

LOK SABHA DEBATES **(English Version)**

Third Session
(Eleventh Lok Sabha)



(Vol. VII contains Nos. 11 to 20)

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

Thursday, December 12, 1996/Agrahayana 21, 1916 (Saka)

<u>Col/Line</u>	<u>For</u>	<u>Head</u>
12/24	305	* 305
30/9(from below)	Shri Satyajit Singh- Dulishrih	Shri Satyajit Singh Dulishrih
200/7(from below)	Convert	Convert
220/1	dated	dated
257/8	Mr. Speaker	Mr. Speaker
350/20	Mr Chairman	Mr. Chairman

(Shri Basudeb Monrick)

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LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Thursday, December 12, 1996/Agrahayana 21,
1918 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at one minute past Eleven of
the Clock

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

(Interruptions)

[English]

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

MR. SPEAKER : We will see after Question Hour. I will allow you after Question Hour.

SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA : Please try to understand that in Andaman and Nicobar Islands, all development works have been stopped. Thousands of workers are now jobless. We cannot even provide drinking water to the tribal people.

MR. SPEAKER : I understand.

SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA : We cannot harness the water. This is a very serious situation prevailing in that part of the country...(Interruptions)

SHRI MADHUKAR SARPOTDAR (Mumbai North West) This matter may be taken into consideration ...(Interruptions)

SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA : This is a very unusual situation.

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer) : Despite being a Union Territory, it is facing such problems ...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA : Harnessing of drinking water to provide it to the tribal population cannot be done. Entire development work is stopped there. In the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, collection of sand and stone quarrying has been banned by the Ministry of Environment and Forests under the CRZ Regulations. We cannot provide drinking water to the people ...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : People of Andaman and Nicobar Islands are facing a lot of problems ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Let me say something.

I think, it is a serious problem. The Government should attend to that problem. The people are in difficulty. This matter was raised earlier also. Some solution has to be found out. In fact, I placed this matter before the Business Advisory Committee and the hon. Member met me also in the Chamber to point out that the problems relating to the Union Territories, having no legislature have not been discussed on the floor of the House. I am sure that the point is very valid. Since they do not have legislatures, their problems have to be discussed on the floor of the House. I agree with the demand of the hon. Member and we have already admitted a discussion under Rule 193 on the problems of Union Territories having no legislature. We will have a special debate on that.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Modernisation of ATCS

+

*301. SHRI ANNASAHIB M.K. PATIL :
SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether in view of the recent mid air collision, the Government propose to make two separate air corridors for incoming propose to make two separate air corridors for incoming and outgoing flights;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government had launched a scheme for modernisation of air traffic control service at the airports in Delhi and Mumbai;

(d) if so, the details of the above scheme, the original estimated cost thereof, the target set for completion of the scheme, the present status of the work done under the above scheme and the time by which the scheme is likely to be completed;

(e) whether implementation of the above scheme has been delayed; and

(f) if so, the reasons therefor alongwith the details of cost escalation?

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

STATEMENT

(a) and (b). The proposal for separate corridors for unidirectional movement has been under examination for sometime. While planning modernisation of Air Traffic Control System at Delhi, separate corridors for incoming and outgoing traffic have been incorporated and appropriate navigational equipment are being installed.

(c) and (d). The Airports Authority of India (AAI) has embarked upon a project for the modernisation of Air Traffic Control Services at Delhi and Mumbai and the present estimated cost is Rs. 423.89 crores with a foreign exchange component of Rs. 266.48 crores. The original approved cost of the project was 209.76 crores with a foreign exchange component of Rs. 162.05 crores. The equipment for commissioning this system is already under installation and is being tested. This modernised system is likely to be operational at Delhi by March, 1997 and at Mumbai Airport by June, 1997.

(e) and (f). There has been some delay in the execution of this project. Procedural delays in the acquisition of land, unforeseen problems like leakage of water pipeline at Bombay Airport delaying the civil/electrical works, change in the scope of the work due to upgradation of the system to incorporate upto date traffic control facilities including satellite based future air navigation facilities, failure of a number of components during installation resulting in reimport/replacement of damaged items, modifications in the Radar equipment etc. have contributed to the delay in the execution of this project. However, there is no likelihood of any further delay. The cost estimate have increased by 214.13 crores compared to the original estimate of Rs. 209.76 crores.

SHRI ANNASAHIB M.K. PATIL : Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The hon. Minister has already given the answer in order.

You will find from the answer that the project execution for the modernisation of Air Traffic Control services has already been delayed and the result of the delay has been a loss to the tune of Rs. 214.13 crore. It is the penalty to the country and the people of the country. This penalty is more than 100 per cent escalation or increase in the cost of the modernisation project. Moreover, there is also increase in the import component to the tune of Rs. 104.43 crore. The project commenced, most probably, in October, 1995 but till date nothing has been moving at speed. The hon. Minister has given the reasons thereof. They are very funny. He said: "Due to unforeseen problems, problems like leakage of water pipeline at Mumbai Airport and so on". Leakage of ordinary pipeline is not an unforeseen reason. In addition to this, he has given many more reasons viz., upgradation of the system. Because of that, on the very day, a month ago, a terrible collision took place which exposed the air safety measures in India.

So, I want to know from the hon. Minister whether any time-bound programme or assurance has been given to this House for bringing in new technology by upgrading this air safety system to the international standards by installing a traffic alert and collision avoiding system. Similarly there are also some more new sensors in aeroplanes and Airports. These are the questions I wanted to ask the hon. Minister.

[Translation]

SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM : Hon'ble Mr. Speaker, Sir, modernisation work for Delhi and Mumbai has been completed by March, 1997.

[English]

SHRI ANNASAHIB M.K. PATIL : Sir, I have come across a news item wherein solar energy has been used as a source of energy for the planes. It has already been tried in America, particularly, in NASA at California. This system has resulted in a 2-hour flight in the air at 50,000 feet altitude without a pilot. This will definitely avoid both noise as well as pollution. Therefore, I want to know whether the hon. Minister is aware of this system, and if so, whether he proposes to take any step in this regard.

[Translation]

SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM : Sir, first of all let us learn to use the energy available then will see it later on.

[English]

As far as this is concerned, it has not come to our knowledge. We do not have any knowledge about this. That questions does not arise.

[Translation]

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, this action of Hon'ble Minister Shri Ibrahim Sahib is landable that immediately after assuming the office he has taken care of Air safety measures and has issued a statement in this regard. You have inherited the delay caused. In your reply you say that there has been some delay. In fact, there has been much delay. Is it not a fact that modernisation plan had been prepared in 1988 itself? We must be informed as to when the plan was prepared. Is it not a fact that its implementation work has been assigned to a British Firm during 1990 and later that firm has been dropped out and it has been assigned to an American firm. That American firm had also given assurance to complete the work by October 1995. But it could not fulfill its assurance. Why it is so? Who is responsible for it? A lot of discussion has taken place on this important issue. Whether any enquiry has been conducted? Who has been held responsible because the cost has become double. It is not proper to wind up the issue just by saying 'some delay'. I would like to know the details about the reasons for delay, the period for such delay and the action being taken in this regard. Alongwith it, the length of a runway should be at least 4 kms as per international standard. In Japan the length of the runway is 5 Kms. but in our country the norm of 4 Kms is not being followed. In this regard I would like to know as to what is being done in the name of modernisation?

SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM : As far as the delay is concerned, there is a way to express it 'some delay'; if

you elanguate the word 'delay' it will be a long delay and if you say it is short it will be shortened. The scheme was to be completed in October 1995 but when it has not been completed I have appointed the Director General of Civil Aviation fifteen days back to ascertain the reasons for the delay, whether the fault is ours or of Rathan Company. If the fault is of the company how will they compensate the loss suffered by us and what action should be taken against them. I have appointed the Director General of Civil Aviation just fifteen days back and as soon as his report is received I will inform you.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : This has been discussed in the House earlier. Let us go to Question No. 302.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : We had a full debate on this under Rule 193.

(Interruptions)

SHRI MADHUKAR SARPOTDAR : Sir, the word 'Bombay' has been used. Very often it should be corrected as 'Mumbai'.

MR. SPEAKER : All right. That will be corrected.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : No, we had a discussion under Rule 193. Q.No. 302, Shri Harin Pathak.

National Technology Mission

*302. SHRI HARIN PATHAK : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether National Technology Mission launched in 1986 has achieved its goals;

(b) if so, the number of digital trunk and automatic exchanges modernised, the number of public telephones in urban areas with STD/ISD facilities installed and the number of Directory Enquiry and Fault Repair Service in major cities computerised; and

(c) the mechanism of providing STD/ISD Public Telephones in urban as well as rural areas?

[Translation]

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

(b) The details are furnished as under :

(i) No. of digital/SPC trunk automatic exchanges: 323 (as on date)

(ii) No. of automatic exchanges modernised: 8424 (from 1.4.1992 to 31.3.1996)

(iii) Public Telephones with STD/ISD facility: 1,40,195 (as on (31.10.1996)

(iv) Directory Enquiry Service in Major cities that have been computerised : 75 (as on 31.10.1996)

(v) Fault Repair Service that have been computerised : 65 (as on 31.10.1996)

(c) The STD/ISD PCOs are allotted to educated (at least Matric/High School Pass in urban areas and 8th Pass in rural areas) and unemployed persons. STD/ISD PCOs to eligible applicants are allotted by STD PCO allotment committees constituted one for each Secondary Switching Area.

SHRI HARIN PATHAK : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the House may be agree with me that no subscriber is happy and satisfied with telecom services in the country. Whatever be the claims of Hon'ble Minister or Telecom Ministry, today the position in the country is that no subscriber is satisfied with the telecom services. Your Ministry launches new schemes, new drives from time to time. Recently a 'Mission Better Communication' drive has been launched by the ministry. However a lot of things can be said about the scheme as well as the difficulties being faced by the subscribers. But I would like to ask the Hon'ble Minister through you as to how many old electro-mechanical exchanges are functioning in the country and the number out of them which have been converted into modern digital electronics exchange under your 'mission better communication' and modernisation scheme along with the number of exchanges yet to be converted into electronic exchange. This is my first supplementary question which I would like to ask.

SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the question asked by Pathak ji was related with the establishment of a Technology mission in 1986 which had fix Parameteres and it was also included in but it that the manual based exchange would also be converted into automatic one. As per my information, at present in all district headquarters electronic exchanges have been converted into automatic exchanges and the progress is going on rapidly. We are also trying our best to convert the manual exchanges as early as possible. We have chalked out a scheme for this year and as per this scheme in some backward areas particularly of Eastern Uttar Pradesh which is quite a vast area, electronic exchanges would be set up by the end of the year.

SHRI HARIN PATHAK : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to have your support and would like to draw your attention towards the question I have asked. It seems to me that Hon'ble Minister is not replying properly. What I have asked is this

[English]

whether National Technology Mission launched in 1986 has achieved its goals?"

[Translation]

In his reply Hon'ble Minister says - "Yes Sir". I am not agree with it because I am the member of the House for the last eight years. No department can claim today that they have achieved the target fixed by them earlier. In the reply of first part of my question the Hon'ble Minister says - "yes, Sir". I have got with me the annual report of the telecommunication department. Figures are given in the report. It has been catagorically stated in the report that there are such 40 percent mechanical exchanges which have not been converted into digital exchanges. It seems that Hon'ble Minister is trying to avoid my question. My question was straight forward whether the target has been achieved or not. Hon'ble Minister told 'yes sir' which does not seem proper. Therefore I request the Hon'ble Minister to reply my question after going through it thoroughly.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the second part of my supplementary question is that the then Prime Minister Narasimha Raoji had made an announcement in October 1994 for the educated unemployed that if they would apply, S.T.D. - P.C.O. would be allotted to them on priority basis. I belong to Karunawati. Hon'ble Minister said that the work is going on there. According to the figures which I have, 24 thousand persons have applied for allotment of S.T.D. P.C.Os there under the scheme - but it has been allotted perhaps only to 1500 persons. Therefore, I would like to know from the Hon'ble Minister regarding the position of the fake scheme which has been launched in the name of educated unemployed. Thousands of applications are lying pending in each state and city under the scheme.

As per Scheme it has been ensured that on submitting the application one would be allotted the S.T.D./P.C.O. By when you are going to allot them STD and P.C.O. and whether you are going to prepare any time bound programme to ensure that STD-PCO would be allotted to all within the time frame?

SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA : Sir, there are 750 electro mechanical exchanges and 20715 electronic exchanges functioning at present. So there is definitely an improvement in this regard.

SHRI HARIN PATHAK : Mr. Speaker Sir, Hon'ble Minister has replied "Yes Sir" that's why I had objection because the goal has not been achieved so far.

SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA : My reply is correct. Please listen to me first. The mission which was prepared in 1986 had fix Parameters - improvement in service, increase the urban Public telephones, to improve the delivery of telegames, to provide telex on demand, improvement in rural communication, creation of national digital network. These are continuous process. I had replied these in affirmative we are progressing continuously. That's why I have replied this. My answer is not wrong. So far as your question regarding conversion of electro mechanical exchange into automatic one is concerned you said that there has not

been much improvement in that. According to the figures available with me there are only 750 electro mechanical exchanges and 20,175 electronic exchange functioning in the country at present. We would reduce the numbers thereof by the end of the year.

SHRI HARIN PATHAK : Mr. Speaker, Sir, my second supplementary question was related to educated unemployed. It has not been answered so far.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : That is much more important.

[Translation]

SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA : It is not the responsibility of my department to chalk out or enforce the scheme for providing employment to the educated unemployed or uneducated unemployed.

SHRI HARIN PATHAK : It is not your responsibility. Hon'ble Prime Minister had made an announcement in the House. (Interruptions)

SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA : You please listen to my complete answer first. We have our rules regarding allotment of P.C.Os. We have made it clear that it would be allotted only to the people who have passed high school or passed the eighth class. All these P.C.Os. would be allotted only to those people. our target for the current year was to provide one P.C.O. for the population of 600 in the urban area. In this way maximum possible number of unemployed people will get employment through it.

SHRI HARIN PATHAK : Mr. Speaker Sir, I have not been able to make understand my points to the Hon'ble Minister. Hon'ble Prime Minister had made the announcement not regarding S.T.D. and P.C.Os rather he had announced the scheme regarding educated unemployed that they should demand for S.T.D. booths by making an application within three months from September 1994. Thousands of people have filled up forms under the scheme. I am not saying about P.C.O. but S.T.D. P.C.O. is a separate matter. (Interruptions)

SHRI ANANT GUDHE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Hon'ble Minister has said that 140,195 connections of S.T.D./P.C.O. have been allotted to general Public. My question is that what are the norms for allotment of Public S.T.D. in cities? What are the rules for it? S.T.D. booths are allotted just by a distance of 100 feet. Where there should be 30 telephone booths, 200 general telephones are existing. Are there no norms prescribed for it? My second question is that my constituency Amrawati is a metropolitan constituency. Metropolitan corporation is also there. There are functioning two types of system - electronic and non electronic system. Lines are not connected when dialed through electronic system to non electronic system and vice-versa. My question is that the proposal which is lying in your ministry regarding setting up electronic system in the entire city would be completed or not?

SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA : As I have said earlier that the new scheme of the department was accepted in 1994. At that time the target fixed was that one P.C.O. would be allotted for the population of 500 but as private operators are not getting their way into it hence DOT is making efforts for it. As per the efforts made by an agreement would be reached on 600 by the end of the year. It is not far away. One P.C.O. would be allotted on 600...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : That is why, I should not allow any more supplementaries.

(Interruptions)

SHRI A.C. JOS : Sir, the Question is different, the answer is different. Will you kindly give a direction to the Minister to reply properly?

MR. SPEAKER : You have not heard the full answer. How can you come to that conclusion? You first listen to the Minister.

SHRI A.C. JOS : After listening to the Minister, I find that they are not answering questions properly. The questions is different, the answer is different.

[Translation]

SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA : The question is that P.C.O. has been set up in a very close proximity. Our target was to set it up for the population of 500. One P.C.O. would be set up for the population of 600 by the end of the year. Previously our target was to set up a P.C.O. for the population of 500 by the end of 1997 but the target is not being achieved. You have said about your constituency. The question is not for the constituency but you give it in writing separately. We will consider that seriously...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I know that it is important. But it is not possible.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

Telephone Tapping

+
*304. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY :
SHRI VIJAY GOEL :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to amend Telegraph Act, 1885 so that the tapping of telephones of political leaders, political parties, journalists and social workers and censoring of their letters may be checked keeping in view such allegations being made from time to time; and

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

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) No, Sir, there is no proposal to amend the Indian Telegraph Act, 1885 with regard to tapping of telephones as enough safeguards are available in Section 5 of the Act. Censoring of letters is not governed by Indian Telegraph Act.

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

[English]

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister to this very important subject. He has given a reply that he has no proposal to amend this Act.

As we all know, even as per the Indian Telegraph Act, 1865, the Government has got the right to have the tapping in the interests of sovereignty, integrity and also security of the country or for maintaining public order or for preventing incitement of offences. No doubt, this is a good point. But, at the same time, there are so many occasions where the tapings have taken place, allegations and counter allegations have been made on political leaders, executives and various other persons.

Recently, as we all know, hon. former Prime Minister, Shri P.V. Narasimha Rao's telephone was tapped. It is a big allegation and the hon. Prime Minister had ordered a C.B.I. inquiry also.

Now, I would like to ask the hon. Minister, as on today, about the state of that inquiry of C.B.I. which was ordered in the case of the former Prime Minister's telephone tapping. This is my first Supplementary question.

[Translation]

SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA : Sir, during the last few days, after publishing a news item in the newspapers a demand was raised that telephones of some leaders are being taped. Prime Minister handed over its enquiry to the C.B.I. and the CBI has also given its report to the Prime Minister. As per report the news that was published in the newspaper, was found as baseless.

[English]

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : So, the House can take the guarantee.

My second question is that the Indian Telegraph Act, 1885 is too old. It was actually introduced before Independence. Now, with the present modern system, modern philosophy and modern civilisation, it is the right time to consider to amend the present Act. But I am rather surprised that the hon. Minister gives a reply that he has no plan to amend it.

I would like to ask the hon. Minister whether, in view of the fact that allegations and counter allegations

are coming from various political leaders which put the Government in an embarrassing position, he would not think it proper for the Government to amend this Act, which is totally outdated.

[Translation]

SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA : Sir, my department provides only technical facilities of telephone tapping. Ministry of Home Affairs gives approval thereof. So far as you are talking of modernity, on the one hand we are becoming modern in other fields but on the other hand our national security is being jeopardised from all things and even internal security is jeopardised. In this connection, it is necessary that such type of set up should be continued but the department does not do itself. When the Department of Home Affairs seeks our permission, we provide it technical facility only. What you said in this regard that it is out dated law, it is law of English time, it is not correct. But the present Attorney General is also of the view that there is no need of any amendment in this Act.

[English]

SHRI P.C. THOMAS : We have a very good opinion about the Department and the Department is capable of doing very positive work.

Now, what has been said is about the official tapping. As per the law, it is allowed and it is possible. But there are so many cases of unofficial tapping which are possible and which can be done.

This is the age of cellular telephones and now we have so many agencies coming in this field. Is it not time to think of a positive law by which we would have control over the whole media in this sector (*Interruptions*). The changes have to be taken into account. That is why I would like to bring this aspect also to the Minister's attention. There are two parts of my question. One is, whether the Minister would take into account the new scenario and bring out some legislation or think of some legislation which needs to be brought in this regard. The second part of my question is, as I said, this is the age of cellular telephones. The Department is not bad. We have got a very good infrastructure and we have got a very good work force. Also, we have got a very good opinion about the Department. So, why not think of giving the cellular telephones also to the department, rather than giving them only to private parties?

[Translation]

SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA : Sir, I am thankful to the hon'ble Member that he expressed our concern through a question. I have discussed the issue with my officers today itself that tapping facility should be developed in cellular telephones and they are trying their best for this. There is no facility of tapping in Cellular telephone now, but we do understand the need

of tapping technology therein. When there comes up a point of our internal security or national security here, there is no arrangements for monitoring. We would make such arrangements in our technical machinery very soon.

[English]

SHRI P.V. RAJESHWAR RAO : Sir, four months back, in Andhra Pradesh, they have given cellular phones and many people bought them but they are not in operation. Whenever we talk to the persons concerned, they say that the Department has not finalised the things and they have not given the permission. For the last four months, the phones have become only ornamental. People are having the phones but they are not in operation. So, I want to know whether the Government is going to take any action in this regard and decide the things immediately.

[Translation]

SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA : Sir, I think that this question is not basically related to the main question. But we would ask the department to look into the suggestion made by the hon'ble member.

[English]

TV System with the Help of INSAT 2C

305. SHRI SANAT MEHTA : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether Doordarshan proposes to club together DD 3 and Movie Club, the movie channel, to beam the channel via one of the transponders allotted to the national broadcaster on INSAT 2C;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the improvements likely to be made in television system with the help of INSAT 2C;

(d) whether proposals have also been received in this regard;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) how far it is likely to ensure longer telecast hours and help in generating more revenue?

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

STATEMENT

(a) and (b). Yes Sir. The Movie Club channel has been clubbed with the DD 3 Channel w.e.f. 1.11.1996 on C-3 Transponder of INSAT 2C Satellite.

(c) Transmission from C Band Transponders of INSAT 2C has not only improved the quality of this

channel due to high power of the satellite but also made it easier for the cable operators to receive maximum number of Doordarshan services on the satellite.

(d) and (e). Yes Sir. A number of proposals for allotment of slots in sponsored category on the reformatted DD 3 Channel has been received by Doordarshan. This indicates that the channel has started becoming attractive to the sponsors.

(f) While the clubbing of the two channels has already resulted in a daily transmission of over 12 hrs., the gradual introduction of new programming, most of it in the sponsored category, has also resulted in the generation of commercial revenue from the programmes being telecast on this Channel.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Yes, Shri Sanat Mehta. Any question? No supplementary?

SHRI SANAT MEHTA : No, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER : So, you are satisfied.

SHRI RAM NAIK : He is satisfied with the non-performance of the Government, Sir.

SHRI A.C. JOS : Sir, the question is regarding clubbing of the channels. It is a very good suggestions to put the channels together. The question is that Doordarshan is relaying the programmes to different places. So, many small relay centres have been established by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. The arrangements have been completed and are expecting commissioning. I understand that there are more than 600 posts which have fallen vacant. New posts are being created for providing staff to the relay centres. Because of lack of staff, the relay centres are not operating or functioning. I would like to know what steps the Government is taking for sanctioning the staff for these centres and making the centres function as early as possible.

SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM : Sir, specifically this supplementary does not arise from this Question.

SHRI A.C. JOS : Sir, I am talking about Kerala also. The relay stations at Thodupuzha, Kanjirapalli, Devikulam etc. have been completed but not yet commissioned due to lack of staff.

MR. SPEAKER : He has just started the answer.

SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM : Sir, when I took charge of this Ministry, I had requested the Finance Ministry to give clearance for about more than 1,200 jobs. They have given the clearance and for about 50 per cent of the posts, we have started the recruitment. With regard to some of the posts which are to be filled up through the U.P.S.C., we have requested the U.P.S.C. to expedite the recruitment.

Sir, I want to assure that whatever jobs have been completed, whether LPT or HPT, we are taking steps to inaugurate them as early as possible.

[Translation]

SHRI VIJAY ANNAJI MUDE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, many relay centres have been opened in the country, but the adequate number of employees are not there. While there should be 22 employees, there are only 2 employees working. I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister whether the Government have any such scheme to recruit the employees in adequate number for those centres where foundation stone is laid and relay centres have been inaugrated before the election? At the same time, does the Government have any scheme regarding opening relay centre?

SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM : Speaker, Sir, what the hon'ble member is speaking that there is shortage of staff, is correct. Approval for recruitment has to be sought from the Ministry of Finance. We have started recruitment work. As soon as the recruitment work starts, the work of staff posting would start...(Interruptions)

SHRI VIJAY ANNAJI MUDE : Sir, what will happen to those centres where foundation stone is put up?

MR. SPEAKER : The position is that sanction from Ministry of Finance has come. The U.P.S.C. has been ordered and process for recruitment has been started.

SHRI VIJAY ANNAJI MUDE : I would like to ask what is the Government doing for 3rd and fourth classes employees? U.P.S.C. would be searching for scientists.

SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM : At headquarters level Deputy Director of television and Chief Engineer have been asked to make local recruitments. This order has been conveyed from our side.

SHRI VIJAY ANNAJI MUDE : When was it conveyed?

SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM : I can tell you the exact date after going through the records.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I have given the floor to Shri Pradip Bhattacharya. I know that this is a big problem. I have myself faced this problem. There is a problem on every side.

SHRI PRADIP BHATTACHARYA : Sir, there are so many engineering staff people who have qualified. Some of them are taken in Calcutta Doordarshan as casual staff, but they have not yet been given any permanent post. I would like to know whether the Minister is thinking to give them any permanent post or not.

[Translation]

SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM : It is correct that there is shortage of Doordarshan staff. I would like to say that we are not going to retrench any employee working in

my department, who has worked for more than three years, and the would be absorbed there.

[English]

SHRI PRADIP BHATTACHARYA : Many instances.

MR. SPEAKER : Now that the Minister has given an assurance, you can give the list to him.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV : Mr. Speaker, Sir, recently "Doordarshan Kanya Studio" at Patna has been constructed by spending lakhs of rupees. Studio was started and it was stopped immediately after its inception. Studio is lying closed, employees are idle and as a result thereof equipments are getting out of order. I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister that the studio which is closed down, by when it will be restarted?

SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM : Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon'ble member has brought this point into notice through you, I will see it... (Interruptions)

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV : Sir, the Minister has put off my question. He has not said by when it would be got done. Time limit has not been fixed in this regard whether it would be done in one month, two months or four months?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : The Minister has said that he would look into it

[Translation]

SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM : I would not like to fix the time limit because at present. I have no idea about the quantum of defects in the equipment, and after going through it, it can be said by when it will be set right.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV : It is not out of order, the entire building is constructed.

MR. SPEAKER : You should go to the Minister and get a date of inauguration from him.

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Minister has admitted in reply of part A and B of the question that he has clubbed DD 3 channel and Movie channel. Mr. Speaker, Sir, you have yourself been a minister of this ministry and you know about DD 3 channel view... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : This question is to be asked and that is why I am giving this opportunity to you.

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : Mr. Speaker, Sir the concept of DD 3 channel has been made in a quite different channel. After having clubbed the movie channel into this, he has changed that conception completely. There is already an allegation on Doordarshan that it shows too much film based programmes. He made also DD 3 channel a routine

film based programme of that nature, but during our 13 days period we had also wished that whatsoever propaganda that had been prevailing against India at international level could be combated by us by making DD 3 Channel a medium. But he made a thing like film based programme by putting aside all those concepts. I would like to ask the Minister whether he will be pleased to make efforts for reviving the basic conception of DD 3 channel by removing movie club channel?

SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM : The question which you have raised is a very good question. At first, it was thought merely for four hours. We have thought it for 12 hours. Now, it will last for 12 hours. The movie, sports and education will last for 12 hours. We have asked the department of education that we will provide five hours for it. You give us programmes, we are ready to show that.

Not with standing what ever loss we had incurred on international channel it should be made up through participation with Private Doordarshan and we (DD3) have directed our department to that effect since it is now being viewed only in four metropolitan cities. If it is to be shown in other cities, if HPT is to be made, we require ten crore rupees and if one LPT. is to be made we, we require one crore rupee. We want that majority of shares that are there should be kept with Doordarshan and let there be a minor partner with it and also raise the recognition of the International Channel and telecast the DD-3 programmes effectively. Movie club will go on air only for 2-3 hours, we are not going to telecast movies for 12 hours it would cover sports programmes also... (Interruptions)

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : Sir, which movie will end within one hour. Why are you saying it will go on air for one hour, only one movie takes atleast 3 hours, and you are saying it will go on air for one or two hours. Speaker Sir, It was meant to be the Channel of Art and culture, they made it a Channel of fimy culture, and he is justifying that it will go on air for one-two hours only... (Interruptions)

SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM : Now, each and every one has one's own choice, some are vegetarian and some are non-vegetarian. How can I make it compulsory.

SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA : Speaker Sir, I want to ask the honourable Minister through you that two-third area of Jammu and Kashmir receives programme telecast by Pakistan's T.V. centres while Doordarshan of India our own Doordarshan does not cover these parts of J and K. I want to know from Hon. Minister as to what he is doing to cover two-third part of Jammu and Kashmir valley which includes the whole Rajauri, area of Puncch, whole area of Doda which do not receive Doordarshan programmes at all, and hon'ble Minister himself has experienced it. He has assured 3 times that we would install high-power transmitter despite that these are not installed.

SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM : Sir, Hon'ble Member is absolutely correct. We understand this thing that not only Pakistan but other countries are also taking interest in this country. We also want to check it effectively. We want to activate DD-3, so that atleast HPT is installed which should carry out an international propaganda as well as check their anti-propaganda.

As I have stated earlier, that if we increase the range by installing HPT, it needs 10 crore Rupees. You would be glad to know that Doordarshan has earned 80 Crore Rupees more in comparison to what it earned last year and this money has been earned within last six months only...*(Interruptions)* We would try to install HPT in border areas, J and K, Gujarat and Punjab, and those places where signals of Pakistan's are received...*(Interruptions)*

PROF RASA SINGH RAWAT : Also install on the border of Rajasthan...*(interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I know that this very important.

[Translation]

SHRI GANGA CHARAN RAJPUT : Speaker Sir, Revolutionary changes have taken place in the field of media but all the serials which are on air reflect the picture of high class. Society only whether it is Junoon or Swabhiman, none of the serials reflects pain of the poor people. Remaining other serials encourage pump and show, superstitions, sorcery etc. In this connection I have given notice for a question but that did not come up in the list for written reply and Minister did not reply satisfactory I through you want to know from the Minister whether such serials would be encouraged which reflect the pain of poor people and whether superstitions and pump and show shown in the serials would be discontinued...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Why are you repeating.

[English]

Why are you repeating the something? You are making a suggestion and you are not asking a question.

[Translation]

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER : You have but a good question.

MR. SPEAKER : No question has been asked.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : The suggestion has been noted down by the Minister.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Do you have an answer for that?

[Translation]

SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM : Your information is very useful, I will keep it in mind.

[English]

SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister is speaking about the clubbing of DD 3 and the Movie Channel. We are from an area where we cannot see even the DD 1 channel. You would be astonished to know that in the Northern parts of West Bengal, particularly in Darjeeling, Jalpaiguri and Coochbehar, the Bangladeshi TV programmes are visible, the Nepali TV programmes are visible and after a few days even the Chinese TV programmes would be visible, but not the Indian TV programmes! I do not know when the TV Centre at Siliguri, where construction has been completed, is going to be opened so that the people in North Bengal will have these facilities and can watch either DD 1 or DD 2 or DD 3 or any clubbing of it.

MR. SPEAKER : Do you have any information about Siliguri TV Centre?

SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM : There is a real problem as far as the North-Eastern States are concerned.

SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN : I am referring to North Bengal.

SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM : As far as that particular area, which the hon. Member has mentioned, is concerned, I do not have any information. I will furnish the information to the hon. Member.

MR. SPEAKER : Let us go to Question No. 307 of Shri Ram Nagina Mishra. It is time to go by train.

[Translation]

Construction of Railway Bridge

*307. SHRI RAM NAGINA MISHRA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a railway bridge has been constructed in Chitauni in Pudrauna district in Uttar Pradesh whereas a roadbridge was also simultaneously proposed;

(b) if so, the time by which the road bridge is likely to be constructed; and

(c) the reasons for delay?

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

(b) and (c) Substructure of Rail-cum-Road Bridge was completed simultaneously and Rail Bridge has been commissioned. Road Bridge Superstructure consisting of girders and road deck will be taken up once the co-sharers viz., Ministry of Water Resources and Bihar Government come up with their share of funds and it will take two years for completion thereafter.

SHRI RAM NAGINA MISHRA : Speaker Sir, I would like to know from the Minister the share of the Ministry of Water Resources to be borne in the amount earmarked for construction of road-bridge and whether Government of U.P. has given its share or is it outstanding? You are running Govt. in Bihar, you are running Govt. in centre and you are also running Government in U.P. All of you have contributed a lot in construction of this bridge. I would like to know from the Minister whether he is using his influence in Bihar Government and obtaining that amount from the Ministry of Water Resources to construct the bridge without any delay. What is the reason for not giving the amount by the Ministry of Water Resources so far?

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : Speaker, Sir, as regards the Ministry of Water Resources only 22.53 Crore Rupees are outstanding against them. U.P. has given their share. M/o Railway had to give Rs. 76.14 crore. We have given Rs. 93.58 Crore in place of Rs. 76 Crore. Rs. 17 Crore more has been invested. Rs. 4.73 Crore are outstanding against Bihar Government. Bihar Govt. has promised that they would pay this amount in the year of 1996-97. As regard the M/o Water Resources. I talked to them personally, in this regard our officers were kept in touch from time to time. Earlier, Mr. Shukla was the Minister of the M/o Water Resources, I also talked with them on my own. I also talked to Mr. Janeshwar Mishra, he told that he would take action in this regard as soon as possible. After getting this amount from the Planning Commission he will allocate it.

SHRI RAM NAGINA MISHRA : Speaker Sir, Bagaha-Chitauni Railway bridge was constructed. Now you are going to convert it in to broadgauge. That route goes to Kaptanganj and Gorakhpur. From Kaptanganj, Metre Line goes for Seewan. It is a small part and small line. Will you convert it in broad gauge, if so, when? Besides this, this route was connected to Chitauni. Chitauni-Bagaha Railway bridge was constructed before five km. taking diversion from Paniyama. Now train is going from there this is the demand of the people of that area and the delegation has also met you. You have promised that Rail will operate up to Chitauni. Are you going to fulfil their demand and are you going to start broadgauge from Kaptanganj to Seewan.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : Suggestion given by honourable Minister will be considered.

[Translation]

Foreign Investment for Generation of Jobs in India

*309. SHRI NAWAL KISHORE, RAI : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Government would not let industry eat up jobs" appearing in the 'Financial Express' dated September 22, 1996;

(b) if so, whether after initiation of liberalisation policy and consequent foreign capital investments in the country the percentage of generation of jobs in the country has not picked up;

(c) if not, the details of total foreign capital investment in the country during the Eighth Five Year Plan uptill March, 1996 alongwith the details of percentage of additional jobs generated as a result thereof, year-wise;

(d) whether due to the influx of foreign capital and latest technology from abroad the percentage of generation of jobs has come down; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

[English]

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

STATEMENT

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (e). Employment in the organised sector which was of the order of 25.7 million as on 31.3.1991 has gone up to about 27.7 million as on 31.3.1996. Detailed study on the effect of foreign investment on employment or unemployment has not been made.

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI : Speaker Sir, the reply is given by the Hon. Minister is not satisfactory. Since the introduction of New Economy Policy in 1991 and liberal policy came into force, country is leading towards Unemployment. In this house, the then Govt. told that the technology to be developed and to be brought in India would be labour-oriented. It was also stated that we would take positive steps to solve the problem of Unemployment.

During the last 5 years, what progress we made, is not clear from the reply of the hon. Minister. It is admitted in it that employment is increase by 1.1 percent. Survey was not conducted in this regard. I would like to know from the Hon. Minister the number of opportunities of employment increased with the labour oriented technique foreign investment in last five years. House should be intimated clearly in this regard that if there is any scheme by which Unemployment could be minimised?

[English]

SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM : Sir, after the introduction of the New Economic Policy in 1991, there was a concerted move towards permitting the greater role of foreign capital in India to supplement the domestic resources including technology. From 1991 onwards, certain high priority industrial sectors allowed automatic foreign equity participation of up to 51 per cent. Today, these high priority sectors include 35 industries which are mostly manufacturing industries with the exception

of the software, hotel and tourism industries in the services area. This has created employment opportunities. If you see the unemployment rate, it has created employment opportunities. If you see the unemployment rate, it has come down considerably. In 1987-88, the overall unemployment rate is 3.77 per cent. In 1993-94, if you see it, after the introduction of the New Economic Policy, it has come down to 2.56 per cent. Therefore, this New Economic Policy has helped to create employment opportunities.

[Translation]

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI : Speaker Sir, it is requested to Hon. Minister to increase the opportunities of employment through foreign investment and what he quoted in his reply, is unsatisfactory. It is requested that foreign investment may be increased in our country. But the Government has not cleared to what extent unemployment was removed by about oriented foreign investment. I want to know from the Hon. Minister whether any time bound, planned programme has been chalked out to bring down the unemployment

[English]

SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM : It is up to the Planning Commission. They have to chart out the programmes. There are Departments which are creating employment opportunities. The Urban Affairs and Employment Department has been creating employment opportunities in the urban areas. The Rural Development is creating employment opportunities in the rural areas.

[English]

Transportation of Cement

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*310. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA :
SHRI ANIL BASU :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Railways cannot provide wagons to the cement industry for movement of coal to cement plants and to transport cement out of cement plants and that despatch of cement by rail is declining every year;

(b) whether it is also a fact that transportation of Coal and Cement by Road instead of by Rail means additional oil import of Rs. 2500 Crores a year in foreign exchange;

(c) if so, what action the Government has been taking to take over transportation of these two bulk commodities, to get back their due revenue of Rs. 8495 crores and to reduce oil import by Rs. 2500 crores a year; and

(d) if not, the details of actual shortage in rail transport, actual loss of revenue and actual additional oil import involved and action taken to prevent them?

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) to (d). A Statement is laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha.

STATEMENT

(a) At present, there is no difficulty in clearing the traffic offered by Cement plants for movement of cement or for movement of coal to cement plants. There have been occasions in the past when wagon difficulty was experienced. However, despatch of cement by rail increased every year as compared to the preceding year except during 1992-93 and 1994-95.

(b) The statistics referred to are not available. At present, Railway have adequate wagons to transport coal and cement.

(c) and (d). The requirement of wagons is reviewed continuously and whenever wagon shortage is felt, additional wagons are acquired. Steps taken to improve loading of bulk commodities include induction of container service for movement of cement, introduction of crack rakes of air-brake stock on specified circuits with intensive maintenance to give extended run, intensive monitoring at terminals for loading and unloading to reduce detention to wagons etc. These measures have brought about improvement in wagon turn round and thereby improved overall availability of wagons for freight traffic. The actual loading of total coal, coal for "others" including cement sector and loading of cement for the current year, upto October, 1996, is more than the pro-rata target for the current financial year as well as the actual loading during the corresponding period of 1995-96.

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Sir, he has admitted that there was some shortage of wagons... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI LALMUNI CHAUBEY : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have given notice regarding the breach of privilege.

MR. SPEAKER : Question Hour is going on at present why do you put it now?

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : I am putting a supplementary question... (Interruptions) He has admitted that there was some shortage of wagons and because of that, the movement of cement from the industry to the consumers was affected. There was a news item in the month of September saying that the cement manufacturers had decided to close down some of their plants because of non-availability of sufficient number of wagons. Cement is one of the bulk freight traffic of the Indian Railways.

12.00 hrs.

In order to increase the availability of wagons, may I know from the hon. Minister whether he will take steps

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
11.	Assam State Electricity Board	6.91					6.91				
12.	M.P. State Electricity Board	4.14	4.09							0.05	
13.	Bihar State Electricity Board	3.94		3.75		0.19					
14.	Private Power House Sabarmati	2.54									2.54
15.	Tamilnadu State Electricity Board	1.29						1.29			
16.	Rajasthan State Electricity Board	1.19									1.19
17.	Karnataka State Electricity Board	0.07							0.07		
18.	Orissa State Electricity Board	0.00									
Total		1126.37	52.3	41.22	944.09	0.2	6.91	1.29	30.93	34.84	14.59

[English]

Asian Development Bank Loan

*306. SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Asian Development Bank has recently approved a loan to provide public telephones in villages in Uttar Pradesh;

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

(c) the time by which the work in this regard is likely to start?

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

(b) By this loan about 31788 Villages of 42 districts of Eastern UP Telecom Circle will be provided with one public telephone in each villlage. The details of districts which are be covered are given in the enclosed statement. The loan has been taken under Standard Terms and Conditions of the Bank. The repayment period is 24 years including a grace period of 4 years.

(c) The work under this project may start by 2nd half of 1997.

STATEMENT

Details of Districts of UP (East) Telecom Circle to be provided with village public Telephones with the help of Asian Development Bank Loan

Sl. No.	Name of Districts
1	2
1.	Ambedkar Nagar
2.	Allahabad
3.	Azam Garh
4.	Ballia
5.	Banda

1	2
6.	Barabanki
7.	Basti
8.	Bahraich
9.	Bhadoi
10.	Devaria
11.	Etawah
12.	Ferozabad
13.	Farrukhabad
14.	Fatehpur
15.	Ghazipur
16.	Gonda
17.	Gorakhpur
18.	Hamir pur
19.	Hardoi
20.	Jalaun
21.	Jaunpur
22.	Jhansi
23.	Kanpur
24.	Kanpur Dehat
25.	Lakhimpur
26.	Lalitpur
27.	Lucknow
28.	Maharaj Ganj
29.	Mainpuri
30.	Maunath Bhanjan
31.	Mahoba
32.	Mirzapur
33.	Pratap Garh
34.	Patrauna
35.	Raibareilly
36.	Shahjahan Pur
37.	Sidhartha Nagar
38.	Sitapur

1	2
39.	Sonbhadra
40.	Sultan Pur
41.	Unnao
42.	Varanasi

Maintenance Centres For LPT, Kerala

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

(a) whether the Government propose to set up Maintenance Centre for Low Power Transmitters in Kerala;

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

(c) whether proposals have been received for setting up this centre at Adoor in the State;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the details of new transmitters proposed to be set up in the State, location-wise?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) There is presently no proposal to set up additional Maintenance Centres of Doordarshan in Kerala.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Three Maintenance Centres, one each at Cochin, Cannanore and Trichur are functioning in the State of Kerala. While there is no approved scheme at present to set up a Maintenance Centre at Adoor in Kerala, the same can be considered at an appropriate time depending upon the requirement vis-a-vis establishment of new Low Power/Very Low Power TV Transmitters in the region.

(e) A High Power TV Transmitter (permanent set up) project at Calicut and three Low Power Transmitter projects, one each at Thodupuzha, Adoor and Attapadi are presently under implementation in the State of Kerala. In addition, an HPT project at Cannanore and four Low Power/Very Low Power TV Transmitter projects at Pala, Erattupetta, Mundakayam and Cannanore (DD II) are envisaged to be set up in the State subject to availability of resources and other infrastructural facilities and inter-se priorities.

Disinvestment in Air India

*311. SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA : will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to disinvest the equity capital in Air India;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the percentage of equity capital proposed to be disinvested;

(d) whether any plan has been drawn up for the expansion of Air India capacity in terms of fleet etc. in the context of disinvestment; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) to (c). The Air India Limited figures in the list of 40 Public Sector Enterprises (PSEs) referred by the Government to the Disinvestment Commission for drawing up a comprehensive and long term disinvestment programme for these PSEs.

(d) and (e). Air India plans to continue renewal and expansion of its fleet, irrespective of the decision regarding disinvestment.

Doordarshan projects in in Delhi and Bombay

*312. SHRI DINSHA PATEL :

SHRI KACHARU BHAAU RAUT :

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

(a) whether major projects of Doordarshan viz. Doordarshan Bhavan, Delhi and TV expansion at Bombay are running behind the schedule;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the cost escalation due to delay in completion of these projects;

(d) the action taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to accelerate the commissioning of these projects;

(e) whether representations have been received for setting up of AIR Kendras in Maharashtra;

(f) whether the Government have conducted any survey in this regard;

(g) if so, the details thereof; and

(h) the time by which these are likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) and (b). There has been some delay in completion of Doordarshan Bhawan (Studio-cum-Office Complex) project at Delhi and also in the project for Expansion of TV Centre, Mumbai. The main reasons for delay in completion of the aforesaid projects are as under :—

(i) **Doordarshan Bhawan (Studio-cum-Office Complex), Delhi :-**

Removal of un-authorized encroachment at the project site and changes required to be carried out in the approved scope of the project due to revision of

Municipal By-laws relating to the construction of high-rise buildings in Central District of New Delhi Municipal Committee (NDMC) area.

(ii) Expansion of TV Centre, Mumbai:-

Slow progress of civil works by the contractor who was initially assigned the civil works of the project which eventually had to be rescinded and the balance work is now being executed by the second contractor; non-availability of construction material for some time; problems of water logging/regular seepage in the basement; change in scope of the project etc.

(c) While the cost escalation due to delay in implementation of Doordarshan Bhawan (Studio-cum-Office Complex) project at Delhi is Rs. 4745.29 lakhs, in the case of Expansion of TV Centre Project at Mumbai, it is Rs. 1917.89 lakhs.

(d) The civil works in respect of Doordarshan Bhawan (Studio-cum-Office Complex) at Delhi as well as Expansion of TV Centre at Mumbai are in progress. As per the present indications, while the Doordarshan Bhawan (Studio-cum-Office Complex) at Delhi is expected to be made ready by the end of the financial year 1998-99, the project for Expansion of TV Centre at Mumbai is expected to be made ready by the end of the financial year 1997-98.

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) to (h). There are at present 20 Radio Stations in operation in the State of Maharashtra providing service to estimated 98% area and 99% population of the State. Some small pockets in Sindhudurg and Osmanabad districts were reportedly not covered by any of the AIR's MW/FM Transmitters. However, the uncovered pockets in Osmanabad district are expected to receive AIR coverage from the FM transmitter at Osmanabad which has since been commissioned on 9.12.1996. In addition, a new Radio Station is being established at Malwan in Sindhudurg district which is expected to be completed during 9th Plan.

[Translation]

Re-Construction of Hotels

*313. SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN :
SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI :

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) the total amount proposed to be spent by India Tourism Development Corporation on the reconstruction of hotels;

(b) whether the modernisation drive is proposed to be funded entirely by the internal resources;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether there is any proposal to demolish some hotels;

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

(f) whether the life of the hotels which are likely to be demolished was evaluated at the time of construction, and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA):
(a) It is estimated to incur Rs. 98.11 crores on reconstruction of Lodhi Hotel, New Delhi in the first phase, followed by reconstruction of Janpath and Ranjit Hotels for which schemes would be finalised in second and third phases respectively.

(b) and (c). Yes Sir, current year's (1996-97) plan outlay of Rs. 40 crores which includes a provision of Rs. 17.74 crores for renovation/improvements in hotels would be met out of internal resources.

(d) and (e). The proposal is to demolish the old structures of Lodhi, Janpath and Ranjit hotels which are considered not conducive for the efficient operation of hotels. They will be replaced with new structures with modern facilities and utilisation of space.

(f) and (g). The buildings of these hotels were constructed in 1955-56 to be used as hotels by the Central Govt. No records are available with ITDC about the evaluation of the life span of these buildings.

Shifting of Beedi Industries to Southern States

*314. SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether beedi industries are being shifted from Madhya Pradesh to the Southern States;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken by the Union Government for the economic development of the beedi labourers affected thereby?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) As per information furnished by the State Government, no such case has so far been reported to the State Labour Department.

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

Expenditure on Publicity

*315. SHRI SATYAJITSINH DULIUSHNH
GAEKWAD :
DR. BALIRAM :

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Public Sector Undertakings under his Ministry have been incurring huge expenditure on publicity arbitrarily;

(b) if so, whether he has expressed resentment in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the details of the above PSUs and the expenditure incurred by each of them on publicity during the last three years, year-wise; and

(e) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to minimise such expenditure?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINIES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) to

(e). The details of expenditure incurred by the PSUs under the Ministry of Steel on publicity during the last three years are given in the enclosed statement.

While holding peridical review meetings to minitor physical and financial performance of the PSUs *vis-a-vis* MOU targets, it is cousomary to review, *interalia*, various items of expenditure and through these meetings suggestions are made to cut down expenditure where required.

STATEMENT

Sl. No.	Name of the Public Sector Undertaking	Expenditure incurred on Publicity (Rs. in Lakhs)		
		1993-94	1994-95	1995-96
1.	Steel Authority of India Ltd.	823.00	969.00	1767.00
2.	Visakhapatnam Steel Plant	217.83	284.09	351.84
3.	Kudremukh Iron Ore Company Ltd.	54.04	26.13	57.67
4.	National Mineral Development Corp.	4.23	2.66	16.22
5.	Metallurgical & Engg. Consultants India Ltd.	27.21	28.87	54.82
6.	Manganese Ore India Ltd.	15.38	12.72	16.18
7.	MSTC Ltd.	13.59	1.90	6.36
8.	Bharat Refractories Limited	2.73	3.59	1.41
9.	Sponge Iron India Limited	0.20	1.07	0.22
10.	Ferro Scrap Nigam Limited	Nil	0.05	0.02
11.	Hindustan Steel Works Construction Ltd.	4.00	4.00	8.00

[English]

National Postal Policy

*316. SHRI SHANTILAL PARSOTAMDAS PATEL : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the formulation of a National Postal Policy undertaken in 1992 has been completed;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) to (d). A formal document incorporating the National Postal Policy is yet to be finalised. However, the Department of Posts has been following consistent policy in the matter of development and operation of Postal Services in the Country. The salient features of the policy of the Department are indicated below.

In the matter of expansion of postal network in the rural areas, the Department's policy provides for

substantial subsidy in respect of new post offices- 66% of anticipated cost in normal rural area and 85% of the anticipated cost in hilly, tribal and inaccessible area as well as allows the maximum permissible annual loss to the extent of Rs. 2400 in normal rural area and Rs. 4800 in tribal and hilly areas in the matter of upgradation of rural Branch Post Office into a Departmental Sub Post Office. 8041 villages including Gram Panchayats in the Country, where opening of Post Office is justified according to population and distance parameters, are still without postal counter facilities and the focus of Department's policy now is to provide new Post Offices in these villages. In extending Postal facilities in the Urban area financial viability is given greater importance in the Department's policy and a newly opened Post Office is required to be self-supporting by the end of its first year of existence. Parameter in respect of distance from existing Post Office is also appropriately related to Urban conditions where the density of population is much higher than in the rural area.

As regards delivery service in rural area, the norm is to deliver articles from Branch Post Office on the same day when these are received unless there are constraints of transmission arrangements. In the urban area, all Departmental delivery offices provide atleast one delivery per day for both ordinary and accountable

articles, which are supplemented by more than one delivery in a large number of urban Post Offices, having regard to the volume of articles and the time of their receipt.

In the matter of all mail transmission, the Department's policy is to gradually introduce automated systems in the large nodal Centres for speedy and effective mail processing. The first step in this direction has been taken with the setting up of the automated mail processing Centres at Mumbai and Chennai respectively.

The department is also pursuing the policy of optimising the benefits of the Post Office as an outlet of social distribution system by performing a variety of agency functions like small savings schemes of the Government, payment of pension for Railway Pensioners and Coal Miners, as also operation of the Postal Life Insurance Organisation.

The Department's policy of modernising the Postal service lays emphasis on counter services where application of computer based technology is aimed at achieving greater customer satisfaction through more efficient and responsive counter service and enhancing employee motivation through improved work-environment. Provision of new value-added services for the business/professional segment of customers is also in focus for optimising the upgraded retailing capacity of modernised Postal counters. Computer based technologies are also being introduced in other areas of activity like financial services, PLI, inventory control and Speed Post Service.

The Department's policy of modernisation through induction of new technology is being achieved on the basis of an extensive training programme aimed at upgrading the skills of its employees.

The Department is also seeking to segment its areas of activities catering for business and commercial sector and those for meeting universal service obligation with a view to improving quality of service and generation of revenue.

[Translation]

Compensation to Victims of Air Crashes

*317. SHRIMATI BHAVNA BEN DEVRAJ BHAI
CHIKHALIA :
DR. C. SILVERA :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

- (a) the number of claims relating to the compensation to the victims of air crashes during the period from January, 1995 to November, 1996 settled by the Government;
- (b) the number and details of the claims pending settlement;
- (c) the time from which these are pending;

(d) the reasons for delay in disposal of these claims

(e) the steps proposed to be taken for expeditious settlement of pending claims; and

(f) the details of the specific steps taken by the Government to provide financial assistance to the families of the deceased in the recent mid-air collision on November 12, 1996?

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

(a) to (f). As per the Carriage by Air Act, 1972 the concerned carrier airlines has to settle claims of compensation of air crash victims. However, as regards recent accident of 12th November, 1996, the Government has decided to set up a cell to render legal assistance to the next of kin of victims of the accident with a view to ensure smooth and speedy settlement of compensation claims.

[English]

Increase in Production Cost of Steel

*318. SHRI UTTAMSINGH PAWAR : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the cost of steel production has increased during the last six months;
- (b) if so, the extent to which it has increased;
- (c) the factors responsible therefor;
- (d) whether SAIL, TISCO and other steel plants have been adversely affected on account of increase in power tariff, petroleum prices and 10% cut in customs duty on steel items;
- (e) if so, the details thereof;
- (f) the remedial measures taken or proposed to be taken to enable the steel industry to face the global competition;
- (g) whether a number of mini-steel plants have also been closed due to high cost input;
- (h) if so, the details thereof; and
- (i) the remedial measures proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) to (f). The cost of production of steel primarily depends upon prices of inputs such as iron ore, coal, steel scrap and energy, costs of freight and labour and financial charges. Some elements of the cost of steel production like coal, power tariff, petroleum products, railway freight, etc. have become costlier since 01/4/96.

In the case of SAIL, the cost of production (before depreciation & interest) per tonne of crude steel has increased by about 10% due to increase in the prices

of indigenous coal, petroleum products, power supplied by the State Electricity Boards and impact of Railway and Central Budgets.

In the case of TISCO, the production cost has increased by 2.05% over the average production cost of 1995-96, due to recent increase in prices of petroleum products and Railway freight.

Apart from the cost of production, the competitiveness of Indian steel in the international market will be determined by factors such as international prices, freight costs, exchange rate of rupee, production costs in other countries, etc. These factors are usually dynamic and change frequently.

SAIL is taking following measures on continuous basis to face the global competition :

- Modernisation and technological upgradation of its plants. -
- Increasing capacity utilisation.
- Improving productivity.
- Introducing energy conservation measures.
- Improving availability of equipment through effective maintenance.
- Improving product-mix, making value added items and meeting customer's requirements.
- Reduction in consumption of coke, energy, stores & spares, etc.

(g) to (i). As per available information, presently there are 183 Small Electric Arc Furnace Units in the country representing total capacity of about 8.44 million tonnes. out of these, as on 30/9/96, 87 units, representing a capacity of approximately 2.4 million tonnes are reported to be closed due to various factors like higher power tariffs, obsolete technology, uneconomical cost of production, etc.

The basic import duty on carbon steel melting scrap, which is an input material for Electric Arc Furnace Units, continues to be low at 5% since 1994-95. The import duty on graphite electrodes, used by these units, has also been reduced from 40% to 25% in the budget for 1996-97. In addition, Ministry of Steel has advised the State Governments to consider the supply of uninterrupted power supply to these units at concessional rates.

Konkan Railway Project

*319. DR. M. JAGANNATH :

SHRI AYYANNA PATRUDU :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the amount released so far by the Government for the completion of Konkan Railway Project;
- (b) the amount proposed to be released by the Central Government to complete the project;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the cost of the project has been revised five times;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) the sources of funds mobilisation for the above project; and

(f) the steps being taken to accelerate its early completion?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) Ministry of Railways and the participating State Govts. have released the following funds upto-date :

	<i>Rs. in crs.</i>
Ministry of Railways	306.00
Govt. of Maharashtra	132.00
Govt. of Goa	34.00
Govt. of Karnataka	90.00
Govt. of Kerala	36.00
<hr/>	
- Total	598.00

(b) No further amounts are proposed to be released from Central Government at present.

(c) The project cost has been revised twice.

(d) The main reasons for escalation of cost are:

- (i) Inflation due to passage of time.
- (ii) Additional expenditure required due to increased scope of works in tunnels and protection works and implementation of recommendations of Oza Committee in Goa sector of the project.
- (iii) Adoption of present day standards of construction, as compared to the original provision.
- (iv) Additional financing costs due to delay in completion of the project.

(e) Funds totalling to Rs. 2780 crs. have been mobilised through Equity form Central and 4 State Govts., 10.5% Tax Free Bonds, Sale and Lease Back of Assets, External Commercial Borrowings and other sources and Foreign Currency Loan for Equipment Purchases.

(f) Effective steps have been initiated to achieve the progress of works in critical soil tunnels by means of deployment of imported machinery for dewatering, soil stabilisation etc. and giving a thrust on other works for early completion.

Targets for Earning Foreign Exchange

*320. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

- (a) the targets fixed for the earning of foreign exchange from tourism during Eighth Five Year Plan; and

(b) the details of foreign exchange earned by the Government from tourism during the above Plan period as on date, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA): (a) and (b). The target on foreign exchange earning from tourism fixed for the terminal year 1996-97 of Eighth Plan at the time of formulating the Plan was Rs. 7000 crores. The estimated foreign exchange earnings during each of the years in the Plan period were as given below:-

Year	Foreign Exchange Earning (Rs. in crores)
1992-93	6060.0
1993-94	6970.3
1994-95	7365.6*
1995-96	9185.9*

* Provisional

Contract for Doubling of Railway Line

2879. SHRI P.C. THOMAS : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether contracts/tenders have been invited for works of doubling of rail line between Mangalore and Shoranore;

(b) whether the functions relating to these contracts/tenders are being performed at Madras rather than in Kerala;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether there is no control of Senior Accountants over the financial matters concerning this work; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Yes, Sir. Some tenders have been invited for this work.

(b) No, Sir. Tenders are being invited from Madras, Calicut and Cannanore.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Vacant Posts in Railways

2880. SHRI SUBRATA MUKHERJEE : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of posts lying vacant in different zonal railways and different production units, zone-wise, unit-wise and division-wise details thereof;

(b) the number of persons recruited during the current year, zone-wise, unit-wise and division-wise and

(c) the steps being taken to fill up all existing vacancies in Indian Railways particularly in group-'B' and 'D'?

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

(b) and (c). The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the Sabha.

STATEMENT

(a) The approximate number of non-gazetted posts lying vacant in different Zonal Railways and different Production Units as on 31.3.96 are as under :-

Zonal Railways		Production Units	
CR	- 14101	CLW	- 810
ER	- 12572	DCW	- 539
NR	- 19158	DLW	- 407
NER	- 8330	ICF	- 1273
NFR	- 7352	RCF	- 1136
SR	- 5579	W&AP	- 67
SCR	- 8448		
SER	- 23354		
WR	- 12637		

However, division-wise details are not maintained.

As far as gazetted staff is concerned the information is being collected.

[Translation]

Railways Land

2881. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV : will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that railway land attached with the Divisional Office of Northern Railway Men's Union at Allahabad on the City Side has been let out to an outsider on monthly rent of Rs. 500/- for running a shop;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether rent realised by Divisional Secretary every month is being deposited with the Railways or the same is being enjoyed by office bearers for their personal gain;

(d) if so, whether the Government propose to allot additional land for letting out to outsiders by the Uttariya Railway Mazdoor Union at Allahabad on the Civil Lines side; and

(e) 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) and (e). Do not arise.

- (b) Does not arise.
 (c) No, Sir.
 (d) does not arise.

[English]

Employment to Apprentice Trainees

2882. SHRI RUP CHAND MURMU : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of Act Apprentices trained in the KGP workshop of SER are awaiting for employment as a large number of posts are vacant; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b). Under the Apprentices Act, there is no obligation on the part of the organization imparting training to provide jobs to trained apprentices. These trained persons are free to seek employment obtained by Apprentices after their training is maintained by the Railway Training Centres. It is therefore, not possible to state whether a large number of apprentices trained in the Kharagpur workshop of South Eastern Railway are awaiting employment.

As regards vacancies, arising and filling up of vacancies is a continuous process and at any given point of time there are generally some vacancies to be filled up.

Vacancies in Group 'C' and Group 'D' are normally filled up through Railway Recruitment Boards or by the Railway Administration themselves. In either case, vacancies are duly notified and the Course completed Act Apprentices can also apply for being considered for appointment against these vacancies alongwith other eligible candidates.

Uniforms and Identity Cards to Railways Employees Working at Tikiapara Yard

2883. SHRI MEHBOOB ZAHEDI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that air condition staff of Tikiapara Yard of Eastern Railway are performing their duties without availing laminated identity cards and without yard uniforms for a long time;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that while performing their duties they are facing security problem in absence of uniforms and identity cards; and

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

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

Judgement of Supreme Court

2884. SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN : will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 3436 on August, 29, 1996 regarding Judgement of Supreme Court and state:

(a) whether his Ministry gave any time limit to State Governments, Union Territories and Ministries, Departments for implementation of recommendations of Hon'ble Supreme Court;

(b) if so, the details of the time limit;

(c) the names of State Governments/Union Territories — Ministries/Departments, which have not furnished their views/comments on this issue and details of those which have furnished their comments/views; and

(d) the decision taken by his Ministry on the recommendations of Hon'ble Supreme Court?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) A statement is annexed.

(d) Decision on further action for implementing the recommendations of the S.C. will be taken after receiving the views/comments of all the State Govts./and the various concerned Ministries/Departments of the Government of India.

STATEMENT

A. The following State Governments/Union Territories have furnished their views/comments.

1. Punjab
2. Maharashtra.
3. Government of Lakshdweep.
4. Chandigarh Administration.
5. Kerala.
6. Mazoram.
7. Andhra Pradesh.
8. Meghalaya.
9. Orissa.
10. Gujarat.
11. Daman & Diu.
12. Jammu & Kashmir.
13. Himachal Pradesh.

14. Karnataka.
15. Goa.
16. Madhya Pradesh.
17. Tripura.

B. The following State Governments/Union Territories have not been furnished their comments/views.

1. Bihar.
2. West Bengal.
3. Assam.
4. Tamil Nadu.
5. Rajasthan.
6. Nagaland.
7. Haryana.
8. Manipur.
9. Andaman & Nicobar Island.
10. Dadar & Nagar Haveli.
11. Govt. of N.C.T. of Delhi.
12. Pondicherry.
13. Uttar Pradesh.
14. Arunachal Pradesh.
15. Sikkim.

C. The following Ministries/Departments have furnished their views/comments.

1. Ministry of Food.
2. Deptt. of Heavy Industry (M/O Industry).
3. Ministry of Railways.
4. Ministry of Mines.
5. Ministry of Agriculture (D/O Agriculture and Co-operatives).
6. Deptt. of Rural Development (M/O Rural Areas & Employment).
7. Ministry of Urban Affairs & Employment (Deptt. of Urban Employment & P.A.).
8. Deptt. of Defence Production & Supply (M/O Defence).
9. Deptt. of Urban Development.
10. Deptt. of Chemicals & Petrochemicals (M/O Chemical and Fertilizers).
11. Ministry of Food Processing Industries.
12. Deptt. of Electronics.
13. Ministry of Water Resources.
14. Ministry of Labour IR (PL) Section).
15. Ministry of Agriculture (Deptt. of Animal Husbandry and Dairying).
16. Deptt. of Programme Implementation.
17. Central Electricity Authority.

18. Ministry of External Affairs.
19. Ministry of Defence (Deptt. of Defence).
20. Ministry of Industrial Development.
21. Ministry of Human Resource Development, (Deptt. of Women and Child Development).
22. Ministry of Industry, Bureau of Industrial Costs and Price.
23. Ministry of Industry, Deptt. of Company Affairs.
24. Ministry of Commerce (Deptt. of Supply).
25. Ministry of Law, Justice (Legislative Deptt.).
26. Ministry of Law & Justice (Deptt. of Legal Affairs).
27. Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs.
28. Ministry of Planning and Programme Implementation (Deptt. of Statistics).
29. Central Board of Direct Taxes.
30. Boarder Roads Development Board.
31. Department of Revenue.
32. Ministry of Home Affairs (U.T. Division).
33. Central Board of Excise & Customs.
34. Department of Science and Technology.
35. Ministry of Law & Justice.
36. Ministry of Defence, Department of Defence Research and Development.
37. Department of Personnel & Training.
38. Ministry of Home Affairs.
39. Department of Biotechnology (M/O Science & Technology).
40. Ministry of Information and Broadcasting
41. Ministry of Finance (DEA).

D. The following Ministries/Departments have sent their Interim reply.

1. Ministry of Finance (Banking Division).
2. Department of Posts.
3. Ministry of Civil Supplies, Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution.
4. Department of Ocean Development.
5. Ministry of Steel.
6. Ministry of Commerce.

E. The following Ministries/Departments have not been furnished their comments/views.

1. Ministry of Atomic Energy.
2. Ministry of Civil Aviation & Tourism.
3. Ministry of Coal.
4. Department of Telecommunication.
5. Ministry of Environment & Forest.
6. Deptt. of Agriculture Research & Education.
7. Department of Fertilizers.

8. Department of Tourism.
9. Department of Civil Supplies.
10. Ministry of Finance.
11. Department of Expenditure (M/O Finance).
12. Ministry of Finance (Insurance Division).
13. Deptt. of Food Procurement & Distribution.
14. Ministry of Health & Family Welfare.
15. Ministry of Health & F. W. (Deptt. of Family Welfare).
16. Ministry of Human Resource Development (D/O Culture).
17. Ministry of Human Resource Development (D/O Education).
18. Deptt. of Youth Affairs and Sports.
19. Ministry of Non-conventional Energy Sources.
20. Deptt. of Small Scale Industries & Agro & Rural Industries (Ministry of Industry).
21. Deptt. of Industrial Policy and Promotion (M/O Industry).
22. Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas.
23. Ministry of Power.
24. Ministry of Rural Areas & Employment.
25. Deptt. of Scientific & Industrial Research.
26. Ministry of Space.
27. Ministry of Surface Transport.
28. Ministry of Textiles.
29. Ministry of Welfare.

Capacity of EMU trains

2885. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO : Will the Minister RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the capacity of EMU trains plying between New Delhi-Delhi and Aligarh to carry passengers;

(b) the estimated time taken by such train from Delhi to Aligarh and vice-versa by these EMU type trains

(c) whether EMU train take less time between Delhi to Aligarh and vice versa than the previous conventional trains plied between Delhi to Aligarh, Uttar Pradesh (Northern Railways);

(d) if so, the number of actual passengers boarded these trains daily in between aforesaid stations;

(e) whether these trains have toilet facilities keeping in view the time taken about 3 hours from Aligarh to Delhi;

(f) if so, the details thereof;

(g) whether to Government propose to mitigate this time about two hours by introducing express (fast) EMU as plied in Bombay;

(h) if so, the details thereof; and

(i) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) 12 car EMU rakes are plying between New Delhi-Delhi & Aligarh. These trains have sitting capacity of 1304 passengers. The trains' capacity is 3912 passengers under dense crush load condition.

(b) It ranges from 2 hours 45 minutes to 3 hours 30 minutes.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

(g) No, Sir.

(h) Does not arise.

(i) Due to operational and resource constraints.

Late running of New Jalpaiguri-Haldibari Passenger Train

2886. PROF. JITENDRA NATH DAS : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the New Jalpaiguri-Haldibari passenger train are running late regularly;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that daily passengers as well as students are facing hardship due to late running of trains;

(c) if so, the reasons for late running;

(d) the steps taken by the Government to improve the running;

(e) whether DMU service to be introduced in this section;

(f) if so, the time by which it is likely to be introduced, and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (c) : No, Sir. However the running of trains get affected at times due to reasons such as accidents, agitations, equipment failures, alarm-chain-pulling, miscreant activities and bad weather etc.

(d) All efforts including intensive chasing and daily monitoring at different levels are being undertaken regularly. In addition, punctuality drives both at Inspectorial and officers' level are also being launched.

(e) to (g) : DMU/Push Pull services in New Jalpaiguri area are proposed to be introduced on availability of the requisite coaches.

Introduction of Express Train from Bolpur to New Delhi

2887. DR. RAMCHANDRA DOME : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the demand of the people of Bolpur (Santineketan) to introduce an express train from Bolpur to New Delhi; and

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

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

(b) There is no proposal at present to introduce an express train from Bolpur to New Delhi due to operational and resource constraints besides lack of traffic justification.

[Translation]

Technical Training Scheme for Mining in Delhi

2888. SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL : Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether any technical training scheme is being run for mining in the National Capital Territory of Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, whether the Government propose to launch any such scheme; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

[English]

Shortage of Ticket Checking and Catering Staff

2889. DR. ASIM BALA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is shortage of ticket checking and catering staff in all divisions of Eastern Railway;

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

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to recruit more staff to remove the shortfall?

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 Sabha.

International Flights from Cochin Airport

2890. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Airlines/Air India propose to introduce International flights from Cochin Airport;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any other airlines conducts flights from Cochin to foreign destinations; 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). At present, there is no proposal to introduce international flights from Cochin Airport.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Expansion of Mumbai Metropolitan Region

2891. SHRI RAM NAIK : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that there is a public demand to include the cities of Bhiwandi and Kalyan in the greater area of Mumbai Metropolitan Region; and

(b) if so, the time limit by which the above demand is likely to be fulfilled?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) Sir, requests have been received for inclusion of Bhiwandi into Mumbai Telephone System for the purpose of group dialling facilities, Kalyan has the facility of group dialling with Mumbai at 180 sec. pulse rate. Bhiwandi does not fulfil the criteria laid down for provision of this facility.

