

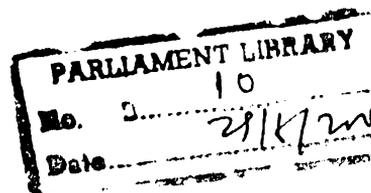
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FOR REFERENCE ONLY.**

Tuesday, June 9, 1998  
Jyaishta 19, 1977 (Saka)

# **LOK SABHA DEBATES**

## **(English Version)**

**Second Session  
(Twelfth Lok Sabha)**



*(Vol. II contains Nos. 1 to 10)*

**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT  
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# LOK SABHA DEBATES

## LOK SABHA

Tuesday, June 9, 1998 / Jyaistha 19, 1920 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock

[ MR. SPEAKER in the Chair ]

[English]

...(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, hundreds of workers of IDPL are sitting in *dharna* in front of the Parliament House. ... (Interruptions)

They have not been getting their salaries for months together.

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE (Panskura) : Sir, hundreds of IDPL workers have not been getting their salaries. ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Basu Deb Acharia, please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You can raise it in the 'zero hour'.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: This is Question Hour. It is an important hour.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI BENI PRASAD VERMA (Kaisarganj): Mr. Speaker, Sir, people are coming from Ghaziabad for staging 'dharna' at Jantar-Mantar. They are not being allowed to reach Jantar-Mantar in Delhi. It is an assault on the democratic rights of the people. The Government of Uttar Pradesh is not listening to them. Therefore, they have to come to Delhi. Uttar Pradesh borders have been sealed. Hon'ble Home Minister is present here. Government may be directed to allow the Ghaziabad people to enter Delhi to express their grievances.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: This will not go on record.

(Interruptions)\*

Not recorded.

## ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

### Administered Price Mechanism

\* 182. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO :  
SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR :

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have processed the recommendations of Nirmal Singh Panel for suggesting phasing out of administered price mechanism of petroleum products;

(b) if so, the main recommendations made by the panel thereof;

(c) the action taken/proposed to be taken thereon; and

(d) the tentative time schedule for final implementation of the recommendations of the Nirmal Panel?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI VAZHAPADY K. RAMAMURTHY) : (a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

### Statement

- 1 The Government had appointed an Expert Technical Group under the Chairmanship of Shri Nirmal Singh, Joint Secretary (Refineries), Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas to examine the impact on various sectors at different levels of duty structure in case of dismantling of APM. The major recommendations of the Expert Technical Group are given at Annexure-I. Based on the recommendations of Expert Technical Group, the Government in November, 1997 had decided to dismantle Administered Pricing Mechanism (APM) in phases over a period of four years starting from 1998-99 as per details given in Annexure-II. The terminal year for dismantling will be 2001-02 and duty structure for the terminal year is given in Annexure-III.
2. The process of dismantling of APM in the Petroleum Sector in phases has already been initiated w.e.f. 1.4.98. Cost plus formula for indigenous crude oil producers has been withdrawn, however, as a temporary measure a minimum floor price has been fixed. The system of retention pricing for all the refineries has been abolished. However, Refinery gate prices of controlled products viz. MS HSD, SKO, LPG and ATF are being fixed on principles of "adjusted import parity" price for existing refineries. The consumer prices of MS, HSD, SKO (Public Distribution System), LPG (for domestic use) and ATF continues to be administered and consumer price of one of the five products, namely HSD is being fixed on principles of import parity pricing up to

ex-storage point level. The prices of other petroleum products like Naphtha, FO, LSHS, Bitumen, Paraffin-wax etc. have been decontrolled w.e.f. 1.4.98 and the oil companies have been allowed to fix their prices based on the market consideration. Cost plus formula for shipping of crude oil has been withdrawn.

3. Imports and exports of all petroleum products, except crude (slop crude and crude condensate), NGL, ATF, MS and HSD will be decanalised during the transition period. The customs duty on crude oil has been reduced from 27% to 22% w.e.f. 2.6.98.

#### Annexure-I

##### Major Recommendations of the Expert Technical Group

The salient recommendations of the Expert Technical Group are as under :

- (a) The Group recommended a phase in period of 4-5 years for dismantling of APM.
- (b) Cost-plus formula should be withdrawn for indigenous crude oil producers, the price receivable by oil producers should be increased to international levels in a phased manner by paying a pre-announced increasing percentage of weighted average FOB price of actual imports of crude oil during the transition period.
- (c) The system of retention pricing should be abolished for all (existing and new) refineries, and pricing of petroleum products at the refinery gate level should move towards import parity, however, Refinery Gate prices of controlled products viz. MS, HSD, SKO, LPG and ATF should be fixed at "adjusted import parity" prices for the existing refineries during the transition period, all other products should be sold by the refineries at market driven prices.
- (d) Consumer prices of major petroleum products should be moved to market prices, price of HSD should be fixed on the principle of import parity pricing upto ex-storage point level with immediate effect, and prices of other major products, viz. LPG, ATF, SKO and MS, should be moved towards principle of import parity in a phased manner and pricing of Paraffin-Wax, Bitumen, Naphtha, FO and LSHS should be decontrolled with immediate effect.
- (e) The transition period should be utilised for servicing and amortising the Oil Bonds proposed to be issued by the Government to the Oil companies, the price of crude and petroleum products as mentioned above should be fixed by OCC with enhanced autonomous powers.
- (f) Imports and exports of all petroleum products, except crude (slop crude and crude condensate), NGL, ATF, MS and HSD should be decanalised during the transition period, however, sourcing and import of crude should be allowed to joint and private sector refineries under actual user licensing policy with immediate effect.

- (g) Duties on crude and petroleum products should be rationalised in a phased manner as recommended in the Model given in Appendix-I.
- (h) Investments in the refining sector should be encouraged by providing reasonable tariff protection and making marketing rights for transportation fuels viz MS, HSD and ATF conditional on owning and operating refineries with an investment of at least Rs. 2000 crores or oil exploration and production companies producing at least three million tonnes of crude oil annually.
- (i) Cost-plus formula for shipping of crude oil should be withdrawn and the rates should move towards market related rates with immediate effect.
- (j) Freight subsidy on supplies to far-flung areas should be met through the fiscal budget and
- (k) To establish a regulatory framework to oversee the functioning of and enforcing & competitive framework in the Hydrocarbon Sector.

#### Appendix-I

##### Phased Duty Structure As per Technical Committee Report

(per cent)

Customs duty	Existing		Proposed			
	96-97	97-98	98-99	99-00	00-01	01-02
Crude	27	20	15	10	0	0
HSD/LDO	32	25	25	25	15	15
MS	32	30	25	25	15	15
ATF	32	30	25	25	15	15
LPG	12	10	10	10	10	10
LNG	12	0	0	0	0	0
FO/LSHS	32	25	20	15	10	10
Naphtha/NGL	0	5	5	5	5	5
Kerosene	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bitumen	32	30	25	20	15	15
Others	32	30	25	20	15	15
Excise duty	Existing		Proposed			
	96-97	97-98	98-99	99-00	00-01	01-02
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
MS	20	20	25	25	165 <sup>1</sup>	165 <sup>2</sup>
LPG	10	10	10	10	10	10
LNG	10	10	10	10	10	10
FO, Naphtha & LSHS-Gen. use	15	15	15	15	15	15

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
FO, Naphtha and LSHS-Fertilisers	0	0	0	0	0	0
Kerosene	10	10	10	10	10	10
HSD/LDO	15	15	15	15	15	15
ATF	15	15	15	15	40	40
Bitumen	15	15	15	15	15	15
Others	15	15	15	15	15	15

<sup>1</sup> Inclusive of surcharge

<sup>2</sup> Inclusive of surcharge

### Annexure-II

#### Phased Programme of Reforms

Particulars	Model
Transition Phase	4 years
1	2
<b>Year 1 (1998-1999)</b>	
(i) Removal of cost plus formula and payment to crude producers as percentage of weighted average FOB price of actual imports	75 per cent
(ii) Products to be controlled during transition period.	MS, HSD, Kerosene, ATF and LPG
(iii) Withdrawal of retention margin concept for the refineries and refinery gate prices for controlled products	Adjusted import parity prices to existing refineries and tariff adjusted import parity prices to new refineries
(iv) Products to be decontrolled	Naphtha, FO, LSHS, Bitumen, Paraffin wax
(v) Exim Policy	Decanalisation of imports/exports of all petroleum products except crude (slop crude and crude condensate), NGL, ATF, MS and HSD
(vi) Sourcing of crude	Sourcing of crude to be liberalised and import to be allowed for joint and private sector refineries under actual user licence

1	2
(vii) Customs duties	Rationalisation done in a phased manner
(viii) Increase in prices of :	
Kerosene (PDS)	30 per cent of existing ex-storage point price
LPG (Domestic)	33 per cent of subsidy passed on.
(ix) Freight and other under-recoveries	33 per cent to be passed on, in an equated manner
(x) Shipping of crude oil	Withdrawal of cost plus formula for shipping of crude oil and move towards market related rates.

#### Year 2 (1999-2000)

(i) Payment to crude producers as percentage of weighted average of FOB	77.5 per cent
(ii) Increase in prices of :	
Kerosene (PDS)	30 per cent of revised ex-storage point price at the end of year 1
LPG (Domestic)	A further 33 per cent of subsidy to be passed on
(iii) Freight and other under-recoveries	A further 33 per cent to be passed on, in an equated manner
(iv) Rationalisation of duties	To continue

#### Year 3 (2000-01)

(i) Payment to crude producers as percentage of weighted average FOB price	80 per cent
(ii) ATF	Deregulation of imports and pricing
(iii) Increase in prices of :	
Kerosene (PDS)	20 per cent of the revised ex-storage point price at the beginning of the year.
LPG (Domestic)	Suitable adjustment in prices to reach subsidy level at 15% of import parity.

1	2
(iv) Freight and other under-recoveries	Balance subsidy to be passed on, in an equated manner
<b>Year 4 (2001-2002)</b>	
(i) Payment to crude producers as percentage of weighted average FOB price	82.5%
(ii) Increase in prices of :	
Kerosene (PDS)	Suitable adjustment in prices to reach subsidy level at 33.33% of the import parity.
2002 onwards	Full Deregulation
	Transfer of Subsidy on SKO (PDS), LPG (Domestic) and freight subsidy on supplies to far flung areas to the fiscal budget of the Government.

**Annexure-III****Duty Structure for 2001-02**

	(per cent)
<b>Customs duty</b>	<b>2001-02</b>
Crude	0 to 5
HSD/LDO	15
MS	15
ATF	15
LPG	10
LNG	0 to 5
FO/LSHS	10
Naphtha/NGL	5
Kerosene	0
Bitumen	15
Others	15
<b>Excise duty</b>	<b>2001-02</b>
1	2
MS	165'
LPG	10
LNG	10

1	2
FO, Naphtha and LSHS-	
General use	15
FO, Naphtha and LSHS-Fertilisers	0
Kerosene	10
HSD/LDO	15
ATF	40
Bitumen	15
Others	15

'Inclusive of surcharge.

SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO : Sir, the Expert Technical Group has recommended abolition of Administered Price Mechanism (APM). In this event the price mechanism will help achieve self-sufficiency in petroleum products which is now about 40 per cent only and likely to decline further. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether any concrete steps in this regard have been worked out in this regard.

SHRI VAZHAPADY K. RAMAMURTHY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Committee appointed has recommended dismantling of the APM and we have started it in right earnest from 1st April, 1998. From that date, the APM is being abolished in phases. The hon. Member has asked the question as to whether this price mechanism will give us self-sufficiency in oil production. The answer is, 'definitely not'. It is not going to help us in that direction. Now our figure of self-sufficiency is between 37 per cent and 40 per cent. The demand is increasing manifold. So, I cannot assure the House of complete self-sufficiency in oil production in future also.

SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO : Sir, I would like to know whether it is a fact that the Finance Minister has agreed in principle to the recommendations of the Expert Technical Group report which has suggested phased abolition of duty on crude.

SHRI VAZHAPADY K. RAMAMURTHY: Sir, it is true that the Ministry of Petroleum, the Ministry of Finance and other connected Ministries have analysed the recommendations of Nirmal Singh Committee and suggested phased out reduction of duties. The terminal year fixed for complete liberalisation in-the-oil industry is 2002. In this year's Budget, the Finance Minister has reduced duty on crude by 5 per cent. By 2002 we have to bring down the crude import duty to 0 from 5 per cent.

SHRI SUDHIR GIRI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I wish to know, through you, from the hon. Minister what sort of economic advantages in terms of money and material will be gained by resorting to the implementation of the recommendations of the Nirmal Singh Panel?

**SHRI VAZHAPADY K. RAMAMURTHY:** As on date, in our country, as far as petroleum products are concerned, in the past we have adopted the dual pricing policy and also the administrative price mechanism, through which we have created artificial price hike also. This Committee has suggested, firstly, that this burden should no more be borne by the customers.

Secondly, oil products should completely be liberalised by the terminal year 2002 and market determined price will be prevailing. At that time, we are hopeful that the petroleum products prices may come down in the terminal year.

Thirdly, in the phased manner, we are taking out the APM. So also reduction in the excise duties and customs duties. This will enable our national oil companies to get themselves equipped to face the international market players within our country. They will also be able to sustain the competition from them. I hope in the terminal year 2002, the market determined price will definitely give us some kind of reduction in the oil prices.

**SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA :** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I draw the attention of the hon. Minister to the Annexure-I where it is mentioned that the freight subsidy on supplies to far-flung areas should be made through the fiscal budget. I would like to inform him that in the Union Territory of Andaman & Nicobar Islands which is one of the most far-flung and remote island territories of the country, is facing a very erratic system of pricing of petroleum products. In the islands like Campbell, Car Nicobar, Diglipur, Mayabandar and Rangat, the price of petroleum is Rs. 40 a litre or Rs. 50 a litre. Similarly, the prices of all the petroleum products are very high.

So, I would like to know categorically from the hon. Minister what sort of mechanism he is going to provide for these far-flung areas so that the customers do not suffer and that they are not to pay exorbitant prices for petroleum products.

**SHRI VAZHAPADY K. RAMAMURTHY :** Sir, in the terminal year, 2002, we will be retaining 15 per cent of the LPG subsidy and also 33.3 per cent of kerosene subsidy which are being distributed through the public distribution system. This subsidy will be passed on to the fiscal budget. We will not be retaining it. And also one more subsidy and other kinds of concessions will be continued for the far-flung areas where we are supplying the petroleum products, including LPG and kerosene.

The hon. Member has pointed out about the miseries in the Andaman & Nicobar Islands. Sir, he can come to me and discuss with me. We will take whatever possible steps. We will definitely redress the grievances of Andaman & Nicobar Islands to his satisfaction. ...*(Interruptions)*

**SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA :** Will you send a group of experts to study the problem?

**SHRI VAZHAPADY K. RAMAMURTHY:** We will consider.

**SHRI V. SATHIAMOORTHY:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister has mentioned that we are getting only 30 per cent of the petroleum products out of the total requirement of petroleum products. Is it the fate of our nation to depend upon other nations for ever?

Or has our country got any master plan to attain self-sufficiency in the near future? I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether there is any plan to attain self-sufficiency.

**SHRI VAZHAPADY K. RAMAMURTHY :** Sir, if God willing, all our exploration efforts are going to yield fruits and definitely the hon. Member's wishes will be fulfilled. As far as our experience is concerned, as on date, India is having only a scarce deposit. So this will not be going to meet our requirement and demands for petroleum products in the country. I cannot say that in a shorter period or in a long time, we will be attaining self-sufficiency. We have to depend on the rich and resourceful countries of the world for crude and other petroleum products.

*[Translation]*

#### Unemployment

+  
\*183. DR. CHINTA MOHAN :  
PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA :

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the number of unemployed persons had gone to 58 million by 1997;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government have set a target for elimination of unemployment by 2002 A.D. in the country; and

(d) if so, the steps taken to achieve this target and the percentage of additional avenues of employment required to be generated annually for this purpose?

*[English]*

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) The approach to the Ninth Plan envisages priority to agriculture and rural development with a view to generating adequate productive employment and eradication of poverty. Greater productive employment will be generated in the growth process itself by concentrating on sectors, sub-sectors and technologies which are labour intensive, in regions characterized by higher rates of unemployment and underemployment. The details will be known only after the Ninth Plan document is finalised by the government.

DR. CHINTA MOHAN : Sir, employment is an important subject. Before the Lok Sabha election, the BJP in its manifesto has said that it would bring in one crore jobs per year. Already they have come to power. They have presented the Budget. I would like to know categorically from the Minister how many jobs he has created in this present Budget. That is part one of my supplementary.

Part two is, last year the United Front Government has brought in an Agricultural Labour Bill. Last year, suddenly the Lok Sabha was dissolved. I want to know categorically from the Minister when he is going to bring in the Bill for discussion. If there is a delay, what are the reasons for the delay?

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM : Sir, I agree with the hon. Member that undoubtedly employment is an important issue. We have a major problem on our hand. In fact, the Finance Minister during his Budget speech laid emphasis on this problem saying that it is the commitment of our Government to address this problem. He has very clearly said that about 40 lakh families will be assisted in two lakh groups this year by expending the existing NABARD scheme for self-employment to ensure that much of employment is created. In addition to that, the existing programmes should achieve at least, about 7-8 million jobs this year. This is according to the present Budget allocation. This answer is with regard to the first part of his first supplementary or sub-supplementary.

With regard to the Agricultural Bill, to the best of my knowledge, the Government is, in principle, committed to it. We are in the process of looking at it. I am sure the hon. Labour Minister will bring forward as soon as it is decided.

DR. CHINTA MOHAN : The previous successive Governments, particularly, the Congress Governments have brought in Jawahar Rozgar Yojana, Nagarpalika Bills to remove rural and urban poverty and also unemployment. I want to know this categorically from the Minister. Is there any such scheme that the BJP Government is planning to bring it? If so, what are they? This is part one of my second supplementary.

MR. SPEAKER : Please put your supplementary.

DR. CHINTA MOHAN : Unemployed graduates, undergraduates, post-graduates all of them are looking to this Government to get some type of incentive or some type of help. Is there any Plan before the Government to give them any help for their employment?

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM : I must point out that the question that is being put is very particularly directed towards the poverty alleviation programme which actually should be addressed through a separate question. However, since my friend has raised it in this House I must point out to him that the hon. Finance Minister in his Budget Speech has said that the existing poverty alleviation programmes will be unified under the broad categories of self-employment scheme and wage employment scheme could be intensified.

Now, for specific details of how many schemes are there, I would need a specific notice to reply to. But generally I can assure him, through you, that this is our area of concentration and we would definitely encourage and with regard to youth I have already mentioned that we have a programme where two lakh self-help groups covering about 48 lakh families will be assisted in the next five years through the scheme of micro-credit, that is, 10,000 self-employment groups covering over two lakh families. This will be assisted this year itself.

[Translation]

PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, alongwith the problems of poverty and illiteracy, unemployment among youths is also spreading. Their parents are very much concerned about it. In view of all this, our Government had fixed a target in its National Agenda to eliminate this problem from the country by the year 2002. I would like to know about the efforts being made by the Government to remove unemployment. Right now, 58 million people are unemployed in our country.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : This is not the way. Please ask your supplementary.

[Translation]

PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the rate of employment generation is 2% in our country. However, rate of employment generation is required to be 3% to get rid of unemployment problem. What efforts are being made by the Government to encourage the agro-based industries to achieve the desired rate of employment?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : You put your supplementary, otherwise, I will disallow your supplementary.

[Translation]

PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the unemployed youth who go abroad in search of employment are being looted by the agents. I want to know whether a special cell will be set up by the Ministry of Labour to check this loot and to provide employment to the people?

[English]

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM : Sir, the hon. Member's question is in many parts. But the first part, if I may address with your permission is that he has indicated a figure of 58 million as the unemployed. I would like to correct his assessment because what was estimated was that during the period 1992-97, i.e. the Eighth Plan period, the number of persons who would require employment was 58 million. If the rate of growth of employment was 3.64 per cent during those years, we would have achieved this target. But

what we achieved was about six million jobs per year during the Eighth Plan, which means that there has been about 28 million which has not achieved the target. The actual number of jobs that are estimated to be created by 2002 from the period 1992 onwards in those ten years is 94 million. It is true that in the Eighth Plan the target was 3.64 per cent but we only achieved a target of 2.03 per cent.

In fact, the retargeting which was done half way through the Plan was 2.7, but even that was not achieved. We have fallen behind in our target. Today, in the Draft Ninth Plan—which is not yet finalised—it is envisaged that by the end of the year 2007, that is, by the end of the Tenth Plan, we should be able to come to this House and tell the House that we have been able to reach a level where unemployment is under control or has come to a level of completing the target of achieving total employment. But then that is only 2007, not 2002 as originally envisaged because in the Eighth Plan we have fallen behind in our target.

With regard to intensive agriculture, I can assure the hon. Member that in the Ninth Plan we will concentrate on agriculture-oriented and smaller industries to go in for this. In fact, the Prime Minister has directed that Action Plan be prepared to double the agricultural production over the next ten years. Agriculture is the largest employment providing sector with 66 per cent, and we would be concentrating on that.

SHRI RAJESH PILOT: Will you be increasing the agricultural production by taxing it at eight per cent as proposed in your Budget. By this, unemployment will further increase.

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM : Sir, I will note my hon. friend's comments and communicate the same to the Finance Minister. I do believe that he has some point there. I cannot wish it away because, after all, we both have always argued the same point at one point, and even now.

But I would submit that with regard to employment abroad, in the Ministry of Labour we do have a Cell and we do give certification to people who are authorised agents to deal with employment abroad. I understand that today, about eight lakh people have employment abroad. We are going into this and would be keeping an eye on this. But it is not a question of solving the unemployment problem by asking the people to be employed abroad. That is not our intention. The intention is very clear that we have to increase growth in areas which are labour-intensive to solve this problem.

SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA : Sir, the unemployment problem in West Bengal is extremely serious. It is reported that in 1977, the total number of registered unemployed in West Bengal was 16 lakhs. Now, in 1998, the number of unemployed has gone up to 60 lakhs. I want to know whether the hon. Minister has got the break up of the number of registered unemployed for each of the States and Union Territories? That is part (a) of my question.

Part (b) of my question is whether the Minister is aware that the funds allocated for employment benefit schemes by which various young people will be given jobs, like the Jawahar Rozgar Yojana and the Prime Minister' Rozgar Yojana, are being in properly utilised in West Bengal and whether those funds have gone to Personal Ledger Account and siphoned out and utilised elsewhere? These are the two parts of my question.

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM : Mr. Speaker, Sir, everybody is asking double Supplementaries.

MR. SPEAKER : You can answer only one Supplementary.

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM : No, Sir, I am quite willing to answer them. Sir, I may point out that I need a separate notice for figures which Shri Panja has asked. We do have them but I would communicate to him in writing how much exactly is the figure of those who are registered in the Employment Exchange. But I think it would be appropriate for me to point out to him that it does not necessarily mean that all those registered in the Employment Exchange are unemployed because there are many people who are privately employed but would still prefer to register themselves because in our country, there is a tendency that the only job that is considered to be a proper job is a Government job. So, they do not declare the private job. It is a reality of life. So, a mere increase of figures in the Employment Exchange does not mean that there is necessarily an increase in the unemployment. With regard to the West Bengal's level of unemployment, he is right, he is not wrong, but then West Bengal is not the only State where there has been an increase ...*(interruptions)*

I have said that the West Bengal is not the only State where unemployment has increased. What more do they want? But he is right in what he says; it is not totally off the mark.

SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA : He is saying that there is unemployment all over. Should, therefore, no answer be given regarding West Bengal? I want to know the actual figure from the hon. Minister.

MR. SPEAKER : Let him complete.

SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA : It is not the way that the minister is alleging about privately employed persons. What is the inquiry made?

MR. SPEAKER : Let him complete.

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM : I have told the hon. Member that I will communicate the figures to him. The present Question, unfortunately, did not arm me for a question like this. But I assure him that he will get the figures. ...*(interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : I am coming to you.

...*(Interruptions)*

**MR. SPEAKER :** Please take your seat.

**SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM :** With regard to the *yojanas* in the Personal Ledger Account, the hon. Minister in charge of programmes will have to give the reply and not me. And, it would require a separate notice. Since he has raised a specific question, the specific answer can be given only by the hon. Minister concerned, or by me, if we have a proper notice of it in advance. I shall obtain information and send it to him.

**SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE:** Sir, regarding the groups which are being given some training, it is said that they will be given finances etc. I would like to know whether the Government is thinking anything about marketing also because this is one of the spheres where self-employed groups, which are trained, are particularly being hindered. So, I want to know whether the Government will take into consideration as to how to provide some help to them, whom even they are giving, in marketing their products.

**SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM :** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I think the question and the suggestion is very relevant. Whenever we do self-employment programmes, we ultimately have a situation at the end of it that when they start manufacturing, the young youth who are self-employed have a difficulty in marketing. I shall definitely take the suggestion given by the hon. Member very seriously and communicate it to both, the Minister of Finance as well as the Minister of Rural Areas and Employment.

**SHRI PRAKASH YASHWANT AMBEDKAR :** Mr. Speaker, Sir, the answer given over here is the 58 million unemployed by 1997 do not exist. The first part of my question: what is the correct figure then? Secondly, the labour-intensive technology has been emphasised by the Minister himself.

Sir, we have Khadi and Village Industries Commission where many schemes are run on this basis and on this principle. In the organised sector, as far as I know, there is a reduction in employment which is going on because of the new technology that has been brought about. The schemes that were implemented through Khadi and Village Commissions have been totally changed. The schemes which were in the form of a subsidy have now been started in the form of a loan. May I know from the hon. Minister whether he is going to look into that and bring about a change because all amounts that are being given by the Central Government to the State Governments or directly to the societies are lying idle and due to this, the employment generation which was to take place, has been reduced?

**SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM :** Mr. Speaker, Sir, though the second half of the question does not deal with the Question before the House, but I think that the suggestion he has made is a positive one and I shall communicate it to the Ministers concerned. But with regard to the figures, I want to point out to him that 58 million was the figure of estimation of total number of persons requiring employment

during 1992-97. It was the number of people requiring employment. And the question asked was whether the number of unemployed persons had gone to 50 millions by 1997 to which I said 'no'.

The actual figure of 1997, according to the survey, would be approximately 28 million. I should also tell the hon. Member how I arrived at this figure. The figure of 58 millions was expected. What was created was six million jobs every year in five years. So, on subtracting 30 million from 58 millions, I arrived at 28 millions.

We must understand that the figures are only indicative. These figures are National Sample Survey Organisation figures. The truth of the matter is the last survey was done in 1994 the survey was that 9 million were totally unemployed, in other words, openly unemployed, i.e., they had no employment at all. The number of those partly employed, under the CDA Schemes, comes to 20 million. That is in 1994. Now in July, we are going to have next sample survey which will be taken. That will be in 1998-99. Normally every four years it is done. Therefore, the real accurate figure can only be given after the sample is done. At present, I am giving estimate to the hon. Member.

...(Interruptions)

**SHRI ANNASHEB M.K. PATIL:** This unemployment problem is a very important issue to the country and it is creating lot of problems, not necessarily in the younger generation, but even in various sectors of the country. It has particularly hampered every sector such as, agriculture, industry and many others. Plans have been made to achieve a targeted growth of employment, but they have failed very miserably. Therefore, I would request the hon. Minister to clarify whether he would make a categorical review to monitor the whole unemployment issue.

**SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM:** It is a suggestion which is welcome. I shall communicate it to the Labour Minister. I am sure he will let you know about it.

#### **Primary Health Centres in the States**

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\*184. **SHRI SADASHIVRAO D. MANDLIK :**  
**SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK :**

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Primary Health Centres and Community Health Centres functioning in various States in the country with State-wise break-up;

(b) whether the Government have received any request from State Governments for revamping secondary health system in the States;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government have forwarded any proposals to the World Bank in this regard;

(e) if so, the reaction of the World Bank thereto; and

(f) the funds proposed to be earmarked for secondary health system in the country for Ninth Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI) : (a) to (f) A statement is laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha.

#### *Statement*

(a) An Annexure showing the numbers of Community Health Centres and Primary Health Centres is enclosed.

(b) to (e) The State Health System Development Project with World Bank Assistance is under phased implementation in the State of Andhra Pradesh (Phase-I) and Karnataka, West Bengal and Punjab (Phase-II). Negotiations have been held from 16th to 22nd April, 1998, with the World Bank for the State Health Systems Development Project in Orissa (Phase-III). Project proposal for Maharashtra has also been posed to the World Bank for inclusion in Phase-III.

Project proposals have also been received by the Government from the States of Assam, Himachal Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Madhya Pradesh, Kerala, Delhi & Rajasthan. These are proposed to be taken up with the World Bank in a phased manner, with priority being assigned to States with low health indices.

(f) The Ministry of Health have not earmarked funds for the Secondary Health Systems in the 9th Plan as Health is a State Subject.

#### *Annexure*

*Number of PHCs and CHCs Functioning as on 30.6.97*

S.No.	State/UT	PHCs	CHCs
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1335	207
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	47	9
3.	Assam	619	105
4.	Bihar	2209	148
5.	Goa	18	5
6.	Gujarat	960	186
7.	Haryana	397	64
8.	Himachal Pradesh	260	42

	1	2	3	4
9.	J & K		335	45
10.	Karnataka		1509	232
11.	Kerala		956	80
12.	Madhya Pradesh		1376	190
13.	Maharashtra		1695	300
14.	Manipur		72	16
15.	Meghalaya		81	10
16.	Mizoram		38	6
17.	Nagaland		33	5
18.	Orissa		1056	157
19.	Punjab		484	105
20.	Rajasthan		1616	261
21.	Sikkim		24	2
22.	Tamil Nadu		1436	72
23.	Tripura		56	11
24.	Uttar Pradesh		3761	262
25.	West Bengal		1556	89
26.	A & N Islands		17	4
27.	Chandigarh		-	1
28.	D & N Haveli		6	-
29.	Daman & Diu		3	1
30.	Delhi		8	-
31.	Lakshadweep		4	3
32.	Pondicherry		43	4
All India			22010	2622

*[Translation]*

SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK : Mr. Speaker, Sir, it has been stated in the answer that the project proposal for Maharashtra has been forwarded to the World Bank. I would like to know from the Government whether it is true that the World Bank was ready to clear the proposal but the Government did not show any response in this regard? Now, what is the reason for delay in materialising it and when is the Government going to discuss the matter with the World Bank?

[English]

SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI: At the moment, the proposals of Orissa are being processed by the World Bank and at any moment we are expecting the approval of the project. With regard to Maharashtra, we will take it up in the next phase.

[Translation]

SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know for how long the matter regarding the Maharashtra Project was pending and whether it has been materialised now. Will the hon'ble Minister give a concrete reply in this regard? Has the World Bank effected any cut in the grant given for Primary Health Centres and Community Health Centres after the nuclear tests conducted by our country? If so, what will be the policy of the Government in this regard?

Mr. Speaker, Sir, it has been stated in the 9th Five Year Plan that Health Services will not be the responsibility of the Central Government, however, it is not possible as the Central Government has the responsibility to formulate the national policy. I would like to know whether a rural health policy will be formulated by the Government in 9th Five Year Plan to get the benefit of good health Services in the 21st Century?

[English]

SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI: With regard to the project in Maharashtra, it is at the stage of apprising by the World Bank. About the second point, we have not received any communication from any external agency with regard to stoppage or any problems with regard to funds that have already been agreed to for implementing the programmes.

Therefore, I do not have anything to say in respect to the question about the explosion and after that.

[Translation]

MAJOR GENERAL BHUVAN CHANDRA KHANDURI, AVSM: Mr. Speaker, Sir the figures regarding the Primary Health Centres and Community Health Centres have disparities in the case of some States. However, I would like to draw the attention of the hon'ble Minister towards hilly areas of Uttaranchal. Even today no Primary Health Centre is available there even after walking for 24 hours. It has been stated that according to the norms fixed on the basis of population, the number of Primary Health Centres have been completed. Hon'ble Minister, Sir, I would like to know when these norms were laid. The geographical situation of hilly and backward areas has not been taken into consideration while laying down these norms. Even after walking a long distance, no primary or Community Health Centre is available there. What are these norms? Are these norms laid down on the basis of time taken by a person to reach at these centres on foot or by a vehicle? 95

proposals of Primary Health Centres for the State of Uttar Pradesh and Uttaranchal are pending with Central Government. I want to know whether the approval will be granted for these 95 Primary Health Centres in Uttaranchal? What the hon'ble Minister has to say about it?

[English]

SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI: The Primary Health Centres as well as the CHCs and SHS are all institutions looked after by the respective State Governments. Uttaranchal is in Uttar Pradesh. So, the Uttar Pradesh Government has the primary responsibility to take care of these Primary Health Centres as well as the CHCs in the Uttaranchal area of Uttar Pradesh ... (Interruptions)

MAJOR GENERAL BHUVAN CHANDRA KHANDURI, AVSM: I am talking about the norms. He has said nothing about the norms. I want to know whether we require any norms. It has not been replied. The norms were laid down by the Planning Commission. ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: He is replying to that

... (Interruptions)

MAJOR GENERAL BHUVAN CHANDRA KHANDURI, AVSM: I am talking of the norms which were laid down by the Centre.

SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI: These norms have been liberalised for the hilly areas particularly with regard to a population of more than 3000 and 20,000. This is how it is being liberalised ... (Interruptions)

MAJOR GENERAL BHUVAN CHANDRA KHANDURI, AVSM: I am talking of the walking distance. Today, the pregnant women have to walk for 24 hours. Whereas he is talking of the population. ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please listen to what he is saying.

SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI: Accordingly, we have given the guidelines to the respective State Governments. It is for the State Governments to look after the hilly areas ... (Interruptions)

MAJOR GENERAL BHUVAN CHANDRA KHANDURI, AVSM: I am not talking of the population policy but the walking distance. He has not given the reply ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri K. H. Muniyappa.

... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I have allowed Shri K. H. Muniyappa.

SHRI K. H. MUNIYAPPA: Sir, in 1993, the Government of India had asked the State Governments to propose names of the district hospitals to provide an additional 200 beds in these hospitals. Accordingly, the Government of Karnataka had proposed 10 district hospitals to upgrade

them with 200-beds. Kolar district is also one of the districts where this facility is to be provided. It is to be done with the aid of the World Bank. May I know from the hon. Minister when these projects will be taken up and when they will be completed?

SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI : These projects are taken up with the World Bank in a phased manner...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KONIJETI ROSAIAH : Sir the conditions prevailing in almost all the PHCs are very horrible, most unhygienic. Doctors are not residing in many of the Centres ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Minister, have you replied to Shri Mnniyappa's supplementary?

SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI : We have a priority. Whichever States come up with their projects, we priorities them. Now, Phase-I and Phase-II have been taken up.

But with regard to Karnataka, they have already been taken up by the World Bank. As far as Karnataka is concerned, the cost of the project offered so far comes to Rs. 546 crore and the duration of the project is five-and-a-half years. This project will cover extending and renovating 21 district hospitals, 117 sub-divisional hospitals and 74 community hospitals in Karnataka.

