

LOK SABHA DEBATES
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SECOND SESSION



ELEVENTH LOK SABHA

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT

NEW DELHI

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LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Thursday, July 11, 1996/Asadha 20, 1918 (Saka)

(The Lok Sabha met at
Eleven of the Clock)

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[Translation]

Legislation For Agricultural Labourers

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*21. SHRI PAWAN DIWAN :

SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH :

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether a proposal to enact a Central legislation for agricultural and construction labourers is under consideration of the Government;

(b) if so, the salient features thereof;

(c) whether the State Governments have also been consulted in this regard,

(d) if so, the details thereof, and

(e) the present status of the above Central legislation?

[English]

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

STATEMENT

The Central legislation for Construction Workers has already come into existence by way of Ordinances viz., the Building and Other Construction Workers (Regulation of Employment and Condition of Service) Third Ordinance, 1996 and the Building and Other Construction Workers' Welfare Cess Third Ordinance, 1996. Bills to replace them by Acts of Parliament are being introduced in the current session of the Parliament. Copies of the Ordinances on construction labour have been laid on the Table of the House on the commencement of the current Session.

The proposal for a Central legislation for agricultural workers is under active consideration of the Government with a view to provide for the regulation of their employment and working conditions and to provide for their welfare. The matter is at an advanced stage of consideration and decision.

The State Governments have been duly consulted.

The matter regarding Central Legislation for Agricultural Workers came up for discussion in the State Labour Minister's Conference held in August 1992 and July, 1993 pursuant to which State Governments have sent their views. In a meeting of State Labour Ministers and Labour Secretaries taken by Union Labour Minister on 17-18/May, 1995, a general consensus had emerged on the need for Central legislations for agricultural and construction workers. It was decided, however to provide for sufficient flexibility to the State Governments in implementation according to the prevailing local conditions.

[Translation]

SHRI PAWAN DIWAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, there are large number of construction workers and agricultural labourers in the country. It has been said in reply about construction workers that the third ordinance has come into existence in 1996, and it will be moved in the Parliament in the form of a bill. This is really a very good thing, but I am feeling that the agricultural labourers have been ignored because neither any ordinance has so far been promulgated for them nor there is any proposal for bringing any bill. A Labour Ministers' conference was held on 17-18 May, 1995 and the issue was discussed in it. The advice which was solicited from State Governments in July-August 92-93, has not been acted upon. My humble request is as to why an ordinance has not come so far in this regard. It is necessary to discuss it in this session only because agricultural workers have made the country self-reliant in terms of agriculture. I want to know from the Government as to what the Government is going to do for making these poor labourers self-reliant.

[English]

SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM : Sir, agricultural labourers is an unorganised sector. We have not neglected it. The new Government's Common Minimum Programme has clearly mentioned that this legislation is in advanced stage, we are taking it to the Cabinet and after the approval of the Cabinet, we will be placing it in the House.

[Translation]

SHRI PAWAN DIWAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to ask the next supplementary question. I have not received a clear reply to my question. The ordinance has been promulgated for construction workers and the bill is being framed, but why agricultural labourers have been ignored, why an ordinance has not come into existence for them as well and why the issue of bringing a bill for them is not being

discussed? Whether any time-limit has been fixed for this?

[English]

SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM : Sir, I have already said that we are taking it to the Cabinet and after the approval of the Cabinet, we will be coming to the House with the Bill.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, before I could ask you a question, I want to draw your attention towards the fact that when you were Labour Minister, then, a Private Member's bill was discussed. I had also participated in that and you had given us assurance that you are bringing a bill for agricultural labourers but so many years have elapsed and nothing has happened so far. Today, you are Honourable Speaker, of the Lok Sabha. Therefore, you are urged upon to put pressure on the Government for such a bill.

Mr Speaker, Sir, it has been said in reply to today's question that a Labour Ministers and Labour Secretaries Conference was held on 17-18 May, 1995 in which a unanimous decision was taken that it will be made flexible and then it will be given to states in order to enforce it as per their circumstances. I want to ask from the Minister the details of such law that you are going to enact and which will be handed over to State Governments.

[English]

SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM : Sir, State Governments of Kerala and Tripura have already got this Act. In Kerala it is being implemented but in Tripura it is yet to be implemented. I am aware of the .(Interruptions)

MR SPEAKER : He has not completed his answer.

SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM : Sir, this issue has been deliberated upon time and again in the Industry Ministers Conference with the Secretaries to the Government of India and the Secretaries of the States. I know the importance of this legislation. Therefore, we are taking it to the Cabinet very shortly and after a decision in the Cabinet, we would bring a Bill to the House.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Handing over an Act to State Governments has been mentioned here the laws enacted by State Governments for labourers are not being enforced there. It is wrong to handover it to State Governments when minimum wage is not being given to them.

[English]

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH (Uluberla) : Sir, this matter has been discussed in the House time and again. Now, we are happy that the Government is planning to bring forward a Bill in this regard.

Sir, there are two parts of my question. The first part of my question is about the construction labourers. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government has received any memorandum from the organisation of the construction labourers protesting against certain very inadequate provisions of the Ordinance promulgated on the construction labourers, which does not serve any purpose beneficial to the construction labourers. If so, whether the Minister has considered the points raised by the organisation and whether or not he is going to make amendments before placing the Bill in this House.

As regards the agricultural labourers, as you know, there had been a lot of discussion about them. You, Mr. Speaker, Sir, are the most well-known person in this regard. I would like to know whether, as promised by the Prime Minister that he would try to bring this legislation on the agricultural labourers in this session—when the representatives of the Agriculture Labour Union and other unions met the hon. Prime Minister, he assured that it would be done in this Session—the Bill is going to be presented in this session and also would be passed in this Budget session of Parliament.

Secondly, I would like to know whether the expenditure part has been taken into consideration or not. When the Agricultural Labourer Act will be passed, how will you provide the expenditure for implementing this Act? I would like to know whether, in the given situation of the limited financial power of the State Government, adequate care has been taken to provide sufficient fund for the implementation of this Act.

SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM : Answering the second part of the question first, I would like to say that we are trying our best to bring a Bill regarding Agricultural Labourer in this Session itself. It is up to the Cabinet to decide. Coming to the expenditure part, I would like to say that we will consider it.

Coming to the first part of the question regarding amending the Construction Workers and Labourers Act, it is up to him to bring an amendment and discuss it in the House. The House has to decide about it.

SHRI RAMENDRA KUMAR : Sir, the reply is not satisfactory.

SHRI MADHUKAR SARPOTDAR : In his clarification, the Minister has said that the Government is considering it. Which is the

Government who is going to consider this particular Bill? This is the only question that I want to ask.

SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM : I said, 'specifically, the Cabinet has to consider it'.

MR. SPEAKER : Please do not interrupt like that. I have not permitted you

[Translation]

SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN (Chandigarh) Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to know two things from the Minister. One thing that comes to my mind in regard to agricultural labourers and constructions labourers is that the court case relating to any dispute or claim takes so much of time that it becomes difficult for a labourer to stay there for such a long period. Whether any remedy will be provided in the law that you are going to enact and whether any time bound institution for speedy disposal will be provided and whether any remedial forum will be there, in which workers may put their claims and which could be decided in one or two months? Problems occur in its execution as well. The authority which decides the claims should have ample powers so that one could get the claim in a specific time. We have seen in regard to the land reforms Act that big-landlords do not let it be implemented, even though the orders are existing. Labourers are keep on moving from one place to another frequently. Therefore, they find it difficult in getting them restored.

Third thing I want to ask is that whatever is the provision of providing free legal aid under the Act, whether you would like to involve those agencies in it so that the workers who are not in a position to pay the fee of a lawyer could get a lawyer?

The fourth thing is that you have said time and again that

[English]

"We will try our best to bring this legislation in this House." Can you give us assurance as to when will you bring this legislation specifically, say, three or four months? Otherwise, it will keep on pending for years together and it will have no effect.

MR. SPEAKER : I think you have put your question.

SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM : Our prime objective is to bring a Bill in this regard as early as possible. I have said it before also, as soon as the Cabinet approves it we will bring this legislation in the House.

SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN : Let the Minister say that he will bring this legislation in this Session itself otherwise saying as early as possible may mean five years also and that will not serve any purpose.

[Translation]

SHRI GANGA CHARAN RAJPUT : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to know from hon. Minister through you, as to whether the Government has any proposal to increase the minimum wages of agricultural labourers and the labourers of unorganised sector involved in construction work. Different states have got different minimum wages. I want to know as to whether you are going to enact a Central Minimum Wages Act whereby a uniform minimum wages could be laid all over the country.

[English]

SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM : The existing labour laws, like the Minimum Wages Act, Equal Remuneration Act are applicable to this sector. It is up to the State Government to decide about it.

SHRI A. C. JOS : Mr. Speaker, Sir, for the first time in this country a legislation for the establishment and regulation of the welfare fund for the construction workers was established in Kerala. This was implemented in Kerala and it is functioning very well. This is the only law regarding the construction workers that is being implemented in Kerala. The Welfare Fund corpus has reached to about Rs. 40 crore. Is the Government prepared to adopt the provisions of the Kerala Welfare Act in entirety so that there is no outside agency and from the contractors or the Government the money can be taken for the Welfare of the workers?

Sir, the Ordinance placed before the House is not practicable. It is not a legislation at all. It cannot do any good for the welfare of. (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : You can discuss it when the Bill is before the House for discussion. It is too early for you to say that now.

SHRI A. C. JOS : Sir, will the hon. Minister be prepared to call a meeting of representatives of all the Central Trade Unions so as to formulate necessary amendments to the Bill put before the House?

SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM : Sir, as you are well aware, the Labour Ministry constituted a study team in 1992 to visit Kerala and assess the working of the Construction Workers Welfare Fund and also the mode of its administration through Tripartite Boards set up for the purpose. The Study Team under the Chairmanship of the Additional Secretary, Ministry of Labour, and consisting of senior officers from the Ministries of Surface Transport and Urban Development, visited Kerala from 23rd to 25th of June, 1992 to assess the implementation of the Kerala Construction Workers Welfare Fund Act, 1939. After examining their report it was decided to submit a proposal to incorporate in the original Bill of 1939. The provision is regarding the Construction Workers

Welfare Fund on Kerala pattern with powers to the Construction Workers Welfare Fund Board to levy one per cent of the construction cost on works undertaken by the Central Government and its agency to conform it with Article 285 of the Constitution. It has also been decided to incorporate a provision for providing temporary shelters to construction workers coming from outside. Sir, moreover, the State Government shall have also powers to frame rules for constitution of the Fund and its administration...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI A.C. JOS : Sir, that does not form part of the Question.

MR SPEAKER : As far as the construction workers are concerned, the Bill is coming before the House. You can have a long discussion on that.

DR T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Sir, I must get an opportunity to speak on this.

MR SPEAKER : Question No.24.

DR MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : Sir, let Question No.24 and Question No.27 be taken up together because they are more or less on the same subject.

MR SPEAKER : Yes, Question No.24 and Question No.27 will be clubbed together.

[Translation]

Prasar Bharti Act, 1990

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*24 SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR
SHRI E. AHAMED :

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state

(a) whether the Government propose to amend the Prasar Bharti (Broadcasting Corporation of India) Act, 1990.

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time by which it is likely to be amended, and

(d) the details of the amendments proposed to be made?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) to (d) Certain changes, inter-alia in the proposed organisational structure of the Corporation, as envisaged in the Prasar Bharati Act, 1990, may be required in the light of the rapidly changing broadcasting scenario because of increased international satellite broadcasting in this part of the world. A three member Expert Group has

been constituted on 28.12.95 to review the provisions of the Prasar Bharati Act and to make recommendations. Further action would depend on the outcome of the recommendations of the Group.

Cancellation of Telecast of "The News Tonight"

*27. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI :
SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI :

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

(a) whether telecast of the programme "The News Tonight" was cancelled by Doordarshan on June 14, 1996;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the action taken against the defaulting officers?

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

(b) The programme could not be telecast since the tapes were received too late from M/s NDTV to preview.

(c) Does not arise

[Translation]

SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR : Mr Speaker, Sir, it appears that the intention of the Government about implementing the Prasar Bharti Bill is not clear. The previous Government should have implemented it promptly but it did not consider it. This Bill was passed by the Parliament in 1990 and hon. President had given his consent to it on 12 September 1990 and thereafter it was consigned to dustbin because the then government and ruling party had used it as a mouth piece. Thirty four M.Ps in 1994 and 53 M.Ps in 1995 had written for its implementation.

That is why the standing Parliamentary Committee while criticising it had observed that the Government has adopted a dilly-dallying policy. Later on, the High Court of Calcutta gave its verdict and said that it should be implemented by 1995. But the Government has not paid its attention towards it. The consequence is that a three member expert team was constituted on 28.12.95. At present, Electronic media is on the threshold of good expansion in the country as well as outside but the situation in India is worsening so much so that people do not want to see Doordarshan programmes. They are dependent on Zee TV or other channels for news and tend to rely on what is delivered on these channels. At times, we are faced with very difficult situation. I would like to know from hon. Minister through you, as to who

were the three members in the expert committee constituted on 28.12.95? What was their term of reference and by what time they were supposed to submit their report.

SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM : This was a three member team. Hon. Sengupta jee was its chairman..(Interruptions) They should have submitted their report by the end of July. They have asked for extension for the second time and we have given it. I want to tell the hon. Member that the present U.F. Government is committed to it and it is also in our programme to bring the Prasar Bharti Bill with full autonomy and as soon as the report is made available, we will talk to the parties from both sides and with their suggestion in mind, efforts will be made to put forth a bill in the House

SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR . Mr. Speaker, Sir, this question is very important and so many people will like to ask their questions in this regard. Therefore, I want clarification on two-three points briefly. As far as my information goes, its report was to be submitted within three months latest by March. But you have said about 'by the end of July'.

SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM : We have extended it.

SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR : I want to know whether its interim report has been received? Finally, I want to ask whether you could give a dead live for it. You all must be knowing the period by which your government is going to last. Therefore, you can do something before that. If you give a definite date in this regard, then it will be very good.

SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM : It is right that we have extended it by the end of July. The problem is that more than 40 thousand workers are working in the Doordarshan and All-India Radio, they too have got some issues, they want to include them in it. Therefore, we have said that it is better if you give it by the end of July. If the report is submitted by the end of July then we will try to implement this Act as soon as possible and as a Minister I want that

[English]

The United Front Government will definitely get the credit. But, as a Minister I will also get the credit. (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR . But fix up any date

[English]

SHRI E AHAMED Sir, when the Prasar Bharati Act came into force, there was only one national network, Doordarshan. Now, as has been pointed out by the Minister himself, a number of other networks, satellites and everything came into being.

I want to know as to how the Government is visualising to include these segments of the electronic media also to find a place in the Prasar Bharati Act.

There was a judgement by the Supreme Court conceding the right of the public. The new airwaves belong to the public. Also there is a mention of the representation of the public in the regulatory measures of the electronic media.

I would like to ask the hon. Minister, having given the extension to the Expert Committee, whether the Government have made any reference to the Committee to look into these facts in the light of Supreme Court Judgement with respect to this media regulatory position.

SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM : Definitely the Committee will look into this. We have completely thought of it also. That is why I have clarified it earlier itself. After receiving the Report of the Committee, we will keep in view the Supreme Court Judgement, all shades of opinion from all walks of life, plus all the political parties and also the opinion of the workers. Everything will be consolidated. Then only, we will bring a Bill before the House.

[Translation]

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI (Allahabad) Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to ask about question No.27 clubbing together with question No.24 because both the questions are almost similar.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER . It is clubbed together.

[Translation]

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : My question related to "The News Tonight" programme fixed for June 24.

[English]

The Question is: Whether telecast of the programme 'The News Tonight' was cancelled by Doordarshan on June 14, 1996, if so, the reasons therefor; and the action taken against the defaulting officers?

[Translation]

Hon'ble Minister has replied to this question as "Yes Sir" it means you have cancelled that programme but your other reply is—

[English]

The programme could not be telecast since the tapes were received too late from M/s NDTV to preview. The answer given for part (c) of the Question is, "Does not arise"

[Translation]

The reply given by the hon'ble Minister is ridiculous and wrong. The Government has put censorship on Doordarshan, this is the proof of it. I would like to ask whether it is not a fact that on the same day i.e. on 14th June a programme produced by N.D.T.V. was telecast on DD-3 but later on it was cancelled at night due to some comments which were inconvenient to the Government? Is it not a fact that you had received the tape 15 minutes before the fixed time and in spite of that you got it cancelled? Therefore, I would like to know from the Government whether the statement given by Shri Hegde was erased or expunged completely from the tape and the comments given by Shri J.H. Patel who is the Chief Minister and belongs to your party, were also expunged from it and the statement of Shri Biju Patnaik was also expunged? During the telecast of that programme in Hindi you got it telecast by editing and making some additions and alterations to the statement of Shri Hegde but in the English Programme it was completely expunged. You knew that the comments of Shri Hegde, Shri Patel and Shri Biju Patnaik were inconvenient to your party and your Government. That is why you got it expunged?

I would like to know whether the tape contained such comments or not and the exact time when the tape was received in Mandi House?

SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Member is a senior hon'ble Member whom I consider my Guru.

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : If I have a few more pupils like you, I will be nowhere. (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please listen.

SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM : Mr. Speaker, Sir, he has asked whether this serial was telecast at 9.15 P.M. or not? Sir, before telecast of these serials a chart is prepared in which time of telecast is given. This is done in all cases and not only in case of NDTV. Run down is started at 11 A.M. for all the cassettes received and final run down takes place at 6 P.M. complete script should reach the office by 7 P.M. and the time for arrival of tape is 9 P.M. i.e. one hour before the telecast of the programme.

But the tape in question was received in the office at 9.35 P.M. There is a policy that the tape should reach the office before one hour. Two tapes were received that day and it is to be ensured in the first tape that there should not be any defamatory comments in the tape as per policy. There should not be anything else in the tape which is inconvenient to anyone. A person has to perform his duties sincerely. As far as censor is concerned, the news pertaining to the person about whom the point has

been raised, has already been telecast on Doordarshan at 8.30 P.M. and 9.30 P.M. news bulletins. When we did not get that news censored during these news bulletins on Doordarshan then why we would have got it censored at 9 P.M. news? You said that they should not have made such comments. If I say in the House that a point that Doordarshan does not want to telecast, why I should disclose it as a Minister. If you have any doubt about it then.

[English]

As a Minister I will place the entire records before the Hon. Speaker because I am above suspicion. Till today I have made it a point as a Minister to see that no oral instructions will be given to any officer.

[Translation]

We have empowered them to select the programmes or news. This happened one month ago. That time, I was staying in Bangalore. Next day I came to know through newspaper that the hon'ble Minister has got it cut by issuing instructions. We give autonomy in regard to telecast of the news. If we try to conceal any fact, curiosity will increase to know the factual position. I would like to make it clear that it is a fact that Doordarshan had taken that decision to expunge some objectionable words from the statement.

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, there were several objectionable remarks in the programme sponsored by DD-3 and NDTV. As soon as those remarks were put before you, you ordered to cancel that programme to be telecast at night. If you think that the programme was cancelled due to late arrival of tape then it could have been telecast in the next bulletin. And if you are so transparent about it that you want to place it before the Speaker then would you show that programme to the Parliamentary Committee? The second thing is that what are your views about the editing done in the statement made by Shri Hegde for the programme "Aaj Tak"?

SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM : Mr. Speaker, Sir, there were some derogatory remarks in the news programme "Aaj Tak" and those remarks were expunged by the officers.

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : May I know as to whether you have any guidelines in regard to derogatory remarks?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Dr. Joshi, let him answer now.

[Translation]

SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM : We have guidelines. Prof. Saheb, if you ask me about derogatory rules to find

out as to which words are derogatory one then what can I say about it.

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : I am aware of that but I want to know the criteria followed by your department for considering a remark as derogatory.

SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM : The code in this regard was made long time back. They have been doing their work as per this code. This has not happened for the first time. Such a thing has happened earlier seven times.

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : It might have happened earlier also?

SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM : If it happened earlier also, what was the reason thereof? I was not a Minister at that time. It has happened seven times since 3.5.54. *(Interruptions)*

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : But at that time those remarks were not passed by Shri Hegde, Shri Patnaik and Shri Patel. This is the basic thing. You have got it out deliberately. *(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI (Deogarh) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, in the reply it has been mentioned by the hon. Minister that because of the non-receipt or non-arrival of the tapes the programme had to be cancelled. This seems to be ridiculous, particularly in the context of the allegations involved because these tapes reportedly dealt with some internal feud of the ruling party, the Janata Dal. Therefore, some suspicion is bound to be there. Particularly, I would like to know from the hon. Minister when this matter was raised with him by the Press.

I have got the Press clipping here. He had promised a top level inquiry. I would like to know whether such an inquiry has been held or not. What are the findings of the inquiry about those who have been found guilty? What action has been taken against them? To make it quite transparent, since it involves allegations involving top people in the ruling Party and the Government, I would like to know whether he is prepared for a House Committee inquiry into this.

SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM : Sir, after coming from Bangalore I asked my Director-General to submit to me the detailed report as to why this has happened. Immediately, within 24 hours, he sent me the report stating that for such and such reasons we have taken this step. When I found that they were within the purview of their rights, I accepted their action. There is no question of taking any action.

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : What action has been taken?

SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM : There is no question of taking any action because he has upheld the dignity

of our Doordarshan. Instead of congratulating him, why should I take action against him?

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : You are talking of the dignity of Doordarshan and about transparency of the Prasar Bharti. What about your commitment for making the Prasar Bharti autonomous? *(Interruptions)*

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : Sir, I have asked a pointed question and he has given an evasive reply.

MR. SPEAKER : I think the Minister has replied.

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : Sir, I need your protection.

MR. SPEAKER : He has said that he has got the report. He got the enquiry done and anybody was found at fault. So, where is the question of taking any action? Let us listen to the former Information and Broadcasting Minister, Shri P. Upendra. The former Information and Broadcasting Minister will enlighten us a little more.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : I would like to know whether he is prepared for a House Committee probe.

[Translation]

PROF. OM PAL SINGH 'NIDAR' : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to ask the hon. Minister whether Doordarshan has any dignity? If Doordarshan has any dignity then I would like to know what is that Doordarshan which is without dignity.

[English]

SHRI P. UPENDRA : Sir, it is very unfortunate that the Prasar Bharti Act, which was passed with rare unanimity in the Parliament after a nationwide debate, has not been implemented during the last six years. At that time, the prime concern was about the autonomy of the electronic media. Subsequently, the Minister called a meeting to consider the amendments to the Act. Some of us were present in that meeting. We approved those minor amendments. Now, the Minister also is telling that some amendments are required. But, I feel, in view of the drastic changes which have come about in the electronic media scene, more amendments are not enough. Now, the whole Act has to be revised. So, some of us met and suggested that a new comprehensive Broadcasting Bill be brought before the Parliament to cover not only the Doordarshan and A.I.R. but also the satellite TV, the cable network and also, in view of the Supreme Court judgement, the uplinking facilities and all that. All these aspects have to be covered in the Act. Britain has passed a comprehensive Broadcasting Act. We prepared a model Bill and sent it to the Prime Minister and predecessor Ministers also.

I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether he has seen that draft Bill which we have prepared and sent to him, or not, and whether he is thinking on those lines. I would also like to know whether a comprehensive Broadcasting Bill will be brought before the Parliament or is he merely going to tinker with the amendments to the Prasar Bharti Act which is not relevant, in my view, in the present context.

SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM : Yes, Sir. I agree with what he has said. I have already said that I am waiting for the report of the Committee. Once the report is submitted, I shall consider all the points mentioned by the hon. Member.

SHRI P. UPENDRA : We suggested something else, that is, bringing up a new comprehensive Bill.

MR SPEAKER : The question is whether you are thinking of going into the amendment of the Act as it exists today or whether there is any rethinking for coming up with a comprehensive Broadcasting Bill.

SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM : Sir, what I have said is that we might consider bringing up a comprehensive Bill. Once the report is presented, we would like to have a discussion again and I want to involve everybody in this.

SHRI P. UPENDRA : What are the terms of reference of that Committee that was appointed? *...(Interruptions)*

MR SPEAKER : You have put your question already. Why are you again asking?

(Interruptions)

SHRI E. AHAMED : The Committee is considering the amendments to the Act. How will the Government be able to bring a comprehensive Bill? You say the Government should make up its mind. That is the point.

MR SPEAKER : You do not suggest. The Minister knows his job. Why are you suggesting?

(Interruptions)

SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM : Sir, I have taken note of the suggestion.

SHRI ROOPCHAND PAL : Sir, in the reply it has been stated that an expert group consisting of three Members is to submit a report and the future of the Prasar Bharati Act will, to some extent, depend on the recommendations. The Supreme Court has given the judgement that the airwaves are a public property. That was a historic judgement. In the light of this and also in the light of the rapid technological changes that are taking place in information technology and communication technology a large number of people have been persistently demanding that the Government should have a national media policy because a good number of developing countries, far too inferior in many areas of technology to India, are also having their own national media policy in response to the persistent demand made

by the responsible quarters and also by several M.Ps., the Ministry has set up a sub-committee.

MR SPEAKER : Please ask the question. Do not go into the history. You know the history so much.

SHRI ROOPCHAND PAL : Yes sir I am coming to that. That sub-committee was chaired by two Ministers belonging to the U.F. Government—first by hon. Shri P. Chidambaram and subsequently by hon. Shri Ram Vilas Paswan. They had submitted a report with comprehensive recommendations relating to the satellite channel, Prasar Bharati autonomy, print media, film media and many such things. On 29th of March this year the report was submitted to the then Minister of Information and Broadcasting and our present hon. Speaker.

May I know from the hon. Minister as to what is the response of the Government and whether any study has been made and whether the Government is ready to accept the report and prepare legislation in the light of these recommendations?

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : Will the former Minister answer? *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM : I have already made it clear that while bringing the Bill before the House we will incorporate all the views to uphold the prestige of both A.I.R. and Doordarshan.

[Translation]

Hon. Member, Shri Upendrajai has said that the scenario has undergone a change. There is Supreme Court's judgement. Doordarshan and All India Radio workers are Government servants who do not want to become Corporation workers. Their views have also to be incorporated in it because we have also to keep in mind the problem of fifty thousand workers.

Secondly, we are solving the problem arising on the earth but it can also be considered as to what can we do for things reaching through satellites? Do not think that all this will be done by the United Front Government. It would be better if these things are done unanimously. It is Indian culture and it symbolises India. Therefore, I want to introduce this Bill with the consensus of the House.

[English]

SHRI ROOPCHAND PAL (Hooghly) : I want to know whether the Government is aware of any such report. What is the reaction of the Government?

SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM : I think you want the answer in English.

Sir, I have understood what the hon. Member has said. As far as the Supreme Court judgement is concerned, we are looking into it.

MR SPEAKER : The specific question is on the report of the Committee headed by Shri Paswan on media policy. That is what he is asking.

SHRI SARAD PAWAR : It was submitted to Shri P.A. Sangma.

SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM : Sir, I have given it to the Ministry to evolve it and after getting the said expert Committee's report and keeping in view the Supreme Court judgement and also the views of workers we will take action. We have to involve all. It should be a comprehensive one. Based on one report I cannot take any decision.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : Meenaji, I called your name but you were not present in the House. (Interruptions)

SHRI BHERU LAL MEENA : I have also to ask something.

MR. SPEAKER : Meenaji, I called your name but you were not present in the House.

[English]

PROF. P.J. KURIEN : Sir, I am raising a question which should be a matter of concern for all of us. Today, there is not only Doordarshan but also various other private networks. Most of the programmes shown by these private television networks are alien to our culture and tradition. These programmes are so detrimental to our national interests also that I have no doubt that continuance of these types of programmes through the electronic media will certainly have adverse effect on our future, especially the youth of our country because most of these programmes are alien to our culture.

MR. SPEAKER : We are not talking on the point of programmes.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN : Sir, what I am coming to is, since the Government is contemplating a comprehensive Act—the Prasar Bharati Act—I am only asking the Government whether they are aware of this problem and whether they have got any plan to see that through the Prasar Bharati Act, some control should be enforceable on these networks so that the kind of cultural invasion at least to a certain extent, be got rid of.

SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM : Sir, I have already answered this question. I have told that at the time of bringing the Prasar Bharati Bill before the Parliament, we will definitely keep in view all these aspects in relation to whichever channels and whichever waves are coming to India.

MR. SPEAKER : Sushmaji

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I request the hon. Members not to disturb the former Information and Broadcasting Minister. I would allow one more former Minister to speak.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to thank you for promising an opportunity to each and every former Information and Broadcasting Minister to ask supplementary question. Perhaps, it is a brotherhood gesture since you are also a former Information and Broadcasting Minister. The hon. Information and Broadcasting Minister of the present Government has reiterated our commitment to implement Prasar Bharati. But his gesture shows that instead of according autonomous status to Government media, he wants to have complete grip over it. We have two examples in this regard. One has been mentioned by Dr. Murli Manohar Joshi in his question as to how he censored 'The News Tonight' because of an inconvenient remark. Secondly, through you, I would like to inform the hon. Information and Broadcasting Minister that the Committee mentioned by him on Prasar Bharati, was to present its report on March 31, but so far, it has not presented even its interim report. The committee, during my tenure, had asked for extension but I told the committee to present interim report first. I had called three members for meeting, then it was to be decided whether extension should be given or not and if it is to be given, upto what time? Why did you decide to grant extension till July reversing the previous decision?

SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have already replied to the first part that I believe in Prasar Bharati and not in Censor Bharati. Secondly, so far as the interim report is concerned, you too would have seen.

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : When it was not presented, how could I see?

[English]

They have not submitted any interim report as yet.

SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM : I want, I will not believe in piecemeal.

[Translation]

If they want to submit report, they will have to submit the complete report and not in parts because it will not serve any purpose.

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : Then never ask for interim report.

SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM : Interim report does not serve any purpose. It would have wasted my time also. Therefore, instead of presenting incomplete report I will present the complete one.

[English]

SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO : Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is clear from the hon. Minister's reply that he would not

like to do anything by half measures and he would like the full thing. I recall that there was a commitment on this very floor of Parliament by the P.V. Narasimha Rao Government that the Government would bring a comprehensive broadcasting law which would include the Prasar Bharati and the Regulatory Authority and it was done as a consequence of the Supreme Court Judgement. I would like to know whether the Prasar Bharati amendment is going on, whether it will form part of the comprehensive broadcasting law and whether it will also incorporate the Supreme Court judgement and its observations regarding the Regulatory Authority. I would also like to know as to how long it will take for the Government to bring it before the Parliament so that we get the opportunity of discussing it here.

SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM : Sir, I have already answered this question. I think the hon Member was not present here at that time. But I am very happy to answer it again. Definitely we want to bring a comprehensive Bill. We will keep all the aspects in view.

As far as the interim report is concerned, I agree that there are certain cases where we need the interim report. But in this case, if I take the interim report I cannot do anything. So, I did not demand for the interim report. I asked them to give a full and final report. They have extended the time till the 31st July and once the report comes, as I told earlier also, we will involve specially all the former Information and Broadcasting Ministers in the discussions. I will have individual discussion with them and also with all the political parties. We will uphold the Government's programme also. The previous Government also had made this commitment. We know it. That is why I made it clear that this Prasar Bharati Bill should be passed unanimously.

SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO : Sir, the commitment was that the Prasar Bharati and the Regulatory Authority will be components, will be part and parcel of the comprehensive broadcasting law. Is this Government separately getting the Prasar Bharati, the comprehensive broadcasting law and the Regulatory Authority or will they all be part of the comprehensive broadcasting law?

MR. SPEAKER : I think what the Minister has said is that he has not taken any final view. He is collecting all the inputs.

SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO : Sir, he is answering on the interim report of the Expert Committee. That was not my question. The commitment was that the comprehensive broadcasting law would incorporate the Supreme Court Judgement and the observations, the Regulatory Authority and the Prasar Bharati. What is the present state of the comprehensive broadcasting law? I want to know whether it will incorporate all these things or whether these things are coming separately.

SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM : Sir, again and again I am saying that after getting the report of the Committee, if we are thinking of a comprehensive Bill.

[Translation]

I would see as to how it can be incorporated. I would consider all the suggestions given by you prior to presenting the report to the Parliament.

[English]

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV : Mr. Speaker, Sir, is the Minister aware of the fact that there are six former Information and Broadcasting Ministers, including you, present in the House?

MR. SPEAKER : All of them will be given equal opportunity.

[Translation]

Constitution of Separate Bodies

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*25. DR. MAHADEEPAK SINGH SHAKYA
PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA

Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state .

(a) whether several committees constituted by the Government during the previous years have recommended to constitute separate bodies for Local Self-Government in the tribal dominated areas for the welfare of the tribes.

(b) if so, the progress made in the implementation of the above recommendations, and

(c) the time by which separate bodies are likely to be constituted for Local Self-Government in the tribal dominated areas?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : (a) Department of Rural Development in Ministry of Rural Areas and Employment and Ministry of Urban Affairs and Employment had set up two separate Committees of M.Ps and Experts to make recommendations on the salient features of the law for extending the provisions of Constitution (73rd Amendment) Act, 1992 and (74th Amendment) Act, 1992 to the Scheduled Areas which are pre-dominantly inhabited by the Scheduled Tribes.

(b) and (c) Both the Committees have submitted their reports to the Government of India. The Department of Rural Areas and employment is actively processing the matter in consultation with concerned Administrative Ministries and State Governments for implementing the recommendations contained in aforesaid reports. Ministry of Urban

Affairs and Employment have also initiated a dialogue with Ministry of Rural in this connection.

[Translation]

DR. MAHADEEPAK SINGH SHAKYA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, my question from the hon. Welfare Minister was regarding separate bodies I had asked, whether several committees constituted by him for the welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes have sent their recommendations to him for the constitution of separate bodies? You have already admitted that you have received such recommendations. Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes are being exploited politically, economically, socially and educationally and we feel that we have not been able to stop this exploitation. For this purpose, these committees have sent their recommendations to you to constitute a separate body so that it may think over in this regard properly. You have said in your reply that almost four years have passed since 73rd and 74th Amendments were made in 1992. In this case either you say that you do not rely on the Parliamentary Committees and only then you have constituted the committees comprising of other experts. I would like to ask you whether Expert Committees constituted by you consist of experts belonging only to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes since only wearer knows where the shoe pinches?

SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the two committees which were constituted comprised of the hon. Members and experts both. They presented the report in 1995. The recommendations of the committees which are within the ambit of Schedule 5-6 pertaining to tribal areas should be considered in accordance with the spirit of 73rd and 74th Amendment which gives administrative power to local bodies and it should be extended by incorporating age old traditions, mode of imparting justice and also keeping in mind the resources of the tribals. The committees have presented their reports on these lines. I have said that it is under consideration and deep study is going on that. (Interruptions)

DR. MAHADEEPAK SINGH SHAKYA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is my second supplementary question. The hon. Minister has replied to my question but he did not make it clear. I am not interested in members of the committees because every committee has members. I wanted to know whether the members of the committees constituted by you and experts nominated belonged to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes? What is their number? My second question is. (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Now ask the second question quickly.

(Interruptions)

DR. MAHADEEPAK SINGH SHAKYA : I am asking the same. You had stated in your reply that you had contacted State-Governments and the Ministry of Urban Affairs and Employment and that the work was in full swing. I would like to request you to fix a limit of works done during 1992-1996. I would also like to know the time bound scheme for the constitution of these bodies and the time by which this scheme will be materialised.

SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA : You do not give an opportunity to give clear reply. Shri Dileep Singh Bhooriya was the Chairman of that Committee. Secondly, we have clearly stated in the common minimum programme, rural programme of United Front that

[English]

The United Government will also study

MR. SPEAKER : The Question Hour is over

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Outstanding Amount of P.F. of Beedi Workers

*22 SHRI K. PRADHANI : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Beedi workers whose provident fund is regularly deposited by the factory owners with concerned authorities, State-wise,

(b) the amount of provident fund which is still outstanding against Beedi factory owners, State-wise and

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

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

STATEMENT

S. No.	Name of State/Region	As on	As on
		31.12.95	31.3.96
		No. of EPF subscribers in Beedi Industry	Amount of EPF Arrears (Rs. in lakh)
1	2	3	4
1	Andhra Pradesh	4,31,021	11.62
2	Bihar	28,322	201.89

1	2	3	4
3.	Gujarat	497	1.00
4.	Karnataka	2,90,052	14.32
5.	Kerala	1,04,608	34.34
6.	Madhya Pradesh	94,642	26.92
7.	Maharashtra	1,16,558	28.93
8.	N.E.Region	116	0.17
9.	Orissa	8,894	4.90
10.	Rajasthan	10,720	8.57
11.	Tamil Nadu	3,75,482	152.51
12.	Uttar Pradesh	8,270	100.11
13.	West Bengal	44,838	118.66

(under reassessment on directions of High Court)

Necessary legal and penal action as provided under Section 7A, 8B, 14, 14B of the EPF & M.P Act, 1952 and also under Section 406/409 of the I.P.C is already being taken to recover the outstanding dues from the defaulting establishments.

[Translation]

T.V. Transmitters

*23 SHRI BHERU LAL MEENA . Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state .

(a) the number of TV Transmitters ready for commissioning in the country. State-wise;

(b) whether inspite of testing of some of the above transmitters, telecast has not so far been started from these transmission centres.

(c) if so, the details of such centres, State-wise and the reasons for delay in this regard, and

(d) the time by which these transmitters are likely to be made operational?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C M IBRAHIM) (a) to (d) Sixty Six (66) transmitters of varying power are presently ready for commissioning in the country State-wise list of these transmitters is enclosed as statement. The delay in commissioning of these transmitter projects has mainly been due to non-availability of staff sanctions for operation and maintenance of these projects. These projects would be commissioned no sooner than the grant of staff sanctions for which every effort is being made

STATEMENT

State-wise list of the TV transmitters ready for commissioning in the country

State/UT	Transmitters	Locations	Number
1	2	3	4
Andhra Pradesh	HPT: LPTs :	Kurnool Bellampally Pedanandipadu Kadiri	4
Arunachal Pradesh	VLPTs :	Kalaktang Chayangtajo Yomcha	3
Bihar	LPTs :	Phoolparas Noamundy	2
Gujarat	LPTs :	Amod Deesa Mangrol (Surat) Morbi	4
Goa	LPT :	Panaji (DD2)	1
Haryana	LPT :	Rohtak	1
Karnataka	LPTs	Harpanahalli Sagar Gokak Arsikere Basava Kalyan	5
Kerala	LPT VLPT	Thodupuza Devikolam	2
Madhya Pradesh	LPTs :	Gaderwara Sakti Kelas Narayanpur	4
Maharashtra	LPTs	Shirpur Aheri Navapur	3
Manipur	VLPT	Moreh	1
Nagaland	HPT	Mokokchung	1
Rajasthan	HPTs LPTs	Jaisalmer Barmer (Int) Nohar Mt Abu Pratapgarh Karauli Nimaj Rajgarh Bari-Sadri Shahpura Neem Ka Thana	11
Orissa	LPTs VLPTs	Sohela Kabisuryanagar T Rampur Badabarbil Nayagarh	5

1	2	3	4
Tamilnadu	LPTs :	Pattukkottai Attur Krishnagiri Shankarankovil Valparai	5
Tripura	VLPT :	Dharmanagar	1
Uttar Pradesh	LPTs :	Ganj Dundwara Kasganj Mau Ranipur Naugarh Auraiya New Tehri Mahoba Ahdama Nanpara	9
West Bengal	LPTs :	Farakka Murshidabad (DD2)	2
Andaman & Nicobar Islands (U.T.)	LPT :	Port Blair (DD2)	1
Dadar & Nagar Haveli (U.T.)	LPT	Silvassa	1
Total			66

T.V. Channel for Education Purposes

*26 SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM
SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state

(a) the number of children programmes telecast on Doordarshan during the last three years, year-wise.

(b) whether the Government are contemplating to launch a new TV channel exclusively for the purpose of education in order to popularise distance education.

(c) if so, the time by which the said channel is likely to be started.

(d) whether the Government propose to allot one channel to a non-Government agency for this purpose, and

(e) if so, details and the terms and conditions thereof?

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

(b) A Working Group on "Rapid Expansion of Open Learning/Distance Education" has been

constituted by the Ministry of Human Resource Development (Deptt. of Education) under the Chairmanship of Education Secretary. The first meeting of the Working Group was held on 29.11.95 wherein it was decided to constitute a sub-Group under the Chairmanship of Shri Bhaskar Chatterjee, Joint Secretary (Adult Education) to look into the various aspects and formalise the requirements for Educational Channel. The sub-Group has since made some recommendations which are under examination.

(c) At this stage, no specific time frame can be indicated for operationalisation of this Channel.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Foreign Private Sector Aeroplanes

*28 SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state

(a) whether the Nepal Government has requested the Government of India to permit the private sector aeroplanes into Indian air territory.

(b) if so, the details thereof, and

(c) the reaction of the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C M IBRAHIM) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government of Nepal has proposed amendments in the Air Services Agreement to enable designation of additional airlines to operate to India.

(c) To discuss this and other matters of mutual interest, bi-lateral talks between India-Nepal are proposed to be held shortly.

Labour Productivity

*29 SHRI NITISH KUMAR
SHRI JAGMOHAN

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state

(a) whether labour productivity especially agricultural productivity in the country has remained low as compared to the productivity level obtained by other countries.

(b) if so, the details thereof.

(c) the steps taken by the Government to improve the labour productivity in the country, and

(d) the schemes prepared by the Government to provide education and medical facilities to the labourers in the unorganised sector and the

amount sanctioned for the purpose during the current year?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) to (d). Asian Productivity Organisation is publishing indices relating to productivity levels and its changes in respect of its member countries. According to the comparative information on productivity levels and changes published in 1995, labour productivity in agriculture in respect of India for the year 1990 was higher than 7 countries and lower than 5 countries. A *statement* indicating the labour productivity indices of member countries of Asian Productivity Organisation for agriculture is enclosed.

Labour management policies are being geared both in the private and public sector so as to improve productivity in the country. These policies include : adoption of modern technology, modern management practices, and training and retraining of workers etc.

Welfare funds to provide medical facilities to Beedi workers, Mine workers and Cine workers have been established. Labour Welfare Organisation is running 12 hospitals (515) beds) and 222 dispensaries including one chest clinic, at different places, to provide health care and family welfare facilities to beedi and mine workers. These institutions have a mobile unit attached to them. A number of health schemes have been drawn up for beedi, mine and cine workers. These include reservation of beds in TB hospitals and financial help for treatment to workers suffering from TB, cancer, mental diseases, leprosy, kidney transplantation, maternity benefit etc.

An amount of Rs. 21.9 crores has been provided in the budget from welfare funds for the year 1996-97 towards health schemes.

As regards education, a number of schemes have been prepared by the Government to provide education to the children of the workers in the unorganised sector. These include : scholarships for children of mines, beedi and cine workers studying in Class V and above in recognised institutions, financial assistance for purchase of school uniforms, text books and stationery etc. to the children studying in upto Class IV, assistance for purchase of school buses to the mine managements, assistance to the mine managements for maintenance of libraries and for running central library, grants-in-aid for recognised schools, incentive @ Re 1.00 per day per girl child for promoting better enrolment of girl children of mines, beedi workers and Cine workers etc. The total amount sanctioned for education in the budget for 1996-97 stands at Rs. 11.00 crores approximately.

STATEMENT

Comparison of Agricultural Productivity Indices among Asian countries for the year 1990.

1. Bangladesh	56.16
2. Republic of China	132.11
3. Fiji	N.A.
4. Hong Kong	158.13
5. India	121.51
6. Indonesia	102.68
7. Japan	116.72
8. Republic of Korea	130.74
9. Malaysia	N.A.
10. Nepal	130.15
11. Pakistan	102.98
12. Philippines	108.83
13. Singapore	90.99
14. Sri Lanka	127.67
15. Thailand	118.43

Reservation to OBCs in Promotions

*30 SHRI G. L. KANAUIA Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state

(a) whether the Government are contemplating to provide reservation in promotions to the Government employees belonging to Other Backward Classes,

(b) if so, the details thereof,

(c) if not, the reasons therefor,

(d) whether the Government have also received suggestions/requests from certain organisations in this regard.

(e) if so, the details thereof, and

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

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : (a) to (f) Representations have been received from certain organisations for providing reservation in promotions in the Government jobs to OBCs. The issue is under consideration of the Government. The names of the organisations are given in the enclosed *Statement*.

STATEMENT

1. O. P. Barwadia, State General Secretary, BJP, OBC Cell, Rajasthan, Jaipur
2. General Secretary, BC Employees Welfare Association, Tirupati, Andhra Pradesh

- 3 Secretary, District Vanniyar Sangam, Thiruvannamallai.
- 4 President, Gulabi Nagar Kshaurkar Vikas Prabandh Samiti, Jaipur.
- 5 Chhatisgarh Devangan Samaj, Raigarh, Madhya Pradesh.
- 6 AIFBC Employees Welfare Association (General Secretary), Madras.
- 7 Secretary, E R. Backward Employees Welfare Association, Dhanbad, Bihar.
- 8 Secretary, Rajasthan Anya Pichda Varg Maha Sangh, Rajasthan.
- 9 Ram Chandra Patnayak, Electricity Board Colony, Bhubaneswar, Orissa
- 10 G S. Sundharesan, Chengalpattu
- 11 Shri Lal Chandra Ram, Banaras, U P
- 12 Shri P Raman, Hubli, Karnataka
- 13 Amit Baranroy, Ex-Havildar, Army Education Corps, Bihar
- 14 Shri Shailandra Vagdre, Assistant Engg., Rewa, Madhya Pradesh

[English]

Regional Languages Films

*31 SHRI KESHAB MAHANTA Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state

(a) the number of films in regional languages telecast by Doordarshan during the last three years, year wise and language-wise

(b) whether a few languages get less preference.

(c) if so, the reasons therefor.

(d) whether the Government have received proposals from producers of regional languages for 1996-97 in this regard.

(e) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto.

(f) whether the Government propose to allot equal share of time for regional languages programmes, and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C M IBRAHIM) (a) Details of regional language films telecast on National Network are as under

Language	Year		
	93-94	94-95	95-96
1	2	4	4
Assamese	5	3	3
Bengali	6	6	8

	1	2	3	4
Gujarati		4	3	5
Kannada		5	6	5
Konkani		1	-	2
Malayalam		5	4	4
Manipuri		2	1	2
Marathi		5	3	4
Oriya		7	5	7
Punjabi		2	1	3
Sanskrit		-	-	1
Tamil		5	6	4
Telugu		3	6	8
Urdu		-	-	1
Total		52	46	57

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. They will be slotted for telecast subject to their fulfilling the eligibility criteria.