(b) Does not arise.

Heavy Haul Goods Trains

2892. SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that long loops suitable for 9000 tonnes Heavy Haul Goods trains had been constructed in the Mughalsarai-Ghaziabad section of Northern Railway to transport coal and other bulk commodities, at a cost of about Rs. 5 crores and that 9000 tonnes are not operated and the long loops are not used;

(b) whether it is a fact that Radio Remote Control equipments were bought at a cost of about Rs. 10 Crores to haul 9000 tonnes trains in Kiriburu-Bokaro section of South Eastern Railway to Transport Iron Ore and that these trains had to be stopped because long loops suitable for 9000 tonne trains were not constructed in this line but in Northern Railway;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor and why long loops were built in Northern and not in South Eastern Railway and why 9000 tonne trains were stopped in South Eastern Railway; and

(d) if not, the details of the actual costs and losses and details of the 9000 tonne train operation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Yes Sir. Long loops were constructed at Gaipura, Malwan, Kaurara & Dankaur to accommodate 9000 tonnes Heavy haul trains at the cost of Rs. 3.05 Cr. which were run on a trial measure. The loops were used during the trial.

(b) to (d). Two sets of Radio Remote Control equipment were procured at a cost of US \$ 1,310,373. Trials were conducted between Kiriburu-Bokaro section of South Eastern Railway. The technical feasibility of use of such a system was established but due to operational and maintenance problems, the trials were not extended. It is not true that 9000 tonne trains had to be stopped because of non-availability of long loops in South Eastern Railway.

Private Courier Companies

2893. SHRI UDDHAB BARMAN : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of licences issued to private courier companies during the last three years;

(b) the details of their turn-over during the above period;

(c) the details of turn-over of Department of Posts, EMS wing for the above period; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government for the efficiency improvement of EMS Wing?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) The Department of Post does not issue licences to private courier companies.

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

(c) The turnover of Speed Post during the last three years is as under:

Year	Turnover (in crores)
1993-94	50.13
1994-95	54.18
1995-96	57.40

(d) The following steps have been taken to improve the efficiency of Speed Post Service:

- (i) Improved responsiveness to customer needs in the matter of picking up and delivery of Speed Post articles.

(ii) Rationalisation of procedure in Speed Post Centres to make them more customer oriented & to ensure expeditious handling of Speed Post articles.

(iii) Introduction of Track and Trace system to cover National Speed Post Centres in phased manner.

(iv) Computerisation of Transit Mail Offices for Speed Post offices in big cities.

(v) Training & upgrading the skills of staff deployed in Speed Post Centres.

(vi) Better marketing of Speed Post Services by organising customer meets and publicity.

Distribution of Postal Dak

2894. SHRI JAI PRAKASH (HARDOI) : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item captioned "Sorting their own mail" appearing in the 'Tribune' dated September 19, 1996;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon;

(d) the number of cases where the postal mail was found dumped undistributed in Delhi in the last one year; and

(e) the action taken against the guilty staff of the postal department?

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

(b) There was an instance of irregular delivery of mails in beat No. 25, Charan Bagh locality, of Patiala Head Post Office in September 1996. The regular postman of that beat went on medical leave and some ad-hoc arrangement was made for delivery of mails in the absence of that postman. The residents of Charan Bagh locality approached the Postman for non-delivery of their mails and the latter handed over the mails to them in the Head Post office itself for further distribution without bringing it to the notice of the Delivery Assistant or the Assistant Postmaster (Delivery).

(c) The Chief Postmaster General, Punjab Circle has got the matter enquired into. It was found that improper arrangement of postmen staff and ineffective supervision by the Assistant Postmaster (Delivery) led to the incident.

The officiating arrangement in the leave vacancy was revised and the accumulated mails got delivered by September 20, 1996. Disciplinary action has been taken against two Postal Assistants and three Postmen found guilty. Four of the officials at fault have been shifted from their positions.

(d) During the last one year three cases of dumping undistributed mail have been reported by Delhi Circle.

(e) Action taken against the guilty officials is as follows:-

- (i) Disciplinary action has been taken against five Postmen of Karol Bagh Post Office;
- (ii) Disciplinary action has been taken against four Postman and 1 Public Relations Inspector of SRT Nagar Post Office;
- (iii) Disciplinary action has been taken against an Extra Departmental Delivery Agent of Ashok Vihar Post Office and a Departmental Postmen has been transferred.

HRA to Employees in Mumbai

2895. SHRI CHINTAMAN WANAGA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether all employees of Central Government in Maharashtra are getting house rent allowance at the rate admissible in Mumbai whereas employees of Department of Posts are not getting HRA at the same rate;

(b) if so, the reason therefor;

(c) whether the demand relating to house rent allowance is pending with postal administration; and

(d) if so, the steps taken or likely to be taken by the Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) No Sir, Employees of Deptt. of Post are also getting similar HRA like other employees of Central Govt. in Maharashtra.

(b) to (d). Questions do not arise in view of (a) above.

Rajdhani Express

2896. SHRI HARADHAN ROY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that between the cities of New Delhi and Bombay, there are 14 pairs of Rajdhani Express trains in a week, but only 8 pairs of Rajdhani Express trains between Calcutta/Howrah and New Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that between Calcutta and New Delhi, there are excess demand for travel by Rajdhani Express trains and a second pair of Rajdhani Express trains is justified for six days both ways;

(d) if so, whether the Government are considering to operate another pairs of Rajdhani Express between

Howrah and New Delhi or between Sealdah and New Delhi for six days a week; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b). There are 12 pairs of Rajdhani services per week between Delhi and Mumbai.

(c) Some passengers remain on the waiting list which does not justify the introduction of an additional Rajdhani Express train on this route.

(d) It is proposed to increase the frequency of New Delhi-Bhubaneswar Rajdhani Express from weekly to bi-weekly. This will also serve New Delhi-Howrah passengers.

(e) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Pending Scheme of running Shatabdi Express between Delhi and Bareilly

2897. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any scheme to run Shatabdi Express train between Delhi and Bareilly is lying pending; and

(b) if so, the time by which a final decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

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

(b) Does not arise.

[English]

Publication of Books

2898. SHRI MUKHTAR ANIS : Will the Minister of INFORMATION & BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) number of books published by the Publications Division during 1995-96.

(b) the title of books in Hindi, English and Urdu, separately; and

(c) language-wise break up with average size of edition in each case?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. '3RAHIM) : (a) Publications Division published 122 books during 1995-96 as detailed below:-

Hindi	English	Urdu	Other Regional languages
72	31	4	15

(b) List of the books published by Publications Division is enclosed as statement.

(c)	Hindi	English	Urdu
Number of books :	72	31	4
Average size of each edition (average print order)	2000 copies	2600 copies	1100 copies

STATEMENT

List of books published during the year 1995-96

Hindi

Title of the Book

1. Rajshree Purushottam Das Tandon (Reprint)
2. J.L. Nehru Ke Bhashan Vol. I (Reprint)
3. Bhartiya Vyagyapan Mein Naitikatha
4. Budh Gathaa
5. Sanyukt Rashtira Bachchon Ke Liye
6. Suron ka Sadhak
7. Doordarshan : Dasha Aur Disha
8. Bharat Ke Samachar Patra 1994
9. Chidiyon Ki Duniya (Reprint)
10. Grameen Jivan Mein Vigyan (Reprint)
11. Pauranik Bal Kathaen (Reprint)
12. Rajkumari Nehalade (Reprint)
13. Dharti Ka Sapna (Reprint)
14. Dast Rog (Reprint)
15. Kalaguru Anand Kumar Swami (Reprint)
16. Dakshin Bharat ke Mandir (Reprint)
17. Sunehra Kachua (Reprint)
18. Hindi Aur Uski Upbhashaen
19. Bhartiya Sanskriti ki Jhanki (Reprint)
20. Premchand Ki Vichar Yatra
21. C.K. Nayudu
22. Dr. Rajendra Prasad Sachitra Jivni (Reprint)
23. Laghu Udyog Vikas Ke Liye Protsanan Aur Suvidhaen
24. G.V. Mavalankar (BMI)
25. Manipur Ki Lok Kathaen (Reprint)
26. Keshab Ch. Sen (BMI)
27. San Sattavan ke Bhule Bisre Shahid (Reprint)
28. Kasturba Gandhi (Reprint)
29. Bhojpuri Lok Kathaen (Reprint)
30. Bharat Ki Masjide (Reprint)
31. Apni Hindi Sudharein (Reprint)
32. Uttar Pradesh Ki Lok Kathaen (Reprint)
33. Yoga Sachitra

34. Sarojini Naidu (Reprint)
35. Sant Gadge Baba (Reprint)
36. Rabindra Nath Thakur Ki Bal Kahaniyan (Reprint)
37. Madan Mohan Malviya (Reprint) BMI
38. Hamare Bahadur Bacche (Reprint)
39. Rochak Aitihisik Kahaniyan Pt. II (Reprint)
40. Prachin Bharat
41. Iswar Ch. Vidyasagar (Reprint) BMI
42. Man Jiska Azbut Vol.II
43. Kartabi Janwar (Reprint)
44. Netaji Subhas Ch. Bose (Reprint)
45. Bajjika Ki Lok Kathaen (Reprint)
46. Bundel Khand Ki Lok Kathaen (Reprint)
47. Collected Works of Mahatma Gandhi Vol. XXI
48. Collected Works of Mahatma Gandhi Vol. XXIII (Reprint)
49. Quotable Quotes Vinoba Bhave
50. Quotable Quotes Subramaniam Bharti
51. Quotable Quotes Jayshankar Prasad
52. C.W.M.G. Vol. XX(Reprint)
53. C.W.M.G. Vol. XXV (Reprint)
54. Awadh Ki Begum
55. Betal Kathaen (Reprint)
56. C.W.M.G. Volume XXIV (Hindi) (Reprint)
57. C.W.M.G. Vol. X (Reprint)
58. C.W.M.G. Vol. IV (Reprint)
59. Aajkal Anugramanika
60. Premchand Quotable Quotes
61. Louha Purush Sardar Patel (Reprint)
62. Boudh Katheine (Reprint)
63. Kumaun Ki Lok Kathaen (Reprint)
64. C.W.M.G. Vol. VIII (Reprint)
65. Report for Vote on Account 1996-97 of Ministry of I&B
66. C.W.M.G. Vol. VII (Reprint)
67. C.W.M.G. Vol. V (Reprint)
68. Dr. Zakir Hussain (BMI)
69. Bhimrao Ambedkar (BMI) (Reprint)
70. Bhart 1995
71. C.W.M.G. Vol. VI (Reprint)
72. C.W.M.G. Vol. XXII (Reprint)

English

Title of the Book

1. P.V. Narasimha Rao : selected Speeches Vol.III
2. Forgotten onuments of Orissa Vol. I

3. Ancient India
4. Gandhi : The Man and His Thought (Reprint)
5. National Parks of India
6. India - 1994
7. M.A. Ansari (BMI)
8. Andhra Kesari T. Prakasam (BMI)
9. Towards Food for All—Ideas for a New PDS
10. Questionnaire on Media Policy for Min. of I&B
11. Reprinting of the Book '1857'
12. Reprinting of C.W.M.G. Vol.44
13. Gandhi - A Pictorial Biography (Reprint)
14. C.W.M.G. Vol. XIII (Reprint)
15. C.W.M.G. Vol. LXXXIV
16. Gandhi - Ordained in South Africa
17. Ancient India (Reprint)
18. Challenge to the Empire — A Study of Netaji (Reprint)
19. Sardar Patel Memorial Lectures 1993-94
20. Folk Tales of Kerala
21. C.W.M.G. Vol. XII (Reprint)
22. Mass Media in India 1994-95
23. The Years of Endeavour :
Selected Speeches of Indira Gandhi (Reprint)
24. Indian Tribes Through the Ages (Reprint)
25. P.V. Narasimha Rao's Selected Speeches - Vol. IV
26. An Outline History of Indian People (Reprint)
27. India- 1995
28. Report for Vote on Account 1996-97 of Min. of I&B
29. United National in the Service of Common Man
30. C.W.M.G. Vol. XIII (Reprint)

Urdu*Title of the Book*

1. Abul Kalam Azad (BMI)
2. Hamari Tahzeebi Veerasat
3. Hindustani Tahzeeb ke Musalman Par Asar
4. Ainee-E-Ghalib

Shifting of Western Railway Headquarter

2899. SHRI NARAYAN ATHAWALAY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to shift Headquarter of Western Railway from Mumbai to Ahmedabad;

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

(c) the present status of the proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (c). Suggestions have been received for shifting the headquarters of Western Railway from Mumbai to Ahmedabad. Taking the various factors into consideration, the Government has decided to set up six new Zonal Railway Offices at Bhubaneswar, Allahabad, Hajipur, Jaipur, Bangalore and Jabalpur and eight new Divisional offices including a divisional office at Ahmedabad.

[Translation]

Development of Indore Railway Station

2900. SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any programme for the development of Indore Railway station keeping in view the inadequacy of the amenities there;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the amount provided for the development of Indore Railway Station?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (c). Yes, Sir. Works for development of Indore Railway Station comprising augmentation of passenger amenities, provision of washable apron on line No. 4, provision of additional B.G. platform, extension of cover over platform No. 4 and provision of additional foot over-bridge has already taken up at a cost of Rs. 107.00 lakh.

[English]

Gauge Conversion

2901. SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS pleased to state :

(a) whether the conversion of metre gauge railway line between Adilabad (AP) to Mudkhed (Maharashtra) into Broad-gauge has been approved by the Government;

(b) if so, the time by which it is likely to be completed; and

(c) the time by which trains from North to South are likely to be plied on the above broad gauge line?

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

(b) By 31.3.1998.

(c) Broad Gauge train services on this section will be planned after completion of the gauge conversion work.

Joint Venture Scheme

2902. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a second thought over the setting up of the joint venture company Measat Broadcast Systems Malaysia and Doordarshan for a DTH (direct to home) service;

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating the future of this joint venture company;

(c) the advantages likely to accrue to the Doordarshan from this venture; and

(d) the financial and operational implications of this venture?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) to (d). The MOU signed between Doordarshan and Measat Broadcast Network System, Malaysia for the purpose has expired on 3rd August, 1996. The technical parameters, operational and financial implications of the project have not yet been worked out.

Increase of Accidents on Unmanned Level Crossings

2903. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the number of accidents have increased on the unmanned level crossings in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof during each of the three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b). The number of accidents at unmanned level crossings since 1993-94 is as under :-

Year	No. of accidents
1993-94	54
1994-95	54
1995-96	52

Meet on National Satellite Network

2904. SHRI SANDIPAN THORAT : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether Doordarshan Directors and Station Engineers all over the country have recently held a meeting regarding National Satellite Network;

(b) if so, the details of the agenda discussed and outcome thereof;

(c) whether the problems pertaining to Doordarshan Network in Maharashtra have also been discussed in the said meeting; and

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

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) A Doordarshan Directors, Conference was held in November 96 in New Delhi in which various issues relating to hardware/software and other aspects of Doordarshan and various problems being faced by the Kendras were discussed. But, the issue of setting up of a National Satellite Network was not discussed in the meeting.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir. No problem specifically relating to Doordarshan network in Maharashtra was discussed in the meeting.

(d) Does not arise.

Transfer of Refractory Units

2905. SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have taken any decision to transfer the Refractory Units of Burn Standard Co. Ltd. to SAIL;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken so far or proposed to be taken to expedite the transfer process?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) to (c). At present there is no proposal under consideration of Ministry of Steel to transfer the refractory units of Burn Standard Co. Ltd. to SAIL.

Waiting List for Telephone in West Bengal

2906. SHRI AJOY MUKHOPADHYAY : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of persons waiting for telephone connections under different telephone exchanges in West Bengal including its total installed capacity and since when;

(b) whether there is any proposal to increase the installed capacity of the existing exchanges and setting up new exchanges;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the time by which it is likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) The number of persons waiting for telephone connections category-wise as on 31.10.96 and total installed capacity in West Bengal, including Calcutta, are given below:

OYT	SPL	GENL	TOTAL
1339	2454	171978	175771

The total installed capacity is 777917 lines the oldest applicant waiting for telephone connection in Calcutta telephones is since 28.2.93 and in W. Bengal Telecom Circle is since 01.06.88.

(b) and (c). Yes, Sir.

The West Bengal Telecom Circle and Calcutta Telephones propose to increase the installed capacity of the existing exchanges by 135300 lines during 1996-97. It is proposed to set up 64 new electronic exchanges in West Bengal circle and 37 new exchanges in Calcutta Telephones during 1996-97.

(d) The existing waiting list is likely to be cleared by March 1998.

Telephone Adalats

2907. SHRI N.J. RATHWA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of telephone adalats organised in Gujarat specially in Badodara, Bharuch and Panchmahal districts, during the last three years,

(b) the number of cases disposed of in these adalats during the above period, year-wise and district-wise;

(c) whether the Government propose to organise such adalats during the next financial year also;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) and (b). No. of Telephone Adalats organised/cases disposed off are indicated below :

Name of the District/Circle	No. of Adalats held			No. of cases disposed off		
	93-94	94-95	95-96	93-94	94-95	95-96
1. Bharuch	-	-	-	-	-	-
2. Panchmahal	-	-	-	-	-	-
3. Vadodara	2	4	4	42	65	21
4. Gujarat Circle	21	20	20	385	507	386

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) As per DOT guidelines, Telephone Adalats are to be held quarterly by each Telecom District/Circle

(e) Not applicable.

Electrification of Railway Route

2908. SHRI B.L. SHARMA PREM : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS pleased to state :

(a) the portion of railway lines has since been covered under the electrification programme;

(b) the plans of the Government in this regard for the period upto the year 2000; and

(c) the amount provided for this purpose in the current financial year and proposed to be provided for the subsequent years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) As on 31.10.96, 13035 route kilometre of track have been electrified on Indian Railways.

(b) About 2200 route kilometre are planned to be electrified upto the year 2000, provided that adequate funds are made available in time.

(c) Rs. 330.70 crore are provided during the current financial year and funds earmarked for the IX Five Year Plan i.e. 1997-98 to 2001-2002 are Rs. 1800 crore.

Introduction of New Train from Solapur to Bangalore

2909. SHRI RAJA RANGAPPA NAIK : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to start new train between Solapur to Bangalore;

(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) Due to operational and resource constraints.

Introduction of Direct Train between Howrah and Ramagundam

2910. SHRI A. SAMPATH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the demand of the people of Ramagundam, Andhra Pradesh for direct train service between Howrah and Ramagundam;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any representation have been received in this regard; and

(d) if so, the time by which it is likely to be introduced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (c). Some representations have been received in this regard.

(d) There is no proposal at present to introduce a direct train between Howrah and Ramagundam.

Electrification of Railway Route in Tamil Nadu

2911. SHRI A.G.S. RAM BABU : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS pleased to state :

(a) the length of rail lines that have been electrified so far in Tamil Nadu;

(b) the length of rail lines that remained to be electrified and the target fixed for 1996-97 in the State; and

(c) the time by which the pending electrification works of rail lines are likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (c). Out of the total of 4005 route kilometre of rail line in Tamil Nadu, 832 route kilometre have been electrified upto 31.3.96. There is no pending electrification works in the State of Tamil Nadu.

Air Port Building at Bhopal

2912. SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) is it a fact that the airport building at Bhopal is being renovated and extended;

(b) if so, the total budget for the purpose, the amount spent so far and the likely expenditure during 1996-97;

(c) the items of work taken up in hand and the time by which the construction is likely to be completed;

(d) the length of run-way at the Bhopal airport;

(e) whether the present length is adequate to land an Air Bus; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. The terminal Building at Bhopal airport is being expanded and midified at a cost of Rs. 448 lakhs, out of which Rs. 138.71 lakhs have already been spent. The amount earmarked for 1996-97 is Rs. 150 lakhs.

(c) The existing bulding is being expanded to provide a public concourse area of 975 sq. m. and air conditioned departure hold area of 290 sq.m. with all modern facilities to handle 125 arriving and 125 departing passengers. The work is likely to be completed by December, 1997.

(d) to (f). The length of the runway at Bhopal airport is 6700 ft and is suitable for the operation of Airbus AB-320 with load penalty.

[Translation]

Electrification of Railway Routes

2913. VAIDYA DAU DAYAL JOSHI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to electrify the Kota-Neemach and Kota-Beena sections in Rajasthan;

(b) if so, by when; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) There is no proposal at present to electrify Kota-Nimach and Kota-Beena sections in Rajasthan.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Electrification projects are capital intensive and as such only those broad gauge routes over which the traffic density is high and the return on investment is not less than the minimum prescribed are considered for electrification. Kota-Nimach and Kota-Bina sections do not qualify for electrification at present.

Incentive Reward Scheme

2914. SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR SINGH : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is incentive reward scheme in Bokaro Steel Plant;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the scheme is being misused by the management and high officials;

(d) whether employees are being exploited by officers and management under the said scheme; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) Yes, Sir. In order to motivate employees for higher production/productivity, better quality and improved techno economic factors, incentive and reward schemes have been framed and implemented in Bokaro Steel Plant;

(b) *Incentive Scheme* :

The scheme is based on production performance of various installed units expressed in performance index (PI) and quality/techno-economic factors. All non-executives and executives upto E-5 grade are covered under the scheme. The incentive is paid on proportionate basis to an individual depending on actual attendance during a month. The maximum payment potential for the lowest and highest level of non-executives under the incentive scheme varies from about Rs. 430/- to Rs. 1280/- per month depending on the performance.

Reward Scheme :

The reward scheme is additional motivation for achieving month to month targets set in advance. The scheme is based on achievement of monthly production targets fixed in advance, specified in five levels for main production units (decided every month) and also on quality/techno-economic performance. The targets under this scheme are fixed with relation to the annual production plan (APP). The scheme is based on production and quality/techno-economics, and is applicable to all non-executives and executives upto E-5 level. The maximum payment potential for the lowest and highest level of non-executives under the reward scheme varies from about Rs. 250/- to Rs. 600/- per month.

(c) and (d). No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise in view of (c) & (d) above

Development of Civil Aviation Network

2915 SHRI BRAJ MOHAN RAM : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state

(a) the details of proposed schemes for the development of Civil Aviation network in Bihar, West Bengal, Assam and Tripura; and

(b) the amount fixed for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) and (b). The amount fixed for development of Civil Aviation network in Bihar is Rs. 5107 lakhs. The main schemes of development are construction of terminal building and resurfacing of runway at Patna Airport, resurfacing of runway at Ranchi Airport, development and upgradation of Gaya airport and upgradation of aeronautical and communication equipments.

The amount set aside for development of civil aviation in West Bengal is Rs. 5853 lakhs. The main schemes for development are expansion of terminal building at Calcutta airport, development of new terminal complex at Bagdogra airport, and upgradation aeronautical and communication equipments.

The outlay for development of Civil Aviation in Assam is Rs. 14297 lakhs. The major schemes for development are modification of terminal building and extension of runway at Guwhati airport, strengthening of runway and modification of terminal building at Dibrugarh airport, construction of Civil Air Terminal Complex at Tezpur airport, construction of terminal building and extension of runway pavements at Lilabari airport, expansion of terminal building at Silchar airport and upgradation of development of aeronautical communication equipments.

The amount fixed for development of civil aviation in Tripura is Rs. 3944 lakhs and the main scheme is for development and strengthening of runway and expansion of terminal building and modernisation of aeronautical and communication equipments at Agartala.

[English]

Telephone Exchanges in Country

2916. SHRI RAMSHAKAL : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of telephone exchanges all over the country, state-wise;

(b) the number of telephone exchange in the district Sonebhadra of Uttar Pradesh;

(c) whether the Union Government propose to connect all the development blocks with the exchanges;

(d) if so, the reasons for not providing exchanges in all the development blocks of district Sonebhadra; and

(e) the time by which all the development blocks are likely to be connected with exchanges?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) The total number of telephone exchanges in the country is 21328. The State-wise break up is given in the enclosed statement.

(b) 15 (Fifteen).

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) and (e) Exchanges are being provided as per the registered demand, progressively.

STATEMENT*Total Number of Telephone Exchanges in the Country as on 30.9.96 State-wise*

1. Andhra Pradesh	2066
2. Assam	287
3. Bihar	790
4. Delhi	127
5. Gujrat	1397
6. Haryana	750
7. Himachal Pradesh	549
8. Jammu & Kashmir	223
9. Karnataka	2037
10. Kerala	768
11. Madhya Pradesh	2664
12. Maharashtra (Including Mumbai & Goa)	2609
13. North Eastern Region (Including Arunachal Pradesh Meghalaya, Tripura, Nagaland, Mizoram, Manipur)	232
14. Orissa	713
15. Punjab	856

16. Rajasthan	1453
17. Tamil Nadu (Including Chennai)	1414
18. Uttar Pradesh	1734
19. West Bengal (Including Calcutta Sikkim and Andaman Nicobar)	659
Total	21328

Increase in Wages

2917. SHRI SOUMYA RANJAN : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to increase the honorarium/wages of extra departmental employees;

(b) if so, the steps being taken in this direction; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) to (c). One man Committee has been constituted under the Chairmanship of Justice Charanjit Talwar, retired Judge of Delhi High Court to examine the condition of service and emoluments and other facilities available to the Extra Departmental Agents. The Committee has not submitted its report so far. The tenure of the Justice Talwar Committee Postal Extra Departmental System has been extended for a further period from 1.10.96 to 15.2.97 or three months from the date of submission of the Report of the Vth pay Commission, whichever is later.

Catering / Vending Contracts

2918. SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the policy of the Government regarding transfer/renewal of the catering/vending contract of the legal heir of the deceased contractor after completion of unexpired period; and

(b) the detail of catering/vending contracts held by legal heirs of the deceased contractor in each zonal railways, division-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) As per policy, in the event of death of licensee of a catering/vending unit, the licence can be transferred in the name of legal heir for the unexpired period of contract. Renewal of contract is permissible based, *inter-alia*, on satisfactory performance of the applicant.

(b) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Electrification of Railway Routes

2919. SHRI ARUN KUMAR SARMA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of rail routes electrified in Assam so far; and

(b) the details of rail routes which are proposed to be electrified in the State in the near future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) No railway route has been electrified so far in the State of Assam.

(b) At present, there is no proposal to electrify any of the railway routes falling in the State of Assam.

[Translation]

Facilities to Class III and IV Employees

2920. SHRI ANIL KUMAR YADAV : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the third and fourth class employees of MTNL, Delhi and MTNL, Mumbai are not enjoying the same facilities as have been given to employees of same categories in other parts of the country for the last decade;

(b) whether the case of providing deputation facility to these employees is still pending;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps being taken by the Government in order to provide same service conditions and facilities to them as have been given to the employees of same categories in the other parts of the country?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) No, Sir. In fact MTNL employees enjoy some additional facilities.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The case is pending in the Central Administrative Tribunal, Principal Bench, New Delhi.

(d) In view of (a) above, no further steps are required to be taken.

Ring Railway Service in Delhi

2921. SHRI CHHATRAPAL SINGH :
SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to make the Ring Railway Service in Delhi more systematic and efficient with a view to improve environment and to reduce congestion on roads;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the amount allocated for the development of Ring Railway Service in Delhi during the last three years, till date, and the achievements made in this regard;

(d) the number of persons benefited from the daily Ring Railway Service in Delhi till date; and

(e) the steps being taken by the Union Government for the development of Ring Railway Service in Delhi?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) & (b). In order to decongest traffic from Shahdara in the East and Tughlakabad in South, Ring Railway was started in 1970 and completed before Asiad. These lines were originally planned as Goods avoiding lines and they were not planned to carry commuters. Presently ring railway operate 7 trains in the clockwise and 4 trains in the anti-clockwise direction during morning and evening peak hour traffic. The number of Goods trains on these lines is so high, that there is no scope for running additional passenger trains on this route.

(c) No amount was allocated during the last 3 years to Ring Railway Service in Delhi.

(d) The number of person travelled daily by the Ring Railway Service in Delhi as under:-

Year	No. of Passengers
1994-95	14,27,000
1995-96	14,98,000
1996-97(Oct'96)	8,47,000

(e) In the meeting of National Capital Region, Planning Board held on 24.9.96, it was decided that the feasibility study for laying of additional tracks along the Ring Rail in Delhi should be conducted by Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi in co-ordination with National Capital Region Planning Board. Under the revised Allocation of Business Rules 1986, proposal for such rail based Urban Transport Projects are now to be processed by the MUA & Employment and the State Government concerned.

[English]

Relay Centre at Durgapur

2922. SHRI SUNIL KHAN : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state;

(a) the details of Doordarshan/AIR Kendras in West Bengal, location-wise;

(b) whether the Government propose to set up a TV centre at Durgapur, West Bengal;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the time by which it is likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) Statement indicating status of Doordarshan/AIR Kendras in West Bengal is enclosed.

(b) No, Sir.

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

STATEMENT

TV Transmitters		AIR Kendras	
State	Existing		
West Bengal	PPC	Calcutta Shantiniketan (int.)	Calcutta Kurseong
	HPT	Asansol Calcutta Calcutta (DD II) Calcutta (DD III) Kurseong Murshidabad	Siliguri Murshidabad
	LPT	Alipurduar Balurghat Bardhaman Contai Darjeeling Jhargram Kalimpong Lalna Kharagpur Krishnanagar Maldah Medinipur Puruliya Ranaghat Shantiniketan	
	VLPT	Egra Jhalda	

Gauge Conversion

2923. SHRI VIJAY PATEL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Kalol-Katosan-Ranuj railway line is proposed to be detached for conversion from Meter Gauge to Broad Gauge;

(b) if so, whether alternative arrangement is made by the Railway authorities for regular passengers;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b). There is no plan to convert this section to Broad Gauge.

However, Metre Gauge services will continue to run in this section.

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

Official of AIR, New Delhi

2924. DR. ARVIND SHARMA : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the norms fixed in regard to transfer of officials of AIR, New Delhi;

(b) the Number of officials working on the same station from 15-20 years, station-wise;

(c) the reasons for their long stay at the same station;

(d) the number of officials transferred within a short period, station-wise;

(e) the reasons therefor;

(f) whether the Government propose to adopt a comprehensive policy in this regard;

(g) if so, the details thereof; and

(h) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

Introduction of Passenger Train

2925. SHRI BALAI CHANDRA RAY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the demand for introduction of passenger train from Asansol to Suri, Bolpur, Azimganj, Sahibganj and North-West States,

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any steps have been taken by the Government in this regard;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the main hurdles which are being faced by the Government to introduce such services?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b). Some representations have been received including from Shri Haradhan Roy, MP.

(c) to (e). Asansol is linked with direct services to North-Western States viz. Rajasthan and Punjab. Introduction of additional trains from Asansol has been examined but not found feasible on account of operational and resource constraints.

[Translation]

Post Office to Rural People

2926. SHRI MANIBHAI RAMJIBHAI CHAUDHARI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether many villages of Gujarat are without postal facilities;

(b) if so, the details alongwith number thereof, district-wise;

(c) whether the Government propose to provide postal facilities in those villages; and

(d) if so, the details thereof, district-wise?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) Out of a total number of 18028 inhabited villages in Gujarat, 9949 villages do not have Post Offices.

(b) District-wise numbers are given in the enclosed statement.

(c) and (d). Post Offices are opened progressively under Annual plan Schemes subject to norm based justification and availability of resources.

STATEMENT

District-wise Information regarding Villages with Post Offices and without Post Offices as on 31-3-96.

In Gujarat

S.No.	Name of District	No. of Villages (Inhabited)	No. of Villages with P.O.	No. of Villages Without P.O.
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Ahmedabad	665	421	244
2.	Gandhinagar	73	59	14
3.	Mehsana	1145	296	849
4.	Banaskantha	1368	434	934
5.	Sabarkantha	1363	796	567
6.	Bharuch	1065	477	588
7.	Dang	309	56	253
8.	Kheda	960	568	392
9.	Panchmahals	1885	510	1375
10.	Surat	1196	553	643
11.	Vadodara	1648	609	1039
12.	Valsad	824	530	294
13.	Amreli	584	305	279
14.	Bhavnagar	865	425	440
15.	Jamnagar	707	342	365

1	2	3	4	5
16. Jugadh		1050	472	578
17. K' Bhuj		865	471	394
18. Rajkot		808	446	362
19. Surendranagar		648	309	339
Total		18028	8079	9949

[English]

Allotment of Accommodations

2927. SHRI SUKH LAL KUSHWAHA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that there is great corruption in Estate Office of Northern Railway as the Railway accommodation is being allotted to the staff on out of turn basis on flimsy grounds;

(b) if so whether it is also a fact that some officials of Northern Railway who are working in Railway Board have not yet vacated their accommodation in Delhi;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) the number of quarters allotted to the staff on out of turn basis during 1995 and 1996 in Delhi; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to rectify the situation?

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

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) To avoid inconvenience, officers on transfer from Northern Railway to Railway Board and vice versa, are being permitted to retain their accommodation on mutual exchange/pool adjustment basis. Mutual exchange/pool transfer of Central houses with Railway Board/Northern Railway houses are also being permitted at the same station by the Directorate of States, Ministry of Urban Affairs & Employment, the nodal Ministry for such purposes.

(d) Number of quarters allotted to officers, both gazetted and non-gazetted, during the last two years is as under:-

	1995	1996
Officers	6	2
Staff	36	5
Total	42	7

(e) Pool balancing is done periodically by Railway Board and Northern Railway. Currently 12 Houses are in excess on Railway Board side. Steps are being taken to balance the same. Further construction of additional houses in Railway Board pool has been approved.

The numbers of quarters allotted on out of turn consideration is already very minimal and given in exceptional cases only.

Facilities to Railway Employees

2928. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether railway employees are getting the same pay scales and other allowances as other Central Government employees;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the Railway employees are entitled to railway passes anywhere in India, many times a year;

(d) if so, whether the facilities of LTC is stopped for all other retired Central Government employees but it is continued for retired railway personnel, though in a smaller scale;

(e) if so, whether the Government propose to review this decision and issue concession like this to all retired Central Government employees; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b). The pay scales allowed to railway employees are as per the recommendations made by the successive pay Commissions, as accepted by the Government. The allowances admissible to railway employees are also based on the orders issued by the nodal Ministries viz. Ministry of Finance and Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions.

(c) As per the convention existing in the railway systems the worldover, employees serving on Indian Railways are eligible for privilege passes. At present, they are eligible for :-

Category	No. of privilege passes	No. of privilege Ticket Orders
Group A & B	6 sets per year	4 sets per year
Group C & D	(a) 1 set per year upto the 5th year of railway service.	-do-
	(b) 3 sets per year after 5 years of railway service.	-do-

(d) The retired railway employees are entitled for post-retirement complimentary passes on the basis of length of service rendered by them to the railways.

(e) and (f). In so far as Central Government employees are concerned, travel concession facilities are at present available only to serving personnel for being availed during leave at specified scales. These

have been designed to enable the employees to visit their home town for meeting family obligations while in service. Travel facilities for visiting other places are also provided to serving personnel on a reduced scale to give them an opportunity to visit and see other regions of the country so that it may help them in widening their knowledge and in discharging their duties as public servants. These considerations are not attracted in the case of pensioners and they cannot be considered at par with serving employees for extension of travel concession facilities.

Decline in Industrial Growth in Steel Plant

2929. SHRI RAMSAGAR : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item captioned "SAIL sits over million tonne inventory" appearing in the "Hindustan Times" October 28, 1996;

(b) if so, whether slowdown in the industrial growth has affected the steel plants in the country; and

(c) if so, the steps taken to accelerate the industrial growth in the country?

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

(b) and (c). Demand for steel depends on interplay of a number of factors such as availability of funds with consumers, cost of credit, competition from domestic sources as well as imports, overall industrial growth etc. The aggregate impact of such factors varies from unit to unit.

As per the latest Index of Industrial Production released by the C.S.O., the overall sectoral growth of Industrial Production in April-July, 1996-97 was 9.3% as compared to 12.3% in the corresponding period of last year. The deceleration in the industrial growth is confined to a few sectors particularly the Crude Petroleum, Fertilizer and Power Generation. Sector specific Strategies have been initiated to remove constraints in underperforming sectors. Adequate credit with softened interest rates assured to industries through the recently announced busy season credit policy are providing further impetus to growth.

[Translation]

South African Investments in Steel Production

2930. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state.

(a) whether the Union Government have requested the Government of South Africa to make investments in steel production;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the terms and conditions of investment alongwith the details thereof; and

(d) the reaction of the South African Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) The Ministry of Steel have not made any request to the Government of South Africa to make any investment in steel production.

(b) to (d). Do not arise in view of (a) above.

[English]

Promotion from Asstt. Manager to Dy. Manager

2931. PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that 6 years period for promotion from Asstt. Manager to Dy. Manager viz. 10/12 grade to 13/14 grade in the Indian Airlines in the case of general category and 5 years for the reserve category has been reduced to 4 years for both the categories;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the reserved category employees have been pressing for one year's relaxation as given to them previously and a few meetings with the administration were held by the representatives of the reserved category to resolve the issue; and

(c) if so, the decision taken by the Government in this regard?

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

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Since the qualifying period has been reduced from 6 years to 4 years, uniformly in respect of all the categories of Officers, it was not considered necessary to extend any further relaxation.

Magnesite in Panthal-Udhampur

2932. SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA : Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether huge stocks Magnesite mineral have been discovered in Panthal-Udhampur area of Jammu and Kashmir;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps taken for exploitation of this mineral;

(d) whether the task was entrusted to a company of Hyderabad;

(e) if so, the terms and conditions thereof;

- (f) whether the work has been abandoned;
 (g) if so, the reasons therefor;
 (h) whether there is any fresh move to exploit this mineral wealth; and
 (i) if so, the details thereof?

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

Demand for Railway Station

2933. SHRI RUP CHAND PAL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware about the long standing demand for a Railway Station at Khusigachi, place between Baidyaabati and Bhadreswar in the Howrah Division of the Eastern Railway; and

(b) if so, the steps taken/proposed to expedite the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b). The proposal for opening of passenger halt at Khurigachi between Baidyabati and Bhadreswar stations has been examined but not found justified on operational, engineering and financial grounds. Besides, the proposal has also not been found justified on passenger amenity grounds due to availability of other modes of transport for people to commute in that area.

Demand Of More Funds For Development of Tourism

2934. SHRI MURALIDHAR JENA : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Orissa has demanded more funds from the Union Government for the development of some particular tourist spots;

(b) if so, the details thereof during the last two years; and

(c) the amount released, scheme-wise?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA) : (a) Each year the Department of Tourism in consultation with the State Government officials prioritises projects for Central Financial Assistance. These projects are identified on the basis of their merits inter-se-priority and availability of funds. The Department of Tourism has prioritised 8 projects at an estimated cost of Rs. 250 lakhs for Central Financial Assistance during 1996-97 to Orissa.

(b) and (c). The detail of projects sanctioned and the amount released to Orissa during the last two years is enclosed in the statement

STATEMENT

Projects/Schemes Sanctioned During 1994-95

Sl. No.	Name of the project/scheme	Amount sanctioned (Rs. in lakhs)	Amount released
Orissa			
1.	Tourist complex at Hirkund	40.39	14.62
2.	Tourist lodge at Rayagada	25.20	1.00
3.	Tourist complex at Narsingnath	41.23	1.00
4.	Tourist complex at Korapat	42.43	7.00
5.	Illumination of Sea Beach at Puri	5.46	3.00
6.	Beach Festival 1994	10.00	8.00
7.	Rajaseri Festival 1995	1.60	1.00
Total		166.31	35.62

Projects/ Schemes Sanctioned For The Year 1995-96

Orissa			
1.	Amentities Centre at Dhauli	20.26	10.00
2.	Tourist lodge at Badarama	36.41	18.00
3.	Floating restaurant at Barkal	42.89	21.00
4.	Beach cleaners equipment Puri, Orissa.	9.30	5.00
Total		108.86	54.00

Gauge Conversion

2935. SHRI K. KANDASAMY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have approved conversion of Salem to Kashmir via Ranchipuram and Namakkal Meter Gauge line into Broad Gauge; and

(b) if so, the time by which the work is likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b) There is no such project of conversion of Salem to Kashmir line. However, a Broad Gauge route is already available connecting Salem and Jammu.

Abandoned Vehicles in MTNL, Delhi

2936. SHRI G.M. KUNTURKAR : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether several vehicles in MTNL, Delhi have been abandoned by the Nigam and its drivers are sitting idle

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

(c) whether some private vehicles are being put in place of these abandoned vehicles;

(d) if so, the number of vehicles abandoned by the Nigam and also the number of vehicles hired privately to meet the requirement and the monthly amount involved in hiring these private vehicles; and

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

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) No Sir. Several vehicles have been scrapped but their drivers are not sitting idle, since the scrapped vehicles are kept on the road till their replacements are received.

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

(c) No, Sir

(d) 69 vehicles have been scrapped from April, '95 to November, '96. Vehicles are hired to meet operational requirements as per the justification. At present 167 vehicles have been hired. The monthly expenditure is Rs. 17 lakhs approximately.

(e) All scrapped vehicles are being replaced by new vehicles in a phased manner.

Delivery of Telephone Bills

2937. SHRI R.L.P. VERMA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state

(a) whether the Government have floated open tenders for delivery of telephone bills to the subscribers in South Delhi area during June, 1996.

(b) if so, whether the Government have subsequently floated limited tenders from the selected and limited contractors already in the list of the Department of Telecommunications;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the reasons for floating open tenders and subsequently limited tenders thereof?

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

(b) Limited tenders for delivery of bills for a period one month to three months were called for the South-I & South-II areas from the selected contractors including the contractors already working for the South areas of MTNL.

(c) Total 9 offers for South-I area and 8 offers for South-II area were received. The limited tenders were not finalised since the matter was subjudice. The bills were sent by Post through Post Offices.

(d) As the earlier contract had already expired, open tenders were floated to approve fresh contractors to deliver the bills to the customers premises.

Anticipating some delay in finalisation of open tenders, limited tenders were called for the delivery of bills for a period of 1 to 3 months pending finalisation of open tender.

Pension Scheme for ITDC Employees

2938. SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the India Tourism Development Corporation (ITDC) has introduced a pension scheme for its employees;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the date of its commencement; and

(c) the categories of employees covered under this scheme?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SHRIKANTA JENA) : (a) India Tourism Development Corporation has not framed/introduced any pension scheme for its employees.

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

Air Buses out of use

2939. SHRI K.D. SULTANPURI : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) how many Air Buses are out of use and since when;

(b) when they will be repaired and put into operation;

(c) whether any of them have been purchased by N.R. Is; and

(d) the details of the transaction undertaken by them?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) None of the Air Bus aircraft with Air India and Indian Airlines is out of use.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Cancellation of Trains

2940. SHRI SOHANBEER :

SHRI K. PARASURAMAN :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of mail and passenger trains temporarily/permanently cancelled in the country during the last three years, zone-wise and location-wise;

(b) the reasons for their cancellation;

(c) whether the Government propose to re-introduce the cancelled trains; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (d). Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

[English]

Gold Deposit in Karnataka

2941. SHRI PINAKI MISRA : Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether fresh deposits of gold have been detected in Chitradurga and Sandur districts of Karnataka;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken to fully assess the extent of the gold deposits in and around these two districts, separately?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) and (b). The Geological Survey of India (GSI), through mineral investigations, has detected deposits of gold in Chitradurga (0.6 million tonnes) and grade of (4 gram/tonne). The Gold deposits have been established in G R Halli, South Block, Chikkanahalli, Gonur-Kotemaradi, M.N. Halli, Kanchigana-halu and Honnemaradi. No gold prospect has been found in Sandur District of Karnataka.

(c) Assessment of Gold potential in Chitradurga district, Karnataka is a regular programme of mineral exploration of GSI.

Radio Station, Orissa

2942. DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) the radio stations in Orissa which are broadcasting regional news at present;

(b) the steps taken by the Government to ensure more coverage of news originating from different regions in the State;

(c) whether the Government are aware of the poor and inadequate visual content of regional news bulletins particularly from Doordarshan Kendras in Orissa;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether there has been constant demand to increase the visual content; and

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

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) Cuttack Regional News of All India Radio in Orissa is broadcasting Regional News bulletins in Oriya, Sambalpur and Jeypore stations of AIR relay these news bulletins while other stations in Orissa, including Local Radio Stations relay evening bulletins only for the benefit of listeners throughout Orissa

(b) To provide coverage of news originating from different regions, AIR has deployed staff correspondents part-time correspondents in various parts of Orissa.

(c) and (d). Adequate number of visuals from different regions of Orissa are included in the regional news bulletins telecast from Doordarshan Kendra, Bhubaneshwar. On an average, 12 to 15 visuals items, out of which 8 to 10 pertaining to Orissa are included in the daily regional news bulletin.

(e) and (f). Yes, Sir. There has been demand to increase the visual content. It is Doordarshan's endeavour to include more visuals in news bulletin. Every effort is made to include as many visuals as possible with the help of Doordarshan's own camera team, Stringers and ENG Unit available with the Information and Public Relations Department of Government of Orissa.

Iron Ore Mines in Karnataka

2943. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR : Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether some Iron ore mines have been leased out to private sector in Karnataka;

(b) if so, the details of mines leased out to Private Sector, run by State Government, Union Government or any other Public Sector Unit;

(c) the production of iron ore in these mines during each of the last three years; and

(d) the quantum of iron ore exported during the above period?

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

(b) As per information provided by Indian Bureau of Mines three Iron ore mines in Bellary District were transferred by Mysore Minerals Ltd., a State Government Undertaking to M/s. Tungabhadra Minerals Ltd. in 1985.

(c) The production of Iron Ore in these three mines during the last three years is given below :

Year	Production of Iron Ore (In Tonnes)		
1993-94	19111	2053	20158
1994-95	10691	3258	24197
1995-96	24589	900	1179

(d) The entire production of Iron ore from each mines has been despatched for export.

Gauge Conversion

2944. SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to convert Yelahanka and Bangarpet narrow gauge line into meter gauge; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) The Gauge Conversion of Yellahanka-Chickballapur has already been completed. Work on Bangarpet-Kolar has been taken up and is likely to be completed in this financial year. Kolar-Chickballapur will be taken up in the coming years.

Local Call Facility

2945. SHRI I.D. SWAMI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are considering any proposal to provide facility of local calls to all the cities/towns included in the National Capital Region;

(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) Does not arise.

(c) Local call means a call from a subscriber's line to another subscriber line on any exchange within the same exchange system (local area). Telephone exchanges in various cities/towns of National Capital Region have separate local areas of their own. As such local call facility to all cities/towns in National Capital Region is not admissible.

Introduction of Express Train from Bhubaneswar to Koraput

2946. SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to introduce an Express Train from Bhubaneswar to Koraput via Rayagada after commissioning of the Koraput-Rayagada new B.G. rail link;

(b) if so, the reasons for delay in introduction of said train;

(c) the steps taken in this direction; and

(d) the time by which the train is likely to be introduced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (d). An Express train connection between Bhubaneswar and Koraput via Rayagada will be provided on availability of clearance for passenger train running on the Koraput-Rayagada line.

There has been delay in receipt of Commissioner of Railway Safety's sanction on account of certain technical constraints in the tunnels in the newly constructed section.

[Translation]

Termination of Trains Running on Narrow Gauge line

2947. SHRI ASHOK ARGAL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to terminate the trains running between Gwalior-Sheopur Kalan;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government propose to convert Gwalior-Sheopur narrow gauge line;

(d) whether this work is likely to be undertaken in the budget of 1997-98;

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

(f) the time by which this work is likely to be completed?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) to (e). No, Sir. Due to constraint of resources.

(f) Does not arise.

Backlog of Employment in the Country

2948. SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) the backlog of unemployment in the country by the end of the Seventh Five Year Plan;

(b) the achievement made to generate jobs for the unemployed person during the current Plan period;

(c) whether a new strategy has been adopted by the Government to create additional employment in Ninth Five Year Plan; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) The backlog of unemployment at the end of the Seventh Plan was of the order of 17.0 million.

(b) to (d). During the Eighth Plan period, labour intensive growth has been accorded highest priority, thereby generating additional employment opportunities. Accordingly, the unemployment rate which was around 3.77% during 1987-88 came down to 2.56% during 1993-94. It is expected that the strategy of employment intensive growth will be continued during the ensuing Ninth Five Year Plan also.

[Translation]

Serials Mega

2949. SHRI NITISH BHARDWAJ : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) the details of Indian Culture based legendary and historical serials which have been cleared for telecast on Doordarshan at present;

(b) the time allotted to these serials on Doordarshan each month;

(c) whether serial Mega has been omitted from the new rate card of Doordarshan;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps being taken by the Government for promoting these programmes?

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

Sports Complex

2950. SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the progress of the work of the proposed Sports Complex at Barnungachi, Howrah under Eastern Railway;

(b) the estimated cost and funds made available therefor;

(c) the capacity of the Stadia; and

(d) the target period of completion?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Tender for consultancy services is under process of finalisation. Part estimate for consultancy is being prepared.

(b) The estimated cost of the project is Rs. 8.95 Crores and allotment of funds for the current year i.e. 1996-97 is Rs. 51.70 lakhs.

(c) The proposed capacity of the Stadium is 20,000.

(d) Three years subject to availability of requisite funds.

Electrification of Railway Routes

2951. SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to electrify Chandil-Muri and Muri-Bakaro Railway route;

(b) if so, whether this section is likely to be electrified during the current year; and

(c) if so, the funds allotted for the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Yes, Sir. The works have already been taken up.

(b) These sections are likely to be electrified by March, 98.

(c) The funds allotted for the year 1996-97 for Chandil-Muri-Barkakana Electrification Project and for the Bokaro-Muri-Barsuan/Kiriburu Electrification Project which include these sections are Rs. 20 crore and Rs. 40 crore, respectively.

Vigilance Inspector

2952. SHRI RAMASHRAYA PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Vigilance Inspectors of Railway Board discipline-wise and number out of them completed full-term i.e. six years;

(b) the action taken by the Government to revert such staff to their Parent Cadre; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b). At present there are 36 Inspectors with Vigilance Directorate, comprising of 21 from Traffic, 6 from Engineering 2 from Stores and the balance covering other disciplines.

A total of 8 Inspectors have completed six years tenure out of which three have been given extension in administrative interest in accordance with extant rules.

The process of selection for Vigilance Inspectors to fill up the existing as also anticipated vacancies has already been initiated.

(c) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Post Offices in U.P.

2953. SHRI D.P. YADAV : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the present number of post offices and telephone exchanges in Sambhal, Uttar Pradesh are adequate;

(b) if not, whether the Government propose to open new post offices and telephone exchanges during 1996-97; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) There are 41 Post Offices in Sambhal. On an average a Post Office serves a population of 11628 and an area of 16.08 square kilometers. The national averages in terms of population and area served per Post Office are 5517 and 21.44 square kilometers respectively.

(b) Post Offices are opened progressively under Annual Plan Schemes subject to norm based justification and availability of resources.

(c) There was only one proposal for opening of an Extra Departmental Branch Post Office at Village oberi, which has been sanctioned.

Department of Telecommunications

(a) to (c). The number of telephone exchanges is not adequate in Sambhal. The installation of 512 Port C-DOT exchange is under progress and is likely to be expanded to 1.4 K C-DOT by March, 1997 subject to availability.

[English]

Discipline & Appeal Rules, 1968

2954. SHRI JANG BAHADUR SINGH PATEL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that the Railway Servants (Discipline & Appeal) Rules, 1968 are corrected upto April 1, 1987 and thereafter large number of corrections have been issued making it difficult for the authorities and the employees to keep track of them.

(b) if so, the steps taken/proposed by the Government to correct the said rules upto date and to lay a copy thereof on the table of the House; and

(c) the time by which the above Rules likely to be updated?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) The Railway Servants (Discipline & Appeal) Rules, 1968 as last revised embody amendments to the rules issued upto 1.4.87. As per well established procedure, the amendments to the Railway Servants (Discipline & Appeal) Rules, 1968 are carried out through Notifications in the Gazette of India. Details of all the earlier amendments to these rules are incorporated in the form of a foot note to the proposed amendment. Copies of the notifications amending the rules are also endorsed to the Lok Sabha Secretariat and the recognised Federations on the Indian Railways besides all the concerned authorities on the Railways.

There is thus no difficulty in keeping track of the amendments.

(b) and (c). In view of the above, there is no such proposal at present.

On-Line Billing Information Services

2955. DR. C. SILVERA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether on-line Billing information services has been introduced by MTNL in Delhi;

(b) whether on-line Telephone Directory enquiry service for Bombay, Madras and Calcutta has also been introduced by MTNL in Delhi;

(c) whether some a Walk-in Directory enquiry facility has also been introduced in Delhi by M.T.N.L.;

(d) if so, formalities required separately to avail of these facilities;

(e) whether M.T.N.L. propose to introduce some an on-line telephone fault repair confirmation service in Delhi;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d). Yes, Sir. A walk-in-Directory Enquiry Service has been introduced by MTNL, Delhi at Eastern Court, Janpath, New Delhi. The person approaching for enquiry has to furnish one of the following informations to get specific details of directory entry as given below:-

1. The name of the subscriber for getting his Telephone No.
2. The Telephone No. getting the name and address of the subscriber.
3. The old No. for getting the new No. of the subscriber.

(e) and (f). Yes, Sir. MTNL Delhi is proposing to introduce an on-line fault repair confirmation service operating through Interactive Voice Response System (IVRS). This is being done on trial basis at Jorbagh exchange in Delhi.

(g) Does not arise in view of (e & f) above.

Discontinuation of Programmes Quest

2956. SHRIMATI KRISHNA BOSE : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the programme 'Quest' has been telecast on Doordarshan;

- (b) if so, the number of serials telecast on it;
 (c) whether this programme has been discontinued;
 (d) if so, the reasons therefor; and
 (e) the time by which it is likely to be started?

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

Performance of Steel Authority of India Limited

2957. DR. RAMKRISHNA KUSMARIA : Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

- (a) the Financial performance of the Steel Authority of India Ltd. during the first six months, Plant-wise;
 (b) whether the profitability of the SAIL has declined during the current year as compared to the last year;
 (c) if so, the reasons therefor; and
 (d) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to improve the performance of the SAIL?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) During the first six months of the current year; i.e. April to September, 1996, SAIL has made a pre-tax profit (unaudited) of Rs. 414.98 crores and after providing Rs. 53.53 crores towards Minimum Alternate Tax (MAT) the profit is Rs. 361.45 crores. The plant-wise net profit/loss is as under :

Rs./Crores

- Bhilai Steel Plant	388
- Durgapur Steel Plant	(-) 96
- Rourkela Steel Plant	(-) 127
- Bokaro Steel Plant	237
- Alloy Steels Plant	(-) 19
- Salem Steel Plant	(-) 25
- Raw Materials Division;	
Other Central Units etc.	57
Net Profit before tax	415
Provision for Minimum Alternate Tax (MAT)	54
Net Profit after tax	361

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The decline in profits is mainly attributable to abnormal escalation in input prices viz. coal, petroleum products, power, transportation and higher interest and depreciation costs.

(d) SAIL is taking steps on a continuous basis to improve the performance, which include increasing capacity utilisation, improving productivity, introducing

energy conservation measures, improving availability of equipment through effective maintenance, improving product-mix, making value added items and meeting customer's requirements, and reduction in consumption viz. coke, energy, stores & spares, etc.

Air Freight Carriers Operation

2958. SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

- (a) the foreign and Indian air freight carriers operating to and from India;
 (b) the airports where these aircraft land and take off;
 (c) the rates for various categories of cargo from India to Europe;
 (d) whether the freight rates to African countries from India are four to five times more than the freight rates to European countries;
 (e) whether the high rate of freight charges to African countries is designed to make Indian goods non-competitive in African countries;
 (f) if so, whether the Government have taken up this matter with any international agency for arbitration and
 (g) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

[Translation]

Regional Centres of Films Division

2959. SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV :
 SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR :
 SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH :

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

- (a) the number of regional centres of Films Division in the country;
 (b) whether all the facilities have been made available in these centres;
 (c) if not, the reasons therefor;
 (d) whether the Government propose to encourage the artists and the telecast of regional serials; and
 (e) if so, details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) There are two regional production centres of the Films Division, namely, Southern Regional

Production Centre, Bangalore and Eastern Regional Production Centre, Calcutta, apart from a unit of the Division at New Delhi for production of family welfare and defence training films.

(b) These centres have been provided with essential items of equipment and facilities such as 16mm cameras, editing machines and recording equipment.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) and (e). One of the primary functions of Doodarshan is to provide a platform, through its channels, to the abundant talent available within the country in various regions in the field of music and other cultural art forms. The local artists are also engaged by the Films Division for its featurettes.

[English]

International Airport in Punjab

2960. SHRI SUKHBIR SINGH BADAL : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the difficulties being faced by people visiting Punjab from foreign countries due to the absence of an international airport in Punjab;

(b) if so, the time by which an international airport is likely to be established there;

(c) the details of airports proposed to be set up in the Punjab and the locations thereof; and

(d) the time by which the work is likely to commence thereon?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) and (b). Amritsar Airport is already provided with facilities to cater to international operations.

(c) and (d). At present, there is no proposal to set up any new airport in Punjab.

[Translation]

Gauge Conversion

2961. PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to convert Ajmer-Khandwa and Ajmer-Chitor-Udaipur lines into broad gauge;

(b) if so, whether the Government have conducted/propose to conduct any survey in this regard;

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

(d) the steps being taken by the Government for the development of Nasirabad and Vijay Nagar Railway stations?

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

(b) and (c). Survey for Ajmer-Chitor-Udaipur section has been completed. Chittaurgarh-Neemuch section is Broad Gauge. Work on Neemuch-Ratlam section has been taken up. Survey for Ratlam-Khandwa Gauge Conversion has been taken up.

(d) The stations will be provided with adequate facilities to handle the level of traffic along with the Gauge Conversion works in the coming years.

[English]

Schemes for Concessional Fares

2962. SHRI A.C. JOSE : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Indian Airlines/Air India have any schemes which allows concessional fares for ordinary passengers; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) Some such schemes in existence at present are

(1) Special introductory fares on Air India's new operations to Chicago. One domestic round trip ticket is also offered to every passenger travelling round trip between India and New York/Chicago on certain classes of fares.

(2) 25% incentive has also been introduced from 16.10.96 till 31.03.97 on net fare portion applicable to domestic sectors on Air India network.

Indian Airlines offers 50% discount on fares to senior citizens, students, blind persons, cancer patients war widows, war disabled persons, members of armed forces and personnel of general reserve engineering force etc.

[Translation]

Telephone Connections in Tamil Nadu

2963. SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of telephone connections provided in Tamil Nadu, district-wise and category-wise during 1996-97, till date;

(b) the number of telephone connections proposed to be given during the remaining period of 1996-97, district-wise and category-wise;

(c) the number of telephone connections proposed to be given during the remaining period of 1996-97, district-wise and category-wise; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken to provide telephone connections to the remaining persons?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) (a) the required information is being

collected and will be placed on the table of the House.

(b) and (c) the details are enclosed statement.

(d) necessary equipment and materials will be arranged to provide telephone connections to the remaining persons during 1997-98

STATEMENT

Sl No.	Name of Telephone District	Name/s of Revenue District covered	OYT	Waiting list (as on 30-11-96)		Telephone connection proposed for remaining period of 1996-97*
				NOYT	Total	
1.	Chengalpattu	Chengalpattu MGR	102	13223	13325	4297
2.	Coimbatore	Coimbatore	586	49724	50310	13245
3.	Nilgiris	Nilgiris	26	5071	5097	3199
4.	Cuddalore	Villupuram Vallalar	378	16803	17181	4406
5.	Dharmapuri	Dharmapuri	449	10175	10624	4112
6.	Erode	Periyar	58	26669	26727	14643
7.	Karaikudi Ramnethpuram	Pasumpon	225	11216	11441	4940
8.	Kumbakonam	Nagapattinam Qemilad (prt) Tanjavur (Prt)	155	11409	11564	1374
9.	Madurai	Madurai Dindigul Anna	109	31726	31835	13437
10.	Nagarcoil	Kanyakumari	164	14821	14985	6076
11.	Salem	Salem	281	38213	38494	8573
12.	Thanjavur	Thanavur (Prt) Nagapattanam-Oemilad (prt)	496	15119	15615	6250
13.	Tirunelveli	Nellai Kattabomman	15	10722	10737	5841
14.	Trichy	Karur Pudukottai Perambalur	1360	36596	37956	17653
15.	Tuticorin	V.O. Chindambaranar	34	10545	10579	2931
16.	Vellore	Ambedkar Sambuvarayar	196	22387	22583	7110
17.	Virudhunagar	Kamarajar	28	8838	8866	3660
18.	Chennai	Chennai	5809	97353	103162	50539

Note :- Telephone connections are to be provided category-wise in the ratio 60:40 for OYT and NOYT categories respectively.

[English]

Implementation of Employment Assurance Scheme

2964. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have implemented the Employment Assurance Scheme;

(b) if so, since when and the names of States where this scheme is being launched;

(c) whether the scheme has been extend upto Orissa;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the entire State has been covered under the Scheme; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and if not, the districts which have so far been covered?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) to (f). Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Train Services Between Bangalore and Ahmedabad

2965 SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any train running between Bangalore-Ahmedabad via Hubli;

(b) if not, whether the Government propose to run a train at least once in a week on the above route; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) There is no such proposal at present.

(c) Does not arise.

Shortage of Aircrafts

2966 SHRI PRAMOTHES MUKHERJEE : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian Airlines is unable to operate fully its flights due to shortage of aircrafts;

(b) whether some routes of operation touching various important Industrial stations in UP have been closed down or are proposed to be closed;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Indian Airlines has received a number of requests for operating these flights in such important Industrial towns;

(e) if so, the facts and details thereof; and

(f) the action taken thereon?

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

(b) and (c). Indian Airlines operations to Kanpur, Gorakhpur and Allahabad were withdrawn w.e.f. 20th May, 1992.

(d) and (e). Requests have been received for resumption of air services to Allahabad, Gorakhpur and Kanpur.

(f) Due to commercial and operational constraints, Indian Airlines has no plans, at present, to resume operations to these stations. However, private operators are encouraged to add new stations including Kanpur, Allahabad and Gorakhpur.

[Translation]

Products of Bokaro Steel Plant

2967. PROF. RITA VERMA : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the targets fixed by SAIL for products of the Bokaro Steel Plant have been achieved;

(b) if so, the details thereof during the last three years end the current year, so far, product-wise;

(c) whether the sale of these products was achieved as per the fixed targets during the above period;

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

(e) the quantum of pig-iron produced during the last three years and the places where the same iron has been consumed alongwith quantum thereof; and

(f) the details of the revenue earned from the sale of pig-iron during the above period?

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.

Replacement of old Railway Tracks

2968. SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the amount spent on the replacement of old Railway tracks of Northern and North-Eastern Railway during 1993-94, 1994-95 and 1995-96; and

(b) the details of expenditure incurred on converting metre gauge lines into broad gauge during the above period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Gross amount spent under the Plan Head Track Renewal during the relevant years on these Railways was as under :-

	(Rs in Crores)	
	Northern	North-Eastern
1993-94	239.16	84.19
1994-95	194.01	53.41
1995-96	226.94	53.95

(b) Gross expenditure incurred under the Plan Head 'Gauge Conversion' During the relevant years on these Railway was as under :-

	(Rs in Crores)	
	Northern	North-Eastern
1993-94	189.55	41.20
1994-95	195.05	128.49
1995-96	38.59	162.46

[Translation]

Telephone Service in Firozabad

2969. PROF. OMPAL SINGH NIDAR : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Department of Telephone have divided Firozabad district into two parts;

(b) whether the Government propose to open D.M.T. office in Firozabad district of Uttar Pradesh;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) No, Sir.

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

(d) Firozabad is a part of Agra/Mainpuri Secondary Switching Areas (SSAs). There is already an office of GMT at Agra and that of TDE at Mainpuri. There is thus no justification for an independent D.M.T. office at Firozabad.

Mining of Sand to Fishermen in Uttar Pradesh

2970. SHRI GANGA CHARAN RAJPUT : Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

(a) the norms fixed for mining of sand in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) whether the Government propose to allot the mining work of sand and redsand to fishermen community;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the number of times lease of sand being given to this community in the State during the last three years;

(e) whether the Government have received complaints in regard to allotment of work of mining lease;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the steps taken against guilty officials?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) to (g). The grant of quarry lease, mining lease and other mineral concessions in respect of Minor minerals like ordinary sand and building stones are regulated in accordance with the provisions of Minor Mineral Concession Rules framed by the State Governments. It is only in respect of the minerals specified in the First Schedule of the Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Act, 1957 that no prospecting licence/mining lease can be granted except with the prior

approval of the Central Government. As sand is not listed in First Schedule of the Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Act, 1957, prior approval of the Central Government is not required to be obtained and hence the Central Government does not monitor pendency for grant of mineral concession for Minor minerals.

Gauge Conversion

2971. SHRI FAGGAN SINGH KULESTE : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any scheme for the conversion of Jabalpur-Bhanda-Nainpur via Gondia meter gauge railway line into broad gauge; and

(b) if so, the time by which the conversion work is likely to be started and completed?

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

(b) The work is included in the first phase of Action Plan and would be taken up in the coming years.

Steel Industry

2972. SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ :
JUSTIC GUMAN MAL LODHA :

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item captioned, 'Steel Industry to stage recovery in second half' appearing in the Economic Times dated October 2, 1996;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that although the domestic consumption level of steel is low while the prices of steel have marked an increase during the first six months of 1996-97;

(c) if so, whether due to price-rise imported steel has become cheaper as compared to the domestically produced steel;

(d) if not, the factual position in this regard;

(e) whether it is also a fact that Steel Industry has lodged a complaint to the Government that foreigners are dumping steel in the country; and

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

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

(b) The apparent consumption of finished steel for the first six months of 1996-97 has been 10.375 million tonnes, registering an increase of about 9.3% as compared to the corresponding period previous year.

(c) and (d). The competitiveness of Indian steel vis-a-vis imported steel in the domestic market would depend upon various factors such as quality, landed cost at ports, freight to location of consumer, etc. As per available information for the month of October, 1996, the landed cost at ports, calculated on the basis of average import prices, of Tin Plates (Oil-can-size), Billets (IS-2830; 80/100 mm), pig iron (LM Gr. IV and HR Coil TMQ 2mm) was less than the existing policy, import of steel is freely allowed. However, provision exists in the Customs Tariff Act, 1975 and the rules framed thereunder to investigate cases of dumping and levy an additional customs duty, if it is established that such dumping causes material injury to the domestic industry. The Designated Authority under the aforesaid Act has not, as on 05.12.1996, received any petition for imposition of Anti-Dumping Duties on any steel product.

[English]

AIR Station, Leh

2973. SHRI P. NAMGYAL : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received

complaints from Leh Station of AIR regarding distortion of Ladakhi culture and language together with frequent breakdown of the transmitter and poor relaying system;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) Yes, Sir. Some Complaints about falling standards of programmes along with breakdowns in transmitter operation and deterioration of relay quality from AIR, Leh have been received in the past.

(b) Breakdown details for AIR, Leh for the year 1994-95, 1995-96 and from April 1996 to June 1996 are enclosed in the statement.

(c) VHF link and microwave links between studio and transmitter at AIR, Leh have been provided to ensure better quality of broadcast. Efforts are being made on a continuous basis to improve the working of AIR Station, Leh. The Station has been asked to review the programmes and ensure that these are tailored to meet the requirements of listeners.

STATEMENT

Details of Breakdowns of AIR Leh during 1994-95, 1995-96 and from April, 1996 to June, 1996

Year	Irg. His Radiated		Gear B D		% of Gear Gear B D		P/s B D	Percentage	Other Causes of B D		Percentage	Total		Percentage (Overall)
	H	M	H	M	H	M			H	M		H	M	
1994-95	7049.41		0.39		0.009		3.49	0.056	3.26		0.048	7.54		0.112
1995-96	7180.00		1.20		0.017		1.05	0.013	4.43		0.06	7.08		0.091
April, 1996 to June, 1996	1980.00		05.18		0.252		0.20	0.016	0.04		-	5.42		0.30

[Translation]

Train Accident

2974. SHRI DADA BABURAO PARANJPE : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the 1348 up passenger train going from Agra to Jhansi met with an accident on the evening of November 3, 1996 near Sank Station situated in Central Railway Zone as a result of which its engine turned upside down and five bogies were derailed;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have conducted any enquiry in this regard;

(d) if so, the findings of the enquiry; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. On 3.11.96, at 7.30 hrs, one dead loco, along with four coaches and two SLRs of 1348 Agra Cantt.-Jhansi Passenger train derailed between Morena and Sank stations of Jhansi Division of Central Railway.

(c) and (d). An enquiry conducted by a Committee of Officers has concluded that this derailment occurred due to old rail flaw.

(e) Two Permanent Way Inspectors have been taken up under Railway Servants (Discipline & Appeal) Rules.

[English]

Increase in Inventory of Steel Products

2975. SHRI AMAR PAL SINGH : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether there has been substantial increase in the inventory of steel products at various stockyards of the Steel Authority of India Limited during the current financial year so far;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reasons identified therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. There has been increase in inventory of steel products at various stockyards of Steel Authority of India Ltd. (SAIL) during the current financial year. The details are as under :-

Stocks in Stockyards in '000 Tonnes

As on 1.4.1996	-	404.4
As on 1.12.1996	-	840.7

(c) The main reason for inventory build up is the subdued demand situation which, in turn, depends on interplay of a number of factors such as availability of funds with consumers, cost of credit, competition from domestic sources as well as imports, overall industrial growth etc.

