

Eleventh Series, Vol. VI, No. 6

Thursday, November 28, 1996

Agrahayana 7, 1918 (Saka)

LOK SABHA DEBATES (English Version)

**Third Session
(Eleventh Lok Sabha)**



(Vol. VI contains Nos. 1 to 10)

**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
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(English Version)

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Thursday, November 28, 1996/Agrahayana 7, 1918 (S)

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<u>Col./Line</u>	<u>For</u>	<u>Read</u>
1/8	(Khajuraho)	Delete
1/14	(Allahabad)	Delete
3/7 (from below)	1417	141.7
10/3 (from below)	Kota-Guria	Kote-Gurle
23/29	Insert '†' prior to Shri Shantilal Parsotamdas Patel	
235/16 (from below)	I an M.P..	I am M.P..
316/6 316/17]	Insert '*' after (Interruptions)	
333/24	Kumari FAIDA Topno SHRI Pinaki Mishra	Kumari FR TOPNO Shri Pine Misra

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LOK SABHA

Thursday, November 28, 1996/Agrahayana 7,
1918 (Saka)

(The Lok Sabha met at One Minute Past
Eleven of the Clock)

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

[English]

KUMARI UMA BHARATI (Khajuraho) : Sir, you are looking very cute today.

MR. SPEAKER : Yesterday you gave me life by requesting me to smile!

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI (Allahabad) : Whether his Party has lost confidence in their Ministers?

MR. SPEAKER : You should be happy because you will get more chances.

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : What is happening in your party, where are your Members?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA) : You please come this side.

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : Of course we will come that side but before that, you come this side. What is this happening?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : We always look forward not backward.

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : Please look at the Members behind you? What are they doing. All the Members have disappeared.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[Translation]

Doubling of Railway Lines

101 PROF. P.J. KURIEN :
SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the Railway lines which have been doubled during the last three years, zone-wise and State-wise:

(b) the details of the Railway lines on which doubling works are in progress alongwith time schedule for the completion of each project and progress made thereon so far, zone-wise and State-wise:

(c) the amount spent on each project:

(d) the details of the Railway lines for which survey for doubling has been conducted, zone-wise and State-wise:

(e) the details of the Railway lines which are proposed for doubling in near future, zone-wise and State-wise:

(f) whether the Government have also received some representations for doubling the Railway tracks during the current year; and

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

[English]

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

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

STATEMENT

(a) The details of the Railway lines which have been doubled in the last three years Zone-wise and State-wise are given below

93-94 Completed	Kms Rly	State	94-95 Completed	Kms Rly	State	95-96 Completed	Kms Rly	State
Kiratgarh-Taku	12 CR	MR	Narmada Bridge	3.6 CR	MAH	Bairagarh-Bakanian	8 WR	MP
Metpanjra-Kohli	16 CR	MAH	Mohammadganj-Satbahini	6.92 ER	BIH	Bakanian-Phanda	8 WR	MP
Narkher-Metpanjra	34 CR	MAH	Saidraja-Chandauli-Majhwar	8.4 ER	BIH	Annas Bridge	1 WR	GUJ
Mathura-Patwal-Automatic			Chandaulimajhwar-Ganjkhwaja	8.5 ER	BIH	Guma-Ashoknagar	3.5 ER	WB
Singnalling and IBS			Ganjkhawaja-Mughalsarai	7 ER	BIH	Ashoknagar-Habra	3.5 ER	WB
Bonidanga Cabin-Bonidanga	2 ER	WB	Milak-Nagariasadat-Dhaneta	16 NR	UP	Malda-New Farakka-Chamaragram	6 ER	WB
Chamagram-Khaltipur	8.56 ER	WB	Bhitora-Patsakheda	5 NR	UP	Karwandiya-Sasaram	7.5 ER	BIH
Khaltipur-Jamirghata	6.45 ER	WB	New Jalpaiguri-Ambarifalkata	9 NFR	WB	Sasaram-Kumahu	8 ER	BIH
Mugalsarai-Gankhana	4.02 ER	BIH	Chittpur-Maikhaid Rd	9.67 SCR	AR	Kumahu-Siusagar Road	6 ER	BIH
Rohtak-Jakkhal	11 NR	HAR	Sulehaili-Chittpur	6.01 SCR	AP	NJP-Ambari-Falakata	9 ER	WB
Rampur cabin-New Azadpur	8 NR	DEL	Nawandgi-Kurkunta	7.55 SCR	AP	Rayagada-Ladda	8 SER	ORI
Tilak Bridge-Nizamuddin	5 NR	DEL	Rukmapur-Tandur	11 SCR	AP	DNKL-Sadashibpur-Hindol	20.5 SER	ORI
Tehta-Daikhola	8 NF	WB	Thirubali-Singhapuram Rd	11 SER	ORI	Jai Kamanagar-Akaltara	13 SER	MP
Kayankulam-Karunagapalli	14 SR	KER	Singhapuram Rd-Rayagada	9 SER	ORI	Gumada-Bobbili	38 SER	ORI
Serim-Maikhaid Rd	12.4 SCR	AP	Rayagada-Ladda	5 SER	ORI	Hindol Rd-Talcher	32 SER	ORI
Thangundi-Chegunta	43.4 SCR	AP	Muriguda-Bissamcuttuck	18 SER	OR†	Bhithura-Bareilly	19 NR	UP
Ambodala-Gumada	83 SER	ORI				Karunagapalli-Sasthankotta	9 SR	KER
Joranda Rd-Dhankanal	9 SER	ORI						
Mahi Bridge	1 WR	GUJ						
Bolai Akodia	12 WR	MP						
Total	290			141.7			200	

(b) and (c). Details of doubling works in progress State-wise and Zone-wise with target and amount spent, as on 31.3.96 are given below :

No.	Section	State	kms	Cost Rs in cr	Target	Amount spent till 31.3.96	Outlay 96-97	Remarks
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Central Railway								
1	Hetampur-Gher-single line incl. Chambal Br	MP	1	31.75	3/98	20.9	2	Overall progress 35%

1	2	3	4	5
2.	Divi-Vasai Rd	Maharashtra	41.65	90
3.	Divi-Panvel	-do-	26.1	52.34
4.	Daund-Bigwan	-do-	27.68	38.78
5.	Nishatpur (A&D cabins chord line)	MP	3	2.78
6.	Thane-Turbhe	Maharashtra	28.9	403.39
7.	Belapur-Panvel	Maharashtra	10.9	279.83
Eastern Railway				
8.	Sahibganj-New Farakka-Malda Town	WB	50	60.68
9.	Sonnagar-Mugalsarai 3rd line	Bihar	124	230
10.	Khana-Santhia(Ph.I)	WB	4	12.27
11.	Jhaptardari-Guskara	WB	15	11.46
12.	Chandanpur-Gurap	WB	17	25.29
13.	Guskara-Bolpur Ph.III	WB	19	24.15
14.	Budge Budge - Akra Ph.I	WB	6.09	7.85
Northern Railway				
15.	Tundla-Yamuna Br	UP	21	35

6	7	8	9
12/98	1	5	Preliminary works in progress.
12/98	1	23.79	Earthwork & bridge work is in progress. One block section will be completed in 96-97.
12/99	1.5	1	Earthwork & bridge work in progress.
6/97	0.43	2	Preliminary works in progress.
3/99	3	25	(Rs.24.99 crs. includes CIDCO shares of cost) Earthwork, const. of subway and station bldg. taken up.
3/99	8	32.07	(Rs.32.07 crs. - CIDCO outlay in addition to Rly. share. Earthwork, const. of subway and station bidg. taken up.
12/97	57.49	1.19	About 30 km has already been opened & for balance 20 kms. The work is in progress.
6/98	134.28	12	21 kms commissioned in March 95. Work in remaining portion is in progress.
12/97	10.83	1.43	Land acquisition & earthwork is in progress. Physical progress 10%.
3/97	10.41	1.05	Earthwork & bridge work is in progress. Physical progress 25%.
3/98	12.92	1	Earthwork in progress.
3/98	3	1.72	Preliminary works like tender etc. taken up.
3/98	3	1	Preliminary works in progress.
12/97	5.28	1.6	Preliminary works like tender etc. taken up.

1	2	3	4	5	6
16.	Muradnagar-Meerut City	UP	29.5	37	12/97
17.	Ghaziabad-Muradnagar- patch doubling Ph.I	UP	36.97	34.78	12/97
18.	Kanpur-Panki 3rd line Ph.I	UP	9	34.91	3/98
North Eastern Railway					
Nil					
North Frontier Railway					
19.	Dhalkola-Kishanganj	WB	28	26.18	12/98
Southern Railway					
20.	Quilon-Trivandrum Central	Kerala	65	116.15	12/99
21.	Whitefield-Bangarpet	Marnataka	81	105	12/98
22.	Kuttipuram-Calicut	Kerala	56	63.45	12/99
23.	Kuttipuram-Guruvayoor	Kerala	36	40	12/99
24.	Bangalore-Kengri patch doubling	Karnataka	12.45	23.59	12/98
25.	Calicut-Mangalore	Kerala	221	240	3/99
South Central Railway					
26.	Vikarabad-Tandur	AP	40	71.75	3/98
South Eastern Railway					
27.	Bilaspur-Akaltara 3rd line	MP	27	27.5	3/97

7	8	9
0	4.5	Preliminary works like tender etc. taken up.
0	2	Preliminary works like tender etc. taken up.
0	1.25	Preliminary works in progress
0	3	Preliminary works in progress.
21.78	21.5	Land acquisition is in progress.
18.55	1	Earthwork & bridge in progress. Overall progress 45%.
0.5	2	Land acquisition in progress.
0	1	Final location survey & land acquisition proceedings is in progress.
0.2	0.01	Survey for entire length from Bangalore to Mysore is being done to assess cost and traffic potential of the entire section.
2	35	Earthwork & bridge work is in progress. The work on Calicut Westhill. The work on Calicut Westhill, Westhill-Elathur & Quilandi-Tikkoti is likely to be completed during 96-97.
57.85	2.11	Work in progress. Physical progress is 70%.
27.09	0.41	Earthwork & Bridge work completed. Balance work is in progress. Physical progress 90%.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
28.	Bobbili-Gajapatnagar	Orissa	32	32.18	6/97	31.88	0.29	Work has been completed
29.	Gajapatnagar-Vizianagar Ph. II section III	Orissa	22	29.3	12/96	17.66	5.9	Work is in progress. Physical progress 60%.
30.	Rajatgarh-Nergundi-Talcher	Orissa	25	41.22	12/97	12.51	5.16	Work is in progress. Physical progress 40%.
31.	Akaltara-Champa 3rd line with OHE	MP	262	39.96	12/97	7.84	2	Earthwork, bridges etc. in progress. Overall Progress about 30%.
32.	Raghunathpur-Gorakhnath-Rahama	Orissa	28.4	25	12/97	3.65	8	Preliminary works like tender, land acquisition etc. taken up.
33.	Urkura-Raipur-Sarona	MP	11.6	11.9	12/97	1.25	4.07	Work in progress. Physical progress 45%.
Western Railway								
34.	Bairagarh-Bakanian. Bhanuri-Bakanian. Bhanuri-Phanda	MP	16	16.2	12/96	16.15	0.5	Work has been completed.
35.	Priumrao-Bercha & Bolai Akodia	MP	23.46	27.47	3/97	27.42	0.5	Work has been completed.
36.	Kalapipal-Phanda	MP	41	53	12/99	0.21	0.01	Preliminary work is in progress.
37.	Bolai-Kalishindh-Kisoni-Bercha and Maksi-Pirumrod	MP	39	54.59	03/02	0	1.05	Preliminary work like tender etc. has been taken up
38.	Kota-Guria-Chambal Br No.211	Rajasthan		10.4	12/97	5	2.07	Works is in progress
			Total Km.	1537.7				

PROF. P.J. KURIEN : Sir, I seek your protection.

Please see parts from (d) to (g) of the question. All these questions are such that the answers are available with the Ministry, here itself. Yet the hon. Minister preferred to say that the information was being collected and would be laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha. The information can be collected if they are to be made available from far-flung offices. But all this information is available in the Ministry, here itself, in his office. Yet, he is not prepared to give the answer. This is a very sorry state of affairs. I have to say that, Mr. Speaker, Sir, I seek your protection. Had he given this answer, there was no need to ask a supplementary question from my side. Therefore, I am putting my supplementary question.

Sir, I should thank the hon. Minister for he called the M.Ps. from Kerala - may be from all other States also - and we had a discussion. In that discussion I have raised very pertinently the question of doubling of Trivandrum - Ernakulam sector because that is one of the oldest and very busy lines. Only a portion has so far been doubled. The important sector of Trivandrum to Kayamkulam via Kottayam and Alleppey has not been doubled.

MR. SPEAKER : Prof. Kurien, I want to say one thing. If an hon. Member cannot frame his question within two minutes, the question automatically stands not admitted.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN : Sir, I am one who very much appreciates and accepts your point. But I do not know why you started it today. From tomorrow onwards I will obey that. I accept it, but from tomorrow onwards.

MR. SPEAKER : Allright, one exception for you

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Two minutes and one second for you.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN : Sir, it can be from tomorrow onwards.

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : Sir, if the Minister is not able to answer what will happen then? How much time are you going to give to the Minister?

MR. SPEAKER : I agree. Even Ministers should be precise in their answers.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN : Sir, what I want is that the sector from Trivandrum-Kayamkulam via Kottayam and Alleppey should be immediately doubled.

The hon. Minister has accepted it in principle and sanctioned only a paltry sum of Rs. two lakh. That is inadequate. Therefore, I want that adequate funds should be allotted for the survey of Ernakulam-Kottayam-Kayamkulam sector via Alleppey. He has accepted it in principle, but adequate funds should be allotted for it. The survey should be completed this year

itself and in the next financial year adequate funds should be allotted for the construction of the line. I want to know the hon. Minister's reaction on this matter. So it is a question. Sir.

MR. SPEAKER : It is a suggestion. I am sorry

PROF. P.J. KURIEN : Sir, I want to know his reaction. That is a question.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, order has been issued for the survey of railway track from Kayamkulam to Ernakulam. I had said that I would get survey completed. The order has been issued for it and after that, as you know, the estimate would be sent to the Planning Commission. Thereafter, it would be further sent to the Expanded Board and then to the CCA and in the end, it would be included in the budget. Therefore, the first job of issuing survey order which was under my jurisdiction, has been done as per the assurance given to you.

[English]

PROF. P.J. KURIEN : Sir, the funds are not adequate for the survey. That is the position. The Minister should allot adequate funds for the survey.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, as far as funds are concerned, I would like to know from the hon'ble Member whether he is concerned about the survey or the funds?

[English]

PROF. P.J. KURIEN : Sir, the answer is wrong.

MR. SPEAKER : I think the Minister has given a big assurance. Shri Gehlot.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN : Sir, he is misleading the House. The survey has not been conducted. He has only ordered the survey.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : That is what I have said.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Gehlot.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN : Sir, I have the right to ask my second supplementary.

[Translation]

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT : Mr. Speaker, Sir, he has stated in his reply that a target has been fixed for doubling the Bolai-Kalisindh-Kisauni-Berchha and Maxi-Pirumrod rail lines, as has appeared at serial No.37 of page 7 of the list. He has mentioned in his reply that Rs.1.5 crore have been spent on it so far. Sir, I would like to know the details of this expenditure.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : I have not understood his question.

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT : Mr. Speaker, Sir. I have asked a clear question and I repeat it again. The target date fixed for doubling the Bolai-Kalsindh-Kisauni-Berchha and Maxi-Pirumrod rail line, as appearing at serial number 37 in the list, is mentioned and it has been stated that Rs. 15 crore have been spent on it so far, but no work has been done in this regard. I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister as to where this amount has been spent?

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir. I seek your protection. If you look at the question you will see that the hon'ble Member has asked about the details of rail lines doubled during the last three years zone-wise and state-wise the details of lines on which doubling works are in progress; the amount spent in each project; the details of those rail lines, zone-wise and state-wise; for which survey regarding doubling is underway and details of those rail lines, zone-wise and state-wise, which are likely to be doubled in the near future?

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Minister, if you have no reply, then you clearly speak that you want another notice.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir. a written reply to his question will be sent to him.

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT : Mr. Speaker, Sir. he has not given a reply to my question.

MR. SPEAKER : You will have to give a notice again.

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT : Mr. Speaker, Sir. I seek your protection.

[English]

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : Mr. Speaker, Sir. in part (e) of the question, the Minister was asked to give the details of the railway lines which were proposed for doubling in the near future. A few months back while inaugurating the electricification work of Bandel-Katwa railway line, the hon. Railway Minister had announced before a large public gathering that Bandel-Katwa railway line was going to be doubled soon. Secondly, there has been a persistent demand for doubling of Saurapnli-Tarakesh sector falling in the Howrah Division of the Eastern Railway to which the hon. Minister replied positively and an assurance was also given. May I know from the hon. Minister whether any step has already been taken for the implementation of his assurances?

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir. I will fulfil the assurance which I have given.

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY : There is heavy traffic on the rail line from Ujjain to Bhopal under Western Railway. The doubling of the track is the only

solution to this problem. But there is delay in its doubling and, as a result thereof, not only the road traffic but trains are also affected. In your reply you have somewhere stated that the work is in progress but somewhere is has been mentioned that tenders are being invited. I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister as to whether all these works would be completed by the end of this financial year? Can you fix a time limit for completion of doubling work?

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir. I would like to tell one thing to the hon'ble Members that a single track is constructed for passengers but it is in Railways' own interest to convert it into double lines. Railways is itself alive to this work and if doubling of any rail line is necessary, we will definitely do it. First we fix the priority and then selection is made on its basis. Wherever the track is badly needed, it is accorded top priority.

SHRI YELLAIAH NANDI : A survey was conducted in Tehrapur, Pattanchairuk and Sangreddy areas of Medak district of Andhra Pradesh seven years back. Sangareddy area is a backward area, Sir, through you, I would like to ask from the hon'ble Minister as to what is being done for those areas where survey was conducted?

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : Are you asking about single line or double lines?

SHRI YELLAIAH NANDI : Please tell about those areas where survey had been conducted.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : A Written reply will be sent to you in this regard.

[English]

SHRI P.C. THOMAS : Sir, some doubling work has been undertaken in Kerala. But unfortunately, though some works have been proposed and taken up, they are going at a very slow speed. It is going as slow as some of the trains. The reason pointed out for this is that some of the construction offices are not started in Kerala. A Chief Engineer (Construction)'s office was ordered for Ernakulam, Kerala, by the last Government. I would like to ask whether the establishment of this office could be started immediately to safeguard the interests of the people living there and speed up the work of doubling taken up in Kerala.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : I will try to avoid unnecessary delay and expedite the work.

SHRI PAWAN DIWAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the doubling work of rail line from Raipur to Dhantar which connects the tribal districts, Baster and the foundation stone of which was laid by the former Railway Minister, Shri Suresh Kalmadi, has not been undertaken. When will the work on it start?

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : The question is regarding doubling of Rail lines but I think that the Hon'ble Member is enquiring about a new line.

SHRI RAMENDRA KUMAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know from the Hon'ble Minister as to whether the Govt. propose to convert the Rail Line in Gaya Kayool Railway Section in Bihar into double track line. Hon'ble Minister had given an assurance in his budget speech to provide a double track on Gaya Patna Line, however, no work has been started there as yet. I would like to know from the Government whether there is any proposal regarding doubling of Gaya-Kayool line?

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, so far as the question of doubling of Gaya-Kayool line is concerned, I will send the requisite information to the Hon'ble Member so far as Patna-Gaya line is concerned, we have already inaugurated this conversion project. Hon'ble Members, Shri Ram Kripal Yadav and Shri Ramashraya Prasad Singh are present in the House and they are aware that we have started working on this project after inaugurating this line.

On going Railway Projects

+
103. SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI
SHRI NITISH KUMAR :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the ongoing railway projects funded by the foreign financial institutions, alongwith their estimated cost.

(b) the total amount received by the Government for each of these projects.

(c) whether the Government have utilised the above amount.

(d) if not, whether the Government have paid commitment charges to the external institutions; and

(e) if so, the total amount paid by the Government in this regard?

[English]

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

STATEMENT

(a) to (e). The details of the on-going projects being funded by the external institutions are as under :

S. No.	Name of Project	Estimated Cost	Funding Agency	Loan/Aid Component	Amount Utilised	Commitment Charges Paid
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	1st Railway Project- Loan No 857 IND Procurement of High Horse Power Freight Locos. with upgradation of Railway facility and equipment.	US \$ 442.00 million	Asian Development Bank	US \$ 190.00 million	US \$ 136.12 million	US \$ 8.957 million
2.	Procurement of High Horse Power Passenger Locos and substation facilities	Included in Project above.	EXIM Bank, Japan	US \$ 110.0 million	US \$ 102.30 million	Rs.2.08 crores
3.	IIInd Railway Project- Loan No. 1140-IND Electrification of Patratu-Sonnagar and 3rd line between Sonnagar-Mughal Isarai etc.	US \$ 500.00 million	Asian Development Bank.	US \$ 107.70 million	US \$ 42.39 million	US \$ 1.89 million
4.	Construction of Broad Gauge line between Koraput-Rayagada	Rs.442.32 crores	Saudi Fund	Saudi Riyal 88.0 million	Saudi Riyal 62 million	Nil
5.	Procurement of Rails etc.	33.00 million U.K. Pounds	U.K. Grant	33.00 million U.K. Pounds	30.67 million U.K. Pounds	Nil

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
6.	Design, manufacture, etc. commissioning of Continuous Automatic Train Control (CATC) system.	FF 56.295 million + Rs 2.30 crore	French credit	FF56.295 million	FF 50.872 million	Nil

[Translation]

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI : Hon'ble Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to put my first supplementary question to Hon'ble Minister. Hon'ble Minister has stated in his reply that maximum funds have been made available for First, Second Railway project and for other four project. Through you, I would like to ask Hon'ble Minister that if maximum amount has been spent, what is the actual progress made in these projects, what are the benefits likely to accrue to the Railways and to what extent the passengers amenities will be increased? Whether any arrangements have been made to monitor the implementation of this project from time to time?

SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ : Mr. Speaker, Sir, arrangements have been made for procuring new engines, transfer of technology, Railway upgradation and for procuring equipments for the projects for which loans have been taken from foreign countries. This will help our trains run faster which would benefit passengers. The Indian Railways has entered into this contract to facilitate the passengers and freight movement.

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI : Hon'ble Mr. Speaker, Sir, the reply has been given in respect of 6 project. Besides, I would like to know from Hon'ble Minister that he has mentioned financing of other projects through foreign financial agencies. Whether the Government propose to include new projects in its agenda by getting them funded by foreign financial agencies? If so, whether the Government propose to take up some special projects of North Eastern states including Bihar and Bengal.

SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ : Right now no new project has been submitted to the Government Whenever such a project is submitted, the Ministry would take it up for consideration.

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Sir, there are a number of projects which have been undertaken with foreign assistance. Now, there is a system that when a project is sanctioned, the internal rate of return is to be 14 percent. Has that aspect been taken care of in regard to those projects which have been sanctioned and undertaken with foreign assistance? Are all these projects economically viable or not?

[Translation]

SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ : Mr. Speaker, Sir, sometimes there is delay in the process of finalization of the projects taken up by us. Right now I do not have the information regarding the projects about which Hon'ble Minister is enquiring. I will inform the Hon'ble Member in this regard.

[English]

Rehabilitation of Repatriates from UAE

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*104. SHRI V.M. SUDHEERAN :
SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN :

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) the number of repatriates sent back to India from Gulf and other countries, country-wise;

(b) whether the Government have formulated any Schemes/Central Fund for their rehabilitation;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether they are allowed to re-enter in the Gulf countries on the same passport?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : (a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House

STATEMENT

Recently, about 60,000 persons returned from the United Arab Emirates under an amnesty scheme of the UAE Government, for departure of illegal foreigners staying in the UAE without valid permits. In the recent past, there has been no major exodus of Indian nationals from other countries. However, from time to time some Indians living abroad without valid travel documents and visas have been expelled from Gulf and other countries. Country-wise details are presently not available.

No scheme/Central Fund has been formulated/set-up by the Government for rehabilitation of these repatriates

With the announcement of amnesty, it was also announced by the Government of UAE that expatriates who will be availing amnesty will be allowed to re-enter UAE on legal status. However, as per immigration

regulation of the UAE, such of the persons who deserted their employers cannot return to UAE for six months after their exit if the employer/sponsor insists. Those who apply within this period, the UAE Government can be expected to decide within the parameters of this rule. In respect of other countries, including the remaining Gulf countries, the rule position is not presently available.

SHRI V.M. SUDHEERAN : Sir, there are reports that the UAE need thousands of workers and technicians immediately. I quote: "Job seekers are still welcome," says the UAE Minister. This is from the *National Herald*, dated 17th November, 1996. In view of these reports will the Government of India take necessary steps to facilitate the returning of the same persons who have been sent out from the UAE?

SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA : Yes, Sir, the Government has decided that those persons who were sent back to India by the UAE, if they are required by the employers in the UAE, the Government of India, that is, the Labour Ministry has decided to facilitate the going back of those workers who want to go back. There was a condition that before going back or anybody going for the job outside India, particularly to the Gulf countries, the Indian Embassies should verify all the documents of job and also the position with the employer. We have suspended this condition for three months so that all the Indian labourers or workers who have come back to India may go back easily.

SHRI V.M. SUDHEERAN : I would like to know whether the Union Government have received any proposal for the rehabilitation of the repatriates and if so what steps have been taken so far. If not, will the Government initiate some new schemes for the rehabilitation of the repatriates with the cooperation of the State Governments?

SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA : The hon. Member has not clarified the aspect of the proposal received from whom.

SHRI V.M. SUDHEERAN : I mean the proposal from the State Government of Kerala.

SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA : If any proposal comes from the State Government, we will look into that. Already, we have taken steps to accommodate and rehabilitate them. Let me, through you, Sir, tell the august House that there are two types of problems because of repatriation and mass exodus from the UAE. It is because of the Government of UAE's action against the illegal migrants. First, there is a severe labour shortage in the UAE because of the exodus of skilled and other labourers belonging particularly to India, Bangladesh and Pakistan. Secondly, because of that exodus and people coming to this country, there is social tension in the labour class and the society. So, we have taken steps to ease it out by encouraging the people to go back. Also, if we are required to extend some support, we extend support

SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN : Out of the 60,000 persons who have returned from the UAE, 44,000 persons belong to Kerala. More than six lakh Malayalees are working in the Gulf countries and they are earning more than Rs 8,506 crore by way of foreign exchange per year. So, I would like to know from the hon. Minister one thing. Since we are giving incentives and benefits to the exporters of export commodities and to the export-oriented industries, I would like to know whether the Government of India would give any incentive to these persons or not; whether the Government of India would form or constitute a National Gulf Repatriates Welfare Fund or not.

It is learnt from the newspapers that more than one lakh people from Saudi Arabia are going to be expelled. I would like to know whether it has come to the notice of the Government of India and whether a Welfare Fund would be formulated so as to protect the interests of the persons who have returned from the Gulf countries. It is also learnt from the newspapers that some of the persons who have repatriated from the Gulf countries and who have come to the Gujarat seashore/coastal areas have been taken by the police and the customs authorities, and their valuables have been taken by them and they have been ill-treated. I would also like to know whether it has come to the notice of the Government of India and if so what action has been taken thereof.

SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA : Sir, the number of persons who came back from the UAE is 45,844 to whom we have given amnesty certificates and 3051 persons were of general category who came back.

As regards the views expressed by the hon. Member about any proposal to rehabilitate them, we have not received any proposal from Kerala Government. If any proposal comes, we will take that into consideration.

SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN : Will the Centre formulate some scheme to rehabilitate them or to protect their interests?

SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA : At present, we do not have any scheme so far.

MR SPEAKER : They do not have any scheme so far.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV : When the exodus is there from the UAE to India, there is a group of recruiting companies operating in Delhi, which is taking applications and money from the people to send them to the UAE. This incident has happened with 10 people of my constituency also. They had given the money to the recruiting company. Now, they are told by the company that nothing could be done. So, this process is going on.

In this regard, I talked to the previous Minister that the Government of India must do something so that this is stopped temporarily by recruiting

companies. Otherwise, the poor people who are arranging money for going out by selling their lands to give it to the recruiting companies will be deprived of everything.

Is the hon. Minister aware of this and if so, what action does he propose to take? If somebody is genuine, let him go out. I do not mind. But there are fictitious applications and fictitious collections. The Government has got a responsibility to have a check on it.

MR. SPEAKER : Sontosh Mohan Devji, the question is regarding people coming back and not regarding people going out.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV : It is in the periphery of the question and peripheries should be covered.

SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA : If you permit me, the nature of complaint expressed by the hon. Member is very much all over the country. The Ministry of Labour - as you are also well aware by your experience - is having all checks and surveillance. We are supervising everything in this regard.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV : Have you prosecuted anybody in this regard? You are not doing anything.

SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA : Sir, if he brings any specific complaint, I assure him that we will examine it and punish the people concerned.

SHRI A.C. JOS : Sir, in the answer, he has said that the Government is considering certain welfare measures and amnesty given to people will be taken back.

But there is no initiative from the Government side to put our people there properly and take care of them. There is a rumour and a news item appeared in the paper that about a lakh of people are going to be sent out from Saudi Arabia. When people are sent out, only the Government is taking care of them.

My question is, what is the Government of India doing to take any pre-emptive steps with the concerned Government in the Gulf to request them not to send out the people like that and find out their difficulties. What steps is the Government going to take not to send the people put like this, in lakhs and lakhs? Would the hon. Minister kindly reply?

SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA : Sir, as you have very kindly explained earlier, the issue relates to UAE. Anyhow, the hon. Member has raised an apprehension about exodus of people from Saudi Arabia. But the Ministry of Labour has no such incident ever mentioned so far.

SHRI A.C. JOS : The question is, only after the incident comes, the Ministry comes to know about it. Some pre-emptive action, some surveillance actions are to be taken by the Ministry in each Gulf country. Only when the people are sent out, some action has to be taken.

The position is that nobody is there to take care of these people. Our Embassies are totally silent, they are not doing anything to know as to why people are being sent out, what are their possibilities.

As our learned friend has mentioned, about 600 crores of rupees are coming every month to this country but this Government is not taking any steps to take care of them.

MR. SPEAKER : I think, you have made you in point.

SHRI SANAT MEHTA : Everybody knows what is happening in Saudi Arabia's economy.

SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA : Sir, I humbly request hon. Member that if he has some specific information, he should unfold it. We will do the needful.

MR. SPEAKER : It is not a question of specific information. What he wanted was, before these people are sent out abruptly, can we not alert our Missions to keep a watch so that they will try to find whether there is any attempt to send them back to India in such large numbers. If they come to know that, then they should take up with the appropriate authority.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Government has just said that they would give all facilities in order to enable these people to go back. Now there are certain difficulties. Many of those who have returned are required to obtain a new passport and a lot of delay takes place. Therefore, will the Labour Ministry coordinate these activities with the passport issuing authorities in order to see that the passports to such persons who have returned and who require a new passport are issued these passports as early as possible.

Similarly, there is a difficulty that in Calicut Airport specially the authorities ask even those persons who have returned and are going back to produce income-tax clearance certificates. This is an unnecessary and abrupt requirement that has come up creating a lot of difficulties and people are not in a position to go back in time for their visas. This difficulty has also to be removed. Will the hon. Minister coordinate the work of facilitating return of these with the respective departments issuing the passport and the department asking for the clearance certificate?

SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA : We scrutinise all the papers and satisfy ourselves before anybody goes abroad. About the complaint raised by the hon. Member, I assure you that we will take up everything with the Ministry of External Affairs and nothing bad will happen.

SHRI SURESH PRABHU : Sir, a question was asked very specifically as to whether there are other countries from where there has been repatriation. He has not replied to at all. Should we presume that the only country which is repatriating people is UAE and there is no other country from where repatriation has taken place? We would like to have a categorical reply.

Secondly, it is the question of protection of immigrants who are supposed to be registering. The agreements are entered into between the employer in the Gulf or other countries and the Indian citizen who is traveling there for a job. I would like to know whether the Protector of Immigrants is supposed to protect the interests of the immigrants. What is the role of the Protector of Immigrants when such contracts are branded as illegal in the countries in which he is supposed to be working? Is there any coordination between the Protector of Immigrants on the one side and the Ministry of External Affairs which issues the passports and the Missions which work there on the other? Is there any coordination? It has also been mentioned in the reply about the country-wise details. (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : If you speak more, it will be disallowed. You have spoken more than two minutes. If you want an answer, please sit down now.

SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA : There is complete coordination between the Labour Ministry and our Missions abroad. As I stated earlier, we have been holding the practice of getting all the documents verified by our Missions abroad. But we have suspended this practice for three months to facilitate the repatriation of the workers. Therefore, I assure the hon. Member that every care will be taken about this.

New Railway lines

*105. SHRI SHANTILAL PARSOTAMDAS PATEL :
SHRI DINSHA PATEL :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state

(a) whether it is a fact that allocation of resources for creation of new railway lines have rapidly declined during the current Plan period.

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

(c) the steps being contemplated by the Government to ensure allocation of adequate resources for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) No, Sir. The expenditure in the current plan period has been more than that in the earlier plans.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Efforts are constantly being made to get increased Budgetary Support so that a higher allocation could in turn be made for New Line projects.

[Translation]

SHRI SHANTILAL PARSOTAMDAS PATEL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to remind Hon'ble Minister that whenever his Department approaches the Planning Commission alongwith proposal for laying new lines in

backward areas of the country, it fails to present its case properly that is why lesser money is allocated. We have got their report with us. Earlier too they have done less work. The funds that are given for expansion of Railway Services are not spent for laying Rail Lines in backward areas; rather the funds are spent for providing latest and better facilities at broad gauge lines routes. The provision of new lines for backward area is being made in the budget for several years but money is not provided as per requirement to complete these projects. I would like to ask Hon'ble Minister as to when as Indore-Godhara line included in the budget proposals?

MR. SPEAKER : You should ask your question in two minutes

[English]

SHRI MRUTYUNJAYA NAYAK : Backward and tribal areas should be given priority

[Translation]

SHRI SHANTILAL PARSOTAMDAS PATEL : Whenever the matter pertaining to backward areas is raised, nobody pays heed to it. An amount of 13-14 crore rupees has already been spent on this line but as on today, the work is at a standstill. I would like to know from Hon'ble Minister as to why was this project abandoned after spending 14 crore rupees on Indore-Godhara line and when would it be started again?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : Hon'ble Member is aware and while presenting the Railway budget, I had stated that for expansion of the Railways the practice had been followed by the Railways was in accordance to the criteria of profitability of a particular line. More attention was paid towards profitable lines. However, this time an effort has been made in the Railway budget not to give priority to profit making lines and instead extend the Rail Line in the backward areas 11 Line of the country. Even if Railways suffers on account of this, the Government should make up for the loss. We want to take up the expansion of Railway from the point of view of development of people. From this point of view, we have tried to connect many backward areas.

It is true that Godahara-Indore Railway line is still incomplete. Work is in progress in Devas-Makasi Section and its total cost is Rs. 48 crore. As hon'ble member has stated and infact he himself has given the reply that whatever funds we get for laying new Rail lines are allocated by the Planning Commission. Whatever amount is spent, comes through budgetary support. Railways does not spend its own money. It does not spend out of its inner resources. We have made a demand that budgetary support should be increased. Earlier the budgetary support was 75 percent which has now come down to 60%. We have made a request to the Government in this regard. I would also like to inform the hon'ble Member that in the Seventh Five Year Plan, the total allocation was Rs.884 crore

against which the expenditure was Rs.916 crore. Similarly, during Eighth Five Plan, Rs.1216 crore were spent against the allocation of Rs.1013 crore. I do agree that even this much is not sufficient and we want to complete all the projects taken up by us as soon as possible but we require four and a half thousand crore rupees to complete them and it does not include the Baramulla-Srinagar-Udhampur line for which we require additional two and a half thousand crore rupees. Therefore, we do lack funds but, as I have stated, we are requesting the Government for budgetary support. If our budgetary support is increased, then all the pending projects would definitely be completed very soon.

[English]

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : There is no increase in real terms

MR. SPEAKER : Do you not have the second supplementary question?

[Translation]

SHRI DINSHA PATEL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, with your permission, I would like to ask hon'ble Minister that while replying to the question he has stated that the expenditure in the current plan period has been more than that in the earlier plans and expenditure has been incurred out of Railway budget also. But I want to know as to how many new Railway lines have been laid and the budget provision referred to by hon'ble Minister. The statement made by Shri Shanti Bhai about the budget, has been made on the basis of 14th Report of Railway Committee that lesser progress has been made during 1994-95 and 1995-96. Hence about the budget also I want to know as to what was the target of Railways? Laying of new rail lines is also very important and you should keep aside some funds for laying new rail lines.

[Translation]

Therefore, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Minister of Railways, have discussed or contemplate to discuss with the Ministry of Finance and Planning Commission for constructing new rail lines and mobilising new resources for this purpose and secondly, whether the Government contemplates to invite private companies for laying new rail lines?

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Rs.211 crore have been spent during 1995-96 and Rs.220 are to be spent during 1996-97. So far as the construction of new rail-lines are concerned, 881 k.m. new rail line was constructed during 7th Five Year Plan while during 8th Five Year Plan, 760 k.m. line except Konkan line — a plan worth Rs.669 crore, was constructed.

So far as the privatisation is concerned, the private companies want to take up the projects which are profit-making but no private company wants to take up the

construction of rail-lines to interior areas which are loss-making. If the private companies are interested to construct rail lines in interior areas, they are most welcome under BOLT Scheme and we also give them incentives.

[English]

SHRI MRUTYUNJAYA NAYAK : Sir, the hon. Minister represents the backward class people and he is fighting for the cause of backward class people also. But my district and my whole parliamentary constituency is deprived of a railway facility, even one inch of railway connection is not there. In general knowledge, there is a question: 'Which is the district which has no railway line?' Shri Srikant Jena has also advocated my cause to the hon. Minister of Railways. I would like to know categorically from the hon. Minister the date and time when work on the Khurda-Bolangir railway line would be started. I also want to know how much money is going to be spent on it because there is no budgetary provision for that at the moment.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, this matter, at present, is at policy making stage, therefor, I do not want to say anything about it but I would like to say him that not only the hon. Member but I also had advocated for the said line. We have removed all the hurdles in this matter, be it Planning Commission or any other hurdle. I would like to assure the Hon'ble Member that not only he but I am also equally concerned in this regard.

KUMARI UMA BHARATI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, once the hon. Minister had said that the railway scheme will be of two types—First welfare railway schemes and second—profit making railway schemes. Lalitpur Singrauli railway scheme is a welfare railway scheme. As per the information given to me by the hon. Minister is that the survey work of Lalitpur-Singrauli rail line passing through my Parliamentary Constituency has been conducted and is at the stage of referring it to planning commission. I, through you, would like to know the present status of the scheme and the time by which it is likely to be announced in the House after getting sanction from the Planning Commission as well as the Ministry of Railways?

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Member is very much concerned about her Parliamentary Constituency and she had also staged 'Dharana' in this regard due to which we agreed upon sending a survey team. The survey has already been conducted and it is being sent to Planning Commission. The hon. Member has same say in the Planning Commission as I have. Therefore, I urge upon the Hon'ble Member to use her good officer. As soon as it is cleared by the Planning Commission, we will take further steps.

KUMARI UMA BHARATI : Do it in the current Budget

SHRI DATTA MEGHE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to know about new rail line from Narkhed to Amrawati. Last time, you had provided Rs.10 crore for that. The farmers of the area are ready to part with their land for this purpose but the Government had no money to provide compensation to them. Rs.4-5 crore have been allocated in the Budget for this new rail line. Last time also, the allocation of Rs 5 crore was made. The then Hon'ble Minister Shri Suresh Kalmadi had assured that the construction of the rail line would be completed soon. I would like to ask the hon. Minister whether the construction work of new rail line from Narkhed to Amrawati is going to be started soon and whether he contemplates to give compensation to the farmers of the area or not?

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : I do not have any information in this regard but I assure the hon. member to look into the matter although we have resource crunch.

SHRI DATTA MEGHE : Last time also, you had said so.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : I assure you to look into the matter and find out how much expenditure is to be incurred on it. We shall do whatever we can.

SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister of Railways has just stated that he is paying special attention to backward areas. A survey was conducted in 1989 to construct rail line from Agra to Fatehabad via Itawa and to link the boundaries of Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh and its report was presented in 1989 itself. When I was speaking on Rail Budget in Parliament, the hon. Minister at that time had assured to accept in the current Budget itself but that could not be given a concrete shape. All the reports of survey are gathering dust in the Planning Commission. I would like to know from him the time by which the said rail line is likely to be completed?

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, we after getting the survey work done, refer it to Planning Commission. When it is cleared by the Planning Commission it is sent to Expanded Board, an institution which does not fall under the purview of the Ministry of Railway where the matter is thoroughly considered by the concerned persons. I would like to compare our condition with that of a cricketer who has to score good runs as well as save his wicket also. We also have to construct the rail lines as well as keep an eye on the funds too. I, as a Minister of Railway, would like to assure the hon. Minister that I would construct more and more rail lines and I personally want to do it as far as possible. But the Planning Commission has all the procedures and it accords priority to each project. Today, I cannot tell you the exact date when the work is likely to be started and completed but I would like it to be completed soon.

[English]

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : Sir, it is a fact that most of our railway lines were given to us by the Britishers. Since Independence, we have added only eight thousand kilometres through our railway network. Therefore, the problem is very serious. That is why so many hon. Members are standing up to ask questions. Though the allocation made by the Planning Commission has come down in real terms over the years, that is not the only problem. The allocation made by the Planning Commission for the Eighth Five Year Plan is less than Seventh Five Year Plan in real terms and not in monetary terms.

The problem is with the policy of the Railways also. They are all concentrating on gauge conversion, not on creation of new railway lines and not on the safety aspects. Therefore, my question is whether the Railway Minister is changing the priorities in the Ministry to concentrate more on the creation of new railway lines and also on the safety aspect which is not a part of the Ministry of Railways? (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : We are going to discuss the Supplementary Budget of the Railway Ministry when you will have enough opportunity to discuss all these things. It is a policy matter and so you cannot ask more questions.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am thankful to the hon. Member for raising a basic point. I do not say that the issues to which priorities were accorded were not worth it but I stated in my Rail Budget about priority sectors like rail lines which were left. Out of total 62 thousand kilometre track, 54 thousand kilometre track was constructed during British period, we have added only 8 thousand kilometers to it. More and more new rail-lines should be constructed. Therefore, rail lines except uniguage were to be rendered useless. I said that rather rendering it useless, we will develop it. Besides, so far as the question of safety is concerned, a seminar is being held in Vigyan Bhavan from yesterday in which representatives of 19 countries are participating. I myself am concerned in this regard. For me wagons are equally important and we have decided to increase the expenditure on it from Rs.2800 crore to Rs.3700 crore. We did not decreased the amount to be spent on gauge conversion. The Government has increased the allocation for wagons and rolling stock. Likewise, we are taking up some rail projects for constructing new rail lines and also incurring expenditure on some national projects. For example the rail line from Baramulla comes under national projects and my colleague says that no amount has been released for that. The hon. Prime Minister has announced Rs.50 crore for this purpose. Therefore, I would like to assure the hon. Member that we are making an uniform policy for every sector on priority basis.

[English]

International Airports

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*107. SHRI AJMEERA CHANDULAL :
SHRI S. RAMACHANDRA REDDY :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to develop some more airports for international operations;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether some private/foreign airlines have submitted proposals to operate international flights from these airports;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. Airports Authority of India is developing 12 model airports in addition to Ahmedabad and Goa to cater to limited international operations.

(c) to (e). According to the existing policy private airlines are not permitted to operate international flights from/to India. Most foreign airlines operating to this country have been permitted to operate scheduled services under bilateral agreements reached with respective countries

SHRI AJMEERA CHANDULAL : Sir, many people from Hyderabad who are working in foreign countries are regularly going to foreign countries. There is a great demand from the people to make Hyderabad Airport an International Airport, for their convenience. The survey will prove that it would be profitable if Hyderabad Airport is made an international Airport which will also remove congestion from Mumbai and Delhi Airports.

Therefore, my supplementary question would be, whether Hyderabad Airport would be upgraded for handling international operations, in view of the public demand. If so, when and if not, the reasons therefor.

MR. SPEAKER : You have put your question. You want that Hyderabad Airport is to be made an International Airport, all right, the hon. Minister will answer.

[Translation]

SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM : So far as construction of a national airport or upgrading it to an international airport is concerned, it depends upon the facilities available for it. My department has no problem in converting it into an international airport if the technical Committee gives its clearance for expansion of the runway.

[English]

Once the Technical Committee allows it, we will take it up.

SHRI AJMEERA CHANDULAL : There are certain international routes on which Air India and Indian Airlines are not operating because they are not profitable. Why does the Government not permit private airlines to operate in such routes?

SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM : We are definitely operating wherever profitable routes are there. We are operating even on non-profitable routes. As far as private airlines are concerned, they do not want to operate on non-profitable routes. They want to operate only on profitable routes. The operation of India Airlines on non-profitable routes is 17 per cent. But whether they are profitable routes or non-profitable routes, our concern is only service to the people and passengers.

[Translation]

SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Nagpur airport is one of the 12 model airports as mentioned by the hon'ble Minister. This model airport is adjacent to the old airport and it is in a very bad condition. It seems that the fund allocated for this project have been largely misappropriated. There is no arrangement for cleanliness of toilets etc. The sound system is out of order. Announcements made by the officials are not heard. It is in very bad condition and should be totally... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : You are not asking the question, Shri Meghe.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT : Mr. Speaker, Sir, a huge amount of money has been misappropriated in construction of this airport. Its construction is of inferior quality. It can be called a non-model airport.

MR. SPEAKER : You are repeating the same thing.

SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT : I would like to know whether the hon. Minister will order an inquiry into it and improve the condition of this airport. Would you, in real terms, make it a model airport because the precious wealth of the country is being misused in this way.

SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM : Mr. Speaker, Sir, it has been said that it lacks facilities... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please listen to the reply.

SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM : I agree with him. We are constructing model airports. I have not said that it has already been constructed. We have only made a declaration.

[English]

We are taking up this work. I will definitely look into whatever complaint is there.

[Translation]

SHRI GULAM RASOOL KAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know whether the demand for upgrading the Srinagar Airport to an international airport and providing a route for Moscow-Tashkent-Srinagar-Delhi has been lying pending for the last 10-15 years? Secondly, just now you have mentioned that private airlines are plying on profitable routes and not on non-profitable routes. What prompted the Government to allow private companies in public sector? The policy of the Government was to strengthen the public sector but you have given profitable routes to private sector and kept non-profitable routes for the Public Sector.

SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM : Perhaps, Mr. Kar has come well prepared for this supplementary.

SHRI GULAM RASOOL KAR : No, it is not so.

SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM : Whether the Government is contemplating to convert Srinagar airport into an international airport? The issue of Kashmir is being discussed at international level and our Government is trying to show that Kashmir is a part of our country. Our department is making efforts to air link Srinagar with other parts of the world. In respect of the route for Moscow, I would like to say that the Civil Aviation Department will decide it on the basis of the number of passengers. The areas where there is more traffic would be linked with this airports.

12.00 hrs.

Secondly, the hon. Member has said that private airlines do not operate on non-profitable routes. I would like to say that it is being monitored on monthly basis. There is a limit that the Private operators will have to use 12 percent non-commercial sector. I have instructed my department to take immediate action against those private airlines which are not operating on such routes. I would take action if any such matter is brought to my notice.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Development of Tourist Places of Orissa

*102. KUMARI SUSHILA TIRIYA : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have received any proposals from the State Government of Orissa for development of some districts into tourist spots;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA): (a) to (c). The Govt. of Orissa has identified South of Puri Town upto Chilka Lake as Special Tourism Area for development of Tourism in the State.

In addition the Department of Tourism has identified two Circuits in Orissa for intensive development. These are

1. Bhubaneswar-Lalitgiri-Ratnagiri-Udaygiri-Kendrapara-Chandbali-Bhadrak.
2. Harishankar-Narsinghanath-Hirakud-Sambalpur-Bed Yyas (Gandhamardhan Circuit).

The Department of Tourism in consultation with the State Govt. officials has prioritised 8 projects for central financial assistance amounting to Rs. 250 lakhs during 1996-97. The details are

- (a) Wayside amenities at Ghatgaon.
- (b) Wayside amenities at Satpada.
- (c) Refurbishment of monuments/heritage sites at Ratnagiri.
- (d) Tourist Reception Centre and Information Centre at Ratnagiri with provision for drinking water, toilet facilities, Snack Bar and Souvenir Shop.
- (e) Refurbishment of heritage site at Lalitgiri.
- (f) Tourist Reception Centre and Information Centre at Lalitgiri with provision for drinking water, toilet facilities, Snack Bar and Souvenir Shop.
- (g) Refurbishment of monuments/heritage site at Udaygiri and
- (h) Tourist Reception and Cultural Information Centre at Kendra Parha.

A Detailed proposal for the wayside amenity at Ghatgaon has been received from the State Govt.

The Department of Tourism also prepared a project proposal for infrastructure development covering Dhauli, Nandankanan, Ratnagiri, Udaigiri, Lalitgiri, Pathrajpur, Kendra parha, Gupti, Bhadrak and Jajpur in Orissa at an estimated investment of Rs. 348 crores which has been posed for external aid.

[Translation]

Foreign Investment in Mining Sector

*106. SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH :
SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY :

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have invited

multinational foreign companies to invest in the mining sector in the country:

(b) if so, the reasons therefor alongwith the details of such companies:

(c) the details of companies which have sent their proposals:

(d) the terms and conditions of the agreements: and

(e) the time by which these are likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) and (b). The National Mineral Policy, 1993 envisages, inter alia, private investment both domestic and foreign in the Mineral Sector. Foreign technology and investment is required particularly for the exploration of high value and scarce minerals.

(c) to (e). Foreign Investment Promotion Board has approved the investment pattern of 27 proposals recommended by the Ministry of Mines for investment in the mining/metallurgical sector. However, the grant of Prospecting Licence (PL) and Mining Lease (ML) is governed by the Provisions of the Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Act, 1957 and the rules made thereunder. Applications for grant of mineral concessions have to be made to the respective State Governments only. Further, only in respect of minerals included in Schedule-I of the MM (R and D) Act, 1957 prior approval of the Central Government is necessary.

[English]

Indian Labour Conference in Delhi

*108. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA :
PROF. OM PAL SINGH 'NIDAR' :

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether a session of Indian Labour Conference was held recently in Delhi:

(b) if so, the outcome/recommendations thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto:

(c) whether the problems of agricultural/construction/fish contractual labourers were discussed and their representatives were invited in the conference, and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken to ensure the interests of these workers?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) The 33rd Session of the Indian Labour Conference was held at Delhi on 24th and 25 October, 1996.

(b) During the course of discussions in the conference, the main recommendations, inter alia, were:

(1) Workers Group suggested that Wage ceiling fixed for payment of bonus/productivity linked

bonus should be removed. However, the Employers' Group urged a total review of the Bonus Act.

(2) Ministry of Labour should convene a meeting of Union Ministries of Labour, Finance and Textiles and Trade Unions and concerned State Governments to expedite a decision on implementation of the Turn Around Plan for revival of sick mills of National Textile Corporation.

(3) Ministry of Labour should again write to the State Governments to revive the practice of holding tripartite consultation at the state level by constituting truly and appropriately representative tripartite bodies and by holding its meeting atleast twice a year.

(4) A Bipartite Committee should be constituted with a view to frame a comprehensive industrial law and their report may be submitted by 31st January, 1997. The Bipartite Committee should consider proposal to amend the Trade Union Act, 1926 and recognition of trade unions through secret ballot, on a priority basis and submit its recommendations within a month.

(5) The disparity in the ceiling fixed for the payment of gratuity for Central Government employees and industrial workers should be removed.

(6) A national floor level minimum wage for unorganised establishments should be fixed taking into account the updated poverty line basis. Some of the Workers representatives also wanted the Floor level Minimum Wage to include a component based on the decisions of the Supreme Court and that, minimum wage should have automatic indexation with cost of living and reviewed frequently.

(7) Vocational training programme of DGE and T should be re-oriented towards improving the quality of vocational training and upgradation of skills. Similarly Employment Exchanges should be modernised and re-organised to function as effective placement centres.

The conclusion/recommendations of the Indian Labour conference are given due consideration while examining the relevant issues in the Ministry of Labour. Action has already been initiated on some of the recommendations.

(c) and (d). During the course of discussions in the conference, several participants raised problems of workers in the unorganised sector like agricultural and contractual labourers etc. The Conference was informed of latest development on a Comprehensive Legislation

providing for labour protection, social security, minimum wages, etc. for agricultural workers.

Representation to Trade Unions in the Conference is determined on the basis of an established procedure based on varified strength of the trade unions. Sectoral strength is not the only criterion for consideration of representation in the conference.

Inland Air Services and Amenities to Passengers

*109. PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) the steps taken by the Government to revamp and make punctual the inland air services and to provide amenities to the passengers;

(b) whether the private air services are attracting more passengers in comparison to that of the Indian Airlines;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor.

(d) the action proposed to be taken by the Government to make Indian Airlines more attractive and profitable; and

(e) the prospective action plan of the Government in view of rising requirement of the domestic air services, increasing number of passengers and operating more air services?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) To provide additional capacity and a competitive market environment, the Air Corporations Act, 1953 was repealed on 1st March, 1994. It enabled the entry of private airlines in the domestic sector which not only provided additional capacity but also improved services for the benefit of the passengers.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Indian Airlines is taking steps to improve its product, image and on time performance to attract more passengers and increase revenue.

(e) With a view to ensure regular and dependable air transport service in the domestic sector, a review of the policy framework is under consideration.

Draft Bill Regarding Right to Information

*110. SHRI RAM NAIK : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Press Council of India has given a draft Bill to the Government regarding right to information;

(b) if so, the salient features of the draft bill; 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) Yes, Sir.

(b) A statement is enclosed.

(c) The draft Bill on Right to Information formulated by the Press Council of India is under examination of the Ministry of Home Affairs.

STATEMENT

Salient Features of the Draft Bill on Right to Information

The Bill seeks to impart to the citizens of the country the Right to Information relating to affairs of a 'public body' including :

(a) 'State' within the meaning of Article 12 of the Constitution of India;

(b) All public undertakings and non-satutory authorities;

(c) A company, corporation, society, trust, firm or a co-operative society, whether owned or controlled by the Government or by private individuals and institutions whose activities affect the public interest.

2. The public body has been cast the duty of maintaining all records duly catalogued and indexed and making it available to the person requesting information.

3. The right extends to all individuals, whether citizens or not, in so far as the information affects their life and liberty.

4. The information can be withheld by the public body, for reasons to be recorded in writing if —

(a) its disclosure is prejudicial to sovereignty and integrity of the country, or to the security of the State, and friendly relations with foreign States, or public order, investigation of an offence or which leads to incitement to an offence;

(b) it is related to personal and medical information and other such information, the disclosure of which has no bearing on public affair and would constitute a clear and unwarranted invasion of personal privacy;

(c) if it relates to trade and commercial secrets protected by Law.

Provided that information which cannot be denied to the Parliament or the State Legislature shall not be denied to the citizens.

5. The public body has been cast the duty to notify for information of general public such matters within its knowledge and control as are vital to their life, health and livelihood but not commonly known.

6. The custodial establishment shall be required to appoint a visitors' committee which shall have full access at all hours of day and night to the establishment and its records and inmates.

7. The information shall be supplied within thirty days of application except when the information relates to life and liberty of the individual, it shall be supplied within forty eight hours of application.

8. The information shall be supplied in writing either in English or Hindi or in the language of the State within which the informing authority is located, at a nominal fee.

9. The designated person shall be personally responsible for not furnishing the information and liable to pay a penalty of Rs. 50/- for each day of delay.

10. Any individual who knowingly furnishes wrong, false, misleading or incomplete information shall be liable to be punished with a penalty which shall not be less than Rs. 1,000/- and upto a maximum of Rs. 5,000/-.

11. Refusal of information shall be communicated in writing.

12. An appeal against refusal or failure to supply the information sought for or against inadequate or misleading information shall lie to the Principal Civil Judge of the Tehsil or of the District or of the City as the case may be where the informing authority is located. The appellate authority concerned shall dispose of the appeal within thirty days of its filing by a written order and giving reasons for its decision.

13. The bill further provides for protection of action taken in good faith and stipulates that the provisions of this Act shall have overriding effect over the other laws in force.

Unemployed Workers of Closed Industries in Delhi

*111. SHRI VIJAY GOEL :

SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL :

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether public notice has been issued by the Chairman, Delhi Pollution Control Committee to 168 industries in Delhi, as per Apex Court's directive to stop operation from November, 1996;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps taken by the Government to ensure that the employees working in these industries get adequate service-benefits from their respective employers;

(d) whether any directives have so far been issued to the management of these industries to the effect that the affected workers can get their service benefits as per Supreme Court's guidelines;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether any representations have been received regarding denial of the service-benefits etc., to the affected employees; and

(g) if so, the details and number of such complaints received from the respective Labour Unions and the action taken thereon so far?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) to (g). In the wake of directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court in the inter-locutory Application No. 22 in Writ Petition (C) No. 4677 of 1985, 168 industries listed as hazardous-noxious/heavy/large industries are to be closed down on the mid night of 30th November, 1996. In the order dated 8.7.1996 the National Capital Regional Planning Board has been directed to render all assistance to the industries for the purpose of relocation outside Delhi. The Hon'ble Supreme Court has given certain directions regarding the amount of compensation to be paid to the affected workmen. The Hon'ble Supreme Court has also given directions that the workmen employed in the industries which fail to relocate and the workmen who are not willing to shift along with the re-located industries shall be deemed to have been retrenched with effect from 30th November 1996 provided they have been in continuous service for not less than one year in the industries concerned before the said date. Besides the compensation payable under Section 25-F(b) of the Industrial Disputes Act, such workmen will also be given one years wages as additional compensation.

A public notice was issued by the Chairman, Delhi Pollution Control Committee conveying the direction of the Hon'ble Supreme Court, which was published in leading newspapers published from Delhi. The notice, inter-alia, gives a list of 168 industrial units which have to stop functioning in their present location in Delhi by 30.11.1996.

In case of failure to relocate the workers of these industries, Supreme Court has given one month's time from the date on which they stop functioning in Delhi i.e. 30.11.96 for payment of the service benefits to their respective employees. As the stipulated time for giving service benefits is not yet over, the question of denial of service benefits has not risen so far.

For most of these units, the state Government of the National Capital Territory of Delhi is the appropriate Government who will have to ensure that due benefits are given to the affected workmen under the ID Act, 1947. However, the Central Government will be writing to the Government of the National Capital Territory of Delhi requesting them to ensure that the service benefits for affected workers is given as per the Hon'ble Supreme Court's directions and as per the relevant provisions of the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947.

[Translation]

Jamalpur Locomotive Factory

*112. SHRI R.L.P. VERMA :

SHRI BRAHAMANAND MANDAL :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of items manufactured in the Jamalpur Locomotive factory in Bihar;

(b) whether the Government propose to start the manufacturing of coaches and wagons in the said factory;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the funds earmarked for development of above mentioned factory during the current financial year;

(e) whether there is any proposal to close down the said factory in future; and

(f) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) Jamalpur workshop is manufacturing 4 wheeler Tower Cars Whiting Jacks, BOX wagon bogies, Cranes of various capacities, Carriage and wagon spares, diesel loco spares and brake blocks. In addition, major activities include overhaul of Diesel locos and Cranes, and rebuilding and modifications in Wagons.

(b) No. Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Rs. 3.42 Crores have been allocated for the following two works :

1. Development of traction generator and motor rewinding facilities (Rs. 0.57 Cr. against project cost of Rs. 3.34 Cr.)
2. Modernisation works for quality and productivity improvements (allocation of Rs. 2.85 Cr. against project cost of Rs. 9.63 Cr.).

(e) No Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

Image of Indian Airlines

*113. SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT :

SHRI PRADIP BHATTACHARYA :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the International Air Transport Association (IATA) has ranked Indian Airlines at number six on list of high risk airlines in terms of safety;

(b) if so, whether the goodwill and image of the Indian Airlines have been affected as a result thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) International Air Transport Association (IATA) has denied having incorporated in its safety report the safety statistics related to safety performance of any specific airline including Indian Airlines.

(b) and (c). Do not arise

[English]

Setting up of Steel Plant at Vijayanagar (Karnataka)

*114. SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the foundation stone was laid by the former Prime Minister about twenty years ago to set up a Steel Plant in Vijayanagar, Karnataka;

(b) if so, the reasons for not setting up such plant there;

(c) whether private companies have come forward to set up Steel Plant at Vijayanagar; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) The Steel plant could not be set up due to resource constraints.

(c) and (d). According to information furnished by the State Government of Karnataka, two private sector companies have proposed to set up two Steel plants in Torangallu area, the place identified for the Vijayanagar Steel Plant in Karnataka. The details are given below:

S. No.	Name of the Unit	Capacity (Million TPA)	Implementation Status
1	Jindal Vijayanagar Steel Limited	1.65	Under implementation
2	Mukand Vijayanagar Steel Limited.	1.6	Yet to start construction

Recommendation of Expert Committee on Export of Steel

*115. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA :

PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA :

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether Expert Committee set up by the Government to study the status of Export of Iron and Steel has recommended any policy changes and measures to promote export of iron and steel;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government explored the possibility of expanding exports of iron and steel to the rapidly growing South-East Asia and Chinese markets: and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) The Expert Committee on Export of Iron and Steel set up by the Government has not yet submitted its report.

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

(c) and (d). As per the existing policy, export of iron and steel is freely allowed. Export of iron and steel and its destination depend on several factors such as domestic and international demand, domestic price, steel prices in importing countries etc. These factors are usually dynamic and change frequently.

Construction of Airport at Bhuj

*116. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the land acquired by the Government of Gujarat for the construction/upgradation of the airport at Bhuj has been taken over by Airport Authority of India;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the amount sanctioned by the Union Government for the purpose;

(d) the status of work at present;

(e) the steps being taken to complete the work expeditiously; and

(f) the time by which the construction/upgradation work of the airport at Bhuj is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) and (b). 47.25 acres of acquired land has been handed over in July, 1996 to the Airports Authority of India for the construction of terminal building complex, parking apron and link taxiway.

(c) to (f). Rs. 18 crores has been earmarked for this project during the 9th Five year plan and conceptual drawings are under preparation. No definite time frame for the completion of the project can be indicated at this stage.

[Translation]

Commissioning of TV Transmitter

*117. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY
SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI :

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

(a) the number of TV transmitters likely to be commissioned during the current year. State-wise, location-wise;

(b) whether the requisite staff have been provided for installation and maintenance of these transmitters;

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

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

(e) the stage at which the matter of sanctioning staff is pending;

(f) the expenditure incurred on these transmitters ready for commissioning. State-wise, and

(g) the estimated annual expenditure on maintenance and operation on these transmitters?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) to (g). A list indicating State-wise locations where TV transmitters are technically ready for commissioning and the position of staff available at each of them is given in the Statement enclosed. Whereas, transmitters where skeletal staff is available are only giving partial transmission for the present pending availability of full complement of staff, the remaining transmitters will be commissioned into service on the sanction of requisite staff for the purpose.

2. The proposals for creation of posts are required to be approved by the Ministry of Finance. These proposals are at various stages of processing.

3. The estimated capital cost of a High Power TV Transmitter (VHF) Low Power TV Transmitter (VHF) and very Low Power TV Transmitter (VHF) is approximately Rs. 8 crores, Rs. 1 crore and Rs. 80 lakhs respectively. Total capital expenditure on these 74 TV Transmitters is approximately Rs. 175 crores. The annual recurring expenditure on operation and maintenance of a High Power TV Transmitter, Low Power Transmitter and a Very Low Power TV Transmitter is approximately Rs. 35 lakhs, Rs. 10 lakhs and Rs. 1 lakh per annum respectively.

STATEMENT

Locationwise List of TV Transmitters Technically Ready for Commissioning and Position of Staff Thereon

State/U.T.	Projects	Position of Staff Sanction
1	2	3
Andhra Pradesh	HPT : LPTs :	Kurnool : Not sanctioned Bellampally : 5 posts sanctioned Pedanandipadu : Not sanctioned Kadiri : -do- Markapur : 5 posts sanctioned

1		2	3
Arunachal Pradesh	VLPTs :	Kalaktang Chayanotaio Yomcha	Unmanned installation -do- -do-
Bihar	LPTs :	Phoolparas Noamundy	5 Posts sanctioned -do-
Gujarat	LPTs :	Amod Deesa Mangrol (Surat) Morbi	-do- -do- -do- 12 posts sanctioned
Goa	LPT :	Panaji (DD-II)	Not sanctioned
Haryana	LPT :	Rohtak	-do-
Himachal Pradesh	VLPT :	Jhalma	Unmanned installation
Jammu and Kashmir	LPT :	Rajouri	Not sanctioned
Karnataka	LPTs :	Harpananalli Sagar Gokak Basava Kalvan	5 posts sanctioned -do- Not sanctioned 5 posts sanctioned
Kerala	LPT :	Thodupuza	Not sanctioned
Madhya Pradesh	LPTs :	Gaderwara Sakti Kelaras Narayanpur	-do- -do- 5 posts sanctioned Not sanctioned
	VLPTs :	Diamond Mining- Project	Unmanned installation
Maharashtra	LPTs :	Shirpur Chandur Sironcha Aheri Navapur	5 posts sanctioned Not sanctioned -do- -do- -do-
	VLPTs :	Badlapur Bhokar	Unmanned installation -do-
Manipur	VLPT :	Moreh	-do-
Nagaland	HPT :	Mokokchung	22 posts sanctioned
Rajasthan	HPTs :	Jaisalmar Barmer (interim)	9 posts sanctioned Not sanctioned
	LPTs :	Nohar Mt. Abu Pratapgarh Karauli Nimaj Rajgarh Bari-sadri Shahpura	5 posts sanctioned -do- -do- -do- -do- -do- Not sanctioned 5 posts sanctioned
	VLPTs :	Neem Ka Thana Gangapur	Unmanned installation -do-
Orissa	LPTs :	Sohela Kabisuryanagar	Not sanctioned -do-
	VLPTs :	T. Rampur Badabarbil	Unmanned installation -do-

1		2	3
Tamilnadu	LPTs :	Pattukottal Attur Shankarankovil	Not sanctioned 5 posts sanctioned -do-
Tripura	VLPT :	Dharmanagar	Unmanned installation
Uttar Pradesh	LPTs :	Ganj Dundwara Kasganj Naugarh Auraiya New Tehri Mahoba Athdama Nanpara Nainidanda	Not sanctioned 5 posts sanctioned Not sanctioned -do- -do- -do- -do- 5 posts sanctioned Not sanctioned
	VLPTs :	Chaukhatia Pratap Nagar	Unmanned installation -do-
West Bengal	LPTs :	Farakka Murshidabad (DD-II)	Not sanctioned -do-
Andaman and Nicobar Islands (U.T.)	LPT :	Port Blair (DD-II)	-do-
	VLPT :	Great Nicobar	Unmanned installation
Dadar and Nagar Haveli (U.T.)	LPT :	Silvassa	5 posts sanctioned
Daman and Diu (U.T.)	LPT :	Diu	Not sanctioned
Total Number of Transmitters-74 (HPTS-4, LPTS-54 and VLPTS-16)			

[English]

National Action Plan for Tourism

*118. SHRI G. A. CHARAN REDDY : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the National Action Plan for Tourism announced in May, 1992 has been reviewed to find out the shortcomings in the target and to attract more tourists in this sub-continent.

(b) if so, the details thereof.

(c) whether any realistic plan has been prepared taking into account the ground realities and involve the private sector investments.

