	28.02.1998
40. Hubli	GM	30.11.1997
41. Mysore	GM	28.02.1998
42. Maharashtra	CGM	30.04.1997
43. Ammednagar	TDM	31.01.1998
44. Jalgaon	TDM	31.04.1997
45. Kalyan	GM	30.12.1997
46. Kohlapur	GM	28.02.1997

1	2	3
47. Nasik	GM	31.12.1997
48. Satara	TDM	30.11.1997
49. Sholapur	TDM	31.03.1998
MADHYA PRADESH		
50. Bhopal	GM	28.02.1998
51. Indore	GM	31.12.1996
52. Jabalpur	GM	31.12.1997
53. Raipur	GM	20.02.1998
NORTH-EAST		
54. Agartala (Tripura)	TDM	31.12.1997
55. Mizoram	TDM	28.02.1997
56. Dimapur (Nagaland)	TDM	31.12.1997
57. Arunachal Pradesh	TDM	31.03.1998
ORISSA		
58. Bhubneshwar	GM	30.11.1997
59. Cuttack	GM	30.11.1997
PUNJAB		
60. Amritsar	CGM	30.04.1997
61. Bhatinda	GM	28.02.1998
62. Ferozepur	TDM	28.02.1998
63. Hoshiarpur	GM	31.12.1997
64. Jalandhar	TDM	31.12.1997
65. Ludhina	GM	31.01.1997
66. Patiala	GM	28.02.1998
67. Patiala	GM	31.12.1997
RAJASTHAN		
68. Jodhpur	GM	31.03.1998
69. Udaipur	GM	31.03.1998
TAMIL NADU		
70. Chengalpet	TDM	31.03.1998
71. Nagarcoil	TDM	31.12.1997
72. Thanjavur	GM	31.12.1997
73. Tuticorin	TDM	28.02.1998
74. Kaveri Delta (Kumbakonam)	TDM	28.02.1998
UTTAR PRADESH (ZONAL TACS)		
75. Bareilly	GM(N)	31.06.1997
76. Varanasi	GM(E)	30.06.1997
77. Dehradun	DIR(W)	30.06.1997
78. Lucknow	DIR(C)	30.06.1997
UTTAR PRADESH (E)		
79. Kanpur	GM	30.06.1997

1	2	3
Lucknow	GM	30.06.1997
81. Mau	TDM	30.06.1997
82. Varanasi	GM	30.06.1997
UTTAR PRADESH (W)		
83. Agra	GM	30.06.1997
84. Ghaziabad	GM	30.06.1997
85. Meerut	GM	30.06.1997
86. Nainital	TDM	31.03.1998
WEST BENGAL		
87. Siliguri	TDM	31.12.1997
88. Sikkim	TDM	30.06.1997
METRO DISTRICT		
89. Mumbai	CGM	30.11.1997
90. Delhi (Main)	CGM	31.12.1996
91. Delhi (E)	CGM	31.12.1996
92. Delhi (W)	CGM	31.12.1996
93. Delhi (N)	CGM	31.12.1996
94. Delhi (S)	CGM	31.12.1996
95. Delhi (C)	CGM	31.12.1996
UNION TERRITORIES		
96. A and Islands Incl Port Blair	CGM	30.04.1997
97. Dadra and Nagar Haveli	CGM (Guj.)	28.02.1997
98. Daman and Diu	CGM (Guj.)	28.02.1997
99. Lakshdweep	TDM	31.12.1997
100. Pondicherry	TDM	30.11.1997

Development of Buddhist Centres in Orissa

4207. SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state

(a) whether the Government propose to develop some historical Buddhist Centres in Orissa with external assistance to promote the tourism and lure tourists to Orissa.

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the locations identified for the development of Buddhist Centres.

(c) the expected amount of external assistance likely to be received, and

(d) the time by which development work is likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA) :

(a) to (d). A project titled Infrastructure Development for Eco-Tourism and Cultural Exchange in Orissa involving

for seeking external assistance. The project covers the historical Buddhist Centres like Dhauli, Udaigiri, Lalitgiri and Ratnagiri along with other centres like Nandankanan, Kendraparha, Hukitola, Gupti, Bhitarkanika, Chandbali, Aradi, etc.

The amount of assistance and the date of starting the work can be known only after the project is accepted by the funding agencies.

Rehabilitation of Labourers

4208. SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state

(a) whether the Government are aware that many labourers have been rendered jobless due to closure of various industries in Uttar Pradesh particularly in Noida/Greater Noida in Khurja Parliamentary Constituency;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to provide employment to them and to rehabilitate them?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) to (c). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

Accidents in Industries in Khurja in U.P.

4209. SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) the number of accidents occurred in industrial establishments in Uttar Pradesh particularly in Khurja Parliamentary constituency during the last three years;

(b) whether the Government have given directions to provide sufficient security to these industrial establishments and to prevent occurrence of such accidents in future;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) to (d). Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

Non-Implementation of Labour Laws

4210. DR. BALIRAM : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the labour officers of Noida, Gaziabad, Sahibabad etc. areas of Uttar Pradesh are not taking any action against the factory owners for non-compliance of Labour Laws; and

(b) the action being taken/proposed to be taken by the Government against the guilty officers?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) and (b). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Passenger Amenities at Railway Stations of Uttar Pradesh

4211. DR. BALIRAM : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that adequate civic amenities like drinking water, toilet, bathroom, catering, waiting and retiring rooms are not available at Azamgarh and Jaunpur city railway stations in Uttar Pradesh; and

(b) if so, the time by which the said facilities are likely to be provided at these railway stations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b). Amenities at stations are provided in accordance with norms based on the volume of passenger traffic handled; these, therefore, cannot be uniform at all stations. Drinking water, toilet, bath room, vending stall, waiting hall have been provided at Azamgarh and Jaunpur City stations. Provision of retiring rooms at these stations are not justified at present. Augmentation of the facilities will be considered when so warranted by growth in traffic.

12.00 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

Annual Report and Review by the Govt. of the working of Air India Limited, New Delhi for 1994-95 alongwith statement showing reasons for delay in laying these papers etc.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C. M. IBRAHIM) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table :

(1) A copy of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956 :

(i) Statement regarding Review by the Government of the working of the Air India Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1994-95.

(ii) Annual Report of the Air India Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1994-95, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

(2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1165/96]

Annual Report and Review by the Govt. of the working of Hindustan Vegetable Oils Corporation Ltd., New Delhi for 1995-96 alongwith Audited Accounts and Comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy each

of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956 :

- (1) Review by the Government of the working of the Hindustan Vegetable Oils Corporation Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1995-96.
- (2) Annual Report of the Hindustan Vegetable Oils Corporation Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1995-96, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1166/96]

Annual Report and Review by the Govt. of the working of Bharat Refractories Ltd., Bokaro for 1995-96 alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon etc.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table :

- (1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956 :
 - (a) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Bharat Refractories Limited, Bokaro, for the year 1995-96.
 - (ii) Annual Report of the Bharat Refractories Limited, Bokaro, for the year 1995-96, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1167/96]

- (b) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Hindustan Zinc Limited, Udaipur, for the year 1995-96.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Hindustan Zinc Limited, Udaipur, for the year 1995-96, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1168/96]

- (c) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Bharat Gold Mines Limited, Karnataka, for the year 1995-96.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Bharat Gold Mines Limited, Karnataka, for the year 1995-96, alongwith Audited Accounts and

comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1169/96]

- (d) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the National Mineral Development Corporation Limited, Hyderabad, for the year 1995-96.
- (ii) Annual Report of the National Mineral Development Corporation Limited, Hyderabad, for the year 1995-96, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1170/96]

- (e) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Hindustan Copper Limited, Calcutta, for the year 1995-96.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Hindustan Copper Limited, Calcutta for the year 1995-96, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1171/96]

- (2) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) :

- (i) Memorandum of Understanding between the Hindustan Zinc Limited and the Ministry of Mines for the year 1996-97.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1172/96]

- (ii) Memorandum of Understanding between the Mineral Exploration Corporation Limited and the Ministry of Mines for the year 1996-97.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1173/96]

Indian Post Office Rules, 1996 and Annual Report and Review by the Govt. of the working of ITI Ltd., Bangalore for 1995-96 alongwith Audited Accounts and Comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon etc.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : Mr. Speaker, Sir I beg to lay on the Table-

- (1) A copy of the Indian Post Offices (Second Amendment) Rules, 1996 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 427(E) in Gazette of India dated the 18th September, 1996, under sub-section (4) of section 74 of the Indian Post Office Act, 1898.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1174/96]

- (2) A copy of the Indian Telegraph (Fourth Amendment) Rules, 1996 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 499(E) in Gazette of India dated the 29th October, 1996, under sub-section (5) of section 7 of the Indian Telegraph Act, 1885.

- (3) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956 :

[Placed in Library, See No. LT-1175/96]

- (a) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the ITI Limited, Bangalore, for the year 1995-96.
- (ii) Annual Report of the ITI Limited, Bangalore, for the year 1995-96, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT-1176/96]

- (b) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Telecommunications Consultants India Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1995-96.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Telecommunications Consultants India Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1995-96, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT-1177/96]

- (c) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Videsh Sanchar Nigam Limited, Mumbai, for the year 1995-96.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Videsh Sanchar Nigam Limited, Mumbai, for the year 1995-96, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT-1178/96]

- (4) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) :

- (i) Memorandum of Understanding between the Videsh Sanchar Nigam Limited and the Department of Telecommunications, Ministry of Communications, for the year 1996-97.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT-1179/96]

- (ii) Memorandum of Understanding between the ITI Limited and the Department of

Telecommunications, Ministry of Communications, for the year 1996-97.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT-1180/96]

Annual Report and Review by the Govt. of the working of Pyrites, Phosphates and Chemicals Ltd., Rohtas for 1995-96 alongwith Audited Accounts and Comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon etc.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SIS RAM OLA) :
Sir, I beg to lay on the Table-

- (1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956 :

- (a) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Pyrites, Phosphates and Chemicals Limited, Rohtas, for the year 1995-96.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Pyrites, Phosphates and Chemicals Limited, Rohtas, for the year 1995-96, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT-1181/96]

- (b) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Projects and Development India Limited for the year 1995-96.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Projects and Development India Limited, for the year 1995-96, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT-1182/96]

- (c) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Fertilizer Corporation of India Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1995-96.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Fertilizer Corporation of India Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1995-96, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT-1183/96]

- (d) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Pradeep Phosphates Limited, Bhubaneswar, for the year 1995-96.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Pradeep Phosphates Limited, Bhubaneswar, for the year 1995-96, alongwith Audited Accounts

and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1184/96]

Annual Report and Review by the Govt. of the working of Central Council of Homoeopathy, New Delhi for 1994-95 alongwith Audited Accounts and statement showing reasons for delay in laying these papers etc.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : Sir, on behalf of Shri Saleem Iqbal Shervani, I beg to lay on the Table :

- (1) (i) A copy of Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Central Council of Homoeopathy, New Delhi, for the year 1994-95 alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Central Council of Homoeopathy, New Delhi, for the year 1994-95.
- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1185/96]

- (3) (i) A copy of Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Central Research Institute for Yoga, New Delhi, for the year 1994-95, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Central Research Institute for Yoga, New Delhi, for the year 1994-95.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1186/96]

- (4) (i) A copy of Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the All India Institute of Speech and Hearing, Mysore for the year 1995-96.
- (ii) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of All India Institute of Speech and Hearing, Mysore, for the year 1995-96, together with Audit Report thereon.
- (iii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the

working of the All India Institute of Speech and Hearing, Mysore, for the year 1995-96.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1187/96]

- (5) (i) A copy of Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Pasteur Institute of India, Coonoor for the year 1995-96.
- (ii) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of Pasteur Institute of India, Coonoor for the year 1995-96, together with Audit Report thereon.
- (iii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Pasteur Institute of India, Coonoor for the year 1995-96.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1188/96]

- (6) (i) A copy of Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the International Institute for Population Sciences, Mumbai, 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 International Institute for Populations Sciences, Mumbai, for the year 1995-96.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1189/96]

- (7) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956 :—
- (a) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Hindustan Latex Limited, Thiruvananthapuram, for the year 1995-96.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Hindustan Latex Limited, Thiruvananthapuram, for the year 1995-96, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.
- (b) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Hospital Services Consultancy Corporation (I) Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1995-96.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Hospital Service Consultancy Corporation (I) Limited, New

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1190/96]

Delhi for the year 1995-96, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1191/96]

(8) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Medical Council of India, New Delhi, for the year 1995-96.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Medical Council of India, New Delhi, for the year 1995-96.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1192/96]

(9) A copy of the Memorandum of Understanding (Hindi and English versions) between the Hospital Services Consultancy Corporation (India) Limited and the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare for the year 1996-97.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1193/96]

(10) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Mahatma Gandhi Institute of Medical Sciences and Kasturba Hospital, Sevagram, 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 Mahatma Gandhi Institute of Medical Sciences and Kasturba Hospital, Sevagram, for the year 1995-96.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1194/96]

Railways Claims Tribunal (Salaries and Allowances and Conditions of Services of Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Members) Amendment Rules, 1996 and Annual Report, Annual Accounts and Review by the Govt. of working of the Railway Sports Control Board, New Delhi for 1995-96 etc.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : I beg to lay on the Table :

(1) A copy of the Railway Claims Tribunal (Salaries and Allowances and Conditions of Service of Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Members) Amendment Rules, 1996 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 436(E) in Gazette of

India dated the 26th September, 1996, under sub-section (3) of section 30 of the Railway Claims Tribunal Act, 1987.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1195/96]

(2) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Railway Sports Control Board, New Delhi, for the year 1995-96.

(ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Railway Sports Control Board, New Delhi, for the year 1995-96, together with Audit Report thereon.

(iii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Railway Sports Control Board, New Delhi for the year 1995-96.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1196/96]

(3) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956 :

(i) Review by the Government of the working of the Container Corporation of India Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1995-96.

(ii) Annual Report of the Container Corporation of India Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1995-96, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1197/96]

12.05 hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

STATEMENT

[Translation]

SHRI PADAM SEN CHAUDHARY (Behraich) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table (Hindi and English versions) of a Statement showing Action Taken by the Govt. on the recommendations contained in Chapter-I and final replies of Chapter-V of the 32nd Action Taken Report of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Agriculture (Tenth Lok Sabha) on Demands for Grants 1995-96 relating to the department of Agriculture Research and Education.

12.05½ hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON COMMUNICATIONS

Fifth Report

[Translation]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur) : Sir, I beg to lay on the table the Fifth Report. (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Communications on Privatisation of Basic Telephone Services relating to the Department of Telecommunications.

12.06 hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON LABOUR AND WELFARE

Third Report and Minutes

[Translation]

SHRI MADHUKAR SARPOTDAR (Mumbai North-West) : Sir, I beg to lay on the table the third Report (English and Hindi Versions) of the Standing Committee on Labour and Welfare on "Special Central Assistance to Special Component Plan for Scheduled Castes" and Minutes of the sittings of the Committee relating thereto.

12.07 hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

Fifty-second Report

[English]

PROF. I.G. SANADI (Dharwad-South) : I beg to lay on the Table a copy each (Hindi and English versions) of the Fifty-second Report of the Standing Committee on Human Resource Development on the functioning of the National Library, Calcutta.

12.08 hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS

Thirty-eighth and Thirty-ninth Reports

[Translation]

PROF. R.R. PRAMANIK (Mathurapur) : Sir, I beg to lay on the table a copy (Hindi and English versions)

each of the Thirty eight and Thirty-nine reports of the Standing Committee on Science and Technology, Environment and Forests- (i) on demonstration by Shri P. Raman on 'herbal fuel; and (ii) on the action taken by the Ministry of Environment and Forests on Committee's ninth report on Demand's for Grants (1994-95) of the Ministry of Environment and Forests, respectively.

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

12.09 hrs.

Ban on Collection of Sea Sand and Stone Quarrying in Andaman and Nicobar Islands

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Now, I request the Minister of Environment and Forests to make a statement on the problems relating to Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

Shri Manoranjan Bhakta has made a specific demand. So, I have asked the hon. Minister to make a statement.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAPTAIN JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am fully apprised and agree to the concern of Hon. Member. We will try our best to wipe out the difficulties and as soon as possible, we will be able to do something about the problems, which are being faced by the people of Andaman and Nicobar, certainly. Hon. Member knows that we had a meeting with them on 29th Oct. 1996, and the officials of Andaman and Nicobar Administration were also present there. As per the decision taken in that meeting, we have already constituted an expert committee on Dec. 5. Father J.C. Saldhana is the Chairman of this Committee. This Committee comprise of the representatives of Central Ground Water Board and Geological Survey of India. We have given 6 weeks time to the committee and I assure that this Committee will submit its report in the stipulated time i.e. by 31 January. It has been clearly indicated to this committee that they should tell us the areas, from which sand can be extracted and from which area permission can be given for extracted/under ground water. As soon as the report of the Committee is received, we will take necessary decision and problems of the people will be solved. I request to the Hon'ble Minister that he should keep the patience for one month i.e. till the report is received and if they desire, they may put their point before the Committee.

So, we have constituted an expert Committee and a least possible minimum time is be given to them. We will take necessary decision as and when the report is received. We have to see that there will be no adverse effect on environment and the problems of the people may be resolved, as soon as possible. Simultaneously we have to observe that our order may be as per the process of law. We would not like that amendment may be done without any basis or study, as was done in 1994 which may not be found valid by the court. Once due to hurriness. The problem which we are facing today, we do not want to repeat it.

The problem, which the people are facing there is due to issuance of a notification of CRZ in 1991, in which it has been banned to extract Underground Water in any way from coastal area up to 200 metres and water can be extracted from 200 to 500 metre, but extraction should be by manual way i.e. not by using machines. Supreme Court had directed the compliance of all provisions of this notification and for this time was given upto 30th Sep., 96. This problem has come up that when notification was issued in 1991, people did not pay attention towards all practical aspects. Provisions of notification were not followed. Consequently when the Govt. amended the notification in 1994, the Supreme Court rejected it. We had to compliance the order of Supreme Court by the 30th Sept. According to that, CRZ plan had to be passed by each and every State and the Union Territory. We had followed it. But, certain States and U.Ts. like Andaman and Nicobar about which the honourable member is raising the issue, put their problems, get apprised through affidavit to honourable Supreme Court.

That is why, we have constituted an expert Committee and the least possible time is given to them. We will take necessary decision as soon as the report is received. We have to see that there will be no adverse effect on environment and what are the problems of the people may be resolved as soon as possible. Simultaneously, We have to observe that our order may be as per the process of law. We would not like that amendment may be done without any bases or study, as was done in 1994. Which may not be found valid by the court. Once due to hurriness, the problem, which we are facing to day, we do not want to repeat it...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA (Andaman and Nicobar Islands) : Sir, I have to repeat only one thing before you, whether people of that area should not drink water for one months, till committee submit its report. Whether the people may be thrown away in the sea, and by that there will be no expenditure out of the budgetary allocation. After that next year we will say to Planning Commission what is your contribution. What amount of work have you done. It is not so. Whatever

the present circumstances may be, which are in force from September. These have put to many time earlier. Why did the case of Andaman and Nicobar be put before the Supreme Court by the Govt. Perhaps not repeating that we try that automatically this case may forwarded from that side.

Sir, I want to put before you and get apprise to whole House that Andaman and Nicobar is far flung area, this is a such backward area, where there is no Vidhan Sabha, nothing of that sort. In this Lok Sabha I want to request you as I belong to that area.

The problem, which has arised, you please take some steps to resolve it by which people of Andaman and Nicobar may feel that they are not alone and weak but whole country is with them in this difficulty. I want to request the whole House that what is said about the report we are not agree with that. We don't know when the report will come, when this problem will be resolved as per the recommendations of that report? Whether these islands can survive by that time after stopping all the work we are not ready to accept it...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Do not waste time, please.

(Interruptions)

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH (Uluberia) : Sir, you agreed to have a full discussion. But the time is not there.

MR. SPEAKER : The time is not there. That is why I have allowed only Shri Manoranjan Bhakta. I think, the whole House is with the people of Andaman and Nicobar Islands. We are very much concerned about their development.

I would like the Government to look into it very seriously. As the hon. Member has suggested, I think, the Government can bring this problem to the notice of the Supreme Court and you take whatever measures that are required. I cannot give you a ready-made suggestion. I think, the Government will know better. Please look into it and not let the people suffer.

SHRI P.M. SAYEED (Lakshadweep) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, one month's time has already been allotted for the finding of this Committee. Till then, there must be some arrangement to see that water supply is given to the people. That direction should go immediately from the Chair. They should not suffer.

MR. SPEAKER : The people are not having drinking water. It is a very serious thing.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI JASWANT SINGH (Chittorgarh) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, let me finish my point in two minutes.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I will come to you a little later. Is it on the same subject, Andaman?

[Translation]

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : This is a separate subject.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I will come to you.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN (Mumbai-North East) : It is a very serious issue.

MR. SPEAKER : More or less, depends on how you look at it.

[Translation]

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : I finish my point in two minutes.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I will certainly come to you. I have called him earlier, Shri Rupchand Pal. Please be brief.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (Hooghly) : Sir, a very serious incident has taken place at Mumbai where the Editor of a Marathi daily, *Mahanagar*, has been physically assaulted. His face has been blackened. His office has been ransacked by a group of hooligans...*(Interruptions)*

The only fault for which this Editor had been subjected to such torture and humiliation was that his Daily had carried some critical reports about the Shiv Sena Chief. It is nothing but an attack on the freedom of the Press and the Editors' Guild has condemned this...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Jaswant Singh.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Enough; enough.

(Interruptions)

SHRI MADHUKAR SARPOTDAR (Mumbai North-West) : Sir, please allow me to react.

MR. SPEAKER : Nobody heard who said what.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Sarpotdar, you do not have to worry. Nobody heard who said what.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I have given the floor to Shri Jaswant Singh. Let him make his point.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV (Patna) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is an unfortunate incident...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

12.19 hrs

RE : SITUATION ARISING OUT OF THE ALLAHABAD HIGH COURT JUDGMENT REGARDING IMPOSITION OF PRESIDENT'S RULE IN UTTAR PRADESH

[Translation]

SHRI JASWANT SINGH (Chittorgarh) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the leader of the opposition Honourable Shri Atal ji raised a point before the question Hour. The High Court has delivered a judgement. We were expecting that considering the constitutional and the political situation in U.P. arising out of the Government's position in the state, till then it would not be clear about the constitutional crisis in U.P., it would not be difficult to state the position of the Government in that State?...*(Interruptions)*

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI (Allahabad) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is a very important issue...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I will give my ruling.

... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : No, no; you do not have to make noise about that. Please sit down. In today's Agenda, at Item No. 17, there is a Bill for consideration.

[Translation]

SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR (Bareilly) : It is not required now.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Why don't you understand it?

This Bill is before the House. I have received a notice from Mr. Lodha to raise a Constitutional issue, that is when the High Court has quashed the President's Rule, whether the House can Constitutionally take up this Bill.

I will have to go into the provision of the Constitution and also the rules. At the time when this Bill will be before the House I am sure the Government will come out with its version. Let me also go into the provisions of the Constitution. At that stage, I think we will consider this matter.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN (Mumbai-North East) : Sir, this is your ruling with regard to the Bill only. What about the judgement?

MR. SPEAKER : That is the time when it will come.

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : These two questions are not related to each other...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Sir, the Government should follow your example. You were so prompt in your

response to the judgement that you started thinking as to what should be done with the Item No. 17. But the Item No. 17 is not the only problem. The entire gamut of Article of 356 has been quashed. Guidelines have been issued and a particular date has been fixed. A popular Government has to be restored. We are very thankful to you that as far as the Agenda is concerned, you started thinking about the Allahabad judgement but what about the political agenda. There is a Constitutional crisis. Which Government is there? And the Government is not responding. I can well understand that they stunned, surprised or shocked by the judgement but they have to reply to this.

MR. SPEAKER : He is going to reply.

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : There is no Government in Uttar Pradesh. The Government has to go. During the debate on Uttar Pradesh...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : You cannot say, there is no Government because the High Court has also given five days' time. So, that is not correct. The Government is there.

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : But what are they doing about it? They should not take even five minutes to come out with a response. That Government has been declared as completely unconstitutional...(Interruptions) The Governor who recommended that unconstitutional thing should have been recalled. What are they doing with the Governor?

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA) : Mr. Joshi have you got a copy of the Allahabad high court judgement? This is not available with the Government...(Interruptions)

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : If the Government has not got a copy of the judgement then this Govt. should not continue...(Interruptions) You have no information till date...(Interruptions) What are you doing?...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Let the Minister complete. Please sit down.

[Translation]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES (Nalanda) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, first listen to me and then listen to him.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Jena before you say something. Mr. Fernandes would like to speak. I will hear him because he always makes good points.

[Translation]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : Mr. Speaker, Sir, my point is this that High Court has given five days time. The idea behind giving five days time is that the Government if desires may move in Supreme Court. I would like to tell the Government that it has decided to hold a meeting of the chief ministers. A lot of points have been raised in this House which are on the record. All Members have a consensus in regard to Article 356.

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA : This is a record debate.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : Considering all these things, the three judges of the High Court have delivered this Judgement. The Government should not take any step on the plea of five days time so that a popular Government should not be formed immediately on the basis of constitution. It should not act like this and should not move in Supreme Court. They should not talk of moving in Court. (Interruptions) I tell you that why should they not move in the court. Three days before the imposition of the President rule in Uttar Pradesh, you all people under the leader of the Prime Minister jointly decided to hold a meeting of the Chief Ministers, the High Court has supported this decision. They are not happy with your conduct. Therefore you should not move in the court and save your prestige...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the five days time given in this judgement is not far to move in the Supreme Court. It has been mentioned in the judgement that the administrative structure could not be changed in overnight. After introducing this judgement article 356 will quashed but before quashing this article there should be a Chief Minister to take severe in the legislative assembly. The Supreme Court has given time for completing this process. There has been no time given for going in Supreme Court. They have mentioned that.

[English]

Administrative changeover cannot be done overnight, so, we are giving you five days to complete this administrative change over.

[Translation]

This clearly means that the high court desires that a popular Government should be formed there, and they have given time for it

Item no 17 is yet to be taken up. Though we are listed in Item no 17. If Item no 17 is to be taken up for discussion today than it would be fully irrelevant and unconstitutional. Yesterday the Parliament had passed the Budget and no mention was made in the budget. This bill has been introduced under Article 357 and has no significance. In such a situation Government should

invite the leader of the BJP in Uttar Pradesh within 24 hours to form the Government and admitting their fault the Government should resign...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : It is enough. I think, the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs is also correct that the Government does not have a certified copy of the judgement as yet.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please listen to me. We are replying on the newspaper and agency reports.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I do not have a copy of the judgement.

(Interruptions)

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : You may not be having it. Sir...*(Interruptions)*

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : The fax is there; telephones are there; the Government is represented by their lawyer in the High Court; and so, the Government could have approached their lawyer...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Since the Government have not got a copy, I thought, the appropriate time to raise this issue will be when we take up Item No. 17. By that time, I think, the Government will get the report. The Government should get the report by that time. Therefore, let us be patient.

(Interruptions)

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Sir, let us not go about it is this way. No certified copy can be got within sixty minutes.

MR. SPEAKER : I am not insisting on a certified copy of the judgement. It am asking the Government to get an official by the time we take up Item No. 17. It will be all right.

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : Sir, there is no valid Government in Uttar Pradesh, at the moment.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : They must have already got it with them.

MR. SPEAKER : The Minister said that he did not have it.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : The Minister talked about the certified copy. What about the information? Let the Home Minister stand up and say that he does not know what the judgement is...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ (South Delhi) : A certified copy is not necessary...*(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA) : No

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : That shows the inefficiency and incompetency of the Government that they do not even know about the two-and-a-half-hour judgement delivered at Allahabad. It is a very serious matter...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Has the Minister got some information?

(Interruptions)

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : This is a very constitutional judgement...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Let him say.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : But you allow the Minister to say something.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Why do you not allow the Minister to say something?

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Sit down. Please, sit down.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAM NAIK (Mumbai North) : Yesterday when I told in this House that the Government and the Minister are incompetent then Shri Somnath Chatterjee got very annoyed. This clearly should the incompetence of the Government that they do not know about the judgement which is known to us.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Let the Minister say. Why are you not allowing the Minister to say?

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : You have the right say and the Minister also has the right to reply. Please listen to him.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SRI SRIKANTA JENA : Please listen to me...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

have the direction which you have now given to the Government. The moment the Government gets the Report - whatever has been judgement delivered by the Allahabad High Court. I will place it on the Table of the House.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I think, it is enough.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI JAI PRAKASH (Hissar) : The Home Minister is present in the House he will give the reply.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : It is not justified.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Lalmuni Chaubey. I will give my ruling tomorrow on your case.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI LALMUNI CHAUBEY (Buxar) : What the Home Minister desires to do he is not able to do. If you are not competent enough to do anything then resign from the point.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Give them time.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : No, we have a lot of things to do.

(Interruptions)

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : What is the Government's response to the Governor's actions?... (Interruptions) The Governor must be removed... (Interruptions) The Governor of Uttar Pradesh must be removed forthwith... (Interruptions) He has misled the House... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA : You please first listen... (Interruptions) try to listen... (Interruptions)

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE (Lucknow) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the two Ministers should decide themselves what they have to reply to the House about the functioning of the Government. The Hon'ble Home Minister is sitting silently. We are not ready to accept it nor anybody will accept it and even you, Sir, will not accept it that the Government has not received a copy of the judgement of the Allahabad High Court. We want to know that whatever information has been received by the Government what is the reaction of the Government in this regard. The Government cannot escaped itself by merely saying that they had not received the certified copy of the judgement and it would be received in a few days. Today we can obtain the information through Fax immediately the Government could have got the judgement through it. The House's

anxiety is natural because the Government has deprived us for forming a Government by using Article 356 in U.P. and imposed president's rule there. Today the Governor is ruling there.

SHRI RAM SAGAR (Barabanki) : You do not have majority there... (Interruptions)

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the President rule has been imposed by those people who are in the majority. There action has been condemned by the Allahabad High Court. Here the question is not of majority or minority or law. We are discussing the problem which have developed there. I desire that the Government should give its statement about the tenure of the Hon'ble Governor. I know that the Hon'ble Home Minister does not like the present Hon'ble Governor but inspite of this he is not in a position to remove him under some compulsions.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : You attended the swearing ceremony of the Governor. I did not attend it.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : I went there due to my moral duty as I am representing Lucknow. If you appoint a person whom I do not like, as a Governor of U.P. even though I will give him due respect.

But I was not aware that the Governor would work at his own. But the present conflict is between our party and your Government.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, you kindly direct him to make a statement within half an hour about this. The House must know about the line of action. A serious situation has assured due to the judgement of the Allahabad High Court.

[English]

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA : Sir, on the issue raise by the Leader of the Opposition, the Government will like to make a statement at 2 o'clock... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I think, it is good enough. Mr. Chaubey, I will give a ruling on your notice tomorrow.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

KUMARI UMA BHARATI (Khajuraho) : Mr. Speaker Sir, this is a very important issue... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : We will give it. The time is very little.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur) : Mr. Speaker Sir, the hon. Leader of Opposition as also Shri

George Fernandes rightly referred to the constitutional provisions and that the Constitution must prevail. There can be no two opinion about it...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

Is this the way, please maintain order...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : You have said enough. He also has a right to say

(Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Sir, I am only saying that the Constitution must prevail its objective...*(Interruptions)* I am also saying that the Constitution includes the Fundamental Right of Freedom of Speech. I would like to know what is the response of Shri George Fernandes.

Unfortunately, the Leader of the Opposition is not here but Shri Jaswant Singh, the Deputy Leader of Opposition and my friend is here. I would like to know from him also about the manhandling of an editor of a newspaper in Mumbai...*(Interruptions)* What do Shri Fernandes and Shri Jaswant Singh say about this? What about the Fundamental Right guaranteed in the Constitution?

The Editor stated, "Then they caught me, smeared coal tar on my face and manhandled me." They broke down everything there for something written by him and which is not liked by them. I would like to have a response from Shri George Fernandes...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MUDHUKAR SARPOTDAR (Mumbai North-West) : Sir, we would like to respond on this...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : I do not think, we can proceed on that.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE (Ratnagiri) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, please allow us also to speak.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : The matter is closed.

KUMARI SELJA (Sirsa) : Sir, a great heart-rending tragedy took place in my constituency at Dabwali last year on the 23rd December 1995. 442 innocent lives including young children and women perished and many injured as a result of that great fire incident.

Sir, top leaders of all the political parties visited Dabwali. The Prime Minister and the Chief Minister of Haryana made a number of promises there in response to the demands put forward by the people at that time. Free treatment of all the injured was promised but unfortunately, the bills are yet to be paid. A medical college, a hundred-bed hospital, a sports complex and a memorial for the dead were amongst the things agreed

to. But no work has been initiated though one year has passed.

Sir, I request you to kindly direct the Government to see that all the demands and the promises made by the Government of India and the Government of Haryana are not at the earliest.

MR. SPEAKER : Now, I call Kumari Uma Bharati to raise her issue.

[Translation]

KUMARI UMA BHARATI : Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, I thank you very much for allowing me to raise this issue...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I have given the floor to her.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV (Patna) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have also given a notice.

MR. SPEAKER : All have given notices...*(Interruptions)* There are 67 notices

KUMARI UMA BHARATI : Four innocent youth were gunned down by a police Inspector of Bhopura police station of Ghaziabad district as he was very much anxious for his promotion. Not even a single criminal case was registered against those four youth. Not even an ordinary case was registered against them under Section 151. One of the youth belonged to Dalit Community and one to minority community. All the youth belonged to labour class. When they were going to the factory to earn their livelihood, the Inspector asked them to get down and ordered them to run and while running they were gunned down by the Inspector. He termed it as an encounter and told that the youth were goondas whereas no case was ever registered against them. Local residents are of the view that they were through gentle and have never quarrel with their neighbours. A month back when wives of the deceased approached the hon'ble Home Minister and the Prime Minister, the hon'ble Home Minister had assured them that action would be taken against the guilty.

Similarly a Sikh priest was beaten to death in premises of Gurudwara in Barabanki by the goondas in the presence of police personnel. The priest was killed in the presence of police. No action has so far been taken in this regard.

Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, through you I would like to urge upon the hon'ble Home Minister that four innocent youths have been killed under the jurisdiction of Bhopura Police Station of Ghaziabad district and for that a case under Section 302 should be registered against the police Inspector and the Home Minister should make a statement in this regard today itself. Besides this, adequate compensation should be given to their dependent wives. I would like to submit that a

case under Section 302 should be registered against the guilty police Inspector within 24 hours. Action should also be taken in the incident of killing of priest in Barabanki which took place in the presence of police. Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like that the hon. Minister should make a statement in this regard...*(Interruptions)* Action should be taken in this connection within 24 hours...*(Interruptions)* We would like that the hon'ble Minister should make a statement first in this connection...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Please go back to your seats. The Home Minister is on his legs. He is going to reply. Please sit down

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Do you want the Minister to reply or not?

[Translation]

SHRI VINAY KATIYAR (Faizabad) : The murder took place in Barabanki in the presence of the police...*(Interruptions)* The Minister should give a reply in this regard...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : What is this going on? You do not even understand anything. Please sit down. The Home Minister wants to reply but you do not allow him to reply.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I get a little bit disturbed when my younger sister Kumari Uma Bharti frequently point out at me. Undoubtedly the police is behind the murder of the four youth of Ghaziabad. I have received a memorandum signed by the locals. I pondered over it and came to the conclusion that police is involved in it. Therefore, we cannot expect from police that they will investigate it properly...*(Interruptions)* I have decided to handover this case to the Central Bureau of Investigation...*(Interruptions)* I have contacted the Governor in this connection. I have told him on telephone that case may be handed over to the Central Bureau of Investigation. Am I required to obtain his approval for this? He replied that he does not know as to whether I shall have to obtain his approval or not. But if you want to do so I shall send a letter suggesting that this case be handed over to the Central Bureau of Investigation. I have no objection in it. This is being done for the same purpose and it will be done. This case will be handed over to the Central Bureau of Investigation.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : All right, he has agreed. Now listen.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : It is enough. He is going in for a CBI enquiry. What else do you want? Let me say one thing. Please sit down. I am standing. Please sit down.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Do you not see 'me? Do you not have eyes? Did you not see that I was standing? I know that we have only two days left, i.e. today and tomorrow. I would like to accommodate as many Members as possible. The only way to accommodate you is to dispense with the lunch hour. Those who are interested in raising their own matter, may please be here. There will be no lunch hour and everybody will be accommodated.

Shri Shanmugam please.

12.51 hrs.

(Mr Deputy-Speaker in the Chair)

SHRI P. SHANMUGAM (Vellore) : Sir, the unabated heavy rain and storm for the past ten days have revaged Chennai, Chāngalpattu, Vallur, Nagai Quaid-E-Milleth, Thiruvavur, Sir A.T. Panneerselvam and Tanjavur, Samburayar and North Arcot and Ambedkar Districts in Tamil Nadu. The ferocity of the rain was unknown in the history of the delta districts. Breaches had occurred in many canals and roads.