Gauge Conversion

2976. SHRI K. PARASURAMAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have taken decision on the conversion of metre gauge railway lines into broad gauge in various parts of the country during the Ninth Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is any such proposal for the Railway line between Chengalpattu Junction and Arakonam Junction via Kancheepuram;

(d) if so, the time by which it is likely to be converted; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) The details have not yet been finalized.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) During the Ninth Plan.

(e) Does not arise.

Train Accidents Occurred in Bilaspur Division

2977. SHRI MANHARAN LAL PANDEY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of train accidents occurred in Bilaspur division between July 1, 1996 and October 30, 1996;

(b) the total loss suffered by Railways due to these accidents;

(c) the number of passenger trains/goods trains which were deferred for a long time during this period;

(d) whether priority is given by Bilaspur division to goods trains as compared to passenger trains; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) There were three consequential train accidents in Bilaspur Division during the period 1.7.96 to 30.10.96.

(b) The approximate cost of damage to railway property is Rs. 1.77 crores.

(c) As a result of these accidents, four passenger trains were cancelled, three terminated short of destination, one express train was run via a diverted route and 70 goods trains suffered detention.

(d) Passenger trains are given precedence over goods trains as per laid down operating procedure.

(e) Does not arise.

Entry of International Media

2978. SHRI N.K. PREMCHANDRAN :
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY :
SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN :
SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV :

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

(a) whether the Government propose to allow the entry of foreign players into the print of electronic media;

(b) whether his Ministry has permitted uplinking signals from Indian soil by private TV operators to foreign satellite;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether recently any private operator uplinked signals from Indian soil;

(e) whether a meeting was held in September 1996 to allow entry of foreign media in the country;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) Regarding Electronic Media, the Government is in the process of enacting legislation on

broadcasting which interalia would address the issue of entry of foreign holding in the broadcasting companies.

As far as print media is concerned, the entry of foreign print media in the country is regulated by a Cabinet Resolution of 1955 which prohibits :-

- (i) Publication of foreign owned newspapers and periodicals in the country;
- (ii) Publication of Indian editions of foreign newspapers/periodicals dealing mainly with news and current affairs;

The Governemt continues to be guided by this policy which has neither been changed nor rescinded.

(b) and (c). This Ministry has not permitted any private TV operator to uplink signals from Indian soil to foreign satellite.

(d) This Ministry is not aware of any such uplinking.

(e) to (g). Meeting held in September, 1996 was a part of the process of consultation being held with various political parties on the issues relating to Prasar Bharati and Broadcasting Law. A questionnaire was also sent to leaders of various political parties and only a few of them have responded so far. After taking these views into consideration, a Broadcasting Bill will soon be introduced in the Parliament.

[Translation]

Computer Reservation Services

2979. SHRI SHATRUGHAN PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Barauni has not so far been linked with Calcutta regarding computer reservation services; and

(b) if so, the time by which computer reservation services at Barauni are likely to be linked with the entire country?

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

(b) Barauni is connected with the main computer system of Delhi. There is no proposal at present to link it with any other system.

[English]

Zinc Trade Agreement

2980. SHRI JAGATVIR SINGH DRONA : Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Hindustan Zinc Limited have any trade agreements with France and two Australian Companies for mining; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) As part of Hindustan Zinc Limited (HZL)'s longterm strategy

to diversify into different fields of business, three Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) have been signed with leading foreign Parties, viz., BHP Minerals, Australia, Nuigini Mining Limited (NML), Australia, and BRGM, France/VMC, Vietnam, for the exploration and if found viable, exploitation of base and precious metals in India and abroad.

(b) The MoU with BHP Minerals is for grass-root exploration for Lead, Zinc, Copper and Gold and associated minerals in Rajasthan.

The MoU with NML is for exploration and if found viable, exploitation of identified gold prospects in India.

The MoU with BRGM (France) and VMC, now restructured as Vietnam Gem and Gold Corporation (VIGEGO), is for exploration and, if found viable, exploitation of Pac Lang Gold prospects in Vietnam.

[Translation]

Employment on Compassionate Ground

2981. DR. G.R. SARODE : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the employment on compassionate ground is provided in Railways;

(b) if so, the number of details of such employment provided in Bhusaval Division under Central Railway during the last three years;

(c) the number of such cases pending in Bhusaval Division; and

(d) the time by which these cases are likely to be cleared?

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

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

(d) The extant instructions require the Zonal Railways to make all out efforts to provide compassionate appointments to all eligible persons as early as possible within the guidelines laid down for the purpose. It is, however, difficult to fix any time limit for the appointments on compassionate grounds, as the same depends on several factors like availability of suitable vacancies, wards attaining majority etc.

[English]

Telephone Connections

2982. SHRI PRAKASH VISHWANATH PARANJPE : will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) list of telecom districts having more than 10,000 telephone connections with waiting list;

(b) the staff strength in each district on permanent and temporary basis;

(c) whether Kalyan Telecom district have less staff as compared to other Telecom district in the country; and

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

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VERMA) : (a) to (d). The information is being collected from the field units and will be furnished in due course.

Stoppage of 'News Tonight' on Primary Channel of Doordarshan

2983. SHRI PARASRAM BHARDWAJ :
SHRI TARIQ ANWAR :

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

(a) whether News Bulletin 'News Tonight' has been stopped telecasting from primary channel of Doordarshan;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and

(c) the steps taken to restart the same?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. Doordarshan decided to discontinue the telecast of the 'News Tonight' programme following the agreement entered into by the producers of the programme for the production of news programmes in Hindi and English for telecast on the foreign channel, 'Star Plus'.

(c) There is no proposal to restart the same at present.

[Translation]

Construction of Air-Strip in Pithoragarh

2984. SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA' : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are considering any scheme regarding construction of air-strip in district Pithoragarh of U.P.;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reasons for slow progress in the construction of Air-strip; and

(d) the time by which the construction work of this air-strip is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) to (d). No, Sir. However, the State Government of Uttar Pradesh has constructed an air-

strip of dimensions 6000' x 150' suitable for 50 seater aircraft at Pithoragarh.

[English]

Non-Availability of Waiting List Tickets

2985. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that there was no waiting list ticket available in all the trains of New Delhi to Patna, Dhanbad, Howrah etc. during November 4, 1996 to November 15, 1996 and onwards;

(b) if so, the action taken by the Government to increase train or providing special train to the passengers as per requirement;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the special train was arranged only on November 8, 15, and 18, 1996 and

(d) the number of touts (reservation broker) were caught and punished by the railways during October, 1996 to November 1996?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Wait-listed tickets were not available by some trains viz. 2382 Poorva Express, 2312 Kalka Mail, 2392 Magadh Express, 2554 Vaishali Express, 2802 Purshotam Express and 5622 North-East Express on some days and in some classes.

(b) and (c). 5 Special trains from New Delhi to Patna on 8th, 13th, 14th, 15th and 18th November, 1996 were arranged. In addition, Poorva Express, Kalka Mail, Rajdhani Express and Shramjeevi Express were also augmented by one coach during this period.

(d) 20 touts were apprehended and prosecuted over Northern Railway during October and November, 1996.

Divisional Railway Office

2986. SHRI SURESH R. JADHAV : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are considering to alter the decision taken earlier to establish Divisional Railway office at Nanded under South Eastern Railway where mobilization of resources in this connection is remote;

(b) whether the decision is being taken to establish Divisional office at Purna Junction where resources required are available at hand;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the time by which a final decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Government has decided to set up a Divisional Office at Nanded.

(b) No, Sir.

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

[Translation]

Microwave Towers

2987. SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Microwave Towers targeted to be set-up in the country during the year 1995-96 and 1996-97 for providing telephone facilities, State-wise;

(b) the details of progress achieved upto October, 1996 against above target State-wise; and

(c) whether the Government are facing financial crisis in achieving the said target?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VERMA) : (a) to (c). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

Postal Life Insurance Scheme

2988. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR KHANDELWAL : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Postal Life Insurance Scheme launched in 1995 is only for the rural population;

(b) if so, whether the premium rates are lower and rates of bonus are higher as compare to LIC;

(c) if so, whether the Government are considering open it for every citizen; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) Premium rates are lower. Bonus for Rural Postal Life Insurance is yet to be declared after valuation of Rural Post Office Insurance Fund.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) The scheme, as its name 'Rural Postal Life insurance' indicated, is meant for the rural folk only. Therefore, as a matter of policy, it cannot be opened for every citizen.

Introduction of New Train From New Delhi to Manmad

2989. SHRI TARIQ ANWER : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to start a new train from New Delhi to Manmad, near Shirdi to facilitate the increasing number of pilgrims to Shirdi;

(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) Due to operational and resource constraints.

[Translation]

Construction of Bridge over River Ganga

2990. SHRI RAMENDRA KUMAR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to construct a bridge over river Ganges with a view to link Khagaria and Munger towns; and

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the time by which construction work is likely to be started and completed?

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

(b) Does not arise.

Railway Tracks between Virar and Dahanu

2991. SHRI SURESH PRABHU : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state the time by which the work in respect of the four tracks railway line between Virar and Dahanu is likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : At present there is no proposal for quadrupling of lines between Virar and Dahanu Road.

Automatic Telephone Exchanges

2992. SHRI ANANTH KUMAR : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of automatic telephone exchanges functioning in Karnataka as on September 30, 1996, district-wise, location-wise and capacity-wise;

(b) the number of new automatic telephone exchanges proposed to be set up in Karnataka during 1996-97; and

(c) the amount allocated therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VERMA) : (a) The number of automatic telephone exchanges functioning in Karnataka as on September 30, 1996 is 2036. Details are indicated at in the enclosed statement.

(b) The number of new automatic telephone exchanges proposed to be set up in Karnataka during 1996-97 is 69.

(c) Amount allocated for 1996-97 is Rs. 323.92 crores.

STATEMENT

List of Exchanges as on 1.10.96

S.No.	Name of the Exchange	Capacity
1	2	3

Name of the District : Belgaum

1.	Aigali	56
2.	Ainapura	96
3.	Akol	176
4.	Alagwadi	56
5.	Ambadgatti	56
6.	Ankalgi	184
7.	Ankali	200
8.	Asundi	56
9.	Athani	792
10.	Badakundri	56
11.	Bailhongal	1088
12.	Batkurki	56
13.	Bedkihal	176
14.	Beedi	88
15.	Belagundi	96
16.	Belavadi	88
17.	Belgaum	23608
18.	Belladbagewadi	152
19.	Benadi	96
20.	Betageri	56
21.	Bhendwad	56
22.	Chachadi	56
23.	Chapagaon	56
24.	Chiklgud	96
25.	Chikkodi	672
26.	Chinchali	56
27.	Daddi	56
28.	Devalapura	56
29.	Doddawad	88
30.	Eksamba	144
31.	Garlagunji	56
32.	Ghataprabha	376
33.	Ghodgeri	56
34.	Gokak	1824
35.	Gudas	56
36.	Gunji (M)	25
37.	Halga	88
38.	Hanchinal	56

1	2	3
39.	Harugeri	280
40.	Hidkaldam	152
41.	Hirebagewadi	160
42.	Hirekumbi	88
43.	Hooli	56
44.	Hookoti	56
45.	Hosure	96
46.	Hodli	56
47.	Hukkeri	376
48.	Hulkund	56
49.	Hunashikatti	56
50.	Inamhongal	56
51.	Inchal	56
52.	Ingalgi	56
53.	Itagi	152
54.	K. Chandargi	56
55.	K.K. Koppa	56
56.	Kadabi	56
57.	Kadoli	88
58.	Kagadal	56
59.	Kagwad	184
60.	Kakati	424
61.	Kakkeri	56
62.	Kalloi	88
63.	Kanagale	56
64.	Kankanwadi	56
65.	Karagaon	56
66.	Karoshi	88
67.	Katkol	152
68.	Kerur	56
69.	Khadalkat	176
70.	Khanagaon	56
71.	Khanapur	480
72.	Kittur	368
73.	Kognoli	56
74.	Kokatnur	56
75.	Konnur	96
76.	Koujalgi	56
77.	Kudachi	88
78.	Kulgod	56
79.	Londa	184
80.	M.K. Hubli	272
81.	Machhe	416
82.	Madabhavi	56

1	2	3	1	2	3
83.	Madhukavi	56	127.	Shirsangi	56
84.	Madigunji	56	128.	Soundalga	56
85.	Malabad	56	129.	Sulebhavi	176
86.	Mamadapur	56	130.	Sultanpur	56
87.	Mandolli	160	131.	Sureban	56
88.	Mangasuli	56	132.	Tallur	56
89.	Mangur	152	133.	Torgal	56
90.	Manoli	192	134.	Uchagaon	184
91.	Masaguppi	88	135.	Ugarkhurd	176
92.	Melvanki	56	136.	Vantamuri	88
93.	Muchandi	56	137.	Yadur	80
94.	Mudalgi	504	138.	Yadwad	88
95.	Mugalkhod	56	139.	Yakkundi	56
96.	Murgod	152	140.	Yallur	88
97.	Nagpur	56	141.	Yamakanmardi	184
98.	Nagnur (BLL)	56	142.	Yaragatti	184
99.	Nandagad	184	Name of the District : Bellary		
100.	Nandagaon	88	1.	Arsikere	88
101.	Nandikurli	56	2.	Bachigondanahalli	56
102.	Neginhal	56	3.	Bagewadi	56
103.	Nerli	56	4.	Banavikal	56
104.	Nesargi	184	5.	Bandri	56
105.	Nidasoshi	56	6.	Bellary	9912
106.	Nippani	1424	7.	Bevinahalli	56
107.	P.K. Nananur	56	8.	C.J. Halli	56
108.	Pachapur	88	9.	Chellagurki	88
109.	Paramanandawadi	56	10.	Chigateri	88
110.	Parishwad	56	11.	Choranur	56
111.	Raibag	376	12.	Dammur	56
112.	Ramdurg	656	13.	Daroji	56
113.	Sadalga	144	14.	Deogiri	88
114.	Salahalli	88	15.	Devasamudra	56
115.	Sambra	160	16.	Donimalai	280
116.	Sampagaon	96	17.	Emmiganur	88
117.	Sangolli	56	18.	Gundagatti	56
118.	Sankeshwar	568	19.	Hagari	56
119.	Santibastwad	88	20.	Hagaribommanahalli	448
120.	Satti	56	21.	Halvagalu	56
121.	Saundatti	768	22.	Hampasagara	56
122.	Shankaratti	96	23.	Hansi	24
123.	Shegunshi	56	24.	Harapanahalli	512
124.	Shiraguppi	264	25.	Hatcholi	56
125.	Shirahatti	56	26.	Hirenadagali	56
126.	Shirgaon	56			

1	2	3
27.	Hiremangalgeri	56
28.	Holalu	88
29.	Hospet	3704
30.	Huvinahadagali	344
31.	Ittigi	56
32.	Jalihali	56
33.	K. Belagallu	56
34.	K. Hosahalli	56
35.	K. Iyyanahalli	56
36.	K. Veerapura	56
37.	Kamalapur	240
38.	Kambathhali	56
39.	Kammarchedu	56
40.	Kampali	576
41.	Karur	56
42.	Kenchakeri	56
43.	Kogali	56
44.	Kalogallu	56
45.	Kombli	40
46.	Koppagal	88
47.	Korlagundi	56
48.	Kottur	360
49.	Kudithini	56
50.	Kudligi	240
51.	Kududharhal	56
52.	Kurugodu	152
53.	M.M. Halli	144
54.	Magala	56
55.	Mathihalli	56
56.	Metri	56
57.	Moka	88
58.	Morigere	56
59.	Nandihalli	56
60.	Neelagund	56
61.	Negathibasapur	32
62.	Nimbalgeri	32
63.	Nincheri	56
64.	Norigere	56
65.	Papinayakanhalli	56
66.	Ramasagar	56
67.	Raravi	56
68.	Sandur	576
69.	Sannapur	56
70.	Siddamanahalli	56

1	2	3
71.	Sindigere	56
72.	Siregeri	56
73.	Siruguppa	544
74.	Sogi	56
75.	Sridharagadda	56
76.	Talur	56
77.	Tambrahalli	56
78.	Taranagar	32
79.	Tekkalkota	88
80.	Teligi	56
81.	Thimmalapura	56
82.	Toolahalli	56
83.	Torangallu	184
84.	Ujjini	56
85.	Ulavatti	56
86.	Uppinayakanahalli	56
87.	Uttangi	56
88.	Vaddatti	56
89.	Vannenur	56
90.	Y. Budihal	56
91.	Yerangali	56
92.	Yeswanthnagar	56

Name of the District : Bangalore Rural

1.	Anekal	152
2.	Attibele	400
3.	Avalahalli	88
4.	B.V. Hally	56
5.	Bagalur	80
6.	Banneraghatta	80
7.	Bannikuppe	56
8.	Bevoor	80
9.	Bidadi	80
10.	Bijjavara	80
11.	Budigere	80
12.	Byramangala	80
13.	Caremelram	80
14.	Chakrabhavi	80
15.	Channapatna	580
16.	Channarayapatna	80
17.	Chickajala	160
18.	Chunchunkuppe	80
19.	Dashavara	56
20.	Devanahalli	384

1	2	3
21.	Devangundi	80
22.	Dobbespert	80
23.	Doddaballapur	768
24.	Doddabelvengala	80
25.	Doddalahally	80
26.	Dommasandra	80
27.	Electronic City	0
28.	Gudemaranahalli	56
29.	Hanabe	80
30.	Harohally	80
31.	Hebbagodi	1500
32.	Hessarghatta	160
33.	Hoskote	380
34.	Hunsanahally	56
35.	I.G. Hally	80
36.	Jadigenahalli	80
37.	Jigani	300
38.	Kaggallipura	160
39.	Kanakapura	384
40.	Kanaswadi	80
41.	Karahalli	80
42.	Kengeri	300
43.	Khutagal	80
44.	Kodambally	80
45.	Kodihally	80
46.	Kothanur	160
47.	Kudur	80
48.	Kumbalgodu	88
49.	Laxmipura	80
50.	Magadi	192
51.	Malurpatna	80
52.	Maralvadi	80
53.	Marasandra	80
54.	Marsoor	80
55.	Mayaganahalli	80
56.	Mudugere	80
57.	Muthsandra	80
58.	Mandagudi	80
59.	Nelamagala	384
60.	Paduvengere	56
61.	Rajankunte	80
62.	Ramanagaram	500
63.	Reddyhalli	80
64.	S.S. Ghatti	80

1	2	3
65.	Sathanur	80
66.	Sondekoppa	56
67.	Sulebeie	80
68.	T. Begur	80
69.	Thalaghattapura	160
70.	Thavarekere	80
71.	Thavarekere ii	80
72.	Thimmasandra	80
73.	Thlpasandara	56
74.	Tubugere	80
75.	Tuburahalli	0
76.	Tymagundlu	88
77.	V.R. Doddi	56
78.	Vijayapura	384
79.	Vishwanathapura	80
80.	Whitefield	1000
81.	Yelhanka	1000

Name of the District : Bangalore Urban

1.	BG CEN. ii	12500
2.	BG CEN. I	6850
3.	BG City. I	11000
4.	BG City-II	15000
5.	BG Jayanagar	10000
6.	BG Jayanagar' RLU	4700
7.	BG Koramangala	4000
8.	BG Malleswaram I	11100
9.	BG Malleswaram II	7150
10.	BG R T Nagar	7000
11.	BG Rajajinagar	7000
12.	BG Shankarapuram II	10000
13.	BG Shankarapuram III	1600
14.	BG Shankarapuram I	10000
15.	BG Ulsoor I	9900
16.	BG Ulsoor II	10000
17.	BG Ulsoor III	10000
18.	BG Ulsoor IV	2000
19.	BG Vijayanagar	10000
20.	BG Vijayanagar (RLU)	2864
21.	Krishnarajapuram	2000
22.	Peenya	4000

Name of the District : Bidar

1.	Andopra	88
2.	Aurad (B)	184

1	2	3
3.	Bagadal	88
4.	Balar	88
5.	Basavakalyan	1000
6.	Bagambara	56
7.	Belura	56
8.	Bhalki	536
9.	Bhimalkhed	88
10.	Bhopalgad Belkani	56
11.	Bidar	3000
12.	Chillargi	56
13.	Chitalguppa	272
14.	Dhannura	56
15.	Dongapur	56
16.	Dubalgundi	88
17.	Ghatboral	56
18.	Gota (B)	88
19.	Halbarga	56
20.	Hallikhed. B	240
21.	Hallikhed. K	56
22.	Harkud	56
23.	Hudgi	88
24.	Hulsoor	56
25.	Hulsoorkhed	56
26.	Humnabad	1000
27.	Hupla	56
28.	Janwad	56
29.	Joldupka	56
30.	K. Chincholi	88
31.	Kamalanagar	184
32.	Kamthana	56
33.	Kanaji	56
34.	Kanakatta	88
35.	Kherda (B)	88
36.	Kitta	88
37.	Kidambat	88
38.	Kohinoor	88
39.	Kurabkhelgi	56
40.	Lakangaon	56
41.	Madakatti	56
42.	Mangalgi	88
43.	Manhalli	88
44.	Manna-E-Khelli	152
45.	Mathala	152
46.	Mekahar	56

1	2	3
47.	Morkandi	56
48.	Muchalamba	56
49.	Mudbi	56
50.	Mudhol (B)	56
51.	Naubad	568
52.	Nirgudi	88
53.	Nirna	88
54.	Nuttur	56
55.	Rajeshwar	152
56.	Rajola	88
57.	Santpur	56
58.	Srimandal	56
59.	Talnadgi	88
60.	Thanakushnoor	56
61.	Torna	56

Name of the District : Bijapur

1.	Agarkhed	56
2.	Akkimaradi	88
3.	Almatti	336
4.	Almel	144
5.	Amingad	88
6.	Anagawadi	56
7.	Arikeri	56
8.	Atharga	56
9.	Bableshtar	152
10.	Badami	344
11.	Bagalkot	2688
12.	Bagewadi B	384
13.	Balloli	56
14.	Bantanur	88
15.	Baradol	56
16.	Basarkod	56
17.	Batagunaki	56
18.	Belur	88
19.	Benakatti	56
20.	Bijapur	7000
21.	Bijjargi	88
22.	Bilgi	336
23.	Chadchan	184
24.	Chikkalgundi	88
25.	Chikkpadalsagi	88
26.	Chinchakhandi	96
27.	Devangaon	56

1	2	3
28.	Devar Nimbargi	56
29.	Devara Hippargi	152
30.	Dhannur	56
31.	Dhavaleshwar	88
32.	Donur	56
33.	Gaddankeri-Cross	176
34.	Galgali	184
35.	Ganihar	25
36.	Girisagar	56
37.	Golgeri	56
38.	Gothe	88
39.	Gudur	88
40.	Guledgud	536
41.	Gunadal	88
42.	Gundakanal	56
43.	H Hippargi	144
44.	Halagalli	56
45.	Hallur	96
46.	Haisangi	56
47.	Hangaragi	56
48.	Hebballi	56
49.	Hippargi	88
50.	Hiredevanur	56
51.	Hirerugi	56
52.	Honganhalli	56
53.	H Honnalli	56
54.	Honnugi	56
55.	Honwad	88
56.	Hoolageri	56
57.	Horti	112
58.	Hulyal	56
59.	Hunagund	240
60.	Ilkal	648
61.	Inamhanchinal	56
62.	Inchageri	88
63.	Indi	536
64.	Ingalagri	56
65.	Ingleshwar	56
66.	Jamakhandi	1400
67.	Jumnal	56
68.	K Salawadagi	56
69.	Kadlimatti	56
70.	Kakanur	56
71.	Kaladgi	144

1	2	3
72.	Kalkavatagi	56
73.	Kalheri	56
74.	Kamatgi	88
75.	Kanakanwadi	184
76.	Kanamadi	56
77.	Kandagal	56
78.	Kannur	56
79.	Karadi	88
80.	Katageri	56
81.	Kerur	192
82.	Khakhandaki	56
83.	Khedgi	56
84.	Kolhar	144
85.	Konnur	96
86.	Korwar	56
87.	Kudalasangam	56
88.	Kulgeri Cross	56
89.	Kunchanur	56
90.	Kundargi	56
91.	Lachyan	56
92.	Linganur	56
93.	Lohagaon	56
94.	Lokapur	144
95.	Loni	88
96.	Madikeshwar	88
97.	Mahalingapur	512
98.	Maigur	88
99.	Mamadapur	56
100.	Mangoli	56
101.	Mantur	88
102.	Masali B.K.	56
103.	Masuti	88
104.	Metagudda	56
105.	Moratagi	56
106.	Muddebihal	536
107.	Mudhlo	792
108.	Mugalkhod	88
109.	Mugalloli	56
110.	Muganur	56
111.	Mulwad	88
112.	Muttadi Golangi	56
113.	Nagathan	88
114.	Nalawatwad	144
115.	Nandawadgi	56

1	2	3
116.	Nandikeshwar	88
117.	Narsalgi	56
118.	Navalagi	56
119.	Neelgund	56
120.	Nidoni	56
121.	Ningapur	25
122.	Otihal	56
123.	Rabkavi	1000
124.	Radder Timmapur	56
125.	Rampur (BKT)	88
126.	Rampur (SDZ)	56
127.	Revatgaon	56
128.	Ronihal	56
129.	Salotagi	56
130.	Sameerwadi	192
131.	Sarwad	56
132.	Sasnur	56
133.	Savalgi	56
134.	Shirol	56
135.	Shirur	56
136.	Shivanagi	88
137.	Siddapur	56
138.	Sindagi	536
139.	Sonna	56
140.	Tadavalaga	88
141.	Takkod	56
142.	Talikota	536
143.	Tamba	152
144.	Tangadagi	56
145.	Telgi	152
146.	Terdal	384
147.	Tidalbagi	56
148.	Tikota	88
149.	Todalbagi	56
150.	Torvi	56
151.	Tulasigere	56
152.	Tungal	56
153.	Ukkall	56
154.	Utnal	56
155.	Uttur	88
156.	Vajramatti	88
157.	Waddwadgi	56
158.	Wandal	56

1	2	3
159.	Yakkundi	56
160.	Yalwar	56
Name of the District : Chickmagalur		
1.	Addagadde	96
2.	Ajjampura	184
3.	Aldur	288
4.	Amruthapura	56
5.	Anoor	176
6.	Antharagatta	56
7.	Arasinaguppe	152
8.	Attigundi	56
9.	Avathi	152
10.	Balehole	96
11.	Balehonnur	700
12.	Bankal	176
13.	Basarikatte	96
14.	Begar	56
15.	Bettageri	56
16.	Bidare	88
17.	Birur	384
18.	Bukkambudi	152
19.	Chickmagalur XBAR	5092
20.	Chowlahiriyur	56
21.	Daradahally	56
22.	Darekoppa	56
23.	Devanur	56
24.	Gadigeshwara	56
25.	Gonibeedu	160
26.	Gowdahally	96
27.	Gubgal	88
28.	Gullanpet	76
29.	Guthi	56
30.	Hanthur	96
31.	Hariharapur	152
32.	Herur	56
33.	Hirebyle	88
34.	Hirekodige	88
35.	Hirenallur	56
36.	Horanadu	56
37.	Hunseghatta	56
38.	Huvinahakly	56
39.	Javali	90
40.	Jayapura	272

1	2	3
41.	Joldal	88
42.	K.B. Hal	56
43.	Kabbinahalli	96
44.	Kachige	88
45.	Kadur	744
46.	Kalasa	192
47.	Kalaspura	112
48.	Kammaradi	96
49.	Kanathi	56
50.	Kelagur	88
51.	Kemmanagundi	56
52.	Kesuvnamane	56
53.	Kigga	56
54.	Koppa	480
55.	Korannahalli	56
56.	Kudlur	56
57.	Kuduregundi	88
58.	Kundur	56
59.	Kunkanadu	56
60.	Lakkavally	144
61.	Lakya	56
62.	Lingadahalli	56
63.	M C Hally	56
64.	Magundi	56
65.	Makonahally	88
66.	Mallandur	96
67.	Malleshwara	896
68.	Mathigatta	56
69.	Melpal	56
70.	Mudigere	864
71.	Muguluvally	56
72.	Muthinakoppa	56
73.	N.R. Pura	264
74.	Narve	96
75.	Nemmar	88
76.	Nidagatta	56
77.	Panchanahally	88
78.	Pandaravally	56
79.	Ramenahally	56
80.	Rangenahalli	56
81.	S.G. Pet	96
82.	Sakrepatna	184
83.	Sampigehatty	56
84.	Shantigrama	88

1	2	3
85.	Shanuvlli	144
86.	Shivani R.S.	88
87.	Siddaramatta	56
88.	Singatagere	56
89.	Sirivase	96
90.	Sringeri	568
91.	Sunkasale	56
92.	Tarikera	792
93.	Togarihankal	96
94.	Uttameshwar	88
95.	Yagati	88
96.	Yellambalse	56
Name of the District : Dakhsina Kannada		
1.	Achalady	88
2.	Adyandaka	192
3.	Adyarapadavu	88
4.	Ajckar	184
5.	Ajjavara	88
6.	Aiankar	88
7.	Aldangady	88
8.	Allipade	88
9.	Amavasebail	88
10.	Ampar	88
11.	Aranthodu	88
12.	Arasinemakky	88
13.	Ardi	88
14.	Averse	88
15.	Badagabellur	96
16.	Badaganur	136
17.	Bailoor	344
18.	Bajagoli	152
19.	Bajpe	1400
20.	Bangady	88
21.	Bantwal	1808
22.	Barkur	264
23.	Basrur	416
24.	Bellare	384
25.	Belthangady	648
26.	Belvai	368
27.	Belve	96
28.	Brahmavar	1500
29.	Bykampadi	2690
30.	Byndoor	480

1	2	3
31.	Cherkady	200
32.	Chittoor	96
33.	Dharmastala	192
34.	Didupe	88
35.	Doddathota	224
36.	Faringipet	416
37.	Ganguli	480
38.	Gerukatte	56
39.	Golathamajal	192
40.	Guddenagady	88
41.	Gurpur	184
42.	Guthigar	192
43.	H.H. Palthadka	88
44.	Haleangady	344
45.	Hallihole	88
46.	Hampankatta	1400
47.	Hangarkatte	160
48.	Hariharapallathadaka	88
49.	Hattiangady	56
50.	Hebri	342
51.	Hemmady	96
52.	Herga	416
53.	Hirgana	88
54.	Hiriyadka	238
55.	Hosangady	88
56.	Hosmar	184
57.	Hunsemakki	200
58.	Innagudda	88
59.	Irde	136
60.	Ishwaramangala	176
61.	Ivranadu	88
62.	Jakatte	352
63.	Jaloor	184
64.	Jannady	88
65.	K. Bajathur	88
66.	Kabbinale	56
67.	Kadaba	168
68.	Kakkinjē	96
69.	Kalmadka	88
70.	Kalyanpura	1000
71.	Kambadakone	192
72.	Kanjyoor	88
73.	Kankanady	5000
74.	Kannur	384

1	2	3
75.	Manyana	192
76.	Karkala	2160
77.	Karkunje	192
78.	Karnire	88
79.	Katpady	416
80.	Kaup	1000
81.	Kavoor	1512
82.	Kedila	88
83.	Kedinje	160
84.	Kemmannu	504
85.	Keravase	56
86.	Kinnigoli	648
87.	Kinnikamble	840
88.	Kodiambady	56
89.	Koila	88
90.	Kokkarna	88
91.	Koialagiri	192
92.	Kolchar	88
93.	Kollur	144
94.	Kolnad	96
95.	Konaje	512
96.	Konnepadav	96
97.	Koteshwara	576
98.	Krishnapura	688
99.	Kukkehalli	88
100.	Kukkuje	88
101.	Kula	176
102.	Kundapura	2500
103.	Kundoor	88
104.	Kuppepadav	192
105.	Kurnad	176
106.	Kurnadka	56
107.	Madepady	56
108.	Madavu	56
109.	Mala	88
110.	Mallur	160
111.	Manchi	192
112.	Mandarathi	196
113.	Mandekolu	88
114.	Mangalore	5700
115.	Mani	416
116.	Manipal	2808
117.	Manipura	96
118.	Maravanthe	192

1	2	3
119.	Markanaja	88
120.	Mijar	96
121.	Moodbelle	288
122.	Moodbidri	1400
123.	Mulky	1000
124.	Muniyal	88
125.	Nakre	88
126.	Nanthoor	5856
127.	Nelliyadi	160
128.	Nettana	56
129.	Niddodi	96
130.	Nidle	88
131.	Nette	184
132.	Noojivalthila	88
133.	Padangady	88
134.	Padubidri	1040
135.	Paladka	96
136.	Palli	88
137.	Panaje	160
138.	Pandeshwar	12356
139.	Panenangalore	440
140.	Paniyoor	88
141.	Panja	144
142.	Perdoor	184
143.	Perinje	96
144.	Perlampady	88
145.	Perne	88
146.	Peruvai	152
147.	Pilar	192
148.	Polali	192
149.	Puncha	96
150.	Punjalkatta	256
151.	Puthila	88
152.	Puttur	3300
153.	Renjala	56
154.	Sacharipet	184
155.	Sajjipanadu	96
156.	Saligrama	808
157.	Sampaje	160
158.	Santhekatte	88
159.	Santiyar	152
160.	Savanur	88
161.	Shamboor	56
162.	Shankarnarayana	120

1	2	3
163.	Shankarpura	416
164.	Shantigod	88
165.	Shlriyara	96
166.	Shiroor	576
167.	Shirthady	186
168.	Shirva	1000
169.	Shishila	56
170.	Shivapura	88
171.	Siddpura	96
172.	Siddekatte	96
173.	Sornad	88
174.	Subramanya	96
175.	Sullia	1400
176.	Surathkal	1928
177.	Taccode	96
178.	Tekkatte	200
179.	Tellar	56
180.	Thigalady	176
181.	Thodikana	56
182.	Udane	56
183.	Udupi	9008
184.	Ujire	344
185.	Uli	88
186.	Ullal	2560
187.	Uppinangady	5500
188.	Uppunda	160
189.	Uruvalu	88
190.	Urva	5000
191.	Vamanjur	256
192.	Venoor	96
193.	Vittal	928
194.	Vogga	96
195.	Volthadka	88
196.	Vomadapadav	96
197.	Yedamangala	88
198.	Yedthady	88

Name of the District : Davangere

1.	Alur	56
2.	Anagodu	88
3.	Anaji	56
4.	Asagodu	56
5.	Attigere	88
6.	Avaragolla	56

1	2	3
7.	B.G. Kere	96
8.	Ballasamudra	32
9.	Bannikodu	25
10.	Belaghatta	56
11.	Belagur	96
12.	Belludi	56
13.	Benakanahalli	56
14.	Bhanuvalli	88
15.	Bharamasagara	176
16.	Bhimasamudra	168
17.	Bidarekere	56
18.	Bilichodu	88
19.	Budihal	88
20.	C.S. Halli	32
21.	Challakere	1528
22.	Chikkabennu	56
23.	Chikkajajur	96
24.	Chitradurga	3000
25.	Chitrahalli	56
26.	D.S. Halli	56
27.	Davangere	4600
28.	Davangere	728
29.	Davangere	1112
30.	Davangere	6000
31.	Devikere	56
32.	Dharmapura	32
33.	Eswaragere	32
34.	Chataparthi	56
35.	Godabanahal	56
36.	Gopannahalli	56
37.	Gowrasamudra	56
38.	Gulladahalli	25
39.	H.D. Pura	56
40.	Hadadi	88
41.	Halebathi	88
42.	Harihara	1512
43.	Harihara	1064
44.	Hebbal	88
45.	Hirehalli	56
46.	Hireyemiganur	32
47.	Hiriyur	176
48.	Hiiyur	768
49.	Holakkere	184
50.	Holalkere	152

1	2	3
51.	Hosadurga	400
52.	Hosadurga Road	88
53.	Igoor	56
54.	J.G. Halli	56
55.	Jagalur	192
56.	Jankal	32
57.	Kamandalagundi	32
58.	K.N. Halli	88
59.	Kanagavalli	32
60.	Kandagal	56
61.	Kittadal	88
62.	Kodaganur	56
63.	Kogundi	56
64.	Kondajji	56
65.	Kurki	56
66.	Lamisagara	56
67.	Likikere	56
68.	Madadakere	32
69.	Madhure	56
70.	Malebennur	264
71.	Malladihalli	96
72.	-do-	56
73.	-do-	56
74.	Mathi	56
75.	Mathodu	56
76.	Mayakonda	56
77.	Metikurke	56
78.	Malkalmure	176
79.	Muddapura	56
80.	Mustur	56
81.	N.G. Halli	56
82.	Naraganahalli	25
83.	Nayakanahatti	96
84.	Neralagunte	56
85.	Oblapura	56
86.	Parasurampura	96
87.	Ramagiri	56
88.	Ramajogihalli	56
89.	Rampura	88
90.	Rangavanahalli	56
91.	Ranganahalli	32
92.	Renukapura	56
93.	Sanehalli	32
94.	Sarathi	56

1	2	3	1	2	3
95.	Sirigere	88	29.	Chikkamannur	96
96.	Sokke	56	30.	Chikkanargund	56
97.	Sriramapura	176	31.	Chikkaunshi	56
98.	T.B. Circle	88	32.	Chikkarur	56
99.	T.N. Kote	56	33.	Dambal	56
100.	Tallak	56	34.	Devagiri	56
101.	Talya	32	35.	Dharwad	7000
102.	Tuppadahalli	88	36.	Dharwar	1600
103.	Turuvannur	88	37.	Dhumad	88
104.	Turvanur	56	38.	Dhumavad	25
105.	V.V. Pura	32	39.	Dhundashi	56
106.	Yaladakere	25	40.	Doni	56
107.	Yalanadu	32	41.	Gadag	4096
108.	Yaraballi	32	42.	Gajendragad	472
Name of the District : Dharwar			43.	Galgihulikoppa	88
1.	Abbigere	88	44.	Garag	88
2.	Adaragunchi	96	45.	Gudgeri	88
3.	Adur	56	46.	Guttal	88
4.	Agadi	56	47.	Haldi	56
5.	Akkialur	96	48.	Halgeri	88
6.	Alagwadi	56	49.	Hallihal	56
7.	Alnavar	240	50.	Hammigi	56
8.	Amargol	976	51.	Hangal	424
9.	Amminbhavi	88	52.	Hanumanhatti	88
10.	Annigeri	192	53.	Harangiri	56
11.	Aralikatti	88	54.	Harti	56
12.	Aravatgi	88	55.	Haunsabhavi	88
13.	Arekurhatti	96	56.	Havanur	56
14.	Asundi	56	57.	Haveri	1528
15.	Asuti	56	58.	HB E 10B	1960
16.	Balaganur	56	59.	HB Gokul RD	1920
17.	Bankapur	160	60.	HB MAX I	3600
18.	Beladahadi	56	61.	HB-CB	4000
19.	Belavanki	56	62.	HB-JC Nagar	7896
20.	Belavigi	56	63.	Hebbal	56
21.	Belgalpet	56	64.	Hebbal (S)	56
22.	Bellalatty	88	65.	Hebballi	56
23.	Bellati	144	66.	Hebsur	88
24.	Belur	184	67.	Hirebidri	56
25.	Bommanahali	88	68.	Hiregunjal	56
26.	Byadagi	768	69.	Hirehal	56
27.	Byahatti	56	70.	Hirekerur	336
28.	Chikkahandigol	9	71.	Hirevaddatti	56
			72.	Holealur	192

1	2	3
73.	Hombal	56
74.	Honnatti	56
75.	Hosaritti	88
76.	Hubli	6320
77.	Hubli	4088
78.	Hulakotti	152
79.	Hulgur	56
80.	Hullur	56
81.	Ibrahimpur	56
82.	Ingalgi	56
83.	Itagi	56
84.	Jallapur	56
85.	Joisarharalahalli	56
86.	Kalaghatgi	328
87.	Kalkeri	56
88.	Kamadholi	88
89.	Karajagi	56
90.	Karur-Chalageri	56
91.	Kod	56
92.	Konnur	25
93.	Kundgol	240
94.	Kuppelur	56
95.	Kurlageri	56
96.	Kurthkoti	56
97.	Kurubagonda	56
98.	Lakkundi	56
99.	Lazmeshwar	336
100.	Maidur	56
101.	Makanur	56
102.	Masur	176
103.	Medleri	56
104.	Mishrikoti	184
105.	Morab	56
106.	Mudigere	56
107.	Mugad	56
108.	Mulgund	96
109.	Mundargi	192
110.	Nagergal (H)	56
111.	Nalavadi	88
112.	Naregal (G)	240
113.	Nargund	384
114.	Navalgund	304
115.	Nagalur	88
116.	Nidgundi	56

1	2	3
117.	Nigadi	56
118.	Pettalur	56
119.	Ranebennur	2500
120.	Rattihalli	152
121.	Ron	290
122.	Sangur	88
123.	Saunshi	88
124.	Savanur	384
125.	Selwadi	56
126.	Shiggaon	160
127.	Shigli	88
128.	Shirhatti	224
129.	Shirol	184
130.	Shirol	35
131.	Shiruguppi	88
132.	Sudi	96
133.	Tadas	88
134.	Tarihal	272
135.	Tevarmellihalli	56
136.	Tilawalli	88
137.	Tirlapur	56
138.	Tumminkatti	56
139.	Uppinbetageri	96
140.	Vidyanagar	2952

Name of the District : Gulvarga

1.	Adityanagar	88
2.	Adki	56
3.	Afzalpur	336
4.	Ainoli	56
5.	Alahalli	56
6.	Aland	368
7.	Aland	88
8.	Ambalga	56
9.	Angola	56
10.	Atnoor	88
11.	Aurad (B)	56
12.	B. Gudi	152
13.	Badadal	56
14.	Bagodi	56
15.	Balfchakra	56
16.	Baluragi	88
17.	Bandarawad	56
18.	Bhimahalli	56

1	2	3
19.	Bhusnoor	56
20.	ChmnaI	56
21.	Chandankera	56
22.	Chimmanchod	56
23.	Chincholi	184
24.	Chitapur	152
25.	Chitapur	176
26.	Chowdapur	88
27.	Dandoti	56
28.	Devapur	56
29.	Dornalli	56
30.	Farhabad	56
31.	Gadikeshwar	56
32.	Ganwar	56
33.	Ghanagapur RS	56
34.	Ghanagapur. T	152
35.	Gobbur B	56
36.	Gogi	88
37.	Gulbarga	13000
38.	Gunjanoor	56
39.	Gurumitkal	184
40.	Harsoor	56
41.	Harwal	56
42.	Hattigudur	56
43.	Hattikuni	56
44.	Havanur	56
45.	Hayyal	88
46.	Hebbal	56
47.	Hipparga (B)	88
48.	Hiranandur	56
49.	Hiroli	56
50.	Honagunta	56
51.	Hunsagi	184
52.	Ijeri	88
53.	Jaysultanpur	56
54.	Jewargi	352
55.	Jewargi (B)	56
56.	Kadaganchi	56
57.	Kakkera	25
58.	Kalagi	88
59.	Kallahangarga	56
60.	Kallur-D	56
61.	Kamlapur	88
62.	Karajgi	56

1	2	3
63.	Kembhavi	56
64.	Khajuri	56
65.	Khanadal	56
66.	Khanapur	56
67.	Kirangi	56
68.	Kodekal	56
69.	Kodla	88
70.	Kodli	56
71.	Kollur	56
72.	Konchur	56
73.	Konkal	88
74.	Krishnapur	56
75.	Kukunda	56
76.	Kurkunta	88
77.	M. Hipparga	56
78.	Maddarki	56
79.	Madiyal	56
80.	Mahagaon	88
81.	Malgatti	88
82.	Malkhed	88
83.	Mandewal	88
84.	Mannur	56
85.	Margutti	56
86.	Martur	56
87.	Mashal	88
88.	Miriyan	56
89.	Mudbool	56
90.	Mudhnoor	56
91.	Mudhol	56
92.	Mugalanagaon	56
93.	Nagnoor	56
94.	Nalwar	88
95.	Narayanpur	56
96.	Naribole	56
97.	Narona	56
98.	Nelogi	56
99.	Nidgunda	56
100.	Nimbal	56
101.	Nimvarga	56
102.	Petsiroor	56
103.	R. Kollur	56
104.	Ramsamudra	56
105.	Ranjola	56
106.	Ratkal	56

1	2	3
107.	Revoor B	56
108.	Rudrawadi	88
109.	S. Sardagi	56
110.	Sagar	56
111.	Saidapur	184
112.	Sarsamba	88
113.	Savalgi	56
114.	Sedam	424
115.	Sedam	88
116.	Shahabad	704
117.	Shahabad	184
118.	Shahapur	384
119.	Shahpur	184
120.	Shirwal	88
121.	Shorapur	384
122.	Shorapur	88
123.	Sonth	56
124.	Sulepeth	56
125.	Tadakal	56
126.	Tajsultanapur	56
127.	Tengli	56
128.	Udchan	56
129.	V.K. Salgar	56
130.	Wadagera	56
131.	Wadi	424
132.	Wadi	88
133.	Wanadurga	88
134.	Yadagiri	1000
135.	Yadrami	88
136.	Yalgi	56
137.	Yelhiri	88
138.	Yergol	56

Name of the District : Hassan

1.	Adagur	56
2.	Alur	240
3.	Arehalli	184
4.	Arkalgud	184
5.	Arsikere	1512
6.	Attihalli	56
7.	Bageshpura	56
8.	Bagur	56
9.	Ballupet	184
10.	Banavara	264

1	2	3
11.	Basavapatna	88
12.	Belgumba	56
13.	Belur	680
14.	Bikkodu	88
15.	Burapura	56
16.	Chagachagere	176
17.	Changadahalli	56
18.	Channarayapatna	1112
19.	Cheekannahalli	144
20.	Chikammanahalli	56
21.	Devaladakere	88
22.	Digle	144
23.	Doddemagge	88
24.	Doddametikurke	264
25.	Dodda	88
26.	Dummenahalli	56
27.	Dondsi	88
28.	Gendahalli	88
29.	Godi	88
30.	Gorur	160
31.	Hagare	88
32.	Halebeedu	88
33.	Halekote	56
34.	Hallimysore	88
35.	Hanbal	176
36.	Hannahalli	56
37.	Hassan	7000
38.	Hebbalu	56
39.	Heggade	56
40.	Heragu	56
41.	Hethur	88
42.	Hirisave	272
43.	Hiriyur	56
44.	Holenarasipura	680
45.	Holur	56
46.	Hullekere	56
47.	Javagal	264
48.	Jyetingar	56
49.	K. Abbur	56
50.	K.H. Kote	88
51.	Kadamane	56
52.	Kagundi	56
53.	Kalkere	56
54.	Kamasamudra	25

1	2	3
55.	Kanakatte	56
56.	Keralapura	88
57.	Kesagodu	88
58.	Kolgunda	56
59.	Konanur	176
60.	Kowshika	56
61.	M.C.F.	152
62.	Maddarahalli	56
63.	Mallipatna	56
64.	Mattanaville	56
65.	Mosalehosahalli	88
66.	Nerlige	96
67.	Norway	56
68.	Nuggehalli	184
69.	Palya	96
70.	Ramnathpur	88
71.	Rayarakoppa	144
72.	Sakleshpur	1200
73.	Salagame	184
74.	Shantigrama	160
75.	Shukravarasanthe	56
76.	Sravanarelagoti	352
77.	Tholalu	56
78.	Udayapura	25
79.	Udevara	56
80.	Undiganalu	25
81.	Yeslur	88

1	2	3
16.	Garwale	25
17.	Gonikoppal	688
18.	Gowdahalli	88
19.	Hakattur	152
20.	Hattihole	56
21.	Hebbale	56
22.	Hoskote 7th	88
23.	Hudikeri	96
24.	Kadanga	160
25.	Kajoor	88
26.	Kakkave	96
27.	Kalathmadu	80
28.	Kambibane	88
29.	Kanoor	184
30.	Karike	88
31.	Kirgoor	88
32.	Kodlipet	152
33.	Koinadu	88
34.	Kokatpurambu	88
35.	Konankatte	88
36.	Kotthodu Bygodu	88
37.	Kunda	80
38.	Kushalnagar	1000
39.	Kutta	240
40.	Madapura	152
41.	Madenad	88
42.	Madikeri SBM	1400
43.	Madikeri MBM	2000
44.	Makkandur	56
45.	Maldare	56
46.	Margodu	96
47.	Mayamudi	88
48.	Murnad	272
49.	Nalkeri	88
50.	Napoklu	272
51.	Nelji	96
52.	Parame	88
53.	Peraje	96
54.	Pollibetta	184
55.	Ponnempet	272
56.	Rudraguppe	88
57.	Shanivarasanthe	256
58.	Shanthally	88
59.	Shettegeri B	88

Name of the District : Kodagu

1.	Aulur-Siddapur	88
2.	Ammathi	312
3.	Arecad	80
4.	Balele	384
5.	Bettageri	152
6.	Bhagamandal	88
7.	Biligiri	88
8.	Birunani	80
9.	Boikeri	96
10.	Byrambada	88
11.	Chennayankote	56
12.	Cherambane	144
13.	Chettalli	152
14.	Chettimani	88
15.	Cheyandane	88

1	2	3
60.	Siddapur	520
61.	Somwarpet	1000
62.	Srimangala	272
63.	Sunti-Koppa	344
64.	Thithimathi	96
65.	Tholurshethalli	88
66.	Valnoor	88
67.	Virajpet	1000
68.	Yaadabanadu	56

Name of the District : Kolar

1.	Abloodu	56
2.	Alavatta	56
3.	Alipura	88
4.	Anoor	88
5.	Araleri	56
6.	Arikunte	88
7.	Bagepalli	480
8.	Bangarpet	1512
9.	Bashetty Halli	56
10.	Batlahalli	56
11.	Beechaganahalli	56
12.	Beml	1000
13.	Bethamangala	182
14.	Billur	56
15.	Budikote	56
16.	Byrakur	88
17.	Chakvel	56
18.	Cheemangala	88
19.	Chelur	176
20.	Chickballapur	2000
21.	Chikkathirupathi	88
22.	Chilakalnerpu	56
23.	Chintamani	1936
24.	D.N. Palya	56
25.	Dalasnur	88
26.	Devarayasamudra	56
27.	Dibbur	56
28.	Dibburahalli	88
29.	Gouribidnur	944
30.	Gownipalli	144
31.	Gudibanda	88
32.	Gulur	56
33.	Hampasandra	56

1	2	3
34.	Holur	56
35.	Hosur	144
36.	Hudukula	88
37.	Idagur	56
38.	Irgampalli	56
39.	Jangamkote	96
40.	Jathavara	88
41.	K.G.F.	2500
42.	Kaiwara	144
43.	Kamasamudram	144
44.	Kanchardahally	56
45.	Kolar	3000
46.	Kolavanahalli	88
47.	Kotagal	56
48.	Kundalakurki	56
49.	Kyalanur	160
50.	Kyasamballi	56
51.	Lakshmipura	56
52.	Laxmidevi Kote	96
53.	Malanayakanahally	56
54.	Malur	1172
55.	Manchenahally	96
56.	Mandikal (CBL)	56
57.	Mandikal (MUL)	56
58.	Masthi	96
59.	Melur	400
60.	Melya	56
61.	Mittemari	56
62.	Muduvadi	56
63.	Mulbagal	748
64.	Murugamalai	88
65.	Nagaragere	56
66.	Nandi Hills	56
67.	Nandi Village	112
68.	Nangli	176
69.	Narasapura	182
70.	Oori-Kunte Mittur	56
71.	Palyakere	88
72.	Pathapalya	56
73.	Patna	56
74.	Peresandra	56
75.	Ragimanadinne	56
76.	Rajuper Road	88
77.	Rayalpao	56

1	2	3	1	2	3
78.	Ronur	88	21.	Hadly	88
79.	S. Gollahalli	88	22.	Halagur	272
80.	Sidlaghatta	1000	23.	Haluvadi	88
81.	Somayajalapalli	88	24.	Hanakere	88
82.	Somenahalli	56	25.	K.M. Doddi	232
83.	Srinivasapur	516	26.	Kadaballi	272
84.	Surgthur	96	27.	Kadukothahalli	56
85.	Sundarapalya	56	28.	Keelara	88
86.	Tayalur	144	29.	Keragodu	144
87.	Tekal	184	30.	Kestur	56
88.	Thondebhavi	56	31.	Kikkeri	56
89.	Uthanoor	56	32.	Kirugavalu	88
90.	Vatadahosahalli	56	33.	Kodiyala	88
91.	Velagalaburre	144	34.	Koppa	88
92.	Vemgal	96	35.	Kothathi	88
93.	Vidurashwatha	56	36.	Krishnarajapet	472
94.	Vodagur	160	37.	Kyathanahalli	88
95.	Vokkaleri	96	38.	Maddur	800
96.	Y. Humsenahalli	56	39.	Malavalli	768
97.	Yaguvakote	144	40.	Mandagere	56
98.	Yeldur	144	41.	Mandya	5664
99.	Yellampalli	96	42.	Melkote	88
Name of the District : Mandya			43.	Mudagandur	56
1.	Aghalaya	96	44.	Nagamangala	344
2.	Akkihebbal	56	45.	Naraganahalli	56
3.	Arakere	56	46.	Pandavapura	768
4.	Bannagadi	56	47.	Pandithahalli	56
5.	Basaralu	56	48.	Poorigali	88
6.	Bekkalale	56	49.	Santhebachahalli	56
7.	Belagola	184	50.	Shivahalli	144
8.	Belekavadi	56	51.	Shivanasamudra	56
9.	Bellur	272	52.	Sindhagatta	56
10.	Besagarahalli	96	53.	Somanahalli	56
11.	Bindiganavile	56	54.	Srirangapatna	768
12.	Bogadi	56	55.	Sunkathannur	56
13.	Brahmadevarhally	56	56.	V.C. Farm	56
14.	Nukkinakere	56	57.	Vittalapura	56
15.	Chandupura	56	58.	Yeliyur	88
16.	Chikkamulgodu	56	Name of the District : Mysore		
17.	Chinakurali	56	1.	Ajjipura	56
18.	Chinya	56	2.	Alanahally	56
19.	Devalapura	56	3.	Alur	96
20.	H. Malligere	56	4.	Annur	56

1	2	3	1	2	3
5.	Antharasanthe	56	49.	Kabbahalli	88
6.	Arkalvadi	56	50.	Kabini Colony	56
7.	Ayarahalli	88	51.	Kadakkola	184
8.	B.R. Hills	56	52.	Kaggalipura	88
9.	Bachegowdanahalli	56	53.	Karapura	56
10.	Badanaguppe	56	54.	Kasuvinahalli	56
11.	Bandahalli	25	55.	Kavalande	56
12.	Bannur	376	56.	Kebbekoppalu	56
13.	Bargi	56	57.	Kittur	56
14.	Begur	56	58.	Kollegal	1584
15.	Belavadi	1256	59.	Komalapura	56
16.	Bettadapura	176	60.	Kothalvadi	56
17.	Bheriya	88	61.	Kothanur	56
18.	Bhogadi	280	62.	Kuderu	56
19.	Billikere	88	63.	Kunthur	56
20.	Bisalvadi	56	64.	Kurahatti	56
21.	Chamarajnagar	1200	65.	Lokkanahalli	56
22.	Chandravadi	56	66.	M.M. Hills	88
23.	Chamundi Hills	184	67.	Madapura	56
24.	Chapparadahalli	56	68.	Mangala-Bandipura	56
25.	Chilkunda	144	69.	Mattakri B	56
26.	Chunchanakatte	88	70.	Meghalapura	56
27.	Cowdhalli	56	71.	Mirle	88
28.	Doddamalagodu	56	72.	Mugur	88
29.	Gadige	56	73.	Mullur-Gavadagere	56
30.	Garganahalli	56	74.	My-Gokulam	8000
31.	Gundlupet	768	75.	My-Kuvempunagar	3144
32.	Gungral Chatra	56	76.	My-RTTC	5000
33.	Hampapura	56	77.	My-Udayagiri	1400
34.	Hanagodu	56	78.	My-Main RLU	5000
35.	Hangala	56	79.	Kysore	15000
36.	Hannur	200	80.	Naganahalli	96
37.	Harohally	56	81.	Nandinathapura	88
38.	Hebbalaguppe	56	82.	Nanjadevanapura	88
39.	Hebbasur	56	83.	Nanjangud	1582
40.	Hediyala	88	84.	Odeyarapalya	88
41.	Heggadadevanakote	328	85.	Palya	56
42.	Hirikatti	56	86.	Panchavalli	56
43.	Hullahally	152	87.	Periapatna	496
44.	Hundipura	56	88.	R.P. Colony	88
45.	Hunsur	1144	89.	R.P. Ghat	56
46.	Hura	56	90.	Ravandur	56
47.	Jayapura	88	91.	Rayankere	88
48.	K.R. Nagar	1000	92.	Saligrama	296

1	2	3
93.	Sargur	192
94.	Sathegala	88
95.	Singanallur	88
96.	Surapura	56
97.	Suttur	96
98.	T. Narasipura	664
99.	Talakad	96
100.	Terakanambi	88
101.	Thagadur	56
102.	Thattekere	56
103.	Udigala	56
104.	Vattalu	56
105.	Venkatainachatra	182
106.	Yechagondla	56
107.	Yelandur	200
108.	Yeriyur	56

Name of the District : Raichur

1.	7th Mile Camp	56
2.	Agalkera	88
3.	Alawandi	88
4.	Anegundi	90
5.	Anwari	56
6.	Apparao Camp	56
7.	Araginamara	56
8.	Arakera	56
9.	Badarli	56
10.	Bagalwad	56
11.	Balaganur	56
12.	Ballatgi	88
13.	Banni Koppa	56
14.	Benakal	56
15.	Betagera	56
16.	Bevoor	56
17.	Blitchal	56
18.	Budugumpa	56
19.	Byagawat	56
20.	Chellur	88
21.	Dadesagur	56
22.	Deodurga	184
23.	Dothihal	56
24.	Gabbur	88
25.	Gaddi	56
26.	Gangavathi	2200

1	2	3
27.	Genjalagatta	56
28.	Gunjhalli	56
29.	Gurugunta	88
30.	Halagera	56
31.	Halahalli	56
32.	Hanchinalcamp	152
33.	Hanumanhal	56
34.	Hanumasagar	152
35.	Hedigibai	56
36.	Hirevaganal	56
37.	Hirekotnakal	56
38.	Hiresindagi	56
39.	Hitnal	88
40.	Honwal	56
41.	Hutti	88
42.	Irkalgud	56
43.	Itagi	56
44.	Jagarkal	56
45.	Jalhaili	56
46.	Jaiihal	184
47.	Javalgera	56
48.	Kaliur	56
49.	Kalmela	56
50.	Kanakagiri	96
51.	Karatagi	536
52.	Katarki	56
53.	Katarki (KPL)	56
54.	Kavaloor	56
55.	Kinhal	96
56.	Koppal	1472
57.	Kowthal	56
58.	Kuknoor	152
59.	Kurdi	56
60.	Kurkunda	88
61.	Kustagi	336
62.	Lingasugur	312
63.	Mallat	88
64.	Mangalore	56
65.	Manvi	568
66.	Masarkal	56
67.	Maski	192
68.	Matmari	88
69.	Muddeballi	56
70.	Mudhol	56

1	2	3
71.	Mudugal	88
72.	Mundargi	56
73.	Munirabad	344
74.	Mylapur	56
75.	Mynalli	56
76.	Nagalapur	56
77.	Neermanvi	88
78.	Pagadadinni	56
79.	Potnal	56
80.	Raichur	5500
81.	Ramdurg	56
82.	Santhekallur	56
83.	Shaktinagar	680
84.	Sindhur	1456
85.	Sirwar	176
86.	Somalapur	56
87.	Sripuram Junction	152
88.	Sriramnagar	192
89.	Tadkal	56
90.	Tavaregere	152
91.	Thungabhadra	56
92.	Turvihal	88
93.	Yarakera	56
94.	Yelburga	152
95.	Yeramaras	56

Name of the District : Shimoga

1.	Abbalagere	88
2.	Agaradahalli	192
3.	Agumbe	56
4.	Alagerimandri	56
5.	Ambligola	56
6.	Anandapuram	184
7.	Anavatti	56
8.	Anaveri	96
9.	Aralagodu	96
10.	Aralasurli	88
11.	Arebilchi	96
12.	Arelehalli	56
13.	Arga	88
14.	Avinahalli	56
15.	Ayanur	96
16.	Balia Marunahalli	88
17.	Basar	88

1	2	3
18.	Basavani	96
19.	Basavapatna	184
20.	Beerankere	56
21.	Bejjavalli	184
22.	Belagutti	56
23.	Benakanahalli	56
24.	Bhadravathi	2592
25.	Bharangi	56
26.	Bilki	56
27.	Chakranagara	56
28.	Chandragutti	56
29.	Channagiri	384
30.	Chillur	88
31.	Gajanur	56
32.	Gauthamapura	56
33.	Goppenahalli	96
34.	Gudavi	56
35.	Guddekere	88
36.	Hallikere	88
37.	Harannahalli	96
38.	Harishe	88
39.	Heggodu	272
40.	Hirekeglur	56
41.	Hirekoglur	56
42.	Hithla	56
43.	Hodigere	88
44.	Hodla	56
45.	Holapur	56
46.	Holehonnur	184
47.	Honnali	391
48.	Hosabele	96
49.	Hosanagar	360
50.	Hosur	56
51.	Humcha	88
52.	Induvalli	56
53.	Jade	88
54.	Jogealls	184
55.	Kannangi	56
56.	Kargal	176
57.	Kattalgere	88
58.	Kattehaklu	88
59.	Kerebilchi	88
60.	Kodur	56
61.	Konandur	88

1	2	3
62.	Kotegangur	88
63.	Kumsi	88
64.	Kundur	88
65.	Kuppagadde	56
66.	M.L. Halli	56
67.	Machenahalli	176
68.	Mandagadde	184
69.	Mastikatte	56
70.	Masur	96
71.	Mathimani	56
72.	Mattur	200
73.	Mavalli	56
74.	Mavinakatte	56
75.	Medagondanahalli	88
76.	Megarvalli	88
77.	Nagara	56
78.	Nalkudre	88
79.	Nallur	280
80.	Nittur	88
81.	Nyamathi	176
82.	Pillangere	176
83.	Ripponpet	184
84.	Sagar	1936
85.	Salur	56
86.	Sampekatte	56
87.	Santhebennur	88
88.	Sasvehalli	56
89.	Shankarghatta	184
90.	Shikaripura	808
91.	Shimoga	10196
92.	Shiralkoppa	184
93.	Shiravanthe	88
94.	Sirigere	56
95.	Sonale	56
96.	Sorab	384
97.	Sowlanga	56
98.	Sunadakoppa	56
99.	Talaguppa	184
100.	Tavarekere	56
101.	Thagarathi	184
102.	Thirthalli	1000
103.	Togarsi	56
104.	Toravanda	56
105.	Tudur	184

1	2	3
106.	Tumri	88
107.	Ulavi	88
108.	Ullur	88
109.	Umblebylu	56
110.	Untoorkatte	88
111.	Yedur Sulugodu	56
Name of the District : Tumkur		
1.	Amma Sandra	280
2.	Amruthur	184
3.	Apmce Satawadi Tumr	1728
4.	Aralaguppe	56
5.	Badavanahalli	88
6.	Banasandra	56
7.	Baragur	56
8.	Beladhara	56
9.	Belaguli	56
10.	Bellavi	56
11.	Bidare	56
12.	Biligere	192
13.	Brammasandra	88
14.	Bukkapatna	88
15.	Byalya	56
16.	C.K. Pura	56
17.	C.N. Halli	368
18.	C.S. Pura	88
19.	Chelur	184
20.	Dabbeghatta	56
21.	Dasarighatta	96
22.	Doddaguni	56
23.	Ganadalu	56
24.	Godekere	56
25.	Gubbi	512
26.	Gulur	88
27.	Gungurmale	88
28.	Gurugadhahalli	88
29.	Hagalawadi	56
30.	Halkurke	56
31.	Handanakere	88
32.	Hebbur	184
33.	Hirehalli	354
34.	Holavanahalli	88
35.	Honnnavalli	56
36.	Honnudke	88

1	2	3
37.	Hosakere (MGI)	56
38.	Hosakere (GBI)	88
39.	Huliyar	384
40.	Huliyurdurga	88
41.	Hullekere	56
42.	I.D. Halli	88
43.	Irkasandra Colony	56
44.	Kadaba	56
45.	Kallambella	56
46.	Kallur	56
47.	Kanathur	88
48.	Kandkere	56
49.	Karadi	56
50.	Kempenahalli	56
51.	Kodiginahalli	56
52.	Kolala	88
53.	Konnehalli	56
54.	Kora	56
55.	Koratagere	376
56.	Kunigal	568
57.	M.N. Kote	56
58.	Machesahalli	56
59.	Madhugiri	752
60.	Mallasandra	272
61.	Mallekavu	56
62.	Mavinakere	56
63.	Mayasandra	88
64.	Medigeshi	56
65.	Nagasandra	56
66.	Nagavalli	56
67.	Nittur	88
68.	Nonavinakere	184
69.	Pattanayakanahalli	88
70.	Pavagada	696
71.	Ponnasamudra	56
72.	Puravara	56
73.	R.S. Quarry Ammasandra	88
74.	Rantivalalu	56
75.	Sampige	88
76.	Settikere	56
77.	Shallapura	56
78.	Sira	936
79.	Sugur	176
80.	Tavarekere	56

1	2	3
81.	Thandagga	56
82.	Thimmanahalli	88
83.	Tiptur	2000
84.	Tovinakere	56
85.	Tumkur	6500
86.	Turuvekere	384
87.	Urdigere	96
88.	Venkatapura	56
89.	Y.N. Hoskote	144
90.	Yediyur	56

Name of the District : Uttra Kannada

1.	Agadi	88
2.	Agsur	56
3.	Amadalli	88
4.	Ambikanagar	184
5.	Ankola	920
6.	Areangaddi	88
7.	Baad	184
8.	Bakkal	88
9.	Balkur	88
10.	Banavasi	176
11.	Belekeri	160
12.	Belke	56
13.	Belse	88
14.	Bhairumbe	152
15.	Bhatkal	2700
16.	Bidarkan	56
17.	Bisgod	56
18.	Castle Rock	56
19.	Chendia	88
20.	Dandeli	1500
21.	Dasankoppa	56
22.	Doddamane	56
23.	Eddambi	88
24.	Ganeshgudi	88
25.	Gersoppa	96
26.	Gokarna	472
27.	Goli	56
28.	Gullapur	56
29.	Gunavante	88
30.	Gundabala	88
31.	Gunjgod	56
32.	Haldipur	152

1	2	3
33.	Halga	152
34.	Haliyal	480
35.	Harsikatta	88
36.	Hegdekatta	56
37.	Heggarni	56
38.	Herur	96
39.	Honnavar	1300
40.	Idagundi	56
41.	Itagi	88
42.	Janmane	88
43.	Joida	88
44.	Jugalpeth	56
45.	Kadra	448
46.	Kadwad	144
47.	Kaiga	152
48.	Kaikini	88
49.	Kakkali	56
50.	Kalache	56
51.	Kangod	88
52.	Kansur	88
53.	Karwar	2950
54.	Katgal	144
55.	Kathgirkoppa	32
56.	Katur	56
57.	Kavalakki	152
58.	Kirwatti	56
59.	Kodkani	152
60.	Kumta	1600
61.	Kuntavani	88
62.	Madanagiri	152
63.	Magodh	88
64.	Magod (Y)	56
65.	Majali	176
66.	Malgi	88
67.	Mallapur	152
68.	Manchikere	96
69.	Manki	280
70.	Mavinkurve	96
71.	Moodkani	88
72.	Mundgod	576
73.	Murkwad	56
74.	Muroor	96
75.	Murudeshwar	608
76.	Neeranahalli	56

1	2	3
77.	Ramnagar	88
78.	Sadashiwgad	344
79.	Salkani	56
80.	Sambrani	56
81.	Santegulli	56
82.	Siddapur	576
83.	Siddar	88
84.	Sirsi	3000
85.	Sugavi	88
86.	Swarnagadde	56
87.	Umachagi	88
88.	Yellapur	576

[Translation]

Publication of Advertisements

2993. SHRI DATTA MEGHE : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) the number of advertisements given for publication to various newspapers published from Maharashtra by the Directorate of Audio and Visual Publicity during each of the last three years and the amount provided to them therefor;

(b) whether any discrimination is being made in giving advertisements in the regional language of Maharashtra in comparison to other languages;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the action taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to remove this discrimination?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SH. C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) The information is given below:

Year	Total No. of insertion given	Total amount committed
1993-94	20055	Rs. 31565247.00
1994-95	16718	Rs. 28386112.00
1995-96	16052	Rs. 44245084.00

(b) No, Sir.