SHRI KONIJETI ROSAIAH : Sir, the conditions in almost all the PHCs are horrible. In many of the States, the doctors are not residing in the hospitals at all. The aim of the Government of India is 'Health for all by 2000 A.D.' With these ugly conditions prevailing in almost all the PHDCs, how are you going to achieve your aim of 'Health for all by 2000 A.D.' Will you please explain?

SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI : I have no difference of opinion with the hon. Member. The conditions in the rural areas of the country are certainly prevailing as the hon. Member has said. But again, we look upon the respective State Governments to put up primary health centres or CHCs or whatever medical institutions which they are supposed to offer to the people living there. Therefore, the Central Government has hardly got anything to straightaway interfere into those areas and do things there.

SHRI KONIJETI ROSAIAH : Will you at least convene a Conference of Health Ministers and have a meeting with them to give them some views on how to improve the PHCs?

SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI : I am thankful to the hon. Member for raising this question. To begin with, we are going to hold the Southern Regional Health Ministers Conference in Andhra Pradesh on 19th and 20th of this month. We are taking all sincere efforts to see that the primary health centres, particularly the rural parts of the country, are looked after.

PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM : Our motto is 'Health for all by 2000 A.D.' We have a network of primary health centres and

community health centres as far as health of rural areas is concerned. But all is not well with the urban centres. My question is this. Is there any proposal for creating a similar set-up or network for also urban centres giving importance to reproductive and child care centres?

SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI : I am again thankful to the hon. Member. I do not have anything more to add to the pitiable conditions of the rural areas of the country. It has not just come in a short time. ...*(Interruptions)*

PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM : My question is about the urban centres? Is there any special set-up or proposal or project for improving the conditions of urban areas because all is not well with the urban areas as we think it to be? Is there any proposal for Kerala?

SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI : I do not say that everything is fine either here or there. It is not only that the people of the rural areas of the country are suffering without minimum health care but also the people in the urban areas are suffering.

PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM : Is there any new proposal for urban areas or not?

MR. SPEAKER : Please listen to him. Please take your seat.

SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI : I will assure the hon. Member that we will take into consideration any suggestion that she has to offer like constituting a committee or working out a proposal to improve the conditions in the urban areas.

SHRI C. GOPAL : I would like to know from the hon. Minister the criteria to be adopted for the selection of States for World Bank projects.

SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI : The criteria for selection of States for SHSD Project are lack of adequate facilities for medical care at primary and secondary levels, epidemiological situation in the concerned State, commitment of the State Government to undertake a health reform and commitment of the State Government to provide adequate funding for the health sector as a whole.

The criteria also include the State Health System Development Project in particular as well as an undertaking to take over the entire responsibility after the project period is over, economic backwardness of the State, including rural population, track record of the particular State in implementing the other externally-funded projects.

*[Translation]*

SHRI RAJO SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, some schemes regarding the setting up of Primary Health Centres in states have been taken up by the World Bank for which it has laid down some norms. There are many states like Orissa, Bihar etc. with whom Government has not made any correspondence in this regard. Hence, project proposals

have not been received from some backward States. Therefore, through you, I would like to know whether the efforts will be made to call for proposals from the States from where such proposals have not been received ?

*[English]*

SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI: Sir, there are also State Governments who hardly respond to the Central Government. Not only they never bother to respond to the Union Government but they also do not bother about the external agencies which come forward to aid this health sector in their respective States, particularly the States which he was referring to?

After a very great effort, the Government of Orissa have now finalised their project. The World Bank has also accepted the project. That is in the process now.

#### Construction of Ram Temple

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\*185. SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA :  
SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that construction of structures of Ram temple is being carried out at Ayodhya and Pindwara which are likely to be assembled at the Janambhoomi site in Ayodhya by Kar Sevaks;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Union Government thereto; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Union Government to protect the status-quo as ordered by the courts?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI) : (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

#### *Statement*

No construction activity is going on at the disputed Ram Janma Bhoomi-Babri Masjid site at Ayodhya. However, from various sources, reports have been received that some cutting and carving of stone pillars are going on at places away from the disputed site at Ayodhya and at some villages in Rajasthan. Carving of stones away from the disputed Ram Janma Bhoomi-Babri Masjid Site at Ayodhya does not constitute violation of any law. In compliance with the judgement dated 24.10.1994 of the Hon'ble Supreme Court regarding the Ram Janma Bhoomi Babri masjid dispute, the Central Govt., as a statutory receiver, is taking all possible steps to maintain status-quo in the disputed area.

SHRI G. M. BANATWALLA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister has said that away from the disputed site some work is going on. It is an understatement. I would say that it is a deliberate one.

The reports are that more than 30 per cent of the work has been completed and things are being sent to Ayodhya also. The Government now takes an attitude and says that the work, which is going on away from the site, does not constitute any violation of the law. That is the crux of the point.

Now, I submit that this is the language of the Vishwa Hindu Parishad and the Government is speaking the language of the President of the Vishwa Hindu Parishad who has said that there is no legal bar in making preparations at places other than the disputed site.

I would like to submit two things here. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Banatwalla, put your question, please.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : The preparations are going on a grand scale to violate the sanctity of the court orders on the site.

MR. SPEAKER : Please ask your question.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : These preparations are unlawful activities.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Banatwalla, there are others also to put questions. You please ask your question first.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI G. M. BANATWALLA : Please bear with me. I would like to know whether the Government does not consider the preparations which are going on at different places with the declared objective of bringing the prefabricated structures on the site as unlawful activities? Does the Government consider it unlawful or not?

And, whether the Government does not consider such activities as communally very provocative, detrimental to the interest of communal harmony, peace and our secular democracy? And, therefore, will the Government not take action against such unlawful, communally provocative activity? The statements are being made that they would not care for the Supreme Court and go on with the bringing of the pre-fabricated structures at the site.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Member's question is, whether the construction that is going on either in Ayodhya, away from the site, or in some village in Rajasthan, is an illegal activity or not. I would reiterate what the Government and the Prime Minister had said yesterday. What I propose to reiterate is not the view either of this Government or of the Vishwa Hindu Parishad but it is the view of the Gujral Government when Shri Indrajit Gupta was the Home Minister. I would like to once again quote what he had said because this construction work has been going on since 1991. In Mid 1997 when an objection was raised to this construction work, Shri Indrajit Gupta replied to Shri Maulana Azad Madni, "I have had the matter examined. No construction activity. ...*(Interruptions)*"

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : Sir, it cannot be quoted here. This is wrong. The reply given in the other House cannot be quoted here. ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please let him complete.

... (Interruptions)

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : It is a matter of Rule.

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seat. This is not proper.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : What is being done is not proper. It is against the Rule. There are clear Rules.

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seat. Let him complete first. You have to ask second supplementary also.

... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : We are not having a discussion on the subject. This is a Question-Hour.

SHRI L. K. ADVANI : Sir, this is a letter written on 24th January, 1998. I quote:

"I have had the matter examined. No construction activity is going on at the disputed site. It is a fact that some cutting and craving of stone pillars is going in a workshop established by the VHP, which is 2 Kms. away from the disputed site. Since this activity *per se* does not constitute any violation of the law, it would not be possible for the Government of India or the District Administration to take any action in the matter."

... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seat.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI : The question asked to me is, what is the view of my Government. This Government endorses the view that has been taken by the Gujral Government.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : It is not merely some activity going on but now, it is an activity in full swing with great communal consequences and that must be realised. The context of the whole thing has to be realised that when there is a communal threat, the threat must be recognised and in the interest of communal harmony and peace. (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please ask your supplementary. Please understand the position. There are other Members also who wish to ask supplementary on this Question.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : Sir, please understand me also.

MR. SPEAKER : You may then put your supplementary.

SHRI G. M. BANATWALLA : Sir, I have put it very clearly that the activity which is going on in full swing at various places is detrimental to communal harmony.

MR. SPEAKER : This has already been replied by the Minister.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : He has replied to only one point. ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Akbar Ahmad, you must have some patience.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : The hon. Minister tells us that all possible steps are being taken to maintain *status quo*. Will he please give us the details of all those possible steps being taken there in order to maintain *status quo*? What are those steps that are being taken, specially when such large scale preparations are going on and the Government is a mere silent spectator to such full swing work that is going on in violation of the *status quo*?

SHRI L.K. ADVANI : Sir, in my statement, I have referred to the judgement of the Supreme Court that was given on 24-10-1994. As per the judgement, all the pending suits and other proceedings related to the disputed area have been revived for final adjudication of the dispute by the Allahabad High Court. The judgement casts a duty on the Central Government to maintain *status quo* in the disputed area till the adjudication is made in the title suits, for implementation of the final decision therein. Now, in pursuance of this directive of the Supreme Court, the Central Government has appointed the Divisional Commissioner, Faizabad, as the authorised person under section 7(2) of the Act. And for the last several years since this judgement, from 1994 onwards till this date, *status quo* has been scrupulously maintained at the disputed site. There has been no change in the *status quo*.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : Sir you will appreciate that Ayodhya issue is a very sensitive issue. In our National Agenda for Governance, nothing is mentioned about Ayodhya issue because of its sensitive nature. As per the verdict of the court, there should not be any construction in the disputed area. In the interest of integrity of this country, we have to consider this matter very seriously. What is the stand of the Government in regard to construction work going on in an area adjoining the disputed area? Will the Government keep a vigilant eye and take necessary steps so that the court verdict is not defied; so that people's sentiments are not hurt; and so that a wrong message is not sent across to the people in the country?

Hindus and Muslims should work together. ... (Interruptions) We should not talk on party-lines. I am asking this question in the interest of the country. ... (Interruptions)

The Government should assure the House that construction work will not be allowed even in the areas adjoining the disputed area in Ayodhya. I want a clarification from the hon. Minister in this regard.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I appreciate the concern expressed by the hon. Member. It was in order to express our concern on this issue that in reply to the Congress President, the Prime Minister of the country said:

"When the National Agenda for Governance was drafted and adopted as the policy blueprint for my Government, my party and its allies unanimously and consciously decided to keep the Ayodhya issue out. We did so because of our paramount commitment to national security, communal harmony and socio-economic development. We did so also out of profound faith in the wisdom of the Indian people to sort out all contentious issues amicably in conditions of stable peace and all-round development."

Sir, I am sorry to say once again, what I have already said. While the Government has been keen to keep the Ayodhya issue out of the centre stage, it is the Opposition which is trying to bring it back to the centre stage.

SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Member's question has not been replied to by the Minister.

12.00 hrs.

[Translation]

SHRI LALU PRASAD : I would like to know from the Hon'ble Home Minister ... (Interruptions) Hon'ble Home Minister might remember that it was stated during the meeting of the National Integration Council that nobody will be allowed near the mosque. Only rounds around the 'Mandir' will be allowed and no harm will be made to the mosque. Your commitment was violated. Mosque was destroyed. You failed to protect it ... (Interruptions) I am asking the question only.

Secondly, Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh was sentenced to jail for one day by the Supreme Court for not obeying its orders. The person who violated the orders and demolished the mosque has not become the Protector ... (Interruptions) Therefore, I would like to ask the Hon'ble Home Minister whether he will handover the disputed mosque to army or not.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Question Hour is over.

## WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

### Family Planning Programme

\*186. PROF. P.J. KURIEN :  
SHRI RANJIB BISWAL :

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the family planning programme has suffered a serious setback;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether any revised Action Plan has been formulated by the Government to control the population growth;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) the time by which it is likely to be implemented;
- (f) the target set for the current century; and
- (g) the achievement made in family planning State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI) : (a) to (g) It is not right to say that Family Welfare Programme has suffered a serious setback. Actually, for the country as a whole, Birth Rate has reduced from 29.5 per 1000 population in 1991 to 27.5 in 1996, and the Infant Mortality Rate has declined during this period from 80 per 1000 live births to 72. According to Sample Registration System Survey of 1996 conducted by the Registrar General of India, improvement in reducing Birth Rate during 1996 has been considerably larger than during the preceding years. There has also been significant reduction in Infant Mortality. It is, however, a fact that the situation in all the States is not similar. While the States of Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Goa have already achieved the replacement level of Fertility of 2.1 or below, and the States of Maharashtra, Gujarat, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Punjab and West Bengal are doing well enough to achieving the Goals set for the year 2000 in National Health Policy, some of the States like Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, Rajasthan, Orissa and Assam have to strengthen their Programmes substantially. The National Health Policy had accepted the Goal of reducing the Birth Rate to 21, and Infant Mortality Rate to less than 60 by 2000 A.D. The figures of State-wise achievements are given in the Statement enclosed.

An important initiative taken by the Government in 1995 was to seek to eradicate Polio from the Country by the year 2000. With this Objective, the Strategy of Pulse Polio Immunisation (PPI) under which all the Children below the

age of 5 years are given Polio Vaccine Drops, on two days separated by about 6 weeks during the winter season every year. Such PPI days have been successfully organised, during the last three years. Effective organisation with the help of State Governments, and large mobilisation of Non-Government Organisations has ensured success of PPI. During PPI in December, 97/January, 1998, coverage achieved has been 105% both in Rural and Urban Areas. This year, 131 million Children have been provided Polio Vaccine Drops. As a consequence, incidence of Polio has come down from 4791 in 1994 to 1005 in 1996.

The Government has made the important Policy Reform of giving up the practice of fixing Targets arbitrarily from above for individual Contraceptives with effect from April, 1996. The practice of fixing Targets for individual Contraceptives suffers from the defects that Targets did not reflect the felt needs of the people, Targets focus attention on achieving numbers only with quality of care becoming secondary, and Targets were leading to some false reporting to somehow show achievement. In the months following withdrawal of Targets, the reported figures for Sterilisation, IUD Insertions and Condom Users registered a decline. To some extent, such decline was expected, because there was no longer pressure for somehow meeting the Targets. But, to some extent, in some States, complacency among Health Workers was noticed. The Government organised effective remedial measures. The mechanism for working out the requirement of local community, through participatory planning, and consultation at the village level was worked out, and Target Free Manual for help of health functionaries was prepared and disseminated all over the Country. Nation wide intensive training, of all level of health functionaries was organised, and as a result Sterilisations in 1997-98 have increased by 5.7% over the 1996-97 level, IUD insertions have improved by 7.3%, and Oral Pill users have increased by 20.6%, while number of Condom users is roughly at the level of the previous year. The Government is continuing the intensive effort in this direction, and the Manual for consultation mechanism with the community has been revised, and has been disseminated. Retraining of health functionaries is being continued, and improvement during 1998-99 is expected to be larger than was the case in the previous year.

In the long run, Population gets controlled by addressing the Reproductive and Child Health (RCH) needs of people. Therefore, while the Government is strengthening measures for helping people avoid unwanted pregnancy by using contraceptive methods, strengthened Reproductive and Child Health Programme has been operationalised since 1997-98, for improving Reproductive and Child Health Services. Under RCH Programme, arrangements for emergency obstetric care are being substantially strengthened. Immunisation, Oral Rehydration and Vit. A Administration Programmes are being strengthened, to achieve 100% coverage. Training and Information Education & Communication Programmes are being strengthened, by involving Panchayati Raj Functionaries prominently in this effort.

**Statement****Crude Birth Rate (CBR) and Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) by States, 1991 and 1996**

Sl. No.	Name of State/UT	IMR		CBR	
		1991	1996	1991	1996
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	73	65	26.0	22.8
2.	Assam	81	74	30.9	27.6
3.	Bihar	69	71	30.7	32.1
4.	Gujarat	69	61	27.5	25.7
5.	Haryana	68	68	33.1	28.8
6.	Karnataka	77	53	26.9	23.0
7.	Kerala	16	14	18.3	18.0
8.	Madhya Pradesh	117	97	35.8	32.3
9.	Maharashtra	60	48	26.2	23.4
10.	Orissa	124	96	28.2	27.0
11.	Punjab	53	51	27.0	23.7
12.	Rajasthan	79	85	35.0	32.04
13.	Tamil Nadu	57	53	20.8	19.5
14.	Uttar Pradesh	97	85	35.7	34.0
15.	West Bengal	71	55	27.0	22.8
16.	Arunachal Pradesh	NA	54	30.9	21.9
17.	Goa	NA	15	16.8	14.4
18.	Himachal Pradesh	75	62	28.5	23.0
19.	Jammu & Kashmir	NA	NA	NA	NA
20.	Manipur	NA	28	20.1	19.6
21.	Meghalaya	NA	48	32.4	30.4
22.	Mizoram	NA	25	NA	15.1
23.	Nagaland	NA	07	15.8	NA
24.	Sikkim	NA	47	22.5	20.0
25.	Tripura	NA	49	24.4	18.4
26.	A&N Islands	NA	27	20.0	18.5
27.	Chandigarh	NA	45	13.9	17.5
28.	D&N Haveli	NA	71	31.1	28.9

1	2	3	4	5	6
29.	Daman & Diu	NA	43	27.9	21.6
30.	Delhi	NA	44	27.4	21.6
31.	Lakshadweep	NA	36	27.1	23.4
32.	Pondicherry	NA	25	19.2	18.1
All India		80	72	29.5	27.5

Source : Sample Registration System of Registrar General, India.

Note : Not Available.

#### Miserable Condition of Tribals

\*187. SHRI BHERU LAL MEENA :  
SHRI FAGGAN SINGH KULESTE :

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the condition of tribals in different parts of the country particularly in Rajasthan has not improved inspite of Development of Tribal Sub-Plan being under implementation;

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

(c) the amount allocated and spent under development of Sub-Plan since 1994-95, State-wise;

(d) the details of procedure being followed for allocation of funds;

(e) whether any monitoring is done on the expenditure incurred and the work done annually; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) A statement is placed on the Table of the House.

(d) Under Tribal-Sub-Plan strategy, the States/UTs having Tribal Sub-Plan are required to earmark funds atleast in proportion to the ST population in the State/UT. Pooling of funds has also been envisaged from sources like Central Scheme, Centrally Sponsored Schemes, State Plan and Institutional Finance. It has also been suggested to the TSP States/UTs to operate the model which has already been adopted in Maharashtra. According to this model, the entire TSP funds are placed at the disposal of State Tribal prioritisation and allocation of funds to various Departments.

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

#### Statement

*State/UTs wise amount allocated and spent under Tribal Sub-Plan out of State Plan Resources for development of Scheduled Tribes since 1994-95*

(Rs. in crores)

S. No.	State/UTs	1994-95		1995-96		1996-97		1997-98	
		Amount Allocated	Amount Spent	Amount Allocated	Amount Spent	Amount Allocated	Amount Spent	Amount Allocated	Amount Spent#
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1.	Andhra Pradesh	78.76	56.44	125.88	69.89	55.19	55.20	191.93	
2.	Assam	109.75	#	147.00	114.65	113.68	*116.07	132.65	
3.	Bihar	597.02	#	687.02	#	-	#	-	
4.	Gujarat	237.75	223.91	308.76	259.16	339.70	339.71	489.06	
5.	Himachal Pradesh	58.50	#	67.50	#	81.00	#	90.72	
6.	Jammu & Kashmir	87.87	#	119.57	#	-	#	231.12	
7.	Karnataka	47.85	#	67.68	#	79.81	#	84.98	
8.	Kerala	24.65	#	24.32	#	30.45	#	19.42	

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
9.	Madhya Pradesh	627.72	515.94	685.66	587.66	623.24	623.24	590.64	
10.	Maharashtra	330.00	#	412.50	#	535.00	#	550.00	
11.	Manipur	85.72	86.12	119.88	92.98	126.93	126.93	160.77	
12.	Orissa	348.40	#	568.85	#	432.35	#	576.62	
13.	Rajasthan	187.12	#	305.45	#	342.22	#	390.17	
14.	Sikkim	17.00	#	13.12	#	-	#	11.56	
15.	Tamil Nadu	28.33	20.05	36.39	24.63	39.42	30.00	-	
16.	Tripura	88.75	81.25	93.84	86.21	107.28	107.98	125.94	
17.	Uttar Pradesh	2.60	#	2.87	#	-	#	32.00	
18.	West Bengal	77.03	#	75.67	#	54.86	#	102.79	
19.	A & N Islands	24.19	2.23	30.74	1.55	-	1.62	25.52	
20.	Daman & Diu	2.22	1.72	2.80	2.28	3.06	3.06	2.73	
Total		3061.23	987.66	3895.50	1239.01	2964.19	1403.81	3808.62	

# Not reported.

\* Anticipated expenditure.

- TSP was not finalised.

#### Welfare of Women and Children

\*188. SHRI MADHAV RAO PATIL : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have started child survival and safe motherhood programme for the welfare of women and children;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of districts in the country included under this programme till date State-wise; and

(d) the details of other schemes launched by the Government for the welfare of women and children?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI) : (a) to (d) The ongoing Programmes for Universal Immunization for six Vaccine preventable diseases, Oral Rehydration Therapy to prevent deaths of Children due to dehydration resulting from diarrhoea, and Maternal Health designed for related specific objectives were strengthened and integrated in the form of Child Survival and Safe Motherhood Programme in 1992-93. Such integration was felt necessary, because various Maternal and Child Health Programmes are inter-dependent.

Under the Child Survival and Safe Motherhood (CSSM) Programme, all the Districts of the Country were covered by

1996-97, CSSM Programme was approved by the Government, and was implemented during 1992-98.

The main components of the Programme were:

- i. The Universal Immunization Programme-mass immunisation of Women and Children against six Vaccine preventable diseases viz.: Diphtheria; Pertusis, Childhood TB, Polio, Measles and Neo-Natal Tetanus.
- ii. The Diarrhoea Control Programme aiming at reducing deaths of Children below five years.
- iii. The Acute Respiratory Infection (Pneumonia) Control Programme.
- iv. Prevention and Control of Vitamin A deficiency.
- v. Improving emergency Obstetric Care through setting up of First Referral Units (FRUs) at Community Health Centres/Sub-District level.
- vi. Dais Training for promoting safe delivery services.

Effective interventions to control Acute Respiratory Infections through availability of anti-pneumonia drug through Auxilliary Nurse Midwife, and strengthening of 1748 sub-District Hospital as First Referral Units for provision of emergency obstetric care were very sizeable additional achievements of CSSM Programme.

Beginning from 1997-98, the CSSM Programme has been further re-organised and strengthened in the form of Reproductive and Child Health (RCH) Programme. This Programme has become operational since September, 1997. The Reproductive & Child Health Programme continues the Policy of integration of related programmes, so that all the relevant needs of citizens relating to Maternal and Child Health matters can be addressed effectively.

In view of the fact that Reproductive Tract Infections/ Sexually Transmitted Infections (RTI/STI) afflict a large number of men and women, affecting not only their own health and well being but, frequently, also the health of the new born, facilities for RTI/STI are being strengthened at District and sub-District Levels all over the Country. Under the RCH Programme, facilities for Maternal and Child Health related matters will be continued and strengthened, but specifically facilities for emergency Obstetric Care, Medical Termination of Pregnancy, and institutional deliveries will be strengthened at District and sub-District levels. Keeping in view the fact that the RCH Status of the Tribal Population and of population in Urban slums is poor, compared to general Rural Population and also considering that health care facilities for these segments of population have tended to remain weak in the past, special additional strengthening has been provided for such areas. The main emphasis in the RCH Programme is being given, on improving the quality of services to citizens, and on giving primary importance to the felt needs of the users. Under the RCH, Panchayat Raj Institutions will be prominently involved, for supportive and advocacy functions, and Non-Government Sector including NGOs and the Non-Government Medical Sector, will be involved in improving availability of services to the people.

#### Welfare and Rehabilitation of Child Labour

\*189. SHRI MAHESH KANODIA :  
SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY :

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether a survey has been conducted on child labour recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating the number of child labour in the country, State-wise; and

(c) the steps taken for the welfare and rehabilitation of these child labour, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) to (c) The Hon'ble Supreme Court in their judgement dated 10.12.98 had given certain directions regarding the manner in which the children working in hazardous occupations are to be withdrawn and the manner in which working conditions of children working in non-hazardous occupations are to be regulated and improved upon. One of the important directions of the Supreme Court relates to completion of survey for the identification of children working in hazardous and non-hazardous occupations to be completed within a period of one year. As per the directions of the Supreme Court, the State/UT

Governments have undertaken survey for the identification of working children. In compliance with the directions of the Supreme Court, an affidavit dated 5.12.97 was filed before the Supreme Court indicating, *inter alia*, the number of children identified during the course of survey. A statement indicating the number of children identified in the first phase of survey is enclosed.

Child Labour is a deep-rooted socio-economic problem which needs sustained efforts over a long period of time. Considering the nature and magnitude of the problem a gradual and sequential approach has been adopted to rehabilitate child labour. The rehabilitation of children working in hazardous occupations has been taken up in the first instance. Under the National Child Labour Project Scheme, special schools with provision for non-formal education, vocational training, nutrition, health check, etc. are set up for the rehabilitation of working children. So far 76 National Child Labour Projects have been set up for the rehabilitation of around 1.5 lakh children working in hazardous occupations.

#### Statement

Statement indicating the number of children identified during the first phase of survey as per the directions of Supreme Court

	Hazardous Occupations	Non-Hazardous Occupations	Total
1	2	3	4
			5
1. Andaman and Nicobar Island U.T.	0	38	38
2. Andhra Pradesh	7769	39000	46769
3. Arunachal Pradesh	24	1095	1119
4. Assam	92	9712	9804
5. Bihar	24879	Yet to be finalised	24879
6. Chandigarh U.T.	0	44	44
7. Dadra & Nagar Haveli U.T.	0	0	0
8. Daman & Diu U.T.	0	0	0
9. Delhi U.T.	10	960	970
10. Goa	35	74	109
11. Gujarat	1417	172	1589
12. Haryana	7	2813	2820
13. Himachal Pradesh	83	231	314
14. Jammu & Kashmir	19818	4417	24235
15. Karnataka	7190	89077	96267

1	2	3	4	5
16. Kerala		1081	8986	10067
17. Lakshadweep UT		0	0	0
18. Madhya Pradesh		11242	3567	14809
19. Maharashtra		1031	20302	21333
20. Manipur		0	589	589
21. Meghalaya		246	3636	3882
22. Mizoram		0	0	0
23. Nagaland				
24. Orissa		23761	19146	215222
25. Pondicherry U.T.		0	617	617
26. Punjab		91	3523	3614
27. Rajasthan		3026	5064	8090
28. Sikkim		0	Yet to be finalised	0
29. Tamil Nadu		9493	8828	18321
30. Tripura		11	264	275
31. Uttar Pradesh		15105	18043	33148
32. West Bengal		254	15792	16046
<b>Total (Provisional)</b>		<b>126665</b>	<b>428305</b>	<b>554970</b>

[Translation]

**Cataract Patients**

\*190. SHRI MOTILAL VORA :  
SHRI JANARDAN PRASAD MISRA :

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the number of cataract patients is increasing continuously in different parts of the country;

(b) if so, the estimated number of patients suffering from this disease annually particularly upto March 31, 1998;

(c) whether the Government propose to take any concrete steps to eradicate this disease;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI) : (a) There is an increase in the numbers of Cataract Patients due to the increase of elderly population as Cataract is a degenerative disease that affects older age groups.

(b) The annual incidence of Cataract Blindness is estimated to be 20 lakhs.

(c) to (e) Cataract Blindness cannot be eradicated. However, therefore, the Government launched a National Programme for Control of Blindness in 1976 as 100% centrally sponsored scheme with the objective of reducing its prevalence level from 1.49% to 0.3% of the population by 2000 AD. Under the programme, Regional Institutes of Ophthalmology, medical colleges, district hospitals and block level primary health care centres were up-graded/strengthened; and provision made for extending technical training to the staff and supply of equipments and consumables to them.

With a view to remove the heavy backlog of persons suffering from cataract blindness a project with credit secured from World Bank is being implemented in States of Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh which have shown levels of blindness higher than the national average. The assistance provided to States under the project, includes equipment support, construction of eye wards/operation theatres, training of eye surgeons in Intraocular lens implantation and mobilising support of the voluntary organisations etc. Since the launching of this project, the budgetary allocations for the programme have increased to Rs. 75 crores during the current year from Rs. 20 crores prior to 1994 and annual cataract surgeries performed has increased from 19.13 lakhs to 30 lakhs.

[English]

**Fertilizers and Chemicals Travancore Limited**

\*191. SHRI CHENGARA SURENDRAN : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of cases in respect of which the Disinvestment Commission has suggested disinvestment of shares so far;

(b) the number of cases in which final decision has been taken together with the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Commission has recommended disinvestment of 51 per cent in Fertilizers And Chemicals Travancore Limited (FACT);

(d) whether a delegation of employees of FACT met the Minister and urged him not to accept the recommendations made by the said Commission; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the decisions taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SARDAR SURJIT SINGH BARNALA) : (a) The Disinvestment Commission has suggested disinvestment of government equity in five public sector undertakings under the administrative control of the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers. These public sector undertakings are (1) Madras Fertilizers Limited (MFL); (2) Pyrites, Phosphates and Chemicals Limited (PPCL); (3) Fertilizers and Chemicals Travancore Limited (FACT); (4) National Fertilizers Limited (NFL); and (5) Indian Petrochemicals Corporation Limited (IPCL).

(b) On economic considerations, it has been decided to take appropriate steps for sale of 50% of the shares of Madras Fertilizers Limited (MFL).

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir.

(e) The recommendations of the Disinvestment Commission for disinvestment of government equity in Fertilizers and Chemicals Travancore Limited (FACT) are being examined.

#### Import of Blood

\*192. SHRI P. UPENDRA :  
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY :

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a shortage of blood in hospitals and in various Blood Banks in the country;

(b) if so, the details of total shortage of blood indicating the annual requirement of blood;

(c) whether the Government propose to import blood;

(d) if so, the main reasons for importing blood and the total quantity likely to be imported, country-wise;

(e) the total amount involved therein; and

(f) the precautions taken by the Government to avoid the risk of HIV contamination in the imported blood?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI) : (a) Though there is occasional and seasonal shortage of Blood in some Hospitals and Blood Banks in the country, overall there is no reported serious shortage.

(b) The requirement of Blood as per WHO norms of 7 units of Blood per Hospital Bed per annum is about 42.00 lakh units. As against this, the availability of blood is 30.39 lakh units. Both these figures are based on the Central Bureau of Health Intelligence Report of 1987-89.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) to (f) Do not arise.

#### Multipurpose Identity Card

\*193. SHRI C.D. GAMIT:  
SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to issue multi-purpose identity cards to all adult citizens in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating *inter-alia* the reasons and the necessity thereof and also the purpose for which the card is likely to be used;

(c) whether the Government have consulted the State Governments in the matter;

(d) if so, the details of the reaction of the State Governments in this regard;

(e) the expenditure involved in issuing the Identity Cards to the citizens and whether any portion of the same is likely to be borne by the States;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the time by which the proposal is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L. K. ADVANI) : (a) to (g) The proposal is to issue multipurpose National Identity Cards to all citizens of 14 years and above. Persons below 14 years are to be compulsorily registered under Registration of Births & Deaths Act, 1969. The names of such persons are to be included in their father's/mother's cards. Separate coloured cards are proposed to be issued to non-citizens. The multipurpose National Identity Cards will help in easy identification of persons to check illegal immigration and infiltration and to trace criminals and subversives. These Cards will also be used for the purposes of issuing passports, driving licences, ration cards, health care, admission in educational institutions, employment in public/private sector, life and general insurance as also for maintenance of land records and urban property holdings.

The Central Election Commission and some State Governments had earlier emphasized the need for National Identity Cards. The details of expenditure to be incurred on the scheme are being worked out. It is proposed that the expenditure be shared equally between the Central and the State Governments. The State Governments will be consulted in finalising the scheme. Its implementation will be taken up then after a central legislation for the purpose has been enacted.

#### Cancer Prone Areas

\*194. SHRI N. DENNIS : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the cases of Oral Cancer has been increasing in some parts of the country;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor, State-wise;

(c) whether the Government have identified the cancer prone areas in the country;

(d) if so, the details of those areas identified so far, State-wise; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to control and reduce the increasing rate of cancer from such areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI) : (a) and (b) According to the five urban population based Cancer Registries (Mumbai, Bangalore, Madras, Delhi and Bhopal), functioning under National Cancer Registry Programme of Indian Council of Medical Research for last one decade, oral cancers have been more or less stable, except for men at Madras which have shown a slight increase. Tobacco use is the major cause of oral cancer in the entire country.

(c) and (d) The incidence of cancer cases is reported from all over the country.

(e) Following schemes are being implemented under the National Cancer Control Programme for early detection, creating awareness and treatment of cancer:

- (i) Upgradation of Regional Cancer Centres in various States/UTs.
- (ii) Development of Oncology wings in identified Medical Colleges/Hospitals.
- (iii) Setting up of Cobalt Therapy facilities in various parts of the country.
- (vi) District Cancer Control Project.
- (v) Financial assistance to NGOs for early detection and awareness activities.

#### **Drugs and Formulations**

\*195. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether prices of some drugs and formulations have been revised during the last one year and the current year;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the facts and the circumstances leading to such revisions; and

(d) the manner in which the essential drugs required for treatment of diseases included under the National Health Programme remain within the reach of the common man?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SARDAR SURJIT SINGH BARNALA) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Prices have been reduced in respect of 5 bulk drugs (Ranitidine, Rifampicin, Mebhydroline Napadisylate, Metronidazole and Benzozate) and increased in case of one bulk drug (Pheniramine Maleate). Prices of formulations based on the bulk drugs are revised accordingly.

(c) The prices have been revised as per the provisions in paras, 3,7,8,9,10 and 11 of DPCO, 1995, and taking into account changes in custom's duty, rupee exchange rates etc.

(d) To achieve increased availability of drugs at competitive prices, including of drugs required for treatment of diseases under the National Health Programme, industrial licensing has been abolished in almost all cases except for a few drugs, in accordance with the "Modifications in Drug Policy, 1986" announced in September, 1994. Drugs having high turn over and required for treatment of diseases under the National Health Programme like Rifampicin, Chloroquine, Insulin, Streptomycin etc., are under price control as per the criteria laid down in the Drug Policy.

[Translation]

#### **Ayurvedic Colleges**

\*196. SHRI CHINMAYANAND SWAMI : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Ayurvedic Colleges functioning in the country, State-wise;

(b) whether the demand of Ayurvedic Colleges has been increasing continuously in the country;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government propose to set up new Ayurvedic Colleges in the country;

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

(f) the steps taken by Government to meet the demand of Ayurvedic Colleges?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI) : (a) A statement (i) is laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. According to information received from the Central Council of Indian Medicine, the demand for setting up of new Ayurvedic Colleges in the country has been increasing. Statement (ii) indicating the number of Colleges functioning in the country year-wise, for the period 1989-90 to 1997-98 is laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha.

(d) The Department has no proposal, at present, to set up a new Ayurveda College.

(e) The Department has already set up the National Institute of Ayurveda, Jaipur and is funding the Institute of Post-Graduate Training and Research, Jamnagar. The Department is also providing financial assistance to existing Under-Graduate and Post-Graduate Colleges of Ayurveda for strengthening and upgradation.

(f) Department is concerned about mushrooming growth of substandard Ayurvedic Colleges, and the emphasis is on strengthening the facilities and improving the Standard of Education of the already existing Colleges of Ayurveda.