For the last two days, Chidambaram town which is a temple town was cut off due to heavy rains. More than two lakhs of irrigated *samba* land was submerged in water. More than three lakh huts have collapsed or have been completely damaged. About 1855 kilometres length of National Highways and roads have suffered extensive damage. More than 585 kilometres length of roads in Chennai have suffered extensive damage. Due to this, the people are not able to move from one place to another.

Thousands of cattle have been killed. So the heavy loss suffered by Tamil Nadu is to the tune of more than Rs. 800 crore...*(Interruptions)*

Please give me two more minutes.

Yesterday, we went on deputation to our hon. Prime Minister. He has agreed to do something. But till now, there is a heavy loss in Tamil Nadu. It is to the tune of more than Rs. 800 crore. We are in need of Rs. 500 crore. Our hon. Prime Minister may kindly release at least Rs. 500 crore from the Prime Minister's Calamities Relief Fund.

I am thankful to you, Sir, for allowing me to speak on the flood situation which has occurred in Tamil Nadu.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : No side discussion please. I will call everybody. Please take your seat.

DR. K.P. RAMALINGAM (Tiruchengode) : Sir, I would like to say something on the same issue. For the last three days we have been raising this matter here. But the Prime Minister has not given the money.

The Government has not come forward with any report.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Is it on the same issue?

DR. K.P. RAMALINGAM : It is on the same issue. An Half-an-hour Discussion is, at least, needed on this subject. Yesterday, all the Members from Tamil Nadu had gone to the Prime Minister's room. We urged upon him to release the money immediately. But till now they have not sanctioned the money. More than thousand tanks have breached. Nobody has cared about it. All are talking about Uttar Pradesh. Who is looking after Tamil Nadu? Nobody has cared about Tamil Nadu...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please sit down. Please take your seat. You please listen to me. I am asking the Government to reply.

DR. K.P. RAMALINGAM : Sir, it is a serious matter.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I am also saying that this is a serious matter. What else do you want? Please sit down. You first take your seat.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Ram Vilas Paswan, Tamil Nadu issue is a serious thing.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please sit down. Let me say first. Now listen to the Minister. Do you not want to listen to the Minister?

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : All right. I shall urge upon the Prime Minister to convene a meeting of the local Members of Parliament to discuss the issue and I shall convey him the feelings of the House also.

MR. SPEAKER : All right, Now, Mr. Satya Deo Singh.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Now, you do not want to listen to the Minister.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH (Balampur) : I have been called. You will also be called. Don't worry. Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, through you I would like to request all the Members that the issue which I am going to raise is an important one and is above the partyline and it is linked with the prestige of the country. So, I urge upon both the Cabinet Ministers, who are present here, Shri Ram Vilas Paswan and Shri Indrajit Gupta...*(Interruptions)* Nobody

is ready to listen to me on an important issue which I am raising...

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please continue.

SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH : Please ask them to sit.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Kumari Uma Bharati, please go to your seat.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the country had celebrated victory day on the 16th last. We celebrated the day to recollect our gallantry, to recall our gallantry. It was a historical day. On this day a new nation also came into existence in this subcontinent. Besides this, some shameful incidents took place on this occasion and we should express our concern about them. Field Marshal Manek Shaw, who was the hero of this war, who was honoured for life as field Marshal for his expertise in war, was not present on this occasion because the Government did not give him the treatment which was expected to be given to him.

Another important matter is that 54 soldiers, who were made Pows during 1971 Indo-Pak war, are still languishing in Pakistani jails. We did not utter a single word while celebrating the victory Day on 16th about the sufferings of their families. When exchange of prisoners of war took place in 1972 under Shimla Agreement, the then foreign Minister Shri Samarendra Kundu told the House in reply to a question that there were 280 Indians in Pakistani jails out of which 40 were of defence personnel. But later on, The State Minister for Defence (Tenth Lok Sabha) Shri Mallikarjuniah told the House in a reply that as per the informations available with the Government, 54 soldiers were there in Pakistani Jails. The Government should furnish the information to the House about the action being taken by it for the release of those soldiers from the Pakistani jails and to bring them back. Though 25 years have been lapsed since 1971 yet we have been unable to make any efforts in this direction. Though, we are celebrating Silver Jubilee of that war yet we have forgotten those heroes of war by virtue of whose gallantry and sacrifice we come across this happy moment and history was created as more than 90,000 people had surrendered in Dhaka at a time at one place. We are ignoring their gallantry and sacrifice and are thus insulting them. Further, on December 2, 1974 Major Ashok Suri had dispatched a letter through a citizen and what he had written in his letter I would like to quote that, he wrote "Dear Daddy, please accept the regards of Ashok, I am quite well here. Please contact the Army and the Government of India and raise the

issue with them. In total we are 20 officers here but you don't worry about us. The Government of India can contact the Government of Pakistan for our release". It is a pity whether any contact has been made in this regard till date or not.

There is yet another instance. The place of Flight lieutenant Vijay Tambe, was brought down on second day of the 1971 war and the Sunday Observer, Pakistan had published his name on December, 5, 1971 in their news. Today, he is in Pakistani jail. His wife Shrimati Damyanti Tambe is Arjun award winner and she has been former national Badminton Champion. She is now 47 years old and she is now very distressed. She feels so much depressed that she has said that she is having no son but if she had a son, she would have asked him to do a job of hawker instead of joining defence for us.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please keep silence. There should be no side talk.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH : Hon'ble Deputy Speaker, Sir, this is a very serious matter. This is heart rendering matter.

13.00 hrs.

Today when a period of 25 years has passed, several Governments had been in power and out of it, but the prisoners of Indo-Pak war have not to been released and it is a blow on our democratic norms. It would bring down the high morale of our defence forces as well as it would be shameful for our country. I would like to say to the leader of the House Shri Paswan ji and I also believe that the House is very well aware of the fact that 54 Indians are lying in the jail of Pakistan they have shown their courage by protecting the borders, by paying respect to our country, without bothering their family they were ready to sacrifice themselves for the prosperity of our country and also to keep the democratic traditions alive and the nation prosper. The Government should announce about the steps it is going to take for them at the earliest and how is it going to pressurise Pakistan on this issue. It is also a point of violation of international rules for human rights. Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, I would request the Government through you to kindly speakout on this issue of national importance. This issue is above our party politics and it is related to our nation. It is regarding those dignified Indian Citizens who have been detained in the prisons of Pakistan in illegal manners. What are the steps the Government are going to take for their release?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I have to say something on this issue. Mr. Shivraj Singh had also given a notice for this, would he like to speak something on this?

SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH (Vidisha) : Honourable Deputy Speaker Sir, I share the feelings and grievances expressed by honourable Satyadeo Singh. Previous 10th December was celebrated as a victory day on the occassion of our victory over Pakistan. But our brave leader and hero of the war General Manek Shaw was not seen on that occassion. Besides Lieutenant General Jagjit Singh Arora, who was responsible for surrender of as thousand Pakistani soldiers was also not seen there. Our entire nation backed the defence forces during the Indo-Pak war in 1971. But the manner in which our Government celebrated the victory day did not involve the sentiments of our country as the brave leaders of our victory was not seen. There is no point in organising such functions. Today entire nation wants to know as to why General Manek Shaw was not present there? That function was limited to a official function involving no public sentiment. The Government should be answerable to the public that by demoralizing the defence forces in such a manner how anyone would be inspired to join our defence forces and sacrifice every thing for the nation?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Before Calling any other member to speak, I add that it is a very serious issue. We have deported as thousand soldiers prisoners of war of Pakistan detained in our country but our soldiers are still detained in Pakistan as prisoners. Therefore, I would request the Government to consider this matter as it is shame on us. The Government should take a serious note of it. I remember a urdu couplet which I quote here :

"Kis ko rahate hai bure Vakta ke Saathi yaad.
Subah hote hi chiragon ko Bujha dete hai".

They should be remembered as they have sacrificed everything. I would request the Government to take a serious note of it.

SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH : Honourable Deputy Speaker Sir, I am grateful to you as you have associated yourself with our feelings. The Government should answer to it.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : I since it is a direction of the Chair, and nothing is above it. The Government would certainly consider this issue.

[English]

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw your attention and, through you, the attention of the Government to a serious matter. The hon. Prime Minister has many a time expressed his concern about the urban development programmes of the country. The other day, the House has also debated the M.P's Local Area Development Programme and the necessary fund availability. With a very heavy heart, I would like to inform you, Sir, that for the last four months, I have been watching the cities of Ahmedabad, Kanpur, Agra and Howrah which top the list of polluted cities

and have many other problems. This was brought to the notice of the Planning Commission and the Government of India. I personally took up with them the matter of the city of Howrah, without whose development, the development of Calcutta is not possible. I am shocked to say that even though the Planning Commission had allotted funds for the slum development of the North India, mainly Bihar and U.P., to which a large part of the Muslim community, the poorest of the poor, belongs, the city of Calcutta has not been given anything.

Sir, I may inform that the film 'City of Joy' was based only on the slums of the city of Howrah known as 'Feelkhana'. Sir, I am shocked to say that in spite of the written directions of Prof. Madhu Dandavate, Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission, no amount was transferred to the city till this date. If this kind of harassment goes on and the package which was supposed to be given for Howrah is not given, it will be difficult. With responsibility I am telling you that I got an official communication. The Planning Commission is not giving any head to it. The Ninth Plan document will be finalised very soon. If this kind of treatment is done on a political basis as to who belongs to which party, the development of this country would be at jeopardy and at stake...*(Interruptions)* Sir, similar is the case of the cities of Kanpur, Agra and Ahmedabad.

I would like to inform you that only due to malaria and wrong method of application of the polio vaccine several people have died. In village Dholagarh which is on the border of the constituency of Shri Hannan Mollah and which is a part of my constituency, three children died only day before yesterday only because of the wrong method of application of polio vaccine. I have brought to the notice of the hon. Prime Minister about the development aspect of this area. The hon. Prime Minister referred it to the Planning Commission. In spite of that, if something is not done due to leakage and non-cooperation of the bureaucracy of either the State or the Centre, the people cannot be made victims...*(Interruptions)* Sir, anybody who resides in West Bengal has to first reach Howrah station. He cannot cross Calcutta without crossing the Howrah Bridge. The entire population there is from Bihar and Uttar Pradesh. They were the victims. There is no drinking water. There is no place for them to stay.

13.07 hrs.

(Shri Nitish Kumar in the Chair)

The slums are in a very horrible condition. I have been arguing this point. It was not taken up seriously. Finally, I came to know that no package is being accepted by the West Bengal Government to be placed before the Planning Commission for special grant for the city of Howrah as in the case of Kanpur. It was assured earlier. A direction was given in writing that the

largest possible money for the slums should be spent for this city. It was given by Prof. Madhu Dandavate. But till this date not a single paisa was given to the slums. If this discrimination persists, what will be the role of the Members of Parliament to defend their constituencies? What will be the role of the political parties?

Sir, I demand the Government to take note of this and immediately take it up with the Planning Commission and the Ministry of Urban Development. This cannot continue for long. If this is not done, I tell you that the people of Bihar and Uttar Pradesh, who are part of my constituency and stay in that condition cannot tolerate. They conveyed a message that if the development package is not accepted and granted, they will stop the Rajdhani Express and the Rajdhani Express will not be allowed to move from Howrah station to Delhi. No train will be allowed to move...*(Interruptions)* This is not a matter to laugh at.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, more than 120 special trains reach Howrah. All the commuters use the city. In spite of that, the city does not get a single paisa from the Government of India and the Department of Urban Development. But everybody uses the city like anything. The people are being taken for granted. It cannot be continued like this.

Sir, can you dream of this situation? I will give you an example. I can show a video clipping. The poorest of the poor Muslims take water from the drain, boil it and then they drink it! There is no drinking water for them. I have been demanding that there should be clean water for them. We are all talking of secularism. We are defending the minorities. But the worst condition of the Muslims in the slums in India is in my constituency. Howrah. They have to drink the drain water by boiling it in a kettle. This is not a proper thing. I have drawn the attention of the hon. Prime Minister and the Ministry of Urban Development to this issue. There was not much support. This is being conducted on political reasons.

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH (Uluberia) : Sir, I entirely support what Shri Dasmunsi has said...*(Interruptions)* Rs. 300 crore development package for Howrah is lying with the Central Government. That also should be cleared...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI : Sir, only day before yesterday I have been directed by the Mayor of the city that he has no money and I should spend the quota of money from the M.Ps. Fund for this purpose. Is it possible to do this work with Rs. 70 lakh or Rs. one crore? This is being done as political discrimination. Is it the way that the Members of Parliament should be treated? The Government is silent there. The Government is keeping quiet. The people are crying.

I would like to inform that by 31st January if the package for Howrah is not announced, I will not allow

any train to move from Howrah to Delhi. Whatever be the consequences let the Government face them.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : How would have the trains troubled.

[English]

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI : Sir, it is the pain of the people. I will show you the video clipping.

[Translation]

Had you seen the dead bodies you would have shed tears. No medicines are available for treatment of the children. The Centre is not responding inspite of several demands for funds. It is not the right way. Whether it is not an injustice.

[English]

(Interruptions). The West Bengal Government should accept it as soon as possible. This is my request.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Only Mr. Mahendra Kumar's speech will go on record. (Interruptions)

VAIDYA DAU DAYAL JOSHI (Kota) : Sir, I did not get even a single opportunity to speak in this session.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Did you give a notice for that.

VAIDYA DAU DAYAL JOSHI : Yes Sir, I have given a notice for this purpose.

MR. CHAIRMAN : O.K. it is alright. Every one should get an opportunity... (Interruptions) There is a provision for giving a notice in the morning but not in the evening.

SHRI MAHENDRA KARMA (Bustar) : Mr. Chairman Sir, I would like to draw the attention of honourable Health Minister through you. Whokhard Limited is a multinational company which is manufacturing life saving drugs under I.V. infusion. Here, we have an example of the manufacturing of drugs by the multinational companies in a careless manner. Insects, worms and fungus were found in the medicines produced under DNS batch 95616 it's manufacturing date was 95 where at it's expiry date was 98. In other cases the date of manufacturing was April 96 and in another case year 96 only where as the expiry date of all these medicines was 99. Fungus were found in all these medicines... (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : You are not allowed to put all these things here in the House.

[English]

SHRI MAHENDRA KARMA : I have already mentioned about it in my notice.

[Translation]

I would like to put these things on the table of the House.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You are not supposed to put all these bottles on the table of this House. only documents should be placed here

SHRI MAHENDRA KARMA : Mr. Chairman Sir these medicines have been manufactured in a time difference of two three months. We can very well guess the intention of these multinational companies by the incident of fungus and ants being available in the medicines manufactured by them and it is evident from this fact that profit earning is the only motive of these companies. Sir, I would request you to get the licence of these companies cancelled and these multinational companies should not be given responsibility or permission for manufacturing of life saving drugs. Such a responsible job should be given to only Indian companies and this should be done only after proper examination and for examination. (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : You please put it down.

SHRI MAHENDRA KARMA : I want to put it on the table of the House otherwise there would not be any proof. I am speaking on... (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : You may please display all these things before the Minister and the Government should also take note of it as it is a serious matter. Please take your seat.

VAIDYA DAU DAYAL JOSHI : Honourable Chairman Sir, from the last session I have been taking about the Kota based Udyog Instrumentation Limited of the Central Government. I am going to know that their problem has not been resolved and the employees are not getting their salaries for the past three months. Today nearly 25 thousand dependents of these three thousand and five hundred employees are in the State of dying due of hunger. I request time and again, to arrange working capital and bank loan for them. I met the honourable Minister personally but I am sorry even their genuine demand could not be met. It was a leading company with better output but certain financial mishandling and inability of higher officials were responsible for this company's running in loss where at this leading industry was running efficiently for the past three years.

The Government is not trying in anyway for overcoming the losses incurred by this company. It is my humble request to the honourable Minister for industry, through you, regarding his immediate action for revival of this good company and to orders the banks to arrange working capital for this company. The Government have put an effort to write off millions of rupees in the bad debt and in the same way the amount of loss incurred by this industry should also be written off.

*SHRI VEERABHADRAM THMMINENI (Khammam) :

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the present Government headed by Shri H.D. Deve Gowda claims to represent the farming community and other poorer sections of the society. Hon. Prime Minister claims himself to be a humble farmer. Sir, this Government should take certain steps to safeguard the interests of the farmers.

The cotton growers in the country are passing through a crisis today. They are facing too many problems. The reason is fast approaching. Cotton is now being grown in 80 lakhs of hectares. The cost of inputs has gone up manifold. Fertilizers, insecticides and seeds are now costing more. In spite of all these odds cotton growers have tried their best to raise the crop. But unfortunately, due to heavy rains the crop got either washed away or severely damaged. The ruling price of cotton at present is around Rs. 1700 or at the most Rs. 1800 per quintal. With this price, the cotton growers cannot even expect to get back the amount they had spent. It is too inadequate. The price should be at least Rs. 2500 to be remunerative. If the growers do not get at least Rs. 2500 as the minimum support price, it becomes difficult for them to survive. The only solution to the problem is allowing cotton exports. The Government should at once initiate measures to export cotton. In the Common Minimum Programme, it was assured that the United Front Government would take necessary steps to protect the interests of farmers. Sir, this is the right time to export cotton. The production of cotton is expected to be low this year in the cotton producing countries. The total production of cotton in the world was 19.9 million tonnes in 1995-96 and this year it is expected to go down by 2 million tonnes. It is expected to be around 18 million tonnes. That is why there is a golden opportunity to export our cotton of other countries at reasonably better prices. The production has fallen in the cotton producing countries like Pakistan, Uzbekistan and United States of America. Similarly, the demand in countries like Taiwan, South Korea and Indonesia. There is going to be a big gap between demand and supply. Only Australia and India are capable of meeting this growing demand world over. Indian cotton can fetch 80 to 85 cents per pound. We have the required surplus stocks of cotton to meet the export demands. We have produced 156 lakhs of bales of cotton in the past. This year the production is expected to touch 165 lakhs of bales. So, 10 to 15 lakhs of bales of cotton would be available for export between January to March. If the Government exports cotton, it can create better market for the cotton growers. The cotton growers can expect to get better prices for their produce. The State-owned CCI should enter the market and purchase cotton from the growers by offering them remunerative prices. Sir, there is one obstacle for exporting of cotton. There is a provision called selective

* Translation of the speech originally delivered in Telugu.

prices control system and because of this the exporters and not getting loans immediately. This provision should be amended to benefit of the cotton growers.

I once again request the Government to initiate exports of cotton and take all the steps necessary to offer remunerative prices to the cotton growers in the country.

Thanking you, Sir, for providing me an opportunity. I conclude.

[English]

SHRI M. KAMALUDDIN AHMED (Hanankonda): Mr. Chairman, Sir, incidentally the matter which I want to raise is also the same as that of the previous speaker.

Sir, cotton being one of the foremost crops in Andhra Pradesh and particularly in my constituency, it is of prime importance to the farmers. Unfortunately, the prices of cotton have been an object for speculation and exploitation of the farmers by the unscrupulous traders. After the produce is brought to the market, the traders play tricks with the illiterate farmers and exploit them.

The Government agency, that is, the Cotton Corporation of India has to play the role of an agency for price support. It has not been of great help to the farmers in recent years. The delay in opening the purchase centres and refusal to buy the produce brought by the farmers has caused great hardship to the farmers. Though this irregular activity is going on for some years, this year it has become the main cause for the steep fall in the prices of cotton in Warangal District of Andhra Pradesh. The farmers are very distressed. They have to be relieved of their troubles and they have to be protected by the Government of India from the exploitation of the traders, as cotton is the commodity of control and monitoring by the Central Government.

I request the Government of India, through you, to direct the Cotton Corporation of India to go in a big way for the purchase of cotton in Warangal District of Andhra Pradesh and ensure remunerative prices to the poor farmers.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY (Ranchi) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to draw your attention towards Vananchal region. Due to no rainfall during 'hithiya' drought like condition have prevailed in the whole of Vananchal region and many districts have been affected on account of this. In Ranchi, Western and Eastern Singhbhum, Dhanbad, Hazaribagh Palamau and Gumla blocks serious conditions have come up. Due to drought people are migrating from there. Even the cattle are not getting fodder and water. I would like to draw your attention to a condition of those blocks which I am

aware of. A drought like situation prevailed in the entire Vananchal region.

I would like to urge the Government to conduct a survey in those blocks where production of crop is only 30-40 percent and provide some relief there. I have know about Ichagarh, Chandel, Namdi, Sonahatu, Silli, Annagaraha, Khyari, Knake, Budmu, Rantu, Tamad, Bundu and Madar etc. blocks. In these blocks production of crops is only 30-40 percent. In addition to the above blocks and districts, survey should be conducted in rest of the blocks of Vananchal and relief work be started there so that migration of people can be checked.

[English]

SHRI SHIVANAND H. KOUJALGI (Belgaum) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Ministry of Surface Transport, Government of India, has called for the tenders for the construction of the by-pass road from Dharwar to Hubli under BOT. Though the tenders were called about one year back, they have not yet been accepted. On account of this, the Government would incur heavy loss as the estimated cost is increasing day-by-day. Moreover, the road from Dharwar to Hubli is heavily damaged. Hence, I request the Government, through you, that the Ministry of Surface Transport be directed to accept the tenders immediately so that the construction work could be started as early as possible.

[Translation]

DR. RAMKRISHNA KUSMARIA (Damoh) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, Bundelkhand region is backward even after 50 years of independence. There is no industry in the entire region whereas minerals deposits are in abundance there. This region has a large deposits of diamond and granite but due to non exploitation the minerals it is still backward. Similarly, it has a unique cultural, historical and archaeological heritage. The greatmen born in this region have contributed for security and integrity of the country and led this country from time to time. It is necessary to develop the entire region of Bundelkhand as a tourist spot to keep this historical heritage intact and safe.

Apart from Khajuraho, Orchha, Kalinger, in Banda, Sarang temple, Brahaspati Kund, Chaumukhnath, Siddhnath at Panna, Kalehan, Hanuman Bhata, Nanchand, at Pawai, Bandakpur, Kundalpur, Singargarh, Nohta, Raneh at Damoh and the birth place of the great poet Jagnik, Safaour where capital of Skandgupta and Chandragupta was situated and where swamy Ramdas ji had installed the shivling and statue of Hanuman ji in the presence of Chhatrapati Shivaji and he inspired and cooperated Maharaj Chhatrasal to establish swarajya, are places of tourist interest. Similarly, Bheemkund, Jatashankar, Dronagiri, Nainagiri in Chhatarpur district and Naitional Park of Panna attract

the tourists. Therefore, the Government should declare these places as a tourist spots for the development of Bundelkhand region and give co-operation for development of this region

SHRI BHANU PRATAP SINGH VARMA (Jalaun) : Mr. Chairman Sir, I would like to apprise you about the crisis of drinking water in Jhansi Mandal of Uttar Pradesh which is known as Bundelkhand. Sir, the Government of Uttar Pradesh has issued a new order on 24.11.1996 for Jhansi and Bundelkhand region to collect water tax on enhanced rates in all districts of Jhansi Mandal. There is a great resentment among the people of Bundelkhand due to this order and as a result thereof poor people are getting their water connections cut. I would like to urge upon the Central Government to withdraw the order regarding increased rates of water tax so that the people of Jhansi mandal can have a sign of relief.

[English]

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH : Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the House to a serious problem. This issue is being raised here for the last fifteen to twenty years. You know, Sir, that Bengali is the language which brought the honour of Nobel Prize, and it is the language in which the National Song and the National Anthem were written. If somebody speaks in that language, they are being termed as foreigners! This is a shame on this country. I am talking about this with a heavy heart. You will be surprised to know that I am aware of seven to eight such cases.

Sir, in Mumbai city, particularly in the slum areas, whenever somebody speaks in the Bengali language, the Special Police are going there and catching them as Bangladeshis or foreigners. Neither their passport nor the voter's identity card is being accepted by them. They are extracting Rs. 500 to Rs. 3,000 for releasing them. What is this? We are living in India and it is a free country. For how many years should the Bengali speaking people suffer like this? Bengalis are living in Ahmedabad and in many other cities.

In Mumbai, I can cite the cases of Noorjehan Bibi and Zana Abdul Razak. Even their passports have not been accepted as proof of their citizenship, and they are being taken into custody. These people have come from Gorakhpur, Bihar and West Bengal. They are being caught as Bangladeshis. Even some Tamil speaking people were caught and even though they spoke in Tamil, they were not released. They were branded as Bangladeshis! what is this? We know that foreigners should not have any right to stay in this country. But if they are Muslims, they are invariably being dragged out as Bangladeshis. This is a serious matter. It is a shame on the Shiv Sena. They have not only beaten the editor of a newspaper but they are also beating the

people. They are doing these types of things and the minority people and the Bengali speaking people are being dragged out as Bangladeshis...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE (Mumbai South-Central) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, this is wrong. This House is being mislead. This has never happened. This is wrong...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now, you have mentioned whatever you wanted to mention. Please take your seat now. What can be done during Zero Hour?

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Prof. Rita Verma.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Only that will be go on record whatever Prof. Rita Verma speaks.

(Interruptions)

PROF. RITA VERMA (Dhanbad) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the House towards this fact that India and Bangladesh have signed an agreement for sharing of Ganga water during recent past. We should resolve dispute with our neighbouring countries and improve our relations with them but the Government of West Bengal should also have bonafide intentions with its neighbouring States. Bihar and Uttar Pradesh will have to suffer heavy loss due to this agreement. We also want that there should be no shortage of water but for that the States like Bihar and Uttar Pradesh cannot be kept dried. So far as the matter of sharing water is concerned, West Bengal has always neglected Bihar. In 1975, when an agreement was signed for sharing of water of Damodar river, which is the main reason for shortage of water in the Vananchal region, it was said that there is 34 thousand cusec feet water in the river and West Bengal needs 30 thousand cusec feet water. Therefore, after taking 30 thousand cusec ft. water to West Bengal should have to provide remaining water to Bihar. But the Government is continuously neglecting Bihar. There is 34 thousand cusec feet water available out of which 30 thousand cusec feet water is being taken by West Bengal and only four thousand cusec feet water is being given to Bihar. This is the main reason of drought in the Vananchal region. We are experiencing acute shortage of water and our crops are drying up for want of water. Mr. Chairman, Sir, as per the report of new Irrigation Commission, there is 45 thousand cusec feet water

available in Damodar river. Therefore sharing of water of Damodar river should be made again and West Bengal should have bonafide intentions for Bihar as it is having with Bangladesh. I would also like to say that our colleagues from West Bengal will also have bonafide intentions in this regard...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : I cannot compel the Government to react thereon.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : You have raised the issue and the Government has heard it.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : I have not called you. I have called Shri E. Ahmed.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA) : Sir, the Government has taken note of the feelings which have been expressed by Shri Hannan Mollah.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mr. Ramashraya, you get time everyday. Please sit patiently.

[English]

SHRI E. AHAMED (Manjeri) : Mr. Chairman, may I bring to the notice of the Government the grievances of our Indians living in foreign countries? Many of our Indian workers are eking their livelihood in the Gulf countries and the only mode of transport is the airline. Air India is earning substantial revenue from our Indians living abroad. But unfortunately Air India is always hiking the airfare according to its whims and fancies. Only on December 15 last, Air India had decided to hike the airfare from Qatar to India. After Air India had decided to hike the airfare from Qatar to India, all other international airlines also followed suit. I do not know why Air India is taking initiative to get more money from Indian nationals coming to India. At present, this is only from the Gulf countries like Qatar. Once it is started there is a small country like Qatar, from other countries like the UAE, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and everywhere also this airfare will be hiked. I would like to say that more than 80 per cent of the Indian population there, are living as labourers and their employers are not footing their bill for the airfare. Therefore, they are to pay from their own pocket. This unilateral, arbitrary and unacceptable decision of Air India is putting Indians living in Gulf countries to great hardship and difficulties.

Therefore, I urge upon the Government to instruct Air India to reconsider this unilateral and arbitrary decision to hike the air fare from Qatar to India. Thank you.

[Translation]

SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT (BACHDA (Almora) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, around three thousand labourers have been retrenched in the Forest Department during the last years in Uttarakhand region which also includes the employees of Forest Corporation who have been continuously serving in the Forest Development since the last 15-20 years. An agitation is going against the retrenchment of these labourers, they are staging relay fast and fast unto death. All of them are poor labourers and due to retrenchment they are on the verge of starvation. Not only this, around 2000 labourers of Water Corporation have been retrenched on the pretext that the Corporation does not have any funds to give them salary. Thus, due to retrenchment of 5000 labourers of Forest Department, Forest Corporation and Water Corporation of Uttar Pradesh and their families are on the verge of starvation. On the one hand, the Government like of providing security and social justice to the labourers but on the other hand, labourers are being retrenched in Uttaranchal region. I had raised this issue yesterday also and the hon'ble Minister of Parliamentary Affairs has also noticed this issue. I want that the Government should intervene in this matter immediately as there is President's rule in Uttar Pradesh at present and how long it can continue but I want that the Government should issue necessary directions in this regard to save the labourers from starvation there. All these labourers had been working for the last 10 to 15 years on the wages of Rs. 35/- per day. I urge upon Government that their outstanding wages should be paid without any delay and action be taken to reinstate them.

SHRI NIHAL CHAND CHAUHAN (Sri Ganganagar) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to thank you for giving me an opportunity to raise the voice of lakhs of farmers of my constituency in this House. In my Parliamentary constituency Sri Ganganagar, on Indo-Pak border there are such areas like Tibbi, Rawatson, Pilibaga Tehsil Headquarter where dampness has developed in the entire land of the farmers due to which life of the farmers is ruining. The houses of farmers have submerged in water. The Govt. of Rajasthan has provided an amount of Rs. eight crore for this problem but it is not sufficient. I urge upon the Government that an amount of Rs. 50 crore may be provided to the Government of Rajasthan without any delay to save the farmers of my constituency so that dampness in land can be checked and water can be collected at one place.

SHRI TILAK RAJ SINGH (Sidhi) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, first of all, I would like to thank you as you have given me an opportunity to raise my point in the House. Due to uncertainty of monsoon, Kharif and Rabi crops have been badly affected during this year in the entire Sidhi district of Madhya Pradesh. The people of several Tehsils

like Churhat, Rampur Naikin, Singhawal, Devson, Gopadvatas etc. of Sidhi district are migrating to Bihar and Uttar Pradesh to earn their livelihood. I would like to submit the Government to declare Sidhi district as famine affected district and relief work should be started there. Famine affected people may be given employment immediately and instructions should be issued to the State Government to waive of the land revenue of the farmers of Sidhi district.

[English]

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI (Deogarh) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, as you are aware, we are on the threshold of the Ninth Five Year Plan. In spite of the eight Five Year Plans having been implemented so far covering a period of more than four decades, the very noble purpose underlying the planning process, that is, elimination of poverty and regional imbalance, has not been achieved to our satisfaction.

On the other hand, the regional imbalance is on the increase. There is more and more poverty in some States like Bihar and Orissa. Because of the inability of certain States to raise required internal resources, even such States are not able to avail of the Plan outlay fixed by the Planning Commission and the Government of India. This is a very funny and tragic situation obtaining in our country. National unity is much more needed for our country. In fact, it is threatened. Unless poverty is eradicated and growing regional imbalance is contained, this cannot be done. We are on the threshold of the Ninth Five Year Plan and last evening, as reported in the Press, the Cabinet has considered the 9th Draft Plan Approach Paper. Parliament being supreme and sovereign, it is essential that this Approach Paper is discussed in this House before finalisation of our Plan by the Government of India and the Planning Commission. It is very essential that this House should discuss different aspects relating to the Approach Paper of the Ninth Plan. This way, we will get an opportunity to express our views. That would also help the Government to finalise the Plan, in right perspective. Since the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs is present here, I would request the hon. Minister to see that this is debated in Parliament.

DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA (Lakhimpur) : I want to draw the attention of the House about the recent meeting convened by the Minister of Agriculture which was convened for identifying low productivity areas in the country in terms of agricultural output. It is unfortunate that the map presented by the Expert Committee in that meeting, did not contain the North-Eastern region.

You know, the North-Eastern region is an economically backward area. This is also industrially backward because of lack of adequate infrastructural facilities. But unfortunately, the map which was provided

by the Committee headed by an eminent agricultural scientist Dr. M.S. Swaminathan, did not show the North-Eastern region. It was missing from that. I request the hon. Speaker to make an immediate inquiry to know why this type of indifference was shown. It was done by the Expert Committee who are responsible for making the perspective planning for the entire country.

SHRI A.C. JOS (Idukki) : I have also given a notice but I do not find my name.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You will have to get it approved.

SHRI DWARKA NATH DAS (Karimganj) : Sir, Hailakandi sub-post office of Hailakandi district of Assam remains neglected for years together. There has been a shortage of staff for the last five or six years. It depends on the Silchar post office of Cachchar district for its whole financial affairs. Hailakandi district is one of the districts of my constituency Karimganj (SC). It has three MLA segments. It has got at least five lakhs of people and only a sub-post office cannot fulfil the aspirations of five lakh people.

Sir, I have tried my best through Zero Hour, through Matters Under Rule 377 and through other correspondents to make this sub post office as one post office but till date, there has been no effect.

So, I urge upon the Government, particularly, the Ministry of Communications to kindly look into the matter and update the sub post office of Hailakandi as a post office at a very early date so that the aspirations of five lakh people of that area could be fulfilled.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMASHRAYA PRASAD SINGH (Jahanabad) : Hon. Chairman, Sir, for last many days I was trying to raise this matter in zero hour. I thanks you for giving me time to speak. First of all I want to say that in one region of Our Prime Minister who has been called the son of soil.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You have put up about Scheduled caste...

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Two youths have been killed in your constituency, you have given notice about that.

SHRI RAMASHRAYA PRASAD SINGH : I am saying the same thing that he has been called son of soil and in Jahanabad constituency in Bihar poor Harijan people had been murdered by the landlords.

MR. CHAIRMAN : This matter relates to your State.

SHRI RAMASHRAYA PRASAD SINGH : This is not the matter of State. This is the matter of Harijan.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Not Harijan you say Scheduled Caste.

SHRI RAMASHRAYA PRASAD SINGH : You please listen with patience as to what is happening. You belong to Bihar. You are living near our border. The question is that there is a Police Station in Dihori village. Two youth of Dihori math have been murdered by kidnapping them from their houses on 15th. They have been murdered after involving them in the false case of theft. I would like to submit that such murders have been committing there continuously. Some times ago, a 24 years old youth, Arjun Kahar was caught and his throat had been chopped in that village another youth Raja was also murdered there. DLP Saurabh Kumar is behind these murders. He has filled the case after getting money from landlords. I would like to submit that both the youth were our supporters that is why they had been murdered. They did not want to be destroyed by these landlords. They were demanding their wages both the youth were termed as a leader by these landlords and they were murdered. I demand from the Govt. of India that Rupees two lakh should be given to the parents of the youth as a compensation and murderers should be punished because such type of murders are being committing in connivance with the Police. With these words I conclude.

SHRI SOHAN BEER : I would like to draw your attention towards the power pilferage in Uttar Pradesh...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Hazarika, you will get a chance to raise your issue if your name is there in the list. But then, you will have to keep patience.

SHRI A.C. JOS : Sir, I also want to raise a very important issue.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Jos, how will you get a chance when your name is not there in the list?

SHRI A.C. JOS : Sir, I have also given a notice.

MR. CHAIRMAN : If you had given a notice, it would not have been accepted.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Jos, do not waste time and now please sit down.

[Translation]

SHRI SOHAN BEER : Mr. Chairman Sir, country's 70 percent population are rural and there is no power in the villages from 7 P.M. to 7 A.M. There is no power at the time of milching the cattles due to which people feel inconvenience in milching the cattles. I would like to say that power supply should be maintained in villages from 7.00 P.M. to 7.00 A.M. The second point is that the transformers of the farmers have burnt. They have to wait upto six months for their replacement. You should fix a time limit (4-5 days) for the replacement of the burnt transformers. The officers in the electricity

department are giving contract of transformers to their relations due to which inferior transformers are being supplied. This should be inquired into that they made it of good quality. Govt. officers, the factories, are pilferaging the power at large scale. If it could be checked, the farmers may get regular power supply. I would like to say through you that Government should check the pilferaging of power so that power could be supplied regularly in the villages.

[English]

DR. B.N. REDDY (Miryalguda) : I would like to draw the attention of the Government, particularly that of the Hom Minister, to the pending cases of Hyderabad, Telangana freedom fighters. For a long time thousands of cases have not been cleared. These are the people who are genuine freedom fighters, who are responsible for the Independence of this country. But they are being neglected. Even the courts have given clearance and asked the Government to clear these cases. About two thousand cases are still pending and even though some of them are already sanctioned, still the Government is not paying them scholarship, pension, etc., which are supposed to be given to them.

I would therefore request you to direct the Government to immediately decide the cases of these freedom fighters and do the needful.

