

LOK SABHA DEBATES (English Version)

Second Session
(Eleventh Lok Sabha)



(Vol.IV contains Nos. 11 to 20)

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI

Price : Rs. 50.00

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(English Version)

Tuesday, August 27, 1996/Bhadra 5, 1918 (Saka)

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LOK SABHA

Tuesday, August 27, 1996/Bhadra 5, 1918 (Saka)

(The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock)

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER in the Chair]

[English]

SHRI P.C. THOMAS : Sir, we wish the Deputy Speaker as well as the House a Happy *Onam*. We are celebrating *Onam* in Kerala and we would like to be in Kerala, but we are here. Next time we would like to have a holiday for *Onam*. We wish you all a Happy *Onam*.

• SHRI NITISH BHARDWAJ : What about distributing *payasam* to the House?

SHRI P.C. THOMAS : That can be thought of.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Railway Projects

* 361. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI :
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Iranian Ambassador in India called on him on June 28, 1996 to discuss, inter alia, various railway projects underway in that country;

(b) if so, whether India has been helping Iran in improvement of the rail transport system since 1976;

(c) whether any fresh agreement between India and Iran has been signed to this effect; and

(d) if so, the extend to which India has agreed to help Iran in the development of railways?

[Translation]

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

STATEMENT

(a) The Iranian Ambassador called on the Railway Minister on 27.6.96, and discussed the various Railway projects underway in Iran.

(b) and (c). The cooperation with Iran in the Field of transport has been going on for more than two decades now. The last MOU was signed by Indian Railway Minister and Iranian Transport Minister in

August, 1994, which envisages cooperation in various rail related activities.

(d) Indian has agreed to extend all possible cooperation to Iran for development of their rail system, by way of consultancy, training, project implementation, technology upgradation etc.

SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to know from the Hon-Minister the kilometerage length of railway line land so far under the agreement signed with Iran in 1976 and what gains India and Iran have derived therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : Sir, I have had talks with Iranian Ambassador on two railway projects - one MOU was signed for 25 million US dollar signal project from Imam to Aaghay, but the Iranian Government now wants to change it from Massad to Sarakh but in length of this line is the same.

[English]

SHRI MADHUKAR SARPATDAR : The question is different. He would like to know the benefits derived by Iran and India.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : What is your question?

[Translation]

SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI : The Kilometerge length of Railways line laid by you so far under the agreement of 1976 and the benefits India and Iran have received out of it?

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : If you want to have a simple answer, then I would say nothing has been laid so far.

SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI : Nothing has been done so far since 1976?

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : No, nothing.

SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI : This is a big achievement of the railways. Sir !

My second supplementary is: you has signed an agreement for Aabdan and Mashhartoo. Is your reply to this also the same?

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : The onvs lies with Iran and not with India. India wants to do the job. We have RITES which provides consultancy service and the ERCON recentes the work. Now money is involved. I was giving details, but he said that the question was different. otherwise the need for putting this supplementary would not arise. There are two railways projects. One is of railway signal and the other of new railway line. They are from Wagh to Masad and from Karman to Zahedan. We have offered to construct there two railway lines. Iran had invited tenders for there two lines about one year ago and we had offered our tender. The estimated outlay is 700 million U.S. dollars. Now it

depend on Iran. If it gives money. We will take up the construction work and if it does not, we will not under take the job.

SHRI MUKHTAR ANIS : Is there no obstruction from your side?

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : No, Sir. No obstructions from our side.

[English]

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Sir, we are very happy that on 27th June last year, the Ambassador of Iran had called on the hon. Minister of Railways and requested him to give assistance to implement the projects in Iran. In this connection, I would like to say that in the recent Budget discussion also, virtually most of the hon. Members belonging to every State had been hammering the Railway Ministry, wanting to have new railway lines, wanting to have new bogies and all these things. But for want of money, the Railways are not able to implement them and really satisfy everybody. In fact, even after 50 years, the introduction of new lines is very insignificant. So, why do we not utilise this opportunity of Iran's showing so much interest in our country's science and technology in the field of railways? We know that Iran is a very rich country and it is one of the richest oil producing countries in the world. Is it possible for the hon. Minister to have a dialogue with them to know whether they are interested to come to our country and invest? Now, they are only taking our technological advice. Is it possible to attract the Iran Government or any other investor there, to come to our country, as a sort of privatisation, and participate in building up our railway lines and also in the manufacturing of bogies? Is it also possible to introduce the Build-Own-Lease-Transfer scheme as we have done already in the road sector? I feel that this will be very important because stagnation has come.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Mr. Reddy, please be brief.

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : They are also not able to provide full funds and given satisfaction to us all over the country.

So, I am asking the hon. Minister, (i) is it possible to utilise the participation of the Iran Government in building up our country's railways system; (ii) is it possible to invite more investors or promoters from Iran to build new railway lines in our country; and also (iii) is it possible to have, like in the road sector, Build-Own-Lease-Transfer scheme in our railways sector?

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : No, they have just offered the projects to us for execution and we are examining them. Our cooperation is so far confined to these two projects. As far as participation of private sector is concerned, we have many schemes, we have BOLT scheme and schemes and if the private sector,

whether Indian or foreign, offers to participate, the doors of the Railways are open. We want to encourage them wherever possible, keeping the interest of the country in mind.

[English]

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Sir, He has not replied as my question... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Owaisi, you have already asked two supplementary questions the third one is not allowed.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI : Sir, my question has not been replied to.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : It has come to your mind too late.

[English]

No, I am sorry. I have asked the next hon. Member to put a question.

[Translation]

SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI : What benefits the daily wagers have received out this agreement?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : No, I am sorry gentleman.

(Interruptions)

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Sir, I have asked: Is it possible for the Iran Government to help in the implementation of our projects? I have asked a specific question I would like him to reply to that. He is replying only to the question of private projects. What about the Iran Government which is a rich country in oil production? Is it possible to tap them I want a reply for that.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : Two countries are involved, not only India. The main question related to the talks held between the Iranian Ambassador and the Indian Railway Minister and the Agreement signed earlier. The point that financial assistance should be taken from Iran or it should use our technology in India was not discussed.

SHRI PAWAN DIWAN : Agitation is going on in Chhattisgarh over the demand for creation of a Bilaspur Railway Zone.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The question pertains to Iran.

SHRI PAWAN DIWAN : Various projects are being discussed.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Chhattisgarh is not in Iran, it is in India. Please sit down.

[English]

SHRI P.C. THOMAS : Sir, it is a good thing that Iran has shown some interest. We have our organisation, called RITES, which is doing very good work in the field of construction, in the field of technology and in the field of works of the Railways. I am sure that RITES is getting orders from abroad also. If we are in a position to increase the efficiency of RITES by way of giving more support financially also to the RITES, I think, they will be able to do a very good job in respect of our order from abroad which we are going to get.

I would also like to commend at this stage that with regard to some of the services undertaken by RITES...

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please ask the question.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS : Will you be prepared to give more support, especially financially and also with regard to other aspects, to RITES, our prestigious public undertaking organisation under the Railways?

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : RITES is doing commendable job and I appreciate this. We will continue to support it if it continue to work in this manner.

SHRI TARIQ ANWAR : What in the number of other countries besides Iran, with whom we have entered into agreements for executing railway projects and how much revenue or income we are receiving from them?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The question pertains to Iran.

SHRI TARIQ ANWAR : I am asking about Iran. I would like to know the extent of employment potential it is likely to generate for Indians?

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : As far as Iran is concerned, I have already said that an agreement involving an outlay of 25 million U.S. dollar has been signed. We have offered to construct two railway lines - one from wahad to Masad and another from Karman to Zahedan and if this offer is accepted, it will involve a cost of 700 million U.S. dollar and if both the project are accepted, they will involve an outlay of 725 million U.S. dollars. As far as the question of cooperation with other countries is concerned, we have had inquiries from Nepal, Burma, Bangladesh, Indonesia, Sri Lanka, Malayausia, Mauritius, Vietnam, Iraq, etc. and we are cooperating with them.

SHRI TARIQ ANWAR : He has not answered the point about employment potential.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : It is not there.

SHRI MUKHTAR ANIS : Iran, since its independence, wants that India should lead the third-world countries and the Central Asian countries have many expectations from India. Now we have a new Government. May I know whether this Government will have talks with Iran

afresh in this regard and also take early initiative for having dialogues with other countries with a view to expanding our trade with them?

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : Sir, I have already said that we are on the threshold and Iran is also anxious in this regard. Sometimes, it shows its interest in the supply of oil, but financial constraints come in the way. But this does not effect or dilute our mutual cooperation or our friendly relations.

SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN : Sir, in the context of the questions asked by Shri Sultan Sahib and Shri Anwarji. I would like to point out to the hon. Minister that whether are agreement is concluded with other countries, the national interest, the gains to be derived by the nation, are taken care of first. Shri Sultan Sahib wanted to know the priorities the Government of India has set for it in the agreement signed or proposed to be signed with Iran and what gain the hon. Minister foresee in it for India? How many persons are going to get employment, how such investment we are going to make in Iran and what benefits our country is going to derive out of it? May I know what are the priorities of Government of India? He is talking in the air that if Iran wanted, we would do it otherwise we would not do it. I want specific information in this regard.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : Every agreement involves money and we will execute the job only if it is profitable, we are not going to do it if it involves loss and while determining the profit, we keep the national interest in mind first. We are not going to compromise our national interest. I cannot tell here in the House as to how much profit we will receive. I have already said that negotiations on one project have been completed and they are going on in respect of other project. We conclude agreements keeping in view both the aspects.

[English]

SHRI RAGHUNANDAN LAL BHATIA : This question also pertains to External Affairs. I had the honour of signing this agreement with Iran when I was the Minister of State for External Affairs. It was a trade and transit Agreement with Iran. The object of this Agreement, as my friends have asked about the gain to India, was to open trade with CIS States like Uzbekistan, Kirghiztan and Azerbaijan. With all these areas, we have a traditional relation and we wanted to open trade with them. But we do not have any route or access to that. therefore, we approached Iran. So, it is with our common interest to approach that area by a rail link so that trade between India and that area could improve. There is a track of 130 miles only which requires to be built.

JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA : Sir, this is not a question and he is not the concerned Minister to give the answer. He can ask a straight question to the Minister
... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please put your question after giving this background.

[English]

SHRI RAGHUNANDAN LAL BHATIA : Sir, their party Member has raised a question about the priority of India for signing this Agreement and I am replying to them through you. Now, our priority is to reach the CIS States and open a trade line with them and that is only an internal agreement with that country.

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Bhatiaji, you cannot reply. Please put questions after giving the background.

SHRI RAGHUNANDAN LAL BHATIA : I am coming to the question. I have just given the background. We have given them tenders for that area in which it will be properly linking the two states from Bandar Abbas to Mashhad and from Mashhad to Baisek. So, this is where India and Indian Railways come and it will be beneficial for both the countries to reach that State and to have more trade with USA.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I do not think there is any question in this.

Steam Loco Engine Workers

*362. SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether due to the phasing out of steam local engines several thousands of coal and ash handling workers doing perennial jobs have been thrown out of employment;

(b) whether the Government have received any representation demanding re-deployment of these workers in suitable fields; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

[Translation]

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

STATEMENT

(a) Phasing out of steam engines have resulted in Railways discontinuing their contracts for coal and ash handling in the steam sheds which has been closed. A number of labourers who were engaged on these jobs by the contractors from time to time would have either been discontinued from employment by their employers or may have obtained alternate employment.*

(b) and (c). Yes Sir, Railways have received representations, some of them forwarded by Honourable

Members of Parliament regarding absorption of these coal and ash handling labours in the Railways. Railways have regretted their inability to absorb them in Railway service since Railways have not liability or responsibility for these labourers engaged by private contractors. Moreover, Railways are already saddled with the problem of re-deployment of a large number of regular railway staff rendered surplus on account of closure of steam sheds and of providing alternate employment to a number of casual labourers directly engaged by the Railways.

Some of these labourers have also filed civil Appeal Petitions before the Supreme Court for their absorption in Railways. The case is still sub-judice and the final judgement in this case is awaited.

[English]

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : Sir, I am very unhappy with the reply that has been given by the hon. Railway Minister. It is stated that it is the responsibility of the private contract to provide employment to the workers who have been rendered jobless as a result of the phasing out of the steam loco shed and related works like handling of coal and ash. I did not at all expect such a reply from an outspoken Railway Minister who is considered to be committed to the cause of the deprived and the downtrodden. It has already been settled through a direction of the Supreme court as long back as in March, 1993 which said that this issue should be considered by the Ministry of Railways. The Supreme Court has directed the then Railway Minister that these workers should be absorbed because they have been serving the Railways at a stretch and without any break for a period ranging between 15 to 25 years. This is a very usual practice followed by the Railways. On the basis of that directive of the Supreme court, as long back as on July 25, 1991 the former Railway Minister has given an assurance, even on the floor of this House, that these workers would be absorbed.

Sir, now the Railways Minister, in his Budget speech, has come out with a scheme - which we all greeted with thumping of our desks - whereby about 56,000 casual workers would be absorbed. These poor people, these six thousand people, many of whom have already died of starvation are in abject misery and no words could describe their condition. They had been doing very very perennial nature of jobs in the Railways. The present Railway minister, when he was the Labour Minister, himself has considered this question. The Assurances Committee has taken up this question and made specific recommendations on the basis of the assurance given by the then Railway Minister and said that these workers doing perennial nature of jobs without any break and at a stretch for a period ranging between 15 to 20 years, will gradually get absorbed in the modernisation schemes of the Railways.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please come to the question.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : Sir, I would like to ask the hon. Minister of Railways whether he would consider including these workers also in his scheme of absorption of the casual workers about which he has already stated in his Budget speech.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, this is a very important issue and concerns the poor people. I have already announced that we would absorb 56-57 thousand casual labourers. There, where is the question of not considering the cases of 6500 or 6300 labourers as per the findings of the Committee on Assurances? We have two or three problems. First, the Railway Ministry should not go into the technicalities. The Railway Minister never used the word 'labour' in the floor of this House, but used the word 'railway labour' you can go into the record. I have seen. It is railway labour.

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Sir, my question was with regard to the contract labourers. That was very clear and categorical. When he was replying to the Railway Budget, in reply to the question regarding the contract labourers engaged in coal and ash handling in the steam loco sheds, he said that no worker should be thrown out of job.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : No railway worker.

[Translation]

Sir, you can tell him that nowhere does it make a mention of railways worker... (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Sir, I could prove that.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : Sir, in the present perspective, the context should be taken into consideration.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : We have already said, workers from the steam locomotives, not railway workers.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Let him complete his reply.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : That is why I have said that his question was correct, his intention was bonafide. I have read the reply given by the Minister word-by-word. The Minister added the word 'railway workers' while giving the reply. The second point is that he has referred to the Supreme court. The Supreme court has also observed that a human approach should be adopted and added that the exact number of contract labourers is not known, and therefore, laid down a guideline for forming cooperatives and employing these contract labours in those cooperatives. It is true that the committee on Assurance examined this issue and

submitted their interim report, but the Railway Ministry categorically stated that it was not possible to absorb these contract labourers. The Committee on Assurance again recommended their absorption. But we have some difficulties. We have 56,000 casual labourers and we have decided to absorb all of them by 1997 - in one and a half years time. We have set a target of regularisation of 30,000 labourers during the current financial year and the rest of them will be regularised thereafter. Besides, we have 6,000 steam loco maintenance staff, we cannot ignore them also. We have a live register with us of those who have been working with Railways for very long, their number also runs into thousands, may be in lakhs. Shri Acharya ji has said that only 6300 workers are involved... (Interruptions). They were working with us where loco shed was functioning. We have still 197 steam engines where these people are still working. Their number may be less now. Once we take a decision to regularise the privates of contract labour, it will not be limited to steam engine or to coal handling staff, it will be extended to those also who have been engaged on earth work, on contract basis. According to a report, there number in 1994 was 6000 which, I think, must have come down to 3000 to 4000 because many of them have become over-aged. So, if we have to absorb 3000-4000 labourers, we will have no difficulty in it we are prepared to do something for them but, once we take a decision to this effect, it will have an adverse affection the interest of those who are already working, who are in our live registers or who are casual labourers. But I have no negative attitude in this regard even today. If he wants that it should be done on priority basis, then he should workout the priority and we shall be absorbing them accordingly.

[English]

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : This is not a question of casual workers' or contract workers' interests. May I know from the hon. Minister, whether it is not a fact that even in the Railways such workers have been absorbed in certain parts of the country? It is not a fact that the Supreme Court had categorically stated, on other occasion, that the workers working at a stretch, without any break - with perennial nature of job - should be absorbed first whenever there is a vacancy? I would like to have a specific reply from the Minister.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : It is true that in one or two cases, they have been absorbed and we will continue to absorb them as and when jobs of this nature become available. These workers belong to our family and are poor. Their cases will definitely be considered.

SHRI DATTA MEGHE : Just now, Paswanji talked of giving employment to contract labourers and loco shed labourers. Does he not propose to give jobs to contract labourers? The Railways can employ these 5-6 thousand

railway signal workers who work even today for more than eight hours daily. As per rules, they are supposed to work for eight hours but they work for more than 12 hours which is illegal. May I know whether or not there 5-6 thousand labourers will be given jobs in the Railways? I have seen in Nagpur that Sweepers are there promoted as clerks or posted elsewhere and the sweeping job is given to some other persons. Whether his Ministry proposed to formulate some code of conduct or frame some regulations for the officers who work in an arbitrary manner and whether he propose to fix equal hour of duty for all the employees?

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : The officers should not be held guilty for all the deficiencies. whatever policy we frame that must be implemented. There is no need to employ private workers for scavenging and maintenance duties. if at all we need the services of private people it is needed in hill areas, in the areas in Rajasthan, for the job of construction of bridge over the Ganga but they are not prepared to do this job, they are prepared to work as cleaners. But when we frame a policy that the job of class IV should be given to private workers, then what the officers can do? We have now decided that scavenging and cleaning work will be done by the railways themselves. It will provide work to the employees and make their future secure also we have taken a decision to his effect.

Secondly, the job of handling coal or loading coal is of a permanent nature and therefore, it should not be got done on contract basis. Only these jobs should be got done on contract basis which are of temporary nature and can be finished in three-six months. The work referred to by the hon'ble member is of permanent nature and therefore, the labourers should not be employed for these jobs on contract basis. Otherwise it will be a burden for us and we have to reduce this burden in a phased manner and we are doing this and I have no difference of opinion on his point.

SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH : In his reply the Railway Minister has said that because of closure of contracts for the supply of ash, the labourers who were engaged on coal and ash handling have been rendered jobless and secondly a large number of regular railway workers has been rendered surplus because of closure of steam engine sheds. I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister what does he mean by surface labourers and whether they have been removed from the job and if so, the number of such labourers and also the time by which he proposes to absorb those who were working on regular basis?

Secondly, in his reply he has said that the Causal railway workers would be absorbed. The problem of providing alternative job to the casual labourers directly appointed by the railways already exists. So, I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister as to how many such workers were recruited and whether there is any plan to provide them alternative jobs? What will be basis and conditions of their appointment!

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we have to pay the wages of railway employees and workers whether we take work from them or not. The work has nothing to do with payment. As far as their future is concerned we are going ahead stepwise. It is not an ordinary decision to regularise 57,000 workers in a period of 1 1/2 years. This is a major decision. Had I said that we are going to regularise 10,000 workers, I would have received big applause. Then I don't know whether it would have taken us 5 to 6 years or more to do this job. I took his decision at one go to regularise 57,000 casual labourers within one and a half years that is, by 1997. We have already drawn an action plan in this regard. These workers belong to IV grade, they do not belong to affluent sections. They are from poor families. I want that all these workers should be absorbed as early as possible.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I would like to tell the House that we have taken 35 minutes and could take up only two questions.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please listen to me.

[English]

I could easily pass on to the next question.

[Translation]

This is a very important question and that is why I am giving time. Please ask your questions without taking much time.

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Sir, the regularisation of casual workers should not be mixed up with the absorption of six thousand retrenched workers who are engaged in steam loco sheds. My question was very clear and categorical when I intervened while the hon. railway Minister was replying, and it was in regard to the contract workers who are engaged in the steam loco sheds. The reply of the hon. Minister was also very clear. Regarding the loco shed railway workers, he said only workers who were engaged in steam loco shed and who have been rendered surplus or who have been retrenched because of phasing out to steam loco sheds and elimination of steam loco motives, could be redeployed and retained in the Railways. I know, Sir...

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : You ask a specific question, please.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : These categories of workers are quite different. They have been doing perennial nature of job. They were doing the same work. They were working for several years. Now if you ask then to go back to their homes to do some other work or agricultural work, they will not be able to do that. I know, a number of workers died of starvation. For railways to absorb three thousand or four thousand workers would not be problem...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please put the question.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : In recent times, the railways have recruited about three thousand casual workers...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I will have to pass on to the next questions, if you do not

(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : They have not given preference to these workers...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Better put the question.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : I want to know from the hon. Railway Minister whether he would treat these workers or will he absorb these workers in the Railways because they belong to the backward sections of our society, they belong to tribal and Scheduled Caste communities of our society...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : His question, is there, now you reply.

(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : They are only three to four thousand workers...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : You have put your question. That is all.

(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Will the Railways absorb these retrenched workers?...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : I will try my best to see.

[Translation]

I have said that I have taken a decision and I am getting the bills prepared one by one. I am on the job. I shall as far as possible, for their absorption on that basis.

[Translation]

Closing Down of Polluting Industrial Units

*363 SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VERMA :

SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL :

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

(a) whether the Supreme Court has issued directives to remove 168 hazardous industries from Delhi in order to check the environment pollution; and

(b) if so, the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to implement the said orders?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAPT. JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD) : (a) Yes, Sir. The Hon'ble Supreme Court in a public interest litigation has delivered an

order on 8th July, 1996 directing that 168 industries operating in the National Capital Territory of Delhi by closed down. The Hon'ble Court has observed:

"...168 industries cannot be permitted to operate and function in Delhi. industries may relocate/shift themselves to any other industrial estate in the NCR. We direct that 168 industries listed above shall stop functions and operating in the city of Delhi with effect from November 30, 1996. These industries shall close down and stop functioning in Delhi with effect from the said date..."

(b) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

(b) Steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to implement the said order include :

- (i) The Government of Delhi has given wide publicity of the Court Order dated 8.7.1996 giving the list of 168 industries which have been directed by the Court to be closed and relocated with effect from 30.11.1996 in newspapers, radio and television.
- (ii) The Government of Delhi has constituted a nodal agency consisting of Chief Secretaries of Delhi, Haryana, Rajsathan and Uttar Pradesh to co-ordinate the relocation of industries.
- (iii) The National Capital Territory Region (NCR) Planning Board has asked Governments (Delhi, Haryana, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh) to set up a Single Window Facility for the purpose of providing assistance to the industries in the process of relocation. The Government of Delhi, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh have already formed such facilities.
- (iv) A Review Committee has been set up in the NCR Planning Board under the Chairmanship of its Members Secretary, with representatives of all the 4 States (Delhi, Haryana, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh) in the NCR region.
- (v) The NCR Planning Board has also identified that vacant plots available within the NCR which can be allotted to the relocation industries.

The matter is subjudice

CAPT. JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD : Yes, Sir, Shri M.C. Mehta, Advocate filed a writ petition in the Supreme Court praying the hon'ble court to issue necessary directions for checking the pollution being spread by some industries in Delhi. The hon'ble Supreme Court delivered an order on 8th July 1996

directing that 168 such industries operating in the National Capital Territory of Delhi be closed down. The Supreme Court permitted these industries to relocate/shift themselves to any other industries estate in the NCR but they should stop functioning and operating in the city of Delhi with effect from 30th November 1996.

SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VERMA : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the hon'ble Minister in his reply has said that the industries which are producing dangerous pollution would be closed by 30th November, 1996. So I would like to know from the hon'ble minister through you as to how many industries have shifted out of Delhi so far and how many have closed down and whether he has under consideration any scheme for providing economic assistance and for affording alternative employment to those workers who were working in the industries which have been closed because of the said order since employment is as necessary for earning livelihood as pollution free environment in the entire country?

CAPT. JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD : Sir, the hon'ble Supreme court has ordered shifting of 168 industrial units and the process of shifting is on. The employees of these units will also shift alongwith them. The shifting process is being completed under the supervision of a committee representing 4 States. We have provided single widow system and the industrial units are being given every help. These units can shift to the places where accommodation is available for their rehabilitation.

SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VERMA : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the question of environment is not only for Delhi it is for the entire country. I come from Gujrat and in Gujarat...

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Why are you interposing Gujarat? You ask question about Delhi, your question is limited to Delhi only.

SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VERMA : The industrial units have been closed under orders from the Supreme Court. Whether the single window system, the nodal agency set up for Delhi would also be set up in other states where environment based problems exist and whether he is considering extending financial assistance to the State Government for shifting pollution producing industrial units?

CAPT. JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD : Sir, this question relates to Delhi and therefore I would like to inform the hon'ble Member that 168 industrial units which produce hazardous pollution have been selected for relocation and shifting within one year under the 1991 Master Plan of Delhi. The Delhi Government has to furnish information in this regard. These units have to shift from Delhi within two years but they did not do so. Under the Delhi Master Plan, these units had to relocate or shift themselves by 1994 but they did not shift themselves and on this basis the hon'ble Supreme Court delivered an order for their shifting.

SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VERMA : But this problem is with other States also, it is not the problem of Delhi alone.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You have put you supplementaries.

SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we are told that 168 industries would be shifted from Delhi but no clarification has been given about setting up of neutralisation plants or treatment plants at the places these units are proposed to be relocated. Sir, the effluent discharged by the pollutant industries goes deep into the earth and the subsoil water is also polluted, the Yamuna water is also totally polluted after the discharge of industrial effluent into the Yamuna river. Once we used to rever the Yamuna as our Mother and had holy dip in it. The pilgrims used to take the holy water of Yamuna with them. I would like to know through you what steps are being taken to reestablish the sanctity of Yamuna river and to make the Yamuna water as pious as it used to be.

CAPT. JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD : Sir, a Rs. 282 crore Yamuna Action Plan has been launched under which 270 MLD treatment plant will be set up so that clean water is discharged in the Yamuna in Delhi.

[English]

SHRI JAG MOHAN : Will the hon. Minister be pleased to tell what will happen to the lands which are vacated by these 163 industries and what action is being taken by the Government to ensure that the land in Delhi belonging to the Government itself is vacated? Sir, lots of hazardous and polluting units are daily being set up there.

Go to Rouse Avenue, the heart of Delhi, and you will find that on the land belonging to the Government, hazardous industries, fire causing units and polluting units are being set up and no action is being taken. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether he is waiting for another order from the Supreme Court to do that or would he prevent this. All this regmarole would not have happened if proper action had been taken in time. I would particularly like to know about the lands which are being vacated by these industries.

I would like to know whether the owners will be permitted to use them in accordance with the land use prescribed in the Master Plan, and if those uses are grim, who will acquire these lands. Will they keep them as parks and gardens? What will they do with it? What is their policy about it?

[Translation]

CAPT. JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD : Sir, as per the survey conducted under the Delhi Master Plan 1,29,000 industrial units have to be shifted from Delhi under this Master Plan. As regards the use of the land which will be vacated by these industries, it will be

decided by the Delhi Administration in accordance with the provisions of the Master Plan. Infact, the land will remain with the owners of the land.

[English]

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI : I would like to know from the hon. Minister, in view of the recent developments, what is the role of the State Pollution Control Boards in respective parts of India, including Delhi. Through the Public Interest Litigation Act, people are approaching the Supreme Court to stop the polluting units to save the society from the pollution threat. Public Interest Litigation Act, people are approaching the Supreme Court to stop the polluting units to save the society from the pollution threat. Thereafter, one after another, judgements are coming up to shift the industries, especially in relation to Delhi, to the rest of the part of India. Will the Government decide that in such matters a national policy, like the policy adopted in the case of Delhi, will be evolved taking the State Governments into confidence, because the Government has a commitment in their Common Minimum Programme to protect the interests of the employees and the other workers who are working in factories? The relocation of the industrial units should also be done with a 50:50 *pro rata* compensation ratio basis between the Union Government and the State Government, if that issue arises. It is because this is happening everyday one million people have lost their jobs.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, in Delhi apart from industrial pollution, the nursing homes and hospitals are dumping a number of things in front of their premises, thereby causing a positive threat to the health. Several strictures have been made in this regard. This pollution is also creating a nuisance in the entire capital. I would like to know what specific steps have been taken by the Government especially from the Department, in regard to that matter also.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : He is not concerned with that.

[Translation]

CAPT. JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD : Sir, the question that we are discussing has arisen because of formulation of Delhi Master Plan. The pollution factor is an ancillary factor. All the industrial units have to shift to conforming areas under the provisions of Delhi Master Plan.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The Master Plan was formulated for solving the problem and this problem has not cropped up because of Master Plan.

CAPT. JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD : As far as water pollution is concerned about 19.05 M.L.D. effluent is discharged in Delhi daily. While we have the treatment capacity for 1270 M.L.D. Thus 635 M.L.D. effluent is discharged into the Yamuna untreated. Two treatment plants with a capacity of 10 M.L.D. each will be set up

in Delhi under the Yamuna Action Plan. Besides this under the Five Year Plan of Delhi City the existing treatment capacity of 1270 M.L.D. will go upto 2270 M.L.D....(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Let him complete.

[Translation]

CAPT. JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD : As far as disposal of garbage is concerned 4000-5000 tonne garbage is disposed of by Delhi daily and we have 7 garbage dumping grounds which are going to be filled. We have acquired additional 24 hectare land for providing dumping grounds.

SHRI NITISH BHARDWAJ : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the hon'ble Minister in his reply has referred to the 8th July order of the Supreme Court under which 168 industrial units are required to be closed down by 30th November. This means that these industries will be displaced and they will have to get themselves rehabilitated within 4 to 5 months. They have been provided single window facility but I would like to know how many of these 168 units have taken advantage of this facility so far and whether he has been monitoring this process? In case these industrial units have not utilised these facilities, whether the Government have tried to find out the reasons for their not doing so.

CAPT. JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD : A Committee has been constituted for this purpose under the Chairmanship of the Secretary of NCR. The Committee is represented by one representative each from other concerned States who are monitoring this process. As for the number of units shifted so far, the information is not available with me and I would furnish this information to him later....(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : He has given sufficient information.

(Interruptions)

SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL : Sir, this is not the question. The question is...* He is shifting 159 industries from Delhi...whether within three months...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Mr. Agarwal, I am sorry to say.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please listen to me. What you said about the court, what does this mean?

[Translation]

SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL : What I mean to say is that the judgement of the Supreme Court, the order...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : No, No. Such remarks should not be uttered. This will not form part of the record.

[Translation]

SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL : I am refering to the order of the court...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : But you should not talk in this way.

[Translation]

SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL : My question is very straight. Is the Government not aware of the basis on which the order has been passed for shifting so many industries at one go? A list was drawn earlier which included the name of 160 industries and Later a policy of pick and choose was adopted and some industries were asked to close down and others were left untouched. May I know whether half of the rubber factory crates hazardous pollution and half of it does not...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You please put a straight question.

SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL : I would like to know as to who is monitoring the implementation of the order of the Supreme Court? He is closing the rubber industries and all the Pottery industries under the said order. He says that they should shift to some other States but no industrial unit of Delhi has been given land in any other State so far, nobody is prepared to give them assistance. You have passed a blanket order to close all the industries by 30th November, but where would they go, what will the employees of these industries would do? They have been functioning here for the last 30 years. Where will they go? Whether Government will constitute a Monitoring body to plead with the hon'ble Court that their order cannot be implemented. Why does it want them to close down in Delhi? If there is the question of pollution in Delhi, then the D.T.C. should be would up, the operations of 4-seaters should be banned...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : What is your question? Please put your question.

SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGGARWAL : I would like to know whether he wants to provide facilities to these industries, whether they will be given any compensation or any other incentive?

CAPT. JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Master Plan of Delhi was made effective from 1991 and these industries were required to shift from Delhi by 1994 under this Plan...(Interruptions)

SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL : Delhi has not developed under the Master Plan...(Interruptions)

12.00 hrs.

CAPT. JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD : It is a different question but as far as legal position is concerned the Master Plan came into effect from 1991 and all the pollutant units were required to select alternative sites and to shift within two years but they did not shift till 1994. Consequently Shri Mehta filed a Public Interest Litigation in the Supreme Court and this is the result of this petition.

As far as the question of availability of sites is concerned large area of land is available where they can shift. A Committee has been constituted for this purpose and the single window system provided for them. Now they can shift their units.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Length of Railway Line

*364. SHRI ILIYAS AZMI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the length of broad gauge and metre gauge railway line in the Eastern Railway;

(b) the time by which the metre gauge line of this railway zone would be converted into broad gauge;

(c) whether the work of gauge conversion is very slow in the said railway zone; and

(d) if so, the measures taken to expedite the work?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) The length of Railway Lines in the Eastern Railway are as under :

Broad Gauge : 4184.35 kms

Metre Gauge : Nil

Narrow Gauge : 131.65 kms.

(b) There is no Metre Gauge line in the Eastern Railway. None of the Narrow Gauge lines are at present sanctioned for conversion.

(c) There is no Gauge Conversion work in progress on Eastern Railway.

(d) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Sunflower Farming

*365. SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the names of districts in each State where farming of sunflower is being done at present in the country;

(b) the total are of land brought under the sunflower farming in each State; and

(c) the details of the steps taken by the Government for the expansion of sunflower cultivation?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) A Statement-I is enclosed.

(b) A Statement - II is enclosed.

(c) A Centrally Sponsored Oilseeds Production Programme (OPP) is in operation in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Haryana, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal for increasing the area, production and productivity of sunflower. Under the Programme assistance is provided for production and distribution of seeds, distribution of minikits rhizobium culture, gypsum/pyrites, improved farm implements etc. In addition, front line and general demonstratoins are conducted on farmer's fields to transfer the production technology.

STATEMENT

A State-wise List of Districts where Sunflower is grown in the country

S.No.	State	Districts
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	Vizianagaram, Krishna, Guntur, Prakasam, Kurnool, Anantapur, Cuddarah, Rangareddy, Nizamabad, Medak, Mahaboobnagar, Nalgonda, Warnagal, Khammam, Krimnagar, Adilabad.
2.	Bihar	Saran, Champaran (East), Champaran (West), Vaishali, Monghyr, Dumka, Devghar, Sahebganj, Katihar, Hazaribagh, Giridih, Ranchi, Palamau, Kishangang.
3.	Haryana	Hissar, Sirsa, Bhiwani, Rohtak, Sonapat, Faridabad, Karnal, Kurukshetra, Ambala, Jind, Y. Nagar, Kaithal.
4.	Karnataka	Bangalore, Belgaum, Bellary, Bidar, Bijapur, Chikmagalur, Chitradurga, Dharwad, Gulbarga, Hassan, Kolar, Mandya, Mysore, Raichur, Shimoga, Tumkur, Uttarakannada.
5.	Madhaya Pradesh	Sagar, East Nimar (Khandwa), Betul, Chindwara, Durg, Rajnandgaon, Raipur, Bilaspur, Raigarh, Gwalior, Shivpuri, Guna, Vidisha, Rajgarh, Shajapur, Ujjain, Ratlam Mandsaur.

1	2	3
		Dewas, Indore, West Nimar (Khargaon), Dhar, Shahdol, Panna, Sehore, Bhopal.
6.	Maharashtra	Nasik, Dhule, Jalgaon, Ahmednagar, pune, Solapur, Satara, Sangli, Aurangabad, Jalna, Beed, Latur, Osmanabad, Nanded, Parbhani, Buldhana, Akola, Amarawati, Yawatmal, Wardha and Chandrapur.
7.	Orissa	Balasore, Cuttack, Dhenkkanal, Ganjam, Koraput, Sambalpur, Sundergarh.
8.	Punjab	Jalandhar, Firozapur, Kapurthala, Bhatinda, Sangrur, Faridkot.
9.	Rajasthan	Barmer, Bharatpur, Chittorgarh, Ganganagar, Jalore, Jhalawar, Udaipur.
10.	Tamil Nadu	South Arcot, Tiruvannamalai-Sambuvarayar, Salem, Dharmapuri, Coimbatore, Periyar, Tiruchirapalli, Ramanatha Puram, Kamarajar, P.M. Thevar, Tirunelveli, Chidambaranar.
11.	Uttar Pradesh	Haridwar, Muzaffarnagar, Ghaziabad, Bullandshahr, Aligarh, Mathura, Agra, Firozabad, Mainpuri, Etah, Bareilly, Badaun, Shahjahanpur, Moradabad, Rampur, Farrukhabad, Etawah, Kanpur (Urban), Kanpur (Rural), Fatehpur, Allahabad, Lalitpur, Jhansi, Hamirpur, Varanasi, Mirzapur, Sonbhadra, Jaunpur, Gorakhpur, Deoria, Basti, Sidharth Nagar, Azamgarh, Mau, Lucknow, Unnao, Raebareli, Sitapur, Hardoi, Kheri, Faizabad, Gonda, Bahraich, Sultanpur, Barabanki, Nainital and Pithoragarh.
12.	West Bengal	24 Parganas (South), Howrah.

STATEMENT-II

The total area brought under Sunflower cultivation during 1994-95

		(000 ha)
State	Area 1994-95	
1	2	
Andhra Pradesh	Kharif	96.7
	Rabi	243.4
	Total	340.1

1		2
Bihar	Rabi	5.4
Haryana	Rabi	40.0
Karnataka	Kharif	352.5
	Rabi	487.9
	Total	840.4
Madhya Pradesh	Kharif	13.00
Orissa	Rabi	2.1
	Total	15.1
Nagaland	Rabi	2.5
	Kharif	0.7
	Rabi	1.1
	Total	1.8
Panjab	Rabi	95.0
Rajasthan	Rabi	3.7
Tamil Nadu	Kharif	24.5
	Rabi	48.8
	Total	73.3
Uttar Pradesh	Rabi	42.4
West Bengal	Rabi	0.3
All India	Kharif	697.8
	Rabi	1272.3
	Total	1970.1

[English]

Infiltrations

*366. SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the News item captioned "IB report express serious concern over infiltration", appearing in the "The Times of India" dated June, 9, 1996;

(b) whether the ISI has established operational centres in Nepal to carry out insurgent activities on the free Indo-Nepal border stretched across the Bihar and Uttar Pradesh;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether smuggling of sophisticated arms, weapons, fake currency is being done across these free borders; and

(e) if so, the steps taken by the Government and the support provided to the State Governments of Bihar and Uttar Pradesh to fight infiltration and insurgency?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA) : (a) Government have seen the news-item.

(b) to (d). Instances of operation of Pak ISI from Nepal to carry out insurgent activities on Indo-Nepal border have come to notice. Pak ISI has remained active along the Indo-Nepal border in infiltrating Pak trained militants and for smuggling of arms, ammunition and explosives into India for subversive purposes. Investigations following New Delhi's Lajpat Nagar blasts revealed the complicity of Pak ISI in infiltrating some of the Jammu and Kashmir Islamic Front militants as well from across Nepal through Indo-Nepal border.

(e) Government is alive to the situation and is keeping a close watch. All necessary steps including gearing up of intelligence and sharing of information about the movements of ISI activists from Nepal are being taken. An institutional mechanism has been established for coordinated action. Concerned State Governments have been sensitised to counter the threats from ISI from Nepal. Strict vigil is being maintained by the security and intelligence agencies on the Indo-Nepal border and activities and movements of Pak ISI agents and their leaders operating on the border are also being closely monitored. Check-posts on the border are being strengthened in a phased manner.

[Translation]

Industrial Pollution in Uttar Pradesh

*367. SHRI HARIVANSH SAHAI :
SHRI PRAMOTHES MUKHERJEE :

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

(a) the details of industrial establishments including tanneries in Uttar Pradesh found guilty of violating the environmental norms during the last three years;

(b) whether the Government had taken/are taking concrete steps to enforce compliance of the environmental norms by these industrial establishments;

(c) if so, the details thereof, and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAPT. JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD) : (a) to (d). According to the Uttar Pradesh Pollution Control Board, there are thirty industrial establishments including tanneries which have not been complying with the prescribed environmental norms during the last years. The details of defaulting units and the steps taken by the Government to enforce compliance with the prescribed environmental norms are given in the statement enclosed.

STATEMENT

(a) to (d). List of Industries not having adequate facilities to comply with environmental standards.

1. M/s. The Kishan Sahkari Chini Mills, Satha, Aligarh

2. M/s. U.P. State Sugar Corpn. Ltd., Panninagar, Bulandshahar.
3. M/s. Modi Sugar Mill, Modinagar, Ghaziabad.
4. M/s. U.P. State Sugar Corpn. Ltd., Mahija, Meerut.
5. M/s. U.P. State Sugar Corpn. Ltd., Shahganj, Jaunpur.
6. M/s. U.P. State Sugar Corpn. Ltd., Maholi, Sitapur.
7. M/s. Khalilabad Sugar Factory, Basti.
8. M/s. Indian Terpentine & Rosin Co. Ltd., C.B. Ganj, Bareilly.
9. M/s. Kishan Sahkari Chini Mill, Urai, Bhadohi.
10. M/s. Kishan Sahkari Chini Mill, Ghosi, Mau.
11. M/s. Nandganj Sihori Sugar Col. Ltd., Nandganj, Gazipur.
12. M/s. Kishan Sahkari Chini Mill, Rasara, Ballia.
13. M/s. Kishan Sahkari Chini Mill, Sathiyar, Azamgarh.
14. M/s. U.P. State Cement Corpn. Unit Dala, Sonebhadra.
15. M/s. U.P. State Cement Corpn. Unit Churk, Sonebhadra.
16. M/s. U.P. State Cement Corpn. Chunar, Mirzapur.
17. M/s. Obra Thermal Power Station Unit-A, Obra, Sonebhadra.
18. M/s. Obra Thermal Power Station Unit-B, Obra, Sonebhadra.
19. M/s. Hardawaganj Thermal Power Project, Kashipur, Aligarh.
20. M/s. Prima Tannery, Barabanki.
21. M/s. Hasan Exports, Barabanki.
22. M/s. East India Tannery Co. Barabanki.
23. M/s. Simbhaoli Sugar Mills, Ghaziabad.
24. M/s. Simbhaoli Sugar Mills, (Distillery) Simbhaoli, Ghaziabad.
25. M/s. Modi Distillery, Modinagar, Ghaziabad.
26. M/s. P.V.K. Distillery, Ghazipur.
27. M/s. Central Distillery, Meerut.
28. M/s. Neoli Sugar, Etah.
29. M/s. Mahajan Tannery, Agra.
30. M/s. Shiva Leather, Agra.

The steps taken by the Government to enforce compliance of the prescribed environmental norms include the following :

- Industries have been directed to provide necessary pollution control measures to comply with the prescribed standards.
- A scheme has been initiated for setting up Common Effluent Treatment Plants (CETPs) in clusters of small scale industrial units including tanneries. Under the scheme, Central and State subsidy is available and also loans from the

Industrial Development Bank of India/Industrial Credit and Investment Corporation of India.

- Fiscal incentives are provided for installation of pollution control equipment and also for the shifting of polluting industries from congested areas.
- Most of the defaulting units have been covered under a Writ Petition filed in the Hon'ble Supreme Court.

[English]

Drug Price of Pentoxifylline

*368. SHRI BHUPINDER SINGH HOODA :
SHRI C. NARASIMHAN :

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Deptt. of Chemicals while fixing the local bulk drug price of Pentoxifylline had followed the Chinese prices Theobromine which is a major intermediate and reduced the price steeply;

(b) if so, the price level of Pentoxifylline and the manner in which it compares with Theobromine imports from the other sources;

(c) the price of Pentoxifylline notified by the Government;

(d) whether the Government adhered to the quality aspect of Theobromine and regularity of its supplies rather than concentrating on cheaper sourcing of the intermediate;

(e) whether the Government have examined the implications of the steep reduction in price, which may lead to stoppage of production and non-availability of this important drug;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) whether the Government have any policy to ensure that the bulk drug production activity continues in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SIS RAM OLA):

(a) to (c). Price fixation/revision of indigenously produced bulk drugs is done in accordance with the provisions of DPCO, 1995 BICP which is an Expert Body of the Government undertakes a cost-cum-technical study on the basis of data available to it, including that furnished by the manufacturers and recommends the price to the Government which is considered and notified in the official gazette from time to time. While fixing the price of bulk drug Pentoxifylline, it was noted that the main imported raw material viz 'Theobromine' is being imported by M/s. Hoechst Roussel at an exorbitant rate from their Principals; while other users have been importing from Italy, Hong Kong and China at much cheaper rates. It is on this basis that the price has been

determined and recommended by the BICP which was notified for the first time as Rs. 2,225/kg on 3.4.96.

(d) Imports or indigenous procurement of raw material used for the manufacture of drugs is done by the companies engaged in such activity of manufacture and it is their responsibility to ensure that the material meets the specifications as required by them as also that it meets the standard prescribed by the Drug Controller General of India who clears all such drugs for general usage.

(e) and (f). This is the first time the price of bulk drug Pentoxifylline has been fixed. Stoppage of production by all producers of this drug is not anticipated.

(g) Incentives for bulk drug production are built in to the Policy. However, another objective of the Policy, namely, ensuring adequate availability of medicines at reasonable prices has also to be met.

New Crop Insurance Scheme

*369. SHRI C. NARAYANA SWAMY :
SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are considering to adopt new Crop Insurance Scheme;

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

(c) whether in view of the usual natural calamities like floods, hail storms etc., all the crops and fruits are likely to be covered under this Scheme; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) to (d). Yes, Sir. A proposal to modify the existing Comprehensive Crop Insurance Scheme (CCIS) so as to rationalize the premia rates and to enlarge the coverage of crops and farmers is under the consideration of the Government.

However, based on a number of suggestions received from different quarters on the revision of the present scheme a draft note is proposed to be sent to all the Hon'ble Members of Parliament. A proposal for the revision of the present scheme will be prepared after receiving views from them.

[Translation]

Corruption Cases at Railway Headquarters and Divisional Offices

*370. SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV :
SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases of corruption referred at

the Railway Headquarters and Divisional offices during the last three years; and

(b) the number of officers against whom the disciplinary action has been taken during the said period, Zone-wise and Division-wise?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) No. of Corruption Cases investigated Division-wise during the last three years

Southern Railway

Division	Year		
	1993	1994	1995
1	2	3	4
Mysore	1	-	-
Trivandrum	1	1	1
Madras	1	1	-
Madurai	-	1	-
Tricharapalli	-	-	-
Palghat	-	-	-
Bangalore	-	-	-
H.Q.s/Const./ Work shop	8	5	6
Total	11	8	7

Western Railway

H.Qs.	3	2	4
Bombay	4	-	2
Baroda	3	1	-
Ratlam	1	1	3
Kota	5	3	4
Bhavnagar	1	-	-
Rajkot	-	-	-
Jaipur	2	2	3
Ajmer	3	1	2
Total	22	10	18

South Central Railway

H.Qs.	5	5	3
Vijayawada	3	10	5
Guntakal	2	1	1
Hyderabad	1	1	2
Hubli	1	1	3
Total	12	18	14

Northern Frontier Railway

Katihar	2	4	2
Alipurdaur	1	4	2

1	2	3	4
Lumding	1	4	1
Tindukia	2	3	2
H.Qs.	3	3	4
Total	9	18	11

North Eastern Railway

Izatnagar	1	6	-
Lucknow	1	9	-
Varanasi	4	4	3
Sonepur	7	4	2
Samastipur	2	2	4
H.Qs.	19	7	8
Total	34	32	17

Central Railway

Mumbai	1	2	6
Bhushawal	1	1	1
Bhopal	1	4	1
Jhansi	4	5	6
Jabalpur	2	3	4
Nagpur	6	1	1
Sholapur	-	-	1
H.Qs. (including W/shops)	8	11	4
Total	23	27	24

Northern Railway

H.Qs. including Workshop	31	44	34
Allahabad	2	2	3
Bikaner	2	6	5
Ambala	3	6	4
Firozpur	2	6	5
Delhi	5	5	5
Jodhpur	4	5	2
Moradabad	3	4	3
Lucknow	4	5	1
Total	56	83	62

Eastern Railway

Sealdah	7	-	2
Howrah	1	2	-
Asansol	6	2	-
Dhanbad	1	2	1
Danapur	3	2	7

1	2	3	4
Mugualsarai	1	5	7
Malda	2	1	2
H.Qs.	1	5	5
Total	22	19	24

South Eastern Railway

Visakhapatnam	5	2	-
Kharagpur	2	2	1
Nagpur	2	1	1
Chakdarpur	1	2	2
Sambalpur	-	1	-
Adraalsarai	1	1	3
Khurda Road	1	-	1
Waltair	-	1	-
HQs/Const.	3	2	2
Total	15	12	10
Grand Total	204	227	187

(b) No. of Officers Awarded Punishment Division-wise during the last three years.

Southern Railway

Mysore	1	-	-
Trivandrum	-	-	-
Madras	1	-	1
Madurai	1	1	1
Tricharapalli	1	1	-
Palghat	1	-	-
Bangalore	1	1	1
H.Q.s/Const./Work shop	15	12	7
Total	21	15	10

Western Railway

H.Qs.	8	4	2
Bombay	6	1	2
Baroda	7	2	4
Ratlam	2	1	-
Kota	8	1	3
Bhavnagar	-	-	1
Rajkot	1	-	1
Jaipur	4	1	4
Ajmer	2	-	-
Total	38	10	17

1	2	3	4
<i>South Central Railway</i>			
H.Qs.	8	8	7
Vijayawada	4	4	3
Guntakal	2	3	1
Hyderabad	2	3	2
Hubli	2	2	2
Total	18	20	15

<i>Northern Frontier Railway*</i>			
Katihar	0	5	1
Alipurduar	1	7	1
Lumding	2	9	0
Tinsukia	2	2	-
H.Qs.	3	8	3
Total	8	31	5

<i>North Eastern Railway</i>			
Izarnagar	-	1	3
Lucknow	-	1	-
Varanasi	-	1	-
Sonepur	-	4	-
Samastipur	-	1	-
H.Qs.	-	9	1
Total	-	17	4

<i>Central Railway</i>			
Mumbai	8	7	5
Bhushawal	3	2	3
Bhopal	2	2	-
Jhansi	7	7	1
Jabalpur	-	-	1
Nagpur	1	-	3
Sholapur	-	-	-
H.Qs. (including W/shops)	13	8	5
Total	34	26	18

<i>Northern Railway</i>			
H.Qs. including Workshop	18	30	22
Allahabad	1	3	2
Bikaner	1	3	2
Ambala	2	2	3
Firozpur	-	3	-

1	2	3	4
Delhi	2	4	-
Jodhpur	3	4	3
Moradabad	1	4	2
Lucknow	2	2	2
Total	30	55	36

<i>Eastern Railway</i>			
Sealdah	3	-	2
Howrah	-	-	-
Asansole	4	3	-
Dhanbad	-	-	-
Danapur	2	-	7
Mugualsarai	3	7	6
Malda	1	-	-
H.Qs.	-	9	3
Total	13	19	18

<i>South Eastern Railway</i>			
HQs and Constn.	9	5	5
Kharagpur	3	1	1
Khurda Road	3	3	2
Waltar	2	3	1
Adra	1	3	1
Chakdarpur	2	-	1
Bilaspur	1	-	1
Nagpur	1	-	1
Total	22	15	13
Grand Total	184	208	136

[English]

Polluting Industrial Units

*371. SHRI SHANTILAL PARSOTAMDAS PATEL
PROF. OM PAL SINGH NIDAR :

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

(a) the number of large and medium scale industries which have not installed anti-pollution devices, State-wise; and

(b) the action taken by Government against them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAPT. JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD) : (a) A statement is attached.

(b) The Government has taken action against the polluting industries in accordance with law. The

Government has issued show-cause notices under Section 5 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 to a number of defaulting units. The Central and State Pollution Control Boards and Pollution Control Committees in the Union Territories periodically monitor pollution levels and take necessary action against the defaulting industries. A number of cases against the defaulting industries are pending in the Courts including the Supreme Court.

STATEMENT

The number of large and medium-scale industries which have not installed anti-pollution devices, State-wise is given

S.No.	State/Union Territory	No. of Units
1.	Andhra Pradesh	8
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0
3.	Assam	5
4.	Bihar	13
5.	Goa	0
6.	Gujarat	8
7.	Haryana	8
8.	Himachal Pradesh	0
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	4
10.	Karnataka	17
11.	Kerala	4
12.	Madhya Pradesh	19
13.	Maharashtra	28
14.	Manipur	0
15.	Meghalaya	1
16.	Mizoram	0
17.	Nagaland	0
18.	Orissa	10
19.	Punjab	18
20.	Rajasthan	2
21.	Sikkim	1
22.	Tamil Nadu	3
23.	Tripura	0
24.	UT - Andaman and Nicobar	0
25.	UT - Chandigarh	0
26.	UT - Daman and Diu, Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0
27.	UT - Delhi	3
28.	UT - Lakshadweep	0
29.	UT - Pondicherry	4
30.	Uttar Pradesh	30
31.	West Bengal	23
Total		209

Feed And Fodder

*372. SHRI SARAT PATTANAYAK :

SHRI NITISH KUMAR :

Will the Minister of ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING be pleased to state :

(a) whether sufficient quantity of feed and fodder is not available for the milch cattle in the country;

(b) if so, the estimated total annual requirement of feed and fodder and the quantity available thereof in the country;

(c) whether the Government have decided to set up a National Fodder Bank for adequate supply of feed and fodder and to give incentive for feed and fodder production on the surplus land in view of the rising demand for the same; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH) : (a) and (b). The information regarding the availability of feed and fodder for the milch cattle only in the country is not available separately. Studies made by several agencies seem to indicate that sufficient quantity of feed and fodder is not available for the total population of livestock and poultry. As per the estimates made by the Policy Advisory Group on Integrated Grazing Policy, Ministry of Environment and Forests 1993, the estimated total annual requirement of green fodder, dry fodder (straws) and concentrates in the country during 1993 is 744.73, 583.62 and 79.40 million tonnes respectively against the annual availability of 573.50, 398.88 and 41.96 million tonnes respectively.