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken to meet the target of five million tourists by the turn of the century?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA): (a) to (e). The National Action Plan for Tourism, stipulated a target of 5 million tourist arrivals within five years from 1992.

It was reviewed subsequently and found that the target could not be achieved before the turn of the century as it involved large scale investments in

infrastructure both by the Government and the private sector. The targets were also reviewed by the Working Group on Tourism for the Ninth Five Year Plan and projected 3.12 million tourist arrivals by 2000 AD as reasonable unless extra efforts were made to mobilise resources for infrastructure development to achieve the 5 million target. The Department of Tourism has prepared a National Strategy for the Development of Tourism enlisting the investments and activities to be taken up by different Departments of Government of India, State Governments, Financial Institutions and the Private Sector. The notional estimates given in the strategy paper stipulate a total investment of Rs. 48.061 crores by various agencies including private sector. The investments required to be made by various Departments of Government of India amount to Rs. 25.011 crores including Rs. 4861 crores by the Department of Tourism during Ninth Plan period. State Governments Rs. 4.100 crores and financial institutions and the private sector Rs. 18.950 crores.

Passenger Amenities at Railway Stations

*119. SHRI HARIN PATHAK : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that

passenger amenities at the railway stations have deteriorated since the past about one year:

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any surprise checks have been conducted to find out the factors responsible for bottlenecks in passenger amenities;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the concrete measures taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to streamline the passenger amenities at the railway stations?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) There has been no deterioration.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) to (e) Regular and surprise inspections are conducted by Railway officers and supervisory staff at various levels in order to ensure that requisite passenger amenities are available and well maintained. As a follow up of these inspections, corrective action is being taken, where necessary. In addition, Service Improvement Groups have been constituted at important stations with a view to have a multi-disciplinary approach to the upkeep and improvement in the services provided. These Groups consist of Officers/Supervisory staff from various Departments and function at Station, Divisional and Headquarters levels.

(f) Minimum facilities have been provided at all stations. Norms based on volume of traffic at stations have been laid down for provision of various amenities viz. waiting hall, sitting accommodation, drinking water, latrine and urinals, booking arrangements, water coolers, waiting rooms, covered-sheds etc. Allocation of funds for amenities are constantly being increased from year to year.

Besides, for the convenience of the passengers, reserved accommodation on trains through Computerised Passenger Reservation System has been extended to 271 locations upto 31.3.96 covering about 92% of the total reserved accommodation. Enquiry Offices are also being upgraded by providing Interactive Voice Response System (IVRS) for telephonic enquiries, improved announcement and display systems.

Monitoring Cells at Ministry, Zonal and Divisional Railway Headquarters levels have also been set up for monitoring passenger complaints related to passenger amenities.

[Translation]

Train Accidents

*120. SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH :
DR. RAMESH CHAND TOMAR :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of train accidents took place during

the last three years along with the details of the number of persons killed/injured therein;

(b) whether inquiries have been conducted in respect of each accident;

(c) if so, the findings thereof; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to check recurrence of train accidents?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) Information is as under :

	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96
Number of consequential train accidents	520	501	398
Number of passengers			
Killed	179	84	406
Injured	446	434	681
Railway staff			
Killed	20	19	37
Injured	89	91	77
Others			
Killed	180	202	151
Injured	370	162	177

(b) Yes, Sir. Each and every accident is enquired into by a Committee of Officers. Serious accidents are enquired into by the Commission of Railway Safety, which functions under the Ministry of Civil Aviation and Tourism.

(c) Causes of train accidents during the three years are as under :

Broad Causes	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96
1. Failure of railway staff	358	351	237
2. Failure of persons other than railway staff	72	76	71
3. Equipment failure	55	38	50
4. Sabotage	16	9	16
5. Incidental	8	15	11
6. Combination of factors	2	2	3
7. Could not be established conclusively	9	10	10
	520	591	398

(d) Some of the measures taken to improve safety and prevent accidents are as under :

(i) The work of track circuiting has been accelerated on the trunk routes and other important main lines.

- (ii) Modification of the Signalling circuitry is being carried out to minimise chances of human error in causing accidents.
- (iii) Auxiliary Warning System for giving advance warning about 'Signal at danger' to the driver of the running train has been commissioned on Bombay suburban sections.
- (iv) There has been progressive increase in use of Tie Tamping and ballast cleaning machines for track maintenance.
- (v) For monitoring track geometry and running characteristics of the track, sophisticated track recording cars, oscillograph cars and portable accelerometers are being progressively used.
- (vi) Maintenance facilities for coaches and wagons have been modernised and upgraded at many depots.
- (vii) To prevent cases of cold breakage of axles, ROH Depots have been equipped with ultrasonic testing equipment for detection of flaws in the axles.
- (viii) Whistle boards/speed breakers and road signs have been provided at unmanned level crossings and visibility for drivers has been improved.
- (ix) Audio-visual publicity campaigns to educate road users on how to make a safe crossing are conducted.
- (x) Steps have been taken to prevent inflammable and explosive materials from being carried in passenger trains.
- (xi) Training facilities for drivers, guards and staff connected with train operation have been modernised including use of Simulators for training of drivers.
- (xii) Refresher courses are regularly organised at specified intervals.
- (xiii) Performance of the staff connected with train operation is being constantly monitored and those found deficient are sent for crash training.
- (xiv) Periodical safety drives are conducted to inculcate safety consciousness among the staff.

Change in Patna Bound Shatabdi Express Route

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

(a) whether the Government have received any request/suggestion for changing the route of Delhi-Patna bound Shatabdi Express via Moradabad and Bareilly; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) There is no Shatabdi Express between New Delhi and Patna. However, some representations have been received for routing New Delhi-Patna Rajdhani Express via Moradabad-Bareilly.

(b) Diversion of the Rajdhani Express via Moradabad-Bareilly was not found feasible due to longer running time and other operational difficulties en-route.

[English]

Gratuity to PSU Employees

921. SHRI AJOY MUKHOPADHYAY : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have scrapped the proposal to increase the amount of gratuity payable to employees of Public Sector Undertakings from 1 lakh to 2.5 lakhs i.e. at par with Central Government Employees;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the said proposal was already approved by the earlier Government;

(d) if so, whether the Government propose to enhance the amount as mentioned above; and

(e) if so, by when?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) to (e). The Payment of Gratuity Act, 1972 was amended and ceiling on the maximum amount of gratuity was last enhanced in May, 1994 from Rs. 50,000/- to Rs. 1.00 Lakh. Consequent on enhancement in the amount of gratuity from Rs. 1.00 lakh to Rs. 2.50 lakh payable to the Central Government employees, demands have been received for similar enhancement in the case of the employees working in the public sector undertakings. As the P.G. Act applies to establishments including Central and State PSUs and its provisions are being administered mainly by State Governments, the proposal has been referred to State Governments, the Employers' and Employees' Organisations for their comments. As the proposal also involves amendment of the Act, it is difficult to indicate the time limit by when the amount of gratuity under the P.G. Act will be enhance.

Mineral Reserves

922. SHRI HARADHAN ROY :

SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO :

SHRI NARAYAN ATHAWALAY :

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 3191 on 18th December, 1995 regarding mineral reserves and state:

(a) whether the requisite information have since been collected;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the time by which the information is likely to be collected?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) to (d). The implementation Report has been sent to the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs/Lok Sabha Secretariat by this Ministry *vide* O.M. No. 1/62/95-M.V dated 11.10.96.

Job through Employment Exchange

923. SHRI RAMSAGAR : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item appearing in the "Hindustan Times" dated September 19, 1996 captioned, "job through employment exchange, SC holds Govt. mode unconstitutional, and

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

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

(b) The judgement of the Supreme Court is being examined in consultation with the Department of Personnel and Training, which is the nodal Department in this regard.

Right to Job

924. SHRI SAMIK LAHIRI : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to include "Right to Job" as a Fundamental Right in the Constitution?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : The Central Government do not propose to include "Right to Job" as a Fundamental Right in the Constitution, mainly on account of resource constraints.

Committees for Air Safety

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

(a) whether the Government have set up two committees to study Air Safety;

(b) if so, the main points referred to the Committees, and

(c) the time by which these two committees are likely to submit their report?

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

(b) A Committee under the Chairmanship of Air Marshal (Retd.) J.K. Seth has been set up to review the existing set up of Directorate General of Civil Aviation, Aircraft Act, 1934, Aircraft Rules, 1937 and various safety regulations to ensure air safety and efficient regulatory control on aviation activities. The other committee has been constituted for creating safety awareness and dissemination of safety information

(c) The tenure of the Air Marshal (Retd.) J.K. Seth committee is six months and that of the other committee is one year with effect from 3.9.96.

Memotel Speed Recorders

926. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Railway Board had placed orders for Memotel Speed Recorders in 1989;

(b) if so, whether the contractor has supplied memotel speed recordors in time;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor and the loss incurred by the Government as a result thereof due to increase in rate of foreign exchange;

(d) the total loss incurred by the Government;

(e) the steps taken by the Government to recover the loss;

(f) whether any responsibility has been fixed for these irregularities;

(g) if so, the action taken by the Government thereon, and

(h) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) An order for 20 sets of Microprocessor based speed indicating and recording system TELOC 2000 D was placed in November, 1989.

(b) The material ordered was supplied by the contractor within the contractual delivery period. However, this was replaced by Memotel type speed recordors in April, 96 at no extra charge.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Nil.

(e) to (h). Does not arise.

Quality of Imported Tin Plates

927. SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that the tin plates being imported are not of the desired quality and even some plates are painted;

(b) whether sub-standard and painted tin plates have fused danger to the health of the public:

(c) whether the Central Food Technological Research Institute, Mysore has also warned against the use of sub-standard tin plates; and

(d) if so, the action taken by the Government to counter the adverse effect of these plates on the health of the people?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : (a) to (d). As per available information, in addition to prime quality tin plates, tin plate waste and tin plate waste—waste are also being imported into the country. As per the Rule 49 of the Rules framed under the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, the use of second-hand tin and tins which are imperfectly tinned is prohibited for packing edible oils and fats. Whenever the regulatory authorities, the importers or the actual users seek the advice of the Central Food Technological Research Institute, Mysore on the quality of tin plate or the containers, the Institute analyses, evaluates and gives its advice as per the prevention of Food Adulteration Act administered by the Director General of Health Services, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare with special reference to the contaminants in foods.

Pending PCO/STD/ISD Applications

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

(a) the criteria laid down for the allotment of PCO/STD/ISD booths;

(b) the names of the allottees alongwith the grounds on which the said booths have been sanctioned to them during the last three years, till date State-wise;

(c) the number of applications pending for sanction of such booths State-wise; and

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

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) STD. PCOs are allotted to educated unemployed persons. Educational qualification is 8th pass for rural areas and Matric/High School pass for Urban areas. Preference is given to the following categories of persons :

(i) Handicapped including blind persons.

(ii) SC/ST applicants.

(iii) Ex-Servicemen/War Windows.

(iv) Retired DOT employees or their dependents.

(v) Dependents of Freedom Fighters.

(vi) Charitable Institutions/Hospitals.

(b) STD PCOs are allotted by STD PCO Allotment Committees to eligible applicants taking all factors into account. Number of PCOs allotted during last three years, till date are given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) and (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House as soon as possible

STATEMENT

S.No.	Name of the States/ Circles/Districts	No. of STD PCOs allotted from 1.4.93 to 30.9.96.
1.	Andaman and Nicobar	9
2.	Andhar Pradesh	4933
3.	Assam	1483
4.	Bihar	3497
5.	Gujarat	6728
6.	Jammu and Kashmir	330
7.	Kerala	5756
8.	Karnataka	5326
9.	Madhya Pradesh	6706
10.	Maharashtra	9186
11.	Orissa	1999
12.	Haryana	2068
13.	Himachal Pradesh	371
14.	Punjab	7246
15.	Rajasthan	5052
16.	North Eastern	454
17.	Tamil Nadu	3924
18.	Uttar Pradesh (East)	9571
19.	Uttar Pradesh (West)	
20.	West Bengal	1499
21.	Mumbai	4+14
22.	Delhi	3948
23.	Calcutta	4269
24.	Chennai	2417

[Translation]

Introduction of train services is Agra

929. SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Supreme Court and other Parliamentary Committees have submitted a proposal to the Government to introduce local train services in Agra and on other routes of Taj protected area to check vehicle pollution and to protect the Taj Mahal from environmental pollution:

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government are preparing any scheme to introduce city train services in Agra;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (e). At present there is no proposal under consideration in the Ministry of Railways for introduction of local train services at Agra. Under the revised Allocation of Business Rules, 1986, proposals for such rail based urban transport projects are now to be processed by the Ministry of Urban Affairs and Employment and the State Government concerned.

Expansion of Postal Network

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

(a) the details of expansion of postal network particularly in the rural and tribal areas of the country during the Eighth Five Year Plan period. State-wise:

(b) whether it is a fact that the physical targets were abruptly lowered in the year 1994-95;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor and the extent to which various schemes in Gujarat had suffered due to which abrupt lowering of target by the Government; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to achieve the target of expansion of postal network set out at the beginning of the Eighth Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) The details of expansion of postal network particularly in the rural and tribal areas of the country are given in the *Statement* enclosed

(b) and (c). The target of opening of Post Offices for the whole of the country including Gujarat was lowered to reduce the extent of budgetary support. However, Panchayat Sanchar Sewa Yojana, a new scheme to provide basic postal facilities in rural areas was introduced. 50 Panchayat Sanchar Sewa Kendras were opened in Gujarat Postal Circle in 1995-96.

(d) The original targets could not, however, be restored, subsequent to the reduction referred to above.

STATEMENT

Post Offices Sanctioned During the 8th Five Year Plan (1992-93-1996-97), till date (Postal Circle-wise)

S No.	Name of Circle	Number of Post Offices in			Total
		Urban areas	Rural areas	Tribal areas	
1.	Andhra Pradesh	24	16	9	49
2.	Assam	8	26	42	76
3.	Bihar	10	103	83	196
4.	Delhi	23		-	23
5.	Gujarat	23	29	35	87
6.	Haryana	14	36		50
7.	Himachal Pradesh	6	125	5	136
8.	Jammu and Kashmir	3	26	4	33
9.	Karnataka	22	26	17	65
10.	Kerala	24	51	7	82
11.	Maharashtra	43	90	73	206
12.	Madhya Pradesh	16	35	67	118
13.	North-East	-	11	72	83
14.	Orissa	9	26	67	102
15.	Punjab	15	23	-	38
16.	Rajasthan	21	62	44	127
17.	Tamil Nadu	17	20	2	39
18.	Uttar Pradesh	40	214	19	273
19.	West Bengal	6	84	9	99
Total		324	1003	555	1882

[English]

More Funds to Uttar Pradesh for Tourism

931. SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have received requests from the Government of Uttar Pradesh to allocate more funds for the promotion and development of tourist places:

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA)

(a) to (c). The Department of Tourism in consultation with the State Govt. officials has identified 8 projects at an estimated cost of Rs. 191 lakhs for central financial assistance during the current year. The projects identified are :

1. Reception Centre at Agra. 2. SEL Show at the Residency, Lucknow. 3. Cruise Boats to be used from Varanasi, Chunnar. 4. Reception Centre at Rishikesh. 5. Aero Sports at Jolly grant. 6. Ski equipment for Auli Ski Centre. 7. Water Sports equipment at Nanak Sagar. 8. River-Rafting equipment.

The Department of Tourism, Government of India releases funds after receipt and examination of detailed proposals from the State Government. Six projects proposals have been received recently from the Uttar Pradesh Government.

Bardhaman to Howrah Railway Line

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

(a) whether Bardhaman-Howrah section of Eastern Railway have reached in a saturated position.

(b) if so, whether the Government are considering to improve the section for smooth and fast running of trains:

(c) if so, the details thereof:

(d) whether the Government have considered to provide alternative route from Bardhaman to Howrah.

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the initiatives being taken in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (f). Augmentation of line capacity to meeting demands of traffic is an ongoing process. Presently following works on Bardhaman-Howrah section are in progress :

(i) 3rd line between Gurap-Shaktigarh;

(ii) Howrah-Sheoraphulli and Bhadrashwar-Bandel-Augmentation of sectional capacity and Sheoraphulli-Bandel Automatic signalling.

(iii) Augmentation of Coaching terminal facilities at Howrah:

(iv) Remodelling of suburban platform Nos. 1 to 6 at Howrah.

(v) Remodelling of Yard (Phase I) at Bardhaman.

[Translation]

Setting up Organisation for Employment Abroad

933. SHRI JAI PRAKASH (HARDOI) :

SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL :

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to set up an organisation like Central Manpower Promotion Council with a view to stream line organisation procedure for employment abroad:

(b) if so, the details thereof:

(c) whether this subject was discussed at the recently concluded conference of Labour Secretaries of States in Delhi; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) to (d). The Government has so far not decided to set up such a Council. Though the meeting of Labour Secretaries of State Governments held on 26.10.1996 has recommended setting up of a Central Manpower Export Promotion Council.

Regularisation of Services of Pharmacists

934. SHRI N.J. RATHWA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the services of temporary pharmacists who are working in the divisional hospitals of Western Railway since long have not been regularised so far:

(b) whether collective cash prizes have been given to these pharmacists for their remarkable service and whether they have also passed the special training course during the service period.

(c) if so, the time by which they are likely to be regularised, and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (d). All pharmacists on Western Railway are working on regular basis.

[English]

Criteria of Local Call

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

(a) the criteria under which some of the towns around Delhi such as Gurgaon, Faridabad, Bahadurgarh, Ghaziabad etc. have telephone connections with Delhi on local call basis;

(b) whether such criteria is not applicable in the case of towns in Sonapat district of Haryana;

(c) if so, whether the Government propose to extend this facility to the towns of Sonapat districts;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) Gurgaon, Faridabad, Bahadurgarh, Ghaziabad towns have been given inter-dialling facility with Delhi on 180 sec. pulse rate as their local telephone systems have common boundary with that of Delhi.

(b) Yes, Sir. This criteria is also applicable to 3 towns viz. Kundli, Akbarpur Barota and Nahra towns of Sonapat district of Haryana.

(c) and (d). This facility is already available between Kundli and Delhi. Two towns viz. Akbarpur Barota and Nahra are proposed to be provided this facility in near future. Other towns of Sonapat Dist. do not meet the criteria and hence do not qualify for this facility.

(e) Not applicable in view of (c) and (d) above.

Reservation of seats in trains for handicapped persons

936. SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI NAVINCHANDRA MEHTA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the Government's policy regarding reservation of seats in trains for handicapped persons;

(b) whether the Government propose to review the same and increase their quota;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) The following facilities have been provided to the handicapped persons :

(i) Two berths in sleeper class have been earmarked for handicapped passengers and their escorts.

(ii) Separate accommodation has been earmarked in suburban trains for handicapped persons.

(iii) One seat near the door in every second class compartment is being earmarked for handicapped persons.

(b) There is no such proposal at present.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The reserved accommodation available in the train is subjected to periodical review and suitable adjustments are made wherever necessary based on the traffic justification and availability of accommodation in the trains.

Direct Train from Asansol to North-Eastern States

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

(a) whether the Government are aware that there is no direct train from Asansol to North Eastern States;

(b) if so, whether there is a persistent demand for the introduction of direct train;

(c) whether the Government have taken initiative to introduce such train;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) Some representations have been received in this regard.

(c) There is no such proposal at present.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Due to operational/resource constraints.

STD/ISD Facility in Jaunpur

938. DR. RAMVILAS VEDANTI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether STD/ISD facility at Singrauli and Badalapur of district Jaunpur is out of order;

(b) If so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any complaint/correspondence have been received in this regard;

(d) if so, the steps taken thereon;

(e) whether there is any scheme of providing exemption to the subscribers on rents/bills for the period when the lines were out of order;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) if not, the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

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

(b) Not applicable.

(c) No such complaint is pending.

Faults are attended immediately after receipt of complaint.

(d) Steps are being taken to shift the STD/ISD on reliable media.

(e) Yes Sir.

(f) Rental rebate is given to subscriber if the telephone line remains out of order continuously for seven or more days due to departmental reasons.

Full month's rebate in rental is given if the line is continuously out of order for more than 14 days due to departmental reasons.

(g) Not applicable in view of (e) above.

[English]

Railway net work in Coochbehar

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

(a) whether the Government have received some representations/requests for expansion of railway network in Coochbehar district of West Bengal;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereon with a view to provide better railway services there and introduction of new train from Coochbehar to Calcutta?

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

(b) and (c). (Demand No. 1)

Expansion of Rly network between Moinaguri Rly Stn. and New Coochbehar Rly Stn. via Changarabanda-Mathabhanga in order to develop railway communication in Mathabhanga and Mekhliganj two important sub-divisions, of Coochbehar where there is no Rly communication facilities:

Position :

The suggested line would be 110 kms long and will cost not less than Rs. 150 crs. The Railways are facing an acute resource crunch and have on hand a huge shelf of new line projects requiring over Rs. 6000 crs. for their completion while the funds being made available by the Planning Commission which were of the order of Rs. 220 crs. in 96-97 which will barely be enough to cater to the inflation. In view of this it would be difficult to consider construction of the suggested line till the resource position improves and some of the ongoing projects get completed.

Demand No. 2

Extn. of railway net work from New Coochbehar to Golokganj.

Position :

Golokganj is already connected to Coochbehar via Fakiragram and Alipurduar. The traffic requirements can easily be met by the existing line. The suggested line would be 80 kms and would cost about Rs. 120 crs. The Railways are facing an acute resource crunch and have on hand a huge shelf of new line projects requiring over Rs. 6000 crs. for their completion while the funds being made available by the Planning Commission which were of the order of Rs. 220 crs. in 96-97 which will barely be enough to cater to the inflation. In view of this it would be difficult to consider construction of the suggested line till the resource position improves and some of the ongoing projects get completed.

Demand No. 3

Doubling of the Malda-NJP-New Coochbehar-New Bongaigaon-Guwahati BG line.

Position :

Doubling of Malda NJP has been completed except for short stretches between Dalkola and Kishanganj, where the work is in progress and would be completed by Dec'97. Between NJP and New Bongaigaon doubling is planned by conversion of the MG line and this work would be taken up in the 9th plan period. Between Bongaigaon and Guwahati, doubling will be achieved by the provision of a second line via Jogighopa and Gaolpara on which the work is planned to be completed in 97-98 subject to availability of resources.

Demand No. 4

Conversion of Alipurduar : New Coochbehar-Gitalda MG line into a BG line.

Position :

The Railways have taken up Project Unigaugue for conversion of selected MG/NG lines to BG to move towards Unigaugue. Due to limited availability of resources this work can be carried only in a phased manner. In the first phase lines required on urgent operational/strategic considerations, have been taken up. The said section will be considered alongwith the remaining lines when the next phase of this project is taken up.

Demand No. 5

Installation of pit line and work shed for petty repairs at New Coochbehar Rly Stn. so that trains to and from Guwahati may terminate at New Coochbehar Rly Stn. during Bundh and other troubles in Assam.

Position :

The existing maintenance facilities are adequate for the normal level of traffic handled at the station. It would not be viable to create duplicate facilities simply to handle the traffic during any bundhs in Assam.

Demand No. 6

Introduction of a new train from New Coochbehar to Calcutta

At present, there is no proposal to introduce a new train between Calcutta and New Coochbehar.

Modification in VRS

940. SHRI NARAYAN ATHAWALAY : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to modify the Voluntary Retirement Scheme for public sector as reported in the 'Times of India' dated November 7, 1996;

(b) if so, the details of changes and the financial provision made for execution of the scheme; and

(c) the tentative time schedule for execution of the modified VRS and estimated number of workers proposed to be covered, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) Government are considering a proposal to modify the Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS) so that it may become more attractive.

(b) and (c). Do not arise as this proposal has not been examined fully by the Government.

Composition of Committees

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

(a) whether Programme Advisory Committees attached to AIR/Doordarshan Kendras are due for reconstitution;

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

(c) the details of other Advisory Committees under the Ministry on which non-official/outstanding professional/prominent social activists mediemen are nominated;

(d) whether the Government have finalised composition of such committees for selection of films for Doordarshan; and

(e) 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. The term of the existing committees is upto April, 1997.

(c) This Ministry has no other Advisory Committee.

(d) and (e). Yes, Sir. The list of persons approved for appointment as non-official members in the selection committee for selection of films for Doordarshan is given in the *Statement* enclosed.

STATEMENT

List of Persons approved by the Government for appointment as non-official Members in the Selection Committee for feature films

1. Shri Shailendra Shankar	Former DG: Doordarshan, Associated with Films and Society movement.
2. Shri K.C. Sharma	Former DG: AIR, an eminent Author Media Critic.
3. Ms. Sundari Sridharani	Director, Triveni Kala Sangam.
4. Smt. Indu Jain	Poetess
5. Ms. Ranjana Gauhar	Dancer
6. Shri Kamal Bhasin	3-A. (18 Flats), Friends Colony, New Delhi-110065.
7. Ms. Usha Joshi	Arts and Culture
8. Miss Kumkum Chadha	Writer and Journalist
9. Shri Idris Dehvi	Film Journalist, Editor 'Sushma'
10. Shri M.N. Roy Choudhury	Former Dy. Director General, AIR
11. Smt. Gayatri Roy	Social worker
12. Shri Jag Mohan	Journalist, author, art critic and filmologist.
13. Shri Raghunath Raina	Former Director, Film Festival and News Services Division of AIR.
14. Shri Mohd. Shamim	Special Correspondent, Times of India, also a Film Critic
15. Smt. Vijaya Mule	Eminent Educationalist, Film-maker and media person.
16. Shri Gautam Kaul	Leading Film Critic and closely associated with film society movement.

17. Shri Pankaj Bhatia	Journalist. Writer and Eminent Film-Critic.
18. Shri G.S. Khosla	Play-writer and Theatre Director.
19. Smt. Meenakshi	Department of Music and Fine Arts, Delhi University.
20. Shri Mani Madhukar	Writer. Director
21. Shri Brijendra Rahi	Writer. Director.
22. Shri D.P. Ray	Writer. Social Worker
23. Shri Rajendra Bagordia	Writer
24. Shri Ajay Koshish	Film Critic. Writer
25. Mrs. Padma Sachdev	Film Critic. Writer
26. Shri G.K. Dhawan	Film Critic. Writer
27. Shri Vinod Dua	Eminent Media person
28. Mrs. Jayashree Sathe	Literature
29. Mrs. Joy Michael	English Theatre
30. Mr. Barry John	English Theatre
31. Mrs. Vijay Daksh	Social Worker 220, Prakash Nagar, Rly. Road, Khurja, U.P.
32. Mr. Ved Pratap Vaidik	Chief of PTI Bhasha, Delhi.
33. Shri Keshav Kothari	Secretary, Sangeet Natak Academy
34. Dr. Satish Chandra	Eminent Educationist.
35. Mrs. Tara Ali Beg	Social Worker
36. Prof. Indra Nath Choudhuri	Secretary, Sahitya Academy.
37. Mrs. Deepa Kaul	Social Worker.

[Translation]

Telecommunication Circle

942. SHRI SHRI RAM CHAUHAN : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any scheme is under consideration for opening of new telecommunications circle offices in the country;

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

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether there is any scheme to increase the number of telephone connections at Basti Town;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) Question does not arise.

(c) As per the policy of the Department of Telecom. Circle Offices are generally opened at the State capitals subject to adequate workload. There is no justification for opening of any new Circle office.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) There is a proposal to add a capacity of 1000 lines for Basti Town during the year 1996-97.

(f) Question does not arise.

[English]

Integrated Plan for Promotion of Tourism

943. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are contemplating an integrated plan for promotion of tourism;

(b) if so, the details of the plan;

(c) whether such plan may attract the domestic tourists and foreign tourists;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the implementation of such plan will be beneficial for the tourism industry; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA) : (a) to (f). A National strategy for the Development of tourism in the country including Domestic and foreign Tourism has been drawn up and the specific components of plan are :

1. Infrastructure development
2. Product development and diversification including development of Mega tourism resorts.
3. Entrepreneurship development and promotion of self employment opportunities.
4. Enhanced tourist facilitation
5. Human Resources development
6. Research and computerisation
7. Promotion and Marketing.
8. Environmental protection and cultural preservation.
9. Provision of incentives.
10. Monitoring and Evaluation.
11. Strengthening of Organisation.

The implementation of the plan target 5 million Foreign Tourists by the turn of the century and envisages

aggregate direct employment opportunities to 14.17 million people.

Modernisation of the Air Traffic Control at Mumbai

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

(a) whether work is underway for the modernisation of the Air Traffic Control (ATC) system at Mumbai and Delhi airports;

(b) if so, the broad features of the modernisation project;

(c) whether similar projects are also proposed to be launched in Calcutta Airport; and

(d) if so, when and its salient features thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) and (b). Modernisation of Air Traffic Control System of Mumbai and Delhi airports has been taken up at an estimated cost of Rs. 423.89 crores. The equipment is being installed and tested. The broad features of the modernisation programme is automation of the traffic control and installation of Secondary Surveillance Radars which will enhance the Air Traffic Control handling capability of these two airports resulting in fuel saving for the airlines and less workload on the Air Traffic Controllers.

(c) and (d). Yes Sir. The Air Traffic Control System at Calcutta airport is also being augmented. The existing Primary Radar is being replaced with a new State-of-art equipment. A Secondary Surveillance Radar is also being installed at Calcutta Airport. To augment the Oceanic control an Automatic Dependent Surveillance System is also under installation. The work is planned to be completed by May, 1997.

Films and Television Institutes

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

(a) whether the Government propose to set up Film and Television Institutes in various States;

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

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

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

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) The Government have recently, in addition to the Film and Television Institute of India at Pune, started another Institute, namely, the Satyajit Ray Film

and Television Institute at Calcutta. The Government has no proposal to set up more Institutes at present.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d). Requests for setting up of Film and Television Institutes are received by the Government from time to time. Recently, requests have been received for setting up of such Institutes in the North-East and in Kerala. Due to paucity of resources, at present there is no proposal to set up any Film and Television Institute in addition to the existing two Institutes.

Parcel Staff Raided by CBI

946. SHRI HARIVANSH SAHAJ : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that some parcel staff working at New Delhi Railway Station were raided in the month of January, 1996 by CBI and a heavy amount of unaccounted money was recovered from them;

(b) if so, whether the case was registered against them;

(c) if so, the result of further investigation;

(d) whether the administration proposed to challen the delinquent staff in the court of Law; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) CBI raided the parcel office in January, 1996. Though names of outsiders have been mentioned in the FIR, neither any parcel office staff has been named nor any further information regarding involvement of any Railway Staff in corruption nor recovery of unaccounted money from parcel staff was provided by the CBI after the raid.

(b) to (e). Do not arise

[Translation]

Excavation of Metals in Himalayan Region

947. SHRI SAT MAHAJAN : Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether reserves of several precious metals have been discovered in Himalayan region through a survey conducted some years back

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

(c) whether the Union Government have formulated any scheme for the excavation of these metals; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) and (b). Geological Survey of India (GSI) has not discovered any precious mineral deposit in Himalayan Region.

However, incidence of gold is reported from the Siwalik belt along the foothills of Himalaya in the States of Uttar Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Haryana, Punjab, Chandigarh, Jammu and Kashmir and Arunachal Pradesh:

(c) and (d). Such uneconomic and low grade dispersed occurrences of gold do not justify any exploitation activity and hence, question does not arise.

Running of Trains with Adequate Brake Powers

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

(a) whether adequate brake power is not being provided for running of trains;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor, and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to run trains with adequate brake powers to prevent accidents?

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

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

STD Facility to Members of TAC

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

(a) whether members of the Telecom Advisory Committees of the States are provided with STD facility, and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) Members of TAC at State level are provided with STD facility on functional requirements of the TAC concerned.

(b) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Supply of Steel by SAIL to Madhya Pradesh

950. DR. RAM LAKHAN SINGH : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) the quantity of steel supplied to Madhya Pradesh by the Steel Authority of India during 1994-95, 1995-96 and 1996-97;

(b) the quantity of the steel supplied to the rural areas of Bhind, Datia and Morena in the State during the above period;

(c) whether the steel sheets supplied for rural areas was sold in black marketing for use in urban areas; and

(d) if so, the action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : (a) to (d). Details of saleable steel sold in Madhya Pradesh by Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) during 1994-95, 1995-96 and 1996-97 (upto October, 1996) are given below :

Year	Quantity ('000 T)
1994-95	593.1
1995-96	711.2
1996-97 (upto October, 1996)	309.6

SAIL does not sell its steel on the basis of rural/urban areas. However, sales of SAIL steel through its Branch Sales Office at Gwalior which caters to six districts of Madhya Pradesh including Bhind, Datia and Morena Districts, have been as follows during the above period :

Year	Quantity
1994-95	37.250 M/T
1995-96	42.292 M/T
1996-97 (upto October, 1996)	15.625 M/T

[English]

Repair of Godowns

951. SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of complaints received by the Government from District Manager, Food Corporation of India, Coochbehar, West Bengal regarding repair of Godowns and provision of sheds during the year 1994-95, 1995-96 and 1996-97 (till 31.10.96); and

(b) the action taken thereon?

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

Expansion of Sahibganj Exchange Bihar

952. SHRI THOMAS HANSDA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the ten Telephone Exchanges around Sahibganj in Bihar are functioning on old telegraph system;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to provide U.H.F. system or link with Optical Fibre System for the said tribal dominated area of the State;

(c) if so, the details thereof.

(d) if not, the reasons therefor:

(e) whether ten exchanges are connected with Sahibganj Main Exchange having about 1700 connections and 8+8 STD channel facility only:

(f) if so, whether the Government propose to increase the number of STD channel facility from 8+8 to 30+30.

(g) if so, the details thereof: and

(h) the time by which the facility is likely to be provided?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) No, Sir. Eight Exchanges are working on over head carrier system and two exchanges on over head lines.

(b) Yes Sir.

(c) Bankudih, Barharwa, Bhagaiya, Gangati Taljhari, Tinpuhar, Udhwa, Barahait on UHF System.

Rajmahal, Murza Chowki on Optical Fibre Systems to be commissioned progressively during 1997-98 and 1998-99.

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

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) Yes, Sir.

(g) and (h). 15+15 Circuits by March, 1997
30+30 Circuits by March, 1999.

New Railway Zones

953. SHRI P.C. THOMAS :
SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any request from the Government of Kerala for setting up new proposed South-West Railway Zone Headquarter in Kerala.

(b) if so, the details thereof:

(c) the steps taken by the Government for the development of Railway in Kerala:

(d) whether office of the Chief Engineer (construction) has been sanctioned for Kerala in 1991:

(e) if so, whether such office has started functioning: and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A few representations have been received regarding setting up of Zonal headquarters of South-West zone in Kerala.

(c) The following works have been taken up for development of Railway in Kerala :

(i) Doubling of Kayankulam-Quilon has been completed.

(ii) Doubling of Quilon-Trivandrum is being progressed.

(iii) Doubling of Shoranpur-Mangalore has been taken up

(d) No, Sir.

(e) and (f) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Hindi Consultative Committee

954. SHRI JAGADAMBI PRASAD YADAV : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Hindi Salahkar Samiti has been constituted in the Ministry:

(b) if so, the number of sittings held so far:

(c) the number of Official Language Implementation Committees at various level in the Ministry and whether their sittings are held regularly:

(d) whether Members and Chairman of these Committees, who are responsible to encourage maximum use of Hindi are doing their own work in official language:

(e) the number of modern equipments converted into bi-lingual and the persons, places where this equipment, having Devnagari script would be used as all the records are kept in English.

(f) the reasons for non-completion of the programme in 23-24 years, which can be completed in one year, and

(g) whether it is likely to be completed this year?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. After having reconstituted the Committee on 9th March, 1995, its meeting was held on 15.11.1995.

(c) Official Language Implementation Committees have been constructed in the Ministry as well as in most of the Offices under it and efforts are made to convene their meetings in each quarter.

(d) Yes, Sir. Do their work in Hindi according to their convenience.

(e) Most of the modern equipment being used in the Ministry as well as various offices/undertakings etc. under its control have bilingual facility and instructions have been given to do maximum work in Hindi on them.

(f) and (g). Prescribed targets for some of the items in the Annual Programme have been achieved fully.

and constant efforts are being made to achieve the targets for the remaining items in accordance with the Official Language Policy of the Government which is based on persuasion and incentives.

Fake Railway Passes

955. SHRI NAMDEO DIWATHE : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that a racket is running systematically in Maharashtra and issuing fake railway passes for the last so many years;

(b) if so, whether any enquiry has been conducted in this regard;

(c) if so, the outcome thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (d) No, Sir. However, only three cases of use of fake railway passes had come to notice of railways in past many years and as outsiders were involved the cases were referred to the Police. In one case, investigation has been completed and charge sheet filed in the Court of Law. Investigations are in progress in the other two cases by the Police.

Regular preventive checks are conducted to detect such cases.

[English]

E.D. Employees

956. SHRI SUKH LAL KUSHWAHA
SHRI HARIVANSH SAHAI :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of E D Employees in the Post-Offices in Delhi Circle;

(b) whether recruitment of such employees is made through employment exchange;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the number of E D employees appointed without their names being forwarded by the Employment Exchange;

(e) whether it has come to the notice of the Government that some Assistant Superintendents have committed irregularities in such appointments;

(f) if so, whether the Government have conducted any enquiry in this regard;

(g) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(h) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) The number of ED Employees in Delhi Circle is 549.

(b) and (c). Yes, Sir. However, incase the Employment Exchange fails to sponsor the requisite minimum number of candidates within the date stipulated in the notification, applications are invited through open advertisement.

(d) The number of ED Agents appointed without sponsorship by the Employment Exchange in Delhi Circle is 3. Two were appointed from the local market as per rules and one was appointed before the condition of sponsorship from the Employment Exchange was introduced:

(e) No, Sir.

(f) to (h). The question does not arise.

Environmental Damages Caused by Eco-Tourism

957. SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the growing Eco-Tourism in the country is causing environmental damages;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government have proposals to monitor the over-growing eco-tourism being promoted by the various State Governments; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA) : (a) and (b). Although there has been a few instances of environmental degradation in the past, the concept of eco-tourism is aimed at ensuring long-term sustainability of tourist centres by following eco-friendly practices and creating awareness.

(c) and (d). The Central Government has constituted the Himalayan Tourism Advisory Board (HIMTAB) which has evolved guidelines for developing eco-tourism.

Railway Freight Charges evaded by Gang Operating in Delhi

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

(a) whether Government are aware that a gang is operating in and around Delhi and evading freight apart from sales tax;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that such evaders have been detected by the railway and sales tax authorities recently;

(d) if so, the amounts recovered from them and number of persons arrested so far involved in this modus operandi; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to prevent such incidents in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b). No information of any gang operating in and around Delhi are evading freight apart from Sales Tax has come to the notice of the Railway.

(c) and (d). During surprise checks on unbooked luggage, conducted in association with the Sales Tax Authorities of Delhi, U.P. and Haryana States during the period July to October, 1996, Railway dues amounting to Rs. 55.56 lakhs were realised and 660 packages weighing about 370 Qtls. were confiscated by the Zonal Railway. Sales Tax Authorities have withheld certain packages of consignment and also stopped delivery of 15 wagons for realisation of their dues from the Traders.

(e) Railways have intensified checks against carriage of unbooked luggage in trains.

Change of Location of HPT in Gujarat

959. SHRIMATI BHAVNA BEN DEVRAJ BHAI CHIKHALIA :
SHRI KASHI RAM RANA :
SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VERMA :

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 2473 on August 1, 1996 regarding expansion of TV transmitters in Gujarat and state :

(a) whether a request from the State Government of Gujarat regarding change of location of HPT, Dwarka is pending with the Union Government since long.

(b) if so, the reasons for delay; and

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

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) to (c). A new site for locating the High Power TV Transmitter (HPT) at Dwarka in Gujarat has since been taken over. The project is expected to be completed in about 8 years time, after approval by the competent authority, subject to availability of funds infrastructural facilities and inter-se priorities

[Translation]

Mass Rail Facilities in Jabalpur

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

(a) whether the Nagrik Manch, Jabalpur has submitted a demand letter for mass rail facilities;

(b) if so, the details of the demands;

(c) whether the Government have rejected their demands;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) if not, the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government thereon?

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

(b) (1) Introduction of a superfast train between Jabalpur and Delhi to cover the distance between Jabalpur and Delhi within 12 hrs.

(2) Attachment of A.C. first class in Nizamuddin-Jabalpur/Nagpur/Bilaspur Gondwana Express between Jabalpur and Hazrat Nizamuddin.

(c) to (e). Both the demands have been examined but not found feasible due to operational and resource constraints.

Rail Link with North-Eastern States

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

(a) the number of cities of the north eastern States connected with rail.

(b) the number of cities proposed to be connected with rail in future;

(c) whether there is any proposal to connect Jaipur with rail directly with the north-eastern States; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Twelve important cities of the North Eastern States which are connected by rail are

Guwahati, Naugaon, Jorhat, Tinsukhia, Dibrugarh, Tejpur, Mariani, Lumding, Rangia, Silchar Town and Moranhat.

(b) A rail link to Agartala has been taken up. Goalpara and Depa would also get connected by rail once the Jogighopa-Guwahati line gets completed in 1998-99.

(c) There is no such proposal at present

(d) Does not arise

[English]

Re-Employment in Public Sector Units

962. DR. ASIM BALA :
PROF. JITENDRA NATH DAS :
SHRI BALAI CHANDRA RAY :
SHRI MEHBOOB ZAHEDI :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry had issued directions to its

various public sector units not to extend the services of their employees due for superannuation and not to re-employ their retired employees:

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

(c) whether all the public sector units under the control of his Ministry have been following the above directions:

(d) if not, the details of the units which have violated the above directions; and

(e) the action taken or proposed to be taken by the Government against such units?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. This Ministry has issued instructions to the Public Sector Units under it for not extending the services of retiring officers and not to re-employ retired officers

(c) to (e) None of the PSUs has extended the services of retiring officers after the issue of these instructions. Generally, the PSUs under this Ministry are following the extant instructions on re-employment issued both by the Ministry and the Deptt. of Public Enterprises. However, some of the PSUs are required to re-employ retired personnel selectively and under very special and compelling circumstances as under :

- (i) Railway officers are not easily available/ forthcoming for deputation
- (ii) Projects in remote and difficult areas do not attract proper persons of requisite expertise
- (iii) To meet the immediate and short term needs of Public Sector Enterprises
- (iv) To maintain the continuity of incumbant on on-going projects essential for their successful completion

Post Offices in Allahabad

963 DR MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of post offices opened and proposed to be opened in Uttar Pradesh, particularly in Allahabad alongwith their locations during the current plan period, and

(b) the amount earmarked therefor during 1994-95, 1995-96 and for the current financial year?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) 113 post offices have been opened and 35 more are proposed to be opened in the State of Uttar Pradesh during the current plan. In Allahabad District alone 20 post offices were opened and 2 more are proposed to be opened. The number and locations of post offices, opened in the district of Allahabad, are given in the enclosed *Statement*.

(b) The year-wise amount earmarked for opening of Post Offices in Uttar Pradesh is as follows :

Year	Amount
1994-95	Rs 59.00 Lakhs
1995-96	Rs 99.50 Lakhs
1996-97	Rs 65.00 Lakhs

STATEMENT

Number and Location of Post Offices Opened and Proposed to be Opened in Allahabad District during the Current Plan

Number and location of Post Offices opened so far	Number and location of Post Offices proposed to be opened
1. Ranipur	1. Boond
2. Bomapur	2. Shukulpur
3. Bigahia	
4. Aura	
5. Osa	
6. Baraha Kalan	
7. Ikauta	
8. Jawania	
9. Bhagesar	
10. Lilapur	
11. Pure Kanta	
12. Nebi Bari	
13. Aladadpur	
14. Sikanderpur	
15. Pure Ghasi	
16. Buir	
17. Medua	
18. Chhatnag Ashram	
19. Mahjana	
20. Bajaha Majra-Lohra Nagar	

Relay Centres in Maharashtra

964 SHRI DATTA MEGHE : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) the places where TV relay centres have been set up in Maharashtra at present location-wise

(b) the expenditure incurred on each of the above relay centres during each of the last three years;

(c) the number of relay centres out of them are not functioning properly;

(d) the details of the steps taken to improve their functioning; and

(e) the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) Location-wise details of the existing TV Transmitters in the State of Maharashtra are given in the *Statement* enclosed.

(b) The Annual Recurring expenditure on maintenance and operation of the various types of TV Transmitters is as under .

Type of Transmitter	Annual Recurring Expenditure (Rupees in Lakhs)
HPT	35.00 (Approx.)
LPT	10.00 (Approx.)
VLPT/Transposer	1.00 (Approx.)

(c) to (e) While the overall performance of the existing TV Transmitters in the State of Maharashtra is reported to be satisfactory the complaints of malfunctioning of any TV Transmitter, whenever received, are promptly attended to and defects rectified.

STATEMENT

Location-wise Details of the Existing TV Transmitters in the State of Maharashtra

HPT	LPT	VLPT	Transposer
1	2	3	4
Ambajogai	Achalpur	Chikaldhara	Aurangabad
Aurangabad	Akot	Junnar	
Bombay	Ahmednagar	Karjat	
Bombay (DD2)	Akluj	Khed	
Bombay (DD3)	Akola		
Nagpur	Amalner		
Pune	Amravati		
	Arvi		
	Barshi		
	Bhusawal		
	Bid		
	Brahmapuri		
	Buldana		
	Chandrapur		
	Chikhli		
	Chiplun		
	Devrukh		
	Dhule		
	Diglur		
	Garhchiroli		
	Gondia		
	Hinganghat		
	Hingoli		
	Ichalkaranji		
	Jalgaon		

1	2	3	4
	Jalna		
	Kankauli		
	Karad		
	Karanja (Akola)		
	Khamgaon		
	Kinwat		
	Kolhapur		
	Malegaon		
	Manmad		
	Mihekar		
	Mhasle		
	Morshi		
	Nanded		
	Nandurbar		
	Nasik		
	Osmanabad		
	Pandharpur		
	Parbani		
	Pusad		
	Rajapur		
	Ratnagiri		
	Rissod		
	Sangamner		
	Sangli		
	Satara		
	Shahad		
	Sholapur		
	Umerga		
	Wani		
	Wardha		
	Washim		
	Yavatmal		
	Nagpur (DD2)		

Note :

HPT - High Power TV Transmitter

LPT - Low Power TV Transmitter

VLPT - Very Low Power TV Transmitter

Private Airlines

965 SHRI GULAM RASOOL KAR Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) the basis on which private airlines have been allowed to use different airport facility; and

(b) the reasons for the change in policy for giving permission to private airlines to enter the public sector?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) (i) Facilities are provided to private airlines by Airports Authority of India (AAI) on "Payment Basis"

(ii) Facilities such as counter space, office space, telephone services etc. in the terminal building are made on payment of licence fee/rental by the various airlines operating in the airport terminal.

(iii) Common user facilities like CCTV, display boards etc. are provided to all airlines free of cost.

(b) With the repeal of the Air Corporations Act, 1953 the domestic airmarket has been thrown open to both public and private sector to promote competition.

Procedure Adopted for Filing of FIRs by Passengers

966. SHRI K.S. RAYADU :
SHRI T. GOPAL KRISHNA :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the procedure adopted for filing of FIRs by passengers in case their belongings are stolen during the Railway journey, and

(b) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to check entry of luggage lifters operating in reserved coaches?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) The passengers desirous of filing FIR may do so by filling up the prescribed form available with train conductors, TTEs, Guard, Coach Attendants, Police escorts etc. for which an acknowledgement is given by the concerned Railway official. The Railway official then hands over the same to the next Government Railway Police Station or the Station Superintendent of the Station where the train stops. Passengers are not required to break their journey for this purpose.

(b) The following measures have been adopted :

- (I) Coach conductors/TTEs on duty on the train coaches have been instructed to ensure strictly the entry of bonafide passengers only, in reserved coaches
- (II) They have also been directed to ensure proper latching of the doors/windows/ vestibules during night hours.
- (III) Escorting by Government Railway Police of the long distance trains during night hours has been introduced in crime prone areas
- (IV) Instant Action Groups have been introduced on some selected trains for immediate redressal of grievances of the travelling public on the spot
- (V) Frequent announcements on Public Address System at all major/junction stations are being made in order to caution the passengers to report to Railway authority/ Police on duty about entry of any stranger/ unauthorised person in the reserved coaches.

[Translation]

Tourist Places of International Importance

967. SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR SINGH : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) the details of tourist places of international importance in the country.

(b) whether the Both Gaya tourist place in Bihar has of international importance; and

(c) if so, the facilities provided by the Union Government to tourists visiting the tourist places of international importance?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA) : (a) and (b) There are several tourist places of international importance like Agra, Ahmedabad, Ajanta-Ellora, Bodhgaya, Mumbai, Calcutta, Darjeeling, Delhi, Goa, Jaipur, Jaisalmar, Jodhpur, Kanyakumari, Khajuraho, Kullu-Manali, Chennai, Madurai, Mamallapuram, Mysore, Puri-Konarak, Pushkar, Rameshwaran, Shimla, Trivandrum, Udaipur, Varanasi, etc.

(c) The development of tourist facilities at tourist centres is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments. However, financial assistance is provided by the Central Government on the basis of specific proposals received by them. The projects assisted by the Central Government at Bodh Gaya are the following:

- (1) Toilet and drinking water facilities
- (2) Cafeteria
- (3) Public conveniences (Sulabh Shouchalaya)
- (4) Tourist Reception Centre

In addition the project assisted by the Overseas Economic and Cooperation Fund of Japan for the development of the Buddhist circuit of UP and Bihar has the following components of work at Bodh Gaya :

- (i) Landscaping
- (ii) Water supply scheme
- (iii) Electricity supply scheme

[English]

4 V-SAT's for Ladakh Region

968. SHRI P. NAMGYAL : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether 4 V-SATs sanctioned in the current financial year for installation in 4 remote Sub-Divisional Headquarters of PADUM, DISKIT, NYOMA and SANKU of Ladakh region;

(b) whether the Government has diverted these equipments to some other States in the country;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the time by which it is likely to be installed in Ladakh region?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) Two VSATs have been sanctioned for installation at PADUM and NYOMA.

(b) No Sir.

(c) Question does not arise in view of reply given under Part (b) above.

(d) VSAT at PADUM has been installed. Satellite earth station is already working at Thuse for Diskit

VASAT at Nyoma and Sanku is likely to be installed during 1997-98 subject to availability of equipment.

[Translation]

Supply of Pure Quality of Coal by CIL to SAIL

969. JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA
PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA
SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item appearing in the Hindustan Times dated October 17, 1996 captioned, "SAIL not to pay for CIL's inefficiency";

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that several public sector steel plants have been forced to close down production due to the price and quality of coal being supplied by CIL;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the names of the plants which have decided to close down?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV)

(a) Yes, Sir

(b) No, Sir.

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

Promotion of Tourism in States

970. SHRI K.D. SULTANPURI : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state

(a) the scheme-wise amount provided by the Union Government to the States during the current year;

(b) whether the hilly States have sent any schemes for the promotion of tourism; and

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

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA)

(a) to (c). During the current financial year the

Department of Tourism has identified projects amounting to Rs. 3389.43 lakhs for Financial Assistant's to State/ Union Territory Govts. including the Hilly States. The funds to the State Governments are released on receipt of detailed project proposals.

[English]

Expenditure Incurred on Gauge Conversion

971. SHRI R. DEVADASS : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state : the total expenditure incurred on conversion of gauges, providing new lines and additional trains during each of the last three years, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : The details are as under :

	New Lines	Gauge Conversion
93-94	- 213.41 crs.	815.13 crs.
94-95	- 193.61 crs.	1180.29 crs.
95-96	- 209.00 crs.	1174.97 crs.
Total	616.02 crs.	3170.39 crs.

Expenditure incurred on introduction of trains is not maintained.

Railways do not maintain information on expenditure incurred Statewise.

Acute Shortage of Personnel in I.A.

972. SHRI UTTAMSINGH PAWAR : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state

(a) whether there is acute shortage of Pilots Commanders, Instructors in the Indian Airlines; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and remedial steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. Indian Airlines has taken the following steps to overcome the shortage of commanders :

- Appointment of contractual Pilots.
- Reappointment of Pilots who had earlier left Indian Airlines.
- New agreement for revision in career pattern, providing for swifter command/conversion training.
- Appointment of B-737 Commanders from the open market.
- Promotion of Pilots to Executive cadre, resulting in increase in flying hours, flexibility

of roster/utilization and availability of Pilots in unforeseen contingencies.

Employees State Insurance (ESI)

973. SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV :
SHRI CHITTA BASU :
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY :
SHRI N.J. RATHWA :

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of employees covered under the Employees State Insurance;

(b) whether the ESI propose to bring 10 lakh more industrial workers by revising its eligibility criteria under the cover of ESI;

(c) if so, whether this issue figured at the recently held Conference of Labour Ministers of States;

(d) if so, whether some State Governments have supported the enhancement of wage limit and also increase in the rate of contribution;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) steps taken by the Government for better relation between employer and employee to boost the production?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) 66.13 Lakhs.

(b) to (e). The Labour Ministers' Conference of major States was held on 4.10.96. The Conference recommended enhancement of the wage limit for coverage from Rs. 3000/- to Rs. 6500/- and also for enhancement of the employees' contribution from 1.5% to 1.75% and employers' contribution from 4% to 4.75% of the monthly wage. Based on the recommendations of the Conference a draft notification to carry out necessary amendments in the ESI (Central) Rules, 1950 has since been issued on 31.10.96 for objections/suggestions of all concerned. Nearly 9.60 Lakh industrial workers are expected to be brought back under the ESI Scheme on issue of the amended notification.

(f) Improving employer-employee relationship and increasing productivity is a continuous process. In furtherance of these objectives the Government has recently revised the rates of Compensation under the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923. A new comprehensive Pension Scheme for industrial workers has also been introduced with effect from 16.11.1995.

Aviation Sphere

974. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR :
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have established cooperation with United States in the aviation sphere;

(b) if so, the details of the agreement made between both the countries in this regard;

(c) whether efforts are being made by the Government for Indo-US relations in the field of aviation; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) to (d). The Air Transport Agreement between India and U.S.A. was signed in 1956. The provisions of this Agreement are reviewed by the two Governments from time to time to take care of the changing traffic requirements. Salient features of the Agreement at the last round of bilateral discussions held in November/December, 1995 between the two sides are :

- (i) Indian carriers will have access to ten additional points of call in the US.
- (ii) The rights to operate to Chicago and Washington for the Indian carrier would also include fifth freedom traffic rights between London and these two points upto a maximum of seven frequencies per week. Traffic rights between London and Chicago are restricted to a maximum of three frequencies per week. Traffic rights to all the ten new points are unrestricted through all other points including those in Europe.
- (iii) US airlines have been granted two additional points of call of India.
- (iv) Code share arrangement has been agreed between Air India and United Airlines for the latter's round the world operation introduced with effect from December 15, 1995. In addition, code share flights can also be operated with airlines of any third country.
- (v) North West Airlines of USA will not be allowed entry upto January, 1997. No other US airline will start direct operations to India until 1st November, 1998.

[Translation]

Manufacturing of Railway Wagons and Coaches

975. SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ :
PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the Railway Wagons and Coaches manufacturing institutions in Public-Private Sectors including their installed capacities;

(b) whether these institutions have able to tap their installed capacity;

(c) if so, the percentage of production against their installed capacity, institution-wise;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to boost their production?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) A statement showing the installed capacities of the various manufacturing units is attached.

(b) No, Sir, not in all the cases.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The firms in private and public sectors generally fail to deliver the orders in time, though the level order has been less than their installed capacity. The detailed reasons for their failure are not known to this Ministry.

(e) Liaison with the firms and controlling Ministries is done so as to ensure that the level of production is upto the ordered quantities.

STATEMENT

Installed Capacity

Coaches :

S. No.	Firm	Installed capacity as advised by the firms	Sector
1	Integral Coach Factory, Madras	1000 BG coaches (approx.)	Government (Railways)
2	Rail Coach Factory, Kapurthala	1000 BG coaches (approx.)	
3	M/s Bharat Earth Movers Limited, Bangalore	700 BG coaches	Public
4	M/s Jessop & Company Limited, Calcutta	180 MG coaches 72 EMU coaches	

Wagons :

Statement showing Installed capacity

S.No.	Firm	Installed Capacity as verified by CA/COST Ministry of Finance in 1992 in terms of Four-wheeler Units.
1	2	3

Public Sector :

1.	M/s. Bharat Wagon & Engg. Co. Ltd./Mazaffarpur.	997
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1	2	3
2.	M/s. Bharat Wagon & Engg. Co. Ltd./Mokameh.	1107
3.	M/s. Braithwaite & Co. Ltd./Calcutta.	3494
4.	M/s. Burn Standard Co. Ltd./Burnpur.	3783
5.	M/s. Burn Standard Co. Ltd./Howrah.	4270
6.	M/s. Jessop & Co. Ltd./Calcutta.	653
7.	M/s. Southern Structural Co. Ltd./Madras. (TamilNadu State undertaking)	
Total for Public Sector		14304

Private Sector :

8.	M/s. Cimmco Birla Ltd., Bharatpur	2920
9.	M/s. Hindustan General Industries, Nangloi, Delhi	1269
10.	M/s. Modern Industries, Sahabibad, Ghaziabad.	1227
11.	M/s. Texmaco Limited, Calcutta.	5738
12.	M/s. Hindustan Development Corpn., Calcutta.	2042
13.	M/s. Binny Engg., Madras	#
Total Private Sector		13196
Total Public & Private Sector		27500

These units are new and their capacity is not yet established

In addition to the above, a small quantity of about 2000 FWUs is manufactured in the three Railway Workshops at Amritsar, Samastipur and Golden Rock.

Increase in Production by Bokaro Steel Plant

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

(a) whether the production capacity of Bokaro Steel Plant (BSP) was fixed as ten million tonnes when set up;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether acquirement of land and appointment of officers and employees has been made.

(d) if so, the reasons for reduction in its capacity to two million tonnes;

(e) whether it is a fact that few years back a decision was taken to increase its capacity upto four million tonnes; and

(f) if so, the reasons for not implementing the decision?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) No. Sir. At the time of setting up of Bokaro Steel Plant the production capacity was fixed at 1.7 million tonne.

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

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) The decision to expand Bokaro Steel Plant to 4.0 million tonne has already been implemented, and the project was completed in November, 1990.

Introduction of Dikshabhoomi Express

977. SHRI KACHARU BHAU RAUT : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received any representations for introducing "Dikshabhoomi Express" train on the occasion of 'Nirwan Diwas' and 'Diksha Diwas' of Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b). Some representations have been received in this regard including from Shri Banwarilal Purohit, M.P. and Shri S.S. Hussain, Commissioner, Nagpur Division for introduction of 'Dikshabhoomi Express' between Nagpur and Gaya. The proposal has been examined but not found feasible due to operational constraints.

[English]

Mini Telephone Exchanges

978. SHRI SYDIAH KOTA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of telephone connections required for mini telephone exchanges in rural areas;

(b) whether the Government propose to set up mini telephone exchange; and

(c) if so, the details thereof State/location-wise?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) As per the policy of the Department a Mini Telephone Exchange is planned to be set up when the registered paid demand reaches 10 or more.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House

Revenue Collection

979. SHRI T. GOPAL KRISHNA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is an alarming difference in revenue collection in different zones;

(b) if so, whether wasteful haulage, inefficient utilisation of wagon capacity, ticketless travel/pilferage in areas of Bihar, Orissa and Uttar Pradesh are the main causes of such differences;

(c) if not, the facts in this regard; and

(d) the steps the Government intends to take to arrest this revenue loss in some zones?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Figures of total earnings for the last four years are given as under :

(Rs. in crore)

Railway	1992-93	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96
Central	2700.04	3117.61	3280.58	3568.02
Eastern	1862.33	2123.93	2364.14	2544.47
Northern	2702.92	3085.05	3289.89	3807.62
N.E.	428.29	453.47	479.48	589.12
N.F.	347.15	356.73	387.96	422.23
Southern	1024.18	1184.81	1322.38	1541.02
S.C.	1528.44	1760.70	1893.15	2158.36
S.E.	2930.36	3364.45	3851.82	4286.19
Western	2485.08	2807.84	3202.35	3565.76
Metro/Calcutta	4.38	4.03	5.02	11.70
Total	16013.17	18258.62	20076.77	22494.49

- (d) I Despite the fact that there is continuous upward trend in Revenue, the Railways are continuing with the normal practice of carrying out special and surprise checks in association with special Railways Magistrates, Government Railway Police and Railway Protection Force in order to curb the evil of ticketless/irregular travel. In addition, massive concentrated checks like fortress checks, ambush checks, 96 hour drives are undertaken regularly.
- II Further, following remedial measures are taken to check theft/pilferage :

1. Escorting of trains carrying valuables and important consignments as far as possible.
2. Intensive beat patrolling in yards and other vulnerable areas/sections.
3. Joint checking at interchange points to take stock of the condition of wagons/seals carrying consignments vulnerable to theft etc.
4. RPF armed pickets are posted/ deployed in vulnerable sections as far as possible
5. Plain clothed RPF personnel are also deployed to collect crime intelligence with a view to tracking down the criminals.
6. Dog squads are deployed for patrolling in vulnerable yards and areas as per their availability.
7. Based on the crime intelligence, raids and searches are conducted on the dens of the criminals/receivers of the stolen property in order to bring them to book.
8. close-coordination between the RPF, the GRP and the local police is maintained at various levels to deal with criminals and receivers of stolen property.

Private Airlines

980. SHRI AMAR PAL SINGH : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have allowed the private airlines to transport export cargo from inland airports to international airports for transshipment to overseas destinations;

(b) if so, the details thereof, and

(c) its likely effect on the income of Indian Airlines?

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

(b) Like Indian Airlines, most Private Airlines also carry cargo in the aircraft use for scheduled flights. Detailed break-up of cargo carried by Private Airlines from various destinations is not readily available.

(c) Indian Airlines has to face the competition. However, it is expected that with the increased volume of export cargo from the country, the adverse effect on the revenue of Indian Airlines would be reduced.

Shortage of Postal Stationery

981. SHRI N. DENNIS : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a shortage of postal stationery in the country;

(b) if so, the reasons thereof, and

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

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) No, Sir. As per information available there is no shortage of postal stationery in the country.

(b) Not Applicable.

(c) Does not arise.

Redressal of the Grievances of Rail users

982. PROF AJIT KUMAR MEHTA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have made any exercise to know the normal time taken by the Divisional Zonal and Board for the redressal of the grievances/complaints of rail users;

(b) if so, the details thereof, and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to improve the system of redressal of grievances of the rail users to ensure that complaints are responded by the concerned authorities within a reasonable time?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b). No such study has been undertaken. However, the time taken for disposal of complaints ranges between 30 and 45 days. In some cases the time taken may even be more, particularly in cases where the complainant is not available for ascertaining facts of his complaints or in which more than one Zonal Railway is involved.

(c) There is already a full-fledged Public Grievances Redressal Machinery existing on the Zonal Railways as well as on the Divisions headed by the Additional

General Managers and Additional Divisional Railway Managers, respectively. Public has access to these Officers for ventilating their grievances in person.

At all the major stations in the Metropolitan cities, Public Grievances Booths have been set up to attend to public grievances and to provide on the spot redressal. The Station Superintendents also oversee and ensure proper functioning of these booths. Suggestions for improving the Passenger Amenities are also solicited and efforts made to provide better facilities to the passengers. Passenger Associations are given due representation in the DRUCCs/ZRUCCs.

The performance of Public Grievances Redressal Machinery on the Railways is periodically reviewed by the Railway Board by way of calling monthly reports from the Railways. With a view to bringing about further improvement, a cell has been set up under the Minister of Railways, headed by an Officer on Special Duty with the purpose of monitoring punctuality passenger amenities, including cleanliness and catering services of the Railways.

Foreign Investment in Mining Sector

983 DR RAMKRISHNA KUSMARIA : Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state

(a) the total number of mines in the country at present, location-wise

(b) whether the Government have envisaged any steps to avoid foreign investment in the Mining Sector, and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) State-wise number of reporting major mineral mines in the country (excluding fuel minerals) during 1995-96 is given in the *Statement* enclosed

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

STATEMENT

State	No. of Mines
1	2
Andhra Pradesh	334
Arunachal Pradesh	1
Assam	3
Bihar	186
Goa	71
Gujarat	493
Haryana	26

1	2
Himachal Pradesh	34
Jammu & Kashmir	2
Karnataka	229
Kerala	48
Madhya Pradesh	381
Maharashtra	101
Manipur	1
Meghalaya	2
Orissa	235
Rajasthan	582
Sikkim	1
Tamil Nadu	130
Uttar Pradesh	44
West Bengal	18
Total	2922

Operation of Private Airlines

384 DR. M. JAGANNATH : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether any representation has been made by the Private Airlines to allow them to operate on international routes at least to those destinations which are not being linked by Air India and India Airlines.

(b) if so, the action taken thereon.

(c) whether there is any proposal to operate Indian Airlines or Air India flight to destinations hitherto not connected so far.

(d) the international routes under bilateral rights found uneconomical by Indian Airlines and Air India, and

(e) the reasons for not allowing the private airlines at least on those uneconomical international routes?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) Some private airlines have sought permission to operate international services to the countries which are already linked by national carriers.

(b) Under the existing policy, private airlines are not designated for scheduled international operations.

(c) Air India is planning to introduce a service between India and Chicago shortly.

(d) and (e). No international route can be classified as uneconomical on a long-term basis as the financial viability of air services operations depends on growth in trade, commerce, tourism etc. over a period of time. So far, no private airlines has come forward to operate on sectors which do not promise immediate financial returns.

SAARC Conference on Child Labour

[Translation]

985. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI :
SHRI CHITTA BASU :
SHRI PRASASRAM BHARDWAJ :
SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT :

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Conference of SAARC countries held in Rawalpindi, Pakistan, have resolved to eliminate the child labour by 2000 from the region and launch a comprehensive nutrition drive in South Asia.

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether at the recent ministerial conference on "Child" of South Asia, SAARC nations also recommended that 2001 to 2010 be declared as SAARC decade on the rights of the child;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the assistance provided by India being a Member of SAARC; and

(f) the steps taken/being taken to eliminate the child labour?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) and (b). The Third SAARC Ministerial Conference on children of South Asia held in Rawalpindi, Pakistan from 20-22 August, 1996 resolved that by year 2000 child labour working in hazardous occupations should be eliminated and that severe and moderate malnutrition among under-five children reduced at least by half of 1990 level.

(c) and (d). The SAARC Ministerial Conference on children of South Asia has recommended that the years 2001-2010 be declared as "The SAARC Decade of the Rights of the Child".

(e) India's contribution to SAARC Secretariat Budget, which is based on calendar year and is paid in US Dollars, follows :

1995	-	US \$ 2,49,523.19
1996	-	US \$ 2,95,798.20

(f) Government has taken a number of steps for the rehabilitation of child labour. As part of the National Policy on Child Labour announced in 1987 project based action plan has been initiated in the areas of high concentration of child labour engaged in wage/quasi-wage employment. A major programme was announced in August, 1994 to rehabilitate child labour working in hazardous occupations. As a follow up of the programme, Government is presently engaged in the task of rehabilitation of about 2 million children, working in hazardous occupations, by the year 2002. During 1995-96, 76 Child labour projects were sanctioned for rehabilitation of around 1.5 lakh children working in hazardous occupations in 11 child labour endemic states where they are provided basic needs like non-formal education, vocational training, nutrition, health-care and stipends.

Chatra-Hazaribagh-Ranchi Railway Line

986. SHRI DHIRENDRA AGARWAL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the date on which survey had been conducted on Chatra-Hazaribagh and Ranchi railway lines;

(b) the total amount spent on the survey; and

(c) the time by which construction work is likely to be commenced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) No Survey has been conducted on Chatra-Hazaribagh line so far. For Hazaribagh-Ranchi, the updating survey has been taken up and the report is expected by end of Jan'97.