[Translation]

PROF. OM PAL SINGH 'NIDAR' (Jalesar) : Mr. Chairman Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Govt. towards the Delhi Airport Authority of India under which there is a workshop of construction and Development unit whose 150 officers and employees are waiting for promotion since last three years. Unfortunately, the Chairman of Delhi Airport Authority...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : You have given your notice about SAIL but you are talking about Airport Authority.

PROF. OM PAL SINGH 'NIDAR' : This is same which I am talking...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : You are raising the matter of promotion of the officers. You should write a letter for that.

PROF. OM PAL SINGH 'NIDAR' : This matter has to be raised because three years have passed. The Chairman and Director have withhold the promotion of the staff because his close one is not qualified.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The matter of promotion etc. can not be raised here. You should raised this matter by another mean...(Interruptions)

PROF. OM PAL SINGH 'NIDAR' : It is the not the matter of a particular State, District, and a village...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : It's all right. You write a letter...(Interruptions)

SHRI VIJAY GOEL (Sadar-Delhi) : Mr. Chairman. Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards a very important subject. The existence of the paper Mills in the public and private sector is in danger. Many mills have been closed and many others are on the verge of closure. The reason is the large scale import of newsprint. I am not against the import of newsprint. But if newsprint will be imported at cheaper rates. Our local paper mills will be ruined. During April 1996 to September 1996, 2.25 lakh tonne paper was imported and not only the newsprint was imported but on the pretext of this many other types or papers are also being imported, as a result of this the existence of our local paper mills is bleak. The Govt. should encourage those indigeneous mills by allowing concessions like excise duty etc. which have increased their production many times during the last two years so that they may provide the more and more newsprint in their country.

This relates to demand and supply. If newsprint is available in abundance in our country then why more and more foreign exchange is being wasted on the import to the newsprint. I would like to submit that even Germany and countries of European Community centre allow import according to their demand and supply.

So, atleast, I am drawing the attention of the Government towards the two points. Whatever import of the newsprint is being made it should be only for the actual user. There was this policy in the country upto April 1995 that only actual user should be allowed to import. If newsprint is imported for the trading purpose, the condition of the paper mills will be worsened. There is too much news stock in paper mills today. The Public Undertakings like H.P.C., Tamilnadu or Mysore Paper mill, are also facing difficulties and there mills are on the verge of closure I want to bring to the notice of the Govt. these facts.

[English]

SHRI P. KODANDA RAMAIAH : Mr. Chairman. Sir, on the 16th December, there was a report in *The Indian Express* on the front page, which said that a senior officer of the Intelligence Bureau was asked to quit service, was asked to put in his papers. The reasons given for forcing him to put in his papers were that he was seen hobnobbing with the personnel of some other foreign Mission and that his *bona fides* as regards counter-intelligence were suspect.

The officer belongs to the 1964 batch of IPS and he is rated very high in the Government service. His name has been empanelled for being appointed as an

Additional Secretary in the Government of India or as a Director General of Police in the regular Police Department.

There have been two versions. His version has also been published in *The Indian Express*. He has stated that he has met those people after informing his bosses that he was going to do certain duties which were assigned to him. In spite of that, he has been directed to put in his papers and, accordingly, he has put in his papers.

Sir, there are two versions about this matter and this is a very sensitive matter affecting the security of the country. The officer concerned gave his version and we do not know what the official version is. Yesterday's *Times of India* carried an editorial saying that such matters should not be left to the discretion of an individual officer and that this matter requires a thorough probe. The editorial even suggested that there should be a committee comprising of a retired Director of the CBI, a retired Director of the Intelligence Bureau and a retired Secretary of the Research and Analysis Wing. These three persons should constitute a committee and they must probe deep into allegations or whatever information they have got. Then only, some action has to be taken against the officer.

Now, this officer has lost the job and he has been allegedly forced to quit the job. It is time the Government took note of the importance of the matter. Before they accept the papers of the officer, they must constitute a committee and probe into the matter.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You should not raise issues relating to any officer. These issues are not raised here.

(Interruptions)

SHRI P. KODANDA RAMAIAH : I beg your pardon, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I said that such issues were not raised here.

SHRI P. KODANDA RAMAIAH : Sir, this is a matter concerning the security of the nation; this is not a matter concerning an individual.

MR. CHAIRMAN : An act of an officer of the Government or of Government agency is not discussed here.

SHRI P. KODANDA RAMAIAH : Sir, this might affect the intelligence part of the work.

[Translation]

SHRI ASHOK ARGAL (Morena) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the farmers of Morena district of Madhya Pradesh are not getting adequate electricity supply. They are facing a lot of difficulty in agriculture. The farmers are called

the 'Annadata' but when they are not getting electricity what will they produce and supply to the people. I urge the Government to provide electricity supply for 18 hours in a day to the farmers. Besides, there is no adequate arrangements of drinking water in the city also. Therefore, it is my earnest request to the Central Government to provide electricity and water in this area.

SHRI NAND KUMAR SINGH CHAUHAN (Khandwa) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I had also given a notice on this issue.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please speak.

SHRI NAND KUMAR SINGH CHAUHAN : The farmers of Madhya Pradesh are not getting adequate electricity supply and as a result thereof in about one lakh acres of land wheat and Gram crop is about to perish there. The farmers get power supply during the night and that too only for four-five hours. The farmers have to get up in the dead of the night in shivering cold to irrigate their fields. Lakhs of farmers of Madhya Pradesh are facing financial crisis as a result of power crisis in the State. There will be shortfall of Lakhs of quintals of wheat and Gram crops in future as a result of this. The plight of the farmers is miserable and this would further result in the collapse of the economy of the country. The Central Government should intervene in this matter and provide adequate power supply to the farmers of Madhya Pradesh.

14.00 hrs.

The Central Government should also make arrangements for additional power supply to Madhya Pradesh so that power could be made available for irrigation purpose.

[English]

SHRI ISWAR PRASANNA HAZARIKA (Tezpur) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Government to a highly sensitive issue agitating the minds of the people of Assam. The Ethnic clashes took place during May in Kokrajhar District of Assam. As a result about three lakh people have become destitutes and two hundred people have died. They have been accommodated in a large number of camps. Out of those who were accommodated in the refugee camps, only a few had returned to their homes.

Even now, one and a half lakh people are languishing in the refugee camps of Kokrajhar District. It requires about Rs. 17 lakh a day to feed these people. Already, the Government of Assam have spent about Rs. 20 crore. We find that the Central Government is totally callous and indifferent towards the plight of these 1,50,000 tribal people living in squalor and filth. Deaths are taking place daily due to paucity of medicines and proper food is not being provided.

At the same time, the State Government has signally failed to create a climate conducive for all these people to return to their villages. No proper security arrangements have been made and no rehabilitation measures have been taken. This is a very serious issue. We spend a lot of time in this House on matters affecting one or two or three people. But here is an issue which affects 1,50,000 people. This is a fit case to be discussed separately on its own under Rule 193. Although it is a matter that deserves to be considered in greater detail, I know that you will give me only two minutes.

Therefore, I urge upon the Central Government to provide an outright grant to the State Government so that proper food, clothing and medicines could be provided to the refugees. The Centre should assist the State Government in improving the security environment so that these people could return to their own villages as soon as possible.

14.03 hrs.

(Mr. Speaker in the Chair)

There has been no military deployment in that area. There are, of course, 38 companies of Central Security Forces which are totally inadequate. The Army has been deployed in other parts of the State, but not in this part for reasons best known to the Government. I think army should be deployed in the affected areas and a situation should be created where these people would feel safe to return to their villages.

Several rehabilitation measures have to be taken urgently. Otherwise, these people would die away in the Camps. Therefore, I seek your indulgence in directing the Government to at least send a Minister to visit the camps in the area. It is a shame and a disgraceful conduct on the part of the Government that not a single Minister has bothered to visit the State of Assam to see the plight of the refugees languishing in the camps in Kokrajhar District for seven months.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMSHAKAL (Robertsganj) : Hon'ble Speaker Sir, there are three cement factories - Dala, Cheenar and Churak are being run by U.P. Government in my constituency. Labourers in these factories has not been paid their salaries that is why they are on strike. And new scales also not been given to them. These labourers are on the verge of starvation. In these factories scams of crores of rupees has taken place and management is involved in it. Therefore, all three factories are going to close down soon. I submit that three months salary should be given to these workers and new pay scales should also be implemented. Besides this the Central Government should assist in running these factories smoothly by providing adequate funds.

*SHRI K.S. RAYADU (Narasapur) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you I invite the attention of the Central Government towards the devastation which has totally destroyed the State of Andhra Pradesh during the recent cyclone. The distinguished leaders of the various political parties have visited the cyclone hit areas personally and thus have to first hand information regarding the damage that has ruined the State. The Hon. Prime Minister and also Hon. Leader of Opposition were moved to tears when they visited the cyclone affected areas. The Hon. Prime Minister has declared it as a national calamity. The State Government has submitted a detailed Report regarding losses suffered which are to the tune of Rs. 6000 crores. While replying to the debate on the floor of the House on 27th of November, Hon. Prime Minister has stated that the Andhra Pradesh Government has submitted a memorandum to the Centre on the losses and the Central Government would soon be deputing a study team to assess the damage. He further stated that the Central Government can extend assistance only after the receipt of the Central team's Report. It is nearly a month since the promise was made by the Central Government. The year 1996 would soon be over and we would be entering 1997. It is really unfortunate that the people who have been subjected to nature's worst fury were kept waiting for the required assistance for their survival for such a long time.

I request the Government to make a statement regarding the likely time by which the study team would submit its report, and the Government's reaction thereto, and the quantum and nature of assistance it would render to the State Government. Since tomorrow is the last day of the current winter session of Lok Sabha, I demand that the statement may please be made before the session is over.

I thank you, Sir, for providing me an opportunity to raise this most important issue concerning millions of cyclone victims in my State.

[English]

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : (Visakhapatnam) : I am happy that at last I have got an opportunity. Due to the recession, which is there in the shipping industry, the Hindustan Shipyard Company, which is a very prestigious and the first ship manufacturing company, is incurring heavy loss. Some 11 years back the management requested the Central Government for its restructuring so that the company is able to proceed. Unfortunately, till now the Government of India, the Ministry of Surface Transport has not taken any decision. The Hindustan Shipyard is a prestigious company and it has got a name in the world. This is in a bad shape now. If no action is taken by the Government of India to

Translation of the speech originally delivered in Telugu

restructure it or give special subsidy, the only ship making company in Vishakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh, will be closed and 20,000 workers will become unemployed. In the world it will create a bad image of the country. I would like to draw the attention of the Ministry of Surface Transport to take immediate action for its restructuring and also give subsidy so as to give it a new life. The Government should see to it that these 20,000 workers are not deprived of employment.

[Translation]

SHRI SURESH R. JADHAV (Parbhani) : Mr. Speaker Sir, the various political parties of the United Front had pledged in their respective manifestoes to mitigate the cruelty and excesses perpetrated on children. They had also stated to legislate in this matter so that the injustice and cruelty could be checked. Besides, it had also been announced to make available free and compulsory education to children upto the age of 14 years.

Recently the Govt. have announced that 6% of G.D.P. would be spent on education and the 50% of this increased allocation would be spent on primary education.

In our country more than 6 crore children are either child labour or bonded labour. These unfortunate and helpless children are leading a life of slavery in carpet, glass and other industries.

Will the Minister of Human Resource Development be pleased to State the policy adopted by the Government to free these 5.5 crore helpless and mute child labours and to check the excesses and cruelty being perpetrated on them and the provisions made for them in the current financial year and also in the forthcoming five year plan? How much money out of the fifty percent increased allocation meant to be spent on primary education, has been earmarked in the current budget to liberate, rehabilitate and educate the child labourers and also the children who are working as bonded labourers. What is the policy of the Government regarding the enacting stringent laws to eradicate that child labour and bonded labour system prevalent in the country.

[English]

SRI RAM NAIK (Mumbai North) : Sir, I am on a point of information. You have kindly said that the Statement is being delayed as it is being typed and it will take some time. I would like to know whether the Prime Minister will also be present in the House at that time or not. It is desirable that the Prime Minister is there in the House because that Statement is very important and if the Prime Minister is here, he can reply to some of the important issues which may come out of that statement. So, it will be better if the Prime Minister is present in the House. The Prime Minister should be requested to be present in the House at that time.

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA : The Prime Minister will be in the other House. The Home Minister will be making the Statement here and at that time the Prime Minister will be in Rajya Sabha.

SHRI RAM NAIK : It is an important issue. He can be asked to be present here.

MR. SPEAKER : If by that time he finishes there, he can come here.

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA : There is no problem in that. If he finishes there, he can come here.

[Translation]

SHRI RUP CHAND MURMU (Jhadugram) : Hon'ble Speaker Sir, I want to draw the attention of the Government to the santhali language. The santhali language is one of the rich languages of India. More than 60 lakhs people of India speak and interact in Santhali language. Not only the people of Santhal community but also those of other communities speak this language. This language holds second place in West Bengal and third in Orissa. In Bihar it comes after Hindi Maithili and Bhojpuri. It holds eighteenth position in India. Sir, Santhali language is not only a national language but also a international language. Santhali language is spoken and understood even in Nepal, Bhootan and Bangladesh. This language has its own script which is a scientifically developed script and is called ALCHIKI. The people of Santhal community have unanimously adopted this language.

Sir, Government of West Bengal have accepted this ALCHIKI script in 1979. In Bihar it is being taught for certificate course up to the level of post graduation in Ranchi and Bhagalpur Universities. Every year more than 75 books on various subjects and more than 150 journals/magazines are published in this language. More than 300 writers, poets and dramatists are engaged in this work. But it is a matter of great concern that it has not been accorded any place in Sahitya Academy. It has also not been recognise by the Constitution. I urge the Government that to include Santhali language in 8th Schedule of Constitution of India immediately.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Today's notices will be valid for tomorrow also. Those members who could not speak today will get their chance tomorrow. They do not have to give a separate notice. I have got a list and as per that list whoever could not speak today will get this chance tomorrow.

[Translation]

PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA (Patiala) : Mr. Speaker Sir, Please give a chance to those who will be absent tomorrow. Mr. Speaker Sir, it is very important.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Once the Speaker gives a ruling, you should not rise like that. It is not correct.

14.15 hrs.

[English]

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

MR. SPEAKER : We shall now take up matters under Rule 377.

[Translation]

(i) Need to take effective Steps to check increasing espionage activities in Border Areas of Bihar.

SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH (Motihari) : The foreign espionage activities have been continuing for the last few years from border areas of Bihar adjoining Bangladesh and Nepal stretching from Champaran district to Kishanganj. This area has become the haven of spies operating there. During the last few years four Chinese spies has been apprehended at a place called Kakarmeth. In these very areas a French spy Muszu Raja and a Sri Lankan resident Sudhiya Delirga were held on charges of spying. Some Pakistani and Bangladeshi spies have been apprehended in Sondha Phulwari on Indo-Bangladesh border and Raxaul Meenamore Vergania Bahera, Baher etc. on Indo. Nepal border. Large amount of foreign exchange has been recovered from many spies and smugglers in these areas.

Sir, I request the Government to take stringent measures to check activities of foreign spies in the border areas of Bihar adjoining Nepal and Bangladesh. So that it may not become haven for them.

(ii) Need to drop the proposed merger of Guntakal Division with Bangalore as Headquarters in South West Zone

[English]

SHRI VENKATARAMI REDDY ANANTHA (Anantapur) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Guntakal Division was in the Southern Railways till 1977. After 1977, the Guntakal Division has been attached to the South Central Railways. This Division has been greatly instrumental for the progress of Rayalaseema region. Guntakal Division must be continued in South Central Railways in the interests of linguistic advantage, administration, topography and the larger interests of the people of Rayalaseema. The large interests of

Telugu people require the continuance of Guntakal Division in the South Central Railways. Apart from it, Dharmavaram-Hindupur section which is now under Bangalore Zone should be made part and parcel of Guntakal Division.

I urge upon the Government to drop the proposal of merger of Guntakal Division with Bangalore as Headquarters in the South West Zone to protect the interests of the people of this region.

[Translation]

(iii) Need to release adequate funds to Government of Uttar Pradesh for construction of Roads in dacoit infested areas of Banda district.

SHRI RAM SAJIVAN (Banda) : The Government of India had implemented a scheme of "the construction of roads in Special problem areas" for the construction of roads in the dacoit infested areas of Uttar Pradesh. This scheme had facilitated the construction of roads in some districts and helped in solving the dacoit problem. But the adequate amount was not allocated for the construction of roads in Banda district therefore roads were not constructed, as a result of which the dacoit problem continues to be grim in Banda district and the life of the common man is still facing the problems. During 1995-96 no fund was allocated by the centre and U.P. Government for the purpose and the construction work has come to a standstill.

The construction of roads is very essential in order to solve the dacoit problem of Banda district so that the police force may reach the remote villages, forest and hilly areas immediately and take action effectively. Therefore, this scheme should be implemented at the earliest.

The Central Government is requested to ask for revised proposals of roads from U.P. Government and after giving sanction it is also requested to release adequate fund. The State Government should be asked to sanction/allot its fifty percent share so that the construction work of roads may be geared up.

(iv) Need to amend Motor Vehicles Act, 1939 with a view to increase the loading capacity of heavy vehicles.

[Translation]

PROF PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA (Patiala) : Mr. Speaker Sir, whereas the percentage of the transportation of goods by roads in transportation sector has increased four folds during the last five decades the percentage of the transportation of goods by railways has decreased rapidly. But the development and expansion of roads have not taken place as per the needs of the country. That is why the juggernaut of

progress of the country has come to a standstill. On the one hand there is a proposal of increasing the capacity of transportation of goods in railway wagons, on the other the capacity of the trucks has been decreased. As a result, transportation is getting costlier. Heavy vehicles are being run on the roads but there is ban on the issuance of driving licences for heavy vehicles. My State Punjab is an example of this. Because of the setting up of heavy industries, big irrigation projects in the State and also transportation of foodgrains on a very large scale, there is a existing roads are not able to bear so much traffic. Therefore, I request the Central Government to take necessary amendments in Motor Vehicle Act to increase loading capacity of heavy vehicles.

(v) Need for early completion of Second Phase of Kollam bye pass in Kerala

[English]

SHRI N.K. PREMCHANDRAN (Quilon) : Kollam Bye pass in National Highway is a project included in the Eighth Five Year Plan. It has four phases. The first phase of the work from Mylakkad to Ayathil has been completed by spending more than nine crores of rupees. Unless the other phases are completed, the work is of no use.

Hence, I urge upon the Minister of Surface Transport to include the said work in the Ninth Five Year Plan and also to include the second phase of the said work in the next Annual Plan with utmost priority.

(vi) Need to Expedite Brahmaputra Valley Exploration Project in Assam

DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA (Lakhimpur) : The North Eastern Region of India is a reservoir of natural resources like coal, limestone, oil and natural gas. Due to lack of proper initiative to explore and utilize these resources during the last 50 years of Independence, the region remained underdeveloped. The people of Assam had to agitate for establishment of the existing toy refineries. Crude oil in the country was first discovered in Assam by the British and the first refinery was set up at Digboi, a century ago. Since then, the associated gas has been flared which is now worth more than three crores of rupees a day. It is unfortunate that not a single major industry based on natural gas was cleared by the Central Government. The Assam Gas Cracker Project and the Amguri Power Project has been delayed because of the fact that OIL and ONGC expressed inability to supply the committee quantity of gas despite the availability of a number of untrapped gas wells to explore. In addition, adequate investment was not made in Assam during the past few decades either to increase crude oil production or to preserve the flared gas and to trap the free gas. It is surprising that Petroleum Ministry is reluctant to invest in the domestic production of gas and oil in Assam at a time

when hundreds of crores of rupees are to be wasted in importing gas and oil through pipeline. The Brahmaputra Valley Exploration Project taken up during the Eighth Plan period was not implemented in its true earnest. As a consequence, there has been frequent hike in the prices of petroleum products in the country.

I, therefore, request the Central Government to expedite the Brahmaputra Valley Exploration Project and for taking urgent steps to trap free gas with adequate measures for preservation and for prevention of criminal flaring of gas in the interests of rapid industrialisation in the North Eastern India.

[Translation]

(vii) Need to Reopen closed Mills to Protect the Interests of Workers

PROF. OM PAL SINGH 'NIDAR' (Jalesar) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, today when the industries of our country are already passing through a transition period, Indian industries are badly affected due opening multinational companies in the country. Some prestigious industries, like Nepa Mills, Nepa Nagar in the field of newsprints and Hind lamps, Shikohabad in the field of lamps manufacturing are closed down. At both these places thousands of workers are on the verge of starvation. About 50 thousand families associated with these factories and industries are passing through very hard time. The future of the workers and their families associated with these industries is entirely in dark.

Therefore I would like to request the Union Government through you that in order to save the lives of these workers and their dependants, these big industries should be revived immediately.

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

Situation arising out of the Allahabad High Court Judgement Regarding Imposition of the President's Rule in Uttar Pradesh

14.26 hrs.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I wish to make a statement on the situation arising out of the High Court judgement regarding Imposition of the President's Rule in Uttar Pradesh.

The matter of imposition of President's rule in Uttar Pradesh consequent to a situation where no single party or combination of parties was able to secure

absolute majority required to form a Government has been extensively debated in both Houses of the Parliament and the consistent stand of the Government has been that it stands for democratic tradition and democratic values. The election to the Uttar Pradesh Legislative Assembly was held only with a view to providing a representative Government in the State and it was unfortunate that no party or alliance was in a position to form the Government. As has also been mentioned earlier the decision to impose the President's rule in the State was taken after great deliberations of over a week allowing enough time to come to some stand. It was only when the Governor felt that in view of the stance taken by different political parties, that no party or group was in a position to form a stable Government or garner support without unscrupulous means, that he took a decision to recommend imposition of President's rule.

In this context it may also be mentioned that the Legislative Assembly has been kept in a state of suspended animation in the hope that a Government with majority may emerge through understanding amongst various political parties and without recourse to undesirable means. The stand of the Government was vindicated by both Houses of the Parliament when it approved the resolution moved by the Government, seeking approval of the Proclamation issued by the President on the 17th October, 1996.

As the hon. Members are aware, various writ petitions were filed before the Lucknow bench of Allahabad High Court to challenge the Proclamation under article 356 (1) of the Constitution. The matters were first heard by a two-judge bench of the Allahabad High Court which gave conflicting judgements on 19th November, 1996. Following this judgement, the Chief Justice of Allahabad High Court appointed a full bench to hear the writ petition and the hearing commenced on 4th December, 1996.

The newly constituted bench of the Allahabad High Court has given a judgement today quashing the Proclamation issued by the President.

The Court has, however, also stated that their order would be effective only from the 26th December, 1996. But the Government has not yet received a copy of the judgement, which would need to be studied. But in this effort we require the cooperation of all the political parties to break the stalemate in the State.

[Translation]

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN (Mumbai-North East) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, this statement merely contain facts and that is all about it. The Government have not given their own statement. The High Court has given its judgement in which it has been mentioned that Article 356 should

be quashed and a popular Government should be formed there within five days. Five days time has been given to form the Government. Since Morning we have been expecting that the Hon'ble Minister of Home Affairs would make a statement but he has not mentioned anything in this regard in his statement.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (Hooghly) : He has said in this regard.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : What has he said?

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : He has said that effects are being made to form a popular Government there.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : This is a very unsatisfactory statement and it appears that the Government is still not taking it seriously. We demand that in pursuance of the operative part of this judgement the Government should start the process by asking the BJP to form the Government instead of going into details of the judgement.

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI (Allahabad) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the High Court has given its unanimous judgement to quash the Presidential proclamation. The Presidential proclamation was imposed on the recommendation of the Government. This means that the High Court has not accepted the arguments and facts given by the Governor. This throws light on two things. First, which is the Government in U.P. at present because the proclamation issued by President has been withdrawn this means that the Governor has no powers... (Interruptions) He has constitutional powers. The Governor had the powers which were delegated by the President to him through Presidential proclamation to govern U.P. but when the proclamation has been quashed then the Governor has no power to rule... (Interruptions) hence after the judgement of the High Court a legal Government should be formed in U.P. immediately... (Interruptions) it should be formed immediately... (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE (Dumdum) : You are going against the Court by denying those five days to the Government... (Interruptions) The Court has given the time till 26th and you want to deny that... (Interruptions)

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES (Nalanda) : Sir, I am on a point of order on a constitutional issue... (Interruptions)

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : You think that as of today you are a super force, that is the position... (Interruptions)

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : No, we are not. The question is that the Proclamation is void.

[Translation]

Please go through the constitution. The Court has stated that you are being given five days time to form the Government.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Joshi, you kindly conclude.

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : Sir, I am being interrupted. I need your protection.

[Translation]

The proclamation issued by the President under Article 356 has been quashed by the High Court. What will be its repercussions or consequences.

[English]

Has the Ministry of Law examined it?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA) : What is there to examine?...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : The High Court has given five days time to form the Government and initiate the process and it has quashed the proclamation made by the President. This extension has not been given because proclamation is valid.

They have given five days time to complete the formalities...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : Sir, I am on a point of order.

MR. SPEAKER : There is a point of order. Could you please tell me the rule?

[Translation]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like that the Minister of Home Affairs should put forth some fact relevant to the points raised on the floor to the House...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

The full Bench of the High Court has said that the ratification of President's rule by Parliament was unconstitutional. This is what the High Court has said. If you have got, tell me. The High Court has said that the ratification of the President's rule was unconstitutional.

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : I only started reading the Constitution. Before that I was interrupted. I was reading from the Constitution.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI (Jhansi) : There is no use to stand like this. Please listen.

[English]

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : Do you have the judgement?...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : I do not have the judgement. But I have the information...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : You have your information and you immediately go into this...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : Yes, I have the information. But I stand by what I am saying.

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : Let me ask whether the Minister of Home Affairs has this information or not.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : It is high time that the High Court had said it.

[Translation]

Mr. Speaker, Sir, please listen my point of order.

[English]

SHRI PRAMOTHES MUKHERJEE (Berhampore) (WB) : Parliament has the right to legislate the Proclamation. What my friend says is not correct...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : I have given the floor to him.

[Translation]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : Mr. Speaker, Sir, my point of order is that when the High Court has given its judgement that the motion passed by the Parliament is unconstitutional then it means that the President rule imposed in U.P. should be quashed at once...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI : Just apply your brain...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : This is what I am saying.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : I have still to get the judgement of the High Court but I have the information. I stand by my information. I am not misleading the House.

MR. SPEAKER : Why do you not listen to him? I will give my ruling.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please sit down. Shri George Fernandes has raised a point of order.

SHRI ANIL BASU (Arambagh) : Is it on the judgement of the High Court? What is it?

MR. SPEAKER : No, let us hear him. It is for me to give the ruling. Please be quick.

[Translation]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to say that at the time when this motion was introduced in this House most of us had said that Under Article 356 (5) the Parliament has no power to extend the time limit of President's rule beyond one year. The High Court has given its judgement that the decision of the Parliament is unconstitutional and it has no power to extend the time limit of President's rule beyond one year.

There are two points. Firstly, they have declared the line of action of the Government unconstitutional. This is not an ordinary thing. You are accountable to the Constitution. You have taken swear that you will rule according to the Constitution. It is the responsibility of the President, the Prime Minister or the Minister of Home Affairs. The Attorney General keeps a watch on them.

Therefore, I would like to know also who gave them this advice to interpret Article 356 (5) of the constitution because the High Court has condemned the action of the Parliament by declaring it unconstitutional. What does this mean for the Parliament and U.P. I want to say that when this judgement was delivered at 10.30 A.M. or so, the proclamation issued by the President is automatically quashed. Mr. Speaker, Sir, perhaps the Government is not aware that there is a point of order... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri George, you have made your point.

[Translation]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : My last point is that when it is clear that this act is unconstitutional, when the court had directed that a popular Government should be formed there within five days, this discussion is totally irrelevant. Our demand is that the steps should be taken to form a Government in a constitutional way. It should not be delayed further and the largest party should be invited to form the Government.

[English]

JUSTICE GUMAN LAL LODHA (Pali) : Mr. Speaker, Sir... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : We are not on Item No. 17, we are on the statement of the Minister.

JUSTICE GUMAN LAL LODHA : I want to supplement him, Sir, because it is a very important matter.

MR. SPEAKER : I have called Shri Fatmi now.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI (Darbhanga) : Hon'ble Shri George Fernandes has raised this point that how the President's rule was continued in U.P. for more than one year. I would like to state that for how many years the President rule was continued in Kashmir... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : No, it has no relevance.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I have overruled his point of order.

[Translation]

SHRI GULAM RASOOL KAR (Baramulla) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have no hesitation in saying that the Government uses Article 356 arbitrarily. I agree with opposition that Article 356 should not be used frequently or arbitrarily. The President's rule was imposed in Kashmir for seven years. The High Court has given its verdict in regard to this Article. The court has quashed the proclamation. Now it has to be seen that on what basis this proclamation has been quashed. What were the irregularities done while issuing this proclamation. This is a law and involves technicalities. The Government should amend it. The proclamation can be issued or a writ can be filed in the Supreme Court against it. The High Court has given its judgement and awarded death punishment to the guilty. Now the guilty has a right to move the Supreme Court against it. Anyhow now you please give your ruling in this regard.

[English]

SHRI JASWANT SINGH (Chittorgarh) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, there are three separate aspects of the issue with which we are seized, and I wish to make that distinction only so as to facilitate what we are engaged with at this moment. One of the issues is what is listed in today's Business under Item No. 17, which is a particular piece of legislation relating to the State of U.P.

To that we are yet to apply ourselves. The second aspect is this morning's judgement of the Allahabad High Court which has created a situation out of which we, with your permission, demanded a statement from the Government as to what their reaction is. That, Sir, is the third aspect that of the Government's reaction. The Government's reaction has to be above all, it has to be seized of and, I think, address itself to a very important pronouncement by the Allahabad High Court.

And here I appeal to the Government that the issue raised is of such a profound importance the second aspect, that if we find absence of even a recognition of that the Allahabad High Court has said? The Allahabad High Court has said that the decision taken by Parliament in respect of approving the proclamation of President's rule in the State of Uttar Pradesh is unconstitutional...(Interruptions)

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : They have said so!

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : This is a very serious matter. They have said so. It is a very serious matter.

Sir, I am not on Item Number 17. I am not on other aspects. I am on the aspect of the High Court of Allahabad saying that the decision by Parliament to validate the imposition of President's rule is not constitutional. This is a very serious matter. It was our expectation. I would be very happy...(Interruptions) I think the issue that has come up is really beyond the immediate party differences. I am frankly not surprised that my friends in the Left have come prepared after lunch to try and beat us down on the issue on which otherwise they agree...(Interruptions) They agree on it otherwise.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : Yes.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : I am very glad.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : Sir, as a piece of information we agree even without lunch.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : I am very glad that you are with us. I am very glad that you are with us on the issue of Article 356...(Interruptions) Are you with us or not on the issue of Article 356?

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : Always we had been - not with you. We never wanted that Article 356 should be imposed on any State for that matter.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : That is very good. That is what I wanted to know.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : But it was some very special circumstances under which it had to be done because you are trying to indulge in horse-trading without which you cannot form the Government...(Interruptions)

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : I think, you only underlined the point I am making.

MR. SPEAKER : I think you have made the point clear.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : Sir, the issue on which this House in principle is seized of is if the Allahabad High Court has said, as I believe it has said, that the decision of Parliament to approve of the proclamation of President's rule in the State of Uttar Pradesh is unconstitutional, then that is a very serious issue. It is

on that, that we expected a reaction from the Government. My good friend, Shri George Fernandes, when he says what we have, he was going to the other aspect. The other aspects which are the practical aspect is that if it is unconstitutional then the continuance of the Governor and all other things is unconstitutional. Those flow from that. But the centrality or the seriousness of the pronouncement has been completely omitted by the Government and it is the lack of that which is our complaint...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I will allow you.

(Interruptions)

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : Sir, please allow me to read so that it becomes meaningful...(Interruptions) Sir, I only want the discussion to be meaningful. So I will read this...(Interruptions)

JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA : Sir, please hear us before you give a judgement.

MR. SPEAKER : I am not giving a judgement.

JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA : Sir, it is a very important matter. Before you give a judgement on the point of order...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Do not bring that. I do not understand the subject.

JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA : Sir, you understand the subject.

MR. SPEAKER : Why do you anticipate that?

JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA : But we have to understand. Therefore, you must allow us.. (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Justice Lodha, every time you are getting up like this! It is not correct. Please sit down.

JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA : Sir, you must allow us.

MR. SPEAKER : Please sit down.

JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA : How can you refer to this matter?...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Justice Lodha, I say, you please sit down.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : What kind of a Member are you? What an hon. Member are you?

(Interruptions)

JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA : Sir, You have to allow me to express my opinion. You cannot give the judgement...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : The Members do not have respect for the Chair. I am sorry.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record.

*(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER : Justice Lodha, you are a former Chief Justice. I think your behaviour has to be better than others'.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : You have to be better than other and lead.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I only wanted to point out - I agree that it is a very important subject - that the High Court has reportedly given a judgement saying that what Parliament had done, ratification by Parliament, is unconstitutional. It is a very serious matter. This is where, I think, the House has to apply its mind. But to say, Dr. Joshi, that because of this judgement the automatic effect is that there is no Government there, would not be correct because the Home Minister's statement also says that this judgement will come into operation with effect from 26th of December. That is specific. This is the only thing I want to point out. You can say the rest. Let us not comment on that point.

[Translation]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I had been interrupted several times so I went to Parliament Library and brought PTI new Bulletin with me....*(Interruptions)* Mr. Speaker, Sir, if the Hon'ble members still keep on arguing over this judgement published by P.T.I. from Lucknow, then I feel sorry for them. The members make much hue and cry everyday over the news appearing in newspapers and now when an important issue is being discussed here, they are making noise. This should not be taken lightly.

This news has been published from Lucknow.

(Interruptions)

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : It is you who dances.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : His language is lacking in propriety.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : I fail to understand why do you stand in their defence....*(Interruptions)*

[English]

Lucknow, December 19, PTI :

"In a historic verdict, every member, Full Bench of the Allahabad High Court today quashed that Presidential notification imposing President's rule in Uttar Pradesh. The judgement by the three-member Bench

comprising Mr. Justice B.M. Lal, Mr. Justice Brijesh Kumar and Mr. Justice Markandey Katju was unanimous. The Special Bench also ruled that the ratification of the President's rule in Uttar Pradesh by the Parliament was 'unconstitutional'.

The next sentence here is that :

"The Bench said that the order to this effect will become operative from December 26."

Now, Sir, the point is that the order become effective from December 26, but the fact that we have committed an unconstitutional act remains. That does not change.

If the legal luminaries are now wanting to argue that that also changes, I, with great respect to all the legal luminaries, not only beg to disagree with them but want to assert that they are again repeating that mistake. It is suggested that despite Article 356, why should we adopt this Resolution here. I hope that this particular aspect will be taken into consideration by this House and particularly by you because you are the upholder of the Constitution and all of us are standing here to uphold the Constitution.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA (Ponnani) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, you have rightly pointed out from the Chair that the order becomes effective only on and after 26th of the month. That means that the President's rule continues unless it is revoked by the Government. That is a different matter. But the present situation is that here we have been told again and again as to what the situation is at the moment. At the moment, President's rule continues and therefore, there can be no points of order. Therefore, there is no bar on Parliament also to proceed with the other work as listed in Item Number 17. That is one aspect of the whole thing. The second aspect is that we have to take this into consideration that even the High Court of Allahabad considers the matter very grave and said specifically that the order will become effective only after 26th of the month.

Here, we have certain sections of the House asking for an immediate reaction. Even the court did not want an immediate reaction. Even the court realised that this is not a matter where the Government may be able to come forward with an immediate reaction. The court has also given time. Moreover, the advocates of the Government also appealed for time to go the Supreme Court.

Then the Court has said that this one week's time is there for them even to go to the Supreme Court. So, even the matter with respect to constitutionality or otherwise of the proclamation is not final. When the situation is of such importance, when there were two Judges of the Division Bench there was a conflicting opinion. Then a three-Judge Bench was constituted.

When such an important thing is there, I must appeal to the Government to go to the Supreme Court also in order to get the directions in the democratic traditions of our country. Let the matter be decided once and for all by the Supreme Court, in order to uphold the democratic traditions in our country.

As far as this House is concerned, the order is not effective. We cannot take cognisance of the same.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL (Latur) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is a very important matter. It involves the imposition of President's rule in Uttar Pradesh and the right of this Parliament to pass a Resolution approving the imposition of President's rule in Uttar Pradesh.

These are two different issues as has been rightly pointed out by some hon. Members. In a matter like this, I am wondering whether this body—which is at the apex, which is the highest body in the country—should consider this matter without having the copy of the judgement with us, because if we do say certain things without fully understanding what has been written, what has been said by the Judiciary we are likely to commit mistakes and if we commit that mistake, it would not give very correct signals.