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

[English]

Introduction of Push Pull Train

2994. SHRI S. AJAY KUMAR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have finalised the date

of introduction of new "Push Pull Train" between Shoranur and Nilambur as announced in the Railway Budget;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (c). It has been decided to introduce Diesel Multiple Unit/Push Pull services in Shoranur-Nilambur section as and when such rakes become available from the production units/workshops.

[Translation]

Increase of capacity of Telephone Exchanges

2995. SHRI GANGA RAM KOLI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to increase the capacity of telephone exchanges in the country, if so, the time by which it is likely to be implemented;

(b) whether there are technical faults in all the telephone exchanges of Eastern Rajasthan;

(c) if so, the reasons thereof;

(d) whether the Government propose to computerise all the telephone exchanges in the country; and

(e) if so, the time by which this work is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) Yes, Sir. The telephone exchanges in the country are expanded according to the Annual Plans. These plans are prepared every year according to budget allocations.

(b) No, Sir. Occasional faults when occur are getting cleared immediately.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) All electromechanical exchanges are proposed to be converted into electronic exchanges during the 9th Five Year Plan.

Corruption and negligency by Employees

2996. SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI :
SHRI KASHIRAM RANA :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that it takes many days to set a telephone in order because of corruption and negligency of employees;

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

(c) whether responsibility of any officer and employee has been fixed in regard to set a telephone in order and telephone subscribers have to set their telephones in order by spending money themselves?

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

(b) and (c). Whenever complaints of corruption and negligency are received from subscribers prompt action is taken to fix responsibility and to punish delinquent officials. There are designated officers who are responsible for setting telephones in order.

[English]

EST Act

2997. SHRI T. GOVINDAN : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received any proposal from the Government of Kerala for issuing a statutory notification exempting all the Khadi production units functioning under the Khadi and Village Industries Board and other institutions from the operation of ESI Act and issue order for the total withdrawal of the Revenue Recovery Proceedings and dropping of prosecution steps restored to by the State ESI Corporation in Kerala; and

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

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. In July, 1996 a memorandum was received from the Government of Kerala for issuing statutory Notification for grant of exemption from the ESI Act to all Khadi Production Units functioning under the KVI Board. The matter regarding coverage of the KVIC units under the ESI Act has already been examined. The view taken is that workers engaged in the Khadi and Village Industries Commission units are usually among the poorest sections of society and as such need protection of the ESI Act. It is therefore not considered desirable to exempt the Khadi and Village Industries Units from the operation of the ESI Act.

Re-naming of the Airports

2988. SHRI KASHIRAM RANA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether some requests from various State Governments for re-naming some of the airports in their respective States are pending with the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that any assurance has been given recently for re-naming the Ahmedabad airport after the name of Sardar Patel; and

(d) if so, when it is likely to be declared and if not the reasons for delay in declaring the same?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) and (b). No such requests are pending with the Government at present.

(c) and (d). Ahmedabad Airport has already been renamed as Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel International Airport on 7.12.96.

Extra Seats for Winter Season

2999. SHRI UDAYSINGRAO GAIKWAD : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Indian Airlines propose of offer 14

percent extra seats to passengers for the forthcoming winter season;

(b) if so, the details thereof with areas of such seats;

(c) whether the Government propose to ask the Indian Airlines to offer similar extra seats to passengers in each summer season also; and

(d) 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) Yes, Sir.

(b) Details of route-wise increase is enclosed in the Statement.

(c) and (d). Details of services to be operated in summer schedule of Indian Airlines will be determined with reference to the traffic demand, availability of aircraft and operating crew.

STATEMENT

Highlights of Winter Schedule 1996-97 (Effective 28th October, 1996)

New Links	Frequency/Weekly
1	2
<i>Domestic</i>	
Mumbai/Patna/Ranchi/Calcutta & RT	3 A320
Mumbai/Ahmedabad/Jaipur/calcutta and return	3 A320
Madras/Tirputi/Hyderabad & RT	2 B737
<i>International</i>	
Trichy/Sharjah	2 A320 (effective 3rd December 1996)
<i>Increase In Capacity (Domestic)</i>	
Mumbai/Delhi	28 A300 + 7 A320 instead of 28 A300
Mumbai/Bangalore	11 A300 + 10 A320 instead of 9 A300 + 12 A320
Mumbai/Goa	7 A300 + 3 A320 instead of 7 A300
Mumbai/Madras	10 A300 + 7 A320 instead of 7 A300 + 10 A320
Mumbai/Coimbatore	3 A320 Terminator - 3 A320 (Bom : CJB: BOM) instead of 4 A320 (BOM: CJB : IXM : BOM),
Mumbai/Varanasi/Lucknow/Mumbai	4 A320 instead of 3 A320
Calcutta/Bangalore	10 A320 instead of 7 A320
Calcutta/Madras	12 A320 + 2 B737 Instead of 7 A320
Calcutta/Jorhat/Dimapur/Calcutta	4 B737 instead of 2 B737
Calcutta/Imphal/Guwahati/Calcutta	2 A320
Delhi/Bangalore	7 A300 + 7 A320 instead of 14 A320
Delhi/Hyderabad	7 A300 + 7 A320 instead of 14 A320
Delhi/Varanasi	7 A320 instead of 3 A320 terminator + 4 A320 (DEL:VNS:BBI:DEL)

1

2

Delhi/Madras	7 320 + 14 A320 instead of 7 A300 + 7 A320
Delhi/Bhubaneswar	7 A320 instead of 4 A320 Via VNS + 3 A320 terminator
Guwahati/Agartala	3 A320 instead of 2 A320
Hyderabad/Vizag	3 B737 instead of 2 B737
Madras/Bangalore/Pune & return	5 A320 instead of 4 A320
Madras/Bangalore/Ahmedabad & Rtn	4 A320 instead of 3 A320
Madras/Bangalore/Goa & Rtn.	5 A320 instead of 3 A320
Madras/Hyderabad	11 A320 + 6 B737 instead of 10 A320 + 4 B737
Madras/Trivandarum	7A320 Terminator
	ISO 3 A320 (MAA : TRV Terminator + 4 A320 MAA : BLR:TRV & RT)
Bangalore/Trivandrum	4 A320 Terminator
<i>Increase in Capacity (International)</i>	
Mumbai/Karachi	3 A320 instead of 2 A320
Calcutta/Kathmandu	5 A320 instead of B737 + 1 A320
Calcutta/Chittagong	2 B737 instead of 1 B737
Hyderabad/ Muscat	2 A320 Terminator
	ISO 2 A 300 HYD:MCT: SHJ RT
Hyderabad/ Sharjah	2 A300 Terminator
Madras/Kuala Lumpur	2 A320 Terminator
	ISO 2 A300 MAA:SIN: KUL: MAA & MAA:KUL SIN:MAA
Madras/Singapore	2 A300 Terminator
Trivandrum/Colombo	4 A320 instead of 3 A320
Varanasi/Kathmandu	7 A320 instead of B737

ESI Act

3000. SHRI T. GOVINDAN : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have received any proposal from the Government of Kerala for exemption from operation of ESI scheme to avoid financial burden to the production units/primary societies in the State; and

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

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) and (b). A memorandum dated 27th July, 1996 has been received from the Government of Kerala for grant of exemption from the ESI Act to Handloom Sector Production Units/primary societies.

The proposal has been examined by the ESI Corporation and the same has not been found acceptable because it will amount to denial of comprehensive Social Security benefits available under the ESI Scheme to workers in such Units.

Receive VIPs by bringing Car

3001. SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any standing instruction to receive VIPs by bringing car into the tarmac of airports;

(b) if so, the categories of such VIPs other than the President, Vice-President and the Prime Minister;

(c) whether Members of Parliament are entitle to such special treatment; 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). For reasons of protocol/ security, certain dignitaries including President, Vice-President, Prime Minister, Heads of Foreign Countries/ Governments, Chief Justice of India, Special Protection Group Protectees etc. are allowed to take their vehicles upto the airport during their arrival/departure by air.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Allotment of Stalls/Shops at the Platforms

3002. COL. RAO RAM SINGH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government allot stalls/shops etc. at the platforms of railway stations;

(b) if so, the guidelines laid down in this regard;

(c) whether any preference is given to war widows, ex-servicemen, handicapped, SC/ST and people of weaker sections;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor;

(f) the number of Railway stalls/shops allotted to war-widows/Ex. servicemen, handicapped, SC/ST and people of weaker sections at different railway stations during each of the last three years, State-wise;

(g) the number of applications pending with the Union Government for approval for the railway stations of Gurgaon, Rewari and Mohindergarh districts of Haryana;

(h) the steps being taken by the Union Government to take decision expeditiously on these applications; and

(i) the reasons for delay in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. Catering/vending stalls are allotted by zonal Railways by inviting applications through press notification from experienced and reputed caterers as per extant guidelines issued by Railway Board.

(c) and (d). At roadside stations preference is given to SC/ST applicants.

(e) Does not arise.

(f) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

(g) to (i). 24 applications for one tea stall at Patodi Road Railway Station and 6 applications for one barber shop at Gurgaon Railway station have been received by the Railways. These are being processed and there is no delay.

Gold Mines

3003. SHRI G.A. CHARAN REDDY : Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether India's gold reserves are depleting day by day;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether any study has been conducted for sufficient exploration of gold production by Indian companies;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether any blueprint has been prepared for bulk sampling, analysis of large amount of rock samples and preparation of geochemical maps for open cast mining, reducing the production cost and providing employment opportunities to the local people; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) and (b). Minerals are non-renewable resources and individual deposits get exhausted due to exploitation. However, exploration activities continue to locate new deposits.

(c) and (d). Hutti Gold Mines Ltd. (HGML) have undertaken further exploration in their lease hold areas and have identified about 24.2 million tonnes at a grade of 4.04 gm/tonne. They have also identified a mineable resource of about 3.3 million tonnes at a grade of 2.5 gm/tonne at the Ajjanhalli Gold Project Area.

(e) and (f). Detailed exploration for gold involves bulk sampling analysis of large amount of rock samples with preparation of Geochemical maps for developing an open cast mining plan. such facilities are available in the country.

Domestic and Foreign Visits of Correspondents

3004. SHRIMATI CHHABILA ARVIND NETAM : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Press Information Bureau is discriminating with the newspapers in Hindi and other regional languages;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the details of correspondents alongwith their respective newspapers who accompanied the President, Vice-President and the Prime Minister on their domestic and foreign visits during 1995;

(d) whether some particular newspapers are often given chances. to accompany the above dignitaries on their aforesaid visits; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) to (e). The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

[Translation]

Fertilizer Industries under SAIL

3005. SHRI NAMDEO DIWATHE : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) the number of fertilizer industries set up by the Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) in the country;

(b) the quantum of fertilizers produced in such fertilizer industries during the last three years; and

(c) the number of dealers appointed for sale of such fertilizers, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) Fertilizer plants set up by Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) in the country are as follows :-

Sl. No	Name of the Plant	Product
1.	Rourkela Fertilizer Plant (Orissa State)	Calcium Ammonium Nitrate (25% 'N')
2.	Rourkela Steel Plant (Orissa State)	Ammonium Sulphate (20.5% 'N')
3.	Bhilai Steel Plant (Madhya Pradesh State)	Ammonium Sulphate (20.6% 'N')
4.	Durgapur Steel Plant (West Bengal State)	Ammonium Sulphate (20.6% 'N')
5.	Bokaro Steel Plant (Bihar State)	Ammonium sulphate (20.6% 'N')
6.	The Indian Iron & Steel Company Limited, Burnpur—A subsidiary of SAIL (West Bengal State)	Ammonium Sulphate

The Ammonium Sulphate produced in all the above steel plants is a by product.

(b) The plant-wise production details during the last three years are given as under :

(Qty. = Tonnes)

Name of Plant	Product	Production During		
		1993-94	1994-95	1995-96
1	2	3	4	5
RSP	*CAN (25% N)	239541	221393	148284
RSP	**A/S (20.6% N)	10329	10567	5794

1	2	3	4	5
BSP	A/S (20.6% N)	43939	44425	45324
DSP	A/S (20.6% N)	7773	9697	7361
BSL	A/S (20.6% N)	23584	22700	26390
IISCO	A/S	7898	9503	11062

* Calcium Ammonium Nitrate (CAN)

** Ammonium Sulphate (A/S)

(c) The number of dealers appointed for sale of CAN & A/S (State-wise) are given below:-

Name of the State	Number of Dealers
SAIL	
Andhra Pradesh	190
Bihar	91
Orissa	77
West Bengal	86
Madhya Pradesh	12
Uttar Pradesh	35
Maharashtra	8
Tamil Nadu	27
Karnataka	23
Assam	2
Total :	551
TISCO	
West Bengal	47

Non-availability of AC Coach in Ganga-Yamuna Express

3006. DR. RAMVILAS VEDANTI : will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is no A.C. coach attached to the Ganga Yamuna Express train and many times first class coach is attached to the train in place of the A.C. coach which create difficulties for the passengers; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b). No, Sir. An A.C. 2nd sleeper coach is scheduled to run on 3413/3414 & 3483/3484 Bhiwani-Malda Town Farakka Express (erstwhile Ganga-Yamuna Express). However, sometimes due to sick marking of the coach and non-availability of another suitable replacement, 1 Class coach is attached to the train.

[English]

Cellular Services in the Country

3007. PROF. P.J. KURIEN :
SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR :
SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the steps taken for starting of inter-connected All-India Cellular Services in the country;

(b) if so, details thereof;

(c) whether private operators are involved in connecting the cellular system to All India Telecom System; and

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

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) and (b). Cellular Service is at present operational in the four metro cities of Delhi, Bombay, Calcutta and Madras. The cellular networks are connected with the public telephone network of Deptt. of Telecom. providing nationwide and international access. Cellular network in Telecom Circles will also be connected to public telephone network as and when they are operational.

(c) The Cellular networks are connected to the public telephone network of DoT through Interconnect Links. Provision of interconnect links is the responsibility of the Cellular operators.

(d) Does not arise in view of (a), (b) & (c).

State Run Airlines Dying Species

3008. SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV :
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "State-run airlines: A dying species" appearing in the Economic Times, New Delhi dated October 23, 1996;

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

(c) whether huge accumulated debts and substandard losses are some of the major symptoms of loss making state owned airlines; and

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

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) to (c). The newsitem states that huge accumulated debts, substantial losses, strong unions, over-politicisation etc. are symptoms of loss making state owned airlines all over the world.

Air India incurred a loss of Rs. 271.84 crores for the first time during 1995-96 due to increase in expenditure on account of interest and depreciation on new aircraft, reduction in yield due to increased competition, increased landing, handling and navigational charges, agitation by engineers, etc.

Indian Airlines has been incurring losses since 1989-90 due to grounding of A320 fleet, entry of private airlines on trunk routes, exodus of pilots etc.

(d) To improve their financial performance, Air India and Indian Airlines are taking steps to intensify their marketing efforts, augment capacity, reduce non-operating costs and to improve their product, image and on time performance.

[Translation]

Wages to Workers of ITC, Monghyr

3009. SHRI BRAHAMANAND MANDAL : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Indian Tobacco Company Limited in Monghyr pays the minimum wages to about 250 workers (who are known as park workers);

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) to (c). The information is being collected and the same will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

Films and Television Institutes

3010. KUMARI SUSHILA TIRIYA : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to reduce the term of three year course of Film and Television Institute of India;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Institute is facing financial crunch; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) and (b). The earlier Academic Council of Film & Television Institute of India (FTII), recommended that the duration of the three year courses could be reduced to two years. Consequently, the duration of courses had been reduced to two years from the academic session beginning from January, 1996. On a demand made by the students against this decision, the matter was referred to the Review Committees

constituted by the Academic Council. Based on the recommendations of the Review Committees and the Academic Council, the Governing Council of the Institute has agreed to revert to the three years courses from the next academic session.

(c) and (d). FTII is an Institution almost fully funded by the Central Government. As such, it has also to face the general constraints of funds like any other Government organisation. However, the required grant-in-aid is being made available to the Institute for its smooth functioning.

'Palace on Wheels' Train

3011. SHRI B.L. SHANKAR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

- the number of 'place on wheels' trains running in the country;
- whether there is any proposal to introduce such a train in Karnataka;
- if so, the details thereof; and
- if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (d). The following tourist trains are already in operation with public sector participation :-

- Palace on Wheels running in collaboration with Rajasthan Tourism Development Corporation.
- The Royal Orient running in collaboration with Tourism Corporation of Gujarat Ltd.

In response to a global invitation to bid issued in May, 1994, the Ministry of Railways have awarded contracts to private sector companies for ownership, marketing and management of five tourist trains. The following trains will cover the State of Karnataka :

Circuit

- Goa (Madgaon)-Mangalore-Mysore (Belur/Halebid)-Hospet (Hampi)-Bangalore-Goa(Madgaon).
- Bangalore-Mysore-Madras-Kodaikanal Road-Kanniyakumari-Trivandrum-Cochin-Mettupalayam (Ooty)-Bangalore. (2 trains)

Letters of intent have already been issued to the successful bidders.

Illegal Trade of Copper

3012. SHRI VIJAY GOEL : Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that illegal trade of copper is freely going on specially in Delhi without proper

sales documents and valid bills sold at Rs. 15,000/- to Rs. 20,000/- cheaper per tonne than the price fixed by the Hinddustan Copper Limited;

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

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

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

IST/STD/PCO in West Bengal

3013. SHRI ANIL BASU : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- the number of ISD/STD/PCO booths in operation in West Bengal, district-wise;
- the steps taken to provide more such booths in public places in the State; and
- the place selected for providing these booths in the State during the current financial year?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) The information is given in the enclosed statement.

(b) and (c). STD PCOs have been provided at public places. The sites for STD PCOs are not selected in advance. However, more STD PCOs at public places will be allotted by STD PCO allotment committees to eligible applicants having suitable sites.

STATEMENT

S.No.	Name of the District	Number of STD/ISD/PCOs
1	2	3
1.	Burdwan	549
2.	Bankura	43
3.	Purulia	20
4.	Midnapore	88
5.	24 Parganas (North)	39
6.	24 Parganas (South)	13
7.	Howrah	6
8.	Hooghly	37
9.	Murshidabad	64
10.	Birbhum	55
11.	Darjeeling	605
12.	Malda	50
13.	Dinajpur (North)	20
14.	Dinajpur (South)	8

1	2	3
15.	Naida	64
16.	Jalpaiguri	62
17.	Coochbehar	67
18.	Calcutta Telephone District	5585

Shortage of Airconditioning Staff at Tikiapara Yard

3014. PROF. JITENDRA NATH DAS : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that there is acute shortage of airconditioning staff of all categories at Tikiapara Yard of Eastern Railway for a long time;

(b) whether it is also a fact that staff are being forced to perform double duty continuously;

(c) whether any steps have been taken to provide more staff to this section;

(d) if so, details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) No, Sir. However only under exceptional circumstances staff are booked to perform double duty as per extant rules.

(c) and (d). Yes, Sir. Creation of posts is a regular process. 50 posts in different categories have been sanctioned in the month of Nov. 96 for additional AC services.

(e) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Indian Labour Conference

3015. SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the representatives of Central Labour Organisations have conducted 33rd Session of Indian Labour Conference (Bhartiya Shram Sammelan) in October, 1996;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the suggestions made to the Government in this conference;

(c) whether the representatives of Federation National Centre for Labour (N.C.L.) of unorganised sector had met him in this regard and apprised him of their problems;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action being taken by the Union Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) and (b). The 33rd Session of the Indian Labour Conference held at New Delhi on 24-25 October, 1996. This Tripartite meeting was attended by representatives of Central Trade Union Organisations, Employers' Organisations and Central and State Governments.

The Conference, inter alia, discussed items on:-

- (1) modernisation and re-organisation of employment exchanges;
- (2) modernisation of vocational training system;
- (3) floor level minimum wages in unorganised employment
- (4) recognition of trade unions through secret ballot
- (5) amendment to the I.D. Act, 1947; and
- (6) the Bill on Workers' Participation in Management.

While the conclusions of the Conference are being drafted by the Committee constituted for this purpose by the Conference, broadly it was recommended that (1) a Bipartite Committee should be constituted to frame a comprehensive Industrial Relations Law and consider proposals made to amend the Industrial Disputes Act and the Trade Unions Act, 1926 on priority basis and submit its recommendation. (2) removal of disparity in the ceiling fixed for payment of gratuity for Central Government employees and industrial workers; (3) again write to the State Government to revive the practices of holding tripartite consultation at the State level if not already done; (4) a National Floor Level Minimum Wage for unorganised labour should be adopted taking into account updated poverty line basis; (5) vocational training programme of DGE&T should be reoriented towards improving the quality of vocational training and upgradation of skills; (6) Employment Exchanges should be modernised and re-organised to function as effective placement centres; and (7) Workers' Group suggested that wage ceiling fixed for payment of bonus/productivity linked bonus should be removed. However, Employers' Group urged a total review of the Bonus Act.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) and (e). The representatives of National Centre for Labour (NCL) desired to give representation to unorganised sector in the Indian Labour Conference. It was clarified that representation of the Central Trade Union Organisations in the ILC is given on the basis of verified strength of various unions as done by the Chief Labour Commissioner (Central). However, two representatives of the NCL were allowed to attend the 33rd Session of Conference as observers.

[English]

STD Facility in West Bengal

3016. DR. RAMCHANDRA DOME : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the progress of work for installation of STD facilities is not satisfactory under Telecom District of Birbhum in West Bengal;

(b) If so, the reason therefor; and

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

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) No Sir, out of 27 stations in District Birbhum, West Bengal, 13 stations have already been provided with STD facility. During 1996-97 seven more stations have been planned to be provided with STD facility.

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

(c) All the remaining stations in the District of Birbhum shall be provided with STD facility during 9th five Year Plan subject to availability of funds.

Waiting List for Telephone in Nadia, W. Bengal

3017. DR. ASIM BALA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons waiting for telephone connections under Chakdah telephone exchange at Nadia district of West Bengal;

(b) total installed capacity of this exchange;

(c) by when Government propose to provide connections to all the waiting listed persons of Chakdah;

(d) steps taken in this regard;

(e) whether it is a fact that the people of Chakdah demanding local desiring facilities with Kalyani which is nearer to Chakdah;

(f) whether any steps are being taken to fulfil this demand;

(g) if so, the details thereof; and

(h) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) The number of persons waiting for telephone connections under Chakdah telephone exchange is 614.

(b) Total installed capacity of this exchange is 1250 lines (C+DOT MBM).

(c) It is proposed to provide connections to all the waiting listed persons of Chakdah during 1997-98.

(d) It is proposed to expand the capacity of Chakdah exchange by 750 lines during 1997-98.

(e) Not to our knowledge.

(f) Does not arise in view of (e).

(g) Does not arise in view of (e).

(h) As per National Charging plan, on the basis of short distance charging area concept, Chakdah falling under Ranaghat SDCA cannot have local call facility with Kalyani which is under Calcutta SDCA.

Licences to Blind Vendors

3018. SHRI RAM NAIK : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to issue licences to blind vendors for vending at the stations and in Railway Bogies of the Central and Western Railway;

(b) if so, whether the procedure for issue of such licences has been finalised; and

(c) if so, the time bound programmes for the issue of such licences?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (c). Some representations have been received. However, as per present policy such licences are not issued.

Sharing of Railway Transport

3019. SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the National Transport Policy Committee had fixed the share of Rail traffic to be 72% and that this was accepted by the Government;

(b) whether it is a fact that rail transport is 7 times energy-efficient than road transport and that lesser than 72% rail transport means avoidable oil import and foreign exchange outflow;

(c) if so, details of actual goods traffic during the last three years 72% to traffic and the shortfall between the two and consequent loss of foreign exchange therefor; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) Rail transport is more than 7 times energy-efficient than road transport. A less than optimum freight carried by rail does mean higher share of load of road transport resulting in more energy consumption and thus higher import bill for oil.

(c) Freight carried by Railways in the last three years is :

1992-93	350.05 million tonnes
1993-94	358.72 million tonnes
1994-95	364.96 million tonnes

No reliable data is available on the volume of the freight carried by roads and thus it may not be possible to estimate the loss of foreign exchange on this account.

(d) Does not arise.

Late running of EMU Train between Katwa and Bandel

3020. SHRI MEHBOOB ZAHEDI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the fact that passengers are agitated due to late running of EMU services between Katwa and Bandel;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that the track between Katwa and Bandel has not been improved;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether any steps are being taken to improve the entire track for fast moving of EMU trains; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) Some complaints have been received in this regard.

(b) to (e). The works for improvement of track have already been taken up. The track has already been strengthened and made fit for running of fast moving EMU trains between Km. 0.00 (Bandel) to Km. 60.00. Further track renewal works for 30 Km. length between Km. 60.00 to 90.00 have already been sanctioned, where track improvement works have been taken up and 10 Km. length of track will be renewed in current year. Further 15 Km. length of track between Km. 98.00 to 105.00 (Katwa) is proposed for sanction in year 1997-98. This will cover the entire Bandel-Katwa section.

Supply of Uniforms to RPF Personnel

3021. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Railway Protection Force (RPF) personnel of South-Eastern Railway have not been supplied uniform (clothing) for about six years;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the RPF personnel are being paid the amount for uniform;

(d) if so the amount paid to each RPF personnel during the above period;

(e) if not the reasons therefor; and

(f) the number of RPF personnel who have been chargesheeted and punished for wearing improper uniform in South-Eastern Railway in particular and Indian Railways in general?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) and (b). No, Sir. The RPF personnel of S.E. Railway have not been supplied uniform (clothing) since only 1994 on account of rejection by the Inspection Committee of uniform supplied by one supplier, for being inferior, sub-standard and in short measures.

(c) to (e). No amount has been paid to the RPF personnel in lieu of uniform (clothing) by the Railway Administration as no such provision exists.

(f) The number of RPF personnel chargesheeted/punished for wearing improper uniform on S.E. Rly. and on other Zonal Railways during the last six years is as under :-

S.E. Railway	-	8
Other Railways	-	184

Policy For Industrial Workers

3022. SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether a comprehensive exit policy has been formulated for the Industrial Workers; and

(b) if so, the main factor thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) and (b). The policy regarding "exit" or 'closure' of an industrial establishment or a part thereof and retrenchment of workers is contained in the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947. The Act provides for certain measures of protection to the workers in the event of lay off, retrenchment and closure.

Selling of Monthly Tickets

3023. SHRI HARADHAN ROY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that at Panagarh Station of Eastern Railway, monthly tickets are not sold to passengers for stations falling between Panagarh to Howrah via Main;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the revenue for monthly tickets at Panagarh station has drastically gone down as the passengers via Main are denied tickets;

(d) if so, the amount of loss for the Eastern Railway for the above reason for the period for which such tickets have been stopped to be sold; and

(e) if not, the amount and number of monthly tickets sold during the last two years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b). Season tickets are issued for various stations from Panagarh on Panagarh-Howrah section via Main upto a distance of 150 Kms.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) 1095 season tickets giving an earning of Rs. 1.49 lakhs during 1994-95 and 1095 season tickets giving an earning of Rs. 1.69 lakhs during 1995-96 were issued at Panagarh for different stations on Panagarh-Howrah section via Main.

Licensed Porters

3024. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the official strength of Licensed Porters, as on August 15, 1994 at Itwari, Kanhan, Kamptee, Bhandara Road, Tumsar Road and Tirora stations of the South Eastern Railway, Station-wise;

(b) the additional number of Licensed Porters were recruited for each station mentioned in (a) above to handle parcel traffic with effect from September 1, 1994;

(c) whether Railway Board had issued instructions to abolish contract system for Parcel handing work, where contractors demanded revision in rates due to increase in Labour rates and have the work managed by recruiting licensed porters; and

(d) if not, the time by which the General Manager, South Eastern Railway propose to introduce new system of working?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) the official strength of Licensed Porters as on 15.8.94 is as under:

Itwari	7	Kanhan	NIL
Kamptee	8	Bhandara Road	5
Tumsar Road	8	Tirora	NIL

(b) The additional number of licensed porters engaged at these station with effect from September 1, 1994 is as under:

Itwari	33	Kanhan	4
Kamptee	16	Bhandara Road	16
Tumsar Road	16	Tirora	8

(c) and (d). No instructions have been issued by the Board to abolish the contract system for parcel handling work. At some station on South Eastern Railway licensed porters are being utilised to handle parcel traffic in addition to their normal function of carrying passengers luggage.

[Translation]

Package for Rural Telephone Subscribers

3025. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the package announced by the former Minister of Communications in December, 1995 for the rural telephone subscribers;

(b) the progress made in this regard so far; and

(c) the reasons for the delay?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) The information is given in the enclosed statement.

(b) and (c). Most of the features of the rural package have been implemented in almost all parts of the country.

The salient features of the package announced in November, 1995 are as under :

- Free calls have been increased to 250 from present 150 per billing cycle for rural subscribers.
- Registration fee for new connections has been reduced to Rs. 1000/- from existing Rs. 2000/- for rural subscribers working from exchange systems of below 10,000 lines.
- Telephone rental has been reduced to Rs. 100/- bimonthly from existing Rs. 150/- for rural subscribers of exchange systems of 100 lines to below 1000 lines.
- The installation charges for telephone connections in telephone exchanges of less than 500 lines shall be maintained at Rs. 300/- upto 31.3.1998 for all rural subscribers.
- Call charges for 200 calls above 250 free calls have been reduced by 25% for rural subscribers.
- Commission payable to franchisees of local and STD PCOs in Panchayats and PCOs provided under Panchayat Sanchar Sewa Yojna has been increased from present 20% to 50% on gross turnover.
- The STD/ISD PCO franchisees in rural areas are to be paid commission @ 25% on the gross turnover per month.
- In non-rural areas of the predominantly hilly states of J&K, Himachal Pradesh, Garhwal and Kumaon hill areas of U.P. Sikkim and 7 North Eastern States (Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland and Tripura) as well as in the Hilly/tribal areas of the rest of the country, the franchisees are to be paid commission @ 20% on a gross turnover upto 50,000/- and

@ 15% on the gross turnover beyond Rs. 50,000/- per month.

9. In rest of the country the franchises are to be paid commission @ 16% upto a gross turnover of Rs. 20,000/- per month; @ 15% on the gross turnover between Rs. 20,000/- and Rs. 50,000/- per month and 12% on the gross turnover beyond Rs. 50,000/- per month.
10. Group dialling facility to be provided upto 30 kms in rural, hilly and tribal areas of the country.

[English]

Railways

3026. SHRI MUKHTAR ANIS : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Railway Divisions at present with respective track-kilometrage and headquarters;

(b) the number of Railway Service Commission at present with their jurisdiction, headquarters and composition;

(c) the number of railway personnel recruited by each Commission during 1995-96 category-wise; and

(d) the number of recruitee belonging to SCs/STs, OBCs and Religious Minorities included among them?

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

(b) Statements-II-III are attached.

(c) and (d). While details regarding minorities are not maintained by Railways, the information regarding personnel recruited will be laid on the table of the Sabha.

STATEMENT-I

Part (a)

List of Divisions on Indian Railway

There are 59 Divisions at present on Indian Railway which are shown as under alongwith their route kilometres of track (as on 31.3.96) and headquarters.

Divisional Headquarters	Route Kilometres of Track
1	2
Bhopal	917
Bhusawal	976
Bombay (CR)	540
Jabalpur	1177

1	2
Jhansi	1564
Solapur	1018
Nagpur	856
Asansol	682
Danapur	697
Dhanbad	852
Howrah	874
Sealdah	713
Mugalsarai	346
Malda	437
Adra	990
Bilaspur	1128
Chakradharpur	859
Kharagpur	666
Khurda	701
Waltair	1108
Sambalpur	551
Nagpur (SE)	1348
Ajmer	1483
Bhavnagar	1310
Bombay (WR)	637
Jaipur	1435
Kota	959
Rajkot	1257
Ratlam	1263
Lumding	958
Bangalore	904
Madras	704
Madurai	1448
Musore	1100
Palghat	1140
Trichy	1125
Trivandrum	628
Guntakal	1578
Hubli	1457
Hyderabad	1573
Secunderabad	1338
Vijaywada	1258
Allahabad	1076
Ambala	1009
Bikaner	1779
Delhi	1193
Ferozpur	1476
Jodhpur	1609
Lucknow	1453

1	2
Moradabad	1398
Izatnagar	1060
Lucknow (NE)	1168
Samastipur	1040
Sonepur	583
Varanasi	1257
Vadodara	1675
Alipurduar	1498
Katihar	851
Tinsukia	509

* Nanded being set up.

STATEMENT-II

Part (b)

Statement showing the places where Railway Recruitment Boards are situated together with their jurisdiction

Location of the Board	Railway Jurisdiction
1	2
1. Ahmedabad (Gujrat)	<i>Western Railway</i> Vadodara, Rajkot & Bhavnagar Divisions.
2. Ajmer (Rajasthan)	<i>Western Railway</i> Ratlam, Kota, Jaipur & Ajmer Divisions. <i>Northern Railway</i> Jodhpur & Bikaner Divisions.
3. Allahabad (U.P.)	<i>Diesel Locomotive Works,</i> <i>Varanasi Northern Railway</i> Allahabad, Lucknow and Moradabad Divisions.
4. Bangalore (Karnataka)	<i>Southern Railway</i> Bangalore & Mysore Divisions. <i>Southern Central Railway</i> Hubli Division Wheel & Axle Plant Bangalore.
5. Bhopal (M.P.)	<i>Central Railway</i> Jabalpur and Jhansi Divisions. <i>South Eastern Railway</i> Bilaspur and Nagpur Divisions.

1	2
6. Bhubaneswar (Orissa)	<i>South Eastern Railway</i> Khurda Road, Sambalpur and Chakradharpur Divisions.
7. Mumbai (Maharashtra)	<i>Central Railway</i> Headquarters office, Mumbai, Bhusaval, Nagpur & Sholapur Divisions. <i>Western Railway</i> Headquarters office, Mumbai Division.
8. Calcutta (W. Bengal)	<i>Eastern Railway</i> Headquarters office, Howrah, Asansol & Sealdah Divisions. <i>South Eastern Railway</i> Headquarters office, Adra and Kharagpur Divisions. Chittaranjan Locomotive Works, Chittaranjan.
9. Chandigarh (U.T.)	<i>Northern Railway</i> Headquarters office, Delhi Division. Rail Coach Factory, Kapurthala.
10. Guwahati (Assam)	<i>Northeast Frontier Railway</i> Headquarters office, Alipurduar, Lumding & Tinsukia Divisions.
11. Gorakhpur (U.P.)	<i>North Eastern Railway</i> Headquarters Office, Varanasi, Izatnagar & Lucknow Divisions.
12. Jammu & Srinagar (J&K)	<i>Northern Railway</i> Ferozpur Division, Diesel Component Works, Patiala & Rail Coach Factory, Kapurthala.
13. Chennai (Tamil Nadu)	<i>Southern Railway</i> Headquarters office, Chennai, Tiruchirapalli and Madurai Divisions Integral Coach Factory, Perambur.
14. Malda (W. Bengal)	<i>Eastern Railway</i> Malda Division.
15. Muzaffarpur (Bihar)	<i>Northeast Frontier Railway</i> Darjeeling Hill Railway Section.
	<i>North Eastern Railway</i> Samastipur & Sonepur Divisions.

1	2	1	2
16. Patna (Bihar)	<i>Eastern Railway</i> Mughalsarai, Dhanbad & Danapur Divisions. <i>Northeast Frontier Railway</i> Katihar (except Darjeeling Hill Railway section) Division.	18. Secunderabad (A.P.)	<i>South Eastern Railway</i> Chakradharpur Division. <i>South Central Railway</i> Headquarters office, Secunderabad BG, Hyderabad MG, Vijayawada and Guntakal Divisions. <i>South Eastern Railway</i> Waltair Division.
17. Ranchi (Bihar) for S.T. candidates only.	<i>Northeast Frontier Railway</i> Katihar Division <i>Eastern Railway</i> Dhanbad, Danapur & Mughalsarai Divisions.	19. Trivandrum (Kerala)	<i>Southern Railway</i> Palghat and Trivandrum Divisions.

STATEMENT-III

Part (b)

Composition of Railway Recruitment Boards

	Name of RRB	Staff				
		Chairman	Group A Member Secy.	Group B Asst. Secy.	Group C	Group D
1.	RRB/Ahmedabad	1	1	1	10	6
2.	RRB/Ajmer	1	1	1	9	3
3.	RRB/Allahabad	1	1	1	30	14
4.	RRB/Bangalore	1	1	1	12	5
5.	RRB/Bhopal	1	1	1	9	3
6.	RRB/Bhubaneswar	1	1	1	13	12
7.	RRB/Mumbai	1	1	1	32	11
8.	RRB/Calcutta	1	1	1	34	14
9.	RRB/Chandigarh	1	-	1	7	4
10.	RRB/Guwahati	1	1	1	17	7
11.	RRB/Gorkhpur	1	1	1	10	7
12.	RRB/Jammu & Srinagar	1	1	1	6	3
13.	RRB/Chennai	1	1	1	20	8
14.	RRB/Malda	1	-	1	6	3
15.	RRB/Muzaffarpur	1	1	-	13	5
16.	RRB/Patna	1	1	-	10	15
17.	RRB/Ranchi	-	1	-	5	1
18.	RRB/Secunderabad	1	1	1	17	6
19.	RRB/Trivandrum	1	1	1	8	3

Development of Infrastructural Facilities

3027. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether his Ministry has at any stage examined that India does not figure high on the global travellers' itinerary;

(b) if so, the outcome thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that the volume of business done by this segment pales into insignificance when compared to the business done in some of the tiny countries that dot the world map;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the tourism segment in India is bedevilled by infrastructural inadequacies such as shortage of accommodation, poor transport and communication facilities;

(f) if so, whether the Government propose to overcome these infrastructural inadequacies; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA): (a) to (d). The shares of India in the world tourist arrivals and receipts in the year 1995 were 0.37% and 0.74% respectively.

(e) to (g). Inadequate infrastructure facilities is the major constraint in the growth of tourism in the country. The efforts of the Government are to improve the infrastructure facilities in coordination with the State Governments and by encouraging the private sector to invest in tourism infrastructure. The Government has prepared a National Tourism Strategy paper which envisages a synergized approach to tourism development, involving other Ministries, State Governments, financial institutions and the private sector.

Introduction of Shuttle Service between Dum-Dum and Barasat

3028. SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the demand for introducing shuttle service between Dum-Dum and Barasat;

(b) if so, whether any steps are being taken in this regard;

(c) whether it is possible to extend 4.55 P.M.s Birati local train upto Barasat; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) Dum-Dum and Barasat are already connected with 55 pairs of train services. Introduction of an originating train from Dum-Dum/Barasat has been examined but not found feasible at present as Dum-Dum does not have terminal facilities.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

New Post Offices in Kerala

3029. SHRI P.C. THOMAS : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state the number of new Post Kerala during 1996-97, so far?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : During 1996-97, 3 Extra Departmental Branch Post Offices and 2 Departmental Sub Offices have been sanctioned and 4 Extra Departmental Branch Offices have been upgraded into Departmental Sub Offices.

Speed Post Facility to W. Bengal

3030. SHRI AJOY MUKHOPADHYAY : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to provide Speed Post Service Facility in major cities of West Bengal;

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

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) The Speed Post Facility is at present provided in the following cities/towns of West Bengal :

National Speed Post Service

Calcutta

Howrah

Siliguri

Point to Point Speed Post Service

Berhampur.

Haldia

Shantiniketan

Raniganj

At present Govt. has no proposal to extend Speed Post Service to any other major cities of West Bengal. A particular city is brought under speed Post National Network only when there is sufficient traffic to make it financially viable and operationally feasible.

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

Appointment on Compassionate Ground

3031. SHRI N.J. RATHWA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of representations received by the

Western Railway authorities from the members of the families of deceased employees for employment since from January, 1993, till date;

(b) the number of representations out of these recommended by the Members of Parliament;

(c) the steps taken by the Government thereon; and

(d) the time limit by which the appointment are likely to be made?

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

(c) and (d). The extant instructions require the Zonal Railways to make all out efforts to provide compassionate appointments to all eligible persons as early as possible within the guidelines laid down for the purpose.

It is, however, difficult to fix any time limit for the appointment on compassionate grounds, as the same depends on several factors like availability of suitable vacancies, wards attaining majority, etc.

Raising of Funds

3032. SHRI B.L. SHARMA, 'PREM' : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that a plan was prepared for raising funds about Rs. 30,000 crores by making commercial use of very large unutilised properties of the Railways;

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

(c) whether the proposals include any such properties in vicinity of the Capital; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (d). No, Sir. However, with a view to generate additional resources for development, Railways had proposed to commercially utilise air-space over Railway land/buildings. A decision on this proposal has been deferred by Government of India.

Passenger Amenities at Railway Stations in Tamil Nadu

3033. SHRI A.G.S. RAM BABU : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the facilities for passengers are provided properly at the railway stations in Tamil Nadu;

(b) if not, the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard;

(c) the quantum of funds sanctioned during 1996-97 for providing passenger facilities at railway stations in Tamil Nadu; and

(d) the details of the facilities likely to be provided by Railway Administration in Tamil Nadu in near future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (d). Facilities at stations are provided as per norms based on the volume of passenger traffic handled. Stations in the State of Tamil Nadu are provided with amenities commensurate with the volume of traffic. These facilities are augmented/additional facilities provided wherever so warranted by growth in traffic. Allocation of funds for provision of passenger amenities at stations are provided to the zonal Railways according to their requirements and no state-wise bifurcation of funds are maintained. However, an allocation of Rs. 15.74 crore has been made for passenger Amenity works at stations on Southern Railway. Future programme for provision of amenities are decided based on the over all availability of funds during each financial year.

[Translation]

Introduction of New EMU Train

3034. SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR SINGH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether no E.M.U. train ply between Gaya to Mughal Sarai;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to introduce new E.M.U. train service between Gaya to Mughal Sarai and Gaya to Dhanbad; and

(c) if so, the time by which it is likely to be introduced?

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

(b) and (c). MEMU services are proposed to be provided on the Mughal Sarai-Gaya-Dhanbad section in a phased manner on availability of MEMU rakes.

[English]

Offices of Divisional Engineers

3035. SHRI BRAJ MOHAN RAM : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of offices of Divisional Engineers (Telecom) of the Telecom Department in the country, State-wise, location-wise;

(b) the criteria for setting up such offices;

(c) the number of new offices likely to be set up in the country, State-wise, locations-wise;

(d) whether the Government also propose to set up this office in Daltanganj in Bihar; and

(e) if not, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) The details of Telecom Districts headed by Divisional Engineers (Telecom) is enclosed in the statement.

(b) As per existing criteria a Telecom District comprising of more than one Secondary Switching Area (SSA) can be bifurcated into separate Telecom Districts headed by Divisional Engineers (Telecom) if the workload of each Telecom District after bifurcation is not less than 455 Direct Exchange Lines (DELs).

(c) This depends upon the growth of the network in any District. Presently three proposals for sanction of Telecom District Engineers, namely Monghyr in Bihar, Raiganj in West Bengal and Orai in U.P. (East) are under process.

(d) No Sir.

(e) The workload is not sufficient as per the prescribed criteria.

STATEMENT

List of Telecom Districts headed by DETs (TDEs) in the Country.

Name of the Circle	Name of the SSAs
1	2
Andhra Pradesh	Adilabad Srikakulam Vijaynagaram
Assam	Nagaon
Bihar	Arrah Bhagalpur Chhapra Deoghar (Dumka) Katihar Motihari Saharsa Sasaram
Gujrat	Amreli
Haryana	Jind Narnaul (Rewari) Sonapat
J&K	Leh Rajouri Udhampur
Karnataka	Bidar Chickmagalore Mandya

1	2
Maharashtra	Bhir (Beed) Jalna Kudal (Sindhudurg) Osmanabad Parbhani Wardha Yeotmal
Madhya Pradesh	Balaghat (Mahakoshal) Betul Chhatarpur Chhindwara Dewas Guna Narshinghpur Raigarh Rewa Sagar Satna Shahdol Shajapur Shivpuri Vidisha Jagdalpur (Baster) Rajgarh
Orissa	Balasore Bolangir Koraput Phulbani (Mayurbhanj)
Punjab	Ropar
Rajasthan	Barmer Bundi Chittorgarh Churu Jhalawar Sawaimadhopur Tonk
U.P. (East)	Behraich Ballia Banda Barabanki Basti Etawah Faizabad

1	2
	Farrukhabad
	Gonda
	Jaunpur
	Lakhimpur
	Mainpuri
	Mirzapur
	Raibareilly
	Shahjahanpur
	Sitapur
	Sultanpur
	Unnao
U.P. (West)	Almora
	Bijnore
	Etah
West Bengal	Bankura
	Berhampur
	Calcutta (Howrah)
	Jalpaiguri
	Krishnagar
	Malda
	Suri (Birbhum)

[Translation]

Railways Link with Major Projects

3036. SHRI RAMSHAKAL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to connect Major projects with railway facilities;

(b) if so, time by which the projects run by Union Government, Government of Uttar Pradesh and Private sector in Sonbhadra district of Uttar Pradesh are likely to be connected with railway facilities;

(c) whether it is a fact that due to lack of railway facilities lakhs of labourers working there are facing difficulties; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (d). Requirement of Rail Linkages to connect major projects is considered by conducting a survey and investment decisions are taken thereafter. There is no such proposal at present.

[English]

Expansion/Modernisation of Exchanges in Orissa

3037. SHRI SOUMYA RANJAN : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any scheme under consideration of the Government for extension and modernisation of telephone exchanges in Orissa, particularly in Bhubaneswar; and

(b) if so, the details therefor, Distt.-wise?

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

(b) The details of the proposed expansions/modernisation (in the form of replacement of electromechanical exchanges by electronic exchanges) of telephone exchanges in Orissa-District-wise, particularly in Bhubaneswar during current financial year is as given in the enclosed Statement-I (major exchanges) and II (small exchanges).

STATEMENT-I

List of proposed Expansion Replacement of Exchanges

District	Name of Stations	Capacity (Type)	
1	2	3	
1. Khurda	(a) Bhubaneswar	6K	(NEC Main)
	(b) Mancheswar (Bhubaneswar)	4K	(NEC RS)
	(c) Bhubaneswar Tax	0.5K	(E 10B)
	(d) Bhubaneswar	1K	(E 10B) Expn
	(e) Chandaka	1K	(E 10B) Expn
	(f) Jatni	1K	(E 10B) Expn
2. Dhenkanal	Dhenkanal Tax	1.5K	(E 10B) (New)
3. Ganjam	Behrampore	2K	(E 10B) Expn
4. Sundargarh	Rourkela	1K	(E 10B) Expn

1	2	3	4	5
5. Cuttack	Cuttack Mehtab Rd Cuttack Tax	2K 5K	E 10 OCB	Expn (New)
6. Jagat Singapur	(a) Jagat Singapur (b) Paradeep	512 P 512P	ILT C-DOT	Expn Expn
7. Jajpur	Dhanmandal	0.6K	C-DOT	Expn
8. Sambalpur	(a) Sambalpur (b) Hirakud (c) Sambalpur D-Tax (d) Brajrajnagar (e) Rengali (f) Burla	1.5K 1K 1K 0.4K 512P 1.0K	E 10B E 10B E 10B C-DOT ILT E 10B	Expn Expn Expn Expn Expn Expn
9. Keonjhar	(a) Palaspange (b) Barbil (c) Anandapur	0.4K 0.4K 1.0K	NEAX C-DOT C-DOT	(New) Expn (new)
10. Mayarbhanj	Baripada	1.0K	C-DOT	Expn
11. Angul	South Balanda	0.4K	C-DOT	Expn
12. Bhadrak	Bhadrak	512K	C-DOT	Expn
13. Phulbani	Phulbani	512K	C-DOT	Expn
14. Malkangiri	Malkangiri	512K	C-DOT	(New)
15. Sundargarh	Raigengpur	0.4K	C-DOT	Expn

STATEMENT-II

Orissa Telecom Circle

Commissioning/Expansion Programme of Small Exchanges
(From 640 tp 256 Port)

S. Revenue Dist. No.	Capacity Added for New Exch.	Expansion	Replacement	
1	2	3	4	5
1. Balasore	56	736	352	
2. Bhadrak	-	368	176	
3. Mayurbhanj	-	688	176	
4. Ganjam	176	528	176	
5. Gajapati	-	184	88	
6. Phulbani	-	368	176	
7. Boudh	56	-	-	
8. Khurda	176	712	254	
9. Nayagarh	112	80	-	
10. Puri	-	312	88	
11. Bolangir	-	64	-	
12. Sonopur	56	160	176	

1	2	3	4	5
13. Kalahandi	144	264	88	
14. Nuapada	-	-	-	
15. Cuttack	88	700	-	
16. Jagatsinghpur	-	168	-	
17. Kendrapara	56	1060	440	
18. Jajpur	88	80	-	
19. Keonjhar	-	184	88	
20. Angul	156	440	176	
21. Dhenkanal	-	520	176	
22. Koraput	-	440	176	
23. Malkangiri	-	184	88	
24. Nowrangpur	56	184	88	
25. Rayagada	56	360	176	
26. Sambalpur	88	540	264	
27. Jharsuguda	56	184	88	
28. Bargarh	88	-	-	
29. Deogarh	-	184	88	
30. Sundargarh	144	520	176	
Total	1752	10212	3776	

Stoppage of Express Trains at Paras Nath Station

3038. SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that stoppage has not provided to Purushottam Express, Poorva Express and Kalka Mail at Parasnath Station in Eastern Railway so far; and

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

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

(b) In view of availability of other services and lack of traffic justification, it is not proposed to stop these trains at Parasnath.

E.D. Employees

3039. SHRI UDDHAB BARMAN : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of the E.D. staff working now in different zones of P&T Department;

(b) the number of E.D. staff regularised during the last three years; and

(c) the time frame by which all the ED staff are likely to be regularised?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) The Department of Post has 3,09,825 Extra Departmental Employees working on 31.3.96 Circlewise details are enclosed as Statement.

(b) The information is being collected from the field units and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(c) The Extra Departmental employees are a preferred category for recruitment to the regular Departmental Group 'D' and Postmen cadres of the Department of Post. Recruitment to Group 'D' is made from amongst the eligible Extra Departmental staff on the basis of seniority-cum-fitness. 50% of the vacancies in the cadre of Postmen are filled up from amongst Departmental Group 'D' officials, who, in turn, come from Extra Departmental employees. The remaining 50% vacancies in the cadre of Postmen are filled up in the following manner :

- (i) 25% from amongst Extra Departmental employees with a minimum of 15 years of service on the basis of their seniority; and
- (ii) 25% amongst Extra Departmental employees on the basis of their merit in the Departmental Examination.

It would be seen from the above that the vacancies in Group 'D' and the Postmen cadres are entirely filled

up from amongst Extra Departmental employees. Thus recruitment of Extra Departmental employees in Departmental Group 'D' and Postmen cadres depends upon factors like availability of vacancies, fulfilment of the eligibility criteria etc. Therefore, no time frame by which the ED staff are likely to be regularised can be given.

STATEMENT

S.No.	Name of Circle	Number of ED Employees
1.	Assam	9,043
2.	Andhra Pradesh	30,076
3.	Bihar	20,119
4.	Delhi	527
5.	Gujarat	17,673
6.	Haryana	4,384
7.	Himachal Pradesh	6,670
8.	Jammu & Kashmir	2,945
9.	Karnataka	17,391
10.	Kerala	12,713
11.	Madhya Pradesh	23,300
12.	Maharashtra	25,417
13.	North East	6,820
14.	Orissa	18,408
15.	Punjab	6,443
16.	Rajasthan	16,480
17.	Tamilnadu	25,375
18.	Uttar Pradesh	43,799
19.	West Bengal	22,236
		3,09,825

Construction of Railway Bridge

3040. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Techno-economic Survey and design of rail cum-road bridge across river Brahmaputra at Bogbil has been taken up;

(b) if so, the time by which the work on the above bridge is likely to be started; and

(c) the amount allocated therefor?

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

(b) and (c). Further consideration of the project will be possible once the survey report becomes available.

Equipment Purchased by Nagpur Telephones

3041. SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Nagpur Telephones have purchased machineries and other equipments during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the total expenditure incurred thereon year-wise;

(c) whether any irregularities have come to the notice of the Government in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action taken by the Government thereof?

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.

Donation by PSUs

3042. SHRI HARIN PATHAK : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether any funds have been donated by the PSUs/Financial Institutions under his Ministry to any Foundation or Institution connected with the late Indira Gandhi/Rajiv Gandhi during the last three years and the current year, so far;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of donations made to other body/voluntary institutions during the above period?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) and (b). Steel Authority of India Ltd. (SAIL), a PSU under the administrative control of Ministry of Steel had donated Rs. 1.00 crore to the Rajiv Gandhi Foundation during the year 1995-96. No other PSU under Ministry of Steel has donated any fund to any foundation or institution connected with the late Indira Gandhi/Rajiv Gandhi during the last three years and the current year so far, as per available information.

(c) The details of donations, as per available information, made by PSUs of Ministry of Steel to other bodies/voluntary institutions during the last three years and current year (till September, 1996) are given in the enclosed statement.

STATEMENT

Name of the PSU	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97 (upto Sept. 96)
1	2	3	4	5
SAIL	166.00	230.27	299.32	Nil
RINL	10.00	Nil	6.50*	5.00

1	2	3	4	5
KIOCL	48.00	22.44	54.57	0.42
NMDC	17.10	5.20	32.86	0.01
MSTC	1.17	Nil	Nil	Nil
MOIL	1.85	**	Nil	0.02
MECON	2.23	2.18	1.42	0.61
FSNL	1.36	Nil	Nil	Nil
BRL	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
HSCL	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
SIIL	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

* 60 tonnes of steel were also donated.

** Rs. 501/- only.

[Translation]

Hospital for Beedi and Cement Labourers

3043. SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that most of the labourers working in Beedi and Cement industry are becoming victims of T.B., Anaemia, Malnutrition and Cancer;

(b) if so, the estimated number of these labourers, State-wise and the number of labourers died untimely in lack of treatment;

(c) whether the Union Government propose to open new hospitals to contain diseases in this area; and

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

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) to (d). Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Travelling under British Airways

3044. SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY :
SHRI GANGA CHARAN RAJPUT :
SHRI AMAR PAL SINGH :
SHRI DILEEP SANAGHANI :
SHRI I.D. SWAMI :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that two persons reached London sitting in the cabin of a British Airways cargo plane hoodwinking all the security arrangements existed at the Indira Gandhi International Airport;

(b) if so, whether any inquiry has been conducted in this regard;

(c) if so, the outcome of the said inquiry; and

(d) the action taken against those persons found guilty therein?

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

(b) to (d). An inquiry has been ordered. The report of the inquiry is awaited.

Multi Access Rural Radio System

3045. DR. RAM LAKHAN SINGH :
SHRI ASHOK ARGAL :

will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of village Panchayats provided with PCO services by the M.A.R.R. system in Madhya Pradesh during the last three years;

(b) the amount spent thereon, year-wise;

(c) whether due to lack of maintenance, majority of telephones are lying dead in Bhind and Morena; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government to make them perfect?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) The number of village Panchayats provided with PCOs by MARR systems are 4798 in 1993-94, 3050 in 1994-95 and 918 in 1995-96.

(b) The amount spent for the three years, year-wise is Rs. 5997.5 lakhs in 1993-94, Rs. 3812.5 lakhs in 1994-95 and Rs. 1147.0 lakhs in 1995-96.

(c) Only few telephones are faulty.

(d) The efforts to attend the faults have been increased. Guidelines/instructions have been issued to the field units to increase the efforts to repair the faults. Procedure for health check and testing of MARR systems has been prescribed.

[English]

Telephone Exchanges in Kerala

3046. SHRI G M BANATWALLA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the names of telephone exchanges under expansion/modernisation in Malappuram district of Kerala;

(b) the details of expansion, additional capacity envisaged, estimated cost, actual capacity addition estimated and the financial allocation made in the current financial year; and

(c) the time by when the work commenced and the time by which it is expected to be concluded?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) As given in the Statement-I.

(b) As given in the Statement-II

(c) The work commenced in April, 1996 and is likely to be concluded by March 1997.

STATEMENT-I

Names of Telephone Exchanges under expansion/modernisation in Malappuram district of Kerala

Sl.No.	Name of Exchange
1.	Nanjeri
2.	Kottakkal
3.	Malappuram
4.	Tirur
5.	Parappanangadi
6.	Tirurangadi
7.	Perinthalmanna
8.	Kondotty
9.	Chelari
10.	Tanur
11.	Marancherry
12.	Makaraparamba
13.	Mankada
14.	Edapal
15.	Changaramkulam
16.	Melattur
17.	Kadampuzha
18.	Dulamanthole
19.	Ponnani
20.	Thavannur

STATEMENT-II

Details of expansion/additional capacity envisaged/estimated cost etc. for Malappuram district for the year 1996-97

(i) Total additional capacity Proposed to be installed	(Gross Lines=3238 Lines)
(ii) Total actual additional capacity likely to be added	(Net Lines=20868 Lines)
(iii) Total estimated cost	= Rs. 51.72 crores
(iv) Financial allocation made in the current financial year	= Rs. 474 crores for Kerala Circle. N separate allocation of funds is received exclusively for Malappuram district

Computer Reservation Counters

3047. SHRI MURALIDHAR JENA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the computer reservation counters at Bhubaneswar Railway Station are not adequate and some of them are not operative; and

(b) if so, the action taken/proposed to be taken to reduce hours long waiting for booking of tickets?

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

(b) Does not arise.

Gauge Conversion

3048. SHRI SANAT MEHTA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that tenders for conversion of metre gauge line from Wankaner to Navlakhi into broad gauge under BOLT scheme have been invited;

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

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

(d) the reasons for delay in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Yes, Sir. Tenders have been invited under BOLT scheme for gauge conversion of Wankaner-Maliya Miyana section including the branch line from Dahinsara to Navlakhi.

(b) to (d). The offers received were examined by the duly constituted Tender Committee of the Western Railway, whose recommendations are now under consideration by the Ministry of Railways.

[Translation]

Complaints against Postal Services

3049. SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA :
KUMARI UMA BHARATI :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the complaints against the Postal-service are increasing continuously;

(b) if so, the number of complaints received during 1995-96 as compared to 1994-95;

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

(d) the action taken against those found guilty; and

(e) the steps proposed to be taken for expeditious disposal of the complaints?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) and (b). No, Sir. There has, however, been marginal increase in the number of complaints received which is quite negligible keeping

in view the increase in traffic. The receipt of complaints and their comparison with the traffic handled during the years 1994-95 and 1995-96 is as under:

Year	Number of Complaints received	Total traffic handled (in millions)	percentage
1994-95	7,69,205	13,705	0.00561
1995-96	7,91,875	14,063	0.00563

(c) As an ongoing process, the following steps have been taken:

(i) periodic analysis of the complaints received is done to ascertain the complaints prone areas for taking remedial action;

(ii) Launching of periodic drives in a particular field of complaints where the receipt of complaints is high.

(iii) Close liaison is kept with the transport authorities like Indian Airlines, Railways and State Transport.

(iv) Speedier modes of conveyance have been provided in Mumbai and Delhi for speedy delivery of mails;

(v) Dak Adalats are held for on the spot disposal of grievances.

(vi) The receipt and disposal of complaints is monitored closely.

(d) During the year 1995-96, 580 officials of different categories were punished.

(e) The following steps are already under way to further expedite disposal of complaints:

(i) Provision of PC based multi-purpose counters in all the important post offices in a phased manner.

(ii) Fixing time bound disposal of complaints.

(iii) Introduction of centralised handling of complaints in a phased manner in major cities.

(iv) Installation of Green Letter Boxes for expediting delivery of local mails.

(v) Introduction of speedier mode of services like Speed Post, Express Parcel Service Hybrid Mail, Satellite Money Orders etc.

Hindi/English Magazines

3050. SHRI SUKH LAL KUSHWAHA : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 5549 on September 12, 1996 regarding Hindi/English magazines and state :

(a) whether the requisite information has since been collected;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the time by which it is likely to be collected?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. Under the Press and Registration of Books Act, 1867, the office of the Registrar of Newspapers for India (RNI), under the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting is the depository of information pertaining to the Press in India. The office maintains essential particulars of all newspapers registered in the Country. As per RNI's records, 146 publications of various periodicity in English and 78 in Hindi have been registered with them in the name of various Government offices in Delhi. However, the annual statement in Form-II which the publications are required to submit to RNI does not contain details such as staff employed, various facilities provided for different editions, etc. Therefore, the information sought in parts (b) to (e) of USQ No. 5549 dated 12.9.96 is not compiled and maintained centrally by the Government.

The above information has also since been furnished to Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs in fulfilment of the assurance given in reply to the said USQ No. 5549 dated 12.9.96.

(c) Does not arise.

Restoration of Train Services

3051. SHRI RAM NAGINA MISHRA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that earlier a train used to ply upto Chhitauni but the same has now been discontinued;

(b) is so, the reasons for cancellation of trains upto Chhitauni and the time by which the said train service is likely to be restarted.

(c) whether the new railway station constructed about five kilometers away from Chhitauni and there are no roads and modes of conveyance available; and

(d) if so, the time by which facility of road link is likely to be provided?

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

(b) After the construction of Railway Bridge between Chhitauni and Bagaha, direct train services are available between Gorakhpur and Narkatiaganj through Paniyahwa station instead of Chhitauni. Chhitauni is now not connected with rail head.

(c) Paniyahwa station is 2.75 Kms. away from Chhitauni and parallel road facility is available.

(d) Does not arise.

Chittranjan Locomotive

3052. SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI :
SHRI NITISH KUMAR :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that electric locomotives are being manufactured in Chittranjan Locomotives;

(b) if so, the details of capacity and efficiency of electric locomotives being manufactured in the above Public Sector Undertaking;

(c) whether efforts have been made by this Undertaking to sell its product in international market;

(d) if so, the number of products, capacity-wise and efficiency-wise exported till date;

(e) the foreign exchange earned therefrom; and

(f) the annual average production capacity of this Undertaking?

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

(b)	Description of locos	Capacity	Approximate efficiency in % at 60/70 Kmph speed.
	WAG5	3900 HP	70
	WAG7	5000 HP	80
	WAP4	5000 HP	Not available

(c) to (e). The locomotives manufactured at CLW are of 1960 vintage technology which is obsolete in international market. The transfer of technology for manufacture of 3-phase GTO based thyristor locomotives is being acquired. Only after these locomotives are manufactured and proved entirely successful, their export may be considered, if surplus to Indian Railways requirements.

(f) The average annual production capacity is 130 locos and this is being augmented to 150 locos including the above type of locomotives.

[English]

Telephone Exchange of Namakal

3053. SHRI K. KANDASAMY : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government proposed to convert Namakal telephone exchange into Electronic Exchange and to provide telephone connections to a large number of persons in the waiting list there;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the progress made by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) No, Sir. The cross-bar exchange is not being replaced at present. However, action is being taken to clear the waiting list by installing a new exchange.

(b) and (c). C-DOT electronic exchange of 3500 lines which is under installation and this will be expanded further by 1000 lines to clear the present waiting list.

Doordarshan/AIR, Gujarat

3054. SHRI DINSHA PATEL :
SHRI N.J. RATHWA :

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

(a) the details of the All India Radio and Doordarshan centres set up in Gujarat particularly in Tribal areas as on date, location-wise;

(b) whether all these centres have become operational;

(c) if not, the reasons for delay;

(d) the amount spent on the development of each of the said centres so far separately;

(e) whether the Union Government have received any proposal from the State Government for broadcasting the programmes of Vividh Bharti and Production of Doordarshan Programmes;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the steps 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). As in Statement enclosed.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) and (g). Do not arise.

STATEMENT

State	Doordarshan	Expenditure (in lakh Rs.)	All India Radio Station	Expenditure (in lakh Rs)
	1	2	3	4
Gujarat				
PPC :	Ahmedabad	737.18	@ Ahmedabad	
	Rajlot	548.98	@ Vadodra	
HPT :	Ahmedabad	174.67	@ Rajkot	
	Bhuj (Int.)	25.57	* Godhra	227.00
	Dwarka	283.70	* Surat	292.00
	Rajkot	320.88	* Ahwa	220.00
	Ahmedabad (DD II)	86.19		
LPT :	* Ahwa	24.44		
	* Ambaji	42.75		
	Amreli	23.14		
	* Bhabbar	44.33		
	* Bharuch	18.50		
	* Bhavnagar	14.73		
	* Chhota Udaipur	40.07		
	* Dandi	18.06		
	* Dediapara	39.96		
	* Devgadh-Daria	51.70		
	Dharangadhra	76.73		
	Dhorajee	38.29		
	* Dohad	36.67		
	* Godhra	33.77		
	* Ider	60.00		
	Jamnagar	28.50		
	Junagarh	33.13		

	1	2	3	4
	* Kevadia Colony	32.01		
	Khambai	52.64		
	* Kosamba	41.00		
	Mahuva	78.29		
	Mangrol (Junagarh)	85.00		
	* Mehsana	37.96		
	* Navsari	46.42		
	* Palanpur	24.96		
	Palana	66.05		
	* Patan	17.50		
	Porvander	30.14		
	Rajapur	79.07		
	* Sanjeli	69.05		
	* Shamlaji	44.25		
	Songarh	38.15		
	* Surat	18.36		
	Surendranagar	24.32		
	* Tharad	38.70		
	* Vadodara	14.64		
	* Valsad	29.16		
	Varaval	22.28		
	Gandhinagar (DD II)	31.12		
VLPT :	* Kakrapar	30.69		
	* Netrang	40.38		

* Located in Tribal areas.

@ Figures of expenditure not available.

Note : All the above mentioned centres are operational.

Target for Installation of HPT

3055. SHRI SHANTILAL PARSOTAMDAS PATEL : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state

(a) whether Doordarshan has failed to achieve the target for installation of High Power Transmitters during the Eighth Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the reasons thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government to rectify the situation?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) to (c). There has been a shortfall in achievement of targets in establishment of High Power TV Transmitters (HPTs) during the VIII Plan Period. The shortfall has, however, been mainly because of the priority assigned to setting up of Low Power TV Transmitters (LPTs) and Very Low Power TV Transmitters (VLPTs) with a view to extend service to hitherto

uncovered areas in the country and constraints of funds. Depending on availability of resources, a number of HPTs are envisaged to be set up in the country as part of IX Plan proposals of Doordarshan.

Import of Steel

3056. SHRI UTTAMSINGH PAWAR : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that overseas steel producers have been supplying steel at throw away prices;

(b) if so, the details of imported steel during the last six months alongwith the rate at which it was imported;

(c) whether the overseas steel traders have supplied the steel on account of relaxation of customs duty on steel recently; and

(d) if so, the action proposed to be taken to safeguard the interest of the domestic producers?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) to (d) As per the existing policy, import of steel is freely allowed. However, provision exists in the Customs Tariff Act, 1975 and the rules framed thereunder to investigate cases of dumping and levy an additional customs duty, if it is established that such dumping causes material injury to the domestic industry. The Designated Authority under the aforesaid Act has not, as on 05.12.1996, received any petition for imposition of Anti-Dumping Duties on any steel product. As per available information, about 5.85 lakh tonnes of saleable steel was imported during April-August, 1996. The average (C&F) import prices during August, 1996 of some of the categories of steel were as under :

1. Billets (IS-2830; 80/100 mm)	: 255 \$/Tonne
2. Wire Rods (IS-2062; 6mm)	: 335 \$/Tonne
3. H.R. Coils (3.15mm DD)	: 370 \$/Tonne
4. C.R. Coils (0.63 mm DD)	: 520 \$/Tonne
5. Tin Plate Prime (OC-size)	: 740 \$/Tonne

[Translation]

Mid Air Collision

3057. KUMARI UMA BHARATI :
DR. RAM KRISHNA KUSMARIA :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the relatives of the persons killed in the mid air collision on November 12, 1996 had to face a lot of difficulties as there was no proper arrangement at the Indira Gandhi International Airport for providing requisite information to them;

(b) whether incidents of misbehaviour with the relatives of the deceased by the authorities concerned at the above airport have also been noticed;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the action taken or proposed to be taken against the guilty officials?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) Immediately on receipt of information regarding the mid air-collision, a Control Room was established at IGI Airport by Airports Authority of India and all necessary arrangements like providing information about accident victims, sitting arrangements, serving of refreshments and transportation of next of kin/relatives of accident victims to the crash site/hospitals were made.

(b) No, Sir.

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

[English]

Reserved Posts

3058. SHRI K.D. SULTANPURI : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) the backlog of reserved posts for SCs/STs and OBCs in his Ministry as on January, 1996;

(b) the extent to which the backlog has been cleared so far; and

(c) the time by which the rest of the backlog is likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) 330 SC, 490 ST and 400 OBC posts are lying vacant as reserved posts as on 1st January, 1996.

(b) 114 SC, 82 ST and 89 OBC posts have been filled up so far.

(c) Requisitions for filling the backlog vacancies have already been sent to UPSC/SSC/Employment Exchange etc. Special Recruitment Drives have been launched to clear the backlog but it is not possible to precisely indicate the date by which these backlog vacancies could be filled since recruitment action is to be taken by various undertakings and fulfilment of procedural requirements.

Profit/Loss on Serials

3059. SHRI PINAKI MISRA : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the popular serials telecast on Doordarshan weekly, bi-weekly or more often on Doordarshan during 1995-96;

(b) for how long each of them was or is being telecast; and

(c) the profit/loss earned in respect of each of them?