The Department would support the opening of only those Colleges, in areas where there is a genuine demand, and which fulfil the Minimum Standards of Education prescribed by Central Council of Indian Medicine.

**Statement-I**

*State-wise details of Ayurvedic Colleges functioning in the Country*

S.No.	State/U.T.	Number of Graduation Colleges	Number of PostGraduation Colleges
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	4	1
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0	0
3.	Assam	1	0
4.	Bihar	9	1
5.	Delhi	1	0
6.	Goa	1	0
7.	Gujarat	9	2
8.	Haryana	4	0
9.	Himachal Pradesh	1	0
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	0	0
11.	Karnataka	40	2
12.	Kerala	5	1
13.	Madhya Pradesh	7	2
14.	Maharashtra	37	15
15.	Manipur	0	0
16.	Meghalaya	0	0

	1	2	3	4
17. Mizoram			0	0
18. Nagaland			0	0
19. Orissa			4	1
20. Punjab			8	1
21. Rajasthan			2	2
22. Sikkim			2	0
23. Tamilnadu			4	0
24. Tripura			0	0
25. Uttar Pradesh			12	4
26. West Bengal			1	1
27. Andaman and Nicobar Island			0	0
28. Chandigarh			1	1
29. Dadar and Nagar Haveli			0	0
30. Daman & Din			0	0
31. Lakshdweep			0	0
32. Pondicherry			0	0
<b>Total</b>			<b>154</b>	<b>33</b>

Note:

0 = NIL

x = As on 1.4.1998

xx= As on 1.4.1997

Data is provisional

**Statement -II**

*Year-wise number of Ayurvedic Post-graduation Colleges functioning since 1989-90*

Data is Provisional

Year	No. of Colleges
1	2
1989-90	98
1990-91	104
1991-92	118
1992-93	132

1	2
1993-94	134
1994-95	135
1995-96	139
1996-97	144
1997-98	154

**Scheme for Medicinal Plant**

\*197. SHRI ANAND RATNA MAURYA :  
SHRI PANKAJ CHOUDHRY:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government have formulated any scheme to promote medicinal plants;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the States where the said scheme is implemented;
- (d) the quantum of funds proposed to be provided to States under this scheme, State-wise; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Government to implement this scheme in all the States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Department of Indian Systems of Medicine and Homoeopathy has the following schemes for growing of medicinal plants and development of Agro-techniques for cultivation of these medicinal plants:—

- (i) Central Scheme for development and cultivation of Medicinal Plants.
- (ii) Central Scheme for development of Agro-techniques and cultivation of medicinal plants used in Ayurveda, Siddha, Unani and Homoeopathy.

The Department of Family Welfare has also introduced the following schemes for promotion of medicinal plants.

- (iii) Improving awareness and availability of ISM remedies.
- (iv) Setting-up of Vanaspati Vans.

(c) The list of the States where the Schemes indicated at Sl. No. (i) and (ii) above are being implemented is annexed as Statement.

(d) and (e) There is no State-wise Allocation of Funds for these Schemes. The Schemes are circulated among organisations and States/U.T's Governments for submitting

Projects which are considered by designated Screening Committee for approval keeping in view the eligibility criteria, suitability and sustainability of proposals. An outlay of Rs 150.00 lakh is proposed for the Schemes indicated at Sl. No. (i) and (ii). No separate Funds have been earmarked for the Schemes at Sl. No. (iii) and (iv) above.

**Statement**

1. Andhra Pradesh
2. Arunachal Pradesh
3. Assam
4. Delhi
5. Gujarat
6. Haryana
7. Himachal Pradesh
8. Jammu & Kashmir
9. Kerala
10. Karnataka
11. Madhya Pradesh
12. Maharashtra
13. Orissa
14. Punjab
15. Rajasthan
16. Tripura
17. Tamil nadu
18. Uttar Pradesh
19. West Bengal

[English]

**Death due to Tobacco Use**

\*198. SHRI MUKUL WASNIK : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Tobacco use kills 10 Lakh Indians per year" appearing in the 'Asian Age', dated May 15, 1998;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to launch a massive and effective action plan to curb tobacco use;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) If not, the reaction of the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI) : (a) to (d) The Government is aware of the news item.

Estimates from Indian Council of Medical Research show that about 8 lakh persons die in India every year due to Tobacco use.

The Government has intensified its efforts to discourage people from Tobacco consumption. Under the administrative instructions, Tobacco smoking is prohibited in Hospitals, Dispensaries and other Health Care Establishments, Educational institutions, Conference rooms, domestic air flights, air conditioned chair cars and air conditioned sleeper coaches in Trains, sub-urban Trains and air-conditioned Buses under the control of Government of India. Smoking has also been prohibited in public places and public conveyances in the National Capital Territory of Delhi. In addition, the following measures have been taken to discourage consumption of Tobacco:-

- (i) As per the Cigarettes (Regulation of Production, Supply and Distribution) Act, 1975, it is mandatory to display health warning in all cartons/packets of cigarettes.
- (ii) Under the Prevention of Food Adulteration Rules 1955, a warning 'Chewing of tobacco is injurious to health' is mandatory on chewing tobacco products.
- (iii) Direct advertisements relating to tobacco or tobacco related products are prohibited on Doordarshan, and All India Radio.
- (iv) The Government has advised the State Governments to discourage the consumption of products containing chewing tobacco, including Gutka. They have also been advised to ensure that tobacco products are not sold around educational institutions such as schools, colleges.
- (v) Health Education.

Under the National Cancer Control Programme, emphasis is being given on awareness and early detection of cancer.

A proposal is under consideration, to bring forward a comprehensive legislation against the use of tobacco in the country. The Ministry is examining what other steps can be taken to stop/discourage the use of chewing Tobacco and Gutka.

[Translation]

#### Multinational Companies in Pharma Industry

\*199. SHRI R.S. GAVAI : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILISERS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government have received any proposal from the multinational companies for investing in pharmaceuticals;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, company-wise;
- (c) the present position of those proposals and the details of the proposals cleared so far; and
- (d) the policy of the Government regarding the investment in the pharmaceutical sector by the multinational companies?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SARDAR SURJIT SINGH BARNALA) : (a) to (d) The policy relating to foreign investment in drugs and pharmaceuticals sector is contained in "Modifications in Drug Policy, 1986" announced in September, 1994 which is available in the Parliament Library. Briefly, investment upto 51% is permitted in the case of bulk drugs, their intermediates and formulations. Investment above 51% is considered on a case to case basis in areas where investment is otherwise not forthcoming, particularly in the manufacture of bulk drugs from basic stages and their intermediates, and bulk drugs produced by the use of recombinant DNA technology as well as specific cell/tissue targetted formulations. Proposals for foreign investment upto 51% are cleared through automatic route by the Reserve Bank of India without reference to the Government. Proposals involving investment above 51% are considered in the Foreign Investment Promotion Board. A list of applications received from multinational companies in the year 1997-98 with details thereof and decisions taken is enclosed as Statement.

#### Statement

S.No.	Name of Foreign Company	Proposed Area of Activity	Remarks
1	2	3	4
1.	M/s Zenith Ltd., Mauritius	For manufacture of pharmaceuticals for 100% export	Approved
2.	M/s Finchimica, Italy	For manufacture of Cefazidime formulations for 100% export.	Approved
3.	M/s Ethypharma SA, France	Setting up a 100% subsidiary for marketing of formulations	Rejected as the proposal did not conform to the provisions laid down in the Modifications in the Drug Policy, 1986

1	2	3	4
4.	M/s SmithKline Beecham, Plc., UK	For manufacture, marketing and distribution of pharmaceuticals. The products listed were analgesics, anti-pyretics, antacids, laxatives etc.	Rejected as the proposal did not conform to the provisions laid down in the Modifications in the Drug Policy, 1986
5.	(i) M/s Berlin Chemie AG, Berlin  (ii) M/s Menarini Participations SA, Luxembourg	For manufacture of medicaments containing antibiotics, vitamin medicaments and others	Rejected as the proposal did not conform to the provisions laid down in the Modifications in the Drug Policy, 1986

[English]

**Free Vaccination Facilities to Hepatitis Virus Affected Children**

\*200. SHRI N.K. PREMCHANDRAN : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to undertake the free vaccination facilities for Hepatitis Virus affected children below the age of 5 years;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reactions of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI) : (a) to (c) Hepatitis B Vaccine is effective for protection against Hepatitis B infection. If given in early infancy, it will protect children from getting infected and reduce carrier rates. Persons who are already infected with Hepatitis B virus cannot however be treated by vaccination which is a preventive measure. Hepatitis B vaccination has not been included under the National Immunization Programme.

As Hapatitis B can be contracted through specific routes viz. the intravenous, sexual course or by administration of infected blood or blood products, several other preventive measures have been introduced e.g. encouraging the immunization of Hospital Workers, mandatory testing of blood donations at the time of transfusion, promotion of safe sex and the use of sterile needles and syringes under the National AIDS Control Programme.

[Translation]

**Freedom Fighters' Pension**

\*201. SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI :  
SHRI BIJOY KUMAR "BIJOY" :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of freedom fighters applications pending with the Government for more than five years;

(b) the details thereof till date; State-wise

(c) whether the Government propose to reduce the minimum imprisonment time of freedom fighters from six months to three months for becoming eligible for freedom fighter's pension;

(d) whether any proposal to increase the pension amount and other facilities being provided to freedom fighters on the occasion of 50th year of Independence is under consideration of the Government; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI) : (a) No such application is pending.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No Sir.

(d) and (e) On the occasion of the 50th Year of Independence, the amount of pension payable to various categories of freedom fighters and their eligible dependents has been doubled and also linked to the Price Index. The ex-Andaman Political Prisoners have been allowed to travel by Shatabdi/Rajdhani Express trains and have also been extended the facility of free air travel to Port Blair from Calcutta/Madras once a year with a companion.

In addition, proposals to increase other facilities like free medical treatment, guest house facility at Delhi, issue of rail pass for longer period, etc., have also been received by the Government.

**Foreign Militants**

1898. SHRI VIJAY GOEL :  
SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of terrorist groups active in Jammu and Kashmir at present;

(b) the number of foreign based groups out of them and

the role played by them in the massacre took place in the State recently;

(c) whether the Government have raised the issue of these foreign mercenaries with concerned Governments; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L. K. ADVANI) : (a) There are at present around ten militant organisations in Jammu and Kashmir. Their names are as under:

- (1) Hizbul Mujahideen
- (2) Harkat-ul-Ansar
- (3) Laskar-e-Toiba
- (4) Al-Burg
- (5) Tehreek-ul-Mujahideen
- (6) Al-Jehad
- (7) J&K Liberation Front
- (8) Al-Umar Mujahideen
- (9) Hizbullah
- (10) Dukhtran-e-Milat

(b) Out of the above mentioned ten groups, Harkat-ul-Ansar and Laskar-e-Toiba are the PAN Islamic Outfits and are based in Pakistan. The other groups are also supported and financed actively from Pakistan and some of them even have their bases in Pakistan/POK.

Harkat-ul-Ansar, Hizbul Mujahideen and Laskar-e-Toiba are the most active militant groups involved in terrorist activities in Jammu and Kashmir at present. However there is no specific input to identify the particular group involved in the recent massacre at Prankot and also no group has claimed responsibility for massacre, so far.

(c) and (d) The Government of India has raised the issue of involvement of Pakistan in aiding and abetting terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir with the Pak authorities at every available opportunity. Government have also apprised the international community about the support being extended by Pakistan, to groups involved in terrorist activities in India.

[English]

#### **Political and Economic Problems of Assam**

1899. DR. JAYANTA RONGPI : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government are aware of the political and economic problems of Hill areas of Assam;

(b) if so, whether the Union Government shall convene

a meeting of the Autonomous Hill Councils of Assam to thrash out the issues; and

(c) if so, the details of other steps proposed to be taken by the Union Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L. K. ADVANI) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A meeting is being convened in the Ministry of Home Affairs with the officials of Government of Assam, Ministry of Finance, Planning Commission and representatives of Karbi Anglong and North Cachar Hills Autonomous Council on 18.6.98 at New Delhi to discuss the issues pertaining to the two Autonomous Councils in Hill districts of Assam.

(c) Government of India is committed to the implementation of MOU signed with representative Organisations of Karbi Anglong and North Cachar Hills districts on 1.4.95. Accordingly, the Government of Assam has been requested to resolve pending issues. Government of India also proposes to provide greater executive and financial powers and autonomy to these Autonomous Councils and VI Schedule areas. Proposal in this regard has already been sent to Government of Assam.

#### **Minorities living in Assam**

1900. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has collected information regarding the number of minorities living in Assam at present;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of minorities including Buddhists, Christians and Muslims as well as Hindus, population in 1971; and

(d) the extent to which the population of minorities have increased/decreased by 1971 or onward?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L. K. ADVANI) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Question does not arise.

(c) and (d) The number of minorities including Buddhists, Christians, Muslims as well as Hindus population as per 1971 and 1991 Censuses alongwith percentage variations between 1971-1991 for Assam are given below:

Name of Religion	Population		Percentage Variation 1971-1991
	1971 Census	1991 Census	
1	2	3	4
Total Population	14,625,152	22,414,322	+53.26
Hindus	10,604,618	15,047,293	+41.89

1	2	3	4
Muslims	3,592,124	6,373,204	+77.42
Christians	381,010	744,367	+95.37
Sikhs	11,920	16,492	+38.36
Buddhists	22,565	64,008	+183.66
Jains	12,914	20,645	+59.87

#### Wages to the Unemployed

1901. SHRI SAMIK LAHIRI : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are considering to provide unemployment wages to the unemployed;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM) : (a) to (c) No, Sir. The Government are not considering provision of unemployment wages to the unemployed mainly on account of resource constraints.

#### Rate of Items in Super Bazar

1902. SHRI BIZAY SONKAR SHASTRI :  
SHRI JANG BAHADUR SINGH PATEL :

Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 2967 dated August 16, 1994 regarding Dual margin of profit in Super Bazar and state :

(a) whether Super Bazar is not maintaining margin of profit at 15% on its counter sales;

(b) if so, the reasons for earning more profit than 15% and many times more than charged by Kendriya Bhandar/ NCCF on selling items on maximum retail prices through their counter sales;

(c) The details of the items being sold at the MRP by the Super Bazar as compared to those items being sold in Kendriya Bhandar and the NCCF;

(d) the steps taken to restrict the margin of profit;

(e) whether in reply to Unstarred Question No. 1906 for March 5, 1997 regarding local purchases;

(f) whether the instructions issued to the Government Departments have been followed strictly in this regard;

(g) if not, the reasons for not getting supply orders by Super Bazar from those Government Departments; and

(h) the action taken or proposed to be taken by the Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SARDAR SURJIT SINGH BARNALA) : (a) According to the information furnished by the Super Bazar, Delhi, the margin of profit charged by them from Government Departments (as per reply given to Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 2967 dated 16-8-94) related to stationery items only.

(b) to (d) According to the procedure now being followed by the Super Bazar, Delhi, although their trade margins are stated to vary between 1% to higher than 15%, but the average gross margin works out to be 8.5% approximately. The Super Bazar, Delhi has further streamlined their purchase procedure, which has helped in bringing down the procurement prices/costs. This reduction has been passed on to the consumers through reduction in selling prices. The details of items being sold at M.R.P. by the Super Bazar, Kendriya Bhandar and NCCF are not available.

(e) and (f) The Unstarred Question No. 1906 dated 5-3-97 related to local purchase of stationery and other articles by Government Departments located at Delhi and outside. All the Government Departments/offices are expected to follow these instructions regarding purchase of stationery and other items. The Question was replied by the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions and not by the Ministry of Food and Consumer Affairs.

(g) and (h) The Government Departments/offices however have the option to place their purchase orders with either the Kendriya Bhandar or the Super Bazar or the National Co-op. Consumers Federation (NCCF).

#### CGHS Dispensaries running in rented Buildings

1903. SHRI S.S. OWAISI : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of CGHS dispensaries running in the rented buildings in the country, State-wise;

(b) the total amount of rent paid by the Government during each of the last three years, State-wise;

(c) whether the Government propose to build its own building for running CGHS dispensaries;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the time by which all the dispensaries are likely to be shifted in Government buildings;

(e) whether the Government have earmarked fund for this purpose; and

(f) if so, the details of fund allocated so far, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI) : (a) and (b) The CGHS Dispensaries running in rented buildings in Delhi may be seen at Statement-I. The total amount of rent paid by the Govt. for these rented buildings in Delhi during 1995-96, 1996-97 and 1997-98 may be seen at Statement -II.

The information in respect of CGHS outside Delhi is being collected and would be laid on the Table of the House.

(c) and (d) The CGHS constructs its own buildings in a phased manner subject to feasibility and availability of resources.

(e) and (f) Though funds are not allocated separately for construction of new buildings, the budget allocation is made separately for capital works on an all-India basis. The allocation for capital works includes construction of new buildings, repair of existing buildings, electrical works in the existing buildings construction of boundary walls on new plots purchased by the Government and expenditure on the watch and ward etc.

**Statement-I**

*CGHS Dispensaries running in rented building*

- (1) Subzi Mandi
- (2) Karol Bagh
- (3) Patel Nagar-I
- (4) Pul Bangash
- (5) Patel Nagar-II
- (6) Shadhara
- (7) Rajouri Garden
- (8) Shakurbasti
- (9) G.K.G.
- (10) Ashok Vihar
- (11) Tri Nagar
- (12) Laxmi Nagar
- (13) Gurgaon
- (14) Janakpuri-II
- (15) Vivek Vihar
- (16) Sunder Vihar
- (17) Yamuna Vihar
- (18) Noida
- (19) Rohini
- (20) Dilshad Garden

**Statement-II**

*The total amount of rent paid by the Govt. during last three years*

1995-96	37,89,528/-
1996-97	37,89,528/-
1997-98	37,89,528/-

**Introduction of False Witnesses by Police**

1904. SHRI JANG BAHADUR SINGH PATEL : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-items captioned "Police introduced false witnesses; Court" appearing in the 'Times of India' dated May 14, 1998;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto;

(d) whether the Government propose to ensure that the police personnel will be dealt with severely for planting false witnesses, for lodging false cases not supported by legal evidence/documents merely on the saying of a person of evidence;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the details of instructions/guidelines given by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. A case FIR No. 349/89 u/s 302/506/147/148/149/120-B, IPC and 27/54/59 Arms Act was registered against six persons for the murder of Shri Hari Chauhan on 23.10.1989. The case was tried in the Court of Shri K. S. Khurana, Additional Sessions Judge, Delhi. While acquitting the accused by giving them the benefit of doubt, the Hon'ble Judge, inter alia, observed that the Investigating Officer had introduced false witnesses in order to solve the case. As directed in the judgement dated 25.4.98, a Vigilance Enquiry has been instituted against the police officer in question.

(d) to (f) Departmental/legal action is taken against the defaulting Investigating Officers (IOs) if it is established that false witnesses were planted or false cases were lodged.

Staff briefings/lectures are organised from time to time

to make the IOs aware of the consequences of planting false witnesses and lodging false cases. The prosecution branch also highlights the significance of these aspects during the scrutiny of cases.

#### **Welfare Schemes**

1905. SHRI T. GOVINDAN : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is planning to declare the various Welfare Schemes by August 15, 1998;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the names of schemes already declared in the 50th Anniversary of Independence?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI) : (a) Not at this stage.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Nil.

[Translation]

#### **Increase in Female Foeticide**

1906. SHRI MANIBHAI RAMJIBHAI CHAUDHARI :  
SHRI JANARDAN PRASAD MISRA :

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government deserved a large number of cases of female foeticide being increased constantly;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government proposed any action to stop this practice ;

(d) if so, the time likely to be taken by the Government in this regard; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI) : (a) and (b) It is known that the strong preference for Male Pregnancy in India Society often leads to Abortion of Female foetuses. This practice is facilitated by the easy availability of medical technology for Pre-Natal Sex Determination. Since these practices are clandestine and collusive, no authentic or accurate data are available.

(c) to (e) Under the Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (Regulation and Prevention of Misuse) Act, 1994, Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques are allowed only in specified circumstances, Disclosure of Sex of the Foetus is prohibited in the Act. Punishments are prescribed for Violation of the Law. The Act and Rules thereunder have come into force with effect from 1st January, 1996.

#### **Scavengers in Gujarat**

1907. SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of representations and Memoranda regarding harassment, difficulties and demands of Scavengers have been received;

(b) if so, the details thereof from 1.11.95 till date;

(c) the action taken by the Govt. thereon; and

(d) the preventive measures taken by the Government to protect the Scavengers and to concede their demands.

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI) : (a) to (d) Representations and Memoranda pointing out cases of specific harassment, difficulties and demands of the scavengers as specific to the Safai Karamcharis are to be investigated under a statutory provision under Section 8 sub-section (1) clause (c) of the National Commission for Safai Karamcharis Act, 1993. It has also been enjoined upon the Commission to take *suo-moto* notice of matters relating to non-implementation of :

(i) programmes or schemes in respect of any group of Safai Karamcharis;

(ii) decisions, guidelines or instructions aimed at mitigating the hardship of Safai Karamcharis;

(iii) measures for the social and economic upliftment of Safai Karamcharis;

(iv) the provision of any law in its application to Safai Karamcharis.

Under Section (8) sub-section (2) of the Act, in discharge of its functions under Sub section (1) of the above Act, the Commission shall have the powers to call for information with respect to any matter specified in that sub-section from any Government or local, or other authority.

All such representations that relate to problems specific to Safai Karamcharis which belong to above said category have been sent to National Commission for Safai Karamcharis for investigation under the provisions of above said Act.

**Expenditure on Health Schemes**

1908. SHRI AJOY MUKHOPADHYAY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state the total expenditure incurred by the Government on health from First Five Year Plan to Eighth Five Year Plan, Plan-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALJIT EZHILMALAI) : A statement showing pattern of Plan Investment of Health, Family Welfare during different plan periods in public sector (Centre, States and UTs) as received from the Planning Commission is enclosed.

**Statement**

*Pattern of Investment on Health, Family Welfare (Plan Outlays) during Different Plan periods in public sector—Centre, States and UT*

(Rs. in Crore)

Sl. No.	Period	Total Plan Investment (All Dev. Heads)	Health (Centre & States)		Family Welfare	
			Outlay/Expd.	% of 3	Outlay/Expd.	% of 3
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	First Plan (Actuals) (1951-56)	1960.00	65.20	3.33	0.10	0.01
2.	Second Plan (Actuals) (1956-61)	4672.00	140.80	3.01	5.00	0.11
3.	Third Plan (Actuals) (1961-66)	8576.50	225.90	2.63	24.90	0.29
4.	Annual Plans (Actuals) (1966-69)	6625.40	140.20	2.12	70.40	1.06
5.	Fourth Plan (Actuals) (1969-74)	15778.80	335.50	2.13	278.00	1.76
6.	Fifth Plan (Actuals) (1974-79)	39426.20	760.80	1.93	491.80	1.25
7.	(1979-80) (Actuals)	12176.50	223.10	1.83	118.50	0.97
8.	Sixth Plan (Outlay) (1980-85)	97500.00	1821.00	1.87	1010.00	1.04
	Sixth Plan (Actuals)	109291.70	2025.20	1.85	1387.00	1.27
9.	Seventh Plan (Outlay) (1985-90)	180000.00	3392.90	1.88	3256.30	1.81
	Seventh Plan (Actuals)	218729.60	3688.60	1.69	3120.80	1.43
10.	1990-91 (Actual)	61518.10	960.90	1.56	784.90	1.26
11.	1991-92 (Actual)	65865.80	1042.20	1.58	866.60	1.30
12.	Eighth Plan (Outlay) (1992-97)	434100.00	7582.20	1.75	6500.00	1.50

Source: F.R. Division, Planning Commission

### Subsidised Fertilisers

1909. SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether mixed fertilizer plants in Gujarat and in other parts of the country are using subsidised fertilisers such as urea, DAP and MOP etc.;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government intend to curb the practice of the mixed fertilisers;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the details of the items of such subsidised fertilisers used at present and the subsidy given thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (DR. A. K. PATEL) : (a) to (f) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

### Fencing Work

1910. SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA VARMA : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the total length of boundary between Pakistan and Jammu and Kashmir and the length of boundary fenced and yet to be fenced with barbed wire;

(b) whether the construction of the barbed fence has reduced the number of infiltration in Jammu and Kashmir border;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) whether any other economical option is available to check the infiltration?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI) : (a) to (e) The length of the boundary with Pakistan in Jammu & Kashmir is about 1000 Kms. Fencing along the Line of Control is not feasible owing to the rugged nature of the terrain, gaps in it due to rivers, nullahs, and streams and inability to keep such an obstacle system under continuous observation and domination by fire. Therefore, fencing/flood lighting of only 180Kms/195.8 Kms of the Jammu International Border was planned. Work on it began in July, 1995 but due to heavy and persistent firing by Pakistani troops, the work had to be stopped. Thereafter, preparations were made to restart the work but due to Parliamentary and Assembly elections in Jammu & Kashmir, it was not taken up.

Resuming the work of fencing in this sector is under active consideration of the Government. There is no alternative to some kind of an obstruction system on this sector to check infiltration. Though permanent fencing has not been put up so far, there are temporary fencing strands and flood lighting at sensitive pockets of Jammu border which have proved extremely effective in checking infiltration/trans-border crimes on Jammu border.

[English]

### Reorganisation of National SC and ST Finance Corporation of India

1911. SHRI A.C. JOS : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any plan to reorganise the National Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Finance Corporation of India for giving more autonomous status to the corporation;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the present composition of the corporation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Besides CMD, there are official and non-official directors.

### Terrorist Activities

1912. SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No 3508 dated August 13, 1997 and state:

(a) whether the information has since been collected;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the details of officials who have been arrested during 1997 and 1998 on the said charge?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI) : (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) The State Government of Jammu and Kashmir has been reminded to send the requisite information expeditiously.

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

[Translation]

### Baking Sugar Through Vacuum System

1913. SHRI AMAR PAL SINGH: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the norms fixed for according permission to the Khandsari units located at distant places for baking sugar through vacuum system by the Government;

(b) whether the Government propose to delete this provision;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PAL SINGH YADAV) : (a) to (d) Earlier, the khandsari units were using open pan process for manufacture of khandsari. Recently Government of India have decided to allow these units to use vacuum pan technology in their manufacturing process.

There is no norm for according permission for adopting the vacuum pan technology except that such khandsari units should be located outside the areas reserved for sugar mills. As this decision has been taken recently no change is being considered in the policy.

[English]

### Drive against use of Non ISI LPG Cylinders

1914. SHRI K.S. RAO: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have detected a number of illegal bottling plants flooding in the market of Delhi with Non-ISI LPG cylinders recently;

(b) if so, whether a number of consumers have lost their lives by the use of these cylinders;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether any drive has been launched by the authorities to educate manufacturers, dealers and buyers of illegal cylinders about the danger posed by the use of these cylinders; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the results achieved thereby?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) to (c) No, Sir. At present there are only three LPG bottling plants in Delhi, all belonging to Public Sector Oil Companies. These bottling plants are installed meeting the requirements of Gas Cylinders Rules 1981,

Static and Mobile Pressure Vessels (Unfired) Rules 1981 and Oil Industry Safety Directorate Guidelines. The illegal plants mentioned in question perhaps refer to clandestine transfer and filling by some persons in shops and godowns etc. in cylinders procured from unauthorised sources behind public gauge. Such small cylinders are normally used for lighting. No information or report of loss of human lives connected with illegal filling and supply of LPG cylinders in Delhi has been received recently. However, Delhi Police has registered four cases of illegal transfer of LPG from one cylinder to other cylinder since June, 1997.

(d) and (e) To prevent use of spurious/non ISI LPG equipments including cylinders, extensive safety training and education programmes for customers are conducted by Oil Companies. This is an ongoing process. In addition, vigorous check at various stages have been implemented. Press releases for education of customers are also made.

### Transfer of Chandigarh

1915. SHRI KISHAN SINGH SANGWAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are considering to transfer Chandigarh and other Hindi speaking areas now in Punjab to Haryana;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L. K. ADVANI) : (a) to (c) Presently, there is no proposal before Government to change the constitutional position of Chandigarh. Government of India would like the States concerned to sort out their differences over the matter amicably and would be willing to help in the matter.

[Translation]

### Medical Facilities to Children

1916. SHRI JAYSINHJI CHAUHAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the children under five years died during each of the last three years in the country, State-wise; and

(b) the steps taken or proposed to be taken particularly in rural areas of Gujarat in backward and tribal dominated villages to provide adequate medical facilities to children?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI) : (a) The Sample Registration System of the Registrar General of India provides information on the Child Mortality Rate which is defined as the number of deaths of children below 5 years of age in a year, per 1000 population of the same age in that year. The State-wise estimates of Child Mortality Rate for major States during the last 3 years is enclosed in the Statement.

(b) A wide net work of 7274 sub-centres, 980 Primary Health Centres (PHCs) and 188 Community Health Centres (CHCs) are functioning in the rural areas of Gujarat. According to information available upto May 1997, 1929 sub-centres, 227 PHCs and 37 CHCs were functioning in the tribal areas of Gujarat. These centres are providing an integrated package of primary health care services which includes immunization; Control of diarrhoeal disease, control of respiratory infectious, essential newborn care; and prophylaxis against Iron and Vitamin A deficiencies, among children.

Under the CSSM Programme 88 CHCs have been upgraded to function as 'First Referral Units; to provide emergency care to women and children.

173 ICDS blocks are operational in the State and are providing medical check up of children and mothers along with other services like supplementary nutrition.

Under the Reproductive and Child Health Programme to be implemented during the Ninth Plan period, additional inputs are being provided to the States to improve inter-alia the implementation of interventions aimed at reducing infant and child mortality.

#### Statement

Estimated Child Mortality Rates (0-4 Years)  
India and Bigger States, 1993, 1994 & 1995

	1993	1994	1995
India #	23.7	23.9	24.2
Andhra Pradesh	17.1	17.0	19.1
Assam	29.7	24.7	24.7
Bihar	25.3	24.9	28.3
Gujarat	20.7	22.2	19.9
Haryana	20.3	22.3	22.7
Himachal Pradesh	16.1	16.0	17.2
Karnataka	20.0	18.6	18.2
Kerala	3.4	3.4	4.3
Madhya Pradesh	36.9	34.8	33.0
Maharashtra	14.1	14.4	14.9
Orissa	33.7	31.6	32.2
Punjab	16.1	15.7	14.9
Rajasthan	26.2	27.4	29.3
Tamil Nadu	13.6	13.4	14.5
Uttar Pradesh	32.9	33.0	30.8
West Bengal	17.0	19.8	18.6

#### Priority in Employment to Disabled

1917. SHRI SHANTILAL PURSHOTTAMDAS PATEL : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have issued any standing orders to various Ministries to give priority in employment to the disabled candidates;

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

(c) whether the Government have fixed the percentage in employment to the disabled persons every year in Government offices; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI) : (a) to (d) The Government has taken steps to provide employment to persons with disabilities in the Government Sector as follows:

(i) Section 33 of the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights & Full Participation) Act, 1995 contains a provision that the appropriate Government shall appoint in every establishment not less than 3% of persons with disability of which 1% each shall be reserved for persons suffering from:

(a) blindness or low vision;

(b) hearing impairment; and

(c) locomotor disability or cerebral palsy

In the post identified for each disability, 3% reservation in Group 'C' and 'D' for handicapped persons had already been there even before the Law came into force. In pursuance of this provision, extension of 3% reservation in Group 'A' & 'B' posts under the Central Government for physically handicapped persons -1% each for visually, hearing and orthopaedically handicapped have been notified by DOPT's circular No. 36035/16/91-Estt. (SCT) dated 18.2.1997.

(ii) 50 Special Employment Exchanges and 39 Special Cells for the handicapped persons have been set up exclusively to help the handicapped persons in getting gainful employment. Besides, the Normal Employment Exchange also help the handicapped persons in finding suitable employment.

[English]

#### Storage Capacity for PDS

1918. SHRI RAMPAL UPADHYAY : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Public Distribution System in the country have any proper arrangements for storing the foodgrains to fulfil the demand of the poor people;

(b) if so, the storage capacity available with them till March, 1998; and

(c) if not, the steps proposed to be taken to have proper storage?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PAL SINGH YADAV) :** (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The total storage capacity available with the FCI as on 31.3.1998 was 223.69 lakh tonnes including hired capacity.

(c) Does not arise.

#### **Oil Exploration**

1919. **SHRI FRANCISCO SARDINHA :** Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether oil exploration efforts have been made by ONGC in off shore coast of Goa recently; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) :** (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) During 1995-97, 2D/3D seismic surveys have been carried out in the shelf and deep water off Goa coast. ONGC has drilled one exploratory well South-West of Goa coast recently.

#### **Use of Ashoka Emblem by Area Welfare Officers**

1920. **SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN :** Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the status of Government Officers, who can use Ashoka Emblem of the Government while writing official Letters/D.O. Letters;

(b) whether the Government are aware that some of the Government Officers appointed on Honorary Post of Area Welfare Officer, by the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions, have got their letter heads printed with their residential addresses and that too with Ashoka Emblem of the Government;

(c) whether the officers appointed on such Honorary Posts of Area Welfare Officers are empowered to use Ashoka Emblem of the Government of their letter-heads with their residential addresses;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the action proposed to be taken against such guilty Area Welfare Officers?

**THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI) :** (a) The Orders relating to the use of the State Emblem of India permit Government Officers to use demi-official stationery with the State Emblem printed or embossed on it. However, such Orders require that the names of Officers should not be printed on such stationery.

(b) to (e) The Area Welfare Officers have been allowed to use official stationery for entering into correspondence with the concerned authorities and Government servants. However, they have not been permitted to use the State Emblem of India on their letterheads. Some cases where the Area Welfare Officers have used the said Emblem on their letterheads have come to notice. The Department of Personnel and Training has been advised to issue instructions to all the Area Welfare Officers to discontinue the use of the State Emblem of India on their letterheads with immediate effect.

*[Translation]*

#### **Non-Implementation of Targeted Public Distribution System**

1921. **SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH :** Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government had enquired into the causes of non-implementation of Targeted Public Distribution System in 50 panchayats of Vaishali district during 1997-98;

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

(c) whether the said facility is likely to be provided shortly to the deprived families;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons thereof?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PAL SINGH YADAV) :** (a) to (e) The responsibility for implementation of Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) like identification of Below Poverty Line (BPL) families, issues of ration cards and distribution of foodgrains to them, etc. rests with the State Governments/ UT Administrations concerned. The Government of India allocates in bulk all PDS commodities including foodgrains under Public Distribution System to the State Government. Further allocation of foodgrains to the districts is done by the respective State Governments/UT Administrations.

Government of Bihar have reported that based on the survey made by Vaishali District Administration 127604 families are covered under TPDS in that district. The State Government had reports of inclusion of ineligible families in a subsequent survey of the District Administration on account of which, it is reported, instructions have been issued by

Government of Bihar to District Magistrate Vaishali for further scrutiny.