So on the one hand, one can have the opinion whether President's rule should have been imposed in Uttar Pradesh or not, whether the assessment of the Governor was correct or not, whether a party should have been invited to form a Government or not, these are the issue on which one can have one's own views, one's own opinion and very sincere opinion also. But when the power of this Parliament to pass a Resolution is questioned by the Judiciary, whether it has been done properly or not, it has to be very carefully seen and my appeal would be that a matter of this momentous nature should not be discussed without going through the entire judgement.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, my hon. friends on that side have raised very important questions. There is no doubt about it. In view of the fractured politics that we are having, a situation like this may happen in any State. Therefore, let us not try to do something in a hurry or say something which will only complicate the issue, because we cannot solve it here. On the face of a judicial decision against which, whether the Government will go to the Supreme Court or not, it is for the Government to decide. But there is an opportunity to go to the Supreme Court, that is, the highest forum and it may be worthwhile to have the opinion of the highest judicial authority.

So far as I have been able to understand the position from the information that I have got, it is also a question as to whether a second proclamation was possible. I do not know; my friends on that side seem to know much better. So, this is the important question.

What is the true interpretation of article 356 (5) of the Constitution? After the expiry of one year, it is difficult to say whether the proclamation is withdrawn or it comes to an end and then another proclamation is to be issued.

15.00 hrs.

It is very difficult to give an off hand opinion. Even our opinion is not final in the sense that judicial opinion will prevail; the Supreme Court opinion will prevail. Therefore, this is a matter which, as I said, we should hasten slowly. My request to my friends here is that if you think that you are entitled to form the Government or you are alone able to form the Government with or without her, it is for her to say. You have to find that position. I am not saying either way. But what Shri George Fernandes says, yes, obviously it has been unconstitutional therefore it has been set aside and if it had been constitutional, it would not have been set aside. But even that declaration of unconstitutional has been stayed by the Court consciously.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : They have not stayed.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : They have said, 'it will come into operation from 26th'. So, let us not quibble about words. Shri Jaswant Singh, I do not know about your recent visit to Harvard.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : Sir, I am sure as an eminent Barrister he knows the difference between 'stayed' and 'not stayed'. I am not quibbling about words.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Sir, with all humility accepting his encomium about my so called eminence, I said, 'therefore I know'. Sir, Shri Shivraj V. Patilji has rightly said that we may wait for it. Today nothing can be done or ought not to be done also. This is a serious matter. Anybody can fail. I do not know what will happen to you when you come here. Maybe, Article 356 may become your daily routine. Nobody knows. Therefore, let us not say such things. The days of sermonising are over. We cannot forget how you have misutilised those 13 days.

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : We also know how you have been misutilising so many years in West Bengal.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Thank you. Therefore, you have learnt something from us, Sir, because of the solemnity of this matter, seriousness of the question and unfortunate risk of repetition of this situation in the future, let us wait, at least, until the judgement is available. In any event whether we like it or not a very grave question has been raised by Shri Shivraj Patil - a very eminent Member - namely, the relationship between the different organs of the State. Today, it is very difficult to say who is encroaching where. What we are saying in private, we are not always able to say in public.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE (Lucknow) : This question has not been raised for the first time. This question has been settled. It is for the Court to decide whether the House had acted in a constitutional manner or not. Shri Speaker, Sir, I am sorry to interrupt.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Shri Vajpayee, you have not understood. I am sorry. I think, my language has not been specific. I am saying about the relationship between the different organs — it is not only in this case — what is the parameter of Judiciary, what is this Legislature and what is this Executive. Everybody is expressing concern about it.

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : Who is to interrupt the constitutionality — we, or the High Courts or the Supreme Courts?

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Let us not.

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : This is the question you are raising. You are raising this very question.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Your mixture of physics and politics has finished you.

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : I am a better politician because I am a physicist. Shri Chatterjee the question which you are raising.

MR. SPEAKER : Let us not argue like this. I think, it is a serious thing and let us give a proper thought to it.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : I am giving my view. They are not agreeing to any good suggestion which I am giving. What can I do? Today, they have become totally impervious to anything good.

Sir, I appeal to the House, through you, that this is a very important matter. It involves the interpretation of the Constitution and the interpretation of different roles of the different State organs. This is not the final occasion when this question has risen. I apprehended that it is going to come up very soon with greater frequency. Therefore, this is a very serious matter and let us wait. I think, Shri Pramod Mahajan wants to be present there at the swearing in ceremony of the Chief Minister. Sir, I was watching TV the other day and I found that he was very upset about it. He was saying, 'why is his Government not being allowed to be formed in Lucknow?' Therefore, he would go to Lucknow. Therefore, let us wait till 26th. That is my request.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ (South Delhi) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, when there is any adverse decision against the Government then the Government by concealing its facts or merely shouting from the treasury benches cannot change this adverse decision to a favourable one.

I am sorry to state that this is being done in the House...(Interruptions) The Judgement of the court is very clear...(Interruptions) There is no ambiguity in the courts Judgement. Mr. George Fernandez took the cue from PTI and put forward as views in 'Quotes' and 'unquotes'. It is clearly stated in that...(Interruptions) in Uttar Pradesh...(Interruptions)

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer) : It is very objectionable that is going on. Such type of behaviour is very objectionable when honourable member is speaking...(Interruptions) it is going on for a long time...(Interruptions) She has bowed her head down...(Interruptions) it is a very objectionable for a member.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Please sit down. Enough is enough.
(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seats.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI. For whom are you speaking?...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Fatmi. Please sit down.
(Interruptions)

SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI : Sir, we will not allow such things...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Why are you standing? Please sit down.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI : I have not yet completed my speech and pandemonium has started...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Go on making Pandemonium! You are getting the appreciation of the whole country for the way you are behaving in Parliament. Carry on pandemonium.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Please do it. Carry on.
(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I am allowing it. Please go on.
(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Let them carry on. I am allowing every one of them.

(Interruptions)

SHRI NITISH BHARDWAJ (Jamshedpur) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I think you are blaming us. You have to blame them...*(Interruptions)* We were all quiet when Shrimati Sushma Swaraj was speaking. Why are you blaming this side?

MR. SPEAKER : No, I am not. You are not looking to what I am doing. I have told him not to do this. I have warned them. Was it not enough? I have told them to behave.

(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am really very sorry for him. Why is he reacting in this way? Who has said what? Why are you shouting unnecessarily?...*(Interruptions)* Nobody has said anything. You are shouting unnecessarily. There is a limit to everything. Why are you shouting?...*(Interruptions)* Nobody should behave in this way in the House. Behave yourself...*(Interruptions)*

Nobody has said anything. You are shouting unnecessarily. This is not correct. The Speaker is there to regulate the House...*(Interruptions)* In this way also you cannot control this House. The Speaker is there to control the House. Behave yourself...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : May I speak with your permission...*(Interruptions)* they are speaking without your permission...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA : You cannot just raise your voice and shout down this House...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : Whatever has happened that is very unfateful. If such a situation comes up in the House while discussing a serious issue then...*(Interruptions)*

PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA (Samastipur) : These people belong to Bajrang Dal...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : Mr. Speaker Sir, I would not like to use such harsh words. It would be better to be a member of Bajrang Dal instead of being a member of any 'moorkh dal'...*(Interruptions)* Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am speaking with your permission...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA : We need not react if the leader of opposition is telling something. When he uses the words 'moorkh Dal', it is upto him to Judge whether it is proper or improper.

[Translation]

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE :

[English]

I did not say that

[Translation]

You know that I never use any derogative language for any member...*(Interruptions)* You had given a chance for Sushmaji to speak her speech was not heard silently. It may be that the member on the other side was interrupted while he was speaking and he might have been very annoyed for that, and that is why Sushma Ji's speech was interrupted, but it should not have happened...*(Interruptions)* You were also stopping them...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE (Dumdum) : You have lost your courage to handle them...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ANIL BASU (Aram Bagh) : We all respect you. If something is said in the name of Bajrang Dal from this side, why are provoked? You are a very senior Member of this House.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : We are members of the B.J.P. where does the Bajrang Dal come in? What do you mean by that?...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ANIL BASU (Aram Bagh) : You are a very senior Member of this House.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : Why have you lost your courage to handle them? That is why, you are in this situation now...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : Did you pronounce the name of Bajrang Dal with respect? With which intention did you mention the name of Bajrang Dal. If you had mentioned the name of Bajrang Dal with respect then I am prepared to take my words back...*(Interruptions)* Please, sit down, it is too much...*(Interruptions)* Mr. Speaker Sir, now Jena Saheb has also joined in this. Mr. Jena, you are not only a Member of this House but you are also a Minister. A Minister has a greater responsibility. A Minister will have to hear everything told here and he will have to tolerate it.

(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA : I know that and I am ready for that. I did not say that...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJAPAYEE : You have violated the decorum. Whichever may be the discussion it should be held in a peaceful atmosphere.

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA : Yes, Sir, it should certainly be held in peaceful manner.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJAPAYEE : I would also ask the members of my party to follow it...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Why are you coming in between?

[Translation]

SHRI MUKHTAR ANIS (Sitapur) : Sir, during the speech of Sushmaji members of your party started shouting...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJAPAYEE : If the members of my party have started shouting then it is wrong on their part and if it is from the other side then it is also wrong but Mr. Jena came in between and I am sorry for that...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : It is such a small thing and unnecessarily we are creating this kind of a situation. Well, when Shrimati Sushma Swaraj was speaking, hon. Member Taslimuddin was laughing very loudly. I objected to that. If any hon. Member wants to laugh, he may please go out and laugh there, but not in the House. When I told him not to laugh like that, what was the necessity for you to stand up and create this noise? This is not fair.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV (Silchar) : I think we can smile!

MR. SPEAKER : You can smile!

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : I hope the Chair will not lose his smile.

MR. SPEAKER : No. You can also laugh when there is a situation to laugh. But one should not laugh when a serious matter is being discussed. That means your attention is somewhere and not in the House. That is what I would like to say.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV : Only today and tomorrow have been left for the House. We are to finish many matters. So, when one hon. Member is speaking, let others not interfere. But you can give a chance for other hon. Members to answer as in Zero Hour.

MR. SPEAKER : That means the whole day will be Zero Hour.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : Mr. Speaker Sir, I would like to thank you for bringing the House in order.

I was telling that there is no ambiguity in the news that has been quoted from PTI 'TRICKLE' but since only one thing could be attributed to 'TRICKLS' so I have read that sentence. Shri Shivraj Ji has expressed the same views here that meaningful discussions can be held only when we receive the copy of the judgement and read it. I would only like to ask through you that who were responsible to provide the text of the judgement here was it the responsibility of those sitting in the opposition benches or of the Government?

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to submit here that directions given by you in the morning have not been followed rather these are violated. You had specifically directed the Government to get hold of the copy and make a statement by two O'clock, whereas there was no need of it. With our advanced communication system we could have received it through fax, S.T.D. or Courier service. What was that judgement, what was its operative part. The Government should not have allowed the delay to find it out but it wanted to conceal it even in the morning. You intervened in between and allowed time for it. You had to make a Statement in a time bound manner. The matter of "PTI TRICKLE" should have come into your statement. For how long would you conceal it. For how long it would continue. The judgement was announced before so many people. The P.T.I. correspondent took the 'TRICKLE' and sent the copies of the same and by the evening it would be distributed. For how long would you conceal it. Even the Court has declared it as unconstitutional the steps taken by the Government to pass the motion which has been passed in spite of our opposition. Therefore, I would like to say that the Government and not we have stopped meaningful discussion and had the directions of the Speaker been complied with and the text would have been included in the Hon'ble Minister's statement then a meaningful discussion could have been possible here. This is my first point my second point is that there is no dispute to the fact that the Court has termed it unconstitutional in its judgement. Shri Somnathji was talking about imposing President's rule under article 356 (5). Perhaps, no one knows it better than Shri Somnathji that we had brought this amendment with your help during Janata Party's regime. We had brought it to stop the misuse of article 356. That is why we had said that President's rule should not be imposed for more than six months at a time and not more than a year in toto. One of our friends have mentioned about J & K and one of our friends from J & K has said about double standards, the President's rule was imposed for five years in J & K. Constitutional amendment were brought in regard thereto and two third majority is required for this. Since the Government could not muster a two-third majority it had to resort to elections and after the election they did not want a B.J.P. Government to be installed there. Therefore President's rule was

imposed within five months. Now, my point is that the time was taken for the political process in the State but the present Government has no right to remain in power since it has passed a motion which is unconstitutional ...*(Interruptions)* The leader of our party had demanded resignation from the present Government, but whatever was flashed through PTI amounts to strictures against the Government. They have belittled the glory of the House by bringing in this resolution they have passed an unconstitutional motion.

Therefore, the Government should resign forthwith and the coming political process should be done according to the views formed thereupon. Therefore, I would like to tell Shivraj Ji that it is not our responsibility, the responsibility is of the Government. The Government could have initiated meaningful discussions on the issue but they have not done the same. Therefore, we again ask for the resignation of the Government for doing unconstitutional work. The present Government should tender resignation immediately.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL (Latur) : I was not speaking anything against Sushma ji's party. I was merely saying that whether it has been mentioned in the said judgement that the basis for imposing President's rule was wrong or whether it has been mentioned in the judgement that the House do not have power to cast vote like this on this issue. All these issues are very important. The main issue is that after what period a Government should be formed, how it should be done and whom should be could in. One may have one's own views on it and he may speak spontaneously over it. We are being told to discuss the judgement which runs into 50 to 60 pages on the basis of few lines input received through PTI trickle in the House. - I think it is not proper. I have merely said that. The opposition members have right to press for the formation of a Government led by their party if it is in majority. Nobody can stop that. If the judgement comes it would be binding on the Government. The Government could do nothing in this matter. It may approach the Supreme Court at the maximum. They will have to wait till judgement of the apex Court is pronounced. There is no other way out for them. But it is not proper to discuss such important issue in the House in a situation when we are being told that one institution has sided with the other one. I have only this much to say.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I think it is enough. I have heard your views on this issue. I will close it.

[Translation]

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, we have been discussing this topic for an hour that the Hon. High Court has held in its verdict that imposition

of President's Rule on the state is invalid? Why did Court declare President's Rule invalid? As it has been pointed out by Shri Shivraj, there can be three or four reasons for declaring President's Rule invalid. While discussing if we find out the correct reason, then it will be easy to discuss. This is true. Tomorrow is the last day of this session. The discussion which we have started today is about the Statement made by Home Minister. We are discussing the reactions of the Government on the Judgement of High Court. What is reason behind it, how to make a discussion over it, how to make that discussion meaningful and when to do that discussion?

These all are important issues and whatever has been put before us by Senior MPs is very important. But the most important point is this that you should continue discussing the reasons which prompted the High Court to make this verdict irrespective of your liking or disliking for it. But what is the reaction of the Government on that judgement of the High court that declares President's Rule invalid. Someone has said that Supreme Court should be moved in this regard, and a special session should be summoned to reach a conclusion by discussing it throughout the night and the next day. The Government should explain as to what step it proposes to take in face of the Court verdict declaring the President's Rule invalid, which was ratified by the Parliament, then what should be Government's next step? This point must have been covered in the statement of the Home Minister but Govt. hasn't said anything about it. The whole statement of the Govt. is merely a history given in chronological order. What does Govt. want to do in this regard.

Mr. Shivraj said that Government will take decision on it tonight and it desires to be discussed tomorrow, so that it may reply to the debate in this regard. The Government can say even this that it wants to go to the Supreme Court. Government can say that it will abide by the decision. But Government hasn't said anything about it that is why all the discussion has proved futile.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Pramod Mahajan, I think you have made your point, sit down, please.

Mr. Home Minister, would you like to say anything? We will close it after that?

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : Sir, I am not in the happy position of some Members here of being able to emphatically state a particular opinion or my judgement without having had an opportunity to peruse or to study the judgement of the court, which we have not received. We do not know what grounds they have given. What their arguments are, we do not know. All we said, was that once we receive that judgement and study this, we

will have to decide our future course of action, and we will come before the House with that immediately. But beyond that, at this stage, this is not possible to go.

Many things can be argued. If the court has really held that the ratification by the Parliament of the imposition of the President's Rule was unconstitutional and therefore, there is no Government now in U.P. or if there is, anybody claims that there is Government, that is unconstitutional Government, then it is also unconstitutional for the court who has given time upto 26th December. What for have they given time? If according to some friends here, the whole thing is unconstitutional, there is no Government there then, why have they given time upto 26th December? It does not make any logic, it does not make any sense.

Therefore, Sir, whatever we decide to do, we will do and we will inform the House as soon as we receive the copy of that judgement or the report of the judgement. Here, we are well aware of the fact that certified copy of the judgement takes considerable time to come. But the report on the judgement can be obtained. After all, what is the PTI's report? That is also a report. Certainly, as soon as we receive the report which we are awaiting from Lucknow, on that basis, we will decide our future course of action and then we will come before the House with that. We cannot be in a hurry to jump to the conclusion.

Shri Shivraj Patil has said, in my view, everything that should be said and constitutionally proper attitude he has taken. Being a former Speaker of this House, he reacted very sharply to the possibility of there being conflict created between the different organs of the State. Therefore, we have to be cautious and careful.

I may tell you, Sir, though it is my personal opinion, that tomorrow in this country, the way things are being developed... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please listen to him. What is this? You are not understanding, what he is saying.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : Sir, the way the things are developing in a political situation in this country, there is every possibility that in more than one State, in future, a situation may arise when no party is able to command the majority in the Assembly and may not also be able to form the coalition. Then what will happen? We have to think about these things from now. If such a situation arises what to do? There may be a largest single party — it may not always be the BJP, it may be some other party also.

But I do not know, if the judgement of the court - which we have not had the good fortune to study yet - leads to the conclusion that the largest single party every time should be called in case nobody has got a majority, then that would be setting a completely new precedent and new course of action to follow.

So, we must go into all these matters and I would only humbly request the hon. Members opposite to hold their patience till the judgement is available and further hold the judgement till 26th December.

That is all, I have to say.

MR. SPEAKER : I think, it is okay.

Now, the Legislative Business. Bills for consideration—Item No. 17. Shri Indrajit Gupta.

15.30 hrs.

RE: UTTAR PRADESH STATE LEGISLATURE (DELEGATION OF POWERS) BILL*

[Translation]

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN (Mumbai-North East) : I have objection on this only.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Let me see, what he is going to do.

SHRI RAM NAIK (Mumbai North) : Sir, when a discussion on any Bill is to start, normally the Minister makes a statement. Now, the Home Minister should make, first, the statement as to what it contains. He should guide us in this regard and then the debate can start.

MR. SPEAKER : I am calling him for that only.

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA) : First, Sir, I should be allowed to move the motion for consideration and then I will make a short statement.

JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA (Pali) : Sir, the leave may be granted subject to my objection. I may be heard on that point.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : By virtue of the Proclamation issued by the President on 17th October, 1996 under Article 356 of the Constitution, the powers of the Legislature of the State of Uttar Pradesh are now exercisable by or under the authority of Parliament. Under Article 357 (1) (a) of the Constitution, Parliament is competent to confer on the President the power of the Legislature of the State to make laws, and to authorise him to delegate, subject to such conditions as he may think fit to impose, the powers so conferred to any other authority to be specified by him in that behalf.

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary Part-II, Section-2 dated 19.12.96

In view of the otherwise busy schedule of the two Houses, it may not be possible for Parliament to deal with various legislative measures that may be necessary in respect of the State of Uttar Pradesh during the period that it remains under President's rule. There may also be problems if a situation arises which may call for emergent situation...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : He wanted the statement.

SHRI RAM NAIK : When a Minister is making a statement, a point or order can be raised by any Member.

[Translation]

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Mr. Speaker, at least I was under impression that you will do something after one and half hour discussion.

[English]

JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA : I have given a written objection, but you are not allowing me to speak. You must permit me to develop the written objection which I have given that constitutionally it has become infructuous and therefore it cannot be moved. Kindly permit us to speak and then you may allow or disallow the written matter.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : Mr. Speaker, Sir, they haven't moved the Supreme Court as yet, that is why at the moment High courts decision is right and valid.

[English]

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : I was asked to make a statement Therefore I am making a statement.

MR. SPEAKER : Yes.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : I thought that the Minister would seek the permission of the House to withdraw the Bill after hearing the judgement of the High Court.

SHRI RAM NAIK : It appears that though the Proclamation has been declared *ultra vires*, he still wants the House to consider it.

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : The Government has no authority, Sir.

JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA : What I have submitted in the written objection is that on account of the judgement this has become infructuous, unconstitutional and therefore kindly permit me to mention my objection.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : You may have to deal with the point which is being raised.

MR. SPEAKER : I will deal with this point.

JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA : Kindly permit me to submit my objection. Under the Constitution, Article 357 permits moving of such a Bill for giving the powers of the Parliament to the President for the purpose of legislative business. However, there is a precondition bedrock for this. That bedrock is, When the Proclamation under Article 356 of the Constitution is in force in a particular State and therefore there is a vacuum, how the legislative business is to be transacted. Article 357 says that Parliament can grant these powers to the President of India by passing a law. On this short point I would like to refresh the hon. House about the powers which have been mentioned under Article 357 of the Constitution which I would like to quote to be very precise on this point. While interpreting the Constitution it is always better that we must be precise and exact rather than vague and political. I quote Article 357.

"(1) Where by a Proclamation issued under clauses (1) of article 356, it has been declared that the powers of the Legislature of the State shall be exercisable by or under the authority of Parliament, it shall be competent -

(a) for Parliament to confer on the President the power of the Legislature of the State to make laws, and to authorise the President to delegate, subject to such conditions as he may think fit to impose, the power so conferred to any other authority to be specified by him in that behalf;"

If your honour were to pursue the UP State Legislature (Delegation of Powers) Bill, 1996 which has been introduced, you would know what this in turn says. I am referring to the Statement of Objects and Reasons.

Under the proclamation issued by the President on the 17th October, 1996, the powers of the Legislature of the State of Uttar Pradesh are now exercisable by or under the authority of Parliament. It may not be possible for Parliament to find sufficient time to deal with legislative measures which may have to be enacted. It is therefore proposed that Parliament may, in accordance with the provisions of sub-clause (a) of clause 1 of article 357, which I have just now read, of the Constitution, confer by law on the President the powers of the Legislature of the State of Uttar Pradesh to make laws for the State. The Bill seeks to achieve the aforesaid objects.

Now, I would like to refer to Section 2 of the Bill, which says : "In this Act, 'the proclamation' means 'the proclamation issued on the Seventeenth day of October, Nineteen Hundred and Ninety-six under article 356 of the Constitution by the President and published with the notification of the Government in the Ministry of

Home Affairs of the said date". The power of the Legislature', says clause 3, 'of the State of Uttar Pradesh to make laws which have been declared by the Constitution to be exercised by or under the authority of Parliament is hereby conferred on the President'...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA (Ponnani) : Is he conducting a class? Let him come to the point.

JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA : Kindly try to understand this.

MR. SPEAKER : You have made your point.

JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA : I am raising my objection. The objection precisely in this. Whatever may be the debate on the question of a Government in existence or not in existence; on the question of reasons for placing the proclamation: whether it was on account of initial default or the initial unconstitutionality or on account of subsequent ratification by Parliament - it may be right or wrong - the basic point, the fundamental point is that the proclamation under Article 356 has been...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : I think, you have made your point.

JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA : On the judgement by the Full Bench of the High Court of Allahabad, there is no dispute. Even Shri Shivraj V. Patil had said...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : I think, that is enough.

JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA : Kindly try to understand this point because you have to give a ruling.

MR. SPEAKER : I have understood you thoroughly.

JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA : You have to give a ruling on a very important point, on a constitutional point and the whole country is looking as to what ruling is going to be given by the Chair.

What I would submit is this. On the point of placing of notification or proclamation under article 356 of the Constitution, there is no controversy. The controversy is regarding the reasons and the controversy is regarding the propriety and such other issues. Once the bedrock of the proclamation under Article 356 and 357 is removed or once it extinguishes or disappears, then, the question of invoking Article 357 cannot arise. My submission therefore is that the Bill at present, in the background of placing of the proclamation under Article 356 is redundant, unconstitutional, unwarranted. Therefore, it should not be allowed to be discussed.

The hon. Minister of Home Affairs. if he wants to withdraw...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Judges should be very, very precise.

JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA : If he wants to consult the Government as to whether it should be withdrawn, he can take time till he studies the implications of the judgement. But, as it stands today, my submission is that it should not be allowed to be discussed, debated and passed.

[Translation]

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to request you, this House and the Government to look into this subject apart from the technicalities involved in it. Whether we have made any mistake or not, this will be decided later on. But, at least we shouldn't do any new mistake now. Whatsoever is the Judgement of Allahabad High Court, whatsoever are the reasons behind it and whatsoever are the differences over it but one thing is clear that Article 356 exists in Uttar Pradesh till 25th December.

If Supreme Court delivers a Judgement contrary to the verdict of High Court, only then there can be some change, otherwise according to the Judgement of Allahabad High Court Article - 356 exists for a week only which includes 3 public holidays. In such a condition, if you take over all the rights of Uttar Pradesh Legislature—which have almost revived by the Supreme Court its necessity is beyond my understanding because how long it will exist for, how long we will exercise these rights, about this Bill says that these rights will exist till Article-356 is in practice there. In the prevalent situation Article-356 will remain in force till 25th December, and not beyond that, and Article-357 derives its source from Article-356. And when imposition of Article 356 itself in question lasting only for 5 days then, in such a condition it does not make any sense why is Government in hurry? When Judgement of Allahabad High Court declares it unconstitutional then what is reason for introducing this bill in a hurried manner and taking over rights of the State legislature, I do not understand this. So my submission is that you must not go in its technicalities, this is my request.

MR. SPEAKER : All right. your point is over.

[English]

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : Sir, I want to speak just three sentences. The question relates to the legislative competence. My point of order is about legislative competence. Now, we are at the stage of introduction.

MR. SPEAKER : No, we are at the stage of consideration.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : Yes, we are at the stage of consideration.

I am raising the point of legislative competence. I seek you guidance in this. This is a very serious issue. I do not think that this House has ever been engaged

in such a problem earlier...*(Interruptions)* So, my first question is: is the House legislatively competent to consider a Bill on a subject which is exactly the same subject on which a Court has just given its ruling? In effect, the court's ruling has placed it on stay. My second question is: is the House legislatively competent to consider and legislate on a subject which is almost *sub judice*?

MR. SPEAKER : Yes, I will give my ruling.

As I have pointed out earlier, as the judgement of the Allahabad High Court will come into effect only on 26th December, 1996, as of today Parliament is competent to consider it. I think I am very clear.

However, I am inclined to agree with Shri Pramod Mahajan. Keeping in view the discussion that took place in the House, I defer the consideration of the Bill to tomorrow. We will take it up tomorrow.

[English]

15.38 hrs.

PROVISIONS OF THE PANCHAYATS (EXTENSION TO THE SCHEDULED AREAS) BILL*

MR. SPEAKER : Let us take up this Bill for consideration.

THE MINISTER OF RURAL AREAS AND
EMPLOYMENT (SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU) :
Sir, I beg to move :

"That the Bill to provide for the extension of the provisions of Part IX of the Constitution relating to the Panchayats to the Scheduled Areas, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration".

MR. SPEAKER : Motion moved :

"That the Bill to provide for the extension of the provisions of Part IX of the Constitution relating to the Panchayats to the Scheduled Areas, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration".

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Ram Naik, it was agreed that this Bill would be passed without discussion.

(Interruptions)

SHRI RAM NAIK (Mumbai North) : What was agreed was that this Bill might be passed without discussion. But if some hon. Members want to say something, ten or fifteen minutes should be given...*(Interruptions)* We have to raise many important issues regarding this Bill.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE (Dumdum) : What he says is that this Bill may be passed without discussion within fifteen minutes.

SHRI RAM NAIK : There are many issues which are important...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Rajya Sabha has already passed it. I think it has to be passed because the election are pending.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I think we should pass it now.

(Interruptions)

SHRI RAM NAIK : Sir, I only want to take two minutes. I welcome this Bill. I myself had raised this issue in the last Session...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV (Silchar) : Sir, we have told our Members that they cannot speak on this Bill. But if some Members discuss it from that side, then it becomes a problem. There are five Members from our side, but we told them that they cannot speak...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Ram Naik, we were very clear in the BAC and you are a member of the BAC.

(Interruptions)

SHRI RAM NAIK : Sir, what I am saying is that this Bill gives the right of vote to the zilla parishads, gram panchayats, etc. But those municipalities which are in the Scheduled Areas are not being given the right. There are nine municipalities in my State where elections are not being held. So, from that point of view, I would like to positively have an assurance from the hon. Minister.

SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU : Sir, Shri Ram Naik's point is confined to the Urban Development Ministry. On the day of discussion of this Bill in the Rajya Sabha, the Minister concerned agreed to introduce a Bill in that regard also. It comes under the Seventy-Fourth Amendment which is dealt with by the Urban Affairs Ministry. But this is regarding the Rural Development Ministry...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM NAIK : But are you bringing a Bill for that?

SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU : Okay.

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That the Bill to provide for the extension of the provisions of Part IX of the Constitution relating to the Panchayats to the Scheduled Areas, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration".

The motion was adopted.

MR. SPEAKER : The House shall now take up clause by clause consideration of the Bill.

Clauses 2 and 3

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That clauses 2 and 3 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 2 and 3 was added to the Bill.

Clause 4

MR. SPEAKER : Shri K. Pradhani - Not present.

The question is :

"That Clause 4 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 4 was added to the Bill.

Clause 5

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That clause 5 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 5 was added to the Bill.

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That Clause 1 the Enacting Formula and the Long Title stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Long Title were added to the Bill.

SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU : I beg to move :

"That the Bill be passed."

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That the Bill be passed."

The motion was adopted.

15.49 hrs.

SUGAR EXPORT PROMOTION (REPEAL) BILL

[English]

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) :
I beg to move :

"That the Bill to repeal the Sugar Export Promotion Act, 1958, be taken into consideration."

MR. SPEAKER : Motion moved :

"That the Bill to repeal the Sugar Export Promotion Act, 1958, be taken into consideration."

Is this Bill also to be passed without discussion?

SHRI BALAI CHANDRA RAY (Burdwan) : No, Sir. It is not one of those Bills which is to be passed without discussion.

MR. SPEAKER : This was not one of those Bills. All right. Is there any speaker who want to speak?

Shri Sanat Mehta.

SHRI SANAT MEHTA (Surendra Nagar) : Sir, I only want to point out to the Minister that - whatever maybe his good intentions - this kind of a provision or measures is going to create a lot of difficulties for the sugar factories.

15.49 hrs.

(Shri P.M. Sayeed in the Chair)

At present, the price of sugar in the international market is not favourable. Decanalisation will create a lot of difficulties even in countries where liberalisation is existing, and so, canalisation is still existing there. So, I feel that - before passing it - the Minister should give a serious consideration on this point. Otherwise, he will have to repent for it later. It will do a lot of harm particularly to the cooperative sugar factories because at present we have canalisation organisations which export sugar and private people are also allowed to export sugar through it.

Sir, so there is no monopoly. I would like to appeal to the hon. Minister that in no case he should hurry through this Bill. It is not going to benefit the exporters in future because the international market is not favourable. I am unable to understand for what purpose this Bill is being considered. I would like to submit very

sincerely that this would harm the interest of the cooperative sugar factories and it should not be done.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Ray, please be brief.

SHRI BALAI CHANDRA RAY (Burdwan) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, we do not know as to how the repealing of this Act would do any good to this country. The export of sugar was to some extent canalised through this Act. Once control is lifted and all the guidelines are removed, the consequences of this would be the same as has been the case in case of export of rice. The argument that since we have become a part of the World Trade Organisation we have to comply with all the formalities of the WTO, is only one way of seeing things. Repealing of this Bill, would mean free export of sugar. The result of it would be that the sugar mills which would produce sugar hereafter would produce such sugar which could be exported at a higher price. There is already a shortage of sugar in this country and this would further add to it. The supply of sugar in the country would fall. Another consequences of this would be that only such of the industries, backed by big industrialised countries, which have the infrastructure to produce sugar for competing in the export market would produce sugar and consequently there would be less production of sugar and the profits would be more and the costs would also be higher. But the country would lose large quantities of sugar which could otherwise have been available for domestic consumption. Uncanalised export of foodstuff and food materials is causing a great harm to the country. Even in the case of export of rice, of which we are in terrible shortage, there is no control on export. Nothing can be done now to control the export of such quality sugar which has an export market. Competitive export by all the industries in India is impossible. Selective export by those mills, which would now produce only such quality sugar which have an export market, would deprive the domestic market of sugar which is already in a shortage. This will create a very big problem. This Bill should not have been introduced. The Government should re-consider the fact whether steps should be taken to see that export is not done at the cost of internal consumption and availability of sugar. This is what I wanted to submit.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Patil, please be brief.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SANAT MEHTA : Sir, this is an important Bill.

MR. CHAIRMAN : It was decided that this would be passed without discussion.

SHRI SANAT MEHTA : Sir, I have seen a lot of problems in this House. The Business Advisory Committee had decided and an open discussion was held on this House. This is very important issue. We are obeying your orders. But today I have been the sufferer but there is a limit to everything. Even the Members of

the Business Advisory Committee, who after having agreed to certain decisions in the BAC, are speaking on those subjects in the House.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I do not know as to why this has happened. I was not a Member of the Business Advisory Committee.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : You know the Members of the BAC are drawn from all the Political Parties.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SANAT MEHTA : Sir, I know that.

MR. CHAIRMAN : They take decisions. Only some ten minutes before we have passed a Bill here.

SHRI SANAT MEHTA : Sir, please do not tell me...*(Interruptions)* I myself was a Member of the Business Advisory Committee for ten years.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The House is supreme and you can take any decision.

SHRI SANAT MEHTA : After having been a Member of BAC, I have never spoken like this.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Mehta, I am not disputing what you are saying. But when a decision has been taken it has to be abided.

SHRI ANNASAHIB M.K. PATIL (Erandol) : Sir, this is a very important Bill. When the Bill was first introduced it was our idea that it would help in exports and the sugar industry would have a steady position to work with the manufacturers, farmers and other people. But in my knowledge of things and from whatever I have gathered by going through this Bill, I find that there are many lacunae in it where one would have to confine to certain limitations. A lot of restrictions are imposed on the manufacturers. Nowadays only two agencies are working in the field of exports, and the rest of the mills are not allowed to do it individually. The expenditure incurred on account of export has to be sustained by the mills. If this Bill becomes an Act, the large number of restrictions imposed on the sugar mills will be removed.

When this Bill comes into force, there will definitely be keen competition among the exporters. Several number of competitors in the field would ensure better quality, prompt delivery schedules, and economical prices. Economical prices are directly related to the quality of the sugar. If the quality of sugar is improved, there will be a better market in the future. I do not think that there is anything to be feared on the proposal of open markets in the present international situation.

In 1995, the Government had allowed the agency to export 11 lakh tonnes of sugar. The business done was for Rs. 925 crore. A loss of Rs. 56 crore was to be

sustained by various sugar mills individually. The expenses incurred in exporting sugar are borne by the individual sugar mills. These are all restrictions that are imposed on the sugar mills. I feel that this type of restrictions should be imposed on the individual sugar mills

There are certain other points in the present Bill which deserve to be objected to. One such provision is the protection given to the agencies. Under clause 12 of the Bill, total protection is given to the agency only and not to the individual sugar mills. These sort of restrictions are going to be wiped out, if this Bill is adopted. Therefore, I support the Bill.

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV : Mr. Chairman, Sir, this Bill is very clear. I was listening the feelings expressed by hon. Member. Whatever doubt are there in the mind of hon. Member, that will prove baseless because till now the export of sugar was done through canalised system from one company to another company. Besides, that, there wasn't any other company. Sugar was being exported under canalised system. If it is decanalised, then everyone be they are co-operative mill owners or other units of sugar production will get an opportunity for a free hand dealing. This will also increase the investment of the company. Good quality sugar will be produced in the country. Today India is known in the world as a sugar exporter country. So far as apprehensions expressed by the Hon. Member about its limitation, I want to tell him that the domestic requirement of sugar will be kept in mind. In our country there is consumption of 130 lakh tonnes of sugar and we shall export only the surplus sugar. We are decanalising that. Through Sugar Export Promotion Bill everybody will get a free hand in making exports. That's why I request the House that this Bill should be passed.

16.00 hrs.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That the Bill to repeal the Sugar Export Promotion Act, 1958, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The House shall now take up clause by clause consideration of the Bill.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That clause 2 stand part of Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 2 was added to the Bill.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Long Title stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and Long Title were added to the Bill.

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I beg to move "That the Bill be passed."

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That the Bill be passed."

The motion was adopted.

16.02 hrs.

COMPANIES (AMENDMENT) BILL*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now, item No. 20. The Finance Minister.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : Sir, I had mentioned in my Budget Speech on 22nd July, 1996 that the Companies Act, 1956 needs to be rewritten comprehensively. I have, therefore, already set-up a Working Group to re-draft the Companies Act with persons having knowledge of law, economic and company affairs. I intend to make available the redrafted version of the Companies Act for public debate before coming to the House with a new Bill.