(b) Rs 7.25 lakhs

(c) Further consideration regarding taking up of the project, in consultation with the Planning Commission would be possible once the survey report becomes available.

Late Running of Trains

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

(a) whether the attention of the Government have been drawn towards the increasing incidents of late running of trains during the last three months;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b). The punctuality of trains has improved to 90.2% in August, 90.6% in September and 91.0% in October 1996 as compared to 85.9% in August, 85.9% in September and 85.3% in October, 1995.

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

Railway Lines

988. SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA' : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to lay Railway lines in the Hilly areas of Uttar Pradesh to link various religious places;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any survey in this regard has been conducted by the Government;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time by which the work is likely to be commenced?

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

(b) to (d). The details of the surveys which have been taken up in the Hilly areas of Uttar Pradesh to link various religious places are as under :-

- (i) Rishikesh-Dehradun (30 Kms.)
- (ii) Haridwar-Ramnagar via Kotdwar (125 Kms.)
- (iii) Muzaffarnagar-Haridwar Via Roorkee (95 Kms.)
- (vi) Rishikesh-Karanparyag (185 Kms.)
- (v) Chandigarh-Dehradun Via Paonta Sahib (220 Kms.)
- (vi) Kiccha-Sitargajn-Nanakmata-Khatema (55 Kms.)
- (vii) Tanakpur-Purnagiri (15 Kms.)

(e) Further consideration of the projects would be possible once the survey reports become available

[English]

Bongaon-Petrapole Railway Line

989. SHRI CHITTA BASU : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have since decided to construct the Bongaon-Petrapole Railway Line in the Sealdah-Bongaon Section of the Eastern Railway.

(b) if so, the specific steps taken in that direction.

(c) whether the Government have already taken up the matter of linking up Petrapole with Benapole with the Government of Bangladesh to establish direct Railway link between the two countries. and

(d) if so, the response of Bangladesh thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (d). A preliminary Engg.-cum-Traffic Survey for restoration of Bongaon-Petrapole has been taken up by the Railways.

The issue has also been taken up with Govt. of Bangladesh but no clearcut response has been received.

[Translation]

Criteria Adopted for Organising Light and Sound Shows

990. SHRI D.P. YADAV : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) the criteria adopted by the India Tourism Development Corporation for organising 'Light and Sound Shows' at ancient historical monuments;

(b) the expenditure incurred in organising the shows during each of the last three years; and

(c) the number of such monuments selected in Uttar Pradesh alongwith the details of income and expenditure incurred in organising such shows?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA) : (a) Presently ITDC is operating there Son-et-Lumiere (SEL) Shows at Red Fort, New Delhi, Sabarmati Ashram, Ahmedabad, Shalimar Garden, Srinagar. All these shows were mounted by the Department of Tourism, Govt. of India. The SEL Show at Red Fort Delhi was subsequently purchased by ITDC from Department of Tourism. The other two shows at Ahmedabad & Srinagar are being operated by ITDC on behalf of the Department of Tourism. ITDC has not formulated any guidelines for organising Light & Sound Show at ancient historical monuments. Nevertheless the Deptt. of Tourism extends financial assistance to State Govts. to set up SEL shows, under the guidelines of the scheme.

(b) The details of the expenditure incurred by ITDC during last three years on organising the aforesaid shows being operated by it are given below :

S.No.	Name/Place of Sound & Light Show	Expenditure in Rs. Lakhs		
		1993-94	1994-95	1995-96
1.	Red Fort, Delhi	13.34	19.02	17.37
2.	Sabarmati Ashram, Ahmedabad	4.26	5.64	5.31
3.	Shalimar Garden, Srinagar	2.59*	3.01*	4.10*

*Not in operation. Expenditure relates to maintenance only.

(c) ITDC is not organising/operating any Sound & Light Show in Uttar Pradesh. The question of income and expenditure therefore does not arise.

[English]

Airways Network

991. KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to expand the airways network for the North-East sector, 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 Government have constituted a Committee comprising one member of Parliament from each of the 7 States in North East and Sikkim, representatives of private airlines, Indian Airlines, Alliance Air, Chairman, Airports Authority of India and Director General of Civil Aviation as convener

to review the operation of air transport service in the North East and suggest improvement in the airports of the region. The first meeting of the Committee has already been held on 4.10.96.

Lanjigarh-Junagarh Railway Line

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

(a) the budgetary allocation made for completion of the construction of Lanjigarh-Junagarh railway line during the current financial year;

(b) whether the Government was requested to raise the allocation during the Budget Session;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the reaction of the Government thereon; and

(e) the amount actually released so far for the purpose during the current financial year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Rs. 1 cr.

(b) and (c) Demands were made by various MPs in this regard during discussion.

(d) Land acquisition has been taken up and work has commenced on a short stretch of land at Bhawanipatna which Orissa Govt. has made available so far. However, this line was approved by the Planning Commission to serve the proposed Alumina Plants which were to come up in the area. The Alumina Plants are now coming up elsewhere. As such, Planning Commission have been requested to clear the construction of this line as a developmental project. The question of allotting additional funds to this work would be considered once their clearance is received.

(e) Rs. 1 cr.

Dispute on Duty Free Shops at International Airports

993. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the India Tourism Development Corporation (ITDC) has sought the Government's permission to approach 'Courts of Law' against the Airport Authority of India (AAI) over a dispute on duty-free shops at international airports;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(d) the measures taken by the Government to resolve the dispute between ITDC and AAI amicably?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS, AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA) : (a) to (d). Yes, Sir. ITDC sought Government's permission to approach Court of Law against the Airport Authority of India (AAI) over a dispute on the process of allotting additional space for operating Duty Free

Shops at India's five International Airports. Having regard to the fact that the issues involved in the dispute would require an adjudication by the court, the Govt. has permitted ITDC Ltd. to approach the Court of Law for the legal remedies.

Geological Survey of India

994. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO :

SHRI NARAYAN ATHAWALAY :

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state

(a) whether the Geological Survey of India has recently discovered a huge deposits of minerals including some precious stones in the country;

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

(c) the action plan worked out for exploration of the same, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : (a) and (b). Geological Survey of India (GSI) has recently discovered deposits of minerals which include precious stone (diamond) in the country. The significant additional mineral resources established during last three years include :

State	Minerals
1	2
1. Andhra Pradesh	- Coal, Gold ore, 170 tonnes of Kimberlite material has yielded 120 pieces of diamond weighing 13.65 carats and about 225 tonnes of colluvial material yielding 13 diamonds weighing 2.65 carats.
2. Bihar	- Coal, 0.43 million tonnes of Copper-Lead-Zinc ore with 9.93% total metal content, Gold Ore.
3. Madhya Pradesh	- Coal, 7.38 metre thick of ore zone having 1.66% Copper content and 8.6% Zinc, Gold Ore, 2.17 million tonne of medium grade manganese Ore, Kimberlite pipes.
4. Maharashtra	- Coal, 0.7 million tonne of ore with 1.2% Copper, Gold Ore.
5. Orissa	- Coal, Gold Ore.
6. West Bengal	- Coal
7. Tamil Nadu	- Lignite, 3.38 million tonnes (0.05% to 0.116% Mo) of Molybdenum Ore.

1	2
8. Uttar Pradesh	- Lead and Zinc ore.
9. Rajasthan	- Lead and Zinc Ore. Gold Ore.
10. Kerala	- Gold Ore
11. Karnataka	- Gold Ore
12. Meghalaya	- 2265 million tonnes of superior grade of limestone. Basemental.

(c) 170 mineral investigations are proposed to be taken in the coming year which include about 40 Nos. of Coal and Lignite. 50 Nos. for Gold. 27 Nos. for Basemetal. 10 Nos. for Strategic and Rare Minerals. 9 Nos. for diamond. 14 Nos. for Dimensional stones and remaining around 20 Nos. for ferrous minerals. Limestone and other industrial minerals. Statement showing the above details is enclosed. Explorations of minerals are an ongoing process according to plan priority decided by the Government from time to time.

STATEMENT

Region Wise		Name of Minerals and No. of Investigations			
1	2				
1. <i>Central</i>					
Maharashtra	Gold 5	Manganese 2	Dimensional stones 2		
Madhya Pradesh	Basemetals 2	Gold 4	Diamond 1	Dimensional stones 3	
2. <i>Eastern</i>					
West Bengal and Andaman Nicobar	Basemetal 1	Gold 2	Dimensional stones 1		
Sikkim	Gold 1				
Bihar	Basemetals 2	Gold 5	Precious and Semi Precious stones 1	Rare Metal/ Rare Earth elements 1	
Orissa	Gold 3	Precious metals 1	Manga- nese 4	Precious & Semi-precious stones 3	Dimensional stones 1
3. <i>North Eastern</i>					
Arunachal Pradesh	Industrial Minerals 2				
Assam	Gold 2				
Meghalaya	Gold 1	Dimensional stone 1	Industrial Minerals 2		
Manipur	Nil				
Tripura	Nil				
4. <i>Northern</i>					
Uttar Pradesh	Basemetals 2	Gold/Strategic minerals 5	Dimensional stones 1		

1	2			
Punjab	Nil			
Haryana	Basemetal 2	Rare Metals 1		
Himachal Pradesh	Basemetal 2	Strategic Minerals 2		
Jammu and Kashmir	Basemetal 1	Strategic Minerals 1		
5. <i>Southern</i>				
Andhra Pradesh	Gold 5	Diamond 4	Dimensional stones 2	Industrial Minerals 2
Karnataka	Gold 10	Dimensional Stones 1		
Tamil Nadu and Pondicherry	Molybdenum 5	Dimensional stone 1	Refractory Minerals 1	Industrial Minerals 2
	Rare Earth and Rare Metals 1			
Kerala	Clay 1	Gold 3	Dimensional stone 1	
6. <i>Western</i>				
Rajasthan	Basemetals 8	Gold 2	Lignite 2	Dimensional stone 1
Gujarat	Basemetal 2			
7. <i>Airborne Mineral Surveys and Exploration Wing</i>				
Mineral Surveys 8 Nos. of Investigations, Airborne Geophysical Surveys 5 Nos. of Investigations, Ground Evaluation of Aero-geophysical anomalies 7 Nos. of Investigations.				
8. <i>Coal Wing</i>				
40 Investigations for coal and lignite in the States of West Bengal, Bihar, Orissa, Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra.				

[Translation]

Less Number of Unreserved Coaches in Long Distance Trains

995. SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the difficulties being faced by the labourers travelling to Delhi, Punjab and various parts of the country from Purnia, Bihar due to less number of unreserved coaches in long distance trains; and

(b) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government for increasing the unreserved coaches in long distance trains?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b). At present, 2-7 Second class unreserved coaches in addition to two second class passenger-cum-luggage vans are available on most of the long distance trains which by and large cater to the unreserved travel needs. However, during certain periods like holidays, marriages, festivals, sowing and harvesting seasons, when there is heavy rush, Railways arrange special trains and augmentation of trains. Further the frequency of 5209/5210 Jansewa Express, a fully

unreserved train between Amritsar and Barauni has been increased from bi-weekly to triweekly from October, 1996.

[English]

Assurance to the Passengers

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

(a) whether the Government have given any assurance to the international passengers travelling to Gulf from Calicut Airport that the user's charge being levied on them at Calicut airport shall be dispensed with; and

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

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

(b) Does not arise.

Euro Issue of V.S.N. Ltd.

997. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Comptroller and Auditor General of India in his recent report has expressed concern about the sudden scrapping of the Euro-issue-proposal of Videsh Sanchar Nigam Ltd. in May, 1994;

(b) whether enquiries have since been made into the circumstances of the scrapping of the proposal; and

(c) the extent of loss estimated to have been incurred by the Government as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) The Director General of Audit, Post and Telecommunications has forwarded a copy of Draft Paragraph on deferment of Euro Issue" for inclusion in the C & AG Report, Union Govt. (Commercial) No. 3 of 1997 and has given an audit analysis of the case

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

Broad Gauge Line from Lumding to Silchar

998. SHRI DWARAKANATH DAS : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Broad Gauge Line from Lumding to Silchar as proposed in the Railway Budget for 1996-97 is likely to go via Badarpur Railway junction of Karimganj District of Bihar;

(b) whether there is any proposal to extend the above line from Badarpur Railway Junction to Kumarghat in Tripura; and

(c) if so, by when the proposed Broad gauge line is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. However, Badarpur Junction is not located in Bihar but in Assam.

(c) The Lumding-Silchar Gauge Conversion has been sanctioned and work is being taken up. It is expected to be completed by the end of the 9th Plan. Gauge Conversion of linked lines beyond Badarpur/Silchar are expected to be taken up thereafter as per availability of resources.

AIR/Doordarshan Projects

999. DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state the details of AIR/Doordarshan Projects proposed to be taken up during the Ninth Plan, State-wise; location-wise?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : The Ninth plan proposals of All India Radio and Doordarshan are still under formulation. Hence, it would not be possible to specify the details thereof.

[Translation]

Superstitions in Serial

1000. SHRI GANGA CHARAN RAJPUT : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether most of the serials based on sorcery, hypocrisy and superstitions are being telecast on television;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken or being taken by the Government to stop the telecast of such serials?

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

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

Copper Mines under HCL

1001. SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI :
SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR :

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Copper mines under Hindustan Copper Limited;

(b) the production in these mines during each of the last three years;

(c) whether the Government have reviewed the performance of the smelters and refineries under the HCL;

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

(e) whether the production of copper is sufficient to meet the demand of the country;

(f) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(g) the steps taken to boost the production of the copper?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) and (b) Hindustan Copper Limited (HCL) a Public Sector Undertaking under the Ministry of Mines is presently having nine operating mines. The unitwise production of different mines of the Company for the last three financial years is given below :

		(In tonnes)		
		1993-94	1994-95	1995-96
(i)	Indian Copper Complex group of Mines (Mosaboni, Pathargora, Surda, Kendadih and Rakha mines) in Bihar	12,38,221	11,28,928	10,58,957
(ii)	Khetri Mines (Khetri, Kolihan and Chandmari mines) in Rajasthan	16,87,279	16,56,643	16,03,931
(iii)	Malanjkhand Copper Project (Malanjkhand Mines) in Madhya Pradesh	19,90,799	19,20,385	20,27,386

(c) and (d) The performance of the Company including smelters and refineries is regularly reviewed on a quarterly basis. The performance of two Smelters and Refineries of Hindustan Copper Ltd. for the last 3 financial years are as under :

		(In tonnes)		
		1993-94	1994-95	1995-96
<i>Smelter/Refinery</i>				
	Blister Copper	37160	90454	40259
	Refined Copper (Cathode)	39002	46134	41153

(e) and (f) The present indigenous copper production is not sufficient to meet the entire demand of the country which is around 3 lakhs tonnes per annum. The installed capacity of Hindustan Copper Limited which is the sole producer of primary copper in the country is only 47500 tonnes per annum. Because of the low grade of copper ore available in the country, the cost of production of refined copper from indigenous sources is higher and only a fraction of domestic requirement is met from indigenous sources and balance requirement is met through imports.

(g) With the opening of the economy and the reduction of customs duty on copper concentrate, a number of new units are being set up in the private sector which would be based on imported concentrates. Hindustan Copper Limited also has formulated scheme for expansion of its Khetri Smelter and Refinery from the existing capacity of 31,000 tpa to 1,00,000 tpa at an

estimated cost of Rs. 528.65 crores. On the successful implementation and completion of the expansion scheme, the copper production of Hindustan Copper Limited will substantially increase by 70,000 tpa.

Settlement of Railway Claims

1002. SHRIMATI CHHABILA ARVIND NETAM Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state

(a) the criteria laid down for settlement of railway claims.

(b) the time taken in settling the railway claims.

(c) whether the Government have received any complaint regarding corruption in settlement of railway claims, and

(d) if so, the action taken by the Government against the guilty officials?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Compensation claims is paid in case where Railways are liable under the provisions of the Railways Act 1989.

(b) While average time taken in settlement of goods compensation claims has been 32 days during 1995-96, it was around 10 months in case of accident compensation claims.

(c) During the last 3 years, 24 complaints of corruption in settlement of Railway claims were received by the Vigilance Department.

(d) 26 staff were taken up under penal action and in two cases, the matter is under investigation.

[English]

Encroachment of Railway Land

1003. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Railway land of more than 2400 hectares worth crores of rupees has been encroached upon in different parts of the country as reported in "The Hindustan Times", New Delhi of August 17, 1996;

(b) if so the details of Railway land under encroachment and area of land unutilised, as on October 31, 1996 zone-wise;

(c) the value of land under encroachment, how and by which date Government propose to get the encroached land vacated;

(d) whether the Government have fixed any responsibility as to how the Railways in each zone allowed such a vast area of land encroached and action taken thereon, and

(e) how the Government propose to utilise the unutilised land under each zone?

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

(b) 2457 hectares of Railway land is under encroachment and 24845 hectares is lying unutilised. Zone-wise details are given below

Zone	Area of land (in hectares)	
	Under encroachment	Unutilised
Central	64	146
Eastern	85	2600
Northern	900	1828
NE	115	4560
NF	304	2610
Southern	83	2040
SC	84	8670
SE	715	501
Western	107	1890
Total	2457	24845

(c) Value of land is assessed by the Land Revenue Department of the State Government and varies from place to place. Action against the encroachers of Railway land is taken under the Public Premises (Eviction of Unauthorised Occupants) Act, 1971 continuously.

(d) Railway land is mostly encroached in cities. These are poor people who come to cities in search of

their livelihood and when they find that they cannot afford a dwelling because of high cost of dwelling in urban areas, they put up jhuggies on the railway land adjacent to railway stations, which is mostly in long strips along railway tracks. Action against these encroachers is taken promptly by the concerned officials. However, they have to act in accordance with the Provisions of Public Premises (Eviction of Unauthorised Occupants) Act, 1971. The problems of removal of encroachments has also an element of law and order as the encroachers get general sympathy, being mostly from the poor sections of the society which enables them to continue on the encroached railway land despite sincere efforts of the Railways. Still, strict instructions have been reiterated to railway officials to prevent encroachment on railway land and remove encroachment.

(e) Unutilised land is kept reserved by the railways for locating their operational and service infrastructure and to meet future development requirements.

Demands by Coolies

1004. SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a representation regarding the demands was handed over to Railway Minister on his visit to Kanpur in September, 1996 by the authorised coolies of Kanpur Central Railway;

(b) if so the details thereof;

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon;

(d) whether the Government are also aware of a large number of unauthorised coolies and their mode of working at Kanpur Railway Station; and

(e) if so the details thereof and the steps proposed to be taken to remedy the situation?

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

(b) Demands made in the representation of railway coolie unions are as under

(i) Immediate transfer of badges to the dependants/successors of deceased coolies.

(ii) Powers of transfer of badges should be delegated to Station Manager Kanpur.

(iii) Posting of a railway official for dealing with the matters of coolies exclusively.

(iv) Coolies should be declared as Class-IV employee with all the facilities of a railway employee.

(v) The work of parcel/goods handling should be entrusted to the coolies.

(vi) Grant of medical and education facilities and also issue of proper uniform and railway passes to the coolies.

- (vii) All the facilities available to the coolies should be displayed on the Notice Boards at the station and should also be advised to the unions.

(c) The licensed porters are appointed on the recommendation of a Selection Board constituted for the purpose. Since the coolies are not railway employees, they are not entitled to the facilities given to the railway employees. However, licensed porters, their spouses and dependent children can avail of the medical facilities in the railway hospitals and the health units. Two red shirts are supplied to them every year as uniform. In addition, it has also been decided to supply one set of winter uniform to them. 75% concession is allowed to them for travel by rail. Badges of coolies are transferred to the dependants/successors by the competent authority subject to fulfilment of certain terms and conditions and it is not possible to delegate these powers to Station Manager, Kanpur. Since the Licensed Porters are meant for carrying of luggage of the passengers, they are not normally utilised for handling of parcels/goods at the station. Adequate arrangements exist for managing matters relating to Licensed Porters at Kanpur Station.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Coverage of Doordarshan in States

1005. SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) the percentage of population covered by Doordarshan in each State.

(b) whether there is any proposal to provide cent percent coverage in all the States, 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). Whereas the satellite derived service of Doordarshan is available to both 100% population as well as area of the country with the help of an appropriate dish antenna system, terrestrial transmission is also available to an estimated 85.8% population of the country as per the Statewise details given in the Statement enclosed. With a view to provide terrestrial TV service to the population living in hitherto uncovered areas, 476 TV transmitters of varying power are presently under implementation/envisaged to be set up in the country, depending on availability of resources and other infrastructural facilities required for the purpose. On commissioning of these projects, terrestrial TV service is expected to be available to an estimated 92.8% population of the country.

STATEMENT

Population-wise TV Coverage in States/Union Territories (As on 21.11.1996)

S.No.	State/U.T.	Present coverage (%age of population)
1.	Andhra Pradesh	81.9
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	44.4
3.	Assam	82.0
4.	Bihar	93.0
5.	Delhi	99.9
6.	Goa	99.9
7.	Gujarat	80.5
8.	Haryana	98.5
9.	Himachal Pradesh	64.5
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	91.7
11.	Karnataka	69.9
12.	Kerala	87.0
13.	Madhya Pradesh	70.9
14.	Maharashtra	85.2
15.	Manipur	66.4
16.	Meghalaya	97.2
17.	Mizoram	72.3
18.	Nagaland	47.2
19.	Orissa	82.0
20.	Punjab	99.9
21.	Rajasthan	64.4
22.	Sikkim	95.0
23.	Tamilnadu	91.3
24.	Tripura	93.3
25.	Uttar Pradesh	92.4
26.	West Bengal	96.0
27.	A and N Islands	99.0
28.	Chandigarh	99.9
29.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	43.6
30.	Daman and Diu	99.9
31.	L' Dweep Islands	99.0
32.	Pondicherry	99.9
National Average		85.8

Closing Down Siemens Factories

1006. SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that the Siemens proposes to shut down its two factories at

Aurangabad and Calcutta which have been practically idle since inception due to lack of orders from the Department of Telecommunications:

(b) if so, the number of persons likely to be rendered unemployed as a result of the proposed closure of these factories; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government for their rehabilitation/welfare?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) to (c). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Promotion of Cultural Tourism

1007 SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI :
SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE :

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government propose to draw a plan for the improvement of cultural ambience around the tourist spots in the country;

(b) if so, whether the State Governments are being consulted in this regard;

(c) the tourist spots identified by the State Government of Orissa.

(d) whether the Union Government have asked the India Tourism Development Corporation to prepare plan and programme for the purpose.

(e) if so, the scheme prepared by the India Tourism Development Corporation in the matter; and

(f) the details of the places selected by ITDC as the venue of the cultural festival scheduled for the current financial year?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA)

(a) and (b). The Department of Tourism has a new scheme for Refurbishment of monuments under which financial assistance is provided to State Governments to improve the surroundings of the monuments/heritage sites. The assistance is provided for the projects identified in consultation with State Governments.

(c) The following projects have been identified for Central financial assistance

- 1 Refurbishment of monuments heritage sites Ratnagiri.
2. Refurbishment of monuments heritage sites at Lalitgiri.
3. Refurbishment of monuments heritage sites at Udaigiri.

(d) No Sir.

(e) and (f). Does not arise.

[Translation]

Distribution of Postal Articles in Rural Areas

1008. SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state

(a) the details of the categories of employees engaged for the delivery of postal articles in rural areas along with the details of the facilities/pay scale given to them;

(b) whether these employees are not satisfied with their duties;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether there are any complaints regarding postal delivery in rural areas;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BEN PRASAD VARMA) : (a) to (f) As on 31.03.1996, 79958 Extra Departmental Delivery Agents are entrusted with the job of postal deliver work in rural areas of the country. The Extra Departmental Delivery Agents are entitled to consolidated monthly allowances ranging between Rs. 240/- and Rs 420/- depending on their workload. In addition, they are also paid the following

(i) Dearness Allowance @ 159% of basic allowance.

(ii) Interim Relief of Rs 50 w.e.f. 16.9.93, 10% each subject to Minimum of Rs. 50/- w.e.f. 1.4.95 and 1.4.96 respectively.

(iii) Fixed Stationery Charges @ Rs. 2/- per month.

(iv) Cycle Maintenance Allowance where applicable @ Rs. 30/- per month.

(v) Ex-gratia bonus paid once a year on the basis of their actual emoluments for the same number of days as paid to departmental employees.

(vi) Uttarakhand Division Allowance.

The Extra Departmental Agents of Uttarkhand Division are being paid on extra allowance of Rs. 40/- per annum in the month of September every year provided they have worked continuously as Extra Departmental Agent since March of that year.

(vii) Group Insurance Scheme

The Extra Departmental Agents are also covered by a Group Insurance Scheme with effect from 1.4.1992. The scheme is optional for the Extra Departmental Agents already in employment before 1.4.1994 and is compulsory for the Extra Departmental Agents appointed on or after 1.4.1992. The scheme

gives a risk cover for Rs. 10,000/- on payment of Rs. 10/- per month. Out of this Rs. 3.50 goes for insurance cover and Rs. 6.50 is the savings component. If an Extra Departmental Agent retires or leaves his job, he is paid the accumulated savings component with interest. In case of death, the nominee is paid Rs. 10,000/- plus accumulated savings component.

- (viii) Ex-gratia Gratuity Rs. 6,000/-. The minimum mandatory service required for payment of Ex-gratia Gratuity is ten years.

There is no resentment among the ED Agents engaged in delivery of Dak in rural areas in regard to the delivery work.

There are instances of people of rural areas complaining against the employees in regard to delivery of Dak. These complaints relate to delay in delivery of mail and payment of money-orders in rural areas. This delay occurs due to various reasons such as cancellation/late running of mail carrying buses, trains and planes, natural calamities like floods, landslides, etc.

Efforts made by the Government to resolve the problems relating to delivery of dak in rural areas include holding regular meetings with the State Transport Authorities, Railways, Indian Airlines and other appropriate authorities at the State and National level. The transmission and delivery of mails and money-order in rural areas is also continuously monitored at various levels and prompt remedial action is taken wherever failures are noticed.

[English]

Expansion of Telephone Exchanges in Begusarai

1009. SHRI SHATRUGHAN PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal for the expansion of telephone exchanges in Begusarai district of Bihar is lying pending with the Union Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time by which the expansion work is likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) and (b). Expansion of Telephone exchanges in Begusarai District has been planned. The details of telephone exchanges likely to be commissioned is given in the Statement enclosed.

(c) The work has already started and is likely to be completed by March, 1997 subject to availability of materials.

STATEMENT

Details of telephone exchanges planned for expansion during 1996-97 in Begusarai District (Bihar).

Name of Exchange	Type of Exchange
Babhangama	CDOT 256 P RAX
Bachhwara	CDOT 256 P RAX
Bakhri Bazar	CDOT 256 P RAX
Barauni	CDOT 256 P RAX and NEAK expansion.
Bhagwanpur	CDOT 256 P RAX
Bihat	CDOT line Module
Majhaul	CDOT 256 P RAX
Mansurchak	CDOT 256 P RAX
Rani	CDOT 256 P RAX
Begusarai	CDOT MBM 2000 lines
Bisanpur	CDOT 256 P RAX
Lakhminia	CDOT 256 P RAX
Matihani	CDOT 256 P RAX
Rajaura	CDOT 256 P RAX
Ramdiri	CDOT 256 P RAX
Sahebpur Kamal	CDOT 256 P RAX

[Translation]

Raids Conducted

1010. SHRI MAHESH KUMAR M. KANODIA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of raids conducted by Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) and Vigilance Department of the Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited to unearth the corruption and irregularities prevailing therein and number of persons arrested in this respect alongwith their names; and

(b) the charges proved on the number of persons out of them so far and the nature of punishment awarded to them?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) and (b). Information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House.

[English]

Setting up Nagpur as Distribution Centre of SAIL

1011. SHRI ANANT GUDHE : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether Vidarbha Steel Rollers Association has submitted any memorandum for development of Nagpur as conversion and distribution centre of SAIL in view of its central location and allotment of 50% of the defective

and commercial semis being auctioned/tendered/allotted by Bhilai Steel Plant every month to Nagpur:

(b) if so, any other demands made by the Association; and

(c) the action taken by the Government in view of the provision of funds to secondary steel producers out of steel development funds collected by Joint Plant Committee (JPC) and conversion of training institution of National Institute of Secondary Steel Technology (NISST) into full fledged technical institution?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV):

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

[Translation]

Handicapped Quota

1012 DR BALIRAM: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether reservation for handicapped persons in Group C and D posts have been considered in the Department Examination

(b) if so, the number of candidates selected during the last three years till date Group-wise Circle-wise.

(c) whether complaints have been received from the handicapped candidates for not providing reservation for any post

(d) if so, the details thereof, and

(e) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) Reservation for handicapped persons in Group 'C' and 'D' is considered at the time of recruitment on the basis of result of examination as envisaged in DOP & T O M No. 36035/17/85-Estt (SCT) dated 14/1986.

(b) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

Air Service between New Delhi and Hong Kong

1013 SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Air India propose to introduce a new air service between New Delhi-Hong Kong.

(b) whether air services pact has been signed between India and China in this regard.

(c) if so, the details thereof.

(d) whether similar agreements were made between both the countries in the past also, and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM): (a) Air India is already operating five services a week between Delhi and Hong Kong.

(b) to (e) The air services operations between India and Hong Kong were earlier regulated by the India - UK Air Services Agreement. A separate Air Services Agreement has now been signed between India and Hong Kong on 10th October, 1996.

Installation of Transponders and Interrogators

1014 SHRI DEBI PRASAD PAL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the major Indian airports where transponders and interrogators have been installed.

(b) the airports where these are non-functional and the reasons therefor.

(c) whether the shortcomings in ground control infrastructure had been pointed out to the Airport Authority of India by the President Indian Commercial Pilots Association long back.

(d) if so, the action taken thereon so far.

(e) whether Government propose to review the working of the ground navigation instruments installed at Indian airports keeping in view the recent air disaster 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) The 'Transponders' are provided in the aircraft. The Airports Authority of India (AAI) has undertaken installation of ground based Secondary Surveillance Radar (SSR) Interrogators at Delhi, Mumbai, Calcutta, Chennai, Guwahati, Hyderabad and Thiruvananthapuram airports and the SSRs at Hyderabad and Thiruvananthapuram airports have been commissioned.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. AAI have installed the necessary SSR and other navigational aids.

(e) and (f) All the navigational systems are being regularly checked by the AAI to ensure adherence to the international performance standards.

[Translation]

Promotion of Tourism in Jammu and Kashmir

1015 SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH
SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM
SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the proposals received by the

Union Government from the Government of Jammu and Kashmir for the development and promotion of tourism in the State during each of the last three years:

(b) the number of proposals cleared/rejected and under consideration:

(c) the reasons for rejecting the proposals: and

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Union Government to revive tourism in the State and to restore to its lost glory as a tourist attraction?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA):

(a) and (b) The Department of Tourism provides Central financial assistance to State Governments on receipt of specific proposals. During the last three years the Department of Tourism has provided funds amounting to Rs. 514.58 lakhs for 32 projects. The details are at the Statement enclosed.

(c) and (d) The Department of Tourism has constituted a Task Force for the development of Tourism in the Himalayan Region including Jammu and Kashmir.

STATEMENT

Project/Schemes Sanctioned During 1993-94

(Rs. in lakhs)

S.No.	Name of the Project	Amount sanctioned	Amount released
1	2	3	4
<i>Jammu and Kashmir</i>			
1	Four huts at Batot	18.00	9.00
2	Four huts at Dera Ki Gali	14.00	7.00
3	Tourist Bungalow at Bani	28.08	14.00
4	Tourist complex at Achimathang	17.36	2.00
5	Tourist bungalow at Durbug (Pongong Lake)	22.06	5.00
6	Tourist complex at Karsha	17.11	8.50
7	Tourist Bungalow at Tsomoriri Lake	20.65	5.00
8	Tourist Bungalow at Atholi (Paddar)	19.29	9.50
9	Tourist huts at Soti Gondow Bhaleasa	6.45	3.00
10	Tourist Bungalow at Leh	19.73	15.00
11	Tourist Bungalow at Charer-i-Sharief	26.57	13.00
12	Aquatic sports equipment at Ujj. Bairaj	0.90	0.88
13	Procurement of aquatic sports at Mansar Lake	2.00	2.00

1	2	3	4
14.	Procurement of aquatic sports at Bagh-i-Bahu	2.45	2.00
15.	Procurement of aquatic sports Salal Lake	10.45	5.00
Total		225.69	100.88

Projects/Schemes Sanctioned for the Year 1994-95

(Rs. in lakhs)

S.No.	Name of the Project	Amount sanctioned	Amount released
<i>Jammu and Kashmir</i>			
1	Tourist complex at Sanasar	28.08	25.00
2	Tourist complex at Patni Top	27.75	11.00
3	Tented colony at Pangong Lake	15.50	7.00
4	Tourist complex at Rajouri	24.02	12.00
5	Tourist complex at Lama Yuru	17.12	9.00
6	Fairs and Festivals	1.40	1.40
7	Tented colony at Sarchu	15.00	2.34
8	Tents for Nusra Valley	15.00	7.25
9	Tents for Tsomrari Lake	15.00	7.00
10	Printing of publicity material	2.70	1.40
11	Tented colonies with aquatic sports by JKTDC	15.50	2.00
12	Tented colonies/accommodation at Nubra Valley	15.50	7.25
13	Aquatic sports by JKTDC at Tsomoriri Lake	13.57	13.57
14	Purchase of tented accommodation at Sirchu on Leh-Manali road	9.84	2.34
Total		215.98	108.55

Projects/Schemes Sanctioned for the year 1995-96 to Jammu and Kashmir

(Rs. in lakhs)

S.No.	Name of the Project	Amount sanctioned	Amount released
1	2	3	4
<i>Jammu and Kashmir</i>			
1	Construction of Tourist accommodation at Katra Vaishno Devi	28.00	10.00

1	2	3	4
2	The renovation of Gompas at Hemis	20.00	09.20
3.	Tourist Complex at Nubra	25.00	12.00
	Total	73.00	31.20

Stoppage of Hazrat Nizamuddin-Londa Goa Express at Kopargaon Station

1016 SHRI BHIMRAO VISHNUJI BADADE : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Hazrat Nizamuddin-Londa Goa Express 2479 UP and 2480 DN train does not stop at Kopargaon (Maharashtra) station;

(b) if so, whether there is any proposal to provide a stoppage of this train at Kopargaon for the followers of 'Sai Baba' to visit Shirdi; and

(c) if so, the time by which the stoppage is likely to be provided at the Kopargaon station?

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

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Railway Reservation System

1017 SHRI ANNASAHIB M.K. PATIL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state

(a) whether the attention of the Government have been drawn to the news-item appearing in the 'Nav Bharat Times' dated September 12, 1996 captioned 'Railway Ke Aarakshan Kendron Ki Halat Bhayavah';

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) whether any action has been taken by the Government to improve the condition of these Railway reservation centres; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) to (d). New software named CONCERT was introduced in Delhi Passenger Reservation System (PRS) in replacement of old software on 9.9.96. To enable the data to be converted to make it suitable to the new software, advance reservation work was closed on 8.9.96 as this activity could not be carried out while simultaneously carrying on the reservation work at the counters. The reservations for the current days trains and those leaving from the train originating stations upto 1200 hrs. of 9.9.96 were handled manually and for this necessary arrangements had been made at various train originating stations.

Wide publicity about the closure of the reservation office of Delhi PRS on 8th September, 96 was given to the public well in advance through all leading newspapers as well as through Akashvani and Doordarshan. The new software started functioning from the morning of 9.9.96. There were teething problems on 9th and 10th September when some of the terminals intermittently malfunctioned. This affected the reservation work at various locations, causing inconvenience to passengers and was the cause of the adverse publicity in the Nav Bharat Times of September 12, 1996.

Necessary steps have been taken to ensure that system functions smoothly and without interruption to passenger bookings. For this purpose, a close watch is being maintained over the software round the clock and no serious problem has been reported after 19th September, 1996.

[English]

Privatisation of Services Sectors in the Trains

1018. KUMARI SUSHILA TIRIYA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are considering to privatise some of the services sectors in the trains;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether such facilities are satisfactory and have already been extended to several trains; and

(d) if not, the reasons for privatising services in trains?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (d) Various services on trains such as catering, bed rolls, leasing of accommodation for carriage of parcels in luggage compartment of passenger trains had been entrusted to private parties on a few trains. Based on experience gained, a decision has been taken to manage the bed rolls supply departmentally.

Sanction of Chapter for Institute of Travel and Tourism Management

1019 DR T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state

(a) whether the State Government of Andhra Pradesh had urged the Union Government to Sanction Chapter for the Institute of Travel and Tourism Management which will assist in making available trained manpower in the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether on 5th August, 95 Tourism Minister's Conference had laid emphasis on the development of tourism throughout the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof:

(e) whether the Union Government have considered the proposal of Andhra Pradesh:

(f) if so, the places which has been considered as tourist centres and tourist attraction:

(g) whether the Government have agreed to provide funds for the development of these areas to attract more foreign tourists to visit these places in Andhra Pradesh: and

(h) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA):

(a) and (b). Yes Sir, the Government of Andhra Pradesh had sent a proposal to open a new Chapter of Indian Institute of Tourism and Travel Management in Hyderabad. In view of the constraint in resources, the proposal of Government of Andhra Pradesh has not been taken up.

(c) and (d). Yes Sir. The main points which emerged were:

1. Tourism promotional strategy should include development of tourism product, augmentation of accommodation and infrastructural facilities and preservation and beautification of tourist centres.
2. Identification of Regional Travel Circuits.
3. Identification of monuments by the State Governments for development and refurbishment and upgradation.
4. Development of Rail Tourism.
5. Stress on Eco-Tourism and protection of tourist sites from deterioration.

(e) to (h). In consultation with the State Government, the Department of Tourism has prioritised the following projects for Central financial assistance in 1996-97:

1. Rs. 75 lakhs for additional construction of the Yatri Niwas at Tirupati.
2. Rs. 20 lakhs for the purchase of Boats and Launch for Bhavani Island, Vijayawada.

The Union Government have also identified Hyderabad-Nagarjuna Sagar-Tirupati Circuit for intensive development.

In order to publicise Andhra Pradesh as a tourist destination, the Union Government has brought out publicity literature on Andhra Pradesh and also extended financial assistance to promote various Fairs and Festivals such as Deccan Festival, Rayala-Seema Food Festival and Visakhotsav.

Restrictions Imposed by Doordarshan

1020 SHRI RAM NAIK: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Doordarshan has recently imposed

certain restrictions, such as increase in the fees, programme timing etc.:

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C. M. IBRAHIM): (a) to (c). No restrictions have been imposed for giving programmes/advertisements on Doordarshan. However, as part of its ongoing activity to rationalise its rate card, keeping in view the emerging market trends, Doordarshan has revised its rate structure of commercial advertisement w.e.f. 15.11.96 enhancing thereby rates in certain categories.

Persons Engaged in Beedi Industry

1021 SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated number of persons engaged in the beedi industry;

(b) whether most of the persons out of them belonging to scheduled castes/scheduled tribes and backward classes and women are in large number among them.

(c) whether permission has been given by the Government for manufacturing of small cigarettes in competition with beedis and for the purpose of giving incentives to small cigarette producers.

(d) if so, the details thereof.

(e) if so, the details of the loss suffered by the beedi workers and beedi producers due to small cigarettes; and

(f) the steps taken by the Union Government to avoid such a situation?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) The estimated number of beedi workers in the country is 42.73 lakhs.

(b) Yes, Sir. A large number of beedi workers belong to scheduled castes, scheduled tribes and other backward classes.

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

Pending Cases with Industrial Tribunals

1022 SHRI I. D. SWAMI: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 255, dated July 11, 1996 and state:

(a) if the information has since been collected;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) to (c). The requisite information is still awaited from the State Governments of Andhra Pradesh, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Manipur, Nagaland, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tripura, Pondicherry and Union Territory of Daman and Diu. The matter is being pursued vigorously. On receipt of the information, a statement will be laid on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

Programmes Under Commissioned Programmes

1023. SHRI LALIT ORAON : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 1724 dated July 25, 1996 regarding producers in Doordarshan and state :

(a) whether the requisite information in regard to part (c) has since been collected.

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the time by which it is likely to be collected?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) All out efforts are being made to collect the information at the earliest.

Sick Iron Ore Mines

1024. SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN : Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

(a) the number of sick iron ore mines in the country at present, State-wise.

(b) the reasons for their sickness.

(c) since when these mines have fallen sick;

(d) whether the Government propose to revive these mines; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) There is no provision in the Mineral Conservation and Development Rules for furnishing information by the mine owners on sick mines.

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

(d) and (e). Government has no specific scheme for revival of mines which have closed or work temporarily discontinued. However, where the closure is due to lack of demand, it is felt that steps taken to liberalise the economy and increase in industrial production would

result in increasing demand for minerals and to make operations of such mines economical.

[English]

Creation of Air Freight Cities

1025. SHRI VIJAY GOEL : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a proposal under consideration of the Government for the creation of air freight cities near Palam, Delhi for smooth operation of air cargo service.

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when the proposed air freight cities are likely to come in existence?

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

(b) This proposal envisaged setting up of a company with India Trade Promotion Organisation, Airports Authority of India, Haryana Warehousing Corporation, and Central Warehousing Corporation as promoters for establishing a comprehensive cargo storage/clearance facility in or around Chauma village in Haryana.

(c) No final decision has been taken on this proposal so far.

Revision in Wages and DA Formula for PSUs

1026. SHRI HARADHAN ROY : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether non-implementation of wage revision and new DA formula in public sector undertakings create a lot of industrial unrest and hardships to the workers; and

(b) if so, the time by which wage revision and new DA formula is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) and (b). Government vide DPE's OM's dated 12.4.93 and 17.1.94 have delegated full autonomy to public sector enterprises for concluding long term wage agreements with their workers in accordance with the prescribed parameters. The new DA formula has been extended to the unionised staff and workers in PSUs vide DPE's OM dated 29.9.95. Revision of wages is therefore done by managements of individual undertakings in accordance with outcome of their negotiations and within the parameters laid down by the above Government guidelines.

Telecom Regulatory Authority

1027. SHRI B.L. SHARMA PREM : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to set-up Telecom Regulatory Authority of India;

(b) if so, the major features of the proposal:

(c) the time by which it is likely to be effected:

and

(d) the details of the telecom sector proposed to be thrown open to the private agencies?

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

(b) The requisite information is given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India will be set up after the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India Bill, 1996 is considered and passed, with amendments, if any, by Parliament.

(d) The manufacture of various types of telecom equipment has been opened to the private sector as also franchise to private Indian registered companies on non-exclusive basis for such value added services as cellular mobile telephone, radio paging, electronic mail, voice-mail/audiotex, videotex, videoconferencing and public mobile radio trunked services.

2. In addition to basic telephone services, the following services are also open to private agencies :

- (i) Captive VSAT networks for closed user group;
- (ii) Private telecommunication networks on circuits leased from DOT;
- (iii) Commercial use of fax on telephone;
- (iv) Group EPABXs;
- (v) Local, STD/ISD PCOs on franchise basis.

STATEMENT

Major Features of the Proposed Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI)

The main functions of the TRAI include the following :

- (a) to protect the interest of consumers of telecommunication services;
- (b) to settle disputes between service providers;
- (c) to ensure compliance of licence conditions by all service providers;
- (d) to ensure technical compatibility and effective interconnection between different service providers;
- (e) to regulate arrangements amongst service providers in respect of sharing of revenue derived from providing telecommunication services;

(f) to levy fees to such rates and in respect of such services as may be determined by regulations;

(g) to facilitate competition and promote efficiency in the operation of telecommunication services so as to facilitate growth of such services; and

(h) to ensure effective compliance of universal service obligations.

2. The Authority, which would have a Chairman and Members enjoying security of tenure, would be entrusted with, inter-alia, the following powers :

- (a) to seek information on all aspects of service provider's activities;
- (b) to seek information, advice and inputs from any source it deems necessary;
- (c) to investigate, suo-moto, any matter which in its opinion constitutes public interest;
- (d) to inspect facilities, books and records of operators/service providers;

3. The Authority would have an in-built dispute settlement mechanism and would adjudicate on matters such as technical compatibility and effective inter-connection, revenue sharing arrangements, quality of service etc. falling within its jurisdiction.

[Translation]

Tourism Projects Submitted by Rajasthan

1028. PROF RASA SINGH RAWAT : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the State Government of Rajasthan has sent projects pertaining to tourism development to the Union Government during each of the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of the projects approved/pending with the Union Government alongwith the financial assistance provided for each of the project;

(d) the delay for according approval to the pending projects, and

(e) the number of Heritage Hotels of ITDC and Rajasthan Tourism Development Corporation (RTDC) in the State?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA) (a) to (d). The details of projects prioritized in consultation with the State Government and sanctioned by the Department of Tourism during the last three years to the State of Rajasthan are at the Statement enclosed.

(e) There are 27 Heritage Hotels consisting of 697 rooms in Rajasthan in the private sector.

STATEMENT

Projects/Schemes Sanctioned during 1993-94

(Rs. in lakhs)

S.No.	Name of the Project	Amount sanctioned	Amount released
<i>Rajasthan</i>			
1.	Conservation of Jaisalmer Fort (50% 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
6.	Tourist bungalow at Bikaner 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
16.	Floodlighting of Jaisalmer Fort	33.24	10.00
Total		260.43	132.93

Projects/Schemes Sanctioned during 1994-95

(Rs. in lakhs)

S.No.	Name of the Project	Amount sanctioned	Amount released
1	2	3	4
<i>Rajasthan</i>			
1.	Tourist Bungalow at Hanuman Garh	18.76	9.00

1	2	3	4
2.	Tourist bungalow at Bhilwara	18.76	9.00
3.	Wayside amenities at Sanchore	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 Vishramsthali (Pacca structure)	24.38	11.38
9.	Yatrika at Mahandipur-ka-Babaji.	15.38	5.00
10.	Yatrika at Kailadevi	20.24	5.00
11.	Financial assistance for camping site at Jhalawar in Rajasthan	10.50	4.25
12.	Palace-on-wheels	500.00	500.00
Total		662.78	567.37

Projects/Schemes Sanctioned During 1995-96

(Rs. in lakhs)

S.No.	Name of the Project	Amount sanctioned	Amount released
<i>Rajasthan</i>			
1.	Wayside amenities at Balesar	5.50	2.70
2.	Wayside facilities at Fatehgarh	4.58	2.25
3.	Tourist Cottages at Chotan	18.27	0.10
4.	Wayside facilities at Chandan	4.58	2.25
5.	Tourist amenities at Jhunjhunu Shakambari Mata and 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.	Conservation work at Osian Temples.	13.00	4.30
13.	Conservation of Rani Ka Mahal, Jaisalmer	9.20	4.60
14.	Development around India Gandhi Nahar, Bikaner.	9.20	6.00
15.	Cultural Festival at DMi Haat	0.30	0.30
		164.65	33.56

[English]

Design of Wagons

1029. SHRI NARAYAN ATHAWALAY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are considering to improve the design of wagons and upgradation of technology for manufacturing of wagons and locomotive coaches;

(b) if so, the details of proposals finalised/under consideration implications thereof;

(c) the details regarding import of locomotives/coaches made during the last three years and proposals under consideration for the current year;

(d) whether the Government are considering to import specially designed coaches for specific trains to attract and promote the tourism; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Yes, Sir. Design improvements and upgradation in technology of rolling stock viz. locomotives, coaches and wagons is a continuous process.

(b) Among others, a few recently finalised technological upgradation proposals are as under :-

(i) *Electric Locomotive* -

Transfer of technology from M/s. ABB, Switzerland for indigenous manufacture of state-of-art technology energy efficient electric locomotive with 3-phase a.c. drive, GTO based thyristor, microprocessor control having regenerative braking feature as energy saving device at Chittaranjan Locomotive Works, Chittaranjan.

(ii) *Diesel Locomotives* -

Transfer of technology agreement with M/s. General Motors, USA for manufacture of modern fuel efficient 4000 HP Diesel locomotives at Diesel Locomotive Works, Varanasi.

(iii) *Coaches* -

Transfer of technology agreement with M/s. Linke Hofmann Busch, Germany for manufacture of modern light weight coaches at Rail Coach Factory, Kapurthala.

(c) No import of Diesel Locomotives or coaches has been made during the last three years and it is also not likely to materialise during the current year.

The details of energy efficient 3-phase a.c. drive, GTO based, microprocessor control Electric locomotives imported under Transfer of Technology during last three

years and the proposals for the current year are as under :-

(i) Ten passenger locomotive alongwith one loco as bank of spare and six fully assemble freight locomotive have been received so far during 1995-96 and 1996-97. Besides, ten freight locomotive in semi knocked down/completely knocked down condition have also been received during 1996-97 and four freight locomotives along with two locos as bank of spares in semi knocked down/completely knocked down condition are expected to be received during 1996-97 from M/s. ABB, Switzerland which will be assembled at Chittaranjan Locomotive Works, Chittaranjan.

(ii) There is no proposal under consideration for importation of electric locomotive for the current year.

(d) Government have not considered importing of coaches specially designed for tourist traffic but has permitted the tourist train operators to obtain specially designed coaches for this purpose either import or from India.

(e) As the tourist train operators are yet to finalise the design and their source of coaches, no details are yet available.

Railway Bridge on Ghaghra River

1030. SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to construct railway bridge on Ghaghra river in Ayodhya;

(b) if so, the time by which the work on above bridge is likely to be started and completed; and

(c) if not, the reason therefor?

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

(b) Foundation stone has been laid by Prime Minister on 18.08.96. Tenders for the bridge from pre-qualified firms have been floated. Work is planned to be completed within the 9th Plan.

(c) Does not arise.

Introduction of more EMU trains between Bardhaman and Asansol

1031. SHRI BALAI CHANDRA RAY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to introduce more EMU trains between Bardhaman and Asansol section;

(b) if so, whether any new services proposed to be introduced during the current year;

(c) whether any steps have been taken to fulfil the demand of the people to start EMU service between Bardhaman and Chittaranjan and between Asansol and Chittaranjan;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether more EMU trains proposed to be provided in this section to reduce over-crowding of Asansol-Bardhaman section; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Introduction of trains service including EMU/MEMU services is a continuous process on Indian Railways subject to traffic justification and operational feasibility and resource availability.

(b) There is no such proposal at present

(c) and (d). Eight (8) pairs of M/EMU locals alongwith two (2) conventional rake trains serve the Bardhaman-Asansol section. Running of M/EMU trains on Bardhaman-Chittaranjan or Asansol-Chittaranjan section can be considered only after electrification of Asansol-Madhupur-Jha-Jha section

(e) There is no such proposal at present

(f) Operational and resource constraints.

[Translation]

Roads Digging in Himachal Pradesh

1032 SHRI SAT MAHAJAN : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Public Works Department has dugged up roads in Himachal Pradesh for laying the telephone cables;

(b) if so, whether the Government have made full payment to the Public Works Department of the State;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the time by which the full payment is likely to be made in this regard?

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

(b) to (d). Invariably the payment for the road cutting and restoration is paid in advance before commencement of cable laying on the basis of approximate calculation. The final bills are settled on actual measurements and in case of disputes joint inspection is also done. Out of the bills of Rs. 22.8 crores received for the period 1.4.93 to 30.9.96 only

Rs. 4.8 crores are pending due to various reasons given below.

(i) Rates charged by PWD field units are at variance than those fixed by State Government.

(ii) Disputes about measurements.

(iii) Dispute about type of road.

(iv) In cases, where digging has not been completed. However, a letter has been received from Hon'ble Minister, PWD, H.P. Government indicating the balance amount as Rs. 10.21 crores Chief Engineer, PWD, H.P. has been requested to supply the details so that the figures are reconciled.

(e) All efforts are being made to make the Payment of pending bills within two months wherever the works are completed and no dispute exists.

[English]

Telephone facility to Freedom Fighters

1033 SHRI SOUMYA RANJAN : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether telephone facility on priority basis is available to freedom fighters;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, whether the Government propose to provide such facility?

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

(b) The freedom fighters are eligible for one telephone connection at a place where they are normally available under Non-OYT/Swatantra Senani (Non-OYT-SWS) category : subject to technical feasibility. No installation fee is charged under this category and only half of the normal rental is charged. This facility is also available to the widows of the freedom fighters who are in receipt of pension under Freedom Fighters family pension scheme.

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

PCO in West Bengal

1034 SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of requests received by West Bengal Telecom Circle, Calcutta from individuals/associations/ Clubs regarding providing of PCO and tax facility at Mathabhanga district Coochbehar (West Bengal) during the year 1996;

(b) if so, the steps taken thereon; and

(c) the time by which these facilities are likely to be provided?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) Number of requests received are 39.

(b) 18 cases have been processed and approved. The balance will be considered after the capacity of the exchange is increased. Out of 18 approved cases, 11 Demand Notes have been issued. Other approved applicants have not responded for completion of formalities.

(c) On receipt of payment of the Demand Notes by the applications.

Opening of Head Post Office at Sahibganj

1035. SHRI THOMAS HANSDA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a proposal for opening a Head Office at Sahibganj is pending with the Government since 1993;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor

(c) whether any survey has been conducted;

(d) if so, the details thereof, and

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

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) to (e). On receipt of representation from the public representative regarding upgradation of Sahibganj Post Office to Head Post Office, a report was called for from Bihar Circle in 1993. On the basis of the said report, it has been found that there is no justification for upgradation of Sahibganj Post Office to Head Post Office as per Departmental norms.

Payment of dues by PSUs

1036. SHRI SHANTILAL PARSOTAMDAS PATEL : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state

(a) whether the Government have issued the directives for payment of statutory dues to employees of Public Sector Undertakings.

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

(c) whether there is a delay in the disbursement of dues to those employees who have sought retirement under Voluntary Retirement Scheme and

(d) if not, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) and (b). It is a mandatory obligation of the management of PSUs to pay the statutory dues to the workers in time. However, certain

sick Central Public Sector Enterprises have not been able to pay statutory dues to the workers in time due to shortage of funds. Whenever Ministry of Labour receives any such complaint of non-payment of statutory dues to the workers the matter is taken up with the concerned administrative Ministries as well as Ministry of Finance so that funds are made available in time for payment of statutory dues. The State-wise details are not available as the status changes with time.

(c) and (d) Ministry of Labour received a complaint regarding non-payment of dues to the employees of a unit of NTC located in West Bengal who had superannuated under VRS. The matter has been taken up with the Ministry of Industry and the administrative Ministry for appropriate action.

Shifting of Air Force

1037. SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT :

SHRI NAMDEO DIWATHE :

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

(a) whether the Government propose to shift Civil Construction office of the Superintending Engineer Electrical AIR from Nagpur to Calcutta.

(b) if not, the reasons therefor, and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to provide suitable accommodation, specially to Adivasis and Backward communities?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C. M. IBRAHIM) : (a) to (c). A proposal has been made to the Government by Directorate General. All India Radio in this regard. However, no decision has been taken yet on this proposal. All pros and cons would be weighed while taking a final decision in the matter

[Translation]

Flights of Air India

1038. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state

(a) whether it has been made known at international level that the flights of Air India are risky and

(b) if so, the steps being taken for improving the situation?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C. M. IBRAHIM) : (a) No, sir. Highest international safety standards are being maintained by Air India.

(b) Does not arise

Laying of Railway Line

1039. SHRI R.L.P. VERMA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a railway line from Giridih to Ranchi via Hazaribagh-Kodarma was sanctioned by the Government in 1991;

(b) if so, the total outlay of the project; and

(c) the time by which the project is likely to be started?

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

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

[English]

Technical Committee for Air Bus

1040. SHRI P.C. THOMAS : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have constituted a committee to carry out a thorough study to assess whether Airbus can be safely operated to/from Cochin airport;

(b) if so, the composition of the Committee;

(c) the recommendations made by the Committee; and

(d) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. A Committee has been constituted with representatives of the Director General of Civil Aviation, Indian Airlines, CTE, Hyderabad and Airports Authority of India.

(c) and (d). The Committee has not yet submitted its report.

Unemployed Youths

1041. SHRI SAMIK LAHIRI :

SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS :

SHRI BAJU BAN RIYAN :

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) the number of unemployed youths in the country during each of the last three years, State-wise, category-wise;

(b) the number out of them provided with employment, year-wise, State-wise, category-wise;

(c) the number likely to touch by the end of Eighth Plan;

(d) whether the Government propose to provide unemployment allowance to unemployed youths in the country;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the number of State which have implemented this scheme?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) to (c). The estimates of employment and unemployment are obtained through are detailed Labour force surveys carried out by the National Sample Survey Organisation once in five years. The last such survey was carried out in 1993-94 and only the key results have been published so far. Annual estimates of employment and unemployment are not attempted.

(d) No sir.

(e) Does not arise.

(f) As per the information available, nine States implement schemes under which unemployment allowance is paid.

[Translation]

Electrification of Rail Routes

1042. SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of rail routes electrified in Madhya Pradesh so far;

(b) the details of rail routes in the State on which the electrification work is in progress and present position thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) The details of railway lines electrified in Madhya Pradesh are as under :

Section	Routes Kms.
1	2
1. Jamga-Bortalao	382
2. Kirandul-Kotpar Road	180
3. Hetampur-Datia	125
4. Nurgarh-Vikramgarh-Alot-Thuria	171
5. Champa-Korba-Gevra Road	45
6. Basai-Matakiila	6
7. Dhaura-Itarsi-Darimeta	478
8. Dhaunkheri-Bhawani Mandi	13
9. Kurlasi-Chaumahala	53

1	2
10. Nagda-Bhopal	238
11. Itarsi-Burhanpur	257
12. Bina-Katni-Bilaspur and Anuppur-Bishrampur/Chirimiri	777
13. Durga-Muranda	16
Total	2741

(b) and (c). At present, no electrification work is in progress in Madhya Pradesh. There is no proposal at present for electrification in Madhya Pradesh during near future.

Jobs to Pilots

1043. SHRIMATI BHAVNA BEN DEVRAJ BHAII CHIKHALIA :
SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) the number of persons in the country having Commercial Pilot Licence (CPL), Senior Commercial Pilot Licence (SCPL) and Air Lines Transport Pilot Licence (ALTP);

(b) the number of persons out of them having foreign converted licence;

(c) the number of above licence-holders out of them who are still unemployed; and

(d) the steps being taken to provide them jobs?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C M IBRAHIM) : (a) Licence-wise, the number of persons are as follows :

(i) Commercial Pilot Licence (CPL)-3643

(ii) Senior Commercial Pilot Licence (SCPL)-1153

(iii) Airlines Transport Pilot Licence (ALTP)-2119

(b) Different foreign converted licences numberwise are as under :

(i) CPL - 450

(ii) SCPL - 1

(iii) ALTP - 16

(c) and (d). No records of employed/unemployed pilots are maintained. Moreover, issuing of licences is not linked with demand for employment of pilots.

Water Logged Areas

1044. SHRI V.M. SUDHEERAN : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the

difficulties experienced by the telephone consumers of water logged areas in the country particularly in Kerala;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the remedial steps taken in this regard?

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

(b) Following difficulties are experienced :

(i) Restricted accessibility in water logged areas causes delay in restoration of faults.

(ii) More number of Telephone instruments going faulty due to moisture.

(c) Steps taken for improvement :

(i) Network upgradation by reliable media both for local and junction working.

(ii) Improving the quality of telephone instruments.

(iii) Replacement of Electro-Mechanical Exchanges by Electronic Exchanges.

(iv) Replacement of fault prone paper core cables by moisture proof jelly filled cables.

Extension of Bhopal-Rajkot Express upto Jabalpur

1045. SHRI DADA BABURAO PARANJPE : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a proposal to extend the Bhopal-Rajkot Express upto Jabalpur; and

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

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

(b) Does not arise.

Tender System in Railways

1046. SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH
KUMARI UMA BHARATI :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to formulate any scheme for making the tender system of Railways more transparent to check bungling therein;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) The existing Tendering System followed by the Indian Railways is based on the elaborate procedures laid down in the Indian Railway Stores Code and it ensures transparency

in the Tendering System. This system is of long standing, which has withstood the test of time and has ample checks to ensure the transparency in purchases.

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

[English]

Modern International Technology for Diamonds Exploration

1047. SHRI S. RAMACHANDRA REDDY :
DR. M. JAGANNATH :

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to introduce modern international technology for exploiting large scale reserves of diamonds located in various States particularly in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the norms fixed for awarding contracts of minerals and

(d) whether the Government co-ordinate with Mineral Development Corporations of various States in examining the bids before awarding contract?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) to (d) The National Mineral Policy, 1993 envisages, inter-alia, induction of modern technology for High value and scarce minerals, through private participation. The grant of Prospecting Licence and Mining Lease is governed by the Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Act, 1957 and the rules made thereunder. The application for grant of Prospecting Licence/Mining Lease is to be made to the State Government only. As Diamond is included in the 1st schedule of Mines & Minerals (Regulation & Development) Act, 1957, prior approval of Central Government is required before grant of Prospecting Licence/Mining Leases.

Visit of US Team of Labour Department

1048. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether a team of U.S. Labour Department visited recently the manufacturing units engaged in the export of fabrics and leather goods to U.S.A.

(b) if so, the main purpose of their visit, and

(c) reaction of the visiting team and its impact on country's exports?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

Proposal to Appoint Tourism Development Corporations

1049. SHRI TARACHAND BHAGORA : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether for the convenience of domestic and foreign tourists the Union Government propose to appoint Tourist Development Corporation of States as booking agents;

(b) if so, whether the Rajasthan Tourism Development Corporation (R.T.D.C.) has been made as booking agents; and

(c) if not, whether these corporations are being given booking quota accordingly?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA) : (a) No Sir. The Department of Tourism does not have any commercial activity.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

[English]

Inter-State Superfast Express between Bangalore and Hubli

1050. SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that a new inter-State Superfast Express has been introduced between Bangalore and Hubli from October 1, 1996;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that another train Shatabdi Express is proposed to be introduced between Bangalore and Hubli towards the end of the year 1996, and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b) In lieu of the erstwhile 2025/2026 Bangalore-Hubli Shatabdi Express, an intercity Express train viz. 2725/2726 Express has been introduced between Bangalore and Hubli w.e.f. 1.10.96.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Command Training of Boeing 737

1051. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA :
SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Indian Airlines has stopped Command Training of Boeing 737?

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the remedial measures proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

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

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

[Translation]

Extension of Rail Services Backward Areas

1052. SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY :
KUMARI UMA BHARATI :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the rail services have not been extended to the backward areas of the country;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government have formulated any special schemes for expansion of rail services in the backward areas; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) No, Sir. The regions including backward areas having rail network are served by passenger carrying trains.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d). There are plans to develop new railway lines in the North East Region, Jammu & Kashmir.

Similarly, gauge conversions have been planned is a big way to open up the backward areas of the country. Consequent to the development of the rail network, further expansion of rail services will be planned in future.

[English]

Extension of Railway Line upto Kandla Port

1053. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to extend Gandhidham railway line upto Kandla port and convert it into Broad gauge line;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the above line is likely to be extended and converted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) A broad gauge line already exists between Gandhidham and Kandla Port in addition to the MG line.

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

[Translation]

Stay of Howrah-Bokaro Train at Bokaro Railway Station

1054. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Howrah-Bokaro Train after its arrival at Bokaro Railway station, stops for five hours;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the efforts made by the Government to extend the said Train upto Ranchi?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b). 2019/2020 Howrah-Bokaro Shatabdi Express has lieover of 4 hrs. 45 mts. at Bokaro Steel City.

(c) There is no proposal for its extension upto Ranchi due to operational constraints.

[English]

Telephone Exchange for Allahabad

1055. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the target set for setting up of telephone-exchanges in Allahabad during the current Plan period and the amount earmarked therefor;

(b) the places in Allahabad where the telephone exchanges have been set up so far and the places where the work is in progress; and

(c) the time by which the on-going telephone exchanges are likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) The details of target set for setting up telephone exchanges in Allahabad during the current plan period is given in the enclosed statement-I. The amount earmarked is Rs. 164.2 Lakhs.

(b) The details are given in the statement-II enclosed.

(c) By March 1997.

STATEMENT-I

Targets in respect of setting up of Telephone Exchanges in Allahabad during the Current Plan period (1996-97).

Name of Exchanges	Capacity planned
1	2
1. Allahabad	1000 Lines (13K-14K)
2. Allapur	1000 Lines (4K-5K)

1	2
3. Naini	1000 Lines (2K-3K)
4. Phaphamau	1000 Lines
5. T.P. Nagar	1000 Lines
6. Sirsa	Exchange Commissioned
7. Maja	Exchange Commissioned
8. Phulpur	576 Lines
9. Sirathu	296 Lines

In addition to the above, 9 number of 256 and 5 numbers of 128P CDOT type exchanges are planned to be commissioned

STATEMENT-II

Places, in Allahabad where telephone exchanges have been set up so far during the current plan (1996-97) period and places where work is in progress

Place	Status
1. Sirsa	Exchange Commissioned
2. Maja	Exchange Commissioned
3. Allahabad	Work in progress
4. Allapur	Work in progress
5. Naini	Work in progress
6. Phaphamau	Work in progress
7. T.P. Nagar	Work in progress

[Translation]

Telephone Adalats

1056. SHRI DATTA MEGHE : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state

(a) the number of Adalats held in various Telecom circles in the country during each of the last two years, State-wise Circle-wise

(b) the number of cases settled by these Adalats and the number of cases pending, and

(c) the time by which the pending cases are likely to be settled?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) (a) to (c): The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House

Firozabad Train Accident

1057. SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of persons killed/injured in Firozabad

train accident and the number of persons out of them have been given compensation by railways.

(b) the number of people who have not been given any compensation so far and the criteria laid down for providing such compensation.

(c) the details of the measures taken/proposed to be taken by the railways to avoid recurrence of such rail accidents on this route and other routes of Express Trains including Delhi-Agra route; and

(d) the time by which these measures are likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b) In the rear-end collision between 4023 UP Kalindi Express and 2801 UP Purushottam Express on 20.8.95 at Firozabad station, 310 persons were killed and 252 persons were injured.

Out of the 468 cases filed with Railway Claims Tribunal, compensation has been paid in 345 cases, 31 cases have been dismissed and in the balance 92 cases, compensation will be paid soon after these are decreed by the Tribunal.

The payment of compensation is governed by the Railway Accident (Compensation) Rules, 1990. Under these rules, the amount of compensation payable in case of death or permanent disability is Rs. 2 lakhs. For other injuries, the amount varies from Rs. 16,000/- to Rs. 1,80,000/- depending upon the nature and gravity of injuries suffered.

(c) and (d) Measures taken to prevent such accidents

(i) The Government has accelerated track circuiting works on trunk routes and important main lines.

(ii) The distance between starter and advanced starter is being reduced to 180 metres at road-side stations.

(iii) Track circuit ahead of starter signal is being provided to make the starter signal red after the passage of the train.

(iv) Signal circuits are being modified to ensure admission of only one train on a running line at any given time in station section.

(v) The radio based emergency communication system between station staff, driver and guard of the running train is being introduced as one of the measures to prevent such untoward eventualities.

(vi) In addition ongoing safety measures like counselling, inspections/checks, monitoring have been intensified.

The above measures are being progressively implemented.

[English]

Programmes/Serials on Rural/Tribal Culture

1058. SHRI HARIN PATHAK :
SHRIMATI CHHABILA ARVIND NETAM :

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

(a) the percentage of time has been allotted to rural/tribal culture on Doordarshan;

(b) whether the production of serials/programmes based on such culture has been gradually declining;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to encourage this culture?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) No specific percentage of time has been allotted for telecast of programmes on rural/tribal culture. However, various Doordarshan programmes exhibit rural/tribal life and culture in one way or the other. Apart from this, a time slot from 6.00 p.m. to 7.00 p.m. has also been allotted for rural programmes which includes mostly Agriculture, Health, Welfare, Women and Children, Rural Development, Folk and Rural sanitation etc. These programmes are telecast regularly from sixteen Kendras five days a week.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) It is the constant endeavour of Doordarshan to depict various facets of rural/tribal culture through its various programmes.