(f) There is no discrimination in time allotment for different regional language films. While, efforts are always made to maintain balance in this regard, it may not be feasible always or even practicable to allot equal time in a rigid manner considering that production of language films in the country vary in number from language to language which, in turn would condition the suo-moto offers

(g) Does not arise

Telecast of Serials

*32 SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state

(a) the guidelines laid down for telecast of serials on TV network

(b) the revenue earned by the Government from various serials during each of the last two years and the current year so far, year-wise and

(c) the steps taken to prevent vulgarity and obscenity in each programme telecast by Doordarshan private and foreign TV network?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C M IBRAHIM) (a) The telecast of all programmes on Doordarshan including serials are governed by the provisions of the Broadcast Code which does not permit

(i) Criticism of friendly countries

(ii) Attack on religion or communities

- (iii) Anything obscene or defamatory;
- (iv) Incitement to violence or anything against maintenance of law and order;
- (v) Anything amounting to contempt of court;
- (vi) Aspersions against the integrity of the President, Governors, and Judiciary;
- (vii) Attack on a political party by name;
- (viii) Hostile criticism of any State or the Centre;
- (ix) Anything showing disrespect to the Constitution or advocating change in the Constitution by violence, but advocating changes in a constitutional way should not be debarred.

(b) Year-wise details of revenue earned are as under

Year	Rs. in crores
1994-95	206.47
1995-96	285.21
April-May 96	44.84

(c) Doordarshan previews all its programmes before telecast so that they are in accordance with the provision of the Broadcast Code including in respect of violence and obscenity. The programmes broadcast by foreign satellite channels do not come within the ambit of Government of India Regulations.

Setting up of Air Cargo Corporation

*33 SHRI DHIRENDRA AGARWAL
SHRI VINAY KATIYAR

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state

(a) whether the Government have received requests for setting up of an Air Cargo Corporation to meet the increasing demand for air transport services

(b) if so the details thereof, and

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

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) (a) and (b) Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry have suggested that investment in cargo facilities be delinked from the overall investment in airports. Further, they have suggested that the investment in cargo sector by the Airports Authority of India be made through an Air Cargo Corporation.

These suggestions have not been made formally either to the Commerce Ministry or to the Ministry of Civil Aviation. The suggestions are contained in an

Approach Paper for the Ninth Plan from the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry.

(c) The suggestions do not appear to be feasible since funding of a separate cargo corporation will erode the resource base of the Airports Authority of India (AAI) at this juncture. In any case, AAI has drawn up plans for development of cargo complexes at major airports while the existing cargo handling facilities are being upgraded in a phased manner.

[Translation]

Practice of Carrying Night Soil

*34. SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state

(a) whether it is a fact that the practice of carrying night soil is still in vogue in the country;

(b) if so, whether the Government have chalked out any new scheme to abolish this practice; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) (a) Yes Sir, the practice of carrying Night Soil is still in vogue in the country.

(b) and (c) National Scheme of Liberation and Rehabilitation of Scavengers was launched in March, 1992 to eliminate the inhuman practice of scavenging by the end of the VIII Five Year Plan i.e. 31st March, 1997. The Scheme provides for

- Time bound programme for identification of Scavengers and their dependents and their aptitude for alternative trades through survey
- Training in identified trades. Trainees are provided stipend at TRYSEM rates
- The financial package for the rehabilitation provides for investment of upto Rs. 50,000. The Capital subsidy of Rs. 10,000/- or 50% of the project cost whichever is less is provided by the Central Government. In addition, margin money loan of 15% of the project cost at concessional rate of interest of 4% is also provided. There is provision for Bank loan for the remaining amount under the concessional DRI scheme to the beneficiaries.

The State Scheduled Caste Development Corporations are the nodal agency for the implementation of the scheme at grassroot level. National Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Finance & Development Corporations (NSFDC) is given the responsibility of day to day implementation, monitoring as well as the task of coordination and collaboration with Scheduled Caste Development

Corporations in implementing the scheme. District Collector/ Deputy Commissioners are responsible for the over all implementation of the scheme.

Based on the survey reports submitted by the State Governments, the number of scavengers

identified so far comes to 7,86,941. The number of beneficiaries trained and rehabilitated during the year 1992-93, 1993-94, 1994-95 and 1995-96 (target) is enclosed as statement-I. Central Assistance released to the States is enclosed as statement-II

STATEMENT-I

Progress made under the National Scheme of Liberation And Rehabilitation of Scavengers and their dependents

S No.	State/UT's identified	No. of Scavengers	(Target)							
			1992-93		1993-94		1994-95		1995-96	
			Trained	Rehabilitated	Trained	Rehabilitated	Trained	Rehabilitated	Trained	Rehabilitated
1	Andhra Pradesh	7453	710	1083	153	1406	313	1937	-	-
2	Assam	16873	-	-	-	-	37	61	-	-
3	Bihar	40249	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
4	Gujarat	62842	-	33	-	973	790	1221	-	-
5	Haryana	18436	-	-	833	1295	3000	4000	-	-
6	Himachal Pradesh	4760	115	10	151	130	127	158	-	-
7	Jammu & Kashmir	4150	20	-	273	7	-	40	-	-
8	Karnataka	5825	-	166	107	-	-	-	-	-
9	Kerala	1339	-	-	144	166	12	94	-	-
10	Madhya Pradesh	80072	11395	10194	10892	12383	8717	15661	15000	15000
11	Maharashtra	126691	1128	1675	644	2792	2098	3481	-	6000
12	Orissa	17122	209	28	1080	872	705	888	2000	4000
13	Punjab	31290	130	-	4102	1138	291	375	4000	3000
14	Rajasthan	57786	528	178	2147	1543	2181	2096	3000	10000
15	Tamil Nadu	35561	-	-	500	2556	3461	4987	-	14000
16	Uttar Pradesh	226189	1867	4620	1065	15213	3505	29665	20000	70000
17	West Bengal	30000	-	-	103	-	-	-	-	-
18	Delhi	17420	-	505	13	196	121	303	-	-
19	Nagaland	1800	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
20	Meghalaya	607	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
21	Pondicherry	476	-	93	-	93	-	-	-	-
Total		786941	16288	18583	13266	40820	25358	64967	44000	122000

STATEMENT-II

State/UT's wise funds released under National Scheme of Liberation and rehabilitation of scavengers and their dependents

S No	Name of State	1991-92	1992-93	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1	Andhra Pradesh	2 00	2 55	4 59	0 62	-
2	Assam	0 125	2 02	-	-	-
3	Bihar	3 50	3 13	-	-	-

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
4.	Gujarat	2.50	1.86	2.00	-	-
5.	Haryana	1.50	1.76	7.14	-	-
6.	Himachal Pradesh	0.60	2.53	Not due	-	-
7.	Jammu & Kashmir	0.025	1.00	-do-	-	-
8.	Karnataka	1.75	3.99	-do-	4.00	-
9.	Kerala	0.25	0.30	-do-	-	-
10.	Madhya Pradesh	4.00	13.36	12.26	15.89	20.18
11.	Maharashtra	3.70	6.59	3.78	5.00	5.80
12.	Orissa	3.50	0.58	1.19	-	2.56
13.	Punjab	3.50	0.58	Not due	-	2.55
14.	Rajasthan	4.75	1.01	2.27	-	16.86
15.	Tamil Nadu	5.00	0.80	Not due	2.44	13.85
16.	Uttar Pradesh	8.00	14.94	37.63	45.05	38.16
17.	West Bengal	2.00	3.63	-	-	-
18.	Delhi	3.75	0.05	Not due	-	-
19.	Pondicherry	0.025	0.05	-	-	-
20.	Nagaland	-	-	0.11	-	-
21.	Meghalaya	0.025	-	-	-	-
Total		50.50	60.73	70.97	73.00	89.96

[English]

Protection of Film Industry

*35. SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether to save the Film Industry as a whole, irrespective of language, the Government propose to consider not to release and video of any film unless it is released and stayed in market from the date of release for 60 days;

(b) whether the Government propose to make necessary law in this regard; and

(c) if not, the manner in which the Government propose to protect the Film Industry?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) to (c). The production and distribution of films is controlled by the Film Industry itself which is in the private sector. Hence, it is for them to decide the manner in which to release feature films, both in the celluloid and video formats. The Government has no proposal to enact any legislation on the subject of release of films.

Vijay Kelkar Committee

*36. SHRI AMAR PAL SINGH :
DR. RAMKRISHNA KUSMARIA :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Vijay Kelkar Committee which was set up to work out the finance restructuring of Indian Airlines has submitted its report;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

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

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

Number of Aircrafts in AI and IA

*37. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) the number of aircraft Airbus-300 and Airbus-320 in operation at present with Air India and Indian Airlines;

(b) the life span of above aircrafts which have completed their operation period;

(c) the criteria to induct new aircraft in place of those which have completed their operation period; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken to induct new A-300 and A-320 aircrafts to replace the worn-out aircrafts for air safety and augmenting the capacity well in time?

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

	Number of aircraft	
	A-300	A-320
Air India	3	
Indian Airlines	10	30

(b) and (c). No life span is specified for the aircraft. The operation may continue subject to the Airworthiness of the aircraft as per regulations of Directorate General of Civil Aviation.

(d) There is no proposal at present to acquire new aircraft of A-300 or A-320 type by Air India or Indian Airlines for replacement or capacity augmentation.

[Translation]

Loss to Air India and Indian Airlines

*38. SHRI SOHAN BEER
KUMARI UMA BHARATI :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) the loss suffered by Indian Airlines and Air India during each of the last three years and the current year, so far;

(b) the reasons therefor and the routes on which loss is being incurred;

(c) the concrete steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to meet the loss and make them profitable;

(d) whether the Government also propose to merge IA and AI for the development of Civil Aviation; and

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

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

Year	Net Profit/(Loss)	
	Air India	Indian Airlines
		(Rs. in crores)
1993-94	201.90	(259.46)
1994-95	40.80	(188.73)
1995-96	(244.00) *	(134.25) *
1996-97	(93.80) *	(25.00) *
(Upto May, 1996)		

* Provisional

(b) Air India incurred losses during 1995-96 due to increase in expenditure on account of interest and depreciation on new aircraft, reduction in yield due to increased competition, increased landing, handling and navigational charges, agitation by engineers, depreciation of rupee value etc. Air India has been incurring loss on its operations to the continent, Canada, UK, Africa and freighter operations to USA and Singapore.

Indian Airlines has been incurring losses due to grounding of A320 fleet, entry of private airlines on trunk routes, exodus of pilots, unfavourable exchange fluctuations etc. Indian Airlines has been incurring losses on routes connecting stations in North East region, Jammu and Kashmir and Andaman & Nicobar Islands.

(c) Air India and Indian Airlines are taking steps to improve their product, image and on time performance to attract more passengers and to increase revenue.

(d) and (e). The Government recognises the need for increasingly integrated functioning of Air India and Indian Airlines in order to enable them to draw upon the strengths of each other.

TV Transmitters on Border Areas

*39. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH BHATI :
SHRI JAGATVIR SINGH DRONA :

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

(a) whether the border districts of Rajasthan and other states are affected by propaganda by the neighbouring countries through their high power transmission centres;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to set up high power T.V. transmitters at border areas to counter the propaganda; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) to (c). With a view to counter the propaganda being beamed from across the border by the neighbouring countries, the Government has undertaken a scheme to strengthen Doordarshan service in such areas, including those in Rajasthan. The scheme, inter-alia, envisages setting up of four 10 KW and one 1 KW HPTs, and 35 VLPTs in the border areas across the country as per the details given in the attached statement. While all the LPTs and VLPTs have already been commissioned, three HPTs, one each at Rameshwaram (10 KW), Bhuj (10 KW with restricted tower height) and Gangtok (1 KW) have also been

made operational. The HPTs at Jaisalmer (10 KW) and Barmer (1 KW interim set up) are technically

ready and commissioning of the same would depend upon availability of staff sanctions.

STATEMENT

List of Locations where TV Transmitters were/are Envisaged to be set up under "Border Areas Television Coverage Scheme"

S No	State/ Union Territory	10KW	1 KW	100 W	2x10 W
1.	Arunachal Pradesh	-	-	-	Anini Along Bomdila Changlang Daporizo Khonsa Namsai Roing Seppa Tawang Ziro
2	Bihar	-	-	Forbesganj Madhubani Motihari Sitamarhi	
3	Mizoram	-	-	-	Saiha
4	Gujarat	Bhuj	-	-	-
5	Himachal Pradesh	-	-	Bilaspur Dharamsala Mandi	Chamba Hamirpur Kalpa Keylong Una
6	Jammu & Kashmir	-	-	-	Bhadarwa Doda Khalatse Kupwara Kishtwar Pahalgam Ramban Udhampur
7	Manipur	-	-	-	Chandel Senapati Tamenglong
8	Meghalaya	-	-	Jowai	Nongstoin
9	Nagaland	-	-	-	Mon Wokha Zunheboto
10	Rajasthan	Barmer Jaisalmer	-	-	-
11	Sikkim	-	Gangtok	-	Gyalshing Mangan Namchi
12	Tamilnadu	Rameshwaram	-	-	-
	Total	4	1	8	35

[English]

Child Labour

*40 SHRI MOHAN RAWALE Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal under consideration of the Government to amend the existing child labour law;

(b) if so, the salient features of the proposal; and

(c) the time by which the above amendment is likely to be introduced?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) (a) to (c). There is a proposal to amend the Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act, 1986. The Workshop of Collectors of the most child labour endemic districts in the country, held in New Delhi in September, 1995, made a number of recommendations to make the Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act more stringent and effective. Since amendments in the Act require consultation with various Ministries/Departments, it would be difficult to lay down any definite schedule in this regard.

Doordarshan Channels, Calcutta

201 SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state

(a) whether the Government propose to telecast Metro and other channels programme beyond Calcutta West Bengal,

(b) whether the people of the State are demanding this for a long time

(c) whether any steps are being taken or proposed to be taken to meet the demand of the State,

(d) if so the details thereof, and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C. M. IBRAHIM) (a) to (e). Representations have been received from time to time for extension of Metro Channel (DD II) service beyond Calcutta in West Bengal. The service however is being extended initially to State Capitals and major cities of the country in a phased manner depending on availability of resources and other infrastructural facilities. The service is presently being relayed in West Bengal by the High Power Transmitter (DD-II) at Calcutta. An additional Low Power Transmitter is presently under implementation at Murshidabad for relaying the service. Further extension of Metro channel service

in West Bengal would depend upon the availability of resources and inter-se priorities. The service is however, available throughout the country, including the entire State of West Bengal, via satellite by using an appropriate Dish Antenna System.

Low Power Transmitters

202 SHRI BHUPINDER SINGH HOODA Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the installation of a Low Power Transmitter at Rohtak in Haryana has been completed,

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

(c) if not, the reasons for delay in this regard

(d) whether the Low Power Transmitter installed at Meham in Haryana is functioning to its intended capacity;

(e) whether adequate staff has been posted at the Low Power Transmitter stations at Meham and Rohtak for their optimum utilisation, and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C. M. IBRAHIM) (a) to (c). The Low Power TV transmitter (LPT) at Rohtak is technically ready. Its commissioning would, however, depend upon availability of staff sanction for operation and maintenance of the project.

(d) to (f). Though the LPT at Meham has already been commissioned pending staff sanction, the project is being operated by interim staff deployment from elsewhere in Doordarshan network thereby providing only restricted transmission. Operation of the transmitter on full capacity would depend on availability of staff sanction for the project.

Expansion of Air Services in Rajasthan

203 SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state

(a) whether any demand has been received from the Government of Rajasthan to increase air services in the State

(b) if so, the details thereof, and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C. M. IBRAHIM) (a) and (b). Requests have been received to increase frequencies of the existing

services from Delhi and Mumbai to Jaipur, Jodhpur and Udaipur and to introduce service to Jaisalmer.

(c) Due to capacity and crew constraints Indian Airlines is, at present, not in a position to increase the services. The State Government is reported to have offered concessions to private airlines for operations to/from Rajasthan.

Loss to DD Channels

204. SHRI ANAND RATNA MAURYA : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether prior to introduction of Star T.V. and other foreign T.V. Channels, Doordarshan's DD-I and DD-II were earning a very heavy amount through advertisements, which is being diverted to foreign channels presently as reported in 'Times of India' dated June 21, 1996;

(b) the total amount of loss being suffered by DD due to diversion of T.V. advertisements; and

(c) the manner in which the Government propose to make good this loss and ensure smooth running of Doordarshan in future?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) and (b). There has been no adverse effect on the commercial earnings of Doordarshan due to the advent of foreign satellite channels as is evident from the following figures of commercial revenue earned by it during the last three years :

Year	Revenue in crores
1993-94	Rs. 372.98
1994-95	Rs. 398.02
1995-96	Rs. 430.13

(c) In view of (a) and (b), does not arise. However, Doordarshan constantly strives for qualitative improvement in its programmes so as to attract maximum number of viewers and make it a cost-effective medium for the advertisers.

Haj Flights from Calicut Airport

205. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether representations to increase Haj flights from Calicut airport were received by the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the number of Haj flights arranged this year from the above airport?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) and (b). Representations have been received for introduction of Haj flights from Calicut Airport.

(c) Since Haj flights have been operated with B 747 type of aircraft during 1995 and 1996, it has technically not been feasible to operate such flights from Calicut.

Central Assistance to Orissa

206. SHRI SOUMYA RANJAN : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have provided financial assistance to Orissa for construction of hotels, motels and guest houses;

(b) if so, the details thereof during the year 1995-96; and

(c) the number of hotels, motels and guest houses built in the State by Union Government during 1995-96?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA) : (a) to (c). The Department of Tourism, Government of India, does not extend financial assistance for construction of hotels, but provides financial assistance to State Government to construct tourist lodges, wayside amenities, yatri niwases, cafeterias and some tented accommodation. Financial assistance sanctioned to the State of Orissa for these purposes during 1995-96 is given below :-

S. No.	Name of the project	Amount sanctioned (Rs. In lakhs)
1.	Amenity Centre at Dhauil	20.26
2.	Tourist Lodge at Badarama	36.41
3.	Floating restaurant at Barkul	42.89
4.	Beach cleaners equipment, Puri, Orissa	9.30
Total		108.86

Bonded Labour

207. SHRI RAMCHANDRA VEERAPPA : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the International Labour Organisation (ILO) has criticised India for failing to check bonded labour, particularly child labour;

- (b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (c) the number of bonded child labour released during the last three years, year-wise; and
- (d) if so, the steps taken or proposed to be taken to eliminate bonded labour in India?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) and (b). The Convention No. 29 concerning forced labour was discussed by the Committee on Application of Standards at 81st Session of International Conference held at Geneva in June, 1995. The Committee urged the Government to spare no efforts to institute the necessary measures for elimination of child labour and bonded labour. The full factual position regarding the various constitutional, legal and administrative measures taken in pursuance to the highest priority all along accorded by the Government to the total eradication of bonded labour system throughout the country has been fully conveyed to the Committee.

(c) A total number of 1,524 bonded child labour have been identified and rehabilitated in eight different States as reported by the respective State Governments.

(d) The Government have accorded the highest priority to total eradication of the bonded labour system throughout the country. The identified bonded labourers are rehabilitated in a time bound manner and the position is closely monitored by the Government, both at the Central and State level. Under a Centrally Sponsored Scheme taken up since 1978, assistance is provided to the State Governments on 50:50 basis for rehabilitation of identified bonded labourers. The quantum of financial assistance under the scheme for rehabilitation of each bonded labour has been increased from Rs. 6,250/- to Rs. 10,000/- since 1.4.1995. In addition, the State Governments have been advised to suitably dovetail the assistance available under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme with the funds available under the various anti-poverty programmes in order to pool the resources for effective rehabilitation of identified bonded labour. Some States like Andhra Pradesh give over-riding preference to bonded child labourers in admitting them in Ashram Schools/ Residential Schools etc. where they are provided with facilities to study.

[Translation]

Industrial Training to Women

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

(a) the institution-wise details of the financial assistance provided for imparting industrial training

to women in Delhi during the last three years and as on date;

(b) whether the Government have also received some complaints about misutilisation of the above financial assistance;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether any monitoring group is proposed to be set up for the purpose; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) Three ITIs under the Department of Training & Technical Education, Govt. of Delhi are imparting Industrial Training to Women. Institution-wise details of expenditure incurred during the last three years, is as follows :

S. No.	Name of ITI	Year-wise Expenditure (in Rupees)		
		1993-94	1994-95	1995-96
1.	ITI, Siri Fort	5341152	4788358	6098292
2.	ITI, Jaffarpur	1745687	2073333	2352850
3.	ITI, Morigate	1802000	1992309	2216049

(b) to (d). Govt. of Delhi has reported that they have not received any complaint regarding misutilisation of financial assistance given to Women ITIs and also that they do not propose to set up any monitoring group for the purpose.

(e) Does not arise in view of the reply furnished above.

Expansion of TV Network in Karnataka

209. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have taken any action for expansion of TV network in Karnataka;

(b) if so, the target set during the Eighth Five Year Plan in this regard; and

(c) the progress made as on date?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) to (c). Yes, Sir. With a view to further strengthen TV service in Karnataka, a Programme Generation Facility (PGF) Centre and 12 TV transmitters of varying powers have already been commissioned into service as a part of the

Eighth Five Year Plan schemes of Doordarshan. In addition, 18 TV transmitters of varying powers are under implementation/envisaged to be set up in the State, subject to availability of resources and other infrastructural facilities. As implementation of such schemes involves various activities like approval by the competent authority, acquisition of site, frequency clearance, construction of building and tower and procurement of equipment, etc., these schemes are at various stages of implementation.

A.I.R. Station, Asansol

210 SHRI HARADHAN ROY : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state

(a) whether the Government propose to start AIR station at Asansol, West Bengal during the current year; and

(b) if so, the time by which it is likely to be made operational?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C M IBRAHIM) (a) and (b) A relay centre with 6 KW FM transmitter and receiving facilities at Asansol is expected to be ready for commissioning by August, 96.

[Translation]

Welfare Schemes in Tribal Areas

211. DR. RAMESH CHAND TOMAR : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the welfare schemes introduced by the Union Government in the tribal areas;

(b) since when the above schemes are being implemented;

(c) whether all these schemes have achieved their targets;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government propose to review such schemes; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : (a) and (b). Details of schemes and year of introduction are indicated in the attached statement.

(c) and (d). Yes, Sir. During the last 3 years, an amount of Rs. 1223.43 crores was released under various schemes against the total budget provision of Rs. 1224.60 crores.

(e) and (f). The schemes are reviewed every year at the time of Plan discussions with the Planning Commission. It has also been decided to set up a Commission under Article 339 (1) of the Constitution to review strategies for tribal development.

STATEMENT

S No	Name of the Scheme	Year of introduction
		Five
1	Girls Hostels for Scheduled Tribes	III Year Plan
2	Boys Hostels for Scheduled Tribes	1989-90
3	Ashram Schools in TSP Areas	1990-91
4	Educational Complex in Low Literacy Pockets for ST Girls	1993-94
5	Grant-in-aid to Voluntary Organisations for STS	1953-54
6	Vocational Training in Tribal Areas	1992-93
7	Research & Training	
	(a) Grants to TRIs and Award to Research Fellowships	1979-80
	(b) Supporting Projects of All India or Inter-State nature	
8	Grants-in-aid to State Tribal Development Cooperative Corporations	1992-93
9	Grants-in-aid to TRIFED/ Price Support to TRIFED	1987
10	Special Central Assistance for TSP	Vth Five Year Plan
11	Grants Under Article 275 (1) of the Constitution	1974-75

[English]

National Media Policy

212. SHRI RUPCHAND PAL :
SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH :

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

(a) whether a Sub-Committee of Consultative Committee attached to his Ministry on the National Media Policy has submitted its report;

(b) if so, the details of the recommendations made;

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(d) if not the time by which the report is likely to be received?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) to (d). The Sub-Committee of the Consultative Committee for Ministry of Information & Broadcasting has submitted 'A Working Paper on National Media Policy' to the Chairman of the Consultative Committee i.e. Minister of Information & Broadcasting on 29th March, 1996 for consideration in accordance with the terms and conditions for the functioning of the Sub-Committee. In the meantime the Lok Sabha was dissolved and General Elections took place for the constitution of the new Lok Sabha. The Consultative Committee of MPs for the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting is yet to be constituted. The Working Paper on National Media Policy will be placed before it for consideration/discussion as soon as it is constituted. A summary of the recommendations is enclosed as *statement*.

STATEMENT

Summary of Recommendations

The broadcasting should observe a greater degree of responsibility and sensitivity to Indian culture and ethos and cater to the developmental requirement of the country. It should achieve an Indian personality in telecasting/broadcasting.

(Para 6.4.1.1)

9.2 There should be a regulatory body to oversee both public and private telecasting/broadcasting. In this connection, the Sub-Committee noted that the provisions of the Prasar Bharati Act, which was unanimously passed by Parliament in 1990 should be kept in mind while framing the regulatory mechanism which should be an independent autonomous authority. The Sub-Committee is of confirmed opinion that no recourse should be taken by the Government to dilute the provision of the Prasar Bharati Act, 1990. This regulatory body may

be set up to ensure adherence to the programmes/advertisement codes and other stipulations. This body or similar independent body may also develop an effective mechanism for public grievance redressal as well as implementation of its recommendations in respect of such grievances.

(Para 6.4.1.2)

9.3 Adequate care should be taken to enable the setting up of non-commercial broadcasting stations to be run by universities, educational institutions, panchayats/local bodies, State Governments, etc.

(Para 6.4.1.3)

9.4 The Sub-Committee recognises that for public broadcasting, adequate funding in the form of state support is necessary. The content of programmes or software is often dictated by the funding and therefore the Sub-Committee strongly recommends that this aspect should receive the attention of the government and an institutionalised system be worked out.

(Para 6.4.1.4)

9.5 The national broadcasters-Akashvani and Doordarshan-should bear the responsibility to offer a high quality public service broadcasting that informs, educates and entertains the people and also provide coverage to national events like the Republic Day Parade. Taking into account the reach of the national broadcasters, primacy and exclusive responsibility should be provided to them in the matter of coverage of national events like Republic Day Parade, Independence Day, the President's Address to both the Houses of Parliament, etc.

(Para 6.4.1.5)

9.6 The rights/obligations and exclusivity of the national broadcasters should be codified through law.

(Para 6.4.1.6)

9.7 Whereas the broad policy approach should be the same for radio and television minor variations/differences can be made in view of the difference in reach and impact of the two media. Programme/advertisement codes should be similar, if not, same. The viewer/listener interest should be kept in mind while spacing the advertisements. A new production style which is people-oriented should be developed.

(Para 6.4.1.7)

9.8 In tune with the policy framework suggested here, the Indian private sector/State Government/NOGs/Local Self Government should be allowed to enter the field of broadcasting/telecasting.

(Para 6.4.1.8)

9.9 Appropriate provisions must be made to ensure that the control of private broadcasting does not fall in the hands of companies having major

stake in the print medium or vice-versa. Cross-media ownership restrictions must, therefore, be considered.

(Para 6.4.1.9)

9.10 Direct or indirect foreign equity participation in companies entering the field of private broadcasting should not be permitted.

(Para 6.4.1.10)

9.11 Access on the private channel should be available to the common man through appropriate provisions in the law.

(Para 6.4.1.11)

9.12 In view of the Supreme Court's Judgement on airwaves, an independent authority must be set up to control and regulate the use of airwaves. The Sub-Committee felt that the integrity of the Indian Skies is as important as her territorial integrity. This regulatory authority must be set up through a law enacted by the Parliament at the earliest. This Body can combine the functions of the regulatory body mentioned in para 6.4.1.2 or can be a separate body exclusively for controlling the sky waves under the regulatory body mentioned in para 6.4.1.2.

(Para 6.5.1)

9.13 The apex regulatory body should be an independent autonomous public authority representative of all sections and interests in the society and should control and regulate the use of air waves in the interests of the public and to prevent invasion of their rights.

(Para 6.5.2)

9.14 The foreign satellite channels must also be brought within the ambit of the said regulatory body in order to make them amenable to the Indian laws.

(Para 6.5.3)

9.15 The Sub-Committee felt that in the case of skywaves, efforts should be made to develop an international convention to forge multilateral/regional agreements with countries especially in regard to software.

(Para 6.5.4)

9.16 The Sub-Committee noted that it will be difficult to pre-censor programmes aired on television in view of vast structure such a step would call for. By bringing in the private broadcasting/foreign channels within the purview of the Indian legal system, much of laissez-faire that exists can be curbed.

(Para 6.5.5)

9.17 The Sub-Committee felt that the present programming in electronic media especially television, needs to be more decentralised to meet the regional/local aspirations. In this connection, the

Verghese Committee recommendations regarding decentralised programming, programme autonomy and constitution of five zones for this purpose (viz. South, West, central Eastern and North) should be considered by the Government.

(Para 6.5.6)

9.18 Care should be taken that no monopoly is developed by the private broadcasters, by restructuring the number of channels, especially 'several interest' channels owned by them.

(Para 6.5.7)

9.19 The Sub-Committee agrees with the broad objectives of national film policy set out by the Working Group on National Film Policy, vide para 7.6.2 above and we reiterate the same. As a formal declaration of the national film policy would be useful, the Sub-Committee recommends that the Government should formalise the same as early as possible.

(Para 7.12.1.1)

9.20 Since the Estimates Committee and the Standing Committee have examined in detail the working of the CBFC as mentioned above, we have nothing further to add except to reiterate their recommendations. These recommendations are discussed elsewhere (vide Annexure-VII and paras 7.9.5 and 7.9.6). The Sub-Committee wishes to add that Government should amend the guidelines for certification of films to curb the distortion of image of eminent leaders in films.

(Para 7.12.1.2)

9.21 The production of good shortfilms, both by Films Division and independent producers, needs to be actively encouraged. The Films Division should make efforts to improve the quality of its documentaries and make them more interesting. The Sub-Committee recommends that Government should encourage the growth of Indian documentary film movement. The Sub-Committee suggests in this regard that the Films Division should farm out more and more films to independent producers on its panel. Further Doordarshan should commission production of documentaries through the Films Division and other agencies.

(Para 7.12.1.3)

9.22 It has been stated that it would be very difficult to find sponsors for telecasting documentaries on Doordarshan. The Sub-Committee recommends that the Doordarshan should allot time-slots for at least half-an-hour every day on prime time for documentaries, even if there are no sponsors.

(Para 7.12.1.4)

9.23 The Sub-Committee also recommends that the feasibility of showing documentary films in

various educational institutions, schools, colleges and universities should be examined. The Ministry of Human Resource Development should consider the allocation of funds for the purpose.

(Para 7.12.1.5)

9.24 With a view to encourage children's films the Sub-Committee recommends that more infrastructural facilities should be developed for production of animation films.

(Para 7.12.1.6)

9.25 The Sub-Committee also recommends that more avenues for exhibition of children's films in each district of the country should be identified.

(Para 7.12.1.7)

9.26 During meetings, representatives of the film industry pointed out that though Government called for recommendations from the Film Federation of India for the Dadasaheb Phalke Award, it did not normally accept their recommendation. The Sub-Committee is informed that Government gets recommendations from all quarters including film industry and the best person is selected at the highest level in the Ministry for the Award. To give more credibility to the Government's decision, the Sub-Committee would recommend that a small Committee consisting of eminent persons including those from Film World should be appointed by Government to consider all names received and recommend the name of the person who should be honoured with the Dadasaheb Phalke Award.

(Para 7.12.1.8)

9.27 The National Film Awards were instituted in 1953 to provide for a special impetus to regional cinema and to encourage the production of films of aesthetic excellence and social relevance. The Sub-Committee also recommends that the award winning films should be screened at various State capitals and other large towns that the people in the regional centres may get an opportunity to see them. The Central Government should provide funds to the State Government to organise such festivals of award-winning films.

(Para 7.12.1.9)

9.28 A number of witnesses before the Sub-Committee represented for the full implementation of the recommendations of the High Powered Committee (1990). The Sub-Committee would suggest that the matter should be taken up with the various State Governments/Union Territory Administrations again.

(Para 7.12.1.10)

9.29 The Sub-Committee recommends that the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations

should be persuaded to rationalise the rates of Entertainment Tax to help the film industry.

(Para 7.12.1.11)

9.30 During discussions some of the film industry representatives to the Sub-Committee that in view of high cost of imported raw stock, the customs countervailing duty may be reduced if not abolished. The Sub-Committee recommends that the countervailing duty on raw stock may be abolished in view of the fact that there are no facilities to manufacture the raw stock in the country.

(Para 7.12.1.12)

9.31 Some of the witnesses before the Sub-Committee expressed concern about the shortage of theatres as well as the closure of cinema houses due to the advent of television and video. To overcome the shortage of exhibition facilities, the Sub-Committee suggests that wherever cinema theatres are being converted into commercial complexes, the local authorities should ensure that in the complex coming up at the site at least one mini theatre is provided in the complex. The Sub-Committee would also recommend that more multiplex theatrical complexes should be encouraged.

(Para 7.12.1.13)

9.32 The Sub-Committee recommends that the National Film Development Corporation and other agencies should encourage construction of theatres with 400 to 500 capacity instead of very large theatres.

(Para 7.12.1.14)

9.33 During meetings the representatives of the cine workers pleaded for the declaration of the film industry as an "industry" so that the workers of the industry are not exploited by the producers. The Sub-Committee feels that introduction of labour welfare measures to film industry workers will go a long way in improving their conditions. The Sub-Committee, therefore, recommends that the film industry may be declared as an industry not only for the purpose of institutional finance but also for application of labour legislation relating to welfare of labour.

(Para 7.12.1.15)

9.34 The National Film Archive of India is charged with the responsibility of preservation of cinema. There have been press reports about the damage and loss of important films. The Sub-Committee suggests that the Archive should take immediate steps to acquire all film classics and preserve them properly for posterity.

(Para 7.12.1.16)

9.35 The Sub-Committee also suggests that the National Film Archive of India should take over the

old documentaries from the Films Division for restoration and preservation.

(Para 7.12.1.17)

9.36 Nowadays film appreciation courses have been started in various universities and new film societies are coming up. However, Government gives only Rs. 3 Lakhs per year to the Federation of Film Societies of India for its activities. This is awfully inadequate. The Sub-Committee recommends that Government should encourage film society movement by giving all facilities including finance. The grant-in-aid to the Federation of Film Societies of India should be augmented suitably

(Para 7.12.1.18)

9.37 Some of the witnesses informed the Sub-Committee that Akashvani's royalty rates for film songs which broadcast is Rs. 2 per song and was fixed a long time ago, considering the time lapse and increase in the cost of picturising film songs, the Sub-Committee recommends that this should be suitably revised upwards by Akashvani

(Para 7.12.1.19)

9.38 With respect to the suggestions regarding evolving a code of conduct for the journalists and for vesting the Press Council of India with more powers, the Sub-Committee felt that the matter may be left to the Press Council for suitable decisions. However, the Press Council should consider arming itself with adequate powers to deal with habitual offences with respect to communalism, threats to national security and other undesirable activities

(Para 8.4.1.1)

9.39 The language Press and the small and medium newspapers should continue to grow. Therefore, the Sub-Committee recommends that the Government must endeavour to create a suitable environment by helping in the modernisation of these sections of the Press.

(Para 8.4.1.2)

9.40 Though the financial viability of a newspaper depends to a larger extent on the advertisement revenue which it is able to attract Government's advertising policy and rate structure should be rational and uniform evolved with a view to eliminate the possible use of advertisements as a lever to influence the press and thereby affecting its freedom.

(Para 8.4.1.3)

9.41 Even though the import of newsprint has been put under OGL there is a need for a nodal agency to import newsprint on behalf of small and medium newspapers as they do not have the necessary infrastructure and the bargaining power for such imports

(Para 8.4.1.4)

9.42 The training requirements of the journalists is yet another aspect which needs immediate attention. The press over the years has to become increasingly professional in nature. With a view to ensure that the press as a whole is capable of reporting and explaining and interpreting in their proper perspective various developments taking place. It is imperative that additional facilities are created to enable journalists to have a broad educational preparation and specific training in journalism.

(Para 8.4.1.5)

9.43 Indian news agencies have not been able to operate effectively in the sphere of dissemination of national news abroad, and the gathering of foreign news for dissemination within the country. Foreign news agencies still dominate international news sections in leading newspapers. It should be the endeavour of the Government to permit and strengthen the news agencies to become self-sufficient in these spheres. In this connection, renewed efforts should be made in revitalising the efforts taken in the wake of Non-Aligned Conference, 1976 which lead to the establishment of Newspool for exchange of news among the third world countries.

(Para 8.4.1.6)

9.44 To strengthen the Indian news agencies, the Sub-Committee recommends that corporatisation of these news agencies with adequate equity base, as was suggested by the First Press Commission, should be seriously considered

(Para 8.4.1.7)

9.45 Freedom of the editors, and editorial contents, insulated from the business and other interests of the owners, should be ensured through a proper institutional mechanism or guidelines to be evolved by the Press themselves or by the Press Council of India. The issue of diversion of funds from the newspaper industry to other industries may be examined

(Para 8.4.1.8)

9.46 The Sub-Committee feels that towards professionalisation of the print media, adequate institutional finance should be made available to the journalists, etc through cooperatives on easy terms

(Para 8.4.1.9)

[Translation]

Appointments of SCs/STs

213. SHRI SUKDEO PASWAN Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state

(a) whether appointments of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes are made in accordance with the quota fixed for them in Ministries/Undertakings and institutions; and

(b) if not, the remedial measures taken or proposed to be taken by the Government in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : (a) Yes, Sir. The Reservation Roasters have been prescribed to ensure that appointments of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes as per the relevant constitutional provision are made in accordance with quota fixed for them.

(b) Does not arise.

Welfare Schemes for SCs/STs in Bihar

214. SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the welfare schemes being implemented by the Union Government in the

backward areas of Bihar for the improvement of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes,

(b) the date of enforcement of these schemes,

(c) whether the Union Government are reviewing the said schemes; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : (a) and (b) A Statement in respect of welfare schemes being implemented of Union Ministry of Welfare in the State of Bihar for improvement of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes is attached.

(c) and (d). These schemes are reviewed periodically through evaluating studies, meetings and conferences, and interaction with the concerned State Governments/UT Administrations

STATEMENT

S No	Name of the Scheme	Year of Commencement
1	Centrally Sponsored Scheme of SC Boys Hostels	1989-90
2	Central Sponsored Scheme of SC Girls Hostels	Third Five Year Plan
3	Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Book Banks for SC/ST	1978-79
4	Upgradation of Merit of SC/ST students	1987-88
5	National Scheme of Liberation of Seavengers and their dependents	1991-92
6	Scheme of Coaching and Allied for SC/ST	1969-70
7	Special Central Assistance to Special Component Plan	1979-80
8	Scheme of assistance to State/UT level Scheduled Castes Development Corporation	1978-79
9	Grant-in-aid to Voluntary Organisations for SCs	1953-54
10	Centrally Sponsored Scheme of implementation of Protection of Civil Rights Act and SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act	1976-77
11	Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Post Matric Scholarship of SC/ST students	1943-44
12	Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Pre-Matric Scholarship for Children of those engaged in unclean Occupations	1977-78
13	Vocational Training Centres	1992-93
14	Grant-in-aid to State T D C C for Minor Forest Produce	1992-93
15	Special Central Assistance to Tribal Sub-Plan	Fifth Five Year Plan
16	Grants-in-aid under Article 275(1) first proviso of the Constitution	-do-
17	Girls Hostels for STs	3rd Plan
18	Boys Hostels for STs	1989-90
19	Ashram Schools for STs	1990-91
20	Educational Complex in Low Literacy pockets for ST Girls	1993-94
21	Grant-in-aid to Voluntary Organisations for STs	1953-54

National Wage Policy

215. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHOUDHARY : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to formulate a National Wage Policy for the welfare and benefit of the labourers in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) There is no proposal before the Government to formulate the National Wage Policy.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Wages in the organised sector are determined through negotiations and settlements. Wherever necessary, the Government also constitutes Wage Boards, in certain sectors, for fixation and revision of wages. In the unorganised sector, wages are fixed under the Minimum Wages Act, 1948. Under the Minimum Wages Act, both the State and the Central Governments are appropriate Governments for fixation/revision of minimum rates of wages in the scheduled employments falling in their respective jurisdiction. Act provides for the periodic revision of minimum rates of wages.

Censorship of Films

216. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to issue fresh guidelines for censorship of films; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) and (b). The existing guidelines for certification of films are quite comprehensive and there is no proposal to issue fresh guidelines. However, these guidelines are reviewed by Government as and when considered necessary.

Labour Co-operative Societies

217. SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) the number of details of labour co-operative societies set-up in the country to take-over the closed industrial undertakings;

(b) whether the Government encourage setting up of each Societies; and

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

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) to (c). As per the provisions of the Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985, it is mandatory for the management of a sick industrial company to make reference to the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR). Revival of sick industrial companies through workers' cooperative is one of the measures envisaged under the Act.

According to the available information, BIFR has so far sanctioned five schemes for revival of sick industrial companies through worker's cooperatives. These are :

1. New Central Jute Mills
2. Kamani Tubes*
3. Power Metals
4. HES Ltd.
5. K.M.A. Ltd.

The Companies mentioned at Sl. No. 1,3,4 and 5 for which revival schemes were sanctioned are under implementation.

The case mentioned at Sl. No. 2 for which revival scheme earlier sanctioned has been declared failed since 26.5.95, and is presently under enquiry. Ministry of Labour as a matter of general policy does encourage, inter alia, rehabilitation schemes through employees' cooperatives.

[English]

Telecasting of news in all Languages

218. SHRI R.B. RAI : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) the languages included in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution;

(b) whether the Government have not yet started to telecast news on Doordarshan in all these languages;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to telecast news in all the languages included in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) Assamese, Bengali, Gujarati, Hindi, Kannada, Kashmiri, Konkani, Malayalam, Manipuri, Marathi, Nepali, Oriya, Punjabi, Sanskrit, Sindhi, Tamil, Telugu, and Urdu.

(b) to (d). Doordarshan telecasts news in all these languages except Sindhi, Manipuri, Konkani and Nepali. There is no proposal at present to telecast news in these four languages due to lack of manpower, hardware, other infrastructural facilities, etc.

Children's films in National Film Festival

219 SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether a very few children films are produced and shown in national film festivals; and

(b) if so, the steps being taken to encourage producers to make more children's films?

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

(b) Government gives an award to the best children's film every year in the National Film Festival. The Children's Film Society, India (now called the National Centre of Films for Children and Young People or N'CYP in short) has been set up for production of children's films in various languages. In 1995-96 it was given a grant-in-aid of Rs. 160 lakhs under Plan for production of children's films. According to a recommendation of the High Powered Committee (1990) set up by Government to examine the problems of film industry, which has been accepted by Government, films certified as children's films by the Central Board of Film Certification are to be considered by State Governments/ Union Territory Administrations for grant of exemption from entertainment tax.

Unemployment Problem

220 DR KRUPASINDHU BHOI
SHRI HARIN PATHAK
SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state

(a) the number of unemployed persons registered with various Employment Exchanges of the country during each of the last three years, education level-wise and State-wise;

(b) the number of the persons out of them provided with employment during the above period State-wise;

(c) the jobs proposed to be created for them during the current Plan period and Ninth Five Year Plan; and

(d) the steps taken to tackle the problem of unemployment in the country?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) and (b) A *Statement* showing the number of job-seekers (all of whom are not necessarily unemployed) classified by educational levels on the live register of employment exchanges in the country as at the end of 1991, 1992 and 1993 (latest available) together with their number placed in employment during the years 1991, 1992 and 1993 is attached.

(c) and (d) The Eighth Five Year Plan envisages creation of additional employment opportunities of the order of 8.5 million per annum on an average during the Eighth Plan period and of the order of 9.5 million per annum on an average during the period 1997-2002. To achieve this rate of growth in employment, the plan envisages an employment strategy giving emphasis on the growth of sectors and sub-sectors with high employment intensity such as agriculture, agro and rural industries, rural infrastructure, small and the decentralised manufacturing sector, urban informal sector and services sector. New employment schemes such as Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS), Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana (PMRY) and a Two-Million Job Scheme of the KVAFSU have been introduced in the Eighth Plan period besides continuing the ongoing schemes of IRDP, JRY and NRY. The Prime Minister's Integrated Urban Poverty Alleviation Programme also has an element of employment generation with the provision of basic services to the poorer segments of the population.