I had also indicated in my Budget Speech that I propose to introduce some urgent amendments to the present Companies Act. Accordingly, I introduce the Companies (Amendment) Bill, 1996 in the Rajya Sabha on 10th September, 1996 and it was referred to the Standing Committee, which has already presented its report on the Bill to both the Houses of Parliament on 26th November, 1996.

The Bill was considered by the Rajya Sabha on 16th December, 1996. Considering the Report of the Standing Committee which recommended for dropping the provision (that is, Clause 6 of the bill) relating to introduction of Non-Voting Shares and the views of the Members expressed during the debate on the Bill in the

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extra-ordinary, Part-II Section 2, dated 19.12.96.

Rajya Sabha mainly suggesting that the concept of Non-Voting Shares may be considered after public debate at the time of the comprehensive revision of the Companies Act, I moved an official amendment in that House proposing the deletion of Clause 6 from the Bill. Rajya Sabha was gracious enough to accept the official amendment and passed the Bill with the deletion of Clause 6. Introduction of Non-Voting Shares is, therefore, no more part of this Bill.

The Bill seeks to carry out some urgent amendments in the Act in the interest of the depositors, employees in the case of winding up of a company and simplification of some procedural and legal requirements in the interest of the corporate sector. The proposed amendments will bring relief to these sections in the following manner :

1. The companies will no longer be required to seek confirmation of the Company Law Board for change in their object clauses in the Memorandum of Association.
2. Companies which are in default of repayment of deposit and interest thereupon, in respect of deposits raised under Section 58A of the Companies Act will be debarred from raising further deposits from the public. Such companies will also be debarred from making inter-corporate investments/loans.
3. Under the proposed amendment to Section 80(5A) the companies would be in a position to issue redeemable preference share for a period not exceeding 20 years as against present limit of ten years. With this amendment, the companies will be in a position to retain capital for longer time for deployment in long gestation projects, particularly in the infrastructure sector.
4. The proposed conferment of voting rights on mutual funds and venture capital funds in respect of share held by them in various companies will provides an opportunity to them to have a say in the working of the companies in order to maximise returns on investments made in these companies by such funds on behalf of small investors.
5. The proposal to enable the Government to notify, from time to time, the ceiling on payment of wages or salary to employees for getting preferential treatment in the event of winding of companies will be to the advantage of the employees, as the Government would be in a position to raise the ceiling periodically keeping in view the increase in the cost of living.
6. To permit companies to file their documents with the Registrar of Companies in computer

floppies/diskettes will provide them a technologically advanced alternative mode of filing the documents and would thereby reduce unnecessary paper work in Government as well as corporate offices.

The Standing Committee has recommended the Bill except for Clause relating to introduction of Non-Voting Shares, which, as I mentioned earlier, has already been deleted from the Bill. The Standing Committee has expressed some reservations about Clause 5 relating to redemption period of preference shares. Somehow an impression was wrongly created that what was being introduced was a mandatory provision under which companies would issue redeemable preference shares for a period of twenty years. After hearing my clarifications, the Members of the Standing Committee are satisfied that what is being introduced is only an enabling provisions and it enables companies to issue redeemable preference shares for a period not exceeding twenty years. The proposed amendment is thus only an enabling provision in the interest of raising long-term capital, particularly, for infrastructure projects which have a long gestation period.

I beg to move :

"That the Bill further to amend the Companies Act, 1956, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration."

MR. CHAIRMAN : Motion moved :

"That the Bill further to amend the Companies Act, 1956, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration."

MR. CHAIRMAN : The time allotted for this Bill is one hour.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA) : Sir, it was agreed that this Bill will be passed without any discussion.

JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA (Pali) : The Bill which has been introduced by the hon. Finance Minister for consideration before this House, as amended by the Rajya Sabha, is not very material. But there are a few lacunae and a few points which I would like to mention should have been taken into consideration by the Finance Minister. At the moment under the name of guise of limited companies, big frauds or rackets are going on in India. Thousands and thousands of finance companies and chit fund companies are being floated overnight without their having any property, assets and having only a board and letterheads. These fraudulent companies are permitted to be floated by the Government. They cheat lakhs of investors mostly of middle income groups who invest thier hard earned money from their Provident Fund and their small savings in such companies.

Sir, it is found next morning that these finance companies disappeared and the poor investors run from pillar to post. The Registrar of Companies and the Government shamelessly take no steps to get the credentials of such finance companies examined with the result that lakhs and lakhs of investors are being defrauded every day. Earlier, there was a provision that there used to be a controller of Joint Stock Companies. He used to scrutinise every application whether the person who wants to formulate and float a Joint Stock Company has got some funds or not, property or not and whether he has got some building, project and real estate or not. But, now, Sir, in the name of liberalisation, in the name of free economy, in the name of globalisation and in the name of leaving people free, a loot is going on and in that loot, the poor people are exploited. I would, therefore, submit that the hon. Finance Minister should not only take interest in the uplift of those who are already rich but make some such provisions by which these fraudulent finance companies and chit fund companies are stopped and rigorous provisions are made for the purpose of screening their credentials, their assets and regulation is done so that investors are not exploited. It is all right that the Rajya Sabha has already excluded the non-voting share rights which were there, we need not have any controversy on that. Other provisions are innocuous, I would not say anything on them. But I would only emphasise that the poor investor's money must be safeguarded. SEBI must be in a position to safeguard it. SEBI has got various dynamic and manifold duties like its duties at the Stock Exchanges, etc. Therefore, some provision like appointing of Controller of Joint Stock Companies for floating new companies after strict scrutiny and for regulating them should be made. If that is made, then lakhs of investors would be saved. I thank, the hon. Finance Minister would take care of the poor also.

SHRI SANAT MEHTA (Surendra Nagar) : Mr. Chairman Sir, I would not have made any speech on this Bill if the situation for the investors in the market was as it was earlier.

We are bringing this Bill for two purposes, as it has been mentioned in the Statement of Objects and Reasons, i.e. to provide protection to the depositors and the employees and to simplify some procedural and legal requirement in the interest of the corporate sector.

Sir, our Finance Minister is a very learned man and when he became the Finance Minister, at least I had hoped that the market will prosper, more deposits will be mobilised and that the industry will grow. But if we look at the situation today, the real issue today is that we want to give protection to our investors. But where are the investors? The real issue is, will these amendments really serve the aims and objects in the present circumstances?

The hon. Finance Minister knows that the *Sensex* had dropped to a three low this year. Even the Indian GDR has slumped to an all time low. So a situation has arisen in the country that through shares and securities we are not able to mobilise money. I have also my fear that this disinvestment which the Government of India wants to do will an uphill task. I want to know from the Minister of Finance what measures are they taking for reviving the stock market and for reviving the confidence of the investors? Otherwise it would be that, 'when horses have left the stable, we are closing the door of the stable'. The point is, to revive the capital market before it is too late.

Sir, the total number of securities listed in the Bombay Stock Exchange is 5,350. Out of this, the number of below par value shares, when the original value of the share has gone below, is 3,122. These are such securities where the price has gone below the par value, which forms nearly 58.36 per cent. This means that more than half are offered below par value. Sir, see the depressing picture, 35.74 per cent securities are offered at a rate of less than Rs. 5, covering the listed securities, numbering 1912. There are 431 listed securities, almost amounting to eight percent at the BSE, which are listed below Rs. 2; and 78 are such securities where the value is even less than a rupee. It does not cover even the cost of the printing of shares and those shares have become simple papers.

I do not want to criticise the companies because no data is available on the position of the companies.

Sir, what are we to do in this situation? It means that before taking the measures for strengthening the confidence of the investor, the protection of the investor will be of no use. Everybody knows that this is not only happening as far as our securities are concerned but also the same is happening as far as GDR is concerned. Not only that, today's newspaper has given the figures that even the NRIs who were one of our valuable investors and who were helping the liberalisation of the economy have also withdrawn that.

The figures are very alarming. I would quote the figures. We started it in the year 1991-92. In 1994-95, the total number of public issues were 1,343, where a part of the issues was offered to the NRIs and to the OCBs. At that time, out of these 1,343 issues, 410 were offered to the NRIs and the contribution came nearly to 31 per cent. And today, Sir, in the latest report of 1996-97 (April-December), 354 preferential issues were offered to the NRIs and the number of issues subscribed was zero.

Sir, what I want to appeal to the hon. Finance Minister is that this is a very serious situation. I am happy that he has withdrawn the amendment for the non voting shares. If that had come, this would have opened the flood gates and some of the foreign

companies, whom we have permitted up to 50 percent equity, would have brought their foreign money and got into the non voting shares. Now, it is good that he has withdrawn this. Otherwise, the idea was to attract more capital from the market. Sir, this is not possible as far as the Indian investors are concerned because the confidence of investors is no more.

In this situation, let the Bill be passed. I do not oppose the Bill but I want to know from him what concrete measures we are likely to take to revive the capital market before it is too late. If we fail in that, perhaps we will have to face a very serious situation for mobilising capital for industrialisation, mobilising capital for infrastructure sectors.

Sir, you know that he has increased the limit of the years for redeemable debentures only with a view to attract more money in the areas where the return is low and the gestation period is long. He wanted that amendment. In such a situation of the capital market where the NRIs have become sky and our own investors are running away from the market, I am failing to understand what benefit these amendments are going to bring as far as the mobilisation of more capital is concerned. I heartily appeal to my hon. Finance Minister that immediate measures may be taken to strengthen the sentiments of the capital market. Otherwise, we will have to face very severe difficulties during the new Budget, which is likely to be presented.

I only wanted to bring this aspect to the attention of the hon. Finance Minister. With these words, I conclude.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : Sir, I am grateful to both Justice Lodha and Shri Sanat Mehta for raising the issues which are very vital and material although I must say, with great respect, that they do not arise from the Bill under consideration. But, having regard to the high esteem in which I hold both of them, I shall take a couple of minutes to answer the main points raised by them.

I assume, Sir, that there is a broad and general support for this Bill and, therefore, I should not say anymore on the Bill.

Mr. Lodha pointed out that a large number of mushroom organisations were cheating the people and they have vanished with the moneys of the public.

Mr. Guman Mal Lodha will concede to me that there is nothing which our Government did or did not do which caused such a situation. There are different kinds of finance companies. One is non-banking financial corporations. Non-banking financial corporations are companies registered under the Companies Act and are controlled by the provisions of the Reserve Bank of India Act as well as the directions issued by the Reserve Bank to regulate the functioning of non-banking financial companies.

Then there are *nidhis* or mutual funds. These are companies which are notified as *nidhis* under Section 620 A of the Companies Act. These were not earlier governed by any elaborate regulations but on 4-10-1995, regulations were issued. These *nidhis* are governed by regulations. After I took over, after this Government took over, further restrictions have been placed. We have placed restrictions on these *nidhis* also, particularly, restrictions regarding the interest rate that they can offer and we have banned them from advertisement.

Then there is a third group of organizations. This is what you have in mind. They are misconstrued for non-banking financial corporations and mutual benefits societies. These are unincorporated bodies. What is Kerala are called 'blade' companies. These are unincorporated bodies. They are only governed by Chapter III C 3 (c) of the Reserve Bank of India Act. The only restriction upon them was that they shall not accept deposits from a certain number which is a multiple of the number of partners or associates they may have. Nevertheless, towards the end of last year, Reserve Bank issued a public advertisement cautioning people from putting their money in such organization and bodies.

After I took over, after this Government took over, we have gone into the matter in a great detail. Restrictions were placed on every kind of financial institution and we are now ready with the law which will cure substantially the malady that we have witnessed in the last one year. I have already announced it. I do not recall whether it was in this House or not. But I have announced it is the Rajya Sabha that if legislative time is granted to me, the Bill will be introduced in this House. But if legislative time is not made available because of pressing work, I will do so by an Ordinance. Therefore, it is at an advanced stage. An Ordinance will be made, if we cannot introduce the Bill before tomorrow. So I assure Shri Lodha that I am fully seized of the matter.

When the law is passed, he will be more than satisfied that I have addressed the matter which I have agitated for the last one year.

As regards Shri Sanat Mehta's points, they are valid points. Again, let me say that the Sensex reached an all time low of 2820 in January this year when I was not in office. This Government was not in office. On the 16th of June, the Sensex touched a new high of 4004 when we had not done anything, when we had not even announced the Budget. Why did the Sensex touch 2820 when the Congress Party was having full authority and everything looked good and growth was about six-and-a-half per cent? Why did the Sensex touch 4004 when this Government had not even announced the Budget? These are matters on which there are no definitive answers. All I can say is that the market is influenced

by sentiments. The market discounts a number of political factors. I need hardly say what these political factors are.

When investors open the newspapers and read bad news, they discount bad news. When they read good news, they put a premium on good news. I am not generating bad news. You know how bad news is generated and who generates bad news. All I am saying is I am fully with you that the market must show buoyancy. We must restore the confidence of the investor in the market. Shri Mehta pointed out to the thousands and hundreds of issues which came in the years 1994-95 and 1995-96. It is because of those issues. They were not fly-by-night operators. But those are poor quality issues and those poor quality issues came to the market and after they were listed, the investor found that he was not getting a return. Therefore, the investor is shying away from the market. I have repeatedly said that I must lure the small investors back to the market.

In reply to the debate on my Budget, I announced a set of measures. Then again, about eight weeks ago, SEBI announced a set of measures. The market, I believe, is now discounting political factors. If political factors are not there, I think the market will look up. In fact, if you look at the last four days, on 13th of December, the market went up by one point, on Monday, the 16th December, it went up by 78 points, on Tuesday, the 17th December, it went up by 25 points and on Wednesday, the 18th December, it went up by 17 points. And today, since Shri Sanat Mehta has made a powerful intervention - and once I have joined him - I sincerely hope that the market will go up today also. But I am doing my best to ensure that the small investor returns to the market. All that we are doing in this Bill is to restore the investor's confidence. We are now plugging the loopholes which are there in the Companies Act. This cannot wait for the comprehensive Bill. Comprehensive Bill, I promise you, will be made available for public debate in January. We must have six months of public debate throughout the country and then the Bill will be introduced formally in this House in the Monsoon Session of Parliament. The work is going on round-the-clock. Therefore, please cooperate with me. I will bring a comprehensive Bill and I will throw it open to a public debate in the month of January, 1997... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI SANAT MEHTA : What about the NRIs?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : Sir, it is wrong to assume that the NRIs are not investing in India. In the current financial year, the amount of the NRI flow has already touched \$ 2.2 billion. The NRIs may not be investing in shares but they are investing in other instruments. Take, for example, the private sector.

SHRI SANAT MEHTA : They were investing earlier.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : They were investing but these were poor quality shares which came into the market in 1994-95 and 1995-96.

Sir, we have done a complete analysis of this. Many of shares were of poor quality. Today, when a good quality paper comes - I am not accusing them of being fly-by-night, but the quality of paper was poor - when the IDBI comes out with the paper, it is fully subscribed, when the ICICI comes out with the paper, it is fully subscribed, the Bank of Baroda issues has been fully subscribed, the Dena Bank's issue has been fully subscribed... *(Interruptions)* Sir, I do not think that we should get into a debate on stock market on the Companies Bill. I accept what the hon. Member says and I am responding to that.

Today, if a good quality paper comes in the market, I have no doubt that the investor will pick up the paper. But if a poor quality paper comes, the investor is not sure about the credentials of the issuer. So, he is staying away from the market. At the same time, the private sector, through private placement, has raised almost Rs. 17,000 crore this year. Through private placement, they have been able to raise money. It is not that the investor is not willing to put his money. He is willing to put his money in good instruments, whether they are shares or securities. What we must do is to ensure that only good quality paper comes into the market. Like bad money drives out good money, it is the bad quality paper which frightens the investor and he shies away even from good quality paper. Anyway, I agree with what the hon. Member says. We must do more to restore the confidence of the market and I will do my best to take whatever steps are necessary to be taken to restore the confidence of the market... *(Interruptions)*

AN HON. MEMBER : Political developments are beyond your control.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : They are beyond my control. What is that I can do, tell me. If a Party undergoes convulsions, can I deal with that? I cannot deal with that. If a Party is divided, can I deal with that? I cannot deal with that... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI SANAT MEHTA : You seem to be expressing satisfaction at the things which are not realities. There are a lot of economic journals and they say that FII also has remained away from India.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : Sir, again it is not a correct statement. Just read the analysis published by the *Economic Times* yesterday. Just read the editorials on FIIs today. Please read the *Economic Times* analysis. They have done a regression analysis. We can have different conclusions but we ought not to say that only my conclusion is correct. I am only putting forward a

point of view. My learned friends says that FLIs are deserting the market. That is not correct. FII investment in India has already crossed cumulatively \$ seven billion. This year alone.. FIs are net purchasers for \$ two billion. Please read the regression analysis in yesterday's *Economic Times*. If you see the graph which was published yesterday, with regard to gross purchases, gross sales and net purchases and the regression analysis with the stock index, you will come to the conclusion that the FIs have done nothing which can be said to be frightening the market. Read the first editorial in today's *Economic Times*. We can have different points of view and we can reach different conclusions.

We have done nothing in this Government which is anti-investor or anti-corporate sector. In fact, every step that we are taking is to restore confidence. I agree with you I must do more. I am willing to take suggestions from you. I am willing to listen to you. I am willing to talk to everybody. But we must do everything possible to restore confidence in the capital market. This Bill will help restore confidence of the investor. I humbly appeal to the hon. Members to kindly pass this Bill.

Thank you. I thank Shri Lodha and Shri Sanat Mehta for participating in the debate.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : I would request that you expedite the decisions.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : Yes.

SHRI SANAT MEHTA : Sir, this is my difficulty. I should have been given more time.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You were given seven minutes.

The question is :

"That the Bill further to amend the Companies Act, 1956, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The House will now take up clause-by-clause consideration of the Bill.

The question is :

"That clauses 2 to 10 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 2 to 10 were added to the Bill.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That clause 1, the enacting Formula and the Long Title stand Part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and Long Title were added to the Bill.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : Sir, I beg to move :

"That the Bill be passed".

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That the Bill be passed".

The motion was adopted.

16.33 hrs.

MAHATMA GANDHI ANTARRASHTRIYA HINDI VISHWAVIDYALAY BILL*

[English]

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S.R. BOMMAI) : Sir, I beg to move. ... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SHATRUGHAN PRASAD SINGH (Balia) (Bihar) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I object to presentation of Hindi Vishwavidyalay Bill in English.

SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH (Vidisha) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, this should be presented in Hindi.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : There is no point of order in that. Please do not disturb. Let the hon. Minister speak.

[Translation]

SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH : This should be presented in Hindi language. Hon. Minister speak in Hindi, please.

MR. CHAIRMAN : While replying to debate on the Bill he will speak in Hindi.

SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH : Hon. Minister knows Hindi very well. He can speak in Hindi. Please understand my feelings. That's why I say that if you could table this Bill in Hindi then it would be far better.

SHRI S.R. BOMMAI : Please, let me move the Bill. I assure you that I will reply to debate in Hindi.

Sir, I beg to move :

"That the Bill to establish and incorporate a teaching university for the promotion and development of Hindi language and literature, through teaching and research, with a view to enabling Hindi to achieve greater functional efficiency and recognition as a major international language and to

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary Part-II, Section 2, dated 19.12.96.

provide for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration".

Sir, there was a demand by the Vishwa Hindu Conference that Hindi should get the international place in the international Universities. We must also know that there are a number of countries outside India where Hindi is spoken, where Indians have gone and settled and developed those countries. The purpose of this University is that the scholars in Hindi come here and also people from abroad come here so that they do research and enrich Hindi language so that it becomes one of the international languages and it gets its due place in the world and also in our own country.

This Bill has been brought for this purpose. A Committee was appointed which has recommended this Bill. The Standing Committee has also approved the Bill. I move this Bill for consideration. I would like the hon. Members to express their views.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Motion moved :

"That the Bill to establish and incorporate a teaching university for the promotion and development of Hindi language and literature, through teaching and research, with a view to enabling Hindi to achieve greater functional efficiency and recognition as a major international language and to provide for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration".

The time allotted for this Bill is two hours.

SHRI S.R. BOMMAI : Sir, I beg your permission to leave the House. My colleague, the Minister of State in the Department of Education in the Ministry of Human Resource Development will be here to take down the notes. I will be returning after half-an-hour.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Yes.

[Translation]

SHRI VIJAY ANNAJI MUDE (Wardha) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, in my Parliamentary life and after having been elected to Lok Sabha it is the maiden opportunity that I am making a submission in the House. I am thankful to you for giving me an opportunity. I also thank Shri Bommai that despite belonging to a non Hindi speaking area he is fortunate enough to bring forward a Bill on International Hindi University in the House. I am very glad to know that the University will be set up in my Parliamentary Constituency, Wardha. Wardha is a place of International importance. It has been the work place of Mahatma Gandhi and Vinoba Bhave. In 1936 Mahatma Gandhi saw a dream of United India. He viewed unity in various diversities of languages and dresses. He

had a dream of Knitting India an one country. He wanted that the country should have a language which could be called the national language. That is why he had an attraction for Hindi. Mahatma Gandhi came from a Gujarati speaking State. After coming to Wardha he felt the need of making Hindi the national language of India and unite the sentiment's of the teaming millions. This was his dream. That is why he set up the Rashtra-bhasha Prachar Samity at Wardha in 1936. The great patriots of the time Subhas Chandra Bose, Dr. Rajendra Prasad, Mahatma Gandhi, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, Acharya Kaka Kalelkar were the founding members of Rashtra Bhasha Prachar Samiti. Gandhi was of the view that, Let the States have their different regional languages but at the national level there should be one national language to unite the country into one nation. In persuance of the above ideology, the institution deployed thousands of 'Pracharaks' throughout the nook and corner of the country. Today the Bill answers much importance which seeks to establish this university at Wardha. I am not going to dwell upon the points as to what has been the contribution of Hindi speaking people for Hindi, but the credit goes to my State which made a lot of contribution's for the promotion of Hindi despite being a Marathi speaking area. Many a saintly people of my area aroused national sentiments of people through Hindi. In the schools of Maharashtra one can find the writings "Tum mujhe khoon do, main tumhe azadi doonga. People in Maharashtra take pride in singing this song. Many saints in Maharashtra wrote in Hindi instead of Marathi. A great saint was awarded the title of Rashtra satguru by none other than the hon. President of India Dr. Rajendra Prasadji. The saint aroused the national feelings among people as that time and contributed a numbers of writings. His 'bhajans' are still sung in Maharashtra with devotion. There may a couple of people in the House who oppose lord Ram, but after the death of the above saint the people of Maharashtra still sing his 'bhajans' with great pride.

Schche Sevak banenge ham.

Ajadi ko payenge.

Ghar ghar me ajadi banakar

Ram rajya banayenge.

The said Satguru Maharaj tried to arouse national feelings in the hearts of people through Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : On our State sant Ramdevji, despite being a Marathi wrote in Hindi. His sermans have been included in the Gurugranth Sahib.

SHRI VIJAY ANNAJI MUDE : I was about to made a reference to Sant Namdevji. Despite being a Marathi speaking person he wrote in Hindi. He had visited Punjab - a reference to which has been made in many books. He toured the entire Hindi belt and tried to boost the importance of Hindi. Not only that in a book of the

revered Satguru ji Maharaj 'Lahar ki Barakha' Patriotic feelings were aroused in the minds of youths for the country's freedom. Addressing the Britishers he said :

Ab Kaheko dhoom machate ho.
Sukhavakar Bharat sare.
Atehen naati hamare.

His 'bhajans' are still sung in Maharashtra with devotion. In a reference to Britishers he said :

Jhad jhud le. Shastra banange.
Hat Kar kar bam banenge.
Bhakta banegi sena.

The freedom struggle of 1942 was carried on this basis. Ten to eleven people from Ashti and Chimur sacrificed their lives for this struggle. The martyrs of Ashti and Chimur have become imported in the World History.

Hindi is a glorified language. I am very astonished and rather distressed that, people coming from Hindi speaking areas take pride into speaking English here. They consider it to be that self respect to send their wards to English medium schools. They are shy of speaking Hindi, the national language of the country. They consider it to be their greatness to speak in English.

An international Hindi Vidyapith is going to be set up in Wardha in Maharashtra. I congratulate the hon. Minister of Human Resource Development for this. An International Hindi Conference was held in Nagpur in 1975 where lovers of Hindi not only from the country but also from other countries of the world participated. Even today when I see students from Japan, U.S.A. and Malaysia studying Hindi in Wardha. I feel proud. Mahatma Gandhi set the Rashtra Bhasha Prachar Samiti in 1936 in Wardha. He had a dream to unite the country through Hindi. An international conference on Hindi was held in 1975 at Wardha under the aegis of the Samiti. It was chaired by the hon. Prime Minister of Mauritius Sir Sibsagar Ramgoolam and the then Prime Minister. Shrimati Indira Gandhi graced the occasion. At that time the conference passed a Resolution to set-up an International Hindi University at Wardha so that the country could be united and people from all over the world came over there to study Hindi.

The above Resolution is being implemented in the 1996 for which a Bill has been brought here. It took about 40 years to fulfil the dreams of Mahatma Gandhi. It is matter of great pride for Wardha.

Mr. Chairman, Sir. I hope that work of this University will be done in Hindi. When I came I met some of the persons of the Rashtrabhasha Prachar Samiti. Shriman Narayan and wife of late Jamnalal Bajaj Shrimati Mrinal call me and told me that this university should be set up at the earliest. This university which is the dream child of Mahatma Gandhi should be set up early. The Government should take due interest in the setting up

this university after the Bill is passed. With these words I conclude.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA (Ponnani) : Mr. Chairman, Sir. I rise to support this Bill. A few days ago, we passed urdu University Bill. I know pretty well that there was no particular need to being forward this Bill but since an urdu University was being set up, just to please the opposite side, it was thought proper to set up one Hindi University as well.

I know very well that no hindrances, no difficulties are being experienced in the progress, development and research work of Hindi. When the Standing Committee considered the Urdu University Bill and submitted its report, the report revealed that some hon. Members expressed their resentment that the Government was thinking about the development of Urdu language, but no such thought was being given to Hindi. Hence, the Government has come forward today with this Bill regarding the Hindi University. This Bill is merely a balancing act, otherwise, there will no impediments in the development of Hindi. We heartily want Hindi to develop and flourish. I also want that every child of this country should be well conversant with Hindi because this language has been accepted as a national language. All paid and done, this has been done to maintain the balance. The request to this effect came to the Government and the Government has accepted this request. It shows that the Government agrees with this view and hence this Bill has been brought forward.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, Urdu and Hindi both would develop and flourish together and I am sure both would achieve their prominent place and there would not be any impediments in their development. It is my wish that Hindi should prosper. With this wish, I support this Bill and I want that this Hindi University should be set-up as early as possible.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR (Barh) Mr. Chairman, Sir, today the Government has brought forward the Mahatma Gandhi International Hindi University Bill. A few days back, Maulana Azad Urdu University Bill was passed in the House. While speaking on the Urdu University Bill, I had said that modern day Hindi was laden with Sanskrit words and the Urdu was full of Persian and Arabic words whereas both these languages had developed from 'Khari boli'. There is no need to go into their past history. The language which we normally use in 'Hindustani'. Even Bapu had spoken for the development of such a language and he had advocated the use of Hindi as the national language. Our constitution accepts Hindi as the national language. But Hindi which Bapu advocated is not modern day Hindi. You can go through the Bill to find out the aims and objects for which this Bill has been brought forward. It says - to establish and incorporate a teaching

University for the promotion and development of Hindi language and literature, through teaching and research, with a view to enabling Hindi to achieve greater functional efficiency as recognition as a major international language and to provide for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto. Take the word 'prakaryatmak prabhabeelta'. In English the word 'functional efficiency' has been used for it. Hindi is not being benefited with the use of this word. This type of Hindi has limited the scope of the people which had started adopting and accepting Hindi. The people who develop this type of Hindi and include such difficult words have done great disservice to Hindi. Today Mahatma Gandhi International Hindi University Bill has been brought forward. Anybody can react to what Shri Banatwalla has said just now. But it is a fact that since Urdu University was being set up, just to balance it, the Government thought it better to bring forward Hindi University Bill too. This is neither going to benefit Urdu nor Hindi. I do not know which sections of the society are being appeased through these Bills. Those who piloted these bills might have linked Urdu with Muslims and Hindi with Hindus. I cannot find any other explanation for it. Where is the initiative on the part of the Government to get international recognition for the national language. This will not be possible unless the Government officials chose to speak in Hindi at the international functions. The number of Hindi speaking people far exceeds the people speaking other international languages individually. Had the Government made efforts in this direction, Hindi would have received international recognition a long back. Did the Government take any diplomatic initiative for it? Hindi is spoken in Nepal and its terai region. Most of the Nepalese speak and understand Hindi well. Had we made some efforts there, Nepal would have supported our efforts for the promotion of Hindi. Similarly, we could have sought support from other neighboring countries. Had Hindi been developed as 'Hindustani' and had we gone to Pakistan and convinced them about the development of a Hindustani language which could serve both the countries, it would have been recognised as an international language. But those who speak Hindi here in our own country suffer from a sense of insult. We have seen it here in the House a number of times. An hon. Member speaking in Hindi cannot produce the impact which a Member speaking in English on the same subject can produce. Those who speak in English begin with introductory notes and drag the speech longer. It does havoc its impact. Some people are against their own language.

I am in agreement with one of the objects of this Bill which is that the work being done and the research being carried out in other Indian languages will be associated with Hindi and the proposed University would be open for such work. If such provision is being

made for Hindi International University, a close link of this University should also be established with the proposed Urdu University. A joint body for this purpose should be created. If the Government really wants Hindi to develop as an international language and its acceptability to increase, a joint body between the two must be created which should work for the development of Hindustani language meaning thereby that popular words of Urdu should be included in it. When we translate from English into Hindi, we tend to learn towards Sanskrit. There can be no two opinions that Sanskrit is a very rich language but Sanskrit is no more a language of the common. It can be the language of a selected few. In such a situation, the words which are often used in daily life should be incorporated in it. While speaking, we use many words from other languages. Why then we feel ashamed of it? So far as my knowledge goes, English language has assimilated 85 percent of its words from other languages and that is why that language is quite rich today. Therefore, if we want to make Hindi a rich language, words from other languages will have to be included in it. In official documents the translation is mechanical. In Lok Sabha, the words which we come across in translated version are from the official glossaries. But we do not find the use of such a language in Hindi newspapers. Similarly see the dialogues and language being used in Hindi films. Everybody can comprehend that language. But so far as the language used in the Bills is concerned, even a person like me has to do a lot of mental exercise to grasp its meaning. We are Hindi speaking people. We use Hindi language right from seeking votes to making speeches in the House. There are many people who seek votes in Hindi but when it comes to speaking in Parliament, they feel ashamed of speaking in Hindi. I am not saying so to criticise anybody. The constitution provides the use of both Hindi and English in official work. I am not saying this is a saucastic way. Shri Banatwalla may be an exception. He comes from Kerala and I do not know whether he speaks Malayalam or not... (Interruptions)

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : I sought votes also in English in my constituency.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : I am saying this only that it is an exception. So far as I know, I have found out that Shri Banatwalla hails from Kerala. I understand that he does not know Malayalam. He is the only personality who contests election from Kerala. This is the influence of his party that he seeks vote in English and he succeeds. In my area it is not possible. They have deep roots in that area. Their organisation has a solid network or they get support in the name of social upliftment that he are able to get votes even by using English language. There may be exceptions but after having gone through the debates one can see that nobody has been elected for this House by using English language while seeking

votes. I would like to appreciate George Fernandes who knows many languages.

17.00 hrs.

He is not at home in Hindi. He knows Kannada which is his mother tongue. He knows Marathi in which he launched labour agitation in Mumbai. He is well conversant in English. But he speaks in Hindi in the House. It is the effect of Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia or the deep rooted feelings of nationality. We have accepted Hindi as our national language. Today if Shri Fernandes speaks in English, he would be quoted more in media but he generally speaks in Hindi. I remember once during a debate on an Impeachment Motion, when he stood to deliver speech he begged pardon and said that due to the legal nature of the matter he would have to speak in English. People welcomed his gesture and he delivered his speech in English. But today it has become fashion to speak in English. It is not a matter of hesitation to speak in Hindi.

It is a matter of adopting words. The other day Shri Kalpnath Rai was speaking on a Bill pertaining to Urdu language. words, which we have adopted, should be used in official documents. If those words are not used in the documents of Lok Sabha, they would not get recognition. Ministry of Law drafts Bills. It has to search words from different fields. We should try to find out simple words so that Hindi is accepted by more. If difficult words are used then non-Hindi speaking persons would not be able to follow. But if we use common words then even people of non-Hindi speaking areas are able to follow. They tell us in Lobby that they could follow my speech, it means we are able to propagate Hindi. Supporting this Bill, I would like to raise question as to what form of Hindi the Government intends to promote. Whether Govt. intends to promote Hindi which has got a literacy significance or which is being used in daily life. It is not necessary to search equivalents for the words which are used in day-to-day life. It is not very easy to get Hindi recognised as an international language. It requires diplomatic initiative. It can be get recognition as an international language. But not in the form which has been discussed today. We are not in favour of monopoly of Hindi. We want that all the languages of India should develop. In this House we all supported the Urdu Bill and that was passed unanimously. I would be happy if Universities are set up for the promotion and development of other languages of the country. Tamil is a very rich language. A university should be set up each for Tamil, Telugu, Bangla, Oriya, Assamias, Kannada, Marathi, Gujarati and all other languages. It is a matter of happiness if a university is set up for each language.

But the main thing is to keep this country united. We all discuss about the unity and integrity of the country.

A man from a village comes to a temple in the South. He does not have to face any language problem. If a South Indian goes to Puri or somewhere else, he can manage the things. He can express himself anyhow. How long we shall put off the issue of link language as a controversial issue. For the unity of the country, we should have language. We feel humiliated when a Head of a State, Prime Minister coming to India uses his own language... (Interruptions) I shall conclude. Our delegates visiting other countries do not use their languages. If a diplomate does not know Hindi, he should be allowed to speak in Kannada, if he knows. That can be translated in other languages. Why translation is done only in English. I have visited foreign countries several times as a member of the delegation of this House. I have also visited abroad as a member of youth delegation before coming to this House. I have seen that English does not get much respect in foreign countries. In France, people don't know English whereas it is a neighboring country of England. But it has made tremendous progress. Countries like Japan, Russia and China have made progress without English. But our mortality is such that India can't progress without English. Today English is the main hurdle in the progress of India. A student of our country has to bear additional burden of English apart from other subjects. We always think if he is not taught English, he can acquire better knowledge of Mathematics and Science. When Shri Karpoori Thakur was the Chief Minister of Bihar, for the first time he made English as an optional subject instead of compulsory in the State. A great hue and cry was made over it and it was said that the student passing any class without English, has got Karpoori division. Such comments were made at that time. But students of that time became Scientists, I.A.S. and I.P.S. officers later on. Students passing examinations through English medium became Scientists in Physics and earned a name in the field of atomic energy.

English language is a symbol of slavery, Britishers went out of India but left English. To day we are affected by that mortality. Therefore, if we want that Hindi gets recognition as an international level, the persons sitting in Delhi and formulating politics, will have to change their mentality. If you want Hindi can get recognition at international level within three months. Hindi will have to be made more liberal for becoming a link language which can be spoken by more and more sections of the society. The so called Scholars of Hindi are its enemies. They should give up their present attitude. A working Hindi should be developed to whom we know as the Hindustani language.

With these words, I support this Bill.

SHRI SHATRUGHAN PRASAD SINGH (Balia) (Bihar) : I am supporting Mahatma Gandhi International Hindi University, Bill 1996. Sir, we have seen that support

and welcome of this Hindi University Bill is being done as a measure to counter balance Maulana Azad Urdu University. Sir, the point on which Shri Nitish Kumar has drawn the attention is with regard to translation. I would like to say that this Bill itself is translated one. You can see that the word 'the' is written on its Hindi copy. This 'the Mahatma Gandhi International Hindi University Bill, 1996' is printed in Devnagri script. When such words are translated in Hindi, the originality ceased to exist. A language which we learn in the lap of our mother is called mother tongue. Mother-tongue is our national language. We speak Hindi and it is our mother-tongue. We write in Hindi when a Bill with regard to Hindi is introduced in the House, it is also the translation of English version. Therefore, I doubt the integrity of the Government.

Now I would like to point out some anomalies in this Bill. It is written-establishment of a Teaching University. It is not known what is a teaching University and who will establish it? It has been written in its clauses that 'Karya Parishad and Sabha'. There is no mention that who will exercise this power and to whom these will be delegated? You see Page 6 of the Bill. It is written there-'Sabha' and in English Bill it is written-'Court'. We used to translate the meaning of Court as 'Adalat or Nayayalay'. I do not know who is the learned teacher in the Ministry of Law who has translated the word-'Court' as 'Sabha'. It is a wrong translation and I oppose it. It is written in it that the Constitution of the Court and the tenure of its members shall be prescribed by the Statutes. It has not been provided as to how many members will be there in the Court, their tenure and when will be meeting take place.