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

Introduction of Direct Train between Mysore and Varanasi

3060. SHRI S. D. N. R. WADIYAR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to introduce a direct train service between Mysore and Varanasi;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have received representations from the pilgrims in this regard; and

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

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Some representations have been received in this regard.

(d) There is no such proposal at present.

Use of Hubli Aerodrome

3061. SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government of Karnataka has urged the Union Government to ensure use of Hubli Aerodrome; and

(b) if so, the reaction of the Union Government in this regard?

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

(b) Hubli Airport has facilities to sustain 50 seater aircraft operations. NEPC airlines which operated scheduled flights to Hubli from 17-4-1994 to 20-8-1995 discontinued flights, probably due to lack of adequate traffic. It is upto the airlines concerned to decide whether or not to fly, depending upon the volume of traffic and the economics of the operation.

Telephone Advisory Committees

3062. DR. BALIRAM :

SHRI RAM NAIK :

SHRI AJOY MUKHOPADHYAY :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have constituted the State-wise or circle-wise Telephone Advisory Committees (TAC) after the expiry of terms of the previous committees, including MTNL Advisory Committees for Delhi and Mumbai;

(b) if so, whether Members of Parliament and State Legislatures and the names sponsored by them are given representation on TACs as a matter of policy; and

(c) if so, the reasons for not including Members of Parliament and State Legislatures in the TAC for MTNL, Mumbai?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) Yes Sir. Telephone Advisory Committees for one hundred field units have been constituted after expiry of their terms, till date. The term of TACs for Mumbai & Delhi has not yet expired.

(b) Yes Sir. Hon'ble M.Ps are included in the TAC if they are sponsored by the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs. The names sponsored by Members of Parliament and State Legislatures are duly considered.

(c) One MLA has already been nominated in the TAC for MTNL Mumbai. Nominations of M.Ps for the TAC, MTNL Mumbai were not received from the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs.

Licences for Aluminium Plant in Orissa

3063. SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS : Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to give licence to any company for Aluminium Plants in Langigarh in Kalahandi District of Orissa;

(b) if so, details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons for delay?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA): (a) and (b). In order to encourage private sector investment in the aluminium sector, aluminium metal and its downstream products have been exempted from the provision of compulsory licensing. However, Langigarh deposit is the proposed bauxite linkage for 100% Export Oriented Alumina producing unit for which Government has granted Letter of Intent to M/s Karnataka Telecables. The project has been at present kept in abeyance by the Company because the company felt that the bauxite deposits at Langigarh are inadequate to meet the requirement for the entire life span of the Alumina project.

(c) Does not arise.

Performance of Private Airlines in the Domestic Sector

3064. SHRI SANDIPAN THORAT : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have reviewed the performance of private airlines in the domestic sector in the wake of opening of civil aviation for private participations;

(b) if so, the outcome thereof;

(c) the details of action plan worked out to ensure that both public and private sector perform efficiently and profitably and harness the potential available in the country; and

(d) the details of steps taken/proposed to strengthen infrastructure network/operational facilities for efficient operation of airlines to cater to the ever increasing traffic in the domestic and international sector?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) to (c). No review of the performance of private airlines has been undertaken. However, with a view to ensure regular and dependable air transport service in the domestic sector, a review of the policy framework is under consideration.

(d) Induction of additional capacity and expansion of infrastructure for airlines operations are on-going processes.

Issue of Identity Cards to Construction Workers

3065. SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken decision recently to introduce identity cards to the construction workers;

(b) if so, whether such provision is proposed to be made mandatory for the employers of the construction workers in the country;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the other measures proposed to be adopted for the welfare of the construction workers, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) to (c). The Building and other Construction Workers (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 1996 (27 of 1996) has come into force w.e.f. 01.03.1996. Under Section 12 of the said Act every building worker between the age of 18 and 60 years engaged in construction work for not less than 90 days during the preceding 12 months shall be eligible for registration as a beneficiary. Section 13 of the said Act makes it mandatory for the Building and Other Construction Workers Welfare Boards constituted by the State Governments to issue identity cards to every beneficiary registered under the Act.

(d) The Act provides for hours of work, overtime wages, sufficient supply of wholesome drinking water, latrines and urinals, temporary living accommodation at or near the work site, maintenance of creches, canteens and first-aid facility. In addition, the Welfare Fund Boards may provide for immediate assistance in case of accident, old age pension, housing loans, group insurance, childrens' education, sickness and maternity benefits etc.

Automatic Telephone Exchanges

3066. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of automatic telephone exchanges in the country, State-wise;

(b) the number of non-automatic telephone exchanges and the period required to convert them into automatic exchanges; and

(c) the capability of the country in developing and producing its own automatic exchanges, the annual production and investments made so far?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) The information is enclosed in the statement-I.

(b) All exchanges in the country are automatic except a few manual trunk exchanges.

(c) India has capability to develop and produce its own automatic exchanges. The information regarding production and investment is enclosed in the statement-II.

STATEMENT-I

No. of Automatic Telephone Exchanges in the Country as on 30.9.96, State-wise

Sl. No.	Name of State	Nos.
1.	Andhra Pradesh	2066
2.	Assam	287
3.	Bihar	790
4.	Delhi	127
5.	Gujarat	1397
6.	Haryana	750
7.	Himachal Pradesh	549
8.	Jammu & Kashmir	223
9.	Karnataka	2037
10.	Kerala	768
11.	Madhya Pradesh	2664
12.	Maharashtra (Including Mumbai & Goa)	2609
13.	North Eastern Region (Including Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Tripura, Nagaland, Mizoram, Manipur)	232
14.	Orissa	713
15.	Punjab	856
16.	Rajasthan	1453
17.	Tamil Nadu (Including Chennai)	1414
18.	Uttar Pradesh	1734
19.	West Bengal (Including Calcutta, Sikkim and Andaman Nicobar)	659
Total		21328

STATEMENT-II

Production/Investment

Year	C-Dot Design		ITI Design			
	Production	Investment	Production	Investment	Production	Investment
1993-94	11.54 Lakh lines	54.34 crore	1.454 Lakh lines	5 crore		
1994-95	12.50 Lakh lines	46.70 crore	0.158 Lakh lines	4 crore		
1995-96	7.34 Lakh lines	47.49 crore	0.106 Lakh lines	2 crore		
	31.38 Lakh lines	148.49 crore	1.718 Lakh lines	11 crore		

C-DOT switching equipment manufacturers have invested Rs. 120 crores in the manufacturing infrastructure in the last decade.

Figures relating to investment indicated in the Table above includes the expenditure on development of projects for indigenous switches and related transmission equipment and terminals.

Foreign participation in Mining Sector

3067. SHRI VIJAY PATEL : Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have approved foreign equity participation of 50% in the mining sector; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) and (b). The National Mineral Policy, 1993 (for non-atomic and non-fuel minerals) envisages, inter-alia, private investment, both domestic and foreign, in the Mineral Sector. While foreign investment in equity would normally be limited to 50%, this limitation would not apply to captive mines of any mineral processing industry. Enhanced foreign equity holding can also be considered on case to case basis. As per Section 5(1) of the Mines & Minerals (Regulation & Development) Act, 1957, any company registered in India can apply to the respective State Governments for grant of Prospecting Licence or Mining Lease.

STD Facility to Sub-divisional Hqs

3068. SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to provide the facilities for STD link to each sub divisional Headquarter of India and important centres by the end of 1997;

(b) if so, the details of the Headquarters located in West Bengal for STD link;

(c) whether the Government propose to connect all blocks of West Bengal by STD link; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) All the 54 Sub-divisional Headquarters in West Bengal have been provided with STD facility

(c) and (d). There is no separate proposal as such. However, out of 322 Block Headquarters in West Bengal, 219 Block Headquarters have already been provided with STD facility. Remaining Block Headquarters shall be progressively covered in future subject to availability of funds.

[Translation]

Target Fixed for Post Offices

3069. SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of targets fixed and achievements made in regard to opening of branch post offices and sub-post offices in the National Capital Region, Delhi during the last three years and in the current financial year till date;

(b) whether the Union Government propose to give priority to opening of branch post offices and sub-post offices in the Gram Panchayat Headquarters of backward and rural areas of Delhi;

(c) if so, the details of the villages of Delhi selected for this purpose; and

(d) the time by which this scheme is likely to be implemented and the estimated expenditure likely to be incurred thereon?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) The details of the targets fixed and achievements made in regard to opening of Branch Post Offices and Sub Post Offices in Delhi during the last 3 years and current financial year till date are given in statement-I. No separate allocation of targets is made for National Capital Region as the Post Offices are opened on the basis of norms-based justification subject

to availability of resources and depending upon merit of each case.

(b) Preference is given to the Gram Panchayat Headquarter Villages of rural and backward areas for opening of Post Offices subject to fulfilment of prescribed norms and availability of resources.

(c) Out of 204 Villages in the National Capital Territory of Delhi, 111 Villages, which justify the opening of Post Offices as per norms, already have post offices.

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

STATEMENT

Details of targets & achievements regarding opening of Post Offices in Delhi during the last 3 years and current year 1996-97 till date.

Year	Targets Fixed		Post Offices Sanctioned	
	Branch Post Offices	Sub Post Offices	Branch Post Offices	Sub Post Offices
1993-94	-	6	-	8
1994-95	-	10	-	1
1995-96	-	10	-	2
1996-97 (till date)	1	10	-	3
Total	1	36	-	14

Telephones to Gram Panchayats in the Country

3070. SHRI D.P. YADAV: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have provided telephone facility to all Gram Panchayats in the country;

(b) if so, the number of Gram Panchayats in Uttar Pradesh which have not been provided with telephone facility so far, District-wise; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to make telephone facility better in Gram Panchayats?

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

(b) 45840 Gram Panchayats in Uttar Pradesh have not been provided with telephone facility so far. The Districtwise details for U.P. (West) and U.P.(East) is enclosed in Statement I and II respectively.

(c) Better technologies are planned to be inducted and maintenance efforts have been intensified.

STATEMENT-I

List of District-wise number of Panchayats without telephones

Sl.No.	District	No. of Panchayats
U.P. (West)		
1.	Agra	123
2.	Firozabad	84
3.	Saharanpur	376
4.	Hridwar	132
5.	Mathura	157
6.	Etah	492
7.	Almora	1042
8.	Pithoragarh	494
9.	Rampur	402
10.	Pilibhit	481
11.	Badaun	705
12.	Ghaziabad	222
13.	Bulandshahr	656
14.	Pauri	1003
15.	Uttarkashi	326
16.	Tihri	758
17.	Chamoli	553
18.	Bijnaur	579
19.	Moradabad	964
20.	Bareilly	804
21.	Dehradun	214
22.	Muzaffarnagar	152
23.	Nainital	300
24.	Meerut	0
25.	Aligarh	502
Total		11521

STATEMENT-II

List of District-wise number of Panchayats without telephones

S.No.	District	No. of Panchayats
1	2	3
U.P. (East)		
1.	Allahabad	1439
2.	Azamgarh	1795
3.	Ballia	471
4.	Basti	1842
5.	Banda	319

1	2	3
6.	Bahraich	1165
7.	Barabanki	1039
8.	Deoria	} 2153 Newly created district
9.	Padrauna	
10.	Etawah	629
11.	Faizabad	} 1256 Newly created district
12.	Ambedkarnagar	
13.	Farukhabad	609
14.	Fatehpur	773
15.	Gorakhpur	949
16.	Gonda	1630
17.	Gazipur	946
18.	Hardoi	1185
19.	Hamirpur	} 381 Newly created district
20.	Mahoba	
21.	Jaunpur	1435
22.	Jhansi	245
23.	Jalaun	347
24.	Kanpur City	35
25.	Kanpur Dehat	736
26.	Lucknow	41
27.	Lakhimpur	746
28.	Lalitpur	293
29.	Mainpuri	336
30.	Mirzapur	647
31.	Mau	221
32.	Maharajganj	1180
33.	Pratapgarh	1276
34.	Raibareilly	904
35.	Sultanpur	1084
36.	Sitapur	1060
37.	Shahjahanpur	1052
38.	Siddharth Nagar	1275
39.	Sonbhadra	399
40.	Unnao	791
41.	Varanasi	} 1339 Newly created district
42.	Bhadoi	
43.	Ferozabad	296
Total		34319

[English]

Modernisation/Expansion of MTNL, Delhi

3071. DR. C. SILVERA :

SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether MTNL, Delhi has been concentrating on accelerating the pace of modernisation and expansion;

(b) if so, progress made in each service as on November 20, 1996;

(c) whether MTNL has also been emphasising on consolidation of growth, enhancing customer access, increasing customer convenience and bringing about greater customer satisfaction;

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith steps taken in this regard field-wise;

(e) whether Fault Repair Service and Voice Mail Fault Repair Services has been computerised in all exchanges of Delhi;

(f) if so, the details thereof with criteria to avail of these services;

(g) whether the Government also propose to introduce above system in other cities of the country, and

(h) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) The details are as per enclosed statement-I

(c) Yes Sir.

(d) As per Statement-II attached.

(e) Fault Repair Services of All major exchanges of MTNL, Delhi have been computerised and Voice Mail Fault Repair Service has been introduced in all exchanges of Delhi.

(f) These services are available to all the customers.

(g) and (h). Yes, Sir. Depending upon the local requirements, technical feasibility and availability of equipments, these systems are being introduced progressively in all the major centres.

STATEMENT-I*Details of Modernisation and Expansion of Telecom Services*

(i) *Upgradation of technology.*

All electro-machanical strowger type and Penta-Conta Cross Bar type exchanges have been replaced by Modern electronic exchanges.

At present 91.65% exchange capacity is electronic.

98% of the junctions between exchanges are of digital type including optical fibre cables.

A modern state-of-the art digital trunk Automatic exchange of 25000 lines has been commissioned.

Directory Enquiry Computerised.

Fault repair systems of all major exchanges computerised.

(ii) *Development*

Equipped capacity of telephone exchanges increased from 3.36 lakhs lines (as on 1-4-86) to about 14.37 lakhs lines (31-10-96).

(iii) *New Services*

A number of non voice services like data, video conferencing etc. have been introduced through an integrated services Digital Network (ISDN). Internet connectivity is also available. A dedicated data communication network called INET has already been commissioned and is being expanded further (Phase II).

STATEMENT-II

Customer Friendly Steps

Commercial

1. Commercial activities have been fully decentralised. On line booking for registration of new telephones in addition to all area CSCS (except Trans Yamuna) available at Laxmi nagar, Dilshad Garden, Mayur Vihar, Yamuna Vihar, Shahadra, Shakti Nagar & Okhla.
2. Auto com Service for delivery of forms on fax has been made operational.
3. Direct indialling group EPABX by 25 parties has been made operational.
4. Registration fee for booking of new telephone connection now accepted by cheque.

Billing

1. Bill collections centres increased from 111 to 161.
2. Duplicate bills of any telephone No. available from all CSCs and Jorbagh, Laxmi Nagar, Shakti Nagar, Hauz Khas & Janakpuri CSCs.
3. Billing information service is available on telephone No. 6226600.
4. Details of STD/ISD as annexure to the main bill has been introduced, thus reducing the size of the bill.

5. Separate post box numbers allotted to each area for receipt of payment of telephone bills sent by post.
6. Fresh thrust has been given for revolving accounts by increasing the rate of interest on voluntary deposits to 12% per annum.
7. Mobile Vans Made Operational For Bill collections and distribution of various forms covering 87 localities in far flung areas.

Customer Convenience

1. Customer Service Centres have been remodelled at Bhikaji Cama Place, Nehru Place, Shakti Nagar & Khurshid Lal Bhawan.
2. Single window concept introduced in South-I & South-II.
3. Night Emergency Help Service introduced.
4. Generic Numbering Scheme introduced.

Special Services

1. Directory enquiry service 197 upgraded with a new computer and the service has been decentralised to give better performance.
2. Automatic changed number announcement service using Interactive voice Response System introduced in August, 1995.
3. On line Directory Enquiry Service for Bombay, Calcutta, Madras, Bangalore & Hyderabad introduced.
4. On Line Directory Enquiry Service has been made available for those telephone user who are having a P.C. connected to PSTN through a modem with communication software.
5. New STD/ISD Information Service (182) has been started. Information regarding codes, metering pulse rates and status/failure of STD/ISD can be obtained.

Fault Repair Service

1. Fault Repair Services of all major exchanges have been computerised and in addition automatic line testing introduced at Kidwai Bhawan, Sena Bhawan, Delhi Gate, Idgah, Okhla, Karol Bagh, Rajouri Garden & Hari Nagar.
2. Voice Mail Fault Repair Service Numbering scheme rationalised (easy to remember).

Other Steps

1. Strict norms laid down and close monitoring being done for shifting and/repair of phones.
2. Licence fee for cordless phones and two line telephone as attachment has been withdrawn.
3. Licence fee for FAX has been reduced.

Derailments of Trains in Bihar

3072. SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there have been three cases of derailments of trains in quick succession in a particular section in Bihar;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is evidence that these derailments are due to sabotage;

(d) if so, whether the Government of Bihar has taken any steps to investigate into these acts of sabotage;

(e) whether any suspects have been apprehended;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the financial loss suffered by the Railways due to these derailments of trains?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b). There had been three cases of derailment of trains on Mughalsarai-Patna section of Eastern Railways during the years 1996-97, two in the State of Bihar and one in Uttar Pradesh. Details of these derailments are as under:

- (1) On 23.4.96, ten coaches of 5622 North East Express derailed between Zamania and Uttar Pradesh
- (2) On 19.8.96, twelve coaches of 2302 Poorva Express derailed between Durmaon and Raruna stations of Danapur Division in the State of Bihar.
- (3) On 14.11.96 twelve coaches of 3050 Amritsar Howrah Express derailed between Banahi and Bihiya stations of Danapur Division in the State of Bihar.

(c) The above derailments were due to suspected sabotage and the cases are still under investigation with the Police.

(d) to (f). Both the cases of derailments in Bihar have been registered by Government Railway Police/Buxar and by Government Railway Police/Ara respectively. Final reports on these cases are still awaited.

(g) The financial loss suffered by the Railway due to these three derailments is Rs. 1.43 crores, approximately.

Corruption in Tech & Wireless Planning & Coord. Wing

3073. SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN : will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to newsitem captioned 'Telecom money-

spinner' appearing in 'The Pioneer' dated August 27, 1996;

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

(c) whether any preventive measures have been taken in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) The Government has noted and analysed the contents of the news item. The departmental rules and regulations have been followed while deciding various issues.

(c) and (d). The tendering process has been reviewed and made more transparent to instil confidence amongst the tenderers. A calendar of tenders has been notified well in advance. The number of vendors and the percentage of quantity of orders proposed to be placed on them are notified at the time of tendering. Recently, the Department has finalised a Vendor Rating System for introduction on experimental basis. All these measures are likely to instil confidence in the tendering system.

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

[Translation]

Telephone Connection in Rajasthan

3074. PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that applications for telephone connections in respect of number of the people of rural areas falling under the jurisdiction of TDM, Ajmer district of Rajasthan is pending for a long time;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

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

(d) the time by which telephone services are likely to be provided in these rural areas where more than 10-15 persons have already deposited forms and requisite fee;

(e) whether the entire old and new tehsil headquarters or major townships of Ajmer district have been connected with STD services; and

(f) if not, the time by which these places are likely to be connected with STD services and the places from which applications in this regard are lying pending?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The details of pending applications in various telephone exchanges

in rural areas of Ajmer district, are as Under:

Exchange	Pending applications
Pranheda	2
Ghogra	6
Kadel	2

These are long distance connections of about 9 Km distance in case of Ghogra and 11 Km. in case of Kadel. These connections are planned to be provided during 1997-98. Line and wire material is being procured.

(d) There are 11 places where 10-15 persons have already deposited forms. The telephone services are planned to be provided during 1997-98.

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) Does not arise in view of (e) above.

[English]

E.D. Employees

3075. SHRI A.C. JOS : Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state :

(a) whether the committee appointed to study the working conditions of E.D. Staff in the Postal Department has submitted its report;

(b) if so, the salient features of the recommendations made by the committee; and

(c) if not, reasons therefor?

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

(b) Question does not arise in view of (a) above.

(c) One man Committee under the Chairmanship of Justice Charanjit Talwar, retired Judge of Delhi High Court has been set up to examine the conditions of services and emoluments and other facilities available to the Extra-Departmental Agents. The tenure of the Justice Talwar Committee has been extended on existing terms and conditions for a further period from 1.10.96 to 15.2.97 or three months from the date of submission of the report of the Vth Pay Commission, whichever is later.

Registration of SCs/STs & OBCs

3076. SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) the number of handicapped persons and persons belonging to Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe and Other Backward Classes registered with the employment exchanges in Tamil Nadu as on October, 1996;

(b) the number of persons belonging to above categories provided employment during each of the last three years;

(c) whether the quota fixed for the above categories has been filled up; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) The number of Physically Handicapped, Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe Job-seekers, all of whom may not necessarily be unemployed, who were on the live register of employment exchanges in Tamil Nadu is indicated below :

Categories	No. on Live Register (in thousands)
1. Physically Handicapped (as on 31st December, 1995) (latest available)	47.2
2. Scheduled Caste (as on 30th June, 1995) (latest available)	738.5
3. Scheduled Tribe (as on 30th June, 1995) (latest available)	11.8

Information relating to Other Backward Classes are not maintained.

(b) The number of Physically Handicapped, Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe Job-seekers placed in employment by the employment exchanges in Tamil Nadu during the year 1993, 1994 and 1995 is indicated below :

Year	Number placed in employment (in thousands)		
	Physically Handicapped	Scheduled Caste	Scheduled Tribe
1993	1.1	5.2	0.2
1994	0.9	2.5	0.1
1995	0.9	1.3*	0.1*

* Related to Jan.-June, 1995.

(c) and (d). As per the demand of employers, the Employment Exchanges submit the list of handicapped candidates as also the candidates belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes for filling up to the vacancies reserved for them.

Decline of Workers in Gulf Country

3077. SHRI N. DENNIS : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the number of persons going to Gulf countries for work from the country has been continuously declining;

(b) if so, the details thereof during the last three years; and

(c) the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) to (c). The number of persons who emigrated for work abroad, including in the gulf countries, after getting clearance/endorsements from the offices of Protectors of Emigrants (POE) during the years 1993, 1994, and 1995 was as under :

1993	:	4,38,338
1994	:	4,25,385
1995	:	4,15,334

It would be seen that there was a marginal decline in the number of workers emigrating for work, after getting clearance/endorsement from POE offices. This, however, does not mean that there is an actual decrease in the number of persons emigrating for work, in absolute terms. Persons included in the category of professionals and skilled workers are not required to get emigration clearance from offices of Protector of Emigrants in case their passports are stamped 'Emigration Check Not Required'. It is likely that a number of persons belonging to this category also emigrated for work. No information in respect of such emigrants is available.

Computer System Collapsed

3078. PROF AJIT KUMAR MEHTA :
SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that software running in the computer system installed at the air cargo terminal at the Indira Gandhi International airport collapsed a week after its operation causing huge loss to the exporters;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the estimated loss suffered by the exporters as a result thereof; 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). No Sir. The computerised processing of the export documents pertaining to duty free goods and for Drawback at the Air Cargo Unit IGI Airport under the Delhi Customs concerned with effect from 3-6-1996 and 1-11-1996 respectively. Due to the changeover from manual to computerised system the number of documents cleared in the first few days was less than the normal output. To meet the exact requirements of the computerised system, the documents received from exporters had been returned. However, the system has stabilised and is working satisfactorily.

Chief Reservation Supervisor

3079. SHRI PRAMOTHES MUKHERJEE : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Northern and Western Railways have been discouraging lady members of staff on their existing strength from holding the post of Chief Reservation Supervisor;

(b) if so, whether some of the staff members have been representing to the Government on this account, and

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

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

(b) and (c). Do not arise

[Translation]

Accidents in Bokaro Steel Plant

3080. PROF. RITA VERMA : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) the number of accidents took place in Bokaro Steel Plant during each of the last three years;

(b) the number of employees died, injured seriously and received minor injuries in these accidents;

(c) the causes of accidents, the number of committees constituted for investigation of accidents, alongwith when these committees were constituted;

(d) the number of the committees whose reports are still awaited;

(e) the details of the Committee reports received till now;

(f) whether recommendations of the reports have been implemented; and

(g) the year-wise details of action taken against officials/employees found guilty for these accidents?

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

Computerised Post Offices in U.P.

3081. SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of post offices computerised in Uttar Pradesh, District-wise, Location-wise; and

(b) the number of post offices likely to be computerised during 1996-97?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) 58 Post Offices have been computerised in Uttar Pradesh and details are given in Statement.

(b) 12 Post Offices are proposed to be computerised during 1996-97.

STATEMENT

List of Computerised Post Offices in Uttar Pradesh

Sl No	Name of District	Location
1	2	3
1	Lucknow GPO	1. Lucknow Gpo 2. Aminabad Park PO 3. Lucknow Chowk HO 4. Alambagh PO 5. New Hyderabad 6. Niralanagar 7. Mahanagar 8. Dilkusha 9. Rajendra Nagar 10. U.P. Secretariat
2	Barabanki	11. Barabanki HO
3	Faizabad	12. Faizabad HO
4	Gorakhpur	13. Gorakhpur HO 14. Kuraghat HO 15. Gita Press 16. Railway Colony
5	Gonda	17. Gonda HO
6	Bahraich	18. Bahraich HO
7	Mau	19. Mau HO
8	Azamgarh	20. Azamgarh HO
9	Ballia	21. Ballia HO
10	Deoria	22. Deoria HO
11	Kanpur City	23. Kanpur HO 24. Nawabganj HO 25. HNS Nagar 26. Nayaganj 27. I.I.T. Kanpur 28. Udaugnagar 29. Kanpur Cantt. HO
12	Meerut	30. Meerut HO 31. Meerut Kty HO 32. Meerut City HO
13	Ghaziabad	33. Ghaziabad HO 34. Noida Complex SO

1	2	3
14. Dehradun		35. Dehradun Cantt. 36. Dehradun HO 37. Dehradun Kty
15. Saharanpur		38. Saharanpur HO 39. Saharanpur Kty HO
16. Muzaffarnagar		40. Muzaffarnagar HO 41. Muzaffarnagar City SO
17. Bareilly		42. Bareilly HO 43. Bareilly City SO
18. Kheri		44. Kheri HO
19. Moradabad		45. Moradabad HO
20. Nainital		46. Nainital HO
21. Rampur		47. Rampur HO
22. Varanasi		48. Varanasi HO 49. Varanasi Cantt. 50. Bengali Tola SO
23. Allahabad		51. Allahabad HO 52. Allahabad Kty HO 53. C D A Pension SO
24. Pratapgarh		54. Pratapgarh HO
25. Ghazipur		55. Ghazipur HO
26. Jaunpur		56. Jaunpur HO
27. Agra		57. Agra HO 58. Hariparvat SO
Total		58

[English]

Dogri News On Doordarshan, Jammu

3082. SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether requests have been received to start Dogri news bulletin from Jammu Doordarshan;

(b) if so, the details thereof; 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). Do not arise.

Development of Tourism

3083. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA : Will the Minister for TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the journey to the Himalayan shrine

and other tourist spots in the Garhwal region is very hazardous;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the region suffers from lackness of good roads, medical facilities and hotels, tourist complexes and dharamshalas;

(d) if so, whether the Government propose to develop the region; and

(e) if so, the measures being taken by the Government to develop the region?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA): (a) to (e). Creation of tourist facilities is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments. However, the Deptt. of Tourism extends financial assistance to State/Union Territory Governments for tourism projects based on their merits, *inter-se* priority and availability of funds.

The Department of Tourism has provided financial assistance for the following projects in Garhwal Hills to Government of Uttar Pradesh:-

- (1) Mini buses for Corbett and Chilla.
- (2) Fibre glass huts for Garhwal Hills.
- (3) Forest Lodge at Dhangari.
- (4) Frekking quipment for Garhwal Region.
- (5) Wayside facilities at Dholadevi.
- (6) Construction of Motel at Dholadevi.
- (7) Water Sports equipment for Garhwal.
- (8) Tented accommodation at Nandprayag.
- (9) Trivenighat at Rishikesh.

[Translation]

MARR Telephone System

3084. PROF. OMPAL SINGH 'NIDAR': Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the time by which MARR telephone system is likely to start functioning in Uttar Pradesh, district-wise;

(b) The number of telephones, out of order in the village in Agra Division as on November 15, 1996 and the percentage thereof in comparison to the total number of telephones in the villages in Agra Division; and

(c) The steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to bring the telephone facilities provided to the rural subscribers at par with those provided to urban populace?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) MARR Telephone system are functioning in all the districts of Uttar Pradesh. 100% coverage of all the villages with telephone facility is likely to complete by the end of IXth Five Year Plan.

(b) Out of a total 802 number of village public telephones, 158 number of village public telephones are faulty in Agra Division which is 20% of total Village Public Telephones.

(c) Instructions/Guidelines have been issued for testing of MARR systems. Efforts have been increased to improve the performance and reduce the faults. All the Telecom Circles are trying to enter into Annual Maintenance contract for the repair of faulty telephones apart from daily testing of Village Public Telephones.

Bilaspur-Jabalpur Railway Line

3085. SHRI FAGGAN SINGH KULESTE : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there has been a continuous demand for laying of a railway line from Bilaspur to Jabalpur Via Mungeli, Bhugelan to Mandla in Madhya Pradesh;

(b) if so, whether the Government had sanctioned funds to conduct a survey in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether any steps have been taken in this regard; and

(e) the time by which the work is likely to be started and completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) There have been some representation in this regard.

(b) No, Sir.

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

(e) The work is not planned at present.

[English]

AIR Studio, Kargil

3086. SHRI P. NAMGYAL : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the construction of AIR studios and buildings at Kargil, Jammu and Kashmir have since been completed;

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

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

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) These are technically ready for commissioning and will be commissioned in the ensuing summer season subject to availability of staff for operation and maintenance.

[Translation]

**Bogies of Howrah-Mumbai Gitanjali Express
Derailed**

3087. SHRI DADA BABURAO PARANJPE :
SHRI MANHARAN LAL PANDEY :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that seven bogies of Howrah-Mumbai Gitanjali Express train were derailed near the Bilaspur station of Madhya Pradesh on November 1, 1996;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have conducted any enquiry;

(d) if so, the details thereof along with the loss suffered by Railways;

(e) whether such accidents have taken place at the same place earlier also;

(f) if so, the reasons therefor;

(g) whether the Government Railway Police and Railway Administration have given different statements in this regard; and

(h) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b). On 2.11.96, the train engine and eight coaches of 2860 Up Howrah-Mumbai Gitanjali Express got derailed between Jairamnagar and Gatora stations of Bilaspur Division of South Eastern Railway. As a result of this derailment, four passengers sustained grievous injuries and six passengers suffered minor injuries.

(c) and (d). The cause of the accident is being inquired into by the Commissioner of Railway Safety, South Eastern Circle, whose report is awaited. The loss to the Railway property is estimated to be around Rs. 63 lakhs.

(e) and (f). On 1.10.92, the train engine and 13 coaches of 2860 Up Howrah-Bombay Gitanjali Express derailed between Jairamnagar and Gatora stations of Bilaspur Division on South Eastern Railway owing to removal of fish-plates and pandrol clips by the miscreants. This was a case of sabotage. However, there was no casualty among the passengers.

(g) and (h). No, Sir.

[English]

Deviation from Eflight Levels

3088. SHRI AMAR PAL SINGH : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received complaints regarding deviation of flight levels assigned to the pilots of the aircrafts belonging to Commonwealth

of Independent States (CIS) by the Indian Air Traffic Control;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the remedial measures 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) and (b). Airline operators from Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) violated flight levels assigned to them on some occasions. Such violations occurred 6 times in 1995 and 3 times in 1996.

(c) Director General of Civil Aviation held a meeting on 17-10-1995 in which it was decided that Uzbekistan airlines would train the pilots operating flights to India and a refresher course in English language would also be conducted. Other CIS airlines have not responded so far.

[Translation]

Transfer of Telephones

3089. SHRI KACHARU BHAU RAUT : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state

(a) the number of applications pending for transfer/shifting of telephones in Bombay, exchange-wise; and

(b) the steps taken for early disposal of such applications?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) Sir, the number of applications pending for shifting of telephones in Mumbai exchange-wise, are given in the statement.

(b) Efforts are being made to dispose off all pending cases at the earliest by making the area technically feasible by laying new cables, wherever required.

STATEMENT

Number of Applications pending for Transfer/Shifting of telephones in Mumbai (Exchange-wise)

Exchange Area	No. of pending applications
1	2

South

City	56
Fountain	68
Cooperage	87
Cuffe Parade	10

North

Wadala	206
Sion	293
Prabhadevi	152

1	2
Shivaji Park	98
Worli	52
Byculla	33
West II	
Gokuldham	41
Marol	123
Sakinaka	41
Goregaon	61
East-I	
Mankhurd	72
Chembur	65
Ghatkopar	80
Bandra	22
Powai	33
New Mumbai	
Turbhe	123
Vashi	89
Belapur	63
Rabale	61
Kalamboli	47
Pahvel	77
Nhava	9
Shave	4
Uran	5
Taloja	3
Central	
Gamdevi	43
Malabar Hills	80
Mazgaon	56
Mandvi	8
West-I	
Andheri	15
Bandra	59
Khar	28
Vileparle	32
Varsova	33
West-III	
Malad	107
Samta Nagar	74
Kandivli	264
Borivli	111
Mira Road	49
Bhayander	63
East-II	
Charai	140
Wagle Estate	12
Mumbra	12
Mulund	243

[English]

BBC Network with Home TV

3090. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAIS: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether BBC has decided to rework with Home TV;

(b) whether Doordarshan has been asked to re-examine the possibilities of Delhi Doordarshan paying for the customising educational software from BBC Learning, U.K.;

(c) whether British Public Service Broadcaster is also in the process of drafting an application for a 100 per cent subsidiary in India;

(d) if so, whether the Doordarshan have revived the MOU for educational software with BBC;

(e) if so, the decisions taken thereon; and

(f) whether Doordarshan is paying BBC about Rs 30 thousand per half an hour?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) Reports have been received in this Ministry that proposal of a tie-up between BBC and Home TV for production of news programmes is being worked out.

(b) No, sir.

(c) The Ministry of Information & Broadcasting has no such information.

(d) No, Sir

(e) Does not arise.

(f) Doordarshan acquired programmes in the past from BBC for the DD-3 channel on royalty basis at an average cost of US \$ 1250/- per half-an-hour.

Superfast Train

3091. SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN : will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that trains whose average speed on the entire run is more than 55 kilometer per hour on Broad Gauge and 45 Kilometer per hour on Meter Gauge are declared as Superfast Trains for the purpose of levy of supplementary charges;

(b) if so, the average speed on the entire run fixed for declaring the train as Mail, Express and Passenger separately;

(c) whether the said policy of Railways is implemented by all Zonal Railways; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) There is no such criteria for Mail, Express and Passenger Trains.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

IA A-320 Accident On 25.10.96 At Palam Airport

3092. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE :

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV :

DR T. SUBBARAMI REDDY :

will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether an Indian Airlines A-320 aircraft IC804 arriving from Bangalore bumped into a stationary IL-76 aircraft while parking at the Bay on October 25, 1996 at Delhi's Palam Airport;

(b) if so, the causes of the said accident;

(c) the damage caused to the aircraft; and

(d) the action taken against the Indian Airlines marshallers for their failure to give right indication to the aircraft for parking?

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

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

Alleged Irregularities in Distribution of CR Coils/Sheets

3093. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether gross irregularities in the matter of distribution of CR coils/sheets (keeping the senior bookings pending and servicing the Juni or bookings) by the Branch sales office of SAIL, New Delhi were brought to his notice time and again by various customers and the representatives of the people.

(b) if so, the details in this regard during the period from 01/4/1995 to 31/12/1995;

(c) the action taken on each of them;

(d) whether the Government propose to conduct a CBI enquiry to bring to book the officials of SAIL for adopting corrup practices in the bookings/allotment of premium carrying material to their choicest customers picked up arbitrarily under the disguise of his discretionary quota by keeping all senior bookings pending; and

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

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

Tourism Development in Kerala

3094. SHRI V.M. SUDHEERAN : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have received any proposal from the Government of Kerala regarding the Tourism Development in the State :

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA

(a) to (c). Department of Tourism in consultation with the officials of State Government of Kerala has identified four projects/Schemes at estimated cost of Rs. 80 lakhs for financial assistance during 1996-97. These projects are :

(i) Restoration of Bolghatti Palace Kochi

(ii) Floodlighting of Vada Khumunathan Temple

(iii) Hill Resort Munnar

(iv) Purchase of Riceboats

The Department of Tourism has sanctioned funds for the restoration of Bolghatti Palace Kochi.

The Government of Kerala has, however, not submitted complete, detailed proposals for the other three projects.

Starting of International Channel on Doordarshan

3095. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT :

SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR :

SHRI SANDIPAN THORAT :

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

(a) whether an International Channel on Doordarshan has been started on an experimental basis;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the extent to which this channel has proved successful;

(c) the financial implication on national exchequer by the introduction of the channel;

(d) the strategy worked out for effective use of DD International for providing positive image of the country to counter anti-India propaganda;

(e) whether representations have been received to close down this channel for want of funds;

(f) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(g) 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) Doordarshan launched DD-India as a 3 hrs. service initially on Asiasat-II transponder, by utilising 3 hrs. on Zee channel. Thereafter, it was decided to

continue the service by hiring its own transponders. Two transponders were hired on PAS-4 and PAS-1 in August, 1995 for transmitting International Channel in South-Asia, Middle-East, parts of Europe, North Africa, North America and Canada. The transmission hrs. have now been extended to about 18 hrs. i.e. from 6.30 A.M. to 24.00 hrs. It will take some time to gauge the impact of this new channel.

(c) There are no financial implications presently as far as software is concerned because old and current software is being utilised. However, Doordarshan-India (external service) has been operational on transponders leased on PAS-4/PAS-1 since September 1995. The lease charges payable to PANAMSAT are US \$ 3 million per annum for initial 36 months and there after US \$ 4.875 million per annum upto 15 years.

(d) Suitable programmes to present the country and to counter the anti-India propaganda by presenting a factual picture of happening and developments in the country and abroad backed by wholesome entertainment and infotainment programmes are telecast on this channel in addition to the other programmes.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) and (g). Do not arise.

Distribution of CR Coils/Sheets

3096. SHRI MRUTYUNJAYA NAYAK : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether bookings of CR coils/sheets in bulk quantities against the year 1995 (1.1.95 to 31.12.95) were made arbitrarily and selectively basis in favour of two-three firms only much after the closure of general bookings by the Branch Sales Office, SAIL, New Delhi;

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

(c) whether all the other firms/customers, except the above two-three firms, attached to the BSO, SAIL, New Delhi were denied the bookings of CR coils/sheets against the above period;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the High Court, Delhi had also given a judgement on July 29, 1991 regarding fair distribution of steel materials to customers by SAIL;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the steps to initiate action against the guilty officers by BSO, SAIL, New Delhi?

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

Post of Correspondent Reporter, Rajkot

3097. DR. VALLABH BHAI KATHIRIA : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether one post of Correspondent/Reporter has been abolished from All India Radio, Rajkot and posted to Kutch where there is already one post of the same;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether representation have been received in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action taken thereon so far?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. One post of Correspondent at AIR, Rajkot has been abolished 10% economy cut in March, 1995 and the incumbent rendered surplus was posted to Kutch (Bhuj), where a vacancy in the same grade existed.

(c) to (e). Yes, representations were received from MPs for shifting of the post of News Reporter, AIR, Bhuj to AIR, Rajkot. Since AIR, Bhuj has a full fledged Regional News Unit (RNU), which covers as well as prepares news bulletins and news based programmes and Rajkot does not have a RNU, the suggestion was not found feasible.

[Translation]

Magnesite in Rajasthan

3098. SHRI BHERU LAL MEENA : Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Rajasthan has sent proposals to the Union Government for conducting survey for extraction of Magnesite at Village Prasad, Tehsil Saradha district, Udaipur (Rajasthan);

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

(c) whether this metal is abundantly present in this area;

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government for exploration of this metal in the State;

(e) the benefit likely to be accrued to the Government from the said mine; and

(f) the number of persons belonging to the tribal area likely to get employment, therein?

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

(b) Question does not arise.

(c) 1.66 million tonnes of magnesite has been identified in Village Parsad by the State Government of Rajasthan through survey and prospecting.

(d) Magnesite always remained unreserved group of minerals and anybody can make use of the mineral for establishing industry.

(e) and (f). Benefits likely to be accrued and employment potential depends on the economic viability of the deposit and extent of exploitation.

Delhi Flying Club Closed

3099. SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SHIGH : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Delhi Flying Club Safdarjung Airport, New Delhi has been lying closed since 1982;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the steps taken so far to reopen it;

(c) whether the Pilot training for CPL, PPL and non-professional trainees has also been discontinued;

(d) whether the objective of Safdarjung Airport was to provide training to Pilots and to handle movement of VIPs;

(e) if so, whether these objectives have been fulfilled; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) The objectives of Safdarjung Airport are mainly to cater to the flight operations of Delhi Flying Club, impart training to pilots and handle occasional VIP movements.

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

Bauxite based Aluminium Industry in Bihar

3100. SHRI DHIRENDRA AGARWAL : Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether heavy deposits of Bauxite have been located in Palamu and Chatara districts of Southern Bihar;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to set-up bauxite based aluminium industry there;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Geological Survey of India is likely to conduct a survey to ensure the heavy deposits of bauxite in the State; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) The district-wise recoverable reserves of Bauxite in Bihar is given below :-

District	(Unit : 000 Tonnes)
Monghyr	813.00
Palamau	3323.20
Rohtas	1300.00
Gumla	37132.50
Lohardaga	12120.50
Dumka	6415.00
Total	61104.20

(b) and (c). The Alumina Refinery of Indian Aluminium Company Limited is already located at Muri in the State. Any new capacities can be created on establishment of additional reserves in the State to justify setting up of such a plant.

(d) and (e). Government have been conducting surveys of mineral reserves in Bihar on continuing basis. Geological Survey of India has carried out a Targe number of investigations for different minerals in the state which includes Bauxite.

[English]

Expansion of Bauxite Mines and Aluminium Refineries of NALCO

3101. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO :

SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO :

SHRI GIRIDHAR GAMANG :

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to expand the bauxite mines and aluminium refinery of NALCO;

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating the investment made therefor;

(c) whether the Government have already approved the expansion of Alumina/Aluminium project at Damanjodi, Orissa;

(d) if so, the details thereof and

(e) the time by which the expansion programme is expected to be computed?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) to (e). The proposal of National Aluminium Company Limited (NALCO) to expand the capacity of Bauxite

Mines from 2.4 Million Tonnes Per Year (MTPY) to 4.8 MTPY and Alumina Refinery from 0.8 MTPY to 1.575 MTPY, both situated at Damanjodi at an investment of Rs. 1664.60 crores (June, 1996 price level) has been approved by the Government. The expansion is to be completed in 51 months.

[Translation]

Bailadila Diamond Mines in Madhya Pradesh

3102. SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHLE : Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh visited South Africa in connection with the contract of Bailadila Diamond Mines in Madhya Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the benefits likely to accrue and the income likely to be earned by the State through this contract;

(c) whether the Union Government propose to take over this mine and give the State Government its share of money; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) to (d). The State Government of Madhya Pradesh has informed that there is no diamond mine in Bailadila. However, a delegation led by the Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh had visited South Africa to study the facilities available in that country for investigation and evaluation of diamond bearing kimberlites and its mining, processing and procedure for sale being practised in that country.

Independent Radio/TV Authority

3103. SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ :
PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA :
DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI :
SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA :

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

(a) whether the Government propose to set up an Independent authority for radio and television network soon as appeared in 'Financial Express' dated August 30, 1996;

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

(c) the time by which the said authority is likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) to (c). No decision has been taken by

the Government on this issue as yet. Government is in the process of consultation with the various political parties and a meeting was taken by the Information and Broadcasting Minister in this regard on 13th September, 1996. A questionnaire was also sent to them and only a few of them have responded so far. After taking these views into consideration, a Comprehensive Broadcasting Bill will soon be introduced in the Parliament.

[English]

Medium Capacity Long Range Aircraft

3104. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Air India is Planning to slow down the induction of Medium Capacity Long Range (MCLR) aircraft by sharply reducing the pace of aircraft acquisition to meet the \$2 billion deal in a phased manner as reported in the 'Times of India', New Delhi dated August, 1996;

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

(c) the reasons therefor; and

(d) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) to (d). The proposal for acquisition of Medium Capacity Long Range (MCLR) aircraft by Air India, is at present under consideration of a Sub-Committee of the Board of Air India Limited.

[Translation]

Difference between Vayudoot and Alliance Air

3105. SHRI SAT MAHAJAN : will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) the difference between Vayudoot and recently formed Alliance Air;

(b) whether the Government have ensured that Allianne Air may not run in heavy losses in the near future on the lines of Vayudoot; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) Vayudoot was incorporated as a company owned equally by Air India and Indian Airlines. Airline Allied Services Limited (AASL) is a wholly owned subsidiary of Indian Airlines, activated to supplement its services. 'Alliance Air' is the brand name of the airline operated by Airline Allied Services Limited.

(b) and (c). Alliance Air is economically viable as it is deploying B-737 aircraft which are more efficient than the aircraft used by Vayudoot and the routes operated by it have adequate passenger traffic.

Committee for Sugar Industry Workers

3106. SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to set up a tripartite committee to consider the demands of the sugar industry workers;

(b) if so, the time by which it is likely to be set up; and

(c) the details regarding constitution, number of members working system, existence, area and jurisdiction of the said committee?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) There is no proposal to set up a Tripartite Committee for Sugar Industry workers.

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

[English]

Welfare of Labourers in Gulf Countries

3107. SHRI PARASRAM BHARDWAJ :
SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY :

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether several travel agencies in big cities are engaged in defrauding a large number of persons of their money on the pretext of getting them lucrative jobs in Gulf countries;

(b) if so, the number of cases came to the notice of the Government during the last three years;

(c) the details of agencies against which action has been taken;

(d) whether the Government propose to bring forward any legislation for foreign going labourers to regulate, recruit, and to look after the welfare of these labourers; and

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

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) to (c). During the years 1993-94, 1994-95 and 1995-96 a total of 187 complaints were received against the Recruiting Agents registered with the Ministry of Labour. Complaints against Registered Recruiting Agents are enquired into with the help of Police authorities and the concerned Indian Missions abroad and action is taken, as appropriate, in each case in accordance with the provisions of the Emigration Act, 1983 and Rules framed thereunder. Complaints against un-registered recruiting agents are referred to the concerned police authorities for investigation. Complaints against foreign employers are taken up with the Indian Missions abroad. In addition, departmental action is taken against erring agents in terms of

suspension and cancellation of licenses. A list of recruiting agents whose Registration Certificates were suspended/cancelled during the last three years is attached in the statement.

(d) No, Sir, the provisions of the Emigration Act, 1983 are considered adequate.

(e) Does not arise.

STATEMENT

List of Recruiting Agents, registered with the Ministry of Labour under the Emigration Act, 1983 whose Registration Certificates were suspended/Cancelled during the years 1993-94, 1994-95 and 1995-96.

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 & Recruiting Agent, Mumbai
6.	M/s S.K. Enterprises, Mumbai
7.	M/s Jasper International, Mumbai
8.	M/s Samreen Travel, Mumbai
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

Nationalisation of Dimond Mines

3108. SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR : Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned 'CM's about-turn on diamond mining' appearing in 'The Hindustan Times' dated November 13, 1996;

(b) the reaction of the Government thereto;

(c) whether the Government propose to nationalise the diamond mines with a view to earn maximum foreign exchange; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) Central Government would take a decision in the matter only after receipt of any specific proposal from the State Government.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Gratuity of Employees of M/s Jessop

3109. SHRI AJOY MUKHOPADHYAY : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Ministry is aware that about 2000 employees of M/s Jessop are yet to get their gratuity since 1992;

(b) whether payment of statutory liability like gratuity can be kept at abeyance till finalisation or otherwise of revival scheme as per payment of gratuity Act;

(c) if not, the action taken by his Ministry to ensure payment of gratuity to workers of Jessop and other Central Public Sector Undertakings; and

(d) the accountability of authorities responsible for implementation of statutory Acts like payment of gratuity Act etc?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) Yes Sir. Due to cash losses from 1990-91 onwards the company has not been able to pay gratuity dues to 2294 retired employees of M/s Jessop and Co. Ltd. from June, 1993.

(b) to (d). Under the Payment of Gratuity Act, 1972, the responsibility for payment of gratuity vests in the employer. An employee can make an application for delayed payment of gratuity to the controlling authority for necessary action. The controlling authority, after necessary enquiry, issues a certificate to the collector for recovery of the gratuity payable to the employee, who is required to collect the same as arrears of land revenue. Non-payment of gratuity is a punishable offence.

However according to the provisions of Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provision) Act (SICA) during the currency of proceedings of a sick company in the BIFR, no prosecution can be launched by the Government against the defaulting units except with the consent of BIFR. M/s Jessop & Company is a sick company registered with BIFR.

[Translation]

Doordarshan Projects in Uttar Pradesh

3110. SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) the details of Doordarshan projects under construction/completed in Uttar Pradesh till date;

(b) the present position of the said projects;

(c) the number of proposals pending with the Union Government alongwith the details of action taken or proposed to be taken in this regard;

(d) whether the Government have any proposal for the construction of buildings of all the Doordarshan Kendras in the State;

(e) if so, the allocations made in this regard; and

(f) the time by which the construction work is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C. M. IBRAHIM) : (a) and (b). The details of the Doordarshan projects under implementation/completed in Uttar Pradesh alongwith their present position are given in the enclosed statement.

(c) High Power Transmitters (HPTs) at Lakhimpur and Jalaun and Very Low Power TV transmitters (VLPTs) at Tokhri and Nandprayag are envisaged to be set up depending upon availability of resources and infrastructural facilities.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) and (f). Do not arise.

STATEMENT

Location-wise details of TV Projects both Existing as well as under Implementation in Uttar Pradesh (As on 10.12.1996)

Existing	Under Implementation
1	2
<i>Programme Production Centres (PPCs) :</i>	
Lucknow	Mau*
Gorakhpur	Allahabad#
Bareilly	Mathura#
	Varanasi#
HPTs :	
Agra	Banda (Expected to be completed in about 3 years time after approval of RCR)
Allahabad	
Bareilly	
Gorakhpur	
Kanpur	
Lucknow	
Mau	
Mussoorie	
Varanasi	
LPTs :	
Akbarpur	Almora#

1	2
Aligarh	Auraiya*
Azamgarh (DD-II)	Ganj Dundwara*
Bahraich	Haldwani#
Ballia	Mahoba*
Balrampur	Nadgarh*
Banda	New Tehri*
Basti	Rudauli#
Champawat	Kasganj**
Deoria	Karn Prayag#
Etah	Nan Para**
Etawah	Athdama*
Faizabad	Naini*
Earrukhabad	Barakot#
Ratehpur	Dhunaghat#
Gauriganj	Narora#
Mau Ranipur	Rudhacoi#
Gonda	Rath#
Hardoi	Talbehath#
Haridwar	Mahroni#
Jagdishpur	Chhibramad#
Jhansi	Amroha#
Kashipur	Karwi#
Kotdwar	Dudhinagar#
Lakhimpur	Kosi#
Lalganj (Pratapgarh)	Khetikhan#
Lalganj (Rae Bareilly)	
Lalitpur	
Mainpuri	VLPTs :
Mathura	
Moradabad	Chmoli#
Muhammadabad	Chaukhatia"
Nainital	Lansdown#
Obra	Pratapnagar"
Orai	Binsar#
Pauri	Basot/Bhikiasen#
Pilibhit	Fateh Parbat#
Puranpur	Rajgarhi#
Rae Bareilly	Siranota Valkunthdham#
Rampur	Saahiya#
Basra	Tharali#
Sambal	Rudraprayag#
Shahjahanpur	Naugaonkhal#
Sikandrapur	Kedarnath#
Sitapur	Badrinath#

1	2
Sultanpur	Gaurikund#
Tanakpur	Maneshwar#
Thirwa	Manikpur#
Lucknow (DD-II)	Dhausi#
Kanpur (DD-II)	Manila#
VLPTs :	
Joshimath	
Almora	
Bageshwar	
Bhatiari	
Dharchula	
Didihat	
Gopeshwar	
Ghandyal	
Haldwani	
Kaljikhali	
Kausani	
Mankapur	
Munsiari	
Ranikhet	
Uttarkashi	
Devprayag	
Gajja	
Transposers :	
Caurk	
Mussoorie	
New Tehri	
Srinagar	

Note : * Ready but, staff for operation and maintenance is to be sanctioned.
 ** Ready but partial staff sanction is available.
 # Expected to be completed by 1997-98.
 " Expected to be commissioned during 1996-97.

Divisional and Sub-Divisional Telecom Offices in U.P.

3111. SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA' : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the Divisional and sub-divisional offices of the Department of Tele-communications functional presently in the hilly areas of Uttar Pradesh alongwith the details of areas covered by each of them;

(b) whether the Government propose to open more sub-divisional offices in Kumaon and Garhwal divisions in Uttarakhand;

(c) if so, time by which and the locations thereof; and

(d) if not, the efforts being made for the effective functioning of the telecommunication system in these hilly distant areas?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) (a) The information is enclosed as Statement

(b) No Sir.

(c) Question does not arise.

(d) The Telecom system in the hilly areas of U.P. is working satisfactorily. New sub-divisions will be opened in future as and when justified.

STATEMENT

Divisional and Sub-Divisional Offices in the Hilly Areas of Uttar Pradesh

No.	Divisional	Sub-divisional	Areas covered
1.	Srinagar Garhwal	Pauri Chamoli Tehri	Tehsil Pauri Distt. Area Distt. Area
2.	Dehradun	Dehradun Rishikesh	Town & Tehsil Town area
3.	Nainital	Nainital Haldwani Kasipur*	Tehsil Area Tehsil Area Tehsil Area
4.	Almora	Almora Pithoragarh	Almora & Bageswar Tehsil Area. Revenue District

Note : * 1. Kashipur falls in plain area.
2. In addition to these sub-division posts, A.E. (Group Exchanges) are working at Kotdwara, Utrkashi, Srinagar Garhwal (Srinagar Garhwal Division) and Chakrata, Mussorrie (Dehra Dun District) and Rudrapur, Sitarganj, Ramnagar, Pantnagar (in plain area of Naital district) and Ranikhet (Almora district).

Reservation Facilities at Azamgarh Railway Station

3112. DR. BALIRAM : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received some representations for providing reservation facilities for various trains at Azamgarh Railway Station during 1996;

(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 representation was received for allotment of reservation

quota at Azamgarh Station in trains ex-Varanasi and Allahabad for going towards Delhi.

(c) The matter was examined and it was found that the utilisation of the existing quota of 2 berths in first class and 4 berths in Sleeper class by 4649 Saryu Yamuna Express was only to the extent of 65 percent. In view of this the existing quota was considered adequate to cater to the level of traffic dealt with at Azamgarh Station for journey towards Delhi.

Electronic Exchanges in U.P.

3113. SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of electronic telephone exchanges opened in Uttar Pradesh during the year 1994-95;

(b) whether any target has been fixed for the years 1995-96, 1996-97 in this regard;

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

(d) the number of exchanges out of them are functioning; and

(e) the number of old exchanges converted into electronics exchanges during the year 1994-95, 1995-96, till date?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) 178 electronic exchanges were opened in Uttar Pradesh during 1994-95.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c)

Year	No. of electronic exchanges to be opened	
	Target	Achievement
1995-96	132	141
1996-97	110	34
		(Upto 30.11.96)

(d) All exchanges are working satisfactorily except EWSD exchanges at Allahabad which got damaged recently due to fire incident. However, the services were restored promptly.

(e) Details are given below :

1994-95	73
1995-96	33
1.4.96 to 30.11.96	8

[English]

Industrial Training for Youth

3114. SHRI D.P. YADAV : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have decided to impart industrial training to more and more youth;

(b) whether it is a fact that the number of Industrial Training Institutes is insufficient and is not according to requirement in Uttar Pradesh

(c) whether the Government propose to set up such Industrial Training Centres in class B Towns falling under Moradabad district; and;

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) to (d). The setting up of Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs), is the responsibility of the concerned State Government.

The State Governments have been urged to review the position and set up new ITIs to meet the demands of the student community as well as the skill needs of industries and restore regional balance.

At present 307 ITIs are functioning in the State of Uttar Pradesh, 156 in the government sector and 151 in the private sector, with a total seating capacity of 57520.

According to information received from UP Government no decision to set up Industrial Training Centres in class B towns falling under Moradabad District has been taken so far.

12.00 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

Cable Television Networks (Amendment) Rules 1996 and Memorandum of Understanding between Indian Airlines and Ministry of Civil Aviation for 1996-97.

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : I beg to lay on the Table -

- (1) A copy of the Cable Television Networks (Amendment) Rules, 1996 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 459(E) in Gazette of India dated the 8th October, 1996, under sub-section (3) of section 22 of the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 879/96]

- (2) A copy of the Memorandum of Understanding (Hindi and English versions) between the Indian Airlines Limited and the Ministry of Civil Aviation for the year 1996-97.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 880/96]

Employees 'State Insurance' (Central) Amendment Rules 1996 and Workmen's Compensation (Venue of proceedings) Rules, 1996 etc.

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : I beg to lay on the Table -

- (1) A copy of the Employees' State Insurance (Central) Amendment Rules, 1996 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 522 in Gazette of India dated the 16th November, 1996, under sub-section (4) of section 97 of the Employees' State Insurance Act, 1948.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 881/96]

- (2) A copy of the Workmen's Compensation (Venue of Proceedings) Rules, 1996 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 451 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 1st October, 1996, under sub-section 36 of the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 882/96]

- (3) A copy of the Employees Provident Funds (Amendment) Scheme, 1996 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 283 in Gazette of India dated the 2nd February, 1996, under sub-section (2) of section 7 of the Employees' Provident Fund and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 883/96]

Annual Report and Review by the Government of the working of Managanes Ore Ltd. Nagpur for 1995-96 alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : 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 Manganese Ore (India) Limited, Nagpur, for the year 1995-96.
 - (ii) Annual Report of the Manganese Ore (India) Limited, Nagpur, for the year 1995-96, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 884/96]

- (b) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Sponge Iron India Limited, Hyderabad, for the year 1995-96.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Spong Iron India 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 885/96]

- (c) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Hindustan Steelworks Construction Limited for the year 1995-96.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Hindustan Steelworks Construction Limited, for the year 1995-96, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 886/96]

- (d) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Metallurgical and Engineering Consultants (India) Limited, for the year 1995-96.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Metallurgical and Engineering Consultant (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 887/96]

- (e) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Steel Authority of India Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1995-96.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Steel Authority 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 888/96]

- (2) A copy of the Memorandum of Understanding (Hindi and English versions) between the National Aluminium Company Limited and the Ministry of Mines for the year 1996-97.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 889/96]

**Memorandum of Understanding between
Telecommunications Consultants India Ltd. and
Department of Telecommunications for 1996-97.**

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to lay on the table of the House a copy of the Memorandum of

Understanding (Hindi and English versions) between Telecommunications consultants India Ltd. and Department of Telecommunications for the year 1996-97.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 890/96]

12.03 hrs.

**PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE
STATEMENTS**

[Translation]

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI (Allahabad) : Sir, I beg to lay on the table of the House the statements (Hindi and English versions) showing action taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the chapter-one and final reply in regard to chapter-five :

- (1) 92nd Report 7th Lok Sabha on purchase and stores.
- (2) 93rd Report (7th Lok Sabha) on Wheel and Axle Plan—
- (3) 126th Report (7th Lok Sabha) on Central Railway-Idling of Imported Invertors and Deposit Works on Railways
- (4) 192nd Report (7th Lok Sabha) on Western Railway Immobilisation of Railway coaches consequent on fire during shooting of 'The Burning Train' and Eastern Railway - Damages to and deficiencies in wagons delivered to a Steel Plan.
- (5) 199th Report (7th Lok Sabha) on Wagon availability on the Railways.
- (6) 2nd Report (8th Lok Sabha) on Metro Railway, Calcutta.
- (7) 10th Report (8th Lok Sabha) on Coaching Services.
- (8) 66th Report (8th Lok Sabha) on Western Railway Construction of a metre gauge line from Dabla to Singhana.
- (9) 10th Report (9th Lok Sabha) on Manickgarh-Chandur New BG Line and Chitradurg-Rayadurg New MG line.
- (10) 12th Report (9th Lok Sabha) on Railway Electrification.
- (11) 13th Report (9th Lok Sabha) on Metropolitan Transport Project, Calcutta.
- (12) 16th Report (10th Lok Sabha) on Wheel and Axle Plant, Yelahanka.
- (13) 22nd Report (10th Lok Sabha) on Madras Atomic Power Project.

- (14) 67th Report (10th Lok Sabha) on Uneconomic purchase of engines for Shaktiman vehicles.

12.03½ hrs.

COMMITTEE ON SUBORDINATE LEGISLATION

First and Second Report

[Translation]

SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA (Outer-Delhi) : Sir, I beg to present the first and second reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on Subordinate Legislation.

12.04 hrs.

STATEMENT BY PRIME MINISTER

Signing of Ganga Water Treaty with Bangladesh

[English]

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA): Hon. Speaker, Sir, with your permission, I would like to make a statement with regard to the sharing of Ganga waters between Bangladesh and our country.

Her Excellency Sheikh Hasina, Prime Minister of the People's Republic of Bangladesh paid an official visit to India from December 10 to 12, 1996 at my invitation. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina had meetings with our President, Vice-President, Speaker of the Lok Sabha, Deputy Chairman of the Rajya Sabha, Leader to the Opposition in Parliament. She held detailed talks with me. She also met leaders of political parties. These talks were held in a most warm and friendly atmosphere. The Bangladesh Prime Minister also paid a visit to Ajmer and Jaipur during her stay in India.

This was the first visit of the Bangladesh Prime Minister to India since she assumed office in June this year. The visit however comes as the culmination of series of exchanges initiated shortly after our Government took office. Earlier the External Affairs Minister had visited Dhaka in September, and we had received the Bangladesh Foreign Minister in November. This period of intense interaction has placed our relations on an entirely new footing. Progress is being made on all issues in our bilateral relations. The prominent issue in our bilateral ties, over the last two decades has been the issue of sharing of Ganga waters at Farakka. I am honoured to state that I and the Bangladesh Prime Minister have today signed a new Treaty on the sharing of the Ganga waters. We are

confident this Treaty would be a landmark in our bilateral relations. The Treaty protects the interests of India and at the same time helps Bangladesh by providing a share of the Ganga waters to that country.

[Translation]

KUMARI UMA BHARATI (Khajuraho) : More water has been given...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA : I shall lay a copy of the text of the Treaty with its Annexures on the Table of the House. According to the Treaty, the sharing of Ganga waters at Farakka between India and Bangladesh will be on the basis of a formula which is at Annexure I. The key merit of this formula is that it shares available waters on a basis which is fair and equitable. The formula also takes into account the basic requirements and minimum needs of both sides. Therefore, during the critical period within the lean season i.e., from March 1 to May 10, India and Bangladesh each shall receive a guaranteed flow of 35,000 cusecs of water in an alternating sequence of three 10-day periods each. This is aimed at meeting the fundamental requirements of both our countries through a just and reasonable sharing of the burden of shortage. The Treaty also has the merit of being a long term arrangement combined with scope for reviews at shorter intervals to study the impact of the sharing formula and to make needed adjustments. While the Treaty will be valid for 30 years and renewable on mutual consent, there is a provision of mandatory reviews at the end of 5 years and even earlier after two years with provisions for adjustments as required. Pending a fresh understanding after the review stage, Bangladesh would continue to receive 90 per cent of its share in accordance with the new formula. We would thus avoid a situation where there is no agreement on the sharing of the Ganga waters between India and Bangladesh.

The signing of the Treaty between India and Bangladesh is a fitting tribute to the special quality of our relations. Indo-Bangladesh cooperation is based on a history of shared sacrifices, sanctified with the blood of the martyrs who laid down their lives in 1971. It is entirely appropriate that this Treaty comes on the eve of the 25th anniversary of the liberation of Bangladesh which was a momentous landmark in the history of our continent. With the signing of this Treaty, we expect to usher in a new era in Indo-Bangladesh relations. This new relationship should be of immense benefit to India in the long term in all areas of bilateral relations including security, trade and other areas. With the removal of what has been a constant irritant in bilateral ties, we can look forward to an entirely new phase of cooperation. As the House would recall, we have already taken initiatives in the commercial sphere by extending tariff concessions to Bangladesh on a range of products of export interest to them. We propose

to extend commercial credits of Rs. 100 crore to enhance trade relations further. We are working together with Bangladesh to ensure appropriate development and security in our entire eastern region.

Sir, we also acknowledge on this occasion that in the past also it had been the endeavour of the successive Governments to strengthen our relations with Bangladesh.

It would be appropriate for me also at this stage to place on record our appreciation of the very constructive role played by the Chief Minister of West Bengal and his Cabinet colleagues in bringing about improved atmosphere in which the Treaty between India and Bangladesh has become possible. My thanks are also due to my colleagues in the Ministries of External Affairs, Water Resources and Surface Transport for their invaluable support in this endeavour.

Both India and Bangladesh cooperate very extensively in regional fora such as SAARC and it shall be our endeavour to take this cooperation forward so that a new and a more constructive framework of relationship can be built up in our sub-Continent to the mutual benefit of the people of all countries.

The visit of the Bangladesh Prime Minister is an event of historic significance. She herself has reaffirmed the spirit of 1971 in her speech at the banquet in her honour last night. We also recall those times when we worked shoulder to shoulder and we are resolved that in the future, the same spirit of brotherhood will guide us to a new era. I am sure the House would share these sentiments and would support our resolve to advance in this direction.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur) : I would like to congratulate the Prime Minister and also the Prime Minister of Bangladesh for a very constructive role they have played and for the treaty that has been entered into which will usher in, I am sure, a new era of friendship and cooperation between ourselves and our closest neighbour. This is an occasion which we should heartily welcome. I again congratulate the Prime Minister and the Prime Minister of Bangladesh
...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE (Lucknow) : I am ready to vacate the place for him...(Interruptions)

The statement given by the hon'ble Prime Minister is very important and I would like to go through it deeply. Whatever steps are taken to improve Indo-Bangladesh relations I welcome those steps. Such steps should be taken with full strength. A new chapter has been added to the history of Bangladesh that democracy has been established there after 21 years. It seems that there has been all round change in Bangladesh. I remember the time when Bangbandhu Sheikh Mujiburrahman came

to Delhi to take the responsibility of independent Bangladesh and we had welcomed him at the contonment. Later on he was brutally assassinated. Sheikh Hasina had to face a lot of difficulties. When she has desired to extend her hand for friendship with India it is natural that India should reciprocate so that the interests of both the countries can be protected and a new dimension be given to the friendly relations and these relations should also be strengthened.

So far as the question of my reaction to the statement about sharing of Ganga water is concerned I can give my comments on it only after going through the statement. But when the discussion is going to take place on foreign policy perhaps in the evening today, I would like to suggest that the discussion on the price rise should also be completed today itself.

MR. SPEAKER : It would be completed today itself.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : Foreign policy should not be taken in between. The discussion on foreign policy can be held later on and this can also be included in it as this matter relates to the foreign policy. The issue of price rise is not so important. All Members would be given an opportunity to express their points.

There are several aspects related to our relations with Bangladesh. Yesterday, when I met Sheikh Hasina, I asked her as to what would happen to the Chakma refugees, whether Bangladesh would like to accept their return. In reply to this she has given a positive response. All those points can not be mentioned now in the clarification but it can be mentioned during discussion. Mr. Speaker, Sir, if you defer the discussion on foreign policy, the issue of treaty can also be covered in it.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I think this is enough. We can discuss it later.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I cannot allow two-three Members from one party. Actually there is no rule for making comments on the *suo motu* statement. But this is a special case; that is why I am allowing it.

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI (Howrah) : I heard with rapt attention the statement made by the hon. Prime Minister. The statement not only shall improve the relationship between India and Bangladesh, but it will also create a milestone in the history of our bilateral cooperation.

I remember in this House in 1971 what happened during the Bangladesh Revolution struggle. You may recall that I was one of the instruments in the liberation struggle right up to the Mujib Government. On 9th August 1971 when the Indo-Soviet Treaty was signed I know which party took what stand; I do not repeat that incident today. History will bear with us I only like to tell, through you Mr. Speaker, the hon. Prime Minister that we must ensure that we implement the Treaty that we enter into

to the full satisfaction of the spirit of the Treaty and also keeping in view the interest of the nation.

Now, the upper stream water which comes from U.P. flows through Bihar and goes finally into the catchment area of the Farakka Barrage. I would like to know whether that matter has been taken care of in totality to ensure...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : No more, Shri Dasmunsi.