[Translation]

Transportation of Goods

1059. JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA
PROF PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state

(a) whether it is a fact that the contribution of Railways in transportation of goods in the country has constantly decline

(b) if so, the total percentage of transportation of goods undertaken by Railways in the country

(c) whether it is also a fact that the operational cost of railways is also increasing as compared to road transport.

(d) if so, the reaction of the Government in this regard; and

(e) the scheme prepared by the Government to reduce the operational cost?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b). Regular compilation of rail and road shares in total freight movement is not done. Last time these were compiled by the Steering Committee on Perspective Planning for Transport Development set up by Planning Commission, which submitted its report in 1988, according to which Railway's share during 1950-51 was 89% and in 1986-87 it was 51.5%. However, Economic Survey 1995-96 assesses that presently road traffic accounts for 60% of goods traffic.

(c) to (e). The operational cost depends on a number of parameters such as distance moved, the commodity being moved, the type of terrain etc. The distance over which movement by railway is economical varies from commodity to commodity. Continuous efforts are being made to reduce operational costs through improved practices and technological developments.

[English]

Late running of bi-weekly Rajdhani Express running between Patna and New Delhi

1060. SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the newly introduced bi-weekly Rajdhani Express running between Patna and New Delhi takes three hours extra time as compared to Howrah-New Delhi and Guwahati-New Delhi Rajdhani Express which runs via Patna.

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that it takes excess time due to longer route taken via Lucknow;

(c) whether the Government propose to revise the route to reduce time; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) The bi-weekly 2309/2310 New Delhi-Patna Rajdhani Express takes 2 hrs. 25 mts/2hrs 55 mts. more than that taken by 2305/2306 New Delhi-Howrah Rajdhani Express and 2 hrs/2 hrs 53 mts. more than 2423/2424 New Delhi-Guwahati Rajdhani Express between New Delhi and Patna.

(b) The route besides being longer is non-electrified having lower speeds and is largely single line between Lucknow and Mughalsarai.

(c) and (d) There is no such proposal at present as this train route serves Lucknow and Varanasi.

Recruitment on the Railways

1061. SHRI K.D. SULTANPURI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) The number of persons recruited/being recruited in Railways during the current year;

(b) whether the Govt. propose to recruit women in the Railway Protection Police Force; and

(c) if so, by when?

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

Signing the Agreement

1062. SHRI R. DEVADASS :
SHRI SYDAIAH KOTA :
DR. M. JAGANNATH :
SHRI MOHAN RAWALE :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Air India has lost Rs. 63 crores due to the signing of Wet Lease and at the time of signing the Agreement Air India was aware that Wet Lease will be significantly costlier.

(b) if so, the facts thereof.

(c) the grounds on which the agreement was approved, and

(d) the action taken/proposed to be taken against the erring officials?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) to (d) Despite knowing that wetleased operations would result in losses, Air India decided to wetlease three A-310 and two L-1011 aircraft to provide growth and to bridge capacity to expand their market presence in the long term commercial interest. This is an interim measure till Air India acquires own aircraft.

Air India has since terminated its wetlease agreement with Caribjet for one A-310 and two L-1011 aircraft due to violations of Civil Aviation requirements in their operations.

Upgradation and Validation for Air Tickets in A.I.

1063. SHRI UTTAMSINGH PAWAR : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) the norms prescribed for the upgradation and validation for air tickets in Air India.

(b) the number of air tickets upgraded and revalidated during 1995 and 1996, so far, and the authority under whose orders it has been done; and

(c) the loss suffered by Air India as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) Following categories of passengers are upgraded to the next higher class by

Air India subject to availability of seats :-

(i) A Maharajah Club member alongwith his family.

(ii) Joint Secretaries and above in all the Ministries and Departments of Government of India.

(iii) Selected passengers holding full fare tickets on commercial considerations

(iv) Off loaded passengers

No validation of tickets is required as upgradations are effected at the airport subject to availability of seats

(b) Regional Heads, on line Managers of Stations Commercial Manager of Delhi and Mumbai airports Deputy Commercial Manager, Tourism Air India are authorised to upgrade. The information regarding actual upgradations during 1995 and 1996 is not readily available

(c) No loss of revenue is suffered as upgraded passengers do not displace any revenue passenger.

Facilities to Pilgrims at Sabarimala Temple of Kerala

1064. PROF. P.J. KURIEN : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government are aware that millions of devotees visit every year the Sabarimala Temple in Kerala and that they are not provided with adequate facilities

(b) if so, whether the Union Government have received any proposal from the Government of Kerala to provide better facilities to the devotees;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the details of the action plan of the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA) : (a) to (d). Development of Tourist facilities is primarily the responsibility of the State Govt. However, the Department of Tourism provides Central financial assistance to State/Union Territory Govts on the basis of specific proposals received, their merits inter-se-priority and availability of funds.

No proposal for Sabarimala has been received from the State Govt.

Selling of Boeing-737-200S

1065. SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "IA sells its old

Boeing-737-200S" appearing in the 'Hindustan Times', dated September 20, 1996:

(b) if so, the total amount raised since last year when it began its old aircraft disposal programme;

(c) whether any time frame has been fixed for this purpose;

(d) the total aircraft strength at present which have become old;

(e) the total money likely to be earned by selling these aircrafts;

(f) the number of aircraft to be purchased for their replacement, and

(g) by what time all old aircraft will be replaced?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C. M. IBRAHIM) : (a) and (b). Board of Indian Airlines Limited approved the disposal of 8 B737-200 Aircraft. 4 aircraft have been sold to Indian parties at the cost of Rs. 24.15 crores and 2 aircraft to foreign parties for USD 7.6 million. Out of remaining two aircraft, One aircraft was heavily cannibalised and withdrawn from sale and other met with an accident and withdrawn from sale and compensation received from Insurance company.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) No, life is specified for modern transport aircraft, which may continue in operation as long as they are maintained in airworthiness condition in accordance with the procedures prescribed by manufacturers and DGCA.

(e) to (g) Do not arise.

Clandestine Radio Activities Across Borders

1066 SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item appearing in *The Sunday Observer*, New Delhi, dated September 22-28, 1996 caption "Hi-tech counter offensive to jam ISI radio waves";

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(d) how it is proposed to counter the sudden spurt of clandestine ISI radio activity across Rajasthan and Gujarat borders and the Hi-tech jamming of radio waves?

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

(b) to (d). The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

[Translation]

Export of Steel by Bokaro Steel Plant

1067. PROF. RITA VERMA : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) the quantity and value of steel exported by Bokaro Steel Plant during each of the last three years;

(b) the amount outstanding against various countries; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor, country-wise?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) :

(a) Quantity and value of steel materials exported by Bokaro Steel Plant during the last three years are given below :-

Year	Quantity ('000 MT)	Value (Rs./Cr.)
1993-94	70.86	58.76
1994-95	79.02	84.96
1995-96	40.18	49.79

(b) and (c) There is no outstanding amount on account of exports.

[English]

Conversion of Unmanned Level Crossings into Manned Level Crossings

1068. SHRI N. DENNIS : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to "man" the palliady level crossing in the Trivandrum - Kanniyakumari railway section;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to man the level crossings in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) No, Sir There is no proposal from State Government.

(b) Does not arise

(c) Sensitive unmanned level crossings will be, on a planned basis, after due prioritisation, converted into manned level crossings with the help of the State Governments who have to invest the initial capital cost.

Setting up of New Steel Producing Units

1069. DR. M. JAGANNATH :

SHRI ISWAR PRASANNA HAZARIKA :

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state

(a) whether the Government propose to set up more primary and secondary steel producing units/mini steel plants to increase output of steel;

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

(c) the long term plan drawn up for expanding/setting up of steel industry in remote and backward areas, State-wise, location-wise; and

(d) the impact of sharp reduction in import duties in 1996-97 on the production of stainless steel and alloy steel?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) :

(a) to (c). According to the new industrial policy announced in July, 1991 "Iron & Steel Industry" has been removed from the list of industries reserved for the Public Sector and also exempted from the purview of compulsory licensing. No Industrial Licence is therefore required to set up Iron and Steel production/processing facilities except for certain locational restrictions. Entrepreneurs are therefore free to set up such facilities anywhere in the country based on their commercial judgement. At present the Union Government do not propose to set up any new greenfield integrated steel producing unit in the country. However, the State Government of Orissa has proposed to set up an integrated steel plant under the name and style of Neelachal Ispat Nigam Ltd. in which some of the Central Public Sector undertakings have/proposed to have equity participation.

(d) Alongwith the reduction in peak import duties on stainless steel and alloy steel in the budget for 1996-97, import duty on stainless steel scrap, which is the basic raw material for manufacture of stainless steel products, has also been reduced from 20% advalorem to 10%, which is expected to benefit the alloy stainless steel industry.

Number of Passengers to Gulf Countries

1070. SHRI N K PREMCHANDRAN : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state

(a) the average number of passengers who travel to the Gulf countries from Trivandrum Air Port per month;

(b) whether any foreign Civil Aviation Companies came forward to undertake the services to the Gulf countries from Trivandrum Air Port;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the decision taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C M IMBRAHIM) : (a) The average monthly traffic between Trivandrum and Gulf (including Saudi Arabia and Kuwait) is of the order of 32,635 passengers.

(b) Requests have been received from designated airlines of Saudi Arabia and Qatar for operation of air

services from Trivandrum airport. U.A.E. has also sought similar traffic right for Emirates Airline.

(c) and (d) In the absence of adequate quid-pro-quo to our national carriers and due to infrastructural constraints at the airport, these requests have not been agreed to so far.

[Translation]

Norms Fixed for Selection of Regional Programmes

1071. SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA' : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state

(a) the criteria fixed for selection of regional programmes for telecast from Doordarshan Kendras;

(b) the number of proposals received in regard to Garhwal and Kumaon region of Uttar Pradesh during each of the last three years;

(c) the number of such programmes selected; and

(d) whether the Government propose to telecast more regional programmes of these areas?

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

[English]

Revival of Sick Industries

1072. SHRI CHITTA BASU : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state

(a) whether the Trade Unions in West Bengal are preparing for a general strike on the revival of sick industries and opening of closed factories;

(b) if so, the action proposed to be taken in this regard; and

(c) if so, whether the Government have since opened any dialogue with the representatives of Trade Unions of the State?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M ARUNACHALAM) : (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Allotment of Wagons for Transportation of Foodgrains

1073. SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state

(a) whether the Government have received a representation from the Federation of the All India Foodgrain Dealers Association, Delhi, regarding restoration of the Quick Transit Service.

(b) if so, the details thereof:

(c) the details of allotment of railway wagons for the transportation of foodgrains during each of the last two years and current year so far:

(d) whether the number of allotted wagons are sufficient and

(e) if not, the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to provide more wagons for the transportation of foodgrains on the permanent basis?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. A representation was received from the Federation of All India Foodgrain Dealers Association, Delhi, regarding restoration of Quick Transit Service (QTS) ex Delhi to Madras for moving the foodgrains. The QTS has, however, already been abolished as per a policy decision taken by the Ministry of Railways

(c) to (e). As per the Governmental directions movement of foodgrains offered by Food Corporation of India is given higher priority to meet the overall demands of the Nation. The movement of foodgrains on the Trade account is also given due consideration. However, due to operational exigencies and priorities for other commodities, certain time lag between placement of indent and supply of wagons is inescapable. As on 22.11.1996 indents registered five days back only were outstanding which is quite satisfactory. There are no wagons earmarked only for foodgrains and wagons are allotted as per priority to oldest date of registration. Loading of Public foodgrains in Delhi area from 1994-95 to 1996-97 (upto 22.11.96) is as under :-

Period (Year)	Loading	Withdrawn
1994-95	1434	77
1995-96	3520	15971
1996-97 (Upto 22 11 96)	3839	31817

Allotment of Private Shops in Delhi Post Office

1074 SHRI HARIVANSH SAHAI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that a number of private shops have been allotted in the Post Offices of Delhi circle:

(b) if so, the norms/criteria/rules laid down for such allotment:

(c) whether it is also a fact that most of the shops have been allotted to the minions of the officers in violation of rules:

(d) if so, whether the Government propose to conduct any enquiry in this regard: and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) and (b). Fifteen (15) post shops have been opened in Post Offices in Delhi Circle. The scheme of post shops is to provide an outlet in the post offices for items having synergy with post offices business. Details of the scheme are given in the Statement enclosed

(c) No, Sir. These post shops have been allotted after observing the due formalities.

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

STATEMENT

Details of the Scheme for Post Shop

1. Post shops can be opened in post offices functioning in Departmental buildings where adequate space is available.
2. Proposals/tenders are invited from members of the public for opening such post shops. These are examined by a committee comprising Chief Post Master General, Circle Internal Financial Adviser and Supdt. Engineer (Civil)
3. All things being equal, the highest bid in terms of emuneration offered in return for opening the post shop is accepted.
4. The expenditure for erection of any counter etc. for operating the post shop is to be borne by the selected applicant.
5. The post shop functions during office hours of the post office.

Amount Received from Licences

1075. SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the total amount in terms of licence is expected to be realised from the telecom licences awarded till now during next ten years.

(b) total amount in this regard which has been figured in the present budget of the Government and

(c) the name of the licence payees up till now?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) to (c) The required information for (a), (b) and (c) is given in the enclosed statement I, II and III respectively.

STATEMENT-I

*Licence Fee Expected to be Realised in Next
10 years*

S.No.	Service	Licence fee (Rs. in crores)
1	Cellular Mobile Telephone Services	21050.96
2	Radio Paging Services	1503.09
3	Electronic Mail Services	79.98
4	Voice Mail/Audiotex Services	13.25
5	Public Mobile Trunk Radio Services	10.85
6	Closed User Group (VASAT)	190.89
	Total	22849.02

STATEMENT-II

*Licence Fee Figured in the Present Budget
1996-97*

S. No.	Name of the Service	Budget Estimate 96-97	Revised Estimate 96-97
1	Basic Service	2074.72	614.40
2	Cellular Services	1452.80	1478.33
3	Radio Paging Services	83.46	83.57
4	Other Value added Services	19.50	19.52
	Total	3630.48	2195.82

STATEMENT-III

List of Licensee of Value Added Services

Name of the Licensee	Service area
1	2
1. (a) Cellular Mobile Services in Metro cities	
1. Bharti Cellular Ltd.	Delhi
2. Sterling Cellular Ltd.	Delhi
3. Hutchison Max Telecom Ltd.	Bombay
4. BPL Systems & Projects Ltd.	Bombay
5. Usha Martin Telecom Ltd.	Calcutta
6. Modi Telstra (P) Ltd.	Calcutta
7. Skycell Comm. (P) Ltd.	Madras
8. RPG Cellular Services Ltd.	Madras
(b) Cellular Mobile Services in Telecom Circles	
1. Aircel Digilink India Ltd.	Haryana Circle Rajasthan Circle UP(East)
2. Fascal Ltd.	Gujarat
3. Hexacom India Ltd.	Rajasthan North East
4. JT Mobile Ltd.	Andhra Pradesh Punjab Karnataka
5. Koshia Telecom Pvt. Ltd.	Bihar Orissa UP(West) UP(East)
6. Tata Communications (P) Ltd.	Andhra Pradesh
7. Escotel Mobile Com. Pvt. Ltd.	Haryana UP(West) Kerala

1

2

8.	US West BPL Cellular	Tamilnadu Kerala Maharashtra
9.	Bharati Telenet Ltd.	Himachal Pradesh
10.	Cellular Commn. India Ltd.	Madhya Pradesh
11.	Modicom Network Pvt. Ltd.	Karnataka Punjab
12.	Birla Communications Ltd.	Gujarat Maharashtra
13.	Reliance Telecom. Pvt. Ltd.	Madhya Pradesh West Bengal Assam Bihar Himachal Pradesh North East Orissa
2.	(a) <i>Radio Paging Services in cities</i>	
1.	ABC Communications Ltd.	Kanpur, Chandigarh, Ludhiana, Amritsar, Jaipur, Varanasi, Delhi.
2.	Beltron Ltd.	Nagpur, Surat, Amritsar, Ludhiana, Patna, Varanasi.
3.	BPL Ltd.	Trivandrum, Ernakulam.
4.	DSS Mobile Commn. Ltd.	New Delhi, Ahmedabad, Lucknow, Hyderabad, Pune, Bombay, Kanpur, Bangalore, Calcutta, Madras.
5.	Esy Call Ltd.	Calcutta, Hyderabad, Patna, Vishakhapatnam, Indore, Nagpur, Bhopal.
6.	Hutchison Max Ltd.	Bangalore, Ahmedabad, Chandigarh, Hyderabad, Ludhiana, Pune, Vadodra.
7.	M/s. Matrix Paging Services	Pune, Vadodara, Surat, Rajkot.
8.	M/s Microwave Commns. Ltd.	Delhi, Rajkot, Surat, Bombay, Ahmedabad, Calcutta, Vadodara.
9.	M/s Modi Telecom. Ltd.	Madras, Lucknow, Kanpur, Calcutta, Chandigarh, Indore, Jaipur, Varanasi
10.	M/s Nice Ltd.	Bhopal, Nagpur.
11.	M/s RPG Ltd.	Ahmedabad, Madras, Delhi.
12.	M/s Telecom. Infn. Ltd.	Bhopal, Coimbatore, Patna.
13.	M/s Usha Telecom. Ltd.	Ernakulam, Madurai, Indore, Coimbatore.
14.	M/s Page Point.	Bangalore, Hyderabad, Pune.
15.	M/s Teleaistem Ltd.	Bangalore, Coimbatore, Ernakulam, Madras, Madurai, Trivandrum.
16.	M/s Punwire Paging Services	Amritsar
17.	M/s Weston Pagers Ltd.	Chandigarh, Jaipur, Kanpur, Lucknow, Nagpur, Rajkot, Surat, Trivandrum, Vadodara, Vizhakhapatnam,

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18. M/s Eider PWI Paging Ltd.	Delhi, Calcutta, Bombay.
19. M/s Eider PWI Commn. Ltd.	Ahmedabad, Bangalore, Chandigarh, Ernakulam, Jaipur, Madras, Pune, and Vadodara.
2. (b) <i>Radio Paging Service in Telecom. Circles.</i>	
1. ABC Communications Pvt. Ltd.	Jammu & Kashmir
2. BPL Wireless Telecom. Services.	Karnataka Kerala Tamilnadu
3. Easycell Communications Pvt.	Assam North East Circle West Bengal Circle
4. Hutchison Max Telecom.	Punjab Circle
5. M/s Microwave Commn. Ltd.	North East Circle Orissa Uttar Pradesh Circle
6. M/s Modi Korea Telecom. Ltd.	Madhya Pradesh Rajasthan West Bengal.
7. M/s Netherlands Commn. Pvt. Ltd.	Andaman Nicobar Assam Jammu & Kashmir
8. Punwire Mobile Commn. Ltd.	Andhra Pradesh Gujarat Karnataka Kerala Madhya Pradesh Maharashtra Rajasthan Tamilnadu Uttar Pradesh
9. Punwire Paging Services Ltd.	Himachal Pradesh Haryana Punjab
10. Telesistem (India) Pvt. Ltd.	Orissa
3. <i>Electronic Mail Services</i>	
1. M/s ICNET Pvt. Ltd.	All India Service.
2. M/s Dataline & Research Ltd.	-do-
3. M/s Datapro Infn. Tech. Pvt. Ltd.	-do-
4. M/s Wipre BT. Telecom. Ltd.	-do-
5. M/s Sprint RPG (I) Ltd.	-do-
6. M/s Global Telecom. Services	-do-
7. M/s VSNL, Bombay	-do-
8. M/s C.G. Graphnet Pvt. Ltd.	-do-
9. M/s Archana Telecom. Services	-do-
10. M/s CMC Ltd.	-do-
11. M/s Swift Mail	-do-

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12. M/s Elnet Tech. Ltd.	-do-
13. M/s Mahindra Network Ltd.	-do-
14. M/s Business India Inf.	Andhra Pradesh
15. M/s Satyam Infoway Pvt. Ltd.	-do-
4. <i>Voice Mail/Audiotex Services.</i>	
1. M/s Modi Telstra Pvt. Ltd.	Bombay
2. M/s High Tech. Tele. Access	Bangalore
3. M/s Modi Korea Ltd.	Chandigarh, Indore, Jaipur, Kanpur, Lucknow, Madras, Varanasi.
4. M/s Usha Audiotel Ltd.	Bombay
5. M/s DSS Mobile Commns.	Lucknow, Ahmedabad, Pune, Hyderabad, Kanpur, Madras, Bangalore, Calcutta, Delhi, Bombay.
6. M/s Global Telecom. Services	Pune
7. M/s Hutchison Max Telecom. Pvt. Ltd.	Mumbai
8. M/s Microwave Commns. Ltd.	Delhi, Mumbai, Calcutta, Ahmedabad, Surat.
5. <i>Closed User Group 64 KBPS Data Network (VSAT) :</i>	
1. M/s Huges Escorts Commns.	All India
2. M/s Compsat Max Pvt. Ltd.	-do-
3. M/s RPG Satellite Commn. Ltd.	-do-
4. M/s Wipro BT. Ltd.	-do-
5. M/s Amadeus Investments & Fin.	-do-
6. M/s HCL Comnet Systems & Services Ltd.	-do-
7. M/s Dataline & Research Tech.	-do-
8. M/s HFCL Satellite Commn. Ltd.	-do-
9. M/s Rama Associate Ltd.	-do-
10. M/s ITI Ltd.	-do-
11. M/s Marcsat Commns. Pvt. Ltd.	-do-
12. M/s Satnet Commn. Pvt. Ltd.	-do-
13. M/s Punjab Wireless Systems Ltd.	-do-
6. <i>Public Mobile Radio Trunk Service.</i>	
1. M/s Lan Eseda Industries Pvt. Ltd.	Jalandar, Bangalore, Chandigarh, Pune, Thane, Vashi, Surat, Baroda, Calcutta, Delhi, Bombay, Ahmedabad, Coimbatore, Mysore, Hyderabad, Madras.
2. M/s Aryadoot	Vishakhapatnam
3. M/s Jasmine	Cuttack, Bhubaneswar, Dhanbad, Bhopal, Amritsar.
4. M/s ITI Ltd.	Madurai, Vishakhapatnam, Vijayawada, Tirupati, Aurangabad, Bhopal, Indore.

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5.	M/s Jet AIU Skyline Transport Co. Ltd	Indore
6.	M/s Rossell Telecom. Pvt. Ltd.	Indore
7.	M/s Link Well Telesystems (P) Ltd.	Kakinada
8.	M/s Punwire Trunking Services Ltd.	Bhubaneswar, Varanasi, Amritsar, Vijayawada, Jalandhar, Vishakhapatnam, Guhawati, Bhopal, Indore, Surat, Trivandrum, Calcutta, Baroda, Hyderabad, Bombay, Patna, Bangalore, Nagpur, Ahmedabad, Cochin, Coimbatore.
9.	M/s Darcon Systems (P) Ltd.	Bharauch.
10.	M/s Iconet Commns Pvt. Ltd.	Kodiakanal, Kotagiri, Yercaud, Elagiri
11.	M/s Linkwell Electronics Ltd.	Vishakhapatnam.
12.	M/s Procall Pvt. Ltd.	Allahabad, Kanpur, Lucknow, Varanasi, Jammu, Ghaziabad, Jaipur, Chandigarh, Jallundar, Ludhiana, Amritsar, Delhi, Faridabad, Gurgaon, Panipat
13.	M/s Pyre Lal Gupta Plantations	Ghaziabad, Delhi, Faridabad, Gurgaon
14.	M/s KLG Systel Limited	Baroda, Surat, Anklेशwar, Durgapur, Bokaro, Delhi, Ahmedabad, Bombay, Bhilai, Jamshedpur
15.	M/s Bilwara Telenet Services Ltd.	Baroda, Calcutta, Bombay, Delhi.
16.	M/s Interlink Communications Ltd	Surat.
17.	M/s ADS Communications Pvt. Ltd.	Baroda, Ahmedabad, Bangalore
18.	M/s United Liner Agencies of India.	Delhi, Kandla, Coimbatore, Belapur, Calcutta, Hyderabad, Jamnagar, Madras.
19.	M/s Anco Communications Ltd. Bangalore	Bangalore, Mangalore.
20.	M/s Global Tele-Systems Ltd. Bombay.	Calcutta.
21.	M/s Global Telecom Services Ltd., Bombay	Pune, Nagpur, Bombay, Vashi, Thane, Aswaali, Belapur, Sanaswadi, Igatpuri, Kolhapur, Khopoli, Khadwari, Khadradi, Khandala, Telegaon, Aurangabad, Nasir.
22.	M/s Global Wireless Technology Ltd.	Madras, Bangalore, Goa, New Delhi, Noida, Hyderabad.
23.	M/s Sonmoks Mobilcomm Pvt. Ltd. Bg	Hyderabad, Bangalore, Coimbatore, Mangalore, Hyderabad
24.	M/s Hofintel Ltd. Madras.	Bombay, Coimbatore, Madras, Bangalore, Hyderabad
25.	M/s Quick Calls (P) Ltd., N. Delhi	Madras, Ernakulam, Bangalore, Hyderabad.
26.	M/s Supreme Telecom (P) Ltd. Bombay	Bombay, Pune, Mangalore, Bangalore, Nazira, Indore, Raipur.
27.	M/s Smartalk Pvt. Ltd., N. Delhi	Surat, Bombay, Ahmedabad, Pune, Vashi.

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28.	M/s The Arvind Mills Ltd., Pune	Surat, Baroda, Bangalore, Ghaziabad, Gurgaon, Faridabad, Lucknow, Kanpur, Ahmedabad, Pune, Vashi, Delhi, Bombay, Madras.
29.	M/s Uptron India Ltd., Lucknow	Noida, Lucknow.
30.	M/s K Steamship Agencies P. Ltd. Bombay.	Calcutta.
31.	M/s Container Movement Trans P. Ltd.	Delhi, Ahmedabad, Pune.
32.	M/s Arya Offshore Services P. Ltd. ND	Goa, Bombay, Madras.
33.	M/s German Exp. Shipping Agency. ND	Belapur, Delhi, Madras, Calcutta.
34.	M/s Arya Transport Pvt. Ltd. Bombay.	Bangalore.
35.	M/s Ushank Telecom. Ltd., New Delhi	Hodal, Dauhara, Meerut, N. Delhi.
36.	M/s Darcon System (P) Ltd., Vadodara	Ahmedabad, Baroda, Nadiad, Surat
37.	M/s Radiant Electronics Ltd. Bhubaneswar.	Phulankhara, Daitari, Angul, Brajranagar, Rourkela
38.	M/s Punjab Wireless Systems Ltd	Indore, Bhopal
39.	M/s Eider Electronics, Chandigarh.	N. Delhi, Mumbai, Hyderabad, Madras, Calcutta, Bangalore, Ahmedabad, Pune, Jaipur, Amritsar, Jalandur, Ludhiana, Chandigarh, Surat, Vadodara.

Closure of Rourkela Steel Plant

1076. SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Electrical Sheet Mill of Rourkela Steel Plant has been closed;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government propose to reopen that Mill; and

(d) if so, by when and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) :

(a) to (d). Due to reduced demand and high cost of production compared to market price, production of Hot Rolled Dynamo Sheets from the Electrical Sheet Mill of Rourkela Steel Plant has been discontinued, for the time being. Resumption of production would depend upon economic viability and product demand in future.

[Translation]

Railway Lines

1077. SHRI N.J. RATHWA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of proposals sent by the State Governments particularly by the Government of Gujarat

regarding rail lines during the last three years as on date.

(b) the details of the proposals accepted by the Union Government for implementation; and

(c) the details of funds allocated for this purpose State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b). Proposals were received from the Govt. of Gujarat for conversion of Rajkot-Veraval, Navlakhi-Wankaner, Maliya, Surendra-nagar-Bhavnagar, Viramgam, Mahesana-Patan, Surendranagar-Rajula, Kalol-Vijapur, Ahmedabad-Himmatnagar, Dharangadhra-Kuda-Salt Siding, Gandhidham-Bhuj-Naliya, Joravarnagar-Sayala, Bharuch-Dahej, Rail link to Bedi port, linking Gandhinagar with Delhi/New Delhi.

Out of these, Gauge Conversion of Wankaner, Dahinsara-Navlakhi and Dahinsara-Maliya, Miyana, Viramgam-Mahesana, Gandhidham-Bhuj, Rajkot-Veraval have been taken up.

The surveys for Gauge Conversion of Surendranagar-Bhavnaagar line and its extension up to Pipav and for the Third Railway Track between Virat, Ahmedabad have since been completed and the report is under consideration of the Ministry.

The surveys for linking Gandhinagar with Delhi, New Delhi and Bhuj-Naliya have been taken up.

Gauge Conversion of Dharangadhra-Kuda salt siding would be taken up once the modalities for cost sharing between the Govt. of Gujarat, Salt Commissioner and this Ministry is finalised.

(c) Railways do not maintain Statewise details of fund allocated.

[English]

Fire at Calcutta's Underground Metro Railway

1078. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a fire broke out in the Calcutta's underground Metro Railway in November, 1995;

(b) if so, the main cause of the incident;

(c) whether a forensic report on the fire has revealed that it was caused by sabotage;

(d) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(e) the measures taken by the Government to check such incidents in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Yes, Sir. On 17.11.95, at 6.55 hrs. a small fire broke out underneath a coach of Up Pilot empty coaching rake which was not carrying any passengers, at Central station.

(b) The fire broke out due to the power cables of the rear-end junction box of the affected coach being cut, which was suspected to be an act of sabotage.

(c) The forensic report received from the Central Forensic Laboratory/Calcutta indicated use of a tool to cut the power cables.

(d) An FIR was lodged on 17.11.95 with the Regeant Park Police Station, Calcutta who registered a case under Section 126(A) (1)/128 of the Railways Act read with 120B, IPC.

(e) The following measures have been taken to check such incidents :-

1. Railway staff have been instructed to exercise greater vigil on unidentified persons to avoid such incidents.
2. Security in the Maintenance Sheds has been tightened up.

Industry Status to Tourism

1079. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government had asked the States to give industrial status to tourism;

(b) if so, the names of the States which have given industry status to tourism; and

(c) the names of the remaining States which have not giving the industrial status to tourism?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA) : (a) to (c). At the initiatives of Department of Tourism, the following States which have declared Tourism as an Industry.

1. Andhra Pradesh 2. Assam. 3. Bihar 4. Haryana 5. Himachal Pradesh 6. Jammu & Kashmir 7. Kerala 8. Madhya Pradesh 9. Tamil Nadu 10. Tripura 11. Karnataka 12. Uttar Pradesh 13. Pondicherry 14. Maharashtra 15. Mizoram 16. Arunachal Pradesh 17. Andaman and Nicobar Islands 18. Rajasthan 19. Lakshadweep 20. Orissa 21. Chandigarh 22. West Bengal.

The remaining States provide various incentives and concessions to Tourism related activities.

[Translation]

Demand to Increase Reservation Quota from Purnia Railway Station

1080. SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any demand for increasing the reservation quota of all the tains from Katihar (Purnia) railway station;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (c). A demand has been received for enhancement of reservation quota from Purnia in all classes. Owing to limited availability of accommodation in the trains and full utilisation of quotas by all the quota holding stations, it has not been found feasible to increase the quota for the present.

Functioning of Satna and Reeva Airport

1081. SHRI SUKH LAL KUSHWAHA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to restore the functioning of Satna and Reeva Airports in Madhya Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof; 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). Satna Airport belongs to Airports Authority of India. No airline has shown interest in operating to/from this airport. Reeva airport belongs to the State Govt. of Madhya Pradesh.

[English]

Railway Lines affected by Natural Calamities

1082. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of Railway zones and extent of Railway lines in each zone affected by natural calamities during the current year;

(b) the total loss incurred on account of damage of bridges and railway lines due to natural calamities during the above period;

(c) whether work on repairing of such railway lines and bridges have been completed;

(d) if not, the extent of work done;

(e) the expenditure incurred thereon; and

(f) the number of trains and number of days for which such trains were cancelled due to the damage by natural calamities and accidents, separately?

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

Installation of Radio Station

1083 SHRI DWARAKA NATH DAS : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether any request from the State Government of Assam regarding installation of a Radio Station at Karimganj has been pending since long;

(b) if so, the reasons thereof, and

(c) the steps 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) and (c). The scheme to set up a radio station at Karimganj in Assam was not a part of the approved 8th Plan. However due to persistent demand, a scheme has been drawn up to set up a radio station with 20 KW MW Transmitter at Karimganj subject to availability of funds and other infrastructural facilities.

Modernisation of Public Sector Steel Plants

1084 DR KRUPASINDHU BHOI :
SHRI SOUMYA RANJAN :

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have formulated any plan for modernisation of VISL;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any other public sector steel plant is being modernised/proposed to be modernised; and

(d) if so, the details thereof including progress made so far and the amount spent/proposed to be spent thereon?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : (a) and (b). Financial viability and availability of requisite financial resources are pre-requisites for modernisation of VISL in the long term. M/s. M.N. Dastur and Co were engaged to make a detailed study on the turn around strategy of VISL. The report envisages capital expenditure of Rs. 43.42 crore under short term plan and Rs. 572.61 crore under long term plan. VISL Board, in principle, has approved the short term schemes. VISL is already discussing with CET, Ranchi an in-house facility of SAIL for detailed engineering and implementation. This will cover Steel Melting Shop, Rolling Mills and Finishing Areas.

(c) and (d). SAIL has taken up modernisation of its three integrated steel plants at Durgapur, Rourkela and Bokaro. The details are given below.

A Durgapur Steel Plant (DSP)

DSP modernisation is being implemented through 16 turnkey packages out of which 6 are global and 10 are indigenous. All major facilities have been completed/commissioned and balance jobs are likely to be completed progressively by March 1997.

The updated cost estimates (base 3rd Quarter, 1996 prices) of DSP modernisation is about Rs. 4848 crore (under finalisation by SAIL). The cumulative expenditure till September, 1996 is Rs. 4347.72 crore.

B Rourkela Steel Plant (RSP)

The total modernisation is being executed in two phases i.e. Phase I (9 indigenous turnkey packages and Phase II (15 indigenous and 5 global turnkey packages). Major production facilities of Phase I have been completed by March, 1994. Out of 15 indigenous packages for Phase II, 9 packages have been completed and 2 packages are partially completed and out of 5 global packages, 2 packages have been completed and 3 packages have been partially completed. The balance work is under various stages of implementation. The modernisation is likely to be completed by April 1997.

The approved Revised Cost Estimates (RCE) of this project is Rs. 3954 crore. The cumulative expenditure till September, 1996 is Rs. 3127 crore.

C. Bokaro Steel Plant (BSL)

The modernisation of Bokaro Steel Plant (Stage I) is being implemented through 4 main global packages and 34 indigenous packages. Design engineering, civil and structural work for the various packages are nearing completion. Equipment supply and its erection are in progress. The modernisation is likely to be completed by July, 1997 as per schedule.

The approval Revised Cost Estimates (RCE) of the project is Rs 1792.90 crore. The cumulative expenditure till September, 1996 is Rs 1004.38 crore.

Air Services to Remote and Backward Areas

1085 SHRI PRADIP BHATTACHARYA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Directorate General of Civil Aviation has recently taken a serious note of some of the private scheduled airlines not adhering commitments to operate services to the remote and backward areas.

(b) if so the details thereof.

(c) whether the Government propose to ensure strict action against those private airlines not adhering to the commitments, 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) to (d) Airlines operators are free to choose their routes. However, in accordance with the route dispersal guidelines laid down by the Government, all scheduled operators are required to deploy in the North East, Jammu & Kashmir, Andaman & Nicobar and Lakshadweep at least 10% of their capacity deployed on trunk routes. Action is taken against the defaulting airlines who fail to adhere to the said guidelines.

Recently M/s. Modiluft and M/s. Sahara India Airlines operations were cut on trunk routes to ensure compliance with these guidelines.

[Translation]

Free Railway Passes to Freedom Fighters

1086 SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state

(a) the number of freedom fighters to whom free railway passes have been issued during 1995-96 till date alongwith the class of railway journey in which they are entitled to travel, and

(b) the total amount of expenditure borne by railways during each of the last three years due to the extension of above facility?

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

No. of freedom fighters	Class of entitlement
47,849	I/II AC

(b) The cost of card passes issued to freedom fighters is borne by Ministry of Home Affairs, which is as under for last three years :

1993-94	=	Rs 53.04 crores
1994-95	=	Rs 44.88 crores
1995-96	=	Rs 65.40 crores

(upto July '96)

Claims Received by Chief Commercial Officer (Claims)

1087 SHRIMATI CHHABILA ARVIND NETAM : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state

(a) the number of different claims received in the office of the Chief Commercial Officer (Claims) Northern Railway from January, 1996, till date, and

(b) the number of claims disposed of/pending out of these?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) 37346 Claims cases have been registered by 31.10.1996

(b) Number of Claims cases disposed is 32406 and number of pending Claims cases is 4940

[English]

Telephone Tapping

1088 SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state

(a) whether a CBI enquiry was instituted under the instructions of the Prime Minister into the allegations of tapping of telephones of VIPs in Delhi;

(b) if so, the details of the allegations made

(c) whether CBI has since submitted its report

(d) if so, the details thereof, and

(e) the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The CBI has informed that newspaper reports had appeared in the Asian Age and Sunday Times dated 4.8.96 alleging that telephones of many political leaders are being tapped. Honble Prime Minister of India directed CBI to conduct an impartial enquiry into the alleged telephone tapping during the period from 1.6.1996 onwards. The Special Crime Branch-I of CBI registered a case on 7.8.96.

(c) CBI has sent its report to the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India on 4.9.1996 after completion of its enquiry into the allegations.

(d) The CBI enquiries neither revealed any evidence nor any indication to show that the telephones of any political persons whose names found mention in newspaper reports, had been intercepted by any of the Govt. agencies during the period 1.6.1996 onwards. The enquiries also revealed that the Prime Minister had not ordered any telephone interception.

(e) Question does not arise in view of (d) above.

[Translation]

Bungling at Telecommunication Centre, Kanpur

1089. SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the bungling at Telecommunication Centre in Kanpur (U.P.) where Pulse IC are changed by tempering Pulse Rate machines in place of 16 K.C. Pulse rate fixed by Telecommunication Department and local call service is provided only for three minutes instead of five minutes and Rs. 2 is charged instead of Rs. 1 and 39 paise.

(b) if so, the revenue loss by the Government, and

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

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

(b) Nil.

(c) Complaints received in this regard have been investigated. One STD PCO and 10 local PCOs where such malpractices were observed have been disconnected.

[English]

Inferior Quality of Cable

1090. SHRI G.M. KUNTURKAR : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware about the use of inferior quality of cable in installation of telephone lines in Nanded, Maharashtra by the authorities of Nanded Telephone Exchange;

(b) if so, the details thereof, and

(c) the action propose to take against the erring officials held responsible for loss of revenue and faulty telephone services in Nanded city?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) No Sir. Only standard cables according to DOT specifications duly tested by Quality

Assurance Wing of DOT at factory premises are purchased and used in installation of telephone lines in Nanded, Maharashtra by the Authorities of Nanded Telephone Exchange.

(b) Not applicable.

(c) Not applicable.

[Translation]

Doubling of Railway Line

1091. SHRI BRAHAMANAND MANDAL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the doubling work on Kazra to Kiul railway line between Bhagalpur and Kiul Railway sections has been dropped;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the time by which the doubling work on above line is likely to be re-started?

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

(b) and (c) The level of Traffic and traffic projections on this section does not justify its doubling at present.

[English]

Waiting Period

1092. SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state

(a) whether the average period of waiting for a telephone connection under the different categories have come down during the past three years;

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

(c) the number of pending applications for grant of telephone connection, as on date, State-wise, and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to accelerate the growth of telecommunication network in the country?

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

(b) Category-wise details in this respect are being collected from the Circles and will be placed on the table of the House.

(c) The number of pending applications as on 31.10.96 are as per enclosed Statement.

(d) It is proposed to provide about 24.5 lakh telephone connections by DOT during 1996-97, thus achieving 86 lakh new connections during 8th Plan. A high growth rate is also proposed to be maintained in future also.

STATEMENT

Number of pending applications for grant of telephone connection, as on 31.10.1996, State-wise.

S.No.	State	Waiting List of Telephone connections
1.	Andhra Pradesh	215625
2.	Assam	27335
3.	Bihar	57435
4.	Gujarat (Including Dadar, Diu, Daman and Nagar Haveli)	284644
5.	Haryana	97297
6.	Himachal Pradesh	46588
7.	Jammu & Kashmir	28844
8.	Karnataka	230318
9.	Kerala (Including Lakshadweep U T)	590330
10.	Madhya Pradesh	62223
11.	Maharashtra (Including Goa)	388276
12.	North East (Including Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland and Tripura)	14920
13.	Orissa	23057
14.	Punjab (Including Chandigarh U.T.)	228129
15.	Rajasthan	188753
16.	Tamil Nadu (Including Pondicherry U.T.)	442902
17.	Uttar Pradesh	178104
18.	West Bengal (Including Sikkim and Andaman & Nicobar Islands)	156759
19.	Delhi	73861

Inclusion of Vidarbha Region News at Mumbai Doordarshan

1093 SHRI NAMDEO DIWATHE : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether news of Vidarbha region is not included in the regional news bulletin telecast from Mumbai everyday;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the steps taken to ensure sufficient coverage for this region.

(d) whether the Government have any proposal to set up production studio and upgrade the supporting facilities at Doordarshan centre Nagpur; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) to (c). News items relating to Vidarbha region are included in the regional news bulletins telecast from Doordarshan Kendra, Mumbai depending on their news value and news worthiness within the existing infrastructural facilities.

(d) and (e). Yes, Sir. The existing programme generating facility at Nagpur is being upgraded to a 150 Sq. Mts. Studio set up along with associated technical and office areas. The project is expected to be completed during 1997.

Telecom Projects

1094 SHRI SANDIPAN THORAT : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the progress made under major telecom projects in major cities awarded in favour of private companies and details on financial and time stipulations and actual progress made vis-a-vis-targets;

(b) whether the telcom projects/policies have received a set-back because of reported scams in award of telecommunication projects;

(c) if so, the steps taken to formulate transparent policies and streamline procedure in implementation of privatisation programme envisaged in communication sector;

(d) steps taken/proposed to make financing of basic phone ventures attractive for financial institutions and details of policy changes finalised/under consideration;

(e) whether Artheya Committee has submitted its report on restructuring of communication sector, and

(f) if so, the action taken/proposed to be taken on the recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) No major telecom project has been awarded to private companies. However licences for operation of Value Added Services have been awarded. No licence for Basic Telephone Service has been awarded so far.

(b) No Sir, there has been no set-back to telecom projects/policies

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

(d) The Government is considering to make suitable provision in the Licence Agreement of Basic Telephone Services for enabling the use of Licence for the limited purpose of securitisation of the debt obtained by the perspective licences from the Financial Institutions so

as to facilitate financing of their project for provision of Basic telephone Service in their respective allocated Telecom Circles.

(e) The Athreya Committee did not make unanimous recommendations. The Committee recognised the need for separating the "policy and regulation" tier from the "operations" tier in any future structure but was divided on the form of future organisation of the Department of Telecommunications.

(f) The recommendations in respect of corporatisation were not pursued in view of the financial implications involved and reservations expressed by telecom staff as also in the context of the National Telecom Policy, 1994, envisaging duopoly in basic services which would be provided by a Government and a private operator in each circle.

[Translation]

Phone Mechanic Cadre Post

1095. DR. BALIRAM : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have created a new cadre of Phone Mechanic in DoT, particularly in MTNL, Delhi;

(b) whether training for the post has been given to employees;

(c) if so, the number thereof and amount spent thereon, circle-wise;

(d) whether all the trained employees have posted as per their posts

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(g) the time by which their services are likely to be utilised?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) Yes, Sir. A cadre of Phone Mechanic has been created in DoT including MTNL, Delhi.

(b) The training is under progress.

(c) Training for the cadre of Phone Mechanic is imparted in Departmental Training Centres along with other cadres. No separate budget allocation is made for individual cadres. The number of employees trained Circle-wise is indicated in the enclosed Statement.

(d) No Sir

(e) Question does not arise

(f) Due to non-availability of required number of posts.

(g) This depends upon the workload. No definite timeframe can be given.

STATEMENT

Status of Phone Mechanic - Training

S.No.	Circle	No. of officials to be trained	No. of officials trained
1.	Andaman & Nicobar	35	31
2.	Andhra Pradesh	9365	3900
3.	Assam	1899	995
4.	Bihar	1429	1397
5.	Haryana	1255	930
6.	Himachal Pradesh	772	640
7.	Gujarat	5210	3057
8.	Jammu and Kashmir	900	864
9.	Karnataka	4580	2525
10.	Kerala	8547	743
11.	Madhya Pradesh	1650	1252
12.	Maharashtra	6657	2953
13.	North-East Region	501	401
14.	Orissa	2185	965
15.	Punjab	1928	1729
16.	Rajasthan	2085	1476
17.	Tamil Nadu	8954	3058
18.	Uttar Pradesh (East)	4673	3781
19.	Uttar Pradesh (West)	3158	2302
20.	West Bengal	4451	1930
21.	MTNL Mumbai	4731	1986
22.	MTNL New Delhi	2970	1617
23.	Calcutta Telephones	3235	2182
24.	Chennai Telephones	3669	1097

[English]

New Exchanges

1096. SHRI KODIKKUNNIL SURESH : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to open new telephone exchanges during 1997-98, and

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise and location-wise?

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

(b) The relevant information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House

Catering Services in Long Route Trains

1097. SHRI MURALIDHAR JENA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the catering services in long route trains are deteriorating considerably;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether on board services have not been introduced at least in 50% of trains;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor alongwith the percentage of services introduced so far;

(e) whether the private caterers are not providing comfortable services and serving low standard meals to the passengers;

(f) whether the passengers have made complaints;

(g) if so, whether there is any provision to check the quality of food and services; and

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

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

(c) and (d). Catering requirements of travelling public are usually met from the static catering units enroute. Pantry car services are provided on selected long distance trains keeping in view the importance of the train, running time, stoppages, adequacy of catering services from static units enroute, the timings etc. subject to availability of pantry cars and maximum permissible load of the train. Pantry car service is available in 133 pairs of trains

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Complaints received are duly enquired into and contractors found responsible are taken up suitably.

(g) and (h). Yes, Sir. Intensive inspections are conducted by the Commercial, Medical and other Railway officers to check quality of food and standard of service provided on Railways. Besides samples of food items are also collected by the Health Department for laboratory tests. Deterrent action is taken against staff/contractors at fault.

Instant Action Group

1098. SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any Instant Action Group has been constituted by the Government;

(b) the details of Mail and Express trains for which the Instant Action Group was constituted;

(c) whether the facility has now been extended to some more Mail and Express trains; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (d) The Instant Action Group Scheme was introduced in October, 1944 and to begin with 10 (ten) trains were nominated. The facility has been further extended and at present is functioning on 30 (thirty) pairs of trains as per the Statement attached.

STATEMENT

Instant Action Groups

Railway	Train No. and Name
Central	1019/1020 Konark Express
	1081/1082 Kanyakumari Express
Eastern	2311/2312 Kalka Mail
	3231/3232 Danapur Express
	2381/2382 Purva Express
	2303/2304 Purva Express (Via Patna)
	2419/2420 Gomti Express
Northern	2473/2474 Sarvodaya Express
	2471/2472 Mumbai Central- Jammu Tawi Express
	2497/2498 Shan-e-Punjab
	4681/4682 New Delhi-Ludhiana Express
	2475/2476 Rajkot-Jammu Tawi Express
	2477/2478 Hapa-Jammu Tawi Express
Northern Eastern	2553/2554 Vaishali Express
N Frontier	5659/5660 Kamrup Express
Southern	2621/2622 Tamilnadu Express
	2625/2626 Kerala Express
	2627/2628 Karnataka Express
	6529/6530 Udyan Express
	2617/2618 Mangala Express
	2615/2616 G.T. Express
South Central	2723/2724 A.P. Express
	7059/7060 Charminar Express
South Eastern	8001/8002 Howrah-Bombay Central Mail
	8475/8476 Neelanchal Express
	2815/2816 Puri Express
	8015/8016 Hatia Express
Western	2903/2904 Frontier Mail
	2925/2926 Paschim Express
	2905/2906 Ashram Express.

New Postal Circle

1099. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have a proposal to create some new postal circles and new postal divisions during 1996-97;

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

(c) the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) At present, there is no proposal to create new postal circles or new postal divisions during 1996-97 due to ban on creation of non-plan Posts.

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

[Translation]

Disturbed Area Allowance

1100. SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH :
SHRIMATI BHAVNA BEN DEVRAJ BHAI
CHIKHALIA :

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

(a) whether Disturbed Area Allowance is being provided to the employees of Doordarshan and All India Radio posted in disturbed areas;

(b) if so, the amount of allowance paid during each of the last three years. State-wise. Kendra-wise separately;

(c) whether the Government propose to make any other arrangement in its place;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

Stoppage of Vidarbha Express at Thane

1101. SHRI BHIMRAO VISHNUJI BADADE : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have received any representation from the public or any public institutions from Thane with a request to allow the stoppage of Vidarbha Express running between Mumbai and Nagpur; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b). Representations have been received including from Shri Jayant S. Deshmukh, Goverdhan Envirotech Private Limited; Shri P.S. Nagrajan, Vice President, Bhartiya Janata Party, Mumbai; Shri Datta Meghe, M.P.; Shri Mukesh Patel, MP; Shri Madhukar Sirpotdar, MP; Shri Hansraj Ahir, MP; Shri Sharad Tasare, Deputy Speaker, Maharashtra Legislative Assembly; Shri Kirit Somaiya, MLA; Shri P. Dhole, MLA; etc. for stoppage of 1005/1006 Nagpur-Mumbai CST Vidarbha Express at Thane station. The same has been examined but not found operationally feasible.

Fake Railway Counters at Railway Stations

1102. KUMARI SUSHILA TIRIYA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that fake Government tourist counters are functioning at the Railway Stations in the capital;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the passengers are lured by these fake tourist counter officials for making available the accommodation; and

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

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

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

Loss Incurred by Railways

1103. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the steps and decisions taken by the Government to reduce or eliminate the losses on uneconomic Railway lines, indicating the details of such lines;

(b) the losses incurred on these lines during 1994-95, 1995-96 and estimated to be incurred during 1996-97; and

(c) the likely impact of these steps on the economy of these Railway lines and on the Railways as a whole?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) On the basis of the review done during 1994-95, 119 branch lines were found to be uneconomical. Since the State Governments are reluctant to agree to the closure of these lines, some steps have been taken to reduce/eliminate losses on the uneconomic lines which include closure/conversion of Stations not remunerative, into halts, running of mixed (passenger and goods) trains, economising on staff, curbing ticketless travel, introduction of rail bus service, etc.

(b) The approximate losses incurred were Rs. 165 crores in 1994-95 and Rs. 166 crores in 1995-96. Figures for 1996-97 are not available.

(c) Despite adoption of various economy measures, the likelihood of these lines becoming viable is remote since the density of traffic on these lines is extremely low and their patronisation is poor.

Reducing of Wagon Load Traffic

1104. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that his Ministry has taken a policy decision to reducing 'Wagon Load' traffic and has reduced allotment of wagon to small consignors and has been encouraging large consignors and has been encouraging large consignors for full rake loads, i.e., full train loads only;

(b) if so, the alternative arrangement made by the Railways for such wagon load traffic; and

(c) if not, the category of goods traffic in wagon load and its volume in terms of Net Tonne-KM and Net Freight Receipt per year for the last three years and the projected traffic for the next three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (c) As a matter of operational policy, Railways have encouraged movement of full rake loads to improve productivity of scarce rolling stock thereby eliminating detentions to wagons in marshalling yards. 4-wheeler stock is being phased out and replaced by bogie stock which is not amenable to movement in less than train loads. Elimination of piecemeal wagon movement is also necessary because Railways are basically equipped for transporting high volumes of traffic. However, in order to cater to the needs of small rail customers, Railways have set up a Public Sector Undertaking - Container Corporation of India - under the Ministry of Railways, to aggregate less than train load traffic in multi modal containers and move container trains between identified pairs of points.

Overcharged Depreciation

1105. SHRI RAM NAIK : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited has overcharged depreciation and shown a sharply reduced profit in its results for 1995-96;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government are aware that the statutory auditors raised objections to this overcharging;

(d) if so, whether the Government are aware that the MTNL shares were quoted around Rs. 210-215

(during first week of October, which could fetch around Rs. 300/- per share of the face value of Rs. 10 each; and

(e) the action taken/proposed to avoid recurrence of such overcharging in future?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) No, Sir. There is no change in the rates of depreciation since inception of MTNL. The net profit has increased by more than 26% in 1995-96 compared to 1994-95.

(b) Question does not arise in view of (a) above.

(c) Yes Sir. There has been qualification by Statutory Auditors since 1993-94. The Company has already explained in the Annual Reports that in view of the short span of life of the electronic exchanges which is based on computer system the revised rate of depreciation on apparatus plant, cables and lines and wire in the Schedule XIV of Companies Act i.e. 5.28% is not considered adequate. Thus the prevailing rate of 11.31% is being charged by the Company by exercising its right to charge a suitable rate of depreciation while making disclosure in its accounts.

(d) Price of shares of any listed company like MTNL is driven by the stock market forces.

(e) Question does not arise in view of what has been stated in (a) and (c) above.

Royalty Revised on Minerals

1106. SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA : Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the royalty on minerals is being revised once in three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the minerals on which the royalty has been revised in Madhya Pradesh during each of the last three years; and

(d) the minerals on which royalty is proposed to be revised during the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) and (b) As per provisions of Section 9 of Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Act, 1957 royalty on mineral cannot be enhanced more than once during any period of three years.

(c) and (d) Revision of royalty rates on major minerals other than Coal, Lignite and Sand for Stowing was last made in 1992 which was applicable to Madhya Pradesh also. The Study Group for the next revision of royalty rates on major minerals (other than Coal, lignite and sand for stowing) was constituted on 30.1.95 and the revision of the royalty rates is under consideration of the Government.

National Renewal Fund

1107. SHRI VIJAY GOEL : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the National Renewal Fund set up in 1991 for the rehabilitation of the redundant labourers has achieved the desired objectives;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the action taken to make it viable?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) to (c). The objective behind setting up the National Renewal Fund (NRF) by the Government in February, 1992 was to provide a social safety net for workers effected by technology upgradation, modernisation and industrial restructuring of Indian Industry. Assistance from NRF has so far been provided for implementation of Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS) in the Central Public Sector Undertakings, and for counselling, Retraining and Redeployment assistance to rationalised workers.

Air Station, Asansol

1108. SHRI HARADHAN ROY : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 210 on July 11, 1996 regarding AIR Station, Asansol and state :

(a) whether the proposed AIR station is behind schedule.

(b) if so, the reasons therefor.

(c) the progress made so far on setting up of the said station; and

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

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

(b) The delay has been primarily due to late handing over of site by the State Government and subsequently due to delay in availability of permanent power supply from the West Bengal State Electricity Board.

(c) and (d). The Station is technically ready and can be commissioned by December, 1996 subject to availability of requisite staff for operation and maintenance and availability of permanent power supply.

[Translation]

Foreign Tourists

1109. PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state the names of the countries from where a large number of foreign

tourists come to visit Rajasthan and the places they visit in Rajasthan particularly?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA): According to the information provided by the State Government, the countries from where a large number of tourists come to visit Rajasthan are France, Japan, Germany, Australia, U.K. and U.S.A. The most popular places of visit of these tourists in Rajasthan are Jaipur, Udaipur, Jodhpur, Jaisalmer, Bikaner and Shekhawati region.

[English]

Increasing Air Traffic

1110. SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian Commercial Pilots Association pointed out that navigation and communication system in India was not as per international standard and was not matching the increasing air traffic.

(b) number of such letters received by the then Minister during 1-1-95 and 31-12-95 from the Association;

(c) the detailed suggestions given by the Association;

(d) the action taken by the Government to implement those suggestions till date; and

(e) the suggestions implemented/not implemented?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) to (c). The Indian Commercial pilots Association has sent one letter dated 1.5.95 suggesting various improvements to navigation/communication equipment at various Indian Airports like installation of transponders, VHF communication system, implementation of the award given by the DGCA etc.

(d) While interrogators (SSRs) have been commissioned at Trivandrum and Hyderabad airports, the work is in progress for the same at Delhi, Mumbai, Calcutta, Chennai, Guwahati and Ahmedabad Airports. SSRs will be installed at Vishakhapatnam and Nagpur airports in the 9th Plan and for Bangalore Airport the requirement has been communicated to Hindustan Aeronautics Limited. Extended range VHF has been provided at Mumbai, Calcutta, Chennai, Ahmedabad and Trivandrum airports. Cat II ILS has been installed at Delhi Airport. The award of former DGCA has been taken up for implementation in toto.

(e) Installation of extended range VHF at Bhopal has not been accepted due to technical reasons. All other suggestions are being implemented.

Expansion of Barharva Exchange

1111. SHRI THOMAS HANSDA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to upgrade and increase in the capacity of the Barharva telephone exchange, located in the tribal area of Bihar, from 200 lines to 500 lines to fulfil the needs of the people of the area and clear the waiting list for telephone connections;

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

(c) whether the Government propose to link the said exchange with STD facility; and

(d) if so, the time by which micro-optical fibres for STD is likely to be installed?

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

(b) During 1997-98.

(c) STD facility is already provided.

(d) 30 Chl. DUHF system is planned to be provided during 1997-98.

Refusal of Payment by Cheque

1112. SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that the Telephone Authority at Nagpur have refused to take payments by cheque from the PCO holders;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government against the responsible officials?

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

(b) Orders for payment by cash/DO were issued to all the Telecom Circles/Metro Districts. The bills to PCO holders are issued on fortnightly basis and in case of heavy bills on weekly basis. PCO holders are required to deposit security amount/bank guarantee equal to their average one month's revenue. When the payment is made by cheque, it takes considerable time by banks for its clearance and confirming this to Telephone Department. Due to this delay in tallying the clearance of cheques by the banks, the security deposit will require to be increased to safe-guard the revenue of the Department. The increase security deposit will put extra burden on PCO holders. To safeguard their interest, they have been asked to pay the bills by cash/DO.

(c) Does not arise in view of reply to (b) above.

[Translation]

Outlived Bridges and Culverts

1113. SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of bridges and culverts in Madhya Pradesh which outlived their span of life, locationwise; and

(b) the time by which these are likely to be repaired?

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

(b) Does not arise.

[English]

Introduction of Express Train between Alleppey and Mangalore

1114. SHRI V.M. SUDHEERAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to introduce any express train from Alleppey to Mangalore;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Passengers of Alleppey have to avail of changeover facilities at Ernakulam/Shoranur for trains to/from Mangalore.

Gauge Conversion

1115. SHRI SHANTILAL PARSOTAMDAS PATEL :
SHRI CHHITUBHAI GAMIT :
SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the amount spent on gauge conversion during each of the last three years and current year so far, project-wise and zone-wise;

(b) whether the Government have any proposal for gauge conversion through private funding; and

(c) if so, the details thereof, zone-wise?

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

[Translation]

Increase in Quota of Second Class Sleepers

1116. SHRI DADA BABURAO PARANJPE : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a demand to increase the quota of second class sleepers from Katni in the Rewa-Bhopal Express has been made;

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

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) A demand was made to increase the reservation quota in sleeper class at Katni Station by 1268 Rewa-Bhopal Express only.

(b) The existing quota of 16 sleeper class berths at Katni by 1268 Rewa-Bhopal Express is being increased to 28 berths.

(c) Does not arise.

[English]

Construction of Yatri Niwas at Nagarjuna Sagar

1117. SHRI S. RAMACHANDRA REDDY :
SHRI AJMEERA CHANDULAL .

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to construct a Yatri Niwas at 'Nagarjuna Sagar' in Andhra Pradesh.

(b) if so, the details thereof and the amount sanctioned for this purpose; and

(c) if not, the reasons for not acceding to the request of the Andhra Pradesh Government?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA) :

(a) to (c). No proposal has been received from the State Government for the construction of a Yatri Niwas at Nagarjuna Sagar. However an amount of Rs. 41.88 lakhs has been sanctioned by the Govt. of India for the development of Nagarjuna Sagar as tourist destination, for the following schemes :

(Rs. in lakhs)

S. No.	Name of the scheme	Year of sanction	Amount sanctioned
1	2	3	4
1.	Const. of cafeteria at Nagarjuna Sagar.	1985-86	23.70
2.	Provision of water sports at Nagarjuna Sagar.	1988-89	4.74

1	2	3	4
3.	Const. of Tourist Bungalow at Nagarjuna Sagar.	1990-91	8.50
4.	Const. of Public conveniences at Nagarjuna Sagar.	1993-94	4.94

Recognition to Railways Employees Associations

1118. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of representations from different railway employees associations seeking recognition are pending with the Government;

(b) if so, the names of such associations;

(c) since when these are pending and the reasons therefor; and

(d) the details of employees associations which have been recently accorded recognition?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (d). On Indian Railways, recognition has been granted to two trade unions on each Zonal Railway, one each affiliated to All India Railwaymen's Federation and the National Federation of Indian Railwaymen. These two Federations and their affiliates adequately take care of the interests and grievances of all categories of non-gazetted Railway employees.

Demands for granting recognition are being received from time to time from a number of unrecognised unions/associations. There are more than 700 unrecognised associations/unions on the Railways. With a view to avoid multiplicity of trade unions, as a matter of policy, recognition is not granted to any categorical associations/unions. No record of the names of the unions/associations demanding grant of recognition is being centrally maintained.

No employees' association has been accorded recognition recently.

Tourism Development in Karnataka

1119. SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Prime Minister had told the State Government of Karnataka to prepare an action plan within a month for the development of tourism in the State;

(b) if so, whether the Union Government have received any action plan from the State Government of Karnataka;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA) (a) to (d) The Government of Karnataka has prepared separate projects for Central financial assistance for the year 1996-97. These are :

- (1) Landscaping and Beautification of Hemwati Dam site at Gorur.
- (2) Upgradation of Transport capacity of Karnataka State Tourism Development Corporation.
- (3) Upgradation of accommodation facilities of KSTDC.
- (4) Multipurpose Tourist Reception Centre Bangalore.
- (5) Yatri Niwas at Hassan.
- (6) Yatri Niwas at Hampi.
- (7) Yatri Niwas at Kollur.
- (8) Yatri Niwas at Udipi.
- (9) Wayside facility at Shivanasamudra.
- (10) Tourist Reception Centre at Bidar.
- (11) Public Conveniences at Dharamshala, Udipi, Maharaja Palace, Mysore, Melkote.

[Translation]

P.C.O. in Maharashtra

1120 SHRI DATTA MEGHE : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state

- (a) the number of P.C.Os functioning in Maharashtra District-wise
- (b) the number of P.C.Os closed down during the last two years, Distt-wise, and
- (c) the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House as soon as possible.

[English]

Printing and Publication of Railway Time Table

1121. SHRI HARIN PATHAK : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state

- (a) whether there is any restriction on printing, publishing and selling of Railway Time Table in English by the private publishers.
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor.
- (c) whether the Government have issued any directives in this regard, and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (d) Zonal Railways are the authorised publishers of their

respective zonal time tables which are printed by Railway press or authorised private agencies. W. Newman and Co. Ltd. are also the authorised private publishers for All India Railway Time Table.

'Trains at a Glance' is published by Ministry of Railways and printed at Railway Press in New Delhi and by authorised private agencies in Mumbai and Madras.

These time tables are sold at the Stations including by private book stalls.

Government of India Copyright has been taken for the October 96 issue of 'Trains at a Glance' and the Zonal Railway authorities have been accordingly informed.

Decline in Export of Steel

1122. SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state

- (a) whether the Government are aware of the steep decline in the export of steel.
- (b) whether small entrepreneurs and small steel plants are suffering due to fall in export, and
- (c) if so, the steps taken to boost the export?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) The export of saleable steel during the period April-September, 1996 is estimated to be 5.35 lakh tonnes as compared to 5.95 lakh tonnes during the corresponding period last year. However, the export of finished steel has been estimated at 4.55 lakh tonnes during this period registering a growth of 15.5% over last year.

(b) Ministry of Steel has not received any report about small entrepreneurs and small steel plants suffering due to fall in export of saleable steel.

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

Purchase of Turbine Fuel at Double Cost

1123. SHRI UTTAM SINGH PAWAR : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state

- (a) whether the Indian Airlines has purchased the turbine fuel at double the cost at which the International Airlines are purchasing, and
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for this discrimination?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) and (b) Average cost of Aviation Turbine Fuel for domestic operators is Rs. 14,850/- per kilo litre as against the rate of Rs. 8,400/- per kilo litre charged from Air India and other international operators. The price of ATF for domestic operations is high because there is an additional impost on ATF which is credited to the Oil Pool Account to bear the cost of subsidy on Kerosene Oil and Diesel.

Open Air Policy

1124. PROF. P.J. KURIEN : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has made any evaluation of the open air policy;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the policy has adversely affected the safety of the passengers; and

(d) if so, the facts thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) to (d). A proposal to review the policy on domestic air transport services is under consideration of the Government.

Validity of World Network

1125. SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether validity of World Network announced in July, 1996 has been questioned by the DOT;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether alliance between private companies who have joined hand to provide roaming and other facilities to consumers have come into effect;

(d) if so, the salient features thereof;

(e) whether this network flouted stipulations in licence agreement; and

(f) the time by which DOT likely to give its final decision in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) No, Sir. However, details in respect of the proposal reported in Newspaper were asked from the Cellular operators of metro cities. As per the replies received, World 1 network is only a brand name to a commercial alliance between Cellular operators.

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

(c) to (e). No, Sir. World 1 Network does not hold a licence for Cellular Services. However, some proposals on roaming have been received from the licensed operators.

(f) The proposals received from individual licensed operators on roaming are under consideration.

Telephone Directories in Delhi

1126. SHRI I.D. SWAMI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the year in which telephone directories in Delhi were issued last;

(b) the year in which the new telephone directories were scheduled to be issued;

(c) the reasons for delay in this regard;

(d) the time by which the above directories are likely to be issued;

(e) whether telephone directories are also not being issued in time in other cities of the country; and

(f) if so, the steps being taken by the Government to ensure that the telephone directories are issued in time and corrigendum are issued in the meantime?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) In 1994.

(b) Every year.

(c) The Contractor has failed to print any directory after 1994 issue.

(d) Next directory is expected to be published in the year 1997.

(e) and (f). Whenever any abnormal delay in printing of directory is observed, necessary steps are taken in getting these printed either under Yellow Pages Scheme or on departmental cost.

[Translation]

Sale Target of B.S.P.

1127. PROF. RITA VERMA : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) the target fixed and achievements made in sale of various products of Bokaro Steel Plant during 1995-96 and 1996-97; and

(b) the amount payable in the form of taxes and cess against these bills, State-wise and particularly from Bihar?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV)

(a) The target fixed and achievements made in despatches for Pig Iron and Saleable Steel of Bokaro Steel Plant during 1995-96 and 1996-97 (upto October 1996) are as follows :

(Unit : Tonnes

Item	1995-96		(upto October '96)	
	Target	Actual	Target	Actual
Pig Iron	186600	116560	112000	120229
Saleable Steel	3300600	3074935	1936000	1621049

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

[English]

Privatisation of Telecom Sector

1128. SHRI N.K. PREMCHANDRAN : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to privatise the Telecom Sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government are aware that the New Telecom policy will adversely affect the Telecom Department and its Employees; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to safeguard the interest of the Telecom Department and its employees?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) and (b). The participation of private sector has been permitted in providing the Basic Telephone Services, the Value Added Services and also in the manufacture of telecom equipment.