STATEMENT

Number of Educated (Matric and above) job-seekers on the live register of employment exchanges in the country and number of placements effected

(in thousands)

S No	States/Union Territories	Live Register as on 31st Dec.						Placements During					
		1991		1992		1993		1991		1992		1993	
		Matric and above but below Graduates	Graduates (including Post-graduates)	Matric and above but below Graduates	Graduates (including Post-graduates)	Matric and above but below Graduates	Graduates (including Post-graduates)	Matric and above but below Graduates	Graduates (including Post-graduates)	Matric and above but below Graduates	Graduates (including Post-graduates)	Matric and above but below Graduates	Graduates (including Post-graduates)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
States													
1	Andhra Pradesh	1665.3	284.8	1636.5	309.2	1708.5	327.2	3.0	3.1	4.2	2.3	3.5	0.9
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0.3	0.1	0.2	@	0.2	@	-	@	@	@	@	-
3.	Assam	671.7	87.5	692.5	92.3	706.9	92.4	1.0	0.4	0.7	0.4	0.5	0.1
4.	Bihar	1835.1	390.3	1818.1	359.5	1869.2	383.1	2.0	0.4	1.3	0.2	0.7	0.1
5.	Goa	63.4	10.8	69.7	12.0	73.1	12.3	0.5	0.1	0.3	0.1	0.2	0.1
6.	Gujarat	558.1	73.0	602.2	74.5	562.7	70.5	7.5	1.9	13.2	2.9	7.3	1.9
7.	Haryana	334.7	63.0	352.0	67.3	369.0	67.9	1.5	0.8	1.0	0.6	1.0	0.3
8.	Himachal Pradesh	256.7	39.1	275.9	45.1	296.1	45.6	1.7	0.7	1.9	0.7	2.0	0.7
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	30.2	13.8	35.0	13.9	43.7	17.2	0.1	0.1	@	0.1	@	@
10.	Karnataka	713.9	152.0	814.6	149.7	838.4	165.5	4.2	0.7	4.7	1.0	7.1	1.2
11.	Kerala	2099.9	187.7	2103.8	194.9	2384.0	220.0	9.2	4.6	8.5	5.7	6.7	3.7
12.	Madhya Pradesh	1159.3	233.7	1184.8	233.2	1196.5	245.9	4.4	1.2	4.5	1.4	5.8	2.9
13.	Maharashtra	1839.6	257.2	1975.9	270.4	2030.9	269.2	12.5	4.4	12.5	4.8	9.4	4.6
14.	Manipur	109.1	24.7	118.5	25.8	127.5	27.8	0.1	0.1	@	@	0.2	@
15.	Meghalaya	9.2	1.8	9.5	1.8	10.6	2.0	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
16.	Mizoram	11.4	2.1	12.7	2.3	14.6	2.3	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.1
17.	Nagaland	12.5	1.3	9.0	1.4	11.1	1.0	0.1	@	0.1	@	0.1	@
18.	Orissa	383.4	119.8	419.8	133.3	402.6	129.8	3.5	1.2	3.2	1.4	1.8	0.8
19.	Punjab	356.4	111.4	355.7	111.0	331.3	100.6	1.5	1.1	1.4	0.7	1.3	0.4
20.	Rajasthan	378.8	151.8	400.8	147.3	375.0	150.7	4.6	4.8	4.9	5.5	2.7	4.2
21.	Sikkim*												
22.	Tamil Nadu	1681.3	386.8	1776.2	449.4	1909.7	445.5	15.4	8.5	16.4	6.4	6.1	2.9

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
23	Tripura	44.0	9.5	46.9	11.2	47.0	11.3	0.1	②	0.4	0.3	0.1	②
24	Uttar Pradesh	1502.0	400.9	1429.6	364.1	1340.4	339.1	3.6	2.4	3.6	1.8	3.3	3.5
25	West Bengal	2311.7	548.7	2356.2	574.0	2394.8	568.6	2.8	2.5	2.6	2.4	1.4	1.0
<i>Union Territories</i>													
26	A & N Islands	6.8	1.8	6.8	1.8	6.8	1.8	0.2	0.3	0.2	-	-	-
27	Chandigarh	65.7	23.8	67.6	24.6	66.4	24.3	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.4	0.3
28	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	1.0	0.2	1.0	0.2	1.0	0.2	②	②	②	②	-	-
29	Delhi	460.2	218.6	465.7	222.6	471.9	223.5	3.2	2.0	1.6	0.9	1.9	0.9
30	Daman and Diu	1.0	0.3	1.3	0.4	0.8	0.4	0.1	0.1	②	②	0.1	0.1
31	Lakshdweep	1.6	0.1	1.6	0.1	1.6	0.1	-	-	-	-	-	-
32	Pondicherry	63.1	10.5	61.5	11.6	66.5	12.2	0.1	②	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.3
Total		18627.3	3807.2	19101.2	3905.1	19658.6	3958.3	83.6	42.0	88.0	40.4	63.8	31.5

- Note
- 1 * No Employment Exchange is functioning in this State
 - 2 ② Figures less than 50
 - 3 Figures may not add up to total due to rounding off

E.S.I. Hospitals in Gujarat

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

(a) whether the present Employees State Insurance Hospitals are sufficient in Gujarat to meet the health needs of the workers in the State;

(b) if not, whether Government propose to open some more ESI Hospitals in the State; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the allocations likely to be made therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) to (c). There are 9 ESI Hospitals functioning in the State of Gujarat. Wherever necessary, beds have also been reserved in Government/Private Hospitals for providing adequate in-door treatment to the Insured Persons. Meanwhile the ESI Corporation is having two hospitals, one each at Vapi and Jamnagar constructed. For construction of these two hospitals the Corporation has sanctioned a sum of Rs. 489.98 lakh. A proposal to convert the 225 bedded Chest Hospital at Naroda into a 300 bedded General Hospital has also been received in the ESIC.

Colour X-Ray Machines at IGIA

222. SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government's plans to install colour X-ray machines at IGIA to check anti-smuggling operations have been abandoned;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Airports Authority of India has been showing least interest in the Project;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the further action the Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) No, Sir. 4 colour X-ray machines are being installed to check baggage in the international arrival hall.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d). No, Sir. However, there was some delay in the procurement of the machines by the Customs Department.

(e) Two machines have already been commissioned on 17.8.96 and the other two will be commissioned soon.

Pension Scheme

223. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have held any further parleys with Trade Unions and other Employee's organisations about the implementation of the Employee's Pension Scheme;

(b) if so, the results thereof; and

(c) the present status regarding the implementation of the aforesaid scheme?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) to (c). While a series of meetings were held with the representatives of the Central Trade Unions before and after the introduction of the Employees' Pension Scheme 1995 with effect from 16.11.1995, no specific discussion on the Scheme has taken place with them during the last two months. The Scheme is already under implementation and pension has already been disbursed in over 68000 cases.

Child Labour

224. SHRI DADA BABURAO PRANJPE : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) the issues discussed in the International Labour Ministers' Conference held on January 19, 1995 at Delhi;

(b) the issues on which there was a consensus of opinion;

(c) the issues on which policy differences were expressed by other countries; and

(d) the present position in respect of Child Labour in India and steps taken by the Government for its abolition?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) The Fifth Conference of Labour Ministers of Non-aligned and Other Developing Countries held at New Delhi from 19th to 23rd January, discussed the following subjects :

(i) Horizontal cooperation in the field of employment and human resources;

(ii) Effects of International trade and international labour standards on employment, working conditions and development in the Non-aligned and Other Developing Countries; and

(iii) The social impact of structural adjustment programmes.

(b) and (c). After detailed discussions in the Conference, the Delhi Declaration and Programme of Action were unanimously adopted. The Conference through the above Documents expressed their deep

concerns about the efforts at seeking to establish linkage between international trade and enforcement of labour standards through the imposition of the social clause. The Conference resolved to undertake programmes for horizontal cooperation among the developing countries in the various socio-economic spheres having implications for labour and employment. The Conference also felt that in formulating the adjustment measures, the social dimensions of structural adjustment should be carefully analysed keeping in view the particular circumstances of each country and the social partners; and the results of their application, closely monitored to minimise human distress.

(d) The estimated figure of working children in India, as per the 1961 census, was 13.6 million. The policy of the Government is to ban employment of children below the age of 14 years in factories, mines and hazardous employment and to regulate the working conditions of children in other employments at this stage. The Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986 was meant to achieve this objective. Recently, the Ministry of Labour launched a major programme to eliminate child labour in hazardous occupations and processes by the year 2002 A.D. Sufficient funds have been committed to implement this programme.

Air Accidents

225. SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL :
SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VERMA :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of aircrafts belonging to the Indian Airlines, Vayudoot, Air India and other Airline companies that met with accidents in the country and abroad during January 1, 1996 to date;

(b) the extent of loss of lives suffered and other losses incurred therein in each mishap;

(c) the compensation provided to dependents of each of the deceased persons;

(d) the causes for the said mishaps; and

(e) the concrete measures taken to check such air mishaps?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) There is only one air accident during the said period, involving an aircraft of Archana Airways operating flight from Delhi to Kanpur on 18.5.96.

(b) No life was lost. The aircraft sustained substantial damage. A portion of the airport boundary wall was also broken.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The accident is under investigation by DGCA.

(e) Measures such as implementation of recommendations emanating from investigation of aircraft accidents and hazardous incidents, monitoring of flight recorders, issuance of Civil Aviation Requirements (CARs), safety audit of operators, conducting safety seminars/meetings, inspection of aerodromes etc. are continuously taken to enhance the level of air safety.

Vijayawada Airport

226. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to strengthen the runway and for creation of other infrastructural facilities at Vijayawada airport;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the funds allocated for the purpose;

(d) the time by which the said airport is likely to be made operational;

(e) whether there is also a proposal for starting Boeing, Avro and Dornier aircrafts connecting major cities in the country; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. Airports Authority of India has plans to undertake following works at Vijayawada airport :

(i) Strengthening of existing runway to operate B-737 aircraft.

(ii) Construction of a new Terminal Building to cater to the needs of 75 arriving and 75 passengers.

(iii) Providing Doppler Very High Frequency Omni Range (DVOR) navigational aid.

(c) A sum of Rs. 3 crores has been allocated in the year 1996-97.

(d) The airport is likely to be made operational by December, 1999.

(e) and (f). The airport at present is not suitable for B-737 aircraft operation. However, airlines are free to operate smaller aircraft to/from Vijayawada airport.

District Rehabilitation Scheme for Rural Disabled

227. SHRI PARASRAM BHARDWAJ : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government had launched the District Rehabilitation Scheme in early

1985 for providing a package of rehabilitation services to the rural disabled;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the progress made in this scheme so far alongwith the names of the States in which the schéme is under implementation?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : (a) The Government had launched the District Rehabilitation Centre (DRC) Scheme in 1982-83 for providing a package of comprehensive rehabilitation services to the rural disableds

(b) and (c). The DRC Scheme is being implemented in the following States :

1. Andhra Pradesh	-	Vijayawada
2. Haryana	-	Bhiwani
3. Karnataka	-	Mysore
4. Madhya Pradesh	-	Bilaspur
5. Maharashtra	-	Virar
6. Orissa	-	Bhubaneswar
7. Rajasthan	-	Kota
8. Tamil Nadu	-	Chengalpattu
9. Uttar Pradesh	-	Sitapur and Jagdishpur
10. West Bengal	-	Kharagpur

Four Regional Rehabilitation Training Centres (RRTCs) at Bombay, Cuttack, Madras and Lucknow and one Central Administrative and Coordination Unit (CACU) at New Delhi were set up for backing up the services of DRCs

Under the DRC Scheme, following rehabilitation services to the rural disabled have been provided since its inception (till Februrary 1996)

Total No of Assessment Rahabilitation Clinics conducted	-	15526
Total No of Disabled Identified and Evaluated.	-	218747
Total No of Disabled Cases served	-	97676

[Translation]

Foreign Assistance for Development of Tourist Spots

226 SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR SINGH Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state

(a) whether the Union Government have sought foreign assistance for the development of tourist spots

(b) if so, the details thereof, during the last three years alongwith the rate of interest in this regard,

(c) the names of tourist spots on which the said foreign assistance was spent, State-wise; and

(d) the conditions on which such foreign assistance is provided for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA) : (a) to (d). The Government has entered into a loan agreement with the Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund (OECF) of Japan in December, 1988 for development of infrastructural facilities along the identified Buddhist travel circuits in U.F and Bihar. The Government has also entered into a loan agreement with the Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund in January, 1992 for conservation and development of Ajanta and Ellora in Maharashtra.

For the U.P. and Bihar project, the Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund would extend financial assistance to the tune of 7.76 billion Japanese Yen. The major components of the project are strengthening of National and State Highways, landscaping, augmentation of water and electricity supply and setting up of wayside amenities. The loan is repayable over 20 years with a grace period of 10 years at a rate of interest of 2.5% per annum. The places identified in U.P. are Sarnath, Kushinagar, Piprahwa and Sravasti and the places covered in Bihar are Bodhgaya, Nalanda, Rajgir and Vaishali.

The Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund assistance for the Ajanta and Ellora project is to the tune of 3745 million Japanese Yen. The loan is rapayable over 20 years with a grace period of 10 years at an interest rate of 2.6% per annum. The major components of the project are afforestation, upgradation of aerodrome facilities at Aurangabad, strengthening and improvement of roads, augmentation of water supply and sewerage, improvement of electricity supply, conservation of monuments and visitor management facilities

Projects Received from S.M.F.D.C.

229 SHRI LALIT ORAON : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have received some projects from the State Minorities Finance and Development Corporation of Bihar through the National Minorities Finance and Development Corporation for approval,

(b) if so, the details thereof,

(c) the projects approved by the Union Government so far, and

(d) the time by which the remaining projects are likely to be approved?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : (a) Yes, Sir. National Minorities Development and Finance Corporation has received 13 no. of projects from Bihar State Minorities Finance Corporation for financial assistance.

(b) The details of the projects received and the action taken in this regard are given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) The projects are approved by the Managing Director and the Board of Directors of National

Minorities Development and Finance Corporation depending upon the financial limit of the project. Out of the 13 projects received, 3 projects have been approved so far;

(d) Bihar State Minorities Finance Corporation has not been able to avail the loan for the 3 sanctioned projects because of the lack of Block Government Guarantee for the sanctioned amount. The remaining proposed projects will be appraised and sanctioned once, the earlier sanctioned loans is utilised.

STATEMENT

(Rs in lakhs)

S.No	Name of Scheme	No. of Units	Total Cost	NMDFC's Share	Status
1	Photocopy unit	1500	1425.00	1275.00	Approved
2	Autorickshaw	1500	1425.00	1275.00	Approved
3	Misc. Manufacturing	1500	1425.00	1275.00	Approved
4	T V/Tape Repair unit	1000	275.00	245.00	Pending
5	Fast Food Canteen	120	54.03	48.34	Pending
6	Architecture Consultancy	150	80.44	71.97	Pending
7	Oil Expeller project	1000	950.00	850.00	Pending
8	Plastic/Rubber item mfg	1000	95.00	85.00	Pending
9	Poultry farming	200	90.00	80.00	Pending
10	Shoe making unit	700	498.75	446.25	Pending
11	Brick Kiln project	500	475.00	425.00	Pending
12	Cooler body mfg. unit	500	475.00	425.00	Pending
13	Fish rearing project	500	140.00	125.00	Pending
		10170	7408.22	6626.56	

Private Airlines

230 SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VERMA Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) the details of private airlines entered into the aviation sector during the last three years and current year, so far, alongwith the capital investment made by each of them, and

(b) the number of aircrafts pressed into service by each private airline and the air-routes they are flying over?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C M IBRAHIM) (a) and (b) A statement showing the names of scheduled private airlines and other requisite details is attached

STATEMENT

Date of issue of permit, subscribed equity capital, air craft fleet and Station connected by private Airlines

Name of the Scheduled private airlines	Date of issue of permit	Subscribed equity capital (Rs in crores)	Aircraft fleet	Stations connected
1	2	3	4	5
1 Archana Airways	20 11 1994	50 00	3 L-410 (Operational-1)	Delhi, Kanpur, Kullu, Simla
2 East West Airlines	20 11 1994	21 70	4 B-737 (Operational-3)	Bombay, Calicut, Cochin, Coimbatore, Hyderabad, Madras, Mangalore, Nagpur, Portblair, Pune, Visakapatnam

1	2	3	4	5
3. Jet Airways	13.02.1995	30.00	9 B-737 (All Operational)	Ahmedabad, Bagdogra, Bangalore, Bombay, Calcutta, Calicut, Cochin, Coimbatore, Delhi, Gauhati, Goa, Hyderabad, Jorhat, Madras, Mangalore.
4. Modiluft	20.11.1994	24.20	6 B-737 (All Operational)	Bangalore, Bombay, Calcutta, Calicut, Cochin, Delhi, Goa, Jaipur, Jammu, Leh, Lucknow, Srinagar, Varanasi.
5. NEPC Airlines	20.11.1994	14.83	8 F-27 (Operational-5)	Aggati, Aurangabad, Bangalore, Bhavnagar, Bhuwaneshwar, Bombay, Calcutta, Cochin, Coimbatore, Dibrugarh, Dimapur, Gauhati, Hyderabad, Imphal, Indore, Jamnagar, Jorhat, Kandla, Keshod, Nilabari, Madras, Madurai, Mangalore, Nagpur, Patna, Porbandar, Puna, Rajkot, Silchar, Tezpur, Tricharapalli, Tuticorin, Vadodara, Varansi, Visakhapatnam.
6. Sahara India Airlines	01.01.1996	15.22	3 B-737 (Operational-2)	Ahmedabad, Bagdogra, Bombay, Calcutta, Delhi, Dibrugarh, Gauhati, Goa, Hyderabad, Jaipur, Lucknow, Patna, Varanasi.
7. Skyline NEPC Airlines*	20.11.1994	16.22	4 B-737 (All Operational)	Ahmedabad, Bagdogra, Bangalore, Bombay, Calcutta, Delhi, Goa, Indore, Jaipur, Madras, Mangalore.

* Formerly M/s Damania Airways

Insurance of Planes

231. SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state

(a) whether the Government are aware of the fact that the East-West Airlines are flying its planes without having their insurance

(b) if so, the reasons therefor, and

(c) the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C M IBRAHIM) (a) to (c) East West Airlines had operated flights without valid insurance cover for two days in June, 1996. A Show Cause Notice has been issued seeking their explanation in the matter. Further action will be taken on receipt of reply from the airline.

[English]

MoU with France

232. SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether any Memorandum of Understanding has been signed between India and France to promote tourism; and

(b) if so, the main features thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Accident at Kanpur Cantt.

233. SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government is aware of the fact that a Archana Airways met with accident on May 18, 1996 at Civil Aerodrome, Kanpur Cantt;

(b) if so, whether any enquiry was constituted in the matter so far;

(c) if so, result thereof and the action taken thereon; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) to (d). The accident is under investigation by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation.

[Translation]

Services of ITDC Employees

234. SHRI MUNAWWAR HASSAN : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that even after 6-7 years of service the employees of Indian Tourism Development Corporation (ITDC) have not been regularised;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the time by which such employees are proposed to be regularised?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA) : (a) to (c). Presently, there are 23 employees working on temporary/ad-hoc basis in ITDC for more than five years. These employees working on ad-hoc

basis are engaged in temporary jobs like utility workers, halwai, waiters, etc. or against contractual activities. These employees could not be regularised so far mainly for want of regular/sanctioned vacancies, regularisation of contractual activities and settlement of court cases. In view of these, it is not possible to have a definite time target for regularising these employees.

[English]

Air India Cargo Losses

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

(a) whether Air India has continuously suffered in the cargo traffic sector resulting in substantial losses;

(b) if so, the percentage of decline in the Air India cargo traffic during 1993-94, 1994-95 and 1995-96, so far, and the comparative loss suffered by the airlines as a consequence thereof;

(c) the reasons for the decline in the cargo traffic; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to improve the situation?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) No, Sir. The cargo revenue earned by Air India has shown a continuous growth over the past few years.

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

Misuse of funds of Short Films

236. SHRI R.L.P. VERMA : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) the amount of budget fixed for royalty programmes (for short films) by Doordarshan for the year 1996-97;

(b) whether above amount has been misutilised and two English films have been purchased out of the funds earmarked for short films are reported in the "Dainik Jagaran" dated May 29, 1996;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government against the officers found guilty?

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

[Translation]

Amount Allocated for Welfare Schemes to Rajasthan

237. SHRI TARACHAND BHAGORA : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) the amount allocated by the Union Government to Rajasthan for the welfare of the scheduled castes and scheduled tribes during each of the last three years;

(b) the number of families who were to be benefited as per the scheme and those who were really benefited;

(c) whether the allocated amount has not been fully utilised; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : (a) A *Statement* indicating amounts allocated by the Union Welfare Ministry to the Government of Rajasthan under different schemes for welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes during the last three years is attached.

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

STATEMENT

(Rs. in Lakhs)

S.No.	Name of the Scheme	Amount of Central Assistance Released		
		(1993-94)	(1994-95)	(1995-96)
1	Centrally Sponsored Scheme of SC boys Hostel	2.52	7.58	220.01
2	Centrally Sponsored Scheme of SC Girls Hostel	5.055	-	12.78
3	Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Book Banks for SC/ST	10.00	15.00	9.97
4	Upgradation of Merit for SC/ST	5.85	8.32	-
5	National Scheme of Liberation and Rehabilitation of scavengers and their dependents	227.00	-	686.00
6	Scheme of Coaching and Allied for SC/ST	22.94	4.60	-
7	Special Central Assistance to special component plan.	1829.89	887.365	1828.2613
8	Share Capital to State Scheduled Castes Development Corporations	18.60	9.80	74.95
9	Centrally Sponsored Scheme for Post Matric Scholarship of SC/ST students	348.02	311.68	665.40
10	Centrally Sponsored Scheme for implementation of Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955 and SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989	51.00	39.88	57.50
11	Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Pre-Matric Scholarship for children of these engaged in unclean Occupations	30.08	37.77	63.82
12	Vocational Training Institutes	44.34	-	-
13	Special Central Assistance to TSP	2664.68	2202.79	2819.04
14	Grant under Article 275(1)	576.75	600.00	600.00
15	Grant-in-aid to State Tribal Dev. Cooperation Corporations	61.40	30.00	-
16	ST Girls Hostels	12.25	-	66.74
17	ST Boys Hostels	36.75	-	-
18	Ashram Schools for STs	-	24.50	-

[English]

AAS Ltd. Joint Ventures with State Government Undertakings

238. SHRI SURESH KALMADI : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Airlines Allied Services Limited propose to set up joint ventures

with State Government Undertakings to operate Air Services on a profit/loss sharing basis.

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

(c) the details of the States involved in it?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) to (c). Airlines Allied Services Limited (AASL) have plans to operate

services jointly with the State Governments also. The terms and conditions of such joint venture operations will be finalised in consultation with the State Government concerned

Pending Projects in Maharashtra

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

(a) the details of projects approved for various towns in Maharashtra during 1995-96,

(b) the present status and financial provision made for completion of these projects at the earliest;

(c) the plans of the Government for expansion of

infrastructure network for electronic media in rural areas particularly in Maharashtra; and

(d) the number of proposals pending with the Union Government from Maharashtra and the action taken/proposed to be taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) and (b). A statement is enclosed.

(c) Expansion/modernisation of AIR stations/Doordarshan transmitters is a continuous process and largely depends upon availability of requisite infrastructure resources/facilities/funds, etc

(d) 27 proposals for setting up TV Transmitters are under consideration.

STATEMENT

Details and Status of All India Radio/Doordarshan Projects in Maharashtra

Project/Scheme	Status	Estimated cost (Rs in lakhs)
1	2	3
ALL INDIA RADIO		
LRS with 2x3 KW FM Tr. MP St and SQ at Osmanabad	Completed	267.7
Pmt Type I Studio at Parbhani	Technically ready	180.50
2x10 KW MW at Parbhani Upgdn/repl scheme	Installation of Tr is in progress	166.20
* Modernisation and Refurbishing of St. at Bombay (Phase II)	In progress	160.10
* 5 KW FM Tr 2nd stereo channel at Bombay	At advance stage	310.60
LRS with 1 KW MW Tr MP St and SQ at Malwan	site selected Bldg plans under preparation	327.00
* Projects approved in 1995-96.		
DOORDARSHAN		
LPT Ambet	Under Implementation	100.00
LPT Navapur	Completed	20.50
LPT Aheri	-do-	20.00
LPT Umerkhed	Under Implementation	21.50
LPT Khopoli	-do-	57.00
LPT Mangaon	-do-	97.00
LPT Satana	-do-	97.00
LPT Rajapur	Commissioned	—
LPT Sironcha	Under Implementation	97.00
LPT Chikoli	-	97.00
LPT Arvi	Commissioned	—

1	2	3
LPT Mahad	Under Implementation	97.00
LPT Chandur	-do-	97.00
VLPT :		
Malwan	-do-	83.00
Malkapur	-do-	83.00
Bhokar	-do-	83.00
Legend :		
LRS - Local Radio Station		
MP St. - Multi-purpose Studio		
SQ - Staff Quarters		
LPT - Low Power Transmitter		
VLPT - Very Low Power Transmitter		

Tourist Information Office

240. SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the tourist overseas are getting proper information about the important tourist places of the country; and

(b) if not, the steps taken by the Government for wide publicity about the important tourist places and to attract more foreign tourists?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. Upto date tourist information about important tourist places of the country is disseminated to the potential visitors overseas through Government of India Tourist Offices located in various parts of the world.

The information to the potential visitors is supplied by way of distribution of latest tourist information literature, through direct contacts with tourists as also through print and electronic media.

Joint Parliamentary Committee Report

241. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 2153 on December 8, 1995 regarding action taken on JPC report and state :

(a) whether the report of the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has since been received;

(b) if so, the details of the findings thereof;

(c) the follow-up action being taken against those who are responsible for various irregularities; and

(d) if not, how much time the CBI is likely to take and the steps taken to get the investigation expedited?

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

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

(d) Initially, CBI had targetted to finalise this case by June, 1996. However, it may take some more time to complete the investigation.

TV Transmitters in Kerala

242. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) the number of projects for setting up of TV transmitters in Kerala completed so far and the number of projects pending, location-wise;

(b) the time by which the pending projects are likely to be made operational; and

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

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) 22 TV transmitters of varying powers are, at present, functioning in the State of Kerala. Besides, installation work on implementation of a Low Power TV Transmitter (LPT) project at Thodupuzha and a Very Low Power TV Transmitter (VLPT) project at Devikolam have also been completed. With a view to further augment TV service in the State, schemes for setting up of 2 LPTs, one each at Adoor and Attapadi and a High Power TV Transmitter (HPT) at Calicut (permanent set-up) are at various stages of implementation.

(b) Whereas the installation works on the LPTs at Adoor and Attapadi are expected to be completed by the end of 1996-97, the High Power (10 KW) TV

Transmitter at Calcutt (permanent set-up) is expected to be completed by the end of 1997-98, subject to availability of infrastructural facilities and timely completion of civil works at the site.

(c) One HPT at Cannanore, 2 LPTs, one each at Pala (DD-I) and Cannanore (for relay of DD-II service) and 2 VLPTs, one each at Erattupetta and Mundakayam are envisaged to be set up in Kerala subject to approval of these schemes by the competent authority and availability of funds.

New Labour Policy

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

(a) whether the Government propose to implement a new Labour Policy;

(b) if so, the details and salient features thereof; and

(c) the time by which the announcement of the new labour policy likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) to (c). The Planning Commission has set up a Working Group on Labour Policy for preparation of the Ninth Five Year Plan under the Chairmanship of Secretary, Ministry of Labour. Following are the terms of reference of the working group :

- (1) To review the existing framework of labour policy and labour legislation and to suggest appropriate modifications in the context of emerging needs of the market-oriented economy so as to ensure healthy industrial relations and promote productivity.
- (2) To review the programme for labour welfare and social security systems both in the organised and unorganised sectors and recommend appropriate programme with special reference to unorganised workers, women workers, agricultural labour, bonded labour, etc.
- (3) To review the programmes for elimination of child labour and suggest measures for accelerating the process.
- (4) To suggest appropriate programmes for promoting occupational health and safety.
- (5) To recommend and appropriate wage policy.

The working group would submit its report on labour policy to the Planning Commission after finalisation.

Air Service from West Bengal

244. SHRI HARADHAN ROY : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are considering to introduce air service from different parts of West Bengal operating from Calcutta and Bagdogra to Asansol, Durgapur, Haldia, Maldah, Cooch Behar, and Balurghat;

(b) if so, whether the Government are also aware that run-ways are available in these places to operate such services; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) A private company proposes to start air service linking Calcutta with Bagdogra, Maldah and Cooch Behar. There is no proposal at present to air link Asansol, Durgapur, Haldia and Balurghat.

(b) and (c). Air strips are available at all these places, except Haldia. However, these airstrips have to be made operationally fit for the type of aircraft, before commencement of services.

Refuelling Facility

245. SHRI SOUMYA RANJAN : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the facility of refuelling is available to foreign aircraft at a number of airports in the country;

(b) if so, the total quantum of oil supplied during the last six months and its impact on domestic aircraft;

(c) whether the prices of fuel supplied to the foreign aircraft differ from the price of fuel to domestic aircrafts; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) The total quantity of ATF supplied to foreign aircraft during the last six months is 555304 KLs approx. As regards domestic aircraft, fuel was supplied as per their demand in full.

(c) and (d). The price of ATF supplied to foreign aircraft is USD 227.19/KL i.e. Rs. 7951.65/KL at a conversion rate of 1 USD = Rs. 35.

As regards, price of fuel supplied to domestic aircraft, the price ranges from Rs. 12069.13/KL to Rs. 12895.43/KL (excluding sales tax and other levies) depending upon the airport location.

[Translation]

Agricultural Labourers

246. SHRI PAWAN DIWAN : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) the number of the agricultural labourers at present, State-wise and Union Territory-wise;

(b) the minimum wage fixed for such labourers, State-wise and Union Territory-wise; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to ensure the proper introduction of the minimum wage policy?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) and (b). A *Statement* indicating the number of agricultural labourers, and the available information on minimum rates of wages as fixed by the different State Governments/Union Territory Administrations and Central Government is attached

(c) Under the Minimum Wages Act, 1948 both Central and the State Governments are the appropriate Governments for implementation and enforcement of the provisions of the Act in respect of the scheduled employments under their respective jurisdiction. The Minimum Wages Act has been implemented in all the States and Union Territories except the State of Sikkim wherein it has not been extended so far. The Central Government keep impressing upon the State Governments from time to time to take various measures to improve the effectiveness of the Minimum Wages Act in their respective State. The steps recommended include the utilisation of services of the officers of other departments like Revenue, Agriculture, Cooperation etc. in the enforcement of the Act, to increase the number of inspectors, to constitute implementation committee at different levels, to give wide publicity to the provisions of the Act through various media like Radio, Press etc.

STATEMENT

Daily Rates of Minimum Wages for Agricultural Workers fixed by Different States/UTs under the Minimum Wages Act, 1948.

S No	State/UTs	No. of Agricultural workers (in Thousands)	Minimum Wages for unskilled Agricultural workers
1	2	3	4
1	Andhra Pradesh	11625	Rs. 30.00 To Rs. 36.60 p d (According to Zones) (12-2-96)
2	Arunachal Pradesh	20	Rs. 21.00 To Rs. 24.00 p d (According to Areas) (1-11-90)
3	Assam	845	Rs. 1134.00 p m or Rs. 984.00 p m plus food, shelter and clothing (1-2-92)
4	Bihar	9513	Rs. 27.30 p d (21-12-95)
5	Goa	35	Rs. 46.00 p d (8-5-95)
6	Gujarat	3231	Rs. 15.00 p d. (1-8-90)
7	Haryana	897	Rs. 48.57 p d with meals or Rs. 52.57 p d without meals (1-7-95)
8	Himachal Pradesh	59	Rs. 45.75 p d (1-3-96)
9	Jammu & Kashmir	.	Rs. 30.00 p.d. (13-3-95)
10	Karnataka	5000	Rs. 26.00 p d (12-7-88)

1	2	3	4
11.	Kerala	2120	Rs. 30.00 p.d. for women Rs. 40.20 p.d. for men (31-3-92)
12.	Madhya Pradesh	5863	Rs. 35.30 p.d. (1-10-95)
13	Maharashtra	8313	Rs. 20.00 p.d. Rs. 29.00 p.d. (According to Zones) (26-6-94)
14	Manipur	47	Rs. 40.90 p.d. for Hill Areas and Rs. 37.90 p.d. for other than Hill Areas (23-12-88)
15.	Meghalaya	89	Rs. 35.00 p.d. (16-3-94)
16..	Mizoram	10	Rs. 35.00 p.d. (11-6-93)
17	Nagaland	7	Rs. 25.00 p.d. (6.7.92)
18.	Orissa	2967	Rs. 25.00 p.d. (1-7-90)
19	Punjab	1453	Rs. 55.58 p.d. without meal or Rs. 49.53 p.d. with meals (1-9-95)
20	Rajasthan	1392	Rs. 32.00 p.d. (Jan. 95)
21	Sikkim	13	The Minimum Wages Act, 1948 is yet to be extended
22	Tamil Nadu	7899	Rs. 20.00 p.d. (6-4-93)
23	Tripura	188	Rs. 26.65 p.d. (15-5-95)
24	Uttar Pradesh	7833	Rs. 33.00 p.d. to Rs. 35.00 p.d. (7-1-92)
25	West Bengal	5055	Rs. 37.00 p.d. Rs. 27.80 p.d. plus two principal (1-10-94) Meals
26	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	5	Rs. 27.00 p.d. (Andaman) Rs. 28.00 p.d. (Nicobar) (13-8-92)
27	Chandigarh	2	Rs. 39.42 p.d. with meals or Rs. 43.25 p.d. without meals (1-3-92)
28	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	6	Rs. 40.00 p.d. (18-5-95)
29	Delhi	25	Rs. 59.45 p.d. (1-8-95)
30	Daman and Diu	1	Rs. 35.00 p.d. (8.5.95)
31	Lakshadweep		Rs. 30.00 p.d. (1-1-93)

1	2	3	4
32.	Pondicherry	7	
	(i) Pondicherry Region	-	Rs. 20.00 to Rs. 22.00 p.d. (24-7-95)
	(ii) Mahe Region		Rs. 30.00 p.d. for light work Rs. 40.20 p.d. for hard work (24-7-95)
	(iii) Yanam Region		Rs. 19.25 to Rs. 26.25 p.d. (24-7-95)
	(iv) Karaikal		Rs. 20.00 to Rs. 22.00 p.d. (24-7-95)
33.	Central Sphere		Rs. 55.53 p.d. (1-4-96)

National Trust for mentally retarded children

247. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR :
DR. RAMESH CHAND TOMAR :

Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to set up a National Trust for the welfare of mentally retarded children;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of facilities likely to be provided to them; and

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

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Welfare of the persons with mental retardation and cerebral palsy has been engaging the attention of the Government for a long time. The main problem which has to be solved while dealing with persons suffering from mental retardation and cerebral palsy is how to provide for the care of such persons after the death of their parents or guardians. The Bill titled "National Trust for the Welfare of Persons with Mental Retardation and Cerebral Palsy, Bill 1995" was introduced in the Xth Lok Sabha on 6.12.1995. However, the Bill could not come up for consideration and lapsed.

The main objective of the Trust will be to make arrangements for care and rehabilitation of such persons, to provide aid and assistance to the organisations engaged in such care and to receive and manage the properties bequeathed for the purpose.

(c) The Trust will provide the following facilities :

(i) To arrange and provide care and rehabilitation to the persons with mental retardation and cerebral palsy;

(ii) To set up homes and service institutions for the persons with mental retardation and cerebral palsy;

(iii) To provide guidelines, aids and assistance to the organisation providing care and rehabilitation services to the persons with mental retardation and cerebral palsy;

(iv) To provide guardianship and foster care;

(v) To strengthen and support the welfare programmes of families, parent associations and voluntary organisations;

(vi) To receive from the parents the properties bequeathed by them for the maintenance of their children with mental retardation or cerebral palsy; and

(vii) To undertake such other activities for the promotion of care and rehabilitation of the persons with mental retardation and cerebral palsy.

(d) As a result of the constitution of Xith Lok Sabha, the Bill titled "National Trust for the Welfare of Persons with Mental Retardation and Cerebral Palsy, 1995" which was introduced in the Xth Lok Sabha on 6.12.1995, lapsed, as per the provision contained in Article 107 (5) of the Constitution. Efforts are being made to reintroduce the Bill in the Lok Sabha as early as possible after completing all the formalities relating to re-introduction of this Bill.

Safe Air Travel Scheme

248. SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any scheme under consideration of the Government to make air travel safe; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) and (b). Though no particular scheme is under consideration at present, steps such as implementation of recommendations emanating from investigation of Aircraft accidents and hazardous incidents, monitoring of flight recorders, issuance of Civil Aviation Requirements (CAR), safety audit of operators, conducting safety seminars/ meetings, inspection of aerodromes are continuously taken to ensure safe air travel by the passengers.

Non-Governmental Organisations

249. SHRI NITISH KUMAR :
PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA :

Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have contemplated the role of non-Governmental Organisations engaged in social welfare activities;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the total number of registered non-Governmental Organisations engaged in the social welfare projects funded by the Government;

(d) whether the Government have also assessed from time to time the social welfare projects being undertaken by these organisations;

(e) if so, the procedure adopted in this regard; and

(f) the number of these organisations in percentage whose functioning was found satisfactory?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. The role of voluntary organisations as recognised by the Government is having crucial importance in the context of national reconstruction and nation-building. More so, their role and involvement is quite essential to achieve the mandate of welfare State like India. The Government feels that good voluntary organisations must not only be liberally assisted in financial terms but also be consciously built-up.

(c) 1605.

(d) to (f). Social welfare projects being undertaken by these organisations are assessed and monitored by the concerned State Govts./UTs and assessment report is sent to the Govt. of India. Some times the Government of India Officials do the inspection of these organisations. Financial assistance is sanctioned by Government of India on satisfactory assessment of their work as reported by State Government, Government of India assist only those organisations whose work is satisfactory.

[English]

Hostels for SCs/STs Students

250. SHRI KESHAB MAHANTA : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of hostels for Scheduled Caste/ Scheduled Tribe students functioning in the country, State/UT-wise;

(b) whether these hostels are adequate keeping in view the ever-increasing number of such students;

(c) if not, whether the Government propose to set up more hostels in the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith their locations State/UT wise?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : (a) A statement showing the number of hostels for scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe students functioning in the country, State/UT-wise is attached.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) The Centrally Sponsored Schemes of Construction of hostels for SC/ST Boys & Girls are continuing schemes. Under the schemes additional hostels are sanctioned to the State Govts./UT Adms. every year.

(d) During 1996-97 the budget provisions under the schemes are as follows :-

	(Rs. in crors)
(i) Construction of SC Boys hostel	10.00
(ii) Construction of SC Girls hostel	7.00
(iii) Construction of ST Boys hostel	3.50
(iv) Construction of ST Girls hostel	3.50

The Central assistance is given to the State Govts./ UT Adms. according to the schematic pattern.

STATEMENT

S.No.	State/UT	No. of Hostels For SC/ST
1.	Andhra Pradesh	2759
2.	Assam	254
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	-
4.	Bihar	719
5.	Gujarat	1180
6.	Goa	-
7.	Himachal Pradesh	10
8.	Haryana	5
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	10
10.	Karnataka	1953
11.	Kerala	231
12.	Maharashtra	2425
13.	Madhya Pradesh	4046
14.	Mizoram	-
15.	Manipur	7
16.	Meghalaya	39
17.	Nagaland	-
18.	Orissa	1470
19.	Punjab	31
20.	Rajasthan	460
21.	Sikkim	26
22.	Tamil Nadu	994
23.	Tripura	40
24.	Uttar Pradesh	62
25.	West Bengal	861
26.	A & N Islands	5
27.	Candigarh	-
28.	Dadra & Nagar Havelli	10
29.	Delhi	2
30.	Daman & Diu	-
31.	Lakshadweep	4
32.	Pondicherry	21
Total		17624

[Translation]

Employment to handicapped persons

251. SHRI DHIRENDRA AGARWAL : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have formulated any scheme to provide employment to the handicapped persons;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the said scheme is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : (a) to (c). A statement containing the measures taken by the Central Government to facilitate and promote employment of the handicapped persons, is attached.

STATEMENT

- (i) Section 33 of the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights & Full Participation) Act, 1995 contains a provision that the appropriate Govt. Shall appoint in every establishment not less than 3% of persons with Disability of which 1% each shall be reserved for persons suffering from :-
- blindness or low vision;
 - hearing impairment and
 - Locomotion disability or cerebral palsy in the posts identified for each disability.
- Some reservation in Group 'C' and 'D' for Handicapped Persons had already been there even before the Law came into force. Similar reservation have been given by some State Govts. In addition, the Handicapped are also given 'Age concessions' in the upper age limit and relaxation in the 'medical standards' for entry into Government jobs.
- (ii) 47 Special Employment Exchanges and 41 Special Cells in normal Employment Exchanges exist in different States/UTs to help exclusively the handicapped persons in finding placemnt. This is in addition to the help provided by the normal employment exchanges.
- (iii) Seventeen Vocational Rehabilitation Centres have been set up to assess the residual ability of the disabled, arrange their training and place them in employment.
- (iv) For promoting self-employment amongst handicapped persons, concessions have been provided to them in following matters :

- Allotment of vending stalls, kiosks & shops; by some State Govts./UTs.
- Loans from Nationalised Banks at concessional Rates of interest.
- Preference in Allotment of public telephone booths;
- Reservation in distribution of Petrol Pumps, Kerosene Depots etc.

- (v) National Handicapped Finance & Development Corporation is being set up to provide an additional channel of finance at concessional rates to enable the handicapped persons to take up self employment projects.

[English]

International Labour Organisation Conference.

252. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether 83rd Annual Conference of the International Labour Organisation was held in Geneva;

(b) if so, the number of participants therein; and

(c) the main objectives of the ILO conference?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) to (c). The 83rd Session of the International Labour Conference of the International Labour Organisation (ILO) was held at Geneva from 4th to 20th June, 1996. Delegates comprising of Governments, Employers and Workers representatives from 159 countries including India attended the Conference. The Conference, inter alia, adopted :-

- (i) Convention and Recommendation on Homework, suggesting adoption, implementation and periodical review of a national policy on Homework, aimed at improving situation of homeworkers;
- (ii) called for achieving the objective of full employment through sustained economic growth; and
- (iii) adopted Resolution on Child Labour calling upon Governments and where appropriate, Employers' and Workers' Organisation, to develop formal policies and set priorities, so as to immediately put an end to the most intolerable aspects of child labour.

[Translation]

Flight from India to Malaysia

253. SHRI SOHAN BEER : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) the number of flights being operated in a week from India to Malaysia at present;

(b) whether any proposal has been received to increase the existing number of flights between the two countries;

(c) if so, whether any negotiations have been held between the two countries in this regard; and

(d) if so, the number of additional weekly flights proposed to be conducted between the two countries as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) At present 13 flights per week are being operated between India and Malaysia by the designated carriers of both sides.

(b) Yes sir.

(c) and (d). Negotiations were held in April 1996 but no agreement could be reached.

Welfare Schemes for Weaker Sections

254. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH BHATI : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the welfare schemes introduced for economically weaker sections of Rajasthan, alongwith the allocations made therefor during the last three years;

(b) whether the amount allocated for implementation of such schemes have been utilised; and

(c) if so, the number of people benefited from these schemes?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : (a) to (c). The relevant information is being collected from State Government of Rajasthan and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

Pending Cases with Industrial Tribunals

255. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE :

SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL :

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether a large number of cases are pending in the Central Government Industrial Tribunal-cum-Labour Court and State Level Labour Courts for a long time;

(b) if so, the latest position in this regard;

(c) the reasons for pendency of these cases; and

(d) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government for expeditious trial of the pending cases?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) to (d). The information is being collected.

[Translation]

Profit of ITDC

256. SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH :
SHRI DEVI BUX SINGH :

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) the net profit earned by the India Tourism Development Corporation during the last three years and the contribution of the ITDC's hotels thereto;

(b) whether performance of these hotels is satisfactory; and

(c) if not, the steps taken by the Government for improvement in their performance?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA) : (a) The information is given as under :-

Year	Profit before tax ITDC Hotels Div.		Profit earned by ITDC After tax (Figures are not available separately for Hotel Division)
	(Rs. in crores)		(Rs. in crores)
1993-94	24.02	8.29	12.21
1994-95	43.17	22.71	28.37
1995-96 (Prov.)	65.19	39.64	43.50

(b) and (c). There has been substantial improvement in the performance of ITDC Hotels during the last three years. However, improvement in performance is a continuous process and the steps taken in this regard include, aggressive marketing, upgradation/improvement, restructuring of hotels, control of operating costs, development of human resource by imparting training, etc.

[English]

Private Airlines in Bihar

257. SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have allowed private airlines to operate air taxis and small aeroplanes for passengers from Patna and Gaya to famous pilgrimage places in Bihar;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government to initiate this step; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) to (c). No private airline is, at present, operating from Patna and Gaya to other pilgrimage places in Bihar. However, a private company has proposed to operate flights between Patna and Varanasi. Besides, another private operator has proposed to operate to Gaya.

[Translation]

Literacy in Tribal Areas

258. PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA :
SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI :

Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that in comparison to the national average of literacy, the literacy level is very low in the tribal areas of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the tribal dominated areas where the literacy level is highest and lowest alongwith the percentage thereof; separately;

(d) whether the Government have chalked out any time-bound programme for promoting this percentage of literacy; and

(e) if so, the details thereof alongwith the expenditure incurred thereon?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : (a) and (b). There are some tribal areas where literacy is lower than the national average but there are also some tribal areas where literacy is higher than the national average. A statement indicating State/UT-wise percentage of general literacy and literacy percentage among Scheduled Tribes is attached in the given statement.

(c) The highest percentage of literacy among Scheduled Tribes is in the State of Mizoram, being 52.71%. The lowest percentage of literacy among Scheduled Tribes is in the State of Andhra Pradesh, being 17.26%.

(d) and (e). The Government has taken the following steps to raise the literacy percentage of Scheduled Tribes.

1. Opening of schools in ST habitations with relaxed norms.
2. Coverage of Tribal population under Operation Blackboard scheme.
3. Coverage of Tribal areas under non-formal education.
4. Coverage of Tribal districts in Total Literacy Campaign Programme :-

Under this scheme of financial assistance is given to Zilla Saksharta Samities in the proportion of 4:1. This implies that 80% financial liability is of Department of

Education while State Government bears only 20% of the approved expenditure. Out of sixty-six districts identified as Tribal districts (the districts with Tribal population is 40% of total population as per 1991 census) 30 districts have already been covered under TLC campaigns.

- 5 Mid-Day Meal :- Out of 2446 blocks covered under Employment Assurance Scheme, 1982 EAS blocks are integrated Tribal Development Project (ITDP) blocks. There is provision to cover 2005 low female literacy (LFL) blocks by the year 1996-97 which include Tribal areas.
- 6 District Primacy Education Programme (DPEP) . This scheme lays special emphasis on the education of deprived sections of society including Tribals.

7. Primary Education in Tribal dialects for Tribal children. NCERT and the Central Institute of Indian Languages prepare the text books for Tribal children in their local dialects. In addition to it, the supplementary reading material is also prepared by these institutions for tribal children.

8. A scheme of Mahila Samakhya. The basic objective of the scheme is empowerment of women through education. SC and ST women participation in the programme is very large.

9 Lok Jumbish. This programme is to achieve Education for All by 2000 A.D. in Rajasthan. Special stress is given on the coverage of SC/ST children through micro planning at village level. Free text books and uniforms are given to the children.