17.12 hrs.

(Shri Nitish Kumar in the Chair)

It has also been written in the Bill that Executive Council of the University shall function as the Chief Executive Body. Constitution of the Executive Council, tenure of its members and their powers and functions shall be prescribed by the Statutes. It has been written on Page 16- the Chancellor shall be appointed by the Visitor from a panel of not less than three persons recommended by the Executive Council from amongst persons of eminence in the academic or public life of the country. Its tenure shall be three-year and the tenure of the visitor shall be five years. I think there is anomaly in five years and three years. I would like that the hon. Minister will clarify that after three years the Chancellor will not be eligible and after five years he will become eligible—what an anomaly it is? These people will be the persons of eminence in the public life and what is the justification that the tenure of someone shall be three years and the tenure of other shall be five years. There is no justification of it.

Now you go through the functions of this Bill. There is a word 'panel' in this Bill and there is no mention of 'Neemika'. There is no list of names. It has been stated that the appointment shall be made out of the panel. It has also been stated that the recommendations for the appointment of the Chancellor and when a body will be constituted to make such recommendations and from where they will get the recommendations. Not only this, when the hon. member Shri Nitish Kumar was speaking, he mentioned about the difficulties of translation. There are 'tatsam', 'tadbhav', 'deshaj' and 'videshaj' words in Hindi. Tatsams words are used in Hindi. Then they use 'tadbhav', 'deshaj' and 'videshaj' words. They use such words as station, lantern, pencil and fountain pen. Then Urdu and Persian words just now hon. Banatwalla saheb was speaking, are used, in Hindi. English language has become rich by adopting the words of other languages of the world. Most rich language of the world is Hindi and it has the power to absorb the words of other languages. It is due to the cultural unity of our country. Shri Ramdhari Singh Dinkar has written in its book 'Sanskrit ke char Adhyay' that the culture of India is a mixed social culture. Hethai, Arya, Hoon, Dravid. Races established their empires. Indian culture adopted their good things and left which was not good. Our Hindi language is a rich language at a international level. But those who have no knowledge of originality, who are afraid of originality they resort to English language. I do agree with this fact that we ask the voters to give us vote in their mother-tongue. But our expression in this House is not that in which we ask for votes. That is why the visitors sitting in the visitors gallery leave the gallery during Question Hour, when they find us speaking in a language, which is not their language.

I think this Mahatma Gandhi International Hindi University has not been named after Mahatma Gandhi because he was a world figure. Therefore this Mahatma Gandhi International Hindi University Bill 1996 has been introduced not with this mentality. This has been introduced as an appeasement measure because Urdu University Bill has been introduced. If someone has thought it is this manner then it is the insult of Hindi language, insult of national language, insult of the nation and the insult of national unity. Therefore I can not tolerate it. Therefore for the establishment of a healthy tradition I would like to request all the Hindi speaking hon. members that they should pass it today itself and in future shall use Hindi for speaking and writing. You may establish a University but if we do not use Hindi in our correspondence and in our daily use then we are daily killing Mahatma Gandhi who is immortal even after dying.

Sir, while replying the Hon'ble Minister shall clarify the anomalies and discrepancies in the clauses. With these words, I again welcome and support this Bill.

[English]

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY (Visakhapatnam) : Sir, I am very happy that a Bill has been introduced for establishing a University for the promotion and development of Hindi language and literature, through teaching and research, with a view to enabling Hindi to achieve greater functional efficiency.

SOME HON. MEMBERS : Please speak in Hindi.

DR. T. SUBBARAMY REDDY : Let us not be fanatics.

I am extremely happy about it. But at the same time we should not forget that ours is a great country having a population of about 90 crores with various languages and cultures in different States. We must bear in mind the practicality of life. Let us not waste our precious time in unnecessary arguments and fights. Let us build this glorious nation in such a way that the whole world envies it. In that language plays the most important role.

Hindi is a great language. We do adore it and we do love it. We definitely support the idea that Hindi should be learnt and one day Hindi should become the national language and international language. I support it fully. A time should come when every Indian should know Hindi. But at the same time, let us bear in mind the practical situation.

In India there are a number of States where people do not know Hindi. When you go there English is the only link language. We have to communicate in English. Otherwise, we have to show signs, like I want water or I want food. We cannot communicate in any other way.

Sir, all over the world science and technology is developing through the medium of English. Some hon. Members said that Japan does not bother about English and that they have their own language etc. But we cannot compare ourselves with Japan. Our country is not a developed country. From the way things are moving, we can say that it would take a long time for us to achieve the status of Japan. We would only waste our time in fights and disputes. It would take more time.

So, under the present circumstances till we ourselves develop in the field of science and technology, we must take the help of developed countries. For that language is very important. Therefore, besides encouraging, liking and loving Hindi and promoting the usage of Hindi, we should encourage English also.

[Translation]

Everybody loves Hindi all over India there is not question that any one does not like it.

[English]

English and Hindi should develop simultaneously. Therefore, our policy should be while encouraging Hindi,

we must develop English also. Some friends said that everything should be written in Hindi. Then, it would look like Greek for us.

[Translation]

SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA (Udhampur) : I would like to know how many percent of people know English. I had an opportunity to travel down south. They do not know English. They simply know their local language. You would not find even one percent of the people knowing English. Where ten percent of the total population of the country know Hindi.

MR. CHAIRMAN : O.K. You please conclude.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer) : We respect other languages such as Tamil, Kannad and other regional languages. You speak Kannad, speak Malyalam but as far English is concerned please do not speak that...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Reddy, you address the Chair.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : You are losing your time.

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Our friends from the BJP side have got more energy than that of the Congress. Everyday they are getting more time. We have become more gentle. Sir, I request you to give me more time.

[Translation]

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI (Howrah) : There is a move to divide even Hindi. Some say, poorvi Hindi, somebody says something else. But the language which is spoken in 22 countries of the world, is 'Bengali'...(Interruptions)

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Therefore, Sir, he speaks in Bengali, someone in our country speak in Telugu, and someone in Tamil.

[English]

Let us not be fanatics. Let us have Hindi and English. Let us develop them simultaneously. Let us build this nation on the basis of science and technology. If you go to some foreign countries, you have to speak in English. Who knows Hindi there? Of course, Hindi is a great language.

[Translation]

We want Hindi, English and mother tongue.

[English]

Three language formula is very important.

Till we come up to the level of Japan or till we come up to the level of the United States of America,

we should not waste time. I am telling you the practical point. I want all my brothers and friends here to support it in future also.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You may conclude now.

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : I want to express, in conclusion, that I fully support the Bill for the promotion and development of Hindi language. There is no doubt about that. But at the same time, in conclusion, what I would like to stress is that in our country, there are millions and millions of people who do not know Hindi language as well as English language. I fully agree with that. Therefore, we must cultivate a system. This is a very sensitive thing and you cannot force it on somebody. If you show me something in Hindi, I cannot understand. I can speak a few Hindi words, but I cannot read. We have our hon. Minister, Shri Venkataraman here who cannot read Hindi. We cannot force it on anybody. If you give me a Bill in Hindi, I cannot follow. You have to either read it for us or translate it. Is it practicable? It is not practicable.

Now our worry is more about how to remove the poverty of this country, how to build the economy of this country, how to solve the frustration of unemployment of this country, how to make the youth to come up in the country, how to make the world feel that India is a glorious country which is prosperous and progressive. That is very important.

This is not a mere Parliament House. This is a temple, a great sacred place. When we all sit here and do meditate, we will really see the God also. This is the power of this House.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Okay, you may conclude now.

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : So, when we all sit here, let us put our hearts, minds and souls to build this great nation. In conclusion, I would say, let us have Hindi and English as parallel language to build this great nation. Thank you

[Translation]

SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH (Vidisha) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to support this Bill. The main objective of establishing the university is to bring Hindi on the international standard. The objective is sacred but whether this objective would be met or not, is matter of apprehension. Hindi will not progress the way it is being treated by various state Governments. The first World Hindi Conference was held in 1975. Today, in 1996 after a lapse of 21 years we are bringing about a Bill to adopt the resolution made at that conference. I would like to know how much time it will take to set up the university after the Bill is passed. The Government is aware of the treatment given by the State Governments. How many Prime Ministers and Foreign Ministers of India are spoken in Hindi at the UNO? In 1977 when

Atal ji was the Foreign Minister he spoke in Hindi and Chandra Shekhar ji has also spoken in Hindi there. Otherwise every feels proud to speak in English there.

We celebrated the 50th anniversary of the Constituent Assembly on the 9th of December. I remember that on this day 50 years back Acharya Kriplani spoke in Hindi in the Constituent Assembly. I am pained to say that on the 50th anniversary of this great day, Hindi was insulted and English had a field day. Not even one speaker spoke in Hindi. That is the plight of Hindi.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I got an opportunity to visit USA about two years back. I visited the Indian High Commission with the hope that at least the people there would speak in Hindi but to my utter dismay I found that not even one officer or staff member, even the High Commissioner did not speak in Hindi. I would like to submit that in the Embassies and High Commission of other countries the routine work is either done in the native language or in the language of the country where that particular Embassy is located. India is the only exception where the Embassies do not like to work in Hindi. Once I alongwith my colleagues who was a newly elected MP, went to a Secretary of a department to get a work done. I spoke in Hindi and the work was not done. My colleague said that as you have spoken in Hindi the Secretary was not impressed. Now I would speak in English and you will see how the work is done. He spoke in English and the officer was impressed. I was also surprised to see this. I feel that in the House also those who know Hindi, try to impress by speaking in English. The spread of education has destroyed Hindi and other foreign languages.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, Lord Macaulay died long time back but he has left behind the English psyche. Even today English language is influencing our thoughts and ideas. With the spread of education, English language has been career-oriented. It has become job oriented and therefore, Hindi has been completely wiped out. Even in the villages if somebody knows a bit of English they feel proud. I would like to cite an example. A few days back the father of my friend passed away. When I met that friend, he said with a heavy heart 'Father dead ho gaye'. This is the plight of Hindi language.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the establishment of such a university is a good sign. But it would be even better if this university performs its routine work in Hindi language. I have given notice of an amendment in this regard. I know what would happen. Hindi University would be set up but its work would be done in English. Most of the work would be done as translation. This we find here also. Most of the Parliamentary papers are in English and then they are translated in Hindi and circulated to us. My submission is that we should do more and more work in Hindi in our High Commissions.

and Embassies. The routine administrative work should also be done in Hindi. We have nothing against English nor do we have anything against the regional language as the work in the States is done in regional languages. We have no objection if the work is done in Telugu or Tamil, but some efforts should be made to do the work in Hindi also. This university should try and see how the routine administrative work can be done best in Hindi.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, a few day back the hon. Minister was saying that many people throughout the world want to learn Hindi. But the question is when we do not work in Hindi in our Embassies abroad, how will the people there come to learn Hindi? I would suggest that at least computers and typewriters in Hindi should be provided in the Embassies. This would not involve any additional expenditure. Besides, there are a number of organisations in the country as well as abroad which are promoting Hindi and have been in the service of Hindi for the last many years. Such organisations can be associated with this University. These organisations should be brought under one umbrella, given some autonomy and allowed to work for the promotion of Hindi. The Cabinet Minister of Human Resource Development is not present here. I would like to know the time by which this university would be set up. There should be a time bound programme for the setting up of this university. I would also submit that Hindi should be made simple so that people can understand it easily. If 'Station' is called 'Lohpath Gamini Sthal' it will not serve the purpose. Therefore this should be made simple so that the common people can also understand it.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would conclude by saying that if my amendment in regard to the use of Hindi in this university in routine work is not accepted, we would not allow this Bill to pass. I support this Bill and with these words, I conclude.

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI (Sitamarhi) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to Support the Mahatma Gandhi International Hindi University Bill, 1996. I support this Bill on behalf of my party and would like to submit that the Government has been discussing the progressive use of Hindi for quite some time now. This matter was raised during the 10th Lok Sabha also. Lot has been said about the development of the national language - Hindi but little has been done and we often forget after the discussion are over. We are not really able to implement the progressive use of Hindi. Even though the name of this Bill is Hindi International University Bill but the Government present it in English and the Hindi translation thereof was circulated among the Members. Many hon. Members have raised this matter. I associate myself with all that they have said. At least this Bill should have been introduced in Hindi. We can well imagine the plight of Hindi today when such things are

done. I would like to ask how much time would it take to implement this Bill. Shri T. Subbarami Reddy was speaking in favour of English and it seems from his speech as if those in favour of Hindi are against English language. This is not true. We are not against those who are studying English but we want that after 50 years of Independence, when we are celebrating the Golden Jubilee Year of our Independence - Hindi should get its rightful place and the progressive use of Hindi should be implemented in letter and spirit.

It is not possible merely by establishing this University. Shri Reddy ji and many other hon. Members have said during the discussion that we have to eradicate poverty and to take the country on the path of economic development. Sir, through you I would like to say that it is not possible without the development of our local languages. I do not say to impose Hindi on non-Hindi speaking people. They should be persuaded to learn Hindi. Hindi knowing Members and other people should invariably use Hindi. We are not opposed to regional languages. Non-Hindi speaking Members should speak their own language like Telugu, Malayalam or Kannad. We have been giving slogan that - Dr. Lohia Ki abhilasha, chale desh main deshi bhasha (It was desired by Dr. Lohia that Indian languages should be used in the country) when we want to eradicate poverty, make economic development or uplift the people living below poverty line, we have to develop a link language and we have to prepare our Budget in our own language. So long as we do not do our work in our own language, economic development of our country is not possible. Therefore, Sir, through you, I would like to say that development of Hindi and other regional languages is not possible merely by bringing this Mahatma Gandhi International Hindi University Bill or merely by establishing an International University. So long as local languages are not developed. The development of our country is not possible. Therefore, through you, Sir, I would like to appeal to the Members that with a view to develop the regional language, they should speak only in Indian languages. For this purpose we do not need a policy alone but our intention should also be clear to do that. So long as we all do not firmly determined to make use of our own languages, no policy would be affective to develop our Indian languages. Therefore, I whole heartedly support this Mahatma Gandhi International Hindi University Bill 1996 and would like to say that besides the policy formulation, we all should resolve to develop our Indian languages. With these words, I conclude.

SHRI SAMIK LAHIRI (Diamond Harbour) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, while supporting the Bill brought here for setting up a Mahatma Gandhi International Hindi University, I would like to submit two-three points only. I do not want to repeat the points already raised by other hon. Members but would like to bring 2-3 points

in the notice of the Government. Firstly, the Government is going to establish two new Universities, so I would like to know whether the Government is prepared to allocate more funds to UGC for this purpose or not? If not, the budget of State Universities is already in deficit and that deficit would further increase. Therefore, the Central Government should make more allocations to U.G.C.

Secondly the Government is going to establish Universities for Hindi and Urdu languages, so I would like to know whether such new Universities would also be set up for other regional languages or not and if not how these languages would be developed. There are many regional languages and different cultures in our country and State Universities are there for their development but I would like to know whether the Central Government would like to establish Central Universities for the development of these regional languages or not? Sir, Hindi University and Urdu University are there in our country but why there is no school of Linguistic. The School of Linguistic should be set up for the development of every language. I would like to bring these points in the notice of our Government. I do not want to repeat the points already raised by the earlier speakers. With these two points I would like to support this Bill.

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE (Mumbai South-Centre) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Government is going to set up an International University for Hindi but I would like to know whether Hindi has become our national language? Hindi has not yet become our national language and yet we are going to make it an International language. At first we should make it national language. Our former President Dr. Rajendra Prasad, while speaking on the occasion of adopting our constitution, said that it was a matter of regret that we were adopting our constitution in English. Today, after lapse of so many years, this Bill has been brought here in English which is a matter of regret.

SHRI S.R. BOMMALI : It has also been submitted in Hindi.

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : But you have presented it in English. Dr. Rajendra Prasad had expressed his regret over the adoption of our Constitution in English. Sir we have national bird, national animal, national song and national flag but it is a matter of regret that till now we do not have national language. It is an unfortunate situation for the country. I would like to ask the Education Minister as to why it was not presented in Hindi? After independence, the Congress party has been ruling the country...(Interruptions)

SHRI SYED MASUDAL HOSSAIN (Murshidabad) : All the languages included in the constitution, are national languages.

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : If Hindi ~~was~~ national language then all other languages can also be national languages but under Article 343 of our constitution we have accepted Hindi as our official language. Our first President, Dr. Rajendra Prasad and our third President Dr. Zakir Hussain have also said the same thing that since we have accepted Hindi as official language, therefore Hindi should be our national language. Unfortunately, Hindi has not yet become our national language...(Interruptions) Today, Hindi is not our national language.. (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA (Pudukkottai) : There is no National language...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH (Balrampur) : Shri Mohan Rawale is also saying the same thing what you are saying. It seems that you are not following his point.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You can express your views at your turn. You will also get a chance to speak. Please don't disturb him.

(Interruptions)

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : It is not Shri H.M. Seervai alone but many other speakers including Shri Nawal Kishore Rai have said it that Hindi is spoken by a large number of people in our country. Therefore, Shri Seervai has rightly said about Hindi that Hindi is not national language...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : You were given two minutes only but you have already taken three minutes, so now please conclude.

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Sir, as you have also said that Hindi is not an easy language, I agree with it. I think Hindi Bill should be brought before the House in simple Hindi, so that every could understand it easily. This Bill in the present form can not be understood easily. Therefore, simple Hindi should be used so that a common man may understand that easily. Mr. Chairman, Sir, you have also said that we read Hindi Newspaper easily but the Hindi Bills brought by the Minister are not understandable. Sir this is only reason that Hindi language is not developing. If we would use difficult words in Hindi then how it can be developed. It is most unfortunate thing for us. I do not understand as to why the people of South India oppose Hindi. When Hindi films can be viewed there why Hindi cannot be spoken there...(Interruptions)

In the end I would like to say that the Government is going to make Hindi as a language of International level for which this Bill has been brought but before that it should be made national language only then it can become an International language. With these words I thank you, Sir for giving me time to speak.

SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR (Mangalore) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am Member of this House from a non-Hindi speaking province but I will try to speak in Hindi in front of you.

SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH : You hail from a Hindi speaking province while the hon. Member hails from non-Hindi speaking province, you should welcome him with claps.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV (Patna) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I want to welcome and congratulate the hon. Member for this effort of his.

SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR : I want to say that the mentality witnessed here is most unfortunate. The people who have ruled over this country for the last 50 years, have failed to understand that the inhabitants of this country are Hindus, the language of this part of the world is Hindi and therefore, we are Hindustani. No body has tried to understand this nor has anybody come to grips with it.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : Mr. Chairman, Sir, now he has linked Hindu with Hindi - what is happening here...(Interruptions)

Mr. Chairman, Sir, all I would like to say to the hon. Member is that he can never understand this howsoever deep he may delve into it...(Interruptions)

SHRI SYED MASUDAL HOSSAIN : I am not a Hindu, but being a Hindustani, I am Hindi...(Interruptions)

SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR : Hindi and Hindu is one and the same thing, this should be understood properly...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Dhananjayji, Hindu and Hindi may be one and the same thing in your view but what you are supposed to do here is to give your opinion about the Hindi University Bill which has been introduced here. The House has welcomed you. You should speak on Hindi only...(Interruptions)

SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH : Mr. Chairman, Sir, without being particular about the Hindi language, his sentiments should be honoured and nothing should be taken otherwise...(Interruptions)

SHRI SYED MASUDAL HOSSAIN : By linking Hindi with Hindu, he is doing a disservice to Hindi...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please sit down. Turn your face to this side while speaking...(Interruptions)

SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR : Mr. Chairman, Sir, he at least admits this fact that we are inhabitants of Hindustan and are Hindustani. At least this should be recognised on all hands.

It was here in Wardha that Father of the Nation Mahatma Gandhi treating Hindi as the national language, had constituted a committee for propagation

of the national language. Unfortunately, those who ruled here made efforts to change this also. Only recently the name of National Language Propagation Committee has been changed to Hindi Propagation Committee. That is to say, they have not developed a mentality to treat Hindi as the national language. One of our friends who was just speaking here was wondering what kind of people we are? Our Constitution is separate, our identity is distinct we have a national bird, a national flag, we have all the paraphernalia independently except of course, a national language of our own. Even our constitution mentions 'official languages' instead of a national language. Under this, we should try to express our feelings in the country by not only using Hindi but combining all the various languages of the different States throughout the country and that effort is being made.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I do not want to go into the controversy as to what have been the consequences of the efforts made by some people to implement the three language formula in this country, however I welcome the effort made by Mr. Bommai to secure an international status for Hindi by setting up an international Hindi university after the name of Mahatma Gandhi. I have trust that alongwith this the shortcomings, if any, left in this Bill will be made up and Hindi will get its due status as the national language at the earliest and we will be able to say with pride that we are Hindus and Hindi is our national language and we are the inhabitants of Hindustan.

SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH : There is a great duality in your mind about 'Hindi' and 'Hindu.' I would like to cite an Urdu couplet -

"Majhab nahin sikhata apas mein bair karna
Hindi mein ham, vatan hai Hindustan Hamara"

When will this sentiment come to permeate your mental horizon. Please do understand these sentiments...(Interruptions)

SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI : That is right. Hindi hain Ham Vatan hain Hindustan hamara...(Interruptions)

SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH : Hon. Member hails from a non-Hindi speaking province and he is delivering his speech here in Hindi, this should be understood...(Interruptions)

SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI : We live in Hind and Hindustani is our mother language...(Interruptions)

17.54 hrs.

(Mr. Deputy Speaker in the Chair)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You please sit down...(Interruptions)

SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH : He should rise narrow sentiments. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Mr. Satya Deo Singh, you may please sit down...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KALPNATH RAI (Ghosi) : Hon. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, first I would like to congratulate the Minister for HRD for having introduced a Bill for the setting up of Mahatma Gandhi Hindi International University. God and nature shaped this Hindustan, its history, its geography and its Oceans in such a way as to make for a single country i.e. India with a language of its own.

When Mahatma Gandhi launched the struggle for India's Independence, he started the movement for national language at the same time. Mahatma Gandhi had also motivated people like Shri K.T. Prakashan of Andhra, Shri Rajgopalachari of South India and many other persons from Assam to Gujarat to participate in the freedom struggle and learn Hindi. The National language of our country will be Hindi. If the reins of powers come into my hands when the country becomes free I will make Hindi the language of India with one stroke of pen, this is what Gandhiji had said. Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose launched the struggle for freedom with the song 'Kadam Kadam Badaye ja. Khushi ke geet gaye ja.' What can be more unfortunate than the fact that this country has been unable to have a language of its own till today.

If you go and visit Supreme Court, you will find that not a single person there speaks in the national language. Only today our friends was saying that Hindi should attain the status of an international language. We have not been able to make Hindi the national language till today. In this House I salute Mr. George Fernandes, I want to felicitate him because he speaks in the national language in Parliament, even though he is a Kannada, an English-knowing person, he knows as many as ten languages but the finest he speaks in is Hindi language. The whole nation enjoys the speeches of Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee when he speaks in his mother language.

All our colleagues should remember the first sentence of what Lord Macaulay spoke when he introduced English in the Indian system of education.

[English]

"We must do our best to form a class which may be an interpreter between us and the millions, whom we govern, a class of persons — Indian in blood and colour but English in test and intellect."

[Translation]

If Indians are enslaved mentally, India will remain slave for centuries to come. When I find colleagues who talk of the proletariat speaking in only English...*(Interruptions)* Neither I have mentioned the name any party nor of any person. How is it possible to have Government of common people.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, he does not speak in Bengali language but he asks for votes from Bengali community.

SHRI KALPNATH RAI : 'Aamar Sonar Bangla Aami Tumh Bolo bacchi.' Bengali language is a very nice language. It is another form of Hindi. Bengali, Telugu, Tamil and Kannad etc. all languages are sister languages. One is like an elder sister, while the other is younger. If a Bengali person speaks in Bangla or a Gujrati person speaks in Gujrati, Maharashtrian speaks in Marathi then it becomes a National language. We all know each other. There is a word in Tamil language 'Vanakkum' which means to bow. Mr. Kamraj used to say 'Parklam' means 'let us see'. Our Prime Minister says 'Mataradu'. For water he says 'Neeru'. Our national language is a great language. Hon. Bommai is an old person...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : It is wrong.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, we have an objection. We pray a long life for Shri Bommai. Why should we say that he is entering the last phase of his life...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KALPNATH RAI : I pray to God that he may live for hundred years.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I am not expunging these words but these are objectionable.

SHRI KALPNATH RAI : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, please do not take it otherwise. I respect him, I would like to say that one or two percent people, who are supporters of English language want to solve the problems of this country by force.

18.00 hrs.

The Common people may be ruled in English. The problems of the country, like that of industrial unemployment or population can not be solved until the language problem is sorted out. Now viewer's Box is totally vacant. If the discussions were held in national languages, it would have been full of visitors. People would like to know the information regarding the topics being discussed about them. They would have the curiosity to find out what is happening in the country's Parliament on the issues relating to starvation, country's independence or nationality, who had violated the constitution? We take the oath in the name of God that the constitution of India will be fully respected and the

integrity of the country will be kept intact. In the constitution there are section 344, 345 and 346 which say that within fifteen years Hindi would become the official language. Are we not violating the constitution?

All the Bills are presented in English and in Supreme Court all work is done in English language which is the language of service class. I do not want to make any remarks in this regard. All routine work in the office of Cabinet Secretary and Deputy Secretary is performed in English. Secretary's orders are final and implemented. The entire country should think over this situation. People like George Fernandes are Members of this House. Shri Vajpayee always speaks in Hindi...*(Interruptions)* What is the state of affairs in the country? Why people do not study in Hindi? In U.P. and Bihar people agitated against the use of Hindi. But the people who do not study in English can not compete for I.A.S. or I.P.S. examinations. cannot join Military services. cannot become doctor's or engineers. The situation is before us that if someone wants to earn his livelihood it is compulsory for him to study English. Even the person who do not know English also try to speak in English. I watch this situation.

[English]

I want to say, but Speaker Sir,

[Translation]

etc. are spoken in English. People do not know how to speak English. Yet they waste their time in showing that they can speak in English. It is not a bad to learn English. One can learn any language, be it English or Tamil...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : If he again will become Minister, he would not render his answer in such good English language.

SHRI KALPNATH RAI : If a question is asked in Hindi I will reply in Hindi and vice versa. No one should think that I do not know English. I can speak fluently in English for hours together but since I have become M.P. I have always chosen to speak in Hindi. All the languages of our country are sister languages. The Administration of this country should be run in the people's language. Judiciary should adopt the language of the people. Viewer's box should always be packed to their full capacity showing people's interest in the politics of the country.

It remains a question when this target would be attained.

While stating my last point in the discussion on the Bill, I would like to speak the objectives of the independence war...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please conclude. Ten hon. Members are in the list to express their views.

SHRI KALPNATH RAI : We hope that the people of this country and Members of Parliament would make their utmost efforts to encourage the language for which leaders like Mahatma Gandhi, Subhash Chandra Bose, Dr. Rajgopalachari, Shri T. Prakasham and Dr. Shyama Prasad Mukherjee had fought, keeping in view the objectives of the independence. At least through this University, Hon. Minister of Human Resource Development would spread the use of Hindi from Kashmir to Kanyakumari. We pray for their long life and hope that Hindi would be spread far and wide through this Bill.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Still Ten Members are to speak and still ten more members want to speak on this Bill.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : It is 6 o'clock at this juncture.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : If we have to complete it today one should speak for only 2-3 minutes. Please speak only your points.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Sir the time may be extended.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : We would extend the time by one hour, but please make all efforts to complete it in half an hour.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : I would like to know whether any more item could be taken after it?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : No, there is no other item.

* SHRI K.P. RAMALINGAM (Tiruchengode) : Hon'ble Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak on this Bill that seeks to establish Mahatma Gandhi International Hindi University.

We are being watched by the world. Entire International community is keenly watching us. Whatever we do here in the House of the people of this great democratic country is being carefully watched. Even small things that happen here draw the attention of the world. All of us have a duty to preserve the unity and integrity of this country. Its sovereignty should be safeguarded. India is not a small country with just one language. India is sub-continent—like with many languages.

Some of us say that there is only one National language. But we have seventeen Indian National languages. Some of us even say that there is 'one India, one people and one language'. Ours is not a small country with one language. Indians living in several parts of this country have got various languages as their mother tongue.

Translation of the Speech originally delivered in Tamil.

case under Section 302 should be registered against the guilty police Inspector within 24 hours. Action should also be taken in the incident of killing of priest in Barabanki which took place in the presence of police. Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like that the hon. Minister should make a statement in this regard...*(Interruptions)* Action should be taken in this connection within 24 hours...*(Interruptions)* We would like that the hon'ble Minister should make a statement first in this connection...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Please go back to your seats. The Home Minister is on his legs. He is going to reply. Please sit down.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Do you want the Minister to reply or not?

[Translation]

SHRI VINAY KATIYAR (Faizabad) : The murder took place in Barabanki in the presence of the police...*(Interruptions)* The Minister should give a reply in this regard...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : What is this going on? You do not even understand anything. Please sit down. The Home Minister wants to reply but you do not allow him to reply.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I get a little bit disturbed when my younger sister Kumari Uma Bharti frequently point out at me. Undoubtedly the police is behind the murder of the four youth of Ghaziabad. I have received a memorandum signed by the locals. I pondered over it and came to the conclusion that police is involved in it. Therefore, we cannot expect from police that they will investigate it properly...*(Interruptions)* I have decided to handover this case to the Central Bureau of Investigation...*(Interruptions)* I have contacted the Governor in this connection. I have told him on telephone that case may be handed over to the Central Bureau of Investigation. Am I required to obtain his approval for this? He replied that he does not know as to whether I shall have to obtain his approval or not. But if you want to do so I shall send a letter suggesting that this case be handed over to the Central Bureau of Investigation. I have no objection in it. This is being done for the same purpose and it will be done. This case will be handed over to the Central Bureau of Investigation.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : All right, he has agreed. Now listen.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : It is enough. He is going in for a CBI enquiry. What else do you want? Let me say one thing. Please sit down. I am standing. Please sit down.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Do you not see me? Do you not have eyes? Did you not see that I was standing? I know that we have only two days left, i.e. today and tomorrow. I would like to accommodate as many Members as possible. The only way to accommodate you is to dispense with the lunch hour. Those who are interested in raising their own matter, may please be here. There will be no lunch hour and everybody will be accommodated.

Shri Shanmugam please.

12.51 hrs.

(Mr. Deputy-Speaker in the Chair)

SHRI P. SHANMUGAM (Vellore) : Sir, the unabated heavy rain and storm for the past ten days have ravaged Chennai, Chāngalpattu, Vallalur, Nagai Quaid-E-Millath, Thiruvavur Sir A.T. Panneerselvam and Tanjavur, Samburayar and North Arcot and Ambedkar Districts in Tamil Nadu. The ferocity of the rain was unknown in the history of the delta districts. Breaches had occurred in many canals and roads.

For the last two days, Chidambaram town which is a temple town was cut off due to heavy rains. More than two lakhs of irrigated samba land was submerged in water. More than three lakh huts have collapsed or have been completely damaged. About 1855 kilometres length of National Highways and roads have suffered extensive damage. More than 585 kilometres length of roads in Chennai have suffered extensive damage. Due to this, the people are not able to move from one place to another.

Thousands of cattle have been killed. So the heavy loss suffered by Tamil Nadu is to the tune of more than Rs. 800 crore...*(Interruptions)*

Please give me two more minutes.

Yesterday, we went on deputation to our hon. Prime Minister. He has agreed to do something. But till now, there is a heavy loss in Tamil Nadu. It is to the tune of more than Rs. 800 crore. We are in need of Rs. 500 crore. Our hon. Prime Minister may kindly release at least Rs. 500 crore from the Prime Minister's Calamities Relief Fund.

I am thankful to you, Sir, for allowing me to speak on the flood situation which has occurred in Tamil Nadu.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : No side discussion please, I will call everybody. Please take your seat.

DR. K.P. RAMALINGAM (Tiruchengode) : Sir, I would like to say something on the same issue. For the last three days we have been raising this matter here. But the Prime Minister has not given the money.

Maithalisharan Gupta said in these words :

"Keval Videsi Vastu hi, Ab Swadeshi Kahan
Yeh Vesh-Bhasha Aur Bhasha Sab Videshi
Yahan.

Gun Matra videshiyon ke Yahan, Ham Unhin
Mein Sama Gaye.

Kaisi Nakal ki Hay, Ham Nakkal pure Ban
Gaye".

Sir, we have not yet established Hindi at the language standard. It is unfortunate. We will progress undoubtedly with International University, but as per the provision made in the constitution, we have to modify, amend it. We have killed ourselves in Section 348 of the constitution. While formulating this section we have provided that Supreme Court, High Court, Parliament and the Legislatures situated in other States, every bill formulated there will be in English. I remember, Rajnarayanji and Hidayatulla ji as Chief Justice of Supreme Court, a matter has come up and then Rajnarayanji said that I will personally discuss it in Hindi and he gave him permission. Second day when the question to constitute the bench had come up, Hidayatullaji was told by same other hon. Justices that as has been provided in section 348, we are bound for English. We can not bear the discussion in Hindi and can not deliver an judgement in Hindi. When Rajnarayanji stood up then Hidayatulla ji said that-

[English]

"I am sorry. My brothers have pointed out that Article 348, we are bound to follow English and we have got no option to do anything in Hindi."

[Translation]

This is a pity scene of Supreme Court. At that time Rajnarayanji said - You Justice, you didn't know that this law was there in the constitution. If you would have told us before then we would have revised it. Ram Manohar Lohiaji and Rajnarayanji always supported the cause of Hindi. Pandit Deen Dayal Udashaya Ji supported the cause of Hindi. From the beginning leaders of Congress adopted Hindi. Mahatma Gandhi and Seth Govind Das and Rajrishi Tandon, these persons devoted their whole life for this but it is a matter of grave concern that the few followers of Lohiaji, who are present here, have not made any efforts to amend section 240 of the constitution. They have not made any effort to modify the section 120 of the Constitution. As per sections 210, 343, 345, 346 and 348 of constitution these are the sections by which we can not make Hindi popular in this country. I would like to call your attention, when the discussion of constituent Assembly were being held, then the speech given by Seth Govind Dasji at that time in the Constituent Assembly,

I would like to quote. He delivered his speech in Hindi, here I am quoting the English translation of that speech. He had said that :

[English]

"I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Members to the resolution passed by the Congress Working Committee in this respect. The Working Committee wants that every attempt should be made completely to replace English by Hindi.

Thereafter, a National Language Convention was held in Delhi. Though the Convention was held under the auspices of the Hindi Sahitya Sammelan, learned persons from almost every region of the country were invited to it. I will content myself by saying that it was the first Convention of its type in the country. Bengal was represented by Dr. Suniti Kumar Chatterjee and Shri Sajni Kant Das, Secretary of the Bangiya Sahitya Parishad. Karnataka was represented by Shri L. Krishan Sharma, Secretary, Kannad Sahitya Parishad. From Malayalam, attended the great poet Vallathol who occupies the same exalted position in Malayalam literature as was occupied by the late Rabindra Nath Tagore in Bengali literature. Kunhan Raja of Malayalam also attended the Convention. From Maharashtra, Mahamahopadhyaya Shri Kane was to come but being unable to undertake the journey he kindly sent a message for the Convention. Shri Ale Ballabh from Orissa attended it. Shri Nilkant Shastri, Dr. Raghwan Viswanatha Satyanarayana, outstanding figures of Telugu had attended it.

It decided that Hindi should take the place of English within ten years."

[Translation]

This is a fact of that time when the constituent Assembly was constituted. In May, 1931 Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru had sent a letter to Hindi Sahitya Sammelan. I would like to quote two sentences of it, which were :

[English]

"I am sorry for not being able to come to Madhura on this occasion. I wish I could come there and render some service which I possibly can, to my Tamil Nadu friends. Particularly I wish I could take part in the deliberations of the Hindi Sahitya Sammelan. Hindi has now completely assumed the role of national language and most of the work of

the Congress is being done in Hindi. It is gratifying to learn that Hindi is increasingly spreading in Tamil Nadu. I would have come and gladly offered my cooperation in this pious task, but I am sorry that on account of compelling reasons I am unable to come there. I hope the session of the Hindi Sahitya Sammelan will be a success and will pave the way for the spread of Hindi in Tamil Nadu."

[Translation]

I quoted this Letter of Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru to make it clear because several times many people give this logic that Nehruji was not in favour of it. It was made clear in the constitutional Assembly that Sanskrit language is the Mother of Hindi and words of Sanskrit language are found in other languages everywhere. Dr. Nizamuddin Ahmed said while he was speaking in a debate of constitution, I would like to quote some of his sentences which are printed on page 1333. He said :

[English]

"Yes, Sir, I will only give a few quotations. Prof. Max Müller says Sanskrit is the 'greatest language in the world, the most wonderful and the most perfect.' Sir, William Jones said that 'Sanskrit is of a wonderful structure, more perfect than Greek, more copious than Latin, more exquisitely refined than either. Whenever we direct our attention to the Sanskrit literature, the notion of infinity presents itself. Surely the longest life would not suffice for a single perusal of works that rise and swell, protuberant like the Himalayas, above the bulkiest compositions of every land beyond the confines of India'. Then, Sir W. Hunter says that the 'Grammar of panini stands supreme among the Grammer of the world. It stands forth as one of the most splendid achievements of human invention and industry..."