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI : Sir, if you do not allow me to speak, I will not speak. I will finish within one minute. Yesterday, the hon. Prime Minister of Bangladesh had also talked to me and Kumari Mamata Banerjee. We also told her how much pleasure we felt when we heard that she had gone back to Bangladesh. We must extend all our support to her. But if we cannot implement it, if we cannot ensure that the water is fully available in Bengal and Calcutta Port Trust - the upper stream is not in our hands, it is in the hands of U.P. and Bihar - then, we will lose our face both in the eyes of the people of Bangladesh and also in the eyes of the people of Bengal. The Prime Minister has to take care of that. If the Prime Minister does not take care of that, the Treaty itself will become counter-productive to us because China still has its eyes on the Chittagong Port. Therefore, I will request the hon. Prime Minister that the Treaty should be implemented, taking care of the total flow of the water from the upper stream. The role of the Governments of U.P. and Bihar are equally important as that of the Government of Bengal. That is my submission.

SHRI CHITTA BASU (Barasat) : Sir, we want to associate ourselves with it. This is an important issue. I associate myself with the colleagues of mine here in welcoming the Treaty which has been signed between the Government of India and the Government of Bangladesh.

While appreciating the initiative taken by the Government of India and the keenest possible desire on the part of the people of Bangladesh and the new Government of Bangladesh, I want to make a request to the Prime Minister and the Government of India that other bilateral issues which are persisting for ages together in improving bilateral relations between India and Bangladesh including the exchange of enclaves should be settled as early as possible. And that should be followed up immediately along with this Treaty.

Thank you...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA (Ponnani) : Sir, we welcome the Treaty and congratulate both the Governments.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS (Muvattupuzha) : Sir, on behalf of my party, I support and endorse the views expressed by other Leaders. We congratulate the Prime Minister of India as well as the Prime Minister of Bangladesh for this venture...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : I think, the whole House congratulates both the Governments and welcomes this Treaty. I would myself like to join in that.

(Interruptions)

12.17 hrs.

[English]

MOTION RE: EIGHTH REPORT OF THE BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA): Sir, I beg to move :

"That this House do agree with the Eighth Report of the Business Advisory Committee presented to the House on the 11th December, 1996."

MR. SPEAKER : Motion moved :

"That this House do agree with the Eighth Report of the Business Advisory Committee presented to the House on the 11th December, 1996."

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ (South-Delhi) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the four hour time has been allotted for the 81st Constitution Amendment Bill regarding reservation for woman, as shown in the items of the report of Business Advisory Committee presented by the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs. But the day for bringing this Bill has not been fixed so far. I would like to remind you that on 9th when this report was presented in the House, I had asked you about the date of introduction of this Bill in the House. You said in this very House that this Bill would be introduced after two days i.e. the 12th which falls today itself. We were hopeful today that this Bill would be included in today's order paper for introduction but it has not been included in today's order paper.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, this Bill has been subject to a lot of criticisms. Different types of views are being expressed through Doordarshan and newspapers about it. Though, you have fixed four hour time for the discussion on this Bill but whether this Government would be able to decide a certain date as to when this Bill has to be introduced as the present session of the Parliament is going to be adjourned in the next week and if only four hour discussion is to be held on it then the discussion should be held on 17th of this month otherwise the session will be over on 20th. All the parties will have to issue whip to its members for voting on it, as this is a Constitution Amendment Bill for which at least 50 percent Members must be present...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI SURESH KALMADI (Pune) : Sir, what about the Lok Pal Bill? That is also very important. The Lok Pal Bill must be introduced first. That is very important.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : Mr. Speaker, Sir, at the time of introduction of this Constitution Amendment Bill the presence of 50 percent and two third members of the total strength and voting is required. Therefore, we will have to issue whip to our party members to be present in the House on that day. Unless the Government fix a day for discussion on this Bill, how can we issue whip to our Members? Therefore, my submission is that the hon'ble Minister should apprise us of the date as to when this Bill would be introduced in the House?
...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : That is enough. I think, you have made your point. I will reply to you.

SHRI SURESH KALMADI : Sir, the Lok Pal Bill is also important.

MR. SPEAKER : Now, this is about the Constitution Amendment Bill. The Lok Pal Bill can be taken up next.

*SHRIMATI SANDHYA BAURI (Vishnu pur) : Sir, the Constitution (Eighty-first Amendment) Bill should be taken up today. It was discussed in the last Session also and the position today is such that there is a lot of uncertainty on when this Bill would be taken up. Four hours' time has been allotted for this Bill and we want to know when that time would come. It might so happen that it would be taken up on a Friday evening. Then, the position would become very difficult. Therefore, kindly arrange for the consideration of the Bill to be taken up today itself.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur) : Sir, I hope, you have understood what she said.

MR. SPEAKER : I fully understand what the hon. Member, Smt. Sandhya Bauri, has said.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

DR. GIRIJA VYAS (Udaipur) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to remind you once again that today is 12th and you had assured us that this Bill would be taken up on 12th. This Bill has not been sent to the Cabinet so far and there is doubt about it. Through you, I would like to ask from the Government whether it would send this Bill to the Cabinet by today evening or by tomorrow so that discussion can be held on it on Monday if not today.

Translation of the speech originally delivered in Bengali.

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Sir, all types of stories are coming in the newspapers - correct, incorrect and mutilated. Therefore, it is essential for the Government to make it very clear on which date this Bill would be taken up. I had requested that it should be started today, the 12th December, 1996. The Report was submitted on 9th December, 1996. Two days are enough. The country also knows it. Therefore, it should have started today. I reiterate the demand that the Government should start the discussion today. We can do away with the rules and dispense with the rules. Then, the discussion can start today, if not tomorrow. Definitely, it should be done in this Session itself. That is my demand...(Interruptions)

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE (Dumdum) : Sir, you suggested that the discussion should start after two days. It was your suggestion from the Chair. Two days are over and today it is 12th December, 1996. But there is no mention about it in today's List of Business...(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : Sir, the Report was presented on 9th December, 1996. You said that two day's time should be given to study the Report. Now, two days are over...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : We have not dispensed with this item.

(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Let us know when this Bill would be taken up...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV (Patna) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is necessary to make amendment in this Bill and we would not allow it to be passed unless a provision of reservation for OBC women is made in this Bill...(Interruptions) This is our submission...(Interruptions) Till then we will not hold discussion on this Bill. The Government will have to consider it again...(Interruptions) This is the feeling of many people...(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : Mr. Speaker, Sir, you should ask from the hon'ble Minister as to when he is going to introduce the Bill...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Please sit down. I am sorry the hon. Member cannot say that he will not allow this Bill to be passed. It is the House, as a whole which will decide that. No hon. Member can say, 'I will not allow it to be passed'. I am sorry that you have to withdraw that. You cannot say that.

I placed this matter before the Business Advisory Committee. I did say that two days, time should be given.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : There is a way of putting your views. Why can you not put it politely?

[Translation]

PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA (Samastipur) : We can oppose.

MR. SPEAKER : You can oppose it, its your privilege. But how can you say that you would not allow it to be passed. It can never be allowed...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

So, when it was placed before the Business Advisory Committee, the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs pointed out that the Joint Select Committee has suggested a lot of changes and amendments and that these amendments have to go back to the Cabinet. That is the procedure. I agree with him. Therefore, it would not be possible to take up this Bill this week because the formality has to be gone through. The Cabinet has to give its formal approval. That is why it was deferred to the next week. Now, it is for the Government to decide exactly on which date they are going to take it up. It is not in my hands.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SURESH KALMADI : Sir, the whole country is looking forward to the Government for the Lokpal Bill...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : Sir, let the Parliamentary Affairs Minister indicate as to when the Cabinet would take it up...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI RAM NAIK (Mumbai-North) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is one thing more which is important. This Bill has now become the property of the House. Therefore, it can be taken up on Monday. We want that the Government should ensure that the Bill should be taken up on Monday as this Bill is ours and has been introduced in the House. The House has mentioned about the necessary amendments. The Government cannot withdraw that Bill. Only it remains to be told that this Bill would be taken up of Monday.

[English]

They must say that. Otherwise, it would mean that the Government is going back. The Government should not do that...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : I do not think that there is anything like that.

(Interruptions)

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA (Ponnani) : Sir, the minorities have to be granted reservation. We have been asking for that. So, the Cabinet has to take into consideration that particular point also. There are various other technical matters. The amendments would

require the ratification by the State Assemblies...*(Interruptions)* Therefore, according to the convention, they must also have a prior consultation with the States before they take up the question of amendment of this nature, of the Constitution...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Okay, you have made your point.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : I therefore say that the issue of reservation for minorities must be considered by the Government. They should have a prior consultation with various State Governments also about the amendment...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SURESH KALMADI : Sir, there should be a reservation for 'sports women' also...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Yes, you have made your point.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI ILIYAS AZMI (Shahabad) : It is a question of the political structure of the entire country. If Shrimati Sushma ji and some other Members are prepared to hold discussion on this Bill. They should be allowed to spoil the entire structure. If this Bill is adopted tomorrow...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Discussion is not going on the Bill. We are considering about fixing the time for holding discussion on this Bill.

[English]

SHRI P.C. CHACKO (Mukundapuram) : Sir, I will take only one minute. You, Sir, have made a point about the procedure. It is not necessary to wait for one week, for the Government to consider the amendments and to come back. The Government can convene the Cabinet meeting even today or even within 24 hours and they can come back with the amendments. If is unfortunate that a conspiracy is going on. This whole House stands committed to this Bill. Let the political parties come out openly about this. Sir, it is under your leadership that we have taken this firm decision. If the political parties behave in a...* manner, it is a shame on this House. So, I request you, Sir, that we should come out openly and pass this Bill...*(Interruptions)* If the Government wants time, let them take some more time...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : Sir, I think, he has used a wrong word against political parties. We cannot be accused of that. I take objection to the use of that word...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Yes.

SHRI P.C. CHACKO : Let them not take that plea for postponing this Bill. Sir, you may kindly take the leadership and advise the Government to bring forward this Bill either tomorrow or the day after, for discussion. Otherwise, it is not going to be passed by this House. It would be very unfortunate if we do not pass this Bill...*(Interruptions)*

* Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

SHRI SURESH KALMADI : Sir, how can he use that word? It is very unfortunate. He should withdraw that word...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : I think, the word used by him is not proper. You cannot use that word against political parties. I will expunge it.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I will expunge it. Hon. Minister may say something now.

(Interruptions)

SHRI P.C. CHACKO : Sir, I correct myself. Let the political parties prove their sincerity...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : All right. Thank you very much.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : We have not disposed of this. You may please follow the proceedings.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA : Sir, I am really thankful for...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : You want to be an MP for ladies!

MR. SPEAKER : This is a great opportunity for you. Come on!

(Interruptions)

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA : Sir, I am really thankful that you have correctly placed the points of view that had been expressed by me in the Business Advisory Committee...*(Interruptions)*... Sir, as you know, the Report of the Joint Committee is to be examined because there are many recommendations and also dissenting views. So, the Cabinet has to take cognizance of each recommendation and view.

SHRI RAM NAIK : The Law Minister was there when the amendments were discussed. He had agreed with and judged the report. Do not say that the Government is not aware of it. You were aware of it on 3rd December itself as to what was the content of the amendments and the Report. So, do not say that you were made aware of it only on the 9th. That is not the position.

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA : What I was submitting was, this Bill had wider implications and therefore it needs a detailed application of mind by the Cabinet...*(Interruptions)*... Therefore, Sir, I will not commit on the exact date but I will only commit that the Government is very sincere to see that a wider consensus is arrived at expeditiously...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That this House do agree with the Eighth Report of the Business Advisory Committee presented to the House on the 11th December, 1996."

The motion was adopted.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : The matter is closed now.

SHRI SURESH KALMADI (Pune) : Sir, what about the Lokpal Bill? The whole country is looking for it...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Meghe, you do not have to come. Please stay in your seat.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I have received your notice and I have asked the Ministry of Home Affairs to give me the factual report. As soon as I get the report from the Home Ministry, I will take a view on this matter. So, it is only under my consideration now.

[Translation]

SHRI DATTA MEGHE (Ramtek) : A District Magistrate has misbehaved with a Member of Parliament. He should be suspended and inquiries should be ordered into the matter...*(Interruptions)* It is a very serious matter

MR. SPEAKER : Yes it is.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I cannot dismiss him from this Chair. I have to ask the Home Ministry and I have to get the factual report.

SHRI RAJESH PILOT (Dausa) : Sir, I would like to just make one submission on your remark. In such cases, let the House also know so that we know what action has been taken on it. If it is only communicated to him, we will not be aware about the fault of that officer and how it had happened. So, the House should be told on such incidents.

MR. SPEAKER : I have not communicated anything to him. The matter is still under my consideration.

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : You may do it after the report comes.

MR. SPEAKER : What I have said is, I have asked for the factual report from the Home Ministry and only after receiving that report, I will give my ruling.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE (Lucknow) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, you are allowing me but my friends are interrupting me...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI K. VIJAYA BHASKARA REDDY (Kurnool) : Sir, what about the Constitution (Eighty Amendment) Bill? I was a Member of the Joint Committee. The Government cannot say that they are not aware of all these things.

MR. SPEAKER : I have closed the matter, Mr. Reddy.

SHRI K. VIJAYA BHASKARA REDDY : The Law Minister was there, as Mr. Ram Naik has said.

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Ram Naik has made his point. I will have my own say at the appropriate time. Let us not reopen it.

(Interruptions)

SHRI HARADHAN ROY (Asansol)* : Hon. Speaker Sir, I have given Calling Attention Notice last week and this week also. What has happened to that?

MR. SPEAKER : Yes, yes. It is there.

[Translation]

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to raise an important matter. The makers of the constitution had constituted Election Commission to conduct election in the country. There is a specific procedure for appointment of its members.

There has always been a demand that Comprehensive discussion should be held while appointing the members to Election Commission. The should not be decided at Government's level alone. All of the Parliamentary Committees formed before making amendments in the rules regarding Election, had recommended that there is need to change the method of appointing members to Election Commission. I have a Dinesh Goswami Report, in which it has been suggested that before appointing the members of Election Commission opinion of the Chief Justice and the leader of opposition should be sought. This convention was initiated during the period of earlier Government, when Mr. Narsimha Rao was the Prime Minister and at the time of appointment of Shri Krishnamurthy and Shri Gill, leaders of the opposition were discussed. A meeting was held in the chamber of the then Speaker Mr. Shivraj Patil will confirm it. There were several nomination and selection was made by consensus. Today we have seen in the news papers that Shri Gill has been appointed. Dr. Gill is a gentle, able and an experienced person, he has worked in the Election Commission, we are his admirer. We have nothing to say against him. The question is of procedure that how to appoint members of Election Commission whether Government will not go through the recommendations of the Dinesh Goswami's report in this regard? Whether Government will do away with the convention set up during Shri Narsimha Rao's regime? I want that Government should reconsider this matter. If all the facts were not there, then I have those facts. Appointment of one more member is yet to be made. How that appointment will be made? If the appointment are made after elaborate discussion, then people will have faith in the Election Commission and democracy will be strengthened.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I think, the Government has taken note of it.

[Translation]

SHRI LAL MUNI CHAUBEY (Buxar) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have given notice regarding breach of privilege. An Ex. M.P. Shri K. Venkat Giri Gowda has written a book, the title of the book is.

[English]

"H.D. Deve Gowda, Prime Minister, the king of Corruption and the unmaking of India...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

In that book the comments has been made against Shri Inderjeet Gupta...*(Interruptions)* on each page of this book...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV (Patna) : He is misleading the House...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I have got your notice.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please listen to me.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : You do not have to handle it. I will handle it.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY (Chhapra) : Mr. Speaker Sir, while too many comments contained in that book about Prime Minister...*(Interruptions)* We want that no comment may come against Hon'ble Prime Minister...*(Interruptions)* it becomes a matter of contempt. Any such comments made against the Prime Minister should be condemned and facts should be mentioned ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Rudy, please sit down.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY : Mr. Speaker, Sir, if any such allegations are made against Prime Minister. We also don't want that such things happen ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : No, no; nothing is going on record.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Rudy, Please sit down.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Sushmaji, please sit down. Please keep quiet.

12.40 hrs.

RE: QUESTION OF PRIVILEGE

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Please listen to me.

Shri Chaubey, I have not gone into the merits of your notice. Your notice is not in order. I cannot accept it because under rule 223 your notice has to be accompanied by the document. You have not given the document alongwith your notice. The notice has to be addressed to the Secretary-General, Lok Sabha and the document also has to be addressed to the Secretary-General. I have rejected your notice on this ground and not on the grounds of merit. So, the matter is closed here.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI LALMUNI CHAUBEY (Buxar) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, when I met you, I told you that these documents are with me...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : This is not the way.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing is going on record.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI LALMUNI CHAUBEY : You yourself had said...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Notices are addressed to secretary General. If you give documents to the Speaker and notice to the Secretary General. It is not proper if you give documents to the Speaker and notices to the Secretary General. Your notice should be accompanied by relevant documents.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : No one has given me any notice.

(Interruptions)

SHRI LAL MUNI CHAUBEY : Mr. Speaker, you are supreme authority. I have faith in you. You said give me the notice I will go through it. Your Secretary has phoned here...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I am talking only about the procedure.

(Interruptions)*

Not Recorded.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing is going on record.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : It is your right

[English]

This is your right but you cannot give it here. You have to give it to the Notice Office.

[Translation]

SHRI GANGACHARAN RAJPUT (Hamirpur) (U.P.) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you I would like to draw the attention of the House towards, the development of that backward area about which everyone in the country knows. The place is known for legends and great heros the famous complot about Maharani Laxmibai from the text book is :

"Khoob ladi mardani woh to
Jhansi wali Rani thi.
Bundelon Harbolon ke munh
hamne suni Kahani thi"

This Bundelkhand, played a significant role in the freedom struggle. The muting which started against the British Rule during the first war of freedom struggle at that time is 1857 a call for muting was given under the leadership of Maharani Laxmibai. The poor farmers and labourers of Jhansi under the leadership of Maharani Laxmi Bai faught a great war against Britishers and the soil of Jhansi has turned real with their blood shed. But even after of 50 years of independence our Government could not provide drinking water to people of that Bundelkhand.

Sir, the leader of the House Shri Ram Vilas Paswan is present here, he has closely seen the backwardness unemployment and starvation of Bundelkhand. I want to draw his attention towards it.

The demand for smaller state is presently being raised from every corner in the country. So I demand from the Govt. for a separate Bundelkhand State. If any separate state in the country is created, the first right is of the Bundelkhand, because Bundelkhand is socially and economically most backward...(Interruptions) The percentage of literacy there is only 26% and the percentage of employment in Government services is only .07%.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : We have very limited time which you must share with your colleagues.

[Translation]

SHRI GANGA CHARAN RAJPUT : The land covered under irrigation is only 15% in my area. About 1000

* Not Recorded.

people come to Delhi in research of work every day and large number of people are migrating from there. They are compelled to live a life of hell in the Jhuggi clusters of Delhi. If any road is constructed in Delhi, you will find a Bundelkhand's labour there. I request the Government, till a separate State of Bundelkhand is not created till then alike Rs. 324 crore special grant sanctioned for the development of Utrakhhand, Rupees 325 crore should be given as special grant for Bundelkhand so that roads, schools and hospitals could be constructed ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing is going on record.

*(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

SHRI VIJAY KUMAR KHANDELWAL (Betul) : Hon'ble Speaker Sir, I want to draw attention of the Government through you towards the condition of tribles of Betul.

12.47 hrs.

(Mr. Deputy Speaker in the Chair)

33% population of the Betul district is tribal. Even after 50 years of independence our Government could not provide them the basic amenities bread, cloth and shelter. Food is not available for tribals and they are dying of starvation. Now the situation is that they are surviving by eating the leaves of Bhamori countries and Chiroti and as a result thereof they are suffering from gastro enteritis and malnutrition. During the current year 20 persons died because of this and 200 persons during the last 3 years died. Food and employment is not provided to them. I would like to urge the Minister to check starvation deaths. Government should send a team there and employment opportunities for the tribles, should be initiated so that migration and starvation deaths could be checked...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHIV RAJ SINGH (Vidisha) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, tribles are dying of starvation in Madhya Pradesh...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I have called him. Please sit down.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Why do you not sit down? I have called Shri Harin Pathak.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I am sorry gentlemen, I have called Shri Pathak. Please sit down.

[Translation]

SHRI HARIN PATHAK (Ahmedabad) : Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, through you I would like to convey feelings

Not Recorded.

of crores of people in this House. Our country is going to celebrate independence anniversary after few months. A long cultural history is associated with the independence of our country. When the Constitution of our country was being framed, Centuries old feelings of people were associated with the name of our country "India that is Bharat" has been mentioned in our constitution. Today India is known by two names, one is 'Bharat' and the other is 'India'. We have completed 50 years of independence. The people all over the world are aware of the real name of our Country with which our thousands of years old Culture, Civilization and faith are associated. I would like to cite some examples. When countries achieve Independence feelings and faith of the people of those countries play an important role in determining their names. Ceylon has been named as Sri Lanka, Rhodesia became Zimbabwe, East Pakistan which achieved independence 25 years ago has been named as Bangladesh. We have incorporated in our Constitution that "India that is Bharat. I would like to request to all my friends of the House on behalf of the people of the country that the name of our country is Bharat so why should we call here as 'The India'. It was decided when the Constitution was being framed that the expression 'The India' would mean Bharat. Today, when the whole world is aware of the identity of India. We should name our country in accordance with our glorious past and Civilization. As we are Celebrating our 50th Independence day, I would only like to press for my demand for naming our country as 'Bharat'. I would like to request the House that whatever amendment in the constitution is required to for this purpose should be done through Consensus.

[English]

SHRI AJAY CHAKRABORTY (Basirhat) : Sir, I draw the attention of this House to a serious problem being faced by the people at Indo-Bangladesh border in West Bengal, particularly in the area of North 24 Paraganas. Large quantities of essential commodities like rice, wheat, edible oil, sugar, salt - practically speaking every item except water - are being smuggled out of India into Bangladesh in connivance with the BSF personnel through unauthorised routes. This has created a serious scarcity of essential commodities in that area of 24 Paraganas in Indo-Bangladesh border. People are suffering there as they are not able to get essential commodities. The BSF people posted at the border have failed to check these illegal activities. The activities of BSF personnel are not at all satisfactory. These anti-national activities are being conducted by smugglers in connivance with the BSF personnel. The scarcity prices are increasing day by day. People there are suffering irreparable loss.

Sir, through you, I draw the attention of the Government of India to take note of it. I urge upon them to take immediate steps so that smuggling is stopped

immediately and supply of essential commodities can be restored to our fellow countrymen living there.

[Translation]

SHRI SOHAN BEER (Muzaffargarh) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw attention towards a very serious problem... (Interruptions)

[English]

MAHARANI DIVYA SINGH (Bharatpur) : I have given notice in the morning.

SHRI SHIVANAND H. KOUJALGI (Belgaum) : I have been giving notice everyday, Sir. My name is there in the list... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Let him speak who has been called just.

SHRI SOHAN BEER : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, many Members with criminal background have found their way in this August House. Many cases relating to scams of crores of rupees are in the process of trial against them yet they are moving freely in this August House. Many F.I.Rs pertaining to murders are lodged in various Police Stations. There are many people who have been fined 50 to 60 lakh rupees by the Supreme Court yet they enter into the House. It is a matter of shame for the people of this Country. I request you to maintain the sanctity of this august House which was once donned by leaders like Sardar Patel, Lal Bahadur Shastri and Ch. Charan Singh. Today, it is a serious question before the House. Such persons should not even be allowed to move even in the vicinity of the House.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, another point which I would like to raise is that the people of this Country have fallen in the grip of Corrupt policies. Corrupt politicians, corrupt officers and corrupt businessmen. They have no facility for getting employment. Their Children do not get even the basic facilities like electricity and water. It is said here that a farmer's son is the Prime Minister of this Country but what sort of farmer's son is he when the children of this Country do not get electricity from seven O'clock in the morning to 7 O'clock in the evening. When children of this Country would not get even the basic facilities like this, then what would happen to this Country it's a matter to ponder over. A corrupt Government only gives corrupt administration. Unless the Government is honest the administration cannot be expected to be honest. I want that the Government should pay attention to it. I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Rajkumari Ratna Singh Singh

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please allow her to speak.

(Interruptions)

RAJKUMARI RATNA SINGH (Pratapgarh) : Hon. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I would like to bring to your notice that all the roads after the heavy monsoons in Northern India are indeed in a very dilapidated condition and the roads need money to carry out repairs. When you leave Delhi you go through my State, Uttar Pradesh, whether you want to go to Bombay or whether you want to go to Calcutta or you want to go to even Madras. Because we have President's rule in Uttar Pradesh, all our National and State Highways are in a very dilapidated condition. The Grand Trunk road between Mathura and Agra is under repair for over two years. Travelling is very difficult. The Delhi-Lucknow Highway is in a very bad condition. Lucknow-Allahabad Highway is in a very bad condition. Delhi-Mussorie Highway, which is going right up to the border, is all in a very bad condition. We would request the Central Government to release Rs. 300 crore to repair the State Highways and the National Highways in Uttar Pradesh.

We want the Minister of Surface Transport to discuss this matter because we are being ruled by the Centre. We do not have a Government in Uttar Pradesh. As there is no Government in Uttar Pradesh, it is the responsibility of the Centre to repair the roads in Uttar Pradesh and all the National Highways... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please conclude.

(Interruptions)

RAJKUMARI RATNA SINGH : I would request the Minister of Surface Transport to make a statement on this.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN (Indore) : Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, I would like to draw your attention towards an important issue. This issue may not seem to be so important in the present scenario but it would act as a slow poison if we do not pay attention towards it right now.

Today, improvements are being carried out in the field of genetic body organism throughout the world. There has been an increase in the yield of crops as compared to the past.

13.00 hrs.

Improvements were made in our country for better yields of the crops but I would like to say that the improvements that are being carried out today are experiments carried out by the department of Biotechnology in Cooperation with multinationals. Many a time it is a welcome step but sometimes the desired protective measures are not being observed. Now, improvement work is being carried out at two places in our country, one in the South and another in the North. With the Support of Belgium and America but one thing has come to our notice. When a meeting of I.C.A.R. was held in Pusa, one thing came to our notice that improvement works are being carried out at two places. Our Government and officers too had the knowledge of it, but one astonishing matter came to light when officers

of the United States Development Agency started that improvements are being carried out in India at four places instead of two places. When experiments are carried out in Genetics then many types of such bacteria are injected into plants which needs perfection so that the same may not spread in the surrounding areas because such type of plants affect the plants growing hereby and we cannot say that it also affects the blood groups and blood cells of the persons working there. This issue is important because here we were not aware of it and not only that similar experiment of improvement is being carried out somewhere near Delhi. Experiments are being carried out to improve the breed of brinjals. An ad-hoc Committee was Constituted for this purpose. Members of this Committee are changed from time to time. Therefore, due attention is not paid on it as it should have been.

Another thing is that there is no mention of the on going experiments being carried out for Genetic modified genes in the Annual report of the department of Bio-Technology. It is very important to have transparency in view of the people of India, its flora and fauna as many Chemical factories that are running here which are prohibited in foreign countries. Everything is possible in our country. Thus, if things go this way ultimately the experiment on Gene would affect the soil and people of our country. My request is that it is a very important issue. Since the Prime Minister is holding the portfolio of Science and Technology he should make a statement in this regard. Transparency should be ensured in it and people's representatives of people may also be the ad-hoc Committee alongwith the officers. The Committee too should have transparency in its functioning reviews be given such astonishing facts should not come to light so that there is no adverse impact on the people and environment the on-going work for Gene's improvement is good but I would request that some consideration be given over it to ward off its adverse impact.

SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR SINGH (Aurangabad) : Hon. Deputy Speaker Sir, I belong to the State of Bihar where there is acute crisis of Power. My district Aurangabad is very backward and I am drawing the attention of the Government through you towards it. Tenders were invited by Ponla Grids Corporation of India on 30.8.1996 on behalf of ministry of Power for Setting up of a Coal-based 2000 MW Capacity Thermal Power project in Nabinagar region of my constituency. But not a single tender has been received. Agencies involved in developmental works have not submitted any tenders so far. Therefore, I am drawing the attention of the government through you that work on Nabinagar thermal Power project be started after including it in 9th five year Plan.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I would like to tell one thing before calling the next Members to speak that it would be better to raise matters of national interest during zero hour. I agree that you should raise matters relating to your Constituency, it is a good sign, but if matters of national interests are raised during zero hour

then some of its importance would remain. It is a request and it would be better if the speech is brief.

[English]

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY (Visakhapatnam) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir I would like to bring this to the notice of the entire House, including our great leader Shri Vajpayee. Our country's economy is being shattered now. No industry is going to come shortly. The capital market has totally phenomenally failed and no institution or bank has either the inspiration, spirit, courage or the guts to come forward to encourage any industry with the fear that it will be harassed and found fault. With the result, today our country's position has unbelievably become weak.

Perhaps, till now, in Indian history it has never happened like this. At this rate, if things keep on going like this, I do not know what is going to be the future of this country. Therefore, my request is that the entire House should feel concerned about this situation. I am calling upon the Government that they must make hectic efforts and take effective measures to improve the situation.

They must give a big moral support to banks and other institutions to come forward. The banks and the financial institutions should be given a clear cut understanding that people who work with integrity and honesty will not be harassed and will be given support by the Government.

On the question of how the capital market is going to be improved, I would say that by giving more confidence in the public, Government must make efforts to improve it.

Lastly, in the Budget, MAT has been introduced. That has also become a very big problem for the growth of industry. Recently, our hon. Prime Minister came out openly that he has also understood the mistake of the Government by introducing MAT. Even in my Budget speech, I objected that MAT should not be introduced in the corporate bodies. I am very happy that, at least, the Prime Minister has come forward openly and has agreed in a public meeting that he is going to call all the captains of the industry of this country and discuss with them the MAT problem and try to improve the industry in this country.

I welcome this and I request the Government to take quick and strong action to abolish the MAT system so that the economy is given a new life by giving new inspiration for improving the industry.

Here, I would, once again, like to draw the attention of Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee that he must take personal interest to see that industry is improved in the country. Thank you.

[Translation]

SHRI NIHAL CHAND CHAUHAN (Sri Ganganagar). Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, I had raised the matter on 19.11.96 during zero hour and Government has taken

no notice of it till date. I am compelled to raise this issue. Sir, farmers are being exploited today. You know that 80 percent population of our country is dependent on agriculture, 20 percent population is dependent on factories, and 30 percent population is poor only because of the fact that businessmen are exploiting the farmers. When crops are ready for harvesting it comes in the hands of businessman who is turn reduce its price to such a low extent that the farmers are forced to sell their crops even below its production cost. Farmer's of Haryana, Punjab and Rajasthan and of other provinces are not getting reasonable prices for cotton. Lakhs of farmer's are sitting in queue in markets, they are a pitiable lot. Cotton is sold in markets at the rate of 1100 rupees per quintal. I am pointing it out through you that four to five quintals of cotton is produced in an acre whereas five thousand rupees are spent per acre on fertilizers, Seeds and medicines from the time of sowing of its seeds to the harvesting. Cotton produced by farmers is sold at a throwaway price. When the farmers sell their produce in the market it is sold cheaply but its price doubles when it is sold by businessmen. Wheat was sold at the rate of four hundred rupees per quintal in April but now it is being sold at the rate of nine hundred rupees per quintal. This is exploitation of the farmers and labourers. Our Prime Minister propagates himself as being the won of a farmer through big posters, radio and television. If the son of a farmer be the Prime Minister of this Country and such exploitation of the farmers goes on, you can imagine the plight in the rest of the Country. I would also demand from the Government that the rate of Cotton be fixed at the minimum of two thousand and five hundred rupees per quintal so that the farmers might get reasonable price of their produce. I would also request that in the first five year plan budget allocation for irrigation was 16 percent whereas land for irrigation was not the same as it is today. Today there has been increase in the area of land to be irrigated but only 6 percent has been allocated in the budget.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Nihal Chand ji, reading out a written paper is not allowed during zero hour.

SHRI NIHAL CHAND CHAUHAN : I want to request to the Government through you that the budget for irrigation be enhanced from 6 percent to 25 percent and price of cotton should be fixed at two thousand and five hundred rupees per quintal so that the farmer's may get reasonable price of their produce. I would also request that Akashvani and Doordarshan should give coverage to the 5 labourers who on fast unto death and the Government should think about them.

[English]

DR. RAM CHANDRA DOME (Birbhum) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I would like to bring to the notice of this House and to the Government an important issue. Though this issue is pertaining to my constituency and to my district, it is an important issue.

Sir, in my district, Birbhum, there is a Colliery, that is Kankartala Colliery Field under the Eastern Coalfield Limited. Now the work has been suspended in the Kankartala Colliery Limited. Now the work has been suspended in the Kankartala Colliery Field and the mining operation has been stopped. The Government wants to hand over this Colliery Field to the private sector. I do not know the reason for that. The Government took a stand to hand over the existing Colliery Field to the private sector. I urge upon the Government to immediately start the mining operation in the Karnataka Colliery Field and not to hand over this Colliery Field to the private sector.

I would like to raise another very important point that illegal mining and illegal coal trafficking are going on in the entire colliery belt in my district and in the bordering areas of Bihar. They are going unchecked. I have pointed out this matter to the administration several times but still they are unchecked. There is a vast reserve of a very good quality coal. This reserve should be exploited by having a new project for exploitation of good quality of coal in the district of Birbhum and in the bordering areas of Bihar.

[Translation]

I would like to know the reaction of the Government on this issue.

[Translation]

SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT (Nagpur) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to raise the question of poor weavers in the House through you. There are 10 thousand poor weavers in Handloom Corporation at Nagpur who are dying out of starvation. Their condition have become pitiable cotton yarn are not available with them for the last four months they are not getting any work. Despite their pitiable plight atrocities are being committed on them, be it the Central Government or the State Government no body is concerned about them. Efforts have been made several time but all in vain, they could not solve the problems of the weavers. Their position is going from bad to worse. The people working in handloom corporation took their case to the Supreme Court of India and the court pronounced judgement in their favour that the facilities should be given to them by treating them as industrial labourers but the said verdict is not being implemented.

Therefore I request the Central Government through you that any Minister or Secretary at apex level should be sent their to get this matter because the State Government as well as the Central Government is responsible for this. Today more than ten thousand workers of Handloom Corporation demand justice from you. Please do justice to them. They should get work as per the judgement of the Supreme Court. They should have got justice according to the verdict pronounced, but they are not getting it. We have had talks with the officers of the Corporation. They told if they will have to

implement the judgement of the Supreme Court, then they will be forced to close down the Handloom Corporation. This is a lame excuse. If anybody is unable to pay the minimum wages, he has no right to run any factory. This is how law of the land is! So, if they are not paid the minimum wages, action should be taken against the defaulting officers and the weavers should be given one lakh rupees each as compensation before rendering them jobless by closing down the Handloom Corporation. Thus they will become self-reliant. I urge upon the Central Government to pay attention towards this immediately.

SHRI PARASRAM MEGHWAL (Jalore) : Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, through you I want to draw attention of the Government towards the Jalore and Sirohi districts of my constituency where fluoride is very much in excess in the water and that is why people of those villages are becoming hunch backed. They are unable to work. They have become lazier. I demand the Government that safe drinking water be provided there so that they are not forced to drink fluoride contaminated water and they are able to become physically fit.

Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, our Prime Minister has always been making announcements that safe drinking water will be made available to every citizen of the country. I, therefore, urge the Government through you that safe drinking water may be provided there at the earliest.

SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN (Khurja) : Hon'ble Deputy Speaker Sir, through you I want to draw the attention of the Government on an important issue. There is an illegal slaughter house in my constituency and cows, buffaloes, bulls and even calves are being slaughtered there. Local people including myself has raised voice in this regard many times but all in vain and now I myself conducted raid with the District Magistrate and Senior Superintendent of Police and found all the allegations levelled against them correct and the said slaughter House was closed down by order issued by the District Magistrate. Near that illegal slaughter House was that the pond which was located since long has been contaminated by the animal blood. The environment of the entire city has been polluted to the extent that nobody can live there. If you travel to Khurja from Delhi there will be no need at all to ask about Khurja. Where you start feeling foul smell you can guess that you have approached the city.

Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, the people operating the slaughter house have been protected by anti social elements. I conducted raid on the said slaughter house with the District Magistrate and though all our allegations were found correct and the said slaughter house has been closed down, yet some persons put the pressure on the District Magistrate and the administration in such a manner that an enquiry has been ordered against the S.H.O. who executed the orders of the District Magistrate

and the Senior Superintendent of Police promptly to close down the above slaughter house and efforts are also being made to transfer him from there.

Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, the District Magistrate issued a licence on 24th April, 1996 for slaughtering bulls in the city though communal riots have erupted in the Khurja town five times so far. Such license will encourage slaughter of cows as well because the tissues of bull and cow meat are same whereas tissue of buffalo meat is different. It can easily be ascertained by examining the meat that whether it is of a cow or buffalo, but now licence has been issued to slaughter the bulls it will be difficult to ascertain differentiate between the meat of a Bull or a Cow and slaughtering of Cow will start there under this pretext.

Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, through you I demand from the Central Government that the the officers who had executed their duties properly to closedown the above slaughter house, they should not be transferred from there and no action should be taken against them and such slaughter houses operating all over the country should be closed down. Sir, through you I wanted to raise this issue only.

[English]

SHRI SHIVANAND H. KOUJALGI (Belgaum) : Sir, the hon. Minister of Railways has assured the House during his Budget Speech that work about the new survey line Kittur-Bailhongal-Sogal-Yellammagudda-Dharwar will take place. Though the hon. Minister has assured the House, the survey work has not yet started.

Kittur is a historical place. The Fort of Kittur Rani Chennamma who fought against the British for Independence, is located there. Bailhongal is a business centre. Sogal and Yellammagudda are tourist and pilgrimage centres, respectively. By taking up this new survey line, the distance between Hubli and Dharwar will be less than 80 kilometres.

Hence, as per the assurance given by the hon. Minister of Railways, the new survey line work should be taken up immediately.

[Translation]

SHRI B.L. SHARMA 'PREM' (East Delhi) : Sir, there are fifty five thousand police personnel and there is growing discontent among them, because they are not being paid ration money, whereas ration money is paid to the police personnel in Punjab, Himachal Pradesh and Haryana. Delhi is the capital of the Country, all Ambassies are located here, all V.I.P.'s are residing here, security arrangements are to be made for them and the personnel of Delhi Police have to do their duties ranging from eighteen to twenty hours at a stretch. Not only this but gross injustice is also being meted out to them. They were being paid exgratia payment for last several years. They were being paid one months pay in a year but the said exgratia payment has not been given to

them this year due to which there is a growing discount among them. Sir, through you I want to draw attention of the hon'ble Home Minister to resolve their resentment. I am not in favour of giving them right to form their association. They should not be given right to form their association. But there should be a forum where they may express their grievances so that the police personnel may be satisfied....(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Your name is there in the list I shall call you later on. Please sit down.

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI (Sitamarhi) : Hon'ble Deputy Speaker Sir, I hail from Sitamarhi, Bihar. Sitamarhi is the tourist spot of national level importance. We have raised this issue many times in this House during different sessions of the Tenth Lok Sabha. We have drawn the attention of the Government towards this during question hour and zero hour as well but no attention has been paid towards this till date. Sitamarhi is the birth place of Jagat Janani Sita. People are coming here from every corner of the country, not only from Bihar but from other countries of the world including Maaritius, are visiting Sitamarhi.

Sir, through you I want to urge the Government that to include Sitamarhi in the tourist map of the country. It is necessary to develop tourism there. We had a meeting with the Minister of Tourism. Though he had assured us yet nothing has been done so far to develop tourism by setting up infrastructure there. Rail facility is not available there. Though funds have been provided for laying rail lines from Muzafferpur to Sitamarhi yet release of fund is being delayed. Similarly it is necessary to construct the broadgauge railway line from Darbhanga to Narkatiaganj. Construction of Sitamarhi-Patna national highway via Muzafferpur is also necessary.

I request the Government through you that we can protect our culture and can earn foreign exchange by developing tourism infrastructure there and the pace of development is also accelerated, so please issue directions the Central Government to include the historical place Sitamarhi in the tourist map of the country. And also kindly construct roads and railway lines there. Thank you

SHRI DADA BABURAO PARANJPE (Jabalpur) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Jabalpur is industrially a backward area. Britishers set-up many defence production units there from defence view points. Today 39 factories are running in the country out of which half a dozen are in Jabalpur. After independence, our Government opened a new factory in Jabalpur. In all 39 factories, recruitment is closed since 1984. Thousands of the employees have since retired, died and medically rejected by the board. But not a single employee has been taken in their place.

I have a request to the Central Government that the bank imposed on recruitment be lifted so that unemployed should get work and the decline in the defence production may be removed.

SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT (Nandurbar) : Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to draw the attention of the Union Government towards the policy of Government of India to provide land to the villages likely to submerge under a project and Khargaon and Akulkula tehsils are the areas which have been affected by Sardar Sarovar Project. Now five tribals of Doob area is being given 10 hectares of land with Bawri and Borwell. The pump with the capacity of 7 hundred and fifty horse power for 10 hectares of land is not going to fully irrigate the land. Therefore, my humble request to Union Government is that the M.I. tank survey done there, the survey of three tanks is Valeri, Ambabari and Appapur, should be cleared by Forest and Environment Ministry. If it clears it early then the affected farmers may get the water for irrigation.

[English]

SHRI N.K. PREMCHANDRAN (Quilon) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister of Finance to the prices of titanium dioxide. The Kerala Metals and Minerals Limited and the Travancore Titanium Products, the two major indigenous companies in Kerala, are now facing a severe crisis. This is due to the gross reduction of import duty on titanium dioxide during the last many years. Thousands of workers are engaged in these two major companies and they are also contributing crores of rupees to the public exchequer. It is seen that in the year 1993-94, the import duty on titanium dioxide was 85 per cent. In the year 1994-95, it had been reduced to 65 per cent and in the year 1995-96, it had been reduced to forty per cent. Now, in the 1996-97 Budget, the import duty on titanium dioxide has been reduced to forty per cent. As a consequence of this, the companies are forced to sell their products at less than the cost of production, benefiting multinational companies like Du-Pont in America. During the Budget discussion also, the hon. Minister of Finance had assured the House that the matter would be reviewed if it is adversely affecting the indigenous industry. But so far nothing has been done. So, I urge upon the Finance Minister to reconsider the issue and to review the position arising due to reduced import duty on titanium dioxide in order to save this industry and the workers also.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY (Chhapra) : Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, the subject which I am going to raise, I very well know what the Government will do or not do. I am pursuing this campaign for the last six months. I wish if you could listen to me even for two minutes, I shall be satisfied because in this regard I have lost faith completely in the Government.

There is a sugar mill in my areas which is a Government of India unit. Till last year four crores of rupees of farmers was outstanding against that mill, this year in the month of December, farmers are told that it

will not take their sugarcane. They are going to close down the mill. My request is that if Sugarcane was not to be taken, then they should have told the farmers one year back that they are going to close down this mill. People would have sown paddy, wheat and other foodgrains in place of sugarcane. Sugarcane worth Rs 5 crores is standing in the field today. From here, the Government says that it will not run the mill in December month. There is Kanpur Sugar works in Saran district and comes under the Textiles Ministry of the Government of India. Apart from this, there is no sugar mill in the vicinity of 200 kilometers. Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, I also want to say that there is already an areas amounting Rs four crores. What will happen to that Sugarcane worth Rs. five crores Bihar is ruled by Janta Dal Government.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Rudyjee, listen for one minute. I allowed you because you mentioned about farmers, but your subject was something different. You have written about private insurance

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY : You are sitting on this chair, that is why I said so.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : That is why I have allowed this.

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY : You kindly tell the Government to do something in this regard.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : This was not your subject, despite that I allowed you, now you sit down.

PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA (Samastipur) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, through you, I want to bring a matter to the notice of this House which is about the need to pay our heed to the backward classes. 27 percent reservation have been made for the backward classes in the central services. But when I.A.S. examination results were out for 1994, 707 candidates were selected for the 707 posts. Out of them, 204 belonged to the backward classes. Out of than 31 competed in the general quota. Therefore they were elevated 173 were left out, but all could not be accommodated in the Government services. It was said that there is no place for them. Out of 173, 15 successful candidates are still unemployed today and are wandering from pillar to post, there is no hearing for their problems. I have also written to Ministry of Personnel in this regard. But they have replied what they get ready made answers from the lower hierarchy. They have not given any thought to it or gone into the facts to find out reality in this regard or as to what difficulty they have undergone this connection. My demand is that proper inquiry should be conducted in this regard and 15 left out but successful candidates should be given proper place. This may be pointed out that 27 percent of 707 is atleast 190, out of which only 173 candidates have been considered against the reserved quota and even 15 from among them, have been left out. Therefore, the quota of 27 percent should be filled up.

[English]

SHRI DILEEP SANGHANI (Amreli) : Thank you, Sir. I want to raise this issue. Under the Inter-State Water Disputes Act, the hon. Tribunal has given its final award in 1978 that the height of the Sardar Sarovar Dam in Gujarat over the Narmada river would be 455 feet. Over this decision of the Tribunal, no review or any change is allowed or permitted by anyone.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Nobody should read anything in the Zero Hour. So, please be brief.

SHRI DILEEP SANGHANI : Yes, Sir.

However, certain vested interests and Madhya Pradesh State Government are trying to have change in the height of the said dam. The people of Gujarat oppose this malicious device of these vested interests and they will not tolerate any change in the height of Narmada Sardar Sarovar Dam. The Central Government should make its stand very clear over this point.

SHRI P.S. GADHAVI (Kutch) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, the Narmada River Water Dispute Tribunal has given an award stating that the height of the Narmada Sardar Sarovar Dam should be 455 ft. Despite that, the Prime Minister made a statement in the Press on 9.12.96 regarding that. It is reported in the Press as follows :

"The Prime Minister Shri H.D. Deve Gowda on Sunday said that the height of the Sardar Sarovar Dam recommended by the Narmada Tribunal was not final and Centre would take a decision on it in consultation with the affected States. Talking to the reporters at the Indore Airport, Shri Gowda said that the Union Government would put up its view before the Supreme Court."

[Translation]

Honourable Prime Minister when comes to Gujarat, says that the height of the dam will not be lowered—even by one feet and when he goes there he tells something different. I want that honourable Prime Minister and Central Government should clear the position.

[English]

DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA (Lakhimpur) : Mr Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I stand here to raise an important issue regarding the shifting of the Corporate Office of the Oil India Limited which was decided in 1991. As per the decision of the Oil India Limited, the Deputy Commissioner of Kamrup District was requested to acquire a plot of land measuring about 300 *bigas* in Greater Guwahati area. That plot was in Mirzapur Village, Polashbari Circle of Kamrup District and Oil India Limited decided to shift the Corporate Office from New Delhi to that place. Since then, Oil India Limited did not take any action. The cultivators cannot use that land either for agricultural purpose or for commercial purpose. They are not paid the compensation also nor

Oil India Limited is going there to establish its office. It is an urgent matter. So, I request the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, through you, to instruct the concerned officials and the Oil India Limited to immediately dispose off the cases so that the office is immediately shifted and the cultivators get the compensation which is due to them.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY (Ranchi) : Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, I want to draw the attention of the Government towards the national highways of my constituency. Roads are in dilapidated condition and accidents occur frequently and many have lost lives. For example on G.T. road, Ranchi-Tata road, Ranchi-Patna Road, Ranchi-Gumla Road, Chandil-Purulia Road, Ramgarh-Bokaro road, etc. one to three four feet deep pits have come up. These roads are in a very pitiable condition. The work on national highways is not done properly and the roads built afresh could not work for even one month. I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards this problem. In the forest area of our constituency, for example in Ranchi, there are two to four rivers which have no bridges due to which people live in islands for six months all-together. Even an amount of Rs. two-to four crores is not spent there. People live like they were on an island... (Interruptions) Thousands of families are affected.

Sir, I would like to quote only the names. The construction of bridges on Silli, Chandel, Bhaya, Barendra and Radhu rivers at Silli, AndonRadhu at Paeka, and on Kanchi river near Banku is a must one. If bridges are built on these rivers, it would be very beneficial to the farmers. Alongwith this, the condition of village roads is very pitiable, and I want that the Government of India should allocate money for that and get it constructed.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The House stands adjourned for Lunch till Forty Minutes Past Fourteen of the Clock.

13.42 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned for Lunch till Forty Minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.

14.46 hrs.

The Lok Sabha reassembled after Lunch at forty six Minutes Past-fourteen of the Clock.

(Mr. Deputy Speaker in the Chair)

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR (Barh) : Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, the many people who died in the truck accidents

two days back, they all belonged to one village Arai in my constituency. Yesterday, I went there and met the family members affected by it. The death of so many people of one village is first incident in my life. I have not heard like this before. Today that village gives a deserted look. 11 persons have died from one joint family 7 have died from another family and many families are such that nobody is left except crying children. Here and there, one or two women are left. Here it leads to social problem. Through you, we want to attract the attention of the Central Government. State Government has announced to give one lakh of rupees as compensation but there are several such problems about which the Central Government should also think. When such type of incidents take place, what sort of help should be tendered for this. A permanent fund should be established.

The second thing is that in such incidents, bad roads are solely responsible for the mishap. The road has been built many years back. I tried several times to get this road repaired but the road is in dilapidated condition. The driver lost the concentration and the truck went upside down and the accident took place. The pit nearby the road was full of water and people fell into it. The truck which was loaded with metals fell down on the people. Most of them died due to suffocation. Some people were rescued by local efforts. At the time of incident, people gathered from the nearby places. When they narrated the story, it appeared that due to bad condition of the road, this accident took place. The people of this area have been demanding the repair of the road since long there. As a public representative I have been voicing their problem. In villages, roads are built but they are not maintained properly. The Union Government sanctions money for the construction of roads under its minimum needs programme under head of Employment Guarantee Scheme and Jawahar Rojgar Yozna, but due to the lack of funds for repairing these roads remain in damaged condition because once roads are constructed repair work does not carried out regularly. We can not provide money for repairing under the Local Development Scheme, though we can sanction money for the construction of roads. So the funds which are available we should utilise that for repairing of the roads. There should also be a provision for the extension and repairing of the roads in rural areas. I would like to request that keeping in view social responsibility those families which have been displaced due to this incident may be provided help by the Government. A representative of Central Government should go there and take stock of the position and provide help for rehabilitation of victim families whose financial position is very bad. In this hour of crisis this assistance from Central Government will be proved helpful to them. I think the House is agree with my views. I express my grief for the victim families and pray to God give them strength to bear this tragedy.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to express my feelings over this incident.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Though the time for Zero hour was over but this incident is very serious.

[English]

The Government should take note of it.

[Translation]

SHRI SHATRUGHAN PRASAD SINGH (Ballia) (Bihar) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we also express our sorrow. You should direct Government to do something in this regard so that such incidents do not occur in future.

14.47 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

(i) Need to Represent Farmers interests on the Agricultural Price Commission

SHRI VIJAY ANNAJI MUDE (Wardha) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, India is mainly an agricultural country. Its economy is based on agriculture, but Government is very much in different towards the interests of farmers. During the years 1995-96 and 1996-97 prices of various commodities have all along been increasing but there has been negligible increase in the prices of basic agricultural produce of farmers.

Therefore, I would like to request the Central Government to reconstitute Agricultural Price Commission. The Commission should have a representative from the farmers' side any they should get prices on the basis of their cost of production.

(ii) Need to Formulate Concrete Policies for development of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and to make National Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Commission more effective

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIA (Ujjain) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, objects and Programmes for the Ninth Five Year Plan in the country are being finalised. The targets fixed for the welfare and upliftment of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes during the last Five Year Plans have not achieved. There hasn't come any expected change in the social educational and economic backwardness of the Scheduled Castes and scheduled tribes. The Vacancies reserved for them in Government and administrative services have not been fulfilled. Employment opportunities to educated and uneducated people haven't been ensured. Social equality among the citizens and respect for all in the country has been established even after 50 years of independence. Till now the recommendations of the National Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and suggestions of the Advisory Committee of the Ministry of Welfare have been ignored.

Therefore, I would like to request the Government to eliminate all disparities targets for welfare and social-educational-economic security and upliftment of the SCs and STs may be clearly fixed and implemented during the Ninth Five Year Plan. The steps should be taken to make National Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribe more effective and ensure two seats for Scheduled Castes and one seat for Scheduled Tribes in the Commission.

(iii) Need to Recall the Sacrifices made by Tribal Heroes during the Freedom Struggle

[English]

KUMARI FRIDA TOPNO (Sundergarh) : The nation is celebrating the 50th year of Independence. We remember those who laid their lives in the struggle for freedom. But there are many who have become the forgotten chapters in the Indian history of freedom struggle. I draw the attention of the Government on the floor of the House, the Tribal heroes of Eastern India whom the Nation is yet to give due recognition. They are Birsu Munda, Nirmal Munda, Dharanidhar, Laxman Naik, Bhima Bhoi, Surendra Sai, Sidhu Kanhu, Rani Gaidinliu and many others who fought fierce battle in the thick jungles of Eastern India.

I would request the Union Government to encourage private entrepreneurs to go for documentary films on these heroes. Government should also come forward to give them befitting respect for their contribution in the freedom struggle.

(iv) Need to Name the National Institute of Mass Communication after Dr. Radha Nath Rath, a Veteran Freedom Fighter of Orissa

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI (Deogarh) : Dr. Radha Nath Rath of Orissa is a leading freedom fighter and a veteran journalist. He has left his indelible impression in various fields of life, social, political and cultural. Although he has entered 101st year on last 6th December, he still continues to be the Editor of the leading Oriya daily *The Samaj* founded by late Utkal Mani Gopa Bandhu Das, who was known as the Gandhi of Orissa. In recognition of his selfless services rendered in different fields, his centenary celebration was organised in the State of Orissa and also outside Orissa throughout the year from 6th December, 1995 to 6th December, 1996. In this background, it will be indeed a good gesture and a befitting tribute to this distinguished son of the country to name the National Institute of Mass Communication after him.

(v) Need to clear the backlog in Vacancies for SC/STs

[Translation]

SHRI SUKDEO PASWAN (Arariya) : The backlog of vacancies reserved for SCs and STs in Govt. offices

haven't been filled since Independence till date. In Tenth Lok Sabha, the then Welfare Minister, had said that backlog of vacancies for SCs and STs have been filled within the stipulated time.

I would like to request the Central Government to fill up all the backlog of vacancies for SCs and STs in different Departments within the stipulated time. As per the directions of the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions if any senior officer/employee belonging to SC/ST is overlooked in the matter of promotion this case should be considered by the Minister incharge of the Ministry. But that is not being done. Such case should be submitted to the Minister through the Public Relation officer of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. The qualified candidates should be appointed on these posts, and these should not be kept vacant on the plea of non-qualification to avoid backlog in future.

(vi) Need to take up Doubling and Electrification of Andal-Sainthia Section of Eastern Railways.

[English]

DR. RAM CHANDRA DOME (Birbhum) : Andal-Sainthia section under Asansol division of Eastern Railway is an old and important rail line which is connecting Bardhaman-Sahibganj loop in one side and Grand chord section on the other side since British age. This route is a principal route connecting district headquarter to the State capital and also a main route for transportation of coal, iron ores and other major minerals and finished products from industrial belt of Asansol-Durgapur and Bihar to N.E. States. But this important section is single and neglected. Track renewal upgradation of track including doubling and electrification is a long pending demand of the people of this area. In view of the growing industrialisation in this area, including Bakreswar Thermal Power Project which is coming up very fast, this section should be a double line section and electrification is necessary from traffic point of view.

I would urge upon the Government to take up doubling and electrification of Andal-Sainthia section immediately for freight movement as well as to increase passenger traffic.

(vii) Need for Immediate Repair and Maintenance of the National Highway No. 47 in Tamil Nadu.

SHRI N. DENNIS (Nagercoil) : The Trivandrum-Kanyakumari NH-47 having the National terminal on one side and the Kerala capital on the other side is one of the busiest highways in the country. National and international tourists, pilgrims and passengers in large numbers travel through this prestigious National Highway to see the Southern most part of our country and for witnessing the beautiful sceneries in the

southern most extremity. But the passengers face unpleasant experience due to bad keep up of the Tamil Nadu part of the road for long. In spite of repeated representations before the Government and concerned authorities, the road is not kept in traffic worthy conditions. It is full of pits, cracks and gullies. There are frequent occurrence of accidents. The chronic prevalence of the unworthy condition of the road is causing great concern among the passengers and the general public.

So, I urge upon the Government to take immediate and urgent steps for the proper maintenance of the Tamil Nadu part of the road at par with the Kerala part of the same, at the earliest.

15.00 hrs.

(viii) Need to declare Ancient Shiva Temple of Mehdar, Distt. Siwan as a National Monement

[Translation]

SHRI RAMBAHADUR SINGH (Maharajan) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, about hundred years ago the then king of Nepal had built a temple at Mehdar under Siwan Police Station in Siwan district of Bihar and a pond was also dug which is spread over 200 to 250 acres of land. This place is very important from religious and cultural point of view. Every lakhs of people from North Bihar, Eastern Uttar Pradesh and Nepal visited here. Keeping in view the importance of this place Mahendra Nath Hault Station has been started there. Therefore, I would like to request the Government to declare the temple and the pond as an archedological heritage and resuscitate the pond.

(ix) Need to Provide Additional Special Support to Industrial Units in Howrah for Purchase of Pollution Control Devices

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI (Howrah) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, like in Delhi, several foundries and industrial units are facing disaster due to Supreme Court directives on pollution control measures etc., in Howrah, the industrial city of West Bengal on the bank of the Ganges and several thousands of workers remain jobless now, Like Delhi on the bank of the Yamuna, Howrah on the bank of the Ganges requires additional special support for treatment plant through the Ganga Action Plan and the Government should provide soft loans for special equipment on pollution control devices to the industrial units of Howrah through banks. Otherwise, the Government of India must come forward to negotiate with the Government of West Bengal to shift these units of Howrah to an alternative place with pollution control devices. The Environment and the Industry Ministries of the Government of India, together with the Labour Ministry must decide on a policy to save the workers.

15.02 hrs.

MAULANA AZAD NATIONAL URDU UNIVERSITY BILL

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Let us now take up further consideration of the Motion moved by Shri S.R. Bommai.

Shri Ram Kripal Yadav was on his legs.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV (Patna) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, I was telling to the Hon'ble Minister through you that if Urdu has to be given its due importance then we have to make efforts seriously in this regard. We all know the importance of Urdu. Urdu is such a language that all people loves it, it is a sweet language and I do understand that by using Urdu our own language becomes correct. It attracts the people. I would like to say that about 20 years back, as was started by some Hon'ble Members yesterday during discussion that the Gujarat committee was constituted for its propagation, and promotion and to make it popular and that committee has submitted its report for its propagation and promotion and out of its 220-221 recommendations only one recommendation has been implemented. Thus, this Bill has been introduced today in this House after 21 years. This recommendation was that an Urdu University should be set up.

I would like to request the Government through you if we accept Urdu as a national language as per recommendation made by Shri Gujral in his report 20 years back then only all the problems and difficulties related to Urdu language will be solved. Therefore we should make it national language at the earliest. Therefore, I would like to request the Hon'ble Minister to take up this matter seriously. I would like to say that the second recommendation made by Mr. Gujral may be implemented at the earliest.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Urdu language has contributed a lot for building, progress and defence of the country. I would like to request Hon'ble Minister through you that more and more steps should definitely be taken for the promotion of this language so that urdu speaking people are encouraged and its good results come out. I would like to give some suggestions to the Hon'ble Minister in this regard.

15.06 hrs.

(Col. Rao Ram Singh in the Chair)

If we really want the development and promotion of Urdu language we should provide knowledge of Urdu language to women and a special mention has been made in this Bill in this regard. The objective of the Government is to give more and more benefit to women, I would like to know that how many schools or institution

or colleges are in various states the country where women are being imparted education in Urdu specifically. I know that the number of such Schools and Colleges is negligible. Until the Government will not look into this matter we can not achieve the goal to set up a Urdu University.

The number of Urdu knowing men and women in our country is negligible. I am not giving figures on my own but these are official figures, these are recorded in official documents. As I have stated earlier is we really want to promote Urdu language we have to consider seriously this matter and several hon. Members have discussed objective behind the establishment of Maulana Azad National Urdu University here into essential that more and more books should be published in Urdu language by the Government. The number of books in Urdu language is very few. I want that the Government should give help to all Publishing houses which are publishing books in Urdu language so that good books can be published in Urdu language and Urdu knowing people get their benefit.

No provision has been made for the hostel facilities in this Bill. I feel that unless a provision is made for the hostel in the University till then the boys and girls studying Urdu language will not get its benefits. I would like to request through you that there is the utmost need to provide Hostel facility in the Urdu University, the Government should make necessary provisions for hostel facility in this Bill so that the boys and girls can learn Urdu language. I would also like to say that the places which have higher population of Urdu knowing people should be provided Urdu libraries. At present number of Urdu Libraries is much less. If Urdu libraries are set up the Urdu knowing people, will be benefitted and they can make an important contribution for promotion and propagation of Urdu language.

Mr. Chairman Sir, I would like to say that there are number of states where Urdu language is the second official language. Why the Government of India do not make Urdu language second official language so that more and more people who are associated with it could be benefitted and the language generally used can be promoted. I would like to request the Hon'ble Minister through you to state the views of the Government over it while replying to this debate.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to request the Minister that Department of Education should organise Urdu ~~Muhairas~~ so that Urdu knowing and learning people can be benefitted. The hon'ble Minister should think over it. The hon'ble Shri Banatwala has expressed his views drawn the attention towards several shortcomings in this Bill. I would like to say that the hon'ble Minister should pay attention towards them. In this Bill a demand has been made to make up the shortage of Funds and a provision of Six crores rupees instead of three crores rupees has been demanded so that sufficient funds could be make available for establishment of the

University and it could be established properly. If this is done then the University would be established in good spirit and objective of this bill could be fulfilled.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, a special mention has been for imparting appropriate education to women. I understand that the development of education of women can not be achieved unless Primary and secondary schools are not set up for them. I do not think the objective of this Bill can be achieved unless schools for them are not set up.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, in the end I would like to draw the attention of the hon'ble Minister to Pass this Bill by making improvements therein as per the suggestions made by the hon. Members during the discussion on this Bill, so that the purpose of this Bill can be achieved. I thank the Hon'ble Minister and again support this Bill.

PROF. OM PAL SINGH 'NIDAR' (Jalesor) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Maulana Azad National Urdu University Bill, 1996 is being discussed here. This is a good effort but if this Bill has been introduced only to lure the Urdu speaking people or for any other political benefit then this House may consider it seriously before passing it. There is no solution of the problem by introduced and passing the Bill. For this will power, honesty, impartiality and sincerity are required. If our Government's intention is clear regarding promotion of national interest then I am ready to support this Bill.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I want to make it clear that yesterday Hon'ble Shri Banatwala had said that the BJP might be compelled to support the Bill but there is no such compulsion. This is a question of humanity, brotherhood. We support this Bill on humanitarian grounds. It would be much better if both the parties support the Bill. I wish to say that yesterday he said many things. A sensitive, educationist person like me did not like the comments made by him but I am not making a complaint. I use so many words Urdu in my, day-to-day conversation but I want to remind the hon'ble Shri Banatwala that we have no compulsions, you speak difficult words of English but avoid such Hindi words which are prevalent in Urdu language. I want to give only one or two examples.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mr. Ompal, you may please express your views. Why are talking about him. He has the right to express his views and you have the right to express your views.

PROF. OM PAL SINGH 'NIDAR' : Mr. Chairman, Sir, if we all are one, both languages are sister languages then I also must have the right to express my views. I do not want to use such words which may hurt anyone I am talking about the promotion of Urdu language. They people do not use even a single word of Hindi deliberately. The position is that we repeatedly use the word "Executive Council" but not 'Karaya Parishad'. We have to do more lip movement to speak Executive Council but not for speaking Karaya Parishad. We speak

"University" but not "vishwavidalaya", "Demonstration" not "Pradrashan", and "funds" not "Nidhi" or "Dhan" because in saying so we feel inferiority complex. Now you have to decide that who is human or inhuman. I don't want to say much more in this regard.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I want to raise a small point, yesterday the hon'ble Shri Ramashray Prasad Singh said one thing while speaking on Urdu Bill he said that it will hurt the communal forces. He was pointing towards us. I would like to mention here that language is not of any religion. The language has no religion and it is of masses. No language can develop which is linked with religion but language of masses, poor persons can properly developed.

Sir, I support the views expressed by Shri Ram Kripal. He has stated that Hindi and Urdu are two real sisters but I want to say that Hindi is our mother and since Urdu language is her sister hence we call it our 'Mausi'. Generally we call 'Mausi' as 'Maa Jaisi'. When we call it as our mother then it is the duty of it sours to respect Urdu language. We can made efforts to bridge the gap between us and Urdu language can easily do this work.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I got an opportunity to visit the different parts of the country and have my friends every where. Most of them are poets and are broadminded. But they never felt that I have any ill-will in my heart against them. They are bearing with me. This indicates that humanity and literature remove such separatism and language can bridge this gap

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would certainly like to tell one thing here which is not a very important one. Nothing can be done by merely talking over trivial matters such as publishing of a book or opening of some schools but making no arrangements, for the children for which it has been opened. I mean to say that unless such an environment would be created in which the children those who are weaving cloths or picking bags are able to go to school, the entire system would prove to be futile. It is my view on this matter. I would like to draw your attention towards two or three more things. I have gone through the Bill and I would like to draw your attention towards the short comings which came to my notice. It is stated in part (2) of Section (3) of the Bill "Headquarter of the University will be set up in Hyderabad" and part (4) of the section states, "right of constant succession of the University". I could not understand the meaning of 'succession'. It would be proper if 'the word responsibility' may be substituted for it. May be it connotes to responsibility or any thing other in English but if the distinction between Succession and responsibility is understood, it will be set right. Further it states that 'there will be the responsibility' and it has also been stated that it may encourage litigation. I would, therefore, request the Hon'ble Education Minister to check the word. I feel better to call him as 'Education Minister'.

Sir, how much time have been allotted to me?

MR. CHAIRMAN : Ten minutes.

PROF. OM PAL SINGH 'NIDAR' : Yesterday I came to know that twenty minutes have been allotted to me.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Total two and half hour have been allotted for the debate and two hours forty five minutes have already been passed and six more members are to speak. So kindly strictly adhere to ten minutes only so that others also can speak.

PROF. OM PAL SINGH 'NIDAR' : I have tried to point out the shortcomings of the Bill. It would be proper to sort them out.

I addressed him as education minister because I do not understand the fact when he is being addressed as Human Resource Development minister. Man is only a man, he has a pious soul, he feels pain and has his sentiments. Iron, wood and stone are given shape by cutting and polishing. Men have natural vitality.

I would like to say one thing more. To award degrees and take it back under part (ii) of section 5 does not seem proper. Being a teacher I did not like it. Who will determine that the reasons for taking back the awarded degrees are genuine. In my opinion degrees should strictly be awarded only to such persons as the question of returning it may not arise. The situation would aggravate if the degrees would be given first and then taken back. It will create a feeling of resentment and humiliation. One thing more, it has been written in the Bill that jurisdiction of the University will be extended all over India but further it has been written that laboratories and centres can be set up in other countries too with the permission of Chancellor. I could not understand the point. When its jurisdiction is restricted only to India how can it be extended in other countries. Both the two things are contradictory and there is no coordination between them.

One thing more, in part (xxiii) of section 5 it has been stated that "for the purpose of University receive donation said, to acquire, manage and dispose any immovable property under which trust property comes". In my opinion it should be mentioned like this — in what is the real character of the institutions giving donation or other gifts or other donated properly to the University. The fact must be verified. This must be included in the Bill so that it may remain beyond doubt.

It has also been stated in the Bill that working Council will be the Chief Executive body of the University...

MR. CHAIRMAN : Nidar ji you should have submitted the amendments for all these things.

PROF. OM PAL SINGH 'NIDAR' : Sir, atleast I can draw the attention. In fact good things are done away or excluded due to technical reasons. If technical reasons crop up in national interest then I think national development will be hampered due to technical reasons. So whether be the medium of bringing good things the

Government must accept them. Of course if any thing comes through any body against national interest there should be no difficulty in rejecting them.

I would like to draw your attention towards one more thing. The decision making bodies which are likely to take action against teachers or other similar officials have been vested with too much powers.

Peoples can be satisfied only when they get the right to appeal against their decision in the high court of the state where the University is situated or in the Supreme Court.

Sir, I am saying in brief as there are so many speakers. I would like to say that although the language will be Urdu but what will be the script because there is difference between language and script. Script is not the language and the languages does not make the script. It is quite unfortunate that there is a dispute over the script and not over the language in the country for the last 47-48 years.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mr. Om Pal, now you please conclude your speech.

(Interruptions)

PROF. OM PAL SINGH 'NIDAR' : I am concluding in a minute. I would like to say that it should not be like a toy in the hands of a child which is given to him for playing and soon after that it say that what is the time limit for it. If the Bill will be passed in such a situation and even if it will be enforced, a time frame should also be determined for setting up the university. Will no other language be taught in the University. One cannot earn livelihood just by studying one language. Only one language would not be enough for earning livelihood even in this country. Knowledge of supporting language is must in order to earn livelihood.