STATEMENT

Literacy Rates 1991

State/ Union Territory	General			Scheduled Tribes		
	Person	Male	Female	Person	Male	Female
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Andhra Pradesh	44.09	55.13	32.72	17.16	25.25	8.68
Arunachal Pradesh	41.59	51.45	29.69	34.45	44.00	24.94
Assam	52.89	61.87	43.03	49.16	58.93	38.98
Bihar	38.48	52.49	22.89	26.78	38.40	14.75
Goa	75.51	83.64	67.09	42.91	54.43	29.01
Gujarat	61.29	73.13	48.64	36.45	48.25	24.20
Haryana	55.85	69.10	40.47	-	-	-
Himachal Pradesh	63.86	75.36	52.17	49.09	62.74	31.18
Jammu & Kashmir	-	-	-	-	-	-
Karnataka	56.04	67.26	44.34	36.01	47.95	23.57
Kerala	89.81	93.62	86.17	57.22	63.38	51.07
Madhya Pradesh	44.20	58.42	28.85	21.54	32.16	10.73
Maharashtra	64.87	76.56	52.32	36.79	49.09	24.03
Manipur	39.89	71.63	47.60	53.63	62.39	44.48
Meghalaya	49.10	53.12	44.85	46.71	49.78	43.63
Mizoram	82.27	85.61	78.60	82.71	86.66	78.70
Nagaland	61.65	67.62	54.75	60.59	66.27	54.51
Orissa	49.09	63.09	34.68	22.31	34.44	10.21
Punjab	58.51	65.66	50.41	-	-	-
Rajasthan	38.55	54.99	20.44	19.44	33.29	4.42
Sikkim	56.94	65.74	46.69	59.01	66.80	50.17
Tamil Nadu	62.66	73.75	51.33	27.89	35.25	20.23
Tripura	60.44	70.58	49.65	40.37	52.88	27.34
Uttar Pradesh	41.60	55.73	25.31	35.70	49.95	19.86
West Bengal	57.70	67.81	46.56	27.78	40.07	14.98
A&N Islands	73.02	78.99	65.46	56.62	64.16	48.74

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Chandigarh	77.81	82.04	72.34	-	-	-
D&N Haveli	40.71	53.56	26.98	28.21	40.75	15.94
Daman & Diu	71.20	82.66	59.40	52.91	63.58	41.49
Delhi	75.29	82.01	66.99	-	-	-
Lakshadweep	81.78	90.18	72.89	80.58	89.50	71.72
Pondicherry	74.74	83.68	65.63	-	-	-
India	52.21	64.13	39.29	29.60	40.65	18.19

Source :- Census of India 1991 final population Total (Paper 2 of 1992) Census was not held in J&K.

[English]

Interim Relief to Journalists and Non-Journalists

259. SHRI BHUPINDER SINGH HOODA : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have decided to pay interim relief to the journalists and non-journalists of newspapers and news agencies;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the date from which the interim relief is proposed to be paid; and

(d) the time by which the payment is likely to be made alongwith the amount thereof?

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

(b) to (d). The Wage Boards for Journalists and Non-Journalist Newspaper and News-agency Employees constituted on 2.9.94, submitted their Interim Report on payment of Interim Rates of Wages recommending interim enhancement of 15% in the basic wage w.e.f. 20.4.95. The Govt. in February, 1996 decided to enhance the rate from 15% to 20% of the present basic wages. The notification regarding the payment of interim rates of wages will be issued shortly.

Uplinking Right to Foreign Network

260. DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI :
SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH :
SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE :
SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT :
SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH :
SHRI SANDIPAN THORAT :
SHRI E. AHAMED :

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

(a) whether the Government have agreed to grant permission for uplinking facilities to foreign television networks;

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

(c) whether the Government have discussed this issue with various Indian companies;

(d) whether some proposals in this regard are under consideration of the Government; and

(e) the extent to which this foreign network is going to effect on Doordarshan?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) to (e). A meeting was taken by the former Information and Broadcasting Minister with the representatives of Indian Companies seeking uplinking facilities. However, no decision was taken.

Child Labour

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

(a) whether the number of child labourers in the country is higher than that of other developing countries; and

(b) if so, the place of India in respect of the number of child labourers?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) and (b). As reported by the World Labour Report, 1992, published by ILO, India has probably the largest number of working children.

Serials on Payment of Sponsorship Fee

262. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY :
SHRI R.L.P. VERMA :

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

(a) the norms fixed for categorisation of serials for sponsored programmes on payment of sponsorship fee;

(b) if so, the details of the sponsored programmes telecast on Doordarshan as compared to its own programme during the last three years, year-wise; and the sponsorship fee fixed for various categories;

(c) whether lower categorisation of sponsored programmes are resulting in loss of revenue to Doordarshan;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the losses suffered on this account during 1995-96; and

(e) the remedial steps taken by the Government to save the Doordarshan from debt?

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

Air Service in Gujarat

263. SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have received a number of proposals from people representatives and various other organisations to connect air services in various other organisations to connect air services in various airports of Gujarat;

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

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : a) and (b). Yes, Sir. Requests have been received to provide air links from Kandla and Surat.

(c) Indian Airlines have no plans to introduce services to these airports due to infrastructural constraints, poor load factor and acute shortage of operating crew. NEPC Airlines has, however, started operations from Kandla Airport.

[Translation]

Tourist Spots in Bihar

264. SHRI VIRENDR KUMAR SINGH :
SHRI LALIT ORAON :

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Bihar has sent any proposal to the Union Government for the development of tourism for approval;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of proposals out of them approved/rejected by the Union Government so far; and

(d) the financial assistance provided by the Union Government to the above State for the development of tourism during each of the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA) : (a) to (c). The Central Department of Tourism provides financial assistance to State/UT Governments for the development of Tourism based on specific proposals received from them, the merits of each proposal and the availability of funds.

For the year 1996-97, the Department has prioritised three projects costing Rs. 69.00 lakhs based on discussions with the State Government officers for providing financial assistance to Bihar. However, no detailed proposal has been received from the State Government so far.

(d) During the last three years, Projects amounting to Rs. 282.25 lakhs have been sanctioned for Bihar. The year-wise details are given below :-

1993-94	-	Rs. 53.61 lakhs
1994-95	-	Rs. 112.12 lakhs
1995-96	-	Rs. 116.52 lakhs

Allocation of funds

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

(a) whether no allocation has been made to the Bihar Backward Classes, by Finance and Development Corporation during 1994-95 and 1995-96; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH ROMOOWALIA) : (a) and (b). National Backward Classes Finance & Development Corporation has sanctioned a loan of Rs. 1012.805 lakhs to the Bihar Backward Classes Finance and Development Corporation in respect of 12 schemes in the year 1994-95. The State Corporation has not submitted any scheme for sanction of loan to NBCFDC during 1995-96 and hence no loan has been sanctioned during the year.

Private Sector Participation in Air Traffic Area

266. SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VERMA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether there has been a decrease in the participation of private sectors in the air traffic area after the implementation of the policy of open air space;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the details of rules and policy of open air space and since when it was implemented;

(d) whether the chartered K.C.C. airlines has been closed in the last days and the arrangement of many big private airlines has begun to become out of order;

(e) whether the aviation industry suffered losses worth about five crores dollar which is more than the amount earned by it;

(f) if so, the losses and other details thereof; and

(g) the measures proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Private airlines have been allowed in the domestic sector with effect from 1st Marth 1994. The guidelines and requirements for operation of private air transport services are notified in the form of Aeronautical Information Circular and Civil Aviation Requirements.

(d) There is no airline named "K.C.C. Airlines". However, K.C.V. Airways has suspended operations because of non-availability of aircraft.

(e) to (g). Details of profits/losses suffered by private operators are not available. However, permission to start air transport services is given after verifying various aspects related to operation of air services including financial soundness of the applicant.

Elimination of Child Labour

267. SHRI JAG MOHAN : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) the precise work has so far been done by the National Authority for elimination of child labour;

(b) how many parents of child-labourers have been imparted skill-oriented training to improve their employability; and

(c) the extent to which this has resulted in decrease of child labour?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) The National Authority for the Elimination of Child Labour (NAECL) was constituted on 26th September, 1994 under the chairmanship of the Union Labour Minister. Since its inception, the NAECL has, after reviewing the schemes and programmes of the Government of India, recommended that the programmes and schemes of the Government of India such as ICDS, IRDP, EAS etc. should be converged in Child Labour endemic

areas in order to tackle the problem of Child Labour comprehensively and effectively.

It also examined, in-depth, the various contributing factors encouraging child labour and recommended an approach which inter alia include measures to improve the economic conditions of families of child workers. The NAECL recommendations contained in its "Circular on Identification, Release and Rehabilitation of Child Labour", was sent to all State governments for follow up.

The NAECL also recommended that National Child Labour Projects should be started in the most child labour endemic districts of the country. As a follow up, the Ministry of Labour has launched National Child Labour Projects in 76 districts to cover over 1.5 lakh children. In addition, funds for carrying out surveys to determine child labour, hazard intensity wise, have been given to 123 child labour endemic districts. Funds to 133 districts have also been given for district level awareness generation against the practice of child labour. The NAECL approved the approach of the Labour Ministry to launch a national campaign to sensitize society against the practice of child labour. This has since been launched.

In addition to the above the NAECL also recommended that laws protective of children be vigorously enforced by State Governments. The same was communicated to all State Governments by the Chairman of the NAECL.

(b) and (c). Since the projects have been sanctioned only during the last year, it is too early to assess the extent of coverage of parents under the programme of convergence and the extent of decrease of child labour resulting therefrom.

[Translation]

Grants-in-Aid to Voluntary Organisations

269. SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the grants-in-aid has been provided to various voluntary organisations engaged in the welfare of physically and mentally handicapped and deaf and dumb persons in Delhi during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the amount given to each organisation during each of the last three years;

(c) the number of applications pending for clearance and the time by which these applications are likely to be cleared;

(d) whether the Government have received complaints about the misuse of grants by these voluntary organisations;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether the Government have set up any monitoring committee or any enquiry has been conducted on the activities of these organisations; and

(g) if so, the details of the findings thereof?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH ROMOOWALIA) : (a) Yes, Sir,

(b) A Statement is enclosed.

(c) Six. No fixed time frame can be given as the decision will depend on several factors including availability of funds.

(d) to (g). A complaint has been received against All India Deaf & Dumb Society, Institutional Area, Karkari Mod, Vikas Marg Extn., New Delhi-110092 from Rajdhani General Mazdoor Ekta Union, Delhi, alleging inter alia misuse of the grants. The Government of NCT Delhi have been requested to investigate into the complaint and furnish a Report. The same is awaited.

STATEMENT

(Rs. in Lakhs)

S.No.	Name & Address of the Contact person/Organisation	Category of disability	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Spastic Society of Northern India, Balbir Saxena Marg, Nr. General Raj's School Hauz Khas, New Delhi-16	CP, Spastic	18.75	22.11	33.00
2.	All India Deaf & Dumb Society No. 4 & 7 of Industrial Area, Vikas Marg, Extn. Kadbadi Kode, Delhi-92		-	0.72	-
3.	All India Federation of the Deaf, 18, Northend Complex, New Delhi.	HH	5.39	4.34	4.20
4.	Delhi Association of the Deaf 92, Kamla Market, New Delhi.	HH	-	-	-
5.	Handicapped Women Welfare Association, Sector 14, Near Power House, Rohini, Delhi	HH	2.08	3.59	3.01
6.	Association for Advancement and Rehabilitation of Handicapped, 224, Vasant Vihar, New Delhi.	MR	2.47	4.88	4.86
7.	Association of National Brotherhood for Social Welfare 21-22, New Rohtak Road, New Delhi-5	MR	-	4.34	3.54
8.	Balwentral Mehta Vidya Bhavan, Masjid Modh, Greater Kailash-II New Delhi-48	MR	8.03	2.16	2.20
9.	Delhi Society for Welfare of Mentally Retarded Children Okhla Marg, Okhla, N. Delhi-25	MR	5.59	5.91	2.95
10.	Dr. Zakir Hussain Memorial Welfare Society, Jamia Millia, Jamia Nagar, N. Delhi.	MR	0.48	2.14	2.30
11.	Eclat Society for the Welfare of M.R. 16-E/33, East Patel Nagar, New Delhi-8	MR	2.07	1.99	2.18
12.	Federation for the Welfare of M.R., Shaheed Jeet Singh Marg, Spl. Institutional Area, N. Delhi	MR	8.13	10.08	11.22
13.	Parents Association for the Welfare of Children of the Mental Handicapped, New Delhi Ansary Nagar, N. Delhi	MR	1	0.44	1.32
14.	Samddhan J-32, South Extensions New Delhi	MR	-	-	-
15.	Tamamma XXXX, D-6 Vasant Vihar, New Delhi	MR	5.37	6.66	7.01
16.	Samjivini Society for Mental Health, A-6, Institutional Area, New Delhi-100067	MR, MEN, ILL	2.07	2.21	2.45

1	2	3	4	5	6
17.	Akashya Prathisthan Pocket-III, Sector-D, Vasant Kunj, New Delhi.	OH	2.82	3.73	4.75
18.	Shri Devsaha Baba Shiksha Samiti B-1605, Shastri Nagar, Delhi-52	OH	-	0.25	(ad-hoc)
19.	Amarjyoti Charitable Trust N-92, Greater Kailash-I New Delhi	OH,VH	10.14	20.35	18.11
20.	Prabha Institute of the Arts & Crafts for Handicapped Persons, Aram Bagh Lane, Pharganj, New Delhi-110055	OH,VH	1.42	2.41	-
21.	Akhil Ghartiya Netraheen Sangh Sector-E,B-III Block Raghbir Nagar, New Delhi-110027	VH	3.42	5.71	5.58
22.	All India Confederation of the Blind Braille Bhawan Institutional Area Sector-V Rohini, Delhi	VH	2.21	2.07	2.17
23.	Bhartiya Blind Education Culture Welfare Society, 61/18,11 Teleware, Shahdara, Delhi-32	VH	-	0.78	2.34
24.	Blind Relief Association Lal Bahadur Shastri Marg, Near Oberi Inter Contential New Delhi	VH	-	6.91	3.91
25.	Institution for the Blind, Punchkuin Road, New Delhi.	VH	4.13	4.72	6.30
26.	Janata Adarsh Andh Vidyalaya, Sri Fort Road, Sadiq Nagar, New Delhi	VH	2.81	1.17	4.84
27.	National Association for the Blind, Sector-5, R.K. Puram, New Delhi	VH	9.53	8.30	10.39
28.	National Federation For The Blind, 2322, Laxmi Narayan Street, Paharganj, New Delhi	VH	10.34	11.31	11.99
29.	Hindkusht Niwaran Sangh, New Delhi	L.C	0.93	1.16	2.42

[English]

Rehabilitation of Workers

270. SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that due to closure of various industries in Uttar Pradesh, labourers have become unemployed;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the efforts made or proposed to be made to re-employ and rehabilitate them?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) and (b). According to the latest available information the number of units closed in Uttar Pradesh during the year 1995 are 9 and workers affected during the same period are 968.

(c) Government have established the National Renewal Fund as a social safety net for the workers affected by industrial restructuring. The fund inter-alia provides assistance for the schemes of retraining and redeployment of workers affected by restructuring and closure of industrial units. A large

number of Employees Assistance Centres have been set up by various agencies all over the country with the assistance from NRF. Workers affected by closure of industries can also avail of employment generation schemes being implemented by State Governments under centrally sponsored schemes.

[Translation]

Pending Projects in Rajasthan

271. SHRI TARACHAND BHAGORA :
SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE :
PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT :

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

(a) the number of projects for setting up of TV Transmitters/AIR Stations in Rajasthan completed so far and the number of projects pending, location-wise;

(b) whether the Government propose to set up these projects in backward areas on priority basis; and

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

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) to (c). All India Radio has

comissioned 16 radio stations and Doordarshan has established 63 transmitters in the State of Rajasthan. A Statement showing locations and status of the projects under implementation in Rajasthan including backward regions of the State is enclosed.

STATEMENT

I. ALL INDIA RADIO	TECHNICALLY READY	UNDER IMPLEMENTATION
	2x3 KW Fm Tr., Multi-Purpose Studio & Staff Quarters at Mount Abu.	New Type IV Studios Jaipur. Stereo Channel with 6 KW FM Tr. and Studio at Jaipur 6 KW FM Tr. for CBS at Jodhpur. 6 KW FM Tr. at Chittorgarh (Upgradation from 3 KW).
II. DOORDARSHAN	HPT Barmer (Interim set up) HPT Jaisalmer LPTs Nohar Mount Abu Pratapgarh Kurauli Nimaj Rajgarh Bari-Sadri Shahpura VLPT Neem ka Thana	HPT Barmer (Permanent set up) HPT Jodhpur LPTs Hindaun Makrana Phalodi Kesriaji Tibi VLPTs Gangapur (Bhilkwara) Lalsot Laxmangarh

LEGEND:

CBS - Commercial Broadcasting Service.
HPT - High Power Transmitter
LPTS - Low Power Transmitters
VLPTs - Very Low Power Transmitters

Welfare Scheme for Agricultural Labour

272. PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have recently held talks with the representatives of various labour organisations;

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

(c) steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government for the compliance of labour-welfare laws?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) to (c). The Union Labour Minister and the Prime Minister met representatives of the Central Trade Union Organisations on 24th June, 1996 to hear the views of the Trade Unions on

matters concerning the workers such as (i) labour protection and social security for agricultural labour, (ii) Uniform minimum wage, (iii) recognition of trade unions based on secret ballot, (iv) elimination of child labour, (v) amendments to Industrial Disputes and Trade Union Acts etc. The trade union leaders stressed the need for creating a proper and congenial atmosphere for maintaining industrial harmony in the country. They laid emphasis on taking measures for protection and generation of employment and employment benefits; review of the functioning of BIFR; revival of NTC mills; comprehensive legislation for agricultural workers; comprehensive measures for elimination of child labour etc. In deference to the wishes of the trade union leaders, steps have been taken to intensify labour inspections and to strengthen the labour enforcement machinery for effective implementation of labour welfare laws.

[English]

Central assistance for Tourism in Rajasthan

273. SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Rajasthan has requested the Union Government for Central assistance for the infrastructural development of tourism sector during the Eighth Five Year Plan.

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the funds allocated by the Union Government in this regard during above plan period, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA) (a) to (c). Yes, Sir. The details of central financial assistance sanctioned, yearwise to the State of Rajasthan for development of tourism infrastructure during the first four years of Eighth Five Year Plan are given in the enclosed *statement*.

STATEMENT

Projects/schemes sanctioned during 1992-93, 1993-94, 1994-95 and 1995-96.

S No	Name of the Project	Amount sanctioned (Rs. in lakhs)	Amount released
1	2	3	4
RAJASTHAN			
1	Tourist Complex at Barmer	12 90	7 50
2	Tourist Reception Centre at Jaisalmer	8 46	7 46
3	Tourist Reception Centre at Jodhpur	10 70	9 70
4	Tourist Reception Centre at Bikaner	7 18	6 50
5	Fast Food Centre at Bikaner	6 00	5 00
6	Wayside amenities at Sikar	4.74	2 30
7	Pilgrim Sheds at Vishram Sthal: Ajmer		
	(i) Raen Basera	10.28	6 00
	(ii) Pucca Structure	24.38	23 38
8	Public conveniences at two places in Jaisalmer	7 36	3 68
9	Public Conveniences at Vishram Sthal, Ajmer	8.48	4 00
10	Camping site at Jhalawar	10.55	5 27
11	Camping site at Gajner	10 55	5 00
12	Camping site at Kumbalgarh	10 55	5.32
13	Floodlighting of Chittorgarh (Phase-II)	6.87	3 00
14	Jhalawar Festival	5.18	4.00
15	Shilpgram Crafts Mela	1.00	0 50
16	Publicity support	8.13	8 13
	Total	153 31	106 74
1993-94			
1	Conservation of Jaisalmer Fort (50% of the total cost limited to Rs 40 lakhs of DOT Share)	39 88	39 88
2	Tourist bungalow at Jaisalmer (Phase-II)	11 24	5.75
3	Fast Food centre at Jodhpur	7 11	3.50
4	Tourist bungalow at Pokharan (Phase-II)	7 83	4.00
5	Wayside Facility at Dechu	4 74	2 50

1	2	3	4
6.	Tourist Bungalow at Bikenar (Phase-II)	12.00	6.00
7.	Tourist Complex at Barr	10.35	5.00
8.	Tourist Lodge at Ratangarh	10.06	5.00
9.	Tourist Complex at Ganganagar	16.54	8.00
10.	Tourist Bungalow at Udaipur (Phase-II)	18.60	9.30
11.	Tourist Bungalow at Sariska (Phase-II)	12.54	6.00
12.	Wayside Facility at Salasar	4.74	2.50
13.	Tourist Lodge at Beawar	9.09	5.50
14.	Sound and Light show at Moti Magri, Udaipur	24.25	10.00
15.	Upgradation of Rambagh Golf Club, Jaipur	38.22	10.00
		Total	260.43
			132.93
<i>1994-95</i>			
1	Tourist Bungalow at Hanuman Garh	18.76	9.00
2	Tourist Bungalow at Bhilwara	18.76	9.00
3	Wayside amenities at Sanchole	10.80	5.00
4	Wayside amenities at Bapp	10.92	5.00
5	Assistance for Shilpgram Utsav	4.05	4.05
6	Shilpgram Utsav- 1992	2.00	2.00
7	Yatrika at Ajmer	26.99	7.69
8	Pilgrim shed Vishram Sthali (pacca structure)	24.38	11.38
9	Yatrika at Mahandipur-ka-Balaji	15.38	5.00
10	Yatrika at Kailadevi	20.24	5.00
11	Financial assistance for camping Site at Jhalwar in Rajasthan	10.50	4.25
12	Palace-on-Wheels	500.00	500.00
		Total	662.78
			567.37
<i>1995-96</i>			
1	Wayside Amenities at Balesar	5.50	2.70
2	Wayside Facilities at Fatehgarh	4.58	2.25
3	Tourist Cottages at Chohtan	18.27	0.10
4	Wayside facilities at Chandan	4.58	2.25
5	Tourist amenities at Jhunjhunu Shakambari Mata & Lohargarh	5.70	0.02
6	Midway at Merta	11.94	5.00
7	Toilet Facilities at Four Places	5.20	0.04
8	Tourist Resort at Kiradu	18.27	0.10
9	Tourist Complex at Khichan	29.15	0.50
10	Tourist Resort at Mahaveer Teeba	18.26	0.50
11	Tourist amenities at Phalodi	10.80	4.90
12	Wayside facilities at Fatehgarh	4.58	2.25
		Total	136.83
			20.61

International Film Festival

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

(a) the pitfalls noticed in the last international films festival held in the capital;

(b) the remedial measures taken to prevent these;

(c) whether India also participated in some such festival held abroad recently;

(d) if so, the achievements made therein; and

(e) the total expenditure incurred on holding of the last festival in India and the one in which India participated abroad?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) and (b) No serious shortcoming was noticed in the last International Film Festival of India (IFFI'96) held in Delhi in January, 1996

(c) Yes, Sir

(d) India participated in 18 International Film Festivals abroad recently between April '96 and June '96. In Singapore International Film Festival, Shri Bishnu Kharghoria won the best actor award for his performance in the film "Hkhagorolo Bohu Door". The film also won the Special Jury award. The film "Bandit Queen" won the following three awards in Kine International Film Festival, Harare (Zimbabwe)

(i) Ms. Seema Biswas won the best actress award (ii) The Monte Carlo Theatres trophy for the best film and (iii) The Diplomatic Corps of Zimbabwe award for the "Film most representative of the art, Society and Culture of the Nation submitting the entry"

(e) A budget of Rs.215 lakhs was sanctioned for IFFI'96. The Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi also contributed a sum of Rs.25 lakhs for the Festival. An expenditure of Rs.2.05 lakhs has been incurred on freight charges, striking of new prints, deputation of delegation from India etc. for participation in 18 international Film Festivals abroad in which India participated in the recent past

Cargo Complex at Calicut Airport

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

(a) whether there is any proposal to set up a Cargo Complex at Calicut airport;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the estimated cost and allocation therefor?

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

(b) and (c) An area of, approximately, 1710 sq.m. has been identified for the establishment of an integrated cargo terminal at Calicut Airport at an estimated cost of Rs. 67.50 lakhs. Till this facility becomes operational, as an interim measure, the recently vacated domestic arrival hall will be converted as export shed/outbound domestic cargo area with facilities for customs examination and screening of cargo.

Development of Kaziranga National Park

276. SHRI KESHAB MAHANTA
DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to develop Kaziranga National Park as a tourist complex;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the concrete steps being taken to attract more tourists to the National Park?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA) : (a) and (b) Tourism being a continuous process, constant dialogues are maintained with the State Governments for provision of infrastructural facilities at places of tourist interest. Kaziranga National Park has also been developed as a tourist complex and the State Government has been provided financial assistance for provision of facilities at the Kaziranga National Park during various Plan periods as per details given below

- (1) 1970-71 - Forest Lodge at Kaziranga (Rs. 24.23 lakhs)
- (2) 1985-86 - Purchase of Mini Buses and Elephants for wildlife viewing (Rs. 6.38 lakhs)
- (3) 1990-91 - Tourist lodge at Kaziranga (Rs. 14.81 lakhs)
- (4) 1991-92 - Upgradation of Tourist Lodge at Kaziranga (Rs. 4.20 lakhs)
- (5) 1992-93 - Tented accommodation at Kaziranga (Rs. 14.77 lakhs)
- (6) 1995-96 - Tourist Reception Centre at Kaziranga (Rs. 25.86 lakhs)

(c) In addition to the provision of facilities, promotional booklets have been brought out to publicise the place in domestic and international markets. Media Members and Travel Agents from overseas are invited to visit the area under Department of Tourism Media Relations Programme

Rehabilitation of Workers

277 SHRI DHIRENDRA AGARWAL :
SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA :
SHRI RAMCHANDRA VEERAPPA :

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state .

(a) the number of workers rendered jobless due to closure of industrial units during 1994-95 and 1995-96 and

(b) the steps proposed to be taken by the Union Government for rehabilitation of these workers?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) . (a) According to the latest available information the number of units closed during 1994 and 1995 are 228 and 94 and workers affected during the same period are 21394 and 8164 respectively

(b) Government have established the National Renewal Fund as a social safety net for the workers affected by industrial restructuring. The fund inter-alia provides assistance for the schemes of retraining and redeployment of workers affected by restructuring and closure of industrial units. A large number of Employee Assistance Centres have been set up by various agencies all over the country with the assistance from NRF. Workers affected by closure of industries can also avail of employment generation schemes being implemented by State Governments under Centrally sponsored schemes.

Child Labour

278 DR T SUBBARAMI REDDY Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state .

(a) whether the Supreme Court of India has imposed the fine on seven industries which have been employing the children.

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government against the guilty persons.

(c) whether the supreme Court has also issued any directive to the Government to inform the Court regarding steps taken to curb the child labour in the country

(d) if so, whether the Government have informed the court about the steps taken, and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) (a) to (e) information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House

[Translation]

Tourist visited India

279. SHRI SOHAN BEER :
DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) the number of tourists visited India during the last three years and the amount of foreign exchange earned therefrom;

(b) whether the Government propose to make a plan to promote tourism in the country;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the measures proposed to be taken by the Government for the security of the tourists?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA) (a) The number of foreign tourists who visited India and the estimated foreign exchange earnings from tourism during the last three years are as given below -

Year	Foreign tourist arrivals	Estimated Foreign exchange earnings (Rs crores)
1993	17,64,830	6141.81
1994	18,86,433	7103.53
1995	21,23,683	8640.02

(b) and (c) The development of tourism is a continuous process and forms part of the plan proposal for each year. The Department has recently prepared a draft strategy paper enlisting the activities to be taken up by various agencies including the private sector for the development of tourism in the country.

(d) States/Union Territory Governments are primarily concerned with the security of residents and visitors as law and order is a State Subject. However, the Central Department of Tourism has formulated guidelines for the approval of travel agents, tour operators, tourist transport operators, guides etc. who provide various services to tourists.

[English]

Non Functioning of Cameras at IGIA

280 SHRI MOHAN RAWALE Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state

(a) whether the cameras installed in the lounges of the Indira Gandhi International Airport at New Delhi have become out of order

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is any proposal to replace these cameras by a new and much advanced system; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The cameras installed in the lounges of the Indira Gandhi International Airport at New Delhi have outlived their useful life and are likely to be replaced shortly.

(c) and (d). A new system with modern state of the art camera is being installed at an estimated cost of Rs.62 lakhs within the next 6 to 8 months.

Accord with MACAU

281 SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state .

(a) whether the Government have signed any negotiation/pact/accord with "MACAU" to start a flight from Delhi to MACAU;

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

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) and (c) Bilateral discussions are proposed to be held shortly with MACAU to finalise an Air Services Agreement

Inter State Travel Circuits

282 SHRI S D N R WADIYAR Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state .

(a) whether the Government have identified the inter State travel circuits

(b) if so the details thereof. Statewise.

(c) whether steps have been taken to provide proper infrastructural facilities in those travel circuits to give a boost to the tourism, and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA) : (a) and (b) The identification and development of tourist centres and travel circuits is a continuous process and the State/UT Governments are being encouraged to develop inter State circuits so as to take full advantage of the infrastructural facilities available. Some of the circuits identified in this regard include Winter Paradise (covering Chandigarh Harayana, Punjab and Himachal Pradesh) and Utar Pradesh-Madhya Pradesh Circuit

(covering Agra-Gwalior-Jhansi-Orchha-Khajuraho and Panna) and South Circuit (covering Kerala and Tamil Nadu) Biddhist circuit in Bihar & U.P.

(c) and (d). The development of tourism infrastructure is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments. However, the Department of Tourism extends financial assistance to State/UT Governments on the projects received depending on their merits, interse priority and availability of funds. Overseas assistance is also available for some projects.

[Translation]

Total Plan Outlay for Tribals

283. PROF PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA
SHRI GUMAN MAL LODHA .
PROF AJIT KUMAR MEHTA

Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state

(a) the actual expenditure incurred on the Tribal Development Projects since the Fifth Plan as against the total outlay.

(b) whether the Government are aware of the fact that the economic and social development of the tribals is in commensurate with the objectives and the investment made so far.

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) the targets fixed for the development of tribal regions in the current financial year.

(e) whether the Government have considered the desirability of reviewing the Tribal sub-plans to identify the shortcomings, and

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

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : (a) The expenditure on development of Scheduled Tribes from Fifth Plan to Seventh Plan under the State Plan as well as through allocations made as Special Central Assistance and Grants as per First Proviso to Art. 275 (1) of the Constitution is around Rs. 13,743.27 crores against the total outlay of Rs. 13,022.57 crores. The anticipated expenditure for the Eighth Plan is of the order of Rs. 16,853.13 crores.

(b) and (c). The Government has decided to set up a Commission under Art. 339 (1) of the Constitution on the Administration of Scheduled Areas and the welfare of Scheduled Tribes. One of the Terms of reference of the Commission is to review of development strategies for tribal development including TSP approach and examination and recommendations of appropriate alternative

(d) Tentative physical target for the current financial year is fixed at 11.37 lakhs ST families which would be economically assisted under 11 (b) of 20 Point Programme and financial target which is likely to be spent is Rs.4272.03 crores on the development of STs in the current financial year.

(e) and (f). As mentioned in Part (b) and (c).

[English]

New Airports in Country

284. DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have any proposal to set up some new Airports in the country; and

(b) if so, the places identified therefor, location-wise?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) and (b) New airports have been proposed at Devanahalli near Bangalore, Mangalore and Cochin (Nedumbassery). These airports are being developed by the concerned State Governments with private participation.

In addition, there are proposals for airports at Androth in Lakshadweep Islands, Tura in Meghalaya, Lengpui in Mizoram, Itanagar in Arunachal Pradesh, Shirdi and Sindhudurg in Maharashtra, Kargil and Kishtwar in Jammu & Kashmir, Phillaur in Punjab and Ajmer in Rajasthan.

TV Transmitter in Orissa

285 SHRI SOUMYA RANJAN : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) the capacity of TV transmitter at Bhubaneswar, Orissa and the areas covered by it;

(b) whether the Government propose to set up some new TV transmitters in Orissa;

(c) if so, the details thereof, location-wise.

(d) whether the Government also propose to increase the capacity of any transmitter in the State; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) The Low Power (100 W) TV Transmitter functioning at Bhubaneswar provides DD II (Metro) service terrestrially especially to the areas not covered by the High Power TV Transmitter installed at Cuttack.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. The requisite details are given in the attached *Statement*

(d) and (e). Yes, Sir. Whereas, the scheme for upgradation of the existing High Power TV Transmitter (HPT) at Sambalpur from 1 KW 10 KW power is presently under implementation, an HPT is also envisaged to be set up at Berhampur in replacement of the existing Low Power TV Transmitter (LPT), subject to approval of the scheme by the competent authority.

STATEMENT

TV Transmitters Under Implementation/ Envisaged to be Set up in Orissa

S.No.	Location	TV Project
1.	Baleswar	HPT
2.	Sambalpur	HPT
3.	Berhampur	HPT
4.	Nayagarh	LPT
5.	Sonepur	LPT
6.	Mohana	LPT
7.	Tushara/Sainthala	LPT
8.	Kabisuryanagar	LPT
9.	Sohela	LPT
10.	Umerkot	LPT
11.	Kotpad	LPT
12.	Gondiya (Kapilas)	LPT
13.	Khariar	LPT
14.	Padua	LPT
15.	Karanjia	LPT
16.	Kulad	LPT
17.	Patnagarh	LPT
18.	Bahalda	LPT
19.	Aul	VLPT
20.	Thaumal Rampur	VLPT
21.	Chitrakonda	VLPT
22.	Badabarbil	VLPT
23.	Barpalli	VLPT
24.	Nagchi	VLPT
25.	Machhkund	VLPT
26.	Kashipur	VLPT
27.	Lanjigarh	VLPT
28.	Jayapatna	VLPT
29.	Simlipalgarh	VLPT
30.	Udaigiri	VLPT
31.	Sukinda	VLPT
32.	Koksara	VLPT
33.	Kalampur	VLPT
34.	Paikamal	VLPT
35.	Dhenkanal	Transposer
36.	Chandipara	Transposer

Inclusion of Members from Film Industry in Censor Board

286. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Central Board of Film Certification has approved the inclusion of some members nominated by the Film Industry to the 'Censor Board';

(b) if so, the details thereof and the number of such members;

(c) whether the Parliamentary Standing Committee oversee the recommendation made by the Ministry to keep the Censor Board free from any 'vested interests';

(d) if so, how far the inclusion of members nominated by the Film Industry conforms to that recommendation; and

(e) the details of steps taken?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) and (b). The Central Board of Film Certification is constituted by the Central Government. It shall consist of a Chairman and not less than 12 and not more than 25 other members appointed by the Central Government. About six of the members are associated with the film industry.

(c) to (e). The Standing Committee on Communications (1994-95) (Tenth Lok Sabha) has, in its 8th Report, recommended that the members of the Board should not be from the film industry.

Persons who are qualified, in the opinion of the Central Government, to Judge the effect of films on the public are appointed as members of the Board. Therefore, persons from a cross section of the society, including persons associated with films, are included in the Board. There is no legal bar to the appointment of persons from the film industry as members of the Board. The members of the Board are associated only at the level of Revising Committees. A Revising Committee consists of a Chairman and not more than nine members, being members of the Board or its advisory panels. The authority approving the composition of the committees can always constitute them with a judicious mix of persons from various walks of life, including the film industry. Further, the members of the Board are expected to follow a code of conduct prescribed by Government while discharging their duties. Therefore, the recommendation was not fully accepted by Government.

The Standing Committee on Communications has, in its 28th Report, reiterated its view that no member from the film industry should be appointed to the Board. Final reply to this recommendation is yet to be sent.

[Translation]

Union Subsidy to Bihar Government

287. SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR SINGH : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have received any proposal for providing subsidy for the opening of hotels in Bihar;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the action taken by the Union Government thereon; and

(d) subsidy provided for opening of hotels in the backward areas of Bihar?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA) : (a) to (d). The Union Government offers interest subsidy ranging from 3% to 5% on loans provided for approved hotel projects of one, two and three star category which is disbursed through the State Financial Corporation, State Industrial Development Corporation, Tourism Finance Corporation and IFCI. An amount of Rs. 16,11,902/- has been released as interest subsidy to various hotel projects in Bihar during 1995-96.

[English]

Irregular Air Service to Leh

288. SHRI JAG MOHAN : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether air service to Leh (Ladakh) has become increasingly irregular;

(b) how many times the flights were delayed for over four hours or cancelled during the first six months of the current year; and

(c) the remedial measures being taken to ensure regularity of the service?

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

(b) During the period January, 1996 to May, 1996, three flights of Indian Airlines were delayed beyond four hours and 20 flights were cancelled.

(c) All technical delays are investigated to pinpoint the cause and remedial action is taken where necessary. The delays of the previous 24 hours are also reviewed everyday on regular basis to identify the areas where these can be eliminated or reduced.

Funds Released for Upliftment of Scheduled Castes

289. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) the funds released to Kerala during 1994-95 under the Special Central Assistance for the upliftment of Scheduled Castes;

(b) the total budgetary outlay under this scheme for Kerala for 1995-96 alongwith the actual amount released during this period; and

(c) the budgetary outlay under this scheme for 1996-97?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : (a) Rs 508 81 Lakhs.

(b) Budgetary outlay for States/UTs is not fixed in advance for the following reasons

(i) Special Central Assistance is apportioned among the States/UTs on the basis of certain fixed criteria including SC population percentage and relative backwardness of the States/UTs and efforts being taken by the States/UTs for the development of SCs

(ii) Information on the efforts being taken by the States/UTs is normally received by the Central Government in the third quarter of the financial year and there are downward or upward variation in the efforts taken by the States/UTs year after year.

The actual amount released to Kerala for 1995-96 was Rs 492 73 lakhs

(c) No budgetary outlay under this scheme has been made to any state for the reason mentioned at (a) above. A sum of Rs 287 98 lakh has been released to Kerala as first instalment of SCA for 1996-97, on the basis of SC population percentage and relative backwardness of States/UTs.

Child Labour

290. SHRI KESHAB MAHANTA
SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH
SHRI AMAR PAL SINGH
KUMARI UMA BHARATI
DR ARUN KUMAR SARMA
SHRI N DENNIS
SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA
SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) the number of child labourers working in various factories and as domestic servants, separately,

(b) whether the Government propose to ban on child labour;

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

(d) the progress made in regard to eliminate the child labour; and

(e) the time by which the child labour problem is likely to be completely eliminated?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) The number of child labourers working in various factories and as domestic servants are not maintained.

(b) and (c). As per the provisions of Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act, 1986, the employment of children is prohibited in 7 occupations and 18 processes contained in Parts 'A' & 'B' of the Schedule to the Act. Through a Notification dated 26.5.1993, the working conditions of children have been regulated in all employments which are not prohibited under the Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act.

(d) and (e) While the ultimate aim is the complete elimination of the practice of child labour the progressive release and rehabilitation of an estimated 20 lakh children engaged in hazardous employments by 2000 AD has been taken up in the first instance. So far, 76 National child labour projects have been sanctioned to cover around 1.5 lakh children working in hazardous occupations. The Government has not finalised any time-frame for complete elimination of child labour in employments.

Setting up of N.H.F.D.C.

291. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state

(a) whether the Union Government propose to set up a National Handicap Finance and Development Corporation with equity participation of both Centre and States;

(b) if so, whether the proposal was submitted during the meeting of State Ministers of Welfare held in 1996, and

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

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : (a) The Government has decided to set up the National Handicapped Finance and Development Corporation under Section 25 of the Companies Act, 1956 to promote economic developmental activities, self-employment and other ventures for the benefit/ economic rehabilitation of the handicapped persons with an authorised share capital of Rs 400 crores (Rupees Four Hundred Crores only) divided into 40 lakhs (Forty Lakhs) equity share of Rs 1000/- (Rupees One Thousand)

each. The paid-up capital would be Rs. 200 crores. The entire equity will be held by Government of India, to begin with.

(b) The decision to set up the Corporation had already been taken prior to the meeting of the State Ministers of Welfare held in 1996. However, it was recommended by the State Ministers of Welfare that National Handicapped Finance and Development Corporation may be set up most expeditiously with equity participation of both Central and State Governments.

(c) National Handicapped Finance and Development Corporation will give loans to persons with disabilities for undertaking self-employment projects, pursuing higher/technical education etc. with a view to bring them into the mainstream of economic activity. Efforts are being made to operationalise the Corporation as early as possible.

Electricity Under Special Component Plan and Tribal Sub-Plan

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

(a) whether the Government propose to provide electricity in the villages under Special Component Plan and Tribal Sub-Plan;

(b) if so, the States where village electrification programmes have been undertaken under the above plans; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard during the remaining period of the current Plan?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : (a) and (b). Special Component Plan (S.C.P.) for Scheduled Castes and Tribal Sub Plan for Scheduled Tribes are formulated and implemented by State Govts./UT Adms. Special Central Assistance is provided to States/UTs to Supplement the economic development schemes of income generation for SCs, under taken under their SCPs. Similarly special Central Assistance is provided to States/UTs to support their Tribal Sub Plan for Scheduled Tribes and the State can utilise this fund for providing electricity connection to individual families in Tribal areas. Under the power sector, States earmark allocation for SCP generally for electrification of scheduled Caste Basties/Localities, house connection, energisation of Pump sets, etc This is to avoid national allocation for SCP under this sector and also in view of the fact that Scheduled Caste population is scattered in nature. However information on village electrification programme under Special Component Plan and Tribal Sub Plan is being collected and will be placed on the table of the House.

(c) Does not arise.

Newspapers

293. SHRI SOUMYA RANJAN : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) the names of small and medium newspapers being published in the country, State-wise;

(b) whether these newspapers face acute shortage of newsprint; and

(c) if so, the steps taken to increase allocation of newsprint?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) The details about names, languages, places of publications, ownership, circulation figures etc. of all those newspapers which are registered with the office of the RNI are compiled once in five years. The latest published Volume is 'Press in India 1991' which is available in the Parliament House Library. The next edition i.e. 'Press in India 1996' is due for publication after September 1996.

(b) No Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Flights to Indore-Delhi and Bhopal-Delhi Routes

294. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is no flights on Sunday from Indore-Delhi and Bhopal-Delhi routes;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government have received any demand in this regard; and

(d) if so, the steps taken thereon so far?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) and (b) NEPC Airlines operates on Bhopal-Delhi sector on Sundays. There is no flight from Indore to Delhi on Sundays.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Doordarshan Relay Centres

295. SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR SINGH : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) the number and names of the Doordarshan Relay Centres in Bihar alongwith capacity thereof;

(b) whether the capacity of these transmitters are likely to be increased;

(c) whether the Union Government propose to set up any new relay centre in the State;

(d) if so, the details thereof indicating the capacity thereof; and

(e) the time by which the new centre is likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) 42 TV Transmitters of varying powers, as per the details given in statement-I are presently operational in Bihar.

(b) to (d). While the power of the existing LPTs at Motihari, Jamshedpur and Deogarh is envisaged to be upgraded, 7 additional LPTs and 2 VLPTs, as per Statement-II, are presently under implementation in Bihar.

(e) The normal lead time involved in implementation of such projects varies between 2 to 4 years depending on availability of resources and other infrastructural facilities.

STATEMENT-I

Existing Doordarshan Transmitters in Bihar

HPTs	LPTs	Transposers
1	2	3
Daltonganj	Aurangabad	Ramgarh Hill
Katihar	Begusarai	
Muzaffarpur	Bettiah	
Patna	Bhagalpur	
Ranchi	Bokaro	
	Buxar	
	Chaibasa	
	Darbhanga	
	Deoghar	
	Dhanbad	
	Dumka	
	Forbesganj	
	Gaya	
	Ghatshila	
	Giridih	
	Godda	
	Gopalganj	
	Gumla	
	Hazaribagh	
	Jamshedpur	
	Jamui	
	Khagaria	

1	2	3
	Lohardaga	
	Madhepura	
	Madhubani	
	Motihari	
	Munger	
	Nawada	
	Raxaul	
	Saharasa	
	Sasaram	
	Sitamarhi	
	Siwan	
	Sheikhpura	
	Supaul	
	Patna (DD2)	

STATEMENT-II

Transmitters Under Implementation in Bihar

LPTs	VLPTs
Noamundy	Garhwa
Kodarma	Simdega
Phoolparas	
Saraikela	
Lakhisarai	
Mushabani	
Sikandra	

Capacity	LPTs	=	300W/100W
	VLPTs	=	10W

[English]

Modernisation of Borjhar Airport

296. SHRI KESHAB MAHANTA Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state

(a) whether the Government propose to modernise the Borjhar Airport at Guwahati,

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether night landing facility is also available at the above airport;

(d) if not, whether the Government propose to augment this facility considering the importance of North-Eastern States, and

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

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) (a) and (b) Yes. Sir Airports Authority of India has undertaken

the following works at Borjhar airport at Guwahati :

- (i) The existing Terminal Building is being extended and modified to cater to 750 arriving and 750 departing passengers at a time,
 - (ii) Extension of apron from 800 ft. X 300 ft. to 950 ft. X 350 ft. to accommodate more number of aircraft,
 - (iii) Installation of State of the art Radar Equipment,
 - (iv) Extension of the runway from 9000 ft. to 12000 ft.
- (c) Yes, Sir.
- (d) and (e). Do not arise.

Shortage of Hotel Rooms

297. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

- (a) whether shortage of hotel rooms in Metropolitan cities has been increasing day by day;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the remedial measures proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA) : (a) to (c). Yes, Sir. There is a shortage of hotel rooms especially in the metro cities of Bombay and Delhi. The construction of hotels is mainly a private sector activity. But fiscal benefits are provided to encourage more hotels to come up under the recognised category. Government generally acts as a catalyst in this regard.

[Translation]

Setting up of Airport in Ajmer

298. PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

- (a) whether all major cities in Rajasthan have connected with air service;
- (b) if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Government of Rajasthan, various political organisations and public representatives have requested the Union Government for setting up of an airport at Ajmer; and
- (d) if so, the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Union Government in this regard?

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

- (b) Does not arise.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Airports Authority of India (AAI) has requested the State Government of Rajasthan to acquire and hand over 480 acres of land free of cost, for development of an airport at Ajmer.

AIR/Doordarshan Centres in Rajasthan

299. PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

- (a) the dates on which All India Radio and Doordarshan Kendras were set up at Ajmer in Rajasthan;
- (b) the amount spent on development of the said Kendras so far;
- (c) whether the Government have received any representation regarding transmission of Vividh Bharti programmes and production of Doordarshan programmes at the said Kendras;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) the steps taken by the Government in this regard;
- (f) whether the Government propose to expand these Kendras; and
- (g) if so, the time by which these are likely to be expanded?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) Whereas All India Radio Station at Ajmer was commissioned on 11.12.1955 Low Power Transmitter of Doordarshan has been functional since 22.8.1984.

(b) While All India Radio has incurred an expenditure of approx. Rs. 208.51 lakhs on upgradation/replacement of the transmitter in Ajmer, Doordarshan has spent Rs. 20.33 lakhs on this account so far.

- (c) No, Sir.
- (d) and (e). Do not arise.
- (f) No, Sir.
- (g) Does not arise.