[Translation]

While concluding, he said -

[English]

"The Hindus have made a language and a literature and a religion of rare stateliness".

"Bhasha, Bhesh aur Bhagan hai Jisko Apna Pyara, Us per Kabhi Nahin Chalne Ko hai Auron ka chara"

I would like to submit that we must modify and amend the Sections 348 and 120 of our Constitution

because the period of 15 years has already passed and now 50 years have elapsed but, the clause of English, affecting in making Hindi National language. We have to pass a legislation to abolish it. Only by doing so some good thing will happen with Hindi in real terms. The resolution brought forward by you to constitute this 'University for that I congratulate you. With these words I conclude.

SHRI SURESH PRABHU (Rajapur) : Sir, I would, certainly, appreciate the Government for introducing Mahatma Gandhi Antarrashtriya Hindi Vishwavidyalaya Bill in the House. Perhaps the Government waited for 50 years because this bill was to be introduced in the house after 50 years of independence. Therefore, I think that for this thing it has to wait far 50 years. The bill which is introduced before the house I can understand it's importance but not it's relevance. In clause four it is mentioned that this bill is introduced for the improvement and development of Hindi language and literature and to provide facilities of teaching and Research, in knowledge based branches for that purpose. Today the situation in our country is that a student gets education for a degree and earning a livelihood. The objectives given in it to pass this are if somebody comes to the university to take education after completion of that where he would get the job. I think that the Government must have thought about it.

Because the aim of this bill is like this. Today Hindi Language is one of the well known languages of the world. This bill is introduced for its improvement and development. This bill is introduced with the purpose that the people of world must learn this language and also for its development. Some degrees will be given in the University, some courses will be taught but this should also be answered that this may not become a University for providing Degrees. People must not feel that the projects included in it are not going to fulfilled. This must not happen.

In our country this is a fashion that if same project is to be constituted then a great leader's name is added to it and after that the responsibility is over. The greatness of the name of that leader is so vast that even though the institution does not work at all then also the institution is known by the name of the leader. There is Pannar Ashram where this University is likely to be constituted. Vinoba Bhave made a lot of efforts to make Hindi world language.

Just now some Hon. Members have said about the Sanskrit language that now Sanskrit is a dead language now and this is true also. But who are responsible for it? Are we not responsible for it? A language which was in use before two-three thousand back the language we destroyed it. But the person who worked for the popularisation of this language is Vinoba Bhave. After Mahatma Gandhi he worked to promote this cause. If

you want to include the names of great persons then give his name to any faculty of this University.

I would like to put two-three more points before you. I don't know that discussion must be held on this fact that Hindi must exist or must not exist there. We are discussing to pass this bill. It is mentioned in it that this University will be a residential University. Lodging arrangements will be made in it for the students and this will be at Wardha and efforts are being made to constitute it at Wardha. How many people will come to live in Wardha - this is the point which must be taken in to consideration. In this bill, it has been provided that in those states, where Hindi is not spoken, regional centres should be established for promoting it's expansion. Maharashtra, where Hindi is spoken, people understand it there also, regional centres must be opened as early as possible. It is very necessary that this language should be promoted in Maharashtra and Tamilnadu. Just before now some of my friends told about reservation in those states. To do away with this, and to popularise it in those states, will be a great thing.

Government have formulated this bill very Comprehensively. I would like to ask the Government that what arrangements are made for its feeding. This arrangement will be made by University itself or it has to go before University grants Commission or Government will provide it out of it's Consolidated fund. In this bill nothing is mentioned in this regard. Rashtrapatiiji will be the visitor of this University who will become chancellor afterwards. If there is some provision in this regard, then there is need to provide information in it.

Just now, our hon. colleagues have repeated the name of Ram Manohar Lohia. Dr. Ram Manohar said one thing that Hindi is such language which is a language of Common man, it can be understood by common man. Hindi is the only medium by which the Government can reach to the people. Therefore, it must be made popular and expanded. This must not remain just only for quotation.

Most of the leaders of United Front draw their inspiration from Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia. With his inspiration they joined politics. So, I think this work will be completed during their regime.

It has been said about the appointment of Chancellor that he shall be appointed by the Visitor from a panel of three persons recommended by the Executive Council. Today, if we look into the shortcomings of any University we would find that political appointments, made in the University, are the only reasons for them. It is political people who decides as to who is an eminent person. The management and schooling of this University should be on the pattern of Gurukul. Hostel and study arrangements should be made on the pattern of old Gurukul system.

SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT (Nandurbar) : Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to congratulate the Human Resource Development Minister, Shri S.R. Bommai. Hindi language is spoken as national language in our country. I have gone through the Bill and found that the officers and employee of this University would be Hindi speaking people. Most of our friends have expressed their views here in Hindi and I associate myself with the views expressed by them.

Sir, every department of the Government of India writes letters in Hindi and English but sometimes letters are sent to the villagers in English only. The Government should pay its attention towards such things. A large number of people of our country speak Hindi. Other regional languages are also spoken in different States but now a days more and more use of Hindi language is being made in most of the States and it is a good thing. Sir, the posts of Finance officer, Registrar and other officers would be filled up in this Mahatma Gandhi International University, so I wish that the Chancellor and other officers would work in Hindi invariably. It appears from the Bill also that they will work in Hindi.

There is a provision of providing hostel facility to the students in this University. I think they will get degree in Hindi and I hope that after getting degrees they would get Government jobs.

Just now one of our friends was saying that when they went to a foreign country our High Commission talked with him in English. I also have an opportunity to go to South Africa and we regret to see that Our High Commissioner talks to us in English. After some time we met some Indian there with whom we could talk in Hindi. If a foreign leader visits our country and speaks in his own language why we cannot speak in Hindi in foreign countries. If we speak Hindi in our own country then we can speak Hindi in foreign countries also. As I have already said that this University would be set up at the earliest and all works will be done there in Hindi. I hope that admission would be granted there on the basis of merit. There is also a provision of student hostel in this University and I hope that would be constructed at suitable place. During student life, we also used to live in hostels but that was British period and now our country is an independent country, therefore, the Government should take care of all these things.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, you are ringing the bell, therefore, while concluding I would like to congratulate the hon. Minister of Human Resource Development for bringing this Bill.

SHRI SYED MASUDAL HOSSAIN (Murshidabad) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I support this Bill. I would like to say one or two things. The public elects us with responsibility but it is regretful that few of us here are aware of their responsibility. People all over the country

are watching and hearing on T.V. what we are doing here. The University Bill has been introduced in this House but the debate has started from Hindi. As far as I know all the languages listed in the constitution are national languages. Stress has been laid on Hindi because it is a link language. Hindi is needed to link one province to another. According to the Official Languages Act India has been divided into three parts. Part 'A' consists of Hindi speaking States. Part 'B' consists of State like Maharashtra where miscellaneous languages are spoken, four States of South India North-East Provinces which function through their respective regional languages have been categorized under Part 'C'. Every State has its regional language as the official language. Many hon. Members here have been attacking English. I do not approve of it the reason being that they do not know about those words the tiny States of the North-East have English as their official language. If we raise such type of questions here, it will hurt the feelings of people residing in those parts. We have to integrate the country, not disintegrate it. I rise to say only this much that we have to strengthen the country. Perhaps we do not know how sensitive is the language issue. The country got divided on the basis of religion. The country broke into two in the year 1947.

SHRI RAM NAIK : Who did that?

SHRI SYED MASUDAL HOSSIAN : Whoever might have done that, I am not going into that point. If the Chair gives me that much time, I am ready to speak. What I am saying is that Pakistan was formed in 1947 and when it tried to impose Urdu on East Bengal region in the year 1948, from the date started a language movement there which resulted in the birth of a new country in 1971. This new country came into being on the basis of language. Culture is above religion, language is above religion. No history can tell us the number of times people all over the world converted to another religion, but nowhere have people ever abandoned their culture and language. The language undergoes change, the language has a dynamism of its own. From Sanskrit emanated Hindi, from Hebrew emanated Arabic and from Latin emanated English, but all the three i.e. Sanskrit, Hebrew and Latin are dead languages today while the languages derived from them have been flowering.

Bapuji said that Hindi and Urdu will continue to go together and words of Urdu will gradually get assimilated in Hindi. The script will continue to be Devnagri, but the words will be of Urdu. This new language will be known as Hindustani. This process is going on. Urdu, as burdened with the words of Arabic and Persian and, Hindi as burdened with the Sanskrit words can never become the mother-tongue of the general people.

This is the Hindi University Bill but it have had to speak on this point because some members have

uttered such things here which hurt the feelings of people living in other areas. I will not name anybody, but an hon. Member, while making a forceful speech about Hindi, remembered Shakespere when he found himself in trouble. All of you are aware of this and newspapers have also reported about it, they fight their legal battles in Court in English. Therefore it is not proper to say such things. We have to see to it that the proposed Hindi University is set up on firm foundations. One Member on behalf of my party has struck the right note when he said that every provincial language should have such a University. May every language blossom. May we continue to work in our own language, as this will help bridge the gap between one language and another and the language which will take birth as a result of this process will be Hindustani. I hope that Hindustani will become the language of our country but we will have to allow the language to proceed at its own pace. If we indulge in hair splitting even before that, it will not help solve the problem but rather confound it even further. With this I conclude. I thank you for having given me time to speak.

SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH : I have to make a submission.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I may make a submission prior to yours. I have the names of 15 hon. Members with me. If all these hon. Members speak for two minutes each, it will take half an hour. Hon. Minister has to reply and the Bill has to be passed. Either I must curtail the list on Members may speak for one to one-and-a-half minutes each.

SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is not fair to do so with the fair name of Mahatma Gandhi. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI GANGA CHARAN RAJPUT (Hamirpur) (U.P.) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, you are giving so little time for Mahatma Gandhi Hindi University. You should not do so with the Father of the Nation. *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Tomorrow there will be Private Member's Business, so we cannot postpone the discussion for tomorrow.

SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH : I may submit that it is not a question of Urdu and Hindi. A unique experiment is going to be made in the form of Hindi University.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : What are your suggestions?

SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH : Sir, kindly fix two minutes' time for each speaker. All the Hon. Members are requested to have their say within the prescribed time limit.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Okay, those who have to give their suggestions may please do so.

PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA (Samastipur) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, thank you very much for giving me an opportunity to speak. I thank Government for bringing forward this resolution of Vishwa Hindi Sammelan after 20 years and for this I also congratulate the hon. Minister. But I have some reservation in this regard. I would like to know as to what is your intention in associating the name of Mahatma Gandhi with Hindi International University and the name of Maulana Azad with Urdu University. Whether Urdu is the language of Muslims only and Hindi is the language of Hindus that you have attached Hindu and Muslim names with both these Universities. By associating the name of Mahatma Gandhi, you have not given any importance to his name. What to talk of India Mahatma Gandhi's name is taken with respect all over the world. If it was at all necessary to associate the name, then you could have linked the name of Hindi and Urdu laureates with these universities. Munshi Prem Chand is called the father of small stories in Urdu. Then why his name is not associated with this university. Raghupati Rai, Firaq and there are dozens of such names which can be associated with Urdu University and in the same way the Hindi laureate Munshi Prem Chand's name could have been linked. For establishing a Hindi university in Wardha it was not necessary that it should be named after Mahatma Gandhi.

My second objection is why the names of politicians be linked with universities? Why not the names of laureates of languages be associated? There are many names such as Jai Shankar Prasad, Bharatendu Harish Chand and many more. Their names should be associated with the universities. Now I will discuss this Bill.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Ok, you have come to the point after two minutes.

PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA : Mr. Deputy Speaker, it will be an injustice if only two minutes time is given to me.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I will ring the bell after two minutes.

PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA : People have taken half an hour time. But when my turn came, you are giving me only two minutes time. Sir, in the objectives and reasons of the bill it has been stated.

[English]

"Facilities of teaching and dissemination of the standard form of Hindi shall meet such aspirations of the Indian and other communities. Though Hindi is taught and studied in most of the Indian Universities and in nearly 150 Universities abroad, there is no centralised institution or a Centre of studies which coordinates, develops or directs programmes to meet such expectations."

[Translation]

But there is no mention of this fact in the Bill... (Interruptions)

Sir, when this Bill has come before us, while congratulating the HRD Minister I would like to ask if the name of any present politician was to be associated with this University, then why the name of Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia was not associated, who has worked for popularising Hindi. Some time before it was said that for the promotion and dissemination of Hindi the Constitution should be amended. I would like to ask is there any copy of the Constitution in Hindi - the Constitution is in English then what will you amend.

Here he are talking about bridging North and South. The question of language is very sensitive one. Here I would like to remind one thing. Sometime back, when there was dispute over language, it was decided that three languages be taught in all schools, colleges and universities. Why do not we follow that formula. If education will be imparted in every school, college and University through three languages, the people in the north shall learn South Indian languages and the people in South shall learn North Indian languages. It will help in uniting the country. With these words, I support the bill and congratulate the Hon'ble Minister for bringing this Bill.

PROF. OM PAL SINGH 'NIDAR' (Jalesar) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I wanted to speak on this Bill in detail because there are technical lacunae in it. But because you have imposed a time limit, I cannot speak in detail. I would say that this Bill introduced in the House is a very good effort and I support it. But giving international status a language which has not been given the status of an official language even after 50 years seems to be an eye wash. May our HRD Minister, this whole word is wrong in itself. Our Minister is good person but his adjective is not good succeed and our language reach at international heights.

I would like to say one or two things in nut-shell. These days the translation of Hindi is so difficult and mechanical that the words have lost their meaning. If such type of Hindi is going to be taught in this University, this will not help in the development and dissemination of Hindi.

The other suggestion which I want to make is that it has been said that we shall propagate on Doordarshan and Akashwani. But the language which is spoken, these, we have to search Hindi words in it. Therefore, it would be better, if you set up a new Doordarshan centre and appoint Language expert otherwise it would be better that our existing Doordarshan remain far off and does not come closer to the masses.

One more suggestion which I want to make is that we should impose some restrictions on the powers of

Executive Council and we should frame rules to file case against them in the Supreme Court and High Courts.

One suggestion which I want to make, is that if we are serious about promoting this Language, we shall have make it the Language of Court, the Language of U.P.S.C. I am also of the opinion that we should also accord importance to our regional language.

When the people will come to know that not only Hindi but all the regional Languages are also being developed, they will get inspiration and support us.

You are talking about suggestion, therefore, I will take one more minute and would like that the Hon'ble Minister can note down these suggestion. If Hindi is actually to be accorded the status of an international Language, is to be promoted, scientific and technical training is to be imparted in Hindi, then first of all we shall have to accord it the status of official language of India. The other Languages of the country shall have to be given equal importance. But prior to doing all this we should have to call a Round Table Conference of all political parties, representatives of languages and regions and a final decision be taken after considering this language problem seriously. Because the question of language is linked with the unity, integrity and education system of the country.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I also want to give two small suggestions which need special attention. Historical facts and figures have proved that Hindi can develop into a link language but it can do so with the help of other languages. Therefore, Hindi speaking people should realise the difficulties of non-Hindi speaking people and both the parties should avoid the linguistic confrontation. Sufficient attention should be paid for the development of regional Languages. Hindi should be made simple and popular. Inexpensive and simple books in Hindi be printed and distributed in non-Hindi speaking areas. Where there Hindi speaking people are in small number, Hindi speaking people should go there and where Malayalam, Tamil or Bangla speaking people are in small number, the people, speaking language should go there. This will bridge the gap between people speaking different languages. We should not hesitate to adopt the useful words of every language.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, lastly I will conclude with a piece of suggestion. If we really want that Hindi should prosper and develop, the language should not be made the mean of political interest. Till we draw political mileage out of the language issue, this will be a disputed issue and a bone of contention for the people. We will not arrive at any concrete solution to the problem.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, in the end I would like to say that proper arrangements should be made for the propagation of other Indian languages in the Hindi

Speaking areas also and the three language formula should be implemented effectively. This University should make arrangements for the research study of all the languages mentioned here so that these languages become more rich.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am pained to point out that during the Independence days students from Africa and South and East Asian countries used to come to India for education and they used to learn Hindi also but today the students of these countries prefer to learn English instead of Hindi. Therefore, we should make such arrangements so that this University may provide education in Hindi to all the students. With these words I conclude.

SHRI DILEEP SINGH BHURIA (Jhabua) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to congratulate the hon. Minister Shri Bommai for establishing a Hindi University after 50 years of Independence of this country. Many hon. Members have said a lot about the language issue and this University. I support this Bill and would say that it is a good beginning and a step in the right direction. Many hon. Members have said English is link language in India but I would like to remind them that it has never been so whether the Kings and Emperors ruled here or it was a rule of the Britishers. English was the language of the Rulers and that is why even Mahatma Gandhi said that the knowledge of this language was essential because the English men did not know Hindi language. But the language of the poor and common masses was Hindi and that was the strength of the country. That is why the Britishers had to Quit India. The Hindi language contributed a lot to the

19.00 hrs.

freedom struggle of the country. Today, when the poor is getting poorer and the rich is becoming richer it is only this Hindi language which has a deep impact on all of them. The three-language formula is being implemented throughout the country. Many States have opened Navodaya Schools. Even in States like Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Rajasthan and other areas students are studying Telugu and Kannada. But Navodaya schools have not been opened in many States. I would like to urge upon Shri Bommai that if we want to strengthen this country, if we want to strengthen the democracy, language is the only means through which this can be done. There are countries like Japan and America where many languages are spoken and English language is the language of the Rulers along. In Japan, France and Russia nobody speaks in English. Even if they know English, they speak in their own native language. They never speak in English.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : It is already 7 O'Clock. Kindly tell by how much time do you want the House to be extended.

SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH : By one hour, Sir.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Alright the House is extended by one hour.

SHRI DILEEP SINGH BHURIA : You have given me two minutes to speak I will speak only for two minutes.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : 12 members are yet to speak.

SHRI DILEEP SINGH BHURIA : I was saying. It is the language... *(Interruptions)* Just now one of our colleague was saying that there should be no political use of language. If some sort of ban is imposed on political parties that these shall not use religion and Language then no one has any problem with this language. We have no problem. The dispute is as to how voter are to be lured. Our political parties should include national issues in their party manifestoes. Whatever may be the language or religions, they should include the problem of unemployment in their agenda. Only then our country can make progress rapidly. The common man who is not yet partner in the progress, can make progress through that Language. A villager, either he may be from Tamilnadu, or Andhra, Maharashtra or from Gujarat, he does not understand that language. He wants his own language. He can make progress in his own Language. With these words I thank the Hon'ble Minister. He has taken a very good step. This is a world famous University after the name of Mahatma Gandhi. I support this bill and thank the hon'ble Minister. Mr. Deputy Speaker, I also thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak.

SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV (Gonda) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, I support this bill but I have to raise issues before Human Resource Development minister. This bill is a translation itself. This translation has raised an issue that till today Hindi is the language of translation in the country. Due to the fact that official work is not done in Hindi, it still remains the language of translation. For the first time on 9.10.96, all the four people on top post spoke in English in the Central Hall and they even rejected Hindi from the field of translation. All the four spoke in English. In the past if one person would speak in English in the Central Hall, the other would speak in Hindi. This bill reflects that the country is not accepting Hindi even as a language of translation.

This bill shows that perhaps the Government of India can make Hindi as the Language of translation at International level. You want to develop Hindi. What will be the medium of teaching in Research for the development of Language and literature. If the teaching and research will be done in English, then I would ask the next question that in that case will the soul of Mahatma Gandhi will be there. Mahatma Gandhi used to say that if he had the power of a dictator, he would have dispatched English. He also used to say that

English is not a language, but a culture in the shape of British which tarnishes the Indian culture deeply. This bill does not have the Govt. of Mahatma Gandhi in it. If we feel that this Hindi University has sanctity of Antarrastriya Hindi Vishwa Sammelan, Wardha, whether that sanctity is there in its soul? If not, then I feel this Bill will be soulless.

I would like to say one thing about Hindi. You accept it or not, the world has recognised Hindi as a national Language. Just now our President or the former Prime Minister have gone out. Adivasis sang a song in Hindi before them. The representatives were honoured in Hindi. But our representatives replied in English. If it is the situation, whereas I know if there is any language which is second to Chinese Language, then it is Hindi. Today it is being taught and researched in 150 Universities. Your every embassy has a cultural Department. But whether the Deptt. of Culture has any connection whatsoever with those schools where study and research of Hindi is conducted.

I would like to say one thing more, this international University has a number of Hindi institutions which have always been trying and are trying even today. Whether the scholars, propagators of such institutions will be associated with this so that they can associate it with the whole country.

As hon. Member had asked as to whether another branch thereof will be set up elsewhere, abroad. After all how is it proposed to be set up at the international level.

Regarding the budget it says that if money is found short in the budget, this University perhaps will not be able to pull on. Therefore, it cannot function unless the budget the budget is provided for. That is why I want them to act as guide in the fields of research, education and technique to be conducted through this University and some remedy to the problem of having to impart education in English in the institutions of education, engineering etc. may be found.

Talk of replacing English holds no longer today. English has today become the passport for getting job, promotion and respect in and no good is possible without it. As a result of this English is ruling the roost here although we are going to celebrate the golden jubilee of the departure of Englishmen from here. It is dominating not only over Hindi but over all the languages of India. Whether this University will be chalking out a programme of its own to do something about the pre-eminent position that which the English language has come to occupy as the surest medium for getting jobs and promotions. Hindi language will not make progress unless we support the idea of reducing the pre-eminent position of English and enhance the status of Hindi. Today English medium schools are mushrooming in

every village unchecked. Nobody would like to see the future of his child in dark. Can we chalk out a scheme to improve the bleak future prospects of such child through this University, take a resolve to this effect? Unless we do so, our present Bill will perhaps remain incomplete.

My speech would perhaps be incomplete without adding one thing. All languages today depend to a large extent on modern instruments whether it is computer or telex and this University can save the language only if it proceeds to make use of a dozen such modern equipments in the matter of language, otherwise results will be nil in the same way as our bureaucrats have hampered/impeded the progress of Hindi by installing equipments of Roman script in all their offices. If somebody says today interpreters will be provided, then I would put one question to him also that even after becoming interpreter who is going to use Devnagri, why, where, how and what for? Because all the files of the Government of India are written exclusively in the Roman script in English. This question confronts us. Is our University being set up in the name of Mahatma Gandhi's entity for the sake of the country's unity, integrity, culture, dignity and identity. (Interruptions) I am concluding. If such an experiment is made in order to keep alive the spirit of Mahatma Gandhi, save the Vishwa Hindi Sammelan and to fulfill their wishes, then this University is likely to make success, otherwise it will prove to be just another University like the other 223 Universities.

I would like the Hon. Minister to clarify on this so that people may have trust.

SHRI RAMBHADUR SINGH (Maharajganj) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I support this Bill and also congratulate the Hon. Minister.

But while congratulating him I also want to strike a note of caution that his intentions are unlikely to be fulfilled unless Hindi is established at the national level, unless it is made well known at the national level and for that he will have to first do away with the current prevalence of English in the country's public sector courts, schools, colleges and Indian Embassies. Secondly, the persons at the helm of power in the country should, while visiting other countries of the world, according to their capacity either make their public speeches in the language of the host country or in the language of their own country. Thirdly, whenever I talk of this, the English-knowing people say no, it is not possible, Hindi is a very poor language, first make it rich, then apply it to the public field. It is foolish to say so, it has never happened anywhere in the world nor is it likely to happen this way. Unless we use Hindi in practice, it will not blossom, it will not develop, it will not bloom, therefore I would like to repeat again and again that do away with English in public field and

instead put Hindi or Hindustani in use. Even if it amounts to I may suppose that Hindi is a poor language that can we forget that a child is deeply influenced by the language of the mother of whom he is born, lives, sleeps, dines, plays and speaks with her. Whether a child or any person can have knowledge of a subject-matter more more effectively in his own mother language or in English? 70 to 80 percent children here are equal in intellect but they have their mits out in acquiring proficiency in English which they must at the cost of gaining knowledge of other subjects like History, geography, arithmetic, science etc. in which they generally draw a blank. Whenever some one says that this language is poor in words, it is not rich but a poor language, then I have to advance another argument, no language in the world is absolutely independent in all respects. Language is subject to exchange. Only that language tends to survive in which most people can exchange their feelings. This is a task which is performed mostly by rural people and not by the erudite persons. The words coined by learned persons are usually tough. For example, Martand for Surya and Bhanu for Martand. In the same way, Vashpiyaskad Vyamalaya for station. But the rural people coin words by twisting them according to their pronunciation and then taking them to their tongues. For example station for station, signal for signal and platform for platform. The words are therefore truly coined not by learned persons but by rural folk and the latter tend to become the language of the people as a whole. A scholarly language belongs to persons and not the people as a whole. The language of education should be Hindustani and in a democracy official work should be carried out in the language of the people. But putting aside all these arguments, the English knowing persons do not accept them and do what they will. It has just been mentioned in the House that we want to impose Hindi. I would like to say with all integrity that I never even dream of imposing Hindi, but wish to do away with English. It is because I know that unless English is bid goodby, Hindi is never likely to attain national, nor international, status at any cost. When Hindi attains international status, other languages of the country will also prosper, acquire frame and will get chance to bloom. Experienced people know very well that by keeping English one cannot perform the feat of taking Hindi to the national or international level in spite of his wish to do so. Unless the languages of the country get their due place, Hindi cannot find out one. That is why I have never differentiated in my mind between Hindi and other native languages. I would like to reiterate that all we want is to bid goodby to English and in no way want to impose Hindi.

All the languages of the country are sisters among themselves, one may be younger sister, another elder one. I do not want any language to be either scorned

at or preferred to another. One who looks to them wary, is an enemy of the native languages, the country, Hindi and democracy. It can never be helpful in elevating Hindi to the national and international level.

Mr. Minister, a number of Committees have already been set up, a number of Universities too would be opened but as long as the Government does not work for securing national status for Hindi, you cannot succeed in elevating it to the international level.

With these words, I conclude.

SHRI CHAMAL LAL GUPTA (Udhampur) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise to support this Bill. But at the same time, I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards the difficulties that may come in the way. I do not find any financial memorandum in the Bill. May be that it has been passed by the Rajya Sabha before it came to this House and, hence, the financial memorandum is not there. The Bill regarding the setting up of Urdu University carried the provision for Rs. six crores.

SHRI S.R. BOMMALI : Yes, it is there, a provision of Rs. 30 crore is there in the financial memorandum.

SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA : Thank you. In my view, no University can be set up without funds, it cannot even be imagined.

The aims and objects of the Bill are saved. These aims are to promote and develop Hindi and its literature and; for that purpose, to provide for instructional and research facilities in the relevant branches of learning; to provide for active pursuit of comparative studies research in Hindi and other Indian languages; to create facilities for development and dissemination of relevant information in the country and abroad. Further, the Bill goes on to explain the powers of the University. But there is no mention in it as to how this language is going to be promoted abroad. This is all right to say that we want to make Hindi as an international language. But, as has been said by the previous speakers how can aspire to achieve this objective when we have not been able to declare Hindi as our national language during the last 50 years.

Sir, I come from Jammu and Kashmir State. As I said earlier, the official language of the State is Urdu but the language used in the official work in English. Hindi has no place in that set up. We have seen that Hindi can be a major medium in the unity and integrity of the country, but in the absence of any steps being taken for its promotion in the State, the conditions that have been created these are exactly the reverse. The Bill says that the jurisdiction of the University shall extend to the whole of India. Therefore, I would submit that this University should be associated with the colleges in Kashmir also. Or otherwise, the Government should make other arrangement for its promotion in the

State. Not even a single Hindi typewriter or computer is available in the entire State administration. As long as the Central Government does not make proper arrangements for the promotion and development of the national language within the State, the question mark will continue to be there on the unity and integrity of the country.

I want to say one more thing. Shri Banatwalla who is not present right now, had raised an issue. This Bill provides that if the State Government wants to open a college or an institute, permission to this effect will have to be sought from the Central Government. In a way, the scope is being limited. No such work can be done until the Central Government okays it. Thus, there is a question mark on the very name of the University and its autonomy. I want these points to be clarified by the hon. Minister when he replies to the debate.

In the end, I would like the hon. Minister to allay our apprehensions. I fully support this Bill.

SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR SINGH (Aurangabad) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the World Hindi Conference in 1975 recommended the setting up of an International Hindi University. The Government has brought forward this Bill to achieve that objective and I explore my gratitude for that. At the same time, I associate myself with the views expressed by the hon. Members in this regard.

This House is the supreme body of this country. The way the hon. Members chose to express their views in Hindi on the International Hindi University, I hope will inspire the hon. Members and the Chair to work in Hindi. There was a time when Nalanda University to Bihar had a name in the world and the people across the world used to come to Nalanda. The proposed University should be developed on those lines so that the people may come to this University for learning and studying Hindi.

Sir, one more point I have to make regarding translation. Those who do the translation work are supposed to be the scholars of Hindi, but in fact they are scholars of English language. They do not use simple language in translation. Instead they use too much difficult language that we find it difficult to comprehend it. With this hope, I support this Bill and conclude my speech.

SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, this Bill was introduced in the House on 16th August, 1995. It was mentioned in the objects and Reasons of the Bill that the resolution for establishing an International Hindi University was adopted in the first World Hindi Conference held in Nagpur in January, 1975. It further says that the University shall be established by the name of Mahatma Gandhi. Its headquarters shall be at Wardha, the city with which

Mahatma Gandhi was closely associated. This International Hindi University is being dedicated to Mahatma Gandhi. In his speech, the hon. Minister said that it was Mahatma Gandhi who linked Hindi with the freedom struggle and hence we are naming this University after Mahatma Gandhi. Its reasons are of utmost importance. This is not confined to the language and its development. This question is linked with the national movement and the Unity and integrity of the country. Therefore, if we view Hindi in the limited context of a University, I think, we will be going against the spirit of the Bill.

Sir, further on, it has been said that this language played a prominent role in the freedom struggle. I am one of those four nates who were members in both 10th as well as 11th Lok Sabha. But in the 11th Lok Sabha, we accomplished big tasks, first of them being the celebration of 25th anniversary of Bangladesh liberation as 'Victory Day'. Bangladesh was created by the blood and sacrifices of our brave soldiers. The other occasion came when in this very historical Central Hall, where the first meeting of the Constituent Assembly took place, we celebrated the golden jubilee of that meeting. It gave the Members of the 11th Lok Sabha an opportunity to go through the pages of history. The fact that none of the speakers who spoke on the occasion of the golden jubilee of the constituent Assembly including the Hon. Speaker, Hon. Prime Minister, Hon. Vice President of India and Hon. President of India, used Hindi as the medium of his speech despite the fact that many of them knew Hindi and could have spoken in Hindi, became a matter of discussion in the country. I had raised it then and it pains me even today. They could have spoken in layman's Hindi, but that would have added to the nation's glory. The step to bring forward this Bill in the House is also a historical one. I consider it historical because during the last 50 years at least Hindi has been recognised and this is yet another attempt by the Government to revive Hindi.

I bow my head with reverence to late Shri Ram Manohar Lohia and Shri Raj Narayan who topped those ceaselessly struggled for the cause of Hindi. They continuously worked against casteism and for Hindi both in and outside this House. We cannot forget Rajrishi Tandon who sacrificed everything for Hindi. Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyay was also a pearl in that chain. Mahatma Gandhi belonged to Gujarat which was not a Hindi speaking state and I compliment the hon. Minister for naming this University after Mahatma Gandhi and welcome it.

Another Gujarati great man who worked tirelessly for Hindi was Swami Dayanad Saraswati. He wrote 'Satyarth Prakash' in Hindi. The hon. Minister has stated in his speech that the proposed University will have four faculties - Faculty of Languages; Faculty of Literature, Faculty of Sanskrit and Faculty of Translation.

I would request the hon. Minister that one of these faculties should be named after a great man so that besides Mahatma Gandhi we could associate the name of that great son of this country and Swami who was born on the soil of Gujarat.

My friend who is sitting on the rear bench said that Sanskrit, Latin and Hibroo languages have become extinct. Sanskrit is the language of the Gods and hence it cannot become extinct. It is the mother of all Indian languages and is everflowing. People from all over the world went to Israel and all of them spoke different languages. But Israeele took Hibroo language out of the scripts and developed it and today we find that Hibroo enjoys the status of both official and national language of that country. So powerful is the language. Language is a medium of expression. If the people are not able to communicate among themselves, they can neither become good neighbours nor can they make a good nation. Therefore, for the ideological integrity of the nation, there should be one language of the country.

Sir, you might have heard the name of a famous social reformer Shri Keshav Chand Sen. Much before the independence he wrote in Sulabh Samachar in Bangla in 1874 that India must have a common language. What could be that language and how to solve that problem? He wrote the Hindi language had the words of all indian language and it represented the sentiments of all Indian languages, therefore Hindi could be our national language and official language. Till now we have accepted it as our official language only but not as our national language.

We talk about an international University. A large number of non-resident Indian are living in every corner of the world and they are great intellectual and talented people and we want to associate them with the economic development of our country. This International University can contribute lot in this regard. They can contribute a lot for the propagation and promotion of Hindi not on is Maritius, Britain and French Guyana but also in the most developed countries like U.S.A. and Canada. The Government should associate them with this University. The hon. Minister should pay attention towards this point also.

Sir, I would like to submit two points more. I would like to quote here what Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru had said about English. I have to quote from English. While speaking about English in the Constituent Assembly, he said that English language and its mentality are not only taking us towards economic slavery but till now we could not get rid of mental slavery. The English people have left the country but education of Lord Macaulay is still here. He said it in the Constituent Assembly while speaking about language and... (Interruptions) Sir, I am concluding. You will get a chance. It is a question of Hindi language. We, both come from Hindi belt. You are

just like our elder brother and friend. Therefore, I would request you to give some more time to me so that I may make my submission... (Interruptions) You are elder because you are from Bihar and Bihar has always helped Uttar Pradesh.

[English]

"However good, however important English may be, we cannot tolerate that there should be an English knowing elite and large mass of people not knowing English. Therefore, we must have our own language."

[Translation]

It was said by Nehruji. He was a member of Constituent Assembly and our Prime Minister. We always remember him. He at least said about one common language. The Opposition leader, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee is not present at this time in the House. He was our Minister of Foreign Affairs in 1977 and at that time he delivered his speech in UNO in Hindi for the first time. But you have never done it. Why you have not done it till today? Foreign dignitaries come to our country and they speak in their own language. Chinese speak in Chinese language and French people speak in their French language. Why you cannot speak in Hindi and convey them through interpreters? Why you feel ashamed in speaking Hindi. You speak English in foreign countries and whenever any of our foreign friend comes to India you talk with him in English... (Interruptions)

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV (Patna) : Sir, I went to Iran and you will be glad to know that I talked with Iranian leaders in Hindi.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : It is a good thing.

SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH : I am grateful to you that you have spoken in your mother tongue in Iran. For that I congratulate you but our attitude should be to feel pride on our country, language, culture, civilization and inventions. These are the things to be proud of. I, on behalf of my self and on behalf of our party support the establishment of this University. I associate myself with the feeling of the House that such a big step is being taken by the Government I pray god that he may bless you with success. The shortcomings in the Bill can be removed later on but your intention should be clear. This International University named after Mahatma Gandhi would become an instrument for converting this Hindi language from official language to National language. I support this Bill and Congratulate you for taking this historical decision.

SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI (Darbhanga) : Sir, first of all I would like to congratulate the hon. Education Minister... (Interruptions) I am supporting Hindi in Urdu. At first the hon. Education Minister brought a

Bill for Urdu University and now he has brought this Bill for the establishment of a Hindi University. I was listening very carefully to speeches of other hon. Members. I had an opportunity to stay outside India for seven years, so I can say that every country has its own language. Multi-linguistic states have also adopted are largely spoken language as their national language and they are trying to make them as their national language. Education should be imparted in all languages.

One of our colleagues said that since education of Engineering, medicine and science is imparted in English so it cannot be removed. English language has become a sign of our slavery. This language is a gift of our 200 years of slavery and that is why English language is there in our different Universities and institutions. Therefore, I would like to say that in our country we should try not only to teach Hindi literature but should try to impart Engineering, medicines and Science education in Hindi language. So long as you do not do that we would continue to bear the stigma of slavery. You can go to China or Japan and can see that they are imparting education in their own languages. The need of the hour is that we should develop a language which can be understood by common Hindustani. I came from Urdu background but I read Engineering in English. And now when I try to read it is Hindi. I cannot understand Hindi terminology. As one of our colleagues was saying that a time will come when Hindi and Urdu will become one. I am also of the same opinion that there is no much difference between Hindi and Urdu. If we adopt a common approach in speaking and writing, we can easily develop a common and easy language. The words of other regional languages should also be included in it. I have visited Morocco, Saudi Arab and Bahrain. There also Custom officials, excise officials or migration officials ask us in Urdu as to what they can do for us. Therefore under this International University, you may open colleges in India or abroad but efforts should be made to develop it as a Common language. I would like to read a couplet from which you can understand the difference between Hindi and Urdu language.