I would also like to say to the Hon'ble Human Resource Development Minister that he should kindly consider my views and enforce it and setup the University. The country must take benefit of it and feel proud in social and literary field...*(Interruptions)* with these words, I am thankful to you.

SHRI QAMARUL ISLAM (Gulbarga) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, first of all I congratulate the United Front Government which have fulfilled the long cherished dream of Urdu loving people of Hindustan. The Government in its Six months period has brought a package for Kashmir and North Eastern states, has worked for the development of State like Uttar Pradesh and have presented the budget for the development of Railway...

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : I had requested you to kindly confine yourself to the subject.

SHRI QAMARUL ISLAM : I will not take more than 10 minutes. I am just giving the background.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please speak on the subject.

SHRI QAMARUL ISLAM : At the same time the long cherished desire for Urdu...(Interruptions)

[English]

I do not want any suggestion from you. I am very much on the subject.

MR. CHAIRMAN : All right, you kindly address the Chair.

SHRI QAMARUL ISLAM : At the beginning, I want to give certain background. So this is the background. Urdu is such a beautiful language. Without that you cannot express...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : I am sorry to say that the Railways have got nothing to do with Urdu.

SHRI QAMARUL ISLAM : What I am saying is this.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Kindly restrict yourself to the subject on hand.

[Translation]

SHRI QAMARUL ISLAM : Sir, our Human Resource Minister Bommai ji has fulfilled the long cherished desire of Urdu loving people through the Bill regarding setting up of Maulana Azad University. Maulana Azad is a renowned freedom fighter who is well known not only in India but to the whole world too. If we want to pay a rich homage to this great leader for his services to the nation then during the coming 50th anniversary of the Constituent Assembly we would be paying homage to Maulana Azad, the great freedom fighter, by making a provision through a bill to set up a University in his name.

So far as Urdu is concerned, it is a rich language and it is derived from two words of sanskrit. 'Ur' and 'Du' i.e. to say bringing hearts together. Meaning of one word is heart and the other one is to bring together. It is a rich language which brings heart together. Urdu originated and developed here. Today Urdu is getting to its destination in its motherland and for that I am congratulating Bommai jee. Words from Persian, Arabic and Sanskrit language are found in abundance in Urdu language. The language has got the maturity of Arabic language, finesse of Persian language and beauty of Sanskrit and Hindi as well. Urdu consists of the words from all these languages. While retrospecting our freedom movement are reminded of the words of Shaheed Bhagat Singh and Ashfaq-Ullah which they uttered while going to gallows, "Sir faroshi ki tammana ab hamare dil main hai, dekhana hai jor kitna bajua-e-katil main hai". Each word of it is the message of patriotism given by 'Inqalab-Zindabad' was also given in Urdu. It was the slogan which used to arouse a feeling in the people who were patriotic. A couplet of Urdu "Na ho jishmain inqalab, Miaut hai wo jindagi,

ruhe umang ki hayat, tashmak se inqalab" gives such a message that even if we write quite a number of books on it still the message cannot be described fully.

So far as the question of seeking Cooperation as has been mentioned by some of my friends, I would like to say that it is the language which brings heart together. A poet of Urdu says, "Hayat le ke chalo to Sare jamane ko sath le ke chalo." Urdu is the language which goes along with all the other languages and ages. It is the language which does not break hearts rather brings heart together...(Interruptions)

You know that if we look into history we find sufism in Urdu as we find it in the works of Nasruddin Chirag Dehlawi, Hazrat Khawaja, Banda Nawaz and Amir Khusro in one hand and Pandit Daya Shankar, Premchand, Trilokchand, Chikwat, Anand Mullah, Krishna chand, Maharaja Hindulal, Maharaja Krishna Prasad on the other. They are distinguished writers of Urdu who have served the language immensely these are the examples of the beauty of Urdu language and its mannerism. That is why the University is being founded in his name. I would like to say to Shri Bommai ji who belongs to the land of emperor Tipu Sultan, for enhancing the amount a little more in this Bill. Hyderabad has been a great centre of Urdu. Previously, Osmania University was an Urdu University. Where the courses in medical, engineering and laws used to be in Urdu. I would like that whatsoever more or less drawbacks have been left in this bill would be removed in ensuring days and more financial concurrence would be passed.

There is a saying in English language, Well begun is half done. After a long span of years there is a new beginning. Had all of you thought in this regard 50 years back as you are supporting it now. As Shri Ram Kripal Yadavji has said that Urdu should be second language of this country, it would have been official language. Today, this language is in vogue in varicus districts of many states and it can be second official language of this country. If we give proof of this love, affection and affinity I think that time will come too. saying of the poet is...(Interruptions) I am concluding with in two minutes. When during the regime of Smt. Indira Gandhi the astronaut, Rakesh Sharma had recited the same couplet of the great poet Allama Iqbal from space. When Smt. Indira Gandhi asked Rakesh Sharma as to how our country was looking from the space then he said, "Sare jahan Se Achha Hindustan Hamara, Hum Bulbule Hain Iske, Ye gulistan Hamara." The Urdu voice had echoed from the space. I urge upon the minister to implement it. I support this Bill and with this couplet I am concluding.

"Urdu hai jis ka naam, Hum yah jante hai Dag.
Hindustan mein dhoom hamare jubon ki hai"

I think that time has come and now Urdu language is language of masses. Thank you.

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE (Ratnagiri) : Mr. Chairman Sir, I have no intention to hurt the feelings of Mr. Banatwalla.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA (Ponnani) : If, I use two languages Urdu and English to make my point to Govt. and the nation, and if I had known even a third language, I would have expressed my views in third language also.

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE : Mr. Chairman Sir, there was intention to hurt any person. Muslims brethren of this country live in our different states.

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER : You are using such expression for a senior Member like Mr. Banatwalla.

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE : Mr. Chairman Sir, I do not want to say so and nor I want to insult any body. First of all listen me...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please stop talking across. If you want to say anything, please say it by addressing the Chair.

[Translation]

SHRI ANANT GANGA RAM GEETE : Mr. Chairman Sir the Mother tongue of Muslims, who are living in Maharashtra, is Marathi and they send their children for study in Marathi schools and very few children are sent to Urdu schools. In the sameway, Bengali Muslims in Bengal, Gujarati Muslims in Gujarat send their children to schools run in their respective mother tongues.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Geete, I think you are speaking away from the subject. A Bill has been introduced here for the Maulana Azad National University.

[Translation]

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE : Mr. Chairman Sir, I am coming on that very point.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You talk on this point only. What do the Muslims of Maharashtra do, where does the Muslim's of Gujarat go, there is no relevance of these points.

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE : Mr. Speaker Sir, I am speaking on the Bill. I want to say that this is the language of the whole country. Therefore, we are going to support it. The University is going to be established. Unfortunately, politics in the country is the politics of appeasement, politics of selfish motives, politics of vote and I think that this motion might not have been moved with this objective.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV : This may be your personal view.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Ram Kripal Yadav, Please do not interrupt.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI ANANT GANGA RAM GEETE : Mr. Chairman Sir, I am saying that this bill might have not moved keeping in view this objective.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You carry on, do not bother anybody's interruption. You keep on speaking.

SHRI ANANT GANGA RAM GEETE : Mr. Chairman Sir, So, we want that this University should be established and work in the country. Today we see that sometime there is a riot in the name of religion in the whole Country, a row in the name of language and this move can unite the whole nation and infuse the national spirit in the people. We want that this bill be passed and I do not want to Criticise anybody...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please, let us have order in the House.

[Translation]

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE : What we are doing, we are supporting it whole heartedly. Cross of students obtain degrees from these Universities but remain Unemployed. This is the condition of schools and Colleges today. These are adding to the unemployed youths. Every year, lakhs of youths are obtaining degree but they are of no use. We want that having obtained their degrees from College, they may not be workless. Facilities should be provided to them. The youth who get Urdu education should not remain unemployed. This Bill is on Urdu-University, we all whether B.J.P. or Shivsena support it.

The unfortunate thing today is that we divide people on the pretext that they are opposed to any particular religion. But people do not accept it. They believe in the fact that those who work for national interest, those who work for the development of the nation those who want to live for the Country - and we too want the same, that we should all live for the country and if your are living for the nation then we fully support the resolution which has been introduced for national language.

SHRI ILIYAS AZMI (Shahabad) : Hon. Chairman Sir, I am not feeling well today and having sore throat too. Therefore, I would like to apologise to all members and speak in a low pitch.

I am supporting the bill half heartedly but support the opposition whole heartedly for the support they have shown to the bill. The question is not that Urdu University is being established. There is no question about its intention too. Whatever policy is framed by any Government is good. There is question of its intention.

The problem of Urdu was not before the Country but those who came to power after the Britishers adopted several laws to vanish Urdu from north India from where it had originated and flourished. Pressure tactics were adopted and the situation today is that you would not find any higher secondary school of Urdu medium in Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Delhi where it had originated. Mention was made about intention although Urdu Academy Maulana Azad Foundation, Tarakki-e-Urdu board, Minorities Commission were founded but since the intention was not good so all of them became remnants of Urdu. That is why when Minorities Commission was abolished in Maharashtra people made hue and cry but I did not issue even a single statement, because it was a remnant. No purpose was served from it. Now I do not know about the intention of the present Government because I firmly believe that God alone knows about it. We cannot know about the intention of anyone.

So far as Urdu is concerned, it is being vanished from the whole country through a pre-planned method. I remember that in May, 1948, the Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh Pandit Govind Vallabh Pant had formally got a bill passed in the State Assembly to ban Urdu in primary education. After that studies in Urdu ended gradually in Government primary schools so it was of not much use to continue it in higher Secondary Schools or degree colleges. A poet had said very painfully in those days when Urdu was being abolished -

"Urdu mein keh rahe hein ki urdu ko mita do"

Hon. Chairman Sir, I have lived through those years when Urdu was being abolished because my mother tongue was Urdu. I too have received some of my education through Urdu medium. In those days Pandit Sampurnandji had organised a mushara for the first time at Chief Ministers residence in 1947. Shri Taish Siddiqi Saheb had recited few couplets regarding the richness of Urdu language at that time. I think that I should recite it before Bommai Saheb. He said :

"Mohtaram Ji waqar Adizah, Aapne lutftt beni saab kiya,

Apke es Karam ka Shukriya, Apni Khidmut mein baryab kiya.

Mein ke yun Seena Chak Jaro-Jareen, Kulbe nashb ke liye ayi hoon.

Apke dogaye adalat men, ek fariyaad teke ayi hoon.

Aap waqif hein un masaib Se, Jan per meine jo uthaye hein

Jaan nissarne hurriyat ke huzoor, Saipharosi ke geet gaye hain."

Those who were struggling for independence were called terrorists it is a hint towards that age Janesarane hurriyat ke huzoor, Sarfarsi ke geet gaye hein,

Kisko awaz doon, Kahan Jaun mein, Sakht begargi ka alam hai

Apka hukoom lo to mar jaun

Han magar ye arz hai Sarkar ki ohderaphta ki razdar hoon mein

Rang lakar raha hai Khun jinka, un Saheedon ki Yadgar hun mein."

The heroes of freedom fighter like Sardar Bhagat Singh, Pandit Ramprasad Bismil, Chandra Shekhar Azad, Ashfakullah Khan, fought against British rule in Urdu language. Bhagat Singh or all those laid down their lives, those who fought with the Britishers at the risk of their lives, Urdu was their language and all literature was in Urdu. They fought their battle having Urdu as their medium. But when Pandit Ramprasad 'Bismil' was awarded Capital punishment in Kakori Case and the Government lawyer Jagat Narayan Mullah who was instrumental in getting him punished, he himself arranged for false witnesses. He paid for it from his own pocket and the whole world and people of Uttar Pradesh know this Shri Bismil had written a long poem on Jagat Narayan Mullah, I do not remember its couplets. But he had written a beautiful poem before going to the gallows, one of its couplet was -

"Saheedo ke majaro per lagenge har baras mele,
Watan per marne walon ka yahi baki nisha hoga".

But Sir, I am sorry to state in the House that I have not seen any Congregrassion on martyr's majar. No Congregrassion is held on the majars of Ramprasad 'Bismil', Ashfakullah. Those who come into power after the Britishers did not held any congregrassion. I have seen the crowd of needy people who remain there from day to night at Jagat Narayan Mullah's house. His off springs became M.P., M.L.A., ministers judge of the High Court, his off springs got all sorts of rewards. But Ramprasad 'Bismil' Composer of this couplet was not rewarded with anything though he had expressed an innocent wish. Our honourable member, Shri Ganga Charan Rajput made a mention of Jhansi. Who does not know about Jhansi. When the queen of Jhansi was fighting the battle and the day on which her military Chief Shri Ghulam Gaush Khan was killed she had announced on that very day that the grave of Shri Ghulam Gaush Khan would be considered as the holiest pilgrimage at Jhansi, but his tomb could not become the pilgrim centre and those who had betrayed and helped the Britishers, the flag of the Gwalior state which eliminated Rani Jhansi, kept flying during the days of the Britishers, and when the Britishers left then too in the Keydays of the Congress it keeps flying and if the B.J.P. replaces. Congress tomorrow even then it would remain so. Its flag will never be lowered...(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Listen, if you are referring to any member of the House I think that it is not proper.

Not Recorded.

[English]

That should be removed from the record. Any reference to any Member of the House should be removed from the record.

[Translation]

SHRI ILIYAS AZMI : Mr. Chairman, Sir I have not mentioned the name of any member. So far as the question of imparting education in science and technology through Urdu medium is concerned you don't know that how education is imparted in science and technology through Urdu medium in Urdu University.

I would like to state that during British rule there had been a Osmania University when Hyderabad was a princely state. Even today in that very name this University Exists where education of Alha to Alha, science and technology is imparted through Urdu medium.

All the course-books might have been available there even today and it is a matter of pride for us that Dr. Abdussalam, the Nobel-laureate in atomic energy had not received education through English medium. He had rather received his education through Urdu medium in Osmania University. Likewise the well-known Scientist, Abdul Kadir got his education through Urdu medium. Therefore, there is nothing special. So, I welcome this bill but half heartedly, Till some time back Shri Bommai was our leader. He was the President and I was also a member of the party. But today by paying Rs. 6 crore, he has even outstripped Hatim. He is setting up a University with a meagre amount of Rs. 6 crore. Hatim was very famous. But our hon. Minister is breaking this record by paying Rs. 6 crore.

Without wasting your time, I would like to say only this much that if no right is to be given to the Court of this Urdu University, if this Bill is passed without any amendment, even a section officers of the Ministry of the Human Resource Development would be more powerful than the Vice Chancellor here. If you are bent upon enacting law to this effect then there is no use having a Court or the Vice Chancellor. And it would make no difference even it. The education Minister or the H R D Minister may be appointed Vice Chancellor of this University. I do not agree to the argument of Shri Banatwala. I beg his parden for not agreeing to the tone of his agrument. But I request to the hon. Minister of Human Resource Development to incorporate the announcement proposed by him. So that in the event future history may remember you for the contribution towards the development of Urdu.

With these words, I conclude my speech.

SHRI NAKLI SINGH (Saharanpur) : Chairman, Sir, it is right that I can neither write nor read Urdu, yet I support the resolution moved by the hon. Minister of H R D for setting up a national University in the country after the name of Maulana Abul Kalam Azad.

This nation is indebted to its great sons who fought for it and sacrificed their lives during the freedom struggle. Maulana Azad's contribution in this struggle is second to that of none :

"Bheemi ke rakta Kana Sitare
Sabhi akash ke,
Bundiyan barat ke gar koi gin sake,
Kindu Bharat maan ke saputon kee yeh
Shobha thee badi,

Aparimit anant authin maniyon kee ladi" ('Hindi)

Maulana Azad was the Minister of Education in the Cabinet of our first Prime Minister Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru. His sacrifices are less than those of nobody. Therefore to set up a National University after his name is proper and a good beginning.

Mr. Chairman Sir, some hon. Members from certain political parties start mud-slunging in the wake of certain developments here. I do not want to refer to anybody's name but say it catagorically that Urdu is not a language belonging to one community only. It belongs to the whole of the Hindustan.

16.00 hrs.

It is the language of the entire nation. I recall that during his visit to Rangoon, Netaji Subash Chandra Bose had recited a couplet at the mansolum of the last Mughal experor, Bahadur Shah Jaffar. Before I quote the couplet, I want to read out one more couplet. After being imprisoned by the foreigners. The Mughal emperor recited the couplet and follows :

'Damdame mein dam nahin Khair mano jak kee
A Zafar thandi hui Shamsheer Hindustan kee.

At the age of 80, the Mughal emperor had called for a *farman* again.

'Damdame Mein dam nahin Khair mano jaan ki
Ae Jafar thandi hui shamshir Hindustan ki'

He had recited this couplet by standing on that tomb :

'Gaziyon mein boo hai jab talak imaan ki
Tab talak Chalegi teg-e-Hindustan ki,

Where there is decency in the Urdu language, there is delicacy also. Prior to me the Hon'ble member who was saying that this language is a sort of peerless confluence of national unity, was correct. There comes to my mind the time when a son of a Pandit, Ram Prasad Bismil and a son of a Pathan both were going to the gallows and then the jailor asked them what their ultimate desire was. Then both of them had uttered the same point which my able friend had just recited :

Sarfarooshi ki tamanna ab hamare dil mein hai
Dekhna hai jor kitna baju-e-katil mein hai.

The Urdu language is not the monopoly of any particular sect. So far as religion is concerned, it is a way of worship, system of worship, we have only one

religion and that is a religion for nation. No language would be above our nation. I am confident that the Urdu education to be imparted in the Urdu University should be of such nature as it may produce eminent scholars in the country and the entire India may accept it that whoever had sacrificed their lives, are paid respect through Urdu language too.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now wind up please.

SHRI NAKLI SINGH : In the end I would like to say that we should think beyond our partisan bent of mind that whatever language is spoken in the country thrived and and nurtured by it, is our language. We all should realize this. I urge my elderly Colleague Banatwalaji that he speaks Urdu very well. It behaves all of us but when he speaks in English it seems as if Hitler were speaking.

SHRI AMAR PAL SINGH (Meerut) : Will the discussion not start on price-rise under 193?

MR. CHAIRMAN : It will start at 5 O'clock.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR (Barh) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, Shri S.R. Bommai Minister for Human Resource Development has moved a bill here in the House for setting up the Maulana Azad National Urdu University. The House is discussing it. After some days Mahatma Gandhi Hindi University bill will be moved in the House by the Minister and there would also be discussed on it. If any language is developed and thrived, it is a good point. The Government must take steps for development of languages particularly country languages. It Government is thinking and endeavouring for development of Urdu language, it would be accorded welcome.

I would like to say two-three points categorically. I would not like to have any doubt on Govt's desire. It is good that Urdu University is being set up. It is good that Hindi University would also be set up. Maulana Azad and Mahatma Gandhi both are the freedom fighters. Urdu speaking people have suggested the name of Maulana and Hindi speaking people have suggested the Azad and on behalf of Urdu speakers and ?? of Mahatma Gandhi. Babu himself had said if any such Indian language was developed, whose style was of common Spoken language nature and comprises Hindi and Urdu words, only that language could be accorded the status of official language.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I had thought that you would say that Urdu University would be named after Mahatma Gandhi and Hindi University after Maulana Azad's name

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : I am coming to that. Mahatma Gandhi had put forth this idea. Maulana Azad had vital role in the freedom struggle. The more we praise him, the less it would be. At that time Maulana Azad was associated with Congress and he had to face a lot of troubles. Even in such circumstances he remained associated with Congress and led the freedom struggle.

He is one of our heroes. What a fine it would have been if the Government had intended to name the Hindi University after Maulana Azad and Urdu University after Mahatma Gandhi and you would have marched a step forward. It seems that we want to limit the role of our forefathers in their parameters once again. Maulana Azad's Mother-tongue was Urdu therefore his name was associated with Urdu University and Mahatma Gandhi's name was associated with Hindi University.

Mahatma Gandhi never supported the Hindi as of today because this is Sanskritised Hindi and is beyond Comprehension. The shape of Hindi which was imagined by the leaders of independence and Mahatma Gandhi, was Hindustani.

16.07 hrs.

(Shri P.C. Chacko in the Chair)

Today Khari Boli and Urdu both have the same dialect. But later on both the languages have adopted a different shape. Urdu adopted Persian shape and Hindi adopted Sanskrit shape. If we want to know about any word of Urdu, we have to know about Persian. In the same way if we wish to know about any word of Hindi, we have to know about Sanskrit. In the same way Nagri Script i.e. Hindi, same is of Sanskrit and Similarly the script of Urdu and Persian is the same. But we could not be able to have any of the languages the lingua franca of the country. Both languages have their own importance. Nobody wants to criticise the Government regarding establishment of both Universities. Urdu and Hindi language should be developed, but if the Government really wants to do something in this direction it should develop a Hindustani language. Such University should be established where a Hindustani language should be developed by having words of Hindi and Urdu both the languages. Books may be published in that language. Our Constitution which is written in English, has been translated in Hindi, rather it should be translated in that Hindustani. The proceedings are made in Lok Sabha either in Hindi or in English, only two languages first it is made in English and that is translated in Hindi only. Any member of Parliament if speaks in English, we listen its translation only. It is not the fault of a particular person. Hindi language is kept in prison and this has been done by those persons who were the advocates for Hindi. They used such words, as were beyond Comprehension of the Common people who moves Government Bills in Hindi language, many words of those Bills are beyond Understanding. You are going to move international Hindi University Bill, if you will develop the same type of Hindi, that will not be the service of Hindi. In Urdu University if such type of Urdu is developed whose words are derived from Arabi and Persian that Urdu will not be developed. So, I request you that every thing should not be connected with the name of some national leader. It would be better, if it is Premchand Urdu University or Mirza Ghalib Urdu University but you have

not done so. If you want to brand him in his language, Mirza Ghalib would have established Urdu University and Premchand would have established Hindi University. You have not done all those things. But still have sufficient time to do all those things. My intention is not to oppose the Bill. I wish that Urdu University may be established and you are going to establish the Urdu University, But every body knows the condition of all schools and Madarsas of Urdu medium. I belong to Bihar, teachers of those Madarsas do not get their salaries for months. Whenever any festival falls, they get salary for few months, but the rest of time they are not paid their salaries. By providing. Six Crore Rupees you will not be able to establish Urdu University, but atleast you showed your intention of establishing a Urdu University. You get sanction of the Parliament but that University is not in a position to run with a more fund of Six Crore Rupees.

I want to invite your attention towards one point. Hon. H.R.D. Minister, first of all you get changed the name of your Ministry. You are mostly knows as Education Minister rather than HRD Minister. A part from speaking at elite people or people accustomed to use highly technical words, generally you are known as Education Minister in English and "Shiksha Mantri" in Hindi. I do not know why have your Ministry has been named as Human Resource Development Ministry. So, I would like to say to the Education Minister. That the attention may be paid to the elementary Education in the Urdu medium, schools running. Establishing Urdu University with a fund of Rs. 6 crore, you want to gain a lot of praise. Urdu is a Unique language as well as a spiritual language. It is full of Emotions . What ever the flow comes by saying inqulab, it does not come in saying kranti'. Therefore kranti does not appear a slogan of Zindabad, Inqulab is the appropriate word for the slogan of Zindabad. Urdu has its own importance. Urdu has emotions, force as well as life and no other language has such qualities. There are so many vital languages in the country and all those should be developed instead of encouraging only Hindi or Urdu. Similarly, Bangla, Tami, Marathi, Malyalam, Asamiya, Oriya etc. all languages should be encouraged. As much as we would incourage these languages, it is better. As much are you prevent the tradition of using foreign languages it is more better. Today, you have moved the Bill related to Urdu University, I want to draw your attention in this connection. The Constitution was framed and the nation adopted it and recently. We have celebrated the 50th anniversary of the constituent Assembly. It has been stated in the constitution that Hindi will be the National Language. I do not mean the official Hindi. I am the supporter of the Hindi i.e. Hindustani language - a Combination of Hindi and Urdu. It was intention of Mahatma Gandhi. Could that Hindi take the place of national language? Could it take its own place? Simultaneously, could other regional languages get their due places? Are judgements of High Courts being

delivered in regional languages? In some case it has been started, but whether these have been started on large scale? Can the arguments in the Supreme Court be made in Hindi or can the judgement be delivered in Hindi? Are we judgements delivered in regional languages? In the Parliament too whosoever wants to speak in regional languages, he has to submit the advance copy of his speech. The languages are included in the schedule of the constitution, and the arrangements would have been made much earlier for sumultaneous translation. I want to request through you that arrangements should be made in this regard. When we attend international conferences, we see that people are speaking in their own languages and arrangements of interpretation are there. Today Hindi or Hindustani, whatever you say is the language of this House. How many people are there who speak Hindi and Urdu. Languages of less importance are recognised languages but our regional languages are internationally recognised, but we have a shyness, we do not proceed further in this regard. We do not give importance to our language in our country. We are depending on English. We are not supporters, of imposing any language replacing English, but work should be done in all languages. Arrangements should be made for it. How long English will go on as a link language or official language these 10 page in English and if we say to write in Hindi. gist will be enough in one page. If you want to deceive then use English language. You speak in English for hours. it can be Summarised in five sentences only this is English which is the language of rulers. And we are, still using that language Replace demolish and use other regional languages, It should be the intention. By establishing international University of Hindi will not do. You should have a strong will power for this.

Sir, whatever educational institutions are there in this country, attention should be paid for their promotion. Our Bihar is forward in all respect. There is Sanskrit University for a long time. When we grew up we know that there is a Kameshwar Prasad University in Darbhanga. You would establish Urdu University, Hindi University what will be the result, we do not know. Universities are already established on language bases, but what is their present condition. People who are working there do not get their salaries. Establishing a University in the country plunge in a discussion that we are supporting a language but development of that language in reality would be only possible when Government recognise them and the development of that language. Stress should be given for the Primary education.

Sir, Azmi Sahib speaks very well. Such great scientist who read science through Urdu medium and they become so great scientist. Due to English language many talented persons become frustrated Today, a lot of time is required in learning English, if you delete it, one may be expert in science, Maths, and in everything.

but development of regional languages, writing of technical books in regional languages is very essential and due to this we want that Urdu should be promoted and developed.

I support this Bill. I strongly demand from the Government that after setting up of Hindi and Urdu Universities, a Hindustani University may be set up to develop Hindustani dialect as a link language of this country in the real sense and thus no doubt it would become a national language. With these words, I conclude.

• SHRI KALPNATH RAI (Ghosi) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I support the Motion brought by the hon'ble Minister of Human Resource Development but before supporting it, I would like to draw the attention of the Members of this House towards one thing. A ceremony was held in the Central Hall just two days back. Constituent Assembly was Constituted on 9th December 50 years ago for framing the constitution of India. I was also present at the ceremony because there were also some persons present there who were members of the constituent Assembly. I was very curious to see them. Shri Nizalingappa had also attended the ceremony and I got opportunity to meet him.

Sir, the Constituent Assembly had decided 50 years back that Hindi would become national language within ten years. Hon'ble former Speaker of the Lok Sabha Shri Patil ji is also present here. The first speech was delivered by the present Speaker Shri Sangma ji in English only. The second speech was also delivered in English by our hon'ble Vice President and in the end, the hon'ble President delivered his speech in English only. I did not feel like attending it.

Then I thought that it would not be proper. Therefore, I continued to watch it. And all the speeches continued to be delivered in English on the occasion of the 50th anniversary. The members of this Parliament should give it a thought that can India protect its independence in this way? Any country of the world not having its own language cannot protect its independence.

SHRI DILEEP SANGHANI (Amreli) : I am on a point of order. When the discussion is going about the Constitution, I would also like to say something about it the... (*Interruptions*) The procedures for conducting the business of this House has been provided in sections (3) and (4) of article 100 of the constitution. Section (3) and (4) envisage that Lok Sabha is empowered to make rules regarding quorum of the House. I would like to know as to whether the Lok Sabha has made any rule till today in this regard. It has been mentioned in the constitution that when there is no quorum, the Speaker should adjourn the House. I want your ruling in this regard. It is your responsibility.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJÉE (Calcutta South) : There is no need of quorum.

SHRI DILEEP SANGHANI : Each and every Member spoke in favour of Hindi while framing the Constitution. Something applies to article 100 also. We have no power to waive it. If we have it only then we may be able to do it. Article 100 of the Constitution has provided certain provisions. Therefore, we want that quorum should be ensured in the House. If the provision has been made in the constitution and no rule has been made for the purpose then sole responsibility is yours only.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : First it should be decided as to whether quorum is there or not.

SHRI DILEEP SANGHANI : I think that there is no quorum as there are only 46 members present in the House.

[English]

SHRI SAT MAHAJAN (Kangra) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, there are certain rules and there are certain conventions. The convention of the House says that when things are discussed, sometimes there is a quorum and sometimes it is not there. Conventions are as good as rules.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL (Latur) : A very good point has been raised and we appreciate the diligence with which it has been raised. The Constitution provides that there should a quorum. But the convention is that unless it is brought to the notice of the Presiding Officer, the proceedings will continue. If any Member feels that there is no quorum, he can bring it to the notice of the Chair and the Chair would certainly be bound to see that there is a quorum after it is brought to his notice and not before that.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I am thankful to the hon. Member who raised it and also to Shri Shivraj Patil. This is a point which we all should be clear about. At any point of time, a discussion can go on without a quorum; that is the convention. Are you asking for a quorum?

[Translation]

SHRI DILEEP SANGHANI : Yes.

[English]

Sir, I am on a point of order. There is no quorum in the House.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The bell is being rung-

Now, there is a quorum. The hon. Member, Shri Kalpnath Rai may continue.

[Translation]

SHRI KALPNATH RAI : Mr. Chairman Sir, I was telling that it is a matter of great concern that even after 50 years of our independence we have not been able to decide about our national language so far. I would like to submit to all parties, leaders and especially to Shri S.R. Bommai as he is the protector of our independence. They should ponder over this fundamental issue. Whether there will be any national language of

our country or not? The freedom fighters had framed the Constitution 50 years ago. Jawahar Lal Nehru and Sardar Patel were the Members of the Constituent Assembly. Shri Satyamurthy and C. Rajgopalachari were also there. Our Constitution was framed by the persons out of whom around 99 percent were freedom fighters. They had made a provision in the Constitution that Hindi shall be our national language within 15 years and thus there will be only one national language of the country yet English has been dominating continuously in our country. Lord Mecauly had said in his education policy that :

[English]

"We must do our best to form a class which may be interpreters between us and millions whom we govern a class of persons, Indian in blood and colour but English in taste and intellect."

[Translation]

He said that English must be dominant to keep the India as a slave. Today all the special work is being done through English language. The great scholars of our country had said that "Angargi mein Kaam Na Hoga, Phir Se Desh Gulam Na Hoga". Englishmen have left our country but English is still dominating. We will stand united if there is language of our own as national language. There should be only one national language for the people of India strengthened by all the regional languages of the country. And thus we will be able to progress in the field of Science and Technology.

Today, Japan is most developed country in the world. They do all their work in Japanese language only. I have been in the Parliament for the last 23 years. Hundreds of Presidents and Prime Minister have of different countries visited India. They deliver their speech in their own language in the Central Hall and not in any other language. But it is unfortunate that speeches are being delivered in English in our country by our countrymen. We speak in English before foreign guests in our own Central Hall, in our own country. Not only this we speak in English in UNO also. I do not oppose any language. Everyone can learn English, French and German and even some other languages. To learn language is a good thing but it is a basic question as to whether there will be any language as our own national language in our country or not. We would not be able to save our country from getting enslaved again if we are unable to formulate any policy keeping in view the history of our freedom struggle. In spite of being a Bengali Shri Subhash Chandra Bose had raised Indian National Army. He had taken a pledge to attain independence. And Indian National Army which marched and should slogans of "Dilli Chalo" and used to sing this song :

"Kadam-Kadam Badhaye Ja, Khushi ke Geet Gaye Ja,
Yeh Jindagi Hai Kaum ki, Tu Kaum Par Lutaye Ja."

The father of the National Mahatma Gandhi who was a Gujarati he has also said that if I am empowered, I will make Hindi as a national language with a single stroke of my pen. Just now one of my colleagues from Bihar was expressing his views. I do agree with him. Everybody in this country is concerned about getting votes, be it a case of policy, democracy, socialism, Secularism, nationalism. There is only one approach as to how to grab. I am not able to understand why they are trying to hold the future generations to ransom by creating such a situation. I would like to urge upon the hon'ble Minister of Human Resources Development that he should hold meetings with all M.Ps of every state and decide that atleast the business of the Parliament of India should be conducted in Hindi. If any Member wants to speak in Tamil, it can be translated in Hindi. The foreigner's must have been laughing to know that though Indians claim to be independent yet they express themselves in a foreign language. We can not protect independence of our country while depending on a foreign language. Now, whether Urdu University is opened in Hyderabad or Lucknow and Hindi University is set up in Gujarat or Kanya Kumari, it is not going to solve the national problem. Here, Visitors Gallery remains empty because people simply go away when they see that discussion is being held in English as they cannot understand what their M.Ps are discussing. The visitors' Gallery would have been over crowded had the business of the House had been conducted in Hindi. And they would have known about the various policies with regard to pricing social justice, check over price rise, industrialisation, Agriculture and progress being made in the field of Science and technology. Crores of people could have come to know about it.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, you know that democracy is the most effective too in the hands of the common man. Crores of people can be benefitted by being in the democratic set up but today democracy is being threatened from all sides. Today crores of people have faith in democracy. If you want to strengthen it more, you will have to choose a language as a national language. I do not differentiate between Hindi and Urdu as I know only one thing "Inqlab Zindabad". Every Party and worker of each village shouts this slogan. Both are the words of Urdu language. Therefore only those words are used by the people which are common. People pronounce, 'station' as 'tation' whereas it is called 'Lohpathgamini sthal' in Hindi. Similarly, 'Signal' is called "Gammagaman Sookhach Pattika" but nobody uses this expression. (Interruptions) I am not criticising anybody. I am just supporting Hindi language. I think as to what would be our national language which would be used by a common man. The language which crores of people speak is used by common people of the country. Similarly, the people cannot pronounce, 'tea' as a Dugdh-Sharkara mishrit paya.

Sir, while supporting the Bill introduced by the hon'ble Minister of Human Resource Development, I

would like to make a submission through you to all members of all the parties all over the country that a national language should be a language of common people of the country and all the official business should be conducted in that language only.

With these words, I conclude...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : I have a request to the hon. Members. We are discussing a Bill. Though other things are welcome, those who are speaking may also speak about the Bill.

[Translation]

SHRI SHAFIQR RAHMAN BARQ (Moradabad) : Mr. Chairman Sir, I welcome Maulana Azad Urdu University Bill introduced in this House and thank Hon'ble Bommai ji for a historical job that he has done. In India Urdu has made vast contributions and in the struggle of independence Urdu played such a vital role which no other language could do. When the struggle of independence was going on the slogan "Inqulab Zindabad" was at of everyone's lips. Even today we raise the slogan Inqulab Zindabad irrespective of caste, or party affiliations. I would like to say that the service which Urdu language has done to this country is incomparable and none can ever forget the spirit of love which this language has gerated among the people of this country.

"Hamari Zindgi ki dasta hai itni toofani
ye afsana somaj ne se hai kasir faham-e-insani
ye dhokha hai ki bozhatija rahi hai shamme nurani
Abhi baki hai in toote huae taron men tabani."

Whatever injustice, excesses have been done to suppress this language yet it is still alive and shall continue to survive. The greatest testimony to this fact is that people belonging to any speaks he speaks in Urdu and express his pact of the country or speaking any language always prefer to speak and express his views in Urdu. Urdu is a familiar language of this country. It is the langauge of the entire Country and has the status of the language of the comon people. This language is spoken in other countries also but I am sorry to say that in India, Urdu is getting step motherly treatment whereas Urdu and Hindi are sister languages as a result, Urdu had to face a lot of difficulties. Today the idea of setting up Maulana Azad Urdu University is being implemented for the promotion of Urdu language. I feel that the people of the entire country will be benefitted thereby whether they belong to Hyderabad. If such University is established in Uttar Pradesh also, it will be more beneficial for the entire Country. At the same time Urdu be Linked with employment also. When Hon'ble Mulayam Singh was the Chief Minister, his Government had made a sincere effort to link Urdu with employment and as a reasult thousands of Urdu teachers and translator were appointed and also

granted Urdu the status of second official language. I request the Hon'ble Minister to grant Urdu the status of second official language, because it is a midium to communicate our feelings and emotions to others. Urdu generated a feeling of has love among us, it has brought hearts together Urdu is a language which has spread throughout the world. In the very beginning when this language came into existence if called the language of military forces and thus it came to be known as a dialect of military forces. This language had adopted the words of other languages. We are not opposed to any other language nor we can criticise a language.

Out Nabi Hazrat Mohamad Sahib has said even if we are required to go to China, in order to acquire knowledge or have to cover any distance we will do that and there is nothing wrong to learn any other language. However, Urdu is our mother tongue, it has developed in our Country, it is the language of the people of this Country and it reflects the condition of the Country. Whenever any a new situation emerged we took the help of this language and we have been able to create revolution in India through this language.

Had this language not been the medium to express our views against Britishers purheps so much of enthusiasm and emotions could not have been aroused in us. The freedom fighters went happily to the gallows and bore bullets on their chests and Inqulab Zindabad' to achieve freedom for the country. I want that whether Urdu is used in any department or not but I would like that the records of Government prepared be in Urdu language in the Parliament; Today the whole work is being done in Urdu in the Sunnicentral wakf Board at Lucknow. But I am sorry to say that only because they are the Urdu knowing people, they have not been getting their pay for the last eleven months and they are on hunger strike for the last two months. All the work is has come to a stand still. I also want to draw the attention of the Government the Government towards them and the Government should give priority to it as are works have been streanted and files are not being taken as people of that office are facing starvation. See the present situation of Lucknow. Had injustice been not done towards Urdu language, I think Urdu could have achieved the status which no other language could have achieved. So, much injustice has been done to us. This is not a language of only Muslims or of any particular caste rather it is a language of the whole nation. The setting up of an Urdu University in the name of Maulana Azad is praise worthy. Maulana Azad had done a great service for Urdu language hence there is nothing if this University is being set up in his name. Therefore, it is my demand that budget allocation earmarked for this propose should be enhanced. We want that this University be granted the status of a full-fledged University. If the main purpose of this University is to render service for the promotion of Urdu and should not be simply a show piece. Those who love and Cherish Urdu language, they will feel satisfied with it and they

will come forward to serve the country. Though Urdu is not an official Language in the country today but I feel that nobody will deny this fact. I would like to say that every Member of this House whether he knows or does not know any other languages but he certainly knows and speaks the Urdu language whether he is from Tamilnadu, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh or Kashmir. If some one is unable to speak this language at least he can understand it. So, inspite of the injustice meted out to this language and efforts made to suppress it, yet it has survived the blows due to its popularity and people's love for it. Madam, with these words I express my gratitude towards Hon'ble Bommai Saheb for bringing this bill in the House. I think whatever promises he has made, he will do his best to keep them. At the same time he would try to make up the shortage in budget allocation prescribed for Urdu University. With a Couplet I am going to Conclude :

Agar rahegi hawayen youn hi zamane ki
Na khaire hogi Chaman ki, Na aashiyane ki

SHRI MANGAT RAM SHARMA (Jammu) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to support this bill, I am glad to know that this University is being set up in the name of our esteemed late leader. I am also glad to know that Hyderabad has been chosen for setting up this University where Urdu flourished in the past. I am also happy to say that Urdu language is a Common language of the whole country particularly in the three regions Jammu and Kashmir-Laddakh, Jammu Valley and Jammu where regional language is different but Hindi or Urdu is the Common language of these regions through which the people of these regions come close to each other. In this way Hindi along with Urdu is such a language which helps in uniting the whole Country from one end to another and with the help of this language we have achieved freedom. If proper status is not given to this language, I think it would be injustice towards this language.

On one hand I extend my thanks to the Hon'ble Minister for Human Resources Development and on the other hand I would like to remind the hon'ble Member of this House that this bill had to be made through many hurdles. The previous Government of Congress had played an important role to give a shape to this legislation. So, the achievement made by that Government in this regard should have been mentioned here but I am sorry to say that none of hon'ble Members has said even a single word about the then Government which constituted many committees for the development of Urdu and brought this legislation.

In this connection the first task force Committee was formed under the Chairmanship of Aziz Quraishi. Thereafter, a second Committee was formed in order to set up the University and again Mr. Aziz Quraishi was appointed as the Chairman of that Committee and rest were its members.

That Committee gave the present shape and the then Minister for Human Resources Development,

Thakur Arjun Singh had accepted the recommendation of that Committee and he made an announcement in this House that the Government of India had accepted the recommendation of this Committee and a legislation would be passed in this Parliament accordingly. Then Human Resources Minister, Shri Madhav Rao Scindia has introduced this Bill in Rajya Sabha and it was passed there and now it has come in this House. I think, Thakur Arjun Singh ji, former Prime Minister Shri Narasimaha Rao, Madhav Rao Scindia and Shri Kureshi are to be congratulated for this because they have played the leading role for making this law. I would like to appreciate their efforts because after passing this Bill technical, and vocational education will be imparted in Urdu. I feel that this deserves appreciation. This is not a new thing. In the Osmania University of Hyderabad technical education is being imparted in Urdu and I feel that it would be easy for Urdu knowing people to get technical and vocation education in Urdu. It is highly appreciable.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the hon'ble Member, Shri Banatwala has mentioned a number of shortcomings in this Bill which may be removed. Other members have also mentioned certain shortcomings, I would like to request the hon'ble Minister that these shortcomings may be removed. This University has not been affiliated to any other Universities or colleges. I feel that this is not correct and a law should be framed for its affiliation with our Universities and Colleges located in North, East and West region so that it could have wider spectrum. A Committee Constituted in this regard has recommended that the provision be made for affiliation of this University but this has not been done. In my view this shortcoming may be removed.

Mr. Chairman Sir, a provision be made to remove the shortcomings found in this Bill and sufficient funds should be earmarked for that purpose so that this University may be set up immediately after passing this Bill this University should be on started on some auspicious day such as 15th August or 26th Jan. or birth anniversary of Maulana Azad.

This Act has great importance for my state because in my state Urdu is an official language. It is used in all Government offices for official work and a large number of people know Urdu there. Our people have great interest in promotion of the Urdu language. I would like to say that this Bill would be a great help in bringing Jammu and Kashmir and its people in the national mainstream. I appreciate this Bill and Congratulate the Hon'ble Minister and other people who have participated in this discussion. I would like to request again the Hon'ble Minister to remove the shortcomings pointed out by Shri Banatwala and Shri Jagmohan.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I express my happiness that this Bill is being passed here. For this I congratulate the members of the Parliament. This Bill will further strengthen the unity of the country and the people of

one community will come closer with the other community. In the end I support this Bill and I desire that it should be passed and implemented immediately. It will help in Coordination between all classes.

SHRI I.D. SWAMI (Karnal) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, it is very unfortunate that a poor Bill has been introduced for Urdu which was once considered as national language of India and played a vital role in the freedom struggle. Now it is being said that there is no scope for carrying out an amendment in this Bill. I am unable to understand as to whether it is the politics of votes or in it just for the sake of fun.

I remember that walib's birth Centenary was celebrated in 1992. During the function I got an opportunity to read out a poem. I would like to quote one or two couplets of that Poem.

"Pantalis Baras Gujare Azadi ye ko kamil ko,
Tab ja ke Kanhi Ham ko Ghalib Ka Khyal Aya,
Turbat hai Kahan Uski Badafar Hai Kanhan Uska,
Hamare Zahanon mein Aab yeh Sawal Aya."

Now an Urdu University is being set up after 47-48 years of independence. Our constitution makers had decided to recognise Hindi as a national language but so far it could not attain its proper places. It would be better if we would have considered Hindi and Urdu both as national language. Otherwise it would have been the same thing as we have celebrated the birth century ary of Ghalib. A bill has been introduced in the House but how can I recommend such Bill which has no significance.

Urdu language was used in several states and it was also used in the courts. But today we are not giving importance to this language because we do not have Urdu knowing people and most of the people do not understand Urdu. How Urdu language can be promoted by spending Rs. 6 crores. If you go through today's business you will find that some shortcomings have been pointed out in this bill.

On one hand we are considering for setting up of Urdu University but on the other hand setting up of Hindi University in the name of Mahatma Gandhi is also being considered. I would like to know whether this is being done so that a section of our society do not think that Urdu is being encouraged and Hindi is being neglected. Whether both bills have been introduced simultaneously to win the faith of the entire country. I feel that we should consider such Bill and issues seriously as it is an important issue. When Our Constitution makers have declared Hindi as a national language, we should consider Hindi and Urdu as national language. Hindustani language can be evolved by both these languages...*(Interruptions)*

I would like to know that when we could not make Hindi or Hindustani a national language even after 50 years of Independence. How can you make Urdu as national language merely by setting up an Urdu University in Hyderabad.

17.00 hrs.

Similarly you are going to set up a Hindi University in the name of Mahatma Gandhi. Both these Universities should be set up simultaneously. We can serve the nation by making Hindustani as a national language and by setting up of Urdu University. Unless a national language is made we can do nothing whether merely by setting up so many Universities or Urdu University. Urdu language has become a dead language like Sanskrit which despite being a very vast and rich language has become a dead language. This language is vanishing gradually. It can not be revived by setting up a University in Hyderabad with an amount of Rs. 6 crores. The only way to revive it that we should give Hindi the status of a national language and Urdu should be promoted and used simultaneously in those states where it was used in the courts, and where people can speak, read and understand it.

With these words, I support this Bill like my colleagues.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Thank you. Now the time is five o'clock. We have two discussions under Rule 193 before us. We take up Item No. 18 which is "Further discussion regarding India's Foreign Policy".

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : The Leader of the Opposition has desired that we will have the discussion later. Hon. Speaker has decided that we will complete the discussion on price rise and then take up this item.

So, we are taking up Item Number 19 "Further discussion regarding rise in prices of essential commodities".

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA (Ponnani) : Sir, I want to make one point. I have no objection. You may continue with the discussion on price rise which is a very important subject. But let us not be under the impression that five o'clock time is kept for that.

I would try to draw your attention to the List of Business. Item number 18 is mentioned as Discussion on India's Foreign Policy and there is an asterisk there. The asterisk shows that the time five o'clock was fixed for that. The next item is about the discussion on price rise. But there is no asterisk. It is not mentioned that the time fixed for it is five o'clock today. So, if you are not taking up the Discussion on Foreign Policy, then you cannot suppose that the time is already ripe to take up the discussion on price rise. You have to go back to Item Number 15 which is the Urdu Bill...*(Interruptions)* I said that I have absolutely no objection. The price rise is very important. You may take it up. But let us not be under that misunderstanding that Five o'clock time is the time fixed only - and I repeat only - for the discussion on India's Foreign Policy. That is clear from the List of Business.

The next item was not slated for five o'clock. You may go over to it. That is a different thing. But let the record be straight. Otherwise, if you are not taking up Item Number 18, you should go back to Item Number 15... (Interruptions)

SHRI DATTA MEGHE (Ramtek) : Sir, what about the Supplementary Demands for Grants?

MR. CHAIRMAN : They will come up later.

Shri Banatwalla, you have pointed out a very relevant point. You please read the List of Business. The discussion under Rule 193 is not on one but on two.

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ (South Delhi) : It is not valid at all.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The thing is that we have two items before the House.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : But only one item is slated for five o' clock.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Two items are before the House. Both are meant for discussion under Rule 193.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : But the asterisk is not at the words "Discussions under Rule 193". The asterisk is against Item Number 18 only. You may have the discussion on price rise. Let the record show it very clearly.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You were also present in the House this morning. There was a consensus in the House when the matter was raised by the hon. Leader of the Opposition. Hon. Speaker has also decided on his request. I hope that with the consent of the House we can up move on to Item Number 193.

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S.R. BOMMAI) : Sir, may I say a word?

SHRI RAM NAIK (Mumbai North) : Sir, I am on a point of order. The point of order is that a notice outside displays that at five o'clock, Shri I.K. Gujral, our Minister of External Affairs will come to the House and lay a paper, the paper, the Agreement and the Treaty which has been signed, on the Table of the House and will make a statement. That is the notice that has been displayed outside. Actually, I read that notice and came here but the Minister of External Affairs is absent here.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Gujral has informed us that he is busy with the Bangladesh Delegation. He has entrusted this to Shri Srikant Jena. Shri Jena will come and lay the papers. At present he is attending the meeting of the Business Advisory Committee.

SHRI RAM NAIK : I am also a Member of the Business Advisory Committee, but I have not been informed at all.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The House is not to be taken casually. Such disturbances will be there. We have to adjust to that.

SHRI RAM NAIK : Where has the Business Advisory Committee meeting been scheduled? I am a Member but have not been informed.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You are a member of the Business Advisory Committee of Lok Sabha. He is busy in the Business Advisory Committee of Rajya Sabha. The hon. Minister has informed about it. We have to adjust. Normally, such things come up. He has informed in writing.

LT. GENERAL SHRI PRAKASH MANI TRIPATHI (Deoria) : When will those papers be laid on the Table of the House?

MR. CHAIRMAN : These papers can be laid in between this discussion also. When he finishes the meeting, he will come here and lay the papers.

LT. GENERAL SHRI PRAKASH MANI TRIPATHI : These papers should be laid today because they are relevant to the discussion that is likely to come up.

SHRI RAM NAIK : In that case, kindly advise the Ministry that we must get a copy of the Treaty together with the mail we receive. When the debate on foreign policy starts tomorrow, it should be in our hands.

MR. CHAIRMAN : It is ready and only because of small inconvenience the Minister is not here. You can get it any time. The Minister may be coming later.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : Sir, such notices must be circulated in the House also. We Members who sit in the House are punished because we did not go out of this House. We are here giving you quorum and helping you to conduct the business. We did not go out and did not see the notice. Therefore, we remained ignorant of what went on transpiring with respect to the business of the House. Therefore, Sir, please give the direction that such notices should also be circulated in the House so that we sincere and ardent Members who are attending to certain business in the House are not punished like that.

MR. CHAIRMAN : It is a practice to exhibit it in the Notice Board. It is an arrangement to inform all the hon. Members.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES (Nalanda) : It is also a practice that it is circulated here. It is also kept on the Table.

SHRI S.R. BOMMAI : I wanted to make a request to the Chair that this is an important Bill that is being discussed by the House for the last three days. I will only request that continuity should be there and the Bill be passed. Other items are also important, but once the House is seized of a Bill for three days continuously, at least the discussion should be completed, the reply should be there and the Bill be passed.

MR. CHAIRMAN : There are only three more Members to speak on this Bill. We will finish it.

SHRI S.R. BOMMAI : I am not saying whether there are three or 10 Members to speak on the Bill. Everybody has a right to speak. I do not want to curtail the number of Members who want to speak on this Bill. My only request is that continuity should be there. At least, on the next day the matter should be finished.

SHRI RAM NAIK : Sir, many Members are eager to support the Bill.

SHRI S.R. BOMMAI : I welcome it.

17.09 hrs.

DISCUSSION UNDER RULE 193

Rise in Prices of Essential Commodities

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now, let us take Item Number 19. Shri Pinaki Mishra may continue his speech on rise in prices of essential commodities.

SHRI PINAKI MISHRA (Puri) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I said yesterday that there was a dismal scenario which confronts us in this country in 1996. I am sure that a vast body of public opinion today shares my viewpoint.

We are all reminded of 1990 and 1991. That, Mr. Chairman, brings us back to the old dictum during the the French Revolution : "The more things change, the more they remain the same." I also said yesterday that there was a general sense of well being in this country for five years between 1991 and 1996 when the Congress Party was in power at the Centre and I said so advisedly. The reason being: What is the barometer of a sense of well being which permeates among the people? These are well known barometers all over the world. The stock market booms are there, there is investor confidence, there is a lot of money being pumped into the stock market, investors are making money, business is booming, consumerism is thriving and foreign investment flows into the country unabated.

AN HON. MEMBER : There are scams.

SHRI PINAKI MISHRA : Some scams do take place. You cannot make omelets without breaking some eggs. But those scams, as I said yesterday, are more in the nature of allegations and in a democracy, everybody has the right to allege without going to jail. That is one of the fruits of democracy which we have inherited.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, in 1995, we had a scenario where we had 21 billion dollars in terms of foreign reserve.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Pinaki Mishra, if you can resume your seat for a minute, this laying of the paper can be finished.

SHRI PINAKI MISHRA : Yes, Sir.

17.13 hrs.

PAPER LAID ON THE TABLE

[English]

Treaty between the Government of the Republic of India and Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh on sharing of Ganga/Ganga water at Farakka.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA): Sir, on behalf of Shri I.K. Gujral, I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of Hindi and English versions of the Treaty between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh on sharing of the Ganga water at Farakka.

[Placed in the Library, See No. LT-891/96]

17.14 hrs.

RISE IN PRICES OF ESSENTIAL COMMODITIES-CONTD.

[English]

SHRI PINAKI MISHRA : Mr. Chairman, Sir, for this general sense of well being, Shakespeare once said: "God is in Heaven and all is right with the world." So, that is what happened with India. God was in heaven and for five years we had wonderful monsoons, we also had good winter rains and we had bumper crops. All this, unfortunately, makes us forget a very important, a very significant fact which has been pointed out time and again by agronomists all over the world, by agricultural experts, by senior authorities of the FAO which is the apex body of the World Food that India, primarily, is simply one bad monsoon away from a famine. Since we have had a succession of good monsoons, we have been flushed with foodgrains and our buffer stocks have risen. But we are basically one bad monsoon away from a famine and unfortunately, I am representing the State of Orissa which, we all know, - we have discussed this issue before in the House - is affected by drought this year.

While in 33 out of 35 agro-climatic divisions in the country there was average and above average rainfall, in just two agro-climatic regions there was no rainfall virtually and Orissa happens to fall in one of those regions. There is a drought situation there which borders on famine and one shudlers to think as to what would have happened to the rest of the country if we had one bad monsoon as we had in Orissa this year.

Sir, essentially, the problem of increase in the prices of essential commodities is really a microcosm of a larger ailment, which we face today in this country and

there are both short term reasons for this ailment and long term reasons. So, the problems are short term as well as long term and therefore, the remedies, naturally, would be short term and long term.

What are the short term problems that we have? For the past five years, we have had bumper crops. The acceptable buffer stock in this country which I am told, had been fixed about a couple of decades back, which is supposed to be about 22 million tonnes of foodgrains, is now way out of date. We are a country - we must remember - which is expanding at the rate of 50000 new mouths a day, at the rate of 15 million a year which is an astronomical growth rate!

After the events of 1977, everybody understands that family planning has basically become a dirty word. It is a politically incorrect statement to make now, to talk in terms of family planning, to talk in terms of sanctions against the growth of population. So, since there is no national consensus on this seminal issue of family planning, we have to think in terms of expending our production of foodgrains to feed these extra mouths.

This 22 million tonnes of buffer, that is supposed to be maintained by the FCI, is way out of date. They are geared to keep this amount of a buffer, stock but when we had a buffer increase, which went up to, I am told almost 37 million tonnes a couple of years back and which persisted last year, there were huge quantities of damaged grains; and the FCI did not at that stage think it fit to let out this excess grain into the market, which should have been done. It was at that stage that the Government decided to go in for export of wheat. This immediate short term problem that we are facing today is on account of that because once the exports started at a dollar price of 190 dollars or 200 dollars a tonne, which works out to almost Rs. 7000 and when the FCI release price works out to between Rs. 4200 to Rs. 4500 per tonne, we are having a gap of almost Rs. 3000 a tonne; so, the farmers obviously would prefer to give their grains to exporters to the intermediary traders who feed these exports rather than giving it to the FCI.

This year, we have to remember that, we have a shortfall of three million tonnes which is not a very significant shortfall, that is, from 65 million tonnes to 62 million tonnes. But when we have 15 million extra people to feed every year, every tonne of foodgrains counts.

Therefore, in my opinion, the first issue that should be raised and that should be addressed by the Government is as to why adequate emergency steps were not taken at the right time to ensure that the export of wheat was clamped down immediately. The Minister has made a statement which I assume, is a responsible statement which said that after June, there were no further exports. After June, the exports were clamped down, but they continued on the basis of the past LCs. How have these LCs been operated? Major exporters today are sitting on bank credits of Rs. 50 crore or

Rs. 75 crore or Rs. 100 crore worth of cash. They are able to pick up the grains from the farmers at a higher price which is why, these grains are not able to find their way into the PDS. Why should you compel farmers or how can you compel farmers or how can you induce farmers to give it to the FCI at Rs. 4200 or Rs. 4500 a tonne when they would be able to give it to the exporters at Rs. 5000 or Rs. 5500 a tonne, where the exporters are still making a margin of Rs. 2000 or Rs. 3000?

This is the first issue that should have been addressed by the Government and I am sorry that the Government did not address this issue at the right time and it is as a result of this that we today face an acute shortage and an increase in prices. Even today, this lopsided, the short-sighted policy of the Government continues. How? They have clamped down on the export of wheat, but wheat flour continues to be exported. Last month, a release of 150000 tonnes of wheat flour has been made. Ultimately, all this leads to scarcity of foodgrains in the market and I am sorry to say that the Government has not addressed itself to this fundamental and important issue at the threshold itself.

The short term solution as far as I can see, is that any further export of wheat flour should be immediately clamped down. Obviously, all pending LCs cannot be done away with because these are international commitments but no extension of LCs should be allowed. Banks should be told to issue instructions to withdraw all the limits and credits which have been issued to all these exporters so that they are bound to come out up in the market and liquidate their stocks. Large farmers who have now become traders in Northern India have to be induced to somehow part with their stocks because stocks are still lying with them. We have a gestation period of five to six months before the next crop comes in and they are aware of that fact.

Now, the second issue which the Government should have immediately addressed itself to is ESMA. We have read in the newspapers today that the Delhi Government says that they are now invoking ESMA against traders and hoarders. I hardly need to add that the Delhi Government is dependent upon traders because the basic vote bank of the BJP are the traders. The bastion of BJP or the BJP's support bank are the traders. This is a well known fact. Therefore, if action had to be taken against traders and hoarders, it should have been done much earlier. Now, they shunt the ball back into the Central Government's court saying that the withdrawal of the decontrol order did not come. They are right; withdrawal of decontrol should also have come earlier. But you should have asked them to make that withdrawal of decontrol order earlier. Now that we have raised it in Parliament, suddenly, the Central Government decides that the decontrol order will be withdrawn and the Delhi Government then decides that ESMA will be invoked. All this should have been done three or four months back. Therefore, all these bank credits, etc. must be withdrawn immediately from the traders as well as

exporters which will ensure that these stocks which are lying in godowns are liquidated immediately.

Apart from this, the House has to understand that basically, the Government policy on agriculture has so far been geared towards 25 per cent or 30 per cent of the rich farmers in this country. The medium farmers and the poorer sections of the farmers never get to see the credit which comes from the banks and never get to see the cutting edge of the Government's policy on agriculture. It is the rich farmers alone who are sharing the benefits. Therefore, somewhere along the line, the Agriculture Policy has to gear towards medium and small farmers because eventually it is their output which is a steady source of supply to the market instead of the rich farmers, because today, in any case, they are becoming traders in their own right.

Mr. Chairman, there are several long term problems in this area and what are those problem? I think everybody understands that they have been trying to address themselves to these during the last two to three years but unfortunately, no consensus has been arrived at and nothing has been done on this issue. What are those problems?

Ultimately, we are all dependent on the output of soil with fertilisers. There has been no cohesive policy and no clear rational thinking on how to enhance the crop output. Today, we have a three million tonne shortage. Why is it so? It is because the ideal soil ratio which has to be N.P.K. 4:2:1, that is four parts of nitrogen, two parts of phosphate and one part of potash has become so lopsided that it is 16:4:1, that is, 16 parts of nitrogen, four parts of phosphate and one part of potash. This soil output is bound to erode on an annual basis unless this is redressed immediately by a better all-rounded fertiliser policy.

The Prime Minister has made some advancement towards this and has given a higher subsidy on DAP. But it is not enough. Even today, if DAP is going to be sold at Rs. 3000 or Rs. 3500 or Rs. 4000 more than urea, which farmer is going to go in for DAP? The farmer has to be educated. Of course, the farmer is well educated on his own. But the Government must educate him by showing that the lopsided use of fertiliser has brought a shortage of three millions this year and next year, this will enhance the shortage further. The Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Food must sit down and form a nodal body which will work out a cohesive plan in order to ensure that DAP, urea and all phosphatic fertilisers are available to the farmers at some parity of price which would ensure that the farmer makes a right and optimum use of his soil.

This is the key to food security for 950 million people in this country. And with these 950 million - rising at the rate of about on fifteen million a year - we are going to be in a serious difficulty in future unless these long term solutions are attended to immediately. I reiterate my assertion in this House that the Government must

take the responsibility and the blame in a large measure for the kind of inaction which has been seen for the last three to four months. This should have been addressed to much earlier.

There is one other issue. In fact, the farmers in the Punjab and Haryana, due to the entry of the multinationals like Pepsi, etc., are now shifting their crops from wheat and rice to cash crops. Shrimati Sushma Swaraj yesterday made a fancy point with which, with great respect, I think, nobody in this House would agree to. She said that multinational were coming in raising salaries and, therefore, they are ensuring that Indian Industry goes out of competition. I do not think that it is true. The multinationals come in because labour is cheap in India. They do not want to raise labour rates and come into India in order to help labour here. But multinationals are affecting us in another direction, that is, the farmers are basically shifting focus of their crops from crops like wheat and rice to cash crops. So, this is again an area where the Government has to sit down and take a considered view as to how to help farmers focus in the right direction and ensure that the land use policy of the farmer is geared towards optimum cultivation.

With these words I thank you for giving me the opportunity to address this Hon'ble House.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL (Latur) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to be very very brief. I think that this Parliament is doing its important duty in discussing the price rise in the country. It is really necessary for this Parliament to consider the issues of this nature - rise in population, problems of environment, inflation, unemployment, as to how the agriculture can develop, as to how the industry can develop, as to how the research and development in science and technology can take place and things of that nature - rather than discussing the issues which pertain to the institutions at other levels.

It is a fact that the prices are going up. And I do not think that the Government will also deny that the prices are going up. The price rise affects generally the destitute people in the society. It affects the entire population also. It is necessary for the Government to take steps in this respect. It is also true that many of the activities are not within the jurisdiction of the Government. If the agricultural production is not going up we do not have the cooperative farming in India, nor does the land belong to the Government as such; it is in private hands; the Government has to play a catalytic role in encouraging the farmers to increase the production. All the same, it is the responsibility of the Government to lay down policies which can really help in increasing production.

Why are the prices going up? Why do the prices go up? If the commodities and goods are not available in the society, in the market, in the country in adequate quantities, the prices will naturally go up. Now, what is

the situation today in India as far as the essential commodities are concerned? Are they not available in the country in adequate quantities? I think, the hon. Minister has got up and said that we do have foodgrains with us. That means that at least some goods and commodities are available in ample quantities. Even after the availability of the commodities and goods in adequate quantities, if the price are going up, the second reason for it could be that they are not made available to the consumers as and when they want them and at the places they want them. Now, that involves the Transport Policy.

It would be necessary for the Government of India to discuss this matter with the State Governments also and they have to find out as to how the foodgrains which are available with the Government could be transported to the places where they are actually needed. It would be necessary for the Minister in the Department of Supply to discuss this matter with the Railway Minister or the Transport Minister so as to coordinate and see that the foodgrains that are available at one place are also made available to other places. Bottlenecks in transportation have to be overcome.

The third reason, according to me, is hoarding. Shri Mishra has made a very good speech. He has suggested certain steps which could be taken to see that there is no hoarding at all. If we examine the availability of the goods and commodities in the market and if we come to the conclusion that in spite of the fact that goods and commodities being available in adequate and ample quantities the prices are going up, that means somebody is hoarding them. If somebody is hoarding them, how could he do it? He could do it only with the help of the credit which is given to him by the banks. It is here that the Government could take a decision, the Ministry of Finance could take a decision. Money should be made available to those who want to produce; money should be made available to those who want to do trade and business; money should not be made available to those who want to hoard with the help of the credit available to them from the banks. It is here that the Government has the responsibility. The Government has to examine as to what are the goods and commodities that are available in the country in ample quantities and what are the goods and commodities that are not available in ample quantities. If they are not available, they could be imported or we could take some other steps to see that they are made available and after they are made available if they have been hoarded then we could take steps to see that hoarding is not done. We could do that by punishing them or by filing cases against them. But the most effective manner of doing it would be to find out the big business and trading houses who are in these areas and to limit the credit facilities which are made available to them. That would certainly bring down the prices.

The point is, what could be done in this regard? We shall have to produce more. If the agricultural production

has gone down, it is necessary for all of us, not only for the Government alone, in the Parliament and in the Legislative Assemblies to find out as to why the agricultural production has gone down. Is it because credit is not available? Is it because of the hike in fertilizer prices? Is it because new technology is not available? Is it because the producers are not getting remunerative prices and the consumers have to pay more? Now, these are the issues which have to be very carefully examined and policies accordingly have to be laid down. If this is not done then we are responsible for the price rise.

The private sector, the public sector and the Government sector could help in removing the bottlenecks in the matter. One of the things which could be done by the Government is to anticipate things. The Government cannot take action after the things become visible to us. A scientist told me that if you notice a disease in a plant and if you apply medicine to it, you would not be able to save the plant but if you anticipate as to what is going to happen because of weather conditions and apply medicine to the plant, you could save it. So, it is necessary for all of us who are sitting here to anticipate things. If we do not anticipate and if we do not take steps before things happen and before things go out of control, we would not be able to provide the kind of relief which has to be provided to the people. Coordination is most important. In our country, which has adopted the federal system, we have the Union Government, the State Government and also the District Authority. Even the village authority is there. There has to be coordination between the Union Government and the State Government. For instance, somebody was saying that the railway wagons are not available. The question naturally asked by one of the Members sitting here was, why did you not have recourse to the road transportation; what was the difficulty in taking the foodgrains from the godown to the consumers by road transport and why did you not coordinate before. It is not a question of blaming either the Central Government or the State Government. Coordination is certainly necessary in such cases.

While initiating the debate, one of the hon. Members has said that the new Economic Policy is responsible for the price rise. I am not able to understand how the new Economic Policy is responsible for this. The new Economic Policy aims at producing more. You can find fault with the policy if it allows investment by foreigners or anything of the kind. But if you are taking steps to produce more in agriculture, industry, universities or research laboratories, you cannot find fault with it. I think the new Economic Policy, which is adopted in our country, is aimed at producing more. The new Economic Policy cannot be found fault with in this respect.

The Government has to use the new technology. There are people who are opposing the use of technology. When the satellite was launched, people were criticising by saying that when there is no drinking

water why should we have a satellite. They do not understand that satellite is the most advanced technology in the world today which helps the villagers, which helps the man who is living in the forest. If you have to give information about monsoon or to inform him about the disease with which the plants are going to be affected, it is the satellite which will help you. That is why, in this modern world, it is necessary to use the most advanced technology. If you, all the time, day-in-day-out attack the modern methods of management, modern technology or modern science and on the contrary create a psychology against it, how can you produce enough for the country? Take for instance Japan. It is as densely populated as India but what is costly in Japan is not goods but services. If you want to buy a suitcase, you can have it for 10 dollars but if you want somebody to carry that suitcase you shall have to pay 5 dollars. So, what is costly is the human services and not the goods. Why is it so? Japan is the most advanced country. At the same time, it is a most densely populated country. By using the modern methods they have done away with unemployment. They are producing more and they have become one of the most advanced countries of the world. That should be the approach. In our country those people who are speaking against technology, against science or modern methods, maybe they have good of the people at their hearts. We should not find fault with them and we should not say that they do not have good of the people at their hearts. But time has changed. Things are completely different today. It is absolutely necessary for us to understand what is to be done in order to see that we have production at the required level. We should use our intellectual power to see that we do not go in the direction which does not help us to produce more as it is not going to help our country.

I think it has become necessary now for the Government to take steps to see that there is no inflation and no rise in prices. Nobody will allow the Government to say that this is not their responsibility. Probably, they are not going to say also that this is not their responsibility. But if a member of the Government stands up and says that we have enough foodgrains in the country and at the same time if those foodgrains are not available to the consumers at acceptable prices, the responsibility of the Government becomes more onerous. If they do not discharge this responsibility, everybody will be allowed to say that they have not anticipated, they have not planned, they have not applied their mind, and that they have not taken necessary steps.

I do not think the situation has gone out of control. The situation is in control even today. If we wake up and try to take some steps, we will be able to help ourselves.

SHRI PRAMOTHES MUKHERJEE (Berhampore) (WB) : Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for the opportunity given to me to express my views on this important discussion on price rise in the country.

I have heard a very valuable speech from the former Speaker, Shri Shivraj Patil and I have been enlightened by the speech. No doubt, I welcome this discussion because it is closely related with the mode of production and distribution system which is related with unemployment and poverty in our country. Basically, the economic condition of our country is very bad. Prices of essential commodities have gone so high that they are beyond the reach of the common man. The prices of rice, wheat, pulses, vegetables and other foodgrains have also gone up very high. Even my children do not get milk today because the price of milk has gone high. I cannot support the policy of the Government when they fail to check the rising prices of essential commodities.