[English]

Setting Up of AIR Stations in Kerala

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

- (a) whether any new Radio Stations are being set up or proposed to be set up in Kerala during the current year;

(b) if so, the details thereof, location-wise alongwith the estimated cost involved therein;

(c) whether the Government propose to expand and modernise some of the Radio Stations in the above State;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the estimated cost thereon?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION, AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) and (b). A Local Radio Station with 1 KW MW Transmitter, multi-purpose Studio and staff quarters at an estimated capital cost of Rs. 285 lakhs is proposed to be set up at Manjeri (Mallapuram) during the current year.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) and (e). The existing 1 KW MW transmitter at Trivandrum is proposed to be replaced by 2x5 KW FM transmitter and the existing 100 KW MW transmitter at Alleppey is proposed to be upgraded to 2x100 KW MW transmitter at an estimated capital cost of Rs. 294.13 lakhs and Rs. 524.98 lakhs, respectively.

[Translation]

Labourers in Private Sector

301. SHRI NITISH KUMAR :
SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI :

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that more than 75% of the labour class in the country earn their livelihood from private sector;

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

(c) whether the Government have decided to introduce education, health and job guarantee schemes for these labourers in order to increase their efficiency; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the total expenditure likely to be incurred on these schemes during the current year?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) and (b). According to the statistics compiled by the Directorate General of Employment and Training (DGE & T), 79.30 lakh persons were employed in the organised private sector as against a total of 273.75 lakh persons in the organised sector as on 31.3.94.

(c) and (d). A number of labour laws have been enacted for the protection and welfare of different categories of workers in both organised and unorganised sector. Welfare and social security measures are being taken by the employers for the welfare of their labourers in accordance with the provisions of various labour laws.

[English]

Vocational Courses in Maharashtra

302. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether all the 30 vocational courses started in Maharashtra under the Centrally sponsored vocational courses at + 2 level have not been brought under the purview of the Apprentices Act, 1961;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the State Government of Maharashtra have approached the Union Government for inclusion of the remaining vocational courses under the purview of said Act, 1961; and

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

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

(b) Out of 30 vocational courses started in Maharashtra under the Centrally sponsored vocational courses at + 2 level, 23 courses have already been covered under the Apprentices Act, 1961. 7 vocational courses namely Electronics Technology, Mechanical Technology, Auto-Engg. Technician, Repair, Maintenance & Rewinding of Electrical Motors, Horticulture, Bakery & Confectionary and Cookery have not yet been covered under the Apprentices Act, 1961.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) As the remaining 7 vocational courses are already available for trade apprentices under the Apprentices Act, 1961, under one or other description, in order to avoid duplication, it was not found feasible to cover them under the Apprentices Act, 1961.

[Translation]

T.V. Transmitter, Madhya Pradesh

303. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY :
DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIA :

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

(a) whether the Government propose to set up High Power Transmitters, Low Power Transmitters and TV extension studios in Madhya Pradesh during the current year; and

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

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) and (b). 10 LPTs and 6 VLPTs, as per the details given in the enclosed

statement, are presently under implementation in Madhya Pradesh. In addition to these transmitters, T.V Studios (PGF) at Indore, Jagdalpur and Gwalior are also under implementation. Completion of the projects would, however, depend upon the availability of resources and other infrastructural facilities.

STATEMENT

T.V. Transmitter Projects Presently under Implementation in Madhya Pradesh

LPTs :

Gaderwara
Bada Malehra
Kelaras
Sakti
Naryanpur
Garot
Sarangarh
Bhanpura
Sitmau
Pipria

VLPTs :

Singrauli
Koylibeda
Pendra Road
Diamond-Mining project
Modakpal
Bijapur

Mines Safety

304 SHRI RAMENDRA KUMAR : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether action has been taken by the Government on the recommendations of the Sub-Committee set up by the Consultative Committee of his Ministry to go into safety aspects of mines; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M ARUNACHALAM) : (a) and (b) The Sub-Committee of the Consultative Committee attached to the Ministry of Labour submitted its report to the Government on 18.4.96. While examination of the recommendations made in the Report has commenced, the recommendations made in the Report require consultation with different Ministries/Departments of the Government. As such it is too early to arrive at any final decision on any of the recommendations contained in the Report.

[English]

Leasing of Satellite Facilities

305. SHRI E. AHAMED : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have leased out satellite owned by India to individuals or firms in time;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government are aware of leasing out satellite owned by foreign countries to individuals or;

(d) if so, the reaction of the Government thereon;

(e) whether the Government have given satellite uplink of any individuals or firms to anywhere in India in time; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) and (b). No, Sir. Government Policy does not permit leasing out transponders on INSAT series of satellite to individuals or firms.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Government has no control in this regard

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

E.S.I. Hospitals in Orissa

306. SHRI SOUMYA RANJAN : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) the number of ESI Hospitals/dispensaries set up in Orissa so far alongwith their locations;

(b) whether the Government propose to set up more ESI hospitals/dispensaries in the State during 1996-97; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M ARUNACHALAM) : (a) A *statement* is attached

(b) and (c). Two hospitals with 50 beds each which are already under construction at Bhubaneswar and Rourkela are likely to be commissioned during 1996-97. Under the phased programme of the ESIC three ESI dispensaries, one each at Puri, Kuarmunda and Laxmi Nagar are also likely to be set up.

STATEMENT**HOSPITALS**

1. ESI Hospital, Choudwar.
2. ESI Hospital, Kansabahal.
3. ESI Hospital, Brajrajnagar.
4. ESI Hospital, Jaykaypur.

DISPENSARIES

1. ESI Dispensary, Barbil.
2. ESI Dispensary, Barang.
3. ESI Dispensary, Bardol.
4. ESI Dispensary, Shaheed Nagar (Bhubneswar)
5. ESI Dispensary, Brajrajnagar.
6. ESI Dispensary, T P Mills Area, Choudwar
7. ESI Dispensary, Hirakud
8. ESI Dispensary, in the campus of ESI Hospital, Choudwar
9. ESI Dispensary, Jaykaypur
10. ESI Dispensary, Kansabahal
11. ESI Dispensary, Rajgangpur
12. ESI Dispensary, Rourkela-4.
13. ESI Dispensary, Telegapeth
14. ESI Dispensary, Khapuria.
15. ESI Dispensary, Rajabagicha
16. ESI Dispensary, Chandinichowk
17. ESI Dispensary, Paradeep
18. ESI Dispensary, PPL Area
19. ESI Dispensary, Nuapatna
20. ESI Dispensary, Bhagatpur
21. ESI Dispensary, Dhanmandal
22. ESI Dispensary, Jajpur Road.
23. ESI Dispensary, Tirtol
24. ESI Dispensary, Jagatpur
25. ESI Dispensary, Ancheswar
26. ESI Dispensary, Khurda
27. ESI Dispensary, Randia
28. ESI Dispensary, Charampa
29. ESI Dispensary, Balasore
30. ESI Dispensary, Balgopalpur.
31. ESI Dispensary, Chhanpur
32. ESI Dispensary, Govindpur.
33. ESI Dispensary, Dhankanal
34. ESI Dispensary, Angul
35. ESI Dispensary, Ganjam
36. ESI Dispensary, Berhampur
37. ESI Dispensary, Aska
38. ESI Dispensary, Jaypore

39. ESI Dispensary, Sonapur.
40. ESI Dispensary, Balangir.
41. ESI Dispensary, Tora.
42. ESI Dispensary, Sambalpur.
43. ESI Dispensary, Jharsuguda.
44. ESI Dispensary, Rajgangpur-II
45. ESI Dispensary, Kalugaon.
46. ESI Dispensary, CISF Colony (RKL)
47. ESI Dispensary, FCI Colony (RKL)
48. ESI Dispensary, IDL Chemicals
49. ESI Dispensary, Kiroi
50. ESI Dispensary, Brahamanipal.
51. ESI Dispensary, Baripada.

12.00 hrs.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I shall allow the Zero Hour proceedings after the Papers are laid on the Table of the House

(Interruptions)

SHRI RAM NAIK (Mumbai North) Sir, are you allowing the Papers to be laid first?

MR. SPEAKER : That would be better because the Ministers have to go and they have to do some work also

12.01 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

*National Commission for Backward Classes
(Salaries and Allowances and other
Conditions of Service of Chairperson and
Members) Rules, 1996 etc*

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) Sir, I beg to lay on the Table

- (1) A copy of the National Commission for Backward Classes (Salaries and Allowances and other Conditions of Service of Chairperson and Members) Rules, 1996 (Hindu and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 100(E) in Gazette of India dated the 20th, February, 1996, under sub-section (3) of section 17 of the National Commission for Backward Classes Act, 1993

[Placed in Library see No. LT-28/96]

- (2) A copy each of the following paper (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956 :-
- (i) Review by the Government of the working of the National Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Finance and Development Corporation, New Delhi, for the year 1994-95.
 - (ii) Annual Report of the National Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Finance and Development Corporation, New Delhi, for the year 1994-95, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.
- (3) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (2) above.
[Placed in Library see No LT 29/96]

*Maternity Benefits (Mines & Circus)
(Amendment) Rules, 1996 etc*

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M ARUNACHALAM) : Sir I beg to lay on the Table :

- (1) A copy of Maternity Benefit (Mines & Circus) (Amendment) Rules, 1996 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No G.S.R. 70(E) in Gazette of India dated the 31st January, 1996, under sub-section (3) of section 28 of the Maternity Benefits Act, 1961
[Placed in Library see No. LT 30/96]
- (2) A copy of Employees Pension (Amendment) Scheme, 1996 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No G.S.R. 134 in Gazette of India dated the 28th February, 1996 under sub-section (2) of section 7 of the Employees' Provident Funds and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952
[Placed in Library see No. LT 31/96]
- (3) A copy of the Financial Estimates and Performance Budget for the year 1996-97 (Hindi and English versions) of the Employees' State Insurance Corporation under section 36 of the Employees' State Insurance Act, 1948
[Placed in Library see No. LT 32/96]
- (4) A statement (Hindi and English versions) on the ratification and Action taken on the implementation of the provisions of International Labour Organisation convention No. 147 concerning Minimum standards in Merchant Ships
[Placed in Library see No. LT 33/96]

12.02 hrs.

BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

First Report

[English]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA KUMAR JENA) : Sir, I beg to present the first report of the Business Advisory Committee.

12.03 hrs.

ELECTION TO COMMITTEE

Employees' State Insurance Corporation

[English]

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M ARUNACHALAM) : Sir, I beg to move:

"That in pursuance of Section 4(i) of the Employees' State Insurance Act, 1948, read with rule 2A of the Employees' State Insurance (Central) Rules, 1958, 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 Employees' State Insurance Corporation, subject to other provisions of the said Act."

MR SPEAKER : The question is :

"That in pursuance of Section 4 (i) of the Employees' State Insurance Act, 1948, read with rule 2A of the Employees' State Insurance (Central) Rules, 1958, 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 Employees' State Insurance Corporation, subject to other provisions of the said Act."

The motion was adopted

**RE : HIKE IN ADMINISTERED PRICES OF
PETROLEUM PRODUCTS**

[English]

MR SPEAKER : Now, we come to Zero Hour

SHRI JASWANT SINGH (Chittorgarh) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, if I raise this question it is with no great

joy. In fact, it is with some regret and sadness that I have to raise this question again and I have raised it formally by the submission of yet another Adjournment Motion. I have submitted for your consideration that what was not permissible yesterday, as an Adjournment Motion on the total question of unprecedented price hike in petroleum products may please be considered by you today and an Adjournment Motion granted, for which I have submitted an additional and a fresh Adjournment Motion.

MR SPEAKER : I have received your Adjournment Motion and I am looking into it. I will come back to you later on.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : I accept that, Sir, but because an Adjournment Motion by its very nature has the element of adjournment and, therefore, when you say that after the House has done the rest of its work then you will consider it, then the very purpose of the Adjournment Motion gets defeated.

MR SPEAKER : The House has taken up the Zero Hour now.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : It is normally, Sir, during the Zero Hour.

MR SPEAKER : That is why, you have raised this issue. Let me go through your notice and then I will come back to you.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : An Adjournment Motion can be raised only during the Zero Hour.

SHRI PR DASMUNSI (Howrah) : Sir, we are also Members and we also have the right to raise issues. It is not that the Opposition Party Members can alone do that. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : Sir, you have already admitted it under Rule 193.

We are interested to discuss the matter. *(Interruptions)*

MR SPEAKER : Shri Jaswant Singh has given a fresh notice of Adjournment Motion. I am yet to go through it.

(Interruptions)

SHRI ROOPCHAND PAL (Hooghly) : It is very much in the Order Paper. Therefore, you allow us to raise it during Zero Hour.

MR SPEAKER : I am allowing.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE (Dumdum) : Adjournment Motion is for listed business and not for unlisted business. Right now, we are busy with unlisted business. Listed business has not arisen. Now, Zero Hour business should be taken up.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : I wish to clarify only one thing. We did make submission about consideration of the Adjournment Motion yesterday, but the Adjournment Motion proper was not discussed. Rules do not prohibit me from submitting an additional and fresh Adjournment Motion when my previous Adjournment Motion has been disallowed.

MR. SPEAKER : I have accepted that position. But rules also do not say that Speaker has to decide on it instantly.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : That is right.

[Translation]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES (Nalanda) : If the motion is already with you when will it be discussed. *(Interruptions)* You should seek our views.

[English]

MR SPEAKER : I have accepted that the Member has a right to give a notice of Motion of Adjournment afresh. I have accepted the position that the Member has a right to give it.

(Interruptions)

MR SPEAKER : I do not think you have understood my ruling.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM SAGAR (Barabanki) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, you have called me. You should give me the opportunity to speak.

MR SPEAKER : You will be given the opportunity.

[English]

Since this issue was raised yesterday and that notice of Motion of Adjournment was disposed of, I decided on 193. Again Shri Jaswant Singh has given a fresh notice. So, the question is whether a Member has a right to give a fresh notice.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : He has a right to give. That is in the rules.

[Translation]

Mr. Speaker, Sir, please don't mention the rules only.

[English]

MR SPEAKER : That is what I said. The Member has a right to give notice.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES (Nalanda) : I am on a point of order.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM SAGAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, if you have called me to speak in the Zero Hour, why are you calling them.

MR. SPEAKER : All right, but right now you are on a point of order.

[English]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : My point of order is on what the Speaker has said that he has received a Motion for Adjournment. Rule 60 mentions this.

[Translation]

Mr Speaker, Sir, my submission is that on the basis of Rule 60...*(interruptions)* Mr Speaker, Sir, kindly listen to me. Rule 60 says that if you have received an Adjournment Motion you should first seek the advice of the House on it. If you are considering it, then you should tell us as to what is your viewpoint? Just now you said that yesterday you decided on having a discussion under Rule 193. Whether we accept Rule 193 or not, is a separate issue. But yesterday you had stated that Adjournment Motion is not being taken up. Then what do you have in mind? When his Motion is already with you this morning and if that Motion is to be taken up for discussion, then it is necessary for you to seek the advice of the House. it is our right to move a Motion and that right has not been granted as a favour. According to the rules of the House, a Member has got this right. I humbly submit that when we exercise that right, then it is your responsibility to tell us about the state of that Motion. If Shri Jaswant Singh has moved a Motion, then, we should be allowed to move this Motion under Rule 60. If you disallow it then you should proceed further. We should be given the opportunity to state as to why this Motion should be taken up. Those who wish to oppose it, should also be given the opportunity to do so. I would like to quote Kaul and Shakhdar in this regard.

MR. SPEAKER : There is no need to do so. This rule is quite clear.

[English]

Shri Fernandes, you are one of the senior most Members.

[Translation]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : Mr Speaker, Sir, there is every need to do so. What you want to say can't be said without understanding it first. I have

got with me a 1991 edition of Parliamentary Practices and Procedure and on the page 111 it is written :

[English]

"If a Member desires to make a submission to the Speaker on the floor of the House regarding a ruling, the Speaker may permit the Member to do so after satisfying himself that it does not unduly interfere with the proceedings of the House."

[Translation]

A particular situation has arisen. Yesterday the proceedings of the House were disrupted. Today also we find ourselves in a strange situation. The whole country is aggravated and we are also aggravated in the House. If we can not express our views in the House, if the Adjournment Motion is not taken up for consideration, in that case a different situation would be created in the House. We find ourselves in a queer situation. Adjournment Motion is not allowed, Rule 184 is not acceptable, in that case should we bring a No-Confidence Motion? That is not possible for them. But the disrespect of the House in such a manner and, disregard of the viewpoints of the people of this country, will not be tolerated. Hence I humbly request that the Motion moved by Shri Jaswant Singh should be taken up for discussion. There is no need to keep dragging the issue.

[English]

SHRI ANIL BASU (Arambagh) : Sir, we have also got a right to speak. What Shri George Fernandes is saying is totally wrong and irrelevant...*(interruptions)*

SHRI P. UPENDRA (Vijayawada) : Sir, you, in your wisdom, had already ruled that the discussion would take place under Rule 193 and it has been listed in today's Order Paper. I would like to know from you whether a fresh notice can be given on the same subject when that subject has been listed under a particular rule...*(interruptions)*

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I would like to know from the Opposition whether there is anything called finality of the Speaker's ruling...*(interruptions)*

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : Sir, I think it is very good to hear him say "from the Opposition" now that he is in the Treasury side. Please also join the Ministry.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : You do not have to advise me. Please control your flock, control your members. Shri Jaswant Singh, do not give us lectures.

Sir, I just want to say one thing. I would like to know whether there is anything called finality of the Speaker's ruling. Yesterday, we saw the direct challenge on your ruling by demonstrations held on the floor of the House by the entire Opposition and they assembled in the Well of the House. The BJP leaders sat quietly. That was one form of challenge to the Speaker's ruling in the House and the House had to adjourn.

Today we find another method. What cannot be done directly, they are now trying to do it indirectly. This is nothing but a mockery. They cannot challenge your decision about the discussion under Rule 193. It has been listed for discussion. Now on the plea of another attempt, they are bringing in this Adjournment Motion on the same subject. There are certain norms. We cannot function here this way. *(interruptions)*

DR MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI (Allahabad) : What prevents hon. Members to table a fresh Adjournment Motion? Which is the rule? *(interruptions)*

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : The minimum behaviour expected is that we must show respect to the Speaker. What happened yesterday? *(interruptions)* As soon as you gave your ruling that the discussion would be held under Rule 193, the demonstration started. They were protesting against your ruling, against the Government and as such challenging the Government. My respectful submission is that this House be not held to ransom. If they have got any seriousness about the subject matter, let a discussion be held in a proper atmosphere, in a proper spirit. There are serious issues to be discussed on this. We ourselves said yesterday, let there be a discussion. It seems, they do not want a discussion. *(interruptions)*

DR MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : You do not want reduction of prices. We want reduction in the prices. We want reduction of the enhanced price. *(interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : You had stopped the proceedings of the House by standing for 14 days. You are dictating us? *(interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI : Sir, I am on rule 58 about the ruling that you delivered yesterday. I would like to inform the House about the position of Rule 58 which is very clear. I am not going to the merits of the demonstration held yesterday because we the Congressmen are accustomed to see this kind of demonstration from that side. *(interruptions)*

SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH (Balrampur) : In West Bengal.

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI : We know what has happened in the past... *(interruptions)*

MR SPEAKER : I have given him the permission to speak. *(interruptions)*

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI : Rule 58 (V) says and I quote

"the motion shall not revive discussion on a matter which has been discussed in the same session"

Please allow me to explain... *(interruptions)* Yesterday the discussion was allowed, it was discussed and on the basis of the discussion, you gave your ruling. So the same matter cannot be revived according to Rule 58. You see the rules. How can it be raised again? You had allowed this, the discussion was completed and then you gave your ruling. Again, if you allow the same thing, you cannot control it once again, you cannot control the House in future.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS (Muvattupuzha) : There is one more point just to support the point made by Shri P.R. Dasmunsi. He referred to Rule 58(V). I may point out Rule 58 (i) which says

"not more than one such motion shall be made at the same sitting."

This cannot be moved again on the same matter relating to the same price rise. Now they cannot say that they are dealing with the issue of price rise that took place between yesterday and today. I do not think, that is the matter which they are dealing with. So, this is exactly they are dealing with the price rise which has been caused by escalation of the price of petroleum and I think this cannot be discussed in the manner in which the rule has been quoted here and in the manner in which the notice has been given.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : Sir, may I draw your attention at page 451 of the 'Kaul and Shakdher'?

MR SPEAKER : I have allowed Shri E. Ahamed to speak. I will allow you after Shri Ahmed.

SHRI E. AHAMED (Manjeri) : Sir, I raise the point of order under rule 60. My friend Shri George Fernandes has made a lengthy speech justifying it under rule 60. Rule 60 will be operative only if the Speaker gives the consent. What the Chair has observed is that you have not given your consent.

you will consider...(interruptions)...Let me finish my words. Here rule 60 says :

"The Speaker, if he gives consent under rule 56 and holds that the matter proposed to be discussed is in order, shall call the member concerned who shall rise in his place and ask the question..."

SHRI HARIN PATHAK (Ahmedabad) : You read para2...(interruptions)

SHRI E. AHAMED : Mr. George, the Speaker has not given his ruling. Again, I would like to say that Mr. George has quoted from page 111. I am also quoting from the very same page and it is also the responsibility of the hon. Leader of the Opposition to say whether these rules have been observed by his party people. What they have demonstrated yesterday is here. Under page 111 it is observed that the Speaker's ruling as already stated, cannot be questioned except on a substantive motion. There is no substantive motion and you quoted the Speaker's ruling.

Secondly, a Member who protests against the ruling of the Speaker committee a contempt of the House and of the Speaker. That is what you have been doing since yesterday. You have been doing since yesterday the contempt of the Speaker as well as of the House.

Thirdly, the Speaker's decision is equally binding whether given in the House on a departmental file. Again he is not bound to give reasons for his decision. The Speaker is not bound to give the reason for his decision.

Sir, when Shri Jaswant Singhji has moved a motion or sought the permission to move an adjournment motion as long as the Speaker withholds permission or the Speaker does not give the ruling, no Member has any right to raise this point. Therefore, this main Opposition has shown yesterday - I would like to say this is a telling factor-how they uphold the democratic norm in the country. The Opposition party has flouted the procedure. It shall not be allowed.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : Sir I request the patience of the House

It is page 451 of the 'Kaul and Shakhder' which is in conjunction with rule 50. The last paragraph in that page reads as follows

"It has been held that an adjournment motion on a matter which can be raised during debate on the motion of thanks on the President's Address, budget discussion, motion on international

situation, motion regarding a matter of public importance such as food policy, etc., to be held in the same session is not in order. Similarly, a matter which can be raised under any other procedural device viz., calling attention notices, questions, short notice questions, half-an-hour discussions, short duration discussions etc., cannot be raised through an adjournment motion."

My submission is very simple. This is in consistent with rule 58. Now since we have seized of a matter under rule 193, it is impermissible to have an adjournment motion now on a similar question. That is the blunt of the quotation that I have made from 'Kaul and Shakhder'. I, therefore, request you to turn down the adjournment motion and go to the unlisted business.

SHRI SATYAJITSINH DULIPSINH GAEKWAD (Vadodra) : I would like to know whether this august House has the precedent of having a debate on the final decision of the Speaker. Does this House have the precedent of having a debate on the final decision of the Speaker? I think it is not at all there; you may refer to the past records.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM NAIK (Mumbai North) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, You have given your decision that Shri Jaswant Singh can move another Motion. Even after your decision, Hon. Shri Somnath and some other hon. members are challenging that very decision and are telling us that we are challenging it. The discussion can take place only on this issue as to whether Zero Hour should precede this Motion. When there is an Adjournment Motion, the Adjournment Motion should be taken up first, that is the rule. The problem is that the Communists and Congressmen do not want this discussion and are supporting the price rise. As such they are avoiding the discussion. Hence if you have agreed to have a discussion on the Adjournment Motion, you may kindly take it into consideration first and whatever follows can be discussed later on.

[English]

Adjournment Motion must get precedence over all other business after the Question Hour

SHRI SATYAJITSINH DULIPSINH GAEKWAD : Are you seeking advice from the Opposition Benches?

MR. SPEAKER : I have to seek advice from all the hon. Members

SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN (Chandigarh) : They are citing Rule 58. Rule 58 will be applicable only if the matter has already been discussed. Yesterday you held a discussion on the question whether the

resolution is permissible, whether the propriety part is there or not; but the merits of the case were not gone into. Secondly, you have already ruled in the morning that a Member has the right to move the resolution. Now the situation is that the resolution has come. As Mr. Jaswant Singh has said, our only concern is that the resolution having come to you, you kindly take a decision.

MR. SPEAKER : What I have said is that a Member has the right to give notice of a motion.

SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN : We are also saying the same thing. The resolution has come. As Mr. George Fernandes and Mr. Jaswant Singh have pointed out, by the nature of it the Adjournment Motion is very urgent and very important. You kindly take a decision; either you permit him or you refuse the permission. If the Adjournment Motion is pending and we continue with the business of the House, it indirectly means that the Adjournment Motion is not being taken into consideration. What we are pressing for is, you kindly decide whether you permit the Adjournment Motion or you do not permit the Adjournment Motion. But keeping it pending will mean the indirect cancellation of the Adjournment Motion.

SHRI PM SAYEED (Lakshadweep) : You have given your decision yesterday. For more than one hour we had seen an unruly mob here. I have never seen this in my short span of thirty years... (Interruptions) I am not talking to you, I am only addressing the Speaker. Have some patience, please. We have heard you, you also should hear us.

What I want to just bring to your notice is that there is already an item. According to your ruling, under Rule 193 the rights of two Members have already been upheld by you and the item has been listed. Exercising of one Member's right here should not be at the expense of the rights of another Member. Already the same matter has been listed. Can you or other Members take a decision dispensing with that right without the consent of the House? is the question which has to be decided. Yesterday they had given the Adjournment Motion. Then, after one hour discussion, you have given the ruling that this would be discussed under Rule 193. Now the old wine in a new bottle is again coming back in a round about manner.

Therefore, I think you may have to give a decision on this Adjournment Motion. You kindly dispose it off and see to it that we take up the discussion under rule 193.

SHRI ROOPCHAND PAL : Sir, as per rule 31(1), there is a list of business and that is prepared by the

Secretary-General and a copy is made available to the hon. Members. In the 'list of business' given to us today, we find that two hon. members belonging to the BJP have submitted notices for a motion under rule 193. I do not know about the differences they have within their party in Gujarat. I think, that has been extended to this House also. One member is opposing the notices given by other Members of the BJP. You have already given the permission yesterday ruling out an Adjournment Motion. Let us proceed with the unlisted business. Let us not be deprived of our right to move motions or raise issues relating to urgent public importance.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I heard with great attention the stimulated anger of my good friend, the distinguished barrister. But when he simulates anger, then, he loses reason.

My submission is very simple. I am well within my rights as a Member of Parliament, as a Member of this House to submit for your consideration, for the Speaker's consideration a fresh notice for an Adjournment Motion.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Even misconceived notices.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : Whether they are misconceived or ill-conceived or well-conceived is really a subject of opinion, which varies with my hon. friend's seat. If he were here, it would have been a very well-conceived motion and because he sits there, he finds the motion ill-conceived and very inconvenient. That is the reality of it... (Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Sir, I know his agony. Mr. Jaswant Singh never imagined that his rule will be for thirteen days only. I can understand his agony. He is finding today that he is completely isolated in the country. Now, his party is making a desperate attempt to come into the centre of Indian politics and by raising all these questions... (Interruptions) Why do they not talk themselves? This is a motion for the first time in the history of Parliament... (Interruptions) You are a very good student of, at least, the rules and you have got a very good reference service. The Leader of the Opposition has a very good reference service. Find out a sentence, a single occurrence where a motion which had been rejected on day one has been moved again on day two when something else has been decided by the Speaker.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : As an act of courtesy I yielded to a good friend not for him to wage an assault on where I am standing or where I am sitting. That I am in isolation is again a question of looking from where he is looking. My isolation does not worry me, it worries him. It worries his party. My point is

very simple. I am well within my rights to submit for your consideration a new notice for an Adjournment Motion because yesterday the Adjournment Motion that was submitted was not taken up for discussion. It was disallowed by you. Therefore, firstly, I am well within my right to submit it. Whether you accept it or not is a different matter. The point that has been made by my good friend Upendra or Nirmalda or others was: when today is listed an item under rule 193, is my notice for an Adjournment Motion on the subject permissible or not? My submission is that the item listed under rule 193 today is based on yesterday's decision. The Adjournment Motion that I have moved is different in phraseology, is different in language. And indeed, Sir, between yesterday and today a very new development has taken place, which is precisely our worry. Now, we come to learn that as a part of the cascading effect. *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : I think we have had enough discussion. Let one more Member speak and I will give the ruling. Jaswant Singhji, please conclude.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : My point is that, after all why are we pleading with you and why are we pleading with the Treasury Benches comprising of my good friend, Somnathji also? Why are we pleading for a discussion under the particular provisions of the Rules of the House? We are pleading for particular Rules, whether Adjournment Motion or Rule 184, because we wish to have an element of censure in the discussion itself. Whatever your rule is acceptable to us. We can never challenge it. *(Interruptions)* But if you have a toothless discussion, a spineless discussion, a discussion on as important an issue as Rs 10,000 crore of additional imposition of revenue and the collective Treasury Benches simply want to have a discussion and talk the matter out without either a sting or a tooth in it. What is the purpose? That is why, we have submitted an Adjournment Motion again because we wish to plead with you and we wish to appeal to the residual sense of the Treasury Benches even now to reconsider and have a discussion on this issue and a discussion as an Adjournment Motion so that we are able to put the point across forcefully with a sting and with some teeth in it. This is the substance of the Parliamentary methods that we have adopted to submit for your consideration a discussion on this issue

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR (Bailia) : Mr Speaker, Sir, discussion on this issue is going on since yesterday. We want to believe the truth. The rules won't be of any help in that case. Shri Jaswant Singh had made a very clear statement. He wants to

censure the Government on this account. The natural reaction to what the Government has done is that of censuring it. I also think so. What the Government did, was not proper at all.

The learned Hon. Finance Minister is not present at the moment. He started some reasons yesterday and probably anybody with even a little knowledge of the Parliamentary tradition would not have replied in such a tone. What is BJP? It is isolated, separate. These issues are different, political difference is a separate issue and conducting the business of Parliament is entirely different. Presently the Members on this side want censure and those sitting on the other side are not ready to accept censure. The dispute is not restricted merely to this issue. Nothing would come out of reading out rules, procedure and voluminous books. If we do not sit together and find a way out then the other alternative is that you should find out your way.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, yesterday you quoted some precedents and after that you said that this would be discussed under Rule 193. That you have included in today's order paper. Shri Jaswant Singh is a learned man and is conversant with the parliamentary procedures. He found a way out and moved another Adjournment Motion. You said that he has a right to give Adjournment Motion. Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would request you to excuse me if I exceed my limits. At that very moment, you should have said that this Motion was not admitted yesterday. This is an order paper. This issue should not be raised. Mr. Speaker, Sir, you too are trying to run the proceedings of the House in a purposeless manner. Having a discussion on this issue for two to three hours during the zero hour would neither help increase the importance of the House nor the discussion on the original issue would progress further which is being debated since yesterday.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would request you to ask both the sides to sit together and find a way out. Alternatively, I would request the leader of the Opposition Party not to go in for voting if the other side does not want it. Whatever you want to say can be said in the discussion. I think they have no reply as to why they hiked the prices ten days ago. Speaking good English does not ensure observance of Parliamentary traditions. Hence I would like to tell you that if there is some deficiency it should be admitted. We should not complicate this matter by raising any political issues. I would like to request that it has been included in the order paper. Shri Jaswant Singh also knows that after its inclusion in the Order Paper, the Speaker can not allow another question on that very question and he is accepting your right. There is a difference in accepting your

right and giving the permission. You have exercised your right. Mr. Speaker, Sir, Yesterday you had exercised your right and now the discussion should be undertaken accordingly. This issue should not be dragged any further...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE (Lucknow) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am very distressed to hear all this. I have had the opportunity of having been associated with this House or the other House for the past forty years. Such situation was not created ever before. Adjournment Motions are given, sometimes these are allowed and sometimes they are disallowed by the Speaker. Then other ways of having a discussion are found. Mr. Speaker, Sir, if you say that government cannot be censured and such motions cannot be moved which have an element of censure, then such a statement should not be made by the Chair and we also can't accept it. What is the opposition for? If Government is afraid of the element of the censure how will it function? That is why, yesterday, it was decided that if Adjournment Motion is not being allowed, we will submit a Motion Under Rule 184 and this motion has already been given. You have disallowed that too. Adjournment Motion has been cancelled as well. We are being forced to discuss it under Rule 193 and not under any other rule. This cannot be accepted. Eventually rules provide an opportunity to the Members to put their views across as effectively as they would like to. Why is this Government scared of censure
(Interruptions)

AN HON MEMBER : Why are you avoiding the discussion?

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : We are not avoiding the discussion. If discussion takes place, censure will be there *(Interruptions)*. Mr. Speaker, Sir, Please excuse me but you know very well that yesterday the Congress Members came at this place during the Question Hour. Now we are being lectured. Our members could also have come here during the Question Hour *(Interruptions)*

AN HON MEMBER : They did come here later on.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : They came here because you forced us. We did not want to come. Our only desire is that the House should function in a proper manner and discussion should be undertaken in the House. But we also want that we should be given the opportunity to reflect the view points of the public in an effective manner. We cannot tolerate any high-handedness in this regard. We have to fulfil our duty. *(Interruptions)*

Mr. Speaker, Sir, it does not look proper on the part of such members who were hitherto sitting on the opposition benches, to be speaking in such a

manner...*(Interruptions)* where will will the discussion lead to? We are in opposition and we have a large number of Members, Samata Dal, Akali Dal, Haryana Vikas Party, Shiv Sena are with us. Even if our number would not have been so much even if I were alone, I am a member of this House and I have elected by the people. I shall find every way to express my views by taking advantage of each and every rule. And you are forcing us as to how the discussion would take place. Would the ruling party decide the manner of discussion?
(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Let him finish

(Interruptions)

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : I am not yielding.. *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Please sit down

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : I know, Mr. Speaker, Sir, let me complete my point. All of you cannot stop me from speaking. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI BIJU PATNAIK (Cuttack) : Do not give threat *(Interruptions)*

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I do not understand if I have told anything like this that made Hon'ble member so excited. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : You have told *(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : No, no, please. The leader of the opposition is on his legs

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Silence please

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI LALMUNI CHAUBEY (Buxar) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, even now he thinks himself in the opposition. He is in opposition and have always been doing like this

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV (Purnea) : Threat is coming from that side

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : Will you not let me complete my point. *(Interruptions)*

Mr. Speaker, Sir, Democracy runs with discussion. It is necessary that there should be a

discussion, but in which manner it should be done, is also necessary. After all why there are different provisions made for discussions in the rules. We can make a request to you to give us an opportunity to have a discussion by taking advantage of any rule. If there is an element of censure in the discussion and due to that ruling Party is likely to be troubled then it is not our job to see this. We are here to put the ruling Party in trouble. Please excuse me. We are being charged that we are disobeying your orders

AN HON. MEMBER : Yes, he is absolutely right. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : I would like to say such a thing which should not be told. I was assured that there will be Adjournment Motion. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI HARIN PATHAK (Ahmedabad) : Please reply.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : We were sure that the adjournment motion will be taken up and yesterday also I have told you this. When the member of the Congress Party made an objection to it then I told them that our Adjournment Motion is to be moved. You give your support. Yesterday, you just cancelled the Adjournment Motion. Our views were not heard. Now, when we are again appealing for reconsideration then you are alleging us that we are challenging your right. We do not want to challenge your right, but we also do not want to surrender our rights.

Mr. Chandra Sekhar has told something, even now I could not understand as to what is the objection to the ruling party and its supporting parties in having discussion in such a manner that there may be voting at the end. What is the objection? Do not drag Hon'ble Speaker in this matter, but why do you object? Mr. Speaker, Sir, I do not think that if the entire House unanimously decides that you move such a Motion and we will negate that Motion by voting, then you will be the target.

If the entire House is in favour of moving such a motion then it is O.K., censure will be there. After all how long the Government will escape from censure. This is the Budget session, there will be voting at every step. You will have to prove your majority. Then why are you hesitating from voting in this matter.

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR (Ballia) : Please leave it today, it can be taken up later on.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : Why should we leave it today?

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, it should be left today because just now Atalji has said one thing which has stunned me. We are not aware of whatever is going on there. In the absence of such awareness, sometimes our requests are not considered justified. If I could have understood that there was any tacit concurrence then I would not have made any request in this regard. I would like to say very clearly...*(Interruptions)* Please listen to my second sentence also. Since the Hon'ble Speaker has already taken a decision, even if there is strong opposition to it, therefore, I request you to leave the issue today to enable the smooth functioning of the House.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : I would like to ask you as to whether smooth functioning of the House is to be ensured only by the opposition and not by the ruling party?

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR : I am requesting you, not them.

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : It means you have made the ruling party such a type of Party that you do not think it fit for making a request. Does it stand in such a condition?

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR : I am not in a position to make a request either to ruling party or to the Opposition, I am just making a request only to Shri Atalji.

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : You have left the ruling party not even in such a position that you can make a request to them.

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR : This is a matter between the teacher and the pupil.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : I would like to make an appeal again. Just now the House will adjourn for Lunch. You can discuss it in your room. We really have a complaint that after tomorrow...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM SAGAR (Barabanki) : Parliament Session has began just two day back. There are a number of important issues. Opposition Members do not want to have discussion on that. This is not the way. We the members with less importance have also to say our point.

MR. SPEAKER : This is not so. You have a chance in the Zero Hour.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : You may call and find out a way. We are interested in finding out a way. This interruption should not be allowed. But we cannot leave this right that such a Motion can never be moved in which element to censure the Government is there. How can the opposition leave

this right. You please find the way out. We are ready to co-operate in that matter.

[English]

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV (Silchar) : Sir, we have heard the argument, reasoning and the rules. On behalf of my party, I was involved in the discussion. It was a new factor to us when Mr. Vajpayee, a very respected leader, Leader of the Opposition with such a massive strength, came out today with a new information before us that it was assured that Adjournment Motion would be allowed. I have no knowledge, at any stage, in any meeting, that such an assurance was given to him. If there is an assurance which was given to him by somebody from ruling party, he should come forward and tell us. There is no need of this exercise. This is a futile exercise. If there is understanding, it should be honoured but who is the gentleman who gave that understanding to him? This is my first point.

Secondly, I am a bit sentimental. You may not like it; Members may not like it but since the Chair of the Speakership has been taken by you, there is a tendency to get decisions from the Speaker by methods which are not desirable in the parliamentary democracy.

If one thinks that things could be done this way, we are here to protect it and fight it out. Figures never count in the Parliamentary democracy. There is no point in saying, "I have got Shiv Sena and others and other with me." We are also here. Everytime they are arguing. You only accept their point. Does this 310 Members have no value? What is this? What sort of an argument is this? This matter is agitating everybody. They want to gain a point. (Interruptions) I have not interrupted your leader.

Now, they want to censure this Government. They have already censured this Government over the past two days. Everybody has heard whatever they have said. The nation knows about their stand on this issue. As they do not accept, we also do not accept what has been given. Shri Vajpayee has said that it was his duty to hatao this Government. Till this moment it is my duty to keep this Government. We are here for that... (Interruptions)

SHRI HARIN PATHAK : Can you support the price rise? Do you support the price rise?... (Interruptions)

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV : When there was a difference in your Party in the Gujarat unit, did everybody support everybody?... (Interruptions) So, that is not the question. I would like to request you that your decision would be the trend-setter for the events to follow in the next five years in this House.

So, please be very aware. Before you give your decision, as a Member of this House and as the Chief Whip of my Party, I would like to urge upon you to go through the rules. The withdrawal of the listed items of business of the House cannot be done without the consent of the House. It is a matter of the House now. Everytime, the ball is put in your Court and if this be the situation then let the matter be left to the House to be decided. We will decide it. Please do not waste any more time of the House on this. This is my suggestion... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members, we have a couple of minutes to go for lunch.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : There has been a plane crash today morning and the hon. Minister for Civil Aviation wants to make a statement.

12.58 hrs.

STATEMENT RE: PLANE CRASH AT KANDI NEAR BHUNTAR AIRPORT

[English]

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, with deep sorrow and regret, this is to inform the House that an aircraft bearing registration No. VT-ETC of L-410 type belonging to Archana Airways, a private operator, has reportedly met with an accident at Kandi about 30 kms south of Bhuntar Airport. This 17 seater aircraft was on a flight from Shimla to Bhuntar. There were nine persons on board (six passengers and three crew members). The aircraft is reported to have had last contact with Bhuntar at 0853 hours. Its Estimated Time of Arrival at Bhuntar was 0854 hours. As per the report received so far, the aircraft hit the top of a hill.

At present there is no information about the fate of the passengers and crew of the aircraft. Search and rescue has been initiated by Indian Air Force. Deputy Commissioner and Superintendent of Police of Mandi District have left for the site of the accident.

Preliminary investigation into the cause of the accident has been initiated by the DGCA and Director of Air Safety has been appointed as Inspector of Accidents under Rule 71 of the Aircraft Rules, 1937.

I will inform the House as soon as further details are available.

SHRI SAT MAHAJAN (Kangra) : Have the Central Government sent any rescue team there or not?

13.00 hrs.

SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM : Sir, I have already contacted the Indian Air Force people. Till 1230 hours, there were heavy clouds, because of which the search of the aircraft could not take place. But, ground level operation work has already started. I have told all my officials, if clouds permit, that I am also thinking of visiting the site.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN (Chandigarh) : Whether it is the place where plane of Shri Surendra Nath was crashed?

SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM : Yes, it is so.

13.01 hrs.

[English]

MR SPEAKER : Now the House stands adjourned for lunch till 2.00 p.m.

14.05 hrs.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch at Five Minutes past Fourteen of the Clock

(Mr Speaker in the Chair)

[English]

RE:HIKE IN ADMINISTERED PRICES OF PETROLEUM PRODUCTS—Contd.

MR SPEAKER : I will have to dispose of the matter which has been raised before the Lunch break

SHRI JASWANT SINGH (Chittorgarh) : Sir, with your permission may I be permitted to say a word.

You had very kindly sought to discuss this matter with some of us further during the Lunch recess. We are mindful and always highly respectful of the position of the Chair. At no stage has our contention been with the Chair. Our contention has been and remains with the Treasury Benches.

The Minister for Parliamentary Affairs is an efficient and an energetic Minister. He is a very old friend of mine. He has to consult, I think, 15 of his partners who are in the Government. *(Interruptions)*

MR SPEAKER : We are on a very important issue. Please do not interrupt him.

(Interruptions)

MR SPEAKER : We have to run the House.

(Interruptions)

SHRI RAMENDRA KUMAR (Begusarai) : Sir, we are prepared to give full cooperation to you....*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : The matter which has been raised before the Lunch break has not yet been disposed of. I will have to dispose of that matter.

(Interruptions)

SHRI RAMENDRA KUMAR : If the Chair is saying that the matter has not yet been disposed of, then what to do? *(Interruptions)*

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : Sir, the energetic and efficient Minister for Parliamentary Affairs also the somewhat silent leader of this House these days. I know their difficulties. They have to consult 15 or 16 different Groups to arrive at one viewpoint. I am mindful of this. Our difficulty of having a discussion with teeth and sting remains. But, notwithstanding that, we shall abide by whatever you rule from the Chair. On that there is no option and it has never been our intention to challenge your ruling. But we do appeal to you, Sir, that this methodology of the Government and its supporters to avoid a discussion is so obvious an embarrassment...*(Interruptions)* We have said for the first day and a half, nothing but to demonstrate so effectively, that they fight shy of even discussing as important an issue as a sum of Rs. 10,000 crore of additional inputs...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE (Panskura) : A person like you should not say that...*(Interruptions)*

MR SPEAKER : Hon. Members during the pre-lunch period, we were discussing about the notice of an Adjournment Motion by Shri Jaswant Singh. A lot of points of order have been raised during the discussion.

Shri Fernandes has raised a point of order under Rule 60.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES (Nalanda) : Sir, I am here.

MR. SPEAKER : Yes, I have seen you.

Rule 60 of the Rules of Procedure comes into the picture only when the Speaker gives his consent under Rule 56. So, the point of order raised by him is out of order.

Then, Shri Dasmunsi has also raised a point of order under Rule 58. Rule 58 speaks about a motion having been discussed once in the Session. We have not yet discussed this issue and, therefore, I still uphold the right of the Member to give a notice for a fresh Adjournment Motion. There is a distinction between the right of a Member to give a notice for an Adjournment Motion and the consent to be given

by the Speaker under Rule 56. Therefore, the point of order raised by Shri Dasmuni is out of order.

Well, Shri Ahamed has, in fact, interrupted Rule 60.

I think I will go by his interpretation in my ruling.

Now coming to the Motion of Adjournment by Shri Jaswant Singh, having upheld his right to give a fresh notice, the contention of the hon. Member was that the phraseology and the language of the Motion is different from what it was in yesterday's Motion. I have gone through the Motion very carefully. Though the language and phraseology is different, yet I think the content and the substance are the same. Therefore, having taken a decision on such a Motion having the same content and substance, I cannot give consent to move the Adjournment Motion. We will take up this issue at four o'clock under Rule 193.

Thank you for your cooperation.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMSAGAR (Barabank) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Government of India has formulated an Employment scheme for the development of extremely backward areas of the whole country. For this the Government has made provision of sufficient fund in its Budget. But this money is not being utilized properly. It has been mentioned in the said scheme that resources will be generated for the development of backward areas. The census of the labourer belonging to that area will be got done and those labourers will be provided a card in which there will be a guarantee for them for employment of 100 mandays in a year. But the objectives of such a useful scheme are not being achieved and the whole work is being done on contract basis. As such labourers are not getting benefit from this. One salient feature of this scheme is that people's representatives have not been involved in it. The District Magistrates do not consult them in this regard and the Authorities, to whom the budget were allocated, get good amount of commission for getting the work done by the contractors. In this way this budget is not being utilised properly. Labourers are not being given employment in the said scheme and the work is being done through contract basis. Government's fund is being looted. I think that each and every member of this House will have an interest in this matter. Since this scheme covers the entire country, therefore, I would like to urge that atleast Members of Parliament, if not all the people's representatives, may be included in this scheme so that they can

give their suggestions. In the absence of such an arrangement, the Administration is adopting arbitrary conduct. I, therefore, urge upon the Government, through you, to take steps for its smooth functioning and for development of backward areas.

SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VERMA (Dhanduka) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to call the attention of the Government toward Narmada Project of Gujarat. For the last 20 years the common man, labourers, businessmen, farmers and others are very anxiously waiting to see this scheme completed. Gujarat is not getting the required amount of assistance. Not only this, Madhya Pradesh, which is our neighbouring state, is not able to do the required work. The work of rehabilitation was also not carried out by Madhya Pradesh. As a result of this, sometimes the work of Narmada Project is interrupted. The financial assistance required to be given to Gujarat by Madhya Pradesh is not being provided. This issue does not pertain to Gujarat. Four states—Gujarat, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan are going to be benefitted by the completion of Narmada Yojna. Today, farmers of Gujarat are facing problems due to scarcity of electricity. The farmers are not getting electricity for ten hours continuously. They are not getting drinking water too. Therefore, on completion of Narmada Yojna farmers would be able to get water for irrigation, and electricity as well. In Gujarat only, Ground water is available for drinking purpose. Soft water can be provided there. People in Kachha are also facing acute shortage of water. Gujarat has been facing famine once in every three year. People of Gujarat are facing problems for the last several years. I, therefore, urge upon the Government, through you, that the work of Narmada Yojana should be completed at the earliest. For this, the financial assistance, required to be given by the Union Government may be released immediately and instructions should also be issued to Madhya Pradesh, the neighbouring state, for releasing the required fund to Gujarat.

[English]

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE (Panskura) : Sir, the sharply reduced tax on mini-cigarettes from 1994 has put millions of *beedi* workers in great plight and at the cost of the Government exchequer the multinational I.T.C. is garnering a huge profit. This tax reduction has resulted in more and more people taking to mini-cigarettes instead of *beedi* and that has resulted in unemployment among the *beedi* workers as well as sharp reduction in their wages.

Shr. through you, I appeal to the Government either to increase the tax on mini-cigarettes very sharply or to cancel the licence to produce mini-

cigarettes so that these cannot be marketed. Thank you.

SHRI SUDHIR GIRI (Contai) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Mecheda is the only railway station in the district of Midnapore, West Bengal from where the producers and traders of betel leaves transport their baskets to different destinations all over the country. Betel leave production and their trade are the means of livelihood of lakhs and lakhs of people. These betel leaves are extremely perishable goods. About two thousand baskets are accumulated every day at Mecheda. These baskets need to be cleared every day. Otherwise huge losses will occur. Hence, V.P.P. arrangements should be made with Kurla Express, Sambhalpur Express, Hyderabad Express and Ahmedabad Express to clear these baskets. But the Railways do not take care of the demand of the producers and traders. So, the people concerned have been agitating for long.

I, therefore, urge upon the hon. Minister of Railways to instruct his office to arrange for the daily clearance of the accumulated betel leaves every day.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY (Chhapra) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw your attention on a very important issue. The main accused in the Bihar's Animal Husbandary Scam involving Rs. 2000 crores, are S.B. Sinha, Vijay Mallik and Mohammad Sayeed. During the course of investigation they were being taken to the court from the Jail... (Interruption) This case is now being investigated by the C.B.I.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : No, it is a state matter. It is with the C.B.I.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY : An attempt was made on their life. They are the main accused. The case is under the CBI. And the CBI comes under the control of the Ministry of Home Affairs of the Central Government. An attempt was made on the lives of the main accused. Their van was fired upon. The accused were in the van. They are involved in the scam involving thousands of crores of rupees. They were likely to provide adequate clues and evidences to the state government. Such people were fired upon, while going in the security cover of state government.

MR. SPEAKER : You yourself have said that the matter is with the C.B.I.

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY : I am saying that the evidence is being liquidated. The people were

travelling in the train from the jail to the court. There is an intention to kill all such people who hold information regarding the animal husbandry scam. It is a matter of great importance, because the C.B.I. is unable to protect the people who are accused. The money involved in that scam works out to Rs. 2,000 crore. There has been an attempt to liquidate the accused who hold the evidence against the whole show. They should be given protection so that the main evidence in this case is not liquidated before the culmination of the case.

[Translation]

SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR (Bareilly) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the cane growers of Uttar Pradesh are facing a lot of problems. Recently, on 3rd, the hon. Prime Minister had gone to Lucknow and had announced that half the arrears of the cane growers would be paid by the Central Government. But even after so many days, the hon. Prime Minister has not taken any further action in this regard. I urge upon the Central Government to take effective steps urgently in view of the serious problems of the cane growers of Uttar Pradesh. Uttar Pradesh is under President's rule. The cane growers are in difficulty. The farmers are harassed for the repayment of their loans. Whereas arrears are not being paid to them the total outstanding arrears in Uttar Pradesh is about Rs. 1100 crores. I would like that the Government should intervene in this matter and immediately fulfill the promise made by the Prime Minister, in Lucknow regarding the payment of arrears to the cane-growers.

SHRI HARIN PATHAK (Ahmedabad) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, thank you for giving me time. Ahmedabad is an important Railway Centre of Western Railways and is the capital of Gujarat. For the last two terms, I have been raising questions continuously in the Parliament for upgrading Ahmedabad as Divisional Headquarters. And, I am happy that on March 10, the Minister of State of the Ministry of Railways, while addressing a public meeting in Ahmedabad had announced that Ahmedabad would be made a Division. But, today, I am sorry to say that four months have elapsed since that announcement but nothing has been done so far, which shows that the announcement has been confined only to the public meeting and to papers.

Ahmedabad is the sixth largest city of the country and is an important centre of Western Railways. But till now work has not begun in the direction of making Ahmedabad a Division. Through you, I would appeal to the Government and to the Minister of Railways to start work at the earliest to make Ahmedabad a Division.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Parliamentary Affairs Minister is not here. I would like to draw the attention of the Government, through you, that the country would be celebrating the birth centenary of the great son of the soil Netaji Subash Chandra Bose from the 23rd January, 1997. Today is the 11th July, 1996. So, only few months are left. The earlier Government had set up a Committee under the chairmanship of the Prime Minister. Now, the new Government has come. I would request the Government to prepare a plan of action so that the country can celebrate the birth centenary of Netaji Subash Chandra Bose in a befitting manner and I would also request that the 23rd January of next year should be declared as a national holiday. He was a great son of the soil. He has not got any respect from the Government of this country. This is the fact

The people of this country are not aware about the whereabouts of Netaji Subash Chandra Bose. The Government should investigate the matter and the people of this country should come to know the real truth about him. The Government should prepare a specific plan of action so that the students, the youth and all the people of this country can celebrate the birth centenary of Netaji Subash Chandra Bose in a befitting manner. I also request the Government to release a special coin on that occasion and give special publicity about his birth centenary so that the people come to know about the activities of Netaji Subash Chandra Bose

Sir, I want to add only one more thing. He was the first man who introduced the Indian Army. That is why I request the Government that Fort William, Calcutta should be named as Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose Fort, Calcutta and Dehradun Military Academy should be renamed as Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose Academy. In the interest of the country, the television, media and the Government Departments, namely, Human Resource Department, Communication, Finance should coordinate with each other so that the programme could go to the States immediately. It should go to all levels, i.e., school level, primary level and decision making level. His Birth Centenary should be celebrated in a befitting manner. *(Interruptions)*

MR SPEAKER : All of us associate with that.

SHRI CHITTA BASU (Barasat) This is an important national issue which she has raised. As a matter of fact, earlier a national committee was set up under the presidentship of the Prime Minister. Kumari Mamata is a member of that committee and I am also a member of that committee. Some programme was decided upon but it could not be

given effect to. What is my request to the hon. Prime Minister today is that he should resume the responsibility of chairing that committee and the committee should meet immediately and finalise the programme which was in the process of being discussed. A sub-committee was also set up to finalise the programme. The suggestions which she has given might also be discussed in the sub-committee.

SHRI ANIL BASU (Arambagh) : Sir, all the sections of the House are unanimous on this point. Please convey this feeling to the Government so that immediate action could be taken by the Prime Minister.

MR. SPEAKER : I have said so that I have a message to convey.

SHRI PRADEEP BHATTACHARYA (Serumpore) Sir, with your kind permission, I would like to bring to your notice the most important thing, namely, in the State of West Bengal the rural women are not being protected by the law of the land. I can cite one example. A few days back three persons were killed in the block of Jangipara which comes under the State of West Bengal. Immediately after the death of these persons the wives of the deceased persons and also other people rushed to the police station for getting the protection. But unfortunately *... (Interruptions)*

SHRI ANIL BASU : Sir, he should raise this matter in the West Bengal Assembly. This is not the West Bengal Assembly.

MR. SPEAKER : Please do not bring such kind of things here.

SHRI PRADEEP BHATTACHARYA : Sir, let me finish this things. Things are very serious. Women were thrown out from the police station. They were kicked out. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI ANIL BASU : Sir, this not correct. *(Interruptions)*

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : Sir, it is absolutely correct. I have visited that place.

SHRI PRADEEP BHATTACHARYA : Sir, nobody is the citizen of West Bengal. We are the citizen of India. If the State Government fail to protect the people then why should I not request the Centre to take action? *... (Interruptions)* We are the citizens of this country. We are not citizens of West Bengal. The local police brutally beaten up the women. We made a complaint. Even then the Chief Minister of West Bengal did not take any action against them. Then why should I not bring this issue inside the Parliament? *... (Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT (Nagpur) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, with your permission I would like to draw the attention of the House on a very important issue. Several scams have taken place in the past five years. But, now a days the biggest scam relating coal is taking place. The scam involving coal runs into several thousand crores of rupees. W.C.L. and Coal India Limited are supplying 5-6 thousand tonnes of coal to fictitious small scale industries. I have a list of such people who are given coal, to be sold in the black market surreptitiously. Whereas the small scale industries do not get coal. This is happening all over the country. Coal India has at least eight subsidiaries. And this is happening in all the subsidiaries. I have all the relevant documents regarding W.C.L. Lakhs of tonnes of its coal is sold through the intermediaries and black marketers. Small scale industries do not get coal. Seven thousand tonnes of briquette and 'Kandi' coal are supplied in the name of Small Scale industries to each allottee. Such permits have been given to hundreds of people around Nagpur. I have gone there and investigated the matter. There is a nexus involving the officials of the Directorate of small scale industries, W.C.L., Coal India and the blood-sucking businessmen.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to tell you that it is such a big racket that if it is investigated by the CBI, the involved amount would be to the tune of five-seven thousand crores of rupees. I believe that if a detailed investigation of this scam is carried out, it would turn out to be the biggest racket of the country. I, therefore, urge upon the Government to conduct a detailed investigation in this matter through CBI.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is not an ordinary case. Coal is an essential commodity. I, therefore, demand that the matter should be investigated. I have also given a notice on this matter.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Every body has given notices. I have got 52 notices. What can I do?

[Translation]

SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT : This nexus should be broken. It is essential that this nexus involving officials of Coal India, W.C.L., D.I.C. and the businessmen must be broken.

MR. SPEAKER : All right, you have had your say. Now please sit down.

SHRI BANWARI LAL PURCHIT : Mr. Speaker, Sir, if this is investigated the involved amount in the scam would turn out to be thousands of crores of

rupees. Therefore, it is my request that this should be investigated and this scam should be unearthed.

DR. RAM LAKHAN SINGH (Bhind) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Sonagiri, in the Datia district of Madhya Pradesh, is an important holy place of Jains.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, my first submission is that, the Minister of the concerned department, on which I am going to speak is not present. My submission is that the concerned Minister should be present here. It would be meaningless to speak when the Minister is not present.

Sir, Sonagiri, in the Datia district is a holy place for the Jains. Till, sometime back it was a halt for trains such as Pathankot and Malwa Express. It is my request to you that the Hon. Minister of Railways be directed that halt should be provided for those trains at that place.

PROF PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA (Patiala) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak.

MR. SPEAKER : There is no need to thank me please express your views.

(Interruptions)

SHRI VIJAY GOEL (Sadar-Delhi) : Mr. Speaker Sir, new comers should also be given a chance.

MR. SPEAKER : I am giving chance to new comers also. The number of speakers are increasing. It, therefore, appears that Speakers for Zero Hour would have to be determined through ballot.

PROF PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, only today paddy scam involving Rs. 100 crores, in Punjab has come to light through Press. I have heard that several financial scandals have occurred in the country and several scandals related to corruption have come to light. But, today, a very important paddy scandal has come to notice. Through you, I want to know from the Government, whether it is a fact that Food Corporation of India has siphoned off 1.93 lakh tonnes of paddy? I have seen people being kidnapped in Punjab. But, in this case paddy has been kidnapped.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, this assumes significance because in Punjab, the super fine quality of paddy of the farmers were declared as of fine quality. And in this way they were paid Rs. 20 less per quintal. Thus, last year, the farmers of Punjab were deprived of thousands of crores of rupees by the Food Corporation of India, a Government agency. Therefore, I request that this matter should be investigated.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, my second submission is that, the cane growers are not being paid compensation.

MR. SPEAKER : All right. Now sit down.

[English]

SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR (Dibrugarh) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I wish to raise very important issue in this august House. One month back, there was an ethnic clash in Assam in which more than a hundred villages were burnt down and more than two lakh people were rendered homeless.

Hundreds of people were also killed. Now the people are languishing in the relief camps. It is reported that more than 200 people have died in the relief camps. There is no effect to resettle them in their respective villages. The villagers are willing to go to their villages with proper protection. They also want to be helped in their agricultural activities.

It is a very longstanding ethnic clash. If we do not take appropriate action now, it will create more problems. The extremists from across the border are coming with sophisticated weapons and they are killing the innocent villagers every day.

I earnestly request you to send a parliamentary delegation to this border area to examine the whole problem and to advise the Government to take appropriate action to resettle these people and also to see that such unfortunate ethnic violence does not occur in future.

[Transition]

SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR SINGH (Aurangabad) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to say something regarding my constituency Aurangabad. Aurangabad district is badly affected. In most of the areas of the district there are no irrigation facilities. Due to this most of the rural people do not get employment. Due to lack of employment, the labourers of the district have to go to other States. They are exploited there. No division of Aurangabad district has been included in the Assured and Intensive Employment Scheme. Whereas the irrigated area has been covered under Employment Assurance Scheme. Therefore, through you, I want to request the Government to cover all divisions of Aurangabad under Assured and Intensive Employment Scheme.

SHRI RAJESH PILOT (Dausa) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am narrating a very tragic incident. Our colleague, Swamin, is representing that constituency. Ten days ago, in Haryana it was reported in the news papers that a farmer took a loan of Rs. 30,000. And some persons from the Co-operative Bank came to him for repayment. This incident took place in a village near the Nilokhed village. They took that man with them in a car. Three days later, his body was found in a canal. On reading this in the paper, I went to the house of the deceased. I became extremely

sentimental that a farmer had such a tragic end for Rs. 30,000. I went to that village and talked to the villagers. They said that those persons had come in a Maruti and called the deceased and took him with them. The villagers, the Sarpanch, and the family of the deceased requested them to give a month's time for the payment of instalment. But they turned a deaf ear. I saw blood stains on the deceased's body. The Government officials present there said that the deceased had jumped from the car into the canal. Had he died due to drowning, his stomach would have bulged. There would not have been head and chest injuries. I took his photo and send it to the Haryana Chief Minister. The entire body was bathed in blood.

It is my submission that a poor farmer could not pay the instalment of loan of Rs. 30,000, as a result of which his family is suffering in this manner. No one is concerned what is happening to the thousands and crores of farmers in the country today. Shri Chidambaramji is sitting in the treasury bench. I would request him to urge the Haryana Government. I would like that he should talk to the Government of Haryana and find out as to how his death took place and his family should be given some assistance.

SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN (Indore) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the matter is very small and yet very big one because Indore in Madhya Pradesh is very large town from industrial point of view and yet it is very much neglected from the view point of Railways. For the last 15 days, Delhi bound Indore-Nizamuddin train has remained cancelled. Therefore, I could not come here yesterday. The rest of the trains have been started on this track but the Indore-Nizamuddin train has not been started as yet. Plane services have also been delayed. Various trains that we want are also not running. I demand from Minister of Railways through you that the only train which comes to Delhi should be re-started because Indore is still far off from Delhi from the view point of Railways.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, for the past fifteen days this Indore-Nizamuddin train is not running. I am again requesting you because I could not come to Lok Sabha yesterday because of this only. Therefore, you should give immediate order for running this train.

[English]

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI (Deogarh) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the leaders of the Central Government employees are on fast unto death demanding submission of the Report of the Fifth Pay Commission and payment of an additional instalment of interim relief. (interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL (Chandni Chowk-Delhi) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have given notice to you...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Jai Prakash Agarwal, you have given an important notice. Yes, everybody will have to be very brief.

[Translation]

SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Delhi is facing acute shortage of power. People are not getting electricity for 40 hours altogether. The situation at present *, no body knows... you may go and see it yourself. Here also, an honourable member had made complaint...*(Interruptions)* You may hold an enquiry, you may find out. These people have made a mess of Delhi Administration and nobody listens....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI VIJAY GOEL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, one member has made allegations against the other member. This is not proper...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I will see the record, if it is not permissible it will not be there.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Agarwalji, please conclude now. I think you have made your point.

[Translation]

SHRI VIJAY GOEL : He has spoken in his language ...* I want that he should withdraw his words. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I think that is not correct to say. It will be removed from the records. It is not fair to make allegations against our own colleagues here.

[Translation]

SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL : What is wrong in it Mr. Atal Bihari Vajpayee has said that the Member of Parliament is saleable.

I have first said that they do not work.

[English]

SHRI JAG MOHAN (New Delhi) : Since this question has been raised about power breakdown in

* Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

Delhi, I would like to say that we realize that there is a power that aspect. I am already intending to give a Short Notice Question. We will raise it. They can discuss it, we will show where the fault lies.

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA (Ferozabad) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want you to pay your attention towards Ferozabad Constituency of Uttar Pradesh...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I have ordered it to be removed from the records.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : We have already spent 45 minutes. In the morning, you have got the opportunity.

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA : I want to draw your attention towards my Constituency Ferozabad under the Agra division of Uttar Pradesh. Torrential rains lashed this place on 24-25 June, following which a Dam got damaged from the side of Rajasthan. Agra is very much affected by floods. Lakhs of people have been marooned and rendered homeless. 15 people have got injured and 20 others have died. I want to urge upon the Government to instruct the Government of Uttar Pradesh to give Rs one lakh as ex-gratia payment to the next of the kin of the deceased persons. Money is provided to people in the wake of any natural Calamity, and arrangements should be made...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : We cannot go on extending the Zero Hour up to the end of the day. This is not possible. Please cooperate with me. We have received 52 notices. I cannot accommodate positively everybody. Why do you not understand my difficulty?

(Interruptions)

SHRI S. BANGARAPPA (Shimoga) : Sir, I have given notice. You will find that the matter is very very important and of an urgent nature pertaining to the interest of Karnataka. You please go through that and then say something. I do not mind if you say that that is not to be again taken up, certainly I will agree to that and resume my seat. You please go through that.

MR. SPEAKER : I have gone through that.

SHRI S. BANGARAPPA : What is your decision? If you say, this is not very important, I will just abide by your decision.

MR. SPEAKER : This is very important. It is a matter between two States. Recently there has been a ruling of the Supreme Court on that issue and according to the judgment of the Court, action has been taken. That is what I understand. I do not think it is that urgent to be raised today. I will give you chance tomorrow morning. You please cooperate with me.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI VISHAMBHAR PRASAD NISHAD (Fatehpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the people of the country want to know about 400 Skulls that have been recovered in Bodhgaya. Whose skulls are these? The Bihar Government as well as Central Government is keeping silent over it. Dalits are being killed in the strength of thousands at aferelaid place in Bihar. Poor people and Dalit farmers are fleeing to other states.

I demand that immediate action be taken in this matter after having a discussion during zero hour.

14.47 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

- (i) **Need for Construction of a Pedestrian Sub-way at Railway gate on Ramghat Road in Aligarh, U.P.**

† *[Translation]*

SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM (Aligarh) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Ramghat Road of Aligarh Parliamentary Constituency is a national highway and there is no Pedestrian overbridge near Railway crossing on this road, following which hundreds of accidents keep taking place. This overbridge is called killer bridge due to occurrence of accidents of that place. About 200 trains pass through it in 24 hours. It is a main line between Delhi and Calcutta.

Therefore, the Central Government is urged upon that order be given for immediate construction of overbridge along Ramghat road.

14.49 hrs.

(Shri P.M. Sayeed *in the Chair*)

- (ii) **Need for Early Conversion of Bhavnagar-Tarapur Railway line into Broadgauge**

SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VERMA (Dhanduka) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the demand for conversion of

Bhavnagar-Tarapur line under Bhavnagar Railway Division of Western Railways into a broad gauge line has been long standing.

In order to lay the Bhavnagar-Tarapur Railway line, the traffic and engineering survey was conducted few years ago on which crores of rupees were spent.

'Saurashtra Chamber of Commerce' of Bhavnagar and various social, academic, cultural, Governmental and Railway organisation have been making this demand from time to time and have launched agitations also.

The conversion of Bhavnagar-Tarapur Rail line into a broad gauge line will help lessen the distance and Bhavnagar division will not only be connected with Saurashtra, Kutch and Gujarat but would also be directly linked with Delhi, Mumbai, Calcutta, Madras and various other routes of the country

At present, the conversion of meter gauge lines into broad gauge lines is already being done in the country. Bhavnagar-Tarapur rail line should also be converted into broad gauge line now

Earlier Bhavnagar was state Railways. Later on it become Saurashtra Railways and then came under Western Railways. The Raja of Bhavnagar state had also kept few crore rupees in reserve for Bhavnagar-Tarapur broad gauge railway line. In spite of this, till date, this line has not been converted into broad gauge line. Although the Government had made a provision in the Rail budget during 1977-79 for this project, even then the work was never undertaken.

The Central Government is, therefore, requested to lay this line without further delay.

- (iii) **Need to Provide Adequate Financial Assistance to Government of Andhra Pradesh for providing Relief to the people affected by Recent Cyclones**

[English]

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY (Visakhapatnam) : Sir, the cyclonic storm and accompanying rains in Andhra Pradesh recently have caused a great damage to the State. The total number of deaths were 87. The worst hit was Chittoor District which accounted for 37. In Madanapalle town 26 persons were washed away in the floods following breaches. East Godavari was the most affected district in the coastal region with 13 deaths. Eleven people were killed in Kurnool, 8 in Mehbubnagar, 5 in Nellore, 4 each in Krishna and Cuddapah, 3 in Guntur and two in Anantapur. The total damage caused to the State

was Rs. 50 crore. The State Government had submitted a report to the Central Government seeking the Central assistance to the State in which 11 district were affected.

Almost for the last five years the cyclone and floods have been causing great damage to the State. During 1990-95, 58 districts was affected and 2245 villages were completely destroyed involving 26.05 lakh people. The assistance provided by the Centre was so meagre that even half of the affected population could not be provided sufficient compensation.

I request the Union Government to provide adequate relief to the people affected by cyclone in Andhra Pradesh. I also submit that both Central Government and State Government should evolve some machinery by which the people are given advance warning and are helped for immediate transportation to safer places. Further, both Centre and State should evolve a formula by which immediate assistance to the people who have lost their earning members, houses and crops may be provided.

(iv) Need for Early Conversion of Gorakhpur-Gonda Railway line into Broadgauge

[Translation]

SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN TIWARI (Dumariyaganj): There is a dire need for conversion of Gorakhpur-Gonda railway line into broadgauge because this region is extremely backward and poor and is situated on the border of Nepal. That is why most of the population of this area go out and earn their livelihood. This is the passage to Nepal. The pressure of population is very much. Kapilvastu, Lumbini, Shravasti like famous Buddhist pilgrim centres are situated here. After conversion into broadgauge the pressure on Gorakhpur-Lucknow main line will be reduced considerably. A survey in this regard has also been conducted.

Therefore, the Central Government is urged upon to take up the gauge conversion immediately and also make provisions to this effect in the coming Rail Budget.

(v) Need to Provide Financial Assistance to Government of Bihar for Modernisation of Sone Canal

SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH (Jahanabad): The question of modernisation of Sone Canal is pending with the Government for years together. The main canal stretches from Indrapuri, Derru and Sone to Patna and it passes through my Parliamentary Constituency. The embankments of the

canal have become so weak that in the event of release of excess water both embankments are breached and a flood-like situation is created in the villages along the canal.

The depth of the canal is decreasing due to deposit of silt and embankments are about to give way. In such a situation, the people living alongside the canal area do not get enough water for irrigation and sometimes it leads to drought and sufficient produce is not obtained.

The Ministry of Water Resources had constituted a high level Committee in this regard however we have not been apprised of the action taken by the committee as yet.

Therefore the Central Government is requested that positive action should be taken soon for the modernisation of Sone Canal and the Government of Bihar should be provided special funds for this purpose.

(vi) Need for improvement in Drainage System in Fatehpur in Uttar Pradesh

SHRI VISHAMBHAR PRASAD NISHAD (Fatehpur): In the absence of sewer line in Fatehpur district of Uttar Pradesh, the entire city is flooded during the rainy season claiming hundreds of lives every year. The Superintending Engineer, Construction Division, U.P., through Jal Nigam, Allahabad vide the letter No. 2455/Accounts/8/95 dated 30.4.1990 released five lakh rupees for the purpose. Subsequently the detailed assessment of the scheme, cost was estimated at Rs. 1291.66 lakhs and after getting the technical approval of Chief Engineer vide letter No. 5123/App V Swi/46 dated 14.12.1990, the proposal has been forwarded to Jal Nigam headquarters. Now only the funds are to be allocated.

Therefore, the Central Government is requested to direct the State Government of Uttar Pradesh to issue financial sanction for the drainage system in Fatehpur city of Uttar Pradesh within the financial year.

(vii) Need for Construction of a Road-Cum-Rail Bridge on River Ganga at Monghyr, Bihar

SHRI BRAHAMANAND MANDAL (Monghyr): The river Ganga flows between Monghyr and Khagaria in Bihar and I would like to draw the attention of the Central Government towards the need for construction of a Road-cum-Rail bridge over it. In 1952, the then Prime Minister Pandit Nehru had visited Monghyr and had promised that a bridge would be constructed on river Ganga at Monghyr. In 1971 the then Prime Minister visited Monghyr for electioneering and she had also given the assurance that a bridge would be

constructed. But the Central Government has made no effort so far in this direction. I sat on a fast unto death in 1994 from 25 October to 6 November over this issue. The then Vice Chairman of Planning Commission and Minister of Commerce had said that the Planning Commission would make provision in 1995-96 budget for the construction of a bridge on river Ganga in Monghyr. He had also assured us that there has been an agreement with the Railways in this regard and the Ministry of Railways and the Ministry of Surface Transport will together allocate funds for this purpose however, no concrete action has been taken for the construction of bridge. Therefore the Central Government is requested that a Road-cum-Rail bridge should soon be got constructed on the Ganga river between Monghyr and Khagaria

14.55 hrs.

DEPOSITORIES BILL

[English]

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P CHIDAMBARAM) I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for regulation of depositories in securities and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto

MR CHAIRMAN (SHRI P M SAYEED) The question is .

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for regulation of depositories in securities and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto"

The motion was adopted

SHRI P CHIDAMBARAM I introduce the Bill

14.55 1/2 hrs.

STATEMENT RE DEPOSITORIES (THIRD)
ORDINANCE, 1996*[English]*

SHRI P CHIDAMBARAM I beg to lay on the Table an explanatory statement (Hindi and English versions) giving reasons for immediate legislation by the Depositories (Third) Ordinance, 1996

[Placed in Library See No LT 36/96]

14.56 hrs.

SUPREME COURT AND HIGH COURT
JUDGES (CONDITIONS OF SERVICE)
AMENDMENT BILL*[English]*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Ramakant D Khalap to seek leave of the House to introduce the Bill.

SHRI P CHIDAMBARAM : I am sorry that the Minister concerned is not present in the House. On behalf of Shri Ramakant Khalap, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Supreme Court Judges (Conditions of Service) Act, 1958 and the High Court Judges (Conditions of Service) Act, 1954

SHRI ANANT KUMAR (Bangalore South) : Why is the Minister in whose name the item has been listed not present in the House? May we know the reason?

MR CHAIRMAN : Now that the Minister concerned has come, let him introduce the Bill

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LEGAL AFFAIRS, LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT AND DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D KHALAP) I apologise for not having been present in the House when my name was called out

I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Supreme Court Judges (Conditions of Service) Act, 1958 and the High Court Judges (Conditions of Service) Act, 1954

MR CHAIRMAN The question is

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Supreme Court Judges (Conditions of Service) Act, 1958 and the High Court Judges (Conditions of Service) Act, 1954"

The motion was adopted

SHRI RAMAKANT D KHALAP I introduce the Bill.

14.58 hrs.

STATEMENT RE SUPREME COURT
AND HIGH COURT JUDGES (CONDITIONS
OF SERVICE) AMENDMENT THIRD
ORDINANCE, 1996—Laid*[English]*

SHRI RAMAKANT D KHALAP I beg to lay on the Table an explanatory statement (Hindi and

English versions) giving reasons for immediate legislation by the Supreme Court and High Court Judges (Conditions of Service) Amendment Third Ordinance, 1996.

[Placed in Library See. No. LT. 35/96]

14.59 hre.

REPRESENTATION OF THE PEOPLE (AMENDMENT) BILL

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LEGAL AFFAIRS, LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT AND DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP) : I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Representation of the People Act, 1950.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Representation of the People Act, 1950.

The motion was adopted.

SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP : I introduce the Bill.

15.00 hre.

STATUTORY RESOLUTION RE: CONTINUANCE OF PROCLAMATION BY PRESIDENT IN RELATION TO THE STATE OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR—Contd.

[English]

MR CHAIRMAN : The next item is the Statutory Resolution moved by the hon. Prime Minister. Now, Mr. Jag Mohan will have to conclude

SHRI P. NANGYAL (Ladakh) : No, Sir, I was on my legs yesterday. I think, because of the hue and cry it was not taken note of. ...*(Interruptions)* I had started my speech also. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI JAG MOHAN (New Delhi) : Sir, the hon. Speaker had signalled me to stop because he wanted to give his ruling. In the morning, I met him and he gave me two minutes more ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mr. Namgyal, now he is going to conclude his speech in two minutes and then, I will leave the floor to you.

SHRI JAG MOHAN : Sir, I was only on my last point. The last point that I wanted to make was that claims are being made about the conditions having been improved. I just want to say that this is not factually correct. You can, by all means, hold the elections, but the basic point is that so many other actions have to be taken along with that.

Now, if you see the data for the year 1995 - all these are based on question in Parliament, they are not newspaper data - you may kindly see that the highest number of killings have taken place in the year 1995; the highest number of attacks on the security forces have taken place in the year 1995; the longest hostage crisis has taken place in the year 1995; the largest number of cases of arson have taken place in 1995; the worst incidents of car bomb and land mine explosion have taken place in 1995; the most wanton destruction of holy shrines have taken place in 1995 and the most glaring cases of internal subversion have taken place in 1995. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer) : Sir, I am on a point of order.

[English]

SHRI JAG MOHAN : Please let me explain...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : The point is whether anybody is taking note of Shri Jag Mohan's statement or not?

MR. CHAIRMAN : No, the Minister is present.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : The Prime Minister is in-charge of Kashmir Affairs. Yesterday when the Kashmir issue was being discussed, the Prime Minister was present here. Today neither the Minister of Home Affairs nor the Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs is present. This is a serious matter as nobody is present to take note of a sensitive subject like Kashmir...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : It is not a matter of raising point of order. Shri Jag Mohan, please continue.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : This matter should be taken seriously...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI MADHUKAR SARPOTDAR (Mumbai North-West) : Sir, it is very much necessary. This House should know actually, who is taking note on behalf of the Home Minister.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The Minister is taking note of it. All the points are taken note of by the Minister, Mr. Yadav. The Prime Minister has introduced the Statutory Resolution and not the Home Minister. Let us, with the same seriousness, deliberate. Let us hear Mr. Jag Mohan. He is deliberating on a serious point. Let us be serious. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRAKASH VISHWANATH PARANJPE (Thane) : He is deliberating on a serious point, but the Government is not taking it seriously. The concerned Minister is not present. Nobody is serious about it...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please do not interrupt Mr. Jag Mohan.

SHRI JAG MOHAN : The worst incidents have taken place in 1995 in regard to every aspect of internal security. Now, I would just give a few figures of 1995; 2768 persons were killed, the security forces were attacked 2570 times; the number of security personnel killed increased from 198 in 1994 to 234 in 1995 and 211 more civilians were killed in 1995 than 1994. I do not want to repeat all the other figures. But it shows that the condition has been worsening, whereas a rosy picture is being painted everyday. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA (Kottayam) : What was the situation when you were the Governor? You were the Governor of Jammu and Kashmir twice. What was the situation at that time?...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : The situation worsened only when he left the state.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please do not interrupt.

SHRI JAG MOHAN : I am not yielding. In fact I thank them for proving me right because truth is bitter. They are only reacting to the truth. That is what the normal reaction of a person is. I am not yielding. I am not saying that let them say what they want. Truth will not be hidden by these slogans. I am giving the concrete figures. See the figures of the first four months of 1996. The number of persons killed in the first four months of 1996 is 1183 and the number of persons abducted is 302. In the first four months of 1996 the security forces have been attacked 775 times, 333 private houses have been burnt, 110 shops have been burnt, 317 bomb explosions and 25 rocket attacks have taken place and we have just been talking all the time. Even in the month of June, last month, five army personnel were killed on June 8th. In the Doda massacre, the point which I raised last time, another five persons were butchered. Everyday people are

getting killed and the number is much more than what it was earlier. Now, the point which I want to make is that it is not the election alone which is going to solve the problem. Elections may be held. That is good. But the question is, we have to take other measures to reconstruct the civil administration and to see that the people who are causing internal subversion from within the services are also eliminated. I have a 10-point strategy. Every action of that strategy has to be comprehensively looked into. The situation will not improve by a single-pronged action or double-pronged action. I have already made my points about Article 370 and autonomy and I do not want to say anything more on that.

About regional disparity, I have a lot of things to say about Jammu and Ladakh but I leave it to my distinguished friend. He wanted to speak. I am sure he will talk about Ladakh. Another distinguished friend Shri Chaman Lal will talk about Jammu and I will not touch this. I only want to say about Article 370. A lot of wrong things are being said with regard to Article 370 that 'We will strengthen this. We will do this'. Well, I just want to quote one line from Panditji's 1952 speech, where he himself has said about the Delhi Agreement of 24th July, 1952 to which I made a reference today. He said, "This is an unusual provision and by no means final". I am quoting from the statement made by him in this House. And in a letter written to Mr. Bazaz, he said that it is being gradually removed and whatever little remains, will also go with the passage of time. It is he who is saying so. Now, we are taking a ninety per cent overturn. We are going against what Panditji had said. So, these are the issues. Let us not complicate the problems. Let us not do that. These are the three points which I am making. Number one, do not make any commitment with regard to the autonomy which will create problems for the future; number two, election alone will not solve the problem; and number three, kindly take other corresponding action along with it. And do not forget what are the adverse implications of Article 370. Let us learn a lesson from history and ensure that we do not make the mistakes which we made in the past.

[Translation]

SHRI P. NAMGYAL (Ladakh) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, on 18 July, 1990 the President had issued a proclamation regarding Jammu and Kashmir under Article 356 and now the proposal for its continuance for another six months has been brought in this House for sanction. I rise to support it.

Sir, Jammu and Kashmir state has been under the President Rule and the Governor rule for the last

six years and the administrative affairs of the state are being handled by this House. I believe that it would be the last extension of President Rule because the hon. Prime Minister, Shri Deve Gowda while moving the resolution in the House has given assurance that Assembly elections will be held in Jammu and Kashmir by the end of September. I would like to congratulate the Prime Minister for this announcement. I would also like to congratulate ex-Prime Minister Shri P.V. Narasimha Rao for having initiated the democratic process in Jammu and Kashmir and holding Parliamentary election. It would be unjust to leave out the name of General K.V. Krishna Rao at this juncture. I think that he has played a good role in this case. I would like to congratulate him for having normalised the situation and for getting conducted the Parliamentary elections in J and K. After a gap of five years, it is for the first time that the people of Jammu and Kashmir are being represented in the House and we are getting the opportunity to highlight the sufferings underwent by the people

Sir, people have faced a lot of problems during the last six years. Thousands of Pakistani's who were citizens of Azad Kashmir and also afghan citizens and other foreign mercenaries entered Kashmir in the guise of Mujahideens equipped with modern weapons. They created disturbances in the area during this period. These people have indulged in killing, looting, insulting women and kidnapping people in the name of Islam. You know that more than a year has passed since they abducted the four foreign nationals and they still haven't been released. I think that by now people have seen through the conspiracy of Pakistan and they have realised that their future is secure not with the theocratic Pakistan but with secular India.

During the past six years I had the opportunity to hear and see a lot of things on the future of Kashmir. When some people failed to govern Kashmir in a democratic secular system efficiently it gave rise to militancy and they have been saying different things at different times. For example they talk of reverting to pre-1953 situation and internal autonomy. These people have always blackmailed the Centre and even today they are trying to blackmail the Centre.

Sir, regarding this suggestion we, the people of Ladakh. . . (Interruptions)

SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA (Udhampur) Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am an a point of information. Did they not get the support of the then Government to which they have mentioned here? How could the Government run without their support. . . (Interruptions)

SHRI P. NAMGYAL : I will reply to that also. At that time you were kowtowing to them... (Interruptions) Sir, we, the people, of Ladakh have been opposing to such proposal and will continue to do so. I am sure the people of Jammu will not accept such a proposal. If the Government intends to consider any such proposal, then, I think, its result would not be very good for India. It will lead to disintegration of India. Therefore, it is necessary to prevent the disintegration of India. And if you will consider or discuss such proposal, or if you intend to pursue it, then its repercussion may reflect in other parts of the country also. Therefore, I strongly oppose it. This would mean that barring the three subjects i.e. Defence, External Affairs and Communication, all other subjects would be looked after by the local administration and as a result thereof, life would become miserable for the minorities there. We have been tolerating their excesses for a long time. And this is the reason why protests have been voiced in our region also. The people voiced their demand either for an autonomous state or for the status of Union Territory. In Ladakh, there was a demand for Autonomous Hill Council and we achieved it. Therefore, if all the subjects, except these three subjects are not in the lands of the Centre it would mean that Election Commission, Supreme Court, Comptroller and Auditor General of India, Census Commission etc. would have no jurisdiction in Kashmir. Then the minorities there would have no existence. Therefore the people of Ladakh forcefully oppose this.

Sir, recently the honible Defence Minister had said in a statement that full autonomy would be given to Kashmir. The present Government, in its common minimum programme spoke of granting greater autonomy to Kashmir. Later it was also said that it would be decided by the elected representatives of Kashmir after the assembly elections. But, it is view that it is not clear what the Government has in their mind. Therefore, you will have to ponder over it seriously. Suppose we expect that free and fair elections are held there tomorrow. As free and fair General Elections were held, we expect the Assembly Elections would also be free and fair. But in case, if secessionist elements, such as Hurriyat Conference, which advocates Kashmir's merger with Pakistan, comes to power, and passes a resolution to this effect, with two-thirds majority, what would be the result then? You will have to think over this seriously and also find a way out as to whether any changes should be brought about in the present system there or not. Hence, I request that this issue may be taken seriously.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please conclude. There are three or four other Members from your party to speak and you have already taken about 12 minutes.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI P. NAMGYAL : I will try to finish at the earliest. Jammu and Kashmir is divided into three parts: Jammu, Kashmir Valley and Ladakh. The people of these three parts have different culture and language. And there are different ethnic groups. In spite of having three different cultures, and speaking three different languages, we all are living in a united Jammu and Kashmir. If we want to take any decision regarding Jammu and Kashmir, then, we will have to keep in mind the interests of the people of the three regions and have consultations with the representatives of the regions before arriving at a decision. If you take a decision by consulting only the people of the Kashmir Valley, it would have far reaching consequences. The people of Ladakh would not accept any decision that would go against their interests.

You must know that on 16th March 1846, the 'Treaty of Amritsar' was signed between the British Government and the then Maharaja Gulab Singh. Consequently, Kashmir Valley was bought for 75 lakh Nanakshahi—the Sikh currency and Ladakh was not included in it. Therefore, I said that the historical perspective should be taken into consideration, while taking a decision. In 1834, Ladakh was occupied by the Dogra forces and it was made a part of Jammu State. This does not mean that we want to secede. Please remove any such thoughts from your mind. We believe that the three parts of Jammu and Kashmir are integral parts of India and we want its unity. If you want to give anything to Kashmir Valley, then all the three parts would have to be treated equally, while taking any decision. I believe that if you want any solution to the Kashmir problem, then you should consider for providing an autonomous Hill Council within the State Constitution, as has been provided for Ladakh. I think, the powers that should have been given under the agreement to the Autonomous Hill Council are yet to be given. The bureaucrats of the state are creating a lot of hurdles for us. What was agreed in the agreement, is yet to materialise. There are problems in framing rules and meeting cash flow. If you want to take any action, then keeping all these facts in view, if more power is given to them, I think, it would be more beneficial for the state and thus the state will remain under Indian Union.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now you please conclude.

[Translation]

SHRI P. NAMGYAL : I would like to bring it to the notice of the Hon'ble Prime Minister that the status that was agreed to be given to the Chief Executive Councillor of the Autonomous Hill Council, is yet to be given. We had to frame certain rules for the state, that is also not being done. What their projection and protocol should be, also remain undone. The people of the state are saying that the issue is pending with the Central Government. I would like to request hon'ble Prime Minister to look into this issue is pending with the Central Government. I would like to request hon'ble Prime Minister to look into this issue as well as the problems exist there.

I also want to mention that when the Congress was in power, at that time the Prime Minister, during his meeting with a delegation of the council of that state had decided to send a high powered team there. That team had visited Ladakh. But it was our misfortune that the flight was cancelled twice and they failed to visit there. Thereafter elections were announced and this issue could not be solved. I want that the powered team that was to look into the problems of the Autonomous Hill Council of Ladakh, should be sent again by the Prime Minister. With these words, I, support the resolution seeking extension of the President's rule, with the hope of early Assembly elections and early restoration of normalcy.

[English]

SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN (Trichur) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I support the Resolution moved by our hon. Prime Minister on Kashmir. I congratulate our beloved Prime Minister for his bold initiative in instilling new hope and confidence in the people of Kashmir Valley. His visit to the State, I suppose, has opened a new chapter.

Sir, keeping in view the limited time at my disposal, I do not want to go to the various points which have been placed before us by Shri Jag Mohan. I do not agree with his contention that the people of Jammu and Kashmir would not be won over by a concerted effort. That is what the United Front Government under the leadership of our Prime Minister is trying to do now.

Sir, I want to confine myself to just one point, that is, whenever we think of elections in the State of Jammu and Kashmir, suddenly the issue of autonomy, the parameters of autonomy comes up. The respected hon. Member has cautioned us about giving autonomy to the people of Jammu and Kashmir. The danger lies in it.

That is quite true. I should say that the question of autonomy should not be discussed in isolation with the State of Jammu and Kashmir. I think the historical task before the United Front Government should be to review and reforms the Centre-State relationship. It is high time that we bring in some fundamental changes in the Centre-State relations. We have to take into confidence our great people with their diversity and unity. We must take some lesson from our past experiences. No doubt, hostile forces are working on our borders. They are being openly and hiddenly helped by the imperialists and new-colonialists. They try to destabilise our great country. This is quite true. How should we face them? In my humble opinion, we have to mobilise the patriotic people of different States. We have seen the harm that we have done to the great Sikh community. We had just antagonised them and the separatist forces had capitalised from our mistakes. What price do we have to pay for our mistakes! We are not trying to win over them and we must win over all of them. I would say that we should apply the same criteria for the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

I remember the Lion of Kashmir. He was second to none in patriotism, secularism and in holding the democratic values. He was a great Indian. Let us go through the pages of the history. Have we not committed mistakes in the past? Have we not upheld the democratic rights of the people? Have we not done things which should not have been done? I pay homage to our *jawans*. They are sacrificing their lives in order to preserve the unity and integrity of the country. We salute them. But their sacrifices, the might of the gun, the might of the armed forces will not and should not suffice to protect the unity and integrity of our great motherland. For this important task we have to face some naked facts.

I come from Kerala. About 38 million people live there. They have their feelings and aspirations. There is sometimes bitterness among them. There are ample reasons for that. The Common Minimum Programme of the United Front Government aims at growth with social justice. How can we achieve that with the present rotten Centre-States relations?

Could you plan, could you work out an economic programme for this vast subcontinent unless you make some urgent fundamental reforms? You can take the people into confidence. They are great patriotic people. They love India. They are second to none in patriotism. See the great people of Tamil Nadu. You have heard of the Telugu *Swabhimani*. They want to develop, they want to go forward, they want to plan for themselves. I can say this from my experience in Kerala. We have vast resources of wealth, we have the most educated and intelligent

manpower and get, we are lagging behind. Unemployment is acute. Everything we are lagging behind. We are lagging behind in infrastructure in the industry and in everything. Why? Because Kerala is farther away, if some people think that it is a scar on the map of India on the shores of the Arabian Sea, that is an aberration. We have 30 million mighty people. Ours is the land of Adi Shankara. We have supplied towering personalities to Indian nation. But this system of Centre-State relations, this system where everything is centralised has to be changed.

Maybe our leaders were quite right in 1940s when they adopted the Constitution, but fifty years have passed. Things have changed in these past fifty years. People are urging forward. We cannot ignore the global developments. Considering all these things, it is essential and urgent now to recast the Centre-State relations. Do not hesitate to devolve powers. By doing that you are strengthening this great country and the unity and integrity of the nation will be preserved. That is the only way to preserve the unity and integrity of this great nation. See Kashmir election in this perspective.

I once again congratulate our Prime Minister for taking the initiative to mingle with the people, to hear them, to know their aspirations, and to know their bitterness to see as to how to tackle it in the people's way, and not in the way, as somebody has put, which would drag us into war. In that way the country will disintegrate. That is why this perspective has to be changed.

Dear Prime Minister, have no illusion about the many things that have to be done during the five year term. We could do nothing perhaps, but if you do one thing, that is reforming the Centre-State relations to devolve powers, if you can do that one thing, history will claim that you have done a good thing in the right time.

If the United Front Government can do that, that will be a historical task. In that context, we must win over the people of Kashmir. They are our brothers. The imperialists, the neo-colonialists and the hostile forces on the border can be exposed. So, love the people of Kashmir, mingle with them and win over them. When the elections are held and the elections are over, please deliberate, deal the Centre State relationship as entirely as a national task, not merely through an isolated discussion about the State of Jammu and Kashmir.