[English]

**HIV/AIDS awareness and Control Programme of N.A.C.O.**

1922. SHRI CHANDULAL AJMEERA : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National AIDS Control Organisation has undertaken HIV/AIDS Awareness and Control Programmes in rural areas in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the amount of assistance released to State Governments under the said programme during each of the last three years, State-wise;

(d) whether these programmes have been successfully implemented in all the States;

(e) if so, the details of the achievements made thereof, State-wise; and

(f) if not, the steps taken by the Government to eradicate AIDS and make the programme successful?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. All the Media of Communication including interpersonal communications are being used both by Central and State Governments to create public awareness about how HIV/AIDS, Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STDs) spread, how these can be prevented and how these are not transmitted. Besides, non-governmental organisations are also involved in AIDS awareness activities and implementation of intervention

projects amongst group practising high risk behaviour.

(c) A statement is enclosed

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. The AIDS Control Programme has made the following significant progress in the country.

1. Established a separate AIDS Cell in all the States/UTs for implementing the National AIDS Control Project.
2. Modernisation 815 blood banks.
3. Strengthened 504 STD clinics.
4. Surveillance activities are being with the held of 131 Blood Testing Centres & 170 Sentinel Sites.
5. Established National and State Blood Transfusion Councils.
6. Launched awareness programme with the help of Doordarshan, Radio and mass campaigns.
7. All States/UTs are participating in implementation of the Scheme.

(f) In order to prevent and control the spread of HIV/AIDS in India, a comprehensive programme is currently under implementation as a centrally sponsored scheme throughout the country. The strategies of the Programme consist of -

- (i) Strengthening Programme Management capabilities at Central & State level,
- (ii) Creation of Awareness amongst high risk behaviour group and general public about HIV/AIDS,
- (iii) Control of Sexually Transmitted Disease,
- (iv) Ensuring Blood Safety and rational use of Blood,
- (v) Strengthening the Surveillance and Diagnosis, &
- (vi) Clinical Management of HIV/AIDS cases.

**Statement**

*National AIDS Control Programme — Utilisation of Funds*

S.No.	State/UT	1995-96		1996-97		1997-98	
		Grants Released	Expdr. Reported	Grants Released	Expdr. Reported	Grants Released	Expdr. Reported
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	432.00	293.93	425.00	434.30	425.00	86.59
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	65.81	65.26	80.00	63.72	25.00	13.84
3.	Assam	92.70	78.03	100.00	101.38	100.00	103.60
4.	Bihar	0.00	11.65	25.00	26.97	50.00	1.21
5.	Goa	0.00	31.16	25.00	29.84	50.00	1.52

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
6.	Gujarat	131.26	154.79	300.00	63.36	250.00	56.48
7.	Haryana	0.00	42.70	130.00	66.19	75.00	75.00*
8.	Himachal Pradesh	156.75	36.83	115.00	200.88	225.00	55.33
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	0.00	0.00	25.00	0.00	25.00	7.50*
10.	Karnataka	120.00	193.73	350.00	160.61	175.00	150.00*
11.	Kerala	172.62	185.49	225.00	136.68	100.00	80.00*
12.	Madhya Pradesh	137.00	157.59	425.00	268.18	150.00	182.00*
13.	Maharashtra	300.00	359.32	900.00	682.36	950.00	274.94
14.	Manipur	113.58	54.75	200.00	121.87	150.00	14.31
15.	Meghalaya	18.00	27.06	35.00	15.51	25.00	17.63
16.	Mizoram	74.00	93.63	150.00	126.98	100.00	21.68
17.	Nagaland	107.00	128.95	190.00	175.06	155.00	125.98
18.	Orissa	0.00	31.62	50.00	12.53	75.00	25.00*
19.	Punjab	80.00	98.08	225.00	51.30	75.00	59.45
20.	Rajasthan	90.00	70.30	375.00	222.14	225.00	234.00
21.	Sikkim	25.00	20.29	50.00	23.11	50.00	11.11
22.	Tamil Nadu	650.00	679.73	1700.00	1304.51	2000.00	1216.39
23.	Tripura	38.00	39.30	50.00	56.04	50.00	40.00*
24.	Uttar Pradesh	0.00	204.31	450.00	310.98	495.00	219.63
25.	West Bengal	288.82	224.50	600.00	252.47	100.00	32.51
26.	Pondicherry	55.04	11.57	7.00	26.92	0.00	9.31
27.	A & N Islands	50.59	14.09	45.91	33.52	31.09	3.12
28.	Chandigarh	51.70	31.72	46.93	29.10	28.00	3.12
29.	D&N Haveli	42.00	21.05	17.00	54.42	16.00	2.57
30.	Daman & Diu	43.05	37.24	19.00	13.10	24.22	10.25
31.	Delhi	164.00	94.09	400.00	24.22	25.00	109.13
32.	Lakshadweep	53.54	4.37	16.71	6.00*	15.42	5.00*
<b>Total</b>		<b>3552.46</b>	<b>3556.93</b>	<b>7752.55</b>	<b>5094.25</b>	<b>6239.73</b>	<b>2449.63</b>

\*Provisional

[Translation]

### Displaced Persons

1923. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY:  
SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK:  
SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Surankot se 300 Hinduon Ka Palayan" appearing in 'Dainik Jagran' dated May 8, 1998;

(b) if so, whether the Government have taken any stringent action to curb the increasing terrorist activities in the State;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the details of ex-gratia payment made and loans granted to each of the displaced families from Kashmir during the last three years;

(e) the number of displaced Kashmiri Pandit families and other families staying at various camps located in Jammu and Kashmir and in other State, particularly in Delhi;

(f) the steps taken by the Government for safe return of these displaced Kashmiri families to their home States; and

(g) the number of families already returned back to the valley till date?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L. K. ADVANI) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir, Sustained operations by the State Police and Security Forces including intensive patrolling to check infiltration/exfiltration and surveillance on the border/LOC, anti-terrorist combing operations, strengthening of intelligence network and co-ordination among various agencies are being carried out. Village Defence Committees are being formed. Recently a special Group has been constituted to review the security arrangements and suggest an Action Plan for tackling terrorist activities in the State.

(d) The Government of J&K provides ex-gratia relief to the migrants for damage caused to their immovable properties left behind in the Valley at the rate of 50% of the assessed value of the loss subject to a maximum of Rs. 1 lakh. The Government of J&K have also provided loans under Prime Minister Rozgar Yojna and State self-employment Scheme to some migrants. The State Government has spent Rs. 24.17 crores on ex-gratia relief to the victims of terrorist violence (deaths/ damage to property) up to March 1998.

(e) While it is not possible to give community-wise break up of the displaced families, 29074 Kashmiri migrant families have been registered in Jammu and 19338 in Delhi, 2374 families have reportedly migrated to other parts of the country.

(f) A Committee under the Chairmanship of the State Revenue, Relief and Rehabilitation Minister of J&K State has been constituted by the Government of J&K to look into all aspects of the problem of migrants and suggest solutions.

(g) It is difficult to ascertain the exact numbers, however, such families as have returned back to the Valley are very few.

### Assistance for Hospital Projects in Bihar

1924. SHRI PRABHASH CHANDRA TIWARI : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of financial assistance/loan provided by the Union Government for hospital projects in Bihar during each of the last three years;

(b) the terms and conditions on which such allocation was made;

(c) whether the Union Government have received any further request from the Government of Bihar for the financial assistance for the development and expansion of Medical Colleges and Hospitals in the State;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI) : (a) Ministry of Health and Family Welfare have not released loans/financial assistance to hospital projects in Bihar during the last three years.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No such request has been received in this Ministry.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

[English]

### Code of Conduct For Cabinet Ministers

1925. SHRI V.M. SUDHEERAN : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the need for formulating a code of conduct for Members of his Cabinet;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to have such code of conduct ?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L. K. ADVANI) : (a) to (c) There already exists a Code of Conduct for Ministers. This Code, *inter alia*, provides for declaration of assets and liabilities by Ministers and lays down guidelines for acceptance of gifts/awards by them. The Code also

requires Ministers not to permit their spouses and dependents to accept employment under a foreign government, in India or abroad, or in a foreign organisation (including commercial organisations) without prior approval of the Prime Minister.

[Translation]

#### Scheduled Tribes In FCI, Bhopal

1926. SHRI CHANDRASHEKHAR SAHU : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons belonging to Scheduled Tribes recruited to the post of AG III in the Zonal Office of the Food Corporation of India, Bhopal;

(b) whether these posts were vacant in the Zonal Office at Bhopal:

(c) if so, whether the said persons were transferred to other zones; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PAL SINGH YADAV) : (a) and (b) Food Corporation of India does not have its Zonal Office at Bhopal. However, it has its Regional Office at Bhopal with administrative jurisdiction over the State of Madhya Pradesh. During the Special Recruitment Drive for SC & ST launched by the Corporation in Oct., 1996, 194 Assistants Grade-III (D) belonging to ST category were recruited by the Corporation in the State of Madhya Pradesh against the available 196 ST vacancies.

(c) and (d) As per the FCI (Staff) Regulations the unit for recruitment to the said post is the Region. However, in order to enhance the career opportunity for these employees, the unit of transfer is kept as Zone comprising States under its administrative control. Therefore, the persons recruited in Madhya Pradesh Region were transferred and posted within the Zone after obtaining their willingness at the time of recruitment.

[English]

#### Theft and Dacoity In Trains

1927. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA :  
DR. V. SAROJA :  
SHRI P.C. THOMAS :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by the Government to protect passengers lives and property during train journey, especially during night in all the long distance trains;

(b) the number of cases of theft and dacoities during train journey took place during the last six months; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to prevent recurrence of such incidents?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L. K. ADVANI) : (a) and (c) The registration, investigation, detection and prevention of crimes in the trains is the responsibility of the Government Railway Police (GRP), which functions under the control of the respective State Government UT Administration. In order to ensure safety of passengers and their belongings during train journey, the Railway Administration has also taken the following steps to help the GRP in checking criminal activities:-

(i) The Railway Protection Force (RPF) officers are holding regular coordination meeting with their counterparts in the GRP and the Civil Police.

(ii) Sharing of Special Intelligence and Crime Intelligence between the RPF and the GRP is being done at all levels.

(iii) The Railways have introduced the Instant Action Group in superfast trains to prevent entry of unauthorised persons.

(iv) The RPF staff assists the GRP in escorting passenger trains during night.

(v) Joint strategies for dealing with anti-social elements operating in the Railways have been chalked out by the GRP and the RPF.

(b) According to available information, there were 61 cases of dacoity, 119 cases of robbery and 28 cases of burglary in trains during the period July '97 to December '97.

[Translation]

#### Mine Accident

1928. SHRI HARI KEWAL PRASAD : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the number of mine accidents occurred in the country during the last three years;

(b) the number of casualties and injured labourers in these accidents and the loss of revenue incurred on this account;

(c) the total amount of compensation provided to the victim families of the deceased; and

(d) the measures proposed by the Government to check such incidents in future?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P. R. KUMARAMANGALAM) : (a) and (b) The number of mine accidents with the number of casualties and injured

labourers therein during the last three years in the country are given below:

Year	Number of Accidents		Number of Persons	
	Fatal	Serious	Killed	Injured
1995	203	1025	293	1092
1996	203	940	229	1006
1997*	216	898	244	967

\* Provisional.

Information relating to loss of revenue incurred on account of these accidents is not maintained.

(c) The amount of compensation is paid to the injured or families of the deceased under the Work-men's Compensation Act, 1923 the implementation of which falls under the jurisdiction of the State Governments.

(d) Provisions for safety of persons employed in mines are contained in the Mines Act, 1952, and the Rules and Regulations framed thereunder. In addition, the Directorate General of Mines Safety also issues guidelines in the form of circulars to the Managements for improving safety measures. These provisions are required to be complied with by the mine managements. The officers of the Directorate General of Mines Safety inspect mines periodically to oversee the status of compliance with the safety provisions, and take action as provided for under the Mines Act, 1952, in case of default.

Besides the legislative measures, the government is promoting safety through a number of other initiatives, such as:

- (a) conferences on safety in mines;
- (b) self-regulation by managements;
- (c) workers' participation in safety management;
- (d) tripartite and bipartite reviews at various levels;
- (e) training of work persons;
- (f) observance of safety weeks and safety campaigns; and
- (g) national safety awards (Mines).

[English]

#### **Pakistan's support to Hurriyat Conference Delegation**

1929. SHRI RAMKRISHNA BABA PATIL : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Hurriyat Conference Delegation of Kashmir has been assured by continued support by Pakistan's High Commission recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI) : (a) and (b) Pakistan has been aiding and abetting militancy in Jammu and Kashmir by sending mercenaries, arms and ammunition and providing financial support and training to the militants. Reports indicate that officials of the Pak High Commission, New Delhi have assured the Hurriyat Leaders of their continued support.

(c) There is no restriction on any person for visiting any Embassy/High Commission and meeting the Diplomats. However, Government is keeping a close watch on the activities of Hurriyat Leaders. In case any violation of law comes to the notice of the Government, action will be initiated accordingly.

#### **Malta Boat Tragedy**

1930. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Malta Boat tragedy of the Greak coast last year has failed to deter the continued migration of Indian workers by illegal means;

(b) if so, the number of such migrants apprehended in the process since the Malta tragedy; and

(c) the effective steps taken to prevent such migration?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM) : (a) and (b) Government continues to receive reports of the presence abroad of Indian immigrants whose residence status is not legal. As per information available, about 8600 Indian nationals have been apprehended since the Malta boat tragedy in December, 1996 in various foreign countries, on account of their allegedly illegal residence status.

(c) The following steps have been/are being taken to prevent illegal migration:

(i) all immigration authorities examine genuineness and validity of the travel documents including Protector of Emigrants (POE) endorsement, by comparing the same with the specimen signatures available with them and also scrutinise their genuineness by examining security features with the help of ultra-violet lamp, magnifying glass and questionable document examiner. Further the immigration officers resort to computerised screening to find out whether the passenger figures adversely. Instructions have been/are issued from time to time to the immigration authorities at international airports advising them to be more vigilant in such matters.

(ii) Home Departments of the State Governments have been advised to keep a strict vigil on the activities of the unauthorised agents.

(iii) The Protectors of Emigrants exercise extra vigil while scrutinising the travel documents including the employment contract before granting emigration clearance.

(iv) Indian diplomatic missions abroad are under instructions to intimate the names of the fraudulent recruiting agents/employers to the Protector General of Emigrants, to help prevent recurrence of such malpractices.

(v) Complaints received against recruiting agents are examined in consultation with the concerned Indian diplomatic missions abroad and action for suspension/cancellation of their registration certificates is taken according to the merits of the cases under the Emigration Act, 1983.

*[Translation]*

#### **Gas Connections to MPs**

1931. SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT :  
SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE :

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether after the withdrawal of LPG and Telephone coupon facilities from the Members of Lok Sabha any special arrangements have been made for the allocation of LPG and telephone connections to the needy persons;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) the reasons for depriving the Members of Lok Sabha of these privileges when these facilities are available for Members of Rajya Sabha;

(d) whether the Government propose to restore these facilities to the Members of Lok Sabha in consultation with the Hon'ble Speaker; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) to (c) The discretionary quota for allotment of telephone connections to all MPs including Lok Sabha MPs had not been withdrawn at any point of time. However, the discretionary quota for release of LPG connections for Members of Lok Sabha had been discontinued from April '97 on the basis of the decision to discontinue the discretionary quota for release of LPG connections to Members of Lok Sabha announced by the then Hon'ble Speaker of Lok Sabha in the House on 26th February 1997.

(d) Yes, Sir. The Hon'ble Speaker of the Lok Sabha announced on 1.6.1998 that each Member of Parliament (Lok Sabha) will be given 160 LPG gas connections per annum for release of connections in the respective constituencies. Action is being taken to start distribution of the priority coupons to Members of Lok Sabha accordingly.

(e) Does not arise

#### **Sugar Mills**

1932. SHRI HIRA LAL ROY: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the sugar mills in Madauda Chhapra, Bihar are lying closed;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the arrangements being made by the Government for the rehabilitation of the affected farmers and retrenched labourers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PAL SINGH YADAV) : (a) to (c) According to the information received from the State Government of Bihar, the sugar mill at Mamowaran, Distt. Chhapra (Bihar), a unit of Cawnpore Sugar Works Ltd., is lying closed. Its net worth has gone into minus. The company have applied for rehabilitation to the Board for Industrial & Financial Reconstruction (B.I.F.R.)

*[English]*

#### **Minorities Finance Commission**

1933. SHRI V.K. KHANDELWAL : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposed to provide its share in the share capital of Minorities Finance Commission established for the economic development of minority communities by the Government of Madhya Pradesh; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI) : (a) No Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

#### **Supply of Gas to Power Projects**

1934. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any provision of compensation for financial losses due to delay in supply of gas to power projects;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the original and revised schedule for full supply of gas to Ramgarh Extension Project of Rajasthan;

(d) whether there has been delay in supply of gas by the Government to the project; and

(e) the action proposed to be taken to compensate Rajasthan State Electricity Board (RSEB) for financial losses as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) As per original schedule, gas supply to Ramgarh extension project was to begin in April, 1995, whereas RSEB completed the project only in January, 1996. Gas supply commenced only from June 1996 when gas became available from the fields of Oil India Limited.

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

[Translation]

#### **Reservation for Backward Classes in Educational Institutions**

1935. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken a decision to provide 27 per cent reservation for the backward classes in educational institutions;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI) : (a) to (c) No, Sir.

A proposal for providing 27% reservation to Backward Classes in educational institutions is under consideration of the Government.

[English]

#### **Atrocities on Women**

1936. SHRIMATI BHAVNA DEVRAJ BHAI CHIKHALIA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government chalked out any plans to check atrocities against women;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government proposed to hold any conference of State Ministers concerned and the voluntary agencies engaged in this field;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the remedial action taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI) : (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

#### **Contractual Appointment of Journalists**

1937. SHRI MOHAN SINGH : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that the owners of big newspapers in the country are making contractual appointments of the journalists and workers in violation of the recommendations of the wage board;

(b) if so, the steps being taken by the Government to check such appointments; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM) : (a) to (c) The recommendations of the Wage Boards for Journalists and Non-Journalist newspaper and news-agency employees are advisory in nature. The Government has been receiving representations regarding ban on contract employment etc. At present there is no proposal to amend the Working Journalists and Other Newspaper Employees (Conditions of Service) and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1955 in this regard.

[English]

#### **Child Adoption**

1938. SHRI G. GANGA REDDY : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian child is losing in adoption by parents from the West and they are turning to other neighbouring countries for this purpose due to greedy agent and social activities;

(b) whether the Government proposed to streamline the child adoption so as the said children get foster home outside the country;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI) : (a) No Sir, No such information is available with the Government.

(b) and (c) The adoption of Indian children outside the country has been streamlined and is governed by the "Revised Guidelines for Adoption of Indian Children" issued by the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment on 29th May,

1995. Under these guidelines, the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, *inter alia*, confers recognition upon both Indian and foreign adoption agencies working in the field of inter-country adoption *vis-a-vis* Indian children on the condition that these agencies strictly adhere to the aforesaid guidelines.

(d) Does not arise.

#### **Malpractices in FCI Godown, Naraina**

1939. PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether malpractices in mixing the rejected sub standard foodgrains with good quality of foodgrains were detected in Food Corporation of India Godown in Naraina, Delhi during December, 1997;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether such malpractices have been detected in other godowns of FCI;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action taken or proposed to be taken by the Government against the officials responsible for this practice?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PAL SINGH YADAV) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir. Neither any such practice is followed nor any such complaint has been received from any of the godowns of FCI.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Does not arise.

#### **LPG Dealership**

1940. SHRI SURENDRA PRASAD YADAV (JHANJIHARPUR) : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is only one L.P.G. dealership operating in district Madhubani (Bihar) catering the need of 16 Panchayats/Blocks in Ghogharia Block;

(b) if so, whether there is a demand for more L.P.G. dealership in that area; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the action taken or proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) To meet the demand of the area, the following five LPG distributorships have been included in the approved LPG Marketing Plans for setting up LPG distributorships in Madhubani Distt. of Bihar:

1. Ghoghardiha
2. Karmagh
3. Jainagar
4. Benipatti
5. Madhubani

Selection of distributors is to be made by the Dealer Selection Board through interview of candidates applying against advertisements issued.

[Translation]

#### **Unemployment Problem**

1941. SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI : SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY :

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to encourage labour oriented technology for the eradication of unemployment;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM) : (a) to (c) The approach to the Ninth Plan envisages priority to agriculture and rural development with a view to generating adequate productive employment and eradication of poverty. Greater productive employment will be generated in the growth process itself by concentrating on sectors, sub-sectors and technologies which are labour intensive, in regions characterized by higher rates of unemployment and underemployment.

[English]

#### **Foreign Mercenaries**

1942. SHRI ANANT KUMAR HEGDE : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of foreign mercenaries operating in different parts of the country; and

(b) the action taken by the Government in curtailing the activities of these mercenaries?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI) : (a) A number of foreign mercenaries are reported to be operating in Jammu & Kashmir. The main militant outfits comprising of foreign mercenaries are:

1. Hizbul Mujahideen

2. Lashkar-e-Toiba
3. Harkat-ul-Ansar
4. Tehrik-e-Jihad

(b) Government is already seized of the matter. As per figures of the State Government of Jammu & Kashmir, 713 foreign mercenaries have been killed and 151 arrested so far, in various encounters with the Security Forces. Details are given in the Statement enclosed.

Close vigil is being kept by the Security Forces along the border/LOC and in the interior areas. Various arrangements have been made for this purpose, including intensive patrolling, provision and use of surveillance equipments including night vision devices, etc., deployment of forces in the vulnerable areas both on the LOC/border and in the hinterland, setting up of village Defence Committees in some of the sensitive regions near the border, and close and continuous coordination among all concerned security and intelligence agencies etc. The arrangements are being continuously reviewed and strengthened/streamlined as and when found necessary.

#### *Statement*

*Details of Foreign Mercenaries Arrested/Killed from Jan. 1990 to Ending May, 1998*

Sl. No.	Name of the Country	Arrested										Killed									
		90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	Total	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	Total
1.	Pakistan/POK	-	2	5	16	23	33	18	22	7	126	10	9	10	38	34	31	15	29	13	189
2.	Afghanistan	-	-	1	1	9	-	1	10	-	22	4	2	4	50	49	14	13	12	1	149
3.	Egypt	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
4.	Sudan	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	2	-	3	7
5.	Yemen	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	2	-	1	4
6.	Lebanon	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
7.	Bahrain	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	2
8.	Chechnia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
9.	Bosnia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
10.	Others	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	35	40	105	156	22	359
<b>Total</b>		-	2	6	20	32	33	19	32	7	151	14	12	14	90	122	85	139	197	40	713

[Translation]

#### Hindi Month

1943. SHRI NARENDRA BUDANIA:  
SHRI SURESH CHANDEL:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount spent by various Ministries on celebrating Hind Months last year;

(b) the percentage of work being performed original in Hindi in the Ministries as a result thereof;

(c) whether the Government consider that celebration of Hindi Month is the only way to promote Hindi in Government offices; and

(d) if not, the steps being taken by the Government to promote Hindi in official work?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI) : (a) and (b) Hindi Day, Hindi Week, Hindi Fortnight or Hindi Month is organised in various offices throughout the country every year. Figures regarding expenditure incurred on these celebrations are not available in the Deptt. of Official Language. These celebrations create favourable atmosphere for the progressive use of Official Language policy.

(c) and (d) Govt. has taken a number of steps for the progressive use of Official Language, such as training pertaining to Official Language, Publicity and propagation, Awards and Incentives Schemes etc.

[English]

#### Import and Allocation of Palmolein Oil

1944. SHRI DINSHAW PATEL:  
SHRI P.S. GADHAVI :

Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the import of Palmolein oil and its distribution to various States against their demand during 1996-97 and 1997-98;

(b) the requirement of palmolein per month in Gujarat;

(c) whether the Gujarat State has allotted less oil than other States;

(d) whether the State has requested to enhance the quantity of palmolein;

(e) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(f) the steps proposed to be taken to release the entire quantity of Palmolein required under PDS to the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PAL SINGH YADAV) : (a) Import of Refined Bleached and Deodorised (RBD) Palmolein by the State Trading Corporation (STC) on Government Account, exclusively for the Public Distribution System, (PDS), during 1996-97 and 1997-98 has been 1.49 lakh M.T.s and 0.89 lakh M.T.s, respectively. The demand, allocation and lifting of RBD Palmolein in respect of the States /U.Ts. for PDS during the last two years as been as under:

(in Lakh M.Ts.)

Year	Demand	Allocation	Lifting
1996-97	4.57	1.93	1.80
1997-98	1.73	1.36	0.62

(b) The demand of Gujarat for RBD Palmolein during the last two years was as under:

1996-97

April-July, 1996 6,000 M.Ts per month

August-October, 1996 9,000 M.Ts. per month

Nov. 1996-March, 1997 5,000 M.Ts. per month

1997-98

August-Nov., 1997 5,000 M.Ts. per month

(c) The allocation of 40,000 M.Ts made to Gujarat during 1996-97 was the second highest and constituted 20.74% of the total allocation made to the States/U.Ts. The allocation of 20,000 M.Ts. made during 1997-98 was exactly the same as demanded by the Government of Gujarat.

(d) to (f) The Government of Gujarat has asked for the allocation of RBD Palmolein for the period from August to November, 1998 @ 9,000 M.Ts. per month. The demand of the States, including Gujarat, for allocation of RBD Palmolein will be considered after finalisation of the import programme of RBD palmolein for the current year. Allocation to the States/U.Ts., if made, will be on the basis of the inter-se requirement of the States/U.Ts., availability of oil for PDS, storage capacity with the STC at nearby port depots and pace of lifting of previous allocation etc.

[Translation]

#### Assistance to Public Sector Institutions

1945. SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether some public sector institutions are working for the expansion and development of the petroleum and Natural Gas industry in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the amount of assistance provided for research and exploration work to these institutions during 1995-96, 1996-97 and 1997-98; and

(d) the actual amount spent on the said works during the said period, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) to (d) The Oil Sector PSEs are working continuously for expansion and development of Petroleum and Natural Gas Industry through regular ongoing projects. These projects are funded by internal resources of the PSEs. Oil Industry Development Board under the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas supplements the efforts of Oil Industry by providing loans and grants for research and exploration work. The details of loans/grants disbursed/utilised on research and exploration activity during the years 1995-96 to 1997-98 are given in the statement enclosed.

**Statement****Details of amount released and spent on exploration and research**

(Rs. in crore)

**A: Exploration**

Sl. No.	Name of the Organization	1995-96		1996-97		1997-98	
		Amount disbursed by the OIBD	Amount utilized as per the information received from the concerned organization	Amount disbursed by the OIBD	Amount utilized as per the information received from the concerned organization	Amount disbursed by the OIBD	Amount utilized as per the information received from the concerned organization
<b>Loan</b>							
1.	ONGC	-	-	-	-	161.74	+56.00
2.	OIL	133.87	103.06	-	₹30.81	150.00	+112.39
3.	ONGC (Videsh)	27.70	27.70	49.00	49.00	-	-
		161.57	130.76	49.00	79.81	311.74	168.39
<b>Grant<sup>⊙</sup></b>							
4.	DGH	8.57	1.62	19.77	9.78	14.06	11.20
		8.57	1.62	19.77	9.78	14.06	11.20
<b>Grant Total</b>		<b>170.14</b>	<b>132.38</b>	<b>68.77</b>	<b>₹89.59</b>	<b>325.80</b>	<b>179.59</b>

# Amount short spent in 1995-96 was utilised in 1996-97.

+ Unutilised funds during 1997-98 are expected to be utilised in 1998-99.

**B: Research & Development**

Sl. No.	Name of the Organization	1995-96		1996-97		1997-98	
		Amount disbursed by the OIBD	Amount utilized as per the information received from the concerned organization	Amount disbursed by the OIBD	Amount utilized as per the information received from the concerned organization	Amount disbursed by the OIBD	Amount utilized as per the information received from the concerned organization
<b>Grant<sup>⊙</sup></b>							
1.	PCRA	8.75	4.11	6.02	3.21	6.67	4.91
2.	CHT	6.20	4.02	11.80	9.02	4.97	3.35
3.	GAIL	-	-	-	-	1.30	0.99
4.	ONGC	-	1.75	-	2.81	*5.77	1.21
		14.95	9.88	17.82	15.04	18.71	10.46

\*Though the amount was incurred by the organisation during 1995-96 to 1997-98, the same was reimbursed only in 1997-98 after obtaining the sanction of the Central Government. An Additional amount of Rs 81 lakh was also reimbursed to ONGC during 1997-98 in respect of the expenditure already incurred by the organisation prior to the year 1995-96 as the sanction of Central Government in respect of the expenditure was received only in 1997-98.

⊙ Amounts in col. 3, 5, & 7, include grant for secretarial expenditure and other activities also.

[English]

#### Utilisation of World Bank Aid for Control of AIDS

1946. SHRI RAVI SITARAM NAIK : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of World Bank aid provided for the control of AIDS during the last three years;
- (b) whether the major portion of this aid has not been utilised;
- (c) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (d) the action taken by the Government for full utilisation of this aid for the control of AIDS?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI) : (a) A Credit Agreement of US Dollar 84 million has been signed with the World Bank for implementation of the National AIDS Control Programme. The World Bank has reimbursed the following amount during the last three years:

Years	US Dollar in Million
1995-96	9.16
1996-97	21.24
1997-08	13.67

(b) No, Sir. An amount of US Dollar 65 million has already been utilised for implementing the National AIDS Control Programme.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Since National AIDS Control Programme is a 100% Centrally Sponsored Scheme, the implementation of the Scheme is reviewed by State AIDS Programme Officers. Besides the proper utilisation of fund is also monitored by National AIDS Committee under the Chairmanship of Health Minister; National AIDS Control Board under the Chairmanship of Secretary (Health) and also by Additional Secretary and Project Director in his meetings with State AIDS Programme Offices. Standing Committee of Parliament of Human Resource Development also review the Programme while discussing the Budget Proposal of this Ministry.

Proper utilisation of Funds under this Programme also gets reviewed by Audit, since Audit Certificate for expenditure incurred every year is an essential requirements under the project.

The main components of the Programme reviewed are as follows:

1. Strengthening the Management Capacity for HIV Control;

2. Promoting Public Awareness and community support;
3. Improving Blood Safety and its rational use;
4. Building Surveillance and Clinical Management Capacity; and
5. Controlling Sexually Transmitted Diseases.

#### Fuel Linkages

1947. SHRI DILEEP SANGHANI : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government have decided to provide fuel linkages for specified projects other than Naphtha;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the extent to which the power projects based on Naphtha are likely to be affected after freeing Naphtha from administered price mechanism?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) and (b) In accordance with the Government decision to allow generation of 12,000 MW of power through Independent Power Producers (IPPs) based on liquid fuels to overcome the acute shortage of power, about 9905 TMTPA of naphtha and 3214 TMTPA of FO/LSHS have been allocated for generation of about 10488 MW of power through IPPs.

In addition to the above, 620 TMTPA of Naphtha and 412 TMTPA of FO/LSHS have been allocated for generation of 806 MW of power through barge-mounted power plants. Further, 150 TMTPA of FO/LSHS and 3660 TMTPA of naphtha have been allocated for generation of 2964.5 MW of power by the Kerala State Electricity Board, Karnataka Breweries, NTPC and IPCL.

(c) As the indigenous naphtha has already been committed to meet the demand of the existing and prospective customers to whom allocations have already been made, the Government has decided that the requirement of liquid fuels for the IPPs would be met through imports.

Naphtha and FO/LSHS have been decontrolled with effect from April 1, 1998. Hence, the prices of these products will now be as per market-determined pricing based on import parity prices plus storage, transportation, handling charges alongwith the margin of the company. Accordingly, as provided in the Model Fuel Supply Agreement (FSA), the prices of liquid fuels will consist of weighted average landed cost of imported product, import handling charge, infrastructure charge, service charge, guarantee charge and actual freight charge or notional freight charge (as applicable). Power projects are not likely to be affected by the decontrol of pricing of naphtha.

**Implementation of Human Organ Transplantation Act, 1994**

1948. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- whether the Human Organ Transplantation Act, 1994 applies informally in the country;
- if not, whether it has to be formally adopted by the respective State Legislatures to make it applicable;
- if so, the details of those State Legislatures which have since formally adopted, notified it and making it applicable in their respective States;
- whether some cases of kidney transplants by moving kidneys from other persons fraudulently have come to the notice of the Government;
- if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government in this regard; and
- the steps taken or contemplated to ensure the implementation of the Human Organ Transplantation Act, 1994 throughout the country strictly?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT CHILMALAI) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir. It has to be adopted by the respective State Legislatures.

(c) Names of the States/UTs who have adopted the Act.—Assam, Goa, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra, Nagaland, Rajasthan, Tamilnadu, West Bengal, Haryana, Meghalaya, Punjab, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Sikkim, Andhra Pradesh. (Andhra Pradesh has enacted its own Act on similar lines.) Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Chandigarh Admn., Dadra & Nagar Haveli, Daman Diu, Delhi, Lakshadweep, Pondicherry.

(d) Yes, Sir.

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

(f) The State Governments are being vigorously urged at the highest level to adopt the Transplantation of Human Organs Act, 1994.

[Translation]

**Welfare Schemes for Tribals**

1949. SHRI RAMANAND SINGH : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

- the schemes being run for the tribal development in Madhya Pradesh at present;
- the Centrally sponsored schemes out of these and the amount of assistance provided by the Union Government for these schemes during 1996-97 and 1997-98 separately;
- the details of amount spent and unspent, separately by Madhya Pradesh out of the Central Assistance during the said period;
- whether the amount of Central assistance has been utilized by the Government of Madhya Pradesh fully;
- if so, the details thereof; and
- if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI) : (a) The undermentioned schemes are in operation: (1). SCA to TSP (2). Articles 275(1) of the Constitution (3). Girls Hostels for Scheduled Tribes (4). Boys Hostels for Scheduled Tribes (5). Ashram Schools in TSP areas for Scheduled Tribes (6). Educational Complex in Low Literacy Pockets for S.T. Girls (7). Grant-in-aid to Scheduled Tribe Development operative Corporations (8). Assistance to Tribal Research Institutes.

(b) and (c) The statement indicating the Centrally Sponsored Schemes for Scheduled Tribes and amount provided during 1996-97 and 1997-98 is enclosed.

(d) to (f) No, Sir. Grants under various schemes are either released in instalments on a receipt of complete proposal from the State Govt., depending on the Scheme. It is often not possible to utilise the grant during the same year under some of the schemes. Whenever construction is involved the Ministry is allowing 2-3 years for utilisation because of the procedures involved.