(c) and (d). There is no proposal of the Government to set up a National Fodder Bank. However, under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme viz. Assistance to States for Feed and Fodder Development, the State Governments are being assisted to establish fodder banks, and establishment of Silvopastoral System for increasing bio-mass production and development of Grasslands including grass reserves.

Compensation to 1984 Riots Victims

*373. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE :

SHRI VINAY KATIYAR :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Delhi High Court has issued order for awarding compensation to the next of the kin of those killed in the 1984 riots;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of cases settled since then; and

(d) the time by which the compensation is likely to be paid to all such persons?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA) : (a) to (d). Smt. Bhajan Kaur, whose husband had lost his life during the 1984 Delhi riots, had filed a writ petition in the High Court of Delhi seeking enhancement of the amount of compensation of Rs. 20,000/- awarded to her on account of the death of her husband. The judgement in this case was delivered on July 5, 1996. The High Court observed that the amount of compensation was highly inadequate. The High Court was of the opinion that the petitioner should have been paid at least a sum of Rs. 2.00 lakhs as compensation. Since the petitioner had already been paid a sum of Rs. 20,000/-, the respondent was directed to pay a sum of Rs. 1,80,000/- to the petitioner with interest, which was quantified at Rs. 1.50 lakhs. This payment of Rs. 3.30 lakhs was required to be made to the petitioner within one month.

2. The High Court further ordered that this direction to pay enhanced compensation would be applicable to similar cases in order to secure parity and to alleviate the sufferings of the families of the victims who had lost their lives during the 1984 Delhi riots. The High Court accordingly directed that the widows and families of such victims be paid a sum of Rs. 3.50 lakhs (Rs. 2.00 lakhs with interest quantified at Rs. 1.50 lakhs) after adjusting the amount, if any, paid to them as exgratia grant or compensation. The High Court further directed the State to constitute a Committee to disburse the amount of compensation quantified as above after their proper identification. This exercise is required to be completed within a period of four months.

3. In pursuance of the aforesaid directions of the High Court, the Government of NCT of Delhi has already paid a sum of Rs. 3.30 lakhs to Smt. Bhajan Kaur. The Government of NCT of Delhi has also constituted a Committee under the chairmanship of the Deputy Commissioner, Delhi for scrutiny of other similar cases as per directions of the High Court.

World Bank Assistance

*374. SHRI E. AHAMED : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the World Bank has been providing assistance for the development of shrimp and fish culture project;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the States in which this project is going on with the World Bank assistance; and

(d) the total amount of assistance received from the World Bank during each of the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) and (b). The World Bank is assisting a Shrimp and Fish

Culture Project (CR 2329-IN) which became credit effective on 28-5-1992 for a period of seven years at a total estimated cost of Rs. 283.63 crores (equivalent to US \$ 95 million at the then prevailing rates) of which, 90% is made available as International Development Association (IDA) loan and the remaining 10% is to be shared among the Centre/Participating States and beneficiaries. The main objective is to increase the shrimp and fish production in the participating States which in turn would improve the economic and social welfare of fisherfolk and fish farmers who constitute some of the poorest sections of the community. The project would also result in utilisation of poor quality land and in increasing foreign exchange earnings. The Project comprises : (i) a Brackishwater Shrimp Component; and (ii) an Inland Fisheries Component.

(c) The Project is being implemented in five States, namely, Andhra Pradesh, Orissa, West Bengal, Bihar and Uttar Pradesh. While the fish culture component is being implemented in all the five States, the shrimp culture component is under implementation only in the states of Andhra Pradesh, Orissa and West Bengal.

(d) The total amount of funds received from the World Bank under this Project during each of the last three years is as follows :

Year	Assistance received from World Bank	
	US \$ (Mill)	Rupees (in crores)
1993-94	1.409	4.41
1994-95	1.002	3.15
1995-96	2.728	9.49
Total	5.139	17.05

Travelling Concessions to Mentally Retarded Persons

*375. SHRI PAWAN DIWAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the fare concessions are given to the mentally retarded persons;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to extend such concession for second class A.C. tier also; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) and (b). Mentally Retarded persons with an escort are granted 75% concession in First, Second and Sleeper Class fares. The escort is also granted the same concession. Concession tickets are issued by Station Masters on production of a copy of the prescribed certificate from a Government Doctor.

(c) and (d). These persons alongwith their escorts are eligible to travel in A.C. 2-tier Sleeper Class on

payment of the concessional fare of First Class plus the difference of actual fares of the two classes. There is no proposal to extend the concession to the A.C. 2-tier class.

[Translation]

Rehabilitation of Tribals

*376. SHRI HANSRAJ AHIR : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether due to announcement of setting up of a national park or sanctuary, the tribals are compelled to move to other places as no developmental activity is allowed in such forest areas;

(b) if so, the number of tribals displaced from the declared national parks and sanctuaries; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government for rehabilitation of the displaced tribals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAPT. JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD) : (a) Relocation of tribals from a National Park or a Sanctuary is done when there is a general agreement between the tribals and the Government on the issue. However, commercial development is not allowed in National Parks and Sanctuaries.

(b) and (c). The Government of India has launched a Centrally Sponsored 'Beneficiary Oriented Scheme for Tribal Development' wherein 100% financial assistance is provided to the State Government for the rehabilitation of tribal families. During VIII Plan, financial support to the tune of Rs. 1.30 crore to six States has been provided under the Scheme. 188 tribal families have been rehabilitated while the process is on going for 235 families.

[English]

Drought Prone Areas of Orissa

*377. SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS :
SHRI SOUMYA RANJAN :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the drought and starvation situation has been witnessed in Orissa during the last several years;

(b) if so, the names of districts mostly affected and the estimated loss suffered therein during the last three years;

(c) whether the Union Government authorities ever visited the affected areas of the State to make an assessment of drought and starvation situation;

(d) if so, the scheme formulated to find out permanent solution of this problem in the State; and,

(e) the assistance provided by the Government to implement such schemes during the last two years?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) to (e). According to the State Government drought and starvation situation have not been witnessed in Orissa during the last few years. In the context of the problems of poverty in Kalahandi, Bolangir and Koraput districts, now reorganized into Kalahandi, Naupada, Bolangir, Sonepur, Koraput, Malkangiri, Nowrangpur and Nayagada, Central Teams have visited Orissa from time to time since 1993. The Drought Prone Areas Programme (DPAP) is being implemented in 47 blocks of 5 districts for achieving a permanent solution to the problems of drought. The Central Government has provided assistance to Orissa in the years 1994-95 and 1995-96 for DPAP amounting to Rs. 516.50 lakhs and Rs. 403.85 lakhs respectively. In addition, the Central Government has provided large amounts for poverty alleviation programmes such as Integrated Rural Development Programme, Jawahar Rozgar Yojna/ Employment Assurance Scheme and for agricultural development programme including the National Watershed Development Project. A Long Term Action Plan for the (undivided) districts of Kalahandi, Bolangir, and Koraput has also been prepared and is under implementation with the major objectives of drought and distress proofing.

[Translation]

Railway Zones

*378. PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of Zones and Divisions into which the railways network of the country is divided at present and the criteria for this division;

(b) whether there has been resentment at some places due to the creation of new Zones;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether earlier any Committee was constituted by the Government for creation of the new Zones;

(e) if so, the recommendations of the said Committee;

(f) whether the area-limit has been fixed for the new Zones proposed to be created in Rajasthan;

(g) if so, the details thereof;

(h) the criteria for the selection of Headquarters of the proposed Zone;

(i) whether the Government had received representations for setting up of the Zonal Headquarters at Ajmer and other places; and

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

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) The present railway network is divided into 9 zones and 59 divisions. Zones/divisions are set up keeping in view factors like size, workload and accessibility, traffic patterns and other operating/administrative requirements consistent with the needs of economy and efficiency.

(b) and (c). A number of representations expressing resentment have been received particularly from Bilaspur and Hubli.

(d) and (e). An Advisers' Committee for reorganisation was set up (1994) which recommended creation of four additional zones (including one at Jaipur in Rajasthan) and six additional divisions.

(f) and (g). A final view on the detailed territorial jurisdiction of the zones/divisions has not been taken as yet.

(h) Zones/divisions are set up keeping in view factors like size, workload and accessibility, traffic patterns and other operating/administrative requirements consistent with the needs of economy and efficiency.

(i) Representations for setting up of zonal headquarters had been received for a number of places like Ajmer, Jaipur, Jodhpur, Bilaspur, Jabalpur, Bhubaneswar, Patna, Bangalore, Hubli, Barauni etc.

(j) The Government has decided to set up six additional zones with headquarters at Allahabad, Jaipur, Bangalore, Jabalpur, Hajipur and Bhubaneswar.

[English]

Gauge Conversion

*379. SHRI SATYAJITSINGH DULIPSINH
GAEKWAD :
SHRI HARIN PATHAK :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the metre gauge/narrow gauge lines proposed to be converted into broad gauge during the Eighth Five Year Plan;

(b) the time by which the remaining meter gauge/narrow gauge lines are proposed to be converted into broad gauge;

(c) whether the Government have received proposal from the Government of Gujarat for conversion of metre gauge/narrow gauge lines into broad gauge;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the decision taken by Government thereon;

(e) whether the Government propose to take up gauge conversion projects in Gujarat through the private funding; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) The details of metre gauge/narrow lines converted into BG during the 1st four years of the Eighth Five Year Plan and those targetted to be completed during the remaining period of the Plan are as under:

(b) Only those lines required on urgent operational and strategic considerations are proposed to be converted in a phased manner. At present only about 15966 kms. of metre gauge/narrow gauge lines have been identified for conversion during 8th and 9th Plan periods. No time schedule can be fixed for conversion of all metre gauge/narrow gauge lines as this will depend on availability of resources.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Proposals were received from the Government of Gujarat for conversion of Rajkot-Veraval, Navlakhi-Wankaner-Maliya, Surendranagar-Bhavnagar, Viramgam-Mahesana-Patan, Bedi Port, Surendranagar-Rajula, Kolal-Vijapur, Ahmedabad-Himmatnagar, Dhrangadhra-Kuda, Gandhidham-Bhuj, Joravarnagar-Sayala, and Bharuch-Dehej. Out of these, Gauge Conversion of Wankaner-Dahinsara-Navlakhi and Dahinsara-Maliya Miyana and Viramgam-Mahesana is in progress through Private Capital under the BOLT Scheme and are targetted to be completed within this financial year. Gauge Conversion of Gandhidham-Bhuj at Rajkot-Veraval section would be started shortly. The remaining proposals are either under examination or could not be taken up due to unremunerativeness and constraint of resources.

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) Details have been indicated in reply to part (d) above.

Black*Pepper Production

*380. SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the total percentage of black pepper production in the State of Kerala;

(b) whether the Government are aware that heavy incidence of pests, diseases, climatic vagaries and price fluctuation have acted as serious deterrents to the investment in the better crop management;

(c) whether the Government of Kerala has submitted any proposal for launching of Technology Mission on the black pepper; and

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

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) The State of Kerala contributed 97.9 percent to the total black pepper production in India during 1994-95.

(b) During my visit to Kerala, low incidence of disease and pest was reported to me. However, no serious incidence of pests or disease of black pepper was reported in Kerala during 1994-95 and 1995-96. The average yearly wholesale prices of black pepper at Cochin have steadily increased from Rs. 2779/- quintal in 1992 to Rs. 7575/- quintal in 1995.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The State Government has proposed a Technology Mission for black pepper for implementation as a state activity. The Mission envisages to pool available resources and efforts, and integrate the activities of all State and Central institution/agency located in the State and involved in development of this crop to work towards common objective of improving production and productivity of black pepper. The Ministry has endorsed the proposal in principle and made appropriate provision in the 1996-97 budget for implementing production oriented components.

[Translation]

Central Hindi Advisory Committee

3009. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the time by which the Central Hindi Advisory Committee is likely to be set up;

(b) the time by which the Hindi Advisory Committee as per the pattern of Hindi Advisory Committee of all the Ministries would be set up in the Prime Minister's Office to ensure the implementation of the official language;

(c) whether due to non constitution of the Hindi Advisory and official language Implementation Committees in the Prime Minister's office, the implementation of official language in the Public Sector in the country is suffering; and

(d) the steps being taken to improve upon the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) There is no proposal under consideration of the Government to constitute any committee as Central Hindi Advisory Committee. Hon'ble Member of Parliament perhaps is referring to the Central Hindi Committee. Constitution of this Committee is under process.

(b) to (d). The position with regard to the Prime Minister's Office is different from that of other Ministries/Depts. It is a small Office which renders secretarial assistance to the Prime Minister. In view of this, it was not felt necessary to constitute a Hindi Advisory Committee and Official Language Implementation Committee in Prime Minister's Office. A Joint Secretary has been entrusted with the duty of implementing instructions issued for the progressive use of Hindi.

[English]

Life Line Express

3010. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any assessment has been made so far about the utility of the train called 'Life Line Express'?

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the expenditure incurred on the maintenance and operation of this train by the Railways since its inception?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (c). The Life Line Express has been launched and run by a voluntary organisation. As per the Memorandum of Understanding the Ministry of Railways were only to make available remodel, run/stable 3 BG Coaches for Impact India Foundation. All social, technical and medical aspect including medical equipment and staff required for running this mobile hospital are being undertaken by the Impact India foundation. Maintenance and operation charges of these coaches are being borne by Impact India Foundation.

Rail Development Projects in Orissa

3011. SHRI MURALIDHAR JENA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Railway Development Projects in Orissa have been shelved and the money allotted for these projects has been transferred to the other States;

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

(c) whether shelving of these projects is likely to cause escalation in the cost of these projects; and

(d) the amounts already spent on the ongoing Railway projects in the State?

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

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

(d) The amount so far spent upto 31.3.96 on ongoing New Lines, Doubling and Gauge Conversion Railways Projects in Orissa State is about Rs. 950 crores.

Pension Adalats

3012. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Pension Adalats organised in all Zones of the Railways; and

(b) the number of pensions cases decided by Pension Adalats in each of the Zones during 1995 and pending as on June 30, 1996?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Pension Adalats in Zonal Headquarters and Divisions are held once in every year, i.e. on 15th of December.

(b) Number of grievances decided and the number of grievances pending in the last pension adalat

conducted on 15.12.95 are as under. Figures as on 30.06.96 are not available.

Railway	No. of cases decided	No. of cases Pending
Central	768	130
Eastern	440	4
Northern	333	47
North Eastern	207	64
Northeast Ft.	76	22
Southern	636	46
South Central	226	17
South Eastern	104	29
Western	379	2

Pension to Freedom Fighters

3013. SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of freedom fighters enjoying pension as on March 31, 1996. State-wise;

(b) whether the proven absconders of National struggle are considered for sanction of freedom fighters' pension;

(c) the amount of pension given to the freedom fighters by the States and Centre, separately; and

(d) the amount spent on this head during 1995-96?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) and (b). From the inception of the Scheme Freedom Fighters' pension has been sanctioned to 162757 persons upto 31.03.1996. A Statement showing state-wise details of persons who have been sanctioned freedom fighters pension by the Central Government is attached.

(b) Freedom Fighters who participated in the National Struggle with proven suffering of atleast six months abscondence against an executive order are considered for sanction of freedom fighters' pension.

(c) The Freedom Fighters are drawing Central pension at the rate of Rs. 1500 per month. The rates of pension granted by the State Government varies from State to State. However, the details of the rates of State pension are not available.

(d) The total amount of Rs. 1,31,38,51,787 has been spent on Payment of Central pension under Swatantrata Sainik Samman Pension Scheme during the financial year 1995-96.

STATEMENT

S.No.	State/UT	No. of cases in which freedom fighters pension has been sanctioned
1.	Andhra Pradesh	11060
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	-
3.	Assam	4330
4.	Bihar	24566
5.	Goa	911
6.	Gujarat	3570
7.	Haryana	1640
8.	Himachal Pradesh	579
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	1780
10.	Karnataka	9968
11.	Kerala	2813
12.	Madhya Pradesh	3337
13.	Maharashtra	16484
14.	Manipur	62
15.	Meghalaya	86
16.	Mizoram	4
17.	Nagaland	3
18.	Orissa	4166
19.	Punjab	6878
20.	Rajasthan	787
21.	Sikkim	-
22.	Tamil Nadu	4068
23.	Tripura	886
24.	Uttar Pradesh	17911
25.	West Bengal	22395
26.	A and N Islands	2
27.	Chandigarh	89
28.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	-
29.	Daman and Diu	33
30.	Delhi	2031
31.	Lakshadweep	-
32.	Pondicherry	313
33.	INA	22005
Total		162757

Foreign Contribution

3014. SHRI HARADHAN ROY : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the names and addresses of individuals, organisations and institutions which received more than rupees one lakh as foreign contribution during each of the last three years; and

(b) the details of the amount received by them during the said period year-wise and the details of the activities on which the same was spent?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) and (b). The names of all the reporting associations/organisations under the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act, 1976 during 1991-92, 1992-93 and 1993-94 are contained in the copies of the annual reports for these years regarding 'Receipt of Foreign Contribution by Voluntary Associations', which are available in the Parliament Library. The details of the amount received by them collectively for the various activities are also available in these reports.

Procurement of Pepper

3015. SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Kerala has requested the Union Government to take steps for procurement of pepper from Kerala;

(b) if so, the details of the suggestions made by State Government; and

(c) the reaction of the Central Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) No proposal from the Government of Kerala for purchase of pepper under the Market Intervention Scheme has been received during 1996.

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

[Translation]

Expansion and Beautification of Stations

3016. SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR SINGH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any scheme for expansion and beautification of Navinagar, Varun, Feshar, Jakhim railway stations of Eastern Railway was prepared in the past; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b). Navinagar, Feshar and Jakhim are wayside stations handling a small volume of passengers. These stations have already been provided with facilities and amenities commensurate with the number of passengers handled.

There is no station by the name Varun on Eastern Railway.

[English]

Indian Drugs and Pharmaceuticals Limited

3017. SHRI B. DHARMA BIKSHAM : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the trade unions of IDPL have proposed any formula to improve its performance and overcome the losses of the IDPL;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SIS RAM OLA):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). The unions of IDPL have suggested, inter alia, that working capital availability to IDPL should be ensured; the two wholly owned subsidiaries at Madras and Muzaffarpur should be brought back to IDPL; IDBI as also IDPL management should be instructed to associate/involve representatives of workmen unions in preparation of rehabilitation scheme; upgradation of scales of pay/revision of scales of pay/new D.A. formula and restoration of deferred facilities should be implemented; the top management should be replaced. These suggestions have been noted by the Government.

Techno-Economic Survey

3018. SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Eastern Railway have forwarded to the Railway Board to take up techno-economic survey for Howrah Circular Railway;

(b) whether the Railway Board have agreed in principal to conduct such survey;

(c) whether all the facilities are existing to run passenger service in Howrah Circular Railway;

(d) if so, the reasons for not allotting any amount during this year for techno-economic survey;

(e) whether the Union Government are considering to take up this survey during this year; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (f). Yes, Sir. The matter is under examination.

[Translation]

Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative Limited

3019. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the IFFCO fertiliser plant at Aonla in

U.P. has started production as per its enhanced capacity, if so, since when;

(b) whether all those persons have been provided employment whose land had been acquired at the time of setting up of the plant; and

(c) if not, the number of families which have not yet been provided employment and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SIS RAM OLA):

(a) No, Sir. The plant is expected to start production as per its enhanced capacity by January, 1997.

(b) and (c). Out of 851 families whose land was acquired for setting up of the Aonla Plant, 155 families have no eligible member for employment due to old age and other factors. Persons from 196 displaced families have already been employed. The remaining land losers are being given preference for employment against substitute and casual vacancies in IFFCO, subject to qualifications and suitability and as per the procedure of IFFCO. Some families of land losers have been given contracts and shops in IFFCO township.

[English]

Frequency of Local Trains

3020. SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are considering to increase the frequency of Sealdah-Bardhaman locals via Dankuni and via Naihati-Bandel; and

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

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

(b) Does not arise.

Suburban Railway Services

3021. SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI NAVIN CHANDRA MEHTA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the work are proposed to be undertaken for the improvement of suburban railway services in Mumbai;

(b) the modalities of funding rail related projects finalised so far, under the MUTP-II the share of the Centre, Railways and State Government separately;

(c) whether any assistance has been sought from the World Bank; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) The following projects have already been undertaken for improvement

of suburban railway services in Mumbai :

Name of the Project	% age Rly.	Sharing of cost M/s. CIDCO
1. Thane-Turbhe-Nerul/Vashi- Part of corridor No. 2	33	67
2. Belapur-Panvel commuter line.	33	67
3. Mankhurd-Belapur line	33	67
4. Seawood-Uran-Electrified double line.	33	67
5. Santacruz-Borivli - 5th line.	100	-
6. Andheri-Bandra-additional pair of line.	100	-
7. Kurla-Thane-5th and 6th line (Kurla-Bhandup Phase-I)	100	-
8. Quardupling of Borivli-Virar	100	-

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d). World Bank has so far given an advance of US \$ 3.0 million under PPF facility for carrying out 4 studies for the rail related component of MUTP-II. Presently, 3 studies out of 4, have started and it would take about one year to complete all the 4 studies. The exact component of MUTP-II and size of the Project would be known only after the studies are completed.

[Translation]

Pulse Production in Gujarat

3022. SHRIMATI BHAVNABEN DEVRAJ BHAI CHIKHALIA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a vast scope for promotion of pulse cultivation in Gujarat;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to give special assistance to the Government of Gujarat for the purpose; and

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

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) There is scope to promote the cultivation of pulses in Gujarat particularly that of red gram (Arhar), green gram and black gram.

(b) and (c). A Centrally Sponsored National Pulses Development Project (NPDP) is already under implementation in Gujarat State for increasing the production and productivity of pulses. An outlay of Rs. 134.66 lakh comprising Rs. 101.00 lakh as Government of India share has been provided to the State for 1996-

97. The scheme is being implemented on 75:25 funding pattern.

[English]

Integrated Railways Network

3023. SHRI JITENDRA NATH DAS : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have any proposal to take the District Cooch-behar under the Integrated Railways Network;

(b) if so, the details of the proposal; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Constraint of resources.

Insects Species

3024. SHRI R.B. RAI : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a few days back some foreign citizens alongwith a hotellier were arrested in Darjeeling for illegally collecting and smuggling rare varieties of insect species;

(b) the details thereof alongwith the varieties of species they had collected; and

(c) the action taken by the Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAPT. JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Wildlife authorities of West Bengal have reported that on 9.7.96, a raid was carried out in Hotel Valentine, Darjeeling. About 3100 dead butterflies and moths, belonging to different schedules of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 were recovered from a Japanese national who was arrested alongwith another local person.

(c) Action is being taken to procecute the arrested persons under the provision of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.

Upgradation Production Capacity of Coach Repair Workshop

3025. SHRI SUBRAHMANYAN NELAVALA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to upgrade the production capacity of Carriage/Coach repair workshop at Tirupathi; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. There is a proposal to increase the existing Periodical Overhaul capacity of Tirupathi Workshop from 70 Four Wheeler Units per month to 150 Four Wheeler Units per month.

[Translation]

Mother Dairy Plants

3026. SHRI N.J. RATHWA : Will the Minister of ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING be pleased to state :

(a) the location of the Mother Dairy Plants situated in Gujarat;

(b) the capacity utilisation of these plants in the State during each of the last three years; and

(c) the profit earned or-loss suffered by these plants during the above period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT AND ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH) : (a) to (c). Only one Mother Dairy Plant of 10.00 lakh litres of milk per day capacity has been established at village Bhat in Gandhinagar District of Gujarat by the Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation Ltd. (GCMMF). The plant went into commercial production only in 1995-96. In the flush season peak procurement and processing at Mother Dairy was 83.9% of its capacity. The Mother Dairy is a unit of GCMMF. The profit earned by GCMMF during last three years is as under :

Year	Profit (Rs./lakh)
1993-94	78.86
1994-95	134.37
1995-96	817.89

[English]

Development of Stations in Kerala

3027. PROF. P.J. KURIEN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the development programmes undertaken at the Kayamkulam, Mavelikara, Chengannur and Tiruvalla Railway Stations in Kerala during the financial year 1995-96 and the details of the work completed;

(b) the action plan for the current year and funds allocated for the purpose; and

(c) the target date of completion of these works?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) During 1995-96, the works of improvement and facelifting of the station building including the provision of a waiting hall; extension of the cover platform no. 2/3 at Kayankulam and the improvements to passenger booking area for unreserved journeys at Chengannur were sanctioned. The work at Chengannur is nearing completion.

No work was sanctioned at Mavelikara and Tiruvalla stations during the year.

(b) and (c). During 1996-97, the works of raising to high level platform no. 1 and extension of cover over platform no. 2/3 at Kayankulam; extension of the cover over platforms no. 2 at Chengannur and Mavelikara stations have been sanctioned at a total cost of Rs. 31.10 lakh and these works are targetted for completion by June, 1997.

No work has been sanctioned at Tiruvalla.

An allocation of Rs. 50.40 lakh has been made during the current year for all the works at these stations.

[Translation]

Development of Maharashtra Police Force

3028. SHRI VIJAY ANNAJI MUDE : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Maharashtra had send 12 batallions of police force to Delhi for security purposes during 11th May, 1990 to April, 1993;

(b) if so, whether the Union Government have paid the expenditure incurred thereon to the State of Maharashtra; and

(c) if so, the amount thus paid and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) The strength of the Maharashtra State Reserve Police Force, which remained at the disposal of the Delhi Police for law and order duties during the period in question, was as follows :

No. of Coys	Period	
	From	To
12	02-05-1990	11-01-1993
9	12-01-1993	29-03-1993
8	30-03-1993	30-04-1993

(b) and (c). The Delhi Police has so far reimbursed to the State Government an amount of Rs. 16,85,12,036. Some bills are yet to be received from the State Government.

[English]

Smuggling of Valuable Timber

3029. SHRI DWARAKA NATH DAS : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that 15 Wagon-load of valuable timber booked for Kongkoria railway station in Gujarat from Bhairabi railway station in Mizoram reached Badarpur railway junction of Karimganj District on transit;

(b) whether the timber with an approximate value of Rs. 5 crores is being smuggled out from Hailakundi; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by the Government to check this menace?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAPT. JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD) : (a) to (c). The information is being collected from the concerned State Government and will be laid on the table of the House.

Unauthorised Bangladeshi Migrants

3030. SHRI B.L. SHARMA 'PREM' : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of unauthorised Bangladeshi Migrants so far repatriated to Bangladesh, year-wise;

(b) the number of unauthorised Bangladeshi migrants still staying in India, State-wise;

(c) the number of Bangladeshi migrants who enrolled themselves as ration-card holders and voters; and

(d) the plans and the measures being taken for repatriation of the migrants?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) to (d). The interception/apprehension of unauthorised Bangladeshi migrants and their repatriation to Bangladesh is an on-going process. The international border of India with Bangladesh runs in a crisis cross manner through populated areas, rivers, swamps, forests and difficult hilly terrain. The population on both sides of the border comes from the same ethnic and linguistic stock. It is, therefore, difficult to give the exact number of infiltrators who have come to India and settled down. The Government is, however, alive to the problem of infiltration and has taken several measures to check the same. These include, inter alia, raising of additional battalions under the expansion plan of the Border Security Force, reducing gaps between border outposts, intensification of patrolling, raising of riverine water wing of the BSF, construction of border roads and fencing and provision of night vision devices. In addition, there

are scheme such as the Prevention of Infiltration of Foreigners (PIF) and Mobile Task Force (MTF) which are being implemented by identified States to detect infiltrators. Standing instructions have been issued to the State Governments and the UT Administrations for detection and deportation of infiltrators.

[Translation]

Latest Signal Technique in Delhi

3031. SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government are contemplating any proposal for using the latest signal technique to control the traffic in the National Capital Region of Delhi;

(b) if so, the main features thereof;

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

(d) the estimated amount likely to be incurred thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) to (d). The Delhi Traffic Police has installed two 'Fully Vehicle Actuated Road Traffic Signal Controllers' which sense the traffic through detectors installed at appropriate positions. These detectors provide current traffic information to the controllers. The controllers essentially extend the green signal time corresponding to the traffic volume as sensed by the detectors but within the maximum green signal time. The maximum and minimum green signal time are user programmable.

The Delhi Traffic Police has another proposal for using the latest signal techniques viz. 'Computerised Area Traffic Control System'. The main features of this system are that it is fully responsive to the traffic flow conditions, adapts in real time to traffic changes and is suitable for implementation on all types of urban roads, grids, networks and arterials. It is proposed to implement this system during the current financial year at an estimated cost of Rs. 8.47 crores.

[English]

Booking of Luggage

3032. DR. ASIM BALA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Eastern Railway have decided not to book luggage in small quantities;

(b) if so, the loss incurred by the Eastern Railway as a result thereof;

(c) whether the Government are considering to review the decision; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

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

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

[Translation]

Grant scheme on Tractors

3033. SHRI BHIMRAO VISHNUJI BADADE : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to start a grant schemes on 1800 cc tractors and its supplementary equipments for mechanization the farming by the small peasants;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the 1800 cc tractors are manufactured in the foreign countries and their equipments etc. are not available in India thefeby rendering them not of much avail for the Indian farmers if they go out of order; and

(d) if so, whether the Government are considering to provide the grants on 3500 cc tractors instead of 1800 cc tractors?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) and (b). A Plan Scheme having the provision of subsidy @ 30% of the cost of tractor including permissible number of implements with a maximum limit of Rs. 30,000/- for the purchase of tractors upto 30 Power Take Off Horse Power capacity for the VIII Plan period has already been sanctioned by the Government. Subsidy is available to the individual farmers or group of farmers irrespective of the size of their land holdings. Subsidy is also admissible to the Registered Cooperative Societies, Agricultural Credit Societies and Multi-purpose Agricultural Farming Societies regardless of the arable land under their command.

(c) and (d). Tractors of various engine capacity including those in the range of 1800 cc and their implements are manufactured in the country.

Bhoj Wetland Project, Bhopal

3034. SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the present position of the implementation of Bhoj Wetland Project in Bhopal for which financial assistance has been received from Japan;

(b) the total amount likely to be spent on the impelmentation of the said project; and

(c) the percentage of financial assistance shared by the State and Union Government and the assistance received from Japan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAPT. JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD) : (a) The Bhoj Wetland Project, Bhopal is under implementation since April, 1995. Till July, 1996, an amount of Rs. 875.10 lakhs had been spent on the project. Detailed Projected Reports have been prepared for various sub projects. The work is in progress.

(b) and (c). The estimated cost of the project is Rs. 231.51 crores of which, loan assistance of Yen 705 million from the Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund of Japan is available. The remaining expenditure shall be made by the Government of Madhya Pradesh.

[English]

Fertilizer Plant in Nellore

3035. SHRIMATI LAKSHMI PANABAKA : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) the present status of survey regarding acquirement land for setting up Fertilizer Plant at Racharlapadu in Nellore District of Andhra Pradesh by IFFCO; and

(b) the details of cost, production and commencement of plant etc.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SIS RAM OLA) : (a) The alienation of Government land and acquisition of private land is the responsibility of the State Government. The Government of Andhra Pradesh has initiated the process for alienating about 2450 acres of Government land and acquiring 250 acres of private patta land, required for the proposed Nellore project of Indian Farmers Fertilizer Cooperative Limited (IFFCO).

(b) The capital cost of the project has been estimated at Rs. 1568 crore for a production capacity of 7.26 lakh metric tonnes of urea per annum. The plant is expected to go into commercial production within 39 months of the zero date.

Revenue from Passenger Traffic and Goods Transporation

3036. SHRI A. SAMPATH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the total revenue earned from passenger traffic per annum during 1994 and 1995, zone-wise; and

(b) the quantity of goods transported?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) The total revenue earned from passenger traffic during 1994 and 1995, zone-wise are as under :

(Figures in crores of Rs.)

Railways	Passenger Earnings	
	1993-94	1994-95
Central	983.74	1097.34
Eastern	542.11	598.46
Northern	937.33	1031.03
N.E.	242.16	276.29
N.F.	96.77	111.81
Southern	446.96	520.95
S.C.	438.43	488.31
S.E.	327.87	365.45
Western	875.85	969.21
Metro/Calcutta	3.99	4.81
Total	4895.21	5463.66

(b) The Zone-wise loading of revenue earning goods traffic during 1993-94 and 1994-95, is as under :

(In million tonnes)

Railways		
	1993-94	1994-95
Central	36.04	37.11
Eastern	70.88	72.03
Northern	24.99	21.47
N.E.	2.88	2.33
N.F.	5.79	6.53
Southern	19.02	19.27
S.C.	40.30	35.73
S.E.	131.50	141.72
Western	27.32	28.77
Total	358.72	364.96

Horticulture Development Programmes

3037. SHRI RAM NAIK : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of projects reports of Horticultural Development Programmes received from the Government of Maharashtra and the dates on which the same were received by the Union Government;

(b) the reasons for not clearing these projects so far;

(c) whether the proposal to delegate powers of Union Government to sanction these schemes is under consideration; and

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

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) The status report for setting up a Tissue Culture Project by M/s. Suabhagya Kalpataru Pvt. Ltd. was forward to the Ministry of Agriculture by the Director of Horticulture, Government of Maharashtra on 23.3.1996, for consideration of financial assistance admissible to private sector unit under the scheme of Integrated Development of Tropical, Arid and Temperate Zone Fruits. The same was examined from the technical point of view and approval issued on 15.4.1996.

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

Improvement in Train Services

3038. SHRI AJOY MUKHOPADHYAY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have taken any steps to improve the train services in Ranaghat-Lalgola, Ranaghat Gede and Ranaghat-Bongaon sections of the Eastern Railway; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b). Yes. Sir. DMU services have been provided in Ranaghat-Lalgola/Gede/Bongaon sections. Introduction of new services is a continuous process subject to operational and resource constraints.

Pyrites and Phosphate Mining

3039. SHRI MUNNI LAL : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is pyrites and phosphate mining and manufacturing public undertaking at Amjhore in the Rohtas district of Bihar;

(b) the number of persons affected due to the pollution created by this unit;

(c) the scheme being implemented to counter the health hazards of the people;

(d) whether compensation and employment have been provided to the displaced persons; and

(e) if so, the steps taken by the Government to solve their problem?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SIS RAM OLAI) : (a) Yes, Sir. Pyrites, Phosphates and Chemicals Ltd (PPCL) is a public sector undertaking which operates the pyrites mine at Amjhore in Rohtas District of Bihar. PPCL has a unit for manufacture of Single Super

Phosphate (SSP) fertilizer at Amjhore which utilises the acid produced from the pyrites so mined.

(b) to (e). So far there has been no report of any adverse affect or displacement of the local population on account of pollution due to mining and manufacturing operations of PPCL. However, the ground water pollution due to acidic water discharge from the mine and from the shale dumps has been countered by PPCL taking corrective measures like setting up of high capacity Mine Effluent Treatment plant to neutralise the acidic discharge. Neutral water is now being discharged after treatment. Besides this, PPCL has made provision for supply of potable water, in association with the Public Health Engineering Department, through pipeline in 6 adjacent villages where ground water was reported to have been affected due to pyrite mining.

[Translation]

Promotion of Hindi in Railways

3040. SHRI DEVI BUX SINGH :

DR. RAMESH CHAND TOMAR :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken to promote the use of Hindi in the Ministry; and

(b) the percentage of work being done in the Official Language Hindi in the Ministry and the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) The following steps have been taken to promote the use of Hindi in the Ministry of Railways :

The Ministry of Railways have been notified under rule 10(4) and specified for doing work in Hindi under Rule 8 (4) of the Official Language Rules - 1976. Various incentive schemes have been introduced. Efforts are being made to increase the number of Hindi stenographers by making direct recruitment and by imparting training in Hindi Stenography. In Board's office, the key boards of 151 Roman Typewriters have been replaced in Devnagri increasing the number of Devnagri typewriters to 227. Few applications including Budgetary and Parliamentary work have been taken-up on Personal Computers in Hindi. Efforts are being made to increase the use of Hindi on Personal computers. 28 meetings have been conducted with HODs of different directorates of Board's Office during last one year in order to review the progress of Hindi in various Directorates. In order to ensure the compliance of Official Language Rules, inspections/contact programmes are being carried out in different sections of Board's Office. Check-points have been set up in Railway Board Press, Central Registry and Issue and Despatch sections in order to ensure the compliance of Section 3(3)

of the Official Languages Act and to ensure that all letters received from 'A' and 'B' regions are replied to in Hindi. For this purpose, physical checks are carried out by deputing staff on these check-points.

- (b) 1. Percentage of letters issued in Hindi to 'A' 'B' and 'C' regions is 43.5%.
2. Compliance of section 3(3) of the Official Languages Act, 1963 is 97.5%.
3. Percentage use of Hindi in Registers/ Diaries is 92.3%.
4. 20 sections have been nominated to do all their work in Hindi.
5. Percentage of Personal Computers made capable of working bilingually 84.8%.
6. Publication of Codes/manuals in Hindi 75%.

Appointment of Agents for sale of Tickets

3041. VAIDYA DAU DAYAL JOSHI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Railway Department has appointed agents for the sale of rail tickets and reservation of berths at Kota;

(b) if so, the names of those agents; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b). Two City Booking Agencies viz. M/s. Surendra Co., Rampura Bazar, Kota and M/s. Kapoor and Co., Aerodrome Circle are functioning at Kota for selling unreserved tickets to passengers. Besides, two Rail Travellers' Service Agents viz. M/s. Om Singh, Sohan Singh and M/s. Rajesh Traders have been appointed in Kota city to purchase the tickets from the railway reservation office on behalf of the intending passengers by standing in queue and realise the prescribed charges fixed by the Railway administration.

(c) Does not arise.

[English]

Reservation Quota

3042. SHRI ANANTH KUMAR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is persistent demand to increase the reservation quota from the Bangalore Railway Station in all trains; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b). There is no specific demand for increase of reservations quota in all trains at Bangalore railway station.

Satellite Linkage of Police Stations

3043. SHRI UDDHAB BARMAN : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a proposal for setting up of POLNET using satellite for linkages of police stations all over the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Tenth Finance Commission has released necessary funds to the States;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Union Government have accorded approval in Principle to the POLNET project;

(f) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(g) the time by which the Union Government is likely to clear the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) to (g). The Government proposes to have a satellite based communication network dedicated to the police and independent of the Department of Telecommunications. The project envisages provision of connectivity to all the police stations in the country via V-Sats. 833 V-SATs have been presently earmarked for various States Union Territories and Central Para-Military Forces. A total amount of Rs. 154.20 crores is involved in the Scheme out of which Rs. 77.51 crores (non-recurring) has been recommended by the Tenth Finance Commission as the share of the States except Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka and Maharashtra. The amount allocated to the States by the Tenth Finance Commission will be utilised, with the consent of the States, by the Central Government for the purchase of equipment to be installed in the States. The Government is interacting with the States to expedite implementation of the project which is envisaged to be completed in approximately four years.

[Translation]

Rail Link with North Eastern Region

3044. SHRI TARACHAND BHAGORA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of cities connected so far with the North Eastern regions of the country;

(b) the number of cities likely to be linked with the said regions; and

(c) whether there is any proposal under consideration of the Government to link city of Jaipur with the North Eastern regions directly by the Railways?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Guwahati is directly linked with a number of cities/towns including Calcutta, Bangalore, Delhi, Vishakhapatnam, Trivandrum, Patna, Bhubaneswar, Bombay, Gorakhpur, Cochin, Madras, Lucknow, Jammu etc.

(b) After the gauge conversions of Dimapur-Tinsukia section, 4055/4056 Brahmaputra Mail and 5659/5660 Kamrup Express are proposed to be extended to Tinsukia to link more areas of the North East

(c) No, Sir

[English]

Sachakhand Express

3045. SHRI G.M. KUNTURKAR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are considering to run Sachakhand Express between Nanded-Amritsar daily instead of weekly and to increase the reservation quota of passenger trains running/passing from the Nanded

(b) if so, the details in this regard

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) whether the Government have received any memorandum in this regard?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) within the existing operational and resource constraints it is not possible to consider increase in frequency. As regards enhancement of reservation quota at Nanded, computerised reservation facility linked with Secunderabad and Mumbai PRSs have been provided at this station. The passengers of Nanded can seek reservation on first come first served basis in all trains on these PRSs (Passengers Reservation System).

(d) Yes, Sir.

Construction of Platforms

3046. SHRI V.M. SUDHEERAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state

(a) whether the Government propose to construct additional platforms and additional rail roads in Alleppey Railway Station of the Trivandrum Division; and

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

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

(b) Does not arise.

Agro-based Industries

3047. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH BHATI :
SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the names of schemes under which concessions are being provided to the agro-based units alongwith the details of concessions provided so far during the last three years, unit-wise;

(b) the number of farmers benefited from such concessions during the said period, State-wise.

(c) the details of other schemes likely to be announced in the near future besides these schemes; and

(d) the details of the capital invested in this sector during the last five years, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) to (d). Agro-based units include both food and non-food industries. Food Processing Industries based on agricultural products include cereals and pulses processing industries; fruits and vegetables, meat, fish and poultry processing industries; sugar, edible oils, plantation crops like tea and coffee, alcohol etc. Non-food industries based on agriculture included jute and mesta based industries, cotton textiles, sericulture industries, cattle feed, poultry and fish feeds, paper and allied products, preparation of medicines from herbs, etc.

Assistance for development of agro-based industries included Assistance to State Governments/cooperative bodies/voluntary organisations/joint sectors etc. for setting up and enlarging agro-based industries. The Government also helps in developing backward linkages with farmers, marketing support, storage, packaging, training of manpower and research and development.

Agro-based industries being both in organised and unorganised sector, it is difficult to assess the investments in such industries.

Since no assistance is directly given to farmers for agro-based industries, it is difficult to assess the number of farmers benefited from the development schemes for agro-based industries.

Bomb in Passenger Train

3048. SHRI JAGATVIR SINGH DRONA : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a bomb was planted in a passenger train running between Kurukshetra and Kethal on May 25, 1996;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any inquiry was conducted in this regard;

(d) if so, the action taken against the accused.

(e) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the precautionary measures taken to avoid repetition of such situation in the future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) Yes, Sir,

(b) A bomb planted in Train No. 3JNK was detected at 2210 hrs. on 25.5.1996 at Railway Station Pehowa

road. The bomb was defused by the bomb disposal squad of CID, Haryana, before it could explode and caused loss of life and property.

(c) to (e). A criminal Case u/s 3/4/5 of the Explosive Substances Act, 1908 has been registered at the Government Railway Police Station, Kurukshetra. The investigation of the case is under progress.

(f) According to the State Government, intelligence machinery has been geared up and Anti-Terrorist Cells have been activated. Extensive combing operations are being carried out from time to time. SP Railways and District SPs have been exhorted to take all precautionary measures to prevent such incidents.

Production of Palm Oil

3049. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA :
SHRI SURESH KODIKUNNIL :
PROF. P.J. KURIEN :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the names of States in which oil palm is being produced along with its production in each States during the last two years;

(b) whether the Government are considering to encourage its large scale cultivation to achieve the self-sufficiency;

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

(d) the estimated area likely to brought under oilpalm cultivation during 1996-97 indicating the estimated amount likely to be spent on the development of oilpalm cultivation in their States; and

(e) whether some State Governments have submitted proposals for expansion of oilpalm cultivation in their States; and

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

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) At present Oil palm production is taking place in the State of Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Goa and Andaman & Nicobar Islands. State-wise Oil Palm Fresh fruit bunches (FFB) production of the last two years is given in the attached statement.

(b) and (c). Yes, Sir. In order to encourage cultivation of Oil Palm, a centrally sponsored scheme, Oil Palm Development Programme is being implemented in selected States and subsidy is given to Oil Plm farmers for planting material, inputs and for installation of drip irrigation system. Oil Palm farmers are also being trained at national Research Centre for Oil Palm Eluru (Andhra Pradesh) and Central Plantation Crops Research Institute, Palode (Kerala).

(d) The State-wise estimated area likely to be brought under Oil Palm cultivation during 1996-97 and estimated amount likely to be spent on development of Oil palm cultivation is given at Annexure.

(e) and (f). A proposal for cultivations of Oil palm in 200 hectares of Karilands as a demonstration project in Kottayam district of Kerala was submitted by Government of Kerala in March, 1996.

The Government of Kerala has been advised that the scheme may be proposed for the IX Plan period since the activities for setting up demonstration plot may not be completed by the end of VIII Plan i.e. up to March, 1997. However, area expansion programme could be taken up in 1996-97.

The Government of Kerala has been advised that the scheme may be proposed for the IX Plan period since the activities for setting up demonstration plot may not be completed by the end of VIII Plan i.e. up to March, 1997. However, area expansion programme could be taken up in 1996-97 with 25% State contribution. Response from the State Government is awaited.

STATEMENT

State-wise Oil Palm Fresh Fruit Bunches (FFB) Production

(In Metric Tonnes)

S. States/Year No.	1994-95	1995-96
1. Kerala	19910	19910
2. Andaman & Nicobar Islands	10868	9087
3. Andhra Pradesh	3960	7212
4. Karnataka	1197	2681
5. Goa	Nil	28
Total	35,935	38,909

State - wise estimated area likely to be brought under Oil Palm cultivation and estimated amount likely to be spent on development of Oil Palm cultivation during 1996-97

S. State No.	Area (Ha)	Amount (Rs. lakhs)
1	2	3
1. Andhra Pradesh	11,880	1655.53
2. Karnataka	1,500	632.844
3. Tamil Nadu	2,00	285.53
4. Gujarat	500	118.49
5. Tripura	100	21.82

1	2	3	4
6. Goa		100	21.19
7. Orissa		1,000	64.32
8. Assam		100	17.25
9. Kerala		-	5.486*
Total		17,100	2822.46

* For development of seeds garden, no area expansion to be taken.

Doubling of Rail Line from Joranda to Talcher

3050. SHRI K. PRADHANI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have any proposal for doubling of the railway line from Joranda to Talcher via Hindor in Orissa;

(b) if so, the funds earmarked for the purpose; and

(c) the steps taken to expedite the work?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (c). Doubling of the railway line from Joranda Road to Talcher has been completed and commissioned.

[Translation]

Restoration of Train

3051. SHRI K.D. SULTANPURI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal for to reintroduction of the old train between Kalka and Amritsar is under the consideration of the Government; and

(b) if so, the time by which the same is likely to be reintroduced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b). It is proposed to provide direct service between Amritsar-Chandigarh/Kalka during 1996-97.

[English]

Doubling of Railway Line

3052. SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether requests have been received by his Ministry for setting up of double line between Ambala Farkalta to New Alipore Railway Station/New Aliporeduar Railway Station; and

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

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

(b) As per the policy, the doubling of the single line section is taken up to improve the carrying capacity, freight intensive sections being given priority.

The present level of traffic on Ambari Falakata to Aliporeduar/New Alipurduar Sections does not justify doubling of this line. However, Gauge Conversion of Siliguri-Bongaigaon Section is likely to be taken up in the coming years to serve as a double line between Jalpaiguri and Aliporerdaur stations.

Ban on Export of Potatoes

3053. SHRI SUDHIR GIRI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the export of potatoes grown in West Bengal has been banned;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the State Government has approached the Union Government for lifting the ban; and

(d) if so, the reaction of the Government to this?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The ban had been imposed due to presence of potato wart disease which requires strict domestic plant quarantine measures to check further spread of disease.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) As the disease is still prevalent, it will not be in the interest of potato cultivation in other parts of the country to relax the domestic quarantine measures at this stage.

[Translation]

Expenditure on Cabinet Ministers

3054. SHRI GANGA CHARAN RAJPUT : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the expenditure incurred on the salaries, allowances, accommodation and tours of the Cabinet Ministers during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) whether the Government propose to make any amendment in these facilities; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) A statement containing the requisite information pertaining to salaries, allowances and tours is enclosed. Information in regard to accommodation is being collected.

(b) and (c). No proposal to make any change in these facilities is under consideration at present.

STATEMENT

The expenditure on Council of Ministers for past 3 years

Year	Salaries (in Rs.)	Allowances (in Rs.)	Tours (in Rs.)
1993-94	19,01,488	57,50,081	30,35,96,088
1994-95	23,61,709	61,71,821	40,32,50,659
1995-96	22,83,230	69,31,809	39,98,61,828

[English]

Hazardous Industries

3055. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any survey has been conducted about the hazardous industries located in Delhi and implementation of the safety regulations by these units;

(b) if so, the results thereof; and

(c) the action taken or proposed to be taken against the faulty units?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAPT. JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD) : (a) to (c). As per information made available by the Chief Inspector of Factories, National Capital Territory of Delhi, during 1991-93 inspections of 113 identified hazardous factories covered under the Factories Act, 1948, were carried out. Improvement notices were issued to these factories for rectification of certain discrepancies observed during inspections.

During 1991-93 a total of 163 challans were filed in the Court of the Metropolitan Magistrate, Delhi against the defaulting units. A sum of Rs.1.228 lakh was imposed as fine by the court on the challans decided during this period.

20 major Accident Hazard (MAH) units were identified in Delhi and a rapid safety audit conducted to suggest risk reduction measures under a scheme entitled, "Industrial Pocketwise Hazard Analysis" in 1996. The reports of the survey have been made available to all the MAH units.

Setting up of Cashew Board

3056. SHRI N.K. PREMCHANDRAN : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to set up Cashew Board;

(b) if so, the salient features of the proposed Cashew Board; and

(c) the time by which the said board is likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Does not arise.

Kidnappings

3057. KUMARI SUSHILA TIRIYA :

DR. M.P. JAISWAL :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether about thirty girls and boys have been kidnapped over the past two months on the banks of Yamuna in Delhi;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether a majority of the people in this area are migrants from Bangladesh;

(d) if so, whether they have been granted citizenship; and

(e) if not, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) and (b). No, Sir. According to the information received from the Delhi Police, three girls and one boy were reported to have been kidnapped from the banks of the Yamuna in Delhi during June and July 1996. The three girls in question have since been recovered.

(c) to (e). There is a mixed population at the Yamuna Pusta/Bank. On identification, Illegal migrants are deported back to the country of their origin. The number of Bangladeshi national deported from this area during 1995 and 1996 (upto 31.7.1996) was 183 and 47 respectively.

[Translation]

Recruitment of Junior Accounts Assistant

3058. SHRI BHANU PRATAP SINGH VERMA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether as per the employment notice dated August 21, 1995 Railways Recruitment Board, Bhopal have recruited ex-servicemen to the post of Jr. Account Assistant;

(b) if so, whether the Quota of Scheduled Castes/ Scheduled Tribes and other backward classes has been filled up;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the Government have taken any action against those found guilty for flouting the rules; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

Gauge Conversion in Rajasthan

3059. SHRI NIHAL CHAND CHAUHAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to convert Canalloop metre gauge rail line of Shri Ganganagar, Suratgarh-Ramsingh nagar Rail line and Shri Ganganagar-Hanumangarh Rail line into broad gauge rail lines as the farmers and businessmen have been facing difficulties in transportation of their goods; and

(b) if so, the time by which the said rail-lines are likely to be converted into broad gauge?

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

(b) The work will be taken up and completed during 9th Plan period.

Manmad-Dhule-Nardana-Indore Rail Line

3060. DR. SAHEBRAO SUKRAM BAGUL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there has been a long pending demand for Mamad-Dhule-Nardana-Indore rail line;

(b) whether the Ministry have sanctioned the estimates for this rail line in March, 1996;

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

(d) the time likely to be taken for completion thereof and the expenditure likely to be incurred thereon?

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

(b) to (d). Reconnaissance Engineering-cum-Traffic Surveys for construction of new BG line from Manmad to Shirpur via Malegaon, Dhule and Nardana are currently in progress. Further consideration of the projects will be possible, once the results of the surveys become available.

Due to constraint of resources, the proposal for extension of the BG line from Shirpur to Indore has not been taken up for consideration.

[English]

Local Trains in Mumbai

3061. SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is persistent demand to introduce mere local trains in Mumbai; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to meet the public demand in Mumbai?

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

(b) Augmentation of Suburban trains in Mumbai area is a continuous process depending upon the availability of EMU rakes and other resources.

However, for the convenience of local commuters in Mumbai suburban area, the number of 12-car services have been increased from 104 to 148 w.e.f. 28.6.96 which provide additional accommodation for commuters as compared to 9-car rake.

Seizure of Arms

3062. SHRI MODHAVRAO SCINDIA :
SHRI PINAKI MISHRA :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether huge quantities of RDX and terrorists' arms and equipments had been seized in Delhi during June 1996;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken against the culprits?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) and (b). The details of arms, ammunition and explosives seized by the Delhi Police in June 1996 are indicated in the statement attached

(c) The persons involved in these seizures have been arrested and action as per law has been initiated against them.