(c) and (d). The new Telecom Policy is not likely to have any adverse effect on the telecom department and its employees. However, the department has already taken steps to induct state-of-art technology equipment into its network and has also embarked upon extensive training plan to upgrade the skills and expertise of DOT employees.

[Translation]

Pending Projects of Uttar Pradesh

1129. SHRI SONTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether a number of proposals relating to the promotion of tourism of Uttar Pradesh are lying pending with the Union Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which these proposals are likely to be cleared by the Union Government?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA) : (a) to (c). Each year the Department of Tourism in consultation with State Govt. officials prioritises projects for central financial assistance. The funds for these projects are released on receipt of detailed project proposals. Six project proposals have been recently received from Uttar Pradesh Govt.

Linking of Bulandshahar with Lucknow by Rail

1130. SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to link Bulandshahar with Lucknow by railway line directly;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Government have received some representations in this regard during the last three years and current year so far; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (c). Bulandshahr is already connected to Lucknow via Khurja-Kanpur as well as via Hapur-Moradabad.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise

Scheme for Air Cargo Services

1131. SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have formulated any scheme for according priority to air cargo services and for making them economically viable and self-sufficient;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any seminar regarding air cargo was organised in September, 1996;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the issues discussed at the seminar regarding air cargo services alongwith the conclusions thereof; and

(f) the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government on the suggestions?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) and (b). Airlines both in the public and private sectors have shown interest in increasing cargo business. The Government's "Open Sky Policy" regarding cargo gives adequate incentives to the airlines to make the cargo operations financially viable.

(c) to (e). Yes, Sir. The subjects discussed in the Air-Cargo 96 conference organised by the Institute of Engineers (India), Delhi State Centre, were market evaluation and its effect on air cargo. Air cargo infrastructure, the challenges of 2000 and beyond for Indian Aviation, the challenges/opportunities and responsibilities to promote trade by air, joint venture of cargo terminals, planning a cargo airline, the use of modern single engine aircraft for air cargo operations, and cargo airline management system.

(f) These suggestions are mainly for the airlines. Regarding infrastructure Airports Authority of India is providing adequate cargo handling facilities at all airports.

[English]

Target of Telecom

1132. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government have been drawn to the news-item captioned "Telecom department not even halfway near target" appearing in the 'The Economic Times' dated 1 October, 1996;

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

(c) the target fixed for the current financial year;

(d) the number of telephone lines provided during the last six months;

(e) the reasons for lagging behind the target; and

(f) the steps taken by the Government to meet the fixed target?

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

(b) It is normal that achievements during the first two quarters of an year is comparatively less and it picks up during the third and fourth quarter. The achievement upto 31st October '96 is 29.83% of the annual target.

(c) The target fixed for the current financial year for providing telephone connections is 24.5 lakhs.

(d) 6.299 lakh telephone lines were provided from 1.4.96 to 30.9.96.

(e) and (f). Most of the equipments reach the sites during the second and third quarters of the year.

Material supply is being watched and the progress in achievement is being monitored more closely. The overall target is likely to be achieved.

Catering Facilities

1133. SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of stations and pairs of trains having the catering facilities. State-wise;

(b) the number of stations having catering services provided by private contractors and Railway Department units, separately. State-wise;

(c) the number of new trains in which catering services have been introduced during 1995-96 and 1996-97 till date;

(d) the sales turnover of catering units during the above period;

(e) whether the Government propose to award the catering contracts to unemployed youths in the country particularly in Orissa; and

(f) if so, the details thereof;

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Catering facilities are available at 3152 stations and 133 pairs of trains. State-wise data is not maintained.

(b) Catering services are provided departmentally at 102 stations and at 3050 stations these are managed by private contractors.

(c) Catering services have been introduced on 15 pairs of trains during 1995-96 and on 4 pairs of trains on 1996-97.

(d) Sales turnover of departmental catering units during 1995-96 was Rs. 144.08 crores and during 1996-97 (upto August 1996) is Rs. 70.24 crores.

(e) Catering policy provides for award of catering contracts to reputed and professional caterers.

(f) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Adequate Lodging Facilities to Foreign Tourists

1134. SHRI N.J. RATHWA : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) the steps taken up by the Union Government for providing adequate lodging facilities to foreign tourists in Gujarat;

(b) whether the Union Government have evaluated the arrivals of Foreign tourists in the current year; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA) : (a) Sir, Construction of hotels is mainly a private sector activity. At present there are 38 hotels in the approved sector functioning in 15 cities of Gujarat totalling 1960 rooms and 38 approved hotel projects spread over 20 cities of Gujarat which on completion will add 1636 rooms.

To encourage investment in this Sector, the Government is extending various incentives and Tax concessions.

(b) and (c). The foreign tourist arrivals in India from January to October, 1996 were 17.73,930 with an increase of 7.6% over the corresponding period of preceding year.

Rewa-Singrauli Railway Line

1135. SHRI SUKH LAL KUSHWAHA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to start construction work on Rewa-Singrauli rail line for which the survey has already been completed;

(b) if so, the expenditure likely to be incurred thereon; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (c). The Survey Report for new Broad Gauge rail line from Ashoknagar-Lalitpur-Satna-Khajuraho-Mahoba and Satna-Rewa-Sidhi-Singrauli (627 kms). has recently been received. The results of the survey are under finalisation in consultation with the Zonal Railway. Further consideration of the project, in consultation with the Planning Commission, would be possible, once the results of the survey are finalised.

[English]

Rural Telecom Network

1136. DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the target fixed for providing rural telecom network during the Eighth Plan and the achievement as on date.

(b) the system being adopted to expedite telephone connection in the rural areas at least in every village/panchayats; and

(c) the projection made for the Ninth Plan?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) Target in Eighth Plan is to provide 3.38 lakh villages with at least one public telephone by the end of Eighth Plan. The achievement as on 19.11.1996 is 158685 villages.

(b) Presently Analog Multi Access Rural Radio (MARR) System has been adopted to provide one telephone in each village. Other new technologies are also likely to come in near future.

(c) It is proposed to cover all the remaining villages in the Ninth Plan.

Daily running of Gondwana Express between Hazrat Nizamuddin and Bilaspur

1137. SHRIMATI CHHABILA ARVIND NETAM : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether requests have been received to run Gondwana Express daily between Hazrat Nizamuddin and Bilaspur; and

(b) if so, the time by which it is likely to start running daily on the above said route?

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

(b) At present there is no proposal for daily running of 2409/2410 Nizamuddin-Bilaspur Gondwana Express.

Travelling Concession to Scheduled Caste/ Scheduled Tribe Students

1138. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the SC/ST students are given travelling concession in second class and not in second class sleeper;

(b) if so, the reason therefor; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (c) Students, including Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe students, of educational institutions recognised by Ministry of Education, Government of India or the Education Department of concerned State Government are granted concession in Mail/Express fares of Sleeper Class in addition to Second Class. They can avail of this concession for travel by Sleeper Class for any distance.

[Translation]

Gottwald Crane

1139. SHRI BRAHAMANAND MANDAL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any deal has been finalised by the Government for the purchase of Gottwald Crane of 140 tonnes capacity with Germany; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) No, Sir. The tender for procurement of 140 tonnes Accident Relief Cranes is under finalisation.

(b) Does not arise.

[English]

Thiruvananthapuram as International Airport

1140. SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether in spite of being declared International Airport, the Thiruvananthapuram Airport lacks facilities of an International Airport;

(b) whether the Government have received any representation in this regard; and

(c) if so, the steps being taken to provide all facilities of an International Airport to Thiruvananthapuram Airport?

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

facilitation of the passengers using this airport. Modern Navigational/Communication aids have been provided.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Status of major works taken up for upgradation of the airport is enclosed as statement.

STATEMENT

Status of Major Works in Progress/Proposed

S.No.	Name of work	Estimated cost (Rs. in crores)	Present status
1	2	3	4
<i>Thiruvananthapuram Airport</i>			
1.	Resurfacing of main runway & construction of shoulders.	6.31	Completed
2.	Extension of main runway by 350 m.	5.76	25% work in progress
3.	Strengthening of 'A' taxi track	0.74	Completed
4.	Extension of apron in front of international & domestic terminal.	6.91	Work in progress
5.	Interim modification of International Terminal Building	2.02	20% work in progress.
6.	Construction of GSE hard stand	1.52	75% work in progress
7.	Shifting of CCR Hall	1.95	80% work in progress
8.	Construction of New Terminal Complex (Phase I)	100.00	Work will be taken up after acquisition of land by Kerala Government

Performance of DOT

1141. SHRI NAMDEO DIWATHE : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the performance of Department of Telecommunications for each of the last three years State-wise and for metropolitan cities, separately vis-a-vis targets set and achieved and targets set for the current years:

(b) the details regarding shortage and backlog of achievements and steps taken/proposed to make up for the shortfall:

(c) the details of revised targets set for the current year for Metropolitan cities urban and rural areas of Maharashtra with estimates of private and public sector investment proposed; and

(d) details regarding projects cleared/under implementation for various districts in Maharashtra for the current year?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) Details of performance for the last three years 1993-94, 1994-95 and 1995-96 in respect of targets and achievement and targets for the current year State-wise and metropolitan cities are given in the statement-I enclosed

(b) There was no shortfall and backlog of the achievements during the last three years.

(c) Prior to budget allocation the tentative target was 26.47 lakh lines for the country and the target was firmed up as 24.5 lakh lines on budget allocation. There was no revision of this target.

(d) Details are given in statement-II enclosed.

STATEMENT-I

Details of Targets and achievements or provision of Telephone connections during the last three years and targets for the current year

a. For States

S.No.	State	1993-94		1994-95		1995-96		1996-97 Target
		Target	Acht.	Target	Acht.	Target (Nete below)	Acht.	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1.	Andhra Pradesh	77000	77857	82000	138278	1485000	150021	123000
2.	Assam	13000	13450	10000	13103	14600	20295	18000
3.	Bihar	27000	37189	35000	44068	69300	33115	47000
4.	Gujarat (Including Dadar Diu, Daman and Nagar Haveli)	81000	82187	80500	122507	163100	134832	188000

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
5.	Haryana	41000	41793	22000	47008	64900	52486	64000
6.	Himachal Pradesh	10000	11009	12000	21349	35300	30212	27000
7.	J & K	7000	7047	4000	4983	9300	5988	2300
8.	Karnataka	62000	73539	79000	136008	168200	139694	133000
9.	Kerala (Including Lakshdweep U.T.)	53000	58936	79000	90460	326300	154033	228000
10.	Madhya Pradesh	98000	101964	57000	88619	173800	81275	45000
11.	Maharashtra (Including Goa)	114000	108284	107000	155758	237900	217964	203000
12.	North East (Including Arunachal, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland and Tripura)	7300	8687	8000	8689	16100	16433	18000
13.	Orissa	26000	21021	8000	18638	45500	31014	27000
14.	Punjab (Including Chandigarh U.T.)	51000	59008	70500	101059	182500	143569	153000
15.	Rajasthan	62000	75135	67000	84623	147500	100672	123000
16.	Tamil Nadu (Including Pondicherry U.T.)	63500	63689	82000	106744	201900	147104	188000
17.	U P	115000	59330	82000	116290	195200	151336	155000
18.	West Bengal (Including Sikkim)	17000	13499	18000	24853	38700	47356	57000

b. Metropolitan Cities

1	Mumbai MTNL	42800	137179	140000	205049	200000	200167	250000
2	Delhi MTNL	67600	125020	260000	153090	272700	200070	250000
3	Calcutta	34200	34386	53000	45387	90000	65107	55000
4	Chennai	33200	30427	70000	43155	125000	60348	75000
Total		1111600	1240636	1426000	1769718	2926300	2183091	2450000

Note - A higher target of 29 263 Lakh lines was conveyed to the Telecom Circles although the Target fixed at the Headquarters as per the budget allocations was only 20 lakh lines, with a view to achieve a higher level of performance by the Circles

STATEMENT-II

Projects cleared under implementation for various districts in Maharashtra for the current year (1996-97)

S.No	Name of District	Details of Projects				
		New Technology	E10-B	CDOT	Small & Medium	VPT
(In Gross lines)						
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1	Jalgaon	-	2000	2000	1160	42
2	Raigad	-	-	6000	9658	78
3	Kalyan	35000	9000	9800	3750	75
4	Ratnagiri	-	-	1000	1320	204
5	Sindhudurg	-	-	2000	1496	226
6	Sangali	-	5000	2500	1656	6

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
7.	Satara	-	2000	10000	4616	202
8.	Solapur	10000	-	1500	-	23
9.	Nagpur	-	-	-	2024	147
10.	Beed	-	-	1000	1600	256
11.	Jalna	-	-	1000	-	114
12.	Latur	-	-	2000	1368	176
13.	Osmanabad	-	-	1500	1368	138
14.	Parbhani	-	-	5000	1000	209
15.	Ahmednagar	10000	-	1000	5854	166
16.	Aurangabad	10000	3000	-	920	103
17.	Nanded	-	-	-	1000	179
18.	Nasik	8500	1000	4500	1350	40
19.	Dhule	-	3000	-	1720	228
20.	Pune	61000	1000	2000	3504	145
21.	Akola	-	3500	-	2120	276
22.	Amravati	-	5000	-	450	295
23.	Bhandara	-	-	600	550	271
24.	Buldhana	-	-	2000	150	270
25.	Kolhapur	10000	-	2000	4036	83
26.	Chandrapur	-	5000	-	2544	318
27.	Wardha	-	-	2000	1650	229
28.	Yeotmal	-	-	1500	2300	176
29.	Gadhchiroli	-	-	-	-	276

[Translation]

Renovation of P & T Flats

1142 DR. BALIRAM : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state

(a) whether the Government propose to affix tiles/kota stones in kitchens, bathrooms and toilets in the P & T Flats located in Delhi

(b) if so the details thereof

(c) whether some representations have been received by the Government in this regard.

(d) if so the action taken thereon and

(e) the time by which the work is likely to be done?

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

Deptt. of Telecom : These facilities are being provided for newly constructed quarters as per the current norms of approved specifications. For the old constructed quarters also cases are being processed and considered individually depending upon the

availability of funds and practical feasibility of making such provisions

(b) **Deptt. of Post** : It has been decided to fix tiles/kota stones in kitchens, bathrooms & toilets in all future works of staff quarters to be constructed for postal employees and in a phased manner for existing quarters.

Deptt. of Telecom : Estimates for providing these facilities in P & T flats under DOT have been prepared and are under examination. The approximate estimated expenditure is Rs. 50 lacs. Similar action is being taken by MTNL New Delhi for quarters under their control.

(c) **Deptt. of Post & Telecom** :

Yes, Sir

(d) **Deptt. of Post** :

Estimates for undertaking the work have been prepared and are under examination. The works will be executed in a phased manner colony-wise.

Deptt. of Telecom. :

Cases are being processed for approval both for

quarters under DOT as well as MTNL. New Delhi as already mentioned at para (a) above

(e) **Deptt. of Post :**

Time for completion will be fixed at the time of award of work for construction.

Deptt. of Telecom. :

Provision of these facilities in all old DOT quarters at New Delhi will be considered to be commenced from the financial year 1997-98 and their completion will depend upon availability of funds and feasibility. Similarly provision of these facilities in quarters under MTNL, New Delhi is likely to be completed in the Financial Year-1997-98.

[English]

Recognition to Belur as International Railway Station

1143 SHRI ANIL BASU Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state

(a) whether the Government are aware of the long standing demand for recognition to Belur as International Railway Station

(b) if so the details thereof

(c) whether it is also a fact that visitors/tourists from different parts of the country and abroad are visiting Belur Math daily and

(d) if so the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to give due importance to Belur railway station?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) (a) to (d) On Indian Railways there is no nomenclature as International Railway Station. Passenger amenities on the station are however provided on the basis of tourist importance and volume of passenger traffic handled at the station and these are further augmented as and when so warranted depending on the growth in traffic subject to availability of funds and relative priorities. Most of the passengers travelling ex-Belur are daily commuters as Belur is a suburban station of Howrah Division. However to cater to visiting tourists of Belur Math an additional booking office has been provided on the Up platform of Belur railway station.

Backlog of Unfilled Reserved Posts

1144 SHRI K D SULTANPURI Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state

(a) the position of backlog of unfilled posts reserved for Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes in the beginning of current year in Railways.

(b) whether the backlog has been cleared so far; and

(c) if not the time by which it is likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) (a) Detailed below are the shortfall of SC/ST vacancies in recruitment categories existing as on 30.6.96 on the Railways

	SC	ST
Group C	1010	1057
Group D	1251	1985

(b) and (c) As per the Department of Personnel & Training's directives a Special Recruitment Drive has been launched from 15.7.96 to wipe out the shortfall in recruitment categories existing as on 30.6.96

In the above Special Recruitment Drive the following shortfall has been identified for clearance :

	SC	ST
Group C	936	950
Group D	1183	1646

The Drive will be completed by 31.3.1997.

Dissatisfaction of Foreign Tourists due to Prohibition

1145 SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government are aware of the dissatisfaction of foreign tourists due to prohibition in some States

(b) if so the details thereof

(c) whether the tourism industry may be affected and inflow of foreign tourists may be declined due to prohibition in States

(d) if so the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(e) the steps taken to save tourism industry from any adverse impact?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA) (a) There are no reports received in the Department to this effect.

(b) Does not arise

(c) Foreign Tourist arrivals has increased by 7.6% from January to October 1996 over the corresponding period of the preceeding year.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

Interactive Voice Response System Facility at Trivandrum and Ernakulam Railway Stations

1146. SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have provided Interactive Voice Response System (IVRS) facilities at Trivandrum and Ernakulam Railway stations;

(b) if so, the details thereof

(c) whether the said system is gaining acceptability of the passengers; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (d). The provision of Interactive Voice Response System (IVRS) at Trivandrum and Ernakulam for giving computer generated response regarding reservation status to passengers has been included in the Annual Plan for the current financial year.

The system is steadily gaining acceptability of the travelling public. For giving information regarding current reservation status, the system is connected with the main computer and all the information that is available about it in the main computer is on line and accessible to the IVRS system. Therefore the information given by the interactive voice is as accurate and as updated as in the main computer system. There is no delay in responding to queries on telephone subject to the telephone line being available. The caller always gets response from the system which has obviated the possibility of indifferent response or nonresponse. It is possible to provide the facility of response in three different languages (i.e. Hindi, English and a regional language).

[Translation]

Hindi Advisory Committee

1147. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Hindi Advisory Committee has been constituted in his Ministry

(b) if so, the names of its members and whether its meeting was held and if not, the time by which it is likely to be held.

(c) the number of the official language implementation committees right from his Ministry to the lowest level

(d) the percentage of work done in the official language Hindi by its Chairman and Members;

(e) whether the official language implementation committees have nominated or propose to nominate non-official members as observers

(f) the number of branches of the departments wherein cent percent work is being done in official language, Hindi with details thereof; and

(g) the details regarding the use of Devnagri in typewriters and computers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b). Reconstitution of Railway Hindi Salahkar Samiti in this Ministry is under process. The meeting of the Samiti will be held after it is constituted.

(c) 999.

(d) The Chairman and Members of the Railway Board are doing their official work in Hindi to the extent possible.

(e) Non-Official members are nominated as observers in the Railway Board Official Language Implementation Committee and in Zonal Official Language Implementation Committee and Production Units etc. These observer members are nominated from the members of the Railway Hindi Salahkar Samiti.

(f) Thirteen (13) sections of various departments of this Ministry have been nominated to do cent percent work in Hindi.

(g) About 85% of the total number of personal computers in this Ministry are capable of working in Hindi. Maximum possible use of Devnagri computers and typewriters is being made in this Ministry.

[English]

Interconnect Agreement

1148. SHRI D.P. YADAV : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Letter of Intent for providing interconnect/basic telephone service has been issued

(b) if so, the details thereof.

(c) whether the conditions of the agreement have been accepted by the private operators.

(d) if so, the details thereof.

(e) if not, the reasons therefor and

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

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) and (b). The Letters of Intent for ten Telecom Circles have been issued to seven successful Indian Registered companies which participated in the tendering processes.

(c) to (e). Five Letter of Intent holding companies having accepted the LOIs, have also accepted the Agreement document subject to resolution of certain specific issues which they feel, are not yet addressed to their satisfaction viz. port charges, advance deposit, settlement of billing disputes.

(f) The Government is making efforts to finalise the agreement.

Postal Charges

1149. SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to hike the postal charges for commercial use.

(b) if so, the details and reasons therefor.

(c) whether the traders and entrepreneurs may be affected due to hike in postal charges. and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) Revision of postal rates is considered as a part of the annual budgetary exercise. While considering such revision all relevant factors are kept in view.

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

12.0½ hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

Memorandum of Understanding between the National Mineral Development Corporation and Ministry of Steel for 1996-97 etc.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : Sir, on behalf of Shri Birendra Prasad Baishya, I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) -

- (1) Memorandum of Understanding between the National Mineral Development Corporation Limited and the Ministry of Steel for the year 1996-97.

[Placed in Library See No. LT-657/96]

- (2) Memorandum of Understanding between the Hindustan Steel Works Construction Limited and the Ministry of Steel for the year 1996-97

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-658/96]

- (3) Memorandum of Understanding between the Metallurgical and Engineering Consultants (India) Limited and the Ministry of Steel for the year 1996-97.

[Placed in the Library. See No. LT-659/96]

Indian Telegraph (Third Amendment) Rules, 1996

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA) : Sir, on behalf of Shri Beni Prasad Varma, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Indian Telegraph (Third Amendment) Rules, 1996 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 255 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 26th June, 1996 under sub-section (5) of section 7 of the Indian Telegraph Act, 1885

[Placed in Library See No. LT-660/96]

12.01 hrs.

MESSAGE FROM RAJYA SABHA

[English]

SECRETARY-GENERAL : Sir, I have to report the following message received from the Secretary-General of Rajya Sabha -

"In accordance with the provision of rule 111 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to enclose a copy of the Maulana Azad National Urdu University Bill, 1996, which has been passed by the Rajya Sabha at its sitting held on the 27th November, 1996."

Sir, I lay on the Table the Maulana Azad National Urdu University Bill, 1996, as passed by the Rajya Sabha on the 27th November, 1996

12.01½ hrs.

MAULANA AZAD NATIONAL URDU UNIVERSITY BILL, 1996

As Passed by Rajya Sabha

[English]

SECRETARY GENERAL : Sir, I beg to lay on the table the Maulana Azad National Urdu University Bill, 1996 as passed by Rajya Sabha on the 27th November, 1996.

12.01¾ hrs.

PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEES - SUMMARY OF WORK

[English]

SECRETARY - GENERAL : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the 'Parliamentary Committee (other

than Financial and Departmentally related Standing Committees) Summary of Work' (Hindi and English versions) pertaining to the period from 1 June, 1995 to 10 May, 1996

12.02 hrs.

COMMITTEE ON THE WELFARE OF SCHEDULED CASTES AND SCHEDULED TRIBES

First and Second Reports

[English]

SHRI K. PRADHANI (Nowrangpur) : Sir, I beg to present a copy each of the following Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes including Minutes (Hindi and English versions) of the sittings of the Committee relating thereto :

- (1) First Report on the Ministry of Railways (Railway Board Reservation for the Employment of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in South Eastern Railway.
- (2) Second Report on the Ministry of Rural Areas and Employment (Department of Rural Employment and Poverty Alleviation) Employment and financial assistance provided to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes under Jawahar Rojgar Yojna.

12.03 hrs.

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

Issue of Closure of Industries in Delhi as a Result of Directions by the Supreme Court

[English]

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : Sir, in the wake of directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court in the inter-locutory Application No 22 in Writ Petition (C) No 4677 of 1985, 168 industries listed as hazardous/noxious/heavy/large industries are to be closed down on the mid-night of 30th November, 1996. Subsequently by another order, the Hon'ble Supreme Court has directed a further 513 units to be closed with effect from 31st January, 1997. In the order, dated 8th July, 1996, the National Capital Region Planning Board has been directed to render all assistance to the industries for the purpose of relocation outside Delhi. The Hon'ble Supreme Court has also

given certain directions regarding the amount of compensation to be paid to the affected workmen. The Hon'ble Supreme Court has also given directions that the workmen employed in the industries which fail to relocate and the workmen who are not willing to shift alongwith the re-located industries shall be deemed to have been retrenched with effect from 30th November, 1996 provided they have been in continuous service for not less than one year in the industries concerned before the said date. Besides the compensation payable under Section 25-F(b) of the Industrial Disputes Act, such workmen will also be given one year's wages as additional compensation.

According to the information received from the Government of NCT of Delhi, the industries have so far not shown any inclination for re-location.

The trade unions have also expressed apprehension that the industries are more interested in selling part of the land and utilise the money so received for purposes other than for relocation. The unions have therefore demanded that in the overall interest of the workers, the industries should be compelled to relocate and that in case of workmen who do not want to shift for one or the other reason, amount of compensation should be more than what has been ordered to be given in the judgement of the hon. Supreme Court.

This is a matter of grave concern as besides creating unemployment for about thirty thousand workers, this may lead to social tensions and a law and order situation. In the circumstances, we are exploring the possibility of advising the NCT of Delhi to approach the hon. Supreme Court to review their order in such a manner that shifting and relocation becomes an obligation rather than an option on the part of the industries concerned.

MR. SPEAKER : Please do not make a noise. It is a very important statement.

SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA : They may also request the hon. Supreme Court to consider allowing a higher compensation for such workers who are not in a position to shift to other places because of one or other reasons. While the Government is fully conscious of the need for pollution-free environment and planned development and fully respects the judgement of the hon. Supreme Court in the matter of closure of such industries, the hon. Court could also be requested to allow some more time for closure and relocation of the industries in question.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : There should be a discussion on this.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolgpur) : We would like to seek clarifications. (Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA) : It can be decided in the BAC.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : This is not a matter between NCT of Delhi and the Supreme Court. This is a matter about which the entire country is concerned and the House is concerned

SHRI RAJESH PILOT (Dausa) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have given a notice about the statement of the US Ambassador in Pakistan.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Sir, I request that a proper discussion be held on this so that the views of Parliament may also be made known. About 30,000 workers are going to be retrenched. They are treated as a dispensable commodity. Mere compensation cannot be the adequate remedy when alternative is not available in this country. This is a matter which should be treated in a much more serious manner.

I request you to kindly direct the Government to have a discussion on this. We must come out with a concrete plan of action.

MR. SPEAKER : We will place this matter before the Business Advisory Committee and we will try to find time to discuss it in the House.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ (South Delhi) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, you should get a discussion held on it in this House. (Interruptions)

SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL (Chandni Chowk-Delhi) : You please order an inquiry into it. (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Aggarwal, why are you still continuing when I have said that we will have a discussion on it?

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record.

(Interruptions)*

12.11 hrs.

MOTION RE : SEVENTH REPORT OF THE BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

[English]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA) : I beg to move :

"That this House do agree with the Seventh Report of the Business Advisory Committee presented to the House on the 27th November, 1996"

MR. SPEAKER : The question is

"That this House do agree with the Seventh Report of the Business Advisory Committee presented to the House on the 27th November, 1996"

The motion was adopted

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I have one observation to make.

(Interruptions)•

MR. SPEAKER : Let me have my say. You have no patience at all.

Normally, as you know, whenever there is a Calling Attention, Zero Hour is not there. Since I promised yesterday in the House that we will have Zero Hour today, we are having the Zero Hour as an exception. It should not be quoted as a precedent.

Secondly, I would like to reiterate my earlier announcement, that is, a Member can raise a matter in Zero Hour only once a week. Please remember it.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Everybody will get a chance. I will call one-by-one.

SHRI PC THOMAS (Muvattupuzha) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am on a very serious issue concerning women.

MR. SPEAKER : Is there any occasion when Members raise non-serious issues?

SHRI PC THOMAS : Sir, thousands of women students coming from all parts of India are studying in several Nursing Colleges and Schools in Bihar.

12.13 hrs.

(Mr. Deputy-Speaker in the Chair)

Many students from my State are also studying there. There is a very tragic situation prevailing there for the past seven years. Final year examinations have not been conducted there. It appears that there was some hitch between the Indian Nursing Council and some of the officials of the State Government regarding the appointment of the Registrar. That was the issue on which it started. Thereupon there were some cases and ultimately examinations were stopped. Consequent to this, the students are suffering. Since examinations have not been conducted for the past seven years, no pass certificates have been issued to the students. As a result of this, thousands of women who have studied there are denied the opportunity of working in hospitals. Another problem is, the Nursing Council says that examinations are to be conducted by the Government, and the Government says that the Nursing Council should not interfere in certain aspects. This controversy should be gone into. Thousands of women students are

put in a critical situation wherein their future is affected. They cannot have a family life...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P.C. CHACKO (Mukundapuram) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, for the last seven years examinations have not been conducted there...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : What is the problem?
(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : You all will get a chance.

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA (Kottayam) : The Government should take note of this. It is a very serious issue...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P.C. CHACKO : The responsibility of conducting the examinations is of the Indian Nursing Council...*(Interruptions)*... Lives of hundreds of students are ruined.

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA : This is a matter of very great importance. The Minister of Health is sitting here.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Thomas, have you made your point?

SHRI P.C. THOMAS : Sir, the hon. Minister of Health and the hon. Minister of Welfare are here. I urge upon them to respond to this...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI A.C. JOS (Idukki) : Ninety per cent of the students are from Kerala...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The Members, whoever have given notice, will be given a chance to speak.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You are wasting time in it.

(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI P.C. CHACKO : The Minister is ready to speak. Let him speak...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : If the Minister wants to say something, he can.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI) : The matter has just been brought to my notice. I can assure the House that I will look into what has been stated, and immediately respond to it.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Dr. Satyanarayan Jatia.
(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please sit down.
(Interruptions)

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIA (Ujjain) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, for members...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You will be given a chance to speak.

(Interruptions)

SHRI PRAFUL PATEL (Bhandara) : I did not get a chance to speak in the last session also, and even now in this session you are not allowing me to speak...*(Interruptions)*

12.14 hrs.

[English]

At this stage, Shri Datta Meghe and Shri Praful Patel came and stood on the floor near the Table.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Why are you losing temper?

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Those who have given notice will be given a chance.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : If your name is here, I must give you chance.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I will see that.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please go back to your seats.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Am I denying it? I am saying that you will get a chance. Why are you standing in the well?

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Surely I will give you chance. I have already said that.

12.15 hrs.

At this stage, Shri Datta Meghe and Shri Praful Patel went back to their seats.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please keep quiet. In that way you do not get a chance.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV (Purnea) : I have been giving notices for the last three days...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You may be giving it for the last ten days but you will be given a chance whenever your name comes in the list.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : This is not the way.

[Translation]

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIA (Ujjain) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Government has given an assurance or release of funds to Members' Local Area Development Scheme in last session also. Now the month of November is about to end but so far no fund have been allocated for the development of their areas. Uncertainty is prevailing there as no specific instructions have been issued to continue the developmental work started earlier. Such a situation has developed there that whenever we visit our constituencies, public ask us about it and we have no reply to their questions because a clarification is yet to come from the Government side.

Therefore, I would like to make a submission that the Government should make an announcement regarding release of funds for it immediately.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : It is alright.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : you cannot force the Chair.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I will surely call you, sit down.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please sit down. Please take your seats.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Why do you not sit down?

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I have already said that whosoever have given notices, I would try to give them chance. You are unnecessarily wasting time.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please allow the hon. Minister to speak.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA) : In the M.P. Local Area Development Scheme, the complaint is that the money has not been released so far...(Interruptions) This scheme is being monitored by the hon. Speaker himself. I will talk to the Finance Minister, who is expected here tomorrow. I will check up the issue and I will come back before the House with the exact position...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

PROF. RITA VERMA (Dhanbad) : What you were doing for last so many days...(Interruptions)

[English]

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : The Government has given an assurance in this House itself...(Interruptions) How long will you take?...(Interruptions) How long will you need to take up?...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRAFUL PATEL : This is not the part of the Business. This is not part of the agenda. You are allowing other things to go...(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : Money is not released.

SHRI PRAFUL PATEL : You are not allowing me to raise it...(Interruptions) You are allowing them...(Interruptions) This is not correct. We are not happy with it...(Interruptions) This is not part of the agenda...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please sit down.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : It is an important issue.

[English]

Please sit down.

(Interruptions)

SHRI PRAFUL PATEL : Kindly hear me for half a minute, Sir...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : On what subject?

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Will you get a chance by shouting? It will never happen.

(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI PRAFUL PATEL : Sir, that is not the issue...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : When I have told that the Member whose name is there in notice.

[English]

He will get a chance.

[Translation]

Will anyone get a chance by shouting.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : This I will not allow.

[Translation]

Please sit down.

(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI PRAFUL PATEL : Sir, You have assured us... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please sit down.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Why do not you sit down?

(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : This is not going on record.

[Translation]

I am saying that only four months are left. When the funds will be released and when will it be utilised? Therefore action should be taken on it. I also am sharing your feelings.

[English]

To do it immediately. He is trying for that.

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA : I will communicate this issue to the Finance Minister, who is not here. Tomorrow, I will communicate it to him... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : where the question of Finance Ministry comes in it? The assurance was given in the House that this scheme will continue. What does the hon. Finance Minister say in this regard? Why do you not tell us in this regard... (Interruptions). Has the Government no fund? Why is this being delayed? Does the Government want to change the present system? I want the exact date by which the funds will be released?... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : It is an important issue and it concerns all of us.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA : This scheme is a committed scheme by the Government of India and there is no going back from it. The money has not been released. I will take up this issue with the Minister of Finance and I will come back to the House tomorrow with a reply... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : This is not good. Please let Shri Dasmunsi speak!

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI (Howrah) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the

House and especially the Government through you. It is a very important matter which I repeated in the last Session of this Parliament and I have got no answer from the Government. I think it is very unfortunate.

The late Prime Minister Shri Rajiv Gandhi was assassinated on 21st of May 1991 and today it is 28th November 1996. I am not referring to the proceedings of the Commission which is barred by the rules of Parliament and I am not quoting anything.

There was an investigation team known as the Special Investigation Team placed in Chennai, earlier known as Madras city, to go into the matter immediately.

Sir, Rajiv Gandhi was not merely the Leader of the House but also the Prime Minister of this country. The entire Parliament owes a responsibility to the nation to spell out as to what had happened. Revealing stories are coming from abroad, in South Africa, in London, in New York and in the country about the nexus among the people within and outside the country on the conspiracy of the assassination of Shri Rajiv Gandhi. Why till now the Government, the Ministry of Home Affairs could not come out with a progress report as to what the investigation is leading to?

The present Minister of the Government, Shri Chidambaram, who was the Minister of the earlier Government and who was to monitor the entire investigation declared by the then Prime Minister - he was answerable to Parliament - assured the nation that by the 31st December, 1995 he would report the latest progress of this investigation to the nation. He failed to do so. Now, the situation has become very complicated. Is it not our responsibility as Members of Parliament to explain to the nation as to what is the mystery behind it? Why is it so? Why should we keep quiet about it? Why should the nation keep quiet about it? We go on enjoying all kinds of stories published in the various newspapers. Will the Parliament keep quiet? Why is the Government keeping quiet?

I raised this issue in the last Session of Parliament requesting the Government to please come out and tell us where the investigation was leading to. I am told that many of the eyewitnesses have been gagged; I am told that many of the officers who were earlier in the investigation team had been transferred, and I am told that even the important files relating to the Intelligence Report were missing from the Home Ministry. Is this the state of affairs in an investigation of this kind? I think, everybody will share the concern with me in this matter. I demand the Government to come out with the latest progress report of the investigation of Rajiv Gandhi assassination case at least in this Session.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI (Jhansi) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, an incident of fire took place in oil depot of Bharat Petroleum at 9 a.m. on 19-11-96 in Jhansi falling in my Parliamentary Constituency. This oil depot

is located at Sipri Bazar of Jhansi city. There has been fire incidents four times in this oil depot. This fire could be controlled after 3 hours' fire fighting and elaborate arrangements by the administration. This incident claimed seven lives, many persons were injured and whereabouts of many persons is still not known. Many injured persons have been hospitalised in Jhansi as well as in Delhi.

The condition of Jhansi, a historical city of Uttar Pradesh specially Sipri areas having a population of one and half lakh, is very grim. I demand that Rs. 5 lakh's financial assistance and job to one member of the family should be provided to each family of the deceased

My second demand is that the said oil depot located in Sipri Bazar of Jhansi city which is a densely populated area and where fire incidents have occurred four times, should be shifted to some other place.

My third demand is that a high level Parliamentary Committee should be constituted to look into the factors responsible for fire incident since it is the talk of the town that this fire incident has taken place due to internal conspiracy and carelessness. It is a tragic incident. Please instruct the hon. Minister to give a statement on this issue. The financial assistance of Rs. 5 lakh and job to one member of each family of the deceased should be provided and the orders should be issued to shift the oil depot immediately.

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I wanted to put before you some important issues of Bihar. Barauni is a very big city at a distance of 100 kilometers from Patna. River Ganga flows just 20 kilometer, before Barauni. Rajendra Bridge was constructed there. Barauni city, Barauni station and Barauni Fertilizer Plant are at a distance from the Ganga river. At present river Ganga is flowing at a close distance of 4-5 kilometre and has affected the nearby villages of Madarapur, Bariarpur, and Baro, having a population of around 25 thousand. These villages have been eroded and engulfed by the river and the residents of the villages have come to reside near Barauni station. No arrangement has been made to rehabilitate the families whose houses have been destroyed and land eroded. Steps should be taken immediately in regard to the said river but Bihar Government has not paid any attention in this regard. If the Government of Bihar and the Union Government do not pay any attention in this regard, the Barauni station and Fertilizer plant will be eroded within a month. Therefore, I want to state that it is a matter of erosion of atleast 10 villages, Madhurpur village having a population of 25 thousand has been eroded and the Fertilizer Plant is just 3-4 kilometre away but the Government is not paying any attention to it.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Sir, similarly no attention is being paid towards erosion of a pilgrimage in Saharsa by river Kosi. Some days ago Shri George Fernandes

had organised a public meeting in which he had promised to take the matter to the Supreme Court but no step was taken by the Government to save the temple of the goddess. The roads have started eroding. The river is approaching Saharsa.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please conclude it and give the remaining points in writing.

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV : Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, I shall conclude in one minute.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please conclude.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I shall conclude in one minute. Last night, our district President of Lakhisarai, Shri Dhanraj Bharati was shot dead at 8 p.m.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : On how many issues will you speak, please sit down.

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV : He contested an election and was defeated by only 600 votes.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You can speak on only one issue and not on 3-4 issues.

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV : I want to request.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please sit down. This is too much.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ (South Delhi) : Alright Sir, I conclude. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I through you, would like to draw the attention of the Government towards exorbitant increase in wheat and pulse prices.

Sir, there is a phrase in Hindi 'Aate dal ka bhav maloom hona' (To be confronted with unwelcome realities of practical life). If some one has to be cursed it is said you will be able to know the ground realities within a couple of days. But this Government in its some days' administration has compelled the people of entire country to experiences the unwelcome realities of practical life i.e. everyone is concerned about the soaring prices of wheat and pulse.

Sir, you must be knowing that at present flour is being sold at the rate of Rs. 9-10 per kg. A disastrous chaos has been let loose in the entire country. You hail from a poor family, so you know that the diet of a poorman or a casual labourer depends mainly on wheat; he does not get vegetables and pulses and he cannot imagine of ghee and butter. He prepares thick chapatis after mixing salt in flour and eat them by putting chilly

chutney over it with onion and relexes. But this poor farmer's Government has kept the chapatis out of poor man's reach. People are crying for help.

So far as the middle class is concerned he fulfils his protein demand from pulses but at present Arhar pulse is being sold at the rate of Rs. 32 a kg., Moong Rs. 30 per kg and the cheapest is the gram pulse which is being sold at Rs. 17 a kg. Tell me, how the middle class will fulfil the demand of protein of his family? How the poorman will survive? This price-hike has not benefitted the farmers also. The wheat was purchased from them at a very less rate. The real beneficiaries are mill-owners. They are getting wheat at the rate of Rs. 4.50 per kg. and are selling the same at the rate of Rs. 9-10 per kg. Therefore, I request you to instruct the Government to ensure the availability of two meetings food for a poor...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH (Vidisha) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the water of my area has turned poisonous. How can they eat chapatis...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAJESH PILOT (Dausa) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, through you I want to draw the attention of the Government to the statement of America's Ambassador on Kashmir issued in Pakistan.

It is a matter of great concern that whenever situation starts improving in Kashmir, invariably such a statement is issued by U.S.A. which worsens the position. It has happened earlier also. As the situation showed signs of improvement, one or the other high ranking official used to issue such statements on behalf of U.S.A. Now that a Government elected in a democratic way has started functioning there, the Ambassador of U.S.A. posted in Pakistan has issued a statement during his tour to India that elections can not help improve the Kashmir situation. This statement comes from such a country which calls itself a democratic country. We respect democratic values. However, whenever something happens in Afghanistan, U.S.A. ignores it completely. Democracy is murdered in our neighbouring country and U.S.A. does not take any account of it. In India we respect democratic values irrespective of the fact whether we are in power or not and a high ranking official of U.S.A. comes to our country and issues such statements I want that the Government should clarify its stand on this issue and I am aware that the Members of the House would agree that the Government should express its views that such a thing would not be tolerated. As a democratic country, we respect U.S.A. and we also respect Pakistan as one of our neighbouring country but U.S.A. has not asked Pakistan to hold talks with India about the Simla agreement. But when they spoke on this issue, they said that the situation is not good and would not be solved like this and they would have to hold talks about it. Expressing my concern, I would like to request the Government on behalf of the members of the House to make it clear to U.S.A. that such kind of statements would not be tolerated in India.

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur) : Sir, this is a very important issue. We support what Shri Rajesh Pilot has said. The Government should express its disapproval.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : This is an important issue. The Government should take note of it.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Your will also get a chance. The House would sit upto 2 P.M.

(Interruptions)

SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN (Khurja) : Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards the problem faced by farmers. This Government calls itself a well-wisher of farmers. The Assembly constituency of Dadri falls under my Parliamentary constituency, Khurja. There the land of farmers is being acquired and the Development Authority is selling that land at the rate of Rs. 1000 per square yard after acquiring it...*(Interruptions)* whereas the compensation is being given to the farmers at the rate of Rs. 46, Rs. 29, and Rs. 110 which is clearly the exploitation of the farmers. Through you, I would like to submit that no jobs are given to the family members of such farmers whose land is being acquired. Not even a single family member is given a job. Multinational companies are coming there and the authority is busy making money through under the table transactions with such companies whereas the farmers are getting exploited in the bargain. Through you I would like to request the Government to issue directions that justice should be imparted to the farmers. They should be given appropriate compensation for their land and their family members and sons should be given jobs so that such farmers may live comfortably and the authority should be asked to undertake development of the villages. When this authority was constituted, it was said that development work would be undertaken in these villages but nothing is being done. Through you, I would like to request the Government to pay attention towards this matter and take some steps in this regard.

SHRI MAHENDRA KARMA (Bustar) : Hon'ble Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, through you I would like to draw the attention of Hon'ble Minister of Railways. The Minister of Railways has announced in the House that Delhi-Rajhara-Jagdalpur Rail Line construction work would be included in the Railway Budget 1996-97. The Chief General Manager of S.E.R., Calcutta has publicly announced during his Jagdalpur-Bustar tour that Dalli-Rajhara-Jagdalpur rail line has not been included in the works proposals chalked out for 1996-97 which has created a state of confusion in the minds of residents of that area. Such a statement by a General Manager

is the contempt of the House. It falsifies the statement made by the Minister of Railways in the House. It shows the difference between what the Government says and what it actually does. I request the Minister of Railways to include the proposal of construction of abovementioned rail line in the works proposals and to take strong action against the General Manager for issuing erroneous statement.

SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT (Nagpur) : Hon'ble Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, Vidharbha is the most backward area of Maharashtra. (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You will be given the opportunity.

SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT : There are 9 districts in Vidharbha and the area is very backward and no development has taken place there for the last 40 years. The poor people are facing a lot of difficulties. The villages do not have drinking water facility. There are no metalled roads. People have to travel by bicycles, motorcycles, carts. During the rainy season, all the villages are totally cut off from the cities. For months together they are cut off from the highways. If people fall ill, they die of sickness. The history of Vidharbha is that when the State of Maharashtra was formed in 1960, nine districts of Vidharbha were included in the state of Maharashtra. At that time a Fazal Ali Commission, State Reorganisation Commission had recommended that Vidharbha should be given the status of a separate state. But due to such political compulsion that the Congress Government should come into power in Maharashtra and because of political reasons, Vidharbha was included in the state of Maharashtra. (Interruptions)

SHRI MADHUKAR SARPOTDAR (Mumbai North-East) : It is incorrect. (Interruptions)

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE (Ratnagiri) : People of that area have proved it. (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI MADHUKAR SARPOTDAR : He is bringing in politics on this issue. We will not allow it. (Interruptions)

SHRI PRAFUL PATEL : Sir, it is not a question of politics, it is the question of sentiments of the people. We support Shri Purohit when he is talking. But let him not bring in politics on this. (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT : Right now the current situation is that there is no drinking water facility in my area, Nagpur and other villages. The people of Vidharbha can not survive on the false assurances given by the Government. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we seek the support of the House to put an end to the injustice being done to the people of Vidharbha. The people of the nine backward districts can't progress till a Separate state is not formed. (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please sit down for a minute and listen to me.

(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI PRAFUL PATEL : Sir, either he speaks or we speak. (Interruptions)

SHRI DATTA MEGHE (Ramtek) : Sir, we should speak. That is our right. (Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I was deliberately avoiding this issue.

12.46 hrs.

At this stage Shri Datta Meghe came and stood on the floor near the table.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please go back to your seat.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Nothing is decided during the zero hour. You have expressed your views. The House has been apprised of your sentiments. It is sufficient.

SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT : The Government of Maharashtra had constituted Dandekar Committee with regard to Vidharbha. (Interruptions) Who can suppress the voice of our people. (Interruptions)

12.46¼ hrs.

At this stage, Shri Datta Meghe went back to his seat.

[English]

SHRI PRAFUL PATEL : Sir, why are you opposing us? (Interruptions)

SHRI DATTA MEGHE : Sir, we are also elected representatives of the people. We should also be given a chance to speak. We are the elected people.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You will also have your say. Please sit down.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Meghe, what do you want to say?

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You have already put forth your views. Now let him speak.

[English]

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR (Ballia) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, what is happening outside should not

influence the proceedings of this House. The Members should have their say and when there is another point of view you should give special consideration to the leader of another Party to mention his point. Let him mention his point.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Yes, surely; I have already said it.

[Translation]

SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT : The Government of Maharashtra had constituted a Dandekar Committee on Vidarbha. The committee considers that Rs. four thousand crore... (Interruptions) There is backlog. Injustice is being done against the youth of that region even in case of employment... (Interruptions) Therefore, my submission to this House is that our demand for a separate Vidarbha State is more legitimate than that of the demand for Uttranchal... (Interruptions) Our demand is that a separate Vidarbha State should be formed.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You had your say. Please sit down now.

[Translation]

Meghe ji, now you speak. You please sit down.

SHRI DATTA MEGHE : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Shri Purohit ji has just said that all Parties, except Shiv Sena, are demanding for a separate Vidarbha State. Our demand is very legitimate. As per the Bombay Re-organisation Act, 1960, Bombay state was divided into Maharashtra and Gujarat States. Before division took place, 9 districts of Vidarbha were in Madhya Pradesh and Nagpur was the capital of Madhya Pradesh. At the time of formation of Maharashtra State Nagpur Agreement was signed and many assurances were given before including Nagpur in the Maharashtra State. But even after 35 years, these assurances have not yet been fulfilled. In the assurances given under Nagpur Agreement, it was said that financial allocation would be made on the basis of population and it was also said that all round development of Vidarbha would be made but no assurance has been fulfilled so far. The assurance given in regard to education also has not been fulfilled. It was also assured that under the provisions of the Constitution of India, a separate Vidarbha State would be formed but unfortunately neither a separate state has been formed nor this region has been developed. It was specifically mentioned to form Vidarbha State. It was also said that Nagpur city would be developed and due attention would be paid to maintain its importance and dignity but no attention has been paid to it. It was also assured to develop industries and exploit the minerals and to resolve the problem of drinking water but no action has been taken in this regard too. The hon'ble President of India had set up a Vidarbha Development Board separately

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You have made your point. This is zero hour, and it is not proper during this period to read a written speech. Please sit down now.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I will allow you. You will have your say.

Please sit down.

[Translation]

SHRI DATTA MEGHE : Today, an agitation is going to take place there and we are strongly demanding for a separate Vidarbha State. Vidarbha State should be formed... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : What is this going on?

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI DATTA MEGHE : Members of all parties want a separate Vidarbha State. (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Mr. Meghe, You are a senior Member. Please sit down.

[Translation]

SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is a question of supply of water to the lakhs of people. (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record.

(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Unless I call you, do not speak please. I have already called him. Please take your seat.

(Interruptions)

SHRI MADHUKAR SARPOTDAR : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, two hon. Members of this House, Shri Banwari Lal Purohit and Shri Datta Meghe have raised a voice for having a separate Vidarbha State. It means they want the State of Maharashtra to be divided. Both the hon. Members are fully aware that the people of Maharashtra had struggled for not less than five years, thereafter the re-organisation of the State had taken place. Vidarbha was merged into the State of Maharashtra and so many other parts of Maharashtra have been taken into the State of Maharashtra. Subsequently, today Shri Meghe is forgetting the fact that there were Chief Ministers of Congress Party belonging to Vidharbha region. If they have not done anything for that region. (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : You had your say. Allow him to speak now.

SHRI MADHUKAR SARPOTDAR : Sir, they were having all the Ministers and they were ruling the entire Maharashtra State for 35 years. If they could not give sufficient funds, that is not the fault of the people of Maharashtra. Now, BJP-Shiv Sena Coalition Government is there in Maharashtra and since Shri Purohit also being one of the Members of our Coalition Government, my humble submission is that those people are committed to Vidarbha and that within a stipulated period we are sure that the progress of Vidarbha region will be taken care of. Now, enough fund has been allocated and supportive measures have been taken. So, the question of dividing the State of Maharashtra does not arise and this demand should not be entertained in this august House. This is my humble request...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please take your seat. Shri V.M. Sudheeran.

SHRI V.M. SUDHEERAN (Alleppey) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, the move of the Central Government to restructure the Public Distribution System will upset the well accepted Public Distribution System in Kerala, a food deficit State. The new proposal will have serious and far-reaching consequences, because it excludes more than 70 per cent of the people of Kerala from the Public Distribution System which will result in Unprecedented price increase.

The present allocation of 18 lakh tonnes of rice and 6 lakh tonnes of wheat to Kerala should be protected. The Central issue price should not be increased. The assurance given by the then Prime Minister Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru and the then Food Minister Babu Jagjivan Ram that Kerala would be supplied the full requirement of rice through the Public Distribution System for all times to come has to be honoured. Considering the seriousness of the issue involved, I request the Government, the Prime Minister and the Food Minister to have a meeting with the Members of Parliament of Kerala and other affected States to discuss the matter and until there is a consensus or there is a consent from States like Kerala, the Government should not move in this direction.

Sir, I am very sorry that the Food Minister has announced that from 26th January, 1997 onwards the new system is going to be implemented. This is a very serious issue and this will have very serious repercussions. So, I request the Government to take a serious note of reservations expressed by the Government of Kerala and the people of Kerala and to safeguard the interests of the State of Kerala

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Hon'ble Speaker has sent some names to me which are also to be included.

[English]

Please take your seat. You will get a chance.

(Interruptions)

SHRI P.C. THOMAS (Muvattupuzha) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, this is a very serious matter concerning Kerala and I would like to support him.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : You had your say. You were the first person to speak.

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA (Ferozabad) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to draw attention of this House to the Legislative Assembly constituency Shikohabad which falls under my Parliamentary Constituency Ferozabad. An industry is running there under the name of Hansence. The employees of this industry were holding peaceful demonstration there. After the demonstration, on Second August, the management resorted to lock-out. After lock-out negotiations were held thrice. Today, three thousand workers of that industry are jobless and they have come on roads. They are on the verge of starvation. A grim situation is prevailing there. I have met the Labour Minister and Chief Secretary three times in this regard but nothing has been done so far.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to urge upon the Union Government, Shri Ram Vilas Paswan ji is also present in the House, that the hon'ble Prime Minister who is called a well wisher of the labourers and son of the soil, should give a statement in this regard and make proper arrangements immediately.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please conclude.

SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the concerned Minister as well as Prime Minister are sitting here...*(Interruptions)* I have met three times...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please do not repeat anything

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, this Government claims to be the well wisher of the people but as a well wisher, I would also like to say that three thousand labourers are on the verge of starvation there...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please allow others to speak.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI PHOOLAN DEVI (Mirzapur) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to raise some points about my

Parliamentary constituency Mirzapur Bhadohi. There, tribal and poor people are actually landless persons. They are not given land and those persons who already have land and are rich manipulate to get the lease of land registered in their names by offering bribes to the officials. Though, some of the poor have been given lease of land but they are not being given possessions. Tribal people are thrown from one place to another. They are not being given houses to live. They are not being provided with the houses even in the Ambedkar Nagars declared under 'Indira Awas Yojna'. Through you, I would like to submit that our tribal people should immediately be given land and houses under the Indira Awas Yojana. Thank you very much.

SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am raising this matter with a heavy heart. The people of Vidisha did not celebrated Diwali this time. On Diwali day, when other people were lighting earthen lamps, the people of Vidisha were demonstrating taking torch-light in their hands. Betwa river is an important river of this country. This holy river has been badly polluted today as a result thereof it has become poisonous. Lakhs of fishes and hundreds of cattle have died after drinking its water and thousands of people have fallen sick after consuming this poisonous water. The death rate in Vidisha district has increased to a great extent. Today, the situation is so grim there that the Municipality and District Administration have declared that water as injurious to health. Water supply has been stopped there due to which lakhs of people are pining for drinking water. Rich people are able to get water after boring of tubewells but the poor are compelled to drink the river water as a result of which they fall ill. It is a curse for them.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, 350 industrial units in Mandi Deep release poisonous and chemically polluted water in the Betwa river. Two distilleries are polluting Betwa river and the sewerage water of the entire Bhopal also falls into the Betwa river due to which this river has been converted into filthy and poisonous water today.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I, an M.P. from Vidisha Parliamentary Constituency, am giving this warning to bring it into the history of the Parliament that if measures are not taken to save the Betwa river from pollution, thousands of people will die. Even after holding a lot of discussion later on we would not be able to do anything. Therefore, through you, I would like to make a humble request to the Government that effective measures should be taken to make the Betwa river pollution free and it should assure the people of Vidisha by giving a statement in this regard...*(Interruptions)*

13.00 hrs.

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, this is a very serious question and it will not confine to the Betwa alone. Betwa joins Chambal river, Chambal joins Yamuna river and Yamuna joins

Ganga. If pollution goes on unabated in this way, it will not pollute Betwa basin alone. As per the statement of the Hon'ble Member given here and the news item that I have read in the newspapers, I feel sad that all this water pollution will go upto Calcutta also. We will not be able to check it because the level of pollution is so high that it has created a very serious situation. Many diseases are spreading due to this water pollution and it will harm crops also because this pollution will effect the foodgrains which will be grown with the polluted water. This is not a general question, therefore, it is very necessary to take prompt steps to check this pollution. I am very much concerned about it because the whole water of Betwa river comes in Allahabad through Yamuna river. I am a resident of Allahabad and represent that area in Parliament. This is a serious threat for that constituency, whole country as serious threat for that constituency, whole country, as well as for entire Ganga basin. This is a very serious question therefore, the Government should react to it immediately...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please allow Shri Ahmed to speak.

SHRI E. AHAMED (Manjeri) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Government to the sad and pathetic plight of more than 60,000 Indians...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : You had your say, I cannot force the Minister to give a reply. Please allow Shri Ahamed to speak.

[Translation]

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : The leader of the House should say something about it...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I will not prevent him if he wants to reply to it...*(Interruptions)*

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : Do you want to say something about it...*(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : It is a serious and a dangerous thing if the versions of the Hon. Member and Shri Joshi are correct...*(Interruptions)* It will be brought to the notice of the concerned Minister and we will ask him to order an inquiry into it to find out the fact...

[English]

SHRI E. AHAMED : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Government to the sad and pathetic plight of more than 60,000 Indians, who have been sent back by the UAE Government on the basis of amnesty declaration by that Government. Thanks to the sympathetic consideration of that Government, our people could return to our country. I do not know why the Government is very much

insensitive to the issue of those Indians, who have returned from another country. Some years ago, when some of the Indians have been sent back by the Government of Uganda, many of them were British citizens. The Government of Britain had taken very much interest in them and was very much sensitive to the issue. Here these people who have been contributing to the foreign exchange earnings of our country - a majority of these 60,000 people belongs to the labour class - have been treated in a very shabby manner when they have been sent back.

As a matter of fact, there are more than 60,000 people, but the official figure is 60,000. Out of these 60,000 people 45 per cent come from Kerala, 23 per cent come from Andhra and the remaining people are from the rest of the country. I am told by no less a person than the Ambassador himself that out-passes have been issued to 45,000 people, and they have to come to India with these out-passes. There were also nationals of Philippines, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Pakistan among those who have been sent back, but their concerned Governments issued the passports without any difficulty so as to enable them to go back and obtain the jobs in UAE as legal immigrants, whereas our Government is dilly-dallying in issuing the passports. When the people applied for a passport on the basis of these out-passes, they are being asked to produce many certificates with the result these people are not able to go there to get the jobs which they have been doing. Our people are being denied the legal right. Why is the Government of India very much insensitive to this issue? The work done by our dynamic Ambassador deserves appreciation. It is only because of the Ambassador of India in UAE that the Government of UAE granted amnesty. The Kerala Government also approached the Central Government for some viable schemes to be implemented for the sake of these people. They have not been given any assistance, they have not been given any encouragement, and the External Affairs Ministry has not given the necessary clearance for getting the passport. This is a very serious issue and we are doing injustice to those people who have been earning foreign exchange for this country. They have also competed with the people of other countries in the job market. Our country is the main exporter of manpower to other countries. This manpower is one of the sources of income to this country. Therefore, I take this opportunity to draw the attention of the Government to this fact and request that expeditious be taken to solve the problem of our Indian people in the other countries.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The House stands adjourned for lunch to meet again at 14.05 PM.

13.05 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned for Lunch till five minutes past Fourteen of the clock

14.15 hrs.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch at Fifteen Minutes past Fourteen of the clock

(Mr. Deputy-Speaker in the Chair)

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI (Sitamarhi) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, thousands of women working as Anganwadi workers are staging dharna near Parliament Street. These poor women are being paid only Rs. 200/- p.m. since 1975. It is a meagre amount now-a-days. I had visited them before coming here. Thousands of women have taken part in the demonstration. I would be grateful if you kindly give instructions for regularising the services of these women and make them permanent Government servants.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You should give a notice in writing to this effect.

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI : The whole House is unanimous on this issue. (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You should give a written notice or raise it under some Rule.

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI : I seek your protection as the whole House is unanimous on this issue.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You have your say now please sit down.

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI : It would have been better if some instructions had been issued and action taken on it. (Interruptions)

SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL (Chandni Chowk-Delhi) : Sir, the discussion on Calling Attention Motion should be changed into a discussion under Rule 193, otherwise we, the MPs from Delhi would not get a chance to speak.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : It cannot be done.

SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL : The MPs from Delhi should be given a chance to speak. Shri Jagmohan is also present in the House.

SHRI JAI PRAKASH (Hisar) : Does your name appear in the list?

SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL : I have given a notice in writing. (Interruptions)

14.17 hrs.

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

Widespread dengue fever in Delhi, Haryana and other parts of the Country during October-November, 1996.

[Translation]

SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV (Godda) : Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Minister of Health

and Family Welfare to the following subject of urgent public importance and request him to make a statement in this regard.

"Situation arising from the death of many people due to widespread dengue fever in Delhi, Haryana and other parts of the country during October-November 1996 and steps taken by the Government in this regard."

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI) : The outbreak of dengue which mainly affected Delhi has been brought under control. As per information received upto 15.11.96, a total of 392 deaths in Delhi, 48 deaths in Haryana and 49 deaths in other parts of the country on account of suspected dengue/DHF have been reported. Dengue is caused by a Virus and is endemic in most countries of the tropics although Dengue outbreaks in India were a relatively less frequent occurrence. The disease is spread from the bite of an infected Aedes mosquito. This mosquito has specific breeding habits and is usually found as a domestic breeder in collars, pots, flower vases etc. inside and around houses.

The first suspected case of Dengue Haemorrhagic Fever during the current outbreak came to notice on 13.9.1996 in Delhi and immediately investigations were undertaken by agencies like National Institute of Communicable Diseases (NICD), National Malaria Eradication Programme (NMEP) and National Institute of Virology (NIV), Pune. Suspected cases of Dengue/DHF occurrence in Faridabad and Ludhiana came to notice in the middle of October, 1996.

Important measures taken by the Health agencies inter alia included

1. Immediate establishment of systems for the daily reporting of cases and deaths from all major public and private hospitals. Two control rooms were established on 10.9.96 by the Directorate General of Health Services and National Malaria Eradication Programme
2. Alerting the State Governments and in particular Delhi, Haryana and Punjab of measures to be taken for detection of cases, anti-larval operations, fogging intensification of health education activities and clinical management of patients.
3. Augmentation of blood component separation facilities in major hospitals and the Indian Red Cross Society.
4. Augmentation of Bed capacity in all Central Government hospitals, AIIMS, and other hospitals in Delhi as patients from surrounding areas like Faridabad, Gurgaon, Ghaziabad, Noida, were reportedly using the

medical facilities, including the blood component separation facility available in Government hospitals in Delhi. All Hospitals were instructed not to refuse any patient and this was effectively monitored.

5. Government of NCT Delhi was supplied additional quantities of Pyrethrum Extract, Malathion and fogging machines. Government of Haryana was also supplied Malathion technical, Synthetic Pyrethroid and Fogging Machines. Government of Punjab was also supplied with Malathion technical and Fogging machine. These supplies were made over and above the normal supply being made under the Centrally sponsored Programmes of NMEP to the States.
6. I took review meetings on three occasions, one on the 9th October, 1996 where the Health Minister, Government of the NCT of Delhi had also participated and subsequently on the 15th October, 1996 and on the 21st October, 1996, specifically to review the dengue situation in Delhi and surrounding areas.
7. A high level Central Coordination Committee under the Chairmanship of the Union Health Secretary was set up to review the dengue situation in Delhi and to advise remedial action to be undertaken by the concerned agencies of the State Governments. This Committee met on a daily basis from the 16th October, 1996 to the 8th November, 1996.
8. Special teams of experts consisting of public health experts of NICD, medical experts and paediatricians from Central Government hospitals in Delhi were deputed to Faridabad and Gurgaon in Haryana, Ghaziabad and Meerut in Uttar Pradesh and Ludhiana in Punjab to assess the adequacy of vector control measures, case management, availability of platelets/plasma and availability of medicines and consumables and also to advise the concerned authorities for taking remedial action to contain the outbreak.
9. The Union Health Secretary took a meeting of all State Health Secretaries on the 24th October, 1996 specifically to review the situation of dengue/DHF in the entire country. The need for the States to undertake intensive vector control both for dengue and for malaria with a view to preventing the outbreak of these diseases was underlined. The States were asked to be ready with contingency plans to meet emergent situations in the respective States. All the

States were advised to depute teams of doctors to Delhi to sensitize them in the case management of dengue. The attention of the State Health Secretaries was drawn to the surveillance action plan on dengue which was circulated to them in August, 1995 by the NICD. All possible assistance by the Centre to the affected States was assured to them.

10. On my directions, centrifuge machines from Bombay meant for blood bank facilities for various States under the National AIDS Control Organisation were brought to Delhi, Faridabad, Ludhiana and Meerut. Besides augmenting blood component separation facilities in Delhi, which is very crucial for treatment of dengue/DHF patients such machines were asked to be kept in reserve for meeting any emergency situation in other States.
11. The Indian Red Cross Society, Delhi played a major role in providing platelets, plasma and whole blood to affected DHF patients. From the 26th September, 1996 to the 18th November, 1996, about 7500 units of platelets, 4871 units of plasma and 7105 units of red cells were supplied to DHF patients free of cost. The blood bank of IRCS, Delhi worked around the clock with additional medical and paramedical forces. Patients from Faridabad, Gurgaon, Ghaziabad and Noida were also supplied blood components by IRCS, Delhi. The All India Institute of Medical Sciences had supplied 857 units of platelets to patients in other hospitals besides issuing 1303 units of platelets to dengue patients admitted in AIIMS between the 22nd August, 1996 to the 21st November, 1996.
12. Community participation in preventing further outbreaks of the disease was arranged by involving local leaders, resident welfare associations of colonies, NGOs and other voluntary bodies like Indian Medical Association, Delhi Medical Association, Voluntary Health Association of India, etc. An effective mass awareness programme was launched through multi-media publicity campaign not only for the general public but also for private medical practitioners who normally give the first line of treatment of patients. The impact of this campaign was visible and immediate, resulting in a large number of admissions being reported in the hospitals, where due to appropriate symptomatic treatment and clinical management the mortality rate was arrested.

The hon. Prime Minister personally reviewed the situation by visiting major hospitals and making on the spot assessment of the patient care services in Delhi hospitals.

Reports have also been received about a large number of fever related deaths in the Mewat region of Haryana. These cases were due to malaria and low nutritional levels but not due to dengue. Adequate supplies of materials for vector control measures and anti-malarial drugs have been supplied to the Government of Haryana. I myself visited the Mewat region along with experts to review the situation on the 19th November, 1996. Subsequently, the Prime Minister made a special visit to the Mewat region on the 23rd November, 1996. Subsequently, the Prime Minister made a special visit to the Mewat region on the 23rd November, 1996 and has announced a package of relief measures to the Government of Haryana. Special teams of NMEP and NICD have been visiting the region almost without any gap and have been extending all assistance to the concerned health authorities in the State.

The Ministry is now preparing a contingency plan for vector borne diseases like malaria, *kala-azar* and dengue. A calendar of events and activities is under preparation for being provided to the State Governments on a State-wise basis, highlighting endemic areas and specific locations requiring attention from the points of view of prevention, spraying during transmission period and treatment. It is my endeavour to see that not only is this shared with the States, but in case we do not see adequate response from an individual State, the matter is raised well in time with the Health Secretaries, Chief Secretaries, Health Ministers and Chief Ministers so that at all times there is sufficient time for containment and corrective action to be taken by individual States. Public health and sanitation is a State subject under the Constitution but it is my deepest concern to see that we step up surveillance and do everything possible to curb the outbreak and spread of diseases by taking preventive action well in time.

[Translation]

SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, when any infectious disease outbreaks in India, we start tracing its roots as if it has broken for the first time. The history of the world says that infectious diseases have been eradicated from the developing countries. But in our country infectious diseases outbreak on a large scale even after fifty years of independence and our Government suddenly become alert and think of doing something.

In developed countries, people die in accidents or due to cancer or heart attack but not due to infectious disease. The Government should tell us about the measures adopted during the last fifty years to check spread of this disease.

The hon'ble Minister has mentioned some points. Today we have Doordarshan. The Ministry of Health has a vast Public Education Department and it has several voluntary organisations associated with it. In what manner the Government have utilized their services?

I would like to quote the opinions of experts. The need of quoting their opinion has arisen because I want to know whether the Government has paid attention to it or not.

[English]

In *India Today*, dated October 11, 1996, there is an article entitled 'Deadly Comeback' in which it is said:

"Virulent strains of old diseases sweep India even as new ones take root; drugs become increasingly ineffective and public health systems find it difficult to cope."