**Statement**

*Year-wise Details of Funds Released to Government of Madhya Pradesh under various schemes of tribal development during 1996-97 and 1997-98 under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes*

(Rs in lakhs)

No	Name of the Scheme	Assistance provided		Net Utilised	1997-98	Utilised	Net Utilised	Expr. Reported	Unspent Balance
		1996-97	Utilised						
	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
	SCA to TSP	7695.71	utilised	-	9207.83	utilisation not recd.	-	-	-

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
02.	Article 275 (1) of the Constitution	1687.50	utilised	-	1262.90	Utilisation not recd.	-	-	
03.	Girls Hostels for Scheduled Tribes	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
04.	Boys Hostels for Scheduled Tribes	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
05.	Ashram Schools for Scheduled Tribes in TSP areas.	99.45	utilisation not recd.	-	-	-	-	-	
06.	Educational Complex in Low Literacy Pkts. for ST Girls.	1.20	-do-	-	50.19	-do-	-	-	
07.	Vocational Trg. Centres	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
08.	Grant in-aid to Sch. Tribes Cooperative Corporation.	-	-	-	200.00	-do-	-	-	
09.	Assistance to Tribal Research Institutes.	22.02	utilised	-	49.96	-do-	-	-	
10.	Post Matric Scholarship for STs.	973.62	973.18	0.44 unutilised	-	N.A.	N.A.	-	

[English]

#### ISI Activities through Indo-Nepal Border

1950. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH:  
SHRI ADITYANATH:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether ISI agents of Pakistan are having free access to Indian territory through Indo-Nepal borders, situated across Eastern Uttar Pradesh and Bihar with R.D.X. and other explosive materials;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of culprits nabbed during the last two years;

(d) whether a large number of mosques are being constructed a long with border and where in such agents took shelter;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Union Government to check such activities?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI) : (a) to (f) Yes, Sir. Pak-ISI agents and terrorists have been exploiting porous Indo-Nepal border for gaining entry into Indian territory in furtherance of their designs to carry out anti-India activities or escaping from India when under pressure. In a number of separate operations sizeable quantity of RDX and other explosive materials and detonating

devices have been recovered and 12 terrorists including some Pak nationals have been arrested.

A large number of madarsas/mosques have come to notice on both sides of Indo-Nepal border particularly on the central and eastern part of U.P. sector bordering Gonda, Bahraich, Siddharthnagar and Maharajganj districts. The State Police and central security agencies are fully alive to the efforts of Pak-ISI and have been monitoring the situation and taking all possible preventive measures from time to time. Our security concerns in this regard have been brought to the notice of His Majesty's Government of Nepal at all high-level bi-lateral interactions. We are receiving good cooperation from HMGN agencies in curbing these anti-India activities.

#### Crimes in Delhi

1951. COL. SONA RAM CHOUDHARY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the incidents of killing of old couples, young women and abduction and rape of minor girls have increased in National Capital Territory of Delhi during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of cases solved and punishment awarded in those cases during the last two years;

(d) whether the Union Government have issued any directives to the Government of Delhi and Police in this regard; and

(e) If so, the action taken by the State Government and Police to save lives of innocent people and chastity of women and minor children?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI) : (a) and (b) The category-wise number of such cases reported during the last three years is as under:

Head	1995	1996	1997
Killing of old couples	8	4	5
Killing of young women	89	90	107
Abduction of minor girls	76	78	67
Rape of minor girls	233	306	348

(c) The requisite information is given in the attached statement.

(d) and (e) The position regarding the law and order situation in the National Capital Territory of Delhi is reviewed by the Government from time to time. The steps taken by the Delhi Police to prevent such crime include inter-alia, intensification of beat patrolling; posting of armed pickets at strategic points; strengthening of intelligence network; close watch on and frequent raids at the suspected hide-outs of criminals; increased surveillance on history sheeters; coordination meetings with the officers of neighbouring states; and deployment of women police near schools, colleges, markets and other conspicuous places.

#### Statement

##### Number of Cases

Year	Reported	Cancelled	Admitted	Worked out	Challaned	Convicted	Acquitted	Pending trial	Pending investigation	Untraced
<b>Killing of Old Couples</b>										
1996	4	-	4	4	3	-	-	3	1	
1997	5	-	5	4	3	-	-	3	1	1
<b>Cases of Killing of Young Women</b>										
1996	90	1	89	74	72	-	6	66	12	5
1997	107	1	106	88	79	-	1	78	23	4
<b>Cases of Abduction of Minor Girls</b>										
1996	78	47	31	12	12	-	-	12	4	15
1997	67	29	38	18	11	-	-	11	23	4
<b>Cases of Rape of Minor Girls</b>										
1996	306	13	293	275	261	3	9	249	18	14
1997	348	7	341	330	283	-	3	280	55	3

#### Fair Price Shops

1952. SHRI RAJVEER SINGH : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Fair Price Shops in the country at present, State-wise;

(b) whether some fair price shops have been closed down during each of the last two years; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PAL SINGH YADAV) : (a) State-wise number of fair price shops in the country, as per reports received from States/UTs, are given in the Statement enclosed.

(b) and (c) It is the responsibility of the State Governments/UT Administrations either to open or close Fair Price Shops for distribution of essential commodities as per their requirements/administrative convenience. Government of India does not maintain details of closure of Fair Price Shops, as the matter comes exclusively under the jurisdiction of the State Governments/UT Administrations.

**Statement**

*Number of Fair Price Shops as per reports received from States/UTs*

State/UT	Rural	Urban	Total	Reported as on
1	2	3	4	5
Andhra Pradesh	32749	6974	39723	Mar 98
Arunachal Pradesh	842	103	945	Nov 97
Assam	27004	3300	30304	Mar 96
Bihar	47293	10242	57535	Nov 97
Goa	429	161	590	Dec 97
Gujarat	10124	3812	13936	Dec 97
Haryana	4970	2628	7598	Mar 98
Himachal Pradesh	3418	240	3658	Aug 97
Jammu & Kashmir	2237	689	2926	Sep 97
Karnataka	14523	5354	19877	Mar 98
Kerala	12254	2029	14283	Dec 97
Madhya Pradesh	20453	3646	24099	Dec 97
Maharashtra	31752	10856	42608	Aug 97
Manipur	1742	186	1928	Jan 97
Meghalaya	3262	574	3836	Mar 97
Mizoram	874	193	1067	Feb 98
Nagaland	138	213	351	Nov 97
Orissa	20951	3620	24571	Dec 97
Punjab	8680	3072	11752	Mar 97
Rajasthan	13975	4494	18469	Dec 97
Sikkim	519	359	878	May 98
Tamilnadu	21281	4235	25516	Mar 98
Tripura	1184	174	1358	Dec 97
Uttar Pradesh	64393	12326	76719	Dec 97
West Bengal	15607	4832	20439	Feb 97
Andaman & Nicobar	286	118	404	Feb 98
Chandigarh	46	201	247	Feb 98

1	2	3	4	5
D&N Haveli	78	0	78	Dec 98
Daman & Diu	7	6	13	Dec 97
Delhi	428	2739	3167	Dec 96
Lakshdweep	21	14	35	Feb 98
Pondicherry	153	208	361	Nov 97
<b>Total</b>	<b>361673</b>	<b>87598</b>	<b>449271</b>	

**Withdrawal of PDS**

1953. DR. ASIM BALA :  
SHRI RANJIB BISWAL :

Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Public Distribution System proposed to be withdrawn:

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the other alternatives steps proposed to be taken by the Government to cater the need of poor card holders?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PAL SINGH YADAV) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

**Primary Health Centres**

1954. DR. RAMKRISHNA KUSMARIA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Primary Health Centres in the country are functioning effectively;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to improve the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Although in certain areas there are shortfalls and gaps in infrastructure, manpower deployment and service delivery.

(c) Through the recently launched Reproductive and Child Health Programme, specific activities are being initiated for (i) augmenting the primary health infrastructure (ii) improving and expanding facilities for health care in rural and urban slums; (iii) contractual appointment of Medical and Para-Medical Staff for filling up vacancies (iv) involving NGOs in providing Medical Care to the people. Significant

improvement in the health status of Women and Children is the principal objective of the Programme.

In addition various Externally Aided Projects and Area Projects have been sanctioned for bridging the infrastructural gaps in the Primary Health Care System, and improving the delivery of Health Services, through development of trained additional manpower, and provision of essential drugs and equipment.

#### **National Blood Policy**

1955. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government have approved the recommendations of the National Blood Transfusion Council;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the annual requirement of blood in the country;
- (d) the total quantity of blood likely to be imported;
- (e) whether the Government have acted with the recent directives of Supreme Court in this regard;
- (f) if so, the details thereof; and
- (g) the time by which 'National Blood Policy' is likely to be declared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI) : (a), (b) and (g) A draft National Blood Policy has been formulated by the National Blood Transfusion Council set up in pursuance of the directives of the Supreme Court judgement. The policy is under examination in the Department.

- (c) The annual requirement of blood, as per WHO norms of 7 units of blood per hospital bed per annum, is 42.00 lac units.
- (d) Whole human blood is not imported into the country.
- (e) and (f) A Statement is enclosed.

#### **Statement**

##### *Supreme Court Judgement*

In a Public Interest Litigation (PIL), the Supreme Court of India, in a historic judgement on 4th January, 1996, directed the Union of India and State Governments to take various steps towards co-ordinated management and revamping of blood banking activities in all its facets of collection, testing, quality control, storage, archiving, rational use, monitoring, training and research. Some of the directives of the judgement are:

- (a) The Union Government and all the State Governments/ UT Administrations shall establish National/State Blood Transfusion Councils by 15th July, 1996, as a "Society" registered under the Societies Registration Act, 1860. The Object Clause of the Constitution of the Councils assigns the task of the ensuring co-ordinated management of blood banking services in all its facets.
- (b) To licence all the blood banks by 31st December, 1996 (later extended to 17th May, 1997)
- (c) To take steps to discourage the prevalence of paid donations of blood so that the system is completely eliminated by December 31, 1997.
- (d) To encourage generation of funds from Industry and Individuals, Section 80G of the Income-tax Act has been duly amended providing a grant of 100% exemption from income tax to the donors in respect of donations made to the National/State Blood Transfusion Councils.
- (e) To consider the advisability of enacting separate legislation for regulating the operation of blood banks.

The judgement provides a good tool for revamping of blood transfusion services ensuring adequate availability of safe blood and blood products. The follow up of the judgement was the formation of the National Blood Transfusion Council in May, 1996. State Blood Transfusion Councils have also been set up in all the States and UTs. The National Blood Transfusion Council was set up in 1996 under the Chairmanship of Additional Secretary and Project Director, NACO consisting of 14 members in the Governing Body of the Council. The Council has held five meetings so far and has taken a number of important decisions some of which are (a) formulation of the draft national Blood Policy by the Council. (b) recommendation of service charges for issuance of blood. These decisions are under examination by the Government.

#### **Deaths Due to Spurious Drugs**

1956. SHRI D. S. AHIRE :  
SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT :

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the new-item captioned "Spurious drugs total upto 15" appeared in "The Hindustan Times" dated May 13, 1996 that 15 children have died in the Capital and Gurgaon due to suspected poisoning through indiscriminate use of spurious drugs;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the actual number of children died and badly effected due to intake of spurious drugs;

(d) the details of such spurious drugs;

(e) whether the Government have since been taken any action against the manufacturer/companies manufacturing these drugs which effect the children; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) As per the information available with the Government 35 cases of Acute Renal Failure were admitted in Kalawati Saran Children's Hospital and AIIMS, New Delhi during the period from 1.4.98 to 18.5.98 with unusual clinical syndrome and having symptoms of acute fever, vomiting, diarrhoea followed by anuria out of them 28 were reported to have died. As per information provided by the relatives of the patients, 29 patients were residents of Gurgaon Distt.

(d) A statement indicating the details of the samples of drugs, taken by the Drugs Control Authorities for test on

suspicion of having been prescribed/administered/distributed to the children by the Medical Practitioners/Chemists and Drugs is annexed.

(e) and (f) The Government took the following steps:

1. All Licensing Authorities of the States/UTs were alerted to stop forthwith use of Drugs which were suspected to have caused adverse reaction in the Children. Further, the Licensing Authorities were advised to freeze/seize unused stocks of the Drugs available with the Hospitals, Chemists, Druggists, etc.
2. Investigations were carried out at the premises of the manufacturers, distributors, etc. and Samples of Drugs which were suspected to have caused adverse reaction have been taken.
3. The Samples have been sent to the Govt. Testing Labs. Further steps will be initiated against the defaulters under the provisions of Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 on the basis of the results of analysis of the Samples taken.

#### *Statement*

*Samples of Drugs taken by the Drugs Control Authorities and sent for analysis to the Govt. Testing Labs.*

S.No.	Name of the Drug	B. No.	Manufactured by
1	2	3	4
1.	Nobemol Suspension	2371	M/s Noble Remedies, Gurgaon (Haryana)
2.	Nobprim Suspension	2365	-do-
3.	Paracetamol Tablets	MKV 7048	M/s Merind Ltd., Mumbai
4.	Nobemol Suspension	2348	M/s Noble Remedies, Gurgaon
5.	Enfur Suspension	2242	-do-
6.	Nobemol Suspension	2371	-do-
7.	Paracetamol I.P.	3850198	M/s Nalin Chemicals, Bhiwadi (Raj.)
8.	Nobepim Suspension	2365	M/s Noble Remedies, Gurgaon
9.	Nobemol Suspension	2371	M/s Noble Remedies, Gurgaon
10.	Mikacin Inj. (500 mg)	010217	M/s Aristo Pharma Ltd., Mandideep, M.P.
11.	Mikacin Inj. (200 mg)	0204A8B	-do-
12.	Chloramphenicol Succinate Inj.	1041	M/s Mac Labs. Ltd, Mumbai
13.	Gentamycin Inj.	T-803	M/s Blue Cross Labs. Ltd., Nasik
14.	Gentamycin In.	7958	M/s Fulford (I) Ltd, Hyderabad
15.	Chloramphenicol Palmitate Oral Susp.	682	M/s Mims Lab., Sonipat

1	2	3	4
16.	Lopramide Hydrochloride Tablets	LDP- 06	M/s Cyper Pharma, New Delhi
17.	Inj. Febrinll	FB. 643R	M/s Adel Labs. Ltd., Goa
18.	Dexamethasone Sodium Phosphate Inj.	0191	M/s Merind Ltd., Mumbai
19.	Declofenac Inj. I.P.	345	M/s Cross Land Research Lab, Mumbai
20.	Taxim Inj.	Txl- 8010	M/s Alken Lab. Ltd. Mumbai
21.	Trimethoprim & Sulphamethoxazole Susp.	J 248	M/s Jagson Pal Pharmaceuticals, Faridabad
22.	Gentamycin Sulphate Inj.	MSJ- 8126	M/s Sanjivini Parenterals Ltd., Thane
23.	Ampicillin Inj.	096	M/s Cebon (I) Ltd., Gurgaon
24.	Nobemol Suspension	2371	M/s Noble Remedies, Gurgaon
25.	Enchest Exp.	2366	-do-
26.	Nobemol Suspension	2348	-do-
27.	-do-	2318	-do-
28.	-do-	2371	-do-
29.	Enchest Exp.	2366	-do-

#### Violence In Assam

1957. SHRIMATI ABHA MAHTO :  
SHRI ABDUL HAMID :  
SHRIMATI RANEE NARAH :  
SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there was a large scale violence between the Bodo's and religious minorities during 1993-94 in Kokrajhar and Bongaigaon districts of Assam;

(b) if so, the number of persons became homeless and victimised;

(c) the steps taken by the Union Government for their rehabilitation and the ex-gratia payment made to the families of victims;

(d) the details of ethnic riots took place in Assam alongwith the details of persons/extremists/security personnel killed during the last three years;

(e) the number of raped victims/kidnapped persons during the said period; and

(f) the details of refugee camps set up for uprooted families and steps taken to rehabilitate them?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI) : (a) and (b) The districts of Kokrajhar and

Bongaigaon were rocked by communal carnage at the hands of Bodo militants in October, 1993. 23 persons were killed in the violence. Again in May, 1994 Bodo militants attached 3 villages in Kokrajhar district and killed 22 persons besides causing injuries to many others. Bodo militants struck again in July, 1994 in Barpeta district and killed about 70 persons and about 50 others were injured. More than 50,000 non-Bodos, deserted their homes and took shelter in around 20 refugee camps.

(c) Steps for relief and rehabilitation including payment of ex-gratia relief are taken by concerned State Governments. Accordingly, Government of Assam had taken steps in this regard and according to available information most of the refugees were sent back to their native villages under police escort and temporary pickets had been established in 19 villages.

(d) Bodo militants have been responsible for killing of over 240 non-Bodos besides over 20 Bodos killed in retaliatory actions during 1996. 51 persons were killed by Bodo militants during 1997 in incident having ethnic overtones. During the current year, Bodo militants have so far (upto May 15, 1998) killed 52 non-Bodo while 8 Bodos have also been killed in retaliatory action.

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

(f) As a result of communal/ethnic violence perpetrated by Bodo militants during last few years, large number of people have been displaced and rendered homeless. State

Government has taken steps to provide immediate relief by starting refugee camps and providing basic requirements. Every year steps have also been taken to rehabilitate the displaced persons by providing them rehabilitation grants.

During the current year, as per available reports, 18 relief camps have been opened in Kokrajhar district by Government of Assam. Senior leaders including the Chief Minister, visited the affected areas and organised a number of peace meetings with representatives of both Bodos and Santhals in order to normalise the situation in the district. Additional security forces were also inducted in Kokrajhar district to control the situation.

State Government has also announced payment of Rs. 1 lakh to the kin of each deceased person and a grant of Rs. 10,000/- to each of family whose houses have been burnt down.

[Translation]

#### Disabled Persons

1958. SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA :  
SHRI JAYSINHJI CHAUHAN :

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the States who took follow-up action

after the persons equal opportunities, full participation and protection of Rights Act, 1995;

(b) whether any policy and programme for the rehabilitation of the persons have been formulated by the State Government and additional financial assistance provided to those States;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) the State-wise details of the disabled persons appointed in Government services during the last three years with the provisions made for reservation in the States; and

(f) the number of reserved vacancies, State-wise and the time taken by the Government to fill up these vacancies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI) : (a) A statement on Action Taken by State Governments on six specific provisions of the persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995 is enclosed.

(b) to (f) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

#### Statement

*Statement showing the action taken by State Governments/Union Territory Administrations on the implementation of provisions of Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995*

S. No.	State/UT	Notification of Rules by State/UT u/s 73	Appointment of Competent Authority for grant of Certificate of Registration to Institutions for persons with Disabilities including NGOs u/s 50	3% reservation in jobs u/s 33
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	Rules framed on 6.11.9	Assistant Director, Welfare of Handicapped in the districts is appointed on 3/7/96	3% reservation being followed. Spl. Rec. Drive launched.
2.	Assam	—	Director, Social Welfare and Probation was appointed	Order dt. 8/10/96 was issued on 30/12/96
3.	Tripura	Framed and waiting for approval.	under consideration	3% reservation made
4.	Goa	draft rules sent to Law Department for vetting	Director, Social Welfare has been appointed as Competent Authority on 10/9/96	3% reservation already been provided
5.	Madhya Pradesh	Rules framed on 7.11.97	Jr. Director, Panchayat & Social Welfare has been appointed as competent authority	Orders Issued to provide 6% reservation under class II, III & IV category to ensure 3% reservation in real terms

1	2	3	4	5
6.	Gujarat		Director, Social Defence is appointed on 4.6.96	4% reservation made for class III, IV. 4 Spl. Emp. exchanges for the disabled.
7.	Rajasthan		District Collector etc. were appointed on 11.3.97	3% already made
8.	Maharashtra		Appointed on 16.4.96	3% made in class III & IV
9.	Haryana	Being framed	Deputy Commissioners of the State are declared as Competent Authority	3% Reservation made
10.	West Bengal		Director, Social Welfare is declared as Competent Authority	3% made on 7.10.97 (for non PSC & non promotional. Applied to Poverty
11.	Tamil Nadu			
12.	Punjab			3% reservation made.
13.	Uttar Pradesh			
14.	Manipur		Deputy Director appointed as Competent Authority on 27.6.97.	
15.	Karnataka			5% reservation made
16.	Kerala		Jt. Director, SW has been appointed on 5.2.98.	

*Statement showing the action taken by State Governments/Union Territory Administrations on the implementation of provisions of Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995*

S. No.	State/UT	Constitution of State Coordination Committee (SCC) u/s 13 (i)	Constitution of State Executive Committee (SEC) u/s 19 (i)	Appointment of Commissioner for persons with Disabilities u/s 60
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	SCC formed on 11.12.96 Secretary, WCD was appointed as Ex-officio Member Secretary	SEC formed on 11.12.96 Secretary, WCD was appointed as Ex-officio Chairperson	Secretary, WCD has been appointed on 27.9.97 till the appointment of a regular commissioner
2.	Assam	SCC formed on 8.10.96 Minister (Social Welfare) Assam is Chairperson	SEC formed on 8.11.96 Commissioner & Secy., Deptt. of Social Welfare appointed as Chairperson	Commissioner & Secy., Deptt. of Social Welfare was appointed on 30.12.96
3.	Tripura	SCC formed on 15.1.97 Meeting held on 3.6.97	SEC formed on 15.1.97	Commissioner appointed on 15.1.97
4.	Goa	Formed on 29.7.97. Meeting held on 14.1.98	Formed on 29.7.97.	Under consideration
5.	Madhya Pradesh	SCC formed on 1.5.97 Minister (Social Welfare) appointed as Chairperson	SEC formed on 5.5.97 with Secretary, Social Welfare as Chairman	Commissioner-cum-Director, Panchayat and Social Welfare nominated as Commissioner

1	2	3	4	5
6.	Gujarat	SCC constituted on 13.5.97	SEC formed 23.5.97	Addl. Chief Secretary has been appointed as Commissioner on 29.11.97
7.	Rajasthan	SCC constituted on 16/7/97	SEC formed on 16.7.97	Director, Social Welfare appointed as Commissioner on 11.3.97
8.	Haryana	Constituted on 24.9.97	Constituted on 24.9.97 Meeting held on 8.12.97	Commissioner, SW has been appointed on 28.7.97
9.	Tamil Nadu	SCC formed on 27.5.97 under the Chairmanship of Minister, Social Welfare		
10.	Nagaland	SCC formed under the Chairmanship of Minister of Social Welfare		
11.	Uttar Pradesh	SCC formed and Notification is being issued	SEC formed on 20.11.97	Commissioner was appointed on 11.3.97
12.	Punjab	SCC formed on 30.12.96 with Minister, Social Welfare as Chairman	SEC formed on 19.1.98 under Secretary, SW	Director, Social Security & WCD appointed on 14.2.97
13.	Karnataka	Formed on 12.9.97 under the chairmanship of MOS (WCD). (A review of implementation of Act on 23.8.97 under CM.	is under consideration.	Action is on
14.	West Bengal	SCC formed on 13.1.98	Final stages	OSD & Ex-officio Director of Social Welfare has been appointed as Commissioner.
15.	Arunachal Pradesh			Secretary, SW appointed on 15.1.98 as Commissioner.
16.	Orissa	Formed on 13.11.97 under the chairmanship of Minister WCD.	SEC formed on 13.11.97 under Commissioner-cum Secy., WCD.	Director, SW&WCD, Govt. of Orissa has been appointed as Commission on 13.11.97.
17.	Maharashtra	In the process	SEC formed.	In the process
18.	Kerala			Chairman, KSHPWCV has been appointed on 5.2.98
19.	Himachal Pradesh	Constituted on 7.1.97	Constituted on 7.1.97	

*[English]***Crimes against Women**

1959. SHRI K.D. SULTANPURI :  
SHRI RAMKRISHNA BABA PATIL :  
SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL :  
SHRI D.S. AHIRE :  
SHRI P.C. THOMAS :  
SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN :  
SHRI JANG BAHADUR SINGH PATEL :  
SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE :  
SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA :  
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the incident of crimes, rapes and other forms of sexual assault with adult and minor girls are on the increase in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof during each of the last three years till date crime-wise, State/Union-Territory-wise;

(c) the reasons for increase in crimes against women;

(d) the number of cases in which the family members/relatives and foreigners were involved separately;

(e) the number of incidents perpetrated on women belonging to SC/ST;

(f) the number of persons arrested and the number of cases filed in the courts during the said period and the number of culprits were finally given punishment under the law;

(g) the steps taken to expedite the disposal of such cases in the courts;

(h) whether any concrete plan is being prepared to help and assist the State Governments in checking the rape cases and to amend law for awarding severe punishment to those involved in these crimes;

(i) if so, the details thereof; and

(j) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L. K. ADVANI): (a) to (c) Available information is given in Statement I and II.

(d) Specific information relating to the number of cases in which family members/relatives and foreigners were involved is not maintained separately at Central level.

(e) Available information relating to the incidents of rape of Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe women during the years 1995 to 1997 is given below:

Scheduled Caste Women			Scheduled Tribe Women		
1995	1996	1997	1995	1996	1997
872	949	1034	369	314	312

(f) Available information relating to the number of persons arrested, the number of cases filed in the courts and

the number of persons convicted for committing crimes against women during the years 1995 and 1996 is given below:

Years	Number of persons Arrested	Number of cases filed in the courts (Number of cases for Trial)	Number of Persons Convicted
1995	1,69,721	2,89,302	33,315
1996	1,95,436	3,38,387	32,362

(g) In order to speed up the disposal of cases, the Government has taken a series of steps to simplify procedures on the basis of the advice and recommendations of expert bodies like the Law Commission. Conferences of Law Ministers, Chief Ministers and Chief Justices and other concerned with the administration of Justice are also held periodically and the recommendations and conclusions emerging from such exchanges and consultations are implemented and their progress closely monitored.

(h) to (j) 'Police' and 'Public Order' are State subjects as per the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution of India, and the registration, investigation, detection and prevention of crime is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments. However, the Central Government has, from time to time, been writing to the State Governments stressing the need to take preventive, punitive and rehabilitative measures in connection with crimes against women. The Central Government has also been modifying and amending the existing laws with a view to making them more stringent. The guidelines issued by the Central Government, inter alia, include establishment of Women's Cell, Counselling Centres-cum-Shelter Homes and gender sensitisation training to police personnel.

#### Statement-I

##### Victims of rape under different age groups during 1994 to 1996 (State & UT-wise)

Sl. No.	State/UT	1994				1995				1996			
		Below 10 Years	10-16 Years	16-30 Years	30 Years & Above	Below 10 Years	10-16 Years	16-30 Years	30 Years & Above	Below 10 Years	10-16 Years	16-30 Years	30 Years & Above
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
1.	Andhra Pradesh	72	288	433	80	77	245	412	122	48	221	424	111
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	5	12	11	0	0	0	17	8	0	14	19	4
3.	Assam	23	119	308	90	17	140	358	73	15	132	335	98
4.	Bihar	15	198	722	195	29	320	739	224	9	208	875	361
5.	Goa	1	2	5	1	3	8	8	0	1	4	4	1
6.	Gujarat	20	93	186	57	17	79	174	39	15	102	161	28
7.	Haryana	29	90	114	25	27	85	167	32	38	89	181	28

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
8. Himachal Pradesh	9	30	61	10	18	35	51	12	8	44	68	12	
9. Jammu & Kashmir	3	2	72	35	1	11	92	5	0	20	125	12	
10. Karnataka	27	72	161	21	22	57	153	31	26	62	105	29	
11. Kerala	9	53	115	20	13	89	114	20	26	109	215	39	
12. Madhya Pradesh	97	712	1680	440	107	828	1710	474	95	798	1748	624	
13. Maharashtra	92	399	705	106	120	386	702	154	60	393	807	184	
14. Manipur	1	0	2	2	2	1	9	0	4	3	4	3	
15. Meghalaya	0	7	24	3	6	1	10	0	4	6	22	1	
16. Mizoram	2	15	23	4	3	4	27	7	5	24	14	6	
17. Nagaland	0	0	10	2	0	0	13	3	0	0	6	3	
18. Orissa	14	66	288	68	4	97	369	83	8	75	392	142	
19. Punjab	6	34	52	14	6	25	50	15	46	60	61	11	
20. Rajasthan	76	129	644	153	26	98	680	232	21	97	756	268	
21. Sikkim	3	1	4	1	0	3	0	0	2	2	2	3	
22. Tamil Nadu	9	23	179	26	19	37	193	19	31	76	201	19	
23. Tripura	1	12	32	16	2	16	37	20	5	15	58	12	
24. Uttar Pradesh	71	467	1205	335	76	408	1037	287	49	486	1002	317	
25. West Bengal	89	270	302	82	78	282	374	69	24	227	505	99	
<b>Total (States)</b>	<b>676</b>	<b>3094</b>	<b>7338</b>	<b>1778</b>	<b>673</b>	<b>3255</b>	<b>7526</b>	<b>1929</b>	<b>540</b>	<b>3267</b>	<b>8080</b>	<b>2443</b>	
26. A&N Islands	1	0	2	2	1	0	3	1	1	3	3	0	
27. Chandigarh	2	1	1	2	2	0	2	1	0	1	6	2	
28. D&N Haveli	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	3	0	
29. Daman & Diu	0	0	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	
30. Delhi	54	146	98	16	71	63	219	23	67	202	176	40	
31. Lakshadweep	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
32. Pondicherry	1	2	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	2	0	0	
<b>Total (UTs)</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>226</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>208</b>	<b>191</b>	<b>42</b>	
<b>Total (All-India)</b>	<b>734</b>	<b>3244</b>	<b>7442</b>	<b>1798</b>	<b>747</b>	<b>3320</b>	<b>7752</b>	<b>1955</b>	<b>608</b>	<b>3475</b>	<b>8281</b>	<b>2435</b>	

Source: Crime in India Data

**Statement-II****Incidence of Rape, Molestation and Eve-Teasing during 1995 to 1997**

Sl. No.	State/UT	1995			1996			1997		
		Rape	Moles- tation*	Sexual Harras- sment* (Eve- Teasing)	Rape	Moles- tation	Sexual Harras- sment (Eve- Teasing)	Rape	Moles- tation	Sexual Harras- sment (Eve- Teasing)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
<b>States</b>										
1.	Andhra Pradesh	856	2677	769	812	2559	994	906	2587	2552
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	25	11	0	37	29	1	47	31	0
3.	Assam	588	572	15	580	569	8	645	178	5
4.	Bihar	1312	563	22	1453	533	107	1189	508	14
5.	Goa	19	27	6	10	17	7	15	16	7
6.	Gujarat	309	1042	45	306	1077	81	296	1019	58
7.	Haryana	311	483	296	336	529	434	341	463	315
8.	Himachal Pradesh	116	296	14	132	295	16	131	269	31
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	109	235	140	157	376	166	163	423	312
10.	Karnataka	263	1356	192	222	1310	166	245	1405	147
11.	Kerala	266	810	14	389	1166	40	571	1569	76
12.	Madhya Pradesh	3119	7355	765	3265	6838	705	3411	6777	1446
13.	Maharashtra	1362	3475	808	1444	3227	870	1206	3117	974
14.	Manipur	12	24	0	14	19	0	8	12	0
15.	Maghalaya	17	14	0	33	24	1	26	10	0
16.	Mizoram	41	59	0	49	54	0	49	50	0
17.	Nagaland	16	0	0	9	4	1	15	1	0
18.	Orissa	553	1446	109	617	1690	175	432	944	100
19.	Punjab	96	73	8	178	129	1	175	135	17
20.	Rajasthan	1036	2121	65	1162	2583	44	1255	2894	38
21.	Sikkim	3	37	0	9	47	0	7	32	1
22.	Tamil Nadu	268	1212	1078	327	1253	1514	287	1029	2337
23.	Tripura	75	80	1	90	94	1	98	93	0
24.	Uttar Pradesh	1808	2631	154	1854	2526	118	1390	1975	2350
25.	West Bengal	787	1314	26	855	1254	22	824	1277	63
<b>Total (States)</b>		<b>13367</b>	<b>27913</b>	<b>4527</b>	<b>14340</b>	<b>28202</b>	<b>5472</b>	<b>13732</b>	<b>26814</b>	<b>10843</b>

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
<b>Union Territories</b>										
26.	A&N Islands	5	13	1	7	9	2	9	10	0
27.	Chandigarh	5	10	2	9	13	4	9	8	89
28.	D & N Haveli	1	5	0	3	7	0	1	1	0
29.	Daman & Diu	2	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0
30.	Delhi	372	520	223	484	694	189	458	666	209
31.	Lakshadweep	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
32.	Pondicherry	2	14	3	2	14	4	5	14	12
<b>Total (UTs)</b>		<b>387</b>	<b>562</b>	<b>229</b>	<b>506</b>	<b>737</b>	<b>199</b>	<b>483</b>	<b>699</b>	<b>310</b>
<b>Total (All-India)</b>		<b>13754</b>	<b>28475</b>	<b>4756</b>	<b>14846</b>	<b>28939</b>	<b>5671</b>	<b>14215</b>	<b>27513</b>	<b>11153</b>

Source 1. 1995-'Monthly Crime Statistics' and Crime in India.  
 2. 1996-Crime in India Data.  
 3. 1997-Monthly Crime Statistics.

Note: 1. \*In 1995 Data for the State/UT of Bihar, Daman & Diu, Gujarat and Meghalaya taken for monthly Crime Statistics due to non-availability of annual data.  
 2. Figures of 1997 are provisional.  
 3. 1997 figures of Orissa are upto September.

[Translation]

#### Supply of M.T.O. and Solvent

1960. SHRIMATI KAMAL RANI:  
 SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether kerosene and light diesel oil were supplied to SKO/L.D.O. distributors by the Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited under Petroleum Act 1934 and Petroleum Rules 1976 under the amended draft 16;

(b) whether amendment in draft has been made for distribution of petroleum products like M.T.O. and solvent;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to amend the said Act to bring M.T.O. and solvent under its purview?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) Yes, Sir. Kerosene and LDO were supplied to SKO/KDO dealers by the Oil Industry including the Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited under the Petroleum Act, 1934 and the Petroleum Rules, 1976 under Form XIII (Bulk Storage Licence) before 1988.

(b) and (c) Form XIII is meant for storage of petroleum products (Class "A" and Class "B" which include kerosene, LDO, MTO and solvents) stored in bulk. There is no amendment to Form XIII. However, in addition Form XVI was included in the Petroleum Act, 1934 and the Petroleum Rules, 1976 (*vide* GSR 362 (E) dated 16.3.1988) exclusively for SKO supplies under Public Distribution System wherein tank lorries are allowed to decant kerosene at retailers' premises in their own containers.

(d) MTO and solvents are already covered under the Petroleum Act, 1934 and Petroleum Rules, 1976 under Form XIII.

#### Issue of Caste Certificates to SC/ST

1961. PROF. JOGENDRA KAWADE : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a lot of difficulties faced by the SCs/STs of Delhi to get their caste certificates for the last few months;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether any new policy has been framed by the Govt. in this regard; and .

(d) if not, the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to solve the difficulties in regard to issue of caste certificates?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI) : (a) to (c) No, Sir. In fact the function for issuance has improved due to the bifurcation of erstwhile Deputy Commissioners offices into 9 districts and 27 subdivisions.

(d) Does not arise.

[English]

#### **Insecticides**

1962. SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of manufacturers producing of Chemical insecticides in the country, item-wise;

(b) the details of production and the value of these products during 1997-98;

(c) the cost of import of ingredients being used in the manufacture of these insecticides; and

(d) the value of other insecticides imported and exported during the last two years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (DR. A.K. PATEL) : (a) and (b) Most of the insecticides have been delicensed w.e.f. August, 1991. More than 125 units in the organised sector are engaged in the manufacture of more than 60 Technical Grade Pesticides in the country. As per the provisional information available with the Department the production of Technical Grade Pesticides during 1997-98 is around 82,000 metric tonnes.