STATEMENT

S. No.	Arms/ammunition & Explosives seized	Date of seized
1	2	3
1.	1 AK-56, rifle, 2 Magazines with 59 cartgs.	7.6.1996
2.	1.325 Kg. RDX, 5 timers	7.6.1996
3.	1 AK-56 rifle with 2 magazines 60 cartridges, 3 Kg. RDX, 2 Chinese grenades.	12.6.1996

1	2	3
4.	1.150 Kg. RDX, 1 timer, 1 Gas cylinder, 1 detonator and other tools to make IED.	15.6.1996
5.	500 grms. RDX, 2 detonators and 1 Binocular.	27.6.1995
6.	1 stick hand grenade	27.6.1996
7.	2 IED, 2 hand grenades.	27.6.1996

Conversation from Metre Gauge to Broad Gauge

3063. DR. VALLABH BHAI KATHIRIA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there are representations for the conversion of Morvi-Navalakhli-Maorkaner and Dahusara-Maliya Metre Gauge lines on the Western Railway into Broad Gauge;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

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

(b) and (c). The work of conversion of this line has been included in railway budget 1995-96 and outlay of Rs. 35 crores under 'BOLT' has been provided for 1996-97 as the work is being taken up through private capital under 'BOLT' Scheme.

Dogri Language

3064. SHRI MANGAT RAM SHARMA : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the people to Jammu have been agitating for inclusion of Dogri Language in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution of India; and

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government there to and the stand taken in this matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) and (b). Demands have been made to include Dogri Language in the Eighth Schedule of the constitution. However, the question of inclusion or otherwise of any or more languages in the Eighth Schedule of the constitution is under consideration of the Government.

Tibet Refugees

3065. SHRI SURESH PRABHU : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of refugees from Tibet staying in India at present, State-wise; and

(b) the number of refugees out of them employed so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) About 98,000 refugees from Tibet are staying in India at present. A statement indicating the State-wise figures is attached.

(b) About 44,500 Tibetan refugees have been provided rehabilitation assistance under various agricultural and handicraft scheme. The remaining Tibetan refugees have resettled on their own.

STATEMENT

*State-wise figures of Tibetan Refugees
Staying in India*

S.No.	State/Union Territory	No. of refugees
1.	Andhra Pradesh	400
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	6004
3.	Delhi	302
4.	Himachal Pradesh	19346
5.	Jammu & Kashmir	5704
6.	Karnataka	31467
7.	Madhya Pradesh	1650
8.	Maharashtra	1100
9.	Meghalaya	42
10.	Punjab	72
11.	Sikkim	5025
12.	Orissa	3900
13.	Uttar Pradesh	12737
14.	Bihar	53
15.	West Bengal	7386
Total		97908

[Translation]

Road on China-Nepal-Bangladesh Border

3066. SHRI DINESH CHANDRA YADAV : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a plan to construct a 1600 km. Long road (Parsarvarti path) from Bareilly (U.P.) to Amingaon (Assam) was prepared in 1963 after the Chinese aggression in 1962 in the interest of the national security;

(b) if so, whether the Project has been completed so far;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) the steps being taken to complete the missing lines;

(e) whether the Government are considering to construct an alternative national highway compulsory along the borders of China-Nepal and Bangladesh from the strategic point of view; and

(f) if so, the steps being taken by the Government to construct the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) to (f). Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

New Railway Zones

3067. SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Indian Railways have constituted a new Railway Zone with its headquarters at Bangalore;

(b) if so, the territorial extent of the said zone and its nomenclature;

(c) whether a separate Railway Division with its headquarters at Bangalore is contemplated;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time by which these decisions are likely to become operative?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Yes, Sir. The Government has decided to set up six additional Zonal Headquarters including one at Bangalore.

(b) The nomenclature of the Zone shall be South-Western Railway (SWR). The exact jurisdiction of the proposed Zone is yet to be finalised.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Setting up of Zones is expected to be completed in about sixty months.

Survey by RITES

3068. SHRI P.C. THOMAS : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a draft report was given to railways by 'RITES' the agency which conducted survey of Angamaly-Erumely rail line through Juvattaupuzha and Pala in Kerala;

(b) whether investment return ratio shown is positive;

(c) if so, the investment return ratio of Kottayam-Erumely-Punalur line;

(d) the reasons for the delay to get final report of this survey; and

(e) whether final report would be ready by September 1996 as assured by the Railways Minister during the discussion with Members of Parliament of Kerala?

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

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Kottayam-Erumely-Punalur is a different survey which was also conducted by RITES. Its rate of return is negative.

(d) The survey report received from RITES is under examination of the Southern Railway.

(e) Yes, Sir.

Construction of Flyover

3069. KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any proposal to construct a flyover at Sonarpur Railway Crossing in West Bengal; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b). State Govt. has yet to finalise alignment and sponsor firm proposal.

[Translation]

Official Languages Act, 1963

3070. SHRI ANAND RATNA MAURYA : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the provisions have been made in the Official languages Act, 1963 for providing equal rank and facilities to English and Hindi Publications;

(b) whether any penal or corrective action is taken for violating it;

(c) if so, the reasons for discriminating between Hindi and English and not providing required facilities to Hindi in the Bhagirath magazine; and

(d) the steps-proposed to be taken for improving the situation immediately by removing such violation of the Official Languages Act?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : There is no such clear provision in Official language Act, 1963. However orders have been issued in respect of the house magazine and news letters brought out by the

Ministries/Departments that house magazine and new letters should be published bilingually (in Hindi & English) and they should have equal allocation of pages for the two languages and should be brought out in one single cover and name. The headings & design of the cover page should also be bilingual and in these publication information including information regarding the working of the organisation should be published in both the languages.

(b) It is a well considered view of the Government that use and implementation of Official Languages, Hindi, in the Central Government offices should be done through motivations, incentives and goodwill. Accordingly, whenever, any instance of violation of these orders comes to the notice, the Head of the concerned organisation/office is asked to take corrective action.

(c) There is no discrimination against use of Hindi and English in the Central Govt. office. In the said magazine, "Bhagirath" Hindi has the same status which the English publication of this magazine has.

(d) Question does not arise.

[English]

Total Number of Trains

3071. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of trains running under each railways zone in the country;

(b) the percentage of trains which ran late and also those cancelled under each railway zone during the first six months of the current year; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to bring improvements in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) The average number of trains being run daily under each railway zone is as under :-

	Railway	No. of trains
1.	Central	1653
2.	Eastern	1466
3.	Northern	1142
4.	North Eastern	474
5.	Northeast Frontier	214
6.	Southern	1077
7.	South Central	493
8.	South Eastern	432
9.	Western	1363

(b) The percentage of trains which ran late and those cancelled under each railways zone during the first six months of current year are as under :-

Railways	Late percentage	Cancelled percentage
1. Central	6.6%	0.71%
2. Eastern	9.5%	3.7%
3. Northern	6.7%	0.19%
4. Northern Eastern	6.3%	0.6%
5. Northeast Frontier	6.3%	4.7%
6. Southern	5.9%	1.6%
7. South Central	2.9%	0.3%
8. South Eastern	4.1%	1.65%
9. Western	2.8%	0.17%

(c) 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.

Conservation of Lakes

3072. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a proposal for conservation of lakes in Udaipur under the National Lake Conservation Plan has been pending with the Union Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the clearance is likely to be accorded?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAPT. JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD) : (a) to (c). A proposal for conservation and management of the Udaipur lake system was received from the Government of Rajasthan in November, 1995. The scheme of the National Lake Conservation Plan has not been approved by Government in the VIII Plan.

Conversion of Bhavnagar-Surendranagar MG line

3073. SHRI RAJU RANA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the survey work of conversion of Bhavnagar-Surendranagar MG line into BG is likely to be completed as scheduled;

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

(c) the time by which the same would be completed?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The survey is likely to be completed during the current financial year.

Anti-Graft Drive

3074. PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has initiated anti-graft drive against the police and traffic policemen in the city;

(b) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government against those found involved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) to (c). According to the information received from the Delhi Police, 56 police personnel were found involved in alleged malpractices as a result of the anti-graft drive connected during the years 1995 and 1996 (upto 31.7.1996). Of these 56 police personnel, 26 were arrested under the Prevention of Corruption Act, Departmental proceedings have been initiated against the remaining thirty (30) personnel.

[Translation]

Cases Registered under Anti Pollution Acts

3075. SHRI KASHI RAM RANA :

SHRI RAM TAHAL CHOUDHARY :

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

(a) the number of cases registered under The Air (Prevention and Control and Pollution Act, 1981 and The Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 during each of the last two years, State-wise; and

(b) the number of cases in which the courts have given verdict in favour of or against the Pollution Control Boards, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAPT. JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD) : (a) and (b). The number of cases registered under the AIR (Prevention and Control Pollution) Act, 1981 and the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 during each of the last two years, State-wise and the number of cases in which the courts have given verdict in favour of or against the

Pollution control Boards, State-wise are given in the table below:-

S.No.	Name of the State Pollution Control Board	No. of cases registered		No. of cases in which the Courts have given their verdicts			
		Air Act	Water Act	Air Act		Water Act	
				In favour of Board	Against the Board	In favour of Board	Against the Board
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1	Assam	-	-	-	-	-	-
	1994-95	-	-	-	-	-	-
	1995-96	-	-	-	-	-	-
2	Andhra Pradesh	-	-	-	-	-	-
	1994-95	-	-	-	-	-	-
	1995-96	-	-	-	-	-	-
3	Arunachal Pradesh	-	-	-	-	-	-
	1994-95	-	-	-	-	-	-
	1995-96	-	-	-	-	-	-
4	Bihar	-	-	-	-	-	-
	1994-95	1	-	-	-	-	-
	1995-96	1	1	-	-	-	-
5	Goa	-	-	-	-	-	-
	1994-95	-	-	-	-	-	-
	1995-96	-	-	-	-	-	-
6	Gujarat	-	181	6	43	63	138
	1994-95	-	181	6	43	63	138
	1995-96	5	227	1	8	10	45
7	Haryana	-	-	-	-	-	-
	1994-95	-	-	-	-	-	-
	1995-96	-	-	-	-	-	-
8	Himachal Pradesh	-	-	-	-	-	-
	1994-95	-	-	-	-	-	-
	1995-96	-	-	-	-	-	-
9	Jammu & Kashmir	-	4	-	-	-	-
	1994-95	-	4	-	-	-	-
	1995-96	-	-	-	-	-	-
10	Karnataka	1	7	6	3	12	2
	1994-95	1	7	6	3	12	2
	1995-96	-	5	-	-	3	1
11	Kerala	-	-	-	-	-	-
	1994-95	-	-	-	-	-	-
	1995-96	-	2	-	-	2	-
12	Madhya Pradesh	2	2	-	-	-	-
	1994-95	2	2	-	-	-	-
	1995-96	13	2	1	1	1	7
13	Maharashtra	2	14	8	4	3	31
	1994-95	2	14	8	4	3	31
	1995-96	1	1	3	2	2	8
14	Manipur	-	-	-	-	-	-
	1994-95	-	-	-	-	-	-
	1995-96	-	-	-	-	-	-
15	Meghalaya	-	-	-	-	-	-
	1994-95	-	-	-	-	-	-
	1995-96	-	-	-	-	-	-

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
16.	Mizoram						
	1994-95	-	-	-	-	-	-
	1995-96	-	-	-	-	-	-
17.	Nagaland						
	1994-95	-	-	-	-	-	-
	1995-96	-	-	-	-	-	-
18.	Orissa						
	1994-95	2	4	-	-	4	1
	1995-96	5	8	-	-	-	-
19.	Punjab						
	1994-95	14	18	-	-	3	-
	1995-96	-	-	-	-	-	-
20.	Rajasthan						
	1994-95	-	-	-	-	-	-
	1995-96	-	-	-	-	-	-
21.	Sikkim						
	1994-95	-	-	-	-	-	-
	1995-96	-	-	-	-	-	-
22.	Tamil Nadu						
	1994-95	1	7	-	-	1	3
	1995-96	-	-	1	2	2	2
23.	Tripura						
	1994-95	-	-	-	-	-	-
	1995-96	-	-	-	-	-	-
24.	Uttar Pradesh						
	1994-95	-	1	1	1	-	7
	1995-96	-	-	-	-	2	1
25.	West Bengal						
	1994-95	-	-	-	-	-	-
	1995-96	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total		48	484	27	64	108	246

The figures in the table above in which Courts have given verdicts also include the verdicts in cases which were instituted prior to 31.3.1994.

[English]

Vijay Nagar Plant of N.F.L.

3076. SHRI UTTAMSINGH PAWAR :
SHRI ANNASAHIB M.K. PATIL :

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) the amount of money owed by the Vijay Nagar plant of the National Fertilizers Limited to the Gas Authority of India Ltd.;

(b) whether the plant is facing cash crunch;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the corrective steps proposed to be taken by the government to improve liquidity position of the plant?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SIS RAM OLA):

(a) At present, National Fertilizers Limited (NFL) is releasing payment against the supply of gas to their Vijaipur Plant by Gas Authority of India Ltd. on cash and carry basis. However, before this arrangement, an amount of Rs.23 crore is outstanding for payment to Gas Authority of India Limited.

(b) and (c). The liquidity problem has arisen due to investment of the Company's own resources in the Vijaipur Expansion Project due to non-release of loan by IDBI has against an approval of Rs.600 crores term loan. IDBI has so far released Rs.280 crore against the sanction of Rs.600 crores, whereas the expenditure on the Project till 31.7.1996 is Rs.651 crore.

(d) The liquidity position of NFL is being regularly reviewed in the Government with assistance to the

Company in coordinating its input supplies for continued production and improve case flow.

Municipal Corporation Elections in Chandigarh

3077. SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the elections to the Municipal Corporation of Chandigarh have not been held so far;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) if not, the time by which the elections are likely to be held?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) to (c). The elections to the Municipal Corporation of Chandigarh could not be held due to the stay granted by the High Court of Punjab & Haryana on the 27th July, 1994 in a civil writ petition challenging the inclusion of some villages in the notified area of the Municipal Corporation. The stay was vacated on the 4th July, 1995. However, the petitioners preferred a Letter Patent Appeal (LPA) in the High Court which is still pending. Notwithstanding the pendency of litigation, the Chandigarh Administration has finalised the delimitation of wards.

According to the information received from the Chandigarh Administration, it has been tentatively decided to hold the elections to the Municipal Corporation during the current year itself.

[Translation]

Extremists infested Areas

3078. SHRI SHATRUGHAN PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Bihar has demanded the Central Reserve Police force for the extremist infested areas;

(b) if so, the strength of the security force so demanded; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) to (c). A request was received in June, 1996, from the Government of Bihar for providing 20 coys. of CRPF for a period of 2 months for conducting a Special Drive before the rainy season to check the activities of various gangs. However, due to non availability of CPMFs and pressing commitments, elsewhere (including J&K and the North East), it was not found possible to meet the requirement. No further request

has been received, in this Ministry from the State Government.

[English]

Withdrawal of Security Forces

3079. SHRI PINAKI MISRA : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the political workers have become easy target of pro-Pak militants and exposed to the militants attacks following the early withdrawal of security forces from the Northern Kashmir; and

(b) if so, the number of persons including political activists killed by militants in this area during the post election period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) and (b). According to available information two political activists of the Congress (I) were killed in terrorist violence in North Kashmir area viz. districts Kupwara and Baramulla during the period after the Lok Sabha elections. There is adequate deployment of security forces in the area and sustained pressure is being maintained on the militants to curb their activities.

[Translation]

Police Complaints Authority

3080. KUMARI UMA BHARATI : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to constitute a police complaint authority for attending complaints of the public against the police in Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time by which the authority is likely to be constituted; and

(d) whether Union Government propose to issue directives to the State Governments to constitute such type of authority in their States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) and (b). The Government has decided to constitute an Independent authority, the Police Complaint Authority, for dealing with public complaints against police. These complaints will cover, inter-alia, police inaction, non-registration of FIR, partisan attitude of police officials, registration of false cases, corruption and intervention in civil disputes particularly those relating to property and tenancy, custodial torture, rape and other misbehaviour, abuse of police power, etc.

(c) The Authority is likely to be constituted shortly.

(d) Police is a State subject. No such proposal is under consideration of the Central Government.

[English]

Konkan Railway Corporation

3081. SHRI CHURCHILL ALEMAO : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that sinking and cracking up of the mud embankments along the Konkan Railway route at Cortalim Village in Mormugao taluka of South Goa District has resulted in Extensive Flooding of the Damage to the Agricultural land.

(b) whether the Ministry are in receipt of complaint from the concerned farmers asking for compensation for the losses suffered due to negligence on the part of Konkan Railway Corporation;

(c) whether the Government has decided to pay the compensation; and

(d) if so, the extend to which and manner of the same?

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

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Konkan Railway has paid compensation to farmers whose paddy cultivation is affected.

(d) the Corporation has paid compensation of Rs.4,04,138.00 to 238 parties in January, 1996 and Rs. 3,38,577.45 to 142 in June, 1996.

Lead Poisoning in Delhi

3082. DR. M. JAGANNATH : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the newsitem captioned "Import of harazdous wastes unchecked", appearing in the 'Sunday Times of India', dated July 21, 1996;

(b) whether a team from CPCB had conducted a study in regard to lead poisoning in the vicinity of lead smelters in Delhi in April 1994;

(c) if so, the finding of the team; and

(d) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAPT. JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d). Investigations carried out by the Central Pollution Control Board indicate that the secondary lead smelting units in Mundka and Nangloi villages in North-West Delhi had caused environmental pollution and health problems for people and livestock in the nearby areas. According to these investigations, the units were using both indigenous as well as imported battery scrap as raw material and had not provided any pollution control measures. Closure orders have been issued for 108 such units in and around Delhi under the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act 1981.

Green Revolution

3083. SHRI SANDIPAN THORAT :

SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have formulated an Action Plan for launching second Green Revolution in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have reviewed the status regarding standard of education and research in the Agricultural Universities in the country and the results thereof;

(d) the action proposed for promotion/upgradation of agriculture education in the country in the wake of globalisation to support the second Green Revolution and

(e) the allocation of funds for agriculture education/research for the last five years, year-wise and State-wise and outlay proposed for the next five years?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) and (b). No, Sir. However, in non green revolution belt extending green revolution based on small and marginal farmers is under consideration.

(c) Vice-Chancellors of State agricultural universities have been asked to review the standard of education in the University by External Review Committee.

(d) Regarding upgradation of agricultural education in the country, a Working Group has been constituted for formulation of agricultural research and education in the 9th Five Year Plan.

(e) State-wise allocation of funds are enclosed in the statements. Outlay for the next 5 years is yet to be decided in the 9th Five Year Plan.

STATEMENT

Name of Scheme: Development & Strengthening
of Agricultural Universities

Statement indicating University-wise VIII-Plan approved allocation of funds, years-wise Grant already released and provision grant to be released during the remaining part of the Plan period.

(figure in lakhs of rupees)

No	Name of the S.A.U.	VIII-Plan (1992-97) total allo- cation of funds	Grant already released during			Further Grant (tentatively) to be			Remarks
			1992-93	1993-94	1994-95 upto Oct./94	relased during the remaining period of VIII-Plan period 1994-95 (Nov.94 to 1995-96		1996-97	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1	Assam agril. Uni. Jorhat	325.00	60.00	50.00	67.00	-	73.00	75.00	
2	A.P. Agri. Univer. Hyderabad	375.00	60.00	-	-	100.00	100.00	115.00	
3	Rajendra Agri. Uni. Pusa	300.00	27.00	-	-	80.00	90.00	103.00	
4	Gujarat Agri. Uni. Dantiwada	375.00	33.00	-	-	90.00	120.00	132.00	
5	Birsa Agri. Uni. Ranchi	225.00	25.00	-	-	50.00	60.00	90.00	
6	Haryana Agri. Uni. Hissar	350.00	63.00	70.00	72.00	-	70.00	75.00	
7	H.P.K.V.V. Palampur	250.00	54.00	50.00	-	46.00	50.00	50.00	
8	Dr. YS Parmar Uni. H&F Solan	200.00	54.00	25.00	-	31.00	40.00	50.00	
9	U.A.S. Bangalore	300.00	56.00	30.00	63.37	-	75.63	75.00	
10	U.A.S. Dharwar	275.00	25.00	-	-	80.00	80.00	90.00	
11	J.N.K.V.V. Jabalpur	300.00	27.00	-	-	73.00	100.00	100.00	
12	I.G.K.V.V. Jaipur	200.00	27.00	-	28.00	30.00	50.00	65.00	
13	Kerala Agri. Uni. Mannuthy	375.000	66.00	163.50	44.00	-	45.50	56.00	
14	Marathwada Agri. Uni.	200.00	20.00	-	44.01	23.99	50.80	60.00	
During the current financial year 1994-95.									
15	Mahatma Phule Agri. Uni. Rahuri	200.00	20.00	-	66.50	-	53.50	60.00	
16	Konkan Kri. Vidyapeeth. Depoli	175.00	20.00	-	-	35.00	50.00	70.00	
17	Punjabrao Krishi Vidyapeeth. Akola	200.00	20.00	-	20.00	20.00	60.00	80.00	
18	Rajasthan Agri. Uni. Bikaner	375.00	33.00	-	-	52.00	100.00	190.00	
19	Punjab Agri. Uni. Ludhiana	350.00	60.00	70.00	-	70.00	70.00	80.00	
20	Orissa Uni. Of Agri. & Tech.	350.00	33.00	-	-	67.00	100.00	150.00	
21	T.N.A.U. Coimbatore	300.00	28.00	49.00	50.67	22.33	70.00	80.00	
22	C.S. Azad Uni. A&T Kanpur	200.00	23.00	-	-	47.00	60.00	70.00	
23	G.B. Pant Uni. A&T, Pantnagar	275.00	53.00	42.00	-	50.00	60.00	70.00	
24	N.D.U.A.T., Faizabad	175.00	43.00	44.00	13.00	05.00	35.00	35.00	
25	B.C.K.V.V. Mohanpur (Nadia)	325.00	33.00	-	-	37.00	100.00	155.00	

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
26.	Sher-E-Kashmir UA&T, Srinagar.	275.00	30.00	-	-	70.00	75.00	100.00	
27.	T.N. Vety.&A. A.S. Uni. Madras	250.00	27.00	28.00	67.00	-	60.00	68.00	
Total		7500.00	1020.00	621.50	535.55	1079.32	1897.63	2344.00	
					1614.87				

Note : Although all the SAUs are fully aware about their VIII-plan approved Outlay for Central assistance, yet many of them have not as yet submitted their detailed proposal on the items they want to utilize the funds, including the required lists of Equipments to be purchased/buildings to be constructed (sketch-plans & estimates etc.) for consideration in the Council and for seeking specific approval thereto. This is the major cause due to which tempo of expenditure is reported to be very poor.

Further, many SAUs were having huge unspent balance as on 1.4.1992 (i.e. Opening Balance in VIII-Plan) and could not utilized those balances even upto October, 1994. After taking care of the above facts, a maximum of Rs.750.00 lakhs (i.e. Rs. 535.55 lakhs already released + another Rs. 214.45 lakhs to be released) is expected to be utilized during the current financial year 1994-95.

[Translation]

New Rail lines

3084. JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA :
SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI :
SHRI FAGGAN SINGH KULESTE :
SHRI CHHITTUBHAI GAMIT :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any survey for laying new rail lines has been conducted during the last year;

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

(c) the final decision taken by the Government therein; and

(d) the time by which the new rail lines are likely to be commenced?

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

(b) to (d). A statement is attached.

STATEMENT

	Details of the survey	Zone	State	Estimated cost (Rs. in Crores)	ROR	Final decision	Time by which new lines to be commenced
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Traffic Survey for Bhanupali-Bilaspur-beri New Rail line (63 Kms.)	N.Rly.	H.P.	471.84	4.25%		Referred to H.P Govt. for forming a consortium.
2.	Final Location Survey for Khurja-Palawal-Rewari-Rohtak line (213 Kms.)	N.Rly.	UP. Haryana Rajasthan	365.47	-2%		Report would be sent to Planning Commission for consideration.
3.	Preliminary Survey for Daurala to Bijnaur via	N.Rly.	U.P.	66.74	-5%		Shelved, in view of its unremunerative nature.

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	Hastinapur New Rail line (63.50 Kms.)						
4.	Survey for Bhadrachalam Road and Kovvur new line (149 Kms.)	SC Rly.	A.P.	137.71	8.4%		Shelved, in view of its unremunerative nature.
5.	Survey For Sitapur-Nanpur new line (135 kms.)	NE Rly.	U.P.	195.00	Negative	-do-	
6	Survey for Sitapur-Bahraich via Biswan (65 Kms.)	NE Rly.	U.P.	93.00	Negative	-do-	
7.	Survey for Gauge Conversion of Duranda to Maharajaganj (6 Kms.) & its extension for new line upto Masrakh (35.5 kms.)	N.E. Rly.	Bihar	65.00	3.25%	-do-	
8.	Survey for Ashok Nagar- Lalitpur-Satna Mahoba-Khajuraho & Rewa-Sidhi- Singrauli (627 Kms.)	C.Rly.	M.P.	5.73%	1060.00		Report would be sent to Planning Commission for consideration.
9.	Survey for Kumarghat- Agartala new MG line (119 Kms.)	N.F.Rly.	Tripura	2.17%	575.00		Sanctioned for Construction.
10.	Survey for Ar. Sasaram (98 Kms.)	E.Rly.	Bihar	4.82%	107.56		Referred to Planning Commission for consideration.
11.	Traffic survey for Angul- Bundhapunk- Dubri-Sukinda road covering Kamkhayanagar sub-division (90 Kms.)	S.E. Rly.	Orissa	23.43%	221.82		Report is under consideration.
12.	Survey for new BG line between Dausa and Ganga- pur City. (92.66 Kms.)	W.Rly.	Rajasthan	-2.84%	151.84		Work Included in the Budget 1996-97. The work will be taken up after obtaining necessary clearances.
13.	Survey for new BG line between Nandyal and Yerraguntla (126 Kms.)	S.C. Rly.	Andhra Pradesh	8.11%	155.74		Sanctioned for construction.

[English]

Infiltration of Foreigners into Tripura

3085. SHRI BADAL CHOUDHURY : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of battalions of B.S.F. necessary to guard the Tripura-Bangladesh Border and the number of battalions deployed in Tripura at present;

(b) the number of foreigners infiltrated into Tripura between 1990 and 1995; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to stop infiltration of foreigners into Tripura?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) 10 battalions of the Border Security Force (BSF) are meant for deployment on the Tripura-Bangladesh border of which one battalion is for Reserve. At present a little over 6 battalions (32 Coys) are deployed, as the remaining coys are on internal security/election duty in Jammu & Kashmir.

(b) In view of the long and porous nature of the border and also on account of ethnic and linguistic similarities of the people on both sides of the border, it is not possible to indicate the exact number of foreigners who have infiltrated into Tripura. However, the yearwise figures of foreigners apprehended by the BSF on the Tripura border are given below :-

Year	Foreigners apprehended
1990	1994
1991	2229
1992	2801
1993	635
1994	1225
1995	621
1996	216
(upto June)	

(c) The BSF has taken the following steps to check infiltration along the Tripura-Bangladesh borders:

- (i) patrolling/naks have been increased/intensified;
- (ii) border patrolling has been intensified by providing jeeps and motor cycles;
- (iii) OP towers have been erected;
- (iv) binoculars, twin-telescopes, night vision devices and hand-held search lights have been provided for enhanced vigilance on the border; and
- (v) border roads/tracts are being constructed/developed for vehicular patrolling.

In addition, 144 posts of various ranks have been sanctioned under the Mobile Task Force Scheme for Tripura to prevent infiltration. The expenditure on these posts is fully reimbursed by the Central Government to the Government of Tripura.

Guidelines for Eco-Friendly Pisciculture

3086. SHRI SURESH KALMADI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased state :

(a) whether Government have issued guidelines in promoting pisciculture to the States and Union Territories to ensure that the rapid growth in fish output is not at the cost of environment and human development; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. Guidelines for sustainable development and management of brackishwater aquaculture have been issued to all maritime States and Union Territories in August 1995. The guidelines outline the measures for development of sustainable aquaculture to reduce the adverse impact of wastes, treatment of such wastes and mitigation of any adverse impact of aquaculture on the environment.

The measures suggested in the Guidelines inter alia include :

- (i) Undertaking on environmental impact assessment study at the Planning stage itself as a pre-condition for approval for all the aquaculture units above 40 ha. in size.
- (ii) Incorporating an Environmental Monitoring and Management Plan in all aquaculture units having a net water area of 40 ha. or more.
- (iii) Discouraging conversion of mangroves and productive agriculture land for shrimp farming.
- (iv) Prescribing a minimum distance between brackishwater aquaculture units and habitations such as towns and villages, agricultural lands and fresh water sources.
- (v) Creating buffer zones between the adjacent aquaculture units for drawal of freshwater.
- (vi) Avoiding use of chemicals and antibiotics.
- (vii) Improving the soil and water quality.
- (viii) Culture management and waste water management/treatment methodologies.
- (ix) Using waste water discharged from aquaculture units for secondary aquaculture purposes; and
- (x) Prescribing standards for waste water discharge and its disposal.

Subsidy on Drip Irrigation

3087. SHRI T. GOPAL KRISHNA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh has represented for increasing the amount of subsidy on the drip irrigation for oilpalm;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon; and

(d) the measures taken to increase the export of oilpalm?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) and (b). The Government of Andhra Pradesh had represented for increasing subsidy on installation of drip irrigation system for Oil Palm growers from Rs. 10,000 per hectare to Rs. 15,000 per hectare and relaxation of restriction of area from 1 hectare to 6 hectares per Oil Palm grower's family.

(c) The Government of India raised the subsidy to Oil Palm growers from Rs. 10,000 to Rs. 15,000 per hectare and relaxed the restriction of area to 6 hectares for installation of drip irrigation system in March, 1996. Further, the subsidy borne by Government of India with State Government was revised from 80:20 to 90:10 sharing basis.

(d) No measures have so far been taken to increase export of Oil Palm.

Reduction in the running time of Trains

3088. SHRI SHIVANAND H. KQUJALGI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government would take steps to reduce the running time of Shatabdi Express train leaving from Bangalore to Hubli and back;

(b) whether the Government would take steps for stopping the train at other than the scheduled stoppages to reduce the running time and would extend the train upto Bengaum; and

(c) whether it is proposed to reduce the train fair?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (c). No. Sir. However, as Bangalore-Hubli Shatabdi Express is very poorly patronised, it is being replaced by an Intercity Express with additional stoppage in October - 1996 Time Table.

Conversion into Broad Gauge line

3089. SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the work relating to the gauge

conversion of rail line between Kottur and Hospet has not got clearance from the concerned agency of the Railway Board;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the amount of financial assistance earmarked for the said work?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : No, Sir. The gauge conversion of rail line between Kotturu and Hospet is a part of Gauge Conversion of Hospet-Goa section, cleared by this Ministry. The work on this section, i.e. Kotturu-Hospet, has since been completed and commissioned.

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

[Translation]

Bridge at Hathras Junction

3090. SHRI KRISHAN LAL DILER : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any survey has been conducted during the recent years for the construction of bridge at the Hathras Junction;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to construct an over bridge and platform on the metre gauge line at the Hathras Junction; and

(d) if so, the time by which the said work would be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b). Construction of a Road over bridge at Km. 1296/29-31 on Ghaziabad-Kanpur section in lieu of level crossing No. 95-A on Pilibhit-Bharatpur Road has been included in the Works Programme of 96-97 at a cost of rs. 827.11 lakhs (Rly's share Rs. 373.76 lakhs and State PWD's share Rs. 453.35 lakhs).

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

[English]

Multi-State Co-Operatives

3091. SHRI NANDKUMAR SAI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government propose to encourage setting up of multi state co-operatives;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the benefits likely to be achieved as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) to (c). Cooperative Societies with objects not confined to one State and serving the interests of members in more than one State come under the purview of the Multi-State Cooperative Societies Act, 1984 (A Central Act). The proposals for setting up of such Multi-State Cooperative Societies may be considered for registration in view of the provisions of the Multi-State Cooperative Societies Act, 1984 and rules framed thereunder. Hence, the question of encouragement or otherwise of the setting up of Multi-State Cooperative Societies, does not arise.

[Translation]

Gauge Conversion in Madhya Pradesh

3092. SHRI ASHOK ARGAL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the names of the places in Madhya Pradesh where metre gauge railway lines are existing;

(b) whether the Union Government propose to convert these metre gauge railway lines into broad gauge;

(c) if so, the names of the railway lines out of these for which the action is being taken for gauge conversion;

(d) whether there is any proposal to covert the metre gauge rail lines from Gwalior to Shyampur-Kala and Bhind to Gwalior into broad gauge; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Metre gauge lines are existing at the following places in Madhya Pradesh :

1. Nimach
2. Ratlam
3. Ujjain
4. Indore
5. Mhow and
6. Khandwa

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Gauge conversion of Nimach-Ratlam sections is an approved work, which is currently in progress and is likely to be completed in the Ninth Plan.

Surveys for conversion of Ratlam-Indore-Ujjain-Mhow and Mhow-Khandwa are in progress. Further consideration of the proposals will be possible, once the results of the surveys become available.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) A Reconnaissance Engineering-cum-Traffic Survey for conversion of Gwalior-Sheopur Kala narrow gauge section to broad gauge and its extension to Kota is in progress. Further consideration of the proposal

will be possible, once the results of the survey become available.

Gwalior to Nonera is already an existing broad gauge line. Conversion of the line from Nonera to Bhind from narrow gauge to broad gauge, which forms a part of the approved work of Guna-Etawah new broad gauge line, will be taken up after completion of the construction of Guna-Gwalior new line.

{English}

Jabalpur Railway Station

3039. SHRI DADA BABURAO PARANJPE : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the pitiable condition of Jabalpur Railway Station viz. corruption in reservation fake reservation, no sitting arrangement in the reservation premises, defunct PCO boxes at the railway platform and dirty railway tracks, etc; and

(b) if so, the corrective measures proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b) Jabalpur station has been provided with Computerised reservation facility which precludes the scope of fraud like selling of fake or counterfeit tickets. Some unscrupulous elements with connivance of railway staff however, indulge in malpractices like blocking of berths, cornering of accommodation etc. Two such cases have been reported recently in which railway administration has initiated action. Preventive, surprise and decoy checks by Commercial and Vigilance organisations are conducted on a regular and sustained basis in order to tackle such problems.

No arrangement is presently available in the reservation complex at Jabalpur station for seating of passengers seeking reservations. Railways are exploring the feasibility of providing sitting arrangement, if required.

Two manned telephone booths with STD/ISD facilities are provided on main platforms of Jabalpur station. These booths are maintained by P and T Department and action is taken to ensure that they are kept in working order.

For ensuring cleanliness of railway track adjacent to platforms, washable apron has been provided on Platform No. 1 and provision for washable apron for Platform No. 3 is being processed by the railway.

[Translation]

Bhopal Gas Tragedy

3094. Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have incurred any expenditure on the treatment and other items relating to the Bhopal gas victims till now; and

(b) if so, the details thereof, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SIS RAM OLA):

(a) and (b). According to information received from the State Government of Madhya Pradesh year-wise expenditure on treatment of gas affected victims and medical infrastructure at Bhopal is as follows :

Year	Total Expenditure (in Rs.)
1985-86	67.51.939
1986-87	3,48,51,627
1987-88	4,74,43,694
1988-89	5,51,94,849
1989-90	6,15,73,974
1990-91	5,87,36,736
1991-92	6,14,05,040
1992-93	7,49,20,440
1993-94	8,15,30,531
1994-95	8,70,49,939
1995-96	7,14,38,606
1996-97	1,65,29,325

Movement of Freight Traffic

3095. SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ :

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the demand for the movement of goods by the Railways is continuously on the increase during the last few years;

(b) if so, the total demand made to the Railways for 1991-92 and 1995-96;

(c) whether in view of the increasing demand for the goods traffic, the Government have added more wagons during the said years;

(d) if so, the additional number of wagons with the Railways during the year 1995-96 in comparison to the number thereof during the year 1991-92; and

(e) the number of old wagons weeded out during the said period?

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

(b) The target and actual loading of revenue earning traffic during 1991-92 and 1995-96 was as follows :

Year	Target (million tonnes)	Actual loading (million tonnes)
1991-92	337.00	337.98
1995-96	385.00	390.57

(c) Commensurate with the transport requirement for the goods traffic, the Government have added the following new wagons produced in the years 1991-92 to 1995-96 :

Year	No. of wagons manufactured (in four-wheeler units)
1991-92	25778
1992-93	26129
1993-94	19649
1994-95	10575
1995-96	17950

(d) Ownership of BG wagons (in FWUs) on Indian Railways was 474008 as on 1.4.1991 and 466087 as on 1.4.1995.

(e) 89,485 BG wagons (in FWUs) were condemned during the period 1.4.1991 to 31.3.1995, and during 1995-96 the provisional figure is 19140.

[English]

Railway Track Sleepers

3096. SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that a large number of RCC Railway track sleeper were kept in the Plot No. 256 and 257 of village Tiheri Math under the Massauri Police Station Patna District near Nadaul Railway Station;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the action taken by Government to remove them; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) It has not been possible to ascertain the exact location of Plot No. 256 and 257. However, near Nadaul Station on Patna-Gaya Section of Eastern Railway some Prestressed Concrete Sleepers are lying near Railway boundary.

(b) Prestressed Concrete sleepers were unloaded by the side of track near Nadual Railway Station in Patna-Gaya Section of Danapur Div. of E.Rly. for carrying out casual renewal of worn-out sleepers. About 35 nos. of such sleepers have rolled down the embankment and are lying in Nadaul station limit, near Railway boundary.

(c) Eastern Railway has been advised to retrieve the above sleepers at the earliest.

(d) Does not arise.

Investment in Railways

3097. SHRI T. GOVINDAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the total investments of Railway related industries in India like coach factories and other related requirements/feedback for the development of Railway service, State-wise and industry-wise; and

(b) the percentage of total investment in Kerala in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) The total investments made in setting up of the Railway related industries under Ministry of Railways like coach factories with their inception year, State-wise and industry-wise, is as follows. Time to time investments are also being made in these factories. Such investments (approximate) made in these factories during the last five years (1991-92 to 1995-96) are also indicated.

(Rs. in crores)

S.No.	State	Industry	Year of inception	Investments	
				for setting up the factory	for other related requirements/feedback during last five years (91-92) to 95-96)
1.	West Bengal	Chittaranjan Locomotive Works, Chittaranjan	1948	14.56	80.09
2.	Uttar Pradesh	Diesel Locomotive Works, Varanasi.	1961	19.57	33.07
3.	Tamil Nadu	Integral Coach Factory, Madras.	1952	7.35	28.86
4.	Punjab	Diesel Component Works, Patiala	1986	163.00	-
5.	Punjab	Rail Coach Factory, Kapurthala	1988	359.36	-
6.	Karnataka	Wheel and Axle Plant, Bangalore	1984	146.16	44.51

(b) Nil.

D.M.S. Home Delivery Cards

3098. SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT : Will the Minister of ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received complaints regarding getting of Home Delivery Cards for D.M.S. Milk by furnishing false information during 1996;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have made any inquiry into those complaints;

(d) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(e) the action taken against those found guilty?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH) : (a) to (d). Yes, Sir, the Delhi Milk Scheme (DMS) had received a complaint that Home Delivery Cards have been issued to four persons of the same family. This was investigated by DMS and it was found that all the card holders have separate Ration Cards. DMS issues Home Delivery Cards on the basis of Ration Cards. The complaint has, therefore, no grounds.

(e) Does not arise.

Encroached/Unused Railway Land

3099. SHRI HARADHAN ROY : Will the Minister RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have made a

assessment of railway land lying unused/encroached upon for a long period of time in the Asansol Division;

(b) if so, the details thereof, railway station-wise; and

(c) the manner in which the Government propose to utilise and recover such land?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. The break-up of railway land under encroachment station-wise is as under :

Station	Area (Ha)
Durgapur	0.095
Andal	0.528
Raniganj	0.129
Asansol	0.445
Panagarh	0.069
Suri	0.026
Others	0.641
Total	1.933

(c) Action to remove the encroachment is taken under the provisions of Public Premises (Eviction of Unauthorised Occupants) Act, 1971.

[Translation]

Parcel Office of New Delhi Railway Station

3100. SHRI SUKHLAL KUSHWAHA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Officers and employees involved in corruption cases in the Parcel Department of New Delhi Railway Station during the last four years;

(b) whether some corrupt Officers and employees have retained their posts in the same department;

(c) if so, whether the Government will punish the guilty by conducting a high level inquiry in this matter; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) 151 parcel staff were found involved in corruption and other irregularities at New Delhi Railway Station during the last four years.

(b) The cadre of parcel staff is separate on Delhi Division of Northern Railway and as such, once a staff is posted in parcel office, he continues to work in Parcel Department but are liable to transfer to other parcel depot of the Division, if found guilty *prima facie* on a charge of corruption.

(c) They have been taken up under Railway (D and A) Rules.

(d) Does not arise.

[English]

Arsenic Poisoning

3101. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that more than two lakh population along the Ganges are exposed to arsenic poisoning through the drinking water;

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

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to save the population from poisoning hazard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAPT. JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD) : (a) and (c). As per information received from the Ministry of Rural Areas and Employment (Rajiv Gandhi National Drinking Water Mission), as on April, 1996 there are 984 habitations spread over 8 districts of West Bengal reported to have arsenic content in the ground water with more than the permissible limit (0.05 mg/litre). The Government of West Bengal has prepared a perspective plan at a total cost of Rs. 750 crores indicating long term and short term measures to tackle arsenic contamination. The replacement of tubewells by deeper ones, construction of new piped water supply schemes and construction of Sanitary Protected Wells and Rain Harvesting Structures for immediate relief and establishment of surface water based piped water Supply schemes, tubewells based new Piped Water Supply schemes, establishing new spot sources for solving features of the Perspective Plan.

National Pharmaceuticals Pricing Authority

3102. SHRI RAJKESHAR SINGH :
DR. RAMKRISHNA KUSMARIA :
DR. BALIRAM :

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to set up a National Pharmaceuticals Pricing Authority; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SIS RAM OLA) : (a) and (b). In the Modification in Drug Policy, 1986 announced in September, 1994, there is a provision to set up an independent body of experts called the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) to do the work of price fixation. This body would be entrusted with the task of updating the list of drugs under price

control. It would also monitor the prices of decontrolled drugs and formulations and oversee the implementation of the provisions of the DPCO. Necessary steps have already been initiated to set up the NPPA.

Speed of Trains

3103. SHRI MAHESH KUMAR M. KANODIA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Union Government propose to increase the speed of the trains running between Patan-Ahmedabad;

(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 exigencies and speed restrictions.

Electrification on Rail Routes

3104. SHRI VISHAMBHAR PRASAD NISHAD : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to introduce electrification on Ghaziabad-Meerut and Ghaziabad-Saharanpur rail routes;

(b) if so, the time by which electrification on the said routes would be done; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (c). There is no proposal to electrify Ghaziabad-Meerut section over which the traffic density is low at present and does not qualify for electrification. The portion Meerut to Saharanpur has been included in the Budget for 1996-97 as a new work as part of electrification of Khurja-Hapur-Meerut-Saharanpur section.

Infiltration into Rann of Kutch

3105. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the fact that Sir Greek in little Rann of Kutch is having abundant potentiality for oil and fishing industry apart from the other mineral deposits;

(b) whether there has been a constant threat from Pakistan side to control the area and it is prone to frequent infiltration from other side of the border; and

(c) if so, the efforts made so far and being made to protect this area from infiltration and ensure security of the border?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) to (c). Yes, Sir. It is a known fact that Exclusion Economic Zone (EEZ) in the Western Coast has an abundant potential for Oil and other Maritime assets on which Pakistan may like to have a control. To check the situation, however, the following steps have been taken.

(i) The Creek area has been kept under surveillance by physical domination in Sawalpir area.

(ii) Patrolling/Nakas has been increased and intensified.

(iii) Binoculars, Twin Telescopes, Night Vision Devices, PNV binoculars and hand held search lights have been provided for enhanced vigilance on the border.

(iv) Boats/motor boats have been provided for patrolling Creek area.

(v) The Co-ordination meetings are held at various levels between State Government of Gujarat, Navy, Army, Coastal Guard, Customs and BSF authorities for effectively controlling the transborder crimes in Creek area.

(vi) Water Crafts have been deployed for patrolling in the Creek area.

(vii) Tractors have also been deployed in Kutch for patrolling purposes.

(viii) Intelligence set up of the BSF has been geared up for keeping close surveillance on the border.

Smuggling of Arms and Currency

3106. SHRI PRADIP BHATTACHARYA : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to newsitem captioned "Pak dumping arms and fake currency", appearing in the *Hindustan Times* dated May 25, 1996;

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

(c) the preventive measures taken to check recurrence of such activities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). Recently there have been instances wherein arms, ammunition and explosives were smuggled into the country. Similarly, instances of circulation of counterfeit currency in some parts of the country, particularly North-East, Jammu and Kashmir and Punjab have also come to notice. Government is alive to the situation and are taking appropriate steps

in this regard. All State Governments and concerned agencies of the Central Government have been suitably alerted and sensitised to keep a close watch on the situation.

Railway Land

3107. KUMARI FRIDA TOPNO : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Railways had acquired thousands of acres of Tribal lands at Bondamunda for the construction of Railway Yards whereas hundreds of acres of land now remain unused or are being encroached;

(b) if so, the number of proposals before the Government to utilise this surplus land by the Railways; and

(c) if not, whether this land is going to be returned to the original owners?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) The Railway acquired about 3421.5 acres of land. Of this, 841 acres of land is lying unused of which about 2 acres of land has been encroached upon.

(b) There are a number of proposals before the Government for the utilisation of this railway land.

(c) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Developmental Projects in Forest Area

3108. SHRI ANANT KUMAR HEGDE : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the deforestation in the country particularly in Karnataka caused due to setting up of development projects and other reasons, whereas these projects could have been set up in the plains;

(b) whether the Government have also received reports regarding illegal mining in the forest areas of the country particularly in Karnataka;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Union Government to save the forests from the environmental viewpoint?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAPT. JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD) : (a) As per the State of Forest Report, 1993, the forest cover in Karnataka has shown a marginal increase of 144 sq.km over 1991 assessment. So far as diversion of forest land for none forestry purposes is concerned, prior approval of Central Government is required under Forest (Conservation)

Act, 1980. Such developmental projects are located in hilly as well as in plain regions depending on the requirement of the site. Permission for such diversion is accorded after careful examination of all relevant information including likely effects of such diversion on environment, flora and fauna and after satisfying that no alternative land is available for the project and the demand for the forest land is bare minimum.

(b) Yes, Sir. •

(c) Does not arise.

(d) One of the important step taken by the Central Government to check diversion of forest land in the country has been enactment of the Forest (Conservation) Act in 1980. Further, while permitting diversion of forest land under the Forest (Conservations) Act, 1980, suitable safeguards including compensatory afforestation and for mining cases the condition of reclamation of area is stipulated to compensate for diversion of forest land.

Funds for Flood Relief

3109. SHRI O.P. JINDAL : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Haryana Government has submitted any detailed report regarding its flood-hit areas to the Union Government and requested to provide special financial assistance;

(b) if so, whether the Government have agreed to the request and provide a special financial assistance to the State Government;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the amount of said assistance is very meagre; and

(e) if so, whether it is proposed to increase the amount?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) The Government of Haryana had submitted a Memorandum seeking financial assistance of Rs. 43.36 crores for relief and rehabilitation measures in the wake of the recent floods.

(b) to (e). A Central Team visited the flood affected areas. Government of India have released the entire Central share of Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) for 1996-97 amounting to Rs. 18.79 crores to the State Government.

Fruit Trees in Forests

3110. SHRI LALIT ORAON : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to grow fruit

trees in the forest land which are useful for fruit production as well as the environment;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAPT. JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD) : (a) to (c). Fruit bearing trees can be planted on forest land if the species to be planted are indigenous and such plantation activity is part of an overall afforestation programme for the forest area in question. The species for plantations are selected by the State/UT Governments which are implementing various afforestation schemes, taking into account the climatic and soil factors.

[English]

National Dairy Research Institute

3111. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to develop the Southern Regional Station of the National Dairy Research Institute (NDRI), Bangalore into the full fledged Institute to cater to the Research and Development needs of the industry;

(b) if so, whether the Karnataka Government has agreed to provide funds and other infrastructural facilities; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) No, Sir. There is no proposal to develop the Southern Regional Station Dairy Research Institute, Bangalore into a full fledged Institute.

The SRS is already looking after the needs of dairy industry for that region.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Does not arise.

Ban on Collection of Stone and Sand

3112. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have imposed restriction on the collection of stone and total ban on the collection of sand between 200 to 500 metres from the sea coast particularly in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have received an representation to this effect;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the reaction of the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAPT. JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD) : (a) and (b). As per the provision of the Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) Notification issued by the Central Government on 19.2.1991 under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, mining of sands, rocks and other substrata materials, except those rare minerals not available outside the CRZ areas is a prohibited activity.

(c) to (e). The Government have received a representation from the Andaman and Nicobar Administration for relaxation to this effect, but in accordance with the provisions of the Notification, no relaxation for prohibited activities is permissible.

[Translation]

Krishi Vigyan Kendras

3113. SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government intend to establish at least one Krishi Vigyan Kendra in each district in the country;

(b) if so, the number of districts remaining without the Krishi Vigyan Kendra in the country at present, State-wise;

(c) the time limit fixed by the Government to achieve the desired target;

(d) whether the Government propose to allocate funds for the setting up of the Krishi Vigyan Kendras in these districts; and

(e) if so, the estimated fund required for setting up of the Krishi Vigyan Kendras in these districts?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. Out of 503 rural districts, 251 districts of the country are yet to be covered with the Krishi Vigyan Kendra. State-wise list is enclosed as Statement.

(c) and (d). It will depend on the availability of additional funds for which the Planning Commission has been approached.

(e) An estimated additional funds of Rs. 465 crores will be required for setting up new Krishi Vigyan Kendras in these districts.

STATEMENT

State-wise list of District, with and without Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs)

S. No.	State/UT	No. of Rural distt.	No. of distt. with KVKs	No. of distt. without KVKs
1.	A & N Islands	02	01	01
2.	Andhra Pradesh	23	15	08
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	13	01	12
4.	Assam	23	05	18
5.	Bihar	52	18	34
6.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	01	—	01
7.	Daman and Diu	02	—	02
8.	Delhi	01	01	—
9.	Goa	02	01	01
10.	Gujarat	19	10	09
11.	Hayana	16	12	04
12.	Himachal Pradesh	12	09	03
13.	Jammu and Kashmir	14	04	10
14.	Karnataka	19	10	09
15.	Kerala	14	09	05
16.	Lakshadweep	01	—	01
17.	Madhya Pradesh	45	19	26
18.	Maharashtra	30	22	08
19.	Manipur	08	01	07
20.	Meghalaya	07	01	06
21.	Mizoram	03	02	01
22.	Nagaland	07	01	06
23.	Orissa	30	12	18
24.	Pondicherry	04	02	02
25.	Punjab	14	09	05
26.	Rajasthan	30	30	—
27.	Sikkim	04	01	03
28.	Tamil Nadu	22	16	06
29.	Tripura	04	02	02
30.	Uttar Pradesh	65	30	35
31.	West Bengal	16	08	08
Total		503	252	251

[English]

Pine Trees

3114. SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA' : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that the Pine Trees in the Garhwal and Kumayun regions of

Uttar Pradesh have resulted in deforestation and decreasing ground water level;

(b) if so, whether the Government proposes to plant trees of other varieties like Bhoj Patra, Banj, etc. in order to arrest de-forestation and increase already diminishing ground water level;

(c) if so, the details thereof, and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAPT. JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) The Govt. have taken a number of steps to maintain proper balance in the Himalayan eco-system which include :

1. State Govt. have been requested to consider putting a ban on felling of green trees above 1000 metre altitude.
2. A network of National Parks and Wildlife Sanctuaries has been created in Himalayan region.
3. People's participation is being actively promoted in protection and management of forest areas in the region.
4. Promotion of locally available species for plantation and for under 20-Point Programme.
5. Creation of Ecological Task Force in Uttar Pradesh.
6. Establishment of Govind Ballabh Pant Institute of Himalayan Environment and Development for carrying out detailed study and research and make recommendations for maintenance of proper balance in the Himalayan eco-system.

Extension of Railway Line

3115. SHRI TH. CHAOBA SINGH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Manipur has been demanding for the extension of Railway line Diphu (Assam) to Karong (Imphal);

(b) whether a detailed survey of the proposed railway line has been undertaken; and

(c) if so, the response of the Union Government and the action proposed to be taken in this regard?

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

(b) and (c). A feasibility survey for new line between Diphu and Karong was done earlier by M/s. RITES in 1989-90 but the project could not be the survey for construction of a rail line from Diphu (Assam) to Karong (Imphal) (123 kms.) has recently been ordered.

Further consideration of the project would depend upon the results of survey and availability of resources.

Encroachment on Railway Land

3116. DR. PRABIN CHANDRA SARMA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the area of the land of North East Frontier Railways under illegal possession of the encroachers, location-wise;

(b) the steps being taken to remove the encroachers; and

(c) the extent of annual loss incurred by NEF Railway on account of the unauthorised encroachments?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) 304 hectares of railway land is under illegal occupation of encroachers on N.F. Railway. The Division-wise break-up is as under :

Division	Area (Ha)
Alipurduar	133
Tinsukia	17
Katihar	19
Lumding	86
Maligaon	49

(b) Measures are taken by the Railway Administration to remove the encroachments within the ambit of Public Premises (Eviction of Unauthorised Occupants) Act, 1971 and with the cooperation of State Government.