Panghat pe jao ho to mukh dekhe hai pani.

Anchal jo sarak jae to ahamsheer chale re.

What I mean to say is that there is no difference between Hindi and Urdu. In this couplet three Hindi words- 'Panghat', 'Achanal' and 'Pani' have been used and 'Shamsheer' is an Urdu word but this is a Urdu couplet. If we adopt the words of other languages in Hindi, it will become an easy language. Sir, I will conclude within one minute. The language used in film is a Hindustani language and it is understood by a Common Hindustani. Film songs of our country are very famous and they are understood by the people outside India who know Arabi and Persian. What I mean to say

is that we have our own weaknesses. I would like to know that even after 50 years of independence, why we have not made any effort to impart Engineering and medical education in Hindi. No such effort was made. Where in Medical College, Hyderabad, education can be imparted in Urdu why it cannot be done in Hindi. Since, I have studied Engineering so I can say that it we make a sincere effort this education can be imparted in Hindi I still remember the principle of Archimedes which I had read in Urdu - that the loss in weight of an article, when dipped in water, is equivalent to the water displaced by it.

When one thing can be taught in Urdu why it cannot be in Hindi? The Government should make a definite attempt towards this thing because so long as we do not link the language with common man, its development is not possible. But we lack confidence. Many of us speak Hindi or Urdu. Many other languages are also there in our country like Telegu, Tamil, Kannad, Marathi etc. and we respect those languages because they are all Indian languages. But besides all these languages, we need a common language and Hindi can be that common language in our country I congratulate the hon. Minister from the very core of my heart for establishing this university. I hope that a day will come when this blot of slavery in the name of English would be removed from India. We would be able to study, write and to pursue education in the language of our own country. Hindi is the only language which can be the national language of this country.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : For the information of MPs I would like to say one thing that late Dr. Rajendra Prasad had to feel sorry for two things. First was that inspite of efforts we could not fix any qualification for the MPs and the MLAs and the second was that we should not write Indian Constitution in Hindi. Of course, its Hindi version was prepared later on.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer) : Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Hindi has a unique place amongst the Indian languages.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Hon. Members, no member on the panel of Chairman is available at present. If the House agrees, may I request Shri Syed Masudal Hossain to take the Chair?

SOME HON. MEMBERS : Yes, yes.

19.48 hrs.

(Shri Syed Masudal Hossain in the Chair)

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : Hon. Chairman, Sir, I really congratulate the hon. Minister of HRD from the

core of my heart for bringing Mahatma Gandhi Antarrastriya Hindi Vishwavidyalaya bill and I welcome this bill as has been said in Sanskrit

Akarant Mand Karanan Shrey

i.e. something is better than nothing. I feel that it would prove to be a mile stone in achieving Hindi an international status and in this very spirit, I welcome this Bill.

As I have said earlier that Hindi has a unique place amongst the Indian languages. Today we are an independent and self respecting citizens of an independent nation. Therefore, it is the need of the hour that we should work in our own language to preserve our national pride. Hindi and other Indian languages are our own languages. It is, of course, correct that English might have been helpful otherwise but it can never occupy that unique place though it may have a secondary place. Secondary language can never occupy that pride place of the mother Language. It is also essential for a self respecting nation that its own language should take the place of its official language.

Sir, we feel proud in calling our country as the biggest democracy of the world but today the language of its people and language of its administrative machinery are different. The language of the people is Hindi but the language of administrative machinery is English.

Gyan door kuch driya bhinn hai,
ichha kyon poori ho man ki,
Ik doosre se na mil sake,
Yeh vidambana hai jeevan ki.

I think that the biggest hurdle in the development of our nation is that it thinks in one language and its official machinery works in another language.

Sir, national poet late Shri Maithili Sharan Gupta had once said :

Kisi desh mai nijta pad pati hai,
Parvat ka kya
Bin ek vyapak vani ke
Rashtra ki satta kya.

No foreign language can find its pride place in a country. English is an allied language. English is spread to the extent as one of my friends was discussing that acquiring of international knowledge through English is not necessary when Japan can work through Japanese, China can work through chinese, France through French and Germany through German languages then why our scientists go to Russia to get higher a education there where they waste first six months in learning the Russian language and then they get education through the Russian language. We had universities like Takshila and Nalanda where scholars from the far off countries used to come to study through the language of this

country. So, I would request that we should give Hindi the status of the official languages and all other Indian languages mentioned in the Eighth Schedule of our Constitution should be encouraged and propagated.

Apni Ek Bhasha Apna desh.
Deta hai Gaurav ke sandesh.

while welcoming this Vishwavidyalaya Bill I would like to give 2-3 suggestions here. Hindi scholars should be given appropriate representation in the Academic Council and Executive Council of this Vishwavidyalaya. I would like to request the hon. Minister of HRD that proper representation should be given to the students, lecturers and the employees in this very council so that the Academic Council may not have any difficulty in solving its internal problems. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the International Hindi Conference was held in 1975 and after several years something very good is going to be done of course, belatedly. Wherever the people of Indian origin have settled like Mauritius, Trinidad, Fiji, Guyana, South Africa, England or America, they would be benefitted by setting up centres of this university and these people would be asked to acquire knowledge of Hindi through correspondence. This would promote, develop and propagate Hindi and its research and this would, I feel, would also improve the quality of study in Hindi.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am just concluding by saying a few more words. Sir, I would need your protection and I would like to say that it is often said that it is not possible to study technology, engineering and medical science through Hindi medium. I would like to say that study of higher courses like technology, engineering and medical sciences must also be started in this university established in the name of Mahatma Gandhi in this country and text books can be produced there itself.

It must be ensured that the books published here should be meant for the students pursuing graduate and post graduate courses. This university must have one more thing, that whatever authentic and standard books are published on any subject in Hindi in India or abroad that must be made easily available. Mr. Chairman, Sir, you had just said as an hon'ble member that Hindi should not lose its originality. I would like to share your concern that originality of Hindi should be preserved. This would be one of its duties. Hindi should not only remain a language of translation or a language of scholars but it should have a natural flow. When Bengali has 80 percent words of Sanskrit, Marathi has 80 percent words and Kannad and Malayalam has 76 per cent of Sanskrit words so why cannot Hindi have vocabulary of Sanskrit words. We have to standardize Hindi and its literature has to be developed. I would like to Uttar following two lines :

Jo Bhara nahi hai bhavo mein,
Bahti Jisme Rasdhar nahin

Vaha Hriday nahin hain pathar hai
Jisme Swadesh mein pyar nahin.

We fought our war of Independence through Hindi. So Hindi should be national language of the country. Respected Babu Mahatma Gandhi has said this when a BBC correspondence approached him for interview while the country was being declared as an independent nation. Gandhiji told that correspondent that the whole world should be told that Gandhi does not know Hindi.

SHRI NAND KUMAR SAI (Raigarh) Mr. Chairman, Sir, I support the Antarrastriya Hindi Vishwavidyalaya bill brought in the House by hon. HRD Minister and I would try to conclude within a short time because you have fixed the time limit. So many things have been said here and some good points have been made but I would like to submit before you something different.

Why do we want to install Hindi at the international level? Why do we want that Hindi should be read throughout the world? Prof. Rasa Singh Rawat has rightly mentioned that Takshila and Nalanda were two universities in India where people from the entire world used to come to learn 'Brahma vidhya'.

I would not go into the details of as to what is the meaning of 'Brahma Vidya', due to the paucity of time. Manu is often abused but he has said in Manu Smriti- "you the learned people born on the banks of river Ganga and Yamuna should spread throughout the world and spread the message of brotherhood, mutual trust, love and affection throughout the world. Go in different countries and tell them about the character of these people. Manu has said -

Ett desheprasutasya sakas

Agrajanmana/swayam swayam charitra shiksh-
prathyiyamsarvamanava.

I think these things would be there in the Hindi World University which you are going to establish at the international level. What is being happened around the world? Everywhere people are fighting amongst themselves in the name of language and religion. So what is needed today is that we have to again spread throughout the world. I would like to wish through you, that the world university which is going to be established should be beneficial to the entire world in the times to come.

It was just mentioned here that an attempt is being made to divide the country in the name of language and to create a North South divide. India is a unique country where there is unity in disparity. It has many kinds of languages and dialects but it is still one. It is like a garden whose beauty is enhanced by blossoming of different types of flowers. Similar is our country where various kinds of languages are spoken which add to its beauty. I would like to say that language changes after every four 'kos'.

'Kos-kos badle pani aur char kos mein vani.'

You should not be afraid of it. It has rightly been said that sanskrit is the mother of all languages. Therefore, you will not face any difficulty in any matter. For example, there is a word in English 'ultimatum'. Attempts have been made by a number of linguistics to coin its equivalent in Hindi or in Sanskrit. We should not have any difficulty in using a word 'antimathum' as its equivalent in Hindi. This is the need of the hour. Hindi is the focus of all the languages. Some people are of the opinion that if Hindi is adopted a problem would be created in the North India but no language of our country like Kannad, Malayalam, Gujarati, Marathi etc. has opposed Hindi. Hindi speaking people have affection for the languages spoken in north, east and the west. Thus the apprehension about the problems that would be created with the use of Hindi in any part of the country is not justified.

I would like to urge upon the Minister to consider all these aspects while setting up a University.

20.00 hrs.

If Hindi is accepted in the country, which is a very rich language, it can be accepted at the international level. English came to India with the Britishers. This language has lacunae whereas Hindi and Sanskrit are free from such lacunae. My name is "Nand Kumar Sai". I write SAI. In Hindi we read as we write. But in English the situation is different.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I have noticed that under the Rajiv Gandhi Siksha Mission Hindi letter 'ri' (which is used for Hindi word rishi) has been deleted. The basic nature of the language is being distorted. Therefore, I would like to submit that each and every subject can be studied through Hindi medium. I shall conclude my speech with the couplet of Dr. Som Thakur :

Vandan apni bhasha ka, abhinandan apni bhasha ka.

Jahan Tulsī ke unchai aur soor, sindhu ke gahrai.

Tankar Chandra Vardai ka Jai Dev ke purwai ka.

Jahan Jai Shankar ka jaikara aur Nirala ka apritam bhoj.

Vandan apni bhasha ka, abhinandan apni bhasha ka.

You establish the Antarrashtriya Hindi Vishwavidyalaya. Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to convey my thanks to you for giving me an opportunity to express my views.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The House was extended upto 8 O'clock. If you want to continue the discussion the time would have to be extended. If the House so desires then please tell how much time is to be extended?

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV : Sir, extend the House for half an hour.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Five hon. members are on the list of speakers and I am receiving more names. Two hours time was allotted for this discussion and the discussion has already been held for five hours and four minute.

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA : Mr. Chairman, Sir, this is a very important Bill. You should allow some more time for the discussion.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Allright. If it is a very important Bill, names of the speakers should have reached me in advance. Now how much time is to be extended?

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : Mr. Chairman, House may be extended for half an hour.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV : Mr. Chairman, please extend the House for one hour.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Allright. One hour time is allowed. Half an hour has been allowed for discussion and in the remaining half an hour the Minister will reply

SHRI ANIL KUMAR YADAV (Khagaria) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I welcome the Mahatma Gandhi Antarrashtriya Hindi Vishwavidyalaya Bill, 1996. I also urge that the entire work of the University should be done in Hindi. I would also like to request that Hindi knowing persons should be appointed in the University. Such Officers and employees should not be appointed in the University who are unable to work in Hindi.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to submit that whenever we Members of Parliament visit the office of the Minister, his Private Secretary and other Officers speak in English. When we request them in Hindi to provide certain information, it shows that they do not know Hindi. I, therefore, would like to request that he should post Hindi knowing Officers and Private Secretary in his Office.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would also like to request that a dharna is being staged before the Office of the Union Public Service Commission because Bills are passed for the promotion of Hindi but Officers are reluctant to work in Hindi. That is why a step-motherly treatment is being meted out to Hindi.

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIA (Ujjain) : Mr. Speaker, Sir,

vishwa mein ho Hindi ka udai.

Isliye laya gaya hai yg. Mahatma Gandhi

Antharashtriya Hindi Vishwavidyalaya Vidheyak.

Azadi ke beet rahein hain pachas baras.

Phir bhi hun sawbhasha Hindi ke liye gaya hai taras.

Desh ko vastvik azadi kab ayegi.
 Yeh nahi hai kise ko pata?
 Maloom nahi hum se hui hai kaun se khata.
 Sanvidhan mein "India our Bharat hai
 Kintu Bharat ko Bharat hona chahiye.
 Sanvidhan mein yaha bhi anshodhan hona chahiye.
 Pachas baras pehle desh gulam tha
 Aur azadi ke pachas baras bad bhi
 desh angrezi se mukt hani to hum kahan azad
 hain?

Angrezi aur angreziyat ke hukumat hai.
 Is hukumat se home kaun mukt kar ga?
 Aur desh ko niz bhasha ka swabhimani dilayega.
 Mahatma Gandhi ne desh ki rajnaitik azadi ki
 aguwai ki thi.

Aur mere desh Hindustan azad ho gaya.
 Aur ab phir Mahatma Gandhi ka naam aaya hai.
 Antharrashtriya Hindi Vishwavidyalaya ka vidheyak
 Sansad mein parit hone ke liye aaya hai.
 Hindi ka Antharrashtriya Vishwavidyalaya sthapit
 kiya jayega.

Aur Hindi ke "sanskritik dhwaaja" bankar vish we
 gagan mein leharayega.

Rajneet ki bhasha hum nahin jante. itna jaroor jante
 hain. Rajneet logo ko banti hai.

Aur bhasha desh ko jorti hai.
 Isliye bhasha per rajneet nahi hona chahiye
 Desh ko apni swabhasha chahiye.
 Hum Hindustan ko sahi mane mein azad dekhana
 chahte hain

Aur isliye hindustani "Hindi" ko
 Swantatra desh ke abhivayktika
 sshakta madhyam banana chahte hain
 Hindi swantachar hai-
 Himjalaye ka pratham akchar "he"
 Aur sindhu ka "ndu"
 Himalaya se sindhu prayant banta hai
 jo sthan wah hai mera desh
 Hindustan jan jan ki vani kalayani Hindi hai
 Aao hum Hindi se Hindustan samjhe aur samjhae
 Hindi ko vishwa bhasha banaey
 To aone "Hindi" ko
 Antarrashtriya Hindi Vishwavidyalaya ke madhyam
 se
 vishwa mein le jaon.
 Isme nahi hein koi vad vivad.
 Sabhapati ji. is avsar par mera apko aur sadan ko
 dhanyawad.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV : Mr. Chairman Sir. I
 would like to congratulate the hon. Minister at the outset
 for bringing about a Bill for setting up the Urdu
 University. Similarly, lot has been said about establishing
 the Mahatma Gandhi International University. 50 years
 back we achieved independence but I feel that the
 development of Hindi has not been done to the desired
 extent. I would not like to go into the details. Many hon.
 Members have expressed their opinion in this regard.
 It is a matter of concern that Hindi has not been given
 the status of national language... (Interruptions)

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE (Bombay South Central) :
 Mr. Chairman, Sir. I would like to ask whether Hindi is
 national language or not.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You will get the reply when the
 hon. Minister replies to the debate on this
 issue... (Interruptions)

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV : I do not think there is
 any language which is as easy as Hindi. We have not
 been able to give Hindi the status of national language
 inspite of that. I feel that the main objective behind
 establishing the Hindi University is to promote and
 develop the language so that more and more people
 can acquire the language and know its finer niceties.
 This University would promote the research work on
 international level in this field. It is sad that Hindi
 language is not used in the competitive examinations
 which are held on the All India basis. The students are
 agitating for this. Hindi is not being used in the
 examinations being held by UPSC or the State PCS
 and other competitive examinations. Many hon.
 Members have pointed out that unless Hindi is made
 career-oriented it will be promoted. The students who
 select Hindi as the medium of examination often meet
 disappointment in the competitive examinations.
 Therefore, I would urge the hon. Minister that Hindi
 should be used as a medium of examination in all the
 competitive examinations so that the students who
 choose this language could also benefit. This would
 encourage them and help in promoting Hindi.

It is good that an International University for Hindi
 is being established. Many hon. Members have pointed
 out that the routine work in the departments and
 Ministries of Government of India is not being done in
 Hindi. The Hindi Week is celebrated only for namesake.
 The Hindi implementation work should be done strictly
 in all the offices of Government of India whether it is
 Lok Sabha or Rajya Sabha or any other office so that
 Hindi is promoted and developed.

I know that there is paucity of time and that is why
 there is difficulty in a lengthy debate on this issue. I am
 sure that as this Bill has been brought with great
 determination and there is a sense of commitment in
 promoting Hindi, this Bill would be passed here. I hope
 that the suggestions given by hon. Members would be

borne in mind and concrete steps would be taken to make Hindi the national language and encourage the people who are speaking Hindi.

With these words, I would like to thank the United Front Government and the hon. Minister for taking this well thought of decision of setting up Hindi University. No amount of appreciation of this step would suffice. I conclude by supporting this Bill.

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA (Kottayam) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to congratulate the hon. Minister for setting up an University of International Standard through this Bill. Sir, I hail from Kerala. I try to give my speech as far as possible in Hindi and I have done it many times. Today, there is a need to promote and encourage Hindi. This language has been in the service of nation for a long time. The Father of Nation Mahatma Gandhi contributed a lot towards the promotion of Hindi through his books. There is need to preserve this language for the unity and integrity of the country. Whenever we visit a foreign country the Prime Minister and President of those countries always speak in their native language. Even if they know English they feel proud to speak in their own language. But it is surprising that the President and Prime Minister of India never speak in Hindi whenever they go on a foreign visit. They are obsessed with the English language. That is main reason why Hindi is not being promoted. Therefore the need of the hour is to make all out efforts to promote Hindi. This Bill is an important step in that direction. There have been many disputes in our country for Hindi language. When I used to study in school there was a lot of agitation in regard to propagation of Hindi in Tamil Nadu. I would like to point out that if a proper balance is maintained and a right approach is adopted there would be no difficulty in promoting Hindi language and there will be no agitation about language issue. During my school days, the person who taught us Hindi, had a very mild approach towards the implementation of Hindi and that was one of the reasons why I joined the Dakshin Bharat Hindi Prachar Sabha. The Pracharak of this Sabha taught the persons in the non-Hindi speaking areas and contributed a lot towards promotion of Hindi. It is a matter of regret that neither the State Government nor the Central Government paid any attention to their contribution. These Pracharaks are working almost in every village throughout the South India but even then the Government does not pay any attention to their plight. The Chairman of Dakshin Bharat Prachar Sabha is the Prime Minister himself but even then there is difficulty in getting the necessary funds for the promotion of Hindi.

It is good that today we have thought of in the direction of promoting Hindi on the international standard but it is a matter of regret that the organisation which has been set up for the promotion of Hindi in the

South India does not get proper attention and adequate assistance. Therefore, it is my earnest request to the hon. Minister that besides promoting Hindi on the international level there is need to encourage the voluntary organisations which are contributing to the promotion of Hindi. Steps should be taken in this direction... (Interruptions) I would conclude within two minutes. It is essential to provide financial assistance to the Pracharak in South India.

I would submit that there are many organisations in the South India besides the Dakshin Bharat Prachar Sabha which are promoting and propagating Hindi. Such organisations should be given protection, patronage and encouragement so that more and more people come forward to serve the cause of Hindi. I would place a few suggestions before the hon. Minister. It has been provided in the Bill that the Chancellor of this University would be the President of India. But is it necessary to provide him with wide powers. The Chancellor would appoint two or three officers who would look after all the affairs of this University. Why such powers have been given to the Chancellor? Will every thing move smoothly if this is done?

Secondly, wide powers have been given to the Executive Council under this Bill. I would suggest that student representatives of the University should also be included in the Executive Council. This should be done so that when the university functions on the international standard, the students are also able to express their views alongwith their teachers about the courses and the syllabi of the university. Executive Council has vast powers, hence all these people should be given opportunity to express their opinion. So far as appointment of the Vice-Chancellor is concerned, it has been stated that a panel of four persons will be constituted and the Chancellor will take a decision in a Committee of three persons. I wish that this number should be increased to five so that the University can function in a better way cause of the coming of good people. The Minister must pay attention towards it.

Lastly, I want to say one more thing. The representation of some Members of Parliament in this body like Aligarh Muslim University where two-three MPs are represented may also be considered.

with these words I once again thank you and conclude my speech.

SHRI GANGA CHARAN RAJPUT : Mr. Chairman, Sir, first of all I would like to thank the hon'ble Shri Bommai ji who has introduced a Bill in the name of father of the nation, Mahatma Gandhi to set up a Hindi International University. Infact we were forgetting Mahatma Gandhi. There are Universities in the country in the name of almost all our greatmen but not in the name of Mahatma Gandhi, so far. The Minister in fact

paid tribute to Mahatma Gandhi by intending to establish this University and deserves congratulation.

Today I feel sorry to state that when our Prime Minister had taken oath of the office he had stated that I will learn Hindi within three months and will address in Hindi from the rampart of Red Fort on 15th of August. He has somewhat managed to deliver speech in Hindi but afterwards never spoke in Hindi. I will request the Human Resource Development Minister to arrange a good Hindi teacher for the Prime Minister to teach him Hindi. If he is unable to arrange the teacher then there are so many MPs who can teach him Hindi free of cost. Prof. Rasa Singh Rawat is the professor of Hindi.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Perhaps you are aware that he is the professor of Sanskrit.

SHRI GANGA CHARAN RAJPUT : Today, there is unity and similarity some where among the Hindi, Hindu and Hindustan. Hindi is not the language of any particular caste, religion or sect. When we talk of Hindi, people start fighting. The people belonging to the South and North-East regions start fighting by saying that Hindi is being imposed on them. Hindi is not a language in itself but a conglomeration of many languages which comprise Urdu, Persian, English, Sanskrit etc. Hindi is the mixture of all these languages which is also called as common language viz. known as Hindustani also. So far, the matter of Hindu religion is concerned, then it is the religion of many culture which comprise Akali, Sikh, Saivas, Vaishnavites, idol worshippers and atheists. Therefore, the religion originated from many cultures, many religions is known as Hindu religion. Same is the case with Hindustan. The country, having many seasons, various cultures, is known as Hindustan. There is similarity among Hindi-Hindu-Hindustan. I can say that Hindi is the language of secular. Hindu-religion is secular in itself and Hindustan is a secular country in itself. So, whenever anybody talk about Hindi-Hindu-Hindustan then it must not be related with any religion, caste or sect for this country is made up with Hindu, Muslim, Sikh and Parsi. In a family also it has its own language, has blood relations and attached with one religion, still lot of difficulties arises in the family and it does not run smoothly. It is therefore, necessary to bring uniformity somewhere to run the country. One religion cannot be accepted by all the people of a country and there cannot be uniform culture in the entire country. It is, therefore, necessary to have one common language which make us one. We will have to unite our countrymen somewhere so that we can say that we are Hindustani and it is our language. It is difficult to run the country if we are not united. I feel that there is hardly anybody in Hindustan who do not understand Hindi. When our friend from Kerala Shri Chennithala, who was also the president of Youth Congress, can speak Hindi when people belonging to Tamil Nadu can speak Hindi and our presiding officer can speak Hindi then I

say that Hindi is not such a language which the people cannot learn. Hindi is not a difficult language. Hindi is a simple language. No other dictionary contains that much of words which contains a Hindi dictionary. Recently hon. President had released a Hindi dictionary which contains two lakhs words. It is true that the North Indians know Hindi well but I would request the Minister that propagation and publicity of Hindi is needed in South India and North-East. It is, therefore, necessary that an organisation is constituted for the propagation and dissemination of Hindi on the line of 'Pracharni Samiti' set up by Mahatma Gandhi. The branches of this University should be set up in South India as well as North-Eastern regions, and also in each districts so that propagation and dissemination of Hindi can take place. If it is done then the entire country can learn Hindi.

I would like to know one more thing from the Minister. Not even a single 'granth' is available in Hindi in Hindu religion. The first 'granth' in Hindi is writing by Goswamy Tulsidasji. I am also a citizen of this area. "Chitrakoot ke ghat par, Hui Santan ki Bhid, Tulsi Das chandan Ghinse, Tilak lage Raghuvir." I have been elected from this Bundelkhand region Hamirpur Mahua. I would like to submit to the Minister that a faculty of this University be named after Tulsi Das ji as well as one other the name of Maithili Saran Guptaji, the national Poet. Apart from this, Hindi be made a scientific language in this scientific age otherwise it cannot become an international language.

With these words I conclude my speech and congratulate the Minister for introducing this Bill.

[Translation]

SHRI ISWAR PRASANNA HAZARIKA (Tejpur) : Mr. Chairman, I am the last speaker who has stood to support this bill.

India is a wonderful country and enjoys a distinct position. This is a multilingual country. In a song Atul Chandra describes our culturality on following words : 'Nana Bhash, Nana mat, Nana Paridhan, Vividher Manjhe Dekhi Milan Mahan.'

We have unity in diversity which is our unique characteristic, it is the pride of our country. But we should not forget this fact that in a multilingual country if more importance is given to a language then the people who speak other languages, feel they are being treated as secondary to them. The persons whose mother tongue is Hindi get a priority. However, this is our national language, official language therefore it is necessary to propagate it. Therefore the Hindi speaking people, must have tolerance and patience up to some extent and if this task is accomplished early, then it is a thing to feel happy. Therefore we must have tolerance and patience. I would like to Congratulate the Minister specially because the name of this University is related to Mahatma Gandhi. When I was child, there used to be

Rastrabhasa Prachar Samiti in Assam at the time of freedom struggle, there were teachers to propagate Hindi, and we were used to go there with enthusiasm to learn this language. This type of practice do not exist now, hence we have forgotten it. But at that time people used to learn with enthusiasm. There was no any compulsion. In those days also people at large scale used to go for learning Hindi. There is a need to propagate Hindi among the non Hindi speaking people in the similar manner. If any type of compulsion is added to it then resentment will breed among the people and ultimately it affects the Hindi language.

Secondly, Sanskrit, which is called the language of the gods forms the basis of all Indian Languages. If we use pure Hindi, then it can be easily understood by the people of every State from Assam to Gujarat and Kashmir to Kanyakumari. But the words of urdu in Hindi language are not understood by the people generally. Therefore while taking this policy decision we will have to see that as far as possible pure Hindi is used in Antarrashtriya Viswavidyalaya. We will propagate the Hindi spoken in Bihar and U.P. There is enough provision to Consider this policy. I think for unity of India. We must give more encouragement to pure Hindi, which has originated from Sanskrit. Some earlier speakers have said that many words of pure Hindi are not understandable and therefore some difficulty arises. There are difficulties in it but as it has originated from Sanskrit which forms very basis of our unity. I think that Hindi should be written in Sanskrit script. I would like to request the Minister that scholars of Hindi must be given priority while making appointments this university specially the Research etc.

It is very necessary to give them encouragement. Then a message will go to the non Hindi speaking people that if they learn Hindi, if they achieve proficiency in Hindi, then they will also get promotion in their profession. When we used to go to foreign countries to participate in commercial activities, the people of South India also used to go with us and they used to oppose the Hindi. But when they wanted know the price of any thing or did consultation about the price, they used to speak in Hindi. At that time they did not use to talk in English so that the shop owner might not know as to what we were talking. This was an advantage of using Hindi. But if a majority of foreigners learn Hindi from this University then we will lose this advantage.

While Supporting this bill I would like to thank the Hon. Minister for having brought this bill and I hope that this bill will be passed. I hope that this University will work for promoting Hindi and for the propagation of Hindi in the country and outside.

SHRI S.R. BOMMAI : Hon. Mr. Chairman, all members have supported this bill and also given some suggestions. Some members have made speeches with

regard to naming of this University. The name of Mahatma Gandhi is added to the name of this University because when we were struggling for freedom, struggle at that time Mahatma Gandhi had associated Hindi with Self Government, Self reliance and use of Swadeshi items. Hindi Prachar Sabha in the South India and Hindi school in every Village was started due to his efforts, where students come to learn Hindi. There was no compulsion on them but there was a feeling that knowing and Learning Hindi is the necessity of the country. After independence the manner of propagating Hindi has changed and the people South India, and particularly the people of Tamilnadu felt that Hindi is being imposed on them. There the people had such type of feelings. But such type of feeling does not exist now. All members of Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha from South India delivered their speeches in Hindi. Members of D.M.K., M.D.M.K. and Telugu Desham also delivered their speeches in Hindi. They did not ask you whether Hindi is National Language or not. I would like to invite your attention to the fact that

[English]

According to Article 351 of the Constitution :

"It shall be the duty of the Union to promote the spread of the Hindi language, to develop it so that it may serve as a medium of expression for all the elements of the composite culture of India and to secure its enrichment by assimilating without interfering with its genius, the forms, style and expressions used in Hindustani and in the other languages of India specified in the Eighth Schedule, and by drawing, wherever necessary or desirable, for its vocabulary, primarily on Sanskrit and secondarily on other languages."

[Translation]

It is mentioned in the Constitution that what efforts should be made to make it a Composite language. There is no need to speak more on this topic.

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : My simple question is that Hindi is not official language but whether it is the national language or not?

SHRI S.R. BOMMAI : My personal view is that it is National Language. Article 351 will give answer from the Government's side.

[English]

I cannot go beyond the Constitution.

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : There is a Parliamentary official language committee which

comprise 20 members from Lok Sabha and 10 members from Rajya Sabha. Hindi is official language. All Indian languages are National Languages.

SHRI S.R. BOMMAI : The objective of International University is clear. To make Hindi a language of International Standard efforts would have to be made for conducting comparative study of Hindi and other languages propagation of Hindi by imparting distance education. This is Central University. Delhi University. Jawaharlal Nehru University, Jamia Milia University. Banaras University these are Central Universities. Therefore it has been brought in basic bill. Other details will appear in Ordinance and statutes. An hon. member have given his amendment on this.

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Rajendra Prasad ji and Jakir Hussain Sahab also said that Hindi must become the National Language. If it was national language then why they said like this...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Rawale Ji, you please do not interrupt every now and then. He has given clear answer to your question...*(Interruptions)* This is not good. He has given his personal view and also mentioned what has been enshrined in the Constitution. Then is it necessary for you to interrupt every now and then.

SHRI S.R. BOMMAI : This is happening everywhere and there should be a change. He must take everybody in confidence. In our Constitution National Language standard is provided to every language whether it is Tamil, Kannada, Telugu. I have no objection to it. I am sorry my Hindi is not good.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS : No. No. your Hindi is good. and you are speaking a very good Hindi.

[Translation]

SHRI S.R. BOMMAI : I would like to tell you that all those who join this University will be learned people and will doing research and translation work. You are aware that the medium of teaching in the Universities of Bihar and Uttar Pradesh is Hindi, and even the degree is printed in Hindi. But text books regarding Medical, Engineering and technical subjects in Hindi are not available. However, this University can do the job since is to be an international University, intellectuals from within the country and from abroad would come I do agree with you that the general tendency here is to speak as well as work in English so much so that speeches are also delivered in English. Why is it so? We should think over it. We do have vocabulary, we can make certain changes in it so that it can serve the purpose of University. Thereafter, the Government must ensure that the entire work in this University is done in Hindi thus the University would lead. We would bring a statutory ordinance for this Amendment motions have

also been received here suggesting that the entire work should be done in Hindi. Then what would be there will be no need for translation. The entire administrative work would be done in Hindi. An amendment motion was moved in Rajya Sabha, with regard to which I assured that the entire official and administrative work would be done in Hindi. At the same time translation as well as research work would also be done. Scholars conversation with coming from abroad would be made in Hindi, French and also Russian. No doubt interpretation would be required.

I would not like to prolong my speech. However, the matter regarding financial aid for the purpose has been raised here. Initially an amount of Rs. 30 crores would be allocated, afterwards the allocation would be made as per the requirements. With this, I would like to submit that this University is likely to be set up very soon. It would not take much time because next year is the 50th anniversary I would like this University to be set by the end of 1997. I would make efforts in this regard. I do not need to speak much in this regard.

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA : In this Bill, extensive powers have been given to the Chancellor who happens to be the President. The Vice Chancellor is also there. I do not understand as to why Chancellor has been given extensive powers. Vice Chancellor should have more powers because he is the authority to run the international University.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Chennithala, have you given any amendment?

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA : Sir, I just want to ask a question on this.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I am asking if you have given any amendment.

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA : No, Sir, I have not given any amendment.

SHRI S.R. BOMMAI : I will clarify.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA : After the statute is enacted, one will find that the Executive Council has been vested with more powers. Would the Government appoint some Members of Parliament in it to make the students and other sections of people proficient?

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV : I had submitted to the hon. Minister that Hindi is not being used appropriately in the UPSC examinations.

MR. CHAIRMAN : This is not related to the Bill.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV : But how will Hindi be promoted...*(Interruptions)* I would only like to know the

views of the hon. Minister in this regard? Hindi is not been used in official work.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You have actively participated in the debate. Please ask something regarding the Bill.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV : I am not asking any question. I am just making a submission. I have expressed my views. It would be better if the hon. Minister gives the reply.

SHRI S.R. BOMMAI : I would like to submit that it would be a Central University just like Jawahar Lal Nehru University, Banaras Hind University, Jamia Milia University etc. There is nothing special in it. So far as the matter regarding the appointment of elected representatives is concerned, we would try to do so.

The hon. Member Shri Yadav has asked whether the answers in UPSC examinations can be written in Hindi. So far as IAS, IPS examination are concerned, the answers can be written in Hindi.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : The hon. Member is right when he says that the movement with regard to use of languages has been going on for the last eight years. The Parliament unanimously passed a Resolution but in spite of that due recognition ought to be given to Indian languages, particularly Hindi as a medium alongwith English in the UPSC examinations has not been given the hon. Member has drawn the attention to that aspect.

SHRI S.R. BOMMAI : Concern in this regard is genuine. We will try to bring improvement in this regard.

PROF. I.G. SANADI (Dharwad-South) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, it is India where you live. The water you drink is that of Ganga. Wherever and however you live, you live like a true Indian living in such a good environment and despite belonging to a non-Hindi speaking state, you have brought an commendable Bill. I welcome the Bill and you too.

At the same line I would like to ask a question...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : No clarification please.

PROF. I.G. SANADI : I am just asking for one clarification.

MR. CHAIRMAN : How could I accept it? The Minister has already given the reply.

[Translation]

PROF. I.G. SANADI : I would like to know whether the Government propose to give any special scholarship to those who come from non-Hindi speaking states to study here.

SHRI S.R. BOMMAI : It is something about details. It will be considered afterwards.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : The questions is :

"That the Bill to establish and incorporate a teaching university for the promotion and development of Hindi language and literature, through teaching and research, with a view to enabling Hindi to achieve greater functional efficiency and recognition as a major international language and to provide for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The House shall now take up clause by clause consideration of the Bill.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That clause 2 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 2 was added to the Bill.

Clause 3

Establishment of the University

[Translation]

SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I beg to move :

Page 2, line 31

add at the and

"whose entire work shall generally be done in Hindi." (I)

My suggestion is that on page, ?? "line" ?? after the word 'University', the words "of which the entire work would be done in Hindi generally" may please be adopted.

SHRI S.R. BOMMAI : I have given the assurance that the administrative language will be Hindi. I urge upon you to withdraw it.

SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH : You do not want me even to express my views Mr. Chairman, Sir, if you please allow me to speak, I would only submit that no doubt that International Hindi University would be set up. However but, the administrative work in that University will not be done in Hindi.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You have already said this during the debate. You have only to submit whether you want to press it or withdraw it.

SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH : Sir, you are not allowing me to speak. My submission is that the official work which can be done in Hindi, should be done in Hindi.

But since it is a Hindi university other languages would be used wherever required and we do not oppose. However, the administrative work which can be done in Hindi should be done in Hindi. Would you please give us an assurance in this regard?

SHRI S.R. BOMMAI : I have given the assurance.

SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH : I withdraw my amendment.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Is it the pleasure of the House that the amendment moved by Shri Shivraj Singh be withdrawn?

The amendment No. 1 was, by leave, withdrawn.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That clause 3 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 3 was added to the Bill.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That clauses 4 to 44 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 4 to 44 were added to the Bill.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That the Schedule stand part of the Bill."

The Motion was adopted.

The Schedule was added to the Bill.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That Clause, 1, The Enacting Formula and the Long Title stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Long Title were added to the Bill.

SHRI S.R. BOMMAI : I beg to move :

'That the Bill be passed.'

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

'That the Bill be passed.'

The motion was adopted.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now the House stands adjourned to meet again on Friday, December 20, 1996.

21.00 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Friday, December 20, 1996/Agrahayana 29, 1918 (Saka).