(c) and (d) Since there is no Central data monitoring, the exact cost of import of ingredients for manufacture of insecticides can not be ascertained. The details of exports and imports of insecticides are as follows:

<b>Exports:</b>	(Rs. Crores)
1996-97	658
1997-98	588 (Prov.)
<b>Imports:</b>	
1996-97	120
1997-98	56 (Prov.)

Source: DGCIS

#### **Expansion of IOC Refinery**

1963. KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether expansion of IOC refineries has been made during the last three years;

(b) if so, the number of Refineries expanded, State-wise;

(c) whether the Government have any proposal for expansion of IOCs refinery at Haldia; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) and (b) During the last 3 years expansion/modernisation project of two IOC Refineries have been implemented namely:

1. Expansion of Haldia Refinery from 2.75 MMTPA (Million Metric Tonnes Per Annum) to 3.75 MMTPA — (West Bengal)
2. Modernisation of Digboi Refinery increasing the capacity from 0.5 MMTPA to 0.65 MMTPA. — (Assam)

(c) and (d) There is a proposal of setting up new Secondary unit i.e. Fluidised Catalytic Cracking Unit (FCCU) of capacity 0.7 MMTPA. However, immediately there is no plan to expand crude processing capacity.

[Translation]

#### **Promotion of Ayurvedic and Unani System**

1964. SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the steps being taken by the Government to promote Ayurvedic and Unani System of medicines in Government departments/Defence/Railways/Internal securities;

(b) whether there is any proposal to open dispensaries in these departments;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the time by which these dispensaries are likely to be opened; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI) : (a) to (d) Government has already established Ayurvedic and Unani Dispensaries under the Ministries of Health, Railways and Labour. One Ayurvedic Dispensary is working under the Ministry of Defence. Besides, the Department has requested the Director of AFMS, Ministry of Defence to open Ayurvedic Clinics in Army Hospitals. The response is awaited.

Department of I.M. & H will be approaching other Ministries to open more Ayurvedic and Unani dispensaries.

*[English]***Coastal Wing Home Guard**

1965. DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA :  
SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the proposal of Government of Gujarat for raising of Coastal Wing Home Guard Battalion is still pending with the Union Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government for security of international border in Gujarat?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I. K. ADVANI) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Vigilance is being maintained along the international border of Gujarat. Various measures have also been taken in connection with coastal security in the State. These include, *inter alia*, deployment of BSF Water Wing units, setting up of Naval detachments, patrolling along the coast, strengthening of intelligence network and presence of local police in the coastal districts.

**Ad-Hoc Ayurvedic and Unani Doctors in CGHS**

1966. SHRI ARIF MOHAMMED KHAN : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Ayurvedic and Unani Doctors recruited on ad-hoc basis by CGHS in August, 1980 have been regularized so far;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons for not giving the benefits of pay scales, promotion and seniority in comparison to allopathic doctors recruited on ad-hoc basis similarly who have been made regular long back and have been getting all the benefits; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to redress the grievances of these doctors?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI) : (a) to (d) The Services of four Ayurvedic Physicians recruited on Ad-hoc basis in August 1980, were regularised with effect from 21-9-97. They have become entitled to all Service Benefits like Promotion, Seniority, etc. w.e.f. from the said date.

No Unani Physician was recruited on ad-hoc basis in August, 1980.

*[Translation]***De-addiction**

1967. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of amount released for de-addiction in the country during the last three years till April 1998;

(b) the works undertaken under the de-addiction programme; and

(c) whether the Government have achieved the target of de-addiction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI) : (a) The amount released for de-addiction in the country for the years 1995-96, 1996-97 and 1997-98 are Rs. 11.16 crores, Rs. 9.73 crores and Rs. 11.5 crores respectively. During the current financial year upto April, 1998 a sum of Rs. 14.18 lakhs was released.

(b) The work undertaken under the de-addiction programme are:

(i) identification;

(ii) indoor detoxification;

(iii) counselling addicts during their stay for detoxification;

(iv) recovery and re-assimilation of the addicts into society as a drug free individual; and

(v) follow-up.

(c) The scheme for Prohibition and Drug Abuse Prevention being a social welfare scheme, no targets were fixed. However, as a result of the implementation of the various programmes under the scheme, upto December 1997, 2,21,981 addicts were registered and 69,618 were detoxified.

*[English]***AIDS Control Programme**

1968. SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have made any review on the success achieved under the AIDS Control Programme implemented in different States during the Eighth Five Year Plan;

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

(c) whether the Government are implementing any awareness campaign for preventing and spreading of AIDS;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps being taken to eradicate AIDS?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT ZHILMALAI) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Preventive Indicators survey and study was conducted in five States of the country, covering Urban and Rural Areas of West Bengal, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Delhi and Haryana. According to the Study, the Awareness Levels have gone up in most of the Urban Areas. In the Urban Areas, it was Calcutta (45.4%), Mumbai (55.1%), Delhi (57.2%), Chennai (77.9%). in the Rural Areas, it was 13.4 in West Bengal, 27.5 in Maharashtra, 36 in Haryana and 63.8 in Tamil Nadu.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) and (e) The accent is on AIDS Prevention, as AIDS has no cure. Different Units of Ministry of Information & Broadcasting are also tapped for dissemination of information about HIV/AIDS. A Scheme called "Universal Talk AIDS" has also launched in collaboration of Ministry of Human Resource Development, to raise the Awareness among youth on AIDS through National Service Scheme. A National AIDS Helpline has also been set up with Telephone No. 1097 for rendering Counselling on AIDS.

#### ESIC Hospitals in Bangalore

1969. SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Employees' State Insurance Corporation has been paying the medical expenditure incurred by industrial employees in speciality Hospitals in Bangalore;

(b) if so, the Speciality Hospitals declared by ESIC for purposes of taking medical treatment by employees;

(c) the amount disbursed by ESIC from April 1997 to February 1998 towards medical expenditure claimed by industrial employees; and

(d) the number of industrial employees taken treatment in Speciality Hospitals in Bangalore during the said period?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government of Karnataka which is responsible for administration of Medical Care under the ESI Scheme has approved the following hospitals for providing Medical Speciality Treatment in Bangalore:

- (i) Shri Jayadeva Institute of Cardiology,
- (ii) Kidwai Institute of Oncology,
- (iii) National Institute of Mental Health & Neuro Sciences,
- (iv) M.S. Ramaiah Hospital,
- (v) Yellamma Dasappa Hospital.

(c) During 1997-98 an amount of Rs. 2,92,97,406 has

been paid as Medical reimbursement by the Government of Karnataka.

(d) 206.

[Translation]

#### Houses for the Beedi Workers

1970. SHRI DADA BABURAO PARANJPE : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the details of houses constructed for Beedi Workers by the Government of Madhya Pradesh; and

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

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM) : (a) and (b) The Government of Madhya Pradesh have constructed 2390 houses for Beedi Workers and 1663 houses are at various stages of completion as per details given in the Statement enclosed.

#### Statement

##### *Details of Construction of Houses for Beedi Workers in the State of Madhya Pradesh.*

Sl. No.	Place	Number of Houses Constructed	Year of Construction	Amount of subsidy paid by the Centre (in Rs.)
1.	Sagar Distt. Sagar.	152	82-83	2,28,000
2.	Raipur Distt. Raipur.	48	82-83	72,000
3.	Majholi Distt. Jabalpur	250	90-91	14,50,000
4.	Damoh Distt. Damoh.	300	90-91	17,40,000
5.	Jabalpur	153	91-92	7,65,000
6.	Begumganj Distt. Raisen.	250	91-92 & 92-93	14,50,000
7.	Urla Distt. Durg.	100	91-92 & 92-93	5,80,000
8.	Waraseoni Distt. Balaghat.	100	92-93	5,80,000
9.	Sagar Division*	1037	95-96 & 97-98	1,21,50,000
			2390	1,90,15,000

\* In the year 1995-96, 2700 houses for Beedi Workers were sanctioned for construction, out of which 1037 units have been completed and 979 units have been completed upto initial level. The remaining 684 houses are under various stages of completion.

[English]

### CGHS Facility in Tripura

1971. SHRI BAJU BAN RIYAN :  
SHRI SAMAR CHOUDHURY :

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Tripura is covered under the Central Government Health Scheme (CGHS);

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

(c) the steps taken by the Government to cover Tripura under this scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) According to the present norms, CGHS facilities can be extended only to cities with a population of 7,500 or more Central Government Employees/Pensioners. According to the policy of the Government the State Capitals which fulfil the norms are to be taken up in the first instance. Due to resource constraints, some State Capital cities which fulfil the norms could not be covered under CGHS so far. There is no proposal to extend CGHS to Tripura at present.

### Border Disputes

1972. SHRI C.P.M. GIRIYAPPA :  
SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE :  
SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the border dispute cases are pending with the Government;

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

(c) the dates by which these disputes are pending;

(d) the details of the efforts made by the Government to solve these disputes; and

(e) whether the Government have implemented the "Mahajan Commission Report" in toto?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI) : (a) to (c) The main inter-State border disputes, which are still pending, are the following:

(i) Maharashtra-Karnataka-Kerala border disputes. These disputes have been pending since the reorganisation of States in 1956.

(ii) Punjab-Haryana border disputes. These disputes have been pending since the reorganisation of the composite State of Punjab in 1966.

While the Maharashtra-Karnataka-Kerala border disputes relate to the conflicting territorial claims over certain border villages and towns, the Punjab-Haryana boundary disputes relate to the transfer of Chandigarh to Punjab and some Hindi speaking areas from Punjab to Haryana in lieu of Chandigarh.

There are also border disputes between Bihar and Uttar Pradesh. However, these disputes are essentially between private parties affected by the adoption of fixed boundary principle in the Bihar-Uttar Pradesh (Alteration of Boundaries) Act, 1968 to avoid difficulties in revenue management caused by transfer/re-transfer of villages due to fluctuating river course.

(d) and (e) The Central Government has been of the view that it is essentially for the State Governments concerned to amicably resolve their differences. The Central Government has also made available its good offices to the two States to come to a mutually acceptable solution.

The Mahajan Commission Report has not been implemented as the differences between Maharashtra and Karnataka still persist.

### Dialogue with Militant Outfits of North-East

1973. SHRIMATI RANEE NARAH : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have initiated for dialogue with the militant outfits of the North-East;

(b) if so, whether the Government have received any positive response from the militant outfits; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI) : (a) to (c) The Government are committed to hold talks with the militant outfits of the North East to establish peace and normalcy in the region. The Prime Minister in his Press statement at Guwahati on 15.4.1998 had stated "To all those who have strayed from the paths of togetherness, whether in Assam or other State of the North East, I extend an invitation: come forward; let us discuss, my Government is committed to holding talks, to a restoration of peace; let us do so within the four corners of our Constitution."

After talks with the Issac-Muviah group of the National Socialist Council of Nagaland, it was mutually agreed to cease fire for three months with effect from 1st August, 1997. The cease fire has since been extended till end of July, 1998.

No other insurgent outfit has so far responded for talks within the parameters indicated by the Prime Minister.

**Terrorism**

1974. SHRI P.C. THOMAS : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether terrorism from Religious Fundamentalist Organisations are on the increase;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the details of States affected by such activities; and
- (d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Union Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI) : (a) to (c) There has been some increase in terrorism from Religious Fundamentalist Organisations, specially in Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Maharashtra.

There were 24 explosions in Delhi and 3 explosions in Ghaziabad (UP) during 1997 in which 11 persons were killed and 241 injured. Investigations in these explosions led to the arrest of 9 militants, belonging to one community responsible for explosions in Delhi and Gaziabad. These militants were connected with Lashkar-e-Taiba and were trained in some neighbouring countries, motivated and financed by a militant group based in Pakistan.

There were a series of 14 bomb blasts in Coimbatore on 14th February, 1998 claiming more than 60 lives and injuring 190 persons. Al-Ummah, a fundamentalist group was found responsible for the serial bomb explosions in Coimbatore.

3 bomb explosions took place in Mumbai on 27th February, 1998 resulting in 4 deaths and injuries to 30 persons. Investigations into these explosions revealed that they were caused by militants trained and motivated by Pak-ASI.

(d) Various Central and State security agencies are aware of the threat from Religious Fundamentalist Organisations and are constantly monitoring the situation and continuing their vigil.

**Abolition of Carrying Night Soil**

1975. SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government advanced loan to the Safai-Karamachris and their dependants for starting their business under the new scheme for abolishing the practice of carrying night soil;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that the beneficiaries under this scheme are deprived of the full amount sanctioned to them and lion share is being grabbed by some firms/agencies in the bogus names; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir, under the National Scheme of Liberation & Rehabilitation of Scavengers and their dependents launched in March, 1992 Central Assistance is released to State Scheduled Caste Development and Finance corporations for rehabilitation of Scavengers in various trades and occupations by providing subsidy, margin money loan and bank loan.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. No such information has come to the notice of the Government.

[Translation]

**Barauni Refinery**

1976. SHRI RAJO SINGH : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Barauni Refinery in Bihar is functioning as per its installed capacity;

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

(c) whether the work on laying pipe line from Haldia to Barauni is going on;

(d) if so, the time by which it is likely to be completed and the manner in which the capacity of Barauni Refinery is likely to be affected by laying this pipe line; and

(e) the action plan proposed to be made for full utilisation of its installed capacity?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) and (b) The crude throughput of Barauni Refinery during 1997-98 was 2.18 MMTPA as against the installed capacity of the refinery as 3.3 MMTPA. The low capacity utilisation is due to non-availability of adequate crude oil from Assam Oil Fields.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) and (e) Haldia Barauni Pipeline Project of IOC is scheduled to be completed in July 1999. This pipeline will be utilized to pump imported crude oil from Haldia to Barauni to meet full capacity utilization of Barauni Refinery.

*[English]***Deaths due to Epidemic Disease**

1977. SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of children are dying due to epidemic diseases in Uttar Pradesh and other areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of children died due to epidemics in Uttar Pradesh and its adjoining areas during the last three years, till date, year-wise;

(d) the action taken by the Government to check these epidemic;

(e) whether the Government made funds available to Uttar Pradesh during the above period;

(f) if so, the details thereof;

(g) the items on which Uttar Pradesh Government expended the funds, year-wise;

(h) whether the Government achieved the success to bring the epidemic under control; and

(i) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALA): (a) to (c) Information is being collected from the State Government.

(d) to (i) Health is a State subject. The Central Government extend technical support to State Health Authorities in investigation and control of outbreak on specific request made by the State Government concerned. The National Institute of Communicable Diseases had investigated a few outbreaks of Measles gastro-entritis, poliomyelitis and encephalopathy in U.P. Children were primarily affected.

For strengthening diseases surveillance and rapid response to outbreak in two Districts in the State, Government of India have allocated Rs. 24.25 lakh in 1997-98 under National Disease Surveillance Programme to Government of U.P. Information is being collected from the State Government of the action being taken by them.

**Price Hike in Petroleum Products**

1978. SHRI ASHOK NAMDEORAO MOHOL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Petroleum Ministry has suggested the Government for a further price hike in petroleum products to meet the burgeoning oil pool deficit;

(b) if so, the detail thereof; and

(c) the decision taken by the Government thereon

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTO KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (c) Steps have already been taken to contain the oil pool deficit as also for gradual liquidation of the same by issue of Special Bonds to companies and retiring them in a phased manner. The re selling price of Petrol has recently been increased account of additional Excise duty imposed in the Finar Budget, 1998-99 for augmenting the corpus of Natio Highways Authority of India. The revised retail selling price of Petrol (MS-87) in the four metros effective 3.6.98 are follows:

	Rs./Litre
Delhi	23.94
Calcutta	24.70
Mumbai	27.07
Chennai	28.14

**Caste Column in Census**

1979. SHRI NADENDLA BHASKARA RAO: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken a decision to insist upon a caste column to be mentioned in the coming census;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to abolish the system of filling the caste column at the time of admission to a school with a view to achieve the goal of national integration and

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

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L. ADVANI): (a) No Sir.

(b) Question does not arise.

(c) and (d) There is no proposal to amend the existing system in the schools under the Government of India which is as follows: The Navodaya Vidyalayas provide for SC/ST OBC column in the admission form. The Kendriya Vidyalayas provide for SC/ST column in the admission form.

**Welfare of Mica Mining Workers**

1980. SHRI R.L.P. VERMA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the collection of cess of Mica since inception of the cess;

(b) the welfare measures taken by the Government for the workers of mica mining;

(c) the amount spend on various welfare activities during each of the last three years;

(d) whether cess is being imposed on internal consumption of mica;

(e) if not, whether the Government propose to initiate cess on internal consumption of mica; and

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

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) A statement-I showing the collection of cess of Mica since 1976-77 is enclosed.

(b) A number of welfare schemes have been formulated for the benefit of Mica mine workers and their family members in the sphere of health, education, housing, recreation and water supply. A list of such schemes is given in the Statement II.

(c) The amount spent on various welfare activities during last three years is mentioned in the Statement-III.

(d) to (f) There has been a steady decline in production of Mica in the recent years primarily on account of falling demand due to development of cheaper substitutes. Imposition of any additional cess or tax could further depress the demand by increasing Mica prices and is therefore not being contemplated.

#### *Statement-I*

*The Annual Income under Mica Mines Labour Welfare Fund from 1976-77*

(Rs in lakhs)

Year	Income
1	2
1976-77	88.94
1977-78	75.22
1978-79	89.12
1979-80	112.62
1980-81	101.29
1981-82	124.25
1982-83	96.73
1983-84	52.60
1984-85	166.34

1	2
1985-86	97.95
1986-87	128.28
1987-88	120.51
1988-89	149.12
1989-90	156.58
1990-91	143.57
1991-92	84.92
1992-93	176.00
1993-94	151.56
1994-95	148.92
1995-96	209.68
1996-97	212.34
1997-98	198.63

#### *Statement-II*

##### *List of Welfare Schemes for Mica Mine Workers*

#### **A. Health**

1. Scheme for reservation of beds in T.B. Hospitals.
2. Scheme for treatment of mine workers suffering from Mental Diseases.
3. Scheme for treatment of mine workers suffering from Leprosy.
4. Scheme for Domiciliary treatment of mine workers suffering from T.B.
5. Maternity benefit scheme for female mine workers.
6. Reimbursement of actual cost of treatment to mine workers suffering from Cancer.
7. Grant of financial assistance to mine workers for purchase of spectacles.
8. Scheme for payment of extra monetary compensation for sterilisation to mine workers.
9. Reimbursement of expenditure as financial assistance to mine workers in respect of heart diseases.
10. Reimbursement of expenditure as financial assistance to mine workers in respect of kidney transplantation.
11. Scheme for payment of compensation in case of fatal and serious accident to mine workers.
12. Scheme for providing artificial limbs to mine workers.

**B. Housing**

1. Financial assistance to mines management for construction of low cost type-I and type-II houses for mine workers near work site.
2. Build Your Own House Scheme; Interest free loan and subsidy to mine workers for construction of their own houses.

**C. Education**

1. Award of scholarship to school/college going children of mine workers.
2. Composite scheme for financial assistance to the school going children of mine workers for supply of one set of dress, slates, note books and text books.
3. Assistance to mine owners for running Central Library.
4. Assistance for purchase of school buses to the mine managements.
5. Assistance to the mine managements for maintenance of Libraries.
6. Mid-day meal scheme.
7. Payment of incentives on passing final University/Board examinations from High School onwards.
8. Scheme to provide incentive/financial assistance of Re. 1/- to female children of mine workers on the basis of attendance in schools.

**D. Recreation**

1. Organising sports, social, cultural activities for mine workers.
2. Scheme to provide buses for transportation of mine workers.
3. Establishment of audio visual sets/cinema vans/ exhibition of films.
4. Excursion-cum-study tours.
5. Supply of T.V. sets.
6. Setting up of multipurpose institutes/developed multipurpose institutes.
7. Setting up of welfare centres.
8. Grants to M.P.I.s/D.M.P.I.s/Welfare Centre.
9. Sports grounds.
10. Holiday homes.

**E. Water Supply**

1. Financial assistance to small mine owners for sinking of wells.
2. Financial assistance to small mine owners for execution of water supply schemes.
3. Financial assistance to big mine management for execution of water supply schemes.

**Statement -III**

*The amount spent on various welfare activities during the last three years*

	(Rs. in Thousands)		
	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98
1. Health	13366	12617	13033
2. Education	6051	6395	6672
3. Recreation	529	514	644
4. Water Supply	270	209	140

*[Translation]*

**Petrol Pumps**

1981. SHRI VIJAY SINGH SOY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) The details of petrol pumps allotted by the Indian Oil Corporation and other companies to the persons belonging to SCs/ STs during the last two years and the percentage out of the total allotment earmarked for persons belonging to these categories;

(b) the details of vacancies announced in Bihar and West Bengal and other States against this category last year;

(c) the details of applications invited from these categories in Bihar and West Bengal and other States; and

(d) the number of petrol pumps proposed to be allotted to these categories during the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) As per existing policy 25% of dealerships/distributorships are reserved for SCs/STs on Statewise basis. Accordingly, Indian Oil Corporation Limited and other oil marketing companies have allotted 13 retail outlet dealerships to the persons belonging to these communities during the last two years.

(b) and (c) During the last one year, oil marketing companies invited applications from persons belonging to SC/ST communities for 297 locations reserved for them from all the States including 41 and 18 locations in Bihar and West Bengal respectively.

(d) 124 retail outlet dealerships have been earmarked for SC/ST category in the RO marketing plan 1996-98. Actual allotment is made on the basis of selection made by Dealer Selection Board. Action for completing selection has been initiated by inviting applications.

[English]

#### **Gas Terminal by BPCL**

1982. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd. propose to expand its natural gas storage capacity in the Eastern States; and

(b) if so, the number of gas terminals proposed to be set up in Orissa and other Eastern States during Ninth Five Year Plan alongwith the names of the places identified for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) and (b) BPCL do not have any Natural Gas storages in the Eastern States or elsewhere. However BPCL has one LPG bottling plant of 22 TMTPA capacity at Uluberia near Calcutta in West Bengal and one plant for 10 TMTPA capacity at Khurda in Orissa.

Under IX Plan, BPCL has planned a 0.6 MMTPA capacity LPG import terminal at Paradeep in Orissa State and, its expected completion schedule is 2001-02.

[Translation]

#### **Vohra Committee**

1983. SHRI ADITYANATH : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Vohra Committee have made any comments in its report on the nexus between criminals, politicians and bureaucrats;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government are formulating any scheme to deal with the situation; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI) : (a) to (d) Vohra Committee, after analysing the available inputs, arrived at the following conclusions:

- (i) On the basis of the extensive experience gained by our various concerned intelligence, investigative and enforcement agencies, it is apparent that crime syndicates and mafia organisations have established themselves in various parts of the country.
- (ii) The various crime syndicates/mafia organisations have developed significant muscle and money power and

established linkages with government functionaries, political leaders and others to be able to operate with impunity.

- (iii) While the intelligence agencies and the agencies under the Department of Revenue, in their normal course of functioning, come across information relating to the linkages of crime syndicates/mafia organisations, there is presently no system under which they can pass on such information to an identified nodal agency. Sharing of such information is presently of an occasional nature and no evidence is available of the same having been put to any operational use.
- (iv) Even where an agency comes across certain information about the linkage of crime Syndicates, it has no mandate to immediately pass it on to one or more agencies. An agency which comes across information regarding linkages is also apprehensive that the sharing of such information may jeopardize its own functioning through premature leakage. In sum, the various agencies presently in the field take care to essentially focus on their respective charter of duties, dealing with the infringement of laws relating to their organisations and consciously putting aside any information on linkages which they may come across.

2. In view of the aforementioned conclusions, the Vohra Committee recommended setting up a nodal agency headed by the Home Secretary to collect and collate information/intelligence from various Intelligence Agencies and to act, through identified organisation(s), so that the nexus of criminals with the politicians, bureaucrats and businessmen is broken. Accordingly, a Nodal Group was set-up on 2.8.95 with Home Secretary as the Chairman and Secretary (Revenue), Secretary (R&AW), Director (IB) and Director (CBI) as Members. The Nodal Group was reconstituted with effect from 5.1.96 with Cabinet Secretary assuming the charge of Chairman and with Home Secretary, Secretary (Revenue), Secretary (R&AW), Director (IB) and Director (CBI) as Members.

3. Subsequently, in compliance of the directions given by the Hon'ble Supreme Court the Nodal Group was reconstituted in January, 1998 with Home Secretary as its Chairman; Member (Investigation), CDBT, Director General (Revenue Intelligence), Director (Enforcement) and Director (CBI) as members; and Secretary (Personnel & Training), Secretary (Revenue), Secretary (R&AW) and Director (IB) as Special Invitees. The Nodal Group meets every month as directed by the Supreme Court.

[English]

#### **Kashmiri Hindus**

1984. DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the proportion of population of Kashmiri Hindus in the valley of Kashmir in 1989 and today;

(b) the number of Kashmiri Hindu refugees in the country today; and

(c) whether the Government propose to create a secure zone called Panun Kashmir to protect the Kashmiri Pandits?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI) : (a) Population data is available only from the decennial census. According to the 1981 census, there were 3.89% Hindus in the Valley. The 1991 census was not held in J&K due to disturbed conditions.

(b) There are 28,867 Kashmiri migrant families registered in Jammu and 19,338 families registered in Delhi. There are 2,347 Kashmiri migrant families in other parts of the country. Community-wise break-up of migrant families is not available.

(c) No, Sir.

[*Translation*]

#### **Involvement of Foreign Nationals In Bomb Blasts**

1985. SHRI SHANKER PRASAD JAISWAL: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the foreign nationals have been found involved in the series of bomb blasts recently; and

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

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) Three Pakistanis and two Bangladeshis were

involved in 26 bomb blasts in Delhi during 1997, 5 in Haryana (1996-97) and 3 in Uttar Pradesh (October, 1997).

(b) The Pakistani and Bangladeshi nationals, involved in the Delhi, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh serial blasts, were arrested in February/March, 1998 along with four other Indian nationals and were remanded to custody. They are being proceeded against in accordance with the law of the land.

[*English*]

#### **Financial Powers to Administrator**

1986. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the financial powers delegated to each Union Territory differ from each other;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor alongwith the powers of the administrators Union Territory-wise;

(c) whether the Government propose to upgrade the financial powers of the administrators; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A statement indicating the extent of financial powers delegated to the Administrators of Union territories in various fields is attached. The extent of delegated powers is determined by functional requirements and other financial considerations which vary from Union territory to Union territory.

(c) and (d) The feasibility of enhancing the financial powers delegated to the administrators is reviewed from time to time and is a continuing process.

#### **Statement**

##### *Financial Powers Delegated to Administrator of UTs*

S.No.	Item	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	Chandigarh	Dadra Nagar Haveli	Damand & Diu	Lakshadweep	Pondicherry	Govt. of NCT of Delhi
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1.	Creation of Posts	Group B, C & D posts	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Group B, C & D under plan	Group A, B, C & D under plan & Non-Plan
2.	Sanction of Plan Schemes	Upto Rs. 5.00 crs.	Upto Rs. 5.00 crs.	Upto Rs. 5.00 crs.	Upto Rs. 5.00 crs.	Upto Rs. 5.00 crs.	Upto Rs. 10.00 crs.	Upto Rs. 50.00 crs.
3.	Sanction of works	Upto Rs. 2.00 crs.	Upto Rs. 1.50 crs.	Upto Rs. 1.50 crs.	Upto Rs. 1.50 crs.	Upto Rs. 2.00 crs.	Full Powers	Upto Full Powers

	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
<b>4. Indent/Contract/Purchases</b>								
(i) Normal Contract/ purchase	Upto Rs. 2.00 crs.	Upto Rs. 0.20 crs.	Upto Rs. 5.00 crs.	Upto Rs. 5.00 crs.				
(ii) Negotiated/Single Tender Contract	Upto Rs. 0.80 crs.	Upto Rs. 0.02 crs.	Upto Rs. 0.02 crs.	Upto Rs. 0.02 crs.	Upto Rs. 0.02 crs.	Upto Rs. 0.20 crs.	Upto Rs. 1.00 crs.	Upto Rs. 1.00 crs.
(iii) Indent for stores of proprietary nature	Upto Rs. 0.40 crs.	Upto Rs. 0.02 crs.	Upto Rs. 0.60 crs.	Upto Rs. 0.60 crs.				
(iv) Direct purchase on grounds of emergency	Upto Rs. 0.02 crs.	Upto Rs. 0.02 crs.	Upto Rs. 0.20 crs.	Upto Rs. 0.02 crs.	Upto Rs. 0.02 crs.	Upto Rs. 0.02 crs.	Upto Rs. 0.50 crs.	Upto Rs. 0.50 crs.

#### Provident Fund Scheme

1987. SHRI MULLAPALLY RAMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the objections/representations submitted by various Labour Unions against the Government proposal to privatise the Provident Fund, pension and health insurance schemes for workers; and

(b) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) and (b) There is no proposal to privatise the Employees, State Insurance Scheme and Provident Fund/Pension Schemes being administered by the ESI Corporation and the EPF Organisation respectively. As such the question of the Labour Unions representing against the proposal and reaction of the Government thereon does not arise.

#### Indo Oman Project

1988. SHRIMATISURYAKANTAPATIL: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-items captioned "Oman has 50% stake 100% control fertilizer scam" appearing in the 'Pioneer' dated March 20, 1998; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (DR. A. K. PATEL): (a) and (b) Attention of the Government has been drawn to the allegations made in regard to the Indo-Oman joint venture fertilizer project, in the article captioned "Oman has 50% stake 100% control", which was published in the "Pioneer" of March 29, 1998. The relevant facts in this regard are given below.

The joint venture fertilizer project in Oman has been conceived on the basis of mutual advantage. Prior to the registration of a joint venture company (JVC) in February 1998, all decisions relating to the joint venture project were taken by the Joint Management Committee (JMC), which

had equal representation from the Indian and Omani sides. Since then, all the decisions relating to the joint venture project are being taken by the board of the JVC, which also has equal representation from the two sides.

The selection of the consortium of M/s. Snam Progetti and Technip as the preferred bidder for the Engineering, Procurement and Construction (EPC) contract for the project was made in February 1997 by the JMC after following an elaborate international competitive bidding procedure. The evaluation was based on objective criteria and was carried out with the help of independent technical and financial advisers.

Aggrieved by this decision, KRUPP-UHDE (UHDE), which was the second lowest bidder, represented to Government of India, seeking revaluation of the bids. On consideration of the matter, Government did not find any occasion to interfere with the decision of the JMC and UHDE was advised accordingly in April 1997. UHDE, however, persisted with its representations. In the interest of ensuring total transparency, the matter was eventually referred to the JMC for consideration. The JMC examined the representation of UHDE in September 1997 and concluded that there was no ground to revise its earlier decision.

Government approval for the investment by the Indian Joint Venture partners in the project was accorded in December 1997 after full consideration of all the aspects relating to the selection of the preferred EPC bidder and other relevant facts.

#### Central Assistance to Jayadeva Institute of Cardiology, Bangalore

1989. SHRI A. SIDDARAJU: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any request from the Government of Karnataka for Central assistance for the construction of Jayadeva Institute of Cardiology, Bangalore;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI) : (a) and (b) Sri Jayadeva Institute of Cardiology, Bangalore had submitted a Memorandum to the Prime Minister of India on 2.12.1996 requesting for release of Central Financial Assistance of Rs. 10 crore for completing their new Institute of Cardiology Complex Project at Bangalore.

(c) 'Health' being a State subject, there is no scheme of the Central Government to provide financial assistance for creation of facilities in State or private run hospitals.

#### **Food Value**

1990. SHRI HARINATHAK: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the food value/calorie requirement for a normal individual and per capita calories available to an ordinary citizen;

(b) whether it is a fact that due to lack of proper food during pregnancy, a large number of Indian infants are born rickety and blind; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI) : (a) The recommended Calorie requirement for a moderate working Adult Man and Women is 2875 K. Calories and 2225 K. Calories respectively. The average net availability of energy at physiological level is 2400 K. Calories per person per day.

(b) and (c) No, Sir. Rickets and Blindness at Birth which could be attributable to severe Maternal Malnutrition with respect to Vitamin D and A respectively during Pregnancy are extremely rare.

#### **Hepatitis-B Virus Infection**

1991. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA:  
SHRI AJOY MUKHOPADHYAY:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the views of the specialists about the Hepatitis-B Virus (HBV) infection which is more serious than the Human Immune Deficiency Virus (HIV);

(b) if so, whether the Government are aware that Chairman of the Global Hepatitis-B Immunisation has pointed out that while 367 AIDS patients have so far died due to liver complications triggered off by HBV and 50 million people in India are carriers of Hepatitis-B and C;

(c) if so, the total number of carriers of TB, HIV, AIDS, HBV and other infectious diseases in the country; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI) : (a) and (b) No authentic data is available of the number of deaths caused by Hepatitis-B infection alone. However, according to available data, the number of cases of Viral Hepatitis (all types) during 1995, 1996 and 1997 (provisional is as follows:

Year	No. of persons infected	No. of person died
1995	98940	943
1996	117954	801
1997	89038	962

(c) Available data indicates that about 3-5% of the population of India are carriers of Hepatitis-B infection. As against this, 14 million people are estimated to be suffering from active Tuberculosis. As per the HIV Sero Surveillance Report upto 30.4.98 out of 3310868 persons screened, 76481 persons tested sero positive. Total AIDS cases reported in India were 5209.

(d) The following measures have been taken, to check Hepatitis-B infections:

- (i) It is mandatory to screen all Blood Donations for Hepatitis-B Virus, before transfusion.
- (ii) Efforts are being made, to promote safe sex behaviours under the National AIDS Control Programme. The routes of transmission for both diseases are the same.
- (iii) Provision of separate syringe and separate needle for each vaccination under the Universal Immunisation Programme.
- (iv) It has been decided to immunize Hospital workers of Central Govt. Hospitals against Hepatitis-B.
- (v) Guidelines have been issued for the use of a separate sterile syringe, and needle for each injection and aseptic surgical intervention.
- (vi) Health Education.

#### **Vaccine Failure**

1992. SHRI SUBRATA MAKHERJEE :  
SHRI SUDHIR GIRI :

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of Government has been drawn to the news appeared in the 'Hindu' dated February 21, 1998 that an estimated one million children have developed "vaccine failure" polio in India during the eighties as a result of the Union Government adhering to the WHO norms that

three doses of oral polio vaccine will be adequate for immunisation;

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

(c) the total amount so far spent on polio vaccine; and

(d) whether it is a fact that according to Dr. Jacob John Professor and Head of Virology and Microbiology at the Christian Medical College Hospital, Vellore, poliomyelitis should have been eliminated more than a decade ago at a fraction of the cost spent, had India indulged in more self-reliance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Although vaccine failure is a known problem arising from differential uptake of the polio vaccine and loss of potency due to temporary cold chain failure or other reasons, the Government does not agree that the high incidence of polio during the 80s was on account of the adoption of the three doses strategy. The three doses strategy was based on the advance of the technical leadership and the experts in the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare at the relevant time. This strategy was also consistent with the one adopted generally by the developing countries around the world.