(c) No loss has been sustained as these lands were kept vacant for railway's future developmental programme.

Forest offences

3117. SHRIMATI MENAKA GANDHI : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether due to unaffected and laxity in implementation of the various Forest Laws and Acts, the forest offences are increasing;

(b) if so, the facts thereof; and

(c) the measures proposed to be taken by the Government to enforce Forest Laws and Acts effectively?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAPT. JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD) : (a) No report of increase in forest offences due to laxity in implementation of Forest Laws and Acts has come to the notice of the Government.

(b) Question does not arise.

(c) In order to ensure better implementation of Forest Laws and Acts following steps have been taken by the Government :

(i) Strengthening of Regional offices of the Ministry for monitoring and/or increased liaison with State/Union Territory Governments.

(ii) Financial assistance to State/Union territory Governments for strengthening protection and communication network.

(iii) Institution of schemes of rewards and incentives for detection of forest offences, including poaching of wild animals, in some of the States.

(iv) Promotion of people's participation in protection and management of forests through Joint Forest Management.

(v) Constitution of Social Audit Panel to assess the programmes of this ministry and suggest corrections where necessary.

Railway Station of Surendranagar

3118. SHRI SANAT MEHTA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the large area of land of old railway station of Surendranagar is lying unused after shifting it to the new site;

(b) if so, the total areas of this land and number of structures made thereon; and

(c) the time by which the station at the new site would become functional?

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

(b) A total of 24.69 hectare land is lying surplus due to the conversion of metre gauge to broad gauge and shifting of the metre gauge line from the city area to an outside location. The total area of the two buildings thereon is 1146.56 Sq. Mt.

(c) The station at the new site has started functioning.

Mushroom Cultivation

3119. DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI :

SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have a proposal to increase areas under mushroom cultivation in the country particularly in Orissa;

(b) whether Central assistance is being extended to various States for the purpose;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the States where mushroom cultivation has been under taken during the Eighth Plan;

(e) the States where mushroom cultivation is proposed to be extended during 1996-97; and

(f) the details of the steps being taken in this regard in Orissa?

THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) Yes, Sir

(b) The Government of India is implementing a Central Sector Scheme on Mushroom Cultivation with a total outlay of Rs. 15.68 crores during the current Plan. The components of the Scheme are setting up of 36 Spawn production units (@ Rs. 11.5 lakh per unit); 35 pasteurised compost units (@ Rs. 28.5 lakhs per unit) and providing training to 27,200 farmers to promote mushroom production in different States.

(d) The States/Union Territories where mushroom production is reported to be underway during Eighth Plan are Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Chandigarh, Delhi, Goa, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra, Manipur, Madhya Pradesh, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Orissa, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal.

(e) All the States listed under '(d)' above.

(f) The State of Orissa has been allocated a sum of Rs. 43.60 lakhs for setting up of one Spawn production one pasteurised compost unit and training of 600 farmers.

Conversion of Coach into Saloon

3120. SHRI SOMJIBHAI DAMOR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Coach No. 6268 has been converted into a saloon in Ratlam Division of the Western Railway.

(b) if so, the reason therefor;

(c) the authority under which conversion was done alongwith the expenditure incurred on the same;

(d) the per day loss of the earnings by withdrawal of the said Coach; and

(e) whether any other Coach has been provided in the said train as a replacement?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b). One composite first-cum-second class coach built 22 years ago has since been converted into a mobile training-cum-inspection car for imparting training to staff at road side stations and for inspection.

(c) Conversion was made by divisional authorities at a cost of about Rs. 50,000/-.

(d) Such data for individual coach is not available.

(e) No, Sir. This composite coach was running by passenger trains. Railways have as a policy, stopped manufacturing first class (full and composite) coaches and therefore the existing ones from passenger and Mail/Express trains are being withdrawn gradually.

Rail Lines in Kerala

3121. SHRI O. BHARATHAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the existing rail lines in Kerala are as old as fifty years and more; and

(b) if so, whether there is any proposal under consideration to modernise the rail lines in order to make them safe?

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

(b) Does not arise.

Electrification of Railway Routes

3122. SHRI S. AJAY KUMAR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the rail routes likely to be electrified during the current year, State-wise and Zone-wise; and

(b) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to expedite the rail electrification work in Kerala?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) The rail routes/sections of railways likely to be electrified during the current year i.e. by 31.03.1997 are as under :

Section	Route Kilometre	Railway Zone	State
1	2	3	4
1. Tori-Patratu-Chainpur (Part of Sonnagar- Patratu and Gumia -Patratu)	101	Eastern	Bihar
2. Mandi Govindgarh- Ludhiana (Part of Delhi-Ambala- Ludhiana)	46	Northern	Punjab
3. Walayar-Shoranur (Part of Erode- Ernakulam)	72	Southern	Kerala
4. Karkend-Jamadoba (Part of Jamadoba- Mohuda)	08	South Eastern	West Bengal
5. Bondamunda-Barsuan/ Kiriburu	105	South Eastern	Orissa Bihar

1	2	3	4
6.	Bhimadolu-Nidadavolu- Rajahmundry and Samalkot-Annavaram- Anakapalli (Part of Vijayawada- Vishakhapatnam)	179 South Central	Andhra Pradesh
7.	Jamtara-Jhajha-Jamui (Part of Sitarampur- Mughalsarai)	146 Eastern	Bihar

(b) In the State of Kerala the electrification work is in progress on section Walayar-Ernakulam including Cochin Harbour Terminus. The section Walayar-Shoranur is likely to be electrified by 31.03.1997 and it is planned to complete electrification of the entire section by 31.03.1998 provided that adequate funds are made available in time.

Rail Link in Andhra Pradesh

3123. SHRI YELLAIAH NANDI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether surveys have been conducted to establish a rail-link between Pathancheru-Sangareddi-Medak-Siddipet towns in the Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating the number of surveys conducted so far;

(c) whether in a survey conducted recently, it has been decided to connect these towns and Andhra Pradesh by the rail; and

(d) if so, the full details thereof and the time expected to be taken for finalisation of the project work as well as completion of the job?

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

(b) An updating of survey for a new broad gauge line from Patancheru to Akanapet via Sangareddi and Medak was conducted by South Central Railway in 1994. The results of the survey have revealed the cost of the 102 kms. long line as Rs. 130.74 crores and the project has been found to be unremunerative. Two surveys have so far been conducted for the suggested line, i.e. in 1981 and 1994.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Autonomy to States

3124. SHRI AMAR PAL SINGH : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there are demands from some States of the country for giving more autonomy to them;

(b) whether the Union Government propose to follow a uniform policy in this regard in the country;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) to (d). The Minimum Programme of the Government refers to a new articulation of 'States rights' and the need for greater powers to the States' and seeks to strengthen the forces of political federalism with a strong Centre, strong States and viable local bodies. The document states that the Government will advance the principles of political, administrative and economic federalism and effect devolution of powers and decentralisation of authority. For this purpose, the Government intends to pursue a two-track policy. On the first track, the recommendations of the Sarkaria Commission on which there is already a broad consensus, will be implemented through legislation and administrative action as appropriate. On the second track, the Government proposes to appoint a High Level Committee to review and update the recommendations of the Sarkaria Commission and also to look into the vital question of devolution of financial powers from the Central Government to the State Governments.

[Translation]

Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act, 1958

3125. SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the States where Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act is in force;

(b) since when this Act came into force first time. State-wise;

(c) the reasons for keeping the same in force;

(d) whether continuation of this Act has been reviewed from time to time; and

(e) if so, when such a review had been last made. State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) The Armed forces (Special Powers) Act is presently promulgated in the following States :

1. Assam
2. Nagaland
3. Manipur
4. Mizoram
5. Meghalaya
6. Arunachal Pradesh
7. Tripura
8. Punjab
9. Chandigarh UT
10. Jammu and Kashmir

(b) As per information available, the Act came into force from the dates mentioned against each :

1. Assam	since	27 November, 1990
2. Nagaland	since	7 April, 1995
3. Manipur	since	28 September, 1970
4. Arunachal Pradesh	since	17, September, 1991
5. Punjab	since	15 October, 1983
6. Chandigarh UT	since	15 October, 1983
7. Jammu & Kashmir	since	5 July, 1990

(c) to (e). Continuance of the Act is considered necessary to contain the militancy and secessionist activities in these States. The situation is kept under constant watch and review for determining and continuation of the said provision. The ground situation does not warrant withdrawal of the powers under the Act at this point of time.

[English]

Eco Development Authority

3126. SHRI SUKH RAM : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether in view of considerable soil erosion in the North Western Himalayas on account of indiscriminate felling of forests, the Government propose to constitute Eco Development Authority for Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh hills so as to ensure that a concrete policy is prepared and effective steps are taken to prevent soil erosion which has been effecting lives and properties of people living in plain areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAPT. JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD) : (a) to (c). No such proposal to constitute Eco Development Authority for Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh hills is under consideration of the Government.

Procurement of Milch Cattle

3127. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO : Will the Minister of ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have formulated any policy for procuring improved breed of milch cattle like Cows, Buffaloes, Goats taking into consideration acute shortage of milk and milk products in India; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH) : (a) and (b). Yes Sir. The Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying is assisting the States and Union Territories to increase the productivity of cattle/buffaloes/goats by making available superior germ plasm.

The broad policies are as under:

- (1) Progressive genetic improvement of cattle, buffaloes and goats breeds by selective breeding in their home tract and upgrading local cattle/buffaloes/goats in other areas.
- (2) Cross-breeding of non-descript cattle/goats with exotic dairy breeds for introducing superior genes for higher milk production.

[Translation]

Discontinuation of the Hatia-Chandigarh Express

3128. SHRI BRAJ MOHAN RAM : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for discontinuation of the Hatia-Chandigarh Express;

(b) whether the Government propose to reintroduce the Hatia-Chandigarh Express;

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

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (d). A portion of Tata/Muri-Pathankot Express was running between Hatia and Chandigarh and this was discontinued in view of less traffic on that portion and the need for more accommodation towards Amritsar. Therefore, there is no proposal to restore this service for the present.

[English]

Reduction in the Passenger Capacity

3129. SHRI P.C. CHACKO : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have reduced the passenger capacity in Karala Express inspite of the heavy rush throughout the year;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to restore the full original capacity?

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

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

[Translation]

New Schemes for Fishery Development

3130. SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHAUHAN :
SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the new schemes sanctioned during the current year for the fishery development, State-wise; and

(b) the assistance provided to each State under these schemes?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) and (b). No new schemes have been sanctioned during the current year for fishery development in the country. However, the following major schemes on fisheries implemented during the eighth Five Year Plan are being continued in the current year (1996-97) :

- (i) Fishery Harbour Facilities at Major Ports.
- (ii) Landing & Berthing facilities for Fishing Craft at Minor Ports.
- (iii) Development of Freshwater Agriculture.
- (iv) Integrated Brackishwater Fish Farm Development.
- (v) Development of Coastal Marine Fisheries.
- (vi) Welfare of Fishermen.
- (vii) Assistance for Strengthening Fish Marketing.
- (viii) Enforcement of Marine Fishing Regulations Act & Resource Enhancement by Artificial Reefs.
- (ix) Fishery Training & Extension.
- (x) World Bank assisted Shrimp & Fish Culture Project.

A statement showing the assistance provided to the State Governments under the fishery schemes during 1995-96 is enclosed.

STATEMENT

S.No	Name of the State/Union Territory	Assistance given under Fisheries Schemes during 1995-96 (Rs. lakh)
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	359.78
2.	Assam	26.20
3.	Bihar	54.10
4.	Goa	5.19

1	2	3
5.	Gujarat	692.94
6.	Haryana	66.25
7.	Himachal Pradesh	32.21
8.	Jammu & Kashmir	44.40
9.	Karnataka	268.24
10.	Kerala	963.34
11.	Madhya Pradesh	201.04
12.	Maharashtra	316.49
13.	Manipur	44.87
14.	Meghalaya	56.00
15.	Mizoram	5.93
16.	Nagaland	33.00
17.	Orissa	183.81
18.	Punjab	51.50
19.	Rajasthan	34.00
20.	Sikkim	5.00
21.	Tamil Nadu	1055.13
22.	Tripura	23.52
23.	Uttar Pradesh	213.00
24.	West Bengal	589.74
25.	A & N Island	5.34
26.	Daman & Diu	13.42
27.	Lakshadweep	0.83
28.	Pondicherry	127.96

[English]

Problems of Indo-Bangladesh Border Residents

3131. SHRI AJAY CHAKRABORTY : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the problems being faced by the residents of Indo-Bangladesh border at North 24, Parganas district of West Bengal due to the barbed wire fencing at a distance away from the zero points of the border; and

(b) if so, the details in this regard and the steps being taken to solve their problems?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) and (b). Roads and Barbed wire fence are being constructed leaving a minimum distance of 150 yards from the zero-line on the Indo-Bangladesh border, as no defensive work within 150 yards on either side of the border can be undertaken as per the Joint Indo-Banga Bangladesh Guidelines for Border Authorities, 1975.

Government is aware of the apprehensions voiced by some of the people whose land (homestead and/or agricultural) falls between the road/fence and the zero-line. Due care has been taken to avoid undue difficulties by providing, inter alia, gates at appropriate sites to facilitate movement of the concerned people thereby enabling them to cultivate, harvest and reside between the road/fence and the zero-line.

Repair of Railway Bridge

3132. DR. M.P. JAISWAL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the rail traffic on Railway Bridge on the Bhogalpur-Guwahati line was suspended for ten days recently;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether this bridge was damaged in the floods last year;

(d) if so, whether the damaged portion of the bridge was got repaired since then; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

[Translation]

Lying of Railway Lines

3133. SHRI DATTA MEGHE : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the laying work of railway lines on the Narkher-Amravati route in Maharashtra is progressing very slowly;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the time by which the said work is expected to be completed?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The project is targetted for completion in the Ninth Plan period.

[English]

Construction of Railway Line

3134. SHRI ANIL BASU : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the survey work for construction of the railway line from Tarakeswar to Armbag under the Howrah Division of Eastern Railway would be completed by November, 1996;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b). Efforts are being made to complete the survey during the current year itself.

(c) Does not arise.

Fertilizer Units in the Country

3135. SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS & FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of fertilizer units set up in the country during the last two years till date;

(b) the number of units out of them started functioning; and

(c) the number of such units in which production is likely to be started during the current financial year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SIS RAM OLA) : (a) and (b). A gas-based urea plant having a capacity of 7.42 lakh tonnes of urea per annum was set up at Babrala in U.P. in 1994-95. Another gas-based urea plant having a capacity of 7.26 lakh tonnes of urea per annum was set up at Shahjahanpur in U.P. in 1995-96.

(c) the following four units are expected to start production during the current financial year :

(i) Aonla Expansion Project of Indian Farmers Fertilizers Cooperative Society (IFFCO);

(ii) Vijaipur Expansion Project of National Fertilizers Limited (NFL);

(iii) Expansion of Madras Fertilizers Limited (MFL); and

(iv) Ammonia Phase-I Retrofit of Rashtriya Chemicals & Fertilizers Ltd. (RCF).

Clearance to Hotels

3136. SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Central Pollution Control Board had recommended to the Government for deleasing the land earmarked for hotels and motels in different States and Union Territories;

(b) if so, the details of the places where hotels and motels are proposed to be set up; and

(c) the action taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to allot the lands after proper environmental impact studies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAPT. JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD) : (a) No, Sir. The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) has not recommended to the Government for deleasing the land earmarked for hotels and motels in different States in General. However, in case of one hotel, based on the directions from Hon'ble

Supreme Court, CPCB had constituted a Committee, which inter-alia recommended de-leasing of a plot of degraded forest land procured by the hotel.

(b) and (c). The places where hotels and motels are to be set up are to be decided by the State Government/ local bodies in consultation with the concerned Central Government departments, wherever required. Guidelines have been formulated for seeking environmental clearance for 29 categories of developmental projects, including hotels. The Government gives permission for setting up of hotels on a case to case basis, after environmental appraisal of the project.

Electrification of Railway Track

3137. SHRI GIRDHARI YADAV : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the progress made in the electrification of the rail track from Mughalsarai to Asansol via Patna; and

(b) the time by which the electrification work on this line is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b). The section Asansol to Sitarampur which is on the main trunk route is already electrified. On Sitarampur-Mughalsarai section where electrification work is on hand, 34 route kilometre from Sitarampur to Jamtara has been completed and the work in the remaining section has been taken up.

The electrification of the entire Sitarampur-Mughalsarai Section is planned for completion by March, 1999.

Rail link Connection

3138. DR. C. SILVERA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether certain areas in the country have not been connected with rail link so far;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to link these areas with rail connection, at least during Golden Jubilee period of the Indian Independence; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) A statement showing the Districts which are not connected by rail at present is attached.

(c) It would not possible to link all these areas with rail connection in time bound manner. However, completion of ongoing new lines projects will provide connection to some of these areas.

(d) Constraint of resources.

STATEMENT

(b) The details are as under :-

State	District
Bihar	Godoa
Himachal Pradesh	Chamba
	Kulu
	Kinnaur
	Sirmaur
	Bilaspur
	Hamirpur
	Lahaul-Spiti
Kerala	Wayanad
	Idukki
	Pathanamphitta
Maharashtra	Gadchiroli
Tripura	South-Tripura
Manipur	Senapati
	Bisnupur
	Thoubal
	Imphal
	Chandel
	Churachandpur
Meghalaya	West-Gero Hills
	West-Khasi Hills
	East Khasi Hills
	Jaintia Hills
Uttar Pradesh	Pithoragarh
	Almora
	Chamoli
	Garwal
	Tirigarwal
	Uttarkashi
Goa	Bicholim
	Ponda
	Satari
	Gigid
Jammu & Kashmir	Chilas
	Vajarath
	Muzafarabad
	Punch
	Mirpur
Karnataka	Kodagu
Madhya Pradesh	Chhatarpur
Mizoram	South-Mizoram
Arunachal Pradesh	West Kameg
	Tawang
	Lowersubansiri
	Upper Subansiri
	Westsiang
	East-Siang
	Depungvalley
	Tirap
Raiasthan	Banswara

Rio Conference

3139. SHRI JAG MOHAN : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the schemes for improving the environment conditions in India launched by the Government with the help of United Nations' sponsored and funded agencies in view of the Rio Conference 1992;

(b) the impact thereof;

(c) whether the promises and declarations made at the aforesaid Conference have been fulfilled;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor alongwith the details thereof; and

(e) the measures being taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAPTAIN JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD) : (a) No scheme based on the decision arrived at in the Rio Conference has been launched by the Government with the help of the United Nations' sponsored and funded agencies.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) to (e). The consensus arrived at the Rio Conference 1992 was focussed on sustainable development, principles of sustainable management of forests and Agenda 21 which contained blue prints for action towards sustainable development in the future. It was agreed that the ways and means of providing new and additional financial resources particularly in developing countries for environmentally sound programmes would emanate from the Global Environment Facility to be managed jointly by the World Bank, UNEP and UNDP. Since the Rio Summit, India has been pursuing the issue of transfer of financial resources at various international fora. The commitments of developed countries at the Rio Conference regarding new and additional resources being made available to the developing countries have only been partially fulfilled.

During the Conference, India also signed the Framework Convention on climate Change and the Convention on Biological Diversity which were later on ratified. India has also signed the International Convention to Combat Desertification. We are also an active member of the Commission on sustainable Development, set up to monitor the national, international and global implementation of the Agenda 21.

At national level, the agenda 21 and the Rio Declaration have been discussed with the sectorial ministries and the Planning Commission. Progress made so far in the implementation of the Agenda 21 has been uneven. The thrust is now to internalise the concept of sustainable development into the planning process of each sectoral Ministry and to facilitate increased

allocation of resources on this basis. An Environment Action Programme (EAP) has also been formulated and the priority areas identified in the Programme are: Sustainable Urban management, Promotion of Clean Technologies of production, Development of Institutional Structures, Promotion of the use of Renewable Sources of Energy, Institutional Structures and Environmental Management, water Quality management, Environmental Impact Assessment, Forestry and Environmental Education. Action in these priority areas has been initiated with the assistance from international organisations.

[Translation]

Stoppage at Rafi Ganj Railway Station

3140. SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR SINGH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Poorva Express, Nilanchal Express and Bombay Mail trains have no stoppage at Rafi Ganj railways station of the Eastern Railway; and

(b) if so, the time by which the stoppage is proposed to be given to these trains at this important railway station?

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

(b) No such proposal at present.

[English]

Tiger conservation strategy and Action Plan

3141. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether alarmed by the depleting tiger population in the country, the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) has prepared a 'Tiger Conservation Strategy and Action Plan, July 1996' to protect the great cats from extinction;

(b) if so, the broad features thereof; and

(c) the role envisaged by the WWF and his Ministry so far as the conservation of Project Tiger is concerned, specially in Sunderbans area in West Bengal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAPT. JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. The WWF has prepared a document titled "Tiger conservation Strategy and Action Plan" having the following broad features :

GOAL: The overall goal of WWF-India's Tiger Conservation Strategy is to strengthen the ongoing efforts for the protection of the tiger, essentially through new and innovative initiatives aimed at improving the status of the species in the long term.

- STRATEGY :**
- (i) Mobilize support for tiger conservation at the political and policy making level;
 - (ii) Generate Grassroots support through local communities for tiger conservation;
 - (iii) Develop support mechanisms for tiger conservation.

ACTION PLAN : Implementation of this strategy will be started through a two-year Action Plan which comprises the following main activities :

1. Influence policy and decision making
2. Mobilize grassroots support in the tiger range areas.
3. Assist and strengthen enforcement measures
4. Generate greater awareness and mobilize public support.
5. Facilitate international cooperation

(c) WWF's Action Plan is for the organisation's own activities. The Govt. of India's National Tiger Action Plan envisages, inter-alia, collaborative activities with voluntary bodies and, to the extent feasible, Govt. of India is open to consider proposal for voluntary help from such bodies. The WWF's Action plan is conceptual in nature and has not indicated any specific activities for Sunderbans are in West Bengal though the overall objective will cover Sunderban area also.

[Translation]

Expenditure on Goods and Passengers Transportation

3142. SHRI NITISH KUMAR :

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the current rate of freight being charged for goods and passengers transportation by railways is less than the expenditure being incurred on the operation of the trains;

(b) whether the Government have prepared a comparable account of the freight and fares as against their operational expenditure incurred in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (c). In respect of coaching services (including passenger and parcel etc.) the earnings per vehicle kilometre is less than the cost of operation. However, in respect of goods services the earnings per net tonne kilometre is more

than the cost of operation for the year 1994-95 the relevant figures are as under :

Coaching services	Rs.
Cost per vehicle Kilometre	8.52
Earnings per vehicle kilometre	6.40
Goods services	
Cost per net tonne kilometre	0.38
Earnings per net tonne kilometre	0.55

[English]

Goods and Parcels Handling Contract

3143. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the General Manager, South Eastern Railway appointed Shri H.K. Padhee as Sole Arbitrator to settle the disputes/claims relating to Goods and Parcels handling contract at Itwari and a group of other stations;

(b) the details of disputes/claims referred by the General Manager together with the break-up of amount awarded by the Arbitrator;

(c) whether the award to the arbitrator was binding on both the parties as per specific clause provided in the agreement;

(d) whether prior approval of the General manager was obtained by the Chief Commercial Manager in writing before calling the party for negotiation after publication of the award; and

(e) whether this system of holding negotiation after publication of award is still being followed in the South East Railway?

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

(b) The details of disputes/claims referred by the General Manager together with the break-up of amount awarded by the Arbitrator is as under:-

(1) Dispute/Claim referred by General Manager to Arbitrator-	Rs.
(i) Amount payable to contractor due to upward revision in casual labour rate as notified from time to time during the period from 1.2.87 to 30.4.88	4,40,221.00
(ii) Amount payable to contractor due to upward revision in casual labour rate as notified from time to time during the period 1.5.88 to 31.1.89 and further extended upto 2.8.91	18,95,878.00
(iii) Interest @ 18% p.a. on (i) & (ii) above	6,30,000.00
Total	29,66,099.00

(2) Amount awarded by the Arbitrator :-

(i) Amount payable to contractor due to upward revision in causal labour rates as notified from time to time during the period 1.2.87 to 30.4.88	3.12.762.00
(ii) Amount payable to the Contractor due to upward revision in causal labour rates as notified from time to time during the period 1.5.88 to 31.7.89 and further extended upto 2.8.91	18.95.878.00
(iii) Interest @ 18% p.a. on (i) & (ii) above	5.63.706.00
Total	27.72.346.00

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Though the specific approval of the General Manager was not taken for conducting negotiation, yet he was kept apprised of the position from time to time about the development of the case.

(e) No, Sir.

[Translation]

Railway factories at Ajmer, Kota, Bikaner and Jodhpur

3144. PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the allocation made in the recent railway budget for the development and maintenance of the railway factories at Ajmer, Kota, Bikaner and Jodhpur, separately;

(b) whether the infrastructural facilities required for the broad gauge conversion have been provided in all of these factories and if so, the amounts spent thereon;

(c) the nature and quantum of work, including construction, production, maintenance, denting/painting presently assigned to these railway factories, factory-wise;

(d) whether the work related to the metre gauge would also be continued to be undertaken in these factories until the gauge-conversion is completed; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) The details of allocation made in Budget Estimate 1996-97 for development of Railway Workshops at Ajmer, Kota,

Jodhpur and Bikaner are given below:-

(Rs. in crores)		
Workshop	Anticipated cost of sanctioned works	Allocation 1996-97
Ajmer (For loco and C&W shop)	11.89	4.05
Kota	7.99	2.39
Bikaner	Nil	Nil
Jodhpur	7.01	3.14

Besides above, Rs. 1.91 cr. has also been provided to Western Railway for maintenance of Workshops and Stores Buildings including the above workshops, in Budget Estimate 1996-97.

(b) Infrastructural facilities for conversion to Board Gauge have been provided in Ajmer and Jodhpur Workshops.

Kota Workshops is a Broad Gauge Workshop right from its inception.

Board Gauge facilities have not been provided in Bikaner workshop as it is catering to the remnant Metre Gauge workload.

The amount spent on conversion of Ajmer and Jodhpur workshops into Broad Gauge workshops is as under :-

Amount spent upto March, 1996 (Rs. in crores)	
Ajmer (For loco and C&W shop)	0.60
Jodhpur	2.42

(c)

Workshop	Nature of major work	Quantum of work (Target)
Ajmer	Periodical Overhauling	BG coaches : 88 FWUs/Month
		MG wagons : 160 FWUs/Month
		MG coaches : 130 FWUs/Month
		Diesel Locos (MG) : 4 locos/Month
Kota	Periodical Overhauling	BG wagons : 950 FWS/Month
Bikaner	Periodical Overhauling	MG coaches : 50 FWUs/Month
		MG wagons : 41 FWUs/Month
Jodhpur	Periodical Overhauling	BG coaches : 27 FWUs/Month
		MG coaches : 30 FWUs/Month

These workshops also cater to spares requirement for Rolling Stock maintenance in division, such as wheels, springs, brake blocks etc.

(d) Yes, Sir.

Ajmer, Bikaner and Jodhpur workshops would continue to undertake Metre Gauge workload as per arisings and Railway's requirement.

(e) As stated in part (c) above.

[English]

EMU Service from CLW Siding Asansol/ Bardhaman

3145. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Railways have agreed to run EMU service from CLW siding to Asansol/Bardhaman and Bardhaman and Barakar to Bardhaman;

(b) if so, the time by which this service is likely to be introduced; and

(c) the reasons for the delay in introducing this service?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Main line EMU services are already running on Bardhaman-Barakar section. There is no proposal to provide EMU/MEMU between CLW siding and Asansol/Bardhaman.

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

Modernisation of Barrackpore Railway Station

3146. SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to modernise Barrackpore Railway Station; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) No, Sir. Barrackpore railway station has already been provided with the amenities commensurate with the volume of traffic handled.

(b) Does not arise.

Banned Pesticides

3147. SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI NAVINCHANDRA MEHTA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a heavy quantity of highly toxic, banned pesticides were sold in the country by top U.S. companies between 1992-94 by concealing names of the chemicals and firms; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) No such report has come to the notice of Government. Moreover sale of banned pesticides is prohibited in the country under the provisions of Insecticides Act, 1968. Concerned authorities under Government of India and the State Governments are asked to enquire about it.

(b) In view of answer to part (a) above, question does not arise.

Introduction of Super-Fast Trains/Rajdhani Express from Delhi to Trivandrum

3148. SHRI MULLAPPALY RAMACHANDRAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to start a Rajdhani Express/Superfast train from Delhi to Trivandrum via Bombay-Mangalore; and

(b) if so, the details in this regard and the time by which such a train is likely to be introduced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b). It is proposed to run Nizamuddin-Trivandrum Rajdhani Express via Goa-Mangalore after commissioning of Konkan Railway.

States leading in Foodgrains Production

3149. SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the names of first seven States in India in order producing maximum quantity of Paddy, Wheat, Cotton, Sugarcane, Mustard, oilseeds in terms of total area of land they cultivate both irrigated and non-irrigated,

(b) the names of first seven States which consume the maximum fertilizer subsidy in the country; and

(c) the names of the States where going by the quantum of fertilizers subsidy, average agricultural production is not satisfactory?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) A statement showing the name of the first seven State with highest average production per hectare (1992-93 to 1995-96) for Rice, Wheat, Cotton, Sugarcane, Mustard and Oilseeds is annexed.

(b) The first seven States on the basis of consumption of total fertilisers during 1995-96 are as follows:

- (i) Uttar Pradesh
- (ii) Andhra Pradesh
- (iii) Maharashtra

- (iv) Punjab
- (v) Madhya Pradesh
- (vi) West Bengal
- (vii) Karnataka

(c) Fertilizer is one of the numerous factors affecting the average agriculture production per hectare in different States. All the major fertilizer consuming States are having higher average production per hectare in one or the other crop.

STATEMENT

S.No.	Rice (Paddy)	Wheat	Cotton	Sugarcane	Mustard	Oilseeds
1.	Punjab	Punjab	Punjab	Uttar Pradesh	Haryana	Tamilnadu
2.	Tamilnadu	Haryana	Haryana	Karnataka	Gujarat	Haryana
3.	Haryana	Uttar Pradesh	Tamilnadu	Maharashtra	Punjab	Punjab
4.	Andhra Pradesh	Rajasthan	Rajasthan	Kerala	Uttar Pradesh	Gujarat
5.	Karnataka	Gujarat	Andhra Pradesh	Gujarat	Rajasthan	West Bengal
6.	West Bengal	West Bengal	Gujarat	Andhra Pradesh	Bihar	Andhra Pradesh
7.	Kerala	Bihar	Karnataka	Punjab	West Bengal	Madhya Pradesh

Rail Link Extension to Sikkim

3150. SHRI R.B. RAI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have received representation from the Sikkim for extension of the rail link of the State; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the response of the Government thereto?

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

(b) A survey for restoration of the narrow gauge line to Sikkim from Silliguri to Sivok has been ordered recently.

Further consideration of the Project would depend when the results of survey become available.

[Translation]

Eco-Clubs

3151. SHRI N.J. RATHWA : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether some State Governments particularly Gujarat Government have sent some proposal to the Union Government for establishing Environmental Clubs in Schools and Colleges and Environment Protection Committees on district and State level during the last three years till date;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the estimated cost of these projects and the Central assistance sought by the State Governments; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAPT. JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD) : (a) A proposal for establishing Environmental Clubs and Environment Protection Committee at District and State level has been received from the Kerala State Government only till date.

(b) and (c). The proposal submitted by the Kerala State Government is titled "Promotion of Environmental Awareness and Participation of People in Kerala" and is for environmental clubs, district environment protection committees, resource materials, audio visual vans, mobile laboratories, setting up of permanent stall on environment at the Science and Technology Museum, formation of State and District Crisis Groups and of a State Environment Protection Committee at a total cost of Rs. 1.61 crores for the first year and a recurring annual grant of Rs. 61.50 lakhs. They have sought Central assistance for the whole amount. The cost of setting up of Environmental Clubs and Environmental Protection Committees is Rs.58.84 lakhs for the first year and recurring annual grant of Rs. 48.84 lakhs for the subsequent years.

(d) The State Government has been given the guidelines of the schemes for Eco-Clubs and Paryavaran Vahinis of this Ministry and requested to revise their proposals accordingly. As regards the State level Environmental Protection Committee, they have been informed that there is no provision for support for such committees.

[English]

Casual Labourers

3152. SHRI DWARAKA NATH DAS : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that a good

number of casual labourers had been decasualised in North East-Frontier Railway, but till date nothing has been done for their re-employment though assured by the Government from time to time;

(b) whether any measures have been taken by the Government for their re-employment; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

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.

New Trains/Bogies for NCR

3153. SHRI B.L. SHARMA 'PREM' : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Ministry of feel concerned about the necessity of providing maximum facilities to the commuters from the towns in the National Capital Region as a measure of decongesting the capital; and

(b) if so, the plans of the Ministry for providing additional trains/bogies connecting the towns in the National Capital Region?

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

(b) Main Line Electrical Multiple Units, Electrical Multiple Units and Diesel Multiple Push-Pull services are being provided, depending upon traffic justification, operational feasibility and resource availability.

[Translation]

National Zoological Park

3154. SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of various animals/birds in the National Zoological Park in Delhi as on date;

(b) the total amount spent by the Government on their maintenance during the last three years, item-wise;

(c) whether much attention is not paid towards the maintenance of the animals/birds kept here and even food is not provided to them on time;

(d) if so, whether the Government have received some complaints in this regard during the last three years;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the remedial action being taken by the Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAPT. JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD) : (a) The total number of various animals/birds in the National Zoological Park in Delhi on 31.7.1996 is 1397.

(b) The total amount spent by the Government on maintenance of animals item-wise during the last three years is given in the statement enclosed.

(c) It is evident from the items mentioned in the Annexure-I of reply at (b) above that sufficient attention is being paid for the maintenance of animals including supply of food as per their requirements. Further the Veterinary Officer at Zoo inspects the quality of ration daily before delivery and the Zoo Rangers, Head Keepers and even the Zoo Director takes round in the fields to ensure proper distribution of food and surprise checks are made invariably.

(d) and (e). Some news items have appeared in the press from time to time for lack of veterinary facilities, poor quality of water in the animal enclosures and meats, inadequate display area for some animals etc.

(f) Steps taken to enhance care of animals in Delhi Zoo, includes the improvement of veterinary care and carrying out, in phases, the recommendations made by Central Zoo Authority for better housing facilities and upkeep of animals.

STATEMENT

(Rupees in Lakhs)

Items	Years		
	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96
1	2	3	4
1. Feeding charges for Zoo animals.	39.18	43.79	49.96
2. Water Charges for providing filter water for animals	10.00	*61.00 (*including retrospective areas)	18.00
3. Electricity charges for cooling & heating arrangements and additional connections to animal enclosures.	14.00	20.00	21.50
4. Improvement of animals enclosure and major renovations to the Veterinary facilities.	17.72	34.89	34.51
5. Medicines for animals	0.84	1.69	0.80
6. Sanitary improvements and exchange of animals.	8.00	12.00	5.35
7. Repairs and maintenance of animal enclosures & other buildings.	36.52	31.11	39.00

1	2	3	4
Other misc. Expenditure including salary, wages of employees, security contracts, liveries, maintenance of vehicles etc.	90.14	90.42	99.10

[English]

Calcutta Circular Railway

3155. DR. ASIM BALA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of West Bengal has demanded to complete the missing link between Princepghat and Majerhat of the Calcutta Circular Railway and to electrify the entire stretch and laying the double track; 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) and (b). Yes, Sir. The entire 13.5 km. non-electrified single line project from Dum Dum Jn. to Princepghat has been commissioned in states for traffic by 17.6.90, except the part from Princepghat to Majerhat. Fresh Techno-economic survey for single line from Princepghat to Majerhat has been taken up by Eastern Railway. The Techno-Economic Study for doubling and electrification of Circular Railway has been taken up by West Bengal Govt. through M/s. RITES.

Conversion of Land

3156. SHRI A. SAMPATH : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the total area under cultivation for cash crop during 1994 and 1995;

(b) the extent to which the area has been converted from food crops cultivation into cash crops cultivation during the said period, State-wise; and

(c) the measures being taken by the Union Government to promote the cultivation of food crops and to prevent this conversion?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) The area under cultivation of cash crops during 1993-94 and 1994-95 is as follows :

Crop	Area in Thousand Hectares	
	1993-94	1994-95
1	2	3
Oilseeds	26897	25260
Sugarcane	3422	3815

1	2	3
Cotton	7321	7925
Jute and Mesta	885	944
Coconut	1635	1669
Potato	1047	1089
Onion	368	384

(b) The total area under foodgrains during the last two years i.e. 1993-94 and 1994-95 was 122.75 and 123.55 million hectares respectively. Thus at the All India level there is no diversion of area from foodgrains to other crops. The State-wise position of cropped area under foodgrains is given in the statement enclosed. Marginal decline in area under foodgrains during 1995-96 in the States of Assam, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra etc. is attributed to weather fluctuations.

(c) In order to increase the production and productivity of the foodgrains, various centrally sponsored schemes are being implemented namely, Integrated Cereal Development Programme based on Cropping System areas for Rice, Wheat and Coarse Cereals, National Pulses Development Programme is also being implemented.

STATEMENT

State	Area (Thousand Hectares)	
	1993-94	1994-95
1	2	3
Andhra Pradesh	6870.9	6660.0
Arunachal Pradesh	189.9	188.5
Assam	2740.6	2667.7
Bihar	8710.8	8685.3
Goa	65.9	65.9
Gujarat	3992.2	4202.3
Haryana	3894.9	4026.8
Himachal Pradesh	850.2	849.2
Jammu & Kashmir	888.7	888.7
Karnataka	6983.6	7078.9
Kerala	541.0	534.0
Madhya Pradesh	17721.0	17496.8
Maharashtra	14188.1	13531.4
Manipur	164.6	165.5
Meghalaya	131.9	130.1
Mizoram	75.6	80.2
Nagaland	184.3	186.3
Orissa	5772.0	5776.2
Punjab	5861.7	5921.4
Rajasthan	11628.9	12907.7
Sikkim	76.1	75.1

1	2	3
Tamil Nadu	4026.8	4477.2
Tripura	275.7	275.7
Uttar Pradesh	20273.0	20150.1
West Bengal	6530.9	6412.6
A & N Island	14.0	14.0
D & N Haveli	18.7	18.7
Daman & Diu	3.3	3.3
Delhi	46.1	46.1
Pondicherry	32.4	32.4
All India	122753.8	123548.1

Passenger Amenities on Trivandrum Railway Station

3157. SHRI SURESH KODIKUNNIL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are considering to provide more passenger amenities at the Trivandrum Central Railway Station; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) A work for provision of additional terminal facilities at a cost of Rs. 2.65 crore has been included in the Budget 1996-97.

Electrification of Rail Section

3158. SHRI AJOY MUKHOPADHYAY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to take up electrification of Krishnanagar-Lalgola section of the Eastern Railway; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b). there is no proposal to electrify Krishnanagar-Lalgola section of Eastern Railway over which the Traffic density is low at present and does not qualify for electrification.

Facilities to Passengers

3159. SHRI B. DHARMA BIKSHAM : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state the steps proposed to be taken to improve facilities to passengers at the Railways Stations of Bhongir, Aleir, Bibinagar, Nalgonda, Chityal, Miryalguda in Nalgonda District (SC Railway) recently?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) Improvements to facilities and amenities at railway stations is a continuous process which is undertaken by including suitable works in the Annual Works programme of the Railway and is dependent on the volume of traffic handled at a station, the availability of funds and relative priorities.

Accordingly, works of provision of a cover over the platforms at Bhongir and Bibinagar; and paving of the platform at Bhongir; and raising of the height of the second platform at Nalgonda and the extension of the platform at Aler have been taken up.

Gauge Conversion in Karnataka

3160. SHRI ANANTH KUMAR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a number of proposals for conversion of Railway lines from meter gauge to broad gauge in Karnataka are awaiting clearance from the Government;

(b) if so, the details of each project alongwith the allocation of funds for each of the projects separately;

(c) whether any new projects for conversion have been undertaken in the State;

(d) if so, the details thereof and criteria being adopted for their selection; and

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

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir. However, work on Mysore-Hassan line which was included in Budget 95-96 has been taken up now after obtaining approval of CCEA.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) This project would be completed by 31.5.97.

Halt at Sultanganj

3161. SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the large number of pilgrims visit Deoghar (Bihar) and they start their journey on foot from a railway station called 'Sultanganj' in Bihar;

(b) whether in this context a suggestion has been made that the Brahmaputra Express train may have brief halt at Sultanganj for the facility of the pilgrims; and

(c) if so, whether the railways would examine and approve of the suggestion?

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

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Temporary stoppage of 4055/4056 Brahamputra Mail has been provided at Sultanganj from 14.8.96 to 31.8.96.

Bomb Blast

3162. SHRI JAGATVIR SINGH DRONA : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether bomb was blasted in bogie No. 830 C/A of N.E. Express (Gauhati-Delhi) on May 16, 1996;

(b) if so, any enquiry was conducted to find out the motives behind the bomb blast;

(c) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(d) the steps taken to avoid such situation in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) to (d). According to information available, an explosion took place in a coach attached to 5621 Up NE Express near East Cabin, Aligarh on 16.5.1996 at about 1845 hrs. Preliminary enquiries indicate that the explosion was probably caused by a hand grenade carried by a BSF personnel and was accidental in nature. GRP, Aligarh has registered a case under sections 304, 324 IPC, 3 Explosive Act and 151 Railway Act. Further enquiries are in progress.

[Translation]

Repairing and Manufacturing of Coaches

3163. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether work regarding the repairing of coaches and manufacturing of wagons in Izzatnagar factory is in progress;

(b) if so, the details of work undertaken during the last three years;

(c) whether the strength of the employees and progress of work is constantly declining in the said factory;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor and whether Government have decided to close down this factory; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) The work undertaken in Izzatnagar workshop is of repair of M.G. wagons and coaches. This workshop is not undertaking wagon manufacture.

(b) Details of work undertaken for last three year :-

	93-94	94-95	95-96
POH			
(i) Wagon (MG)	1640	1200	1170
(ii) Coaches (MG)	1380	1390	1080

(c) and (d). The reduction in the number of employees is to the extent of normal retirements in Izzatnagar workshop and lower arising of M.G. stock POH workload due to gauge conversion. However, to compensate this, manufacture of M.G. DMUs and Rail Buses are being undertaken. There is no plan, at present, to close down this workshop.

(e) Does not arise.

Extension of Shatabdi Express

3164. SHRI K.D. SULTANPURI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have received any proposal for extension of New Delhi-Chandigarh bound Shatabdi Express upto Kalka;

(b) if so, the time by which it is likely to be extended in view of the promotion of Tourism; and

(c) the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (c). Some representations were received in this regard. These were examined but not found feasible due to operational and resources constraints.

[English]

Oil Spill in Haldi River

3165. SHRI. MOHAN RAWALE : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a huge quantity of diesel leaked from a tanker into the Haldi river in West Bengal, in May, 1996 ;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the causes of the oil leak;

(c) the extent to which this oil spill has endangered the flora and fauna of the Haldi river;

(d) whether any inquiry has been held to fix responsibility for the negligence in the matter;

(e) if so, the findings thereof; and

(f) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAPT. JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD) : (a) to (c). There was an incident of spillage of about 358 Kilolitres of high-speed diesel oil

from barge "Prem Tista" chartered by the Indian Oil Corporation at barge jetty No. 1 during the early hours of 31.5.96. The spill occurred due to overflow of tanks in the barge. Loading of petroleum products at the existing two barge jetties of Haldia Dock complex is controlled and operated by the Indian Oil Corporation (Marketing Division). The spill was controlled by the Calcutta Port Trust and the Indian Oil Corporation by using chemical dispersants. The immediate impact of the oil spillage on the flora and fauna could not be ascertained during investigation.

(d) and (e). The State Board has enquired into the matter and found that the spill occurred due to a lapse in monitoring during loading operations. A high level Committee constituted by the Indian Oil Corporation, had established that the spillage had occurred because of the negligence of the barge crew.

(f) The West Bengal Pollution Control Board has filed a case against the management of the Indian Oil Corporation on 17.6.96 under Section 15 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986. However, the Indian Oil Corporation has taken steps for monitoring the loading operations closely from the shore to the barge and is also training the personnel undertaking the barge operations.

Providing of Sub-Gates at Indo-Bangladesh Border

3166. SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any requests have been received by the Government from the villagers of District Coochbehar (W.B.) for providing sub-gates at Indo-Bangladesh Border during 1995-96;

(b) if so, the action taken so far, in the matter; and

(c) the time by which the sub-gates are likely to be provided?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) to (c). Information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

Cashew Corporation of India

3167. SHRI N.K. PREM CHANDRAN : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to re-constitute the Cashew Corporation of India to introduce quota system for the distribution of raw cashewnuts; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) and (b). As per available information, the Cashew Corporation of India (CCI), a subsidiary of State Trading Corporation of India, was established in 1970 for importing and

distributing raw cashewnuts. After decanalisation and placing cashew on OGL for imports, the Cashew Corporation of India has since been wound up. There is no question at present under consideration of the Government of India to revive the CCI.

[Translation]

Construction of Nasik-Sinnar Shirdi Rail line

3168. SHRI BHIMRAO VISHNUJI BADADE : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to construct a new rail line on the route of Nasik-Sinnar-Puntamba, and

(b) if so, the time by which the same would be constructed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : No, Sir. However, a Survey conducted recently for a new BG line from Nasik to Kopargaon, via Sinnar and Shirdi has revealed the proposed line to be unremunerative.

(b) Does not arise.

Construction of Sewerage Treatment Plant at Noida

3169. SHRI RAM SAGAR : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Japanese Government had extended the aid of Rs. 200 crore for the construction of a sewerage treatment plant at Noida in Uttar Pradesh under the Yamuna Action Plan sanctioned in 1994.

(b) if so, whether the aid has been utilised for the purpose for which it was given;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the required land for the construction of Sewerage Treatment Plant has not yet been provided so far;

(e) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the measures proposed to be taken by the Government to get the land allotted and start the construction work without any further delay?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAPT. JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD) : (a) to (e). Assistance of 17.77 billion Yen (present value approximately Rs. 586 crores) from the Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund of Government of Japan is available for implementation of the Yamuna Action Plan. Out of this, the estimated cost of the two sewage treatment plants to be constructed at Noida in U.P. is Rs. 17.71 crores. The Detailed Project Reports for these two schemes have been prepared by the nodal executing agency and are expected to be received shortly through the Government of U.P.

Out of the total land requirement of 35.4 Acres for the two sewage treatment plants, 26.5 Acres of land has been already acquired. The acquisition process for the remaining land is in progress.

(f) Meetings with the State Government and the implementing agency are being held regularly and monitoring of progress of Detailed Project Report preparation and land acquisition on monthly basis through project Consultants is being done.

[English]

Passenger Amenities Cells

3170. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the South Central Railway has set up monitoring cells to oversee and ensure passenger amenities, cleanliness, punctuality and quality of catering services;

(b) if so, the number thereof;

(c) whether the rail users have been asked to contact these monitoring cells to redress their complaints; and

(d) the extent to which these cells have been found helpful to the rail users?

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

(b) Monitoring Cells have been set up at Secunderabad, Zonal Headquarter of South Central Railway and in five Divisional Headquarters at Vijaywada, Secunderabad, Hyderabad, Hubli and Guntakal.

(c) The names of nodal officers of these cells with their telephone numbers and FAX numbers have been advertised in newspapers to enable rail users approach them with their suggestions/complaints.

(d) Prompt action is initiated on these suggestions/complaints and they are effectively used as a feedback for improvement of services rendered to rail users.

New Railway Station at Khurigachi

3171. SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of a demand for opening of a new Railway Station at Khurigachi between Bhadreswar and Baidyabati in the Howrah-Bandel section of Howrah Division of the Eastern Railway; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government so far to meet the demand?

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.

[Translation]

Pollution in Gujarat

3172. SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VERMA :
SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL :

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

(a) whether a number of industrial units of Bhavnagar, Rajkot, Ahmedabad, Jamnagar and other districts of Gujarat are causing environmental pollution;

(b) whether some Ministers of Parliament, Members of Legislative Assemblies, Environmentalists, organisations and prominent persons have submitted details and memoranda to the Government in this regard;

(c) if so, the number and names of industrial units against whom petitions were submitted between January 1, 1990 and June 30, 1996; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to shift/close down these units alongwith the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAPT. JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD) : (a) According to the Gujarat Pollution Control Board, certain chemical units located in Ahmedabad are having pollution potential. The units located in Bhavnagar, Rajkot, Jamnagar area are generally having little pollution potential. The units situated in and around Ahmedabad in the industrial Estates of Naroda, Vatva and Odhav are dye and dye intermediates manufacturing units, textile processing units and other chemicals units, and are posing pollution problem mainly due to inadequate effluent collection and disposal system. A number of public interest litigations have been filed in the Gujarat High Court. The Hon. High Court has directed the industries to instal the Common Effluent Treatment Plants. The internal effluent system is also planned by the Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation and Gujarat Industrial Development Corporation (GIDC) in consultation with the Industries Association of the industrial estates.

(b) and (c). No specific complaint has been received against individual units but general complaints/memoranda have been received regarding the pollution problems in the industrial areas. However, a specific complaint regarding fish mortality was received from an Hon'ble Member of Parliament on the incidents caused by effluent discharged by the Indian Rayon Corporation Ltd., Veraval, Dist. Jhunaagadh. The State Board has directed the Indian Rayon Corporation to carry out a marine survey in this regard.

(d) The matter is subjudice and pending with the Hon. High Court of Gujarat.

Construction of Rail Line

3173. SHRI ILIYAS AZMI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the reasons for non-commencement of work regarding the construction of rail line from Gola Gokarannath to Farukhabad via Mohammadi, Shahjahanpur under N.E. Railway in Uttar Pradesh despite completion of survey work in this regard; and

(b) the time by which the work on this rail line would start in public interest alongwith the time by which the obstacles, if any, would be removed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Due to unremunerativeness and constraint of resources.

(b) Does not arise.

[English]

Zonal Office at Bilaspur

3174. SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH :
SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received representations regarding opening up of a Zonal Office at Bilaspur (M.P.);

(b) if so, whether the Government have since acceded to the demand;

(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) Yes, Sir. A number of requests/representations have been received for setting up of a new zone at Bilaspur.

(b) and (c). The Government has decided to set up six additional Zonal Headquarters at Allahabad, Jaipur, Bangalore, Hajipur, Jabalpur and Bhubaneswar.

(d) The issue of reorganisation had been examined earlier by the Railway Reforms Committee and recently by an Advisers Committee neither of which had recommended the location of a Zonal headquarter at Bilaspur.

National Fertilizers Ltd.

3175. SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether M/s. Karsan Limited has threatened the National Fertilizers Ltd. with legal action for 'breach of contract'; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SIS RAM OLA): (a) and (b). The urea has not been supplied by M/s. Karsan Ltd. as per the stipulated time schedule indicated in the contract. Accordingly, M/s. National Fertilizers Limited (NFL) is filing Arbitration proceedings against M/s. Karsan Ltd. for breach of contract. However, M/s. Karsan Ltd. in one of their communication have intimated that necessary legal precautions will be applied by them against the Government of India.

[Translation]

Extension of Rail Line

3176. SHRI HARIVANSH SAHAI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to extend the Salempur-Barhajpur rail line upto Doharighat;

(b) whether the Bhatni-Barhajpur train does not run on Sundays;

(c) whether the Government propose to run it daily; and

(d) whether the Government propose to start trains from Barhaj to Chhopra and Gorakhpur to Barhaj?

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

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) No, Sir.

[English]

Fake Currency Notes

3177. SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV :
SHRI SAYTAJITSINH DULIPSINH :
SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA :
SHRI MOHAN RAWALE :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Pakistan's ISI has been pushing through Indo-Pak borders fake Indian currency notes manufactured in Pakistan with a view to destabilise the Indian economy;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the seizure of fake Indian currency notes;

(c) the number of persons arrested and the action taken against them; and

(d) the measures taken by the Government to check the smuggling of fake Indian currency notes from across the Indo-Pak Border?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) and (b). Circulation/seizure of fake currency notes has

been reported from time to time since 1994 from the bordering districts of Punjab, Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar etc. However, it is yet to be established as to whether Pakistan has counter-feited a large amount of fake Indian currency notes.

According to information available, fake currency notes of Rs. 50/- and Rs. 100/- denominations were seized from Jammu and Kashmir in June 1994, 201 fake currency notes of Rs. 500/- denominations were recovered from different parts of the country the year 1995 and 353 forged Indian currency notes of Rs. 100 denominations were seized in Kutch district (Gujarat) in April, 1996.

(c) and (d). Since 'Police' is a State subject, it is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments to register, investigate and take appropriate action under law against persons indulging in any illegal activity. Data relating to persons arrested in individual cases is not compiled at Central level. However, the State Governments/UT Administrations have been instructed to tighten the machinery to tackle the problem of counterfeiting of Indian currency. The Reserve Bank and India issued Press releases from time to time to enable the public to distinguish between genuine and fake currency notes. The CBI has created a Special Units for exclusive investigation of counterfeit currency notes. The Border Security Force has alerted its forward troops to be more vigilant in the matter.

Integrated Pest Management Scheme

3178. SHRI SHANTILAL PARSOTAMDAS PATEL : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to identify fifty districts all over the country for implementing the Integrated Pest Management Scheme;

(b) if so, the names of districts in each State proposed to be selected; and

(c) the criteria adopted in selecting these districts?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. Number of such districts for implementation of Integrated Pest Management is 256 for the country. Names are give in Statement enclosed).