But this United Front Government cannot be held entirely responsible for the creation of this economic condition because they are seated in the chair just a few months back, in the month of June. Within this six months' tenure, no Government can change the fate of the situation. Naturally, or consequently it is our observation that the blame for creating such an economic crisis lies with the failures and lapses of the previous Government. It is my observation that the entire economic situation we face today absolutely owes it to the economic policies of the previous Government, that is, the economic policies of liberalisation, the economic policies of globalisation. I cannot understand what our good friend hon. Dr. Manmohan Singh, the ex-Finance Minister, can say in response to the situation of price rise today following the acceptance of the policy of globalisation and privatisation which was formulated by him.

I have heard a very good speech from Mr. Patil. It is a fact that we are living in the age of capitalism. You know well that capitalism today is the sophisticated metropolitan capitalism which is an international economic phenomenon. The mode of production, the mode of distribution, the rise or fall in prices of essential commodities are entirely related with the international economic system. If there is price rise in the international markets, the prices of essential commodities must rise in the markets of underdeveloped countries like India and others, nobody can deny it. So, there are many questions, there are many factors to be considered here. The most important factor is the introduction of market economy in our country.

Nobody can refuse the vices in the market economy. In a socialist system, in a regulated market system, the price rise can be controlled by the State Government because there is a regulated market system, there is a State-controlled market system. But in a market economy, in a social system of market economy, it is very difficult to check the price rise of the essential commodities. In a market system, in a market economy, people's demand is in the geometric proportion and the Government's supply and the public supply is in an arithmetic progression. There is a gulf of difference

between the geometric progression and the arithmetic progression. In between these two things, there are hoarders; there are black marketeers; there are stockists, who kill the country and the society.

With your kind permission, I am quoting Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru. Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru came out of the jail just after the Second World War and he went to Calcutta and addressed the mammoth gathering in 1945. He saw and addressed the people, 'hang the blackmarketeers from the lamppost; hang the hoarders and stockists from the lamppost and get food and distribute the wealth of the stockists to the people'. This was the speech delivered by the Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru in 1945. Fifty years have passed. Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru was the Prime Minister of this country. His successors were the Prime Ministers of this country, but no blackmarketeer has been hanged to death on the lamppost. Here is the failure of the Government. Everybody knows it well.

Sir, in a system in which you live, the system is the factor. Then, what can be done in the parliamentary democratic system? What can the Government do in a sophisticated manner and in a legalised manner? That is to be just addressed by the Government. A welfare state, a popular Government, a Government, just after the unusual and complex mandate of the people, should have the duties to fulfil the task, to fulfil its commitments. The first task of the Government is to adopt the State Trading Policy. Had there been a State Trading Policy, then the difference between the people's demand raising in a geometric progression and the supply in an arithmetic progression could have been avoided. So, in my opinion, State Trading Corporation should be introduced first. Public distribution system should be developed. It should be integrated; it should be revamped. Otherwise, this situation cannot be taken over.

I have something to say. I will conclude within a very limited time. One thing is clear and everybody has told that the Government decides to increase the prices of petroleum products. I am sorry to say that the Government did not take up the simultaneous measures to control the price rise situation just after the increase of the petroleum products. At the same time, I am sorry to mention that our hon. Minister in-charge of the Food Ministry had not taken stock of the foodgrains position while he was entitled to take up this responsibility. This is also there.

Today, we have seen in the speech, we have seen in the Statement made by the hon. Food Minister. What is the Statement? The Statement is that the requirements have been increased; the requirements of mid-day meal, nutrition programme and Jawahar Rozgar Yojana have been increased. The requirements of all these programmes have been increased. But that cannot be the cause for the price rise of the essential commodities like rice, wheat, etc.

He had to check up the stock position. He had to check up all these things. But, this Government could not do it.

Sir, today, there is a question of satellite. There is a question of modern technology. But the most important thing is that land reforms should be done immediately. In many States of our country, we can see land reforms. In the name of land reforms, they just distribute surplus lands to the poor tillers, to the share-croppers and so on. I am not referring to that. What I am saying is that the land reform system should be entirely changed. It should be modernised first. All the surplus land available in the country should be brought under irrigation first. Had the Government taken the opportunity of utilising the lands for irrigation purposes our foodgrains production could have increased and we could have supplied food not only to the 900 million people of our country but we could have supplied food to the other countries also.

Our land is very fertile. But this Government and the previous Governments could not utilise all the fertile lands. They could not adopt this system of land reforms. They could not utilise the modern technology. They could not take full advantage of modern science in respect of lands and their fertility. So, there should be long range measures. The task of the Government should be to accept the land reforms first.

Sir, rapid industrialisation is also a factor, not the heavy engineering industries under the control of the multinational corporations. That can be taken care of. But the basic fact is the rapid industrialisation of our society, and also of our economy. As far as agriculture is concerned, the agro-based industries will contribute to the development of our country.

Sir, in my opinion, the immediate task is to improve and develop the Public Distribution System in order to cater to the needs of the people. Not only the modified rationing system but the entire rationing system should be developed. The Government has also to think about population control. There are many countries which are also suffering from the problem of population explosion but they have tackled their problem. Then comes the problem of economy. Those countries have taken a separate way to solve the economic problem. But it is unfortunate that the Government of India could not adopt all those ways. What did Russia do? What did China do? Just to accept the challenge is not the only way but there are ways which can be adopted by the Government to meet the challenge. Population control is also one of the important factors. We should be careful about all these things. Compulsory sterilisation in the name of population control is not the only measure but the consciousness should be developed. By doing so population control can be accepted. If you start controlling the population now, we will be able to receive benefits only after twenty-five years. So, what I want to say is that immediate measures to cater to the

needs of the people should be taken up first by the Government.

With these few words, I conclude my speech.

SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS (Kalahandi) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, price rise is a vital issue which concerns the millions of people of the country. In this House, so many times this issue had been discussed. Actually the poor people are affected by price rise. Now, I will go to the statistics. From 1990 to 1995, there has been a constant rise in prices, particularly, in the prices of rice, wheat, sugar, salt, and *dal* which are most essential things to live in.

The poor masses of our country mainly need these essential commodities to sustain and in this hour of crisis there has been a constant increase.

The poor people are used to take coarse rice. If you see the price of the coarse rice, it was Rs. 3.92 per Kg. in 1990 and it was Rs. 7.28 per Kg. in 1995. You are very much aware of the prevailing price. The same is the case with the coarse wheat. In February 1990 the price of coarse wheat was Rs. 2.90 per Kg. and in 1995 it was Rs. 4.65 per Kg. If you take the price of sugar, it was Rs. 8.72 per Kg in 1990 and it was Rs. 13.35 per Kg. in 1995.

Sir, salt is a very common item. Poor people do not get vegetables, etc. so they use salt as their curry. Millions of our countrymen use salt or whatever things available in their villages as their curry because they cannot afford vegetables, etc. to eat. The price of the salt was 98 paise in 1990 and in 1995 the salt price went up to Rs. 2.06 per Kg. I am talking about the common salt which is used by the common man.

The price of our own common dal, i.e. arhar dal which is used by people by and large, has also gone up. In 1990, its price was Rs. 10.35 per kg. and now its price has gone up to Rs. 24.97 per Kg. If you go through all this, you will come to know how a poor man lives.

Several times, the Price Control Acts are being passed. The Governments, either the State Governments or the Central Government, have shown that they have been vigilant, but the prices could not be checked. What are the reasons for this? The reason might be the rise in population. It may be because of inflation and so on. The reasons are very much discussed by the hon. Member of Parliament here. But the most important point is how effective is our distribution system?

We have been listening slogans since our school days about the black-marketeers and hoarders. But why has there not been a system to check the black-marketeers and hoarders in the market? Why have we failed? I am not blaming any Government. The successive Governments have failed. I think that is the main point which I wanted to say, why we have failed to control the price rise or failed to provide essential commodities to the people at the lower level.

I will now take up the purchasing capacity of the poor people. I will give an example of my constituency, Kalahandi which is the drought affected area of Orissa, where people have lost their purchasing capacity. They cannot even afford to purchase rice at the rate of Rs. 2 per Kg. I am talking of the millions of people who live in the villages. They do not have jobs. We have forgotten to strengthen the land and the manpower in the country. We have only given emphasis on fast development. It is good that we should develop like other countries but not at the cost of our manpower and not utilising our land. Crores of hectares of land are lying unutilised.

18.00 hrs.

Why are we not able to utilise our land even after fifty years of independence? We do not like to strengthen our farming community and the farming system and unnecessarily we are asking our farmers to go in for cash crop. All the time we had asked our farmers to leave the traditional crop and go in for cash crop so that they would not remain starved and they would earn more. All these slogans are very much popular during the last one decade. That is why, our farmers have lost their capacity.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Bhakta Charan Das please sit down.

I would like to take the sense of the House for extending the time of the House. There are twelve more speakers to participate in this debate. Many hon. Members are coming and saying that they have been waiting here to participate in the discussion for a long time. If you all agree, we shall extend the time of the House by one hour so that we can complete all the speakers today...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH (Rajgarh) : Yes, Sir, we can sit for one more hour today...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA (Kanpur) : No, Sir ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : I have heard you. Some very senior Members are waiting for a long time to participate in this debate. Let us complete it today.

SHRI MADHUKAR SARPOTDAR (Mumbai North-West) : Sir, my point is, whether the Members are new or senior, how does it concern? If you want to extend the time of the House, you can take the sense of the House...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : I am asking your opinion. I am not giving my opinion. It is not the opinion of the Chair or the Government or the Opposition. A lot of business is pending. This is the second day of this discussion. We are having another discussion under Rule 193. So, let us agree for extension of time by one hour so that we can accommodate all these twelve speakers today.

SHRI MADHUKAR SARPOTDAR : In that case, the sense of the House should have been taken in the morning itself and not at 6 p.m. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : No, it is taken at this time only.

SHRI MADHUKAR SARPOTDAR : That is all right. If the time is to be extended, it should go before the Business Advisory Committee...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : All are very valid points. At the same time, I am sure that you will also agree that this is also an important discussion.

(Interruptions)

SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH (Rajgarh) : Sir, we should sit for one more hour today...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Kindly agree for extending the time of the House by one hour.

(Interruptions)

SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA : Sir, the attendance is very thin when we are having such an important discussion...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV (Silchar) : Mr. Chairman, Sir we have to take up discussion under Rule 193 on foreign affairs, which is pending. Almost twelve parties have given a number of names for participating in that discussion. Shri Vajpayee is also very keen in this discussion and said that two hours time would not be sufficient and it should be extended. We want to include the agreement with Bangladesh and other things, about which Shri Vajpayee has also mentioned.

In the Business Advisory Committee, we had admitted two discussions under Rule 193, that is, one on Sports and the other about the problems of the Union Territories. Then, we had admitted two Calling Attention Notices. We appreciated the difficulty of the Members. Let us continue this discussion today for one more hour, even I would say that the Minister should reply to it if possible. The last date of this Session is 20th. Otherwise, we will not be able to finish all these debates and it would be very difficult. We should see from the 20th backwards and not from here up to the 20th. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA : Sir, the attendance is very thin when we are discussing such an important discussion today...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY (MANDSAUR) : Sir, several hon'ble members are yet to speak ...*(Interruptions)* The hon'ble Minister should make a reply tomorrow, because many hon'ble members who have already spoken, if they are not present at the time of reply ...*(Interruptions)* ... they will not be able to know as to what reply the Minister has made. The Minister may give a reply tomorrow. If the time is extended by an hour. Hon'ble Members who are present here and waiting for their turn may even after that if some more Members remain to speak then you may take a decision later on.

[English]

SHRI SRIKANT JENA : Shri Pandeyji, please listen to me.

As has been said by Shri Sontosh Mohan Dev, the correct position is that many Calling Attention Notices had been admitted and then the discussion on foreign affairs is also there. If you go on stretching this discussion for another one day, then we cannot accommodate the other debates. Therefore, my request is that you may please accede for extending the time of the House by one hour. There are many Members who would like to participate in this discussion. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MADHUKAR SARPOTDAR : If at all, the time of the House is to be extended, it should have been done in the morning ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SRIKANT JENA : In the morning, the Leader of the Opposition had suggested, which was also accepted by us, that the discussions on 'Ganga water' and 'foreign affairs' could be clubbed together and they need not be discussed today. They may be delinked from today's discussion.

We should complete this discussion today itself. In the morning itself, he has suggested that. Accordingly we are proceeding.

SHRI MADHUKAR SARPOTDAR : Who has suggested that?

SHRI SRIKANT JENA : Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee has suggested that...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please sit down. Let the Minister complete his speech. He will clarify that.

SHRI SRIKANT JENA : Therefore, in my opinion, I will request the BJP friends and Shiv Sena leader to please consider this because other business cannot be taken up. The time is limited. Therefore, I request you to please agree to extend the time of the House by another one hour or two hours. Let us discuss this thing.

[Translation]

SHRI JAI PRAKASH (Hissar) : All the Members can not be accommodated within an hour.

SHRI SRIKANT JENA : The time may be extended by two hours.

[English]

We are prepared to sit and discuss. Therefore, what I would suggest is as price rise is an important issue, we must discuss it seriously. If the Members are not there, the Members are not there. Even if we list this tomorrow, the Members may not be there. Therefore, let us discuss this matter seriously and finish it today.

[Translation]

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY : As I had requested that all the hon'ble Members should speak today itself and the hon'ble Minister should make a reply tomorrow.

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : The hon'ble Minister has also to make a reply in the Rajya Sabha tomorrow. Rajya Sabha is also equally important. It would be better if all the hon'ble Members speak today and the hon'ble Minister also make his reply today itself no matter whether we have to sit for an hour or two or even for three hours. Secondly, it may be that all the hon'ble Members speak today and the hon'ble Minister give his reply tomorrow after question hour is over. We agree to both the arrangements.

[English]

SHRI MADHUKAR SARPOTDAR : My only contention is that, if at all this was the situation, this should have been discussed before the Business Advisory Committee where we discuss all these matters. If need be, the time of the House should be extended by one or two hours. We should have discussed like that. This was not at all placed before the Business Advisory Committee. This is number one.

Secondly, if any Member in this Parliament is required to sit late, he should get the prior intimation in the morning itself. Accordingly we will manage his programme outside also. This is the second difficulty.

Thirdly, we say that this is a very important matter. But we are just trying to complete discussion as a formality on the subject matter today only. This should not be so. Give them advance intimation seeing that, all right we will sit tomorrow two hours late and finish up the matter. That I can understand. Those who are interested will wait and those who are not interested, will go. That is why I am objecting that why at the eleventh hour, this discussion should be taken up. That is not the intention of the House. That is my feeling.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I want to say something from the Chair because this is not the opinion of the Government or my personal opinion. As you know, the business of the House is a matter of concern for all the Members of the House. The Chair is not restricting the Members because this is a very important topic. Today, all the parties have exhausted their time limit. But in spite of that, we have been allowing the Members to speak. We have not been restricting any of the Members. The list of the names of Members is coming in. Names are coming in even now. We are adding all those names. So if such a discussion is dragged on, it is not the responsibility of the Government or any party. So we are allowing. The Chair has used its discretion to allow all the Members. You please understand this. It is because of the seriousness of the matter which we are discussing that we have allowed all the Members. We did not apply the time restriction; You might have noticed

that. Otherwise, when one party is allowed only one minute or two minutes time, they are taking five minutes or 10 minutes. It is only fair to allow them to speak because this is an important topic. I request all the hon. Members to please allow, maybe, to extend the time of the House by one hour or at the most one-and-a-half hours by which time we will be able to complete the listed speakers. Some of them are absent. So you may speak in a restricted manner.

SHRI MADHUKAR SARPOTDAR : Do we want to complete the formality? I consider that way.

MR. CHAIRMAN : This is not the formality because we used to take this kind of decision in the House. We have always taken this type of decisions in the House. You are right in saying that we should anticipate this and we should have discussed this matter earlier. But such things happen in the House.

(Interruptions)

SHRI MADHUKAR SARPOTDAR : Let us have their impression.

MR. CHAIRMAN : This is why, we are taking the opinion of the House.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Quorum is there.

SHRI DILEEP SANGHANI : Only 46 Members are here. If I am still here, I will be raising this quorum issue.

SHRI SRIKANT JENA : If this is the seriousness of ours, then I have nothing to say. There is a certain agreement when we normally do not on the microphone.

SHRI DILEEP SANGHANI : We are not agreeing ... (Interruptions)

SHRI SRIKANT JENA : If you do not agree to Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, then I have nothing to say. That was the suggestion given by him in the morning. You all have been sincere and serious about the discussion on price rise and now you are saying that it should be taken up tomorrow... (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now, let us not enter into an argument.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SRIKANT JENA : Please listen to all and discuss it with them. Finish it within one or one and a half hour.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now, we have heard all the Members. All are valid points. But in the interests of the business of the House, let us agree. We will extend the time.

Shri Bhakta Charan Das may continue and conclude as early as possible... (Interruptions)

SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS : Sir, I will conclude as early as possible...(Interruptions)

SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA : Sir, please do not extend the time of the House by one hour or two hours, but extend it till all the Members participate in the discussion and the hon. Minister replies to it...(Interruptions) You have taken a decision. That is binding on up. ...(Interruptions) Members have other engagements in the evening. They did not know that you are going to extend the time. That is the problem.

MR. CHAIRMAN : As far as Minister's reply is concerned, we can fix the time, but for the Members we cannot. Members' speeches will go on. So, we will conclude the speeches today and the Minister's reply can be immediately after the Question Hour.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH : Mr Chairman, Sir, you have already allowed Shri Bhakta Charan Das ji to speak.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please do not raise such technical issues.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Let us come to a consensus.

(Interruptions)

SHRI MADHUKAR SARPOTDAR : The Members who sit in the House regularly should have some respect. That is equally important...(Interruptions).

SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA : Sir, I have no problem. My submission is that the former Speaker and a very senior Member of this House, Shri Shivraj V. Patil spoke for thirteen or fourteen minutes. Members keep on speaking for an unlimited time and they consume the time of the House. I think, you will have to lay down some restrictions...(Interruptions).

MR. CHAIRMAN : Self-imposed restriction is what we want. If that is not there, then the Chair will be forced to restrict. So, let us complete it now.

[Translation]

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY : Please ensure that the reply will be given tomorrow itself...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : There is no difficulty for the Minister to reply even today. Let so not argue like this. The thing is that the Minister is ready with his reply even today. So, we will complete the discussion today and we can schedule the Minister's reply at 12 Noon tomorrow. So, let us finish the discussion today.

SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA : How many speakers are left?

MR. CHAIRMAN : We have 12 more speaker. Some of them may not be here.

(Interruptions)

SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS : Mr. Chairman, Sir, we have not made efforts as to how to utilise the manpower to grow more or to produce more. We have also not made efforts for going for traditional cultivation like paddy and wheat, etc. In the land which is being abandoned. We have crores of acres of abandoned land in our country. Our country is famous for the traditional crop since the beginning of the age.

I would like to say that the most drought affected district, Kalahandi used to produce surplus paddy and rice. In 1936, we had supplied rice to Bengal and to the coastal areas of the State of Orissa. However, now, it is going through the drought situation. Why? It is not because of the fault of nature but it is because of the fault that we have failed to administer and provides benefits to the farmers to strengthen the infrastructural facilities to grow more crop.

If there were sufficient irrigation facilities in these areas, then there would not have been any drought. In 1936, we had produced more and by now the production would have been much more than in the past. But our production of paddy in that area has receded like anything. Similar is the situation in the country also. So, I would request the Government to take sufficient steps to grow crops on the abandoned land. There are vast sections of the people in the country who are unemployed, whose hands are not being utilised. So, their hands should be utilised for cultivation on this kind of lands. The manpower should be properly utilised. There should be more and more irrigation facilities provided for the land so that we can grow more paddy, more wheat and more and more traditional crops. Our farmers should be given sufficient incentives to go in for the traditional crops. Instead of inducing them to go in for the cash crops, they should be asked to go in for paddy and wheat which are the most vital foodgrains to be used by the poor people of the country.

With regard to distribution and checking the hoarders and black-marketeers completely from top to bottom, from the fundamental or the small unit of the country to the top unit of the nation, we should have a total revamping programme. Otherwise we cannot distribute the commodities properly amongst the people of this country, and there will be smugglers and there will be black-marketeers. In spite of all kinds of slogans, we have failed to check the black-marketeers and hoarders.

I have given you the example of the Kalahandi district where we produced more in 1936. Before Independence, we used to produce more and now we are affected by drought. So, these kind of problems should be identified by the Government. Nature has

given us all kinds of resources. Our land is fertile and the water resources are sufficient in the country. We should tap these resources and make a long term plan in such a way that we produce more and more in our country in the coming years. Thank you.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV (Patna) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am grateful to you for giving me an opportunity to speak.

Mr. Chairman Sir, today we all are concerned about the rising prices of essential commodities... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : We have agreed to sit until the discussion is over. So, we have an understanding that we will not raise the question of quorum.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : The Chief Whips and the Government and all Members may take note of the point. He has raised a very valid point. Let us continue the discussion. At the same time, if any Members are around here, please ask them to come and sit in the House. Let us continue the discussion. We have an understanding to continue the discussion until it is over. So, please do not raise any issue now.

Shri Yadav may continue.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV : Mr. Chairman Sir, today the problem of price rise is a national problem and the entire House and the country is concerned about it. We will have to look into the reasons of like in prices of essential commodities. The United Front Government is committed that it would not let the prices soar high and would check price rise. The six months old government has made good efforts and I particularly thanks Mr. Devendra Prasad Yadav, Minister of Food for the tremendous efforts he has made to provide foodgrains to the commonman at reasonable rates.

Mr. Chairman Sir, our population is more than 90 crores out of which more than fifty percent people are living below poverty line. 70 percent people are earning their livelihood by working in the field. Fifty years of independence have already been completed and even after such a long period of our independence majority of our population constitutes agricultural labourers and farmers, we are not paying attention towards them and this is the reason why we have been unable to keep prices under control, though, we wish to do so. Unless we increase agricultural production and prevent rapidly increasing population which are the root causes of price rise in the country we cannot check it. Several hon'ble members have expressed their views in this regard, I don't want to repeat them. The people here will have to

think irrespective of their party affiliations. It is our collective responsibility. We will have to find out the solution of this problem rising above party lines. Today we are sitting on the treasury benches and our colleagues sitting in the opposition. In a democratic set up there is a way where we can highlight the lacunae of the functioning of the Government but at the same time this is our duty to make constructive suggestions to solve the problems and the entire House will have to consider as to how we can increase our agricultural production and control the population the population growth. If these things are not kept under control whichever Government may be it will not be able to check the price rise. So, there is a need to increase the agricultural production. We will have to see whether the people working in the fields are being provided adequate facilities; whether proper arrangements for irrigation have been made or not. Whether proper facilities to the labourers working in the fields are being provided or not. If we don't pay attention to these things certainly we shall not be able to check price rise.

18.24 hrs.

(Shri Basudeb Acharia in the Chair)

Hon'ble Chairman Sir, I would like to draw your attention towards the prevailing situation. I agree to the fact that there has been a steep rise in price during the last twenty to twenty five days. The price hike is an outcome of a conspiracy. The United Front Government is a popular Government so, a conspiracy is being hatched to tarnish its image and this is being done by the hoarders and blackmarketeers. Through hoarders and blackmarketeers it is being planned to increase the prices of the poor. This artificial scarcity is being created under a conspiracy. I would like to know as to who are encouraging blackmarketeers and hoarders. Some people are trying to shield them.

There has been a considerable price hike in four or five States due to hoarding and black marketing though the States are already vested with powers to check such things provided we have the determination to do so and at the same time we are in the Government at the Centre. It is evident from the price-hike of the food grains in four or five States such as Delhi, Gujarat, Maharashtra and Rajasthan. That the concerned Government in the States had failed to fulfill their responsibilities. Hoarding and black marketing were encouraged and patronised in these State in one way or the other and that is why today efforts are being made to malign the United Front Government in the name of these mishappenings.

SHRI JAI PRAKASH (Hissar) : The Government in Delhi is ruled by your party.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV : Mr. Chairman Sir, the Government is ours but you are controlling it. You and we all are in the Delhi Government.

SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA (Udhampur) : You can compare the price of wheat being sold in Bihar and Calcutta. You have mentioned about four Governments ...*(Interruptions)* You are giving a wrong statement.

MR. CHAIRMAN : It is alright, you may speak he is speaking all that he knows.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV : I am saying confidently that you would not find the price hike in any other State which these four-five States have witnessed. They might have faced hardships. I had already said that we would have to consider these issues above politics only then, every common man of Hindustan. Can be benefitted.

SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA : Did the Central Government ever consulted these four States while permitting for exporting and sale of wheat in the black market?

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV : Honourable Minister had explained his views on the very first day and you will try to oppose the Minister when he will give his statement. Mr. Chairman Sir, I would like urge through you that Honourable Minister has categorically mentioned that the price hike, particularly the price hike of wheat was only due to its low production. Production of wheat was amounted to 31 lakh tons and less than 41 lakh ton was realised through the farmers. Then naturally production would be less and there would be shortage of it in the market. Even then the Government had put its efforts at every possible level to provide sufficient quantity of wheat, rice and sugar to the States. Honourable Minister had mentioned in his statement that many states did not lift the ration allocated to them then in such a situation it would certainly result into scarcity. Therefore there is a need to consider all these things.

Mr. Chairman Sir, we provide ration to the poor people through the public distribution system. But there is a need to have a check on the corruption prevailing in Fair Price Shops under public distribution system. We all come from common background and we are one among the common people. We also avail the ration facility being provided through the public distribution system. But large number of bogus units are being maintained by every shopkeeper. There are 30-40 percent bogus units in every state, until any action is taken to do away this bogus unit system we cannot hope for betterment.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You have been given 10 minutes to speak. There are many members and they would be given 10 minutes each to speak.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV : Sir, I have started my speech just now. I have to speak a lot. Therefore I humbly request you to kindly give me some more time to present my points.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You will have to conclude your speech in 10 minutes. We do not have unlimited time. You please conclude your speech.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV : I would like to say that stern action should be taken against the bogus ration card holders and let the honourable Minister please order an enquiry in such cases so as to have a check on bogus ration cards. If we fail to take such steps, the foodgrains would not reach the poor people at all...*(Interruptions)*

I would like to urge through you that on one hand our Government had provided wheat to the small traders, small flour mill operators, small dealers because they are all small traders at the lower level and on the other hand, had a check on the big traders who were earning profit in illegal manner by hoarding the items. Our Government had put a check on these things which resulted into massive protest. Earlier the big traders were provided unlimited foodgrains now the Government had stopped it and I would like to thank the Government and the honourable Minister for this action. Previously, there was no hoarding and any trader was free to stock any amount of foodgrains but in order to prevent hoarding of foodgrains certain limit was prescribed for it during 1993. Now our honourable Minister had taken many steps and I think hoarding would be eliminated completely as a result thereof and it will yield very good results. Apart from this the Government would conduct hoarders and blackmarketeters and would make arrangements for supply of foodgrains to the poor people.

The time is short but cannot help saying that it is unprecedented incident in our history when a Minister had himself offered any agency such as C.B.I. to take action to prevent corruption in his department. It is for the first time in history that we witnessing are such an incident and we give the whole credit for this to honourable Minister. It is evident from this fact that our United Front Government is committed to check the corruption at all cost so as to ensure the supply of essential food items to the poor people including slum dwellers and labourers working in the fields - it is the intention of our Government and I think that it would prove to be helpful in bringing down and control the prices in future. Besides the Government would ensure maximum relief to the poor people who are about 70 percent of our population. With these few words regarding the steps taken by our Minister and as well as the Government I would request all the Chief Ministers to co-operate with our Government so as to check the hoarding of foodgrains and help in providing all the food items to the common person. With these words I thank the honourable Minister and the Government.

SHRI AMAR PAL SINGH (Meerut) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, there are many reasons for price hike in our country but the Government's policy is one of the main reason for it. Now I give an example before you where ban on transportation of agricultural products and the products of agriculture based on industries in our country has been lifted only in record. The Government have given assurance several times in the House that there is

complete freedom for transportation of agricultural products in the whole country but in fact on the borders of every state collections are being made in the name of business tax, Mandi parished and at some places as sales tax. In order to bring parity regarding the prices of every agricultural product as well as products of agro-based industries all the barriers at the State borders should necessarily be removed.

Mr. Chairman Sir, the State Governments have set up these barriers for the collection of taxes. Were the State Governments not collecting these taxes before 1974. Excluding Jammu and Kashmir there was no barrier on any State border. This is why today basmati rice which is being sold at the rate of 25 rupees to 30 rupees per kilogram in the whole country but in Bangalore basmati rice is being sold @ of Rs. 50 to 55 per kilogram.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Amarpalji you are not supposed to read out but instead you are expected to speak.

SHRI AMAR PAL SINGH : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am not reading out anything. I am just looking for some points. As far as the hike in the price of wheat is concerned even today wheat does not lost more than 600 rupees per quintal in Etah and Mainpuri but in Delhi it costs 1000 rupees per quintal. There are several other reasons for the hike in the price of wheat, because of its low production the farmers do not have wheat to sell. Besides wheat is either stored in the godowns of F.C.I. or lying in the godowns of mega traders. The Government's policy is responsible for the lack of wheat with the farmers.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the sugarcane mills had started crushing of sugarcane from the first week of October for the year 1994-95. And as a result thereof the sugarcane growers after cutting off the sugarcane from the fields have sown wheat at large scale. The Minister of Food had offered a relief programme for entire sugar mills of country commencing the crushing of sugarcane at the earliest. Levy sugar will not be taken from the mills in October and November who will start the crushing of sugarcane in the first week of October. Because sugar is less extracted from sugarcane during this period. That is why during this year there has been a record production of wheat worth 65.5 million metric tonne. But in 1995-96 the Food Ministry remained indifferent to it and did not implement this relief scheme. Due to this, the production of wheat in 1995-96 as compared to 1994-95 went down instead of increasing and the sugarcane farmers had to faced distress on account of financial loss. Because in this season sugar mills started crushing in the last week of October or in the first week of November.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, this time during 1996-97 the Government did not make any provision for relief plan in the beginning of the sugarcane season. Due to this and the arbitrary acts of mill owners, mills started functioning in the last week of November. This year sugarcane farmers could not sow the wheat at all.

Therefore, in the coming year of 1996-97 there is a great likelihood of fall in the production of wheat in the open market. So far as sugar is concerned, in 1994-95 the rate of sugar in the open market was 20 rupees per kilogram as a result of which this year sugar had to be imported. This time the rate of sugar in the open market is 12 to 13 rupees per kilo because during the year of 1995-96 there was a record production of sugar. But during this year the farmer of sugar has faced many economic hardships. They have not received even the last year's arrear. Barring this year, in 1997-98 the sugar may again be sold at 20 rupees per kilogram.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Amar Pal Singh ji, this is not the proper way of reading out papers in the House. You hand over the written paper to the Minister. He will give the reply to it.

SHRI AMAR PAL SINGH : No, Mr. Chairman Sir, I am not reading it out. I am just quoting the main points written in it.

This year farmers are not getting even the price fixed by the Government and in connivance with the Union and the State Governments, the mill owners have approached the High Court with an intention to deny payment of sugarcane price to the farmers. If the Government wants to stop the arbitrariness of mill owners and really wants to benefit the sugarcane growers, the Government of India should immediately allow the small khandsari units to set up vacuum Pan so that their recovery should increase from six percent to nine percent and a small unit may crush sugarcane upto five thousand quintal per day. These small units should be exempted from license and levy sugar. Barring this year i.e. 1997-98 if the condition of Sugarcane farmers do not improve, sugar prices may shoot upto 20 rupees per kilo.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, this is an irony that is our country whenever the farmers want to increase their production, they have to face financial loss instead of getting any encouragement. Because of the policy of our Government, such a plight of the farmers take place. If farmers produce potato too much, its price goes down considerably. The same thing happens with the farmers while increasing the production of cotton and Union. If the farmers produce too much of quantity of paddy, the purchasing agencies of the Government exploit the farmers.

Instead of purchasing it from farmers, purchasing of agencies the Government starts purchasing paddy from the middlemen and the farmers of paddy get exploited by them. I would like to say when the farmers increase their production in a particular year the Government should come forward to give protection to prevent them from any sort of loss.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You please conclude now.

SHRI AMAR PAL SINGH : Two minutes more is left for me to finish. The farmers of this country is not only

capable of meeting the demands of 100 crores of people of this country but at the same time it can also cater to the requirements of 30% of the world's population. India's farmers will be of great help in increasing export and earning foreign exchange reserve. I want to know from the Government regarding the price rise of pulses. Now, in the open market pulse is selling from 25 to 30 rupees per killo, which is the only source of protein for our vegetarian people so what is the justification for giving 840 rupees per quintal as the minimum support price for pulses to the farmers? If the Government increases the support price from 840 rupees to 1100 rupees per quintal, this will not only make the country self-sufficient in regard to pulses but of the same time consumers will get the pulse at rupees 15 per kilo instead of rupees of 30 per killo.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You have already taken 12 minutes.

SHRI AMAR PAL SINGH : I have got a point. I will speak for two minute more.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You are raising so many points. You have not repeated any point. The points which you have got to raise you may hand them over to Minister Sahab.

SHRI AMAR PAL SINGH (Meerut) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am the third Member speaking on behalf of my party. You should give me time keeping in the view the time allotted to my party.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The others from your party have still to speak. Whatever you have to speak, please finish quickly.

SHRI AMAR PAL SINGH : I would like to put two examples of government policies before you and the House which have led to the downfall of cottage industries. Some years back, there was a shortage of papers in the country but new paper mills in the country were started and the shortfall of papers was compensated by it. This year the Government of India relaxed the import duty on it from 20 percent to 10 percent. Because of this a crisis has arisen for the domestic paper industry. The bagasse of cane farmers which used to be purchased by the paper industry at 80 rupees per quintal has gone down to 30 rupees per quintal. These paper mills are on the verge of closure. If the Government does not increase the import duty on paper immediately, in the coming years paper industry may go to ruins, which may again lead to shortage of paper in the country.

The second example is that of a factory of synthetic rubber and chemical factory running in Bareilly. 'Butadien' and 'Stairyn' is used in its production. The Government has allowed its import. This factory is importing 'Butadien' and 'Stairyn' from Hong-Kong, Singapore and South Korea. But 'Butadien' and 'Stairyn' can be produced in the country itself. For the use of this factory, in place of 'Butadien' and 'Stairyn', three lakh litres of

alcohol would be required per day. If the Government stops the import of 'Butadien' and 'Stairyn' then the problem of molasses of sugar industry, the molasses which is not being sold in the market, that will be solved because alcohol is made from the molasses. This will benefit farmers.

SHRI JAI PRAKASH : Mr. Chairman Sir, because of the increasing price rise the whole country is concerned, and we are equally concerned about it. The Minister has said in his statement that production is low. We all agree with this that if the production is low, there will be price-rise. But who is responsible for this? This is also a responsibility of the Government. Today the National Front Government says that they are doing many things for the farmers, they are doing many things for *dalits* and the down trodden. In order to increase the production of the farmers, I would not be able to ask this question because it is not related with the food supplies Ministry. But why there has been a price-rise, this is related with the Ministry of agriculture. When the farmers of this country were sowing paddy, sowing sugarcane, I know that DAP fertilizers were not made available to Punjab, Haryana, Western Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan, by the Union Government.

Now, we talk about wheat. I live in Haryana. I know that the production of wheat has been higher as compared to the past. Why has there been shortfall? F.C.I. is responsible for shortfall. It does not procure wheat from Haryana and Punjab before 20th April. During this period crop of the farmer comes in the market and traders purchase it. Is it not wrong on the part of the Government? When F.C.I. has to purchase it, central agency has to do it, so why they do not purchase it on time. I would hold F.C.I. responsible for this. I would like to request Hon'ble Minister, as he was saying that he would get F.C.I. investigated by the C.B.I. otherwise, during the last five years only C.B.I., politicians and bureaucrats used to be viewed on televisions and heard on radio now here also they have stated to come I would like to request the hon'ble Minister that by coordinating with the agricultural ministry the Government should undertake a number of measures to increase the production of farmers, so that production should go up and the consumer of the country should get enough foodgrains, enough pulses.

Wheat was purchased from farmers at the rate of 300 rupees per quintal and today flour is selling at 1200 rupees per quintal in the market. Who are responsible for this? This is said that State Governments are responsible for this. I would like to ask from Ram Kripaljee only one thing. Is there inflation in Bombay, Delhi, Rajasthan, Ahmedabad or other States of the country? The Government should not shirk of its responsibility. The Chief Minister of Haryana Chaudhari Bansi Lal had written a letter to the Food and Civil Supply Minister three months ago that crores of rupee of wheat in Haryana is being usurped through FCI. Today sugar worth of millions of rupee sugar has

accumulated in sugar Mills of Haryana. The Chief Minister of Haryana has written to the Union Government several times that either it should take all sugar or allow the State Government to sell it in the open market. About Rs. 10 crore of farmers is due against sugar mills. but the Prime Minister is saying that if State Government does not pay the price of sugarcane then the Union Government will make some arrangements for this. But I want to say to the Minister that several months have passed since second season began but sugar has not been procured by the Central Govt. That's why there is increase in the rates of sugar. Public Distribution System is totally defective. Today what is the condition of sugarcane in U.P.? The farmers of Uttar Pradesh sell his sugarcane at different rates varying from Rs. 30-35 to 50 per quintal.

Now I come on cotton. Today in Haryana the condition of cotton is very bad. The officials of Cotton Corporation daily go and meet the mill owners and that is why the farmers' cotton is not being procured due to nexus of officers and mill owners.

Today the cotton is being looted from farmers by paying them Rs. 900 to 1100 per quintal. Look the cloth its prices are going up day by day. Is it the responsibility of opposition or the the responsibility of those States where there are Governments of Bhartiya Janata Party or Haryana Vikas Party? Today farmers are crying in Haryana. Farmers' cotton is not being procured, it is looted. Central Govt. is not ready to procure its responsibility. At least the Central Government should have done it in time. Cotton is in excess and it should be exported so that farmers are paid reasonable prices. Our colleague Mr. Ram Kripal was saying that Central Government does not own this responsibility. If Centre Govt. had done anything good in time then I must have supported her. We must have been grateful to the Centre Government if it had taken action on the letter of the Chief Minister of Haryana. If the Regional Manager of FCI had been put in check then it must have been a good step. One person was given only 5-6 thousand bags while others were given 200 bags. They hoarded the foodgrain and exported it to foreign countries while it was to be distributed among public. Is Centre Government not responsible for this?

It has been said regarding F.C.I. that they will make a C.B.I. enquiry. I welcome this. But I desire that cotton should be purchased in Haryana and the sugar which is stored there worth of crores of rupees, should be procured from there by Central Government, other-wise allow the State Government to procure up and sell it at market rates.

Lastly, I would say one thing more, this argument of Govt. or Opposition will not do that the Government has done a good job. I am not stood up to criticise the Govt. The Government claims to be sympathiser of farmers. Had it been so. There would have been timely supply of urea, DAP, timely availability of loans from co-

operative societies and subsidy on tractors would have been ensured. Take the case of pesticide. Wheat has been sown in my area and pesticides are sprinkled to control weed. Sprinkling of pesticides costs one thousand rupees per acre, still that remains ineffective. We have written several times to the Agriculture Minister that such factories and pesticides should be brought under control. If there is more weed, there will be less wheat leading to price rise. What is the condition of pulses, what is the condition of onion. Potato crop has been harvested in my area. Fresh crop is available in the market. But the farmers sell their potato crop in the market at a price per quintal which is equal to the price of per kilo gram in Delhi. I think the Government should have control over distribution of all these things. You have adopted such an attitude that in Haryana there is the Government of opposition party which is not an ally of United Front. Therefore, you did not give permission to sell sugar there. There was no timely procurement of paddy and wheat. You summon the record and see that Basmati paddy was purchased from Haryana at a price of Rs. 1200/- per quintal only. And when we go to buy it after its process in a factory we have to pay Rs. 50/- for one kilo gram. Still there is time, you can have control over this situation. If you revamp distribution system much can be done. In this regard you have permitted the State Government now. Had this permission come early, the State Government would have extended its cooperation. This Govt. has conspired to weaken the farmers' economically. I would say this an anti-farmer Govt. They are relying upon external forces which are sagging the small scale industry of our country in the name of multinationals. My friend Ram Kripal Singh ji is laughing. I feel anguished when he says that multinationals will do good to this country.

I would like to submit one more point and conclude. Don't make it a party issue, make it a national issue. The Minister should not hide the facts and should not discriminate between the State Governments. An argument is advanced, that there is no ration in Delhi and no railway wagons are available. If there are no railway wagons will you not transport foodgrains by truck. Don't take such steps as it will harm the public. Be it the Govt. of Delhi, Govts of Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Haryana, Bihar or Gujarat, the supply is not being made.

Lastly, I express my gratitude for granting the time for speaking. I also convey my thanks to the Minister for ordering a CBI enquiry. But we demand that from MD to SRM all officers should be put under investigation and the report of CBI should be laid on the table of the House. So that we come to know what enquiry has been conducted by CBI.

[English]

SHRI SUBRATA MUKHERJEE (Raiganj) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, it is needless to mention that all the essential commodities, including foodgrains, have shown an unparalleled increase in prices during the

last few months. When this Government came to power, it announced a Common Minimum Programme and according to that programme it was assured that the Public Distribution System will be strengthened to meet the twin objective: that is the price stability and to make available the essential items to the poor and downtrodden people. All these controls are the essential factors.

The Association of Chamber of Commerce and Industry, which is represented by big business magnets of our country, has expressed a view that this year is likely to end with a lower rate of export and industrial growth in comparison to the last year. In 1995-96 the trade deficit was 4.5 million US Dollars and it is expected to be 6.7 million US Dollars this year. The price stability cannot be ensured without taking into account this gloomy economic picture of our country. As accepted by our hon. Minister of Food and Civil Supplies, the wholesale price index of wheat...

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mr. Mukherjee, you should not read.

SHRI SUBRATA MUKHERJEE : I am not reading, Sir. I am just taking the help of data which was supplied by our Minister today.

According to him, the wholesale price index of wheat was 268.5, which went up to 332.2 in October, 1996. He has also accepted the increase in the price index of rice which was about 10.3 per cent.

19.00 hrs.

It is no doubt, a gloomy picture so far as production of wheat is concerned. The rise in the price of wheat depends on the level of production. Production this year is somewhat less. Wheat production last year was 653 lakh tonnes but in 1995-96, it had come down to 622 lakh tonnes. This low production is an important factor but this alone cannot be the cause for rise in the price of wheat. The Government has failed to procure the requisite quantities of wheat for the Public Distribution System. Last year the procurement was 31 lakh tonnes but this year the Government has failed to procure that quantity. But that alone cannot be the cause for rise in the price of wheat. The price of wheat has gone up from Rs. 750 per quintal to Rs. 1000 per quintal. The low procurement did directly hit the toiling masses and the downtrodden people of our country as the public distribution system had failed as a result of this.

Our good friend hon. Shri Shivraj V. Patil give very important suggestions to restrict the prices of essential commodities. I associate myself with most of his suggestions such as cooperation between the different wings of Government. But I cannot associate myself with his concept of the New Economic Policy. It is completely different from just making use of the modern technology. We are not at all against modern technology but we are definitely against importing of all essential

commodities from outside the country in the name of modern technology. We should be ashamed of the fact that after 50 years of our Independence we depend upon imports of water. Are soft drinks of the standard of Coca Cola and Pepsi not produced within our country? Are we not capable of producing soft drinks in our country? We are capable of it but the policy which the Government had adopted forced us to close this type of small scale industries.

In conclusion I would like to say that price stability cannot be determined in isolation of macroeconomic conditions which include debt burden, rate of interest on the debt, exchange rate of rupee, fiscal deficit etc.

It is high time that the Government reviewed the New Economic Policy again, which was adopted by the previous Government. Otherwise, there shall be no stability in the price index and the Government shall not be able to fulfil the assurances given to the people when they came to power.

MR. CHAIRMAN (SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA) : Shri Mohammad Ali Ashraf Fatmi. Please take two minutes only.

SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI (Darbhanga) : Maybe, I am the last speaker, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN : No. There are a number of speakers like Shri Nirmal Kanti Chatterjee, Shri Laxman Singh and others.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI : Mr. Chairman, I would try to have my say within few minutes so that you don't have to ring the bell. We are discussing a very important issue in this House and the whole country is watching us. The need of the hour is that we should rise above the party lines. Its a matter of deep sorrow that our friends from Lok Dal have levelled a direct allegation on United Front Govt. of being anti-farmer, anti-poor and anti-rural. He said all this in single sentence. I would like to say that progress of Indian villages, farmers is the firm determination of this govt. We will give to poors their due share because social justice is the basic element of this Government. It is on this basis, we think about our country and society ... (Interruptions)

In this budget the Government has done whatever was possible within their limits for construction of houses under Indira Awas Yoz' a, access to water, reducing prices of fertilizers and offering subsidy on tractors. He was just now saying that the Minister and the Government did not pay attention otherwise we could have a bumper wheat crop. Devender ji is the present Minister... (Interruptions)

SHRI JAI PRAKASH : Fifty four rupees for paddy not for wheat... (Interruptions)

SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI : We have had a good paddy crop. You can discuss this issue with

the agriculture Minister. The Government of India is not to be blamed for the present complex scenario. Last year we had a poor crop. Many Members have limited here less procurement when the availability is less procurement is bound to be less. Some of the Members accused that edible items were exported, even wheat was exported. I would like to know why the honourable members clap here loudly when the hon. Minister while standing here says that we have stock of foodgrains sufficient enough to export. Today, Basmati rice is on the top position among the commodities being exported from India...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI JAI PRAKASH : But it has become very costly...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI : The commodities being exported by India at a large scale are produced by the farmers be it pulses, onion, rice, sugar, cotton, cloths or other agricultural products. Today, these commodities are being demanded by the entire world. The farmers of our country work hard throughout the year and earn wealth for the country. When there is a shortage of any commodity then it is said that export has been reduced. Before taking up export one plan in regard to the quantity of export to be done. Thus international agreements are signed and the things are exported in accordance with the agreement ...*(Interruptions)* You are a farmer but we including the hon'ble Minister are small farmers. We are not big farmers like you. When a farmer is able to produce a crop more than his requirement during a certain year, he thinks it better not to produce that particular crop in the next year which leads to shortage of that produce in that year for which farmers should not be held responsible. A farmer toils hard. The farmers may produce more crop this year. We may have surplus yield of wheat next year and hon'ble Minister will announce it in the House. You may make such announcements in Haryana.

After all, where the point lies? Now discussion is going on essential commodities. The most important issue is about the prices of wheat. Where are the wheat and flour being sold in the market at a high rates? Shri Ram Kripal ji has rightly said that why flour is being sold at a high rate only in some cities like Delhi, Mumbai and Jaipur. Ram Kripal ji had not made any mention about Haryana. You were getting angry for nothing.

SHRI JAI PRAKASH : Why the flour is not available in Bihar at low rates?

SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI : After all, why flour is being sold at high rates in these States? As our colleague has said that the only reason for that is mismanagement of P.D.S. I urge upon the hon'ble paper in this regard. It should be made clear in that paper that which of the states had demanded wheat from F.C.I. and why wheat was not released to those states or why those states did not accepted it. Though, I did not want to speak but I would like to say that all this is happening

with the connivance of some states. That is why wheat is being sold at higher rates in Mumbai, Delhi and Jaipur. The hon'ble Minister should give clarification in this regard. Whether the Governments of Delhi, Maharashtra and Rajasthan had asked you to release wheat to them? If they had demanded it why you did not release? If you had released then where it has been consumed? I would like to know as to whether they had demanded wheat or not? The hon'ble Minister should also clarify it. There is no need to go into the details in this regard. Here I would like to utter a couplet of Urdu which you might have heard of :

"Phal Safi Ka Bahas Ke Andar Khuda Milta Nahin
Kor ke Suljha Raha Hai Sira Milta Nahin".

Please do not try to complicate it. Due to less production, wheat was purchased in less quantity. As per the stock available with the FCI wheat was made available to PDS in various states or not. It is necessary to ensure whether wheat can be made available to those states where there is a shortage of it or not.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I will take one or two minutes more. The matter had been referred to the Supreme Court yesterday and the Governemnt has to reply. Without taking more time, I would like to make a submission to my colleagues that our Minister of Food hail from village and he is very much concerned about the poor people of the country and he has not been able to take a sound sleep for the last one month. He was aware of the situation that is why, he has taken precautionary measures. Therefore, stern action should be taken against the hoarders. The Government can prosecute those people who are creating terror. But he should make an effor to make essential commodities available in the market and in PDS shops. Besides this, it should disclose the political reasons if any, in this regard.

SHRI RAMASHRAYA PRASAD SINGH (Jahanabad) : Mr. Chairman Sir, discussion is going on in this House on the issue of price rise for the last several days and I was listening it seriously. The main point is to solve this national problem and not to see who is in favour and who is against this. Not only ruling party but oposition is also affected due to this. If the causes of price rise are ascertained then only proper suggestions can be given to the Government. According to me the main reason of this is non-existance of any national food policy. By setting up of Food Corporation of India the Government has taken it granted that a national food policy has been formulated. The hon'ble Minister has said that the Government are conducting an investigation in respect of Food Corporation of India and if the said investigation is carried out properly, I think several people will be imprisoned. We have observed that prices have gone up due to policies of this Government. During the procurement seasons of wheat and rice the same is not procured and it is grabed by the traders in the open market. I have also raised a point in this House that much more amount has been

spent on destroying the permal rice that the amount spent on purchasing it. All this happened due to Food Corporation of India. There are so many reasons for price hike. It is said that there is paucity of funds for procurement and if it is true than how we have declared green revolution in our country. What was the outcome thereof? Once upon a time the slogan 'Jai Jawan, Jai Kissan' was raised but what are the facilities provided to the farmers? Target for more production was fixed for the farmers and they achieved the said target but now we have to think the extent upto which production should be increased? Our agricultural production is not increasing in proportion to our population. We can not increase area of our agricultural land. We can provide sufficient food to rapidly increasing population only by enhancing agricultural production. It is necessary to ponder over the increasing population. This is not a matter of one day only. We have been witnessing for the several years that only discussion is held in this House on price rise. We merely talks but no concrete suggestions are given to check the price rise. The traders taking loans from the banks is in fact public money and they hoard foodgrains with that money and they sell the foodgrain on much higher rates. The loans should not be extended to such traders. They should be tried on charges of sedition.

One thing is that we have not been able to increase agricultural production. One of its reason is that we have not been able to complete land consolidation. Unless land consolidation is completed we will not be able to produce sufficient foodgrains. Mr. Chairman Sir, land consolidation has been completed in Bengal as a result of which production has increased there. We can not claims that we have produced sufficient foodgrain there but it is fact that production has increased. If consolidation is completed all over the country we may produce sufficient foograins and we can keep the prices under control. We can deal with the artificial price rise created by these traders. One day while replying to a question Shri Chaturanan Mishra said that electricity was not available to the farmers on asking about irrigation he gave the same reply. Had the due attention been paid in time towards the problems of farmers the situation would not have been so bad. Agriculture has always been neglected. 70 percent population of the country depend upon agriculture. As per an official report if one acre of land is provided with irrigation facilities atleast hundred people can be engaged for one year. If we develop agriculture sector and use rivers and revolutes which are natural resources, we can increase our agricultural production but we have not been able to do so. If we go to the Ministry of agriculture they refer us to contact irrigation Department. And when irrigation Department is contacted they further evade the responsibility on the electricity Department. All these three Departments should be under one Minister, as all relates to agriculture. If these Departments function separately, how we would be able to develop our

agriculture sector. What is actually happening is that new Departments are being created by splitting Ministries to accommodate new Ministers. Though we can achieve our objectives with less number of Ministers but on the contrary we are increasing their numbers continuously. The Last point is that corruption has crept in our social life which is also one of the reason for growing price rise. It is said that this House is supreme. It should also be seen as to whether politics encourages corruption. We can check price rise only if political corruption is checked. But those who resort to hoarding they are subject of discussion here. I just want to say that it's not a fault of our Hon. Minister Sh. Devendraji. But we also know that if the coming time would be such, who would be held guilty for this, minister would be held guilty, Government would be held guilty instead of those opposing it. See, buttressing is all the more harmful, particularly when we have to govern the country. I'll say that we must be careful against these things because there are people who are there to defame the Government, but these people have no powers and hence ineffective. With there words, I conclude.

SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH (Rajgarh) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, thanks for giving me a chance to speak. I will be very bnief. Sir, the prices of foodgrain have not been rised automatically but have been increased in a planned manner, and there are certain forces in the country which cannot see a son of a farmer as Prime Minister and I will say to Shri Devendra Bhai to be careful of such forces and make strict laws. I will cite a example - Madhya Pradesh Government has recently made a law to detain hoarders and black marketeers under National Security Act. I am of the view that if you make a law to this effect in the country, hoardus and blackmarketeers cannot deceive you in this way. Apart from this, there are so many things. We have to see that behind this shortage of foodgrains, behind low production in agricultural produce, there are certain reasons and the increase in prices has been due to the gap between demand and agricultural production. There are many reasons of decrease in agricultural production and it is very necessary to look into there. Wasteland is one of the reasons. We have not been able to develop wasteland. Lakhs of acres of land in our country is lying as wasteland. Due to our inability to develop this land, our agricultural production is not increasing. Our colleague from Shiv Sena was yesterday speaking about watershed management. We should irrigate wasteland also, and should have more arrangements for irrigation. But I am afraid to see the behaviour to Maharashtra Government against the person who sacrificed his life for watershed management. I am talking about Shri Anna Hazare. The work done by this person on watershed management at Reale village is an example and we want not one, but thousands of Anna Hazares in our country so that we are able to develop wasteland. I ask my brother from Shiv Sena that he himself says to his Government that such a greatman should be

honoured and not victimised. Apart from it thousands of acres of land at sea shores in our country, due to absence of sea-wall, does not remain worthy of agriculture. In Madhya Pradesh lakhs of acres of cultivable land turned into raviness due to flood in Chambal river every year. Tal in Bihar and Kanpur in Uttar Pradesh and all the other areas on the banks of Chambal river are turned into ravines and agricultural land is decreasing day by day. Though this subject is not related to your Ministry but you should co-ordinate with Agriculture Department as this is related to the production. Besides, we have to pay more attention on research work to increase agricultural production. One of our agricultural analyst Mr. M. Ray, has given very good suggestions, I do not want to read them all. In the Ninth Five Year Plan Standing Committee on Agriculture has recommended that we should spend one percent of agricultural gross domestic product on research work. If we do not pay attention on research work then our production will not increase. For example we take pulses. The genetic production of pulses has been around 14 millions per year since the last 30 years. We couldn't increase the production of pulses more than five and a half quintals per hectare. This is very important issue so we should pay attention towards it. In the same way we have started paying attention on tissue culture. I want that taking the advantage of our policy of liberalisation we should invite persons from other countries to promote tissue culture. Thus, we shall be able to compensate our farmers by tissue culture who get substandard seeds.

Without taking much time, I want to raise some problems of Madhya Pradesh. Recently there were food-riots in Madhya Pradesh, which is very sad incident. Since a long time we had been demanding that quota of foodgrains for Madhya Pradesh should be increased because condition is getting worse there. We have been allotted a quota of 44,000 MT, our demand is that it should be increased upto 54,000 MT. You know that remote villages of Madhya Pradesh are tribal dominated areas and in Chhatisgarh region the people mostly consume rice. So I would like to say that the quota of rice fixed at 48,000 MT, should be increased to the tune of 60,000 MT. The quota of sugar should be increased from 28,127 MT to 35,000 MT. At present the quota of Kerosene is 42,378 ML and it should be increased upto 46,000 ML as Madhya Pradesh is a backward and poor state. When allocation of these items is increased then definitely situation will be improved.

I want to say one more thing about the prices of sugar. We have sufficient stock of sugar in our country. Recently when I met the Secretary of the Ministry, he also told me that there is sufficient stock of sugar in the country but its prices are not coming down. When this Government took the charge, you have talked about introduction of de-licencing policy to increase production of sugar. If you de-licence the sugar mills, then whosoever wants to establish sugarmills, can do so and thus you can control the prices of Sugar. In my

constituency in Madhya Pradesh, one sugar factory is to be established in co-operative-sector and I have met you many times in this regard. Besides, in our Narbada Command Area and in Tava Command Area atleast 30 more sugarmills can be established provided the Government grant permission in this regard. I understand that by increasing the production of sugar its prices can be controlled. There are so many places in the country where sugar-mills could not be established because of non-availability of licences.

I would like to say that the Government should pay attention towards it and we all must make efforts to Control the prices of essential commodities.

Once again I would like to say that the Government should remain alert against that conspiracy as there are so many persons who will encourage hoarding and they will do it in future also. If you could control these soaring prices then it will be your success and if you couldn't then it will be your failure. We wish for your success. Mr. Chairman, Sir, with these words, once again, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak.

SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA : Mr. Chairman, Sir, by discussing this subject, we are really respect the feelings of the crores of people but this can only be fulfilled when we shall be able to give them some relief otherwise there is no use to do this mental exercise with no any result.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, we want that the Hon'ble Minister should take up some definite steps so that an ordinary man gets some relief. I would like to draw your attention towards this point it has been repeatedly said that the production of grains has declined hence prices have risen which is not correct. I have a document "Indian Economy Today" which we got in the last session and I would like to present it here what has been mentioned therein :

[English]

"The Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy expect the *kharif* foodgrains production to reach 103.6 million tonnes in 1996-97 This is higher by six million tonnes, compared to 97.7 million tonnes produced in 1995-96. Similarly, production of *rabi* foodgrains is also expected to be higher at 92.7 million tonnes during 1996-97, compared to estimated production of 87.3 million tonnes in 1995-96. The total production of foodgrains during 1996-97 is estimated to be higher by 11 million tonnes at 196.3 million tonnes, against 185 million tonnes produced in 1995-96. This implies an increase of 6.2 per cent over 1995-96."

[Translation]

Mr. Chairman, Sir, it had been mentioned therein that the production of foodgrain will be increased by 11

million tonnes there is an increase of only three million tonnes. I do not understand that production of foodgrains does not decline in only a day. We came to know about position of production of foodgrain and weather six months ago. In spite of that we have exported foodgrain. What is reaction of the Government in this regard. When production of foodgrains is declining than, we are exporting foodgrains. I do understand that there is a feeling in the country that we have exported foodgrains and we have get a very little stock of wheat. Due to these reasons the prices of wheat have been shooting up. The Hon'ble Minister has said that we have sufficient stocks. I want that if the Government is working here...

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : I have just said that we had sufficient stock of foodgrains for P.D.S. Programme and R.P.D.S. and welfare schemes but when we have been supplying 11-12 lakh tonnes of foodgrains in the open market during the last several years, but this year only three four, five and now six lakh tonnes of foodgrains per month have been supplied. Thus we are supplying six lakh tonnes less quantity of wheat in comparison to the last year and due to this the wheat price is increasing. So far as the Public Distribution System and other system are concerned, we have enough stock of wheat.

SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I also want to draw the attention of Hon'ble Minister that the hoarders and businessmen take benefit of such situation. The Government do not keep things under control timely and create such an impression that there is shortage of foodgrains in the country and as a result thereof the prices of foodgrains are very high. You also know that 'Dal-Roti' or 'Chawal-roti' are staple diet of common man. Today in our country 56 percent people are earning only Rs. 10 per day. How a person who is earning Rs. 10 per day can feed his family when price of pulses is Rs. 40 per kg. and Atta Rs. 12 per kg? This issue is being discussed here and a lot of suggestions have been given that we should increase production. Somebody has said that we should care about our farmer's interests. But the main question is that how the poorest people will get foodgrains. I think the Hon'ble Minister will think over it seriously.

The Public Distribution System should be reorganised. I don't want to take much time. At present I want to draw his attention towards my area. Luckily he has visited my area, he has gone to Doda. Even today there are many places where sheep and goats carry load for 100 kms though they can carry only 4 kgs. You can very well imagine, that is there hilly regions which will include our border areas like ward one, Dakshin, Janskar, Kargil and Leh. In these areas, there is an acute shortage of ration and in the coming time I think that there will be a lot of problems. I would like to draw your attention towards it, that in the last session on 17th

July, I had raised a question. In reply to that question, you had said that in Srinagar and in Kashmir valley 5514 tonnes of foodgrains were destroyed. You had also said that you would conduct an inquiry into it. I do not know whether you conducted an inquiry or not till today. I would request you that you must conduct an inquiry into it.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, we provide eight kilograms of rice and three kilograms of wheat to every person in the Kashmir valley while the situation is reverse in Jammu. There we provide three killos of rice and eight killos of wheat. Your distribution system, the people of F.C.I., have done a commendable job. They have despatched eight kilograms of wheat per head to Srinagar in Kashmir. A truck charges 7600 rupees for transporting foodgrains from Jammu to Srinagar. They have despatched 3 Kilograms of rice head for that place. That ration will not be accepted and, again it will be returned. You just imagine that FCI has become such a den of scandals that with the connivance of high-ups it is indulging in such scandals.

I have a request to you that you should give your attention towards this. Not only this I would also say that our state is self-sufficient, despite this our imports are going upwards. We need have keep more ration. After all, what does happen to this large quantity of ration? Much of the ration is smuggled to Pakistan. I am drawing your attention towards these things. I hope that you would give your attention towards this end. Particularly in today's situation, so that common man gets his ration, you should make arrangement for this. The rest of the points have been raised by others. Fair price shops should be opened everywhere. Our distribution system should be set right. A farmer should be provided with fertilisers, seeds, water and electricity at a subsidized rate and at the proper time. Alongwith that the firmness with which we can suppress the hoarding, we should make sincere effort to do that. If we take these steps then I hope that the impression which we have created in the country that there is a shortage of foodgrains and so their prices are skyrocketing, we shall be able to control that.

[English]

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE (Dum Dum) : Sir, let me begin with a candid statement. I do believe that the Government, which we are supporting from outside, did not act on time. We all welcome the steps which have been proposed. But the timing should have been somewhat earlier. I now understand the difficulty of the Government.

The problem arose when we exported last year, not this year. Why did we export? There are two reasons. We have a very wrong idea that we have achieved self-sufficiency in food. It is this idea which corrodes our approach to the problem of prices very often. If there is food scarcity either in China or in India, the entire world would be in turmoil because we have to support such

a huge population. Therefore, our approach to the concept of food sufficiency within the country must be changed. I will come to some odd kind of contradictory remarks that have been made in the very rich discussion that has taken place, but this is one wrong idea that we have to give up and that will prevent us from exporting food.

The second point raised for exports was that our approach to the economic policy itself was forcing us towards exporting more and more and tragically while exporting foodgrains what we are trying to import are completely knocked down or semi-knocked down motor cars. Let the House note that the prices of our cars are not rising. Nobody is here but let me go on record. In the car market more discount is available. In fact, the prices of cars are coming down because the supply is more than the demand. I just mentioned it because it is related to rise in prices.

There is another area where the prices are plummeting. That area is called the share market. What is happening there? The tremendous amount of funds are being withdrawn from the share market. That is why the prices are going down. Where are those funds going? Those funds are going to this food market. There is a relation between these two. We have to understand it. I am extremely unhappy that in this discussion only Shri Devendra Prasad Yadav is present and not the Minister of Agriculture. The Minister of Finance and the Minister of Agriculture ought to have been present here. The population and production has already been mentioned. But in the short run, if you make an intervention in the market, you can bring down the prices. You cannot do so in the long run. When they talk about increased production, they forget that we have been increasing our production almost every year from the sixties when we were tied down to American imports via PL 400 but the prices have not come down. This is a kind of relation which we have to understand. The per capita availability of foodgrains has not declined over the years. Yet the prices are rising. This is happening in the long run. Why does it happen? We have to understand it. In the short run, had there been no delays we could have contained that. Then, you would have been forced to raise the prices of wheat or rice in the Public Distribution System. That is what has happened. So, this point has to be understood that something is wrong somewhere also which is leading to long secular rise in prices. Why are we concerned about it? It is not so because our friends cannot buy wheat at Rs. 15 per kilogram. It has to be underlined that every rise in price of foodgrains means more people below the poverty line. We have to understand that. The new Government has to understand that.

It is not to our surprise totally that we have now the statement from the Planning Commission that instead of people below the poverty line coming down over the last 15 years, they have remained at the level of 40 per cent. If a survey is made just now, we will discover that

it has gone up from 40 per cent to 50 per cent because they are not able to buy even the necessary wheat which will add that amount of calories to their body.

This is the implication for the economy as a whole for all the people who consider themselves Indians and consider themselves patriotic. This is important and that is why I started with the candid statement that the Government ought to have been such more alert than it is now.

Sir, why did I relate the share market to this? The bank credit is coming down, yet the prices of necessities are increasing. We have to find out coming down, yet the prices of necessities are increasing. We have to find out an answer. Our investment expenditure is coming down. Our purchasing power is going down because of sick industries, the Kalahandi famine and floods. Yet, the prices are rising. This is not a simplistic thing as the Shiv Sena said or somebody else said that because of population growth this is happening. Despite the population growth, the per capita availability in terms of production has increased except in one or two years. So, the explanation has to be sought elsewhere.

In the short run, we have to intervene with whatever we have got despite the fact that by exporting on the basis of a wrong idea of food sufficiency, the stocks have come down. Despite that fact, we are intervening and the results would be immediate. But that is not enough. In the long run, I think he has and some others also have very correctly mentioned that we have to increase production. Our per capita consumption of 50 gms., or whatever it may be, has to be increased even if we want to change the quality of our food. Much more foodgrains would be necessary for animal husbandry. Therefore, we have to consider as to how to increase or how to add to our production of foodgrains and not merely of cash crops.

Sir, have we done enough for our irrigation? In the last five years our addition to irrigation potential has not increased significantly. In fact, our Plan expenditure has not been fulfilled at all. I was reading the Mid-term Review also. It is an impossible situation. When we debate whether fertiliser prices should be subsidised or not, let us remind ourselves that the key to the stabilisation programme in the economy is nothing else but food sufficiency and therefore, if that requires fertiliser subsidy, that has to be given. If that requires more fertiliser production, then the closed fertiliser units have to start producing fertilisers, even at a cost because nothing is costlier than the death of Indians due to lack of food and nothing is costlier than the collapse of our economy due to shortage of food. We have to do that. It is this kind of approach which was forgotten in the course of the last five years and I believe the present Government will not forget that.

Sir, I do not want to take more time. We are approaching eight O'clock and let me conclude. I just wanted to underline these things because so many

good points have been made. But we have to grasp the fundamental point. In the short term, what the Minister is suggesting is welcome. The problem is, over the last so many years-I have calculated on the basis of 1960-61 prices the cost of living of agricultural workers has gone up by 14 times. What is happening? On the one hand, we get cars with a price tag of Rs. 22 lakh, we get a refrigerator with a price tag of Rs. one lakh and washing machine etc., at heavy prices. On the other hand, the cost of living of agricultural labourers is going up, even when the per capita availability is going up in terms of foodgrains and more and more people are going down the poverty line.

We have to handle this problem. This Government should handle this problem on the basis of a different kind of emphasis within the country in terms of irrigation, in terms of fertiliser subsidy, in terms of food subsidy and in terms of our international economic policy not being subjugated by what has been preferred for the developing countries of the world. They are imposing on us certain approaches, Unless we are able to resist it, there is no salvation excepting for a short period. I hope the present Government will move towards a reversal of the approaches of the last five years. If they can do it, people will bless them and the Government will be stable. Thank you.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY (Chhapra) : Mr. Chairman Sir, discussions have been held on every subjects here. The hon'ble Minister who is present in the House. I think his department looks after marketing. Only and has the responsibility to transport food from one place to another in the country. I want to draw your attention towards another subject. The high rate of inflation that is prevalent today in the country, when people's purchasing capacity increases it is but natural that people would like to purchase those foodgrains more which are not available in abundance. In such a situation it is not enough for the Food Minister just to be present here. Had the Finance Minister been here, he would have naturally thought over it in a better way. When the question of productivity comes up, the presence of Agriculture Minister is a must. Food Minister

would distribute foodgrains only when it is produced it. If water resources minister were present here, we might have known as how to utilise water resources in order to increase the foodgrain's production. I demand that when such an important subject is being discussed in the House, there should be coordination of all the departments. Likewise the presence of Environment Minister was Compulsory as the environment is being misused. Water level is going down, there is a shortage of water in the country, naturally this case is related with the environment. Besides this, what will be the role of Planning Commission? Planning Commission which is the apex body of departments, which coordinates all the plans of the country, guides then, should also be brought be coordinated so that rational issues may be discussed and solved properly.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : The list is exhausted and the Minister will give the reply tomorrow. Now, the Minister wants to make one small statement.

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV : Mr. Chairman Sir, as ordered by the Chair a reply will be given tomorrow but I am announcing the decision that has been taken by the Government. I want to make the House aware of this important decision taken by the Government. As has also been said by the honourable Members the production of wheat was less in the last rabi season and subsequently, the price of wheat increased in the open market. The central Government has decided to import two million tonnes or 20 lakh tonnes of wheat during the current financial year to control its price immediately.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : The House now stands adjourned to meet again on Friday, December 13, 1996.

20.00 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Friday, December 13, 1996/Agrahayana 22, 1918 (Saka).

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