(c) Since 1990-91 to 1997-98 the amount spent on OPV procurement is about Rs 190 crore from the domestic budget. An additional amount of Rs. 87 crore has been spent for local procurement of OPV for Pulse Polio Immunisation supported by external assistance. UNICEF has provided oral polio vaccine costing US\$ 48.58 million since 1987. In addition, commodity assistance towards vaccine procurement was available from the Government of Denmark and Japan for Pulse Polio Immunisation amounting to about US\$ 18 million during the period 1996-97 and 1997-98.

(d) No, Sir. The National Immunisation schedule was adopted after consultation at the National level with the experts and state level programme officers, epidemiologists and Indian Academy of Pediatricians and is a globally proven strategy.

#### **Pay Perks of Service Doctors**

1993. SHRI SUDHIR GIRI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of pay-scales, perks and promotional avenues of service doctors and professionals in private Hospitals in comparison to other developed and Asian countries;

(b) the reasons for Indian doctors in Government hospitals and professionals in private hospitals being poorly paid and neglected;

(c) whether non-practising allowance (NPA) as recommended by the Fifth Pay Commission is being paid to the Government doctors;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) if not, the action taken by the Government is this regard; and

(f) the time by which NPA is likely to be paid to these doctors?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI): (a) Information about Pay Scales, perks and promotional avenues of Doctors and professionals working in private Hospitals is not maintained by the Government.

(b) The Pay and other Allowances paid to the Doctors belonging to Central Health Services are significantly higher than that of other similarly placed officers of equal status under the Government. Central Health Service Doctors also receive Conveyance Allowance, Research Pursuit Allowance, and Post Graduate Allowance as applicable.

(c) to (f) Non-Practising Allowance as recommended by 5th Central Pay Commission has been granted recently to Central Health Service Doctors.

#### **Diversion of Wheat to Flour Mills in Karnataka**

1994. SHRI H.G. RAMULU: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether 15,000 metric tonnes of wheat meant for Public Distribution System is being diverted to Roller Flour Mills in Karnataka;

(b) if so, whether the Government have given permission to the State to divert one third of its quota of wheat to the mills; and

(c) if not the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to stop this practice in the State in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PAL SINGH YADAV): (a) to (c) The scheme of custom milling of PDS wheat by Roller Flour Mills under which State Governments were allowed to get the PDS wheat converted into Maida/Suji/Resultant atta, has been discontinued with effect from 11.12.97. However, on demand, State Governments are allowed to get a specific quantity of wheat converted into atta and sell it through PDS outlets and also to get it custom milled into maida/suji etc. No additional allocation is made to the State Governments for this purpose. No complaint has been received so far that 15,000 MT of PDS wheat is being diverted by the Government of Karnataka to the Roller Flour Mills.

#### **Dogri Language**

1995. VAIDYA VISHNU DATT: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to include Dogri Language in the VIII schedule of the Constitution;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L. K. ADVANI): (a) to (c) The Government proposes to constitute a High Powered Body for evolving criteria for inclusion of any or more languages in the Eighth Schedule to the Constitution of India.

#### **Amendment in Pension Scheme**

1996. SHRI C. KUPPUSAMI: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to amend the Employees Pension Scheme 1995 including payment of Gratuity Act, 1972;

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating the criteria for calculating pension;

(c) whether there is any proposal to reduce the eligibility for pension to 30 years from 33 years;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the scheme likely to be reviewed after every two years instead of three years?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) to (e) A bill to amend the Payment of Gratuity Act, 1972 so as to enhance the ceiling on maximum amount of gratuity from Rs. 1.00 lakh to Rs. 3.50 lakh is presently pending before the Parliament. Under the Employees' Pension Scheme, 1995 the employee becomes eligible for pension after completing 10 years; contributory service. Under the scheme, there is a provision for valuation of the pension fund and review of pensionary benefits on an annual basis. As such the question of reduction in the eligibility condition from 33 years to 30 years' service and review of the scheme after every two years does not arise. As regards amendment in the pension scheme the same is an ongoing process and will be made as and when considered necessary.

#### **Social Justice to the Backward Classes**

1997. SHRI K. P. NAIDU: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Welfare Ministry is being renamed;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps proposed by the Government to provide social justice to the backward classes besides SCs and STs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI

MANEKA GANDHI) : (a) The Ministry of Welfare has been renamed as "Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment" (Samajik Nyaya Aur Adhikarita Mantralaya).

(b) The Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and other Backward Classes are still suffering from historical disabilities and they want social justice and empowerment, and not mere welfare. The decision to rename the Ministry is guided by a stronger commitment on the part of Government to the values of equality and socio-economic liberation than is conveyed by the concept of welfare.

(c) The Central Government has provided 27% reservation in vacancies in Civil Posts and Services under the Government of India in favour of Other Backward Classes from 8th September, 1993, subject to the exclusion of socially and economically advanced persons/section known as "Creamy Layer." In order to promote the economic development of OBCs, the Central Government has set up a National Backward Classes Finance and Development Corporation for providing institutional credit for viable self-employment units. The additional steps proposed by Government to provide social justice to the backward classes, besides SCs and STs, include;

(i) Reservation to OBCs in Educational and Technical Institutions;

(ii) Introduction of various schemes for the educational and social development of OBCs; and

(iii) Inclusion of more castes/communities in the Central list of OBCs on the advice of the National Commission for Backward Classes.

#### **Pending Anti-Dowry Cases**

1998. DR. SANJAY SINH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of anti-dowry cases pending in the court in Delhi alongwith the number of such cases under investigation;

(b) whether a large number of women are misusing the anti-dowry provision to harass their husbands and their relatives;

(c) if so, whether the Union Government propose to make suitable amendments in I.P.C. so as to protect the innocent persons; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) Delhi Police have informed that there are 6586 anti-dowry cases pending trial in the Courts in Delhi. The number of such cases under investigation is 900.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

**Powers to the State Governments for Reservation**

1999. SHRI T. R. BAALU: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposed to bring Amendment to the constitution providing powers to the State Governments for fixing the percentage of reservation for backward classes and Scheduled Caste/Tribes in employment and educational opportunities;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to introduce the bill in the current session?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

[Translation]

**Closure of Industries**

2000. SHRI BENI PRASAD VERMA:  
SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Public and Private Sector industries closed during the last three years, State-wise;

(b) the number of workers became unemployed as a result thereof;

(c) the number of financial institutes whose loan had not been repaid by such industries alongwith the amount of such loans; and

(d) the steps being taken by the Government to provide alternative employment to these unemployed workers and to revive such industries and to repay the remaining loan to the financial institution?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) and (b) The number of Public and Private Sector industries which have closed down during the last three years, State-wise and the number of workers affected by closures is given at Statement-I attached.

(c) According to data compiled by the Reserve Bank of India on outstanding bank credit advanced to sick SSI units, non SSI sick units and non SSI weak units, a total amount of Rs. 13,787 crores was outstanding against these units as on 31st March, 1997. The financial institutions which had advanced credit to sick and weak units include SBI and its associates, nationalised banks, other private sector banks and foreign banks as shown at Statement-II attached.

(d) The special schemes of the Government aimed at providing employment to the unemployed include the Nehru Rojgar Yojna, Swaran Jayanti Shashri Rojgar Yojna, the Prime Minister's Rojgar Yojna, etc. The Reserve Bank of India has issued detailed guidelines for rehabilitation of sick/weak industrial units and for co-ordination between commercial banks and term lending institutions for formulation and implementation of rehabilitation programmes. Certain broad parameters have been evolved for grant of reliefs/concessions by banks as part of the package. Individual cases of sick SSI units are to be sorted out in the meetings of State Level Inter Institutional Committee (SLIC).

**Statement-I**

*State-wise number of closures and workers affected during 1995-97 (P)*

	1995		1996		1997	
	A	B	A	B	A	B
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
A. P.	-	-	-	-	1	64
Arunachal Pradesh	-	-	-	-	-	-
Assam	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bihar	1	90	2	45	2	43
Goa	4	141	2	73	2	71
Gujarat	27	5,950	11	337	8	299
Haryana	6	229	15	880	-	-
H. P.	-	-	-	-	-	-
J&K	-	-	-	-	-	-
Karnataka	1	8	-	-	2	159
Kerala	1	60	1	13	3	53
Madhya Pradesh	-	-	7	588	2	2,688
Maharashtra	33	657	2	87	7	207
Manipur	-	-	-	-	-	-
Meghalaya	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mizoram	-	-	-	-	-	-
Nagaland	-	-	-	-	-	-
Orissa	3	106	7	209	4	352
Punjab	-	-	1	56	1	19
Rajasthan	4	94	9	1,294	8	1,469

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Sikkim	-	-	-	-	..	..
Tamil Nadu	-	-	93	4,816	2	176
Tripura	34	2,730	24	1,082	55	3,247
Uttar Pradesh	11	3,615	19	1,802	22	3,003
West Bengal	-	-	-	-	-	-
A & N Islands	-	-	-	-	-	-
Chandigarh	40	598	2	12	..	..
<b>Dadara &amp; Nagar Haveli</b>	1	16	-	-	-	-
Delhi	-	-	-	-	2	192
Daman & Diu	-	-	-	-	-	-
Lakshadweep	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pondicherry	-	201	9	96	17	320
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>183</b>	<b>14,495</b>	<b>204</b>	<b>11,390</b>	<b>138</b>	<b>12,362</b>

A = Number of Units Closed

B = Number of Workers Affected

- = Nil

.. = Not Available

(P) = Provisional

Source: Labour Bureau, Shimla

**Statement-II**

*Outstanding Bank Credit Advance by Financial Institutions to SSI and Non-SSI sick and weak industrial units as on 31.3.97*

**State Bank of India and its Associates**

SB India

SBB&amp;J

SB Hyd.

SB Mysore

SB Patiala

SB Saurashtra

SB Travancore

SB Indore

**Nationalised Banks**

Baroda

Allahabad

BOI

BOM

Canara

Dena

Indian

IOB

CBI

United

UCO

Syndicate

Andhra

Corporation

Oriental

P &amp; S

Vijaya

**Indian Private Sector Commercial Banks**

UTI

Madura

Rajasthan

SBI-CIB

Catholic

Sangli

Federal

Karnataka

Vysya

UNI West

S Indian

Bharat

Lax. Vilas

Karur Vys.

Bareilly

**Foreign Banks**

Algemene

Am Exp.

America

*[English]*

Paris

**Maternal Deaths**

Chartered

2002. SHRIMATI MEIRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

Citi Bank

(a) whether maternal deaths are alarmingly high in India, even higher than comparatively to other countries like Sri Lanka and Bangladesh;

Hong Kong

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

Mitsui

(c) whether the Government paid enough attention and funds to mother and child health programme; and

Grindlays

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

Societe G

Oman Intl.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI): (a) Maternal Mortality Ratio per 1,00,000 Live Births in India is 420, whereas in Bangladesh it is 390, and in Sri Lanka it is 40. (Source-Regional Health Report 1997-World Health Organisation, South East Asia Region).

**Utilisation of Welfare Fund by Maharashtra**

2001. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Maharashtra has utilised the funds provided by the Union Government from the National Handicapped Welfare Fund during the last two years;

(b) There is no Annual State-wise Estimation of Maternal Mortality in India. The latest National Family Health Survey (NFHS) conducted in 1992-93 provides the estimate of Maternal Mortality Rate as 437 per lakh Live Births in India.

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) Yes, Sir. A National Child Survival &amp; Safe Motherhood (CSSM) Programme was launched in 1992-93 with objective of improving the Health Status of Women and Children and reducing Maternal Infant and Child Mortality Rates. An amount of Rs. 135231.29 lakh was provided for the CSSM Programme for the period 1992-93 to 1997-98. The Reproductive &amp; Child Health (RCH) Programme launched in October, 1997, while including and strengthening the components covered under the CSSM Programme also includes two additional components i.e. reproductive Tract Infection/Sexually Transmitted Infection, and safe Medical Termination of Pregnancy. An amount of Rs 10628.62 lakhs was provided for the RCH Programme during 1997-98.

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) No funds were sanctioned to the Government of Maharashtra from National Handicapped Welfare Fund, during the last two years.

(d) Statements I and II indicating State-wise details are enclosed.

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

**Statement-I***Child survival and Safe Motherhood Programme—Assistance (Kind & Cash) provided to States/UTs during 1992-93 to 1997-98.*

(Rs in lakhs)

States/UTs	1992-93	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1. Andhra Pradesh	593.33	933.15	1521.77	1769.09	20.33.24	1844.87
2. Arunachal Pradesh	22.32	22.62	55.73	142.39	68.80	109.25
3. Assam	366.99	524.33	1106.12	971.02	886.74	1172.79
4. Bihar	721.10	1301.43	2494.33	2439.17	2898.35	2767.41
5. Goa	15.85	17.54	24.98	35.52	35.09	34.88

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
6.	Gujarat	485.44	730.19	1022.46	1222.94	1360.54	1322.72
7.	Haryana	269.74	336.92	489.47	632.82	592.40	576.18
8.	Himachal Pradesh	122.45	182.00	235.15	252.14	297.49	303.65
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	86.04	228.95	274.76	362.53	295.13	293.16
10.	Karnataka	494.02	798.63	1133.84	1392.09	1635.84	1179.81
11.	Kerala	294.27	472.84	723.33	770.43	777.03	960.02
12.	Madhya Pradesh	886.23	1383.17	2518.37	2575.75	2771.73	2755.40
13.	Maharashtra	676.40	1145.95	1638.46	2380.53	2766.12	1885.32
14.	Manipur	46.85	72.31	86.11	137.08	88.25	147.62
15.	Meghalaya	41.03	45.89	56.91	107.60	84.85	105.46
16.	Mizoram	24.69	25.69	28.69	65.51	50.36	84.07
17.	Nagaland	35.33	36.72	44.24	100.10	71.43	81.59
18.	Orissa	400.97	676.24	1330.37	996.53	1145.60	1148.88
19.	Punjab	263.34	404.60	491.38	734.41	729.55	727.85
20.	Rajasthan	608.14	1091.24	2076.07	1783.84	2369.33	1604.56
21.	Sikkim	18.25	21.50	23.76	47.37	35.29	52.81
22.	Tamil Nadu	573.45	978.38	1274.75	1676.26	1996.55	1622.13
23.	Tripura	34.65	56.50	77.12	97.14	108.79	125.29
24.	Uttar Pradesh	1599.55	2357.80	4558.07	4723.80	5473.95	3860.50
25.	West Bengal	739.02	845.12	1253.02	1788.04	1953.99	2341.29
26.	A&N Islands	8.60	6.69	6.07	28.56	21.29	26.46
27.	Chandigarh	4.94	5.85	11.93	27.63	23.19	14.80
28.	D & N Haveli	1.56	2.93	9.81	11.35	10.99	10.00
29.	Delhi	55.30	137.91	284.72	250.17	239.84	275.71
30.	Daman & Diu	1.81	14.33	1.28	11.43	9.53	16.04
31.	Lakshadweep	3.38	1.73	1.02	10.71	7.03	8.29
32.	Pondicherry	26.18	20.51	26.12	40.48	24.07	44.60
<b>Total</b>		<b>9523.22</b>	<b>14879.66</b>	<b>24880.21</b>	<b>27584.41</b>	<b>30860.38</b>	<b>27503.41</b>

(Figures provisional)

Note: (a) Includes releases made under Dais Trg. Prog. during 1992-93.

(b) Excludes funds released for PPI during 1995-96 to 1997-98.

**Statement-II****Reproductive and Child Health Programme Funds  
provided during 1997-98**

States/UTs	National Component	Sub-Projects	Grand Total
1	2	3	4
1. Andhra Pradesh	40479831.00	31875000.00	72354831.00
2. Arunachal Pradesh	13865826.00		13865826.00
3. Assam	37025883.00		37025883.00
4. Bihar	55936120.00		55936120.00
5. Goa	3169895.00		3169895.00
6. Gujarat	34912629.00	22500000.00	57412629.00
7. Haryana	42110557.00	24800000.00	66910557.00
8. Himachal Pradesh	15724836.00		15724836.00
9. Jammu & Kash.	19323289.00		19323289.00
10. Karnataka	32963323.00	23400000.00	56363323.00
11. Kerala	18104943.00	17500000.00	35604943.00
12. Madhya Pradesh	79968836.00	12500000.00	92468836.00
13. Maharashtra	42284165.00	22500000.00	64784165.00
14. Manipur	7079730.00	5000000.00	12079730.00
15. Meghalaya	12135796.00		12135796.00
16. Mizoram	5225811.00		5225811.00
17. Nagaland	8497853.00		8497853.00
18. Orissa	35786445.00	12500000.00	48286445.00
19. Punjab	24204206.00	22500000.00	46704206.00
20. Rajasthan	44792744.00	40000000.00	84792744.00
21. Sikkim	5459910.00		5459910.00
22. Tamil Nadu	39513792.00	50000000.00	89513762.00
23. Tripura	5715676.00		5715676.00
24. Uttar Pradesh	110047910.00		110047910.00
25. West Bengal	28263098.00		28263098.00
26. A & N Islands	.00		.00
27. Chandigarh	2065976.00		2065976.00
28. D & N Haveli	.00		.00
29. Daman & Diu	2199850		2199850
30. Delhi	5117973.00		5117973.00

1	2	3	4	5
31. Lakshadweep	.00			.00
32. Pondicherry	5831952.00			5831952.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>777768855.00</b>	<b>285075000.00</b>		<b>1062863855.00</b>

*(Translation)***Protection to Sikkim**

2003. SHRI BHIM DAHAL: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are now contemplating to withdraw the protection given to ancient/traditional rules of Sikkim under section 371F of the constitution; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) and (b) There is no proposal to make any change to Article 391F of the Constitution concerning Sikkim.

**Foreign Citizen**

2004. SHRI AJIT JOGI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the foreign citizens residing illegally in the country State-wise; and

(b) the steps taken by the Government to send these foreign citizens back to their respective countries?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) and (b) Powers of the Central Government under the Foreigners Act, 1946 to identify, detect and deport foreign nationals residing illegally in various parts of the country have been delegated to the State Governments/UT administrations and no data in this regard is Centrally maintained. The Government is, however, aware of the problem of foreign nationals who enter India surreptitiously from neighbouring countries and are residing illegally in various parts of the country. Instructions have been issued/reiterated to the State Government/UT Administrations from time to time to intensify efforts to identify and deport foreign nationals staying in the country illegally.

*(English)***Family Welfare Projects**

2005. SHRI NRIPEN GOSWAMI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have made an effort for effective implementation of Family Welfare Projects in Assam;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the achievements made during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI) : (a) to (c) The World Bank assisted India Population Project IX, is being implemented in the entire State of Assam, for a period of seven years with effect from 16th June, 1994, at a total cost of Rs. 101.22 crore. Under the Project, 336 Sub Centres out of a Target of 800, and 84 Staff Quarters out of a Target of 163 have been constructed. Construction of another 247 Sub Centres and 62 Staff Quarters is in progress. Besides this, 48 existing State Dispensaries have been upgraded as Primary Health Centres, out of a target of 100. Similarly, 6 PHCs/CHCs/Hospitals have been upgraded as First Referral Units, out of a target of 37. The State of Assam has so far incurred an expenditure of Rs. 38.51 crore under the project, as on 30.4.1998.

#### Fertilizer Projects

2006. SHRIMATI JAYABEN BHARATKUMAR THAKKAR: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the fertilizer projects set-up in the public Sector as on date, State-wise;

(b) the annual production targets of such units and the details of the concessions provided to them;

(c) the number of Public Sector Units in which foreign capital investment has been made and the percentage of it therein;

(d) whether any option is given by the Government to the private fertilizer manufacturers to select the venue for setting up such units; and

(e) the name of private investors who have applied for setting up of such fertilizer units in Orissa, Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (DR. A. K. PATEL): (a) and (b) State-wise details of the fertilizer projects set up in the Public Sector as on date and their production targets during

1997-98 are given in the enclosed statement.

The following concessions are available to fertilizer projects in general:

- (i) Duty free import of capital goods for setting up new plants/modernisation of existing units.
- (ii) Deemed export benefits to indigenous suppliers of capital goods to fertilizer projects provided such supplies are made under the procedure of international competitive bidding.
- (iii) Duty free import of fertilizer raw materials and intermediates.
- (iv) Reasonable return on investment to the entrepreneurs under the Retention Price-cum-Subsidy Scheme, at present applicable to urea.

(c) One of the Public Sector units, namely M/s Madras Fertilizers Limited, Chennai has foreign equity participation. M/s National Iranian Oil Company of Iran (NIOC) holds 25.44% of the shares of the company.

(d) and (e) As per the Industrial Policy announced on 24.7.1991, fertilizer plants may be set up at any location subject to the condition that (a) the site is not within 25 km of a city having population of more than 10 lakhs as per the 1991 census (unless it is a prior designated industrial area) and (b) it adheres to the environmental legislation and zoning and land use regulations.

As per this policy, private investors are not required to apply to Government for setting up new fertilizer plants. The following private investors have filed Industrial Entrepreneurs Memoranda (IEM) in the last three years, expressing their intention to set up major fertilizer plants:

Sr. No.	Name of the Private Investor	State
1.	M/s. Oswal Fertilizers & Chemicals Ltd.	Orissa
2.	M/s. Reliance Industries Ltd.	Gujarat
3.	M/s. Indo-Gulf Fertilizers & Chemicals Corporation Ltd.	Gujarat

#### Statement

*Unit-wise, State-wise and Zone-wise targets and production of fertilizers by PSUs during 1997-98*

(000' MT)

Name of Zone/ State/Unit	Name of Product	Target: 1997-98			Production: 1997-98		
		Qty	N	P	Qty	N	P
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
<b>South-Zone</b>							
<b>ANDHRA PRADESH</b>							
FCI-Ramagundam	Urea	110.0	50.6	0.0	101.4	46.6	0.0

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
By- Product	A/S	43.3	9.1	0.0	44.0	9.2	0.0
State Total		153.3	59.7	0.0	145.4	55.9	0.0
<b>KERALA</b>							
FACT-Udyogmandal	A/S	210.0	44.1	0.0	184.5	38.7	0.0
	20:20	140.0	28.0	28.0	124.0	24.8	24.8
	Total	350.0	72.1	28.0	308.6	63.6	24.8
FACT-Cochin-I	Urea	274.0	126.0	0.0	274.2	126.1	0.0
FACT-Cochin-II	20:20	510.0	102.0	102.0	517.6	103.5	103.5
	DAP	20.0	3.6	9.2	0.3	0.1	0.1
	Total	530.0	105.6	111.2	517.9	103.6	103.7
State Total		1154.0	303.7	139.2	1100.7	293.3	128.5
<b>TAMIL NADU</b>							
MFL-Chennai	Urea	245.0	112.7	0.0	62.7	28.9	0.0
	DAP	100.0	18.0	46.0	10.2	1.8	4.7
	14:28:14	100.0	14.0	28.0	10.3	1.4	2.9
	14:35:14	0.0	0.0	0.0	7.3	1.0	2.6
	17:17:17	566.0	96.2	96.2	430.9	73.3	73.3
	19:19:19	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
MFL-Chennai	Total	1011.0	240.9	170.2	521.4	106.4	83.4
NLC-Neyveli	Urea	124.0	57.0	0.0	102.7	47.2	0.0
State Total		1135.0	298.0	170.2	624.1	153.6	83.4
South-Zone Total		2442.3	661.4	309.4	1870.2	502.8	211.9
<b>West Zone</b>							
<b>MADHYA PRADESH</b>							
NFL-Vijaipur	Urea	788.6	362.8	0.0	851.4	391.6	0.0
NFL-Vijaipur Expn.	Urea	699.0	321.5	0.0	810.3	372.7	0.0
By-Product	A/S	10.0	2.1	0.0	5.6	1.2	0.0
State Total		1497.6	685.4	0.0	1667.3	765.6	0.0
<b>MAHARASHTRA</b>							
RCF-Trombay	Urea	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
	15:15:15	360.0	54.0	54.0	331.7	49.8	49.8
RCF Trombay-IV	20.7:20.7	300.0	62.1	62.1	246.8	51.1	51.1

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
RCF-Trombay-V	Urea	330.0	151.8	0.0	316.9	145.8	0.0
RCF-Thal	Urea	1290.0	593.4	0.0	1401.8	644.8	0.0
RCF-Total		2280.0	861.3	116.1	2297.2	891.4	100.8
SSP Units	SSP	50.0	0.0	8.0	28.9	0.0	4.6
State Total		2330.0	861.3	124.1	2326.1	891.4	105.5
<b>RAJASTHAN</b>							
HCL-Khetri	SSP	30.0	0.0	4.8	16.3	0.0	2.6
PPCL-Saladipura	SSP	80.0	0.0	12.8	67.0	0.0	10.7
State Total		110.0	0.0	17.6	83.3	0.0	13.3
West-Zone Total:		3937.6	1547.7	141.7	4076.7	1657.0	118.8
<b>East Zone</b>							
<b>BIHAR</b>							
FCI-Sindri	Urea	245.0	112.7	0.0	208.4	95.9	0.0
HFCI-Barauni	Urea	50.0	23.0	0.0	40.5	18.6	0.0
PPCL-Amjhore	SSP	210.0	0.0	33.6	205.3	0.0	32.8
By- Product	A/S	36.3	7.6	0.0	41.2	8.7	0.0
State Total		541.3	143.3	33.6	495.4	123.1	32.8
<b>ORISSA</b>							
FOI-Talcher	Urea	100.0	46.0	0.0	100.0	46.0	0.0
SAIL -Rourkela	CAN	174.0	43.5	0.0	94.9	23.7	0.0
PPL-Paradeep	DAP	616.0	110.9	283.4	776.1	139.7	357.0
	10:26:26	50.0	5.0	13.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
	12:32:16	75.0	9.0	24.0	23.6	2.8	7.6
	Total	741.0	124.9	320.4	799.7	142.5	364.6
By-Product	A/S	8.0	1.7	0.0	6.6	1.4	0.0
State total		1023.0	218.1	320.4	1001.2	213.6	364.6
<b>WEST BENGAL</b>							
HFC-Durgapur	Urea	50.0	23.0	0.0	3.3	1.5	0.0
By-Product	A/S	32.4	6.8	0.0	7.8	1.6	0.0
State Total		82.4	29.8	0.0	11.1	3.2	0.0
<b>ASSAM</b>							
HFC-Namrup-I	A/S	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
HFC-Namrup-II	Urea	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
HFC-Namrup-III	Urea	210.0	96.6	0.0	197.0	90.6	0.0
SSP Units	SSP	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
State Total		210.0	96.6	0.0	197.0	90.6	0.0
East-Zone Total		1856.7	485.8	354.0	1704.7	430.6	397.4
<b>North-Zone</b>							
<b>HARYANA</b>							
NFL-Panipat	Urea	511.5	235.3	0.0	562.3	258.7	0.0
State Total		511.5	235.3	0.0	562.3	258.7	0.0
<b>PUNJAB</b>							
NFL-Nangal-I	CAN	232.5	58.1	0.0	175.7	43.9	0.0
NFL-Nangal-I	Urea	350.0	161.0	0.0	406.4	186.9	0.0
NFL-Bhatinda	Urea	511.5	235.3	0.0	567.4	261.0	0.0
State Total		1094.0	454.4	0.0	1149.5	491.9	0.0
<b>UTTAR PRADESH</b>							
FCI-Gorakhpur	Urea	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
State total		0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
North-Zone Total		1605.5	689.7	0.0	1711.8	750.5	0.0
Grand Total		9842.1	3384.6	805.1	9363.4	3340.9	728.1

*State-wise & Zone-wise Targets and Production of Fertilizers by PSUs during 1997-98*

('000'MT)

Name of Zone/ State	Target: 1997-98			Production : 1997-98		
	Qty	N	P	Qty	N	P
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
<b>South-Zone</b>						
Andhra Pradesh	153.3	59.7	0.0	145.4	55.9	0.0
Kerala	1154.0	303.7	139.2	1100.7	293.3	128.5
Tamil Nadu	1135.0	296.0	170.2	624.1	153.6	63.4
Total (SZ):	2442.3	661.4	309.4	1870.2	502.8	211.9
<b>West-Zone</b>						
Madhya Pradesh	1497.6	686.4	0.0	1667.3	765.6	0.0
Maharashtra	2330.0	861.3	124.1	2326.1	891.4	105.5
Rajasthan	110.0	0.0	17.6	83.3	0.0	13.3
Total (WZ):	3937.6	1647.7	141.7	4076.7	1657.0	118.8

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
<b>East-Zone</b>						
Bihar	541.3	143.3	33.6	495.4	123.1	32.8
Orissa	1023.0	216.1	320.4	1001.2	213.6	364.6
West Bengal	82.4	29.8	0.0	11.1	3.2	0.0
Assam	210.0	96.6	0.0	197.0	90.6	0.0
Total (EZ):	1856.7	485.8	354.0	1704.7	340.6	397.4
<b>North-Zone</b>						
Haryana	511.5	235.3	0.0	562.3	258.7	0.0
Punjab	1094.0	454.4	0.0	1149.5	491.9	0.0
Uttar Pradesh	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Total (NZ):	1605.5	689.7	0.0	1711.8	750.5	0.0
<b>Grand Total:</b>	<b>9842.1</b>	<b>3384.6</b>	<b>805.1</b>	<b>9363.4</b>	<b>3340.9</b>	<b>728.1</b>

#### **Rehabilitation of AIDS Patients**

2007. DR. ULHAS VASUDEO PATIL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of AIDS cases recorded so far in the country;

(b) whether the Government propose to provide facilities to Non-Governmental organisations engaged in rehabilitation of AIDS patients;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the measures taken by the Government to rehabilitate these patients ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI): (a) The total number of AIDS cases recorded as on April, 1998 is 5209.

(b) and (c) No, Sir. However, the Govt. is proposing to provide facilities to Non-Governmental Organisations to establish hospitals for medical treatment of terminally ill patients who do not have social support.

(d) Does not arise.

[Translation]

#### **Recruitment in Home Guards**

2008. SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the requisite educational qualification laid down for recruitment of Home Guards in Delhi Police;

(b) whether illiterate persons are also recruited in Delhi Police;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor and the number of illiterate persons recruited in Delhi Police;

(d) whether Delhi Police has framed any new-rule for recruitment of Home Guards; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L. K. ADVANI): (a) Presently, there is no system or recruitment of Home Guards in Delhi Police.

(b) and (c) As per existing recruitment rules, no illiterate person can be recruited in Delhi Police as a police personnel. However, before the implementation of the National Police Commission report, no specific qualification was prescribed for the recruitment of a constable in Delhi Police; as a result, Delhi Police still has 14 illiterate constables.

Rules provide for recruitment of illiterate persons against certain group 'D' posts. Thus, Delhi Police has 587 illiterate Group 'D' employees (non-police personnel) on its rolls.

(d) and (e) No such provision has so far been made in the recruitment rules for posts under Delhi Police.

[English]

#### **Posting of Spouse Doctors**

2009. SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether wife and husband working as Government servants are posted at the same station as per Department of Personnel and Training instruction;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether his Ministry has received a number of such requests from CGHS doctors particularly doctors posted at Gurgaon;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the action taken by the Government in this regard; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor in view of DOPT instructions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI) : (a) and (b) The Department of Personnel and Training's O.M. dated 3-4-86 has laid down some guidelines to consider the requests from spouses for a posting at the same station.

(c) to (f) One doctor presently posted at CGHS dispensary Gurgaon has requested for posting at Bhubaneshwar and this request would be considered subject to administrative exigencies and public interest.

#### **World Bank Assistance to Kerala/Tamilnadu**

2010. SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government received any proposal from the State Governments of Kerala and Tamilnadu seeking World Bank assistance for revamping the upgradation of Secondary Health System;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government forward these proposals to the World Bank; and

(d) if so, the details of the visits undertaken by the World Bank officials to know the feasibility of the project and reached to agreement to finance the projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI) : (a) and (b) The State Governments of Kerala and Tamil Nadu have sent proposals for financing the upgradation of the Secondary Health Systems with World Bank assistance.

(c) and (d) Apart from the States which had already been taken for formulation of Projects in 1995, it was decided in 1996 and 1997 to take up new projects in those States where the health indices were comparatively low. Further projects can be posed only after the suitability for negotiation of those projects which are already in the process of scrutiny has been established.

The State Projects are developed through detailed discussions with the World Bank and past experience has shown that they take anywhere from 12 to 24 months to fructify, depending on the time taken on the design and formulation of the project by the State. The Bank officials have *inter-alia* visited States where the State Health Systems projects are under formulation, viz. Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan.

#### **Delhi Development Authority**

2011. SHRI VIJAY GOEL: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have a Plan to bring Delhi Development Authority under the jurisdiction of Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which it is likely to be transferred to NCT?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI) : (a) to (c) Under Article 239 AA of the Constitution of India, the Legislative Assembly of the NCT of Delhi has been empowered to make laws for the whole or any part of the National Capital Territory with respect to any of the matters enumerated in the State List or in the Concurrent List in so far as any such matter is applicable to Union Territories except matters with respect to Entries 1 (Public Order), 2 (Police) and 18 (Land) of the State List. In view of this dispensation, both the Delhi Development Act, 1957 (which is a Central Act) and the Delhi Development Authority are administered by the Central Government. However, a proposal to grant full-fledged Statehood to the NCT of Delhi is under active consideration of the Government.

#### **Ban on Gutka**

2012. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Andhra Pradesh State Legislative Assembly unanimously adopted a resolution urging the Centre to take steps to ban on sale of 'Gutka';

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

(c) whether the Union Government have received the said resolution from the State Government for approval; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI) : (a) to (c) The Legislature (Question) Secretariat of AP addressed a communication dated 9.9.96 to the Govt. of AP and endorsed a copy to this Ministry indicating that the Hon'ble Speaker had admitted a notice given by Shri Bal Reddy and others regarding "ill effect of

Gutka on Public Health". Subsequently, the Govt of AP vide its letter dated 31.12.96 requested the Govt. of India that the possibility of prohibition on production and sale of Pan Masala/Gutka, Zarda, Chewing Tobacco may be examined in consultation with the Indian Council of Medical Research.

(d) No decision to ban Gutka has been taken by the Govt. as yet.

#### **World Bank Assistance for Blindness Control Programme in A.P.**

2013. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Blindness Control Project being implemented in several States with aid from the World Bank has proved more successful in Andhra Pradesh at present;

(b) if so, the total number of cataract surgeries performed in Andhra Pradesh during the last year;

(c) the extent to which it is more than the target;

(d) the details of places where cataract surgeries were performed;

(e) the total number of blindness cases remaining in Andhra Pradesh at present;

(f) the main reasons for increase in the number of blindness in Andhra Pradesh; and

(g) the further steps taken by the Government to eradicate this disease?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI) : (a) The performance of Andhra Pradesh in the implementation of the World Bank Assisted Cataract Blindness Control Project is second highest in the achievement of targets for cataract surgery as compared to the remaining Project States.