(c) The criteria in selecting the districts for implementation of Integrated Pest Management is based upon higher incidence of pest and pesticide use.

STATEMENT

Names of Districts having Integrated Pest Management Programme in the country

Assam

1. Dibrugarh
2. Sibsagar

3. Jorhat
4. Karimganj
5. Cochar
6. Nagaon
7. Korigaon
8. Kamrup
9. Nalbari
10. Gaolpara
11. Barpata
12. Barrang
13. Sonitpur
14. Golaghat
15. North Lakhimpur
16. Dhomoji
17. Tinaukia
18. Karbi Anglong
19. Hailkandi

West Bengal

20. Bankura
21. Nadia
22. Burdwan
23. Khcoochbahar
24. 24 Parganas (N)
25. Darjeeling
26. Jalpaiguri
27. Murshidabad
28. Birbhum
29. Howrah
30. Midnapur (W)
31. Midnapore (E)
32. Purulia
33. Uttar Dinajpur
34. Dakshin Dinajpur
35. Hooguly
36. Malda
37. Narendrapur (NGO)

Mizoram

38. Aizwal
39. Kolasib

Manipur

40. Imphal
41. Thoubal
42. Bishnapura
43. Churachandpur

Nagaland

44. Kohima
45. Wokha

A & N Islands

46. Andaman

Arunachal Pradesh

47. East Siang
48. Lohit

Rajasthan

49. Sriganganagar
50. Bikaner
51. Hanumangarh
52. Bundi

Gujarat

53. Baroda
54. Bharuch
55. Himmatnagar
56. Rajkot
57. Surindernagar
58. Valsad
59. Ahmedabad
60. Surat
61. Khoda
62. Panchamahar

Maharashtra

63. Jalgaon
64. Dhule
65. Aurangabad
66. Jalana
67. Bhil
68. Parbhani
69. Nanded
70. Amrawati
71. Buldhana
72. Akola
73. Yeotmal
74. Nagpur
75. Werdha
76. Chandrapur
77. Thane
78. Raigarh
79. Ratnagiri
80. Sindhudurg
81. Nasik
82. Pune
83. Kolhapur
84. Satara
85. Bhandara
86. Gadchirali

Madhya Pradesh

87. Khandwa
88. Khargaon
89. Dhar
90. Rajpur Arang
91. Mahasamund
92. Rajnandgaon
93. Durg
94. Datewara
95. Jagdalpur
96. Kaker
97. Bilaspur
98. Jagir
99. Raigarh
100. Ambikapur
101. Balkindpur
102. Jabalpur
103. Mandla
104. Sivnee
105. Balaghat
106. Beeva
107. Shahdol
108. Satna
109. Seedhee

Goa

110. North Goa
111. South Goa

Andhra Pradesh

112. West Godavari
113. Kurnool
114. Krishna
115. East Godavari
116. Nalgaonda
117. Nizamabad
118. Khammam
119. Visakha Patnam
120. Gantur
121. Srikakulam
122. Karinagar
123. Warangal
124. Adilabad
125. Prakasam

Orissa

126. Balasore
127. Cuttack
128. Keonjhar
129. Mayurbhanj
130. Phulbani

- 131. Sambalpur
- 132. Bargarh
- 133. Sundargarh

Karnataka

- 134. Bangalore (R)
- 135. Bangalore (U)
- 136. Tumkur
- 137. Mendya
- 138. Bellary
- 139. Mysore
- 140. Shimaga
- 141. Kodagu
- 142. Hassan
- 143. Chickmagalur
- 146. U.Kannada
- 147. Raichur
- 148. Dharwad
- 149. Biyapur
- 150. Belgaon
- 151. Gulbarga
- 152. Bidan
- 153. Bijapur
- 154. Bidar

Tamil Nadu

- 155. Thiruvannamali
- 156. Coimbatore
- 157. Pariyar
- 158. Madurai
- 159. V.O. Chidambarnagar
- 160. Kanyakumari
- 161. Pudukchttai
- 162. Pasumponthavar
- 163. Thirumanagar

Pondicherry

- 164. Pondicherry
- 165. Karaikai
- 166. Pilakkad
- 167. Ailappay
- 168. Thattanchvadi
- 169. Trichur

Uttar Pradesh

- 170. Nainital
- 171. Almoda
- 172. Pithoragadh
- 173. Dehradun
- 174. Saharanpur
- 175. Muzaffarnagar

- 176. Mainpuri
- 177. Eta
- 178. Muradabad
- 179. Rampur
- 180. Bijnaur
- 181. Bareilly
- 182. Shahjanhapur
- 183. Pilibhit
- 184. Badayun
- 185. Lucknow
- 186. Unnav
- 187. Raibareilly
- 188. Sitapur
- 189. Hardoi
- 190. Khiri
- 191. Allahabad
- 192. Pratapgadh
- 193. Fatehpur
- 194. Kanpur (R)
- 195. Farrukhabad
- 196. Etava
- 197. Faizabad
- 198. Gonda
- 199. Bahraich
- 200. Sultanpur
- 201. Barabanki
- 202. Varanasi
- 203. Bhadohi
- 204. Sonbhadra
- 205. Mirzapur
- 206. Gajipur
- 207. Mau
- 208. Jaunpur
- 209. Balia
- 210. Gorakhpur
- 211. Maharajganj
- 212. Dewaria
- 213. Padrouna
- 214. Basti
- 215. Siddarthnagar
- 216. Ajamgadh

Bihar

- 217. Patna
- 218. Nalanda
- 219. Bhojpur
- 220. Rohtas
- 221. Aurangabad
- 222. Siwan
- 223. Muzaffarpur
- 224. Champaran(W)

- 225. Ranchi
- 226. Darbhanga
- 227. Madhubani
- 228. Bahagalpur
- 229. Hajipur
- 230. Saharsa
- 231. Mothihari
- 232. Purnea
- 233. Chhapra

Haryana

- 234. Sonapat
- 235. Karnal
- 236. Kurukshetra
- 237. Ambala

Himachal Pradesh

- 238. Kangra
- 239. Mandi

Jammu and Kashmir

- 240. Jammu
- 241. Kathua

Kerala

- 242. Alappuzha
- 243. Ernakulam
- 244. Trichur
- 245. Palakkad
- 246. Malapuram
- 247. Wayanad

Nagaland

- 248. Kohima
- 249. Wokha

Punjab

- 250. Jalandhar
- 251. Ludhiana
- 252. Amritsar
- 253. Gurdaspur
- 254. Patiala

Sikkim

- 255. East Sikkim

National Police Commission

3179. SHRI E. AHAMED : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the National Police Commission in its report in 1980 had made important recommendations for improving the functioning of policy in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the action taken by the Union Government on these recommendations so far;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) to (d). All the 8 Reports of the National Police Commission were published. Copies of the first report and the seven other remaining reports were laid on the Table of the House on the 1st February, 1980 and the 30th March, 1983 respectively.

'Police' being a State subject, it is primarily for the State Governments to implement the recommendations of the National Police Commission. Available information indicates that the reports of the Commission have been studied, and action taken to the extent considered appropriate by them. Union Government has also taken suitable action in this regard.

Delay in payment of Subsidy

3180. SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS : Will the Minister for CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) whether on account of delay in payment of subsidy, the mobility of capital of some fertilizers units has been affected and fertilizers Industry has been facing financial crises;

(b) if so, the reasons for delay in the payment of subsidy to the fertilizer industry; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SIS RAM OLA) : (a) to (c). The notified claims under the Retention Price-cum-Subsidy Scheme (RPS) applicable to controlled fertilizers are cleared as per the prescribed schedule. The provision of Rs. 4,300 crores made in the Budget Estimates/Revised Estimates for 1995-96 was adequate for the requirements of RPS. For 1996-97, a budget provision of Rs. 4,500 crore has been made under the RPS.

Adequate provision has also been made in the 1996-97 Budget in respect of the Special Concession Scheme for decontrolled fertilizers, which is administered by the Ministry of Agriculture. This covers the requirement of the recent augmentation in the scale of concession as well as the backlog of prior periods.

Fake Caste Certificate

3181. SHRI SATYAJITSINH DULIPSINH GAEKWAD : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any fake caste certificate racket has been burst during the last two years, State-wise;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of persons arrested in this regard; and

(d) the measures taken to prevent the recurrence of such cases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) to (d). 'Police' and 'Public Order' being State subjects as per Constitutional provisions the registration investigation, detection and prevention of crime, including the cases relating to fake caste certificates, is primarily the concern of the State Governments. Information relating to action taken by the State Governments in individual cases of crime of this nature is not maintained by the Central Government.

Maintaining Communal Harmony

3182. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to make police officers directly responsible for maintaining communal harmony and containing of crimes; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) and (b). According to the Constitution of India, 'Police' and 'Public order' are State subjects. It is primarily for the State Governments to assign, where necessary, specific responsibilities to their police officers. However, the Central Government has also issued guidelines to the State Governments for promoting communal harmony and containing crime. These guidelines cover, inter alia, the role of district level functionaries.

Development of Horticulture

3183. SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether National Horticulture Development Board and Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority is funding different States or long term development of Horticulture;

(b) if so, the amount allotted during each of the last three years to the State Governments, State-wise;

(c) whether the Government of Kerala has requested for enhancement of the funds; and

(d) if so, the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The two agencies do not make advance allotment of funds to the States. Instead the assistance is released direct to the beneficiaries on project to project basis under different schemes for long-term development activities including exports.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Supply of Rakes

3184. SHRI KASHI RAM RANA :

SHRI SAMIK LAHIRI :

SHRI MAHESH KUMAR M. KANODIA :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the efforts made to meet the demand of rakes in the country;

(b) the efforts made by the Government to increase the supply of rakes for the salt producing areas of Gujarat; and

(c) the number of applications received in this connection during the last year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Availability of railway wagons/rakes for movement of freight traffic has been increased significantly through improved productivity of available wagon and locomotive resources by intensive monitoring of train movements and terminal operations.

(b) and (c). As a result of the steps taken, loading of salt has also improved significantly in Gujarat. During January-July, 1996 there has been an increase of about 10% as compared to the same period of last year and the number of representations have also come down.

[English]

Post of Finance Secretary in Chandigarh

3185. SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) since how long the post of Finance Secretary is lying vacant in the Union Territory of Chandigarh;

(b) the reasons for the delay in filling up the post; and

(c) the time by this post is likely to be filled in the near future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) to (c). The post of Finance Secretary under the Chandigarh Administration has been lying vacant for the last eight months. The matter was taken up with the concerned Department in early March, 1996. The post is likely to be filled up shortly.

[Translation]

Quantity of Fertilizers Produced

3186. DR. SAHEBRAO SUKHRAM BAGUL :
 DR. RAMESH CHAND TOMAR :
 SHRI DEVI BUX SINGH :
 SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ :
 PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA :

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS
 be pleased to state :

(a) the quantity of fertilizers produced and profit/

loss incurred by each of the plants of N.F.L. and H.F.C.
 during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) the quantity of urea imported during the last
 three years along with the foreign exchange spent on
 the imports; and

(c) the number of employees working in each of
 these units as on March, 1996?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF
 CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SIS RAM OLA):

(a) The quantity of fertilizer produced and profit/loss
 incurred by each of the plants of NFL and HFC during
 the last three years is given below :

Name of the Company/ Plant	Item	Production (000 MT)			Profit/Loss (Rs. crore)		
		1993-94	1994-95	1995-96	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96
							(Provisional)
NFL :							
Nangal - I	CAN	266.2	206.7	186.5	25.28	21.55	13.15
Nangal - II	Urea	351.1	375.5	372.4			
Bhatinda	Urea	511.6	530.3	531.1	12.63	65.24	19.64
Panipat	Urea	516.4	455.0	532.8	19.62	(-) 6.63	2.15
Vijaipur	Urea	878.3	819.7	857.9	113.43	123.77	98.56
					170.96*	203.93	133.50
HFC :							
Namrup	Urea	189.0	159.0	140.7	(-) 118.35	(-) 154.80	(-) 172.58
Durgapur	Urea	40.9	67.0	76.0	(-) 118.86	(-) 126.93	(-) 155.70
Baruni	Urea	22.0	2.8	56.1	(-) 128.11	(-) 126.33	(-) 138.24
Trading Activities		-	-	-	(-) 1.41	-	-
					(-) 366.73	(-) 408.06	(-) 466.52

* Excludes one time depreciation of Rs. 268.15 crore due to change in rate of depreciation under Schedule-XIV of the Companies Act.

(b) The quantity of urea imported during the last
 three years and foreign exchange spent on the imports
 is given below :

Year	Quantity Imported (in lakh tonnes)	Foreign Exchange Spent (C & F value in Rs. crore)
1993-94	27.83	1030.43
1994-95	28.70	1603.62
1995-96	37.82	2840.13

(c) The number of employees working in each of
 the units of NFL and HFC as on 31.3.1996 are given

below :

Name of the Plant	Number of employees
1	2
NFL :	
Nangal	2666
Bhatinda	1225
Panipat	1281
Vijaipur	867
Corporate Office	266
Marketing	520
Total	6825

1	2
HFC :	
Namrup	2527
Durgapur	1602
Barauni	1456
Haldia	1507
Marketing	418
FP & ARD	914
CPLO	89
Corporate Office	132
Total	8645

Indo-Oman Project

3187. MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI :
SHRI KASHI RAM RANA :

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the 'KRIBHCO' have made 83 foreign trips between the period 1993 to October, 1995 in connection with the India-Oman Project;

(b) if so, whether an agreement has been finalised;

(c) if not, the latest position in this regard;

(d) the purpose for which the trips were made to England, Germany and Italy under the India-Oman Agreement along with the details thereof;

(e) the justification of the said trips; and

(f) the reaction of the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SIS RAM OLA):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Final Detailed Feasibility Report (DFR) has been completed.

(c) Various agreements connected with the project have been discussed at different levels and are at an advanced stage of finalisation.

(d) Visit to Germany, Italy and U.K. were undertaken by the officers of Krishak Bharati Cooperative Limited (KRIBHCO) and Rashtriya Chemicals and Fertilizers Limited (RCF) to persuade Engineering, Procurement and Construction (EPC) bidders to submit their detailed proposal for setting up of the Oman-India Fertilizer Project on lump sum turn key basis without insisting for any bid compensation. Two bidders are based in Germany and Italy whereas the third bidder who is based in USA has agreed to meet the sponsors in London. U.K. Officers of KRIBHCO, RCF and Government of India also visited U.K. to attend the fifth meeting of Joint Management Committee held in London.

(e) As a result of these discussions and further follow up action by Oman Oil Company, it had been possible to obtain detailed offers from all the three EPC bidders without paying any compensation against their initial demand of around US \$ 1.0 million each.

(f) The visits were undertaken only after getting the approval of the competent authority.

[English]

Food Security

3188. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA :
SHRI PINAKI MISRA :
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY :
SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN .
SHRI ANANTH KUMAR :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Food and Agriculture Organisation organised a national conference on June 3, 1996 in New Delhi, to study as to how far the Panchayati Raj System in India served as a delivery mechanism for food security;

(b) if so, the main observations and suggestions made therein and the outcome of the study;

(c) whether FAO has offered financial and technical assistance to India to build up the Panchayat level food security system; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) The Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) organised a conference on 'Panchayati Raj — the Key to Food Security on 2-3 July, 1996 in New Delhi as a preparatory meeting to the World Food Summit being convened by the FAO in Rome in November, 1996. The conference discussed options relevant to India for attaining food security including, *inter-alia*, measures for developing the Panchayati Raj System to serve as an effective delivery mechanism for food security.

(b) The conference observed that the Panchayats and local self-Government institutions can play a crucial role in ensuring household level, food and nutrition security in India and made the following recommendations :

(i) Empowerment of Panchayats with suitable allocation of financial resources.

(ii) Building the capability of Panchayats for village level planning for food security.

(iii) Education and training of elected representatives and functioning of Panchayats with a focus of sustainable food productivity through micro-level planning.

- (iv) Developing of skills and marginal farmers and workers, appropriate cost effective research, promotion of local off-farming income/employment generation activities, etc.

(c) and (d). A project proposal aimed at developing a strategy so that food security for the poor is ensured through a self-reliant mechanism under the local level village Panchayats has been posed to the FAO for seeking technical assistance amounting to US \$ 196000. The proposal is under consideration of the FAO.

[Translation]

Illegal Trade of Birds

3189. KUMARI UMA BHARATI : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that illegal trade of birds is going on very rapidly despite the enforcement of Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government to check this illegal trade?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAPT. JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD) : (a) and (b). Although some cases of illegal trade in birds are being detected from time to time, it is not a fact that this trade is going on very rapidly despite the enforcement of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972.

(c) The trapping and killing of birds for commercial purposes is prohibited under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972. However, trade in birds which have been bred in captivity and do not fall under the Schedule I of Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 can be carried out with an appropriate licence obtained from the State Chief Wildlife Warden under the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972.

[English]

Broad Gauge Conversion of Vasco-Londa Route

3190. SHRI CHURCHILL ALEMAO : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the expansion work regarding the conversion of metre-gauge to broad-gauge of Vasco-Londa route under the South Central Railway would be completed by the end of October, 1996;

(b) if not, the reasons for the delay;

(c) whether the Government have taken steps to put an end to or minimise the hardships/sufferings of the rail commuters from Goa who have to travel all the way to Belgaum or Hubli to board the respective trains; and

(d) if not, whether the Ministry propose to provide any special facilities to these passengers from Goa till the time the said work is completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (c). Londa-Castlerock section has already been converted into broad gauge and the section has been commissioned for passenger traffic on 22.06.1995. Work on gauge conversion of the remaining section from Castlerock-Vasco section has been taken up and the same is targetted for completion by 31.3.1997. The delay has occurred due to stay obtained by some contractors against finalisation of tenders, heavy rains from June to September and unforeseen problems of major bridge foundations. Pending completion of gauge conversion work between Castlerock-Vasco, passengers will have to avail of bus services for travel to and from Goa.

(d) No, Sir.

Agriculture University in Jammu

3191. SHRI MANGAT RAM SHARMA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a demand from the people of Jammu Division for setting up of an Agriculture University at R.S. Pura in the Jammu District;

(b) whether an Agriculture College exists at R.S. Pura and infrastructure for setting up of an Agriculture University is also available there;

(c) if so, the reasons for delay in setting up of an Agriculture University there; and

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

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) Yes, Sir. Ministry of Agriculture has agreed in principle, for its establishment and the Prime Minister has announced it.

(b) Yes, Sir. A College of Agriculture under Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology exists at R.S. Pura, Jammu. However, facilities existing are not sufficient for setting up of an Agriculture University.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Establishment of Agricultural University is the State Subject.

Development of Coconut

3192. PROF. P.J. KURIEN : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Coconut Board has formulated new schemes for the development of coconut for the year 1996-97; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) No, Sir

(b) Does not arise.

Railway Projects

3193. SHRI PROMOTHEES MUKHERJEE :
SHRI BANWARILAL PUROHIT :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the newsitem captioned "Railways hit by twin crunch" as reported in "Statesman" dated July 5, 1996;

(b) whether due to hike in prices of petroleum products and power tariff by the State Electricity Boards, the various projects of Railways have been affected; and

(c) if so, the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to remedy the situation?

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

(b) and (c). As the necessary budget provision on account of hike in cost of fuel already exists, any adverse effect on the various Railways projects included in the Railway Budget for 1996-97 is unlikely.

Cattle Human Ratio

3194. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA : Will the Minister of ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is constant depletion in the cattle wealth of the country with cattle human ratio coming down from 430 per thousand humans in 1951 to 278 in 1981 and is likely to reach 20 per thousand humans, if unchecked, by the year 2001.

(b) if so, the main reasons for the decline; and

(c) the steps being taken to check this decline?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH) : (a) No, Sir. There is no depletion in cattle wealth. However the ratio of cattle and human population compared to cattle population.

(b) and (c). Does not arise as there is no decline in cattle population.

Higher Administrative Grade Posts in Railways

3195. SHRI SANDIPAN THORAT : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes officers denied promotions in the Higher

Administrative Grade due to the left over one year service condition and non fulfilling of the laid down bench marks; and

(b) the corrective steps proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Out of 52 officers not empanelled for Grade Rs. 7,300 - 7,600/- in 1995-96, 5 were belonging to SC/ST communities.

(b) Does not arise there is no reservation for SC/ST communities in promotion to Grade Rs. 7,300-7,600/- and such eligibility conditions and criteria of performance uniformly apply to all.

[Translation]

Licence for Slaughtering Animals

3196. SHRI KRISHAN LAL DILER : Will the Minister of ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have issued licence for slaughtering animals to Agro India Factory at Chherat in Aligarh district, Uttar Pradesh which would cause pollution and dangerous diseases in the district;

(b) whether the Government have received protests against it;

(c) if so, whether the Government have decided to cancel the licence of the said factory; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH) : (a) Slaughtering of animals is permitted by the State Government under the state laws. M/s. Hind Agro Industries Limited a joint venture project with Uttar Pradesh Pashudhan Udyog Nigam Limited and the Pradeshia Industrial and Investment Corporation of Uttar Pradesh Limited were given approval by Secretariat for Industrial Approval for setting up of 100 per cent export oriented unit at Chherat in Aligarh district.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d). In view of (a) above question does not arise.

Vehicles Challenged in Delhi

3197. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHOUDHARY :
SHRI MAHESH KUMAR M. KANODIA :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of vehicles challenged in Delhi during the last two years;

(b) the total revenue received from these challans; and

(c) the total expenditure incurred in towing away the vehicles during last two years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) and (b) The requisite information is given below :

Year	Number of vehicles challaned	Compounding fee realised
1994	14,03,533	Rs. 12,18,44,774
1995	13,28,300	Rs. 11,11,50,200

(c) Information is being collected.

[English]

Floriculture Centre

3198. SHRI T. GOPAL KRISHNA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh has requested for sanction of a model floriculture centre at Hyderabad in view of a large number of foreign collaborations for floriculture in the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). The Government of India has sanctioned setting up of a Model Floriculture Centre in the State of Andhra Pradesh at a total cost of Rs. 57.50 lakhs, under the Central Sector Scheme on commercial Floriculture. The Centre would serve as the focal unit for floriculture development in the state and will undertake collection, multiplication and distribution of quality planting material of improved varieties; laying out demonstrations on new technologies and training of farmers/entrepreneur on various aspects related to production and post harvest management of flower crops.

Conversion into Broad-Gauge Lines

3199. SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to consider the conversion of Hospet-Guntakal Metre Gauge railway line into Broad Gauge during the next two years;

(b) if so, the estimated cost thereof;

(c) if not, reasons therefor; and

(d) the expected time by which the said line would be converted into Broad Gauge?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Yes, Sir. The doubling of Guntakal-Hospet section, by conversion of the existing metre gauge line, has been included in the Budget, 1996-97.

(b) Rs. 105.77 crores.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The work is likely to be completed in the Ninth Plan period.

[Translation]

Use of Insecticides

3200. SHRI NAND KUMAR SAI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government are aware that the excessive use of insecticide results in the loss of resistance power of the human beings;

(b) if so, whether the Government have any proposal to ban the excessive use of insecticides; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) Yes, Sir. Some National and International studies have revealed possible linkage between exposure to pesticides and the immune system in human being thereby decreasing resistance potential.

(b) and (c). Yes, Sir. To decrease dependence on excessive use of pesticides, the Government is promoting Integrated Pest Management (IPM) for control of crop-pests. IPM approach relies on exploitation of natural biocontrol potential having blend of non-chemical approaches viz., cultural mechanical, use of botanicals like neem-based pesticides and biocides. This eco-friendly IPM programme is being taken up at an outlay of Rs. 45 crores during the VIII Plan period. So far 12,245 Agriculture Extension Officers and 77,556 farmers have acquired IPM skill resulting in decreasing pesticide use trend in the country.

Disruption on Rail Route

3201. SHRI DINESH CHAND YADAV : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Rail services were disrupted on Nairmali-Bhaptipahi rail route due to the damage caused by the floods in the Kosi river during 1944;

(b) if so, whether the Government have formulated any scheme for its reconstruction;

(c) whether any survey has been conducted in this regard;

(d) if so, the outcome thereof;

(e) if so, the concrete steps taken to remove the difficulties of the passengers; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) to (f). It has been decided to take up survey for restoration of the line. Further consideration of the project will be possible once the survey report becomes available.

[English]

Inferior Quality of Fertilizers

3202. SHRI DADA BABURAO PARANJPE : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is hue and cry amongst the farmers in Jabalpur of Madhya Pradesh regarding the sale of inferior quality of fertilizers by the traders; and

(b) if so, the steps being taken to provide the standard quality of fertilizers to the farmers and bring to book the traders involved in the sale of inferior quality of fertilizers?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) No, Sir. However, during the course of regular quality control checking, some lots of Super-Phosphate and DAP were found non-standard with the local traders in Jabalpur.

(b) State Authorities have published an appeal in local Newspaper on 26.6.96, not to purchase non-standard fertilisers from the offending local dealers. The non-standard stock has been banned and the Certificates of Registration of the dealers have been suspended. State Government has also issued instructions to their quality control enforcement offices regarding strict implementation of quality control measures.

Decontrol of Drugs

3203. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY :
SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV :

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Committee appointed by the Government to decide the issue of decontrol of nineteen bulk drugs has urged to change the terms of reference so that criteria for price control applies equally to all the drugs;

(b) if so, whether Government have considered the request;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the time by which the Committee is likely to submit its report?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SIS RAM OLA) : (a) The Committee, which was appointed by the Government to look into the matters related to representations received in regard to inclusion/exclusion of drugs from price control, did not urge the Government for any change in the terms of reference.

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

(d) As at present, the term of the Committee stands expired on 30th April, 1996.

[Translation]

Dairy Projects under NDDB

3204. SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH :
SHRIMATI BHAVNABEN DEVRAJ BHAI
CHIKHALIA :
SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHAUHAN :
SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM :

Will the Minister of ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the project run by the National Dairy Development Board for the development of dairy sector, State-wise:

(b) the financial assistance made available to the Cooperative Societies in each State for dairy development by the Board during each of the last three year, State-wise:

(c) whether the NDDB proposes to set up more dairy projects in various parts of the country; and

(d) if so, the locations proposed therefor a long with the expenditure to be incurred in the each case?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH) : (a) National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) was implementing Operation Flood-III (O.F. - III) Project for dairy development. The Project has come to a close on 31.12.1995 but reimbursements from World Bank for the expenditure committee upto 31.12.1995 were available upto 30.4.1996.

(b) A Statement indicating State-wise release of funds by NDDB under O.F. III Project during each of the last three years is attached.

(c) and (d). Additional Dairy projects in the country would be financed by the NDDB from its own resources on the basis of the merit of each proposal. At present NDDB has not received any proposal.

STATEMENT*State-wise Release of funds under Operation Flood - III Projects*

(Rupees in lakhs)

S.No.	Institutions	Year		
		1993-94	1994-95	1995-96
1.	* Amdaman Nicobar	0.44	0.00	0.00
2.	Andhra Pradesh	994.78	426.11	457.86
3.	Assam	0.21	0.09	0.00
4.	Bihar	191.73	191.39	104.35
5.	Delhi	89.27	341.84	1,123.26
6.	Goa	55.76	24.07	25.42
7.	Gujarat	14,014.86	7,958.09	6,305.35
8.	Haryana	557.62	373.34	199.08
9.	Himachal Pradesh	6.51	5.22	49.82
10.	Karnataka	1,097.67	508.76	979.24
11.	Kerala	327.09	240.25	401.10
12.	Jammu and Kashmir	4.02	0.02	2.09
13.	Madhya Pradesh	46.64	(42.43)	461.22
14.	Maharashtra	46.87	178.62	2,339.12
15.	* Manipur	0.00	0.00	0.00
16.	* Mizoram	0.44	0.00	0.00
17.	* Nagaland	0.53	0.91	0.00
18.	Orissa	45.56	68.69	137.75
19.	Pondicherry	13.01	0.85	34.23
20.	Punjab	273.74	182.09	362.05
21.	Rajasthan	642.43	356.55	492.18
22.	* Sikkim	0.72	0.07	0.10
23.	Tamil Nadu	1,754.29	569.87	596.66
24.	* Tripura	0.60	0.00	0.00
25.	Uttar Pradesh	1,219.67	1,861.67	2,371.73
26.	West Bengal	1,707.90	2,658.61	1,566.56

* These States were not included in OF-III. However, some expenditure were incurred on manpower development, farmers induction programme and other developmental activities.

[English]

Raw Material for manufacturing Fertilisers

3205. SHRI HARIN PATHAK : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) the raw material required for manufacturing chemical fertilizers for the next three years including current year;

(b) whether it is procured at reasonable prices and terms advantageous to the Nation;

(c) whether there is any long term arrangement to streamline procurement of raw material at cheaper rate; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SIS RAM OLA) : (a) The estimated requirement of raw materials for manufacturing chemicals fertilizers for the next three years, including current year, is given in the Statement enclosed.

(b) to (d). Liquid Petroleum products are supplied at concessional rate for use in manufacture of fertilizer. Imported raw materials and intermediates for manufacture of phosphatic fertilizers are decanalised and are procured by respective companies based on their commercial judgement.

STATEMENT*Raw Materials required for manufacturing Fertilizers*

Lakh tonnes/MMSCM

S.No.	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99
1. Naphtha	32.77	47.94	54.91
2. Fuel Oil/LSHS	28.60	30.37	29.14
3. Gas (MMSCMD)	30.00	32.38	33.22
4. Ammonia	8.50	7.32	7.76
5. Phos. Acid	16.00	17.08	18.08
6. Rock Phosphate	30.85	40.63	44.00
7. Sulphur	13.35	14.40	15.79

[Translation]

Modernisation of Terminal Facilities

3206. SHRI SUKH LAL KUSHWAHA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to expand and modernise the terminal facilities at the Ghaziabad railway station;

(b) if so, the time by which this work would be completed;

(c) whether the Government propose a halt at Ghaziabad for the trains going and coming from the East; and

(d) if so, the time by which such a halt would be provided?

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

(b) The work is scheduled for completion by March 1997.

(c) and (d). At present, a total of 69 trains going and coming from the East, i.e., in the direction of Hapur and Khurja, are stopping at Ghaziabad. There is no proposal to give stoppage to any more trains at this station.

Wildlife Menace

3207. SHRI RAJKESHAR SINGH :
SHRI LALIT ORAON :

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

(a) whether Government have received reports of loss of life, property and standing crops due to menace of antelopes (neelgais), wild elephants and other wild animals from various States particularly Uttar Pradesh and Bihar during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the measures being taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to check the menace of wild animals and ensure safety of people, animals and crops?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAPT. JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Reports regarding loss of life, property and standing crops due to depredations by wild animals have been received from following States:

Maharashtra (wild bear), Punjab (wild bear), Rajasthan (neelgai), Haryana (wild bear, Neelgai), Uttar Pradesh (neelgai, monkey, deer, leopard, wolf and wild elephant), Madhya Pradesh (neelgai, wild bear, sloth bear and wild elephant), Gujarat (Neelgai), Himachal Pradesh (monkey, leopard), Andhra Pradesh (wild elephant), Assam (wild elephant), Karnataka (wild elephant), Bihar (wild elephant), Arunachal Pradesh (wild elephant), Tamil Nadu (wild elephant) and Meghalaya (wild elephant), Kerala (wild elephant), West Bengal (wild elephant).

(c) The State Governments have been advised to take action regarding the problem of damage to crops by wild animals other than those included in Schedule I of Wild Life (Protection), 1972 under Section 11 (i) (b) of the Act and under Section 11 (i) (a) of the Wild Life (Protection) Act to deal with the problem causing animals to safeguard the lives of the people. For wild elephant steps have been taken to erect electric fencing, elephant proof trenches etc. to stop movement of elephant outside the forests in problematic areas.

[English]

Status of Industry to Agriculture

3208. SHRI MAHESH KUMAR M. KANODIA :
KUMARI FRIDA TOPNO :
PROF. OMPAL SINGH NIDAR :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to give industrial status of industry to agriculture;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps being taken in this regard; and

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

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) to (c). The draft Agriculture Policy Resolution envisages bestowing similar benefits on agriculture as exist in industry. This would include creating positive trade and investment climate for agriculture at par with industry through a continuous review of price structure and trade mechanism. However, care would be taken to ensure that agriculturists are not subjected to the regulatory and tax collection machinery of the Government. The draft Agriculture Policy is under finalisation keeping in view the suggestions made by Members of Parliament and concerned Ministries/Departments of the Government.

Gauge Conversion

3209. SHRI VISHAMBHAR PRASAD NISHAD : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the time by which the ongoing survey for gauge conversion of the Rewari-Loharu-Sadulpur-Ratangarh-Degana section of the Northern Railway would be completed;

(b) the time by which the said metre gauge section would be converted into broad gauge and opened for the passenger traffic;

(c) whether the Jodhpur Mail presently running on the diverted route had been running on the said section for more than four decades;

(d) if so, whether the Jodhpur Mail would be restored on this section after its conversion into broad gauge; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Traffic survey for gauge conversion of Rewari-Loharu Sadulpur-Ratnagarh-Degana MG line into BG has been sanctioned and will be completed by June, 1997.

(b) Further consideration of the project would be possible once survey reports become available.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) and (e). This will be considered on merits at that time.

Introduction of Special Train

3210. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any agreement has been entered with

M/s. Sterling Holiday Resorts (India) Limited for operation of a Special train for the tourist centres of Rajasthan and Gujarat:

- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (c). Indian Railways have entered into an agreement with M/s. Sterling Holiday Resorts (India) Ltd., Madras in respect of two tourist trains to be known as Royal Indian (Northern) which will operate between Delhi-Jaipur-Agra-Gwalior-Jhansi (Khajuraho)-Varanasi-Lucknow-Delhi and the Royal Indian (Southern) which will operate between Bangalore-Mysore-Madras-Kodaikanal Road-Kanyakumari-Trivandrum-Cochin-Mettupalayam (Ooty) - Bangalore.

Air Pollution due to Bio-Fuels

3211. SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the air pollution is widespread in the rural areas where bio-fuels are used for cooking;
- (b) if so, whether any study has been conducted about the volume of air pollution in the rural areas;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to check such air pollution in the rural areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAPT. JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD) : (a) to (c). The nature and extent of air pollution in rural areas, where bio-fuels such as wood, dung cakes, crop residues and biogas are used, depend upon the nature and quality of fuel used, design of chulhas, ventilation system, etc. A number of studies have been conducted on air pollution in rural areas by the Tata Energy Research Institute and others, but all such studies are of limited nature relying on a small sample size. During the cooking period, the levels of particulates and carbon-monoxide encountered were not found exceeding the Threshold Limit Values (TLVs) prescribed by Occupational Safety and Health Association (OSHA), USA.

(d) The steps taken to check air pollution, including the rural areas, are given below :

1. The Government is implementing two Central sector schemes, namely, National Programme on Improved Chulha and National Project on Biogas Development which caters to family-size biogas plants. The Government is also providing subsidy and other incentives for promotion of these

devices in the rural areas with the objective to reduce air pollution in rural areas.

2. Ambient air quality standards have been prescribed for major pollutants for the different areas.
3. General environmental awareness campaigns have been launched.

Indian Prison Act, 1894

3212. SHRI PRADIP BHATTACHARYA : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the National Human Rights Commission has urged the Government to make changes in the provisions of the Indian Prison Act, 1894;
- (b) whether a Bill has been prepared and submitted by NHRC in this regard to the Union Government;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Union Government thereto; and
- (d) the time by which the Bill is likely to be introduced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) to (c). The Government and National Human Rights Commission are interacting on the possible content of a Bill to cover changes on various aspects of the prison administration.

Tribal Hockey Players in Railways

3213. KUMARI FRIDA TOPNO : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Tribal Hockey players of Railways have brought laurels to the Ministry;
- (b) if so, whether there is any proposal to establish Hockey Academy with a provision of Astro-Turf in the Tribal belt to hunt out the hidden talents;
- (c) if so, whether it is proposed to utilise hundreds of acres of surplus land of the Railways at Bondamunda for the purpose;
- (d) if so, the time schedule for the completion of this project; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Indian Railways Hockey Team which include tribal players as well has been giving good performance.

- (b) No such proposal is under consideration.
- (c) and (d). Does not arise.
- (e) The development of sports in tribal areas as also in other areas does not come in the ambit of Railways.

Environment Damage due to Prawn Cultivation

3214. SHRI ANANT KUMAR HEGDE : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the newsitem captioned "Prawn-hungry West driving destruction in Asia: Report", appearing in the *Economic Times* dated May 28, 1996;

(b) whether cultivation of the prawn is causing environmental damage and loss of farm land in the country.

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the reaction of the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAPT. JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). Culture of prawns by adopting sustainable, eco-friendly and socially acceptable methods as per the guidelines issued by the Union Ministry of Agriculture, does not cause environmental damage. Construction of ponds on lands not fit for cultivation alone is permitted for shrimp farming. Conversion of agricultural land for culture of prawns is discouraged and the same is also presently prohibited by the Supreme Court.

In India, out of the estimated brackish water area of 12 lakh ha., about 1.44 lakh ha. area presently is reported to be under shrimp farming. Over 75 per cent of this area i.e. about 1.08 lakh ha. is under traditional/extensive farming and remaining 36,000 ha. under modified extensive/semi-intensive shrimp farming. It is also estimated that the total annual production of cultured shrimps in India as on 1993-94 was around 84,000 tons. There have been reports of some environmental degradation along Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu coast, in areas where there is a high concentration of shrimp farms.

(d) Government is encouraging prawn/shrimp culture activities under scientific culture systems to avoid any possible adverse impact on the environment. Guidelines have been issued to the State Governments which include, development of sustainable aquaculture as an eco-friendly activity, treatment of waste water, environment impact assessment study at the planning stage for units above 40 ha., avoiding use of chemicals and overall improvement in soil and water management practices.

[Transliteration]

Senior School in the Dhanbad Rail Division

3215. SHRI LALIT ORAON : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is no senior school in the Dhanbad

Rail Division of the Eastern Railway despite its being predominantly inhabited by the Tribals and the Scheduled Castes and also being a backward area;

(b) whether the local people of Dhanbad Rail Division has been demanding a senior school in Barwadeeh since long;

(c) whether the Zonal headquarters at Calcutta has completed all the formalities in this regard and is only awaiting clearance of the Railway Board; and

(d) if so, the action proposed by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) No, Sir. Kendriya Vidyalayas are functioning in Railway Colonies at Dhanbad (upto Class XII) and at Patratu (upto Class X).

(b) to (d). A proposal for upgradation of Railway Middle School at Barwadeeh, upto 10th standard was received from Eastern Railway. In view of the adequate educational facilities available at Barwadeeh, the proposal to upgrade the Railway Middle School thereat to High School has not been found justified.

[English]

Environmental Development of Chamundi Hills

3216. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Norwegian Government has come forward to give outright grant of Rs. 2.50 crores for the environmental development of Chamundi Hills in Mysore;

(b) if so, the developmental work proposed to be taken up with the said grant;

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

(d) whether there is any proposal to extend any financial assistance by the Central Government in addition to the said grant; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAPT. JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD) : (a) No, Sir.

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

Poaching in Andaman and Nicobar Islands

3217. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether poaching in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands has increased considerably;

(b) whether valuable timber, crocodile, rare red corals are taken away by the foreign infiltrators;

(c) if so, the number of boats/ships alongwith persons apprehended, nationality-wise and the date of such encounters; and

(d) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to check such incidents in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAPT. JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) The Wildlife authorities of Andaman and Nicobar Islands have reported that although boats and ships of foreign origin alongwith foreign nationals have been apprehended sporadically, they are not known to indulge in poaching nor have any timber, crocodiles or rare red corals been recovered from them.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The Forest and Wildlife authorities are taking the help of the Coast Guards, Navy and Local Police to curb the foreign intruders.

[Translation]

Research in Agriculture Field

3218. SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the efforts being made by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research to develop new hybrid seeds of oilseeds and pulses; and

(b) the details of specific achievements made by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research to develop new hybrid seeds of oilseeds and pulses; and

(b) the details of specific achievements made by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research in the field of agriculture during the last five years?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) Success has been achieved in developing hybrids in pigeonpea (arhar) in the last five years. Two short duration hybrids namely COH-1 for Tamil Nadu and PPH 4 for Punjab have been released for cultivation. Efforts are underway to develop hybrids in medium and long duration pigeonpea also.

In respect of oilseed, improved hybrids have been developed in Sunflower (KBSH-1, PKVSH-17, APSH-17, PSFH-67, TNAUSUF-7) Castor (DCH-30, SBH-145, GAUCH-4) and Gobhi Sarson (GSLH-51).

Besides hybrids 45 high yielding varieties of pulses and 60 varieties of oilseeds combining resistance to biotic and abiotic stresses have been developed in different part of the country during the last five years

and released for cultivation. They include 10 in pigeonp, 12 in chickpea, 13 in mung and urbean; 13 in groundnut 9 in Brassica, 10 in sesame and 10 in soybean etc.

(b) **Rice and Wheat** - A wide choice of varieties well adapted to different rainfed ecologies and five hybrids for irrigated ecology for the first time have been developed. The improved rainfed rice varieties yield 40 to 50% higher than the local varieties while the hybrids yield one tonne more per hectare than the best varieties. Hybrid rice areas has increased to 5,0000 ha, this year. In the case of wheat rust susceptible varieties like HD 2329 and HD 2385 have been replaced by UP 2338 in the North West Plain Zone and Sonalika susceptible to their diseases by Sonali etc.

Course Cereal - In case of millets, despite sharp decline in area there has been steady production advance attributable to impressive productivity growth which in turn are due to high yielding hybrids such as CSH 113R, CSH 14, CSA 15R in Sorghum.

Pulses - The emphasis has been to breed short duration varieties and hybrids in Arhar, multiple disease resistance in chickpea, green gram, black gram, peas the lentil. Increased adoption of improved varieties has contributed considerably to the impressive production advances by one million tonnes and productivity to 601 kg. from 555 kg/ha during the last five years.

Oilseed - Spectacular progress has been made in the oilseed production during last five years. The soybean production has gone up to 4.0 mt. in 1994-95 from 2.0 mt. recorded in 1990-91. This has enabled the country to earn Rs. 15,000 m. in 1993-94 in foreign exchange through export of oil meal and has stablized the oilseed production in the country.

Commercial hybrids have been made available in pigeonpea, sunflower, rabimaize, rabi sorghum, castor, gobhi-sarson, tomato, cabbage and cotton.

[English]

Rare Quail

3219. SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA' : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the newsitem captioned "Rare Quail sighted in Uttar Pradesh hills", appearing in the *Sunday Times of India* dated June 6, 1996;

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

(c) the action taken or proposed to be taken for the protection and conservation of this rare species?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAPT. JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The news item refers to a claim by the Delhi Wildlife Society of spotting a flock of mountain quail while trekking in the Naini Hills of Uttar Pradesh. The matter was referred to the State Government and the Wildlife authorities of Uttar Pradesh have reported that they had tried to verify the claims of the sighting of mountain quail from the person concerned, but they have not received any response. The local wildlife officials in the Uttar Pradesh hills have also been directed to verify the information in the field. The mountain quail is suspected to have become extinct as it has not been sighted to the wild since the end of the last Century.

(c) The Mountain Quail is included under schedule I of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 which prohibits its hunting and commercial exploitation. The State Wildlife authorities have been advised to extend full protection to its habitat, if located, by declaring it as a protected area and deployment of staff to guard against its illegal trapping or destruction to its habitat.

Shifting of Assam Rifles

3220. SHRI TH. CHAOBA SINGH : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a new site at Maha Koireng has been selected for shifting of 30 Assam Rifles from Kangla in Manipur;

(b) if so, the steps proposed to be taken to complete the construction of buildings at Maha Koireng;

(c) the estimated cost to be incurred thereon; and

(d) the scheduled time of completion of the buildings?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) Yes, Sir. A site at 'Maha Koireng' (Kaithalmanbi) has been selected for this purpose.

(b) to (d). The land has been acquired and preliminary estimates have been prepared for early execution, which indicate an estimated cost of Rs. 47 crores (approximately) at the current cost index.

Police Force in North Eastern States

3221. DR. PRABIN CHANDRA SARMA :
SHRI KESHAB MAHANTA :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the police force in the North Eastern States particularly in Assam is facing the problem of insurgency;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is a proposal for modernisation of police force of these State;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether special assistance has been provided by the Union Government to undertake the modernisation programme;

(f) if so, the amount released so far; and

(g) if not, the time by which the assistance is likely to be provided?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) and (b). Some States in the North-East, including Assam, are with problem of insurgency.

(c) and (d). Since law and order is a State subject, it is primarily for the State Governments to equip/modernise their police forces. However, the Central Government has been implementing a scheme for modernisation of State police force since 1969-70 to supplement the efforts of the State Governments. The funds released to the North Eastern States under this scheme during the last five years are indicated below:

S.No.	State	1991-1992	1992-1993	1993-1994	1994-1995	1995-1996
1.	Assam	47.71	47.71	190.86	95.43	47.71
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	46.27	92.54	92.54	95.54	23.13
3.	Meghalaya	36.27	12.92	51.88	25.94	12.17
4.	Mizoram	61.36	87.78	87.78	87.78	21.94
5.	Nagaland	38.43	34.63	76.86	76.86	-
6.	Tripura	46.53	46.53	93.00	46.53	23.26

(e) to (g). In addition to the funds released under the scheme for modernisation of State police forces, special assistance of Rs. 48.75 crores approximately has been released since 1991-92 to some of the North-Eastern States for the purchase of vehicles, arms and ammunition, Bullet proof jackets, etc.

Dhangdhara-Kuda Rail Link

3222. SHRI SANAT MEHTA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the reasons for not including Dhangdhara-Kuda

rail link in the Western Railway on the Gauge Conversion programme; and

(b) the time by which the said work is proposed to be undertaken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b). The Government of Gujarat and Salt Department/Govt. of India have both agreed in principle to bear part cost of conversion but their formal consent has not yet been received.

Further decision in the matter will be taken after getting the formal consent.

Guwahati Zoo

3223. SHRI UDDHAB BARMAN : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the animals in good numbers died of different ailments in Guwahati Zoo, Assam during the last three years;

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

(c) whether any inquiry had been instituted for finding the reasons of these deaths;

(d) if so, the findings thereof; and

(e) the action taken by the Government to check recurrence of the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAPT. JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD) : (a) and (b). The number of animals that are reported to have died in Guwahati zoo during the years 1993-94, 1994-95 and 1995-96 are 140, 145 and 89 respectively.

(c) and (d). The cases of death of animals in Guwahati Zoo was enquired into by a committee constituted by the Dean College of Veterinary Science, Guwahati during the year 1992, and their recommendations are being followed. The causes of death reported to be are infighting injuries, senility, gastroenteritis, tuberculosis, liver infection and mycotic diseases.

(e) Following measures are being taken to curb the situation :

- (i) Chemotherapy against tuberculosis and other diseases.
- (ii) Improvement of hygiene and sanitation measures.
- (iii) Segregation of diseased and disease free animals.
- (iv) Periodic health checking of zoo attendents etc.,
- (v) Quality Control of food and water supply.

Length of Rail Line in Kerala

3224. SHRI O. BHARATHAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the total length of rail line in Kerala at the time of formation of the State;

(b) the total length of rail line in the State at present; and

(c) whether the proportion of growth is less than that of the other States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) The total rail route kilometres in Kerala at the time of the formation of the State was 793 kms.

(b) The total route kilometres in the State as on 31.3.1995 is 1053 kms.

(c) No, Sir.

Andhra Pradesh Express

3225. SHRI YELLAIAH NANDI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Andhra Pradesh Express has only one A.C. III-T Coach;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to introduce one or two additional A.C. - III-T coaches on A.P. Express so as to adequately accommodate current rush of the passengers; and

(c) if so, the details in this regard and the time by which action is likely to be taken?

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

(b) There is no proposal at present.

(c) Does not arise.

Development of New Railway Stations

3226. SHRIMATI BHAVNA BEN DEVRAJ BHAI CHIKHALIA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are taking steps for the development of new railway stations in the country particularly in Gujarat under the Western Railway till date;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details regarding making arrangements of benches and water facilities and also to improve the reservation system at the railway stations located in the tribal districts of the country especially in Gujarat; and

(d) the estimated expenditure to be incurred thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Five new railway stations, namely, Devaliya, Sadla, Sukhpur, Indira Nagar and Vondh, have been sanctioned on Western Railway in the State of Gujarat during 1995-96 and 1996-97 at a total estimated cost of Rs. 6.97 crore.

(c) and (d). Development and improvements of existing stations by the provision/augmentation of amenities/facilities, such as benches, drinking water, reservation facility, etc. is a continuous process and is undertaken as and when so warranted on the basis of the volume of traffic handled at the stations and subject to availability of funds and relative priorities.

Change of Grade of Railway Station

3227. DR. VALLABH BHAI KATHIRIA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Railway Station Gumta Taluka Jetpur, District Rajkot has been transferred from 'B' grade to 'D' grade;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the impact of the said transfer;

(c) whether an agreement/understanding amongst the collector Rajkot, Public agitators and the Railway District Bhavanagar Division was reached that there would be no cut down in the facilities in carrying out transfer of the grade;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the said understanding/agreement has been carried out; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b). Gomta Station has been converted from 'B' to 'D' class station on 15.7.93 on operational grounds and on reasons of economy with resultant saving in expenditure. The amenities at the station has been retained and there is no adverse impact on facilities enjoyed by travelling public.

(c) Yes, Sir

(d) The agreement stipulates that the public facilities like issue of tickets and MSTs, stoppage of Mail/Express trains as per original schedule, quota of two berths earmarked at the station would not be curtailed.

(e) and (f). All amenities/facilities for travelling public have been retained as per the agreement except for sale of season tickets. The booking clerk posted at the station for sale of tickets has, however, been withdrawn with effect from 28.4.94 due to poor offering of passenger traffic and sale of tickets is being arranged through contractor on commission basis. The quota of two berths allotted to this station has been merged with the reservation quota of Gondal Station which is merely 10 kms. away and can be easily accessed by passengers of Gomta Station.

Import List of Wastes

3228. PROF. OMPAL SINGH NIDAR : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have finalised a modified list of wastes for import; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAPT. JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD) : (a) The Government have finalised a list of metal scrap to be allowed for free imports and those to be restricted for imports. The imports of hazardous wastes is restricted.

(b) The list of freely importable and restricted scrap is annexed as Statement. This list is notified by the Directorate General of Foreign Trade under the Foreign Trade (Development and Regulation) Act, 1992.

The import of hazardous waste is regulated under Rule 11 of the Hazardous Wastes (Management and Handling) Rules, 1989 notified under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.

STATEMENT

(To be Published in the Gazette of India Extraordinary Part-II

Section 3, Sub-section (ii)).