In the same article, Dr. Kalyan Banerjee says:

"We had better be scared. Apart from a resurgence of a range of old infections, new ones are breaking out."

According to Dr. K.K. Datta, Director, National Institute of Communicable Diseases:

"The microbial revolution is a deep-rooted worldwide phenomenon, say experts. 'We are on the brink of a global crisis in infectious diseases. No country is safe from them,' warns the WHO. It does not help that India spends a paltry 1.5 per cent of its GDP on the health sector each year, compared to 10 per cent in the West."

In the article it has been mentioned:

"New viruses can spread quickly. Till about a decade ago, many Indians hadn't even heard of HIV and AIDS. Today it's all over India."

In the same article, Dr. K.K. Datta further says:

"With no fool-proof surveillance or preventive measures, the graph will continue to climb."

[Translation]

You have given the figures about the dead. The dead are gone but we should think of those who are alive. I am quoting the opinions of experts so that it comes to your notice and further action could be taken on it.

[English]

In the same edition of *India Today*, in another article entitled 'Rising from the Ashes' it is mentioned:

"It's hardly surprising that virology research in the country isn't getting very far either. 'Cutting-edge research is anyway an absolute zero in India and this is particularly

true for research in infectious diseases,' says Dr. Kanury Rao, Head of the Immunology Division of the International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology in Delhi. Financial aid for research has only plunged in the past few years."

Another expert says:

"Doctors and health professionals across India believe solutions lie in having public health experts rather than bureaucrats at policy making levels. Also needed: rapid response units, the medical equivalent of commandoes that could swing into action to handle localised outbreaks and a strong network of disease surveillance units across the country. Delhi's dengue outbreak could have been at least reduced in intensity, if the mosquitoes' population was checked."

[Translation]

MR DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yadavji, today you are speaking in English. You give your opinion after quoting the opinions of experts.

SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV: I was quoting the opinions because everybody felt scared as the news about the outbreak of dengue emanated from newspapers. The press and electronic media came out with medical bulletins in which they gave information about the preventive measures in detail. I would not like to go into its details but would say that action should be taken as per the Indian Medical Tribune. I wanted to give one more suggestion.

[Translation]

MR DEPUTY SPEAKER: What clarification do you want from the hon. Minister? Do you want to ask something?

[English]

SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV: I suggest that there should be an appropriate system with an early warning signal just like the weather forecasting.

[Translation]

It is very essential. The most essential thing to stop this disease was to meet the deficiency of blood. May be that the platelet machine is available at every place at present but at that time this machine was available only with Red Cross and AIIMS. One such machine was purchased by Safdarjung Hospital but not even a single bottle of blood could be processed by it and it was sent back stamping it as useless. I would like the Government look into the carelessness of the Department and Government to enquire into the matter as to why the machine was sent back without bringing it in use.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Malaria eradication programme was launched in seventies and it was

claimed that Malaria had been totally eradicated. But it has once again erupted. Is it a system of eradicating malaria or was it eradicated temporarily? Would it be eradicated permanently? It was not that only Delhi came under the grip of Dengue but the entire country was affected by it not once but twice and the situation became out of control. Earlier, Dengue was noticed in Cuba and Thailand. We were baffled as to what to do in this case because Dengue is caused by virus and Malaria erupts due to parasite. To distinguish both the diseases we had to send the blood samples to Pune only then we came to know about Dengue. The Government as well as we should give priority to the work to be undertaken. It has been said that the Government supplied the facilities of analysing blood elements from All India Institute of Medical Sciences but it has not been stated as to what was the need at a particular point of time. Machines of AIIMS and Red Cross were not sufficient to fulfil the demand. Therefore, at that time everyone was scared of being a victim of Dengue.

Sir, Delhi has not been accorded full status of a State. There are DDA, NDMC and Railway Colonies in Delhi and lakhs of employees commute daily from other places. Nobody knows who is a disease carrier. The population of Delhi is more than one crore. Industrial Pollution is one of the factors responsible for disease. Industrial pollution and increase in garbage and pollution due to deforestation is also helping in eruption of the disease. The Government should also pay attention to it.

I would like to say something about the Government of Haryana. Just like Dengue spread in Delhi in the same way Malaria spread in Mewat. I do not want to explain as to how Haryana faced the situation and did everything in time because you yourself visited there. It imported machines, set up a committee for this purpose, invited experts and fumigation was done all around. For that purpose also, many machines were imported from Germany. But they have sought financial assistance to combat the disease. The State has sought Rs. 43.36 crore for national calamity relief, Rs. 11 crore have been sought from the Ministry of Health for paramedics and health-related measures and Rs. 20 crore have been sought from Planning Commission to convert the said measures into long term measures. The possibilities of spreading yellow fever are also there in the area. Some patients of this disease have been reported at some places and some have developed symptoms of it. Both the Dengue and the yellow fever have the similar symptoms. What steps the Government proposes to take to prevent the yellow fever from taking an alarming shape? We have seen that four five contagious diseases like Kalazar, Plague and dysrrhoea become very common and serious in India. W.H.O. has assured to provide financial aid for this. Unless we compensate it and increase the financial aid, we cannot make the Ministry of Health efficient. Has the Government any programme or scheme to eradicate these contagious diseases? We

have signed an international treaty to provide health for all by the year 2000. How can we achieve this target when we cannot eradicate these contagious diseases from the country. I would like to say that the Ministry of Health of Central Government is not the Ministry of Health of any State. Ours is a vast country where one or other type of contagious diseases always spreads at any place. When the department of health could not control this disease in Delhi, what will happen in villages where there is no facility of treatment if it outbreaks there? What measures the Government propose to take to combat this situation?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please conclude Mr. ex-Health Minister.

SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV : I would like to mention 3-4 more points. If the facility of blood platelets provided to Delhi is not provided to States and some areas, will the Government propose to supply it from Delhi to the places or areas where the Dengue or yellow fever spreads? Therefore, I urge upon the Government to arrange to provide this machine to all major states immediately and make such arrangements so that contagious diseases may not spread in any state. It should also arrange for its assistance and there should be an expert committee for its constant vigilance so that our country may not come in the grip of these contagious diseases and it should also be eradicated like chicken-pox. In this context I would like to know as to whether there is any scheme under the consideration of the Government to eradicate these contagious diseases.

[English]

*SHRI HARADHAN ROY (Asansol) : Hon. Deputy Speaker Sir, I shall speak in Bengali. Despite the fact that Delhi is the capital of India, the dreadful dengue fever took such a severe toll here. The outbreak of dengue was so alarming in the capital itself. If it can be so severe in a city like Delhi, we cannot imagine the plight of other people of other places. As per information furnished by the Minister, the number of people who lost their lives due to dengue is 392 in Delhi, 48 in Haryana and 49 in other parts of the country. In Delhi itself the casualties are 392. Now if we try to locate the most affected area we will find it to be vastly populated and congested area where the inhabitants happen to be the poorer sections of society. Even percentage-wise the number will denote that most of the victims belonged to the poor class of the society. Dengue fever is generally associated with high fever, severe headache, body pain and blood vomiting, loose motions, urine with blood. The sad part is that even before the fever is detected many patients die. It has happened this time also. If the situation became so uncontrollable in a place like Delhi, what would be the plight of other people in other parts of India. Thousands

* Translation of the speech originally delivered in Bangla

of people die every year in Haryana, Rajasthan, Assam, North-East due to malaria. Dengue is caused by bite of mosquito*. It is not only dengue, but malaria fileria, yellow fever, kala azar, encephalitis, etc. are also caused by mosquito. Thousands of people become the victims of these diseases every year. The responsibility to combat these epidemics has to be a joint responsibility, because however big a State machinery might be it is not possible to face the challenge alone. The Centre and the State must share responsibility. It is so unfortunate that detection of dengue took so much of time. If the detection and treatment of the disease take so much time in a place like Delhi, what will be the situation in other parts of the country. I stay near Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital. Fogging machine has been used there. Has this step been taken in other areas also? Since mosquito carries the disease, has any campaign been launched in the whole country so as to stop the breeding of mosquito. At least I do not have any information in this direction. In the past there used to be DDT spray for every area once or twice in a month. At least it used to be there too in our childhood. But what preventive measures have been taken to stop the breeding of mosquito.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Mr. Roy, what clarifications do you want?

SHRI HARADHAN ROY : I am coming to that.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : It would have been better if you had given notice in advance that you will speak in Bengali.

SHRI HARADHAN ROY : Yes, I have sent the notice in advance. How can I speak in Bengali without giving a notice?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Any way, the arrangement has now been made. You may please seek clarification.

SHRI HARADHAN ROY : The interpretation is coming.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : It has been arranged now.

SHRI HARADHAN ROY : It is not my mistake. I had given the notice in advance.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You have to seek a clarification and not to make a speech.

SHRI HARADHAN ROY : Sir, the clarification that I want to seek is that thousands of people die annually due to outbreak of malaria, yellow fever, phileria and other diseases. It is only after the outbreak of disease and when it turns epidemic then only the Government become conscious and start functioning. But I would like to know from the Government what preventive measures they are going to take to combat these diseases so as to stop them forever. They must take some effective steps to reduce the mortality rate. The strange thing about dengue is that it is caused by mosquito biting during day time. Generally mosquito like dark room and attack their prey during night. But

dengue is spread from the bite of an infected aedes mosquito. Unlike other mosquitos they breed in clear stagnant water of coolers, pots, water tanks, etc. They are the domestic breeders and spread the disease. Now I would like to know what preventive measures have been taken to stop spread of the disease? Moreover when the patient suffers from dengue, the detection cannot be performed here. The blood sample has to be sent to Pune and then only it is possible to detect the disease. This has happened in Delhi. Now my question is whether a country-wide publicity campaign will be launched so as to make even people from remote area conscious that dengue is caused by this particular type of mosquito. An effective mass awareness programme must be launched through multi-media to make people who died due to dengue. Moreover, this particular mosquito bites during day time. People who can afford may use mosquito net during night but most of the people below the poverty line cannot even earn their livelihood properly. How can they afford to purchase mosquito net for each and every member of the family? The suggestion to use mosquito net is easy to make. But in a country like ours where large number of people are below poverty line cannot afford such luxury. They do not have proper room to stay so there is no question of stagnant water. But they are the victims of all types of diseases. So it is the responsibility of the Government to provide them help, assistance and proper guidance.

Though I am speaking in Bengali, I am drawing the attention of the Minister. A strong preventive measure must be taken to stop such epidemics.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please do not repeat.

SHRI HARADHAN ROY : Sir, I am not repeating anything. I am saying that we cannot even provide drinking water to our people and we are campaigning for cleanliness drive. The Delhi Government have been advising people to keep the surroundings clean. But these mosquitos breed in clean water of cooler, water tank, pot, etc. which are found among affluent people. The disease has spread from there to the slums where people do not have even thatched huts. They are the worst sufferers. Delhi Government have claimed to deploy about 5500 people and again 500 people for cleanliness drive. But what about other machinery like fogging etc. Until and unless we have full machinery and materials to combat the situation, it is not possible to achieve any fruitful result. So the Centre and the State must work jointly to stop the spread of diseases like malaria, yellow fever, dengue, encephalitis on war-footing. I would like to know from the Minister whether the Government propose to take some preventive measures to stop this kind of epidemic. Thank you.

[Translation]

SHRI SURENDER SINGH (Bhiwani) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, so far as dengue, malaria and other related

diseases are concerned, all these diseases have badly affected Haryana. If you think about its reasons, you will have to draw your attention towards the last session. During the last session the hon'ble Members of Rajasthan and Haryana had stated that this epidemic had spread due to heavy rains occurred on 23rd, 24th and 25th June. This heavy rain had occurred on 23rd, 24th June in the Mewat region of Haryana and its adjoining areas of Rajasthan. Such heavy rains were never recorded there in the past.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, if you see the yearly record of rain, you will find that this torrential rain has broken all the previous records. I would like to tell you that 568 m.m. rains was recorded in Ferozpur Jhirka, in Mewat area, within a night. Similarly, 300 millimeter, 265 and 205 millimeter rains were recorded in Noonh, Nagina and Punhana respectively. 204 millimeter rain was recorded in Tavroo. If you work out the average of rain in that area during the entire year, it comes to 400 millimeter to 500 millimeter.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, when this epidemic spread there, higher officials of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare had visited the Mewat region. Our hon'ble Health Minister had also taken stock of the situation. After visiting entire Mewat region, the officials gave some suggestions and our Health Minister realised that this epidemic had spread there due to floods which come in Rajasthan as a result thereof two dams in Rawali and Kameda and broken and some of its water entered into Haryana. Besides this, the water of Haryana also did not have any outlet as the area was surrounded by Arawli hills.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, 37 thousands acres of land was submerged in water due to which a loss of around Rs. 30-40 crore was suffered at that time. The Government of Haryana had imported 160 fogging machines to protect the people from disease and 10 mounted vehicles had been spraying in 6 blocks continuously. This disease could be controlled only after making efforts by our 37 Para-Medical teams day and night.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Government of Haryana have limited resources. The day when our Government took over the charge, we had a deficit and around Rs. 3.75 crore. The concerned Minister is present here. Keeping in view the backwardness of this region, our Government had set up a 'Mewat Development Board' for which provision in the budget never exceeded Rs. 4.5 crore.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You tell about malaria.

SHRI SURENDER SINGH : I am telling about malaria itself. Keeping all these things in mind, the Government have earmarked Rs. 17 crore for Mewat Development Board this year. Our Health Department has also spent Rs. 7 crore within a month to control this disease.

Through you, I would like to know from the hon'ble Health Minister whether the Central Government is considering any comprehensive plan to meet the situation created by any natural calamity, be it floods or drought and for the cleanliness of villages and cities? Besides this, whether the Government will introduce any insurance scheme for the people of those areas where such disease has spread so that the Central Government itself spend the money meant for the purpose? The people living in the areas like Mewat are physically very weak. Their haemoglobin is between 2 to 6. Whether the Central Government will implement employment insurance scheme for the youth of all 6 blocks of Mewat? Whether any other scheme is under consideration of the Government to raise the low nutrition level? A demand for the construction of Mewat canal was made to the Prime Minister during the visit there. I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister as to whether the Government will undertake construction work of Mewat canal during the Ninth Five Year Plan? If the Central Government is going to include this work in this plan, whether the entire expenditure will be borne by the Central Government and if it is not taking this responsibility in its hands, whether it will provide financial assistance to the State Government for construction of this canal?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : How have you connected the construction of canal with the malaria?

SHRI SURENDER SINGH : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, all these diseases have spread due to stagnation of water in that area. Water will be pumped out of Mewat region through lift irrigation scheme ... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : There is no commentary. Only those Members can speak who have given notices for calling Attention Motions and whose names have appeared in the list.

PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA (Samastipur) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it seems that we have become very insensitive so far as death is concerned, be any party in power in the country. When any big incident takes place, a discussion is held in the House but after discussion, nothing is being done. I can remember that during sixth and seventh five year plan, 'Kalazar' had spread in Bihar.

15.00 hrs.

Discussions were held several times in this regard but in spite of that Bihar is still suffering from kalazar and medicines are not being made available there.

[English]

As per Parkinson's Law on Committee-ology, there will be some sittings, there will be a loud report and the matter will be dropped.

[Translation]

And after that all matters are dropped. It seems that here also position is same. I am talking of 'Kalazar' so that you may not say that I am talking about dengue. He has mentioned it in his statement. I have come to know from the newspapers that World Health Organisation had warned the Government of India, on 4th September itself that dengue can spread here. A news regarding death due to dengue appeared in the newspapers on 13 September. It is said that the Government had made all preparations to deal with the situation.

15.01 hrs.

(Shri Chitta Basu in the Chair)

A circular was sent to all the Members of Parliament by Directorate General of Health Services which read:

[English]

The DHF and DSS carry high mortality rate because in both these conditions the platelet count becomes very low and measures to resuscitate them is by giving them IV Fluids and platelet concentrate."

[Translation]

Had we made all preparations we would have come to know that in such a situation platelet concentrate would be required. In the Red Cross, there used to be a requirement of 5-6 unit platelet concentrate per day but during the period of dengue this requirement increased upto 200-250 unit and platelet concentrate was not available in those places. The Government had set up five blood bank zones out of which in AIIMS only arrangement were made to separate platelet concentrate. As a result thereof, patients of dengue had to purchase platelet concentrate from the black market at the rate of Rs. 2100 to 2800 per unit. Had the Government made full arrangements, this situation would not have come.

I would like to draw your attention towards a report of 'Times of India' published on 22.10.96 in which the hon'ble Prime Minister had stated that information was given for making preparations in this regard. He said

[English]

Prevention by alerting people in time responded (brought some response from) some journalists. They were referring to a World Health Organisation warning to the Union Health Ministry.

We had held a meeting on September 9 and sent guidelines to all States on September 14. Shailja Chandra, Union Joint Secretary (Health) intervened."

[Translation]

The hon'ble Prime Minister had mentioned about it in the Press Conference. If you see at its next para, you will be more surprised.

[English]

"While stressing the disease was eminently preventable with timely measures the World Health Organisation on October 15 underscored the need for strengthening the surveillance system in the country. The Union Health Secretary, Shri P.P. Chauhan had then said, 'I am not aware of it'."

[Translation]

It means that he had made such statement about the warning given by World Health Organisation. Therefore, it seems that the claim of the Government that all preparations had been made is not justified. On the contrary, they took it casually and closed the subject. In such a situation, the hon'ble Minister has said in his statement that a permanent system is being evolved to deal with such situations.

In Bihar, in my constituency, Kalazar is a problem about which the hon'ble Minister has made a mention. In antimonial drugs, Pentadin is available for kalazar and if it does not give relief, I think that Fungigen is given, which is perhaps imported. There is a shortage of these medicines in the market due to which patients of Kalazar die a slow death. I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister as to whether he will give state-wise details of amount to be spent to meet the situation created by such infectious diseases? What arrangements have been made to face the kalazar, especially in Bihar? I would like to know whether arrangements have been made to import those medicines according to requirement which are not available, or not and if not, the time by which such arrangements would be made by the Government?

DR ASIM BALA (Navadwip): Mr Chairman, Sir, Dengue is a very severe disease that occurred in Delhi. The main vector is mosquito.

Malaria, Kala azar and Dengue are mainly mosquito-borne diseases. In the ancient time, kala azar is the dangerous disease and it had effected mostly the rural poor. Since after inception of Independence, in the middle of this country, there was some reduction in the occurrence of the mosquito-borne diseases like kala-azar. But during the last five years, even you can say during the last ten years, the mosquito-borne diseases have increased like anything. The Government is not taking proper preventive measures in preventing these three diseases, especially Dengue.

Just as everybody jumps into the railway compartment as soon as the train arrives, only after the arrival of the disease the Government starts taking

precautionary measures and before these precautionary measures become effective, subsequently a number of lives are lost.

In the main Ring Road of Delhi, just near the Safdarjung hospital, you will find stagnation of water and even within the hospital you will find stagnation of water, where mosquitoes breed like anything. If this is the condition even in the hospital, then how can we expect the poor people in the remote corner of the village to get proper medical facilities to prevent this disease? I think, whatever statistics that the Government has mentioned here are only average figures.

Some of the private hospitals have not given any information. The Government is not taking their number. The number of affected people will be more. I would like to tell the Minister that a good infrastructure facility for preventing the disease would be necessary, whether it is in the Central Government or in the State Governments. Especially in Delhi, in the last 3-4 years, the breeding of mosquito has increased like anything. So I also request that they should take preventive measures to eradicate the mosquitoes.

On the last occasion there was a unique example when the Australian cricket team commented about this. That was a very famous instance. They have commented that they would not play again in Delhi. Such is the situation. If the Australian cricket team comments that means that it will be seen internationally and everywhere.

Moreover, Delhi is the capital of India. If we find dengue, *kala-azar* and of plagues in Delhi, then what will be the image of our country? We are about 95 crores of people living in India. We are a very vast country. We are proud of our country. But internationally our health problem is such that it will be compared to even underdeveloped country. So my suggestion to the Ministry is that a mass education, mass awareness programme should be launched all over the country, specially in slum areas where most of the people are living and they do not know about hygiene. They do not know what to do after this kind of disease.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please put some questions to him.

DR. ASIM BALA : Yes, Sir, I am putting some questions to him. So it is the duty of the Government or whatever it is, whether it is NGO or other form of agencies, to go to the slum areas.

SHRI SANAT MEHTA (Surendra Nagar) : In every sentence, if you put 'what and why', it will become automatically a question.

DR. ASIM BALA : It should be a house to house awareness programme. A vigorous form of training programme and a vigorous form of awareness programme should be taken up by this Government. The number of medical or paramedical experts available are also less in comparison to our population. That is

why, we should see the proper manning through the paramedical staff people or medical institutions so that they would work properly.

It is the case of Delhi only. But in the surroundings of Delhi and other State capitals also, the effect of the mosquito is increasing. So it is our national programme. It is not only in Delhi but also in other parts of the country. So a very deep thought should be given to this matter.

I request the Government to take proper steps so that in future this dengue will not occur again. Thank you, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Hon. Minister please.

[Translation]

SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to make a request. Please listen to me. I would like to say that yesterday, the hon'ble Speaker had allowed three four extra Members to speak during Calling Attention. If you allow for half-a-minute, Shri Jagmohan ji and me... (Interruptions)

[English]

I will take only half a minute.

[Translation]

VAIDYA DAU DAYAL JOSHI (Kota) : I shall be highly grateful.

SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL : Yesterday, the hon'ble Speaker had allowed such Members to speak during Calling Attention whose names were not there in the list.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please resume your seat.

[Translation]

If he had allowed, that is a different thing.

SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL : I am in my seat but allow me to speak. I will ask only one question.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please resume your seat. Let me explain. As a matter of fact, yesterday I had to agree and I was a little liberal. I wanted that the hon. Members should have some opportunity to express their, what I would say, views within a very short period of time.

Every Member knows that the rule does not provide any Member to intervene except those whose names are there after being balloted. Therefore, that rule is to be followed. Yesterday, I mentioned it. Anyway, there should not be any precedent for that and if you quote that thing today, then it will be wrong and it will put me in a wrong position. Therefore, I want to say that nobody can speak except those whose names are there.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : It is my ruling.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to put only one question...*(Interruptions)*

VAIDYA DAU DAYAL JOSHI : I would like to ask only one thing from the hon'ble Minister as to whether there is any medicine available in Allopathy for the treatment of dengue. If so what is its name?
...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Hon. Member should understand what he is saying.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please resume your seat. You cannot continue to speak when the Chairman is on his legs.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL : When you had allowed others earlier, why are you not allowing me now to speak?...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Then, I will have to say that nothing is to be recorded.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Nothing is to go on record.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : I think, you are a senior Member and you are not a fresher.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Anyway, nothing shall go on record.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : I can only say that it is not proper. It is not proper at all. Mr. Minister, please.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAMASHRAYA PRASAD SINGH (Jahanabad): I am on a point of order. This is the highest place. You are facing such situation because you yourself break rules. If you had not allowed other Members earlier you would not have faced such a situation. Please keep it in mind. Sometimes you accede to the request of certain Members and sometimes you do not accede to.

* Not Recorded.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : That is all right. I have taken note of your suggestion.

SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI : Mr. Chairman, Sir, even though five Members have spoken on the dengue and malaria situation that was prevailing in the country, I fully understand the anxiety and the concern which each and every Member has been expressing. The issue is not that dengue deaths have taken place in Delhi or that malaria deaths have taken place in Haryana or that kala-azar deaths are taking place in Bihar, the point which should really concern all of us is that even if one death takes place and if that can be avoided, what have we been doing and why have we not been reacting well in time to counter such a thing?

Today, some of the hon. Members have expressed their view that whenever there is an emergency on us, we start reacting, but what do we do or what actions do we propose to take to ensure that such emergencies do not come on us? When I took over as the Health Minister, this was the first serious emergency that came during my tenure and this was my reaction also that why could we not have prevented it. I sat down with the officials of my Ministry and I said that we have a pattern, we have a season for certain diseases that come, so, why can we not work backwards four or five months, take a calendar, take the help of the State Government, send a letter to the State Health Secretaries and say: "Look, four months from now, this disease is going to come. What actions do you propose to take, what help you want from us and what steps have you been taking, please let us know." If we do not get a response within fifteen days, I shall take up the matter with the Health Minister of that particular State, if I shall do not get a response, I shall take up the matter with the Chief Minister of that State and if I still do not get a response, I shall take up the matter with the hon. Prime Minister and inform him that this is what I am doing, so that in future we are able to take steps and counter such emergencies from taking place.

Regarding this particular aspect, a lot of Members have expressed their concern about the management. This is not a question of any political game where I have to try to score a point or someone else has to try to score a point because people have died and the Delhi Government did take a lot of steps.

I was constantly in touch with the Delhi Health Minister. We formed committees and in the daily meeting which the Union Health Secretary was conducting, the Principal Secretary (Health), Delhi used to be there, the NDMC Chairman used to be there and all Delhi bodies which could monitor the situation, used to be there. What they had done the previous day was discussed, what steps they have to take in future were discussed and what actions they could take for controlling this disease were discussed. So, from that point of view, I have no complaints in the matter. We did tackle the

situation and because of the media coverage, we were able to do it. I would like to inform the House that according to our statistics, about 85 per cent of the deaths took place in the first 24 to 48 hours.

[Translation]

SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL : A meeting was conducted in the room and he said it before you. But the ground reality is somewhat different...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI : That may be there but I am just saying what I am aware of. We found that in the first 24 to 48 hours, 85 per cent of the deaths took place and we said that we should create media awareness and we should try to tell the people about the steps to be taken by them. One must understand that dengue was not a disease which was in the slums or which was in the poorer sections of the society. The dengue mosquito was breeding in coolers, in flower-pots and in clean stranded water. Government has a responsibility. There is no denying that responsibility. The Government must live up to its responsibility. But even the people have a responsibility towards themselves, towards their own health conditions and towards their family health conditions. It is not possible for the Government to reach everyone's house and clean it for them.

That is why, I am taking this step of having a health awareness where we can take certain measures. We have been very successful in our First Polio Immunisation Programme where we had checked up about 11 crore children within a period of one week. So, with the infrastructure available with us, we are going to take steps by which we can create some health awareness and where the people can also look towards their own responsibility in respect of health system and their prevailing health condition in their own environment.

Regarding Mawat, I had visited that area. The hon. Member Shri Jayaprakash also had accompanied me. The Health Minister of Haryana was there and all the health officials were there. The people whom I met were not disgruntled with the steps that were taken. But the question that they were raising was as to why these steps were not taken much earlier. They asked as to why this situation was allowed to come about. We, on our part, sent teams after teams. I even wrote to the Chief Minister of Haryana giving him certain suggestions that I had in my mind and how he could distribute the teams and start looking into the problems of this area.

One of the major problems for the suffering of the people in Mawat is malnutrition. The haemoglobin level was very low among the people and we are taking some steps regarding that. The hon. Prime Minister also had visited Mawat and he made some announcements. The de-watering of the submerged area in Mawat region has to be completed quickly and the

Government is acting on it. We have also provided Rs. 400/- per acre as input supply for nearly 40,000 acres of land there which will be to the tune of about Rs. 1.60 crore. All the short term loans of the cultivators whose crops have been damaged will be rescheduled. Then, HUDCO will provide up to Rs. 30 crore as assistance in respect of 12,000 to 15,000 houses which had been destroyed or damaged. The Ministry of Health, Government of India will supply all the insecticides, fogging machines, drugs etc., and we will intensify our anti-malaria activities. A proposal has been submitted for Rs. 11 crore by the Government of Haryana...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

But "HUDCO" will provide this assistance only in the form of a loan.

SHRI JAI PRAKASH (Hissar) : HUDCO will give this assistance only when the hon'ble Prime Minister arise for it...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI : I will offer a clarification regarding that. We are also planning to give iron tablets to all the children who have low nutrition level and low haemoglobin level to improve their health. The six blocks in Mawat will be included in the Employment Assurance Scheme this year itself which has not been done so far. As Shri Surender Singh has said, the headquarters of Mawat Development Board - they have put in a lot of money there - has to be shifted either to Nagina or Nuh so that the people can easily have their problems looked into. We have also been told that a senior officer will be designated by the Government of Haryana to coordinate, supervise and review the activities of all development departments. All vacancies of Government services, specially relating to health, education, welfare etc. should be filled up. He mentioned about Mawat Canal Scheme. It has to be re-examined and the proposal is that it should be included in the Ninth Five Year Plan starting from March next year, so that we can look into the scheme and act on it. One of the senior officers of the Ministry of Health, Shrimati Shailaja Chandra has been asked to visit that area, also to monitor these decisions and to keep a close watch on what is happening there...*(Interruptions)*

I have just mentioned and it will be coming up. Before I conclude, I would like to say that I share the concern of the House and that is why, I have drawn up this Action Plan to ensure that any death that can be avoided is avoided.

[Translation]

SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL : Is there any fogging machine available in Delhi? I would like to know as to when and how many machines were imported? Still there is an acute shortage of fogging machines in Delhi. I do not know. Whether these

machines have been sent to some other places or the Government of Delhi has kept them unused
...(Interruptions)

VAIDYA DAU DAYAL JOSHI : Why are you after the fogging machines?...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL : The nursing homes of Delhi have prepared bills of Rs. twenty to twenty five thousand and handed over to the patients. Whether any restriction has been put on these nursing homes?
...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Hon. Minister, please continue your reply to the points already made.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERWANI : Sir, the Delhi Government has 17 fogging machines...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

VAIDYA DAU DAYAL JOSHI : Please stop use of fogging machines because use of such machines creates breathing problems. Some incidents of suffocation have come to notice in Jaipur. As a result thereof, the prestige of the State Government has been lowered. Why are you insisting on the fogging machine...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL : Sir, it has been stated that some money has been taken from Chief Minister's Relief Fund during this period. I would like to ascertain the veracity of this statement...*(Interruptions)*

VAIDYA DAU DAYAL JOSHI : A peculiar type of incense was burnt in Surat during the period when plague hit there. This kind of incense should be produced in a huge quantity and sent to Jaipur also. Fogging machine cannot kill the mosquito. This disease is not curable in Allopathy. Allopathy is totally failure
...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Are you yielding Mr. Minister?

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : There is a general rule that nobody should be allowed to speak without the consent of the Speaker.

SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERWANI : Sir, before I conclude I wish to cover one point raised regarding the yellow fever. I would like to clarify that we are fully aware of it. The movement of yellow fever starts from Africa to India. We have also intensified our steps for surveillance at airport and at sea ports. But till today there is no reported case of yellow fever in our country which does not mean that we should become complacent. We are doing all the possible surveillance that can be done.

In the end, I would like to say that Members have been concerned and so have I; in fact, the whole country

has been concerned. I am calling a Health Ministers' Conference...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : He is not yielding.

SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERWANI : I am calling a Health Ministers' Conference in January. I think it is on 8th, 9th and 10th of January, 1997, where we are going to work on the monitoring and on the advance warning system to ensure in the best possible way how we can prevent this disease from taking place.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now, we shall turn to Item No. 10 - Matters Under Rule 377.

Shri Kashi Ram Rana.

15.34 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

- (i) **Need to Convert the Existing Low Power T.V. Transmitter in Surat, Gujarat into a High Powered Transmitter**

[English]

SHRI KASHI RAM RANA (Surat) : At present Surat city, having a population of more than 25 lakhs and spread over approximately 300 kms. area, has 100 watt low power T.V. Relay Station. It was planned to convert Surat L.P.T. into 10 Kilo Watt H.P.T. long ago. But this has not been done so far. A major portion of Surat city and Surat district remains uncovered by T.V. transmission since the L.P.T.V. Relay Station at Surat has a range of about 20 Kms. only. Because of very poor reception and performance, a number of T.V. owners as well as viewers of community T.V. sets are catching foreign T.V. programme specially the programmes of Pakistan and Gulf countries.

The H.P.T. at Surat is required to be commissioned immediately. I urge upon the Union Government to take effective remedial measures for converting Surat L.P. T.V. Relay Station into an H.P.T. as soon as possible.

- (ii) **Need for Immediate Repair of National Highway No. 28 and 28a between Tamkuhi Road and Raksaul in Bihar**

[Translation]

DR. M.P. JAISWAL (Bettiah) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the portion of National Highway No. 28 and 28A falling in Bihar which extends between Tamkuhi Road and Raksaul and Bauauni has been in a dilapidated condition as a result of which hundreds of vehicles either turn turtle or remains stranded in a damaged condition. Road construction Department of the Bihar Government does not repair this National Highway, whereas the portion of this National Highway, No. 28 falling in U.P. has been in a perfect condition.

Therefore, I demand from the Union Government that the responsibility of the maintenance of this Highway should be entrusted to either C.P.W.D. or Border Road Organisation and get this Highway repaired.

It is also demanded from the Ministry of Surface Transport that an amount of Rs. 10 crore should be allocated immediately for the repairs of this road.

(iii) Need for Construction of Bridges on Gomti River in Chandvak, Uttar Pradesh

SHRI VIDYASAGAR SONKER (Saidpur) : In Chandvak, under my constituency, the bridge over the Gomti river has been lying closed since 1986, as a result of which the free flow of traffic is obstructed. The Government of Uttar Pradesh made available funds for the construction of a bridge over Gomti river at Karakat Thana Gaddi Marg but these funds have been diverted to other places without taking approval of the Government. Both these bridges are urgently required in public interest. Shahi bridge located over the Sai river in Jalalpur on Janupur Varanasi Road is in a perfect condition but after the commissioning of a new bridge, this Shahi bridge had been closed. This Shahi bridge can be opened for the pedestrians and cyclists in public interest. The traders of Jalalpur are facing the problem of livelihood.

I, therefore, would like to make humble submission to hon'ble Minister that the Government should construct all these bridges and open them for traffic in the public interest.

(iv) Need to Take Steps to Bring Back Gandhi Memorabilia offered to Auctioners in England for Sale

[English]

SHRI BIJOY HANDIQUE (Jorhat) : The news that a former employee in the office of Mahatma Gandhi has offered 458 handwritten notes and papers of Mahatma Gandhi to auctioneers in England for sale smacks of national shame. It is indeed inspiring to see that a number of alert and sensible British Members of Parliament, connected with Indo-British Parliamentary forum, intervened by giving a notice for a motion in the House of Commons to bar the auction and to demand that these treasures documents be returned to the Navajeevan Trust set up in 1929 to which Mahatma Gandhi had left by a will his property and copyright to all his writings, published or unpublished. The motion further demanded that the House should appeal to Phillips Auctioneer which advertised the sale of Gandhi papers. The quick intervention of these British Parliamentarians is in sharp contrast to the non-serious reaction of the people and the Government of our country. Even one auctioneer, the Sotheby's, aghast at this senseless commercialism, refused straightaway to put them on sale.

It is ironical that an Indian, whose association with Mahatma Gandhi helped him collected these papers, chose to put 'Gandhi on sale' in order to become richer, at a time when the country is all set to celebrate the 50 years of Independence.

It is imperative that the Government should take immediate steps to get this Gandhi memorabilia back to India. The Indian Parliament should also convey its deep sense of gratitude to these British Parliamentarians for their timely intervention.

(v) Need to Convert the Existing Low Power T.V. Transmitter into a High Power Transmitter at Sitamarhi, Bihar

[Translation]

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI (Sitamarhi) : Sir, in Sitamarhi district of Bihar, on UHF Band, Channel 28, a low power transmitter has been functioning as a result of which reception of television programmes is not clear. Moreover, because of Nepal being very near, so long as transmission from Nepal Doordarshan continues, the reception of television programmes remains blurred in the rural areas. Only one channel is functioning in the district as a result of which the people of this area are unable to view the programmes transmitted by the other channels of the Doordarshan.

Therefore, I urge upon the Union Government to convert the existing low power T.V. transmitter into a high power transmitter in Sitamarhi and the height of the mast should be increased so that people in the rural areas are able to watch the Doordarshan programmes.

(vi) Need to open a Circuit Bench of Calcutta High Court at Nawabbari Jalpaiguri, West Bengal

[English]

PROF JITENDRA NATH DAS (Jalpaiguri) : I like to draw your kind attention to the fact that it is a longstanding demand of the people of the jalpaiguri and its adjacent area to open a Circuit Bench of Calcutta High Court at Jalpaiguri-Nawabbari. Jalpaiguri is the Divisional Headquarters of North Bengal and it has 153 tea gardens from which the Government is earning huge amount of revenue every year. It is an ideal place to open a Circuit Bench.

I do request the Government to take immediate necessary steps so that the Circuit Bench may be established at Nawabbari, Jalpaiguri at an early date.

(vii) Need to Lay New Railway Lines between Macherla and Raichur via Nagarkurnool and from Vikarabad to Krishna via Pargin in Andhra Pradesh

DR. M. JAGANNATH (Nagarkurnool) : A survey had been conducted for the laying of new Railway lines

from Macherla to Raichur via Nagarkurnool and from Vikarabad to Krishna in Raichur district via Pargin. These two lines pass through the very backward districts of Mahaboob Nagar, Ranga Reddy and parts of Guntur of Andhra Pradesh. Though the survey was conducted long back, no action had been taken yet by the Ministry of Railways. If these two lines are laid, there will be shortening of the distance between Guntur district and Meheboob Nagar District and time will be saved for the commuters from Guntur to Raichur and from Ranga Reddy district to Raichur. The transport facilities for the people will also improve. It will pave the way for industrialisation in Maheboob Nagar district in my constituency of Nagarkurnool particularly.

I request the Government (Railway Ministry) to take up these lines immediately.

15.43 hrs.

DISCUSSION UNDER RULE 193

Drought Situation in Orissa - Contd.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now we turn to Discussion under Rule 193. The total time allotted is two hours. Shri Bhakta Charan Das who initiated the debate has already taken 28 minutes.

SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO (Dhenkanal) : Yesterday the hon. Chair said that there would be no time limit for this discussion. Most of the Orissa MPs were present. Every State is affected by unprecedented drought.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Let us continue the discussion. We shall consider it subsequently. Shri Bhakta Charan Das will please continue. Please bear in mind that you have already exhausted 28 minutes and you should finish within three or four minutes and conclude your speech so that the other hon. Member also can take part.

SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS (Kalahandi) : Orissa drought situation is no less serious than the Andhra Pradesh cyclone situation.

SHRI JAG MOHAN (New Delhi) : Will the item relating to DDA Bill be taken up today? The hon. Minister is also sitting now. We have two hours up to six o'clock. If there is a chance, we should be told about it. What is your decision?

MR. CHAIRMAN : The hon. Member should know that we are discussing the drought situation in Orissa.

SHRI JAG MOHAN : Will the DDA bill be taken up today or not?

MR. CHAIRMAN : I cannot predict on that now. You can also very well share the view with me that I cannot predict nor can you also predict.

SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS : Yesterday I was suggesting some permanent measures to fight out the chronic situation of Kalahandi and Nuapara districts. I referred to some of the major and medium irrigation projects. There are many streams and rivers flowing over Kalahandi and Nuapara districts, but there has not been any irrigation project. There is one Udanti river which has flown along Sirapalli bloc and Khadiyal Bloc.

This Sinapalli block famine in 1965 was very much famous. But there has not been any permanent irrigation project for this block especially. So, I would suggest to the Government to include the Udanti river project to irrigate this dry-spell area.

The other one is about the Madanpur-Rampur block. There has been a proposal for setting up the Rahul-Utei complex which would be a major project. But no step has been taken so far to include this project either by the State Government or by the Government of India. So, I would request the Government that the Rahul-Utei major complex irrigation project should be taken up.

There are two other medium irrigation project potentialities in the district. One is the Sandul medium irrigation project and the other is the Ret medium irrigation project. I wanted to suggest some permanent measures. Unless permanent measures are taken, this district cannot recover from the drought situation.

Besides the other irrigation projects, the State Government-owned main roads are in extremely worst conditions. What to talk about the village and panchayat roads. There are block headquarters. But they do not have permanent communication facilities with the district headquarter. Sinapalli block people cannot go to the district headquarters of Nowpara because there are three bridges to be constructed and no step has been taken to construct the bridges. What to talk about the village and the panchayat. There are thirty villages each in many panchayats but they do not have any communication facilities with their panchayat headquarters. They do not have communication facilities with the district headquarters. So, I would request the Government of India to provide sufficient financial assistance to build the road system of Kalahandi district starting from the village to the district headquarters so that thousands of labourers can work in labour-intensive work and they can fight out this drought situation.

I would like to say about another sad part of it. The then Planning Commission which was headed by Dr. Mohan Dharia passed the 54 kilometre Lanjigarh road to Junagarh railway line. At that time I was the Minister of State for Railways. It was included in the interim Budget of the Railways. Money was placed for that. But the progress of the work is so low that in the last five years only an amount of rupees four crore has been spent but the rest of the amount is not given. Even in this Budget also for this year only rupees one crore has been placed for this railway line. So, how to develop

this area? Unless industry comes up, unless the railway line is built up, how can this area develop? Why not people migrate from these places? People in lots have migrated. I do not know when the Government would take notice of this aspect. I requested the Railway Minister several times during the discussion on the Railway Budget. I personally met the Prime Minister and requested him to place more funds. In spite of that, money is not being placed for this railway line properly. Now, the staff are withdrawn from the construction site and the work is standstill.

So, I would urge upon the Railway Minister and I would also request the Government of India to give at least rupees 25 crore for this so that the earthwork can be taken up and many people can be engaged as labourers in this railway project. The Government of India and the Orissa Government should take keen interest to set up a large alumina plant because we have got a heavy deposit of bauxite in Niyamgiri and Sijimali of Kalahandi district. Several discussions have been held at the State and the Central level. But there has not been any alumina plant. If there is an alumina plant, then a minimum of 40,000 people can sustain out of the different kinds of earnings from that. Sir, I am suggesting some permanent measures. This is a chronic problem.

MR. CHAIRMAN : That is all right. Please conclude.

SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS : You cannot just say "that is all right." I may be pardoned. This is a discussion in which we have got the chance to speak. We have to ventilate the issue. We want to suggest some permanent measures. It is time for the Government to act.

Sir, you would be surprised to know that whatever money was given by the Government of India at the district level and at the State level, the State Government is unable to spend. In Nuapara, Kalahandi and Bolangir districts, 40 per cent posts are lying vacant. The administrative infrastructure available in the districts is so small and so inadequate that they are unable to spend whatever money is given so far. How they are going to spend the money given by the Government of India this time, I do not know. That is why they make a lot of false deals. Forty to fifty per cent amount which is supposed to be spent only for development of these areas, is amassed by the bureaucrats and contractors.

So, I would request the Government of India to place the funds directly at the disposal of the KBX districts and an officer of Government of India should monitor the expenditure side. Otherwise, there would be some pilferage, we cannot check up corruption, and we cannot develop these districts in spite of our getting funds repeatedly.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You have already taken more than 20 minutes.

SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS : Sir, I am going to mention another point.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I have got no objection but the only thing is, other Members are also there to speak on this subject.

SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS : Sir, I will finish it within five to ten minutes.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Not five to ten minutes. Please finish it before that.

SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS : In our area, there is a bank called 'Anchalik Grameen Bank' for financing the IRDP beneficiaries who are supposed to be the most poorer class people. The 'Anchalik Grameen Bank' should finance the IRDP beneficiaries but they are not financing the IRDP beneficiaries at all. They are not fulfilling their target. They are given 10 to 20 applications to finance but they are financing only to one or two applicants.

Therefore, I would suggest that the Government should direct the Anchalik Grameen Bank to finance the IRDP beneficiaries so that they would not die out of starvation.

There is the Service Cooperative Society. They are used to finance the loan for Kharif crop to the farmers of Kalahandi and Nuapara area. The Service Cooperative Society should finance, at least, Rs. 10 lakh a year but they have lost their capacity. This year, they have financed Rs. 50,000. But the farmers are affected to a great extent.

Therefore, I would urge upon the Government and request the hon. Minister of Agriculture to waive off this small amount, this time, which the farmers of Kalahandi had taken. The loan amount is very small and that is why I think, the Government can take a decision to waive off the loans of farmers.

As regards crop insurance, there has not been any crop insurance. In what way, the Government is going to help the middle-class farmers and farmers who have been continuously affected by drought? So, I would request the Government of India to make an assessment as to what amount the farmers have invested in their fields. At least, the invested amount should be given to the farmers. The Government of India is giving a lot of compensation if there is a death in calamity. On death calamity, the Government is paying Rs. 50,000 but the crop loss is several times more. But no steps are being taken to compensate the farmers.

Therefore, I would request the hon. Minister of Agriculture to at least help the farmers. He can make an assessment of the invested amount of the farmers and that amount should be borne by the Government of India so that the farmers can go for the next Kharif crop.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please conclude now.

SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS : Yes, Sir.

The situation is so worse and pitiable that this House should consider very seriously; further there

should not be any kind of drought or misery. People are dying out of starvation in hundreds and hundreds. The newspapers are reporting them: there is no need to repeat the figures in this House.

I would request the Government of India with folded hands as also all the hon. Members of this House to find a permanent solution to overcome this drought situation and poverty situation, at least in the districts of Kalahandi, Bolangir, Koraput and Nuapara in Orissa.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY (Chhapra) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, today we are present in this House to discuss the severe drought situation of Orissa. Our hon'ble colleague Shri Bhakta Charan Das had raised this issue yesterday and some other Members also will speak on this subject. Since this issue is being discussed in this House, I would like to submit in this regard that as I know there are various districts affected by famine, I do not think that this is the problem of Orissa alone. Today, same situation has arisen in several parts of Madhya Pradesh. Crops have been destroyed in various areas of Palamu and Gadwa regions of Bihar. The paddy crops have been worst affected. Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to raise some points from technical point of view as all the hon'ble Members are expressing their views only about relief. Nobody is raising the point in regard to overcome this problem. Shri Bhakta Charan Das has presented some facts on this subject and raised some points with regard to famine which hit his constituency. So far as the development is concerned, he has said that foodgrains may be provided in the villages there, deep boring system may be started where water level has gone down, the working of the administrative setup may be strengthened, more resources may be provided and more money may be released by the Government. Though, we claim to have entered in the most modern era, in spite of that we are still discussing the issue of famine here and this type of situation is taking place continuously in several States. Similar situation was emerged in Orissa in 1993. In 1996, the then Prime Minister had visited that area and had announced a package of Rs. 45 thousand crore for these three districts. But I would like to draw your attention towards the question as to why the situation of famine arises in these States. Today we are concerned about Orissa, Madhya Pradesh and Bihar. But if the rising trend of situation is continued, the entire country can come in the grip of this famine situation. We should find out the basic factors due to which the famine situation is arising but it is not being done. The hon'ble Minister of Agriculture is present here and while replying the discussion he will give a statement on the arrangements made by the Government in this regard. I am not able to understand as to why we are not discussing the reasons due to which water level is going down? Today, the hon'ble Minister of Environment and Forests should

also be present in the House because this issue is also related to the environment. Mr. Chairman, Sir, you must be knowing the cycle of water. 97 per cent of water is salty on this earth which we cannot use. Out of the remaining three percent water, 2 per cent is available in the form of glacier and snow cap. We are using only one percent water. Only one per cent water is being used in the entire country available from the rivers, streams, ponds and canals. Now, the issue is about the management of one per cent water. Therefore, I am raising this issue so that the management of this one per cent of water may be done at national and international level in such a way that the situation of famine does not occur. On one hand we talk of water management and on the other hand, how the re-charge of ground water takes place on the earth through rains and other sources.

15.59 hrs.

(Prof. Rita Verma *in the Chair*)

Water level is going down continuously in the area about which Shri Bhakta Charan Das is talking. There is a cycle of water. In this cycle, when sunrays fall on the sea, water gets evaporated and it goes up in the sky. When it is condensed and falls on the earth in the form of rains, then it recharges the ground water. In this cycle, forests also play an important role. A comprehensive study may be carried out of these districts about which discussion is going on. Only 6 to 7 percent forests have been left in these districts. When a famine occurs and people die and paddy crops are destroyed then they cut trees as a result thereof the forest land is decreasing.

16.00 hrs.

Thus, it causes a vicious circle. Today there are no forests in those areas which we are talking about and the neighbouring States also facing the same situation.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, if a geographical and scientific study is carried out today, you will find that the ground water level is going down there. Therefore, such a study will have to be carried out all over the country because the way trees are being cut and the schemes regarding social forestry are not being implemented and the earth is being imbalanced, its natural resources are being exploited has resulted the situation we are facing today. So if we do not stop this exploitation we will have to face same situation in future also.

Mr. Chairman, I am saying this because the Hon'ble Minister has sanctioned Rs. 50 crore this year and he will sanction the same amount next year also but how long the Government will provide such funds and resources? Therefore, a study of this aspect will have to be carried out all over the country from geographical and scientific point of view. Then only we will be able to find out a solution of this problem. I know that water level is going down at various places of Bihar even

when this is not a summer. Though, rainy season has just over but the famine situation has come up before us in this House when it is the month of November. You can just imagine as to what will be the position in the months of May and June? We will have to think about that

Mr. Chairman, I think that this is a technical subject. Shri Bhakta Charan Das has given many details and facts about his constituency and he has raised several points. All the related Departments will have to establish a co-ordination about these facts. The Ministry of Agriculture, the Ministry of Environment and the Ministry of Irrigation should establish co-ordination among them because the country has limited resources. We have changed the names of these Departments several times. Earlier its name was Irrigation Department but later its name had been changed as Ministry of Water Resources. This was done due to limited resources. They have a limit. Therefore, we had to change the name of these departments and this Department was renamed as Department of Water Resources.

Madam Chairman, I would like to say that if we want to save ourselves from these natural calamities, we will have to stop the exploitation of the environment and a feeling should be developed in the society that it should stop the felling of trees and unnatural exploitation of environment. I reiterate that the works being done at administrative level in these areas at present, are not being done in their letter and spirit.

Madam, I know that Bhakta Charan Das ji and Kalahandi are synonymous and if any discussion about Kalahandi is held, it means Bhakta Charan Das ji is being discussed and vice-versa. This situation prevails in 27 districts out of 30 districts of Orissa. The Parliamentary constituency of our another colleague Shri Patnaik also experiences the same situation. I would like to know from the Government the reason of this grim situation prevailing in the area and the status of K.B.K. Scheme of Rs. 45 crore announced by the then Prime Minister on the basis of which the experts went there and studied the situation and recommended that this much amount should be provided to these three districts? The conditions due to which work could not be done on the said scheme should be discussed.

Madam attention is paid to this side only when any emergency arises. There are two types of deaths - first by accident and the second due to cancer. In the later case a man dies a slow death and suffers for a long time. The situation of drought can be compared with death due to cancer. Several diseases spread due to it in the entire areas and people fall prey to slow and painful deaths. In an accident, people die all of a sudden. The family mourns the death for some days but after a certain period, he is forgotten and then everything becomes as usual. But it is not so in the

case of drought. The entire area becomes victim of the grim situation of drought and starvation.

One, sitting in Delhi cannot imagine the grim situation of the starvation. The difficulties and sufferings of farmers and villagers due to starvation can be experienced only by visiting the area. I think that about 40 lakh people have migrated from Orissa to other parts of the country. A racket is active in the area for contracting labourers and all the contract labourers of the country have been supplied from these three districts of the State. It is a very serious matter and the Government should consider it seriously.

Madam, I have raised the issue of environment, time and again that this natural calamity will fall again in almost all the States during rainy season and then we will be compelled to discuss this issue. You can very well imagine the situation of drought during summer when we are talking about the situation of famine at present. When will the Government think about it and coordinate all these issues? We had discussed about linking all the big rivers of the country. We see in pictures in foreign countries as well as in other States that all the big rivers have been channelised and regulated. We unwittingly, spend crores of rupees on many other works but no work is done in a comprehensive way. I do not know as to what the Planning Commission and other departments do, but I have understood that the coordination in all the departments is necessary for linking all the issues of developments. These issues put the country in grim situation and the entire country suffers and no special facility is provided to the poor.

Madam, I would like to state that this situation is also arising in Bihar, specially South Bihar from where the hon. Madam Chairman hails. The level of water in that area is going down. There is no water in the ponds. The same situation is prevailing in Madhya Pradesh, and I suppose that Raipur is also facing the same situation. I think that a coordination committee, comprising of the hon. Environment Minister, the hon. Minister of Irrigation and the hon. Minister of Agriculture should be appointed to make elaborate arrangements for drought-prone areas like Orissa, Bihar and Madhya Pradesh and to stop the deforestation.

The social scientists, technical scientists or and other experts should consider this issue. I pray to God that the persons in Planning Commission who decide the fate of entire nation on the paper, should also take initiative in this regard so that they may understand the reality. We should be properly represented and there should be coordination among the experts related with the entire issue. This issue should be considered and the Government should provide more assistance to these States. The then Prime Minister Shri P.V. Narasimharao has arrived. The scheme worth Rs. 45 crore announced by him should be implemented in these areas. With these words I conclude.

[English]

SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO (Dhenkanal) : Thank you. It is with deep anguish and pain that I rise, once again, to speak on the drought situation in Orissa, with special emphasis on the undivided KBK Districts, Kalahandi-Bolangir-Koraput Districts.

Our hearts are down with the impoverished, unfortunate, hapless and stoic people of Orissa who are braving the vagaries of the monsoon with tears in their eyes and stark famine staring before their eyes, awaiting help and succor.

I thank the hon. Prime Minister and the hon. Agriculture Minister for their promptitude, their sympathetic help and their attitude and response, particularly for the amount of Rs. 50 crore sanctioned by the hon. Prime Minister from his Relief Fund. An amount of Rs. 30 crore has already been released for labour intensive works and an amount of Rs. 8 crore for the accelerated rural water supply scheme. This will go a long way in mitigating the difficulties. But in all this, I perceive a pattern emerging, the pattern unfolding before our eyes, which spans exactly three decades, from 1965 to 1996.

Commencing with Shrimati Indira Gandhi, Shri Morarji Desai, Shri Rajiv Gandhi, Shri Vishwanath Pratap Singh, Shri Chandra Shekhar, Shri Narasimha Rao and Shri Devel Gowda, all took the trouble and pain to visit the undivided KBK Districts, meet the people, people's representatives, non-officials and officials, discuss about advance, render generous loans and release the State's share from the Calamity Relief Fund to tide over the difficult period and await the Collectors' Reports which have to come through the red tape of the Revenue Divisional Commissioner and the Special Relief Commissioner and then will come through the ordinary channels to the Government of India.

This has become a standing operating procedure as we term in military parlance. Madam, what a paradox and enigma Orissa is! There is impoverishment amongst plenty even after eight Five Year Plans. Many crores of rupees are spent on Centrally-aided and sponsored projects. In fact, if one goes by statistics - I do not wish to repeat the definition given by Gladstone - whether it is the statistics of the State Government or the Central Government or the Planning Commission, Orissa has the highest number of people living below the poverty line in the country. Forty one per cent are tribals or Scheduled Castes and another 14 per cent are non-tribals or non-Scheduled Castes, that is, the people living below the poverty line and subsequent droughts, floods and cyclones over the last three decades have even impoverished them further, their productivity, their wage and their income. They are in a very very difficult situation at the moment. Experts have also gone into it. Expert bodies of the Planning Commission, non-Governmental organisations and Governmental bodies have indicated low agricultural productivity on which 75

per cent of the people of Orissa depend. They are either farmers or agricultural labourers with low wages and income.

My friend, Shri Bhakta Charan Das from Kalahandi was speaking. There was a time when Junagadh in Dharamgadh sub-division of Kalahandi was the granary of Western Orissa which could match the production of paddy with that of Balasore and Bhadrak districts. But today, we see mass migration, starvation and of course, in this very House, we have discussed the sale of children.

Hon. Prime Minister and Minister of Agriculture visited the worst affected areas, that is, the undivided Kalahandi and Bolangir in Koraput districts. I am sure as farmers and as people in charge of agriculture, they are only too aware about the reasons for drought and I am equally sure that they also know the implications of drought and the consequent occurrences which happened after drought and famine. It has been echoed in this House. I am sure that they also know the solutions to drought and in particular, this drought in Orissa where 24 per cent of rainfall was not only deficient but rainless days increased and the dry spell also increased. We have only 72 days of rainfall from June to September. This time, we had only 52 days and dry spell was quite frequent and therefore, evaporation was also very high.

Hon. Agriculture Minister's statement was read out by the hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs yesterday which is quite candid about the reason for the drought and the efforts of the State Government within the limited constraints of resources of a State like Orissa where the tax base is very very small. Only 45 per cent of the people can be taxed.

I would like to draw your attention that through a submission under Rule 377 on 26th November, 1996, the notice of which I had given on the 18th, I had drawn the attention of the hon. House to the critical position of undivided Dhenkanal district, which is now Dhenkanal in angul district in particular and Orissa in general and the need to take up works in the canal system of Rangali multipurpose irrigation project which was started in 1973. Shrimati Indira Gandhi laid the foundation stone. It was a Rs. 273 crore project which has now gone to an astronomical figure of Rs. 1400 crore. It is the same as the Indiravati project when Shri Morarji Desai laid the foundation stone in 1978 for Rs. 200 and odd crore and now it has also gone upto Rs. 1400 crore.

Then, I had also raised the question of regional water supply to the urban conglomerates, that is, Dhenkanal, Gultalcher, Bhuvan and Kamakhyanager. When I submitted this notice on the 18th November, 1996, the Government of Orissa had felt that 12 out of 30 districts were severely drought-affected. But they could not declare these as drought-affected because of the red tape and the famine code and the entire gamut of the official line where it has to come through the Collector. Then, it has to come to the Divisional

Commissioner, Revenue. It has to come to the Special Relief Commissioner. Then, the Chief Secretary will send it here. Then, there will be crop cuttings in autumn. Then, there will be crop cuttings in December. Then, only in January, we - hon. Members - will wake up that there is a drought.

Then, on the same day - 26th November - the hon. Minister of Agriculture, in an answer to Starred Question No. 63 of Dr. Krupasindhu Bhoi, mentioned 20 districts out of 30 and 113,664 villages based on crop cutting assessments I beg to differ here. These were high estimations. The Central team had gone on the 17th to 20th November. That was the first time that crop cutting was done.

Then, on the 27th afternoon, the hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs reading the statement of the hon. Minister of agriculture mentioned 26 districts and 27,081 villages out of a total 50,972. Such is the rapidity with which the situation is deteriorating. Between 18th and 27th, about 14,000 villages and 14 more districts have been affected.

Orissa is not so fortunate as the other States do have snow-fed rivers or the advantages of two monsoons. With 1,55,840 sq. miles geographical area, broadly divided into five geomorphological climatic and erratic conditions and peculiarities - firstly, the coastal plains, secondly, the river valleys and flood-prone plains, rolling uplands, plateaus and mountains and a climate varying between moist sub-humid, dry sub-humid and a total of 64.52 lakh hectares cultivable area, comprising 29.42 lakh hectares that is, 45.6 per cent highland. That means, it depends entirely on rainfed and a single monsoon for 72 days, 18.00 lakh hectare - that is, 29.1 per cent medium land are partly rainfed and partially irrigated and 16.30 lakh hectare, that is 25.3 per cent low land, are again partly rainfed and partly irrigated. Of the total, about only 22 lakh hectares, that is 34 per cent, are covered by irrigation from various sources.

As per the maps and records with the Irrigation Department, the Water Resources Department and the Revenue Department, sometimes the tail-end of those command areas do not get water. But they still have to pay the water taxes.

I really do not know who will know the reality. But after all, statistics are statistics. And we have to go by them. That means, the remaining 42.52 lakh hectare, that is 66 per cent of the land, are rainfed.

I remember the Ancient Mariner who said, "Water, water everywhere; all the boats will sink, water, water everywhere, not a drop to drink." It is available neither for the parched dry throats nor for the body and nor for the agricultural fields. Sixty-six per cent of the water resources of Orissa run down to the Bay of Bengal without being of any use to land or beast or crops. As the hon. Minister of Agriculture has very candidly said

in his statement, 26 million tonnes of foodgrains are expected to have been lost, that is, worth nearly Rs. 1,000 crore. If this is not a national calamity, I do not know what a national calamity could be. Already one and a half lakh people, this is again an estimate, have migrated to different States in search of work, income and food leaving behind their old parents, leaving behind their children. They are at the moment totally deserted. They would become destitutes and I do not know what schemes we have to look after them. The needs of food, wages and income of about a crore of people would have to be catered till the next *kharif* season, that is, till June, 1997. That is what the statement of the Minister of Agriculture reveals. There are about 364 mandays for 12.33 lakhs of people which comes to about a crore of mandays. There are others which we have not taken into account. To say about the chances of survival and probability of malnutrition, hunger, dehydration leading to dysentery, diarrhoea and Gastroenteritis, without health cover, medicine, medical and para medical staff and their mobility would be a hazardous guess for a person like me. Even in normal times, two years back, without a drought we had a large number of deaths due to Gastroenteritis, Diarrhoea and Dysentery. The hon. Minister of Agriculture must have found out, during his visit to the KVK districts hospitals without doctors, para medical staff and medicines. The doctors are not going to the rural dispensaries or the Primary Health Centres. This is a reality which we cannot sweep under the carpet.

Madam, I come from a relatively less favourable or a more favourable area than the KVK districts. Angul district has seven per cent irrigation - 56 per cent highland; 28 per cent medium land; and 16 per cent low land. The condition of the Dhenkanal district is slightly better. There is about 15 per cent irrigation - 52 per cent high land, 26.7 per cent medium land and 28 per cent low land. The high land is a total write-off. People even in the month of September send their bullocks, goats and sheeps to graze. They have started selling all their bullocks, goats and sheeps. Irregular and scanty monsoon has also resulted in the water table going down. The hon. Minister of Agriculture came across somebody who had no bath for ten days. When there is no drinking water where is the question of having a bath. That is the situation in Adavali, Chennipada, Kishorenagar, Angul, Dwarpad, Gondia, Kamakhyanagar, Suban, Kankrahat, Haidol Sadar, Odapada, Birmaharajpur and Ullundu which are all part of the KVK districts. The situation in Sambalpur is no different. In the Burger district, in the 12 blocks under Dr. Krupa Sindhu Bhoi's parliamentary constituency including his own village, there has been a loss of 90 per cent. That is in Adampur sub-Division.

Now, Madam, what do we do in Parliament and at the Centre? Do we wait for the State Government - who have initiated a very ambitious *Rabi* programme and

have initiated a very ambitious Agricultural Policy - to do something? But what do they do with their meagre resources? Is there any way we could extend help to them? Could we help them by giving funds from the Centre or help them to get some external funds or some funds from some institutions?

Madam, we are very fond of saying that this is a national calamity and steps to combat it must be taken on a war footing.

What is meant by 'war footing'? If one has to go through it then there are certain principles of war. First is, the selection and maintenance of aim. What is our aim? Second is, concentration of fire power. Third is, economy of effort. Fourth is, flexibility. Fifth is organisation. Sixth is coordination and the seventh is Communication.

Now, what is the aim of the Parliament: the aim of the Government of India or the State Governments or the Planning Commission? Is it just to solve a few problems when they arise, as an emergency and then forget about them? If we take the first principle of war, then I am afraid we will have to have a sustained special plan for a State like Orissa. As is said by Mr. Rudy, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh and parts of Rajasthan also fall in this category where a special programme for chronically calamity prone States will have to be taken into consideration. Instead of digressing the entire focus has to be on the problem.

We had debated about drought, flood and cyclone on earlier occasions also. We think that it is unfair on the part of the Minister of Agriculture to shoulder the entire responsibility. This has to be the entire Government of India's concern because a large number of Ministries play a role in tackling such a serious situation. It is not only the Ministry of Agriculture because there are various other implications.

As far as agriculture is concerned, the first and foremost aim should be to have a permanent solution instead of giving doles and reliefs which are a diversion from development as it does not add to the creation of permanent or durable assets. At the same time, development also gets stifled and there is always a constraint of resources. In this regard I would like to suggest that the Government of Orissa has submitted a memorandum to the hon. Prime Minister - which has already been mentioned by my colleague, Mr. B.C. Das - in which various factors have been mentioned about agriculture, animal husbandry, soil conservation, re-financing, cooperation, banking, fisheries, food supply and consumers, health and family welfare, housing and urban development, Panchayati Raj - which deals with agricultural labour, small and marginal farmers, non-agricultural labour - and rural artisans.

About 82 per cent of Orissa lives in villages. In fact, in 1969 the first district to be taken under the DRDA - or SFDA, Small Farmer Development Agency at that

time - was in Orissa. Three districts were taken in the first place. They had given an action plan in which they had asked for Rs. 577 crore. This is only for meeting the drought situation at the moment. As I said, till January we will not know the exact magnitude, severity and the seriousness of the drought because it is only an interim report based on a visual estimation and some random crop cutting. Winter cropping will be harvested only towards December-end. So, in January we will know the real severity of this drought.

For Agriculture and Soil Conservation they have asked for Rs. 18.79 crore; cooperation Rs. 15.95 crore; Fisheries and Animal Development Resources Department Rs. 2.97 crore; Health and Family Planning - Rs. 4.97 crore; Housing and Urban Development Department - Rs. 8.77 crore; Panchayati Raj Rs. 371 crore; Rural Development Department - Rs. 51.32 crore; Water Resources Department Rs. 86.73 crore; Energy Department - Rs. 10 crore and Emergency Feeding Programme Rs. 7.20 crore.

Then the second suggestion I would like to make is about the Memorandum on Accelerated Irrigation Development which the hon. Deputy Chief Minister of Orissa along with the Finance Minister and the Minister of Water Resources presented to the hon. Prime Minister about a month and a half back, during the last session of Parliament. In that the Government of Orissa would like to bring in 59 lakh hectares of land under irrigation. That would increase the potential from 34 per cent to double, that is, about 68 per cent. Because of constraints of resources, in the Eighth Plan they are falling short of Rs. 1,017 crore. An amount of Rs. 4,000 crore from outside the Plan is required. I do not know how the Government of India is going to help in this matter.

There are some ongoing projects which have to be completed. They are - Upper Indravati, Upper Kolab, Rengali, Subarnarekha, Mahanadi, Chitrotpala, Island Irrigation Project, Kanpur, Hariharjore, Badanalla, Birupa, Genguti, Harabhang, Upper Jonk, Baghua, Deo, Baghalati, Sapua, Badajore, Titlagarh, Dorjang Stage-II, Bagh, Rukura Project, Telengir.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Singh Deo, you have already spoken for more than 25 minutes.

SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO: Madam, our State is reeling under drought. If you do not want me to speak about it, I will sit down. I do not wish to defy the Chair.

MR. CHAIRMAN: What I mean to say is, the time allotted is only two hours and you have already taken 25 minutes.

SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO: No, Madam. Yesterday the Chair said that there is no time limit.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I am quite sure, your colleagues will also like to participate.

SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO : I beg your pardon. There have been so many interruptions that Shri Bhakta Charan Das could not even finish his speech.

The projects which have been identified for implementation during 1996-2001 are - Upper Indravati, Upper Kolab, Rangali, Subarnarekha, Mahanadi Chitrotpala, Kanpur, Potteru. Medium projects identified are - Hariharjore, Badanalla, Harabhangi, Upper Jonk, Deo, Baghalati, Manjore, Birupa Genguti, Baghua Stage-II, Sapaua Badajaore, Titlagarh, Bagh, Rukura, Telengiri. New projects are - Lower Suktel, Lower Indira, Dhauragoth, Cheligada, Ret and Katra. What is required is another Rs. 400 crore which has to come from outside the Plan process. For this we shall all have to put our heads together.

Then, the Total Health Scheme Memorandum which the hon. Health Minister came and submitted to the hon. Prime Minister during the last session. That envisages augmentation of all rural hospitals so that people are able to get their health care.