SHRI JAG MOHAN : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to make one point. The hon. Member has mentioned that I have said that the people of Kashmir cannot be won over by concerted efforts. I never said so...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA (Ponnani) : Mr. Chairman, the Government has sought the extension of the Presidential Rule and I do not think there is any difference of opinion about supporting the extension of the Presidential Rule. It is good that while this Statutory Motion for the extension of the Presidential Rule has come, at the same time there is a ray of hope that Kashmir is heading towards the restoration of a civil Government.

The hon Prime Minister has been very categorical in his statement that the elections to Jammu and Kashmir Assembly will be held in September or at the most by the first week of October. We wish him well.

While we are sorry that Kashmir has been under the Presidential Rule for the last six years, we are happy that the United Front's Common Minimum Programme has brought about a new enthusiasm and I must congratulate the Government for that particular enthusiasm, which has been created.

Sir, I may be permitted to read out, from the Common Minimum Programme of the United Front, these very fine words which have created enthusiasm not only among the people of Jammu and Kashmir but also everywhere. With respect to Jammu and Kashmir, the Common Minimum Programme of the United Front says

"The resolution of the problem of Jammu and Kashmir can only be through consulting the wishes of the people. Respecting Article 370 of the Constitution as well the wishes of the people. The problems of Jammu and Kashmir will be resolved through giving the people of that State the maximum degree of autonomy."

Sir, these are the words, I would say, which have generated a great enthusiasm. I must appeal here to every section of this House and through you, Sir, I must appeal to the entire country to see that we do not now do this great disservice to the country by quibbling and quarrelling with these noble sentiments which have been expressed in the Common Minimum Programme of the United Front.

The question about autonomy is being raised, a quarrel is being created with respect to the term 'maximum autonomy' but then we will be doing the greatest disservice to the country and to Jammu and Kashmir itself by raising such questions at this present juncture. Let us, therefore, move unitedly and see to it that Kashmir receives our undivided attention. A civil Government in Jammu and Kashmir is a necessity in the interests of Jammu and Kashmir itself and the matter cannot be overemphasised. The civil Government in Jammu and Kashmir is necessary

so that the people of Kashmir themselves run their own administration and also, have control over the security forces over there.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, elections are to be held as we are told, latest by the first week of October. Here, however, I must point out and emphasise upon the fact that in these elections every attempt and every effort must be made in order to see that the elections are fair and impartial. They must be just and fair.

About the last parliamentary elections there are a number of allegations. I do not want to go into the details of those allegations. There are allegations of rigging, there are allegations that there was forced franchise, and there are allegations of malpractices. We have several reports with us.

Here, I have the magazine *Mainstream* dated June 8, 1996, Volume 34, Issue No 27. Then we have two articles here by a four-member team that visited Jammu and Kashmir during the elections and was eye-witness to the situation over there. The reports that are there are very shocking. They cannot be simply brushed aside. I must especially prevail upon the Prime Minister and the Government to study these things and to see that proper adequate steps are taken in order to have just and fair elections.

Sir, in the parliamentary elections, I am constrained to say that our Press was perhaps the first casualty. A circular, for example, was issued, I believe, on or about the 17th of April and that Government circular instructed the editors of the Press, of the dailies over there, not to publish the viewpoints of the extremists. There was a reaction by the extremists and the extremists threatened that if their point of view was not expressed and if they carry only the viewpoints of the Government, then they, the extremists, would not allow them to continue. The result was that the local dailies helplessly suspended the publication of the papers for days together. Not only that : The plight of the Press was very appalling. On the polling day itself, we have the shocking report that in Srinagar, thirty Press persons covering the elections were assaulted by certain *jawans* of our security forces.

Now, what I want to say is that a great care will have to be taken, an undivided attention will have to be given to the question of Kashmir in order to see that the things are properly attended to and corrective steps must be taken. We have to win the confidence of the people and assure them just and fair elections. There have been several Parties which did not participate in the Parliamentary elections. That is a challenge to us and I must urge upon the hon Prime Minister to have a dialogue with them in

order to persuade them to participate in the elections. Let each and every Party participate in the elections so that it may have the legitimacy and the full democratic value.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now, please conclude.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : Sir, the moment you ring the bell, I shall resume my seat within twenty minutes. So, you need not be very impatient about that.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I thought you will finish in twenty seconds and not in twenty minutes.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : Sir, I know your limitations and the difficulties. I shall not try to exploit your patience with me. I must conclude by saying that it is necessary for the Government to rethink the plans, the plans of how and in what manner are we going to hold the just and fair elections. Let the riggings, the malpractices which came up during the Parliamentary elections be corrected and let every Party be persuaded to participate in this democratic process. Otherwise, we have shocking reports of the last Parliamentary elections even being described as most undemocratic elections. These are shocking reports. Let the Government take note of that and let us proceed with confidence within and the *Allah* overhead. I wish the Government well.

[Translation]

SHRI MANGAT RAM SHARMA (Jammu) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Motion for extending President's Rule in Jammu and Kashmir for further six months is before the House. Different Members of the House have expressed their views on this issue. I understand that for the last six-seven years bureaucrats are ruling in Jammu and Kashmir in the name of President's Rule. What to talk of Assembly and Lok Sabha elections, even elections to Panchayats and Local Bodies have not been held for a long time. No system in Jammu and Kashmir is functioning in a democratic manner. I think that people of Jammu and Kashmir have been curiously waiting for the last six years for the elections and formation of a popular Government. I feel pleasure in saying that it was Congress Party which started political process first during President's Rule. Militant forces quit the ground.

They did not dare, even in militant affected area, to show off their power. Likewise, many other parties, on one pretext or other, seemed to be restless to show their presence in the valley but the workers of the Congress Party started political process not only in Kashmir valley but in militant affected areas also, endangering their lives and made people mentally prepared for participating in the election. It is a

matter of great happiness that our ex-Prime Minister had planned to hold Assembly election in December and it was to be announced but some parties boycotted it and the elections were postponed. But the people of the valley participated in the recently held Lok Sabha election on non-religion basis and in many areas specially Kashmir Valley and militancy dominated areas of Jammu, the percentage of voting was far more than in normal conditions. I would like to thank the people of Jammu and Kashmir, specially my Muslim brethren, for their valour shown in casting votes inspite of Pakistani and Militancy threat. To say that elections were not held there, in an impartial manner, is one's individual opinion but I am fully assured that our armed forces have honestly discharged their duties and have given protection to the people who were willing to use their right of franchise. It was result of this protection that men as well as women came in large number to cast their votes in their respective areas. It is also a matter of pleasure that Members of Parliament from all the three regions are present today in the House. I think that when the hon. Prime Minister visited Srinagar recently, he held a meeting with the leaders of different parties and that he had assured us that no such steps would be taken in Jammu and Kashmir. No such steps should be taken which may cause a rift among people having faith in different religions. I would like to promise the hon. Prime Minister for giving us such an assurance and I would also like to appreciate the statement made by Shri Mohd. Maqbool Dar who has recently been made Minister in regard to the discussion going on autonomy in which he stated that wherever he went to campaign, no voter in any area had made a demand for autonomy instead the voters had expressed their grievance that backwardness and unemployment prevalent in their areas should be removed, there should be peace and the development of the area should be given thrust. The issue of autonomy has been raised by the people who could not participate in the election and now they want to rehabilitate themselves. They want to base themselves on such issues which can rehabilitate themselves. They want to base themselves on such issues which can rehabilitate them and by doing so they want to destabilise the country. I would like to request you not to destabilise the country by rehabilitating some parties and some persons. Do not come under any pressure which may further worsen the situation of the valley.

15.59 hrs.

(Mr. Speaker in the Chair)

In think that we feel ourselves safe under article 370 and if the status of this article is maintained the

people of Kashmir will feel themselves safe and secured. I would like to state that the people in the valley want at this juncture that there should be peace, brotherhood should strengthen and the attention should be paid towards the development of the areas which have come to a standstill for the last 5-6 years. I would also like to state that there is no demand of autonomy by the people especially of Pansufi area of my Parliamentary Constituency which is a Muslim dominated area instead they want that the construction of Mughal Road should be given concrete shape quickly. The People of Jammu want that a separate Agriculture University should be opened immediately there, Dogri language should be included in the eighth Schedule and the Jammu City should be awarded the status

16.00 hrs.

of class B city. So far as the issue of permanent settlement of refugees of 1947 is concerned, people of the valley want that the Government of India should fulfil its promise of providing Rs. 25 thousand to each refugee - family and rehabilitating them. There is issue of rehabilitating the refugees of Chhamb area of 1971 and giving right to some persons who have come from Pakistan and who are still living in dormitory. I would like that these problems should be solved. Another issue is about the unemployment. There are lakhs of educated unemployed persons in the valley. I would like to appeal the Government of India that it should ask the Foreign Companies and NRIs, who are investing in other States, to invest in Jammu and Kashmir. The labourers and technicians who are sent abroad by the Government of India should also include the labourers and technicians from Jammu and Kashmir. I would also like to appeal the Government of India to simplify procedure for passport and visa so that the unemployed persons may also go abroad and find job for themselves. I shall conclude my speech after one point.

I keep Shri Jagmohan ji in a high esteem. But we feel that by dissolving Assembly during his tenure, he had committed a blunder otherwise condition would have been better there before 2-4 years. By dissolving the Assembly in the beginning itself, he has incurred great harm to democracy. Had this not been done, a popular Government would have taken charge of the affairs and this situation would not have emerged. *(Interruptions)* Now, if the Assembly elections are held there the condition of the State would improve fast and due to normalcy, Jammu and Kashmir will be greatly benefitted. The people of the State will get facilities and assistance. With these words, I support the resolution.

16.02 hrs.

DISCUSSION UNDER RULE 193

Steep Pre-Budget Hike in Administered Prices of Petrol, LPG, Diesel and other Petroleum products

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Now, we shall take up the discussion under Rule 193 regarding hike in the prices of petroleum products. I have received a letter from the Leader of the Opposition requesting me to permit Shri Jaswant Singh to initiate the debate, even though the discussion stands in the name of the Leader of the Opposition and Dr. Laxminarain Pandey. The discussion having been admitted already, we shall start the discussion now and Shri Jaswant Singh will initiate the debate.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE (Dumdum) : So, you have permitted Shri Jaswant Singh to initiate the debate.

MR. SPEAKER : Yes, I have permitted him. I have consented to the request in consultation with your leader. The time allotted for this discussion is two hours.

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR (Barh) : Let the House continue. Two hours time is not sufficient.

MR. SPEAKER : I am bound to make you aware about the BAC decision.

[English]

SHRI JASWANT SINGH (Chittorgarh) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I shall try and abide by your time restriction. I find it necessary at the very beginning to reiterate some important aspects of the objections that we had raised about the methodology of the debate proper. This is not to be repetitive, this is only to emphasize. We have accepted the situation as it is.

MR. SPEAKER : Thank you very much.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : We have accepted it, Sir, because we are seeking the substance of our concern. The substance of our concern relates to the price rise proper, the quantum of the hike and I shall be detailing the substance of it. We had made our point about the methodology and about our wish to censure the Government. It is now upto those who pretend to be in the Opposition while actually being the side-kicks of the Government, like my good friend, the eminent barrister, to establish their *bona fides*.

Let us clearly establish as to what we are talking about. We are talking about the most unprecedented any possibly the highest single steps ever taken by any Government in independent India, through administered prices, to the extent of Rs.9,700 crore in the balance of this year. If a full year is taken into account it would go to about Rs.12,900 crore. Never in the annals of Independent India have we had a situation wherein in one full year through administered prices we are undertaking a casual step through which almost Rs.13,000 crore are to be taken out of the pocket of the citizens. If to this you add those aspects which are unavoidable aspects integral to all this, aspects like excise and sales tax, then the total impost on the citizens of the country in much higher, and unacceptably higher. I shall explain why. Now our concern was also on account because we knew already that within 7-10 days itself irrespective of whether there was any direct consequence or not all transport related items which are items of daily use, whether it is foodgrains, whether it is wheat, whether it is rice, whether it is vegetables all these items across the board - whether it is merited or unmerited - all of them have shown a price rise. In the district from where I come, petrol has become a luxury today because whatever otherwise the price and whatever the Government might have done by way of after thoughts in respect of diesel, petrol in rural India and in parts of rural Rajasthan is today selling at more than Rs. 28.00 a litre. Now, despite what the Government has done by way of reducing, as after-thoughts the petrol pumps and dealers themselves are not effecting it. I cannot detail all the various aspects or the difficulties that have been caused to the citizens of India by this one particular step. Never have we faced a situation in which, in one step Rs. 9,700 crore are raised on the eve of the Budget. What are the issues and aspects other than the difficulty, unacceptable difficulty caused to the citizens? I shall be coming back to the citizen again. The first issue - and I would simply refer to it and proceed further - is the question of administered prices and parliamentary control. I am not on the question on legality. You have ruled on that. It is not legality. It is the propriety of indulging in this kind, this level and this quantum of price hike for taking away from the citizen almost Rs.13,000 crore in a year and the Parliament has no say in this respect. The Parliament cannot even censure the Government in this regard. That is an aspect of our worry. Sir, if this kind of hike comes on the eve of a Budget session than our worry is enhanced because what is being called into question is the totality of the Parliamentary sovereignty. The Parliament's right to question the Executive particularly in matters relating to finance,

to economy and to prices of this House more than the other places has the duty in regard to the fiscal management of the country. Therefore, if the Government arbitrarily acts in the fashion we will certainly condemn it in absolutely unequivocal terms. I would wish to emphasize this. The point was made by my friend who was earlier a Chariman of the Committee on Petroleum, a Standing Committee of Parliament which has unanimously recommended. It is a recommendation of a Standing Committee of Parliament which recommendation has not been rejected by the Government and has not been rejected by the Parliament. The Parliament unfortunately has not had a chance to discuss that recommendation. That Standing Committee has clearly stated in its Report. That Standing Committee when it gave its report had not visualized that this was the Government that was going to come into existence. They were then in Government themselves and the Chairman of the Committee gave an advice to the Government that never in future should the Government raise administered prices unless they first had a chance to come to the Parliament. The Government has clearly violated, has clearly overlooked the unanimous recommendation of the Standing Committee itself.

The next important aspect, Sir, is the quantum of the increase itself and the hon. Leader of the Opposition has given the percentages. I do not wish to take the time of the House by going into that. The cost of the cooking gas, for example, has gone up by 30 per cent; petrol, by 30 per cent; naphtha, by 10 per cent and diesel by 30 per cent. The very rationals of these percentages resulting in that quantum, I will be questioning in a moment.

The second is the timing. I have dealt at some length on the aspect of timing. I will come to it again. In the rationals for this price hike comes the question of the entire management of Oil Pool Account and prices. But the most important aspect, which I think is the aspect about which the Government has remained silent, and I am not surprised that the new-found friends of the Government, who temporarily sit there as their supproters, have also remained silent, is the question that whereas prices have been raised—this Government alone is not to be blamed because I will be detailing in my subsequent presentation, this has happened earlier also — but not a word has been uttered by the Government in the past so many days about simultaneously raising the efficiency norm. Not one word was shared with the country or with the citizens; not one explanation came from the Government other than these extremely highly prices advertisements that are appearing belatedly in the English language Press these days.

Those are illiterate advertisements. They only half explain the situation. There is not one word from the Government that along with raising of the prices, these are the additional efficiency norms that they will also be implementing.

Sir, the price hike, to my mind, and this is a very important aspect, should definitely have been accompanied by simultaneous suggestions implementable in a time-bound manner, of improving the efficiency and reducing the cost of production. If these aspects had simultaneously been dealt with by the Government along with the quantum etc., being more rationale, we would, perhaps, have been able to understand better.

Now all this, Sir, is a consequence of the total mismanagement of the Oil Pool Reserve Account, as also of the Oil Industry Development aspects. I will explain why the country finds itself in such a situation. This Government has acted imprudently, there is not doubt about it. But if this Government has acted in this fashion, it is on account of the continuous failure continuous imprudence and the continuous irresponsibility of the previous Congress Government. It does not lie in the mouth of the Members of the Congress Party, sitting here in support of this Government to now find fault with this successor Government. Because the situation in which we find itself, the situation in which the Oil Pool Reserve Account finds itself, the entire oil industry finds itself is really, and only, on account of the total mismanagement of the entire oil sector by the previous Congress Government. Instead of sorting it out of having a policy for the management of the entire oil sector for the past five years, the Congress Party specialised in doling out petrol stations, diesel stations, gas agencies to cooks, to servants, to barbers, to all and sundry relatives whoever came, I do not have to list the kind and the numbers of these ministerial hand outs that were given out by the Congress Party in a criminal fashion. If only a quarter of that time had been devoted by the Congress Party to managing the enormity of the problem that the country faces in respect of the total energy sector, of which the oil sector is such an important aspect, then this Government would not have to handle such a politically hot potato. They have gone and dropped the potato on their feet. That is their own responsibility. Principally, therefore, I charge that this situation has come into existence because there has been an absence of policy for a very long time and on account of the Congress Misrule. Most tellingly and most importantly, there has been a decline in indigenous production which has fallen almost by 50 per cent. It is principally on account of mismanagement of the domestic production facility, corruption attendant on the

domestic production facilities and a decline in the refinery production capacity. If there is any one Party that is to be charged for this, it is the Congress Party and it is the Congress Government that is responsible for this. Of course, we said that there has also been in this period a growth in demand. But there is also another factor and that factor is devaluation of the rupee. We have in effect had two devaluations between 1991 and 1996 and I shall explain very briefly, how they are responsible for bringing about this situation. I do not wish to take time explaining as to what the Oil Pool Reserve account is essentially meant for. I assume that hon. Members already know that it is a pool.

AN HON. MEMBER: Hon. Minister knows that it is a fact.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: The hon. Minister knows it very well. It comes into existence from surcharges on petroleum products. It is theoretically supposed to be self-corrective and its outflow are utilised for meeting variations in standard cost. If we find ourselves in the situation that we do not, it is a grave and most telling example of mismanagement of this situation. This particular account was surplus up to 1988-89. Thereafter one major step was taken. That was increase in cess on crude from Rs 600 per metric tonne to Rs 900 per metric tonne. By a very rough calculation, I am sure the hon. Minister can correct me about the figures. I believe this increase in cess has contributed something like Rs 20,000 crore for the oil industry's development. These Rs 20,000 crore have been most profigately misemployed and wasted. This Rs 20,000 crore and other factors have created this situation for which the alligator's tears that are now being shed by the Congress, the supporters of this Government, are really not worthy of the drama that they are engaged in. They are responsible and they are now holding this Government responsible for their ill-deeds. It is really the most amazing situation!

SOME HON. MEMBERS: We are supporting that.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: I do not know on what question and on what matters they support them and on what matters they oppose them. (Interruptions) In March, 1991 because of all this the claims of oil companies on the Oil Pool Account were roughly Rs 3,000 crore. In July, 1991 we had a new Government. That Government raised the prices of petroleum products. This was the first step that it took. Then if they wanted to defeat the very rise that they had effected, almost immediately and simultaneously, they devalued the Indian rupee. This was again one of the first steps which that Government had taken. Because they devalued the

Indian rupee, the Oil Pool Account again ended with a huge deficit. The outstandings payable to the oil companies at the end of just one more year, from March 1991 to March 1992, increased by Rs. 2100 crore roughly and the deficit became about Rs.5100 crore. The Congress Government thereafter raised the prices again in September 1992. I do not know who was coordinating with the Government; how it was being coordinated. Soon after raising the prices in September 1992, that Government took a decision about convertibility of rupee on trade account and that again caused a deficit, and by March 1994 the payables to oil companies had gone up again to Rs 5000 crore.

In January-February 1994, the Congress Government raised the prices again to clear the outstandings of oil companies. Yes, despite doing this for a third time, they simultaneously increased, as if to defeat the raise itself again they simultaneously increased the customs duty on crude and petroleum products plus altering the excise duty structure. When you examine the historicity of how this entire question of petroleum prices has been mismanaged over the past years, of which the latest is just one more continuing and bigger example, it is incredible. Because of these simultaneous steps, there was no further accretion of the oil pool account. In the last quarter of 1995 - we are coming nearer to our immediate worries now - the rupee declined against the US dollar. Because of this decline the estimates of the cumulative claims of the oil companies, in March 1996, went up to around Rs 5700 crore. They could have gone up to about Rs 6000 crores and, that the cumulative claims of the oil companies could double by the end of the year is, therefore, the most telling and most significant aspect of the mismanagement of this entire situation by this Government.

Soon I will prove why it was not necessary to raise the oil prices by just citing to you the alternative approaches that the Government could have taken. But before coming to that let me refer for a moment, to the mindlessness of this Government's raising the diesel prices and then cutting them by half. It bears to be appreciated that an important factor for the excessive growth in POL imports is diesel, the imports of which have gone up by almost 70 per cent in the last two years. In value terms - the international prices are easier - the increase was roughly the same - from \$ 1.31 billion to about 2.26 billion. But the point is that the diesel imports are growing at well over double the overall rate of increase in POL oil imports and the other imports, lastly, there is the downward revision of diesel prices. You raised it to 30 per cent. You lowered it to

15 per cent. Why did you raise it to 30 per cent in the first instance? Why did you lower it to 15 per cent again? Why do you not make it 20 per cent or 15 per cent or five per cent? It shows the total arbitrariness of raising it to a certain level and as a negotiating tactic, therefore, reducing it to 15 per cent. The conclusion is obvious. Either you did not think the whole thing through, or you raised it as a negotiating tactic. Or, you raised it without actually knowing what was needed and then reduced it to 15 per cent. Whatever be the reasons, the conclusion that you arrive at is not very flattering. The conclusion is not very flattering for this Government because the conclusion is not very flattering for the total management of the oil pool account. Now, there is this last week's downward revision of diesel prices so that the domestic prices remain slightly below the import parity level. This could really neither encourage moderation nor savings. As I started by saying that if this price rise had been accompanied by efficiency, by savings, you only have to witness the ministerial *Kafilas* that move about. Every ministerial *Kafila* is accompanied by ten, fifteen cars. What kind of culture of saving on valuable petroleum products are we demonstrating? I have had occasion in this very House to say that Ministers in the previous Government were certainly in the habit of utilising aeroplane as if they were their personal cars. I have known examples of Ministers going to a State capital like Bhopal. And because there were three or four Ministers, they could have travelled by one aeroplane or travelled by a commercial aeroplane. But each of them took a separate aeroplane and each one went in a separate aeroplane to the same function. How can any Government, therefore, simply raise the oil prices or ask the citizen to continue to bear the burden and in its own turn do nothing about this kind of profligacy. This kind of whole approach to savings, this kind of culture of over-consumption, this vulgar ostentatious culture of over using scarce commodities like petroleum products on which country is dependent?

I also wish to point out that I am not convinced by the figures that have been given officially that as a consequence of price rise, inflation is going to be about 1.2 per cent. That might be the direct consequence. And the very eminent and otherwise very aggressive statistician like my good friend Nirmaljai would certainly question this figure of 1.2 per cent. But even - I am not literate in statistical matters - I am inclined to the view that minimum direct contribution to inflation by this recent price hike is going to be at the level of three per cent plus. And this three per cent plus will have a cascading effect, as I started by pointing out, on all

kinds of items of daily domestic consumption of the common Indian citizen. This aspect of inflation must be combined with a consideration of permitting a slide in the value of the rupee. If we have been cautioning the Government against a slide in the rupee value, it has not been there because rupee value has some kind of national symbolism. It is simply good economics and good fiscal management that advises us to persuade this Government to reflect very deeply on permitting the rupee to have come down to the level to which it has come down currently and the rupee has slid again after this price rise. It has slid marginally. We object to this because this inflationary aspect in the transport sector, all the transport related fuels will add to the inflation in the industrial sector and the industrial fuel and the hike will add to that inflation. For the citizens, conveyance cost will add to inflation and for the housewives, domestic cost of items like cooking gas will add to cost the inflation. The cascading influence of consequence of this inflationary spiral will not be limited to the official 12 per cent. And if I emphasise that alternatives were not examined, it is not simply a debating point that I wish to make. These are the alternatives that I wish to make. These are the alternatives that I wish the Government to answer. Is it not correct that the Finance Ministry had borrowed from and, therefore, owed to the Oil Pool Account something like Rs 4,400 and odd crore? Therefore, instead of putting this burden on the citizens why did the able Finance Minister - where is he? - he argued his case to your great delight, Somnathji? He is absent now. This 4,400 crore is owed by the Ministry of Finance to the Oil Pool Account. If the total impost on the citizen is Rs 9,700 crore, a simple repayment of Rs 4,400 crore, even a simple school boy arithmetic can tell, would have reduced the load by half.

I will come to the other point as to why I believe that this oil price rise hike was not necessary. Secondly, I believe, and that is the entire rationale behind the Oil Pool Account - exchange rate variations which are the consequence of the Government's management or mismanagement of economy ought not to have been passed on to the citizens. If the Government fails in the overall management of the Macro-economic situation of the country, with adverse consequences on the exchange rate variation, there is no reason why the Government's failures are to be paid for by the citizens. As I have pointed out, one of the reasons why we are facing the position as that we are facing, is precisely this mismanagement.

Thirdly, Sir, currently the customs duty on imported crude oil is 35 per cent *ad valorem*. Combined with what the Finance Ministry owes to

the Oil Pool Account, or even if you do not take into account the Amangement of exchange rate fluctuation, a better and a more rational utilization of the customs duty on imported crude from 35 per cent to even 25 per cent would have lessened the burden on the citizens and if Rs 4,500 crore comes from the Ministry of Finance, which in any case it owes to the Oil Pool Account and if the customs duty is reduced from current 35 per cent to even 25 per cent i.e., by ten per cent, I believe that at least, an additional Rs two to three thousand crore would certainly have come. Why does the Government not say that they are going to demonstrate austerity and the Minister shall travel only in one car? Why does the Government not demonstrate this. I am not going into the details of other austerity measures that could have been taken by the Government. If the Government had come forward with a more reasoned document, then certainly we would have found it easier to accept what they are saying.

I know that the Leader of the Opposition had addressed himself to this problem and we would have come out with a more comprehensive document on it. Instead of episodic and highly disturbing price hikes of this variety 30 per cent, 25 per cent etc. - there has to be, firstly, an examination of enhanced efficiency in our oil exploration, much greater efficiency in our refinery, therefore, a much more efficiency in the functioning of the Oil Pool Account and thereafter, some kind of linkage with the price index, whether it is Wholesale Price Index or the price index with which you are dealing by way of giving enhanced D.A. to the Government employees. If that kind of a thought-out policy had been worked out we would not have had the situation like today where suddenly that in one go you have Rs 9,700 crore or Rs 13,000 crore being placed on the citizens' heads.

I will conclude now, it will take me only a minute to finish saying what I have to.

There is an aspect that worries me very greatly and it is the absence of transparency in the management of such a vital sector of national economy. This absence of transparency is accentuated because of the virtual monopoly position that the Government has in this sector. This monopoly is now selectively diluted. It is selectively diluted to those that have otherwise specialized in consumer industry, suddenly being given the most lucrative and the best of the oil-fields today that the country has - Mukta and other oil fields. I do not wish to name all of them. This absence of transparency combined with an overabundance of corruption in the Ministry of Petroleum is really at the roots of what we are facing.

I am not persuaded that this Government had acted wisely. This hike, which I treat as insulting to Parliament, is ill thought out, it is ill-timed. It is iniquitous to the citizens; it is inflationary. It certainly offers no lasting solution to this entire question of the management of petroleum prices and the Oil Pool Account. Therefore there is only one thing that is there for this Government to do, which is to withdraw this entire hike come back to Parliament, discuss this matter afresh with us, discuss it in detail and break new ground of openness and transparency, so that the difficulties that you have imposed on the citizens of this country are mitigated.

Either withdraw this entire rise that you have so unjustly imposed on the citizens of this country or withdraw from governance

DR DEBI PROSAD PAL (Calcutta North-West) .
Mr Speaker Sir, although my party certainly has to support this Government so that it may not fall, yet at the same time it has been the policy of my party also to criticise and also comment if there are lapses on certain basic and fundamental issue which are prejudicial to the interest of the common people of this country

I participate in this discussion with a deep concern when I find that Just a few days before this Parliament was to assemble, a decision was taken at the midnight of 2nd July that there is a price hike in the petroleum, diesel, cooking gas and in other petroleum products. Undoubtedly this hike is unprecedented. This ranges from 20 per cent to 30 per cent in petroleum, in cooking gas and in diesel

16.37 hrs.

(Prof Rita Verma in the Chair)

The question that has to be considered is what is its impact upon the economy as a whole of this country. Secondly, I wish to ask whether such a drastic increase which was unprecedented was avoidable and what was the propriety of introducing this measure just on the eve when the Parliament is sitting for its regular Budget Session. The impact of this hike upon the common people, it goes without saying is much more than it appears on the surface. Because if there is an increase of petroleum price from 20 per cent to 30 per cent it will have its chain reaction. It will have its impact upon the different sections of the economy directly and also indirectly. The petroleum and the diesel are the important materials with which the transport industry has to run and if the transport industry has to incur such huge costs, it is the common experience that the prices increase disproportionately to the increase in the prices of these products. If there is an increase of 20

per cent or 30 per cent, I am sure the prices of commodities will increase by more than 30 per cent. It may be 50 per cent or even more. So, when we are told that as a result of this increase the inflationary impact will be from one per cent to 1.2 per cent, it is a very simple way of putting the things. You have to consider this chain reaction and its indirect effect upon the various sectors of the economy. The agricultural sector will be seriously affected because of the increase in the price of fertilizer, because of the increase in the price of naphtha and also the paraffine wax. The transport industry will have to increase its prices. Even already, by the time the increase in the prices have been announced, there is a sharp increase in the petroleum prices in the leading transport industries like the railways, the buses and other transports. All of them have to increase their fares. With the result, the transportation costs will be exorbitantly high and the poorer people will be seriously affected by this increase in the prices its impact upon even the industrial sector is far-reaching. The industrial sector uses these petroleum products and gas and the increase in the prices of these products will increase the prices of the industrial products also equally.

This is an economy where the petroleum products, diesel and cooking gas are so inextricable connected with our agriculture and industry. We are told that inflation will be 1.2 per cent but economists do not share this view. The approach of almost all the economists who are having a reasonable view in this matter is that the indirect effect will be that the inflation may rise up to even six to seven per cent. We are facing a situation where the inflation will even be a double digit inflation, as a result of the increase in the prices of these products. So, a question does arise. Was it necessary? Or, was it avoidable to increase the prices, so that this increase might not be pushed up to such a drastic height?

Mr Jaswant Singh, in his usual manner, as always, has laid the blame upon the previous Congress Government and said that it is a legacy which has fallen upon the present Government. Unfortunately, I can tell Mr Jaswant Singh that whatever accusations he might make, the earlier policy of the Congress Government during the last five years regarding this oil industry is not so as he has now alleged. Now, what is the position? The Government has increased the prices no doubt, from time to time, but not up to such a drastic height. It may be necessary to cope with the situation and for that if you increase, it should not be twenty per cent to thirty per cent. And why was this necessary? The transfer has been made from the Oil Pool Account, as alleged by Mr Jaswant Singh. I can tell you that

during the regime of the earlier Congress Government from June, 1991 to 1995, there had been no transfer from the Oil Pool Account to the General Budget and whatever has been done earlier, the earlier Congress Government certainly is not liable to be accused, for the present price hike.

Now, another thing I must tell you is that the Price of petroleum products have remained constant during the last three or four years. The international prices of petroleum have remained more or less steady in the last four years. Even the price of petroleum has decreased from \$ 16 per barrel to \$15.50 per barrel in 1994. So, International price has remained stable and there was no need for the earlier Congress Government to make such a hike in the prices. That is why they had not done it. And also keeping the interests of the common men in mind, it was not done. Total consumption of petroleum in this country is seventy million tonnes. Out of seventy million tonnes, thirty million tonnes are produced indigenously by companies such as Oil India and Indian Oil Corporation and forty million tonnes are imported from abroad.

Now, if the import price has not increased during the earlier regime of the Congress Government from 1991-95, it was due to the fact that international prices of petroleum had remained steady, rather it had gone down slightly. The price that the country has to pay for the indigenous products of the oil industry produced by companies like the Oil India or the India Oil Corporation constitutes not more than sixty per cent of the price which we have to pay for importing petroleum products from abroad. Therefore, the earlier Congress Government from 1991-95 had done nothing wrong in not increasing the petroleum price in the way in which it has been done by the present Government. It could have been avoided because of the reason that the only increase in the price of petroleum has occurred during the last regime was in September, 1995 when there was a depreciation in the value of the rupee in relation to dollars. It was not the result of the mismanagement as Mr. Jaswant Singh is trying to put. It is as a result of new economic policy which had been introduced by the earlier Government by the then Prime Minister, Shri Narasimha Rao and the Finance Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh. The new economic policy has borne fruits and results in all sections of the economy and when the rupee was made freely convertible, the rupee remained stable for almost three years from 1993, 1994 and even after September, 1995. That shows the in-built strength of our economy which has been built up as a result of the new economic policy. The rupee has not been devalued during the last three years from 1993-95 until it came to

September, 1995 and that too because of certain factors which were both international and also due to certain other extraneous factors such as the increase in the value of dollar not only in relation to the Indian rupee but also in relation to almost all the other major currencies of the world. Therefore, the depreciation in the value of the rupee is not due to the mismanagement of the economy during the earlier Congress regime. It is wholly incorrect to say so. The dollar has appreciated in relation to other currencies as well. It may be that the Indian rupee has depreciated because of certain other factors also. For example, the speculators. The exporters were not bringing foreign exchange to India immediately, as a result of which the dollars were not brought into the country although we are earning it. There are many other factors which the Government had boldly faced. Within two and half months, the situation was brought under control. Therefore, I do not agree with the accusation of Mr. Jaswant Singh that due to the mismanagement of the earlier Congress Government, there was a depreciation in the value of the rupee. But the maximum increase due to the depreciation in the value of rupee from September, 1995 could have been not more than Rs. 5,000 crore. If there was a depreciation in the value of the rupee as a result of which the petroleum price has been increased, that is only up to 10 to 12 per cent and there was no need to increase the price of petroleum products to about 20 to 30 per cent. It was an unprecedented one and I do not know whether the authorities in the present Government have decided it without any consultation with the major political parties. They have not consulted even the party on whose support they are running the present Government.

Therefore, I think, the present Government should have consulted their supporters who are giving them support before taking such a decision because this price rise will ruin our economy in a very dastardly manner. Not only that, but also the propriety of the introduction of this measure by the increase in the administered price has been questioned by this House. We also share that; and there is an admonition also by the hon. Speaker that when the Parliament is going to assemble for the Budget Session on the 10th of July, whether it may not be illegal because the administered price certainly can be decided without having a legislative measure, but for which they have to come to the Parliament. At the same time when the administered price is raised, it has a highly disastrous effect on the economy as a whole and it needs to be consulted; and when the House was to assemble within a week for the Session, there was no need to take such a drastic action towards the midnight.

Now I want to put this question to the hon. Minister concerned as to why this was declared at the midnight and what is the position of the dealers of the petroleum products. What is the position of these dealers who are keeping their huge stocks and who are now getting huge profits. The profit is not being earned by the Government, but by these dealers. There is a bumper profit for them. The price of petroleum has been increased from 20 per cent to 30 per cent; and look at the petrol pump stations! There are petrol pump stations and others; and they were having huge stocks on the midnight of 2nd of July. There was no need for them to increase the prices of these products on 2nd of July itself when they had huge stocks with them. Has the Government taken any measures, any steps to see that at least the old stock is sold at the old price and not at the enhanced price? The Government is now giving an encouragement or almost an open licence to these dealers who are having their huge stocks, to sell the products at such a high price. It is injurious to the interest of the common people as a whole. This is the situation where the Government has to come out with very serious steps so that the dealers who have their own stocks would not be allowed to sell these products at the increased prices. *(Interruptions)* Yes, they have almost sold out. That is why I am saying this. The Government is completely silent; I do not know whether they have encouraged these people to have this bumper profit as a result of these increased prices. The position is like this. I do not say that there is no need to increase the prices at all. Undoubtedly there may be. But the question is that you have to look at the interest of the country as a whole. Could it not be phased out, so that the impact of this increased prices might be felt in a little more responsive way, if I may say so? If you increase the price from 20 per cent to 30 per cent, there is no assurance by the Government that it will not be done again in the near future also.

It has been said that there is a deficit in the Oil Pool Account. In the Oil Pool Account the deficit is from Rs 5000 crore to Rs 7000 crore. I wonder how it could be calculated that it would increase to Rs. 11,700 crore by the end of 1996-97. And for that, was it necessary to increase the price of petroleum products to such a drastic height? It appears that they have taken the decision without any thinking.

The Finance Minister, Mr. Chidambaram, - I have great respect for his ability and also for his eloquence - announced that he will introduce certain guidelines about the expenditure of the Government so that an order can be brought in the expenditure of the Government. The moment he had announced these

guidelines or was going to make an announcement, this announcement about the price hike had come. As a result, it was almost ironical for him to announce that he will bring order in the Government expenditure in the Ministries.

The argument that is made is that if we increase the price of the petroleum products, it will give a damper. That will decrease the demand for the petroleum at least for common consumption. This argument is as delusory as possible. The demand for petroleum consumption for cars will not at all decrease. We have got enough black money in this country due to which even if the prices are increased, the expenditure will not be curbed or curtailed.

As Mr. Jaswant Singh has pointed out - at least on this point, I share with him my views - the increased expenditure in the Ministries on consumption of petrol for cars and other modes of conveyance has not been decreased. It has not been regulated. It is yet to be seen how economy is to be brought about in this field. Certainly, the demand of passenger trains or passenger buses cannot be decreased. The demand of the transport industry also, which has to serve the common people, cannot be decreased as a result of this price hike. The result will be that this increased price is to be shared more by the common people who have already been suffering from the inflation. If it is continuing, we are facing very nearly a situation where the inflation will reach the two-digit, so, the common man will be the most affected person.

I would again request the present Government to have their decision modified and think over it because you have come into power not on your own. You have come into power with the support of the parties who certainly will not support a change in your attitude on the basic issues which affect the common people of this country.

Mr. Jaswant Singh said that it was corruption of the earlier Congress Government for which the oil price had been increased. This, I should say, is a serious type of allegation. It is always common for the BJP. They forgot the norms or the standards that they had followed during the few days when they were unauthorisedly in power. *(Interruptions)* What is the standard that the BJP Government had followed? They approved a project which they should not have done particularly when they were facing the No-Confidence Motion. They came into power by not observing the norms of decency. They told the President that they would form the Government knowing full well that they would not have any support.

17.00 hrs.

And therefore, in the few days that they were in power, they tried to approve it. So, it does not lie in the mouth of Shri Jaswant Singh and his political party to speak of corruption...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mr. Pal, you kindly speak on the topic.

(Interruptions)

DR. DEBI PROSAD PAL : It does not lie in their mouth to speak about corruption. The Congress Government, in the earlier days, in the regime of 1991-95 had creditably discharged its obligations and duty to the people. We know how the new economic policy has brought various measures for the upliftment of the people in the rural areas and how it has brought painless measures to improve the standard of living of the rural India. Therefore, at least, it is a good sign in the mouth of Mr. Jaswant Singh. He is a leader also and I know that he knows fully well as to how he is facing the task. Therefore, I would suggest and request the present Government to consider and rethink their decision and whether it is possible to revise this decision. If there was a need for an increase in petroleum prices, it could have been done by a phased policy so that the impact of it might not have been so seriously and immediately felt. I would therefore, request Mr. Prime Minister and also his colleague, the Minister in charge of petroleum to rethink about the matter and at least take the honest criticism that his supporters are giving, look to the interest of the common people in this country and how inflationary spiral will affect the common people. Keeping them in mind, I would request them to revise their decision and at least bring down the price hike to its normal limit so that the common people might not be affected by such an increase. If it is not possible to completely withdraw this decision, come to the Parliament, come to the House and after deliberations of the House and taking the House into confidence, you can then take a decision.

With these words, I again make an appeal and request the Prime Minister and the Minister in charge of petroleum to revise the decision.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : Madam Chairperson, we are very much consistent in our opposition to the increase in administered prices just before the Budget Session. In the past also, when Congress (I) Government was in power, they also resorted to such a measure just before the Budget Session a number of times and we opposed to it tooth and nail. And when we are supporting this Government and when they also have resorted to

these measures, our party opposed to that hike. Indeed, this hike is unprecedented because the hike to the extent of 25-30 per cent really unprecedented. Over the years, Madam, when Congress (I) was in power, they reduced the Budget to statistical exercise. Just before the Budget Session, they used to increase the prices of not only petroleum products but also essential commodities.

It is a fact that this year it might be by increasing the prices of petroleum products. The burden is to the extent of Rs. 8,000 crore. But in 1986 it was Rs. 8,700 crores. There was a reduction by 15 per cent and it came down to around Rs. 8,000 crore. What was the amount that was increased? During late Rajiv Gandhi's regime the Left and other opposition Parties boycotted the President's Address. Of course, at that time, the strength of the BJP was only two. *(Interruptions)* They did not boycott the President's Address at that time. Our Adjournment Motion on this issue was also admitted.

Madam, it is indeed a fact that there has been a deficit in the Oil Pool Account and the deficit is to the extent of Rs. 8,000 crore. Why was there any deficit? Why was that gap not bridged during this two-and-a-half years time? Why did the Congress Government, during these 30 months, allow this deficit to pile up? Was it because of some populist and opportunistic policies that they did not want to increase the prices of the petroleum products then in order to bridge the deficit in the Oil Pool Account? The United Front Government also, just before the Budget Session, should not have resorted to such a measure. Heavens would not have fallen if this Government would have waited for a few days and then would have to the Parliament and placed before it the crisis that this Government is facing on the Oil Pool Account.

Madam, A number of times, on the floor of this House, we gave this warning. It is because frequently we used to hear sermons from the former Finance Minister about the new economic policy, liberalisation and about opening up the gates of our country to the NRIs.

Madam, you have seen and you would be surprised to see, how the import of petroleum products have increased year after year. In 1985-86 it was only 19 million tonnes and in the year 1994-95 it was 48 million tonnes. The increase is more than double.

SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA (Andaman and Nicobar Islands) : Please also give the figures of consumption.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : Yes, I would come to that aspect also. What is the pattern of consumption? The pattern of consumption is, naphtha-only 5 per cent, LPG- only 5 per cent, petrol-5 per cent, kerosene-14 per cent, diesel-48 per cent, other fuels-15 per cent and others-8 percent.

The increase in consumption is 10 per cent per year. Why there is such an increase in consumption? Is it not because of the liberalisation policy being adopted by the then Government? The present Government has also visualised that the import of petroleum product should be increased by not less than 10 per cent, may be it should be increased by 12 per cent. What steps did the previous Government take to reduce the consumption of petroleum products? No step was taken in this regard. Certain austerity measures were taken for the Government employees. Shri Biju Patnaik is here. In a Committee he made certain recommendations in regard to the austerity measures in the form of reducing the number of Government employees, not increasing the pay package of the Central Government and other Public Sector Undertakings employees. The Government knew that there had been deficit in the oil pool account. It is always cross-subsidised and this deficit has to be bridged. What step was taken to reduce the consumption of petroleum products? No Step was taken in this regard.

SHRI BIJU PATANAİK (Aska) : They adopted the policy of borrowing dollars from others.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : Yes, I have very little time at my disposal. Two more Members from my Party have to speak. I have to allow Mr. Nirmal Kanti Chatterjee to speak.

Because of the utter mis-management of the previous Government, we are placed in this position today. They have allowed the deficit to increase. We used to hear sermons of the former Finance Minister. All this is the result of the new economic policy.

In the past also, while participating in the Railway Budget discussion, I made certain suggestions as to how we can reduce the consumption of petroleum products. Our import is to the extent of 45 per cent and our indigenous production is only 55 per cent. No step has been taken to make the country self-sufficient. We have enough reserves of natural wealth. Tripura has huge reserves of natural gas but it is not being exploited. You will be surprised to know that Bangladesh is exploiting the natural reserves available in Tripura. The Ganga basin in the West Bengal is full of natural wealth but it is neither properly explored nor properly exploited. No step has been taken to make the country self-sufficient.

We have a number of oil companies. Is there any scope to reduce the cost of production? There is a scope to reduce the cost of production. You will be surprised to know that the Chairman of a company, I will not mention his name, stayed in a five star hotel although he had a residential accommodation. You will be surprised to know the rent that he paid for staying in that hotel.

The rent bill for one year went to the extent of Rs. 30 lakh for accommodation only. I am referring to the Chairman of not an oil company but a public sector company. You will be surprised to know...(Interruptions)

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE (Calcutta South) : What is the name of the company?

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : I do not want to mention any names here.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : Madam, we have a right to know the name.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : There are a number of examples. What I want to say is that there is scope to reduce the production costs. I made certain suggestions.

Madam, the Secretary in the Ministry of Petroleum stated just after the hike in the prices of petroleum products that direct increase in the inflation will be to the extent of only 1.2 per cent, but he refused to speak about the indirect increase in the inflation following the price hike. There has already been a cascading effect. Whenever the prices of petroleum products are increased, they affect all aspects of life like agriculture, industry, domestic sector, transport etc.

Railways used to haul 70 per cent of the goods as well as the passenger traffic in 1951-52. Now the situation is just the reverse. Road transport is now carrying 70 per cent of the traffic and Railways are carrying only 30 per cent. While rail transport is cheaper than the road transport the latter is carrying 70 per cent of the traffic. If Railways can share the bulk of the traffic, the consumption of petroleum products could be reduced because rail transport is much cheaper than the road transport. We have to ponder over these questions. How to reduce the consumption? How to make the country self-sufficient? How to increase the indigenous production? How can our oil companies be run more efficiently and how can their production costs be reduced? This is the subject...(Interruptions)

SHRI MADHUKAR SARPOTDAR (Mumbai North-West) : What is the remedy? How to reduce the prices?

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : The remedy is to manage them efficiently. Managing the economy efficiently is the remedy. In our country there are 20 corporate houses which are not paying a single paisa as tax. There are a number of corporate houses which are evading thousands of crores of rupees of tax by exploiting the provisions of the law.

[Translation]

AN HON'BLE MEMBER : Who is shielding them?

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : You are shielding them

[English]

There are alternative ways. We have suggested that alternative ways should be found out without shifting the burden on to the common man. For whose benefit is it? Today the common man has to bear the burden of this price hike for the benefit of mere 10 or 15 per cent of the population. Why should the common man, the poor man, the worker, the middle class employee, bear this burden for the benefit of 10 or 15 per cent of people?

We will have to realise that (Interruptions) We not support you but we will support (Interruptions)

When our Chief Minister took up this matter forcefully in the Steering Committee, the hike in the price of diesel was reduced by 15 per cent.