**Government of India
Ministry of Commerce**

**Notification No. 4 (RE-96)/92-97
New Delhi : Dated the 11th July, 1996**

C.O. (E) :- In exercise of the powers conferred by section 5 of the Foreign Trade (Development and Regulation) Act, 1992 (No. 22 of 1992), the Central Government hereby makes the following amendments in the IYC (RE) Clarification of Export and Import Items published on 25.3.1996, namely :

In the relevant Chapters denoted by first two digits of the Exim Codes and in their serial order appropriately there under, the following addition/amendment/substitution may be made as described in the undermentioned

columns :

Extn. Code	Item Description	Policy	Conditions relating to the policy	Import under SIL/ Public Notice
1	2	3	4	5
26202083	Lead dross	Restricted	Import permitted against a licence and only for the purpose of processing or reuse as per Import Licensing Note I on Hazardous Waste below.	
26202683	Others	Restricted	Import permitted against a licence and only for the purpose of processing or reuse as per Import Licensing Note I on Hazardous Waste below.	
746400 01.28	Copper scrap namely the following : Copper wire scrap covered by ISRI Code words Barley, Berry and Birch; Heavy cooper scrap covered by ISRI Code word Candy; Unalloyed copper scrap covered by ISRI Code word Cliff; Copper wire modules scrap covered by ISRI Code words Clove, Cobra and Cocoa; Light copper scrap covered by ISRI Code word Dream; Muntz metal tubes covered by ISRI Code word Palms;	Free		
746400 02.20	Brass Scrap Namely the Following : Refinery brass scrap covered by ISRI Code work Driak; Composition or Red brass scrap covered by ISRI Code word Ebony;	Free		

1	2	3	4	5
	Red brass composition turnings scrap covered by ISRI Code word energy; Genuine babbit-lined brass bushings scrap covered by ISRI Code word Elder; Machinery or hard brass solids scrap covered by ISRI Code word Engel; Machinery or hard brass borings scrap covered by ISRI Code word Eris; Cocks and faucets scrap covered by ISRI Code word Grape; Yellow brass scrap covered by ISRI Code word Money; Yellow brass castings covered by ISRI Code word Ivory; New brass clipping covered by ISRI Code word Label; Yellow brass primer covered by ISRI Code word Lark; Brass pipe covered by ISRI Code word Nelon; Yellow brass rod turnings covered by ISRI Code word Night; New Yellow brass rod ends covered by ISRI Code word Noble; Yellow brass turnings covered by ISRI Code word Momad; Fixed serweted auto radiators covered by ISRI Code word Ocean; *Admiralty brass condesser tubes covered by ISRI Code word Pales;			

1	2	3	4	5
	Aluminium brass coadeaser tubes covered by ISRI Code word Pallu;			
	Aluminium brass coadeaser tubes covered by ISRI Code word Pallu;			
	Manganese broaze solids covered by ISRI Code word Parch;			
750350 00	Nickel waste & scrap			
750300 90.10	Nickel Scrap Namely the Following :	Free		
	New nickel scrap covered by ISRI Code word Aroma;			
	Old nickel scrap covered by ISRI Code word Burly;			
	New cupro nickel clips and solids coverd by ISRI Code word Dandy;			
	Capro nickel solids covered by ISRI Code word Daunt;			
	Soldered cupro nickel solids covered by ISRI Code word Belta;			
	Cupro nickel spinnings, turnings, borings covered by ISRI Code word Decoy;			
	Miscellaneous nickel-copper and nickel-copper iron covered by ISRI Code word Depth;			
	Mixed new nikel silver clippings covered by ISRI Code word Maize;			
	New nickel silver clippings & solids covered by ISRI code word Major;			
	New segregated nickel silver clipping covered by ISRI Code word Nalar;			

1	2	3	4	5
	<p>Old nickel silver covered by ISRI Code word Nalic;</p> <p>Nickel silver castings covered by ISRI Code word Naggy;</p> <p>Nickel silver turnings covered by ISRI code word Piece</p> <p>New B-Model clippings and solids covered by ISRI Code word Hitch;</p> <p>New mixed monel solids and clippings covered by ISRI Code word House;</p> <p>Old monel sheet and solids covered by ISRI Code word Ideal;</p> <p>E-Monel solids covered by ISRI Code word Indian;</p> <p>Soldered monel sheet and solids covered by ISRI Code word Junto;</p> <p>Monel castings covered by ISRI Code word Lemon;</p> <p>Monel turnings covered by ISRI Code word Lemur;</p>			
750300 00.96	Other waste and scrap	Restricted		Import permitted against a licence and only for the purpose of processing or reuse as per Import Licensing Note on Hazardous Waste below.
760200 00	Aluminium waste and scrap			
760200 00.10	Aluminium Scrap Namely the Following :	Free		
	Clean aluminium lithographic sheet covered by ISRI Code word Tablet			

1

2

3

4

5

New. Clean
aluminium
lithographic sheets
covered by ISRI
Code word Tabloid

Mixed low copper
aluminium
clippings and
solids covered by
ISRI Code word
Taboo

Clean mixed old
alloy sheet
aluminium covered
by ISRI Code word
Taint/Tabor

New aluminium
can stock covered
by ISRI Code word
Take

Old can stock
covered by ISRI
Code word Talap

Shredded
aluminium used
beverage can
(OBC) scrap
covered by ISRI
Code word Talcred

Densified
aluminium used
beverage can
(OBC) scrap
covered by ISRI
Code word Taldack

Baled aluminium
used beverage can
(OBC) scrap
covered by ISRI
Code word Taldon

Briquetted
aluminium used
beverage can
(OBC) scrap
covered by ISRI
Code word Toldork

Painted siding
covered by ISRI
Code word Tale

Coated scrap
covered by ISRI
Code word Talent

Aluminium copper
radiators covered
by ISRI Code word
Talk

1

2

3

4

5

K.C. aluminium
modules covered
by ISRI Code word
Tall

New pure aluminium
wire and cable
covered by ISRI
Code word Talon

New mixed
aluminium wire
and cable by ISRI
Code word Tana

Old pure
aluminium wire
and cable covered
by ISRI Code word
Taste

Old mixed
aluminium wire
and cable by ISRI
Code word Tassel

Aluminium pistons
covered by ISRI
code word Tarry

Segregated
aluminium borings
and turnings
covered by ISRI
Code word Teens

Mixed aluminium
borings and
turnings covered
by ISRI Code word
Telic

Mixed aluminium
castings covered
by ISRI Code word
Tense

Wrecked airplane
sheet aluminium
covered by ISRI
Code word Tepid

New aluminium foil
covered by ISRI
Code word Terse

Old aluminium foil
covered by ISRI
Code word Testy

Aluminium
grindings covered
by ISRI Code word
Thigh

1	2	3	4	5
	<p>Sweated aluminium covered by ISRI Code word Throb</p> <p>Segregated new aluminium alloy clippings and solids covered by ISRI Code word Tooth</p> <p>Mixed new aluminium alloy clipping and solids covered by ISRI Code word Tough</p> <p>Segregated new aluminium castings, forgings and extrusions covered by ISRI Code word Tread</p> <p>Aluminium auto castings covered by ISRI Code word Trump</p> <p>Insultated aluminium wire scrap covered by ISRI Code word Tuang</p> <p>Aluminium airplane castings covered by ISRI Code word Twist</p> <p>Pragmentizer aluminium scrap from automobile shredder covered by ISRI Code word Twitch</p>			
760200.00.90	Other waste and scrap	Restricted		Import permitted against a licence and only for the purpose of processing or reuse as per Import Licensing Note I on Hazardous Waste below.
786 280 68 780200 00.10	<p>Lead waste and scrap</p> <p>Leand Scrap Namely the Following :</p> <p>Scrap lead-soft covered by ISRI Code word Kacks</p> <p>Mixed hard/soft scrap lead covered by ISRI Code word Radio</p>	Free		

1	2	3	4	5
	Lead covered copper cable covered by ISRI Code word Relay Wheel weights covered by ISRI Code word Ropes Mixed common habbit covered by ISRI Code word Romes			
780260 00.90	Other waste and scrap	Restricted	Import permitted against a licence and only for the purpose of processing or reuse as per Import Licensing Note I on Hazardous Waste below.	
790200.00	Zinc waste and scrap			
790260 00.10	Zinc Scrap Namely the Following : Old zinc die cast scrap covered by ISRI Code word Saves New zinc die cast scrap covered by ISRI Code word Scabs New plated zinc die cast scrap covered by ISRI Code word Scope Zinc die cast automotive grilles covered by ISRI Code word Scoot Old scrap zinc covered by ISRI Code word Score New zinc clippings covered by ISRI Code word Screen Zinc die cast Slabs or pigs covered by ISRI Code word Scull Crushed clean sorted fragmentizeers die cast scrap, as produced from automobile fragmentizers covered by ISRI Code word Scribe	Free		

1	2	3	4	5
780200 00.90	Other waste and scrap	Restricted	Import permitted against a license and only for the purpose of processing or reuse as per Import Licensing Note I on Hazardous Waste below.	
800200 00	Tin waste and scrap			
800200 00.10	Tin Scrap Namely the Following : Block tin covered by ISRI Code word Ranch High tin base babbitt covered by ISRI Code word haves Pewter covered by ISRI Code word Ranks	Free		
800200 00.90	Other waste and scrap	Restricted	Import permitted against a license and only for the purpose of processing or reuse as per Import Licensing Note I on Hazardous Waste below.	
810420 00	Waste and Scrap			
810420 00.10	Magnesium Scrap Namely the Following : Magnesium clips covered by ISRI Code word Wafer Magnesium scrap covered by ISRI Code word Walnut Magnesium engraver plates covered by ISRI Code word Wine Magnesium dockboards covered by ISRI Code word Wood Magnesium turnings covered by ISRI Code word World	Free		
810420 00.90	Other waste and scrap	Restricted	Import permitted against a license and only for the purpose of processing	

1	2	3	4	5
				or reuse as per Import Licensing Note I on Hazardous Waste below.
854810 06	Waste and scrap of primary cells, primary batteries and electric accumulators; spent primary cells, spent primary batteries and spent electric accumulators.			
854810 00.10	Battery Scrap Namely the Following : Lead battery plates covered by ISRI Code word Hails Battery lugs covered by ISRI Code word Kakes	Free		
854810 00.20	Battery Wastes Namely the Following : Scrap drained/dry whole intact lead batteries covered by ISRI Code word Rains Scrap wet whole intact lead batteries covered by ISRI Code word Link Scrap industrial intact lead cells covered by ISRI Code word Nono Scrap whole intact industrial lead batteries covered by ISRI Code word Raper Edison batteries covered by ISRI Code word Vaunt	Restricted		Import permitted against a licence purpose of process- ing or reuse as per Import Licensing Note 1 on Hazardous Waste below.
854810 00.90	Other waste and scrap	Restricted		Import permitted against a license and only for the purpose of processing or reuse as per Import Licensing Note I on Hazardous Waste below.

ISRI Code words mentioned in this Notification refer to the code words used by the Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries Inc., Washington (ISRI) for describing individual scrap grades denoted by these Code words. This has done for facilitation of identification of each item in those cases where the ISRI Code word is not indicated either on the shipping bill or stamped on consignments by the foreign supplier.

This issues in public interest

Sd:
(Shyamal Ghose)
Director General of Foreign Trade
and Ex-officio
Additional Secretary to the Govt. of India

Copy to all concerned:

By Orders etc..

Sd/-
(S.P. Sharma)
Deputy Director General of Foreign Trade
(Issued from file No. IPC/4/5/(418)/92-97)

Violation of Human Right

3229. SHRI SURESH PRABHU : Will the Minister OF HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of cases of human right violation received by the Government and the H.R.C. during the last three years. State-wise; and

(b) the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) and (b) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House

Electrification of Railway Route

3230. SHRI AJAY CHAKRABORTY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether considering the price hike of diesel, railways have a proposal to electrify the railway route in the Barasat to Hasnabad section under Sealdah Division of the Eastern Railways; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b). There is no proposal to electrify Barasat-Hasnabad section of Eastern Railway over which the traffic density is low at present and does not qualify for electrification.

World Bank Assistance for NAEP to Orissa

3231. SHRI SOUMYA RANJAN :
SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the assistance provided to Orissa Government

by the World Bank under National Agriculture Extension Project; and

(b) the progress made under the project during the last two years in Orissa?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) The World Bank assistance under the project was on a reimbursement basis and the total credit disbursement accounted for Rs. 133 million against an expenditure of Rs. 186 million. The total cost of Orissa component was Rs. 197 million.

(b) The project was in operation from 1984 to 1993. The cumulative progress by the end of the project period is given in the Statement enclosed

STATEMENT

Progress made under National Agricultural Extension Project Orissa

S. No.	Project Component	Target	Achievement
1.	Incremental Staff	7749	7209
2.	Civil Works	928	436
3.	Vehicle Procurement	91	91
4.	Training Programmes	15,853	9,781

[English]

Delhi Police

3232. SHRI ANAND RATNA MAURYA : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been

drawn towards the news item captioned "Jyadatar Log Delhi Police Per Viswas Nahi Karte" appearing in *Dainik Jagaran* dated July 5, 1996;

- (b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (c) whether the news is based on a survey;
- (d) if so, the name of the agency which conducted said survey;

(e) whether an inquiry would be conducted to find out their standard of living and expenditure in relation to their income; and

(f) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government by which the people may repose their faith in the Delhi Police?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) to (f). Yes, Sir. The news item in question is based on a survey conducted by the Noida based centre for Image Management Studies. The Delhi Police is, however, conscious of the need to maintain high standard of probity among its rank and file. Action is taken against delinquent police personnel as and when warranted. An independent authority viz. the Police Complaints Authority is also being constituted for dealing with public complaints against Police.

[English]

Chairman/Managing Directors in PSUs

3233 SHRI K.V. SURENDRA NATH : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether in the Public Sector Undertakings under the Ministry particularly the State Farming Corporation of India, National Seeds Corporation has separate posts for Chairman and Managing Director; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. This has been done to keep liaison with the State Governments/Agricultural Universities and to represent the interest of the farming community on the Board of Directors.

Clearance to Thermal Power Project

3234 DR. M. JAGANNATH : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether environmental clearance has been given to 1040 Megawatt thermal project proposal submitted by the Hinduja National Power Company for being set up at Visakhapatnam for which clearance had already been given by the Central Electricity Authority;

(b) if so, when; and

(c) if not, the time by which the clearance is likely to be given?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAPT. JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD) : (a) and (b). No, Sir.

(c) The project is being processed for final decision.

Over Charging of Drug Prices

3235 DR. BALIRAM : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) whether incidents of over charging of approved prices of Revital, Gramoneg, Gramogyl, Actifed and Actlex range of formulations under DPCO, 1987 and DPCO, 1995 and the retail prices of these products being charged from the consumers by these products have been notified.

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken against the defaulters.

(c) whether there is any proposal to recover the amount overcharged by the producers.

(d) if so, whether computation has been made in such cases; and

(e) the steps proposed to be taken to ensure implementation of the correct prices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SIS RAM OLA) :

(a) All these drugs manufactured by organized sector of the pharmaceutical industry are under price control. However, some of these drugs are also manufactured by small-scale units which are exempt from the purview of the price control under the existing policy. However, instances of over-charging has not been noticed so far by the Government in respect of these drugs.

(b) to (d). Does not arise

(e) Whenever any instance of over-changing comes to the notice of Government, the same is taken up with the manufacturers and if necessary, the State Drugs Controllers are also requested to take up such cases for suitable penal action as provided for in the various acts.

Price Exemption of Doxycycline

3236 DR. BALIRAM : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to investigate the issue price exemption of Doxycycline on Research and Development basis;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the leader prices fixed from time to time and prices changed by the formulators;

(d) the steps to fix responsibility for the lapses; and

(e) the guidelines for granting of exemption from the price control?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SIS RAM OLA):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (e). As per powers conferred by Paragraph 25 of DPCO, 1987/paragraph 23 of DPCO 1995.

M/s. Ranbaxy had been granted exemption from price fixation for Doxycycline on the basis of indigenous R & D efforts undertaken by the Company. The Expert Group of Technology relooked at the exemption and its recommendations are under examination.

(c) and (d). To the extent information is available with the Government, details regarding price fixation and those charged is attached as Statement.

STATEMENT

Doxycycline

Name of the Formulation	Strength	Pack Size	Price (Rs.)	Order No.	Date
1. Doxycycline Caps.	100 mg base/ Cap.	4's Strip/vial	7.08 7.20 3.98	291 (E) 367 (E) 895 (E)	5.4.94 7.5.94 19.12.94
2. Doxycycline Caps.	-do-	3's -do-	5.66 3.14	367 (E) 895 (E)	10.5.94 19.12.94
3. Doxycycline Caps.	-do-	10's Strip/Bottle	17.08 9.60	367 (E) 895 (E)	10.5.94 19.12.94
4. Doxycycline Caps.	-do-	2's Vial/Strip	2.26	895 (E)	19.12.94
5. Doxycycline Caps.	-do-	6's Strip	5.88	895 (E)	19.12.94
6. Doxycycline Hol Caps.	100 mg Caps	2's Al Strip	2.74	878 (E)	6.11.95
7. Doxycycline Monohydrate Tab.	Doxycycline Monohydrate Eg. to Doxy cycline Base 100 mg.	6's strip	5.80	268 (E)	29.3.96
8. -do-	-do- base 200 mg.	10's strip	18.38	268 (E)	29.3.96

Price charged (source Drug today - July - September, 1996)

Name of the company	Brand name	Strength	Price charged
1. Lyka	Lydox	100mg Caps X 4's	Rs. 7.40
2. Nulife	Nudoxy	100mg Caps X 3's	Rs. 9.80
3. IDPL	Vivocycline	100mg Caps X 4's	Rs. 7.45

Railway Overbridge in Kerala

3237. SHRI V.M. SUDHEERAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the delay in the construction of Ambalaprizha Railway overbridge in Kerala; and

(b) if so, the steps taken so far to complete the construction work?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b). Due to contractual problems there has been some delay. Over 70% work has been completed. Contract for balance work is under process.

House Site Licence

3238. DR. ARVIND SHARMA : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the House Site Licence as prescribed in Form 'C' under A & N Islands Land Tenure Regulation, 1926 was prescribed in English only and as per Chief Commissioner's order it could only be granted and issued over the signature of the Deputy Commissioner;

(b) whether lately some cases where licences printed in English on one side and in Urdu on the other and signed by some unknown person for Deputy Commissioner had come to light; and

(c) whether the A & N Administration intends to get their genuineness tested from any Forensic Science Laboratory to find out for certain that these Licences are not counterfeit or fake Licences?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) Yes, Sir. However, the said Regulation now stands Land Revenue and Land Reforms Regulation, 1966, and Rules framed thereunder, the Sub-Divisional Officer (Assistant Commissioner) is also empowered to sign the licences for allotment of house sites on behalf of the Chief Commissioner (now Lieutenant Governor).

(b) and (c). No such fake licences have come to the notice of the Andaman & Nicobar Administration. It has also been pointed out by the Andaman and Nicobar Administration that the old records of Port Blair Municipal Area were prepared in Urdu in 1926. Earlier Patwaris used to issue copies of land records in Urdu and English also after translation which was not considered as licences. Patwaris are authorised to issue copies of entries of land records under the provisions of the Andaman & Nicobar Islands Land Revenue and Land Regulation, 1996 and Rules framed thereunder.

[Translation]

Sugar Mills

3239. SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Simbhaoli Sugar Mill in Ghaziabad District recently ordered to be closed was operating without any environmental clearance;

(b) if so, the action taken or being taken against the guilty officials and the management of the mill;

(c) the details of sugar mills which are still working without proper environmental clearance in the country particularly, in Uttar Pradesh, and

(d) the action proposed to be taken by the Government against them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAPT. JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir, the unit was operating without a valid consent from the regulatory agency. The Uttar Pradesh Pollution Control Board has issued a closure order against the industry under Section 33 (A) of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974. The Central Government has also taken action against the industry by issuing closure order under Section 5 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.

(c) According to the Uttar Pradesh Pollution Control Board, a total of 116 sugar mills are situated in Uttar

Pradesh. All sugar mills have installed Effluent Treatment Plant (ETP) and 104 have installed Emission Control System (ECS). There are 12 industries which do not have a proper Emission Control System. The State Board has issued consent to operate to 44 sugar industries under the Water Act, 1974 and consent to operate to 42 sugar industries under the Air Act, 1981. The consent applications for the rest of the sugar mills are either under consideration or have been refused by the State Pollution Control Board due to improper operations of ETP or ECS.

(d) Necessary directions have already been issued to all the defaulting sugar mills to get the environmental clearance/consents before the next crushing season after proper repairing and maintenance of their ETP and ECS, etc.

[English]

Adulteration in Chemicals Fertilizers

3240. SHRI JAGATVIR SINGH DRONA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the racket in Kanpur, U.P. regarding adulteration in chemical fertilizers by the private traders and manufacturers dealing in the chemical fertilizers;

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Central and State Governments in this regard; and

(c) the steps being taken for maintaining purity of the chemical fertilizers?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) During checking on 6.7.96, a case of packing of fake fertilizer was detected in Kanpur Dehat.

(b) State Government have lodged F.I.R. against the culprits under Section 317 of Essential Commodities Act, 1955 (ECA) and other relevant sections of I.P.C. The material and tools etc. have been taken into police custody. The matter is now subjudice and is under investigation.

(c) State Government of U.P. have taken the following actions under the provision of Fertiliser (Control) Order, 1985 and ECA, 1955 for keeping purity of chemical fertilisers :

(i) Strict vigil on fertiliser trade by fertiliser inspectors from manufacturing level to retail sale points covering remote areas.

(ii) Regular and statewide special raids on fertiliser trade ensuring hundred per cent checking of stocks and taking spot action against the offenders

- (iii) Drawing samples from suspected stocks and its speedy analysis.
- (iv) Speedy punitive actions against the traders who indulge in selling non-standard fertilizers and other illegal activities pertaining to fertilizers.

[Translation]

Railway under Bridge

3241. SHRI HARIVANSH SAHAI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the date on which Satyagrah, agitation and demonstrations were held by the people for construction of railway under bridge between Pivkol and Salempur on Bhatni Varanasi rail line.

(b) the reasons for non-construction of the said bridge so far even after the repeated assurances of the railway officials;

(c) whether the road constructed by the State Government parallel to the Salempur-Bhatni rail line is lying unused in absence of the said bridge; and

(d) whether the Government propose to construct the said bridge at the earliest in the public interest?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (d). There has not been any agitation for construction of Railway Under Bridge between Pivkol and Salempur. State Govt. has not proposed construction of under bridge, which can be constructed on 'Deposit' terms. Non availability of facility to cross Railway Tracks has affected utility of the road.

[English]

Fire in Forests

3242. SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA' : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the felling leaves of pine trees are put to fire every year in hilly region of Uttar Pradesh thereby causing immense damage of natural vegetation and wildlife;

(b) if so, the number of times the forests having pine trees were put to fire during the last three years.

(c) the action taken by the Government against the guilty persons; and

(d) the measures taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to save the flora and fauna of the region?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAPT. JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD) : (a) to (d). The information is being collected from the State Government of Uttar Pradesh and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Bomb Blast in Bansgoan

3243. SHRI RAMSAGAR : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of persons killed/injured in bomb in Bansgoan in Uttar Pradesh on March 3, 1996 while attending a public meeting;

(b) the number of persons arrested and the action taken against them; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) to (c). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

Plantation in Hilly Regions

3244. SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA' : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any scheme is being undertaken in the mountain ranges particularly in hills of Uttar Pradesh under which trees are being planted at the slope of terrace-like trenches on mountains with a view to accumulate rain water in those trenches and increase water sources throughout the year and also to ensure proper afforestation there;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, whether the Government propose to introduce such scheme in these hilly areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAPT. JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD) : (a) to (c). Seven Projects have been sanctioned under the Integrated Afforestation and Eco-Development Projects Scheme (IAEPS) in the Hills of Uttar Pradesh in the districts of Uttarkashi, Tehri, Dehradun, Nainital, Garhwal and Almorah with a total outlay of Rs. 21.71 crores. Details of financial achievements are given in the Statement attached. These Projects are for afforestation and soil and moisture conservation works in degraded forest lands. The nature of measures adopted in each project are based upon local conditions by the implementing agencies.

STATEMENT

S. No.	Name of Project	From 1990-91 Upto 1992-93			1993-94			1994-95			1995-96	1996-97
		Rel.	Util.	Unspent	Rel.	Util.	Unspent	Rel.	Util.	Unspent	Rel.	Rel.
1.	IWDP for Uttarkashi and Tehri Distt. (Project I and II)	207.70	207.70	0.00	50.00	87.11	-37.11	121.36	73.19	11.06	90.00	23.30
2.	IWDP for Dehradun Distt.	161.04	164.16	-3.12	30.00	54.82	-27.94	62.40	63.85	-29.39	63.88	26.60
3.	IWDP for Nainital Distt.	176.84	168.13	8.71	40.00	68.00	-19.29	89.21	47.60	22.32	122.25	31.60
4.	IWDP for Garhwal Distt.	203.50	202.90	0.60	40.00	77.42	-36.82	71.90	34.10	0.98	75.23	26.72
5.	Kheer Ganga Project in Almora Distt.	10.82	5.18	5.64	10.00	5.64	10.00	4.63	0.00	14.63		
6.	Micro Plan Project of Almora Distt. (C.S.)	55.40	47.71	7.69	9.22	2.00	14.91	0.00	0.00	14.91		
7.	Micro Plan Project of Almora Distt (Project - II)	22.40	0.00	22.40	25.95	32.26	16.09	0.00	0.00	16.09		

12.00 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

Annual Report and Review of the working of Uttar Pradesh State Agro Industrial Corporation Limited, Lucknow for 1991-92 and Statement showing reasons for delay in laying these papers

[English]

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table —

(1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956 —

- (a) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Uttar Pradesh State Agro Industrial Corporation Limited, Lucknow, for the year 1991-92.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Uttar Pradesh State Agro Industrial Corporation Limited, Lucknow, for the year 1991-92, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-359/96]

(b) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Madhya Pradesh State Agro Industries Development Corporation Limited, Bhopal, for the year 1992-93.

(ii) Annual Report of the Madhya Pradesh State Agro Industries Development Corporation Limited, Bhopal, for the year 1992-93, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

(2) Two statements (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-360/96]

Notification under Environment (Protection) Act, 1986

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAPT. JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table —

- (1) A copy of the Notification No. S.O. 157(E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India, dated the 27th February, 1996 delegating the powers to Chairman, Central Pollution Control Board pertaining to issue directions, issued under section 23 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-361/96]

[Translation]

SHRI HARBHAJAN LAKHA (Phillaur) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, you have not given me a chance to speak on Ramesh Chandra Report. ... (Interruption.)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : We will take up that after this item.

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV (Purnia) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, he wants to raise those issues which have been raised here many times ... (Interruptions)

12.01 hrs.

(Mr. Speaker in the Chair)

FINANCIAL COMMITTEES — A REVIEW

[English]

SECRETARY-GENERAL : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table (Hindi and English versions) of the "Financial Committees (1996) - A Review".

12.02 hrs.

At this stage Shri Rajesh Ranjan alias Pappu Yadav came and stood on the Floor near the Table.

12.02¼ hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON URBAN AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

First and Second Reports and Minutes

[English]

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV (Silchar) : Sir, I beg to present the following Reports and Minutes (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Urban and Rural Development :

- (i) First Report on Demands for Grants 1996-97 of Department of Rural Development of Ministry of Rural Areas and Employment.
- (ii) Second Report on Demands for Grants 1996-97 of Department of Urban Employment and Poverty Alleviation of Ministry of Urban Affairs and Employment.

12.03 hrs.

At this stage, Shri Mohan Singh and some other Hon. Members came and stood on the floor near the Table

12.03¼ hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE

Twenty-fifth Report

[English]

SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR (Mangalore) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table the Twenty-fifth Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Commerce on Demands for Grants 1996-97 of Department of Supply (Ministry of Commerce).

12.03½ hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON HOME AFFAIRS

Twenty-ninth, Thirtieth and Thirty-first Reports

[English]

SECRETARY-GENERAL : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy each (Hindi and English versions) of the following Reports of the Standing Committee on Home Affairs :

- (i) Twenty-ninth Report on the Action Taken by Government on the recommendations, observations of the Committee contained in its Fifteenth Report on the Demands for Grants (1995-96) of the Ministry of Home Affairs;
- (ii) Thirtieth Report on the Action Taken by Government on the recommendations, observations of the Committee contained in its Sixteenth Report on the Demands for Grants (1995-96) of the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions; and
- (iii) Thirty-first Report on the Action taken by Government on the recommendations, observations of the Committee contained in its Seventeenth Report on the Demands for Grants (1995-96) of the Ministry of Law, Justice and Company Affairs.

12.03¾ hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS THIRTY FIRST, THIRTY THIRD AND THIRTY FOURTH REPORTS

[Translation]

PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA (Samastipur) : I beg to lay on the Table a copy (Hindi and English versions) each of the Thirty-first, Thirty-second, Thirty-fourth

Reports of the Standing Committee on Science and Technology, Environment and Forests on the Demands for Grants (1996-97) of the (i) Department of Science and Technology, (ii) Department of Electronics, (iii) Department of Space, and (iv) Department of Biotechnology, respectively.

12.04 hrs.

At this stage, Shri Rajesh Ranjan alias Pappu Yadav went back to his seat.

12.05 hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORT AND TOURISM

Twenty-third Report

[English]

SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA (Udhampur) : I beg to lay the Twenty-third Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Transport and Tourism on Demands for Grants (1996-97) of the Department of Tourism.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Television cameras to be off.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please go back to your seats now.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Why do you not allow me to speak?

(Interruptions)

12.06 hrs.

ELECTIONS TO COMMITTEES

Coconut Development Board

[English]

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : I beg to move :

"That in pursuance of Section 4(4) (e) of the Coconut Development Board Act, 1979, the members of this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct, two members from among themselves to serve as members of the Coconut Development Board, subject to other provisions of the said Act."

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That in pursuance of Section 4(4) (e) of the Coconut Development Board Act, 1979, the members of this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct, two members from among themselves to serve as members of the Coconut Development Board, subject to other provisions of the said Act."

The motion was adopted.

12.07 hrs.

National Oilseeds and Vegetable Oils Development Board

[English]

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : I beg to move :

"That in pursuance of Section 4(4) (e) of the National Oilseeds and Vegetable Oils Development Board Act, 1983, the members of this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct, two members from among themselves to serve as members of the National Oilseeds and Vegetable Oils Development Board, subject to other provisions of the said Act."

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That in pursuance of Section 4(4) (e) of the National Oilseeds and Vegetable Oils Development Board Act, 1983, the members of this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct, two members from among themselves to serve as members of the National Oilseeds and Vegetable Oils Development Board, subject to other provisions of the said Act."

The motion was adopted.

12.08 hrs.

Tobacco Board

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : I beg to move :

"That in pursuance of Section 4(4) (e) of the Tobacco Board Act, 1975, read with rules 3

and 4 of the Tobacco Board Rules, 1976, the Members of this House do proceed to elect, in such a manner as the Speaker may direct, two Members from among themselves to serve as Members of the Tobacco Board, subject to the other provisions of the said Act and the Rules made thereunder."

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That in pursuance of Section 4(4) (e) of the Tobacco Board Act, 1975, read with rules 3 and 4 of the Tobacco Board Rules, 1976, the Members of this House do proceed to elect, in such a manner as the Speaker may direct, two Members from among themselves to serve as Members of the Tobacco Board, subject to the other provisions of the said Act and the Rules made thereunder."

The motion was adopted.

[English]

...(Interruptions)

12.10 hrs.

At this stage, Dr. T. Subbarami Reddy and some other hon. Members came and stood on the floor near the Table.

(Interruptions)

12.17 hrs.

At this stage, Shri Mohan Singh and some other hon. Members went back to their seats.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV (Silchar) : Mr. Speaker, now that they have come back to their seats, I will request you to kindly allow one of their Members to speak, followed by one from the other side also
...(Interruptions)

12.23 hrs.

At this stage, Shri Iliyas Azmi and some other hon. Members came and stood on the floor near the Table.

(Interruptions)

12.25 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

- (i) **Need to extend 'Lai dora' limit of villages in Chandigarh.**

[Translation]

SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN (Chandigarh) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Union Territory of Chandigarh has 22 villages

whose outer limits 'Lai dora' was fixed 50 years ago. The number of families has increased during these long years and the joint families have been divided and are living in separate houses, but the Central Government is not increasing 'lal dora' limits of these villages and the villagers now want to build their houses outside laldora because of non-availability of land, but the Government is not giving permission. Not only this. No electricity and Water Connections are being given to the houses built out of 'lal dora'. This has created tension in these villages.

Thousands of houses have been constructed outside the 'lal dora' limit where thousands of people live. Most of them have been issued Ration Cards and their names included in the voters list but the administration is neither extending the 'lal dora' limit nor sanctioning electricity and water connection as a result of which, there is wide-spread resentment among these villages. The Panchayats of all the villages have adopted unanimous resolutions and sent the same to the hon. Prime Minister demanding retention of lal-dora limits of all the villages and providing for electricity and Water connections to all the houses. I may mention here that the Delhi Government has recently taken a decision to extend the laldora limit in Delhi. I request the Central Government to extend the lal-dora limit of the villages of Chandigarh and sanction electricity and water connections to all the houses.

- (ii) **Need to set up a Zonal office of Telecommunications at Jaunpur, U.P.**

SHRI RAJKESHAR SINGH (Jaunpur) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, a proposal is under consideration of the Government for setting up a zonal office of telecommunications in Jaunpur district of Uttar Pradesh where C.Dot machines have been supplied but the same have been shifted to elsewhere. There is imperative need for setting up of a zonal office in Jaunpur because such an office has been opened in other districts. I would request the Central Government to set up a zonal office there and install C Dot Machines to resolve the problems of the people. This will facilitate release of pending telephone connections. Presently the local people are requested to go to Mirzapur for getting their telephone bills prepared and corrected which causes them great inconvenience. I would request that a zonal office should be set up at Jaunpur at an early date.

- (iii) **Need to reconsider the request of Orissa Government to Write off outstanding debt amounting to Rs. 2,100 crore**

[English]

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI (Deogarh) : Recommendations of the 10th Finance Commission for the State of Orissa are not favourable. Had the share of Orissa been maintained at the level recommended

by the 9th Finance Commission, the State would have been entitled for additional transfer of Rs. 2,102 crore. Further more, the Commission has not recommended the plan deficit grant. Orissa alongwith Bihar and Uttar Pradesh has been identified as a State with high fiscal stress. Even then, it is a matter of regret that the Commission has recommended debt relief of a meagre amount of Rs. 17.50 crore only during the period 1995-2000.

In view of such an unfavourable recommendation of the 10th Finance Commission, the request of the Orissa Government to write off as a special dispensation of Rs. 2,100 crore from the outstanding debt of the State Government needs reconsideration by Government of India.

(iv) Need to take up mining of Iron ore in Mountain Ranges in Sambuvarayar District, Tamil Nadu

*SHRI D. VENUGOPAL (Tirupattur) : Thiruvannamalai Kauthi hill and mountain ranges nearby in Thiruvannamalai Sambuvarayar district are found to have large deposits of quality iron ore. As early as in 1960, the geological experts of both the Centre and the State have identified the deposits that could give quality steel. This iron ore deposits could contribute to the raw material needs of the country and we may also export them. This would help us to overcome the problem of inadequate supply of raw material. We can increase production. Taking into consideration all these factors, we must make use of the iron ore deposits found in and around Thiruvannamalai in a big way that will be useful to the country. This will help the nation to increase production and may give rise to employment opportunity in Thiruvannamalai Sambuvarayar district. I wish the Union Government takes up this project soon. Both for mining and setting up a processing plant, enough Government land is available there. Since my district and the surrounding region are industrially backward, Union Government should take up immediate steps. I request the Union Government to take suitable action to build infrastructure facilities there. If need be both Finance and Industry Ministries should draw-up an action plan to give impetus to industrial growth in industrially backward areas like my constituency which have rich and vast deposits of ironore and other natural mineral wealth.

(v) Need to declare Dumariaganj in Siddharth Nagar, U.P. of flood affected area and provide immediate economic assistance to U.P. Government to combat flood situation.

[Translation]

SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN TIWARI (Dumariaganj) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the floods have affected my constituency

* Translation of the speech originally delivered in Tamil.

Dumariaganj in Siddharth Nagar district again on 13.8.96 and earlier it was flooded on 14.7.96 as a result of which large scale loss of life and property was suffered and roads got breached. We have hardly recovered from the vagaries of the earlier floods, two thirds of my district again was affected by the floods second time. The Naugarh, Basī, Etawah and Dumariaganj tehsils were totally inundated. There are reports of loss of human life and cattle. More than 200 villages have been submerged. Roads are breached. Communications have been disrupted. More than 25,000 hectre land has been affected but no assistance has come from the State Government. The flood affected people are not getting the supply of wheat, kerosene, salt matchboxes etc. in sufficient quantity. Despite repeated request from the district administration initial assistance of about Rs. 15 lakh has not reached the district.

It is therefore requested that the Uttar Pradesh Government should be directed to make financial assistance available without delay and the Central Government should send a study team to assess and prepare a report of the loss suffered. The district should be declared as flood prone area and permanent measures should be taken for controlling the floods.

12.41 hrs.

[English]

At this stage, Shri Ilyas Azmi and some other hon. Members sat on the floor near the Table.

(Interruptions)

* [Translation]

SHRI KANSHI RAM (Hoshiarpur) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I may be given an opportunity of speak something.
...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : No, Mr. Kanshi Ram, you cannot speak.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please go back to your seats.

(Interruptions)

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI (Howrah) : Sir, you can hear both the sides. You may hear Samajwadi Party first and then the BSP leader. Otherwise, the House cannot function in this manner...(Interruptions)

12.43 hrs.

At this stage, Shri Ilyas Azmi and some other hon. Members went back to their seats.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I will allow him. Take your seats.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please resume your seats now. Otherwise, I will have to suspend you. Please go back now.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing doing. You will not get publicity. This incident is there to attract publicity. Do not look at the Press Gallery. You are looking at the Press Gallery so that your name comes in the newspapers tomorrow. This is our Members of Parliament !

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please go back now. Enough in enough. Please go back. I have to suspend you for the rest of the Session, if you do not go back now. Go back now. No, nothing doing. You cannot speak from here. Go back. Do you want suspension? Do not behave like this. The whole country is laughing at us. The whole nation and the whole world is laughing at us. This is how honourable Members behave - leaders of the people of India. You are the leaders of the people of India. Carry on! this is your House and not my House. This is your House. You carry on! I will sit here. There will be no lunch break if you do not go back. I will sit here upto six O'Clock without lunch break, if you do not resume your seats.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV (Silchar) : Sir, you will sit but we will not sit for an unlimited period. The Members of the Ruling Party must behave themselves; otherwise, we would walk out...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Yes, I agree with you. The Members of the Ruling Party are expected to behave more responsibly. This is not the way. I agree with the view expressed by the hon. Member.

(Interruptions)

12.46 hrs.

At this stage, Shri Sontosh Mohan Dev and some other hon. Members left the House.

[Translation]

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE (Lucknow) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, kindly ask them to go to their places. The Members should be afforded an opportunity to express their viewpoints on the matter which is agitating their minds. This Lok Sabha is meant for this purpose.

MR. SPEAKER : That is right. If all the Members rise how can the discussion take place.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : Please ask them to resume their seats...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I am telling them to go back.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : You cannot talk to these people like this.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please read the rules. Please go back. You cannot speak from here.

(Interruptions)

12.48 hrs.

At this stage, Dr. T. Subbarami Reddy and some other Members went back to their seats.

[Translation]

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : They are the allies of opposition and you are in the treasury benches.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Please listen now.

[Translation]

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, you would recollect...*(Interruptions)*. If we are not allowed to speak in this House we will not sit here. If they want to speak please give them an opportunity, we are prepared to listen but they should also be prepared to listen to us. You please ask them to speak. Please ask Shri Pappu Yadav why is he making a noise.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Pappu Yadav, do you want to speak? If you want to speak. Please speak from your allotted seat.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV (Purnea) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, we do not want to discuss the issues being raised again and again. We do not want to afford an opportunity to the opposition to speak by allowing a discussion on Ramesh Chandra Committee report again. I have nothing special to say about this report. I only want to submit that Kanshi Ram ji had already raised this issue in this House. It will not be appropriate to raise this issue again. You had not permitted raising this issue during the meeting you had called before the commencement of this session. We will oppose discussion on this report second time because these people want to send wrong message outside this House, we oppose it because we are committed to that Party. We respect the leader of the opposition and I assure him that we will sit silent when he speaks but it is not proper to try to suppress our voice. Sir, we respect you that doesn't mean that we will sell our self-respect and be a mute spectator. It is not proper to raise the same issue again. Therefore, I would request you not to allow this issue to be raised again in this House. I have nothing more to say. I will conclude with the words that if this matter is sought to be raised again we will definitely react to that.

SHRI MUKHTAR ANIS (Sitapur) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am sorry for what has happened in this House. We are fully committed to democratic traditions. You will have to find out from where it all started. I had come to your chamber and you had assured me that this matter cannot be raised in this House because we have many other big problems like Kashmir. But still these Members have started raising slogans here by subverting the traditions, democratic norms and without assessing its consequences...*(Interruptions)*. You are concerned for Uttar Pradesh. Election are going to take place in a month and the results will be before you. A Party is time and again instigating them to make noise. It appears...*(Interruptions)**

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : Sir, this is wrong.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Why can't you be polite? This will not go on record. I will expunge it

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, he should withdraw his words

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : That is not the way.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : He doesn't know how to use a word. He must apologise...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MUKHTAR ANIS : Mr. Speaker, Sir, if you have objection then I withdraw my words

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : He has withdrawn the words.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SHYAM BEHARI MISHRA (Bilhaur) Mr. Speaker, Sir, he must apologise.

VAIDYA DAU DAYAL JOSHI (Kota) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, he must withdraw his words.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Please sit down. I will now give my ruling.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I think the hon. Member should know how to speak on the floor of the House. This is not correct. And, I don't think he can speak any further. Please sit down.

* Not Recorded

The matter is very simple. The question is, at one point of time the Chair has given some ruling on this issue. I will go through the ruling of the Chair but whatever is the ruling of the Deputy-Speaker, it stands.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : No, it is enough.

[Translation]

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : He must apologize.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : He has withdrawn the word.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I have given my ruling. Nothing more than that is required.

SHRI K.S. RAYADU (Narasapur) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Prime Minister, and the hon. Minister of Water Resources to the issue of Almatti dam.

Almatti reservoir will delay the release water into Andhra Pradesh. It will virtually disrupt the agriculture and power generation in Andhra Pradesh to the extent it is dependent on the river Krishna.

It is in clear violation of the Krishna Water Dispute Tribunal award. The Central clearance given to this project is a gross impropriety and it is done without taking into consideration the views of the State affected. It may also be pointed out here that the Central agencies are continuing with their approvals.

Andhra Pradesh will receive very late inflows of water which will adversely affect the agricultural operations in more than 30 lakh acres of land in the command areas of Nagarjuna Sagar and Krishna delta. Delay in inflows of water to Andhra Pradesh will adversely affect hydel power generation at the Srisailem and Nagarjuna Sagar projects. Karnataka cannot generate power at the cost of food in Andhra Pradesh.

Our hon. Chief Minister, Shri Chandrababu Naidu is making efforts to stop the construction work at Almatti dam by requesting the hon. Prime Minister, the Chief Minister of Karnataka and the Central agencies.

In view of the circumstances, I demand that the Government of India should order immediate suspension of all works at Almatti dam, the Government of India should cancel all clearance given to the upper Krishna project. The Government of India should constitute an expert committee to ascertain the factual position and to solve this problem.

SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR (Mangalore) : Krishna is an inter-state river. It originates in Maharashtra, flows into Karnataka and then into Andhra Pradesh. There had been a Commission appointed to decide on the share of water of these three States and an award had been passed. That well-known award is

called Bachawat award. All the three States are bound by the decision given in the Bachawat award. The State of Karnataka had commenced construction of the dam at Almatti across river Krishna as per the terms of the Bachawat award. We have never violated the Bachawat award. ...*(Interruptions)*... This is the direct result of the unholy alliance between the Telugu Desam (Chandrababu Naidu) and the Janata Dal. The Janata Dal Government which is being supported by the Telugu Desam party is trying to infringe upon the terms of Bachawat award. They want to deny Karnataka the rights vested in it under the terms of the Bachawat award. We are not violating any of the directions given under the Bachawat award.

13.00 hrs.

The TMC and DMK are having unholy alliance and are just trying to get more water from river Cauvery. The TDP are trying to extract their pound of flesh from this Government by having an unholy alliance. So, this is the net result of unholy alliance. Because of their alliance, we cannot be subjected to any such threats. The State of Karnataka is well within its rights to stand for justice. The Government of India should honour the Bachawat Award. It should strictly see that the terms of the Bachawat Award are duly implemented. This kind of game plan should not be allowed to go on.

SHRI S. BANGARAPPA (Shimoda) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am not one who would unnecessarily make accusations against another neighbouring State. After all, we are all brothers. We have to keep up our good relations. We are living in the Indian Union. How can we forget that? After all it is a matter relating to sharing of water only. It is not a case where Karnataka will say that it will not give even a drop of water to another State. It is a lower riparian region. It is also not a case of Andhra Pradesh where it will say that Karnataka should not touch even a drop of water. The same is the case in respect of Cauvery water also. We have been pressing the Government of India a lot for the last several years regarding finalisation of guidelines for the National Water Policy. Still the guidelines for the National Water Policy have not yet been finalised by the Government of India. Unless these guidelines are finalised, the problems cannot be solved. These matters cannot be settled even by a court of law or by a tribunal. We have been seeing such matters that are already pending before the court. I do not want to take the precious time of this august House by narrating the detailed aspects of this problem.

We have accepted the quantum of water as mentioned in the Bachawat Award. They have also accepted it. As far as Almatti is concerned, the only matter which is still remains to be settled is the raising of the height of the dam and so on. Similar version has been given by our Karnataka State in respect of certain projects that are in progress in Andhra Pradesh. There are matters that are to be settled by sitting across the table.

I heard recently that the Government of India have now asked a non-official Committee to go into the legal aspect of the matter. These matters cannot be tackled through political means. These relate to the technical aspects. Moreover, they have to be brought under legal ambit also. How can the Government of India take up all these issues without giving a legal frame? Whatever may be the reason, the result flows through each of these States viz., Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and others. What I feel is that let us not unnecessarily add fuel to the fire. Therefore, my appeal to you is that let this matter be settled between these two States only. Let not the Central Government interfere in the matter. After all Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka are capable of settling their own issues.

A point was raised by an hon. Member on the other side that the work should be stopped there. A similar point was raised by an hon. Member from Karnataka. My suggestion is that let the Chief Ministers of these two States aided by their technically qualified people sit and settle the issue. In case they do not do that, then what I feel is that the Government of India should play their part. Till then, only the two concerned States should sit across the table and settle the issue.

The only point that I would now like to make here is....

MR. SPEAKER : No, please. I am sorry.

SHRI S. BANGARAPPA : ...about the drinking water element to the Madras city.

MR. SPEAKER : No, you cannot have a debate on this issue. I am sorry.

SHRI S. BANGARAPPA : Sir, I do not want to take much time of the House.

Sir, in the course it could not yet struck up. That point is also there. Therefore, Sir, I would request you to please give an advice to all the concerned to sit across the table and thrash out the issue. Thank you, Sir.

SHRI P. UPENDRA (Vijayawada) : Sir, this is a question which affects both the States. Both the people of Karnataka and Andhra have been very good neighbours. This Almatti issue has become a very emotional issue and an end has to be put to this controversy as soon as possible.

Sir, the matter arose because of the Karnataka Government's attempt to raise the height of the dam from 515 metres to 528 metres. At per the original approval of the Planning Commission, the storage capacity of this dam should have been 42 TMC only. Now after the raising of this dam, the storing capacity will go up to 227 TMC. The utilisation, according to the Bachawat Award should have been 173 TMC, which will go to 442 TMC now.

There are apprehensions in Andhra Pradesh, being a lower riparian State, that in a year when the rainfall

is less, 34 lack acres under the Krishna Delta area will dry up and not a drop will come if the dam height is raised...*(Interruptions)* Let me complete...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR : Sir, it is only to enable the hydel power project. We do not want to impound more water...*(Interruptions)* Sir, wrong information should not be given to the House ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P. UPENDRA : Let me complete, first...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR : The height of the dam is being raised only to enable the hydel power project to go on. We do not want to impound more water...*(Interruptions)* Correct facts should be placed before the House.

SHRI P. UPENDRA : Sir, now several attempts have been made to sort out this issue amicably. A number of Members of Parliament met the hon. Prime Minister and requested him to take the initiative to solve the problem because he knows the background of the whole case. But unfortunately he could not take the initiative and the matter was treated as an internal affair of the United Front

They appointed four Chief Ministers to look into the matter, I do not know under what authority they were appointed. The four Chief Minister again appointed an official team, including the officials of the Planning Commission and CWC, which they were not supposed to do. Then the Prime Minister withdraw these two Members from there and it became completely an unofficial team. They then went to Bangalore. They were turned down by the Karnataka Government without visiting the dam. All this *tamasha* has taken place and matters are going from bad to worse.

We do not want to politicise this issue. We want an early settlement of this issue. The apprehensions of the people of Andhra Pradesh are genuine because we are a lower riparian State. We do not want to deny the legitimate share of the Karnataka Government or the Karnataka people. They should have their own share. But they should remove these apprehensions of the Andhra people. Why are they increasing the height of the dam which is not necessary at all? Why have they increased the power potential to 1100 M.W. by which again they have to maintain water at a particular level? All these are very ticklish issues and only technical experts have to go into this.

The hon. Prime Minister should take the initiative and should send a team of CWC, monitor the whole thing and find out what is really happening ...*(Interruptions)* The Karnataka Government says that they are not raising it. MLAs from Andhra Pradesh have gone there visited the site and found that height of the dam has been raised. Therefore, these have to be settled at an expert level. I only wish that the Prime Minister should take the initiative and not treat it as a party

affairs. They should treat it as an affair of the Government of India. A tripartite agreement should be made between the Government of India, Government of Karnataka and Government of Andhra Pradesh and settle it amicably before the matter gets worse.

We do not want to strain the relations between the two neighbourly States. We want that the interests of both the States be protected and particularly the apprehensions of Andhra Pradesh people be removed. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER : The House stands adjourned to meet again at 2.10 p.m.

13.08 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned for Lunch till Ten Minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.

14.16 hrs.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch at Sixteen Minutes past Fourteen of the Clock

(Mr. Speaker in the Chair)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Home Minister.

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

Amarnath Yatra

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, and hon. Members. I wish to express my regret that due to some unavoidable delay in arriving back from Srinagar last evening, it was not possible for me to make this statement yesterday as I had planned to do. I am sorry for this.

Hon. Prime Minister has already apprised the House yesterday of the background of this year's Amarnath Yatra and the salient features of the logistic arrangements which made to cater to an unprecedented number of prospective *yatris*, as also the relief and rescue operations carried out by the State authorities, with the assistance of the Army and the para-military Forces, in the wake of the tragic calamity that befell the *yatra*. The untimely snowfall - I should say - at higher reaches along the *yatra* route had exposed the *yatra* to extreme cold, which, combined with the exhaustion of high altitude trekking and shortage of oxygen, caused serious health hazards among the aged and the not so healthy *yatra*. Torrential and incessant rains in the State resulted in unprecedented land slides at several places between Jammu and Banihal on the National Highway and the *yatra* route from Anantnag to Pahalgam at two places. I regret to say that this had resulted in completed snapping of the only road communication link between Jammu and Pahalgam.

Sir, I was there myself on the 22nd and when the weather suddenly took turn for the worst, I was witness to that sharp drop in the temperature, heavy rain accompanied by fighting winds and blizzards. This continuous inclement weather between 22nd and 24th August had prevented any air borne rescue operations for providing succour to the stranded pilgrims or for casualty evacuation from any of the stations along the yatra route. However, the army and security forces helped in a big way on the 24th itself in bringing down a very large number of pilgrims from the camps at higher altitudes to Pahalgam. Lt. Gen. Saklani who, Sir, is the Adviser (Home) of the Governor, rushed to Pahalgam on the 24th. Air rescue operations could commence only on the 25th, by which time the heavy death toll of 121 yatra had already occurred. On opening of the weather, those who were found ailing and sick were evacuated to Srinagar with the utmost urgency.

About 150 sick yatis were provided medical treatment in the Army Base Hospital at Srinagar. Eighty-eight of them were admitted to the Hospital for intensive care.

Yesterday, I visited Kashmir to have a first hand account of the relief and rescue operations being carried out by the authorities. I also reviewed the over-all arrangements made for the yatis at important locations along the yatra route. During this trip, I visited Panjtarni, the highest camp which is close to the Cave Shrine, Pahalgam and Khanabal. At the time of my visit, there were only 100 yatis at Panjtarni, about 500 at Sheshnag, 6700 at Chandanwari, 70,000 at Pahalgam and about 6000 at Anantnag. I talked to a large number of yatis stranded at Panjtarni and Khanabal. Arrangements made for the yatis at Pahalgam, Chandanwari and Khanabal were especially reviewed as these three places together catered to over 80,000 yatis. I also visited the Army Base Hospital to see the evacuated yatis who were hospitalised for treatment.

The yatis were generally very appreciative of the cooperation which was extended by the yatra authorities and security forces. They had very few complaints about the adequacy of relief and the timeliness of rescue operations which they thought were done to the best of their ability. Arrangements made for food items - food items may give wrong idea, they were all lungers, giving cooked food at all the way - at different sites came for special appreciation. No one complained for shortage of food anywhere along the yatra route. Yatis at Panjtarni, however, complained to me that blankets remain in short supply. The administration did provide for tents and blankets at a rate which was four times as many as last year; the arrangements for blankets made by the Administration were only supplemental in nature, and would have sufficed, had the pilgrims carried their own blankets as advised. However, as things turned out, these supplemental arrangements also proved to be inadequate due to the unusually harsh weather conditions, and the freezing temperatures due to unexpected snowfall.

At Pahalgam, one yatri complained of attempts by private shopkeepers to over-charge for food items in restaurants and tuck shops. The hon. Members will appreciate that whenever there is a situation of excessive demand there is a tendency on the part of suppliers to over-charge and to make profit. Although the State authorities were seized of the matter, the local administration at Pahalgam was instructed to strictly enforce regulation of rates for food items. At Pahalgam while there is adequate quantity of rice, wheat and atta, local officials mentioned that they are running short of edible oil and pulses (dal). Instructions were issued on the spot to rush these items from Anantnag the communication link between which and Pahalgam had already be re-established.

When I visited Panjtarni there were about 100 yatis still stranded there. Over a dozen yatis had been identified for evacuation as they were not in a position to walk the distance from Panjtarni and Pahalgam. By the time I returned to Delhi, I was informed that these persons had already been evacuated by helicopters. There were about 2,000 yatis who were rescued from the Cave and taken to Baital. All these yatis have safely reached Srinagar where a camp has been established for lodging. There were six sick persons at Pahalgam needing hospitalisation. They have been evacuated to Srinagar and hospitalised. The Indian Airlines is arranging a shuttle flight today from Srinagar to Jammu, and another flight from Srinagar to Delhi, to clear the pilgrims at Srinagar.

The road link between Pahalgam and Anantnag has already been re-established. Between Anantnag and Udhampur, the National Highway was blocked at half a dozen places. I was informed that the road up to Samrohli, 80 kilometres from Jammu, had been rendered traffic-worthy by the 26th August. The communication link between link between Samrohli and Jammu was expected to be thrown open for traffic by noon today. In view of this, 6000 yatis were allowed to move from Anantnag to Ramban and Samrohli. A similar number of yatis were allowed to move from Pahalgam to Anantnag where arrangements for their over-night stay have been made at a safe place. After the national highway is thrown open for traffic today, the batchwise movement of yatis to Jammu will commence from Pahalgam and Chandanwadi as per the travel plans already worked out by the yatra authorities.