The Accelerated Rural Water Supply scheme of Rs. 150 crore has been languishing with the Government of India. Four Central Government public sector undertakings are polluting the Brahmani river. Five years back, a decision was taken that a coordinated effort will be made by the Central Government in which 50 per cent of the expenditure will be borne by the State and 50 per cent will be borne by the Centre. The State has already put in its 50 per cent. But since there is no coordination, the issue of 50 per cent from the Central public sector undertakings has not yet been resolved. The Central Pollution Control Board has also come down heavily on them two years back.

Then, I come to the issue of drinking water supply. We are one of the the signatories, in 1980, to the 'Safe Drinking Water - 2000'. Yet, today there is water scarcity in Orissa. There are villages which are partially covered. I would not say that they do not have water, but because the water table has gone down, there is fluoride, iron, and arsenic poisoning in the water which affects eyes. Children, especially, are getting affected by this.

Then I come to the Regional Urban Water Supply and the help of Japanese Overseas Economic Fund. I congratulate Bihar and Kerala for having got the nod of the Japanese Government and the Central Government this year. I do hope Orissa will get its nod for at least 1997-98.

The Employment Assurance Scheme could be another way of mitigating the sufferings of the people. There are 64 blocks which are still not covered under the Employment Assurance Scheme. We have come and met the hon. Prime Minister. I do hope that 64 blocks of Orissa are given the 'go ahead' so that at least 100 days of assured income generation schemes would be given to the drought affected areas.

In the Railway Standing Committee, we were discussing that there should not be a competition between poverty alleviation schemes and the railways because both are for development. If these could be dovetailed the Employment Assurance Scheme, the Jawahar Rojgar Yojana and the new railway lines, which have been assured by the Ministry of Railways, particularly in the tribal areas, like Baitari Banspani, Langiguda Ambaguda which will then connect to the only tin deposits of India, that is in Madhya Pradesh, it will be good. Otherwise, the only tin deposits are in Malaysia, at the moment.

India is a vast reservoir of tin but there are no infrastructure there. So also the Thalchar Angul, Kamakhya Nagar Sukinda Road where six large steel plants, cement plants and thermal plants are coming up. This is the highest internal rate of revenue, that is, 23.3 per cent and with an investment of Rs. 281 crore in two areas, they are going to get Rs. 319 crore. I do not think that there is a more lucrative railway line in the whole of India. The hon. Minister of State for Railways is here. I am sure that he has been acting as a catalyst but since Shri Ram Vilas Paswan mentioned on the 30th July while replying to the Railway Budget, it has not gone to the Planning Commission.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Singh, you are speaking on drought.

SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO : I would like to conclude by saying that the extension of the drought prone area programme should be done in the districts where it is partially covered. A Master Plan and a Special Plan, as is in the Relief Code, must be made because it is one of the requirements and in the last 30 years we have not made a Master Plan for drought-affected areas, which is in the Famine Code. If these are done, we will be able to mitigate some of the sufferings immediately. As the hon. Minister of Agriculture has rightly said that the cyclone brings immediate devastation, but it can be rehabilitated. But drought is a prolonged process for which we have to wait till the next harvest. How are the people going to sustain this? How they are going to earn income, feed their children and stay alive is the crux of the matter, at the moment.

There was some mention about starvation deaths. In fact, I would like to appeal here to the hon. House that although the Press should be alert to these things, it should not cause panic by converting diarrhoea deaths and gastro-enteritis deaths into starvation deaths because no Chief Minister or no State Government is ever going to admit starvation deaths. It only creates panic and we know that many times we have raised it here in Parliament, but no State Government will ever admit.

Thank you very much for giving me the chance.

[Translation]

SHRI ANCHAL DAS (Jajpur) : Hon'ble Mr. Chairman, Sir, the drought condition in Orissa is being discussed in the House and I thank you for having given me the opportunity to speak on this issue.

The tribal people and Harijans are suffering due to sever drought in the state of Orissa. Orissa is an agriculture-dominated state where 70 percent people depend upon agriculture and 80 percent land is not irrigated. Most of the districts of the state are situated in hilly and forest regions where 60 percent people are Tribal, Harijans and poor. Even after fifty years of Independence, there is a lack of irrigational sources and every year people have to face drought. Even in the case of irrigation undertaken through canal, the lift bank is not working properly which has not been repaired till date. As for the wells, most of them exist in papers and records only whereas virtually no progress has been made in this regard. Hon'ble Minister of Agriculture has stated that Rs. 27 crore have been given four times during natural calamities, however this money has not reached the area so far. Yesterday he made a statement in the House that the Government has given crores of rupees however no Central assistance has been received in our District Headquarters. Tribal people and Harijans reside in our district who have no other ~~mon~~ . Mostly Harijans, Tribals and dalits work in the fields of land-owners in Orissa.

Sir, there are not many industries in our state. Even when the floods, the droughts occur; the cyclones and storms hit the state, the Central grant is not received in time. Whenever such calamities occur, the state Government has to submit a report to the Central Government, thereafter the Central Government send its own committee to the state which submits its report and then the budget is passed. This is the method adopted in a democracy because of which poor people do not get any Central assistance. There the whole district is in grip of starvation. More than one hundred people have died there but the State Government claims that these people have died of diarrhoea. It is a matter of grave concern and shame. The elections are being held in our state because of which all the development work would come to a standstill; the relief and rehabilitation work would not be taken up. These people need help, but they are not being given any help. The government is more concerned about holding the elections. The development work would come to a standstill due to elections. Then how would the Harijans, dalits, tribals, who constitute 60 percent of the total population of the state, would afford two Square meals. They migrate to other states. There is no other means of livelihood in our state. Our state is called a poor state but it is not really poor. Our state has got ample mineral resources, several mines and reserves of coal, mica and iron but all of it is taken away by the Central Government. As a result, in our state, the poor people

remain in a state of poverty. They do not get any jobs and they do not get any food also. They spend their lives in state of poverty. Shri Biju Patnaik had set up 4-5 industries viz. Mesco, Kalingmesco, Bhushand Steel etc. However, they had to be closed down because of non-receipt of Central assistance. The Harijans, tribal and dalit people throughout the state have no other source of income. The funds allocated by the Central Government for various schemes are pocketed by middlemen because of which poor people remain poor and die of starvation.

Our former Prime Minister Shri Narasimha Rao ji, Shri Devegowda ji, Shri Biju Patnaik, the Opposition Leader of our state, Shri Ashok Das, Shri Srikanta bhai and Hon'ble Minister of Agriculture have visited Orissa recently which is very commendable. Different schemes should be formulated by the Central Government to counter the drought conditions.

Last year when floods and storm hit the state
...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please confine your speech to the matter of drought.

SHRI ANCHAL DAS : When storms and floods occur, the Central and the State Government should extend help to the poor. Four month ago my constituency Jajpur was hit by storm and flood which caused breaches in the dam. We made a request to the Prime Minister.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please speak on drought. You should speak about the floods only when it is taken up for discussion in the House.

SHRI ANCHAL DAS : Please listen to me. I am discussing that aspect also. This is the problem being faced in Orissa 240 houses were washed away because of breaches in the dam. I wrote to the Prime Minister in this regard. He advised me to write to the Minister of Agriculture. I wrote to the Minister of Agriculture who asked me to write to the State Government. Congress is in power there. The Chief Minister went there by helicopter to survey the situation but did not submit any report. The houses of poor, Harijans and dalits were washed away but nobody offered any help. I have been elected to this House. We kept on speaking about this issue but nobody listened. The area was badly affected by the floods and the poor suffered the most. It is always the poor who suffer maximum loss in case of floods and storm whereas the rich and the influential do not suffer any loss. I request the Central Government to pay attention towards the funds sanctioned and its proper and timely disbursal amongst the poor.

[English]

SHRI SARAT PATTANAYAK (Bolangir) : Madam, yesterday the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs had assured in the House that the Prime Minister would be here today when this discussion takes place. Already the discussion on this subject has started at 3.30 p.m.

but the Prime Minister has not yet come here...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA : Madam, the Chinese President has come. The Prime Minister has gone to receive him. He must be on his way...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SARAT PATTANAYAK : Madam, this subject is more serious than other things...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : The Minister is giving the assurance that he would come.

[English]

SHRI SARAT PATTANAYAK : Yesterday the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs had assured in the House that the Prime Minister would be here today when this discussion takes place but he has not yet come ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA : He is just coming.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now I call upon Prof. Rasa Singh Rawat to speak.

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer) : Mr. Chairman, Madam, an ethics - writer has said in Sanskrit :

"Apujyam yatra puyante. Pujanantu vyatikrama.
Taani tatravartante durbhiksham marnam bhayam"

The former Prime Minister must have understood it that those who are not worthy of being admired or respected are admired and respected and those who are respectable and admirable are ignored.

'Treeni tatra varante' i.e. the nation faces three types of situations. 'Durbhiksham marnam bhayam' i.e. either a severe drought occurs or reports of large scale deaths are received or an atmosphere of fear prevails. Shri Satpal Maharaj has understood it. This is written down in Manusmriti. I believe that in the country whether it is Orissa or any other part of the country and right from the Independence till date it is said about our country that the budget of India is totally dependent upon monsoon. If the country experiences a good monsoon, everything falls into place. We have sufficient crops and well-being is ensured. However if Monsoon clouds do not arrive in time or are missed altogether or are delayed, the crops are damaged. The hopes of the farmers are dashed to the ground. The ponds dry up; the handpumps dry up; the problem of drinking water is faced; production of crops is affected. The labourers or landless people dependent upon agriculture face the most serious problem, that of subsistence. As our colleague from Orissa was mentioning that this is the most severe drought the state has faced in last 25 years and Hon'ble Minister of Agriculture has admitted that 50 percent crops have been destroyed in 27,871

villages in 26 districts out of a total of 30 districts of Orissa and at places, 50 to 70 percent crops have been destroyed. At certain places canals under the small and at others the canals under the medium irrigation projects have dried up because of which 26 lakh tonne paddy has been destroyed. As per the government's calculations, a loss of Rs. 951 crore has been suffered. As on date, people do not have anything to eat; there are no crops in the fields, so how would they earn their livelihood? Those people are earning their livelihood by cutting trees and selling them as a result of which forests also are being destroyed.

Madam Chairman, discussion takes place every year over the famine situation of Kalahandi. I have been the Member of Parliament for the last 6-7 years and I have been looking this. I would like to know from the Government as to why the Government do not identify such famine affected areas where such a dangerous situation emerges? If such areas have been identified then why Master Plan is not being prepared in order to ensure proper development of these areas? The Union Government provide crores of rupees to the State Government for soil conservation and water shed management. Had that amount been utilised properly, I think, such a situation would not have emerged. Due to not paying attention towards the water management the wells, ponds and hand pumps have dried, and ground water level is going down. As a result thereof, situation had worsened. I think that the Union Government is also responsible for that because it ignored the situation. The hon'ble Minister of Agriculture had visited the area, and said that the media and the newspapers had not covered this problem? His statement was published in the newspapers but holding media and newspapers responsible for this will not serve the purpose. The Centre has to be kept informed by the State Government about the situation. The State Government is also responsible for that because it should have informed the Union Government about the loss of revenue and crops. Rains had not taken place there during the period from the month of June to September and now it is being said that this State is being neglected. A confusion is prevailing there. And now announcements have been made by the Union Government but these announcements are like a drop in the ocean. The Centre and the State are imposing allegations against each other.

It is very surprising that 16 MLAs of Congress Party there, have given a statement. A meeting of Congress Committee of Orissa was held in which they claimed that the Congress Party should withdraw its support at the Centre because Orissa has been badly affected by this fearful famine and Union Government has not provided any help. After that a commotion caused in the Congress at the Centre and then the Union Government made some announcements regarding financial assistance. It is an irony that despite the senior leader like hon'ble Biju Patnaik being an hon'ble

Member of the ruling party, so much sensitivelessness is there in the ruling party that famine took place in Orissa but even after four-five months, the people have not been provided assistance there. As a result thereof, thousands-lakhs of people have left their houses and gone to some other places.

Last year, plague had break out in Surat. Lakhs of labourers of Orissa who were employed there had to leave Surat to save their lives. They were poor. They left all their belongings there. Now famine has occurred there and they do not have work. Though, Jawahar Rozgar Yojna has been launched but funds were not provided. It is a famine code that unless an area is declared famine affected, no amount can be given from Calamity Relief Fund. Thus, no such work has been started there. As a result thereof, people did not get any wages then how they could arrange something to eat? Several mothers have sold their children. I have a report of newspapers but it is not the time to produce it here. Several examples have been reported that many people had sold their children. Madam, 180 deaths have taken place due to starvation there over which there is a controversy. The Chief Minister of the State has said that these deaths had taken place due to diarrhoea and not due to starvation. If these people have died due to diarrhoea then what was the cause of it? They might have eaten leaves of the trees or consumed such vegetables to satisfy their hunger due to which they died. He has said that they died due to diarrhoea and not due to starvation but in my view it is like "Do Patan Ke Beech Main Sabut Bacha Na Koy". Both the Centre and the State Governments had not paid due attention in time due to which the people are suffering.

Madam, livestock is also being destroyed there and the condition of all the women, children and old persons is very pitiable. Rich people can face the situation because they might have had grains or paddy in their stock but how the poor people who earned their livelihood by working on daily wages will face the problem? Relief works should be started for them without any further delay and arrangements should be made to provide a permanent job to these children, woman and men according to their ability. The works for these people may be on lift irrigation, canals, JRY, construction of schools building, community halls and roads, planting of trees or digging of pits for forests. Madam, now we have six months' time from January to June. The situation is not so bad now. Some bad consequences have started to come up before us but it is a matter of concern that if the situation is so grim at present then what it would be after six months? The situation will continue to worsen. Therefore, as the hon'ble Home Minister had said that this was also a national calamity like cyclone which hit the Andhra Pradesh. If the cyclone of Andhra is a national calamity then this is also a national calamity. Though, flood occurred there and it caused devastating loss but after that there will be no problem and all will be alright and then there will be more production. But where drought

has taken place and no crops are being produced at present and in the coming six months also, the situation will remain the same. What will the people, living there, eat unless rains take place? Therefore, I am of the view that the Union Government should declare it a national calamity and provide assistance liberally. Being the famine affected area and due to starvation, evacuation and exploitation, in the Naupara, Kalahandi and Bolangir districts incidents of change of religion are also increasing. Some people related to Ram Krishna Mission are engaged there in the relief works in the name of NGOs. The people related to Catholic Church are also involved.

17.00 hrs.

(Mr. Deputy Speaker in the Chair)

But those people who are unable to nourish their children are being compelled by some people to change their religion. It has been published in the newspapers that these people are being forced to change their religion. I think that the Government should also pay attention towards it in order to avert such situation. I would also like to say one thing more that almost 40 percent of the total domestic production of Orissa is from Agriculture alone there and agriculture provides job to about 64 percent people. And 80 percent Kharif crop has been destroyed. Only 33 percent land is irrigated land and the remaining land depends upon the rain. 50 to 70 percent paddy crop has been destroyed. I would like to know whether the drought affected areas have been identified which comes under the famine code? Farsighted policies should be formulated for that purpose in order to stop recurrence of drought situation. Even, Israel has changed deserts into fertile lands. In the desert areas of other countries of the world where monsoon does not approach, they have adopted other methods of irrigation like sprinkling system and drip irrigation. So we should also accord priority to such schemes by developing water shed management and preparing scheme of soil conservation. Besides this, there should be effective monitoring agencies which should keep a watch over the expenditure and see whether the amount earmarked for the purpose is being spent in those villages for the welfare of labourers and for those affected by famine. They should see whether the wheat, rice, oil, pulses, kerosene or clothes are being made available to the people through fair price shops or not and arrangements should be made for that. Further landless labourers and agricultural labourers should be accorded priority.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to submit that the agricultural loans should be waived off. I urge upon the Minister of Agriculture that he should make a request to the State Governments, be it a subject of a State list or Union list, that the loans taken by the farmers through co-operative societies may be waived off and recovery of loans be stopped if it is being done. If the crop insurance

has been done and their crop has been destroyed, an assessment of loss may be worked out. Insured amounts of the farmers may be provided to them. Besides this, if land revenue etc. is being collected, it should be postponed and short term loans be sanctioned. They should be provided short term loans without interest so that they can earn their livelihood during that period. It is very necessary. Community kitchens should be opened in order to provide relief to famine affected people, who are not getting even water and who are leaving their homes, to stop this migration.

[Translation]

Millions of people have left the place. However arrangement of the food for the rest of the people should be made at one place. Diseases may spread there. Due to non-availability of balanced diet, people have become weak. They are without food for a prolonged period and have become prone to various diseases by eating forest leaves, grass and roots.

Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir. They have become too weak and are not able to work hard the whole day. Community kitchens should be opened and arrangements for supply of medicines to such poor people should be made so that they may not fall prey to untimely death by suffering from diseases in famine affected areas. Works of enduring importance should be started. Work relating to soil conservation and watershed management should be encouraged and it should be ensured that these work continue on war footing for seven months.

Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir. complaints have also been received regarding non-payment of old-age pension and widow pension in time. They have lost this only support too. The handicapped persons, old persons and widows have not received their pensions. I have with me some clippings from newspapers and 'Onlooker' magazine in which details in this regard are given. The names alongwith photos etc. of such persons have been given in them. I would like to know from the Government that if it is correct, then what happened to the fund worth crores of rupees that was allocated for Kalahandi by the Centre? Further, how was fund allocated by the State Government spent? It is surprising that despite so much funding, the situation of famine continued to prevail there and our system just collapse even with low scale famine and all our activities stop and development is held up. We must consider it seriously as to why this fund did not reach the right hands and why it was not utilised in the right works? Why right schemes were not prepared and implemented and why good results did not come out?

Sir, these things can be considered later but at present, there is an urgent need to provide assistance to maximum number of people affected by famine in Orissa and we should help them in a liberal way in this hour of crisis. The tenth Finance Commission has made

some norms in regard to National Calamity. Assistance should be provided to the famine-stricken areas of Orissa by relaxing these norms. Orissa is an important part of our country. In Sanskrit, Orissa is known as 'Utkal Desh' where there was a king called Ashok. There is also the historic Konark temple and the waves of the ocean touch the coastal boundary of that state. If a part of the body pains, the whole body feels its suffering. In the same way the suffering through which Orissa is undergoing at present, is being felt by the whole country and we all should consider it as our own suffering. The former Prime Minister is sitting here. He also visited Orissa in the capacity of the Prime Minister. He had sanctioned a K.V.K. scheme of about Rs. 4000 crore so that the problem of famine affected area could be overcome properly. I would like to know about the progress of this scheme.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I belong to Rajasthan. Rajasthan has also been suffering from famine but for the last few years, its geographical condition has changed. Therefore, there are less chances of famine. However, famines still occur there. When famine occurred there last time, the Government of Rajasthan dealt with the problem on war footing. Even cattle did not die. Population exodus was checked, the working hands were provided work in villages and famine relief committees were set up. The people were given assistance in the form of cash and food grains. As a result, we would save many more lives. I would like to urge upon the Central Government, through you, that they should give direction to the State Government to take similar steps there and provide the required amount as relief so that the people could remember that the Centre had helped in the hour of crisis. A friend in need is a friend indeed. Therefore, it is the duty of every citizen of the country to make contribution whole heartedly.

Sir, the hon'ble Prime Minister has already given the first instalment of relief amount but they should be given fund according to their demand which would definitely activate relief measures.

With these words, I thank you for giving me a chance to speak.

[English]

SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO (Berhampur) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I am in complete agreement with the suggestions given by the hon. Members and also the causes of drought conditions in Orissa which they have brought out. So, I would not like to repeat anything that has been said already.

Sir, the first thought that comes to me when I think of these districts, particularly in Orissa and the State of Orissa in general, is that these areas cannot be looked after by the State Government alone. It is just beyond the capacity of any State Government howsoever efficient and howsoever affluent. In fact, we do not have affluent State Governments in a large number in this

country. So, particularly for the Orissa Government it would be impossible to cope with a gigantic task of this nature. So not only for the drought which is more or less a regular feature in these areas but the State itself, the development of the State itself and the eradication of this starkest possible poverty which you find in Orissa is a real measure of the task that needs to be handled. In my visits abroad, I have been noticing one common factor everywhere whether it is South East Asian countries or Western countries - more advanced countries. I have been asking myself whether I have seen a country where the stark poverty, absolute *nipat garibi* which I find in India in my country, do I find it elsewhere and unfortunately the answer is, no. There has been enormous improvement in this country. There is no doubt about that. We do not find the poverty of the 30s or the 40s or the 50s or even the 60s today. There is enormous improvement. But the population is growing and States like Orissa have not grown as fast as they should have whatever the reasons, I am not going into the reasons. So, today Orissa as a State and these KBK and some other districts in particular have become the responsibility, ought to become the responsibility of the Central Government and the State Government together. It is with this realisation that our late Prime Minister, Shri Rajiv Gandhi visited these areas and almost adopted them as a special care area of the Prime Minister. We have continued that tradition. We have continued that gesture of the Central Government or the Prime Minister personally and we have done something in pursuance of what he left us to do. I would like the Prime Minister, Shri Deve Gowda, to continue this tradition. It is not one Prime Minister who can solve these problems. It will have to be a succession of Prime Ministers over a period of time, maybe 20 years, 30 years, 40 years because meanwhile the other areas are also going ahead and the comparative differential between Orissa and the other States has to be narrowed down and if it has to be narrowed down, Orissa will have to have a special dispensation come what may and whatever be the complaints from other States. I am sure no State will complain if they are told the truth about Orissa and these districts. So, my first request to the Prime Minister would be that take these areas as a continuing responsibility of the Prime Minister and look at these areas from that point of view. If more than Rs. 4,000 crore were sought to be found over a period of time, if I remember right it was about 10 years 1992 to 2002 this is what I recollect — it may be wrong or right, it does not matter. But it was a longer period. It should be possible for the Central Government and the State Governments combined to find this money. I did not consider it impossible when the matter was brought to me and I said that it has to be done. So, this has to be taken up as a continuing responsibility. What exactly do we have to do? As several Members pointed out, giving Rs. 50 crore every year and forgetting about it, and the Rs. 50 crore being spent only on what is absolutely urgent for the people to keep body and soul together,

that is not enough because the population of Orissa also is growing, the poverty also is growing proportionately. Therefore, apart from what we do every year to stave off the situation, something more needs to be done.

I am quite amazed to hear from the Members and I have also been told when I went to Berhampur and Ganjam and those other places that migration was about to start or has already started. In the last three to four years, we have brought out specific programmes for specific purposes. In Maharashtra, we had, for a long time, twenty to twenty-five years, the Employment Guarantee Scheme. Now, that Scheme was, by and large, taking care of this problem of migration. There was a guarantee that anyone who is able-bodied and wants to work, needs work, would be given work, according to certain pattern which was evolved in that State. We, in the last three to four years, more or less copied that Scheme. We did not dare to say that it is a Guarantee Scheme, but we said it was an Assurance Scheme. There is not much difference between the two, so far as the spirit goes; maybe, there are technical difficulties and, therefore, we did not call it a Guarantee Scheme.

So, EAS was conceived of specifically for these situations. Now, how is it that in spite of that Scheme being available everywhere—I do not think that there are any great rules restricting the use or the commencement of these works—why should it happen in Orissa that lakhs of people have already left and what would happen in the coming months? This is perhaps due to a lackadaisical approach to the problem. I am sorry to say. Whatever happened to the other schemes, the EAS should have been on board. It should have been ready to go into operation at a moment's notice because the Scheme is made that way. The Scheme is made for meeting such emergencies. So, it has to be a continuous Scheme, it is a continuous Scheme. Nobody has told you that on 31st March or 31st December, the Scheme has to be wound up for the year. There is nothing like that. It is a continuing Scheme. If the news of such large scale migration is correct, it shows that something has not been done in time.

There is migration of a different kind—a professional migration. People, technicians etc., working in some area go to some other areas every year as a matter of routine. They go to any of the areas where the cities are being built, where fast development is taking place. That is a different migration. But migration only for livelihood, migration because in their own areas they do not get enough work for livelihood, this is something which is socially, sociologically, and economically unpardonable. You cannot uproot him from his house from his home, from his friends, from his people and let him go to Surat, or Mumbai or any other place. This is not correct. That is why, this Scheme was conceived of and it was actually put in the field.

If this has not been done, we will have to take very particular interest in seeing to it that at least now it should be stopped. A few lakhs of people have already left. It should be mounted on the largest possible scale so that there will be no further migration and there will be no conditions created to force them to migrate. This is very important.

Then the other scheme. After all, this stark poverty is because of several factors. I shall come to the agricultural side later. But, generally speaking, there is no income and, that is why, there is poverty. These are the two sides of the same coin. If you create conditions of income, poverty will come down and that was the specific purpose for which the Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana was started. We could give self-employment opportunities to about five or six lakhs of people in a matter of a year and a half or two years, but considering the problem, it is a drop in the ocean. But it is not meant to be a drop in the ocean at all time. It was something which was meant to grow and that is my complaint.

The budgetary provisions of this year, for schemes that were meant to grow and for schemes that were not meant to be stagnating where they were in 1994 or 1995, have been cut down. The reason is simple. Maybe they have not been able to probably grasp the nature of these schemes which are necessarily to be increasing year after year. This has not been done. So, the scheme which was named after the Prime Minister, not after A, B or C — we knew that Prime Ministers, as persons, as human beings, are ephemeral so that there may not be any prejudice or disinclination to a particular name—they were named as the Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana. In Kalahandi district itself which is supposed to be one of the most backward districts, I was pleasantly surprised to be told that they are growing Basmati rice. I could not imagine and could not believe it but they all told me that "Yes. It is being grown." If it had been any other State, with a little capacity for publicity, a flair for publicity, Kalahandi would have been famous in the whole country for something else, and not for that. That is the potential of Kalahandi. We met some young men and women who were given an assistance of Rs. 1 lakh or Rs. 80,000/- or Rs. 70,000/- under the PMRY. One young boy came forward and said "Sir, I am doing something which nobody else may be doing anywhere in India." I asked "What is it?". He said "I am breeding Alsatian dogs." It is true. Maybe nowhere in India, a poor boy like that has taken to this. He says :

[Translation]

"I shall repay my full loan within two years."

[English]

He was so confident that he would not need more than two years to be completely debt free, completely loan free. Although the PMRY does not necessarily exist for only two years, it is, a longer period. So, the

initiative of the people is there. As a farmer, I can say that in any of these areas, land is really good. In Berhampur, I can certify that the land is good provided you know how to get anything out of it.

That brings me to the most important question connected with, Shri Mishra, Agriculture. What are we doing in Berhampur? They are insisting on growing rice. They have no canals. They have to depend on the rain. Most of the lands in that area are rainfed—rainfed means the rain has to be there every 20 days, every 15 days, every 10 days. Otherwise, the yield goes down. When I went and inspected those fields, I found that even harvesting is not possible. Even harvesting is not worthwhile. They will not get even the expenses of harvesting from those fields. There is nothing more except to leave the grazing cattle in the fields so that they graze there. This is the condition there.

I would like to tell Shri Mishra that there is a great deal to be done by his scientists there. The prime need in Orissa particularly in those areas which do not have assured irrigation, the challenge for those areas is the change of cropping pattern so that you just tell them what they can grow and get something out of it. In all progressive areas of the country, the agriculturists have done it. They have done it themselves. Every agriculturist's field is something like a research centre. He grows something this year. In the next season, he grows something else and by experience in a very pragmatic fashion, the agriculturist in India is not necessarily hundered per cent supported by the scientist but by his own experience has stumbled into, has come to the right area, the right variety etc. etc.

What are they growing in Berhampur? They are growing IR8. How much time does it take? It takes four months to four-and-a-half months. I was told here in one of your exhibitions that in Orissa itself, in the Cuttack Research Centre, they have developed one seed called Hira—may be from Hira-kud or something. I did not see any Hira there and Hira is only 75 days' crop and IR8 is 95 days' crop. If this is the ignorance which we have not been able to dispel from that poor area, what do we expect?

In Andhra Pradesh, in Karnataka, in Tamil Nadu and in many of the areas in Maharashtra, you find that you do not have this same seed in all the fields. Our agricultural research stations are bringing out dozens and dozens of new strains and we are using them. All progressive farmers are using them and sometimes they take them to task and say: "What you have said about this particular strain is not good." They tell them and they proved to them that this is not good. That is how, there is a very very live contact between the agriculturists and the scientists. That is why, agriculture has grown. That is why, we have become self-sufficient. That is why, we have had the green revolution in this country. I do not see even an iota of the green revolution or the

spirit of the green revolution anywhere in that area, unfortunately. It can become a granary.

Orissa can become another granary. It is in no way less in potential than the other areas. But if you allow 65 per cent of the water, which is itself scarce in the first instance, what can be done? Sixty-five per cent of the water goes as waste to the sea, to the Bay of Bengal. Compare it with the Cauvery, not even five per cent goes waste and compare it with the Krishna, there also very little goes to the Bay of Bengal. About the Godavari, yes, there is a problem there because where you have land, you do not have water and where you have water, you do not have land. So, about the Godavari, necessarily some part of it has to go to the sea. But even on the Godavari, if one or two huge projects, which have been stuck as a result of many technical objections, are allowed to be completed, it also can be harnessed in full.

So, what are we doing to harness this extra water in Orissa which is being just sent to the sea? So, this will have to be one of the things to do.

Now, I am on long-term measures taken particularly under the aegis of the Prime Minister of India, just to see the dark poverty of the Orissa is a thing of the past. I am not talking of any other State. I am not saying that any other State is really rolling in money. It is not like that. But then the comparative poverty, which you find there, is something which we cannot tolerate, we should not tolerate. No Prime Minister should tolerate, no Chief Minister should tolerate and we should not tolerate it.

Sir, Health. If you go into the hinterland, the interior parts of the Orissa, I must say that the health status of the children in particular, leaves much to be desired. They are giving mid-day meals since one and a half years but somehow it appears that health and education have not received the attention which they deserve and this is because of the poverty of the people. You cannot spoon feed them for everything. So, I say, make them stand on their legs. Let them have some source of income. If he is to go and migrate every year and come back, no child will ever get education. More than anything else, more than the man's own generation, his younger generation, his children will become illiterate and remain illiterate. Who is going to teach them Oriya in Surat, who is going to teach them Oriya in some other States? It is not possible. Therefore, you are uprooting the the family and making it impossible for them or their children to really become useful citizens of the society. They will also continue to be manual workers like their parents. So, this is a far-reaching matter which needs to be gone into.

Now, I come to proper District Planning. It does not seem to have been done. They are trying it but they have to do it on a more systematic basis. May be there also, occasionally, the Government of India's advice and monitoring would be needed. As of 15 days back,

I was told that the works were to be started. This is what they have said. At least, two Collectors told me. "Yes, Sir, we are going to start in the next few days." Members tell me that migration has already started. To be fair, in Berhampur, they did not tell me that migration has started. They told that migration may start unless we take immediate measures. And, I said, "For Heavens sake, please take immediate measures so that it can be stopped before it starts." In other districts probably the conditions are still worse. Therefore, migration started. Works have started or not, we do not know.

Would the hon. Minister kindly tell us, whether works have been started in right earnestness, if full swing, whether there is any reasonable possibility of migration starting at least now...*(Interruptions)*. Then, this will have to be particularly attended to.

SHRI BIJU PATNAIK (Aska) : It has not even left the tables of the Ministry. The money has not come in yet.

[Translation]

SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO : You shall say this only.

SHRI BIJU PATNAIK : It is your Government which rules...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO : This is a serious matter. Please call for an immediate report on this, district-wise, what has started and what has not started. Will you say something?

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : It is not true that the work has not been started. However, it is true that it was started late. I have been recently there. The Chief Minister the Minister of Revenue and the Minister of Agriculture were present there. A meeting was held in which all the officers took part. It is true that the work got delayed.

[English]

As per our information, for drinking water 3,600 bore wells have already been sunk in certain areas of Bolangir. About 4,000 lift irrigation points have already been activated.

[Translation]

...*(Interruptions)* You can say ...*(Interruptions)* Do you get reports from officers or some where else? I have also done this work and visited some places. You have been Prime Minister for a long time and also have been Prime Minister for a long time and also Chief Minister. If you had got it from heaven, then we have also got it from there. It will be seen later whether it is true or false...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO : Sir, I was requesting the Minister to tell me with a view to believing him. So, whatever he has told the House, we have to take it as true. Because, if it is not true, it is nothing to be very much glad about.

We have to be really very sorry about the migration that has already started and we have to see to it that it is stopped. If it has been stopped and works have started, I would be one who would be very happy to know about it.

Then, it again has been repeated several times about the relations between the Central Government and the State Government. I am a witness to it. In my own presence, in a Conference of all the Collectors, it was emphasized that in these very backward areas there were so many posts lying vacant for such a long time. On hon. Member just told about doctors. It is not only doctors, compounders, etc., but a large number of posts connected with development are lying vacant. If it had been only in respect of supervisory posts, I would not have bothered. They are connected with the successful implementation of the development programmes. So, if you keep them vacant, nothing will get done. This is something very important. We will have to tell the State Government about it. I have emphasised this in that meeting also but they must be having some difficulty.

I am saying this because they do have some difficulties. It is not that people do not go there just because they do not want to go, but they have some particular difficulty, of accommodation, of some allowance and so on. There are lots of causes that really deter Government servants from taking their postings seriously and go to the places where they are posted. Now, this can be the difference: the line between success and failure in the context of Orissa. It is not just a matter to be mentioned once or twice and forgotten. This is something absolutely vital and this has to be gone into in great details district-wise. Maybe, we have to go and find out. I tried to find out from my district, Berhampur, what exactly was happening there, how many posts were vacant, why had they not been filled and what kind of posts were lying vacant. This is very important. So, this will have to be done from district to district.

SHRI JAG MOHAN (New Delhi) : Who is responsible for this situation in which the officers do not go there?

SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO : Who, according to you, is responsible?...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI JAG MOHAN : It must be the non-attendance of the political leaders for providing the infrastructure there. Who was taking decisions for all these thirty to forty years?

SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO : Sir, we do not have to go into the history of thirty to forty. We have very

adequate answers and everything is there. That is not the point...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI JAG MOHAN : If, for forty years, the Government has not been able to provide the infrastructure, ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO : I am talking of certain areas. Perhaps, they may not even know where they exist. I am talking on a specific subject. Let us not make it ludicrous by generalising it and politicising it.

SHRI JAG MOHAN : Who has not provided the the infrastructure?

SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO : Whatever has been provided, you are losing sight of it. It has been provided where it could be provided, to the extent it could be provided. Otherwise, where India would be, today, you only have to imagine. So, please do not go into that. This is a continuous process.

Development in a continuous process. Increase of needs is a continuous process. What was the population of India in 1947? What is the population today? With what face can we say that we are still running after the increase in population? We are not able to stop it. Stop it today and tomorrow you can have a wonderful programme for a particular given population of a country. That has been done in other countries. We have not been able to do it for various reasons.

So, I am only citing an example, not as an alibi, not as a defence but as a fact. So, let us not go into that. We have to tackle a particular situation, as my friend said, on a war footing. I do not know what war footing is. What I understand by war footing is having a beautiful coordination programme in all the Departments of the Government. Our Governments, whether at the Centre or in the States have not left out any programme needed for the people. Coordination is needed; timely action is needed; intensive implementation is needed and monitoring is needed. These are the four things which do not cost money but do need a little effort to go into it.

Sir, I entirely agree with what the Government says. What is needed in these areas are, (i) drought-proofing. Now, drought-proofing is a very good word and a comprehensive word. But drought-proofing is a gamut of say 10, 12 or 20 programmes, all rolled in one in such a way that there is perfect coordination. Only then, drought-proofing is possible. Then, (ii) developmental saturation. Drought-proofing and developmental saturation are the two objectives. Now, can we say that there is saturation of development in any area of India? It looks unimaginable that there are areas where there is development saturation. There are villages where they do not need anything more. So, they have their time fully devoted to politics. There are areas and there are blocks like that. There are villages like that. So, there is saturation of development, but not at all places. That is what is needed in these areas because no

matter how much money you spend from here or from Bhubaneswar, unless the man is able to sustain himself financially and economically, it is just not possible to say that he would be able to become a profitable unit for himself in this society. The existing conditions permitting, he would become really a useful unit of the society only under certain circumstances. In case these inputs are given to him in time and effectively. This is what I would like to say.

So, I would like to tell Shri Mishra also one more point. Many areas in Orissa are ideal for horticulture. I cannot imagine how good it would be and how profitable it would be after ten years if you take a programme of horticulture today, say over five lakhs of acres or two lakhs of acres in Orissa. I have seen Shri K.P. Singh Deo's constituency. I have been looking at lands there wherever I go, even if I go for votes. I also look at the lands there. I find absolutely faultless land and faultless soil. For instance, I did not find too many alkaline patches. You will find it in Andhra Pradesh and other places. Since Orissa is a sloping land, all the rivers are coming there. Probably those rivers see to it that alkaline patches are not created and they flow into the sea.

I find that the lands in Orissa are in no way inferior and in many cases superior lands with more humus content and with more fertility than some other States. These are some of the things I wanted to say. The rain-fed areas have become a problem to agriculture in Orissa.

So, these are some of the things. The rain-fed areas have become a problem to the agriculture in Orissa. There are many other States where it was the case 20 years ago or 25 years ago; but their conditions have changed and there is no such thing as rain-fed area in a large measure there. But the measures of backwardness or the test of backwardness is that the rain-fed areas are plenty in Orissa. These are the things which I wanted to highlight.

Whatever immediate programmes are to be taken up, I am sure, they will be taken up. If they are not taken up, all of us will have to pursue them because every day counts in the life of a person who is starving or whose children are suffering from malnutrition; and if this is allowed to go beyond a point, they will be of no use either to themselves or to their families. These are the real stakes of the drought situation. I hope that all of us irrespective of political persuasion or anything, will take it up as a very very big challenge before us.

Now, coming to the underground situation, Orissa is one of the richest States in underground wealth. The mineral wealth is something fantastic. It has fantastic mineral wealth which still has not been tapped to the extent it should be and maybe, for the next 25 years or 30 years with full attention and full resources, if Orissa is tapped, it will not remain the most backward State in India, but it will be among the front-runners; and I have no doubt about that.

Orissa has got a potential of 10 to 12 MW of electricity. But where is it now? Today, they say with some amount of pride that Orissa is in surplus. Yes, it is in surplus. Why is it in surplus? It is because it is not being used. The industrialisation programme in Orissa has not yet taken off in spite of two Patnaiks' struggling with it.

SHRI BIJU PATNAIK : One Patnaik is struggling. The other is not.

SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO : He is struggling more than you.

As regards power production, the potential has to be improved. This is not for Orissa alone. We want power, others want power, the whole country wants power. They are thirsty for power. There were many other States which were famous for their surplus power like Karnataka, Maharashtra. Today we are deficit. I am told, Orissa is an example where everyone can do his bit to see that electricity is produced. The mineral wealth seems to be enormous there.

What I am saying is that drought is not of one kind and it is not for one day. It is also not by one cause or by one programme that it can be obviated. No. It can be abolished only by all these things put together because it has become a chronic case. I am afraid that poverty in Orissa is something which needs to be immediately attended to and it can be done only when we have such a multi-faceted programme for the development of Orissa.

I am thankful to you, Sir, for having given me this opportunity.

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH (Uluberia) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is very difficult to speak after listening to the speech of the former Prime Minister... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Mishraji, is saying that how long the House shall function. It depends on the House itself.

[English]

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH : Whenever the problem of the Eastern region is taken up, we do not get time, we do not get money and we do not get anything. This is the reason for that. When the discussion took place the other day, nobody objected to it. But when we take up the problem of the Eastern region like Bengal, Orissa and Bihar, nobody is having the funds, nobody is having the time and they are having other things, unfortunately.

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : There is no problem regarding time. You have to decide in this regard.

[English]

You have to decide it.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI (Deogarh) : Sir, tomorrow is Friday. So, let us sit for two or three hours more and complete it...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Jenaji, what do you want to say.

[English]

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA : I have no objection because this is a serious matter and Members are interested to participate. Let them participate and if you can extend the time and accommodate as many Members as possible, it would be all right and the Prime Minister may reply tomorrow.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Time has already been extended.

[Translation]

Two hours time is over now.

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA : The Hon'ble Prime Minister will reply, tomorrow.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Do you want it to be concluded today? That is the only point I want to know from you.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA : The Prime Minister will reply to the discussion and before that, the Minister of Agriculture, if he wants to speak today, can speak or he may speak tomorrow. But the Prime Minister will reply tomorrow.

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : If the Prime Minister is going to speak tomorrow, it is better that I speak today itself.

SHRI SARAT PATTANAYAK : How is it possible? There are so many Members to speak.

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA : That is why I suggested that we can extend the time today to accommodate the hon. Members. Let them participate and after the end of the discussion, hon. Minister of Agriculture will say whatever he wants to say on the subject.

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : If you fix it up for tomorrow, I may tell you that I have to attend the other House also. That is why, I say that he can speak tomorrow and I think I can speak today.

SHRI P. UPENDRA (Vijayawada) : You can intervene today.

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : I am ready for that. Mine will be an intervention but the main reply will be given by him. We can manage that way and if you like, I can do it after he finishes his speech...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

AN HON'BLE MEMBER : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, how long the House shall function?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I shall tell you at 6 o'clock. However, it is to be decided by you.

(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH : Sir, I want to draw the attention of the House to two points mentioned by the earlier speaker. One is to develop the drought prone areas. The earlier Government had put it under the Prime Minister's direct supervision and after taking it under the direct supervision of the Prime Minister, the worst drought and problems have come up. If this is the result, I would request the Prime Minister not to have it under his direct supervision.

We do not want to discuss the reason because everybody knows that Orissa has the richest underground resources and poorest people. We all know that this is the fate of the Eastern region and Orissa. This is the result of decades of heartless exploitation and careless attitude towards the Eastern region. Only because of the exploitation and at the cost of the Eastern region, Orissa is undergoing this type of suffering today.

Secondly, KVKs were declared last year, just before the Assembly election of Orissa. It was just for the elections because no scheme was projected earlier and no programme was taken under the Plan.

SHRI SARAT PATTANAYAK : In 1993, when the hon. former Prime Minister had gone to Bolangir and Kalahandi, he had announced the programme of KVKs.

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH : What is the result? It is not included in the Eighth Five Year Plan.

SHRI SARAT PATTANAYAK : You talked about the elections and that is why, I am telling you that he had declared it is 1993.

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH : Sir, this is the true reality to which I want to draw the attention of the House and not just gloss over the reality. We talk of unity and integrity of the country and at the same time, we intentionally allow certain flowers of our motherland to dry. Till this attitude does not go, this type of drought will occur again and again. This is my first objection that I want to place before this House. The time has come that the whole nation avoided this type of negligence to this region as has happened for decades.

This is the first problem.

Several hon. Members have already mentioned about many other problem. You know that out of 30 districts, 27 have been declared drought-affected. The scarcity of rainfall may have risen this time. But what about irrigation? When the British left, in Orissa, 11 per cent land was irrigated. After 50 years, how much land

have we for irrigation? It is only 30 per cent or another 10 or 12 percent. It is less than 30 per cent in Orissa. What is the growth? That means, we have continuously neglected irrigation whether it is the State Government or the Central Government. As I have told, this is the way the mind works at the Centre. That is also another reason.

All the hon. Members have mentioned about the food shortage. Now you have to decide how to provide food to those people. Forty-one lakh families live below the poverty line there. In the coming months, how will they survive? This question should be pondered over by the Ministry of Agriculture. And the Prime Minister, sitting with all the Ministers, should think over how to provide food in the coming months to at least those 41 lakh families who are living below the poverty line.

The Public Distribution System should be revamped immediately. There is no Public Distribution System in Orissa. There are no proper fair price shops. There are no proper ration cards. How will you give them food? If the entire administrative machinery does not work immediately, many more people will die. One hundred to two hundred people have already died. The college students have gone to Mumbai. They have left for their studies in Mumbai. As per the newspaper reports, they are under serious exploitation. In that situation, the Public Distribution System should be strengthened from tomorrow itself. We have to see how these people would get their food. They should stop eating grass. They are eating the roots. They are drinking contaminated water. All sorts of health hazards are there. The people who are staying back are women, children and old people. They are infirm. More than two lakh able-bodied people have left Orissa for other parts of the country. The weakest children, women and the old have been left there to face the vagaries of nature. We do not know how those people would survive if we do not immediately arrange food, drinking water and medicines for them. The concerned Ministers should sit together under the chairmanship of the Prime Minister immediately. Otherwise thousands of people may die. This is the situation we are facing.

We have to stop the migration immediately. We have also to arrange work for them. Sixty per cent to the people there are Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribe and backward people. Most of them are agricultural labourers. Where will they work? Shri P.V. Narasimha Rao spoke earlier about the schemes. All the schemes are there. But why have not these been implemented properly? So, these schemes should also be implemented properly. Then, the agricultural labourers can get jobs. The State Government have submitted before the Central Government that if they are to give jobs to the agricultural labourers, they would need about Rs. 500 crore. From where will that money come if it is not a part of the Budget or if there is no extra budgetary support in the coming supplementary Budget?

As a good gesture, the Prime Minister has given money from his Relief Fund. It is not a question of relief. We do not want mercy of relief. If this money is not planned, Rs. 500 will never come through. Only after a discussion, it will be over. So, I want that the Government should give a categorical statement from where these Rs. 500 crore will come up to June to give work to the agricultural labourers and to stop migration in order to save them from starvation.

The cultivators have a serious problem.

18.00 hrs.

Fifty per cent of the crops have been destroyed. The cultivators—the small peasants, the medium ranking peasants and even the rich peasants—are in great distress. Their crops have been destroyed. There should be some compensation for them. The type of compensation and the amount of compensation that could be given to them, whether it should be through crop insurance or through some other scheme, should be formulated by the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Finance. The amount of compensation should be declared here. If it is not possible immediately then the Government should prepare an action plan in the coming months for the protection of the farmers and the affected persons.

Sir, all the plans are announced in advance. We have spent fifty years since our Independence and I would like to request the Government not to display such a callous and negligent attitude. It is a criminal attitude on the part of the Centre, it is a calculated attempt to destroy the Eastern region. Now it is the time to come forward and take a pledge that we would not allow a single person to die, as is happening every year, in Orissa. This is what we have to do. How could we do it? We should make a Master Plan. The Planning Commission should make a separate Plan for all these KBK districts and the districts of Palamau, Raipur and some other districts. There are, maybe, some 15-20 districts in our country which are perpetual victims of starvation due to drought conditions.

[Translation]

MR DEPUTY SPEAKER : I have a list which mentions the names of the Minister of Agriculture and 10 other hon'ble Members. Would you like to sit for half or one more hour. If each Member is allotted 5 minutes time, then it will take about one hour time.

[English]

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV (Silchar) : Sir, yesterday at this stage it was decided that the sitting of the House would be extended by an hour and the Members would limit their speeches to five to seven minutes. Today also it could be done like that.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Yes, this is what I also want to say.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV : Sir, it is because the constituencies of the Members have been affected and they would like to specifically raise their points. They will not repeat the points and that would be better. So, let the sitting of the House be extended.

MR DEPUTY-SPEAKER : So, the sitting of the House is extended by one hour.

SOME HON. MEMBERS : Sir, let it be for two hours.

[Translation]

MR DEPUTY SPEAKER : One hour is already over and we will think of extending time later.

SHRI BIJU PATNAIK : Here all are sitting with ease. One or two hours do not make any difference.

MR DEPUTY SPEAKER : It does not matter but it is to be decided by the House.

[English]

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH : Sir, what I would like to propose is that a Master Plan should be prepared and the hon. Prime Minister should promise here and now that they want to prepare a Master Plan for the drought-prone districts of the country. We do not want to listen to speeches. We have had enough of them. We want a concrete Master Plan for the rescue and development of the people of the perpetually drought-prone areas. That is necessary.

Sir, the other point which I would like to submit is that in these districts there is no small scale industries, no horticulture and no other scheme. If there is comprehensive planning and if there is a monitoring committee in the Central Government and if the State and the Central Governments together implement the plan, then we hope that next time we would not have to come here for such a discussion.

Sir, I would like to request the Government that the entire drought-affected area should be officially declared as a drought-prone area. As the Minister has already said that it is a national calamity, it should be treated with that outlook.

Secondly, in regard to the Employment Guarantee Scheme I would like to submit that this Rs. 500 crore should be provided for in the Supplementary Demands for Grants so that these agricultural labourers and unemployed people could get some job upto the month of June, 1997.

Thirdly, payment of pension to the widow or the aged people have been stopped for months together. These poorest and weakest people should immediately get their due compensation without any break.

The Public Distribution System should immediately be revamped. Cheap or free ration should be given to these poor people, at least for coming few months, to save the people from this part of the country.

Finally, Sir, a master plan should be announced for KBK districts and some other districts where such a problem reoccurs so that we can properly face the challenge in future. With these words I thank you.

SHRI CHITTA BASU (Barasat) : The crisis in Orissa, manifested in the form of drought, in my view is not a problem of certain districts of that particular State or even that of Orissa. It is a part of the national programme to see that Orissa gets proper assistance in overcoming these difficulties which they are now facing.

To begin with, I want to acquaint the House with the grave reality of Orissa's economy. Sir, I have got in my possession certain grim economic indicator. Agriculture holds 33.24 per cent share in the Net Domestic Product of the State and provides employment directly or indirectly to about 64 per cent of the total work force in the State. In a year's total agricultural performance, the Kharif session plays a dominant role by contributing nearly 80 per cent of the output. The grim situation can be further realised if we are informed properly that only 30 to 35 per cent of the land of the State is irrigated and the major land of the State depends on the vagaries of nature. That being the economic reality of Orissa, the State needs special consideration not only to tide over the present crisis but also for its all-round development—socio-economic development, cultural development and development in the fields of related matters.

The present situation has got its impact on the overall economic situation of Orissa. In my view, it has its impact not only on the economic situation of Orissa but on the nation's economy as a whole. Therefore, we are very much concerned about Orissa and its people. We urge upon the Government to have an integrated development programme so that Orissa can tide over this situation.

Sir, I say with pride that the Minister of Agriculture, a few days ago, announced and I quote:

"Nobody shall be allowed to die due to starvation".

This bold announcement is really the reflection of the emotions of the House. It is not only his emotional expressions, it echoes the emotions of the House. It is the emotion of the people at large outside the House. This Government, under the leadership of the Prime Minister, could meet the commitment it has made in its Common Minimum Programme. The Programme also says that there should be reduction of poverty. I am very glad to announce here what I have read recently in certain newspapers. The Prime Minister has announced that poverty in India will be eradicated by 2005. That is the commitment of the Prime Minister, of course, the CMP did not fix any time nor did it specify the date or year by which poverty will be eliminated. I appreciate the public statement made by the Prime Minister that poverty in India would be eliminated by the year 2005. I congratulate him for this announcement. I hope he will

do his best to keep his commitment, to take the nation in that direction so that poverty is eradicated, not only from Orissa but from very nook and corner of this country.

Sir, the former Prime Minister was very eloquent about the KBK project in Koraput, Bolangir and Kalahandi Districts. I am in support of the view that poverty should not be a partisan subject. If removal of poverty is the consideration of Parliament and if that is the commitment of the Prime Minister, there is no quarrel on the question as to which programme should be adopted and which programme should not be adopted. It is good that the former Prime Minister, late Rajiv Gandhi, and the former Prime Minister Shri Narasimha Rao made an announcement about the Koraput, Bolangir and Kalahandi project. The project estimate was Rs. 4 557 crore—I do not know whether there was an actual assessment of resource mobilisation—and it was said that it will remove all the problems that these Districts were facing. May I put a question to the hon. former Prime Minister with all humility and with all politeness? Is it not a fact that when he launched the KBK programme in August 1995, the Centre's share for that year was Rs. 73 crore? And what was actually made available to the State Government by March, 1996? It was a mere Rs. 4.24 crore.

Sir, I am bound to make my comments on this. He promised Rs. 73 crore for the execution of Koraput Bolangir, Kalahandi project as Centre's share, and he gave to the State only Rs. 4.5 crore. Will you allow me Sir, to make a little harsh comment at this stage? Is it not a criminal indifference to the commitment made? Is it not a hollow promise? Of course, I think, it is achieving excellence in public relations. It was a Rs. 4557 crore project inaugurated by the former Prime Minister. In 1995 the Central Government committed Rs. 73 crore and the actual amount made available was Rs. 4.5 crore. The hon. Minister of Agriculture can very well correct me, if I am wrong.

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : Even that money was not made available. The scheme is yet to start.

SHRI CHITTA BASU : The Agriculture Minister is on record to say that even Rs. 4.5 crore was not made available to the State. I was only quoting from a newspaper report.

I am glad and I am grateful to you that you have exposed the truth about it, the whole truth of it and the kernel of the truth. *(Interruptions)*

AN HON MEMBER : What is the truth?

SHRI CHITTA BASU : The truth is that you have not given anything. The truth is that you excel in propaganda. The truth is that you have good and excellent public relations performance. That is the truth. *(Interruptions)* That does not mean that I want this present Government to abandon that project. I will not say, I will not say that you jettison that plan, you give up that plan and that

you abandon that plan. I will not say. That plan if it is really beneficial, if it is worked out scientifically, it should be continued and the Centre should adopt that project to the extent it is possible and fund it.

I am ending very soon, within three to four minutes.

This kind of programme is to be evolved on the district basis. As a matter of fact, it is my experience that there should be specific district strategy. Every district has different kinds of problem, every district has got different kinds of resource mobilisation; and every district has got its own problems. Therefore, in a nutshell, I shall say that we should evolve this strategy and District Action Plan, not only in the case of Orissa but for all over the country. That strategy should have four thrusts.

Firstly, productivity enhancement in agriculture including livestock, fisheries and agro-forestry should be there. Secondly, income enhancement through diversification, value addition, agro industries should be there. Thirdly, investment in hard-core infrastructure, rural institution including Z.P. and panchayats should be there. Fourthly, this kind of Action Programme should target the rural public distribution and other poverty alleviation programmes.

In order to do that and after having worked out this District Strategy and Plan of Action, there should be a sufficient or adequate arrangement for developing a suitable or appropriate machinery for execution. In that case, I feel that some kind of mechanism should be involved in which the elected representatives of the people be included; institutions and centres of research and training should also be involved. Government agencies of that particular district should also be involved; non-Governmental organisations should also be involved; big industrial houses from the corporate sector should also be involved in the development of that particular district; financial institutions and banks are also be involved; mass media is also to be involved so that a mass awareness is created for the developmental work.

Lastly, this programme can be successful if there is an adequate and appropriate monitoring machinery and that monitoring machinery should be created and it should do round the year work so that the timeframe is maintained and the time schedule is maintained and the cost escalation is prevented.

I want that this Government should continue to implement the electoral promise that have been made, either through the announcement of the Government from time to time, or through the Common Minimum Programme, which is the bedrock of this Government. I hope that the Government will never abandon it.

Thank you very much.

SHRI BIJU PATNAIK : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have closely listened to all the points raised by my colleagues in this House. The suggestions and recommendations are, no doubt, exemplary. The

question now is, 'how do we meet the situation now and what do we do for the future?'

Narasimha Raoji put across poverty among plenty. That is why I had suggested once when I was the Chief Minister, 'Could I have a separate financial independence so that your Central Government does not swindle all my resources and leave me high and dry?' The taxes that Narasimha Raoji and this present Government of India has taking from Orissa's resources amount to Rs. 700 crore a year. And what do they get from the Prime Minister, it is niggardly Rs 50 crore.

In an emergency situation like this, the suggestion of Rs. 500 crore was only needed for 100,000 mandays to be provided in this area. So there is a need of about Rs. 500 crore. I am surprised that the Government of India or this Exchequer cannot divert some of the income through excise, through other things like royalty from our ores and coal for the succour of the poor. If we were a separate Government, Mr. Deputy-Speaker Sir, I would have done that first.

My resources are meant for the people. But the Government of India's resources are meant for whom? It is meant for the Government of India and not for the people of that area from which it benefits. Therefore, I had suggested this then and when I was the Chief Minister I wrote a distressing letter to the then Prime Minister, Shri Narasimha Rao, working out the total number of mandays, the total amount of money required. If you remember correctly, Mr. Narasimha Rao, I asked for only Rs. 125 crore and I wrote at the end, 'for my people, to beg I am not ashamed' — I have not yet received a reply from Shri Narasimha Rao till today — and they draw Rs. 500 crore to Rs. 700 crore from my resources of say everything coal, bauxite or whatever it is. Don't you? This is what makes me see red.

18.23 hrs.

(Mr. Speaker in the Chair)

For a long time, Mr. Speaker Sir, the Opposition in Orissa have been going round to the people and have been clamouring from district to district that drought is coming and the Government must be aware and awake. The Chief Minister and the State Ministers have gone to Japan. I had pointed it out that this was not the time to go and flirt around and sight seeing in different countries, you would get nothing out of those countries. Japan is not yesterday's baby. But they go to Tokyo, Korea, Hong Kong, Singapore for a nice long jaunt and here the people are running away from the State. As the Minister of Agriculture puts it, 'lakhs of people ran away from the State looking for jobs elsewhere.'

The Minister of Revenue kept on urging and saying that there is going to be heavy signs of drought. The Chief Minister goes on saying that this is only the story of the Opposition. Today, in the Assembly he is saying, 'it is a national calamity. Was he sleeping all this time?'

How does the Agriculture Minister, who meets the same set of officers in Bolangir or Kalahandi district, expect them to give the right figures? I know it for a fact that even if Shri Narasimha Rao checks it in his areas, in well-built Ganjam, he will find that sixty per cent of the pumps are unfit, defunct. And in Kalahandi and Bolangir area, more than 80 per cent of the pumps are not working. Anybody who has gone there will find this. Our Party people had gone down to the Panchayat and checked it. They said, 'Through whom do we check?' Our Party people had gone around from point to point and given me a full report, which I have got. According to which, 80 per cent of the pumps are defunct and they are under repair. Will they be repaired after the rains? You see, this is the nature. I am very sad about it.

A Government is a continuous affair. Shri Narasimha Rao was the Prime Minister or somebody else may be the Prime Minister today and some third person will be the Prime Minister tomorrow. That is not the point. But the point is that the Government machinery has to function and that machinery can function only with the urging of the top people, whether it is the Prime Minister or the Chief Minister or whoever it is. Now that is not happening. Is it not sad? I do not wish to decry any person. It is not a person that I am interested and it is the system. The system is not working.

Sir, when the Britishers came, they first landed in Madras and connected Madras to Calcutta line because the people of Orissa or the bows and arrows of Orissa pushed them out of the coast of Puri, coast of Chilka. So, they went around and found the Hooghly river, landed in a place called 'Kalaighat', which was a village of Calcutta. They decided to settle down and slowly built the city of Calcutta. Now, all my friends from Calcutta come and say, 'We are proud Bengalis.' They were only proud fishermen at that time, 200 years back. Two hundred years back there was no Bombay. The island of Bombay was sold for 16 guineas by the Queen of Spain to the Queen Elizabeth of British. Now it has become the citadel of the financial institutions of India. So, everything goes on there. The East India Company had built the line, Madras to Calcutta. The same East India Company had built the line, Calcutta to Bombay. The same East India Company had built the line, Calcutta to Delhi. They built all these lines long before the Indian Railways took them over.

Mr. Railway Minister, how many miles East India Company had built? They built 58,000 miles. How many new lines we had constructed? How much have we added to it? Only about 8,000 miles. This is the performance of this nation. We produce 15 million tonnes of steel and China produces 110 million tonnes of steel. I am just giving you the measures of the nation's effort. China is trying to cut down their population by pursuing 'one child norm'. We have no limit to our children; whether this Prime Minister or that Prime Minister or whoever it is, they have ten children, eight

children or five children. How can we control? We have a Chief Minister having 10 children and a Prime Minister having seven children. Who will have the mind to control the population? It must be a ruthless mind to control the population.

Shri Narasimha Rao says that we have to have a manageable population. I agree with him. I agree with the present Prime Minister also or whoever it is. We have to have a manageable population.

The population went from 30 crores to 96 crores. It is not a manageable population at all. We have to bring it down. We have to steady it and then bring it down. In 20 or 30 years time, we must bring it down to 50 crores if we start it now, today, this moment. I have asked the Planning Commission officials when I met them in the Parliamentary Committee as to what they were doing for population control or for reducing the population. They are doing nothing. I asked them if they had provided one rupee in the Budget to cut down the population. There is nothing specific. Family control and family planning are like some silly things. No, Sir, that is not the way. This country needs a lot of rearrangement to live. This Parliament needs a lot of rearrangement today. It is because just an entire section of Parliament comes under the House, therefore it is something rather before the hon. Speaker.

That is not the way of building things. The national has to learn. Otherwise it is of no use our people going round the world and shaking hands with the people of Chinese origin who can produce 110 million tonnes of steel when you produce 10-15 million tonnes. You can cut down the population of 100 crores. We want to bring it down to 70 crores. Can you plan? Have you got a plan to bring it down to this? Otherwise all you are doing is increasing the poverty line. Whom will you support? How much will you give? And who will vote for you?

What is Rs. 50 crore? It is a pittance. For Orissa's misery, it is a pittance. It is not only meant to provide some work but some monetary benefit also has to be given. I do not consider it so, Sir. The former Prime Minister then announced the KVK programme, without it going to the Planning Commission without going through the nuts and bolts of Plan and money. The present Prime Minister also thinks so and he is toying with the idea. It is not an idea. It is a need. It is an urgent need of the people, the suffering masses. If it can be done, do it. If it cannot be done, then as I said earlier, leave it alone to the State and leave the resources alone to themselves. They will manage it. They will do better than what the Government of India is doing. I have no doubt. The people and the officers will be conscious. They will be responsible and they will do it. I have known that they have done it. In 1961 they had done it when I was the Chief Minister. Great assets were built at that time under Shri Nehru's leadership. This can be done. This can well be done.

I hope that it will be done and my State and my suffering people will have a better life in times to come.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Ganga Charan Rajput please. Please be short because time is short and the Minister has to intervene.

[Translation]

SHRI GANGA CHARAN RAJPUT (Hamirpur) (U.P.): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am thankful to you for giving me an opportunity to speak on Calling Attention Motion on the drought situation in Kalahandi.

Today, Kalahandi has become synonymous of drought and it is not that Kalahandi has come in the grip of drought for the first time. When we think of drought, Kalahandi strikes our mind and when we talk of Kalahandi, the drought situation at once surfaces in the memory. But the Government has not taken any action so far to combat the drought situation of Kalahandi. The area under forest cover has alarmingly decreased there. The Government has not formulated any scheme so far under which the opinion of environment experts could be sought by forming a team as to why the area is hit by drought again and again? Had the Government thought about the factors responsible for drought in Kalahandi, the area could not have been hit by the drought again. The Government spends Rs. 15000 crore every year on drought and flood. Rs. 8000 crore are spent on flood relief measures while the same amount is spent on drought and national calamities just as the Government has provided Rs. 6031 crore for Andhra Pradesh and Rs. 50 crore for drought in Kalahandi. We should take it seriously. The incidents of natural calamities are increasing in the country in the same proportion as the environment is being sabotaged. We destroy the nature gradually but the nature destroys us in one stroke. I am aware of the pains and sufferings of the drought because I represent the area which is drought prone. When people in Bundelkhand cry for a drop of water and women cover at least ten kilometres to bring water in earthen pots, they sing a folk song—"Khasam mar jaye, magar ghaghari naa foote." It is a famous song of Bundelkhand that let husband die but the pot filled with water that she is carrying, should not break.

Sir, even after fifty years of independence, the Government could not change the basic infrastructure. The money is being misappropriated in the country. The Government is providing subsidy on a number of items but the basic amenities are not being provided. We should first bring about a change in basic infrastructures like road, school, hospital and potable water. Environment is being destroyed. If the present area under forest cover is compared with the area under forest cover available at the time of independence, it can be noticed that it has decreased by fifty percent. Uttarakhand is also facing the problem of erosion and land slide. We should discuss today these basic issues.

I would like to request the hon. Minister of Agriculture to form a Committee of environment experts to give their opinion on this issue. This issue, at present, is not concerning only India but the entire world is concerned with it. The Government should consider the problem of increasing pollution. It has taken an alarming shape in Delhi, specially in the areas where the hon. Member of Parliament and Ministers are residing. It is very difficult to breath in these areas. When we gargle in the morning, the water becomes black. The Government does not consider this problem. The Supreme Court is taking initiative, giving verdicts on all such public related issues, taking steps to shift the factories out of Delhi. Population, food adulteration, crimes, corruption and prices are increasing in the country but the Government is unmoved and looks to be unconcerned and all the responsibilities have been taken by the Supreme Court. If the Executive does not perform its duties, the Supreme Court (Judiciary) will take charge of the Executive. We have been watching that the Government has not been doing any work for the last five years and the Supreme Court has been doing all the works. The hon. Ministers neither pay attention to our complaints nor take any action. No action is taken on the complaints of corruption. Sir, you hail from north-east area of the country which is a forest dominated area and therefore is very prosperous. I want that area under forest cover of the country should be increased like north east areas and population as well as pollution could be decreased.

18.39 hrs.

(Shri PC Chacko in the Chair)

If these measures are taken, the problem of drought flood and natural calamities will automatically be solved. The Government spends Rs. fifteen thousand crore annually but if this money is spent on making reservoirs and increasing the forest area, only then something can be done. I always suggest the hon. Minister to engage two crore unemployed youth. There are twenty five thousand MBBS degree holders but people are dying in the country. Work can be taken from unemployed engineers, graduates and post graduates by giving them some money for their bread and butter. The Government should formulate a youth policy seeking the opinion of young M.Ps. You are not at all concerned about youths. Had you been in opposition, you would have concerned about youth. You forget them when you are in power. Jenaji and several other M.Ps. are associated with youth movement but nobody remembers these young people. They forget them when they are in power. I want to say that this youth power should be utilised for nation building activities, they should be imparted training and instil good habits. If the young people who have resorted to drugs, who are wasting their youthful days by participating in the violent movement of the country, are engaged in constructive activities, I can assure you that this poorest country of the world can emerge as a most powerful country of the world. Actually we do not lack

anything except determination and will power and positive attitude of the Government. I do not hesitate in saying that there has been no change in Government machinery and its work inspite of change of power at the Centre.

Sir, I would like to request the hon'ble Minister to wind up the loss making schemes and stop the subsidy and utilise this fund to strengthen the basic infrastructure. The hon. Prime Minister had announced to reduce the prices of small tractors but inspite of his announcement, the prices of small tractors could not be reduced. The hon'ble Prime Minister had announced to waive off the stamp duty of farmers but it could not materialise. What is use of these announcements? The hon. Prime Minister claims himself to be a poor farmer's son but his entire family travels in plane. What type of a poor farmers son is he? He claims time and again that he is least attached to politics and he has come to Delhi with a single attachee. Why has he made the politics a dirty game? Make the politics neat and clean where everybody may claim that he is associated with politics. Who so ever has come to this House, cannot say that he is not concerned with politics. Unless the people of the country are concerned with the Government and its policies, our country may not prosper. The common man will have to be associated with politics. He must be aware of the Government he is going to form and its policies and should know, whether it is working in his interest or not.

Sir, the Government may claim today that it is spending money for the development of the villages but the fact is that the Government spends 70 percent of the total budget in five metropolitan cities, and two hundred cities and only 20 percent is spent on 5.75 lakh villages. The Government makes false promises and is misleading the farmers. Please stop this misleading. The betal leaf produced in Mahua of Bundelkhand is famous in the world but the farmers are facing the same problem. It is exported in Lalitpur but due to heavy rains the betal crop has been destroyed. The farmers of that area are on the verge of starvation. Therefore, I urge upon the Agriculture Minister to fix per hectare compensation for the farmers' land revenue and their loans and remit students fee. The farmers of Kalahandi should get atleast Rs. 2000 per hectare compensation or whatever the Government decides. The Government should also make arrangements for potable water for the farmers of Kalahandi even by borrowing loans from the world Bank by undertaking boring works. The moment farmers get water, the drought will automatically end. With these words, I conclude my speech.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Sriballav Panigrahi. Please conclude in five minutes because there are many Members to speak.