The Secretary in the Ministry of Petroleum has stated that LPG is being used by the better off persons. That is not the fact. Now the lower Middle class people are also using LPG because of the price of coal and because Congress Government had deregulated the price of coal. Madam Chairperson, you might be knowing how, in the last year, the price of coal was increased in your area, in your constituency (Interruptions)

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : In your constituency also (Interruptions)

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : In my constituency, there are only four or five collieries

The lower middle income people are also using LPG. By this 30 per cent increase, all the poor people are affected. I request the hon. Prime Minister to definitely consider and take steps to reduce the prices of LPG, petrol and also diesel. I would also request the hon. Prime Minister to try to find out alternative ways and means and not to pursue the path, the principle, which was pursued by the previous Government because this United Front Government is for alternative governance, transparency, accountability to the people and

accountability to Parliament. So, I request the hon. Prime Minister to definitely consider our request in this regard. The United Front Government will realise the sufferings of the common people, middle class people, farmers and the industrial workers. It will try to reduce the hike in the price of petroleum products and try to find out alternative ways and means to bridge the gap, to bridge the deficit it will try to make the oil companies more efficient and also try to reduce the consumption of petroleum products by adopting austerity measures and also by making the country self-sufficient towards the production of petroleum products

SHRI C. NARAYANA SWAMY (Bangalore North) : Madam Chairperson, the rise in the administered prices of petroleum products in the country has given rise to a lot of discussion both inside and outside Parliament. The people are really unhappy that certain commodities which were available at a price fixed by the Government earlier have to face the increase in the prices of administered prices. In fact, this question is being raised for the past two days in the House but the matter of increase in the administered prices in petroleum products, especially the prices of LPG, diesel and petrol are being discussed

The United Front Government which came to power with the support of friendly parties, supporting the Government from inside and outside, when it assumed office, had to face the unenviable position of the deficit in the Oil Pool Account, imbalance in the Oil Pool Account. This deficit in the Oil Pool Account had been raising for the past four years for various reasons, the main reason being as several of our colleagues have already mentioned, devaluation of the rupee, appreciation of the value of the dollar vis-a-vis the rupee and above all increased consumption of petroleum products within the country. The total import bill of crude and petroleum, both imported into the country, has been about 20 per cent of the export earnings of the country which is of a great concern for the country itself.

In fact, at this juncture, I take this opportunity to congratulate and compliment the United Front Government for recently increasing the subsidy on fertilisers and coming to the rescue of the farmers of this country, who were because of the cost increase in the price of fertilisers facing great hardships and as a result of the increased prices earlier the input of fertilisers in agriculture had been gradually going down thus adversely affecting the agricultural production in the country. I am a farmer myself and I know because I have personal experience how the rise in prices of fertilisers in the country resulted in

the decreased use of fertilisers. More than that, there was an imbalance in the use of fertilisers like NPK and now the Government has come forward and has already affected increases in subsidies as a result of which the prices of fertilizers have fallen by about four to one hundred per cent per bag of 50 Kg of fertiliser

Now, why I am linking this to this is, in the crude and petroleum products we use in the country there is a component of naphtha which goes into the production of fertilisers. Naphtha is also being subsidised now.

Now, what we are speaking in terms of subsidy as a result of rise in the administered prices is that the subsidy on naphtha that goes into the production of fertilisers is also a point to be considered. I am happy that in spite of adverse oil pool balance and increasing deficit, the United Front Government has not touched the price of domestic kerosene which is being used by the masses all over the country and the distribution of which, I feel, has to be streamlined further. That is a different question altogether. We learn from the records of the Government that even earlier to the hike the Government have been subsidising LPG users to the extent of nearly Rs.69 to Rs 70 a cylinder. I am not saying that the Government should have increased the price of LPG. As our friend also mentioned, LPG is now being used not only by the upper class people but also by the middle class people. We also know that there have been registration for supply of LPG pending for four to five years and even six years and there has not been an uniform effort to cater to the demand of LPG users in the country.

Now, about this increase in the petroleum especially diesel, I want to say that it was originally 30 per cent when it was announced on the night of 2nd July. It would definitely have affected various sections directly or indirectly. It would have directly affected the cost of transportation—be it surface transport or otherwise. Even agriculturists who use diesel for various purposes like tractors or for the generator sets—which are used now in view of power shortage in the country—are also affected. But, now, the Government have been considering this aspect at the instance of the supporting Parties in the United Front and they have reduced the increase in price by 50 per cent and brought down the hike from 30 per cent to 15 per cent. The hike is limited to about one rupee a liter on diesel.

Now hon Members who are more experienced in administration and Parliamentary democracy, have suggested various means of bringing in austerity measures and also reducing the deficit. Even after

the revision of prices to bring about a balance in the Oil Pool Account, the subsidy that the Government is giving to benefit certain sections of the people is being subsidised not by the budgetary allocation but by the readjustment within the Oil Pool Account. So, in that event, I see that even after the revision or the hike in administered prices of these commodities there is still a deficit left in the Oil Pool Account. Now, it is for the Government to devise various means through administrative and financial measures to see that there is no further deficit and no further imbalance.

It has been our experience during the past years that there has been considerable inflation in the country. Maybe that about the all-round inflation I do not go into the reason for the situation in the country. Maybe, it is salutary because of the economic liberalisation I am not in a position to say the reason for that. But the prices of commodities both agricultural and industrial or domestic, have been on the increase for the past many years. Now the percentage of inflation may have stabilised but the projections of the Government are that the re-adjustment of subsidy within the Oil Pool Account and also increase in the price of petroleum products will necessarily result in further increase in the price of commodities and services. But on the extent of increase there is a dispute as to which is the percentage that is going to be affected. On the whole it is also a fact that when there is an increase in the price of commodities or the petroleum products, it affects the industrial sector and the agricultural sector also. Unfortunately, in this country, pricing of agricultural commodities has not been scientific. It is not based on the inputs in agriculture. Industrialists can fix the price of his product depending on the inputs or the cost of production and keeping his own margin of profit but not an agricultural producer who is helpless, who has to depend on the market conditions, irrespective of his inputs, of the cost of producing his agricultural product.

The constituents of the U F Government and also the parties which support from outside have expressed their concern about this decision of the Government and it is up to the Government and also the supporting constituent parties and the parties supporting from outside, to thrash this out, and at this juncture I can only say that the Government has not touched the price of kerosene and has reduced the increase in the price of diesel and has recently increased the fertiliser subsidy so as to enable the farmers to purchase fertilisers at reduced prices.

Complimenting the Government for this, I thank you Madam for giving me this opportunity.

[Translation]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES (Nalanda) : Madam Chairperson, the increase in the prices of petroleum products was not unexpected. There might have been some difference of opinion as to how much increase should be there but I had heard about this increase in prices in June 1994 itself when the Secretary to the Petroleum Ministry gave his statement before the standing committee on petroleum. I would like to read out some lines from that official statement given by the Secretary as evidence.

[English]

Oil prices are rising and are likely to go upto no less than 20 per cent per barral. If it continues to be so till Decemeber, we will be forced to increase the price. There is no doubt about it. It is not a secret."

[Translation]

Therefore, first of all, I am raising this issue here because Dr Pal has just now delivered a long speech and said that how it happened so suddenly, he was not able to understand that. It is an unfortunate step. In June 1994, Shri Narasimha Rao was leading the Cabinet. He knew that his Government had to increase prices by December at any cost. But the prices were not increased because elections were to be held in near future. His Government thought that if prices were increased, there would have been uproar inside and outside the House and their votes would also decrease. That is why, they have increased the prices by 30 per cent now. I would not like to go into the details of this issue as these were discussed yesterday also as to how and when the prices should have been increased. I would not speak on all those points but I would like to know the views of the Government and its allies about the yearly increase in consumption of petrol, diesel and other petroleum products. This increase was 3.5 per cent in 1991-92, 3.4 per cent in 1992-93, 3.2 per cent in 1993-94 and 7.7 per cent in 1994-95. For 1995-96 though figures are not available for the whole year, but as per trend available it is 9.5 per cent. All the newspapers in the country have published this announcement made by you but it is not known as to how much amount you are spending from public money. You have said-

[English]

"The demand increased by 11 per cent in 1995-96 and diesel increase alone was 15 per cent."

[Translation]

Why the prices have been increased? The Government should give reply in this regard as many aspects are associated with it. When I said that this increase was not unexpected then you referred to your economic policy. One Member of the former Government which is now the supporting party to the present Government said that their economic policy had been very progressive. The Prime Minister has made a promise to the former Prime Minister and the leader of the supporting Congress Party that his Government would continue to follow their policies and both the leaders uttered almost same words before the people. These new economic policies have led to the lop-sided development in the country.

I feel sorry that Dr Pal is not present at the moment. He is a very wise and educated person. He has special understanding about economic affairs. He said that he had brought about a lot of change in the country as a result of which poor people were feeling relief to the great extent. I have just now heard these words from him.

I have some knowledge and examples of the latest report of the National Council for Applied Economic Research. As per the said report the total development made in India is limited to only six lakh families. You have made them so rich that they can be placed counted amongst the rich people of the world.

Today, the manufacturing of cars which cost 25 lakh to 50 lakh has been started in India. These cars consume a lot of diesel and petrol and require several accessories.

Now, Teico has started manufacturing Mercedes Benz which is being sold for Rs. 25 lakh and the persons who are interested in the custom made vehicle will purchase it even at the cost of Rs. 50 lakh. You are importing vehicles from abroad. You have withdrawn all restrictions and have allowed import of cars giving six Kilometre per litre mileage. You are giving a speech here. You are delivering a speech here as a very humble farmer but you are allowing those policies to continue which were initiated five year ago. As a result of these policies the consumption of petrol, diesel and other petroleum products has increased from 3.2% to 11% this year. How poor people have benefited by it. I would like to ask. If you say that they benefited by these policies than I would like to read out some lines of the report of National Council for Applied Economic Research. It has conducted a survey of the consumers in India.

[English]

"Out of the total number of households of 157 million 320 thousand, those in the

income category up to Rs. 20,000 per annum is 90 million 540 thousand. That works to 56 per cent."

[Translation]

If the income of a family is upto Rs. 20,000 it means that it also includes the persons having income of Rs. 10,000, 5000 and even Rs. 1000. But Madam, if the income is Rs. 20000 it means that it amounts to Rs. 10 per person per day... (Interruptions) Do not say anything about the MP's income of Rs. 1500. Let us not talk about MP. We all are well aware about the condition of an M.P.. (Interruptions)

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : Please tell about their condition.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : MP is not facing that problem. We should not make mockery of the poor people by placing MPs in their class.

DR ASIM BALA (Navadwip) : You are making mockery of them

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : No, we are not making fun of them, rather you are doing so. The problem is that we continue to take some problems very lightly India's poor, his problems, helplessness and his neglect will be a matter of discussion only. Leaders belonging to the humble farmer's families will make tall claims in their speeches that they are for the poor people but they will work for the affluent. Today, whatever you are doing is only for the upper class of the country because, the number of persons earning Rs. 10 a day in India (Interruptions)

DR ASIM BALA : How many poor people travel in the car? Do they use petrol? Perhaps you have no idea about their income, you do not know calculation (Interruptions)

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am feeling uneasy on the price rise resorted to by these people and raising my voice against it. Whatever social structure you are having today is a process of exploiting the poor people to facilitate everything to rich people for their luxury.

In this process the poor is being exploited because you need a large amount of oil for your vehicle. Earlier, a vehicle was giving 14 kilometer per litre mileage not it is going to give only Four Kilometers, because for the comfort of rich people you have started manufacturing new vehicles in collaboration with foreign companies. And for that you are exploiting the poor.

It has been claimed by various Governments that they have raised the standard of a large number of

people living below the poverty line and now only 20 percent people are living below the poverty line. As per the report of NCAER, 56 percent people of the country are earning Rs. 10 per day or even less than that and are living in a standard of equal to four cups of tea available at Railway Platform. This means 28 percent of the total population of the country are living with a daily earning of Rs. five or even less than that.

AN HON'BLE MEMBER : Whom are you advocating for?

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : We are advocating for those whom you cannot and will never take care. Therefore, we would like that what you are speaking of introducing new economic policy by raising the price of oil, you should be ready to withdraw this step. We are not interested in the amount of money in the pool. You set up pool and mislead the people. The amount in pool has to be self balanced which is run by the Government and it is immaterial whether the money is kept in this pool or some other. Whether only the pool will decide the future of the economy of the whole country and give a direction to the economy of the country. Therefore, please do not mention about the Pool you have set up. The first thing is that you must withdraw it. After that if you feel liquidity crunch, if you do not get the funds you need for the developmental programme of the country, if you need Pool balancing, that I can tell you and would like to draw the attention of hon'ble Prime Minister in particular.

17.54 hrs.

(Mr Speaker in the Chair)

In November, 1994 the Standing Committee relating to the Department of Petroleum, the people running the Petrol Pumps of the country came as witness has given the yearly figures about the pilferage of Petroleum, diesel and kerosene oil at various Petroleum dumps and depots by different people at various levels from top to bottom. As per my estimates the amount comes to about Rs. 10 thousand crore per year.

For the last five-six months the Government of Maharashtra has been inquiring into the setting up of Machhimar societies which are exempted from excise duty on diesel. In the name of these societies, truck loads of diesel worth crores of rupees is proceeded for Ratnagiri and some other destinations near Goa border. In this deal, the truck owners also get commission and then that diesel is unloaded at the Petrol Pumps of Mumbai. Don't you know this? Where is your former Minister? This evidence was given before your own committee. I, therefore, urge hon'ble Prime Minister that he should ask for the

November, 1994 proceedings of the Standing Committee of the Department of Petroleum and go through the statements made by the witnesses in that Committee.

Please go through those proceedings and if you want to do something then visit from Mumbai to Gujarat. Criminals in Gujarat have threatened to kill a minister. And a minister, of the former Government in Delhi had given orders on telephone for release of such persons who were arrested in this connection. We had raised this matter last time in the House. This is not the first time that we have raised this issue. But this is a matter in which Rs. two crore contract was made to eliminate a Minister. In Gujarat a sabotage was made in the pipelines which carries crude oil upto refinery. A few small calendastine refineries have been set up in Gujarat where there are arrangements for refining crude oil. According to my estimate Rs. 500 crores to Rs. 1000 crores in Gujarat is being looted in such a way and no one will inquire about it. Today Dr. Debi Prasad Pal has spoken extensively. Since you have to implement their policies, he has stated that they are supporting you because they want you to shield their misdeeds and likewise they will help you in doing so. At the same time they also say that they are supporting you will continue doing so until they themselves are not prepared to contest the election. The day they are ready for elections, they will dethrone you. But, that is your concern. But their style of functioning due to which you have to follow there methods and if you have courage to forgive their misdeeds in the State of Gujarat, Maharashtra and other states where there are refineries and pipe lines have been laid and where there are also arrangements for storage of petrol and from where the pilferage of petrol takes place in which offers from top to bottom are involved. We also know and I would like to tell you that the people who came as a witness have to leave their homes altogether for six months. Not a single word has been mentioned in the report but information about the persons who have given of their witness, was supplied to these hoodlums and hitmen as such and such person has given his witness at such and such place. They were informed on telephone and were made to leave their Homes. I am telling all this with my own experience. I, therefore, urge the Government to withdraw this increase and made arrangements to stop this loot. My friend Mr. Jaswant Singh has also spoken on the issue of all to some extent without mentioning anybody's name. But I am mentioning the name of Panna-Mukta and also the people related to Panna-Mukta. I do not know who is the Petroleum Minister at present perhaps, the Prime Minister himself is holding this portfolio. If Mr.

Baalu is the Minister then I must say that regarding this issue of Mukta-Panna the Ministry of Petroleum and officers are also expressing their views. You have just now assumed the charge but, this issue is not very old. It is a recent matter only and you can talk to the type of Government that is there, and with the support and blessings of these people the officers are having a gala time. They say that they do not have funds. Where almost entire work in regard to exploration with heavy investments has been completed and only oil is to be extracted. Now, this work is being entrusted to Mukta-Panna. But, we do not have funds for this. So a foreign company videcon it can be Indian for a foreign company. The other one is the Reliance.

18.00 hrs.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, you may not be aware that this is a very famous company. Sir, one thousand and twenty eight crores of rupees have been spent on Mukta-Panna and Rs. One thousand and twenty eight crores have been written off.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I will take just one second. It is now six of the Clock. Can we extend the time?

SOME HON. MEMBERS : We can continue it tomorrow...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please listen to me first. I will go by the decision of the House. Tomorrow is the Private Members' day. The Resolution on Jammu and Kashmir has to be passed tomorrow because it has to go the Rajya Sabha on Monday. So, tomorrow we will not have time for this. On Monday, the Prime Minister will have to reply to the debate in the Rajya Sabha and here also. Further, there are a large number of speakers to speak. I want to accommodate as many Members as possible. If the House agrees, perhaps, today we can extend the time of the House by one hour and then on Monday, maybe, the Government can reply...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : All right. So, the House will sit up to seven of the Clock.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Time is very precious.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I was telling that on this Mukta Panna scheme Rs. one thousand and twenty eight crores have been spent so far. The stand of the Government and the stand of the officers of your Ministry is that this money which has been spent will not be added to their

expenditure. Whatever profit they want to make and the oil they want to extract and the way they want to make, if these companies have been told that if the amount already spent is added to your expenditure then it will be very difficult to do all that. It means your profit will go down. So we will show this amount in the Government account. Now which account in this? This account is of the officials of Ministry of Finance. The tax collected from the public goes in Government account. It is a fact that large capitalist companies in India are getting benefits whereas the poor are paying the tax. The poor are cultivating their fields. After that you ask them to produce crops. Then you say, become rich and make money. This is the way of these people. There is a oil pool. Is this meant for this work only? Oil pool is required for increasing income or Videcon.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, we want to request the Hon'ble Prime Minister again. We feel happy that you have charged your role. You had gone to Lucknow on 3rd of July, and when compelled by journalists and other people, you spoke very forcefully, as it is often with you, that "there is no question of revising the price hike." You came back after speaking in Lucknow and people within the party and United Front put pressure on you, then you reduced the price of diesel by 15% but it is not sufficient. The increase by 15% on diesel, 30% on petrol and 30% on L.P.G., will not work. We are not ready to accept it. It is your people only, who are raising the voice against this price hike in the country. 'Karnataka a Band' is to be organised on 15th. Who is doing this? I do not think BJP given a call on this issue. Who has called on this 'Band' on 15th? Whether it is C.P.I., C.P.I. (M), C.I.T.U....(Interruptions) or A.I.T.U.C. You are talking of Karnataka. If my memory goes okay, it is the Karnantaka Pradesh Congress which is the supporter of the Government. The Government supporters are agitating against this in the country. They are resorting to strike. You should think over the loss occurring due to this. There was a talk of launching agitation in Bengal, I do not know how far it has arrived. Perhaps marxist party got scared of Mamata Banerjee that if she is included in it then problem will mount up...(Interruptions)

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : A young man of our party has been arrested...(Interruptions) Give me opportunity to speak, why are you speaking? ... (Interruptions)

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : Your youths are being arrested and yet you are giving support to this Government. I could tell you about the tussle between them and the Government. It is because they did not want to accept Adjournment Motion, they were not

agreed on the Motion under 184. Their problem was that if Marxists and Congress members get united and vote in favour of this Government then they cannot remain without their coalition Government in West Bengal. This was the problem in their mind.

[English]

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : I am on a point of order. Shri Gorge Fernandes should know that I personally had given a notice for Adjournment under rule 56.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : I am supporting you. I am supporting your position. I am defending your position. All that I am saying is that the real problem was posed by the Congress Party and the Marxist. The only problem that Congress Party felt was that it could be compelled to form a coalition with the Jyoti Basu Government as both of you talk of same position and are supporting parties here on the issue of price rise.

[Translation]

Mr. Speaker, Sir, while concluding my speech, I would like to request to the Government to withdraw it immediately. Steps should be taken right now to investigate the cases of loot and corruption and bribing. The senior officials should be posted at various places. They will have to take the responsibility to save the life of those people who are giving informations in this regard. The system for offering contracts to the domestic and foreign capitalists should be stopped. I would like to request for a special demand that the oil exploration work should be carried out at the maximum extent in Bengal Poorvaanchal and the Bay of Bengal. I do not know at to why this work is not being carried out, otherwise today's reserve will not be available after 15-20 years. When the Government has got opportunity for this, it should be taken up.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I strongly oppose this price hike. I would also like to say that if this price-hike is not taken back, then this tussle is not going to remain restricted to this House rather it will spill over to the streets and the entire national as well. I conclude my speech by giving this warning.

[English]

SHRI SURESH PRABHU (Rajapur) : Our country got political freedom at midnight. We were very happy. We thought, now we have our own Government which is going to look after our own interest but we lost our economic freedom on that fateful night when 30 per cent increase in oil price

has taken away economic freedom of our people. There has been tremendous cut in the family budget of so many common people. Unfortunately, some of the hon. Members are not sensitive to these realistic and that is why, they are saying, how the increase in the kerosene price, how the increase in the petroleum products is going to affect the common man. Now the increase in the vegetable prices alone, as reported in today's newspapers, it is testimony to the fact that persons who are really paying for it are non other than the common people.

This increase was very shocking for the simple reason that the farmers, the labourers and the toiling masses were feeling that no such rise could ever take place because the protectors of their interests are now in the Government. They always thought that those who have so far been really taking away their rights are now out of power and now the common men's protectors are governing the country and hence no such price rise could ever take place. But I am really surprised that such a price rise has never ever in the history of India really taken place at one stroke.

Sir, this sum of Rs. 10,000 crore rise is probably Rs. 4,000 crore more than the Annual Budget, the Annual Plan of the Maharashtra State, which is supposed to be one of the most prosperous States in the country. Such rise can take place even without the sanction of Parliament, is something which is really amazing. About this we have already spoken yesterday and I would not repeat that point once more. The cascading effect of this is already there not only at the market place everywhere. Probably no sector is now away from this cascading effect. And I really feel that this rise has to be immediately withdrawn forthwith.

One of the hon. Members from the Congress Party, Dr. Pal has said that he is really interested to make sure that this Government does not fall. Probably, such a burden of protecting the Government does not lie on our shoulders and that is why, I would like to demand that whether the Government falls or not, the prices must really fall with immediate effect.

We have been told that the international prices have got some bearing on the domestic prices of petroleum products. We have also been told that particularly in the early Nineties the international crude oil prices had been falling. If there is a rise in international prices, which takes place in domestic price, why was it not reduced when the international oil prices were falling? Why the domestic prices were always kept, if not more, at the same price when the international oil prices were falling, is something

which needs to be explained. This mystery about the Oil Pool Account also needs to be explained to Parliament in full detail.

We have always been told that there are several measures being taken to reduce the deficit in the Oil Pool Account. One of the measures is to bring about more efficiency in the oil purchases. We have always been saying about this. There have been instances which have been quoted. Even in the Consultative Select Committee of the Petroleum Ministry there have been instances where we have purchased petroleum products and crude oil at probably more price than what was prevailing in the market and probably the purchasing policy was not in consonance with what should have been done for the sake of any person who was keeping the national interest at heart.

We are also surprised for the simple reason that when the previous Congress Government fall, there was already a deficit close to Rs. 6,000 crore in the Oil Pool Account. We were told that with no secret understanding between the parties which are supporting the present United Front Government, probably, we were knowing that they would also make it public the secret as to how to keep the Oil Pool Account in low deficit and at the same time not to increase the prices. Probably, this understanding has not reached the present Government, as a result of which they were forced to increase the prices. I would request the Congress now to pass on this know-how to the present Government so that probably they can roll back the prices to their old level.

We have also been told by the Petroleum Secretary, when he announced this price rise, as to what is the aim of raising the prices. The so called proclaimed objective of bringing about this rise is to discourage the consumption of these item which is putting severe strain on the nation's precious foreign exchange reserves. If this is the proclaimed objective, this is not the way in which it should have been done. Probably, it should have been done by reducing the use of the petroleum products in the country, for which no measure has so far been announced.

We would like to know from the Government as to how much bill of the total petroleum products is borne by the Government itself and how many vehicles of the Government really pay for this additional expenditure which the common man has to bear, and what measures the Government is initiating to reduce these prices.

Each barrel of all that we import is not necessarily at international prices. The evidence has been given before the Consultative Committee of

the Ministry. We also have the right to know, what is the cost per barrel of crude oil produced in the country through the oil exploration programmes of the Government. We feel that we really have to have a national policy on this because the day is not far off.

18.15 hrs.

(Shri Nitish Kumar in the Chair)

Today we are paying, as my friend said, almost 20 percent hike. I really feel it is much more than that. Of the total foreign exchange earnings out of exports, almost close to 30 percent goes into paying for these products through imports. Unless we really devise a policy, may be the day is not far off when our domestic reserves of oil would be dried away and at the same time we may not have enough money to pay for this. There is really a need to bring about some sort of a policy to find out how this consumption can be reduced. For that there is no need to burden the common man with this high rise. The people who are really going to pay for it are the farmers, the poor labourers, the toiling masses whose interest is supposed to be protected by this sovereign House. I am sure, the Government will pay heed to this demand and would definitely bring about a reduction in the prices.

This Government in its Common Minimum Programme has said that only the interest of the common man will be protected. Probably there could not have been a better way of saying that we really do not care for you. But there are very illustrious people sitting in the Congress Party as well as in the Left Parties who are supporting the Government from outside. They will definitely prevail upon this Government because if their views are not heeded, I am sure, they will certainly like to suggest other ways.

SHRI BIJU PATNAIK (Cutback) : Mr. Chairman Sir, I have been listening very carefully to all kinds of momentous speeches by Shri Jaswant Singh, Shri George Fernandes and the rest. What I got from them was certain figures regarding various sections of this oil, whether it is the oil bill or whether it is something else. What I want this House to realise is, how is it that in our times - 20 years back - we were buying the Birla cars only for Rs. 15,000 and how now everybody is buying it at Rs. 3 lakh. Where from do they get that money? The *fifteen-thousand-wallahs* have become *three-lakh-wallahs*. The number of cars have been going up by leaps and bounds. Who buys them - poor man.

[Translation]

For whom we care we pleading.

[English]

The number of cars are going up, the consumption is also going up. To cap it all, Tatas have now started producing cars which will cost Rs. 20 to Rs. 25 lakh and there is a queue for buying them also. They run only five kilometers a litre. That will also increase the consumption.

Four years back when I was in the NDC a Committee was formed by NDC with me as the Chairman, the present Reserve Bank Governor as the Member-Secretary and some Chief Ministers as members. After a lot of deliberations we decided on how to cut Government expenses. Various proposals were given by us. One of them was, just for a testing, whether the Government servant's dearness allowance can be deferred, only deferred, by one year. There were many other proposals - what the Prime Minister's staff contingent should be, what will be that or Ministers, Members of Parliament and so on. This was one. You will be surprised, the day we pronounced this, the next day the than Government gave them the full amount of DA.

Today, the dearness allowance for Government servants is one hundred and twenty-five percent and if you allow here another Pay Commission, it will cost Rs. 5,000 crore. What is this Rs. 10,000 crore they are trying to mop up here? Now, if cars are bought by people who can afford them, they can surely pay another twenty percent or thirty percent increase in petrol cost. Do you realize that the petroleum consumption has gone up after this?

Sir, I am amazed at this talk of poor man. The poor man is nowhere in the picture, for two wheelers and three wheelers are used by few people ... (Interruptions)

SHRI KARIA MUNDA (Khunti) : What about the buses? The poor people are travelling by the buses. ... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI BIJU PATNAIK : We are not talking about them. We are talking about the car owner. Please doner leave me an this comment.

ONE HON. MEMBER : You get leaved?

SHRI BIJU PATNAIK : I do not get leaved but the fact in that some talks of poor people and forms and some others talk of things.

[English]

If fifty percent to sixty percent of our people are below the poverty line,

[Translation]

We are talking? Petrol Prices like does not make any difference for them who own a motorcar of Rs. 3 lakh. He will purchase a new car for his use. This not mean anything for him

[English]

In the Austerity Committee, we only wanted to defer the D.A. to the Government officers by one year to see what would be the price index of vegetables, fish and things like that in the market. Before we studied that, the Government allowed the D.A. to come up. Immediately, the prices went up. The DA has got no bearing on the convenience of the officers who get it or whoever gets it. The moment you get a D.A., that is a surplus in your hands and immediately the prices go up in the country. This is the rule. This is the rule of business.
(Interruptions)

[Translation]

I say that the Government has to go for saving. Let me know why the Government is spending rupees one thousand crore, through a scheme on us sitting here and the other House, Rajya Sabha? Every member is getting rupees one crore. We are taking it for doing this work and that work. For whom? I want that please abolish the scheme of one thousand crore rupees.
(Interruptions)

SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI: We are ready for this. You please withdraw the domestic tax.
(Interruptions)

SHRI DATTA MEGHE (RAMTEK): Rs. One crore is given for doing work. This is not given otherwise.

SHRI BIJU PATNAIK: The work will be done by the Government.
(Interruptions)

MR CHAIRMAN: This is his opinion. When you get turn to speak, you may express your concern.
(Interruptions)

SHRI BIJU PATNAIK: They are supporting my point. Please tell me as to why we get 20 free air travel for travelling all over the country. We do not feel ashamed?
(Interruptions)

AN HON. MEMBER: What is the Parliament for? You may close it down.

SHRI BIJU PATNAIK: Members of Parliament can travel by train.
(Interruptions)

SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI: You may go for reduction to any extent, but bring down the prices.

[English]

SHRI BIJU PATNAIK: I was suggesting that we must practise before we preach. We cannot live like lords.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI: You bring a Motion.
(Interruptions)

SHRI BIJU PATNAIK: The position is that Members of Parliament can stay in a five-star hotel until we get accommodations.
(Interruptions)

[English]

You never stay. I never stay but other Members of Parliament do stay and thousands of rupees are spent.

[Translation]

If any M.P. stays in a five-star hotel, then he spends one thousand rupees during the day and this goes on.
(Interruptions) I do stay in Orissa Bhawan.
(Interruptions) and my bill for the whole day is Rs. 35 only.
(Interruptions) Please listen to me.
(Interruptions) I got amazed when hon'ble Prime Minister reduced the price of diesel by 15%. I thought: he did it in desperation.
(Interruptions) Its price should go up and why not its price should go up. When a person can purchase a car at the cost of Rs. 3 lakh, why can he not pay the price of petrol? what is this? Here middle class has been referred to, but big businessmen are purchasing cars.
(Interruptions) If the prices of LPG has been increased then what is the problem?
(Interruptions)

MR CHAIRMAN: Biju Babu please speak looking towards me.

SHRI BIJU PATNAIK: I am coming to this point. I am not cutting any joke. I talking of the poor. Let us ourselves live like the poor for a while.

[English]

I have even advised the Prime Minister.

[Translation]

Today, when I look towards the Prime Minister's residence, I find only security cars all around the residence. I have seen Paandit Nehru as well. He had no peon and no guard at his residence. The Home Minister, Sardar Patel used to stay in front of his house. He too had no car, servant and no guard. But today, different sorts of facilities are required for every person and this has become his status symbol.

About 50 vehicles are parked in front of the residence of the Prime Minister. Different types of security guards like Black cat, Red cat, white cat and others are seen there on duty.

I think that the Prime Minister should also live like Pandit jee.

[English]

It was not so in Lal Bahdur's time. It was not so in Mirarji's time. What happened now. Why all those expenses? Now, reduce it. If you have the carage, go back to Panditji's status.

[Translation]

You will be surprised to know that one day I came after watching a movie at revoli...(Interruptions)

[English]

I went to Panditji's house. He having dinner, His private secretary Mr. Mathai was there.

[Translation]

Mathai was his private secretary who was sitting there. He said to me that I should have gone to cinema hall to watch movie as he had already watched that movie.

[English]

It is about the story of, League of Nations burying an atom bomb 200 miles beneath. It is very exciting film. I think you will like it, He said, yes :

[Translation]

He got ready and asked Mathai to send for car. Mathai went out and told on returning that driver had already been given leave by him. Then he asked to send for any other car.

[English]

There was only one car.....(Interruptions)

[Translation]

Please listen to me what happened then. I said, Sir we could send for a taxi and then he asked Mathai to send for a 'taxi.'

[English]

Mathai, myself and Pantji went in a taxi to Rivoli and saw the picture.

[Translation]

At that time, such was the position.

[English]

If the greatest Prime Minister that India ever had can do that, why cannot we try tighten of our things? If my Prime Minister goes in an omnibus along with his guards to his office, will he not cut down the expenses. If the expenses are cut like this, then there is no need to raise the prices.

When you have everything, cut the expenses. Therefore, expenses have to be cut down. What is this money for?

[Translation]

Those 5-10 thousand crores are taken.

[English]

What are these moneys for? It is to meet certain deficits.

[Translation]

If this Government deficit is reduced by all means, but on the other hand Ministers of your Cabinet go to foreign countries with a convoy of 20 persons.

[English]

Why? What is this expenses for?

[Translation]

We have our embassy, staff and all the facilities there.

[English]

Why can a Minister not go in a mini bus to his office and do his work? What is the problem? It will not work. You talk of the poor man and try to be like a poor man. I have nothing more to say. I am only pointing out own defects. Can we, the people who rule India, ever think in terms of poor men and deal with them at the same level? That is what I have to say.

[Translation]

SARDAR SURJIT SINGH BARNALA (sangrur) : Mr. Chairman Sir, steep rise in the prices of petroleum products is surprising for all of us. No one has thought that the prices would be increased in this manner when budget is likely to be presented just after eight days. It was decided at midnight on 2nd of this month, Several people could not know about it. In the morning when I purchased petrol for my car, the petrol pump owner charged me old rates as he was not aware of this fact. I, myself could not know about it. On the way I met a friend who told me that the prices of petrol have been liked by 30 percent and

by evening everyone came to know about it which created resentment among people.

Punjab is badly affected by it. It is an agricultural state and needs diesel for tractors and tubewells. There are about 9 lakh tubewells. Punjab is a small state which has only 2 percent agriculture area of the country and inspite of it tubewells are extensively used for cultivation. We do not have enough canals for irrigation out of these total 9 lakh tubewells mostly run on diesel and not on electricity. People install pumping sets of 10, 7 or 15 horsepower. Recently there has been power crisis. There is paddy sowing season in the entire country, especially in Punjab. Paddy sowing is going on but power is not available. When we inquired to the Chairman of Electricity Board about it he told that sufficient coal is not supplied to the Board and the coal supply for one day has been left at both Ropar and Bhatinda power plants. We have only two Thermal Power Plants. We, the 11 MPs from Punjab including the Members from BSP who were with us wrote a letter to Shri Vajpayee who was Prime Minister on that day the 26th of May. We wrote that there would be no power in Punjab from the next day as it had supply of coal for one day only whereas thermal power plants should atleast have coal supply for one month in reserve. We asked the reasons for non storage and were told that Government was not releasing funds. In such a situation the whole Punjab was depending on diesel as only diesel tubewells were operative. There was insufficient power supply just for one or two hours. This was the situation there.

Now is this paddy season, the prices of diesel have been hiked which has created great resentment among public. The one third tractors of the whole country are in Punjab. Not only the big farmers but small farmers of Punjab who have 5 or 7 acres of land use tractors for farming, which obviously run on diesel. I was in the four of the state at that time and knew how much resentment this price rise has created among people. I would like to tell that the whole Punjab is going to protest against this price rise on 15th of this month. Dharnas would be staged in each and every district and district headquarters in various parts of the state.

Sir, these days people are of the view that this time the Government has increased the prices heavily by 30 percent and reduced them later on by 15 percent. Perhaps it might have thought to reduce the prices further by 5 or 10 percent in case of hue and cry by the public. Common man has got this impression about your Government today. Although we have protested but no one bothered for us. But, later on when the workers of your party, voters as

well as supporters raised the matter and blamed the Government, then 15 percent of increase in the prices of diesel was withdrawn. But only reducing the prices of diesel will not work.

Sir, in a developing country which is making progress, there the Government should not ask people to reduce the consumption of petrol and diesel because we are passing through a stage to which these items would be required in much more quantity. The use of small vehicle in place of big is not going to make any difference. I feel that it is an absurd thinking.

Sir, the issue regarding deficit in Oil Pool was debated here. This deficit to the tune of Rs. 6 or 8 thousand crore has not been incurred in one day. Everyone was aware of this fact of increasing deficit. The previous Government ignored it deliberately and tried to impose its liability to someone else. It would have been better if the prices of petrol and diesel were raised gradually and with the same pace as the deficit in the oil pool account was increasing. You have got a chance and you could have done that. But the Government have hiked the prices on the plea that the deficit is on the increase. So you decided at midnight and raised the prices of petroleum products suddenly. You would have earned Rs. 700 crore by it. Since you have reduced the prices of diesel by 15 percent this earning would be less. No one had expected such a steep hike just before the budget. You decided it at midnight and increased the prices. Public came to know about it next morning. They were amazed and thought that the Government has fooled them. Common man does not understand what is oil pool deficit and knew only that all of a sudden prices have been increased heavily.

Sir, during the debate it was also mentioned that prices of oil have not been increased in the international market. In case the prices are raised when there is price hike in the international market, people tolerate it but as has been stated by my Friends there has been recession in the international market and prices have come down from 16 dollars to 15 dollars. As far as I knew in the international market the prices have fallen by two dollars recently. So, prices should not have increased and remained constant. It is correct that we are importing a large quantity of petrol. Even now 40 percent oil is imported. It is cheaper. Thus this increase in prices cannot be reasonable. As Shri George has also mentioned here that this money is spent on some other items like extracting and exploration of oil. But later on our public sector asks foreign companies and private dealers to take up this work as they

were unable to do that. Now they are giving contracts to some companies in the private sector and also to some foreign companies to conduct the survey and other works. The same condition prevails in the laying of the pipe lines. There are also charges of corruption. A depot was set up nearby my place and we receive information from there that pilferage is talking place there. Instead of curbing this loot you have increased the prices unreasonably to the extent that people cannot bear it. I am saying this because the public has a feeling in their mind that this Government is doing all this at the instance of others. Public knows that this Government cannot work independently. The alliance parties are compelling them to do so. People are guessing this. The alliance parties have to protest against it. Kumari Mamata Banerjee has to sit in the well of the House just to demonstrate that they protest a lot. She has to work hard for it and show it that the prices should not be increased. The Members from ruling party have said that prices of kerosene oil have not been raised. They have tried to get credit for it. But people are scared of adulteration of kerosene oil in diesel as the prices of kerosene have not been raised. The whole machinery will be ruined with the use of adulterated oil because dealers will mix kerosene with diesel as kerosene is cheaper.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV (Patna) : Do you want all this?

SARDAR SURJIT SINGH BARNALA : I do not want this. But the prices of diesel have been increase which were not to be raised at all. This 15 percent increase in the prices of diesel should also be withdrawn to benefit the small farmers. It should not be that his precious machinery is ruined with adulterated oil.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV : Mr. Chairman, Sir, in comparison to the whole world the prices of diesel are lowest in India...*(Interruptions)*

SARDAR SURJIT SINGH BARNALA : Increase in the prices of petrol will have cascading effects as the fare of trucks, transportation will also increase. Railway budget is likely to be presented. Railways have told that it will burden them by additional Rs. 300 crores. The fare of trucks, two-three wheelers will also increase. My friend has gone to the market to buy toothpaste, the shopkeeper raised its prices by 5 paise on asking the reasons for it he told that it was due to increase in the prices of petrol as toothpaste is transported by trucks. Thus the whole economy will be affected by this increase. It is not an increase of Rs. 9 or 10 thousand crore but ultimately reach up to Rs. 20-25 thousand crore. It will have wider implications, all the goods used by

common consumer will be costlier. It will be a difficult thing.

Sir, through you, I would like to request the Government not to raise the prices of diesel at least. Diesel is used by ordinary farmers. Now mechanised cultivation has started in the country. This intensive cultivation is done through diesel. Diesel cursher is used for separating paddy. At some places people have stopped using these instruments due to electric power supply which may harm the motor of these appliances. After spending a huge amount on machinery, they have switched over to diesel but now this increase of 15 percent in the prices of diesel have created problems for them and it will also adversely effect the agriculture sector. I feel that it will lead to less production in Punjab. This year also, our foodgrain contribution to the common pool may go down because we will not be able to provide the required quantity of water for irrigation, whereas paddy needs more water. I, therefore request the Government to either scrap this entire increase in the prices or atleast decrease the prices of diesel.

[English]

SHRI CHITTA BASU (Barasat) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, while participating in the debate today, I am quite conscious of the grave implication of the oil economy over the total national economy of our country. I am equally conscious about the implications of the oil economy in our quest for having a self-reliant national economy. I am also equally conscious about the responsibilities that this Government has to bear in order to serve the people of this country.

Sir, so far as this price hike is concerned, as mentioned yesterday, with all humility, I must submit that it is ill-advised, it is ill-timed; it is not appropriate and it is not prudent.

Sir, additional resource mobilisation through this method would be Rs. 12,900 crore for the full year. For the remaining nine months it would bring to the coffers a hefty amount of Rs. 9,700 crore. It is quite hefty. It is very steep. This will lead to certain consequences which does not do good to the common man of our country. Sir, production in the oil sector, production in the energy sector is very much important and significant insofar as the self-reliant economy of our country is concerned. If anybody has got certain minimum information about the oil economy of our country he would be convinced that production is not rising as desired. I have got a very small figure. I would not go into the yearly production figure, I would simply quote comparative production figure. In 1994-95, the production was about 34.26 million tonnes against 52.46 in 1993-94. The growth

in production is extremely marginal. One the other hand, you will appreciate that the consumption growth has been steep. The consumption growth is faster than the production growth. The consumption rate in 1994-95 was 7.7 per cent and in 1995-96 it is 9.5 per cent. As I have studied in a short time, average growth rate in consumption comes to be about 8 per cent a year.

Sir, if the graph of consumption increases faster than the graph of production, we will naturally have to depend more on import. If we are to depend on more and more import, it means more and more foreign exchange expenditure. As a matter of fact, in the import of oil we are spending about Rs. 22,000 crore out of our very very rare foreign exchange reserves. It comes to about eight per cent of our export earning. Therefore, the problem will continue and it has to be met squarely by having an alternative oil policy. If we have got no alternative oil policy, we shall never be able to come out of this crisis.

Subsidy part is there. Subsidy is more than Rs. 9000 crore in the year 1995-96 and I do not exactly know what would be the quantum of subsidy for the next year. Anyway, subsidy will also grow. Whatever might be the position, the whole oil policy requires to be recast and the whole economic policy requires to be recast if we are willing to have a self-reliant economy for our country which alone can solve the basic economic problem being faced by the people of our country. This is not the time when we should discuss about that. We hope that the coming Budget would reflect some policy in respect of the economic policy of our country.

Mr. Prime Minister, this steep rise will certainly have cascading effect. The Petroleum Ministry publicly announced that there will be about 1.2 per cent impact on the inflation rate. The Railways Ministry has also calculated that the increases in the diesel rates will add to about Rs. 300 crore. The aviation industry has also hinted that there must be some kind of a cascading effect of this price rise. If transport becomes expensive it has got its impact over the entire price spectrum in our country. Therefore, it will have a very great impact on the people.

The only way out is to increase the production in this area. I accuse the Congress Government of knowing this entire thing. I have got certain facts to quote which Mr. Fernandes has also referred to. I caption reads "Lapses unearthed in oil exploration privatisation policy", and it says:

"The Government's policy of privatisation of discovered oil-gas fields has been

condemned by the Indian Audit and Accounts Department in a hard hitting report submitted last month. It says in the course of privatisation of policy undertaken by them a particular private sector or corporate house was given special facilities about Panna, Mukta and Tapti fields."

That was a known reserve for our ONGC. It was drilled by the ONGC. All the expertise was available with the ONGC. They could have worked on it and there would have been production. But it was handed over to the private company, particularly the Reliance of India. I want to conclude on time.

Sir, oil exploration work started in West Bengal in the early 60s. More than 500 crores of rupees have already been spent, but no oil has been produced so far. The reason is the Government is not sincere about achieving the goal. They have never gone to the required depth while digging wells. Recently Dr. Kingsten, an American Geologist has stated that there are a few areas in West Bengal which are highly promising for hydrocarbons. There are other Soviet reports which stated that Calcutta is floating on oil and the entire West Bengal basin is capable of producing enough oil for the country. A Geologist of the ONGC once made a public statement that if all these possibilities are worked out, India will be self-sufficient in oil production. Whatever might be the basis of it, there are potentials for increasing the production of indigenous oil and crude. Sir, there has not been much interest taken by the erstwhile Government in this regard. They even took a position that the oil exploration are going to be stopped in West Bengal in certain other promising areas.

Sir, so far as gas is concerned, more than 7000 tonnes of gas is being flared away every day at Bombay High, that is true in the case of Assam fields also. Tonnes of gas is being flared away there. There is no proper step taken by the earlier Government. Of course, the present Government had no chance to take appropriate action in this respect. But I expect them to initiate new policy thrust in the matter of oil exploration.

Sir, before you ring the bell, it is my courtesy to conclude and I conclude by saying that having regard to these facts, having regard to the adverse affects, having regard to the cascading affect on the people in their daily lives, I request the hon. Prime Minister and the Government to review the decision to give more relief to the common man. The Government has already reduced the hike in the price of diesel by 15 per cent. Price of petrol and petroleum products merits further review in the interest of the common people of the country. Pro-people policy is the basic

stance taken by the United Front Government as is evident from their policy statement announced earlier. I hope they will respect the wishes and urges of the people. I hope they will do their utmost in their limited capacity to reduce the price as far as possible. I appeal to the Government to review the decision and reduce the administered prices of oil and petroleum products. Thank you.

(end)

MR CHAIRMAN : One minute is left. Mr. Ahamed, would you like to speak today or on the next day?

SHRI E AHAMED (Manwari) : Sir, I will start today and continue on the next day. That is the normal practice. Once I have been called by the Chair, I have to commence. As soon as you ring the bell I will sit for the day.

MR CHAIRMAN : Now you have started

SHRI S. BANGARAPPA (Shimoga) : Sir, I would like to know where my name stands. I have also given my for Adjournment Motion. I have been waiting since morning to speak.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I do not find your name in today's list.

SHRI E AHAMED : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the hike in the administered prices of petrol, diesel and cooking gas has put the people to a lot of hardships and difficulties.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Ahamed, you can continue your speech tomorrow. Now the House stands adjourned till 11. A.M. on 12th July, 1996.

19.00 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Friday July 12 1996/asadha 21, 1918
(Saka)*