The Holy Mace of Lord Shiva, the *Chhari Mubarak*, and I am surprised to find that nobody mentioned yesterday, was airlifted to Panjtarni yesterday. In the normal course the *Chhari Mubarak* would have been taken by road from Srinagar to Pahalgam via Anantnag and Mattan. However, the Srinagar-Anantnag road is still inundated necessitating airlifting of the *Chhari Mubarak* to Panjtarni so that it reaches the Cave early in the morning of 28th August. 28th August is tomorrow. I am informed that that is the last day on which this pooja can be performed at the Cave and this *Chhari*

Mubarak must be there by that time. So there was no alternative except to take it up by air.

Out of the 70,000 yatris camping at Pahalgam, I was told that about 15,000 had not been able to move up to the Cave for Darshan. However, in view of the fact that they would not be able to get to the Cave by 28th August, they have reportedly expressed their willingness to return. Instructions have, however, been issued to make arrangement for their movement to the Cave should any of them desire to reach the Cave by the 28th, after taking care to see that they are exposed to the minimal risks.

I also discussed the plan of the State authorities to deal with the mortal remains of the deceased. The number of dead has now gone upto 127 but the authorities had by then been able to identify only 77. In 19 cases, where the relatives gave their consent, cremation had already been done. The local authorities were preparing wooden coffins for those in whose cases the relatives have expressed desire to take the human remains back. As for the unidentified bodies, photographs have been taken by the authorities. If no relatives turn up for identification in a day or two, there will be no option left but to perform the last rites in Pahalgam or Chandanwari itself.

I may say that some of the bodies have already begun decomposing because the weather has changed again. Weather is very changeable there. Yesterday when I was there, it was quite hot. It was a bright sun shine and the temperature was quite hot. Some of the doctors and people told me that these bodies would not remain intact very long, they will start to decompose.

Some hon. Members had asked yesterday why advance warning was not given when there were signs of deteriorating weather. I had also asked the State authorities what precautions had been taken in view of the inclement weather. I was told by the Adviser to the Governor that on 22nd August itself, when the weather suddenly turned hostile, instructions were issued to the Yatra Officers not to allow yatris to proceed beyond the established camps without clearance. While this instruction was enforced at various camps but by then, thousands of yatris had already left the respective camps and were in between two camps, and many of them who were at the higher altitudes had already suffered severe exposure. Although, in retrospect, one would wish that more advance meteorological information should have been sought and acted upon, the State authorities seem to have done their best in minimizing the damage under the given circumstance.

Although some minor lacunae in the arrangements can be seen here and there in the context of the large number of yatris this year, the arrangements made for yatra were by and large satisfactory and would have been adequate had the weather not been unusually harsh. The State authorities with excellent cooperation from the Army and Para-Military Forces have left no

stone unturned in reaching succour and minimizing casualties in handling the tragic event.

Subsequently, Sir, I have got one or two pieces of information which I would like to share with the House.

Edible oil and pulses have been sent to Pahalgam from Anantnag this morning. The National Highway between Anantnag and Jammu is being thrown open for traffic from 3.00 P.M. today. About 2,000 yatris will come to Jammu by today-evening. There are no yatris left now at Panjtari or Seshnag. All have been evacuated and come down to Pahalgam. The Director of Tourism, Jammu and Kashmir, Shri P.K. Tripathi — who is an IAS officer — has been put incharge of the Pahalgam Camp to oversee the arrangements which are being made there.

14.33 hrs.

RE: MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT

Amarnath Yatra

[English]

SHRI JASWANT SINGH (Chittorgarh) : Sir, I want to make my submission.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV (Silchar) : Sir, are we having a discussion on it or you are just asking some question.

MR. SPEAKER : No, question. I have to give my ruling on the admission of the Adjournment Motion.

Would you like to say before that?

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : Would you, before giving ruling, permit us to say something?

MR. SPEAKER : Yes.

(Interruptions)

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : He has to give a Ruling. All that I am saying is before his Ruling. The Hon. Speaker would permit me to make my submission.

Sir, it is not our intention to raise contention in the face of as grim a tragedy as has so obviously taken place. But if we do not give voice to our concern in this assembly, I do not know, where else we are to do so. If the question, that I have raised to the hon. Home Minister sounds pointed, it is only because our concerns are also pointed. The whole House was awaiting with anxiety. Indeed, the hon. the Prime Minister said, 'let us wait, until the Home Minister comes'. And, we were rather expecting that the hon. Home Minister would come back with facts which are the consequence of his visit, and not simply a post facto narration of what has been taking place, and repeat that in this House on behalf of the Government or other agencies since yesterday. If it is being repetitive, I do not know, what new...

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE (Dum Dum) : Sir, I am on the point of order. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur) : Unless there are pigments of imagination, facts have to be repetitive...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : Sir, I am on a point of order. Are we now only in that Rule?

MR. SPEAKER : I am to give the Ruling whether the Adjournment Motion is to be admitted or not.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : I am not on that point. I am on a different point of order. What I am drawing your attention to is that in the rules of the Lok Sabha, it is not provided for that after a statement of the Minister, questions are allowed to be asked or references made to that statement. We sometimes do waive that rule. What I want to know is whether that has been done.

MR. SPEAKER : There is a difference between the statement that you are referring to and this statement. This is a statement which has come on account of the consensus in the all party meeting and also the consensus in the House on the Adjournment Motion moved by the hon. Member. I am now to decide whether the adjournment Motion is justified or not. If he wants to clarify a little, I am just allowing him to do so.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : It will not take me more than two minutes to do so. I am afraid, I am still left in a doubt as to what, after all, was the purpose of the Union Home Minister's visit. All that has been done is to put the entire blame on the weather saying that the guilty party is the weather alone. As I said yesterday, it is not the adverse weather that is the guilty party, it is the insensitive and incompetent administration that is the guilty party.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : It is the adverse mindset.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : It is the adverse mindset which persuades you to continue to fly in the face of an obvious enough tragedy that has afflicted us. For as senior a man and as valued a colleague as Comrade Indrajit Gupta to say this, as if the whole purpose of going there was to grant certificates; certificates to the State Administration; certificates to all and sundry; the only party that has not been granted certificate is the...

MR. SPEAKER : We are not discussing the statement now.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : We are, because that is the substance. I have to point out why we are asking for an Adjournment Motion. It is because the Government has to be censured. I am afraid, I am left unconvinced that the only guilty party...

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV : If you are not going to allow the Adjournment Motion and that is why he is speaking, let him speak.

MR. SPEAKER : The House is approving to his assumption!

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : I do not know how my friend is predicting your thinking.

Let me say that I am still unable to determine as to what after all was then the purpose of the Union Home Minister's visit. It was not simply to go there and grant certificates to all and sundry and to give us a tabulation of the ration that are available. I must here point out that the Prime Minister has access to information which no other person has. But, for the Prime Minister of my country to have come here, yesterday and to say that this is all the information that he has; the Union Home Minister has gone there to get more information, is not good. And when the Union Home Minister comes, he is simply reiterating what has been said since yesterday. This is a deep disappointment to us. We expected a much more comprehensive and total assessment and analysis of what has gone wrong. It is not simply the weather that has gone wrong.

Yesterday it was pointed out - I think hon. Member Shri Chandra Shekhar pointed it out - that it is our expectation that when the Union Home Minister returns from his visit, he will at least do us the courtesy of answering some specific queries that have been raised. If those specific queries also remain unanswered after the hon. Prime Minister's intervention, after the Union Home Minister's visit and after his statement, which is a prepared statement, if none of these queries have been answered, what do we do? For example, what was the role of the Governor? How do you account for his absence? What was he doing here for three days?

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI (Howrah) : Even the Chief Secretary was also not there.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : There is some purpose being served by what I am saying. I had also pointed out that even whilst this grim tragedy was unfolding, there was no Government in Delhi. There was no Government in Jammu and Kashmir also. It is not for me to suggest as to what the Ministers of the Government ought to be doing. I made separate attempts to get in touch...

MR. SPEAKER : Pleased conclude.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : There is no answer to this very query.

Thirdly, we had raised a query relating to rail evacuation. It is not my point that what the hon. Ram Vilasji Paswan says is incorrect. It is no my charge also. It is possible that there is a great gap between the information available with the hon. Minister of Railways and what is actually taking place. That is largely to be accounted for, because of one great confusion that still prevails and a question that still remains unanswered: Has the *yatra* been cancelled or, is the *yatra* continuing? Simply, with the arrival of the *chhadi mubarak*, which is symbolic and is a ritual that must be performed, is the *yatra* continuing? Or, has it been

cancelled? The *yatris* had stayed back. The pilgrims had stayed back on account of this confusion. Therefore, the whole question relating to rail evacuation from Jammu remains unanswered.

I must, with deep concern, point out the great variations in casualty figures, from the Government sources itself. The earlier casualty figures were 160, while the hon. Union Minister of Home Affairs started his statement by saying that it was 121.

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA) : That was the figure when I reached there.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : During the course of the narration of his statement, he said that it was 127. We are not in the macabre game of counting dead bodies. This is a very important aspect because it conveys a message to all the relatives, from all parts of the country, who are waiting to hear it, because a number of these bodies are unidentified and in the process of decomposition.

[Translation]

The body is perishable, it Bill perish.

[English]

After all, bodies will decompose. The bodies will die. This is a natural thing. But those that are alive and those that are awaiting the return of the pilgrims, for them this is a very important message. Therefore, when these figures are confusing - 160, 121, 127, 400 and 1 000 - then, a very great alarm is caused throughout the country. I feel - and I have no doubt that a man of the sensitivity and experience that the hon. the Union Minister of Home Affairs is - that he sees my point. It is not a debating point that I am attempting to score. This is a very real concern of the entire country because the pilgrims have. (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : No. This is not a debate, this is an Adjournment Motion.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : I will not emphasize the point on evacuating pilgrims. (Interruptions) But I do wish to know if this is the Government's point, that there has been no failure, that no one is to account for or that no one is to answer for the absence of governance in Jammu and Kashmir for these critical three or four days, and that no one is to account for or answer for what was happening in Delhi or not happening in Delhi. Has there been no failure? Is there to be no inquiry into this? We had received an assurance yesterday from the hon. Prime Minister himself. From every section of the House, there has been quite an uproar. This is a tragedy of unprecedented dimension because it has never happened like this. There was a demand made for an inquiry. The hon. Prime Minister said that they would inquire into it. The hon. Home Minister has given a certificate of merit to everyone concerned. Where then is the fate of the inquiry? If these post-facto certificates of merit are given in the Face of an obvious tragedy,

then, what are we to say about all this? That is why we insist and assert that an Adjournment Motion is merited and it should be an Adjournment Motion under which we discuss this particular tragedy. This is my submission.

MR. SPEAKER : Thank you.

Let me now come to the conclusion. We have been discussing this issue since yesterday. The Prime Minister has given a statement yesterday. Today, the Minister of Home Affairs has given his statement after he returned from the place of occurrence. I do not think that I would be in a position to give my consent for the Adjournment Motion. So, I do not give the consent for an Adjournment Motion. However, since there has been a consensus in the House

(interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE (Lucknow) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, we are not challenging your ruling but we would definitely express our resentment against the hon'ble Home Minister. The discussion will take place only when you permit it. We want to see for ourselves the position prevailing in Pahalgam.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : Why did you not go earlier?

SHRI SAT MAHAJAN (Kangra) : Why didn't you take him with you?

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : What he means is that why did I not go before the tragedy or to have the 'darshana'.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : This is not so.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : The hon'ble Home Minister, asks me why did I not go earlier, what does it mean?

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : Have you understood the meaning?

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : I have understood but perhaps you are at a loss.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : Maybe

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : I would have gone before you, before the tragedy. But you could take the Members of Parliament with you. You could atleast take some of the yes men of the United Front. (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : They are saying that they are not bringing politics into it. What else is happening here? What sort of language is he using? What sort of reference has he made to Members of Parliament's. It is not expected from Shri Vajpayee. (Interruptions)

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : Is it expected from the Home Minister?

[Translation]

What does it mean? This is not politics to say that why did you not go earlier... (Interruptions) What is his question?

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : You can ridicule the Members of Parliament like this.

[Translation]

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : Now, Sir, Suppose a railway accident occurs, many people are killed and the Railway Minister reaches the spot thereafter and if Railway Minister is asked why didn't he go earlier then what would it mean?

Mr. Speaker, Sir, The entire incident needed investigation as my colleague Jaswant Ji had said, everything was okay but the weather deceived. The countrymen will not believe it. The hon'ble Home Minister should be concerned about the sentiments of the people of the whole country. The people from every corner of the country have gone there and they are worried. You have not shown any concerns for their worries. You have not given any assurance for an inquiry. We want to register our protest against this attitude and we are walking out this House.

[English]

14.47 hrs.

Then Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee and some other hon. members left the House.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : They are challenging the veracity of the statement made by the Prime Minister and the Home Minister. They have no information of their own. The Home Minister has rightly said that before they are able to controvert the statements of the hon. Prime Minister and the Home Minister, they should know personally what had happened. The Home Minister had made a right comment. You are challenging the veracity of the statements of the highest persons in the Government without having any personal knowledge about it. You are giving lectures to everybody is concerned. You said that there would be a discussion. The solemnly agreed before you. Now, they want to go back on this for the purpose of politics. They want to be on the headlines of the newspapers. I strongly protest against the irresponsible behaviour of the Leader of the Opposition ... (Interruptions)

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA) : I do not want to mix politics on this particular issue. Yesterday, I all along waited till you gave the direction to make a statement at five o'clock. Even at that time I made it clear that after the Home Minister comes back after studying the situation and gives the latest information, if the House wants to discuss this issue, I have no objection. This is all what I said. If the House

wants to have a discussion on this issue, I have no objection. There is no question of mixing politics. On thing that I would like to say is that the Government is alive to the situation. Yesterday, I have not mixed politics.

I have heard the speeches of so many senior leaders and they hurt me. On the 21st night, severe rain stated and nobody expected it. It continued on 22nd, 23rd and 24th also. Till the afternoon of 24th, nobody could enter that particular place. The Governor, the Prime Minister, the Home Minister, including the Opposition Leader, nobody could enter. What can we do? It is humanly impossible. The situation was out of control because of the non-cooperation of weather. Now, these hon. Members want to say that we have failed. What do you mean by that? We had made all arrangements. Last year, only 900 tenements were made, but this year, 3600 tenements were made. Is the Government not alive to these matters? We do have got some basic knowledge about how to govern... (Interruptions) Please hear me.

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI (Deogarh) : The statement is silent about so many things. Mr. Prime Minister, we do not want to politicize the issue ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Let the Prime Minister complete
(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Let him complete.
(Interruptions)

SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA : I am not mixing politics ... (Interruptions)

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : We do not want to politicize this issue.

SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA : At every stage, I myself am monitoring that. Even when I was in Madras, I got the information. But what can we do? When I asked my principal Secretary and the Home Secretary, they said that the weather was so bad, the rain had not stopped and nobody could go there. But communication was maintained from point. In-between Pahalgam and Panjarni, pilgrims were stranded... (Interruptions)

SHRI RAJESH PILOT (Dausa) : Sir, that is not the point. I have one point to ask the hon. Prime Minister.

We totally do not approve of the reaction of this side. It is a sensitive situation. We disapprove of this.

But, I have a question to ask the hon. Prime Minister. The point is not what has happened there; the point is how does it happen. There are seven stages. Every year, *yatra* takes place. From point 1 to point 2, that is, from Anantnag, when a person moves to Pahalgam, there is a clearance by the *yatra* officer. From point 2 to point 3, again there is a clearance. Like that it goes on. I would like to know from the hon. Minister, how did they clear from point 6 to point 7. How did they go to Sheshnag, when they knew that the weather was bad? There is a forecast available to you. I do not know

whether they have informed you or not. How much staff was available? How much machinery was available to you? You please accept that it has failed.

I will speak from your position. It is your words that I am repeating. Why did you give these figures, Mr. Minister? Accept that it is a fault...*(Interruptions)* I am still repeating your language...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Let us not go into that.

(Interruptions)

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : I want to ask only one question. They should accept that there has been a failure of the system. Please accept it. I have sat on that chair. I would have replied the same way the Home Minister has said. I am repeating the words of Shri Indrajit Gupta when he was sitting in this chair Sir, do you know what was your language? It was, "Mr. Minister, why are you giving this information? I have read this in the newspaper in the morning. Give us some facts." That was your question to me, always. I am repeating the same thing to you, Mr. Minister. Sir, These are all what we have read in the newspapers. Tell us, how did it happen. You have the weather forecast, you have so many senior officers in the Home Ministry...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : I think, we will have time to discuss these things.

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : So, the system has failed, let them accept it...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : No, No. I think, it is enough.

(Interruptions)

SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA : Sir, I have not completed. Only one word I want to say. Shri Rajesh Pilot was asking that when the pilgrims were going from one point to the other point, why were they not prevented from going further. It is a right question that he has posed. The issue is, when the rain was heavily pouring, snowfall started, the communication was given to the Centre. But the pilgrims were stranded in-between one camp and the other. We were unable to communicate because the communication system had totally failed. I discussed all these points, it is not the question of sparing anybody...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : You have walkie-talkie every 20 metres with the Jammu & Kashmir police, and you are talking about the communication failure. They have not used it...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI : No single security personnel, no single tourism personnel or no other officer has collapsed or died there...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA : Four people have died there. I have made a statement.

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI (Howrah) : Those four people died on the last day.

Today also, 20 people are stranded.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I wrote a letter to you for this. I have all the respect for the Home Minister. I have the

highest esteem for his integrity and for his contribution to the country. I am sorry to say this. I am telling him with tears. For the last four days, the SP, Jammu could not tell the whereabouts of 68 people whether they were dead or alive or untraceable. They are stranded. I got a phone call. I sent my own people with tickets. What is he talking? They are stranded there. They asked: "Tell us whether they are dead. If so, we will take their dead bodies. Or give us a car. We will go to Srinagar. Or tell us whether they are alive." The SP said: I cannot say anything.

When the Minister is are talking in passing, what do we do? how do we communicate? This morning, at eight o'clock, I sent two persons with the tickets. What do I say? The system is still not functioning. That is my point. Please enquire about that.

The Chief Secretary and the Governor were sleeping in Delhi. They had no other business. Nobody is talking about this. Mr. Prime Minister, why did you take the blame? It is not your fault. You are not to rush to the spot. Let the Home Minister do so. These two persons did not bother to give any kind of support.

SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA : It was practically impossible.

MR. SPEAKER : I do not think we are going to debate it now. I have not given my consent. The general consensus is already known. There was a consensus that this matter should be discussed on the floor of the House. We are having a meeting of the Business Advisory Committee after five minutes. So, the BAC will decide about the time.

We will not resume discussion on the General budget. Mr. Nirmal Kanti Chatterjee was on his legs.

SHRI SPIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : Why are they giving protection to this Governor? Why are they feeling shy of having judicial inquiry?...*(Interruptions)*

14.57 hrs.

(Mr. Deputy-Speaker in the Chair)

SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA : Please hear me. There is no need to make any cover-up. If you are under the impression that I want to protect the Governor or 'x', 'y' or 'z', I am not afraid of this...*(Interruptions)* Please hear me.

In the last Session, 59 people had died in Haridwar and earlier also in Ujjain. They were all pilgrims. Were their lives not precious? Nobody made this type of gimmick. Do not do all this. I can also understand because Kashmir election is there. Uttar Pradesh election is there. They want to take the benefit from that...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : 168 people have died there...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA : 59 people had died...*(Interruptions)* There is a limit for all these things. I

can also understand that...(Interruptions) tomorrow, I can transfer the Governor. It is not a big issue for me.

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : So, please do it...(Interruptions)

SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA : For God's sake, please do not bring politics...(Interruptions) Seeing the magnitude of the tragedy, I have the concern, I have the sympathy for the bereaved families. We are making all arrangements.

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : But our feelings are conveyed in a very humble way that the system has failed. Let us accept it and find out how it has happened...(Interruptions)

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : The Hon. Prime Minister need not misunderstand me. I am very clear about it...(Interruptions) Whenever there was a tragedy involving the death of 20, 30 or 50 people, there had been a judicial inquiry...(Interruptions) This has been the trend all over India.

Now 168 people have died. Do not compare it with any other tragedy. We do not agree with the BJP people. We do not want to politicise this issue. The State was under the President's Rule. The Governor is supposed to be the administrative head there. He was not available there. The Home Minister is silent about it. In view of this, we say in all fairness that there should be a judicial inquiry into the whole thing. We do not hold Shri Deve Gowda or Shri Indrajit Gupta personally responsible...(Interruptions) Why are they taking it that way?...(Interruptions)

15.00 hrs.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : You raise it at the time of discussion. Why are you demanding it now?...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please listen to the Home Minister.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : Why are you waiting for a demand to be made? In the past incidents, the Government had always held a judicial inquiry...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please listen to Shri Gupta.

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA) : I quite agree that the whole matter requires to be inquired into. But I do not agree that whenever some five or ten or twenty people die anywhere in the country, there is always a judicial inquiry. At least I cannot agree with him on this point. I think his memory is failing in...(Interruptions)

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : You please check up your memory. How many times have you contradicted your own statements in the House? Do not say that my memory is failing. How many times have you contradicted yourself?...(Interruptions) He is saying that

my memory is failing. You have stated the things differently. You are such a senior person.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Instead of saying personal things against each other, please listen to him.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : Was judicial inquiry held regarding the people who died in Ujjain and Haridwar?

SHRI DILEEP SINGH BHURIA : In the Ujjain incident, there was a judicial inquiry...(Interruptions)

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : They do not want to listen. They are supposed to be junior Members and not senior Members. They just go on behaving like junior Members. It is not a question of whatever I like.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV : Kindly put an end to it. The BAC will decide the form of discussion. Then you will get a chance to speak. If there is any misunderstanding between us, let us forget and forgive. Let us not stand in the way of people who have walked out. Kindly sit down and end the matter...(Interruptions)

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : I am only replying to a point raised by the Member. My point is, there will definitely be an inquiry but it may not be a judicial inquiry.

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : But I demand a judicial inquiry.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : The Government will decide about the kind of inquiry which will be held, its terms of references etc.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV : We accept your point.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : He does not accept it. I am telling you that an inquiry will be held.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Now, we shall take up further discussion on the General Budget. Mr. Nirmal Kanti Chatterjee was on his legs. He may continue now.

15.03 hrs.

GENERAL BUDGET 1996-97 GENERAL DISCUSSION

(Shri Chitta Basu in the Chair)

[English]

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE (Dumdum) : Sir, I want to begin today by focussing our attention on what seems to be the Central weakness in the Budget proposals.

Sir, we all know that there is always a choice problem, as our hon. Speaker indicated, between short-run and long-run. There is a contradiction of conflict between 'immediately' and 'distance'. Therefore, this problem had to be answered. In economics, this choice problem is expressed as a choice between consumption and savings. I am surprised that despite a rigorous

mention in the Common Approach Programme, the Finance Minister only mentions that his parameter refers to enhancement of investment and does not mention savings at all. And yet, in the Common Approach Programme, something else has been stated.

This has grave consequences. When we talk of investment, we talk of domestic savings and also savings from abroad. It is perfectly possible to visualise a situation when in the economy at home there is no savings at all and yet there is investment because of the flow of foreign investments into the country. And that spells the doom for any economy. That is almost a symbol of being a colony.

Now, The fact is that in the budget proposals, the central failure is that it has not attempted to raise the level of savings to a much higher order and to make a draft of that savings for the Budget, which is usually known as the resource mobilisation. It is this Central defect in the Budget which has led to these kinds of difficulties. This is the kind of consequence. As you change the proportion; as you select priorities; change the earlier priorities, the proportion of investment in other areas certainly come down. But even in absolute sense, when that comes down, that becomes very serious for the economy. I will give you a singular fact to show as to what really has happened.

Sir, there is an emphasis in terms of expenditure allocation. There is an emphasis on employment; there is an emphasis on agriculture and as everybody knows, in the country side, the second biggest employment sector is that of the Handloom and *Khadi*, but could you imagine that it is precisely in these areas that not a single additional paisa has been allocated? We talk of industry. We say that it is the small scale sector which has given a fillip to the industrial sector, but let us see what is the projection in the expenditure budget. It is mentioned that allocation on Interest subsidy for *Khadi* and Village Industries for the year 1995-96 was Rs. 23 crore, the Revised Estimate was Rs. 23 crore and the allocation on this head in this year's Budget is also Rs. 23 crore. It is not only in the case of interest subsidy, the picture is the same in the case of investment also. The total Plan outlay for the Department of Small Scale Industry and the Agro and Rural Industries last year was Rs. 58 crore; the total Revised Estimate was Rs. 50 crore and I continue to the Rs. 50 crore. That means, in real terms the investment in *Khadi* and Village Industries as well as in the Handloom sector has come down. Why is it so? It is because you have failed. We were told that after Independence for rapid development we have to arise our finances and tighten our boot straps. That is also the message of the common approach. The mood which says that we should be inspired by the aspirations of the struggle for Independence requires that we make such efforts at resources mobilisation that permits us to allocate much higher amounts in these areas so that employment generation would be possible. It is also a part of the

Common Minimum Programme of the United Front Government.

Sir, that is not the only consequence. In terms of expenditure also we have failed to provide as much as is necessary for the public sector enterprises. We have failed because we have refused or we have not tried to mobilise the resources, mobilise the rate of increase in the saving and mobilise a large chunk of those savings for the Government.

It is dangerous. It has grave consequences from another direction also. I do not know why he has stuck on this point, forgetting to mention savings and only mentioning investment. It is a slip, I think. It could be that the shadow of the past five years' economic policy is still chasing him. The dependency is on foreign sector. Once again, we should harp back to the Independence struggle. If the cry, the dependence or the mind set only refer to 10 million dollar of fund, it only indicates that we are not striving to increase our domestic revenue to absorb this 10 million dollar. Everybody know it.

Sir, we are told that the saving rates are increased. That is the official statistic and everybody says, it is official and unscientific. Nobody accepts that figure. Even if we accept that figure, it is not more than what we achieved in 1990-91. The developing countries, which have a fast rate of growth, which are sometimes called tigers, have a saving rate of much more than 30 per cent. It ranges between 35-45 per cent. There is no effort in the Budget speech to handle this. The crux of the matter is in trying to raise the level of saving and thus making it possible to spend on each of the priorities that are mentioned in the Directive Principles of our Constitution.

There was a problem of unemployment. Instead where are we going? We are suggesting, unfortunately it has been mentioned in the Common Approach Programme also, to sell all the assets and spend it on education and medical health. There is a conflict between the short run and the long run and it is absolutely necessary that we try not to consume more but save. The entire policy direction of the past five years, which is continuing, is to depend on the foreign capital and to depend on consumerism generated by that foreign capital. Even a few days ago, we have seen that permissions have been given for foreign investment to manufacture toffees, chewing gums, apart from permitting them to bring the cards worth Rs. 25 lakh. This is a path which the United Front Government did not visualise in its Common Approach programme. This has spoiled the initial statement. I reiterate, it is not a replacement of one set of rulers by another. It will mark the beginning of an alternative model. It is here precisely that the alternative model has failed to begin. Perhaps there was shortage of time or the worst is, perhaps the influence of past is inhibiting this new beginning.

I would like to draw your attention to some other things also. I do not deny that a tax has been imposed

on Zero-tax companies. But at the same time when there is a crunch, we suddenly decide that the surcharge on corporation duty should be reduced by half. We could have waited for some time. Suddenly we talk about the Tariff Commission and despite that we decide to reduced the level of custom duties and thus throw away some income, approximately Rs.900 for the Budget. It is in these manners that the failure to mobilise more resources has created all the problems.

Additionally, what has happened? Certain expenditure which could have been avoided, should have been avoided. But the past is so hunting that we are not permitted to avoid that. We are neglecting public sector, Khadi and Village industry and handlooms, the biggest employers in the countryside but we are providing for our misdeeds in the bank an amount of Rs. 900 crore. Whether it is Indian Bank or any other bank, thousand of crore of rupees are being wasted. There are defaulters. They are called on-performing asset. They are increasing over the years despite some efforts to decrease them. The compromises are arrived at and yet we insist that there has to be to capital adequacy. I raised it earlier also. Given the fact that these banks belong to the Government, why are we in a hurry to provide that eight per cent capital adequacy? We are insisting on the eight per cent capital adequacy in the banks because of our international requirement. We know the international requirement. They failed after the Second World War. They failed to protect the ruler and they devised this economic means to establish control via the World Bank and the IMF. We have repeatedly mentioned that this is the same imperialist mode of exploitation. It is astonishing. When you talk of Enron, the fast tract project, they have sought a counter guarantee from the Centre. They considered that to be adequate. Why can't this guarantee of Government should be more than the capital adequacy? Why eight per cent capital adequacy has to be provided for immediately from this year's Budget when there is a shortfall?

MR. CHAIRMAN : For how long do you propose to continue?

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : I am on the fast track now. So, I will be coming to a close.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You may please note. The time allotted for your Party was 32 minutes. You have already exhausted it the other day. In addition to that you have taken 10 minutes more today. That means you have taken about 42 minutes.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : I agree with you, Sir.

I want the Finance Minister of correct me, the danger that is opening up and the consumerism that you are preaching so that the savings do not increase is indicative in another significant item. The rate of baggage import has been brought down from 80 per cent to 60 per cent. Can you imagine? Nevertheless, the estimates show that the revenue from the baggage

import has increased. These are the indicators that the drive continues to be, as of old, to emphasise consumption rather than saving. This is what you have learnt during the course of last 5 years.

In terms of devolution of expenditure of different sectors, is it not rather peculiar that we want to invest Rs.8100 crore for the Railways which carry 90 per cent of our people and goods and we propose to invest Rs. 4139 crore of Civil Aviation?

Is it consistent with this approach? What is more important for the country? Infrastructure is more important for the country. Long time back in the first years of Soviet planning, we were told that electricity plus Soviet Union would give us communism. So electricity was the infrastructure. We all know that. But talking of infrastructure, I would like to know which one is more important for our economy unless you are blinded by the Shades of the past. We should have invested much more in the Railways. Even maintaining it at the same level for civil aviation would be quite all right. The condition prevalent now is much more resource mobilisation that what has been attempted in this Budget. This, Sir, according to me, is the crux of the problem. When you talk about the new approach, new model here are areas where we do fail to take off.

I, now, come to some other aspects. I do not share the views of the BJP. It says that it is just a continuity. I am saying it is not a continuity. There is no beginning of a new model. Perhaps there is a beginning of a beginning in the Budget. It is yet to become a beginning of a new model. Why I say so? It is because, after all, certain things have been changed in this Budget.

Firstly, after so many years, there is a large discussion about plan expenditure and non-plan expenditure although there is a problem in dividing expenditure in terms of plan and non-plan. Plan expenditure has increased *pari passu* with non-plan expenditure. This is a new departure from the last few years. This is welcome. When we criticise the growth of non-plan expenditure, we have to remind ourselves that the subsidies granted to fertilizers are part of non-plan expenditure. Non-plan expenditure also contains elements which are developmental and which help the country to grow. But even then, Sir, the fact that the plan expenditure moves *pari passu* with non-plan expenditure is a positive point in the Budget.

Sir, I have already mentioned that there is another improvement in the Budget Appropriation in terms of education. For the first time I have mentioned yesterday that we have crossed two per cent limit, at least, for education.

There is another positive aspect also in terms of transfer of resources to the States. We are crying hoarse in the course of the last four or five years that why are you decreasing the share of the States. Once again we have arrived at a point when the transfer to the States has increased though not the same extent as is mentioned in the *Budget At a Glance* which is defective

to the extent that it does not take into account the repayment of debt by the States. It is an improvement of an earlier situation that is contained in the Budget which we want to underline.

Earlier, Sir, for quite some time, the size of the Central Plan and the State Plan was about fifty and fifty. This has been tilted in favour of the Centre. Once again, today, the Central Plan funds are a little more. The plan support for the State Plans has been increasing. One has grown. One is budgeted to grow at the rate of eleven per cent and the other, at the rate of thirteen per cent.

Sir, I have mentioned about public sector enterprise which really deserve much more than that.

I am coming back to another point. I have referred to the provisions for the banking. On the banking sector, there is a reference to the transparency in the common approach. In the common approach it has been mentioned that many secrecy provisions would be looked into. We were insisting that the secrecy clauses in the Banking Act should be given a go-by. We want to know in the House itself, who the defaulters are, which kind of compromises are being arrived at with them by the bank authorities and we also want additionally that those defaulters, as a group, should be prohibited from getting any loans or advances from the banking sector. The Finance Minister has not obliged us. He has come to the corporation. He has duly noticed that if the corporations do not pay back to their depositors, they will be debarred from raising further funds. Why does he not extend this to the banking sector? Will this proposed elimination of the secrecy clauses not add to transparency in our approach to problems of the economy?

Sir, I am about to conclude. There is a proposal and I have already indicated that I consider it to be a dangerous proposal. We are talking about disinvestment. Already it is seen that, and that characterizes us, one after another unit starting as a joint sector is handing over not only 61 per cent to the foreign investor but the foreign investor has decided that this unit would be subsidiary to his unit. The tactic is very simple. The multi-nationals, the real representatives of imperialist exploitation, have huge funds with them. They come with a very simple proposal that they want to enlarge the size of the unit and that they want to have much more investment in the unit than what is today. Therefore, a huge amount of capital must be infused. If the domestic partner, who is a small fry compared to them, cannot provide his share, it is taken over. One after another, enterprises about which we are talking pride in the past are being handed over or being gobbled up by these foreign investors.

It is this threat to our sovereignty and it is that which has led to that concluding reference. We are being chained to foreign capital because we are failing to mobilise our own resources. Already share markets are there and they are ceased to be ours. In the share

markets the prices go up and down not because of Indian investors but because of the FIIs. Already certain areas have been handed over to this foreign sector and I urge the hon. Finance Minister to dare to turn his back on these policies which have been pursued in the course of the last five years.

Therefore, I am concluding with this.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Your five minutes are over.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : It is very near. I want to sum up in this manner that despite the expectations generated by the common approach that a new set of rulers with a new beginning, with a beginning of a new model will be reflected in the Budget, that has not happened. However, as I submitted, a beginning of the beginning has been made. Certain allocations and certain priorities provided in the Budget are indicative of what may have happened. Had we succeeded in hitting the rich, had we succeeded in not lowering the customs duties, had we succeeded in mobilising much more than what we tried, we could have really taken a new path, a new model for the economy.

DR. DEBI PROSAD PAL (Calcutta North-West) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to support this present Budget with certain reservations. It is true, as the Finance Minister has in his opening speech observed that he has certain commitments - commitments to the Common Minimum Programme of the 13 Parties which have not joined together in forming this present Government. But when I look at the Common Minimum Programme, I find a complete acceptance of the economic reforms which the earlier Congress Government had introduced since July, 1991. It may be that some political Parties, one of which Mr. Chatterjee represents, in the last five years have been haunted by certain inhibitions. Dr. Joshi dubs this Budget as a cheap acceptance of the Congress policies which had been introduced since July 1991. There is nothing wrong in accepting a policy which has yielded significantly good results in the economy for the last five years. When the Finance Minister says that he has certain commitments to the Common Economic Programme, I can appreciate his anxiety because it is a Government where 13 political Parties have joined together with different political slogans, one Party deferring from another and then this Common Minimum Programme has been sorted out. It is gratifying to note that it has accepted the policy of liberalisation which was introduced by the earlier Congress Government when the economic crisis was loomed largest before the country in June 1991. The Common Minimum Economic programme had accepted the policy of tax reforms which had been introduced by the earlier Government since July 1991.

There thrust on the social sector services is nothing new. During the earlier Government when the crisis was tided over in the years of 1993-94, 1994-95 and 1995-96, the emphasis was made on the rural development and also on the poverty alleviation. The

rural sector was given much more emphasis when we had tided over the crisis. Now, what is wrong if the present Government has accepted it? We cannot start with a new plan when the country has developed as a result of this New Economic Policy. The hon. Finance Minister was, till the other day, a very important member of the earlier Government in the formulation of the new Economic Policy and he had also certainly made significant contributions.

Now, what is this policy which the Congress Government has initiated? It is known now to everybody that when in June, 1991, the earlier Congress Government came into power, the country was in the throes of an economic crisis. Inflation reached its high water-mark of 17 per cent; the industrial growth was 0.9 per cent and the foreign exchange reserve was not even sufficient to meet the requirement of a fortnight. Then the earlier Congress Government had taken over the administration and for the last five years the economic reforms which ushered in new industrial policy, the new trade policy, the reforms in the financial sector, and the reforms in the taxation policy has introduced certain significant achievements. We have been able to maintain the macro-economic stability and we have also been able to remove some of the structural distortions which had haunted the economy when the earlier Congress Government came into power.

15.36 hrs.

(Shri Nitish Kumar in the Chair)

As a result of these our industrial growth went as high as 12.4 per cent; our G.D.P. rose in the year 1995-96 to 6.7 per cent or even 7 per cent, which is much more than what the Eighth Plan had indicated. Our exports increased significantly to the extent of 20 per cent or 25 per cent in certain sectors. The capital goods export also increased considerably. Our foreign exchange reserve increased from two billion dollars to twenty billion dollars and although as a result of certain depreciation in the value of the Indian currency, in September, 1995, there was certain depletion, yet we have more than 17 billion dollars. Now, it is the broad Economic Survey which I was mentioning. In Poverty Alleviation Scheme also, our poverty level was reduced from 25 per cent to 19 per cent. Our expenditure on primary education, on health and sanitation, and on the rural development was significantly higher during the last three years.

Now, when I look at the present Budget, I see that undoubtedly the hon. Finance Minister has accepted these economic reforms and the basic postulates on which such reforms have been introduced. To that extent, the Budget is a continuation of the policy of reforms, which has been introduced and implemented for the last five years. I congratulate the hon. Finance Minister that. Even though the 13 political parties, with so much of difference, having regard to different types of slogans that each political party professes he has been able to

at least steer clear of and pursue the policy of economic reforms which was generated, introduced and implemented by the earlier Congress Government.

But, when I look at the present Budget proposals, I am dissatisfied with the expenditure which the Finance Minister has earmarked for the different sectors of economic development. I am not giving the exact figures because if I give the figures it will take time, but one can easily appreciate that there is no difference at all in the significant aspects where Budget allocations have been made to different sectors. Secondly, the thrust of the Finance Minister, undoubtedly, is for the agricultural development. I certainly congratulate him because agriculture is the mainstay of our economy and agriculture requires financing. The rural finance is one of the essential requirements for developing agriculture and agro-based industries. Undoubtedly he has increased the capital structure of NABARD from Rs. 500 crore to Rs. 2,000 crore. All these are assurances of the Finance Minister that in the next five years, the full programme will be implemented. I undoubtedly admire his sense of optimism that the present Government wish that they will continue for five year, and I wish him well.

Now, in the present year, he has allocated Rs.500 crore only out of the Central Finance and Rs. 500 crore from the Reserve Bank of India. Now he has also focussed on agricultural rural development finance. The earlier Government, the Congress Government, had allocated Rs. 2,000 crore for the rural agricultural finance, out of which in the last year Rs. 1,975 crore had been allotted to nineteen States for completion of their different projects. Now he has increased it by Rs. 500 crore. Therefore, the initial start has been given by the earlier Government. It is good that he has tried to increase the quantum of the rural finance.

The other thing which he has also introduced for the development of agricultural finance is the establishment of certain local area banks, private banks, within the contiguous areas of two or three districts. This is, undoubtedly, an approach which deserves support and also congratulation for the Finance Minister. Undoubtedly this will help to mobilise and mop up rural finance within certain areas, which can be spent to cater to the needs and requirements of the local areas.

The Finance Minister has also tried to increase the quantum of the agricultural financing not only by expending the share capital of NABARD but also through the rural agricultural finance development scheme. This was also the scheme which was introduced by the earlier Government and I am glad that he has developed this scheme much more. In the area of rural finance, what is required is the financing of the poor artisans and the cultivators. Some start has been made by him by giving, for example, small cultivators and marginal farmers up to Rs. 30,000 and he has extended it to all the sections in the rural sector. This will certainly help the development of the agriculture. But the whole

difficulty is that this agricultural development depends not only upon the agricultural finance which, undoubtedly, is an important requirement, but also on the integration of the different schemes for the agricultural development.

I do not find any such initiative in the Budget excepting that some emphasis has been given for the development of agricultural finance which has been the policy of the earlier Congress Government also.

He has also focussed upon the development of small-scale industries which is undoubtedly a very important sector in our industrial and economic development. The progress of small-scale industries has been much higher than the industrial growth. When the industrial growth was six per cent, the small-scale industries' growth was eight per cent. When the industrial growth was eight per cent, the small-scale industries growth was more than ten per cent. It shows that the growth in small-scale industries has been much more and if given greater impetus, it can certainly not only be a foreign exchange earning mechanism but it can also change, to a great extent, the rural economy. For that, the Finance Minister has increased the capital of SIDBI so that greater finance can be infused into the small-scale industries. The earlier Government had also done the same thing. There is nothing new. Not only that the earlier Government had also given tax holiday in respect of investments of capital in small-scale industries, it provided tax holiday for five years under Section 80-IA of the Income Tax Act. I am glad that at least that the tax holiday has not been in any way curtailed by the Finance Minister although it has not been increased further.

But the more difficult situation arises in our industrial growth. If the industries cannot function properly, then the economic growth will not be accelerated. Now, in the case of industrial growth we had achieved a spectacular development under the earlier Congress Government, a growth of 12.4 per cent in the year 1995-96. The financing of Indian Industries is an important aspect which requires special attention of the Finance Minister. The Industrial growth can be achieved through mobilisation utilisation of savings, both internal and external.

I am not analysing the Finance Bill today because we will have discussion on the Finance Bill later. But the significant feature of this Bill is that when we require industrial finance, when we require the banks to provide capital to the industries, certain measures which have been adopted by the Finance Minister will hamper the growth of Indian industries. I am referring to the new measures which are adopted. One of the measures is the Minimum Alternative Tax which is called MAT. I found two or three days back, a statement by the Finance Minister that the Minimum Alternative Tax is going to stay in this country. When we are discussing the General Budget and the Finance Bill, I think the Finance Minister's statement shows that already a foregone conclusion

has been reached that the Minimum Alternative Tax is going to stay. What is the Minimum Alternative Tax? We are told that Zero tax companies are the companies whose income, after getting all the deductions under income Tax Act, become nil. They will have to pay tax on 30 per cent of their book profit.

They will have to pay tax on 30 per cent of the book profit. Why? If you give concessions, if you give deductions to the companies which are developing and which are investing their capital then you are taking away by one hand what you have given by the other. Take for example, the infrastructure industries. Section 80-IA gives relief, by way of tax holiday in respect of income from infrastructure industry. It is a capital based industry because crores of rupees are to be invested. Naturally for the first few years depreciation is to be provided and the income may be reduced to nil. But they have to pay tax on 30 per cent of their book profit and how book profit is ascertained? It is ascertained by taking the profit under the Companies Act and the Companies Act provides for lesser depreciation according to straight line method. So their book profit is much higher than what the Income Tax Act provides for. Now if this happens, many of the industries which are investing their large capital for the development of the country will put a halt to investment because there is no sense in investing the capital when the otherwise allowed tax relief is not available to them. What you give under Chapter VI-A of I.T. Act you take it away. You better reduce the concession. If you like you reduce the concession. When we are thinking of industrial growth we must have to consider this aspect. I am not discussing it in details today as that will be occasion later; when Finance Bill comes for discussion.

Sir, today in the Indian industry, about 30 per cent of the corporate capital comes from lease financing. These companies provide 30 per cent of the capital and this is very frequency in America, in Canada and other developed countries. Now, in the lease financing, a provision has been introduced for the first time, namely, that depreciation will be allowed only on the basis of written down value in the case of seller company. The idea is that sometimes the price shown at much higher figure than the fair market value. You can get hold of them by allowing depreciation only up to fair market value. But if this is done, the lease financing industry will be completely dislocated and I will ask the Finance Minister to have a re-look into the matter.

As regards industrial finances, our banks and nationalised banks are giving finances but at the same time the foreign institution are also supplying capital. Insurance companies also give long term finances. We expected that the Finance Minister should now address to the House what is the policy of the Government regarding the privatisation of insurance. The Malhotra Committee report came much earlier and it was at the stage of deliberations. So if the policy for privatisation of insurance sector is adopted then we will have much more finances for financing the long term investment in

our country. There is no suggestion as to what shall be the policy of the Government regarding the privatisation of insurance. All that the Finance Minister has said is that the LIC and the GIC will be strengthened. That is a very good suggestion. Undoubtedly these are the important insurance institutions and their strengthening will certainly develop the financial resources.

But we expected that some statement would be made on this aspect of privatisation of Insurance.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : What is your view? What is your Party's view?

DR. DEBI PROSAD PAL : I will give you my view. About privatisation of Insurance, we have undoubtedly decided the Party's view. I will tell you later what my party's view is. But I want the Policy from the Finance Minister.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : I have said what my view is. I will be helped greatly if you tell me what view is or what your Party's view is.

DR. DEBI PROSAD PAL : My personal view is this. The policy regarding privatisation of Insurance sector is an important step to be gone into without affecting the strength of the General Insurance or the Life Insurance.

Regarding foreign investments in this country, Shri Chatterjee was making various comments. He was haunted by the inhibition of International Monetary Fund, World Bank and everything. That inhibition haunted him long back when we took loan from the International Monetary Funds in the year 1991-92. I hope that he is no longer haunted by that ghost. Now, more than 80 per cent of the foreign investments are in the core industries, namely, infrastructure industries and other industries. The foreign investments are in collaboration with the joint sector companies so that the ghost with which Shri Chatterjee is haunted, I hope, he will be relieved of this. 80 per cent of the foreign investments are mostly in the core sector industries and they are in the joint sector. Therefore, there is no question of why more foreign investments should not be brought into this country.

Look at China from where Shri Chatterjee takes his inspiration and his Party takes the inspiration. Look at any other developing country. In China, more than 10 times foreign investments than in India have come. I do not think that they have surrendered their economic sovereignty. Therefore, in a developing country foreign investments are always welcome and certainly it will help to accelerate the industrial growth.

For the purpose of internal savings, I congratulate the Finance Minister for at least one measure which he has introduced by giving relief in respect of capital gains. That was the view I have always taken. If capital gains are invested in certain specified investments, then, there will be less attempt to have underground transfers because then the people will be coming forward to have their transactions in full disclosure, in immovable

properties with disclosed money because they will know that if they invest in specified investments for a certain number of years, they will not have to pay any capital gains tax. That is a measure for which I congratulate the Finance Minister for introducing Section 54EA and Section 54EB. At the same time, he has put important safeguards regarding the period during which specified investments cannot be withdrawn and if it is done, capital gains tax will be levied. It is a measure, I hope, which will generate internal savings.

In the tax reforms sphere, the hon. Finance Minister has said that there was a general expectation that the exemption limit should be raised from Rs. 40,000 to Rs. 60,000. He has given two explanations for not raising the exemption limit. One is that if Rs. 1000 less is there, the Government loses Rs. 150 crore at that marginal level and he has said that 77.5 per cent of that tax earning goes to the States and, therefore, the States will be deprived of their resources. But I only put one question to the Finance Minister. If that dissuaded him from not raising the exemption limit from Rs. 40,000 to Rs. 60,000 which was long overdue, having regard to the inflationary trend in the country, what has prompted him to reduced the tax rate in the case of specified Hindu Undivided Family?

16.00 hrs.

Possibly, I do not know whether the attention of the Finance Minister has been drawn to it because there is no reference in the Budget speech about it. But when you look at the Finance Bill, you will find that for Rs. 1 lakh for a specified HUF, the earlier tax was of Rs. 24,600. But today having regard to the rate of taxes, if the income of a specified HUF is Rs. 1 lakh, they have to pay only Rs. 15,000. Therefore, more than Rs. 9,600 has been slashed down in the case of specified HUF and the exemption limit in the case of specified HUF has been raised from Rs. 18,000 to Rs. 40,000. Now this is a matter which requires the special attention of the Finance Minister. When he could not raise the exemption limit for the common man from Rs. 40,000 to Rs. 60,000, how - although there is no reference in the Budget speech about the income of the specified HUF, specified HUF means one individual who earns more than Rs. 40,000 - then has the tax rate been reduced or slashed down considerably?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : It would have been quite simple to arise the exemption limit from Rs. 40,000 to Rs. 60,000. That would not have benefited only that tax slab. It would have benefited a very successful lawyer like Mr. Pal too. That is not my intention.

DR. DEBI PROSAD PAL : Rs. 60,000 would not be have benefited me.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : It would have because on the first Rs. 60,000 you will also pay a lower rate. If I were a practicing lawyer, I would have also paid a lower rate. The idea was not to benefit those with higher incomes. The idea was only to benefit that slab of Rs.

40,000 to Rs.60,000 and that too the salaried employees. That is why, we have given you the same result through a different route. That is what my Budget speech say. Anyone today who earns a salary of Rs.5,000 a month or Rs.60,000 a year, does not pay any tax. You cannot say that that is a wrong statement. It is an absolutely correct statement. On the specified HUF, I think, it is irrational - think, you should have corrected it when you were in the Finance Ministry - because if there is an un-married daughter working in a bank or an un-married daughter who is working in a company and earning an income, that HUF should be saddled with a larger tax rate. It is gender unequal. It was unfair to the woman who wants to get employed. It will only force the parents to marry off their daughters at an early age.

DR. DEBI PROSAD PAL : Well, I do not share the view that the Finance Minister has pointed out. I can say, even earlier, the standard deduction was Rs. 12,000. They have increased it only by Rs.3,000. Compared to the present inflationary trend, I do not think that is a substantial reduction.

Regarding the insurance, all that has been provided for the the present Budget is that if you pay Rs.250 per month for 30 years, then after 30 years you will get a pension of Rs. 3,000. I have asked many persons, not of the rank of the eminent status of the Finance Minister while he was in the legal profession, but the common and and everybody is saying, why should we pay that amount for 30 years and then hope that the Government will give response to this? There are only paper reliefs. How much will we get? Well, time alone will show, how much will be the effective measures? Therefore, that relief is more illusive.

With regard to the industrial growth, what is required is the revival of primary capital market. The capital market has been slashed down. If there is not primary capital market, then there is no scope for mobilising funds for industrial growth and for savings. No attempt has been made at least in the Budget speech as to how the Finance Minister is going to tackle the problem of revival of the capital market.

We had certain guidelines when the Controller of Capital Issue was administering for issuing the shares had a premium. Today, in the absence of any guidelines by SEBI, the companies are free to increase, to float their shares at any premium that they like, with the result that the capital market has been completely slashed down.

I would request the Finance Minister to have its expert opinion and make attempts, because if you cannot revive the capital market then whatever inducement you can give, for interval savings, the corporate saving will not revive. An industry cannot grow only by borrowing from the banks unless they can raise capital from the market. Now, this is a matter where, at least, the Finance Minister is his Budget

Speech should have made certain clarifications as to what is going to be done - to revive the capital market.

In the case Social Service Sector, Poverty Alleviation Schemes, it is undoubtedly a continuation of the policy of the earlier Government - the various poverty alleviation schemes which had been introduced by the earlier Government. Excepting reference to the Mid Day Meal Scheme, there is no reference, whether the Government is continuing with those policies or those measures or not. I shall be glad if the Finance Minister assures that those policies which had already been introduced by the earlier Government, are to continue. For example, the Social Assurance Scheme, the earlier Congress Government had introduced. In that scheme, in every village of 3,000 segments and 15 villages, seasonal employment would be given to two persons in every family in the rural areas, for 100 days because the employment in the rural sector is not all the year sound. Whether this scheme is still being purposed or not, the Finance Minister will enlighten us.

For example, we have got Social Assurance Scheme, where apart from any policy of insurance, if any earning member in a rural area below the poverty line dies because of accident, Rs. 10,000 will be given by way of compensation. If there is a natural death of the earning member, Rs. 5,000 will be paid. I shall be happy if the Finance Minister assures that this policy is to be continued.

We had introduced a scheme by which expectant mothers, three months before and three months after their delivery, will be given a sum of Rs. 300 per month. Is that scheme continuing or not?

Why I am saying so? If all those schemes would have been continued, then there was no need to mention the Mid Day Meal Scheme only. We had introduced, for example, a scheme under which, in every village, people above the age of 65 were entitled to have pension, although, it is not a very heavy amount for all the families. And in that way, more than 40 lakhs people would be benefited.

We had introduced the 'Indira Awas Yojna' for which seven lakhs houses had been constructed and the scheme was, in the earlier years, for 10 lakh houses. Whether this scheme is continuing or not, we shall be happy to have the assurance from the Finance Minister.

Now, about the Poverty Alleviation Scheme. The earlier Government had introduced this scheme. In the Planning Commission's budget more than 150 per cent has been earmarked for the rural schemes of development and also Poverty Alleviation. We had earmarked 80 per cent on the primary education, sanitation and health, more than 100 per cent for the housing schemes. Whether the Finance Minister also is continuing with that policy.

He has given some additional amount for the rural development.

16.10 hrs.

(Shrimati Geeta Mukherjee *in the Chair*)

With regard to financing the employment scheme, the earlier Government created during the 1991 crisis period, a maximum of three million employment. Then we had increased it to seven million per year. I do not know what is the scheme now to be adopted because in the Budget we do not find any reference as to how the employment situation is to be tackled because the main problem in our economy today is that the middle class people, the educated people and even the uneducated people are haunted by unemployment. So, the main point today is what are the measures which the Government has to adopt for removing unemployment. Undoubtedly industrial growth, agricultural growth can be of great assistance. But that will take time. It is not like Aladdin's Lamp. We cannot introduce them overnight. Policies both short term and long term have to be framed, which if properly implemented, might yield result.