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI (Deogarh) : Then, Sir, I shall better not speak.

MR. CHAIRMAN : We have to finish the discussion today. So, I am requesting every Member who wants to speak to finish his speech in five minutes.

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : Sir, I cannot finish in five minutes. So, I will not speak.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The House has to decide about extending the sitting. We have time only up to seven o'clock.

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : You are saying that we can extend the sitting of the House, but we should get sufficient time to speak.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI (Jhansi) : Sir, please extend the house upto 7.30 p.m.

SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS : Mr. Chairman, Sir, We had demanded for extending the House for another two hours, please extend it for one more hour.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : If the Members are prepared to sit up to eight o'clock I have no objection.

SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI : We are ready.

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : We are prepared, but we should be given adequate time to speak.

MR. CHAIRMAN : All right.

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : Mr. Chairman, Sir, it is no pleasure to participate in a debate of this nature. On various occasions, natural calamities like cyclone, flood and drought have come up for discussion in Parliament. I very often think that Orissa is a cursed State. It is a State which can be called rightly as an abode of natural beauty and natural resources, but it is also an abode of natural calamities! Since there is a time restriction I am not going to elaborate on that point.

Sir, in Orissa 40 per cent of the people live below the poverty line and this is the highest percentage in the whole country. So, it is a land of abject poverty and it is a question of poverty that we are all discussing today. Of course, the deficient rainfall or the erratic rainfall has aggravated the position. But the fundamental question is the question of poverty. As per the Government record, only 33.2 per cent of the cultivated land is served by different sources of irrigation. But this figure is also disputed. The State of Orissa is one of the States with the least facilities of irrigation in the whole of the country and barring this 33.2 per cent of the cultivated land, the rest is exposed to the vagaries of nature.

Sir, we are all grateful to the hon. Prime Minister and the hon. Minister of Agriculture that they have visited

Orissa. They have gone to some of the worst affected pockets. They also appreciate the seriousness of the situation in a realistic manner and that is why they deserve our thanks. Shri Chaturanan Mishra is a very senior Member of Parliament and now he is the Minister of Agriculture. I would like to say that the real situation is worse than that of the situation which has been reported by the State Government in its report and it is going to be more grim in the days to come.

The report of the Government of Orissa is an Interim Report. My esteemed colleague Shri K.P. Singh Deo has elaborated as to how the situation is changing very fast within a span of one or two weeks. The drought condition is there almost all over the State, of course, in varying degrees. Barring a few pockets having the benefits of assured irrigation, even the tail-end portion in the *Ayacut* is also affected by the drought. I am not going into the figures.

Sir, I would have really congratulated Shri Biju Patnaik—the seniormost Member who had the good fortune of becoming the Chief Minister of Orissa twice and once the Chairman of the State Planning Board—had he taken the blame for all that is happening today, the misfortune of the people, on to himself to some extent. There was no real spirit. He says that everything was well when he was the Chief Minister. He had global tours once, twice or even more than that in search of investment for locating a steel plant there. He did *bhoomi puja* with the famous NRI, Shri Swaraj Paul. Everything is in air now. Where is he now?

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY : Sir, I think it is not proper to say all this.

MR. CHAIRMAN : There is a point, Panigrahiji. Please come back to the present drought situation. Otherwise, you may not get time.

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : Sir, I would like to say that three years ago a serious matter arose in this House about hundreds of starvation deaths that took place in the district of Koraput. Nobody other than his Deputy-Speaker, Mr. Dora, the Deputy-Speaker of Orissa Assembly who was from Koraput, complained about this on the floor of the Orissa Assembly. But I am not going to defend the present State Government also. What I mean to say is that—as Shri Narasimha Raoji has put—the situation, the magnitude and seriousness of the problem is such that it is beyond the capacity of any State Government. We have been discussing this matter with the Chief Minister and the Revenue Minister. In the month of September a senior officer, the Commissioner, was sent to different districts. In the first part of October, the Government of Orissa submitted a situation report to the Government of India which was later on followed by a regular memorandum during November. Again in the month of September, about Rs. 20 crore was released for providing employment. It was mainly to activate the allied activities. About 75 per cent subsidy was allowed to the cultivators to get the benefit

of allied activities. As you know, during rainy season, they do not execute the agreements because money is required to be paid. Every day there were dark clouds in the sky and the farmers were looking at the sky. They were hopeful that any moment it might rain. In spite of such concessions having been announced, many people in many areas, did not want to avail of this concession because they were thinking that there might be rain. So, this way some arrangements were made and some measures were taken. But ultimately what do we find? I have got the rain chart. But since there is no dispute that there is a grim situation prevailing in varying degrees in almost all over the State, I need not go into it. In September and October, 25 per cent of the normal rainfall was there. Therefore, even without the October rain, they were expecting a bumper crop in coastal areas and in the low lying areas. But that is also drying up. So, this way the report sent by them is not the final report. The final report is yet to emerge on the basis of crop cutting. Sir, I do not know whether it was my good fortune or misfortune. I was the Revenue Minister of Orissa for some time and I was also entrusted with the responsibility of tackling one of the worst droughts in Orissa in 1975. So, the crop cutting experiment is also another gamble. If you do it according to famine code and prescription, then you have to spend several crores of rupees to get adequate and proper crop cutting arrangements.

Who is doing that? So, we have to believe people, the officers, and the public representatives. It is a question of human misery and human suffering. It should not be politicised. Therefore, I am not going to comment on that part, even though some Members are trying to do this.

I would like to say one thing. What is the need of the hour? What are the requirements? One of the objectives is, and I entirely agree with the Union Agriculture Minister, that nobody should be allowed to die of hunger. It is very correct and welcome also. Second point is that nobody should be allowed to suffer from thirst because of shortage of water. I would like to make one addition to this. The third one should be that not even an inch of cultivable land should be allowed to go uncovered in the coming Kharif crop. This is like slow poisoning. It has been rightly observed that we have dealt effectively with cyclone and floods. That way also, we can take measures to correct the situation within one month's time or something like that. When houses collapse, you can give some land so that they can build some structures thereupon within two or three or five months.

It is just like slow poisoning. In the case of slow poisoning, one suffers and ultimately dies. This sort of plight will go on; it will go up to the next harvest, until October-November or until the rain God is favourable. Even today, after 50 years of independence, we still have that famous saying that Indian Budget is a gambling on monsoon. It is still prevalent, it still holds

good. If rain God, Indra, is kind enough, if there is a good rainfall, everything is all right, then the necessary financial support, grant and assistance in kind is provided to the farmers.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please conclude.

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : If there is a good crop, then it will end this for one year. Of course, the impact would still be there because of the level of poverty in Orissa, and also due to the fact that the farmers are debt ridden. How to tackle this problem?

Mr. Chairman, Sir, please allow me for some more time.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You have already taken twelve minutes.

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : I am only giving the suggestions. So far as the workforce is concerned, every year, some people go out of the State during this period. But because of this unprecedented drought situation this year, people in a very large number have gone out. Normally, our State Government generally expects that all these people would find some sort of employment in the process of this agricultural operations. But this year, in such a situation, a larger number of people have gone out. So, we have to start this employment programme and different labour-oriented schemes on a very large scale. Sixty-four blocks are yet to be covered by the Employment Assurance Scheme. This is the minimum that could be done without any difficulty by the Government of India.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please conclude in one minute.

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : I am speaking point-wise. Please give me five minutes.

Fortunately, there are large minor irrigation tanks in all these areas. But the tanks need to be renovated. The poverty alleviation programme has to be further strengthened.

19.00 hrs.

The Drought Prone Area Development Programme should be implemented. Of course, this year there is one silver lining. By and large, excluding Orissa, everywhere else there is a bumper crop. So, there is no shortage of foodgrains. Water pipes and hand-pumps will not help. There must be tubewells. Government of India is spending money on piped water supply which should be made liberal.

As regards permanent measures like irrigation projects, there are some on-going projects which have to be completed. I need not name them. Shri K.P. Singh Deoji has ably done that.

Regarding modernisation and expansion of the Hirakud delta system, there are three new projects, the names of which are also given by Shri Bhakta Charan Dasji. The names of other projects are also given.

There is a huge amount of water compounded the by Sambal barrage from the river Rangali, but there is no canal system.

All these things have to be done on a priority basis.

The Government of Orissa has a programme to dig 8,000 tubewells this year. In addition to replacement of 2,000 defunct wells, another 10,000 wells have to be dug. Besides this, 5,000 tubewells should be there from this year under the drought scheme.

We have 30 districts and about 345 blocks and 10,000 allied points. During the British Raj in 1866, there was the ill-reputed Nanka famine. But that has also its contribution to the progress and prosperity thereafter because due to that famine, the alien British Government took up some irrigation project that year. That is how the Taldanda and Kendrapara systems had come into existence. But this year we are suffering. Let it have a permanent contribution to our future growth in the field of irrigation.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The time now is seven o'clock. I have to extend the time. Please take your seat first. I will allow you to conclude. Is it the desire of the House that the time of the discussion be extended by another one hour?

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS : Yes

MR. CHAIRMAN : The time of the House is extended by one hour for the discussion. Shri Sriballav Panigrahi will conclude in one minute.

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : We have 345 blocks. At the rate of 30 per block, it can be somewhere around 10,000 allied points. Regarding farmers, they are really the worst hit by drought.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please do not explain the condition of the farmers. Make a suggestion and conclude.

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : About the plight of the farmers, they cannot go to the field to work. We can give some benefit to small and marginal farmers.

As regards loan waiver, it has to be sympathetically considered. A concession of Rs. 1,250/- per hectare is being given to farmers in Andhra Pradesh who are hit by cyclone. A similar concession should also be extended to the drought-hit areas in Orissa. At present, such concession is not in existence in Orissa towards crop insurance.

If you see it, in real terms, it is not in existence. Because of the cooperative movement and because of the poverty of the farmers, that is nowhere to be seen there. The Crop Insurance Scheme, which is intended to give benefits to farmers in such a situation, is not in existence, unfortunately, by and large, in Orissa. It should be implemented. We have to arrange this.

Finally, I end my speech. As you know, what is the objective of our Plan in our democratic India? It is

growth with social justice to fight the existing regional imbalances. About the CRF, I do not understand the wisdom of the Ninth Finance Commission
...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Nothing is going on record. Please take your seat.

(Interruptions)...

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : About CRF for Orissa, it is Rs. 46 crore and for some other States it is much more. Regarding the situation in Orissa, it is above the natural calamity. How could it be so low? Therefore, we have to have a fresh look at the recommendation of the Ninth Finance Commission
...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Will you please resume your seat? What you are saying is not going on record.

(Interruptions)...

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : We have to give them higher allocation under irrigation etc. Sir, I covered all these points. I had to say so many things.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please cooperate with the Chair. It cannot go on like this.

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : I conclude now with a request. Please look at the situation in Orissa. A sum of Rs. 50 crore has been given by the Prime Minister from his Relief Fund... (Interruptions) The Orissa Government, in its White Paper, has expressed its gratitude. Please see the attitude. Naturally we are simple people, peace-loving people and liberal people. We have been accustomed to live with poverty, with natural calamity. But today, I am grateful that Members from different parties, from different States have come forward to treat Orissa as a special case not only to fight out today's drought situation but to see that such a situation does not arise, does not recur in future also in respect of Orissa. If there is a balanced growth for all the regions of our country, that would help very much.

So, with these words, I conclude. I thank you for giving me the time. In spite of several warnings, you have given me the time to speak. I am thankful to you. My appeal to Shri Chaturanan Mishra and also to the hon. Prime Minister is that they should be very very sympathetic and treat Orissa as a special case. It really needs a very special dispensation. That way, together with the help of the officials, non-officials, the NGOs and also the foreign agencies from outside, we can meet the situation. They have expressed their desire to help. The other day, the former Chief Minister of Maharashtra, Shri Sharad Pawar was expressing his views. He also said that we can do something
...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Will you please conclude?

* Not Recorded.

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : With proper coordination at the highest level, at the Prime Minister's level and at the Cabinet level as also with proper monitoring, we will be able to fight this situation. Thank you.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Will you please resume your seat? Nothing is going on record.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : I am very sorry to say one thing. Please do not compel the Chair to take unpleasant decisions. Now, there are 13 more speakers to participate in this debate. It is a State subject. It is a very serious matter and the Chair wants to allow Members maximum time to speak. But a senior Member, Shri Panigrahi has taken 22 minutes. Whatever you want to present, please present it in the briefest possible time. Shri Panigrahi, it is very unfortunate. When a Member takes more time, he is encroaching on the time of other Members. Kindly understand this.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : Please appreciate our problems. *(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : I do not want any discussion. Please resume your seat.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : We are prepared to sit late. The whole House is prepared to sit late. Why are you adding to our agony? We have a lot of agony. We have a lot of pains.

MR. CHAIRMAN : How do you expect 13 Members to speak in this fashion? Please do not argue with the Chair like this. You are a senior Member.

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : I am only doing my duty.

MR. CHAIRMAN : This is not your duty. Shri Panigrahi, I warn you. I am strictly going to control the time in the interests of the House and in the interests of the discussion.

Now, Shri Pramotes Mukherjee to speak.

SHRI PRAMOTES MUKHERJEE (Berhampore) (WB) : Mr. Chairman, I thank you very much for the opportunity given to me to express my views on this important aspect of natural calamity as found in the drought-affected western parts of Orissa. I have heard many valuable speeches on the same subject. But words cannot determine the fate of the people badly affected by drought. Only deeds can determine the change of fate of the people affected by drought.

At the outset, I would urge upon the Agriculture Minister and the Government of India to publish a White Paper on the drought situation in the KBK districts in the western parts of Orissa.

Sir, development is a continuous process and that is an upward process. Similarly, decadence is also a continuous process and that is a downward process. This downward process in respect of decadence of the KBK districts in the Western part of Orissa was a scene during the British period and is still a scene which is continuing after the Independence.

On behalf of my party RSP, I rise to place it on record that the drought situation as prevailing in the KBK districts of Western part of Orissa is a direct outcome of the failure of the Government in tackling the situation during the last fifty years. It is the indifference of the Central Government and it is the neglect of the State Government of Orissa which are jointly responsible for the creation of such a painful situation. It is painful on my part to mention that Kalahandi today is a black spot of hunger and starvation death in the map of India. Kalahandi and Bolangir both are the twin sisters of miseries and sufferings in Orissa and in the broader sense, the whole of India. The people of KBK districts today have become the victims of the circumstances arising out of the drought. No doubt, drought is primarily responsible for this situation. Inadequate rainfall or uneven rainfall may be the first reason of drought, may be the first reason of the situation prevailing in Orissa. But it is my opinion that the uneven development of capitalism during the British period or the uneven investment of capital during the period after Independence is the reason for the sickness, for the decadence of this part in Orissa. Deforestation or the felling of trees is the important factor contributing to add poison to the patient. But the most important factor, according to me, is the failure of the Government to tackle the situation. This Government could not apply their mind, could not apply their heart and could not apply their conscious efforts to combat the situation for the last fifty years. This is a fact. There is a situation which is a very horrible situation. We know that the Government could not make necessary arrangement for the supply of drinking water even today and the Government could not make necessary arrangement for the construction of reservoir for the development of irrigation system of that area. We know all these things. May I remind you one thing? In pre-Independence era of our country, we saw that there was a royal family which built the three reservoirs atop three hills. That was an arrangement made for water. But reservoirs are not well maintained even today. The Government could not construct reservoir for bathing purpose, for drinking purpose or for irrigation purpose. Only 35 per cent of the land is worthy of irrigation, good for irrigation and the 65 per cent of the total cultivable land is deprived of irrigation system. It is amazing, it is astonishing that we are living in the age of science and technology and we could not utilise the resources or the advancement of technology for the purpose of irrigation system or for the purpose of drinking water supply.

Here is the failure of the Government. It is amazing today to remind all these things. Many things have been mentioned. I do not want to repeat all these things. It has a result. What do we see? We see the plight of the people and we see the migration of the people. The migration is the problem today. A horrible picture I see.

Sir, in this regard, with your kind permission, I would quote some lines taken from the survey report appeared in 'The Times of India'. It says:

"Rows of deserted houses, a handful of pot-bellied children, a few emaciated women and a couple of old persons bear mute testimony to the range wrought by prolonged drought in this village.

Unprecedented drought has forced over 70 per cent of the residents of this village to migrate to other States in search of food and work..

Sir, they are searching for their bread outside their villages. Majority of the working class of that village have left their huts and homes. They have deserted their villages and they have migrated either to Banaras or Allahabad or in many parts of UP, Gujarat and Punjab in search of food.

Sir, this is the picture, and we know it very well. Many speakers have already told that Orissa is rich in minerals. It is not only rich in minerals, it is rich in culture, it is rich in its heredity, it is rich in its glory and it has a sublime place in history. But today due to the failure of the Government for tackling the situation, the entire area has turned into a kingdom of silence. This looks like a desert today. That is the irony of fate of the people of the KBK districts and people of Orissa after 50 years of Independence.

So, I urge upon the Government to include all the viable projects into the Ninth Plan Period. And also, the Planning Commission should be made to formulate the schemes to be completed within a legitimate period. For this purpose, I would have a single-line suggestion for you. That is, the State Government should be advised and the test relief works should be started immediately. Though, it comes under the States subject yet the State Government should be advised to resume test relief works. Only through the test relief works, reservoirs can be constructed. Secondly, tubewells should be supplied for the drinking purposes. Thirdly, deforestation should be stopped, felling of trees can never be allowed. Fourthly, proper impetus should be given for the development and rejuvenation of the small-scale industries and cottage industries. This is for the benefit of the people of Orissa, who are thirsty.

Sir, I will not take much of your time. I would conclude by this sentence. The message should go to the people of India that there will be no Kalahandi again under the regime of the United Front Government.

19.19 hrs.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI : Mr. Chairman, Sir, discussion is going on in this House on the situation caused by drought in Kalahandi district of Orissa. I agree with the views of the the hon'ble members of this House and the members of Bhartiya Janata Party. Today the whole issue of the situation caused by drought in Kalahandi district is being discussed here. Bundelkhand region consist of such 21-22 districts of U.P. and M.P. I would like to say only one thing about Bundelkhand region in this House that people have to drink germful and dirty water by filtering it during the period of five months in a year. Four months of a year are such when 10-12 lakhs people of 21 districts live only on forest 'Ber' and 'Mehua'. There is no industry in that area. There is no arrangement of drinking water. The Agricultural land has become deserted. For the last 45 years the land could not be utilised for agriculture. I would like to urge upon the Minister of agriculture that this is such a region consisting of 21 districts from where the Union Government earns money by exploiting minerals. There is no High School within 60-70 kilometres area. There is no provision for girls education. In spite of availability of various sources of water for irrigation, provision has not been made to supply the water to the fields. Such arrangement should be made in order to have agriculture production so that starvation problem of that area could be solved. So far as medical facility is concerned, there is no Government Hospital in area of 40-45 kilometres and if there is a hospital in a place then there is no doctor.

Hon'ble Minister of Agriculture is present here. I would like to urge upon him and request all the hon'ble Members of House that whenever you want to chalk out some programmes in order to root out the problem of Kalahandi, you will have to consider the condition of that region consisting of 21 districts of U.P. and M.P. to ensure as to whether there is any disparity between that area and other areas. If there is disparity the Government should provide funds keeping in view the worst condition of that area in order to solve the problem of starvation of the people and to provide some employment to them. So industries should be set up there.

I would like to thank the hon'ble Minister of Agriculture and expect that he will mention these points in his speech.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : The Agriculture Minister will not be available tomorrow to give reply because he will be in the Rajya Sabha. So he also would like to intervene today itself. At 7.30 p.m. the Agriculture Minister will intervene. Before that Shri Sarat Pattanayak may conclude his speech.

SHRI SARAT PATTANAYAK (Bolangir) : I want ten to fifteen minutes, not more than that. I will finish in ten to fifteen minutes.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You can go on up to 7.30 p.m.

SHRI SUDHIR GIRI (Contai) : Sir, we have also given our names.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Yes, your names are there. You will be allowed to speak. Please wait, all the Members who want to speak will get their chance today.

SHRI SARAT PATTANAYAK : Mr. Chairman Sir, I must appreciate and congratulate the hon. Prime Minister, the Agriculture Minister and the Parliamentary Affairs Minister who have visited the most backward districts of Orissa. The hon. Prime Minister in Bhalumunda of Bolangir district announced Rs. 50 crore for the drought prone areas of Orissa and two more major irrigation projects, Indira and Lower Suktel in Bolangir district.

Previously, our former Prime Minister late Shri Rajiv Gandhi had declared to adopt Bolangir in the Central assistance scheme when he had visited Titlagarh of Bolangir district. This time the Bolangir district will get the Central assistance.

Unfortunately, he died before the elections and we the people of Bolangir district could not get anything from that time.

In the Tenth Lok Sabha, I raised, from time to time, the matter regarding the precarious situation of Bolangir constituency, that is Bolangir and Naupara. The then hon. Prime Minister, Shri P.V. Narasimha Rao also visited that area. Previously, Kalahandi and Koraput districts were getting Central assistance but not Bolangir. Thus, the former Prime Minister included Bolangir district and made the proposal called the KBK project. He had declared that Rs. 4500 crore would be granted over ten years.

The history of drought is not new to Orissa. From the 1886 famine till date, Bolangir, Kalahandi and Koraput districts have been constantly affected.

Recently when our hon. Prime Minister visited Rome for the World Food Summit, he made a speech there and appealed against hunger and starvation. Nature has given enough resources to Orissa, especially to Bolangir. But due to man-made poverty, drought continues in Bolangir and in the western parts of Orissa. The rivers there are the Mahanadi, the Tel, the Ong, the Rahul, the Suktel, the Songarh, the Lanth, the Under, the Mayabati and the Subarnarekha. Ten to fifteen rivers are there in Bolangir district but unfortunately we are not getting any irrigation facility. I think, in Bolangir constituency, we are creating only six per cent irrigation potential. This is the lowest irrigation production in Orissa, according to my knowledge.

There are 1956 villages in Bolangir and Naupara districts, 274 panchayats are there. Till date, we have

not provided drinking water to all the villages. We depend on the ponds. If you go to a village and search for a glass of water from a pond, you cannot get it. In the last five years, I have covered all the panchayats from time to time.

I feel the tragedy of the people there. We should not play any politics in this drought situation. I appreciate that the hon. Minister has announced that he would request the Human Rights Commission to inquire into the deaths in the KBK area. But my appeal is this. They have already died and you are requesting the Human Rights Commission to go into it. But what would you do for the people of this area who are alive? Your first duty is to commit on this point in the House.

The next point is about rainfall. In the month of May, the normal rainfall is 27 mm but in Bolangir the rainfall received was only 2 mm.

I will make some suggestion in brief. My request is that we should get drinking water in all the 1956 villages. The hon. Minister has stated that they would send the digging machines and provide drinking water. In the hilly areas, the women are going up to four to five kilometres without even chappals for fetching drinking water. This is the situation in the area. We are deprived of all the facilities. We are not getting anything.

When I speak here, the Government will say that the State Government has not done anything. When I make a request to the State Government, they would say that the Central Government has not given anything. I do not want to interfere in this quarrel. On this humanitarian problem, I would request the hon. Minister of Agriculture that he should consider the suggestions which I make.

Sir, as far as health is concerned, my parliamentary constituency consists of 274 panchayats. It has only 5 CHCs and 29 PHCs and additional PHCs. Now, you can imagine what would be the condition of the children and the women in 274 panchayats. We have only five CHCs and 29 PHCs. Suppose a woman has to go for a delivery, she has to travel thirty to forty kilometres to consult a doctor and a child has to travel thirty to forty kilometres for consulting a doctor. This is the condition in the health sector.

Regarding drinking water, you know the position. My appeal would be not to play statistical jugglery regarding financial assistance to the State to tackle the drought. This time I, in consultation with the local administration, have prepared short term and long term measures for drought-proofing.

Regarding the irrigation project, already the Prime Minister has announced that he would include an irrigation project in the Five Year Plan. But my request this time is the hon. Prime Minister, hon. Minister of Water Resources and the Minister of Agriculture should go to Bolangir and lay the foundation stone if they are interested in doing something.

[Translation]

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA (Madhbani) : The foundation stone can be laid but what will happen after that?

SHRI SARAT PATTANAYAK : We are workers not leaders. That is why we are saying this. There is a saying that whosoever lay the foundation stone, shall finish the work. This is the feeling of the people of that area. Therefore the hon. Prime Minister should get this project of Rs. 450-500 crore completed after laying the foundation stone. We have urged for 1200 lift irrigation points. Lift irrigation points should be set up in all the rivers. Similarly, we have demanded for 2000 deep tubewells for irrigation work and 4000 tubewells for drinking water purpose. Hon'ble Chief Minister have introduced a scheme under which rice has been provided at the rate of Rs. 2 per K.G. in D.P.A.P. blocks. I am not criticising anyone. In my district there is only 6 percent irrigation capacity whereas it has been said that there is 20 to 25 percent irrigation capacity. In the 6 districts, DPAP blocks could not be decided. 64 blocks in Orissa are yet to be declared as DPAP blocks. Recently the Minister of Rural Development has received a list in this regard. I request that the 6 blocks, which are to be declared under DPAP in my constituency should be declared. Those 64 blocks having 6 percent irrigation capacity should also be declared under DPAP. People are dying of hunger there. We have noticed that the area where DPAP blocks were to be declared, have not been declared yet.

Provision may be made to construct a pond or a tank in each village. Similarly, in every Panchayat water should be supplied through pipes with deep tubewell. Such proposals are pending in respect of Bolangir, Patangarh, Tiklargarh, Khazia Road etc. We have prepared a long term scheme to the tune of Rs. One thousand crore for the whole Bolangir constituency. We are not saying that it should be completed within one year. As the former hon'ble Prime Minister had made a declaration to complete the scheme prepared at the cost of Rs. four thousand in different phases similarly this scheme should be completed within five years. Last year also we requested for the Satpal project. Shri Srikanta Jena was with us. A discussion was held with no result. The work of distribution of rice to farmers is being done. The condition of middle class farmer is very bad. They are not ready to carry work as a labourer. They are not in a condition to live a normal life in society. The middle class farmers should be provided loan amount of Rs. 10 thousand each and beside that if their loan amount of Rs. 10 to 15 thousand is waived, they will feel some relief. That previous loan of Rs. 15 thousand should be abolished and fresh loan of Rs. 10,000 should be given to them in order to save them because most of the people in my constituency are labourers. More than two lakh labourers have migrated from there to earn their livelihood as it has been told by the former hon'ble Prime Minister that every year more than two lakh people migrate from there in search

of work. I, therefore, urge upon the Government to take some drastic and positive steps in this regard to stop all this.

Same is the matter of student's fee. I would like to tell you that the people of Orissa do not have foodgrain to eat. In such a condition, how they will deposit the school and college fee? Therefore, I appeal that the tuition fee of students should be waived off.

Besides this, I have two points to raise; one is about lift irrigation and another is regarding deep bore well. One deep bore well costs Rs. one lakh. The Government is providing fifty per cent subsidy but wherefrom they will arrange the remaining fifty per cent amount in such a situation when they do not have foods to eat? It is right that the Government will provide job to the labourers. The Government is providing 50 per cent subsidy on the seeds for Rabi crop and on deep tubewell but wherefrom they will arrange rest of the expenditure? Therefore deep tubewell deep borewell and lift irrigation plan may be declared free for those farmer who want to avail this facility. Besides this, the Central Government should also make arrangement of water for the farmers. As so far the K.B.K. Scheme is concerned, the Collectors and Project Directors come here to get funds for this scheme. In this connection, I would like to submit that the funds under this scheme may be provided to them directly so that this scheme can be implemented properly. This is my suggestion. My last suggestion is that a co-ordination officer may be appointed to coordinate the scheme and arrangements be made for direct funding from the Centre. Besides this, a 'National Drought Relief Fund for Orissa' may be set up in P.M.O. so that the money deposited in this fund can be spent for drought affected people of Orissa. Therefore, my submission is that direct funding should be made to the districts from the Centre. I would like to urge upon the hon'ble Minister of Agriculture, Hon'ble Prime Minister and this august House to make a provision to ensure proper implementation of this scheme for which I have been raising my voice for the last five years. I would like to tell you that even after so much discussion, scheme is not being implemented. All partymen want to save their Government and they are concerned about that only. Some are concerned about religion and some are about caste factor but nobody is concerned about the poor people of the country who are facing starvation. This is not only the question of Bolangir or Orissa but it is a question of survival of people of the entire country. If need arises to seek assistance at international level for the cause of the people of Bolangir, Orissa and K.B.K., we are prepared to do it. But if the Government is not prepared or not in a position to give assistance for these people, we are ready to seek assistance for the people of Orissa at our level.

That is why, I am saying in this House that the concerned Minister should visit Orissa. People who have come from Punjab have become Minister here. But the

people of Orissa do not bother about religion or caste. they want only development. The demand of the people of Orissa is only for the two times meal, water and employment. Till today, the people of Orissa have been living with prestige and we are ready to do anything to save the prestige of Orissa. Therefore, I appeal to the Government that some provision should be made for the cause of the people-farmers and unemployed youths of Orissa. With these words, I conclude.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now, the hon. Minister of Agriculture will intervene. Before that, I would like to make a request. There are eight more speakers. If necessary, we may extend for some more time because we have no time for discussion tomorrow. We may have to complete it today.

[Translation]

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank all the hon'ble members who have participated in this discussion...

SHRI MRUTYUNJAYA NAYAK (Phulbani) : And to those who will speak now?

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : Thanks is not given in advance. I, therefore, whole heartedly thank these people. I am grateful to them as they have given valuable suggestions and those suggestions should be implemented. I assure you that I shall make efforts. This problem is not the problem of Orissa only, it is the problem of the whole nation. We have already mentioned it. The whole Nation should consider such problems seriously. You all know that I do not have Sectarian view. It is the Government of Congress, when you asked our reply was the same. We do not do such work. Clear picture of the case has been put before you. This problem cannot be dealt with by one or two parties. I take this problem in two parts. The first thing is that a permanent solution of the problem is very necessary and I am very much concerned as to how this problem is to be solved. Science and Technology have developed so much that if we hear anyone dying of drought then it is very shameful for the humanity and the Government of that country. Cyclone is a different case because Science has not developed so much in this field but if adequate irrigation facility is provided then we can somehow minimise the problem of drought. The Government of India has taken some steps in this direction. Now the problem of famine is not so acute as it was sometime before. All this development has been made by ourselves. Whatever is going on is all because of shortsightedness and mistakes. It does not matter whether it is our Government or that of the other party. I am ready to own its responsibility. I want to make it clear that if in such a situation one dies then we have no right to speak.

Now I would like to concentrate on the present issue as to what should be done. Many suggestions have come. One suggestion has been made about family planning. If attention is paid now only on family planning. If attention is paid now only on family planning then when will you think of saving those who are already born. In this way we will be in loss. The old people, who suggest family planning, have already completed their quota and so far as youths are concerned they may be ready to accept family planning. At present, we shall not discuss all those issues. I, therefore, suggest you that a discussion should be held in the House under a Calling Attention Motion or otherwise for finding a permanent solution of this problem and to give concrete suggestions. It will help the Government to solve this problem. I shall tell you what is happening in the country at present. I am not an exception. Do not take it lightly. Whenever any incident takes place it becomes a news. Then the concerned Minister visits that area, conducts aerial survey and then gives his statement. After this the Government issue a memorandum and then the Central team visits the area and gives some money. Here you discuss about delay. It takes too much time and in the next year the same situation recurs. This is the tendency in our country. It should be checked. I, therefore, requested you to formulate a timebound programme. This is not so difficult task as some people say it will take 20 years or 30 years. I think it will take only five years to ensure supply of drinking water. There is no such great river which we can't tame. If money is needed, it can be arranged. This year Orissa is facing the problem of drought and famine. But last year 1/2 million ton of rice was provided to Orissa from Central quota vis-a-vis other states. This is the same Orissa.

[English]

Nothing is insurmountable.

[Translation]

There is no such crisis rather it has been created. As I have told you that I have been there with our hon'ble Minister. Your Government was that of the Congress Party. In presence of all it was felt that Rs. 216 crore is still with them which can be spent but that is not enough. We shall discuss it later on. Hon'ble Member were also present there.

[English]

SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO : The State Government has mentioned Rs. 38 crore including Rs. 9 crore which you have recently given.

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : They accepted Rs. 216 crore...

[Translation]

This amount includes everything. We have not told that this is too much, atleast minimum requirement has been fulfilled and now the work should be started. It is

a fact that they have just begun this work. We have already told the press that the administration is being geared up now which was not geared up before. We shall not go into the details of those reasons. Earlier the condition was so bad that newspapers used to be full of sad news and Government's report was not published...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS : Sir, when they started this work there was no infrastructure...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : Infrastructure is not sold in market. You were present there, therefore I must tell you how it was done. When the fund was ensured, we said that in the event of death of any person the D.M. will be held responsible. Thereafter we wrote a letter to the hon'ble Home Minister to inform it to his I.A.S. Officers so that action could be taken in case of any death...*(Interruptions)* As we know there are many people living in forest area and we are responsible for them also. The Government service is not a place of merry-making. We are here to work. People living in forests are just like us. We have taken strict action and you know it very well. You say that the Government have approached the Human Rights Commission in regard to the people who are dying. The Government deny starvation death whereas it is a fact that people are dying of starvation when we are there you say they are dying in large number but when we are present then not a single case comes to our notice. Is it right to play with the life of a person. We have, therefore, found a solution. If anyone dies due to starvation before us then we must feel sorry. Therefore, we have decided to give this responsibility to an impartial body like Human Rights Commission. No one can interfere in the decision of Human Rights Commissions and we shall inquire into it and draw the attention of the whole Nation towards it. I want to make it clear as to how much importance we give to this issue. A day before yesterday Minister of Cooperation and Development of Denmark came here who assured us for co-operation. They said that you select two states for us where we could spend 30-40 million dollar. We said that Orissa will be given first priority. But they have asked for the names of two states again. We have named Orissa as the first and the other name will be given later on. Presently we should not discuss the KBK programme because it will not be very favourable till the fund is guaranteed and it is approved by the Planning Commission or the Ministry of Finance. This is not the right way that we commit for a particular thing and it is not implemented later on. You should not feel hurt...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI : Mr. Minister, please speak something about us also...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : We have told you to speak separately but you have mixed the issues. It is not fair. If I were king I might have told you. Your suggestion will be received in my Secretariat and a report will be submitted. We shall enquire into it. You

say that I could comment upon it but presently, I am just a Minister...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI : Simply tell us whether an action will be taken on this after investigation?...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : Please raise this issue in a proper manner. We are ready to help you that is why we have discussed this.

Just now we have told you about the funds. Shri Das has told about the breakdown of the administration. 129 doctors have been appointed. In spite of their appointment only 9 doctors were ready to join. The Secretary has told that yet there are 10 such blocks where doctors have not joined. If they do not join this week then they will be suspended. We have enquired into the reasons why doctors have not gone there. It is seen that neither there are any facilities nor there is any school of good standard for their children. We have suggested that each district should be put under one Commissioner or an I.A.S. officer of Secretary level. We further told that he should stay there for 15 days. Later on it was decided that they will stay at least for five days. We have made arrangements at administrative level. Officers do not go there because there are a lot of problems.

Secondly, cerebral diseases have gripped the area. One D.M. and a DIG have died of cerebral malaria. One person has died of dengue. Dengue hit this area later, whereas it had already surfaced in Orissa. That is why officers do not want to go there. Therefore, we have asked the administration to provide some more facilities to them. Officials posted in North-East region are given 30 percent special North-East allowance...*(Interruptions)* That is why, I have talked about administrative measures.

So far as the crop insurance is concerned we have already forwarded a proposal to the Planning Commission and the Finance Ministry after seeking your opinions. If it is approved, it will bring down the number of charges of corruption and then there will be no need to come to the Minister with complaints...*(Interruptions)* It is only five per cent. But in Andhra Pradesh, it is 50 per cent. You know very well that our economy is backward. Now the farmers will get money automatically for their next crop. An hon. Member asked just now as to how would they manage for next crop? I would like to tell him that we will give them input allowances for the next crop. I have asked my Ministry to find out as to what could be done in the field of horticulture. We are ready to provide assistance for growing potato, onion or other vegetable in those areas where water is available so that people can engage themselves in that work. Moreover, it will also become an asset. Therefore, we are giving more emphasis on this front.

So far as employment is concerned, you are aware of the steps taken by us. As regards drinking water, we

have talked to private parties. They had asked for two months' time but we have told them to make arrangements within a month. You may speak a lot about stopping migration but if there is no water, people will certainly migrate from there. That is why, we have asked them that water should be made available to every house within a month. As I had said during question hour, works will be started for making available water and fodder, growing Rabi crop and creating employment for those who work in the fields. But the matter of concern is that there are some women who remain confined to their houses and do not go outside. The 'Million Wells' programme has been implemented for those living below poverty line. It will be implemented for all in a drought condition so that farmers face no difficulty in working in their fields. We are contemplating some steps in this direction. However, the hon'ble Prime Minister will throw more light on it. I am only telling the ground facts.

Today morning, we had a meeting with the leaders of all trade unions of the country. They were asked to contribute one day's wage to the Relief Fund. The representatives of employers and workers have taken a decision that they would contribute one day's wage to the relief fund by way of working one day extra or getting one day's leave adjusted.

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : Please get it implemented in Parliament also.

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : It has already been done in Parliament. All the parties have agreed to it.

I got a news today morning on phone. As I had said yesterday in the House, the Shankaracharya of Kanchipuram Peeth has reached Andhra Pradesh with three trucks load of relief material. Today, I talked on telephone to the Junior Shankaracharya and told him to follow suit. He is also making arrangements in this regard. There are many saints to go to Ayodhya. You should request them to go to Andhra Pradesh instead of Ayodhya and do something there. It will make our task easy...*(Interruptions)* I am not saying so to hurt the sentiments of anybody. It is a national calamity. Therefore, all of us should contribute to relief works.

SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA (Kanpur) : The hon'ble Minister may not have said so to hurt one's sentiment but his utterance was sarcastical. We all supported him. It is not an issue of party politics...*(Interruptions)* I would like to submit humbly that these things should be clubbed with this issue. If you are conscious of your duty, you should make a nationwide appeal. Even if you do not get a response, then you ask us.

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : I am just making an appeal. If one Shankaracharya is doing, why other shankaracharyas are not doing so? What else is it if not an appeal?

SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA : It should not have been mentioned here that there were many saints prepared to go to Ayodhya...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : There are many people in Ayodhya.

SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA : Being a Minister, you should make an appeal to them and you will get a lot.

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : This is what we want. At least, half of them should come forward. We are starting some programmes of similar kind. Some suggestions were given here. It has been said that direct funds should be arranged but it is not possible as per the provisions of the constitution.

SHRI SARAT PATTANAYAK : You should change this system. Leaders of all political parties should talk to the Speaker in this regard. Unless this system is changed, no further work can be taken up.

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : It is not under the jurisdiction of the Speaker.

SHRI SARAT PATTANAYAK : It can be passed with 2/3 majority in the House.

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : It can not be passed by the House.

SHRI SARAT PATTANAYAK : Who can do it?

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : Our constitution is of federal nature. States have been given powers separately in the constitution. It is not possible to bypass the states. After getting their consent...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS : It can be done after getting the consent of the State Government. You know that how much fund have been diverted.

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : We know it is diverted but we cannot do that. You create an uproar in the Lok Sabha as well as in the legislative assembly but we will have to abide by the provisions of the constitution. Therefore, nobody can bypass the State Government...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please avoid cross-talk.

Mr. Minister, how much more time do you want?

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : I am just concluding.

[Translation]

Here, a demand has been made to take permanent measures. We will try to do it, but I would like to say one thing that we have tried to find a permanent solution to the projects which we have started.

20.00 hrs.

We should avoid spending money in piece-meal and for what, we seek your co-operation. All of you should go there and check-up yourselves there. We are ready to give assistance in every possible manner. I reiterate though the hon'ble Prime Minister will say himself that nobody would be allowed to die due to lack of funds. I humbly request you to make united efforts for that.

SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS : I have to ask a question from the Minister of Agriculture.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mr. Das, before you put your question, let us decide about the extension of time. Now the time is 8 o'clock and there are seven more speakers. What shall we do now Mr. Parliamentary Affairs Minister?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA): We can accommodate another half an hour today, Sir.

SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA : We can continue with it tomorrow.

SHRI SRIKANT JENA : Tomorrow is Private Member's day.

SHRI MRUTYUNJAYA NAYAK : What is the problem if we sit for another half an hour. If you think that this is a national issue...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please do not say that. They have been cooperating. He is not a speaker but he has been sitting here. This kind of discussion will not help us.

SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA : I am not participating in the debate. I am sitting here without speaking on it. You can know my feelings.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Dronaji, if you all agree, we will extend the sitting for another half an hour and we can complete the debate on this important and sensitive subject. All the speakers will stick to the time limit of five minutes. We may not get time tomorrow as it is a Private Member's day.

SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA : Okay, Sir.

SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS : I am putting these questions to the hon. Agriculture Minister now because he will not be available tomorrow. In my speech yesterday I mentioned about supplying two-rupees-a-kilo rice in the drought affected area. I would like to know whether on behalf of the Central Government the hon. Minister of Agriculture is going to appeal to the Government of Orissa to provide two-rupees-a-kilo rice to the people of the worst affected areas...*(Interruptions)*... The Government of India should make an appeal or provide assistance to the Government of Orissa...*(Interruptions)* Even in the declared blocks they are not supplying two-rupees-a-kilo rice. In Kalahandi there are 10 PDS blocks...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Your question is clear. Mr. Minister, there is a specific question.

SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS : I would also like to know what he is going to do for the middle class people.

[Translation]

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : As I have already said, if middle class people want to do work, they can do work in the fields under Million Wells Scheme.

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : But what about the provision pertaining to per hectare?

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : Though, I have already told about that, yet the hon'ble Prime Minister will also speak about it. The decision to provide rice two rupees per k.g. is under the State subject. What can we say to them? They will implement their scheme.

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : There are two types of States - one which have income above the national average and others, which have much below general average national income where 40 per cent people live below poverty line. Further, the issues of all readjustments, C.R.F., loan clearance and assistance should also be considered.

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : I have told in my reply that by doing so, all the states will stand to the position where they stood five years back. There is no alternative.

SHRI K. PRADHANI (Nowrangpur) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to seek a clarification from the Agriculture Minister on the question of staff in the tribal and rural areas. He said that due to want of prospects and some other reasons they are not going there. During the Sixth and Seventh Plan periods, there was an incentive allowance to the officers posted in the sheduled or tribal areas. But now this has been stopped. Will the hon. Minister take up this matter with the Government? When doctors and BDOs are not going there to work in connection with the drought relief, how can one go on with this drought relief work?

[Translation]

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : I will convey his request to the concerned Ministers. I cannot take responsibility of all the Ministries

[English]

SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS : Please, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You will get time tomorrow. The Prime Minister is replying.

(Interruptions)

SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS : It is his matter, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN : He has already said. You have put two questions and he has replied it back.

(Interruptions)

SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS : One question, please.. (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : You can ask the Prime Minister tomorrow.

SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS : The Prime Minister cannot reply me, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You will get time tomorrow. Shri Bhakta Charan Das, please accommodate. Let other Members also speak. You can ask the Prime Minister, he is replying at two o'clock tomorrow.

SHRI SUDHIR GIRI : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak in the last.

The event of people dying of starvation is a matter so appealing to our conscience that we cannot excuse anybody in power, who could stop the deaths had he tried his level best. The loss of lives due to hunger in Kalahandi, Koraput and Bolangir is not new to us. For some time past, we have been used to hearing of such calamitous news. Who are responsible for such ignominious deaths? While there was a huge food stock at the national level and much of such food stock was misused by rats and others, while our brothers and sisters died the deaths of hunger and thirst. This is very said. So, at the outset, I demand that the food stock be let open to those who are affected by drought in Orissa. It is a matter of regret that the State Government have not drawn the attention of the nation to the matter as forcefully as it is required.

I do not like to consume much time. Time is short. I wish to record some suggestions. I hope that the Central Government will take into consideration while making efforts to mitigate the sufferings of the affected people.

My first suggestion is that there should be two types of measures, one is the long time measures and the other one is the short term measures. First, I suggest the short term measures. The situation has to be studied meticulously as regards the damage of crops already done and likely to be done in the coming months. It is reported that the Western part of Orissa including Kalahandi, Bolangir, Naupada, Sambalpur and Sonepur have been severely affected. Adivasi people are concentrated in these districts.

My second suggestion is that it is estimated that 26 lakh tonnes of foodgrains have been damaged due to drought. The State Government is reported to have planned to produce 17 lakhs tonnes of foodgrains in Rabi in the coming months. Then, ten to 12 lakh tonnes of food grains will be required. I hope that the Central Government will be in a position to supply this deficit food.

My next suggestion is that the irrigation facilities have to be provided to the farmers for Rabi crop production.

Subsidies have to be provided for seeds. Subsidies have also to be provided for fertilisers at cheaper rates.

It has been estimated that a total sum of Rs. 3.79 crore is required for the purpose. Here the Central Government may come forward to provide help to the State Government because of the fact that State Governments are suffering from paucity of funds. My next suggestion is because of drought the daily wage earners have been worst hit. They will not get employment. So the Central Government and the State Government have to work jointly to make money available to the wage earners by way of arranging employment opportunities through different yojanas and employment assurance schemes.

It appears that in Orissa about 41 lakh families live below the poverty line. Of those families, about 13 lakh people will be out of employment due to such national calamity. Hence provision has to be made for 13 lakh people's works for seven months from December 1996 to June 1997 and only Rs. 462 crore will be needed to provide jobs to 13 lakh people.

As far as drinking water is concerned, drought has affected not only the wage earners and poor farmers, but the middle and rich farmers also. All these people will feel dearth of water. Underground water may be exploited but that too will cause damage to total environment detrimental to the human beings of all kinds. So, rivers have to be carefully protected so that drinking water may not be of dearth in the near future.

Different types of diseases will break-out. The State Government should be ready to tackle the situation. In such eventualities the Central Government must provide the medical teams to the State, if necessary.

Regarding food shortage, I suggest that the Food Corporation of India should be directed to make food storage in the State in sufficient quantity to assure the people that they need not panic and that in need they will be provided with food. In reality they should be provided with food.

I would like to give some suggestions for the permanent solution of this problem. Land reform measures have to be adopted promptly. The distribution of land to the landless poor is necessary, it will enable them to cultivate their plots of lands in various ways matching the vagaries of monsoon.

Waste Land Development Projects have to be undertaken. In such events the poor landless people have to be got involved. They should be provided with land as well as loans for cultivation in drought days.

The Adivasis who have left their habitats should be rehabilitated. They should be helped through Indira Awas Yojana. They should be supplied with food at low costs through Public Distribution Scheme.

Afforestation programmes should be carefully implemented. The poor Adivasis should be given share in the Afforestation Programmes.

Small scale industries should be set up. Marketing facilities are to be provided there. Men having commitment to social services should be entrusted such works.

The pending river projects, such as Indira and Suktel must be expedited and completed in the Ninth Five Year Plan.

I am concluding by saying that the old age pension scheme should be worked out in such a fashion that the real poor old men should be identified. As there is no elected Panchayat, the identification problem will be critical. Hence, the old age pension work should be properly done. For this purpose Panchayats should be formed.

The question of giving some dole to a State like Orissa in the midst of certain calamities should not be looked as any benevolence on the part of the Centre. But we should bear in mind that every State has its right to get the necessary help from the Centre as a matter of right and not benevolence. That is why we have been clamouring for the Constitutional amendment in the light of the Sarkaria Commission to readjust the Centre-State relations.

*KUMARI FAIDA TOPNO (Sundargarh) : Mr. Chairman, at the outset, I would like to thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak on the drought situation in Orissa and elsewhere in the country. The members who preceded me have already given a detailed description of the gravity of situation in Orissa due to the unprecedented drought prevailed in that State. I do not wish to repeat those points. I would only like to confine my speech to the problems of my constituency arising out of the prevailing drought of severe nature. I would like to highlight the need of my people of Sundargarh district.

Sir, it is really very sad that the entire State of Orissa is reeling under the grip of severe drought as the information submitted by the District Collectors on the basis of the first crop cutting report. Accordingly, only 12 districts were affected by drought. Subsequently, the situation further aggravated and now the entire State is affected. The State Government of Orissa has submitted a Memorandum to the Central Government for providing Rs. 585.00 crores to undertake drought relief measures in that State. I demand that the fund required by the State Government should be sanctioned immediately.

Due to the deficiency of rainfall and severe dry spell prevailing in the State, shortage of drinking water has been felt in several districts. The scarcity of drinking water may be felt in more areas in the coming months. The State Government has installed 8000 tube wells and 2000 old, outdated and defunct tube wells have also been replaced with new tube wells.

Sir, I come from Sundargarh district in Orissa. This year the kharif crops sustained heavy loss due to scanty rainfall in that district from the beginning of the year. So, the people in that district will need more food grains than what they are getting from the fair price shops. As such, I request the Central Government to expand the public distribution network in Orissa. Allocation of wheat and rice may be enhanced for the people of Sundargarh. The State Government of Orissa has appealed to the Central Government to enhance wheat and rice allocation and to release 50000 metric tonnes to that State. I demand that the wheat and rice allocation may be enhanced to Orissa as demanded by the State Government.

Sir, the farmers of Sundargarh depend on rain water for cultivation. They do not become able to grow any crop when there is no rain. This is so as there is absence of irrigation facility in that district. So it is very necessary to install adequate number of deep bore wells and dug wells in every village so that the farmers can cultivate their land and grow some crop or the other. I demand special Central assistance for this purpose.

As I stated earlier, the harvest of kharif crops this year is almost nil in several districts including Sundargarh. The people who were engaged in cultivation are sitting idle at home. That is why a large scale migration has taken place. People are migrating to neighbouring States in search of job. So, it is our first and foremost duty to bring them backhome. They are not safe at the hands of their employers in those States as they are being exploited by them as well as the middlemen. At the same time we have to take steps to stop any further migration. This is possible if adequate employment opportunity is generated for them. In the meantime, the State Government of Orissa has taken initiative to provide work to 12.33 lakh agricultural workers in the drought affected districts for eight months w.e.f. November this year to June, 1997. The State Government has made an estimate of Rs. 1971 crores to undertake this programme. The Central Government should immediately sanction and release this amount to the State Government to bear this expenditure to implement the above programme.

Sir, I shall be failing in my duty if I do not make a mention of Kalahandi, Balangir and Koraput programme better known as KBK. The undivided Kalahandi, Balangir and Koraput districts are always affected by droughts. Our former Congress Government had drawn up a special plan known as KBK for the all round development of drought prone Kalahandi, Balangir and Koraput districts. Fund provision has already been made for that programme but it is regrettable that the present Government has discontinued that programme on the pretext of constraint of resources. As you know, this is a perennial problem in those drought affected districts. As the former Prime Minister Shri P.V. Narasimha Rao stated in his speech, the situation in those areas cannot

be improved unless a special scheme is implemented for them. Since it is a question of life and death for those lakhs of people I request the Central Government to include KBK programme in the 9th Plan and adequate amount of fund should be earmarked for the purpose.

Lastly, I thank you very much, for giving me the opportunity to take part in the discussion and conclude my speech.

[English]

MR CHAIRMAN : Shri Virendra Kumar Singh - Not present

Kumari Sushila Tirya - Not present

Now, I call upon Shri Anadi Charan Sahu to speak.

SHRI ANADI CHARAN SAHU (Cuttack) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, this is my first speech in the House. I would have been much jubilant but because of the grim situation of drought in my State, my jubilation is drained out. Drought visits Orissa intermittently sometimes periodically but always mercilessly. It has visited a number of times and we have faced many difficulties. I would not dilate on the situation that has been prevailing in my State. The previous speakers, particularly, Shri P.V. Narasimha Rao, Shri K.P. Singh Deo and Shri Sriballav Panigrahi have elucidated the points. What I would like to say is that drought has crippled the State in many ways.

I, being a former policeman, would like to speak on two aspects only. One is about the distress situation that is prevailing and the distress management that is required and the second is about the contingency plan that is required. Before I speak about the distress management, I must thank the hon. Minister of Agriculture who has been very generous but not bountiful. I request him through the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs that his bounty should know no bounds in the near future. That is my earnest request on behalf of the people of Orissa.

So far as distress management is concerned, the State Government has already started the work from September onwards. You must have seen from the speeches of other people and then of the Minister of Agriculture also that the distress management had started in September. We are very happy to note and state here in the House that the State Government had started a mid-day meal programme for the school students much earlier. The State Govt. has started distributing subsidised rice in 143 blocks. It has started distress distribution of food to about 44,000 people in the KBK districts because of the drought situation prevailing. These are the main reasons for which there has been no death due to hunger in spite of difficulties that the State has been facing.

But for distress management, many aspects have to be taken into account. The first thing for drought, the antidote of drought is water. You may kindly appreciate that in five urban areas of Bolangir and Kalahandi Districts water is being supplied to the people by tankers. Unless more number of tankers are pressed into service, it would not be possible to give potable water to them. If potable drinking water is not available, the consequence will be water-borne disease and one would be required to do a lot of health services. There will be health hazards. So I would request you to ensure supply of water which is the first thing to do in distress situations. Surface water is not available in all the 26 districts. In my district, Cuttack which I represent, although there is 42 per cent of irrigation land, we are not getting adequate water. So for getting water, surface water is not sufficient. The immediate task is to dig deep bore tube wells. The Government of India should come forward with adequate funds and engage as many manpower possible to give them sufficient work.

So far as the distress condition is concerned, mass exodus will start by the middle of December. Now some people have started migrating. Distress migration has started in a very few pockets but mass migration or exodus will start by the middle of December because the agricultural labour will not get sufficient work in the drought-affected areas. There is no crop hence no work. So they will try to go out. Therefore, my request would be that some sort of labour intensive work may be taken up throughout the State.

It has been indicated earlier and I tried to point out to the Minister of Railways earlier also that there are many railway projects. A project worth Rs. 50 crore is pending for the Rupsa-Bangri Poshi line. The Government have already sanctioned the funds but the work order has not been issued. If that amount of Rs. 50 crore is released now for the broadening of Rupsa-Bangri Poshi railway line, this will bring a lot of work. Then there is doubling of rail road from Cuttack to Talcher. It is progressing in a haphazard manner. Doubling of Paradip-Cuttack railway line is also going in a haphazard manner. If these are taken up immediately this will generate a lot of work for the people so that migration to other areas will not be there. They can get confined to the areas of work. I will not dilate much because my time is very short.

I will come to the contingency plan. So far as the contingency plan is concerned, the Government of Orissa had sent a very good elaborate plan which is the long-term action plan for the KBK districts.

It could be a model for taking up any contingency work. Now, as far as irrigation is concerned, I reiterate that the anti-dote of drought is water. For irrigation purposes—minor and medium irrigation - water harvesting systems are absolutely necessary. Then, we have to take into account the health hazard problems

that are coming up. Preventive and curative work for the health of the people is absolutely necessary. So, in the contingency plan, health hazard problems are as important as water supply.

Then, there is a most important and very minor point which may be to convert the short-term loans to long-term loans so that it would alleviate the difficulties of the farmers. The middle class farmer has to be thought of. But while thinking of the middle class farmer, it is to be thought of that the lift irrigation points and the debts and loans.

In my constituency I have seen that in the Mahanadi river a number of "chuas and challas" have been dug up for storage of water. This has created a problem for the stream which has been diverted. Due to the diversion of the stream, the existing lift irrigation points have become defunct. There is a necessity for having large number of lift irrigation points in those areas. Ordinarily, lift irrigation points are being utilised by the middle class farmers. New lift irrigation points on the Mahanadi delta will help the middle class farmers.

I do not want to dilate much at the present moment.

Thank you very much for giving me this opportunity to speak.

SHRI KARTIK MOHAPATRA (Balasore) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, as so many senior Members have discussed this matter seriously, I do not want to repeat the same. But I have some concrete suggestions to make to the Government.

(1) According to the Report of the Collectors, in 26 Districts out of 30 Districts from Kalahandi, Bolangir to Balasore and Mayurbhanj, covering 3517 Gram Panchayats, more than two crore people are affected. I request the Central Government to treat this drought situation as a national calamity and the memorandum submitted by the State Government, which is a programme to tackle this situation, amounting to a sum of Rs. 577 crore, may be accepted *in toto* by the Central Government and necessary funds in a phased manner may kindly be released.

(2) The Agriculture Department should come forward to release funds for restoration of new L.I. points and to reinstall the defunct 3000 L.I. points in Orissa. It is a very vital thing.

(3) New irrigation projects should be identified in the drought affected areas and these projects should be taken up for future drought conditions and to create mandays for the wage earners.

(4) Now drinking water is a serious problem in Orissa in rural as well as in urban areas. The water level has lowered like anything. The Rural and Urban Development Departments should come forward to sanction more tubewells and new water supply schemes

in urban as well as in rural areas. The current loans of small and marginal farmers, who have lost their everything in Kalahandi, Bolangir to Balasore and Mayurbhanj, should be exempted from paying the same and the Government should come to their rescue.

(5) As labour intensive work is barely necessary to check the migrants, the Rural Development Department and the Agriculture Department should release sufficient funds of Gram Panchayats for the coming six months.

For the coming Rabi crop, as the electricity will play a vital role, so the GRIDCO in Orissa should be strengthened by funding more funds to it for the upgradation of transformers and for the construction of new lines through the allied projects.

Sixthly, grants may be released to open free kitchens in each Gram Panchayat to save the lives of orphans, destitute, disabled and old persons and those who have no alternative to save their lives. I hope this august House will consider these suggestions seriously to save Orissa from the present crisis. Thank you.

COL. SONA RAM CHOUDHARY (Barmer) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank you very much for giving me a chance to speak. I have been hearing and reading in the newspapers about the drought in Orissa. We should really be very much concerned about it and we should do the needful and something concrete there.

The hon. Minister has already given a lot of assurance. As my friend Shri Singh Deo has brought out and as the former Prime Minister has brought out, these things should be implemented and something should be done on the ground.

I am also taking a chance to speak about my area. As you know, Sir, I hail from Western Rajasthan, that is, Jaisalmer-Barmer. That area has been a drought-prone, not since decades but for centuries together. I wish the hon. Agriculture Minister was here. In fact, when he was going out, I requested him to be here for some more time. Anyway, the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs is here and I request him to convey my sentiments to him, otherwise I shall feel sorry and the people of my area will feel sorry.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Come to the point please. It will be conveyed.

COL. SONA RAM CHOUDHARY : Anyway, the Secretary to the Ministry is there and I hope he will convey my sentiments to the Minister.

In my constituency, two districts completely, that is, Jaisalmer and Barmer, and one segment of Jodhpur, consist of a total of fourteen blocks. Out of these 14 blocks, two blocks have had reasonable rains, four have had partial rains and eight are having total drought. There is no rainfall in those blocks. These blocks are : Chohattan, Sam, Shiv, Gudhamalani, Pokaran, Barmer, Pachpadra and Jaisalmer. They are facing a lot of

problems. Their problems are three-fold. The first is because of the crop. At some places there was a little rain. In fact there were two rains with a gap of one month and now they are not getting any rain. So, there is no crop at all. Of course, we are getting the grains from outside but recently there was some problem in getting wheat and other grains. But the FCI came to our rescue and we feel that there should not be any shortage because the stocks in the country are very encouraging. I hope, the Government will take some action to send the grains to us.

The second problem, which is a very serious problem, is about water. As in Orissa, in Western Rajasthan also there is no permanent source of water. These areas depend on the rainfall or on some shallow and open tubewells which are dependent only on the rainfall. If there is no rainfall, the wells get dried up. When they get dried up, then all the schemes which are formulated by way of pipelines, overhead tanks or ground level tanks, also dry up. I have recently been in that area and I have seen that there are lot of problems in those areas and the people are migrating from there. In fact, from some of the villages they have already migrated. I have told the District Magistrate and the Rajasthan administration also about this. They are taking some action but whatever they have done so far, is not satisfactory.

Thirdly, in that area, animal husbandry is the main source of income and crop is the second source.

Since there is no rain, there is no fodder and most of the cattles are perishing. So, some arrangement for fodder also has to be made from the the neighbouring States of Punjab, Haryana or Uttar Pradesh where there are good rains. The people are crying and they have not taken any action.

Similarly, there are other problems like the migration of people and of the people living below the poverty line. They have no source of income. The Government of Rajasthan was supposed to start some famine works and they had assured that they would start those works from the 1st of October. Now this is the end of November, but they have not yet started those works. I have brought this to the notice of the State Government and I hope that they would take some action. Otherwise, I would request the Central Government to take some steps in this regard.

Now, I have got some suggestions to make. I would request that additional funds, wherever required, should be made available to the State Governments and in turn they should spend that money only in the affected areas. Then, fodder should be made available in the drought affected areas.

I want to make one more point which comes under the purview of the Central Government. The Central Water Commission which comes under the Ministry of Water Resources has sanctioned additional resources

by way of rigs and other machinery by which they can dig deep wells. The deep wells do not get dried up even when there is no rain because they go about 1,000 to 1,500 feet deep down the surface of the earth. The other day I raised this point in Parliament and Shri Janeshwar Mishra had assured me that the machinery would be sent. But I am sorry to point out that nothing has gone there. So, they should be sent there quickly.

MR. CHAIRMAN : That will be conveyed. Thank you.

COL. SONA RAM CHOUDHARY : Sir, there is one last point. I would request you to allow me because I get the chance to speak very rarely.

There is a long term scheme to remove the drinking water problem. The Rajasthan Canal has reached up to Jaisalmer.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Sona Ram Choudhary, this is a discussion on the drought conditions in Orissa. You are speaking on something else and still I am allowing you. So, please conclude now and do not go into the details.

COL. SONA RAM CHOUDHARY : Sir, this scheme should be implemented because this scheme has come to the Central Planning Commission. It should be cleared quickly. Similarly, for Narmada also, a scheme is supposed to come from Rajasthan in Barmer district. This also should be cleared quickly.

SHRI PINAKI MISHRA (Puri) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, much of the discussion on the drought conditions in Orissa was focussed on Kalahandi, Bolangir and Koraput districts of Orissa. Without wishing to underplay or undermine the precariousness of the conditions in these areas in any manner, I would just like to draw the attention of this august House, through you, Mr. Chairman, to the conditions in coastal Orissa and particularly in my parliamentary constituency, Puri which is equally, if not much worse, affected like some of these areas.

I would like to quote a few bare statistics. Puri parliamentary constituency has got three districts. The first one is Khurda. The total number of blocks in this district are 10 and the number of affected blocks are eight. The total number of villages are 1,567 and the number of villages affected are 1,108. The second district is Nayagarh. The total number of blocks in this district are eight and all the eight blocks are affected by the drought. Thirdly, in the district of Puri itself, the total number of blocks are 11 and here also all the 11 blocks are affected. Therefore, you can see that the drought conditions in coastal Orissa are equally bad.

Sir, I am glad that a colleague of ours from Orissa is here namely the Hon'ble Parliamentary Affairs Minister. The State Government has set in motion the Food for Work Programme already. I need not repeat the virtues of the Employment Assurance Scheme about

which Shri Narasimha Rao has spoken at length and other speakers have also spoken at length. I just hope and I beseech Shri Srikanta Jena to in turn beseech the Prime Minister that, when he gets up to reply to this discussion tomorrow, the rest of the blocks which have not been covered by the Employment Assurance Scheme which are 64 in number at the moment should be cleared and sanctioned by the hon. Prime Minister tomorrow. This is the least that we can do. We are not asking for any grandiose schemes because we can make grand speeches and ask for grandiose schemes, but not many of them are likely to be sanctioned due to lack of resources.

So, that is the only assurance we want from the Prime Minister. If he could do this, it would really benefit the substantial segment of coastal Orissa.

The last thing which I wish to bring on record has been most unfortunate because everybody here has participated in a spirit of comradeship as though it is a national calamity. They have cut across party lines. But certain aspersions have been cast on the State Government. Now, I wish to rise in vigorous defence on the kind of prompt response that has come from the State Government.

Shri Biju Patnaik in particular and characteristically Mr. Chairman, Sir took digs at the hon. Chief Minister and his colleague that they took a foreign trip recently. I only wish to point out that this foreign trip was absolutely necessary. It was taken after much anguish and prolonged debate and discussions within the party. Unfortunately, the discussion with the Exim Bank in Japan with whom they had to have discussions with regard to a four hundred million dollar loan for a certain Railway project in Orissa, could not be delayed. That is the reason that they had to undertake that trip. They cut short their trip substantially and came back well in time. Therefore, it is most unfortunate that such kinds of digs were taken at a political level which is not in the spirit of the debate as it has been conducted today.

With this I deeply thank you for having given me the opportunity to address the Hon'ble House.

SHRI MRUTYUNJAYA NAYAK (Phulbani). Thank you, Mr. Chairman. No doubt, I will be very short and brief. But at the same time I have to do justice with my people who are acutely and severely affected by the drought conditions. I would like to just put emphasis more on the ground realities. As you know the guidelines of the Government for the implementation of EAS is that all the works have to be undertaken by the Department. Sir, since the staff and the implementing agency are very much limited, they are over-burdened. They cannot undertake the work and complete it in time. Therefore, there is difficulty in spending the money. There is also a difficulty in submitting the utilisation certificate.

Sir, as you know, we are having employment problem. We have unemployed graduates and unemployed qualified engineers also. So, there is no difficulty in undertaking contractual works. Therefore, we can definitely do justice if we really give some relaxation and allow the contractual works to be done through unemployed youths. I think that will do real justice and the work can be completed and people will also be benefited.

Sir, as far as drinking water is concerned, when we go for drilling, we find that the geographical conditions do not permit. Sometimes when we drill, the tubewells become defunct. All our districts are endowed with natural resources and water resources. We are having the Mahanadi river and so many other perennial sources of water which are there. We can have a pipeline to make water available to the people. Again, I would like to suggest to the Government that we can take into account the BPL list. In my constituency of Phulbani, Bahud and Sonepur although the BPL percentage is the highest in the State, I find that some EAS are not working. Therefore, in spite of having irrigation facilities, we find that drought has come to these areas.

So, it is right time to identify which are the places where we can adopt EAS, DPAP etc. That should be given top consideration. I would like to bring to the notice of the Government that some works like construction of a bridge over river Mahanadi were stopped. At Boudh also, the work has been stopped. We find that nobody is willing to give the funds for the construction of bridges. There should be no difficulty in giving Rs. 15 crore to Rs. 20 crore. We should arrange this money from somewhere. When we construct these bridges, we would be developing not only the infrastructure but it would also change the economy. Therefore, those projects should be started and the Government should not be reluctant to give the necessary funds.

I am very happy to say that the State Government has certainly taken a keen interest in starting the works much before the onset of this drought. The entire administration was alert and they have been doing the work. But at the same time, because of the creation of new districts — earlier, there were only 13 districts, but now we have got 30 districts — we do not have sufficient infrastructure in these newly created districts. The officers have not been posted in these newly created districts. There is no infrastructure, buildings or anything of that sort. Therefore, it is very important to take this into consideration. Some new districts have been deprived of facilities like DRDA, Action Plan etc. Therefore, in the newly created districts, wherever there are DRDAs, they should be given sufficient funding. This is very important.

Sir, I am very glad that you have permitted me to speak. These are all very important points and the Government should take them into consideration and do justice in the greater interests of the State.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The list of speakers is exhausted and we have completed the discussion in regard to the drought situation in Orissa. The hon. Minister will reply to this discussion tomorrow.

Now the House stands adjourned to meet again on November 29, 1996 at 11.00 a.m.

20.48 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Friday, November 29, 1996/Agrahayana 8, 1918 (Saka)