The Finance Minister, in the case of industrial development, has introduced a very important scheme namely Infrastructure Development Bank. It is a very good suggestion; I welcome it. But I want to tell him that the Industrial Reconstruction Bank of India (IRBI) which already started long ago. They have certain infrastructure. Instead of starting a new Reconstruction Bank and as promised by the Government contributing Rs.500 crore, why not utilise the IRBI which has already been started as a Bank which is mainly operating for that purpose? Their capital already Rs.200 crore; you can give some more capital of another Rs.300 crore. In this way the Government may save the cost of setting up and introducing a new infrastructure bank. Whatever machinery is required, it will take at least a year or so to operate. So, I will ask the Finance Minister to rethink over the matter as to whether the IRBI can be developed into a bigger industrial infrastructure bank.

The main theme in our budgetary policy is that the Government should develop a fiscal discipline. That has been the policy which the earlier Finance Minister also had been pointing out. But unfortunately we could not achieve it completely. I do not think that this Finance Ministry also will be able to achieve it. Rather, he has failed because the total non-plan expenditure is higher than the earlier year. But the only assuring position is that he had promised a Commission for the purpose of finding out ways and means as to how to regulate this expenditure in the governmental sector. I do not know when the Commission will be giving its report. By the time the Commission given its report and it is sought to be implemented, I hope the United Front Government will be there to implement it. I certainly wish the Government a long tenure.

The Finance Minister has also developed and adopted a new device: the Disinvestment Commission regarding public sector undertakings. It is a very good suggestion. The earlier Government also was

contemplating to appoint a Disinvestment Commission. So I welcome this measure. But I want to point out one thing as to why there should be disinvestment only in the public sector undertakings. The Government has its own shares in various other industrial concerns which are very flourishing ones. If the Government disinvests in those areas also, it will get more funds and the Government can spend that funds in social sector services.

It is matter for the hon. Minister of Finance to consider.

I welcome the present Budget, as I have pointed out. Insofar as it adopts the basic reforms which have been introduced by the earlier Government, insofar as it has also followed the guidelines and pursued the policy introduced by the earlier Government, there is nothing wrong in it. It is not a question of - as Dr. Joshi as called it - a cheap adoption of the Congress policies. What is the harm? If something is good and is adopted, you should not criticize it. But at the same time, certain adjustments which have to be made, require to be considered. I have my reservations with regard to some of those adjustments, which I have already indicated.

With these words, I support the Budget insofar as it follows the basic postulates of the economic reforms introduced by the earlier Government. Where there are lapses or deviations which are not in the right direction, I have my reservations with regard to them.

With these words, I congratulate the hon. Minister of Finance for undertaking a difficult task in a situation where he has tried to adjust the varied strands of interests.

SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN (Trichur) : Respected Madam, the ruling United Front is composed of, as our hon. Minister of Finance has put it, 'political parties of different complexions and different ideologies' and the United Front Government is supported by the Party of Dr. Manmohan Singh. In such a combination, finance management is an uphill task. I wish the smart and charming Minister of Finance in this tight-rope walk, all success. No doubt, he is an asset to the Deve Gowda Government. Even Dr. Murlidhar Joshi, it seems, is disarmed when our Minister of Finance smiles.

The Hon. Minister of Finance is the main architect of the Common Minimum Programme of the United Front. The first point in the CMP deals with liberalisation with social justice and self-reliance. I repeat, liberalization with social justice and self-reliance. But I am sorry that the stress I find in the Budget is on liberalization and restructuring on the same path adopted by Dr. Manmohan Singh. On the import policy, the disinvestment policy, the resource mobilisation policy, the foreign investment policy - on all these issues - I am afraid that we are deviating from the direction of the CMP, that is, of social justice and self-reliance. I hope the hon. Minister of Finance knows where we differ and I hope he can adjust with the various opinions on these vital issues.

Sir, I was hearing with interest the speech made by our learned friend who has just now concluded. We are not against liberalisation. To justify the liberalisation policy of the last five years, the growth rate is focussed to us. It is quite true. There is growth in our economy. But the most important point is, is this wealth meaningfully distributed? A major chunk of the wealth is harvested by the corporate people and the multinational corporations. That is a fact pointed out by the many fact-finding committee. It is there from the days of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru. Why is it happening? Could we not adopt a policy through which the wealth produced is justifiably distributed to the toiling masses and to the deserving masses? If we can do that, then only we can say that we are doing social justice. So, just by merely pointing out the growth rate. We cannot justify the dangerous path we have been following for the last five years. I need not remind our friends here. I respect Dr. Manmohan Singh very much. He is the tallest person amongst us. When he adopted the liberalisation policy, under his nose and in front of his watchful eyes, how these scams took place? How these Harshad Mehtas and Sukh Rams could loot our own money? Our own money was looted to the extent of thousands of crores of rupees from State Banks of India, the Housing Development Corporation and ONGC. How could we reason out? What is the story of Such Rams? The Finance Minister would be shocked to hear that the people around Sukh Ram say that we have got only ten per cent. The remaining ninety per cent is hidden somewhere. This thing is happening in spite of liberalisation policy's merits and achievements. The ninety crore people who have no political affiliations are angry about it. The loot is going on. Liberalisation means anybody can loot from anywhere. Dr. Manmohan Singh did not say a word about these scams and about this naked loot. So, in liberalisation, there are ample sources of danger. Those loopholes must be plugged. I do hope and expect that our energetic and youthful Finance Minister would do something on this score. But I am sorry to say that no hint or point was made about this in his Budget speech.

We hear more attractive slogans nowadays like globalisation of integration of the global economy. That is a very attractive slogan. I need not elaborate on it here. Integration of the global economy means, plundering the developing countries by the developed countries. I have no doubt about it. You may please see how the American President is treating the WTO. He is making his own laws for the domination of the developing countries, as if he is the king of the whole world. WTO is nothing to him, but to the developing countries, it is a great thing. I hold my head in shame when the WTO compelled us to amend our Patent Law. It is a very good law. During midnight, that Patent Law was amended by our President through and ordinance. It is for what? It is for plundering us and for exploiting us. So, the G-7 countries, the developed, capital countries are doing that. WTO means, how to exploit the developing countries. These dangers are there.

When we sound our anxiety - our great friend said something about it here - it comes out of patriotism. We love this soil, we love this country. We tried globalisation, but we must also know the fact that the developed countries or the neocolonialists are planning to plunder the Third World countries day and night.

Please excuse me when I go to the days of our independence struggle. They also claim that industrial revolution is advanced in England. That small country named England became great Britain because they plundered us and they plundered us like anything. Now, the neocolonialists, the foreign financial institutions, the WTO are now attempting to plunder us again. On that score, we must be guarded, and our self-interest must be protected.

About foreign investment, it is okay, but while we receive foreign investment on infrastructure and on other vital sectors, we must safeguard our own interest and that should not be affected by our self-reliance.

On the question of import policy, balance of payment position is not very safe. I gathered it from the Baggage and on other sources also. It can come to a dangerous point any time. That is the position now, when we chalk out our import policy, would we not be careful about that? There are obstacles put up by the developed countries for our export. Silly things are there and they are out against encouraging export items.

So, when we chalk out our import policy, we should be very much careful about what we have to import. Is it essential to import such items? That must be minutely examined. What is the necessity for importing consumer goods now? When we are helping the agriculturists, we can them. They are producing whatever we want. Mr. Finance Minister, what is the necessity for reducing the import tariff on rubber? I see no reason at all. As far as rubber is concerned, we are self-sufficient.

I come from Kerala. Kerala produces 95 per cent of our requirement. They have increased the production. They got a fairly price for rubber. When you are reducing the import tariff and there is going to be the import of rubber in the market, the peasants will be hit.

Again, the most unfortunate State of Kerala and the most unfortunate people of Kerala are hit in so many ways by this Budget. Industrially, we are the most backward State. We have only some industries established by the *Maharajas*. The *Maharaja* of Travancore, Sir C.P. Ramaswamy Aiyar, was a *Diwan* there. Then, we got a major factory - Fertilizers & Chemicals Travancore Limited. And it is thriving now. You have proposed reduction in import tariff from 45 per cent to 30 per cent for caprolactum. It will collapse the factory... (*Interruptions*) The FACT was established by the *Maharaja*. We did not get any industry for the last 50 years in independent India... (*Interruptions*) So, after rubber, caprolactum is also going to flood the market.

I do not know how is it necessary to reduce tariff on edible oils. We are producing edible oils. We give incentive to our peasants.

I think, he will consider all these things in his reply. That is our appeal from the whole of Kerala. You are discriminating this State. But we have a hope in you. If the tariff on edible oils is reduced, the State of Kerala will be hit. Thirty lakh peasants are producing coconuts and coconut oil in Kerala. After rubber, coconut oil is our main agricultural production. If edible oil is imported at reduced tariff, 30 lakh coconut cultivators will be hit. So, that is not a minor thing but it is my major complaint. When we think of import, import policy and import tariff, we have to consider our self-reliance, our peasantry and our emerging industrialisation.

Now, Electronic things are flooding the market and our electronic industry is being closed. Uptron is closed and Keltron is on the verge of collapse. So, when we say self-reliance, when our educated youth is unemployed, should we not try to develop our own industry, should we not try to encourage our peasantry to produce what is necessary for us, instead of encouraging the multinational corporation as to sell their goods in this vast market? They are out for it. They are trying to exploit our market. They are out to plunder us as before. So, this neo-colonial onslaught by way of World Bank, IMF, WTO and others is adopted to plunder and exploit this country. That should be taken care of. So, liberalisation, globalisation and integration of the world economy are all attractive slogans and phraseology but there lies the danger. Think of our national interest. That is where we differ from Dr. Manmohan Singh. That is where we championed this CMP. The main thrust in the CMP is liberalisation with social justice and self-reliance. Social justice and self-reliance are two things to which we should put our head, our resources and our thoughts to build a new India. That is a vital sector of our economy.

SHRI SAT MAHAJAN (Kangra) : You do not like liberalisation; you do not like globalisation or privatisation. What do you like then?

SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN : We like liberalisation; we like globalisation and privatisation. But the prime thing is our own interest. We should look at our own interest, safeguard that interest and then go to privatisation, liberalisation and globalisation. That is our policy. Self-reliance is a word which I derived from Mahatma Gandhi and Pandit Nehru.

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY (Visakapatnam) : What is private interest?

SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN : I did not say that. No, Mr. Reddy, I did not say private interest. I have no private interest at all... (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : What is negative in self-reliance? Please tell me. Mr. Raghavan, you go on with your speech. He has made his point very clear.

SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR (Calicut) : Self-reliance, privatisation and everything, within the national framework, is something commendable. If privatisation

is of Clinton type, I do not know why we should support it... (Interruptions)

SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN : Madam, resource mobilisation is the most vital area which we have to ponder over.

How are we going to get it? You could have resource mobilisation when you are able to get hold of the big business houses and the rich people. I think, the Budget has remained silent on this aspect. Tax evasion is a criminal offence and this procedure has been adopted by the big business houses for years together. The generation of blackmoney is the main source of tax evasion. What are you going to do to get hold of them? Unless you get hold of the persons evading tax, you cannot have sufficient resources to fulfil these budgetary provisions. Adopting austerity measures is all right but you would get very small amount by adopting austerity measures. But if you could get hold of the persons evading taxes, then you could have enormous and ample funds and ample resources as well. When are you going to do that? All these Harshad Mehtas and Sukh Rams are thriving with blackmoney. You have put forward a very minimum proposal for those companies who evade tax that is the Minimum Alternate Tax or the MAT. We the Members in the Departmentally-related standing committee on Commerce were fed up with representations from various organisations about this.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : What was your final recommendation?

SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN : We said that the Government may consider it. Dr. Manmohan Singh said that we would be fair. Dr. Manmohan Singh said that we, the Members would urge the Government to examine this and the recommendations of the Committee are not binding on the Government. Anybody can examine anything and you are a wise man.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : I would have been considerably happy if you had categorically rejected it. Now, you say that I should examine it then I should examine it now.

SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN : Please examine and reject that is what we want. Myself, Shri Vyalar Ravi, Shri Mullapally Ramchandran and others from the United Front and the Congress unanimously told Dr. Manmohan Singh that we may not urge the Government to examine it, the Government may examine it. You are a wise man, you can examine it and reject it outright. That is my request. The MAT should be there. Some thousand and odd companies would be covered under it. Under some pretext of some re-investment somewhere, there companies are evading tax. So, this MAT should be there and from this the Government could mobilise some resources.

Mr. Finance Minister, could we not make an attempt to do something to tap this blackmoney? We must ponder over it. There is virtually a rival Government

running on blackmoney. Many social evils have cropped up and the very social fabric of the country has been threatened by it. It is the result of this enormous blackmoney. The persons with blackmoney are thriving like anything. So, when we talk of resource mobilisation, we must turn to those sources where are enormous money and resources. If you are for social justice then resource mobilisation should be there.

You have given so many exemptions and encouragements as well in the name of capital growth and capital investment. But by taking advantage of these things they are evading tax and the blackmoney thus generated is playing havoc in our society and in our day to day life.

So far as allocation of fund to various Ministries and Departments is concerned, I am in general agreement with my learned friend, the former Speaker of Lok Sabha, Shri Patil. He has put it very elaborately and very convincingly. I differ with him on one thing, that is the allocation of fund for the Defence Services. The Finance Minister has correctly said that money will not be a problem for the Defence Services. Shri Patil wanted more money to be allocated to them. I do not know why! Defence preparedness does not only mean Budgetary allocation but involve initiatives in various other sectors. That is where we lack. I think, our stress should be to protect our great nation and our borders. In the modern world, the modern Defence preparedness means something else which cannot be achieved by merely money. So, the Finance Minister is quite right in saying that the money will not be a problem. The Defence preparedness means taken some bold initiatives in several sectors. I need not elaborate them here.

I will now come to disinvestment. I do not know what will be the terms of reference for the commission for Disinvestment. I have a feeling that a number of factories, especially in the State of Kerala, are being closed. We have very little industrial development in Kerala. Most of the factories are closed down or termed as sick and referred to BIFR. Are we going to disinvest all these companies? There are public owned companies also. In my opinion, an attempt should be made to revive them. The infrastructure is already there. Building is there. Ample space is there. Almost all of them have up-to-date machinery. So, we must try to revive these factories and not retrench the workers. That should be our prime goal. We should not rush to disinvest them.

Finally, I would talk about the price line. To help the common people, we should think twice. I do not dispute about the price hike in petroleum or diesel. It may be necessary. But when we take one action the reaction is manifold. Excuse me as I see things from the angle of my State. We are now very much burdened. We have to get everything from distant places. Whatever we produce we export it and earn foreign exchange.

We have to get things from Orissa, Andhra Pradesh and other States. The prices have shot up because the

transportation cost have risen. All these problems are not taken into consideration by the people in power at Delhi.

In regard to the PDS, it should be borne in mind that Kerala is in a peculiar situation. From the days of the British, from the days of Maharaja, we have a very rich public distribution system covering all people. Suddenly, the system is being changed. The special situation we are facing in Kerala should be taken into consideration. Kerala is the only State which has implemented statutory rationing throughout the State. That should be allowed to continue. Kindly examine reduction of tax on import items like rubber caprolactam and edible oil, and if possible newsprint. Our newsprint production companies are in a very bad shape. So many special situations are faced by us. I must repeat that nowadays, we the people of Kerala feel that we are the most unfortunate people because we happened to be on the southernmost part of this great land. At least the Finance Minister should consider...

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : I am also from the southernmost part of India. In terms of human development Kerala ranks very high. In terms of literacy, in terms of the PDS, and in terms of other indices of human development, Kerala ranks very high. I am proud of Kerala. My learned friend also should be proud of Kerala.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV (Silchar) : Kerala is very progressive State. That does not mean that you will give them the minimum amount of money. They are bringing the maximum for you from Dubai and other places. Do not give to West Bengal, but give to Kerala. They are a better State.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : They can give to Assam also, but that is not the point.

I think the Finance Minister is aware that all that he said started becoming a picture of the past. The Kerala Government had seminars indicating how they are arriving at the bottlenecks. In fact, the present tendency is that there is a decline in school enrolment. The Finance Minister should know that as he also comes from the South. I have seen reports. I do not know whether they have been checked. Even in the health system, because of lack of growth in the economy, they have started suffering and coming down from whatever they have achieved.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : Those facts are wrong. Kerala's growth rate in the last three years has been one of the highest in India. The fact is, school enrolment is declining because of the declining growth in population. The number of children has declined and that is why school enrolment is declining in absolute numbers. But there is no child in Kerala who do not go to school.

SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN : That is exactly what my point is. We are being punished for what we have achieved in this infrastructure.

SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR : In technical education system, Kerala is the most backward State in India. In literacy we are the first, but not in the other fields of education. We are very backward, probably Rajasthan is above us in this.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Hon. Members, we are debating the Budget of India.

SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN : Madam, this is all connected with the Budget.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : If you do not have this discussion, the budget discussion will be very boring.

SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN : Education is a part of the infrastructure. It is a vital point. All these are connected with the Budget.

It is a vital part. All these are connected with the Budget.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Such problems are also there in all the under-developed and far-flung places. That is why I am telling, you are not speaking only for Kerala but you are speaking for others also. That is what all of us should understand. It will be the same.

16.56 hrs.

(Mr. Deputy-Speaker in the Chair)

SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN : Now, I need not remind the Finance Minister regarding CMP's thrust. On these four point viz., Import Policy, Disinvestment Policy, the Resource Mobilisation Policy and Foreign Investment Policy, some reconsideration is necessary.

SHRI O. BHARATHAN (Badagara) : Sir, the hon. Finance Minister has presented the Budget for the year 1996-97. I must, at the outset, say that this Budget, as far as the working class and the poor are concerned, is a great disappointment. The Budget is nothing but the 1991 Economic Policy of the Government. It is a continuation of the Economic Policy of the previous Government. There is no drastic change in this Budget. As I stated earlier, people expected a radical change in the Budget but there is no radical change in the Budget as such. This is the point which I would like to bring to the notice of the House.

Sir, before coming to the Budget proposals, I would like to refer to the circumstances under which the United Front Government came to power. The Government came to power at a very critical stage. But with quick and effective steps, the Government is trying to lessen the burden of the people. I do not want to elaborate the political scenario in which the United Front Government was formed with my Party supporting from outside.

A Common Minimum Programme has been formulated to take policy decisions for the United Front Government. This is the first time in the history of India that the reality of Indian State was taken note of. It must have been compelled due to the very format of the

United Front Government which is constituted by thirteen powerful national as well as regional Parties. The spirit of federalism was re-emphasised by the United Front, and my Party, the Communist Party of India (Marxist) takes the credit for the consistent stand we had in this respect.

To touch upon the Budget, I would say that a humble beginning has been made whereby the need to delegate financial power to the States finds a mention. The States must be empowered with more powers to function within its own parameters to make India a true federal nation. In this respect I would suggest that apart from the areas of foreign affairs, communication, defence and currency, the Central Government should delegate its powers to the States in other areas of development.

17.00 hrs.

When we talk of federalism, though it may not be relevant to the issue, I would like to firmly express my State's disappointment on the non-representation of Kerala in the Union Cabinet. A State with 29 Members including Members of Rajya Sabha and all of them whole heartedly supporting the Government do not find a berth in the Union Cabinet is something intriguing.

In this regard the statement of our hon. Prime Minister that he would represent Kerala in the Union Cabinet is a cruel joke, if not a mockery. Let me ask a simple question why does the hon. Prime Minister do not find it fit to represent States like Bihar, Karnataka and UP in the Central Ministry? There is no logic or ground whatsoever in the Prime Minister's statement. I wish and hope that the hon. Prime Minister would take necessary steps in this regard.

Let me come to the hard facts of the Budget. I do not want to play with figures. I would broadly touch upon the main points. I warmly welcome the proposals of the Minister to set up an Expenditure Commission to look into the expenditure side. The wasteful expenditure is paralysing the system. It is coupled with corruption and mismanagement. The amount which is wasted must be more than the amount spent on plan-implementation. And it is needless to say that the common man bears the brunt for this. The Commission should be appointed without much delay. I would humbly request the hon. Finance Minister that this Commission should not have the fate of other commissions and committees which are never able to function properly. The report of the proposed commission must be scrutinised and implemented without delay.

The another aspect which is highly perturbing is the fact that no project is completed and commissioned in time. This is the most important reason for the cost of expenditure spiralling high. Instead of announcing projects left and right, the Government should make it sure that every project accounted must be completed within the stipulated timeframe.

I would strongly oppose the decision of the Government to sell out the shares of PSUs. The Minister in his budget speech has announced that disinvestment to an amount of Rs. 5000 crore would be done in this current financial year. I am sorry to say that the legacy of the Manmohan's policy is closely hunting our present Finance Minister. Shri Manmohan Singh had the dubious distinction of selling the shares to mop up money to adjust the budget deficiency which in my view is totally unethical and unprincipled.

The founding fathers of our country had given much emphasis to the public sector and in fact, Pt. Nehru gave a sacred aura to this institution. The PSUs built on the sweat and blood of the common man cannot be dismantled by the whims and fancies of some individuals. The Government upholding the spirit of the CMP should try to rejuvenate the sick PSUs. The imperative should be professionalised and modernised PSUs which are now clouded and embroiled with mismanagement.

The thrust on agricultural sector in the Budget is a welcome step, but much has to be done. The two schemes declared in the insurance sector are welcome. But the Government should have made a direction to the agricultural sector in respect of insurance which is a practice in all the developing societies.

Now, Sir, every year crops worth thousands of crores perish due to natural calamities. The Limited Crop Insurance Programme is a non-starter. Only by envisaging a system whereby there is a sufficient insurance cover for the crops, the agricultural sector can be effectively modernised.

The Government has made a provision of Rs. 4000 crore for the implementation of the Fifth Pay Commission's Report. I would urge upon the Government to extend urgent relief to the Central Government employees. It is understood that the Commission's recommendation for a 12.5 per cent DA increase has been accepted by the Government. This may be implemented without any delay. At the same time, the sad plight of three lakhs and ten thousand extra-departmental employees in the P & T Department cannot be ignored. These employees are working for pittance. It is a long standing demand that their service conditions may be revised to give them proper security of life.

Let me now come to the Kerala angle of the Budget. Broadly speaking, the Budget has taken care of the concerns of my State, Kerala. The announcement in respect of developing Cochin Port as transshipment port is to be welcomed. At the same time, the decision to cover under the customs tariff the natural rubber and caprolactam will adversely affect the interest of the State. The Kerala economy is much dependant on rubber and other cash crops. Any inflow of natural rubber from abroad will plunge the price of rubber in the domestic market. Caprolactam is produced by FACT and any

dumping from abroad would adversely affect this prestigious public sector unit. The decision to increase the excise tariff on mini-cigarettes will boost the beedi industry in Kerala. My only suggestion is that this increase in tax is quite inadequate. I would also suggest that the tax on beedi should be revoked and it can be on tobacco as it was earlier. I had given a detailed memorandum to the hon. Finance Minister in this regard. Only a partial relief is given in this Budget.

With these suggestions, I would conclude my speech. I hope that the shortcomings would be rectified and the criticism would be taken in the true spirit.

I once again place my support to this Budget.

SHRI PRAMOTHES MUKHERJEE (Berhampore) (WB) : Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, for the opportunity given to me to express our views on the General Budget for 1996-97. On behalf of my Party, RSP, I rise to support the Budget in general, subject to some of my reservations on it.

It appears to me that the hon. Finance Minister has made a very good attempt to present a balanced Budget as far as practicable in this existing socio-economic system. I appreciate the Budget. While drafting this Budget the Government had to face three important areas of challenges, namely, the fiscal challenge, the infrastructure challenge and employment and poverty alleviation challenge. Naturally the hon. Finance Minister had three major problems before him to tackle in this Budget, namely, to reduce the fiscal deficit, to enhance and to create a congenial atmosphere for inviting foreign investment, to check the inflation and to provide rapid industrialisation. I am happy that the hon. Finance Minister has devoted much labour, time and energy to fulfil his task in this Budget. With this objective in view, he was emphatically said that economic reform is a necessity and herein lie many questions and interrogations.

Sir, with your permission, I quote from the Budget speech of the hon. Finance Minister.

"Wisdom dictates we remain on the high growth curve. In order to do so, we need more reforms, not less."

This statement made by the hon. Finance Minister in his Budget speech has created a very wrong impression in the minds of the people. So, to continue economic reforms or to depend on economic reforms is nothing but the continuation of policy of economic reforms of the previous Government. This impression has been primarily created in the minds of the people of our country. But as far as I understand the Budget speech made by the hon. Finance Minister, I can say that the purpose of economic policy, of economic reforms of the previous Government in the name of globalisation and privatisation has meant for the high and affluent society and for the multinational corporations to roll over the Indian market and Indian economy. As far as

I understand the speech made by our hon. Finance Minister. I can say that the purpose of its policy of economic reforms is meant for the infrastructure building, for the core activity of human life and for the common man. Here lies the basic difference in attitude and approach in respect of policy of economic reforms. This is the salient features of the Budget and I appreciate the Budget. While appreciating the Budget, I beg to mention that a regular Budget is a direct product of the socio-economic system. It cannot be divorced from the existing socio-economic system. We are living in an age of sophisticated metropolitan capitalism. Capitalist mode of production and the capitalist *modus operandi* is the determining factor for drafting a regular Budget in this socio-economic system.

It is known to me as a student of social science that capitalism suffers from inner contradictions within itself. Significantly, the Indian capitalism also suffers from inner contradictions within itself. With the advancement of science and technology and with the advancement of metropolitan capitalism in India, the Indian capitalist are divided into two major segments: Industrial Bourgeoisie and the Agricultural Bourgeoisie. Today the growth of Agricultural Bourgeoisie in Indian economy is an admitted fact and, I think I am not wrong if I say that the cry of the Agricultural Bourgeoisie and the demand of the Agricultural Bourgeoisie, that is, the necessity of Agricultural Bourgeoisie in rural areas have been reflected in his Budget speech.

So far as the role of the NABARD is concerned, so far as the role of the RIDF is concerned, it can be ascertained that the rural financial institutions serve the purpose of the rural elites and the rural haves.

We welcome the proposal made by the hon. Finance Minister in his Budget speech for a doubling of flow of credit to agriculture and agro industries. We welcome the suggestions made by him for this purpose to increase the share capital of NABARD and to increase the fund of RIDF and to set up an accelerated Irrigation Benefit Fund. But we have a bitter experience. The facility of these rural financial institutions goes to the privileged class of the society.

It does not go to the hands of the actually needy poor people. It does go to the hands of the sharecroppers, workers or daily-wagers. The rural elite are the owners of the land in the rural area. They have the power tillers. They have the tractors. They have the capacity for investment. They have the capacity to put security deposit for taking advances from the bank or any financial institution. They control these facilities. They control these avenues for giving the facilities. The rural common men, the rural poor people, the rural agricultural workers cannot go through the curtain of bureaucracy of the banking system. They do not get any facility from all these rural banking institutions. But we are to accept all these views.

Are we to do so? Have we got no experience of nationalisation of banking system? The hon. Finance

Minister has also suggested for the setting up of a new private local area bank. We know it clearly as to what would be the role of these banks. These banks would have the jurisdiction of two or three adjoining district. But what is our experience about the regional rural banks? The regional rural banks, after the nationalisation of fourteen banks in India, were established with the same purpose of saving and investment in the local area. But what is the fate of the regional rural banks today? Their officers, their employees, their staff are becoming redundant today. I can remind here, with your kind permission, that all the regional rural banks employees and staff have given a memorandum to the hon. Finance Minister which is left under his consideration. I would appeal to the Finance Minister that let us make first the rural banks economically viable today in the interest of the local area people, and then we can propose to suggest or set up a new private local area development bank.

We have also seen the other suggestions made in this Budget. They are infrastructure development and small-scale industries development. Definitely, they are good. Now comes the question of infrastructural development and small-scale industries. He is close to accept it. He has proposed the setting up of Infrastructural Development Finance Corporation - I.D.F.C. He has also given a booster to SIDBI and its participation in Venture Capital Fund. But the I.D.F.C., S.I.D.B.I., and Venture Capital Fund cannot be successfully utilised unless the land reforms in the area is complete. Unfortunately or incidentally land reforms is a State subject. But I would appeal to the hon. Finance Minister and to the hon. Prime Minister of our country and to the Government to take up the matter of land reforms in the Chief Ministers meeting which is an essential matter if these proposed institutions are to function in a very right manner.

I read about a very brilliant term which is coined by our Finance Minister — 'Economic Federalism'. In my opinion it is the term coined by the West. I can say only this. I had the experience that there are centripetal forces in our country and there are also centrifugal forces in our country and often you find that there is serious contradiction between the centripetal forces and the centrifugal forces. The only solution is federalism and that is economic federalism. I highly appreciate this term coined by our hon. Finance Minister. Today the Chief Ministers of different States, the Governors of different States or the elected State Governments of different States in our country raise their hands towards the Central Government.

They appealed to the Central Government to give them more power, to give them more finance, to give them more executive power. That is their legitimate demand. That is the demand of regionalism. This demand of regionalism cannot be neglected. That should be honoured in our Constitution, that should be honoured in our Budget. This is the key word of our total economic federalism.

So, economic federalism, as has been coined by our Finance Minister, can solve the problem of contradiction as found between centripetal and centrifugal forces in our country. So, I would appeal through you, Sir, that many things can be said on this Budget. I will not take much of your time to conclude my speech. I will appeal in this fashion that I have said so many words and I have also heard so many valuable words on this Budget. But the words cannot judge the merit of the Budget, only the deed can judge the merit of the Budget. I would appeal to the hon. Finance Minister to act in this fashion.

Hundreds and thousands of toiling masses working in the factories or in the sick industries are looking forward to the mercy of this Parliament, to the mercy of the Finance Minister, to the mercy of this House. They are waiting for the Budget. What are we doing for them? Hundreds of workers are unfed and unpaid. All the doors are closed for them and they are thrown on the streets to die to starvation. This is the situation of the workers of the sick industries. What is the Finance Minister suggesting for them? He has already suggested that something would be done in the Winter Session. In the Winter Session, he has proposed to bring a comprehensive policy for the revival of sick industries. But these people cannot wait for the Winter Session. They demand something immediately from the mercy of this House and the mercy of the Central Government. I would appeal on behalf of these starving toiling people of the sick industries and public sector undertakings that please do something for them. Thunder comes and thunder goes. That is the rule of nature. A Government may come and a Government may go. That is the rule of history. But there is a rule of mankind that people will remember you for a long time. If you do something, if you come forward with the spirit of your coalition, then people will remember you for ever. I shall be happy if the hon. Finance Minister is really faithful to the unusual complex mandate of the people for providing a Government which is committed to secularism, which is committed to foster economic growth, which is committed to enhance social justice. Our Finance Minister is really faithful to these dictates, to this unusual complex mandate of the people given in the last Lok Sabha elections. I think he will remember it, he will consider it, he will give due attention to it and raise the budgetary allocation for the starving toiling masses of the sick industries and the public sector undertakings. Thank you.

SHRI CHITTA BASU (Barasat) : Sir, I rise to extend my support to this Budget presented by the hon. Finance Minister on behalf of the United Front subject to certain comments which I propose to make. The suggestion which I now propose to make is in the larger interest of the common masses of our country, in the larger interest of the sustained unity of the United Front and in opposition to the evil forces of communalism and fascism and also against the anti-people, pro-imperialist and

pro-landlord policies pursued by the Government of the earlier days.

Sir, I am firmly convinced that the the United Front which represents the entire spectrum of the Left, democratic and central forces of the country can alone deliver the goods for the common masses of this country in the stride towards prosperity, in the stride towards rapid industrialisation and in the stride towards removing the social, cultural and economic backwardness that we suffer from.

Sir, this Budget - I think the hon. Finance Minister will agree with me-reflects some uneasy and worrisome co-existence of continuity and change. I quite appreciate that the people of our country gave the mandate clearly for change in policies. Therefore, the overwhelming mandate being for the change, the Budget, had it been truly faithful to the mandate, would have brought in its wake a large number of changes in the policies. But Sir, with all humility, I want to point out to the hon. Finance Minister, who is one of the architects of the CMP, that the continuity is more pronounced than the change. The changes are there. I do not say that there are no changes. But changes are half-hearted, halting and full of doubts. Therefore, what the people would have been happy to know is that the changes are rapid, changes are with the perspective and changes are with the prospect of a better and happier life for the common masses of our country. The aspect of the continuity is more than the aspects of the change. This is not in fulfillment of the people's mandate that brought us to this great and august House. Sir, the Finance Minister has laid down the objectives of his Budget Speech. On this score I am happy to quote him :

"To remain steadfast on the course of economic reforms and liberalisation aimed at accelerating economic growth."

Sir, this means the worrisome continuity and this worries me. As many of my colleagues have already pointed out, what do they really mean by that economic reform for which they promised to remain steadfast. The economic reforms which were introduced in July, 1991 are nothing but the prescription of the World Bank. I am very sorry to use these words because I know that our Finance Minister is very touchy about it and many of our Members are also very touchy about this. That is the prescription made by the Fund and the Bank for liberalisation, globalisation and privatisation, and again in collaboration with the privatised units or privatised entities with the imperialists or the MNCs. If that is the course of reforms, then, with all humility, Mr. Finance Minister, I beg to differ from you. Faster economic growth cannot be viewed or cannot be discerned being isolated from the social, economic and political interest of the masses.

Mere growth is not desirable. It is not merely the development which is important. But the question that arises in my mind is: growth for whom? Prosperity for

whom? That is the question that needs to be answered. I am sorry to say that this Budget does not answer that question of today: development and prosperity for whom?

Having noted the negative aspect, I also give credit to or appreciate some significant and welcome features of the Budget proposals. I would be doing injustice to Shri Chidambaram if I do not praise it. If I do not take note of it and if I do not bring to the notice of the House the significant and positive aspects of the Budget, I will simply sum it up. I shall not explain because I am very much concerned about my brevity and also because of the paucity of time. The Budget proposals have got the following welcome features, namely: announcement to bring the Zero Tax companies under the taxnet; the threat of stringent measures against tax evasion; expression of allegiance to the CMP; reiteration of some of the major concerns such as the need for infrastructural development; worry over the decline in the pace of investment in the agricultural sector; urgency of providing some relief to the common people from the ravages of inflation; announcement regarding the transfer of most of the Centrally-sponsored schemes to the control of the State Governments; restructuring of the rural credit facilities by way of enhancing the capital base of the NABARD; review of the working of the BIFR; announcement about the Sick Industries Companies Act and lastly announcement about the increase in the budget allocation for Education. Broadly speaking, there are other significant and positive aspects of the Budget. But I felt that these items or these aspects are very vital and very significant. This ushers in a new thinking in the budget-making process. I quite appreciate the efforts of the hon. Finance Minister in bringing in a new outlook or ushering in the beginning of the new process of budget-making. Therefore, I appreciate this effort. I know that that will really help the other Finance Ministers in the years to come to pursue the policy of budget-making.

I again refer to certain shortfalls also. Having appreciated the positive aspects, I also want to bring to the notice of the hon. Finance Minister some of the shortfalls, in my view. Although the Government claims an improvement in the economy, yet the step up of the public investment effort is far from impressive. As for example, the budget visualises the revenue receipt to go up by 16.2 per cent in the current year. But the Plan Expenditure comprising the budget support to the Central Plan and the Central Assistance to the States and the Union Territories has risen only by 12.3 per cent - that too in an environment of inflation. If we take the inflation into account, this 12 per cent increase will not be 12 per cent increase in real terms having accepted the Government figure. It will be only six per cent enhancement. That is not very impressive, in my mind.

The Central Plan outlay has, however, increased by 16.7 per cent over the revised estimates. But it is

due more to the internal resources mobilization and not through the budgetary or higher budgetary allocation. That means, the Budget has not given proper emphasis for the plan expenditure or to the enhancement of the public investment.

Again, I want to bring to the notice of the hon. Finance Minister another negative aspect. The Central Plan outlay for rural development and social services is supposed to increase by 9.5 per cent which is not adequate as per the requirement. When I say all these things, you have to bear in mind the inflation at the rate of six per cent or seven per cent, as you may accept.

Having regard to the employment generation, the situation is not also very encouraging. Employment generation schemes comprise, namely, of the Jawahar Rozgar Yojana, the Employment Assurance Scheme, the Indira Awas Yojana. These are generally considered to be the employment generating avenues. What has been the allocation for it? Last year, in 1995-96, the allocation was Rs. 5,473.88 crore. Now it has not increased. The Budget Estimate for 1996-97 has been Rs. 5,460 crore which is less by Rs. 13 crore.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV : But the cost per unit has been increased.

SHRI CHITTA BASU : That is why, it is less. I have got seven point objective of the Budget speech of the Finance Minister which I do not like to quote because that will also take away my time. Therefore, the Government is not practically starting up the public investment in the interests of the common masses, in the interests of increasing the volume of employment. As a matter of fact, I think, Shri Chidambaram will excuse me when I use a harsh word saying that he is abandoning his responsibility, the Government under him is abandoning the responsibility as a State. You have got a responsibility towards the people. You are not increasing your responsibility, you are not increasing your reach, you are shrinking your reach, you are abandoning your responsibility to the people as also to the State. Failure of the Government to allocate adequate funds for the infrastructure sector and social sector tantamounts to providing opportunities for the entry of the private sector in these areas. There are proposals in the Budget speech itself for the establishment of Infrastructure Development Finance Company. That shows that the Government is abandoning its responsibility of developing the infrastructure. You are inviting private companies, the private capital to undertake the job of the State. This is not a progressive approach. It is, Mr. Chidambaram will excuse me for this, a regressive approach. I know that you cannot accept this idea.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : There are two ways in which you can do this. I will not dispute your figures now. I will reply to it later on.

SHRI CHITTA BASU : Let me complete it now.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : I just want to make a point. I am not replying to your figures now. The figures are wrong. But that is all right. There are two ways in which you can make public investment. I support that. Yesterday I said this in answer to a question and I think, Shri Nirmal Chatterjee nodded in my favour. You must have public investment. You have to make huge public investment in infrastructure, in irrigation, in agriculture related activities, in roads and so on. In all this, a huge public investment has to be made.

There is no quarrel. Private investment can only come at the margin in these areas. It is public investment which must lead the way and I have done that in this Budget and I will explain when I reply.

What Shri Chitta Basu is suggesting is that I must tax the people and use tax revenue for public investment. That is one course. The other way is to create institutions under Government control which will raise revenues, which will leverage its capital and raise revenue; and use it for public investment.

Now, which is the better courses? That is the issue that you will have to address. If you tax people and use tax money for public investment, that is one course. Some of which has to come from that.

The other course which I am recommending and commending to this House for its consideration is, use your capital wisely, imaginatively, cleverly to raise more capital and invest. Both are public investment. I think, the second course is more efficient. It will have a better return. I am not abandoning the first course, but I think, you should not abandon the second course either.

SHRI CHITTA BASU : I am not going to abandon the second course but I think, this will reflect the attitude of the Government. Do you mean to say that the State has got no responsibility in providing amenities in the social sectors?

As a matter of fact, I will come to the basic question of the philosophy of the Budget - of this Budget also, later on.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV : Raise your revenue.

SHRI CHITTA BASU : I will come to the very basic question of the Budget.

Therefore, one of my allegations is, you are not increasing the public investment and abandoning to a great extent your responsibility as a State.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : You are doing injustice to your own Government. This Budget has provided more for public investment than anyone of the last five Budgets.

SHRI CHITTA BASU : I shall be happy if you invest more...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : That is a different matter but do not say, it is less. It is more than that of the last five Budgets.

SHRI CHITTA BASU : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I would again point out certain negative aspects also. Let us examine the CMP and your Budget proposals. The CMP set its goal in the following words. In am quoting...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV : Sir, I would make a small request that Shri P. Namgyal is going to Leh in connection of Assembly Elections there, and if he can be accommodated after Shri Chitta Basu, it would be better.

If Shri Chitta Basu may please conclude his speech early, Shri Namgyal can also be accommodated after him.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I was just thinking of that.

(Interruptions)

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : Please leave 10 minutes for Shri Namgyalji. You must conclude so that he can get at least, 10 minutes to speak.

SHRI CHITTA BASU : I will bargain with you. I will finish within 10 minutes and after Shri Namgyal can start.

Sir, the CMP set its goal in the following words :

"The United Front will not be a replacement of one set of rules by another."

It goes further to say :

"It will mark the beginning of an alternative model of governance based on federalism, decentralization, accountability, equality, social justice, economic and political reforms, respect for human freedom and openness and transparency."

Sir, are you satisfied that all these aspects have been adequately reflected in your Budget provisions?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : Yes, Chitta Basuji, this is the first Budget. We have got five years.

Therefore at the outset, I extended my support not because I am satisfied with it, but because I feel this is the beginning of a new process, this is the beginning of a new outlook, this is the beginning of a new process of budget making and also having regard to the political compulsion that he is facing. To achieve this goal what is needed is a reversal of the economic policies so far pursued and that total reversal is absent. I do not accuse him for that. It is because of the compulsion of the situation. The Budget proposes to bring down the fiscal deficit to five per cent of GDP from 5.9 per cent in the Revised Estimate. But the CMP has stated the principles of fiscal management will however not be followed at the cost of development or investment. That spirit has also not been properly reflected in the Budget proposals. This has not been strictly adhered to according to me. The Government's capital expenditure for 1996-97 shows a decline from the year 1996. In the year 1995-96 it was 3.6 per cent of the GDP and in 1996-97 it

declined to 3.4 per cent. There are other examples also. Since I want to conclude within ten minutes, I do not like to further multiply the examples. But two examples are adequate enough, so that the Government can take note of them and can revise their proposals accordingly.

My last point is very simple. It is about the philosophy of Budget making. It seems to me that the entire approach of the Finance Minister is that there should be attempts to have growth with social justice. What is the linkage between growth and social justice? I do not know whether he will agree with me. There cannot be growth without social justice. The social justice part just cannot be delinked from the process of growth. As a matter of fact, I have got an editorial written not by any Leftist, but by *The Times of India*. While writing the editorial on the SDR Report of this year it says:

"What the SDR Report shows is that not only do the benefits of growth fail to trickle down, but that the lack of human development eventually becomes a constraining factor for growth itself."

Social Justice is not merely a conception of weak. It is irretrievably connected with the growth itself. If you can provide greater and greater amount of social justice your growth rate will be faster and faster. Your idea is that the faster growth and social justice are merely a derivative of it. But my point is, you cannot have a faster growth if you cannot ensure social justice. This editorial says further :

"Thus, 89 countries are today worse off economically than they were a decade or more ago. No less than 70 developing countries mostly in Africa, Latin America and CIS have regressed to 1970. Not all these are basket cases nor a part of the civil war."

But what I say is that India could have attained faster growth if a greater degree of social justice had been ensured. Unless greater social justice is ensured, there cannot be faster growth.

Social justice can be ushered in by the philosophy which says that there should be greater access for the people to the productive assets. Unless you make the productive assets accessible to the common man, unless you allow the land to be owned by the peasants, unless you ensure ownership or participation of the labour in the process of production, unless all the productive assets are accessible to those who labour and toil, growth can never be faster and growth cannot be for social justice. I think, this is the poverty of thought, the poverty of understanding which is replete in the Budget proposals.

I hope that the hon. Minister of Finance, who is enlightened, who is sophisticated, who understands the basis urges of the people, would take note of this and if possible make suitable corrections so that the CMP

ever remains a guiding and inspiring source and the people of this country can march along the path of prosperity and growth.

[Translation]

SHRI P. NAMGYAL (Ladakh) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise to take part in the discussion on the General Budget and would like to express my views thereon. I support the Budget presented by the Finance Minister for 1996-97 and want to congratulate him for promoting further the liberalisation policy of the previous Government. He has adopted this policy in a beautiful manner and has removed whatever deficiencies it had.

There is no doubt that he has presented a good Budget but I had some complaints also. The Government announced hike in prices of petrol and diesel before the presentation of Budget. This hike may not have affected the plains people so much but the people living in hill areas which are not connected with railway network and which depend on road transport have been injusticed greatly because the supply of daily consumer items is transported by petrol and diesel propelled vehicles. The Government have hiked the diesel prices by 15 percent but the transporters have raised transportation charges from 30 to 40 percent. Similarly the petrol propelled vehicles like taxis, tourist vehicles have raised their fares by 50 to 80 percent which in my opinion is a great injustice to the hill people. The entire hill region, entire Himalayan region has been affected. He must think of some remedial measures, he must give some grant or assistance to affect this price rise. He should identify those areas where mainly petrol and diesel vehicles are used for transportation.

I would like to give an example. A truck used to charge a freight of Rs. 11,000 for loading 60 quintal goods for transportation from Jammu and Leh which was increased to Rs. 14,000 and now it has been hiked to Rs. 18,000. He is aware that our region remains closed for traffic for seven months in a year and the transportation charges are increased when the roads leading to this region are closed. Last year the freight of one truck went upto Rs. 29,000. The roads leading to Ladakh region of Jammu and Kashmir are still closed. This affects our stock position and the prices will be affected adversely. The prices of all essential commodities will go up.

I am grateful to the hon'ble Prime Minister for sanctioning a special Plan assistance of Rs. 392 crore for Jammu and Kashmir a part of which has been earmarked for infrastructural development of railway and road transport. We have a scheme for construction of a new railway line from Kazi-gond to Baramula. We have also an alternative Mughal road route for which a sum of Rs. 50 crore has been provided. This will have a good impact upto the Kashmir Valley but it will not give any special benefit to our region but whatever has been

given I welcome it. He has recently paid a visit to Ladakh region and sanctioned a grant of Rs. 16 crore which is mainly meant for water supply schemes.

I have one complaint also. He knows that our Congress Government sanctioned last year a Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council. Elections for this are being held. In this connection I had made a request to the hon'ble Prime Minister to extend an assistance of Rs. 50 crore for providing building infrastructure and communication facilities for the newly constituted council but he sanctioned only a sum of Rs. 16 crore. I don't know how he was briefed because in my opinion he could not perhaps understand our requirement. The Leh and Kargil two districts are in my Parliamentary Constituency and one has Autonomous Council but other has no such Council. We had demanded a sum of Rs. 50 crore for the development of infrastructure but he sanctioned Rs. 16 crore only which is to be divided between Leh and Kargil on 50-50 basis. During the regime of Farruk Sahib and Shiekh Sahib this tradition of 50-50 was in vogue and perhaps the same line has been followed by the Prime Minister. This has created some resentment between these two districts and it is continuing. 18.00 hrs.

You have given us a Council and we want more funds should be made available for the development of the infrastructure in Leh. My Parliamentary Constituency is spread over an area of 65000 sq km. of which only 14,000 sq km is in Kargil district and the rest of 51,000 sq km is in Leh.

The Planning Commission does not give any consideration to the area while framing various plan schemes but I want the schemes should be area-based and not population - based because the Plan is too the development of the area and not for the development of population, although we have more population in Leh. I want more funds be made available for the development of the area because the population based development goes against our National family Welfare Programme. So population based funding is not correct.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Namgyal ji, how much more time you would like to take because it is going to be 6 o'clock now and if you want to speak for sometime more than I will have to seek the approval of the House.

SHRI P. NAMGYAL : Sir, I would like to speak for 15 minutes more.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : No, it is too much. You may speak for 5 minutes more.

SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, you can give him as much time as he needs to make his speech and thereafter you can adjourn the House.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : No, I will have to take the pleasure of the House.

SHRI P. NAMGYAL : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, please give me ten minutes more because I want to go to my

Constituency today itself after completing my speech. I, therefore want to complete my speech today itself.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You can speak for 5 minutes more.

SHRI P. NAMGYAL : Sir, I will not be able to make my speech in 5 minutes. Kindly give me 10 minutes more.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : All right I extend the House for 10 minutes with the leave of the hon'ble Members. You please complete your speech in 10 minutes.

SHRI P. NAMGYAL : Sir, we had demanded special one-time-grant of Rs. 50 crore for Ladakh Autonomous Council and he can give whatever he considers appropriate. I am not rigid and will not insist of Rs. 50 crore. He can give us whatever is possible. We are prepared to accept even Rs. 40 crore but I will request the hon'ble Finance Minister to arrange for the grant in whatever manner he deems fit. I know the hon'ble Finance Minister can spare this much amount for us.

My second point is about road communication. The Janskar division of Kargil district remains cut off for 9 months in a year. Not only from Other parts of the world but from Ladakh and Kargil themselves because of heavy snowfall. The Department of Economic Affairs had recommended a Rs. 60 crore proposal to the Government of Japan under Buddhist area programme which is covered under Japanese Economic Assistance under O.F.C. This proposal envisages construction of roads but we have been given to understand that Japan Government has not taken any decision in this regard so far. I request the hon'ble Finance Minister to send a second request to the Japanese Government on behalf of Government of India. Sir, if this road is sanctioned and constructed we will have an all weather road and our area which remains cut off for 9 months at present will remain open through the year.

Sir, similarly we have Varila road which is a strategic road and we had made a proposal for its construction by Border Roads Organisation. He knows that Pakistanis are preparing to occupy Siachen and this Varila road is very important for connecting the Siachen area. This road has to be constructed afresh by the Border Roads Organisation. I will request that this should be given a serious thought.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would now like to submit about income-tax. Shri Chidambaram ji is aware that Ladakh area was exempted from income tax liability from 1982 to 1988-89 and this exemption is extended after every 5 years. In 1989 the Janata Dal Government was in power and this scheme was dropped perhaps, because of their ignorance. Since then, it has become a continuous source of harassment because the local populace do not have the status of income-tax payee. He knows that their economic condition was not good

in 1989 and 98 percent population of this area has been granted the status of scheduled tribes. On the one hand, they have been declared as scheduled tribes, on the other income-tax has been imposed on them, which is a great injustice. I would request Chidambaram ji to consider giving exemption from income-tax to this area which has 98 percent scheduled tribe population on the analogy of grant of exemption to the tribal population of North-East area.

I have already mentioned that Ladakh remains cut off for 7 months in a year and because of this all of us, whether it is businessmen or other professional, we have to accumulate stocks for the whole year. The funds are blocked irrespective of the consideration of profit or loss, we cannot re-invest these funds till the road communication is opened next year. So, even the businessman does not have appreciable income. We have a handful of Government employees there and the provisions of income tax are being applied to them. I consider it as injustice because the present living cost there is 400 times more than that prevails in Jammu and Delhi. The remote areas have been equated with Mumbai, Delhi, Calcutta or other big cities in matter of income-tax. So, this has to be re-examined because my area has little source of income.

Sir, no income tax is paid in Kashmir valley although provisions of Income-tax are applicable to it. Not tax has been paid since 1982. In 1982 during the regime of Faruq Abdullah a team of income-tax officers have gone there to conduct raids but those officers were thrashed badly. Two air-buses full of staff were despatched to the valley and the staff was beaten badly. Some got their legs broken, some hands broken and the women staff got their teeth broken. They were thrashed so badly that the income staff now does not dare to go to that area. If he has the power he can realise the income tax dues from those people. We are poor, we are gentle, we are hill people and he is forcing us to pay income-tax. No body dares to go to Srinagar. I would urge him not to this injustice to our area.

As far as Defence aspect is concerned, Ladakh is very important strategically. Ladakhis have fought three wars with Pakistan, by rubbing their shoulders with the brave Indian defence forces. It was Ladakhis only who fought Chinese forces during Chinese aggression of 1962. The Chinese had started attacking Rudok. I cannot forget the resistance given by Major Shaitan Singh belonging to the 9th Kumaon regiment of the Indian Army. The Chinese started attack from their Chief headquarters which was 100 km away from Rudok but

unfortunately we had no second line of Indian defence as a result our forces had to retreat.

We have the Ladakh Scouts' Unit in Ladakh region which is a small unit of Indian Army. I would plead that this unit should be recognised as a regular regiment. This unit is deployed right from the Siachin height to Pakistani border, Chinese border and it is a fit combating force to fight at higher altitude. Our regular forces will feel relieved if this scouts unit is given the status of the regiment and its strength is augmented. This will be in the interest of our country. I, therefore, demand that this scouts unit of Ladakh should be accorded the status of a regiment.

Now, I come to telecom services. As I had requested earlier, there is disruption in Telecom services in our area although there should be no occasion for this disruption. My Constituency has an area of 1 Lakh square kilometer including the area illegally occupied by China which is about 35,000 sq km. We have 65,000 sq km area with us and it is bigger by 10,000 sq km compared to the similar constituency of Himachal Pradesh. So he can imagine what sort of communication system we need. We have 3 sub divisions in our area. A proposed for setting up an earth-station was mooted but nothing is being done. This station should be set up without further delay because communications are very essential there. Many times natural calamities visit us, heavy snowfall affects us but we do not have any source of communication. We have a place named Janskar, a reference of which I have made earlier which remains closed for 9 months. Nubra remains closed for 6 months and Jhankhal, though, does not remain closed for so many days but is located in most remote areas on China border. There are the three-four places where earth-stations and arrangements to communication system are very essential.

While concluding, I thank the hon'ble Deputy Speaker and would request hon'ble Shri Chidambaram ji to consider the points raised by me and I support the Budget presented by him.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The House stands adjourned to meet at 11 A.M. on Thursday, the 29th August, 1996.

18.11 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Thursday, August 29, 1996/Bhadra 7, 1918 (Saka).

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Published under Rules 379 and 382 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha (Eighth Edition)
and printed by **DATA POINT**, 615, Suneja Tower-II, Distt. Centre, Janakpuri, New Delhi-58. Ph. 5505110