(b) and (c) During the financial year 1997-98, 2,95,735 cataract surgeries were performed as against the target of 2,46,400.

(d) Cataract surgeries were performed at District Hospitals, Medical Colleges, District Mobile Units, Private Hospitals and Hospitals run by voluntary organisations and at eye camps.

(e) and (f) As per the rapid assessment survey conducted during 1997-98, the prevalence of blindness in the age group 50-59 is reported to have reduced by 16% and in the 60-69 age group by 24%. Thus, against the general prevalence rate of blindness at 1.5% of the population, it is estimated that in Andhra Pradesh it may be 1.24% of the population. Increase in cataract blindness is due to increase in the population of the elderly as cataract is a degenerative disease, that mainly occurs among the older age groups.

(g) Cataract Blindness cannot be eradicated but can be controlled. Therefore, under the World Bank Assisted Cataract Blindness Control Project strengthening capacity in the public sector service centres; upgrading infrastructure; increasing intersectoral cooperation and IEC services; providing training to personnel; and strengthening the District Blindness Control Society and focussing on quality of cataract surgery are some of the activities being implemented in the Project States.

#### **NDMC Shops**

2014. DR. BIZAY SONKAR SHASTRI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of NDMC shops whose sale-purchase was regularised during the last five years;

(b) whether the ownership of these shops have been changed;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) whether there is any proposal to review the regularisation/eviction of NDMC shops?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI) : (a) to (c) NDMC allots its shops on a licence basis normally for a period of five years. The ownership of these shops remains always with the NDMC.

During the last five years, the licences of the shops were transferred by the NDMC in 215 cases on the ground of sub-letting or on legal heir basis after completion of prescribed formalities etc.

(d) NDMC has already formulated in December, 1997 a policy for regularisation of the units in which eviction orders had been passed by the Estate officer.

#### **Setting up of High Power Committee**

2015. SHRI S. S. OWAISI: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Commission for Minorities has set up a High Power Committee to study the socio-economic and educational conditions of minorities;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether this Committee also studied the lack of effective implementation of 15 points programme and suggestion made on minorities welfare;

(d) whether this Committee also studied the Gopal Singh Penal Report, 1983;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the steps proposed by the Government for the welfare of minorities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A High Powered Study Committee has been constituted in June, 97 to undertake fresh comprehensive study exclusively to the problems being faced by the major religious minorities in the country. The composition of this Committee is as under :-

**Chairman**

Rev. Dr. James Massey

**Members**

1. Shri Soli J. Sorabjee
2. Shri Saiyid Hamid
3. Dr. Daniel D. Chetti
4. Prof. Iqbal A. Ansari
5. Dr. Asghar Ali Engineer
6. Prof. (Dr.) Angane Lal
7. Prof. Satinder Singh Noor
8. Rev. Dr. John Vallamattam
9. Dr. Manzoor Alam

**Secretary**Deputy Secretary of the Commission (*ex-officio*)

(c) to (e) The terms of reference of the Committee include role, utility and impact of the 15-Point Programme. The Committee will also take into account the Gopal Singh Committee Report, 1983.

(f) For the welfare of Minorities, Government of India is implementing the following Schemes:

- (i) Pre-Examination Coaching Schemes for Weaker Sections based on economic criteria.
- (ii) National Minorities Finance and Development Corporation: The Corporation was set up in September, 1994 with an authorised share capital of Rs. 500 crores. The Corporation provides loans for setting up of Self Teasing Employment ventures to Minorities who are below double poverty line income i.e. Rs. 22,000 p.a.

Besides Government is also implementing the Scheme of Area Intensive Programme and Modernisation of Madarsas for better education of the minorities.

**Voluntary Organisation In Kerala**

2016. SHRI T. GOVINDAN: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of voluntary organisations working in Kerala; and

(b) the financial assistance provided to these voluntary organisations by the Union Govt. during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) and (b) A statement showing the names of voluntary organisations in the State of Kerala which were given financial assistance by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (formerly Ministry of Welfare) during the last three years, together with the amount of assistance, year-wise, is attached.

**Statement**

(Rs. in lakhs)

S. No.	Name of the Organisations	Amount released during		
		1995-96	1996-97	1997-98
1	2	3	4	5
<b>Welfare of Disabled Persons</b>				
1.	Faith India, Kerala	1.00	0.50	8.35
2.	Association for Welfare of Handicapped, Calicut	2.00	-	1.00
3.	Kerala State Handicapped Welfare Ass., Kozhikode	-	-	12.00
4.	Asha Nilayan, Ponkunnam	2.47	2.17	2.57
5.	Sheha Bhavan Society, Kerala	8.13	8.05	7.72
6.	Sanjose Welfare Centre Kottayam.	1.50	1.64	1.79
7.	St. Camillus Trg. Centre, Kannur	2.93	2.94	3.55
8.	Alphons Social Centre Ernakulam	1.96	2.33	2.58
9.	Santhibhavan Social Centre, Chellakunddy	4.41	4.37	4.28
10.	Fr. Tezza's Inott, Wyanad	2.78	3.02	-
11.	Rotary Instt., Trivandrum	7.47	7.52	7.55
12.	Charitable Society for Welfare of Disabled, Piravam	1.10	1.41	1.47
13.	Kottayam Social Services Society, Kottayam	1.08	1.07	1.19
14.	Santhinilayam for Handicapped Children, Kottayam	1.82	1.52	2.36
15.	Vimla Mahila Samajam, Kerala	11.81	9.84	10.81
16.	YWCA, Kollam	1.70	1.29	1.63
17.	All Kerala Association for MR., Trivandrum	6.03	6.73	10.54
18.	Pratiksha Trg. Centre, Thrissur	4.91	5.00	5.16

1	2	3	4	5
19. Faith India, Trivandrum		18.90	17.74	18.22
20. Social Service Guild of Aasiel Sisters, Eamakulam		6.33	2.13	2.36
21. Cherupushpam Industrial Instt., Trivandrum		3.42	3.38	3.46
22. Kerala Fed. of the Blind, Trivandrum		9.93	15.41	17.87
23. Asscn. for the Welfare of Handicapped, Calicut		8.30	9.78	10.19
24. Karthika Nair Smarak Samity, Mumbai		2.26	2.40	-
25. Dte. of Social Action,, Palakkad		5.38	3.13	4.08
26. Marian Service Society, Palakkad		4.46	4.81	5.05
27. Asha Nilayam, Palai		2.61	2.49	2.70
28. Pratiksha Bhavan, Idukki		4.50	4.47	4.79
29. Emakulam Women's Asscn.	0.24	0.29	-	-
30. Pop John Paul Peace Home, Thrissur		3.74	4.68	5.79
31. Social Welfare Centre, Trissur	14.21	18.19	18.89	
32. Society for Rehab. of Mentally Difficent Children, Kannve	2.61	2.61	2.37	
33. Abhaya Varada Nandavanam, Trivandrum	2.94	9.42	-	
34. Sanathana Adwaita Ashram, Trivandrum	1.17	-	-	
35. YMCA, Tiruvalla	0.37	-	-	
36. Ashakiran, Calicut	-	2.25	1.12	
37. Raksha Society, Trivandrum	-	3.79	1.91	
38. Madouna Charitable Society, Thrissur	-	2.66	3.07	
39. Bala Vikas Society, Trivandrum	-	1.09	2.38	
40. Hellen Keller Instt. for V.H. Palakkad	-	0.17	1.76	
41. Pope Paul Mercy Home, Thrissur	-	-	1.67	
42. Calicut Islamic Culture, Calicut	-	2.97	-	
43. Sevaniketan, Kottayam	-	-	1.39	

1	2	3	4	5
<b>Welfare of Minorities</b>				
1. Mujahid Education Trust, Calicut	-	-	0.25	
2. Ashrya Janashryia, Kerala	-	-	0.55	
<b>Welfare of Scheduled Castes</b>				
1. Matha Amritanandamayi Math, Kollam	-	-	1.45	
<b>Prohibition and Drug Abuse Prevention</b>				
1. Abhaya, Trivandrum		8.24	5.25	7.38
2. Alcohol and Drug Addicts Research and rehabilitation and Treatment Centres, Palai, Kottayam Dist.		3.13	9.42	6.30
3. Calicut Diocese Social Service Society, Calicut		2.44	-	2.68
4. Changanacherry Social Service Society, Changana-Cherry	3.43	-	6.74	
5. Dale View, Poovachal Thiruvananthapuram		4.53	8.68	7.75
6. Indian 'Psycho Social Service Society, Chanakara, Thiruvananthapuram	1.20	-	2.32	
7. International Centre for Study and Development, Kollam		5.63	9.76	5.41
8. Jawaharlal Memorial Social Welfare Public Co-operation Centre, Thalayolaparambu, Kottayam Dist.	1.22	2.32	2.41	
9. K. Velayudhan Memorial Trust, Shertally	-	-	0.71	
10. Keral Association for Social & Women's Welfare, Kollam	1.04	2.39	3.70	
11. Malankkara Orthodox Syrian Church Medical Mission Hospital, Kolencherry, Emakulam	2.57	5.29	8.20	
12. Mujahid Education Trust, Calicut		11.76	8.64	8.38
13. Naranganam Rural Development Society, Pathanamthitta Dist		1.28	3.37	2.49
14. Nirmal Niketan, Mukti Sadan, Kochi		6.22	6.30	6.30

1	2	3	4	5
15. Sri Satya Sai Human Helpage, Pallipport		6.94	6.30	6.90
16. Social Action Forum, Trissur,		6.78	4.38	13.10
17. Thiruvananthapuram Social Service Society, Thiruvananthapuram		3.12	4.68	7.07
18. Total Response to Alcohol and Drug Abuse, Manganam, Kottayam (TRADA)		8.44	10.51	8.85
19. Unity Group, Kochi		1.28	3.75	2.46
20. Kollam Nataka Vedi, Kollam		1.20	0.60	-
21. Swasraya Samajam		0.61	-	0.71
22. Divine Trust		0.43	-	-
23. Pratheeksha De-addiction Centre, Kannur		-	-	3.72

**Welfare of Scheduled Tribes**

1. Kerala Saksharatha Samiti Rajadhani Building East Fort.		2.75	0.00	0.00
2. Sri Ramakrishna Advaita Ashram P.O. Kalady Distt, Emakuum, Kerala		7.88	4.96	5.55
3. Harijan Sevak Sangh, Kerala Branch, Shanthinketan Katakada P.O. Thiruvananthapuram		5.19	2.64	5.73
4. Vinobaniketan P.O., Vinobaniketan Distt. Thiruvananthapuram		9.92	10.28	4.25
5. Swami Vivekananda Medical Mission Vivekananda Nagar, Mutti Wynad Distt. Kerala		1.28	0.69	0.69
6. Amritha Bhavanam Mata Amrithanandamayee Devi Math, Panipally, Kerala		5.14	7.07	7.92
7. Swami Nirmatananda Memorial Balathavana, P.O. Kayamkulam Distt. Allapuzha, Kerala		0.00	0.14	1.99

**Grant from Central Adoption Resource Agency**

1. Dena Sevena Sabha, Kerala		2.76	0.87	2.43
2. VCA Kerala		0.81	0.77	-

**Welfare of Aged**

1. Welfare Services Emakalem Kochi		2.47	1.87	6.72
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1	2	3	4	5
2. International Centre for Study and Dev, Kollam		1.08	2.76	1.01
3. Association for the Welfare of Handicapped, Calicut		1.08	-	-
<b>Welfare of Street Children</b>				
1. Trivandrum Don Bosco Veedu Society, Kalipan Kulam Road, TC, 41/2065m Manacad. Trivandrum-695000		-	9.42	7.05
2. Association for Welfare of the Handicapped, P.O. Box No. 59, S. M. Street, Calicut-673001		3.37	-	5.41
<b>Construction of Old Age Home</b>				
1. Sneh Bhaven, St. Stephen's Charitable Society, Kerala.		-	-	2.50

*[Translation]***Package for Bihar**

2017. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prime Minister has received any memorandum for giving a package of 56,000 crore of rupees to Bihar;

(b) whether the Government propose to provide similar packages to more states where separate states of Ultrakhand and Chhatisgarh have been declared;

(c) whether the Government have received any proposal on or before 18 April, 1998 for creation of smaller states in other states;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government are contemplating to appoint a state re-organisation commission; and

(f) the extent of financial burden as a result of creation of Ultrakhand, Vananchal and Chhatisgarh states?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a), (b) and (f) The Government has received a representation asking for a special economic package for the remaining State of Bihar in the event of formation of a new State of Vananchal. The said package, it is demanded, should comprise a lump sum payment of at least Rs. 50,000 crores, besides a payment of Rs. 1500 crores, per annum at least for the next ten years. The matter is being examined. No such demand has been received in connection with the formation of the proposed States of Uttarakhand and Chhatisgarh.

(c) and (d) A memorandum dated 12.8.1987 was received from the National Front for Smaller States demanding creation of 12 States, viz., Jharkhand, Uttarakhand, Gorkhaland, Panchal Pradesh (Western UP), Bodoland, Telangana, Purvanchal (Eastern UP), Vidarbh, Chhattisgarh, Bundelkhand, Saurashtra and Malwa.

(e) No, Sir.

[English]

#### Contract Labourer in Public Sector Units

2018. DR. JAYANTA RONGPI: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of contract labourer working in the Central Public Sector units; and

(b) the steps being taken to absorb such contract labourers engaged in permanent and perennial type of work in view of the Supreme Court verdict in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM) : (a) The statistics relating to total number of contract labourers working in the Central Public Sector Units are not maintained.

(b) As per the judgement of the Supreme Court of India dated 6.12.1996 in the case of Air India Statutory Corporation etc. Vs. United Labour Union and Ors., where contract labour system stood abolished by the appropriate Government by publication of a notification under section 10 (1) of the Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition) Act, 1970, the principal employer is under statutory obligation to absorb the contract labour.

#### Voluntary Organisation in Gujarat

2019. SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be please to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that financial assistance are being provided to various voluntary organisations in Gujarat;

(b) if so, the district-wise details of voluntary organisation in Gujarat where they have been financed;

(c) the names and places of such organisations where financial assistance during 1995 to till date have not been provided in Bhavnagar, Ahmedabad districts of Gujarat;

(d) the quantum of financial assistance sanctioned and distributed in the kind and lach to each ones during the above period on each years;

(e) the target fixed for such provision during the 1998, 1999 and 2000 to each one;

(f) whether the funds received from the Union Government are being misutilised by the organisations;

(g) if so, the details thereof; and

(h) the corrective steps taken by the Government to investigate the matter in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) District-wise details are given in the Statement enclosed.

(e) No State-wise target is fixed for releasing grant-in-aid to voluntary organisations under various schemes of this Ministry.

(f) No such cases have been reported by State Govt. of Gujarat.

(g) and (h) Question do not arise

#### Statement

(Rs. in lakhs)

S. No.	Name of the Organisations	Amount released during		
		1995-96	1996-97	1997-98
1	2	3	4	5
<b>Ahmedabad</b>				
1.	Blind Men's Association, Ahmedabad.	46.00	18.28	22.76
2.	Rachnatamak Abhigum Trust, Ahmedabad.	2.12	2.16	1.98
3.	Andh Apang Kalyan Kendra, Ahmedabad.	0.67	0.92	1.00
4.	Light House for Blind, Ahmedabad.	3.55	2.47	3.31
5.	Parikshitlal Ashram Shala Gandhi Ashram, Ahmedabad. (Run by Harijan Sevak Sangh, Delhi)	6.01	2.36	4.91
6.	Gujarat Kelavani Trust, Ahmedabad.	11.72	10.42	9.47
7.	Indian Council of Social Welfare, Ahmedabad.	1.40	-	5.67
8.	Nashabandhi Mandal Ahmedabad	11.23	10.47	23.81
9.	Rachnatamak Abhigum Trust, Ahmedabad	2.73	2.73	2.73
10.	Bharat Sevaashram Sangh, Ahmedabad.	1.07	1.12	-
11.	Gujarat Kelvani Trust, Ahmedabad.	1.08	3.23	2.15

1	2	3	4	5
12. Rachanatmak Abhigam Trust, Ahmedabad.	0.66	1.96	1.32	
13. Akhandjyot Foundation, Ahmedabad.	7.20	6.71	3.01	
14. Indian Council for Social Welfare, Ahmedabad.	3.70	11.09	7.39	
15. Rachanatmak Abhigam Trust, Ahmedabad.	7.40	7.39	7.39	
<b>Bhavnagar</b>				
1. K. L. Institute of Deaf, Bhavnagar.	5.31	2.65	1.33	
2. Shri K.L. Institute, Bhavnagar.	2.40	3.75	2.18	
<b>Vadodara</b>				
1. V-One Society, Vadodara.	1.74	-	9.67	
2. Medical Care Centre, Vadodara.	10.23	8.87	8.76	
<b>Surenderanagar</b>				
1. Sh. D. S. Parkekh Deaf & Dumb School, Surenderanagar.	0.42	0.43	0.43	
2. Vikash Vidyalaya, Surenderanagar.	1.62	2.03	-	
<b>Rajkot</b>				
1. Society for the mentally Retarded, Rajkot.	2.02	2.33	2.39	
2. Kathiawar Balaasharam, Rajkot.	1.20	1.11	-	
<b>Jamnagar</b>				
1. Anghjan Vividhlaxi Talim Kendra, Jamnagar.	4.20	4.45	3.89	
<b>Sabarkanth</b>				
1. Shree Santok Krupa Education Trust, Sabarkanth.	-	-	2.50	
<b>Baroda</b>				
1. S.C. Patel Trust, Baroda	6.47	6.53	6.51	
2. Vikas Jyot Trust, Baroda	3.35	6.68	6.90	
3. Baroda Citizen Council, Baroda	3.39	-	4.04	

1	2	3	4	5
<b>Junagarh</b>				
1. Shri Shishumangal Trust, Junagarh.	1.41	-	5.27	
<b>Banaskartha</b>				
1. Shree Sarvodaya Ashram, Banaskartha.	7.88	1.92	2.69	
2. Shree Mani Lal Gangadhar Patel, Sarvodaya Kendra, Banaskartha.	3.09	1.97	1.54	
<b>Kutch</b>				
1. Gram Swaraj Sangh, Kutch	2.55	1.69	1.88	
2. Smt. Sushilaben Manilal Sanghvi Memorial Trust, Kutch	3.10	1.75	3.16	
3. Lok Niketan, Kutch	5.86	1.43	4.54	

[Translation]

#### Hospitals for Victims of Bhopal Gas Tragedy

2020. SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA VARMA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of hospitals buildings constructed alongwith the locations and the date from which each hospital started functioning;

(b) the year in which each hospital was constructed and the date from which each hospital started functioning;

(c) whether a number of hospital buildings constructed three four years back are still lying unused;

(d) the total expenditure incurred on the construction of these buildings and the beds capacity thereof alongwith the number of patients likely to be treated in the OPD's; and

(e) the reasons for not utilising those hospitals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (DR. A.K. PATEL): (a) to (e) The State Government of Madhya Pradesh has constructed hospitals for the victims of the Bhopal Gas Tragedy and the details, as furnished by the State Government, are given in the Statement enclosed.

**Statement**

S. No.	Name of the hospital	Location	Construction cost (Rs. in Lakhs)	Year of Const- ruction started	Date on which the hospital started	Number of beds for the indoor patients	Number of OPD patients daily	Remarks
1.	Jawaharlal Nehru hospital	Bersia Road, Bhopal	302.75	1986	13.1.85	125	851	-
2.	Pulmonary Medicine Centre	Jehangirabad Bhopal	223.82	1993	1.12.94	39	198	-
3.	Master Lal Singh Hospital	Shahjahanabad Bhopal	107.92	1989	29.12.89	30	316	-
4.	Shakir Ali Khan hospital	Near Bharat Talkies, Hamidia Road, Bhopal	3.21	1988	1.12.85	30	761	-
5.	Lal Bahadur Shastri Hospital	Village Malikhedi, Bhopal,	32.82	1996	31.8.96	10	43	-
6.	Indira Gandhi Mahila Avam Bal Chikitsalaya	Near Yadgar Shahjahani Park Sultaniya Road	615.96	1994	yet to be started	700		Equipments are to be purchased to provide super speciality facility & staff is to be appointed.
7.	Kamla Nehru Hospital	Near Hamnidia	-	-	Under Construction			

Source: State Government of Madhya Pradesh

[English]

**Illiteracy among SC/ST**

2021. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government conducted any survey to bring the facts of percentage of illiteracy in relation to the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes in the States; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. Data on literacy and illiteracy is collected by the office of the Registrar General of India in the decennial census. The last census in the country was conducted in 1991. The literacy rate in the country for SCs is 37.41% and for STs it is 29.60% as per the census report of 1991.

**Infiltration**

2022. SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of foreigners from Bangladesh, Burma and others are indulging in transborder activities in Jammu;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of Bangladeshis and others apprehended and killed by BSF, Police and others during the last three years;

(d) whether any of the touts operating in bringing and guiding these foreigners to Jammu areas, have been arrested;

(e) if so, the number of touts thereof;

(f) if not, the reasons therefor;

(g) whether some Bangladeshis are illegally staying in the State and working with some contractors and construction companies; and

(h) if so, the steps taken by the Union Government to apprehend them?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) to (h) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

**Production of Pesticides**

(In Lakh Tonnes)

2023. SHRI RAMPAL UPADHYAY: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up some more units for production of pesticides; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (DR. A.K. PATEL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

**Food Policy**

2024. SHRI A. C. JOS : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided any new food policy recently; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PAL SINGH YADAV): (a) No, Sir.

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

**Production of Fertilizers**

2025. SHRI K.S. RAO: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the cumulative production of fertilizers has increased beyond the expectation during March and April 1998;

(b) if so, the details thereof and whether the production has exceeded the targets;

(c) the capacity utilisation of the various fertilizers in the country;

(d) the measures taken to increase the production; and

(e) the capacity utilisation of the fertilizers in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (DR. A. K. PATEL): (a) to (e) As shown in the table below, the cumulative production of fertilizer nutrients during the year ending March 31, 1998 exceeded the targets. During April 1998, the target for nitrogen nutrient was exceeded while there was a marginal shortfall in phosphate. The capacity utilisation in respect of both these nutrients during 1997-98 and April 1998 has also been indicated.

Period	Fertilizer Nutrients	Target	Actual	%age capacity utilisation
1997-98	Nitrogen	96.10	100.86	101.5
	Phosphate	28.60	29.75	101.7
April 1998	Nitrogen	7.01	7.17	82.0
	Phosphate	2.20	1.94	79.0

In order to optimise the indigenous fertilizer production, an appropriate policy framework has been put into place. The main elements of this framework are as follows:

- (i) The domestic urea industry is supported through the retention price-cum-subsidy scheme.
- (ii) Assistance is provided to the fertilizer industry for securing linkages of feedstock, fuel and rail movement.
- (iii) As a part of Government's liberalisation policy, no industrial licence is normally required for setting up a fertilizer plant.
- (iv) Investment in the fertilizer sector is encouraged, *inter-alia*, through concessions on supplies of capital goods for the fertilizer industry in the form of import duty exemption and deemed export benefits.
- (v) A provision of Rs. 3000 crore has been made in the 1998-99 budget for encouraging the consumption of phosphatic and potassic fertilizers.

The central public/cooperative sector fertilizer units have adopted the following strategy to increase fertilizer production:

- (i) Expansion/retrofitting/revamping of existing fertilizer plants;
- (ii) Overcoming the constraints in the availability of natural gas by setting up naphtha-based fertilizer plants and installing dual fuel/feedstock facilities in the existing plants and projects under implementation;
- (iii) Setting up of joint venture projects in countries having abundant and cheap raw material resources.

Budgetary support has also been provided to the sick fertilizer undertakings in the central public sector to enable them to sustain their production.

**Shortage of Homoeopathic Doctors**

2026. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to refer to reply given to Unstarred Question No. 4630 and 2292 dated May 5, 1997 and August 6, 1997 and state:

(a) whether the required information has been collected;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons for inordinate delay therein and the time by which it is likely to be collected?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT

EZHILMALAI) : (a) to (c) The information for fulfilling the assurance given in respect of both the questions has already been collected and assurance given in reply to question No. 4630 dated May 5, 1997 stands fulfilled on 29.5.98. Copy of the implementation report is enclosed as statement. With regard to question No. 2292 dated August 6, 1997 the assurance is being fulfilled shortly.

**Statement**

*IV Session, 1997 of the Eleventh Lok Sabha Date of Fulfilment : 29.5.98  
Ministry of Health and Family Welfare Department of ISM&H*

Q.No. Date & Name of M.P. (s)	Subject	Promise Made	Reasons for How Fulfilled	Delay
L.S.U.S.Q. No. 4630 dated 5.5.97 by Sh. Dileep Sanghani	Homoeopathy System of Medicine Asking for: (a) The name of the hospital where the O.P.D. of Homoeopathy system of medicine has been started in Delhi. (b) the number of places where the doctors of Homeopathy have been appointed alongwith the number of posts lying vacant and the pay scales of these posts. (c) whether the four years diploma in Homoeopathy, D.H.M.S. (passed/completed before 1980) have been recognised by the Govt. as equivalent to B.H.M.S. and (d) the details of the number of posts of Homeopathy doctors lying vacant alongwith the name of places and the procedure to be followed to fill these vacancies and by when the appointments are likely to be made thereon?	(a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the Sabha.	(a) As per information furnished by the Government of NCT of Delhi, O.P.D. of Homoeopathic systems of Medicine is available at Nehru Homoeopathic Medical College and Hospital which is under the administrative control of the Government of NCT of Delhi. Besides this the services of OPD are also available in two private Hospitals namely Sir Ganga Ram Hospital and B.R. Sood Medical College and Hospital. The Central Government under the CGHS Scheme have also started OPD in Homoeopathic System of Medicine at Safdar jang Hospital.  (b) The details are at Annexure 'A'  (c) Yes Sir, D.H.M.S. (passed/completed before 1980) has been equated equivalent to B.H.M.S. only for service matters.  (d) Details are at Annexure 'A'.	Information called from the concerned organisation was not received.

**Annexure-A**

*Statement showing details of Homoeopathic Doctors posted in Delhi in reply to part -B & D of the Question*

i. Under Central Government Health Scheme

Name of the Post	Sanctioned Post	Pay Scale (Pre-revised)
C.M.O.	3	( Rs. 3700-5000)
S.M.O.	12	( Rs. 3000-4500)
M.O.	15	( Rs. 2200-4000)

(ii)	Name of the Dispensary	No. of Doctors Posted	Lying Vacant
1	2	3	4
1.	Shahdara	2	Nil
2.	Timarpur	2	1
3.	Daryaganj	2	1
4.	Dev Nagar	2	1
5.	Rajouri Garden	2	Nil

1	2	3	4
6	Tilak Nagar	2	Nil
7	R. K. Puram	3	Nil
8	Pushp Vihar	2	Nil
9	Kalka Ji	2	Nil
10	R. K. Puram Sec. 6	2	Nil
11	Kasturba Nagar	2	Nil
12	Kali Bari	1	1
13	South Avenue	2	Nil
		26	4@

# Requisition for filling up the vacant posts of Homoeopathic Doctors has been sent to the U.P.S.C.

*Under Department of Homoeopathy, Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi*

Sr. No	Name of the Post	Pay Scale	Sanc- tioned	Filled	Vacant
<b>A Directorate of ISM &amp; Homoeopathy (Head Quarter)</b>					
1	Dy. Director (Homoeo.)	Rs. 3000-5000	1	-	1
2	Asstt. Director (Homoeo.)	Rs. 3000-4500	1	1	Nil
<b>B Nehru Homoeopathic Medical College and Hospital</b>					
1	Principal	Rs 3700-5000 (plus NPA)	1	1*	Nil
2	Professor	Rs. 3000-5000 (plus NPA)	4	-	4
3	Asstt. Professor	Rs. 3000-4500 (plus NPA)	6	4	2
4	Lecturer	Rs 2200-4000 (plus NPA)	6	3*	3
5	Medical Officer	Rs. 2000-3500 (plus NPA)	2	2	Nil
6	Demonstrator	Rs 1640-2900 (plus NPA)	18	17	1
<b>C Homoeopathic Dispensaries</b>					
	Junior Medical Officer	Rs 2200-3500 (plus NPA)	31	29	2
	Medical Officer (Homoeo.)	Rs 2200-4000 (plus NPA)	16	9*	7

\* 9 posts of Homoeopathic doctors have been filled on contractual basis for a consolidated salary of Rs. 6000/- p.m. for a period of 89 days.

### Conviction Rate in Criminal Cases

2027. SHRI JANG BAHADUR SINGH PATEL: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the conviction rate in criminal cases is low;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor, and the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to asselerate the disposal of criminal cases;

(c) whether police has been found guilty of planting evidence and harassing innocent people; and

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

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI) : (a) to (d) According to available information, the percentage of convictions in IPC cases during the year 1993 to 1996 was as under:

Year	Conviction Rate
1993	45.9%
1994	42.9%
1995	42.1%
1996	37.8%

'Public Order' and 'Police' are state subjects as per the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India. As such, the registration, investigation, detection and prevention of crime is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments. The Central Government has, however, been sending advisories, from time to time, to the State Governments which, *inter alia*, include sensitisation programmes, training to police personnel and award of exemplary punishment to guilty police personnel.

In order to speed up the disposal of cases, the Central Government has taken a series of steps to simplify procedures on the basis of the advice and recommendations of expert bodies like the Law Commission., Conferences of Law Ministers, Chief Ministers and Chief Justices and other concerned with the administration of justice are also held periodically and the recommendations and conclusions emerging from such exchanges and consultations are implemented and their progress closely monitored.

[Translation]

### Indian Relations with Brazil

2028. SHRI MAHESH KANODIA :  
SHRI ANAND RATNA MAURYA :

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and Brazil have signed any agreement to increase cooperation in the field of health and pharmaceuticals;

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

(c) the time by which this agreement is likely to be effected?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI): (a) Yes, Sir. An Implementing Agreement in the field of Health and Medicine under the Agreement between the Government of Federative Republic of Brazil and the Government of the Republic of India on Co-operation in the fields of Science and Technology was signed in Brazil on 5th May, 1998 during the recently concluded State visit of the Hon'ble President of India to that country.

(b) The Implementing Agreement based on the Standard terms and conditions, envisages co-operation between India and Brazil in the following fields:

- (i) Biotechnology on Health and Pharmaceutical products
- (ii) Epidemiology
- (iii) Sanitary Surveillance
- (iv) Management of Public Health Systems
- (v) Traditional Medicine
- (vi) Pharmacology and Pharmaceuticals
- (vii) Infectious Diseases and Parasitology
- (viii) Maternal and child health care and family planning
- (ix) Occupational Health
- (x) Tropical Medicine
- (xi) Any other area as may be agreed between the parties.

The Agreement of Co-operation is envisaged to be implemented in the following forms:

- (A) Exchange of information and transfer of technology in similar areas.
- (B) Conducting mutual scientific co-operation programmes including workshops, and exchange of delegations with pharmaceutical health and medical background.
- (C) Publication of scientific and technological information resulting from the activities of the agreement by common consent and through formal authorisation.
- (D) Any other programme or activity as may be agreed between the parties.

(c) This Implementing Agreement came into effect from the date of its signature i.e. 5th May, 1998.

[English]

#### Joint Patrolling on Indo-Bangladesh Border

2029. SHRI RANJIB BISWAL: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have a proposal to undertake joint patrolling on the Indo-Bangladesh Border;

(b) if so, whether the Bangladesh Government has made any suggestion to the Government of India in the matter;

(c) is so, the details thereof; and

(d) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) No proposal for undertaking joint patrolling on Indo-Bangladesh border has been taken up with Bangladesh.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Does not arise.

[Translation]

#### Ban on One-Digit Lotteries

2030. SHRI HARI KEWAL PRASAD: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have imposed ban on one-digit lotteries by issuing an ordinance;

(b) if so, the number of persons rendered jobless on this account;

(c) whether the Government propose to impose ban on all types of lotteries;

(d) if so, the time by which the ban is likely to be imposed; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) to (e) The prevalence of single digit and instant lotteries and the temptation offered by them had proved to be the undoing of many families, especially those belonging to low income groups. It was felt that a Central legislation to regulate the conduct of lotteries was necessary to protect the interests of the gullible poor. Considering the exigencies of the matter and as Parliament was not in session, the Lotteries (Regulation) Ordinance, 1997 was promulgated on 1.10.1997. In order to give continued effect to the provisions of the said Ordinance, the Lotteries (Regulation) Second Ordinance, 1997 was promulgated on

30.12.1997. As the Lotteries (Regulation) Second Ordinance, 1997 was going to lapse on 5.5.1998, the Lotteries (Regulation) Ordinance, 1998 was promulgated on 23.4.1998.

The Ordinance bans the sale of single digit and instant lotteries. It also regulates the conduct and sale of other types of lotteries.

The Ordinance is a piece of social legislation. Specific information relating to part (b) of the question is not available.

[English]

#### Fixation of Gas Prices for Power Plants

2031. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the gas prices fixed for various power plants in the country;

(b) the price at which gas is supplied for Ramgarh Gas Power Plant in Jaisalmer, Rajasthan;

(c) whether Government of Rajasthan has requested to review the prices of the gas;

(d) whether the gas supplied to Ramgarh Gas based thermal power plant contains high concentration of Nitrogen, which does not contribute to heat energy/power generation; and

(e) if so, the action proposed to be taken in this regard and to consider to supply gas to the said plant at concessional rate in order to boost gas utilisation from small fields?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) The consumer price of natural gas, having calorific value of ten thousand kilo calorie per cubic metre, for the quarter April-June 1998 is Rs. 2271 per thousand cubic metre (MCM). However, the consumer price of natural gas in the North-Eastern region is Rs. 1250 per MCM with the provision of a discount of Rs. 300 per MCM on case-to-case basis. The above price of natural gas excludes transportation charges, royalties and other duties.

(b) The consumer price of natural gas for Ramgarh Power Plant for quarter April-June 1998 is Rs. 772 per MCM excluding transportation charges, royalties and other duties.

(c) Government of Rajasthan has requested for continuation of the discounted price available for natural gas supply to Ramgarh Power Plant.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) Exploration efforts are being continued in order to find natural gas in Rajasthan with better composition. Gas is already being supplied at a concessional rate to the Ramgarh Gas Power Plant.

#### Pending Cases under Consumer Courts

2032. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA :  
SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA :  
SHRI RAJVEER SINGH :

Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether "Consumerism" movement has been accelerated in the country during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of cases filed/disposed of in various consumer courts till date, level-wise, State-wise; and

(d) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to further strengthen the consumer's interest in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYAPAL SINGH YADAV): (a) Consumer movement in the country has picked up in the last three years.

(b) Consumer awareness has gained momentum in the country as it is evident from the growth of the number of voluntary consumer organisations which have started functioning in the country during the last three years. Similarly, the number of cases filed in the Consumer Courts all over the country has increased from 6 lakhs at the end of 1994 to 13.3 lakhs at the end of May, 1998.

(c) Based on the information made available to the Central Government, the state-wise position of the number of cases filed in and disposed of by the State Commission and District Fora is given separately in the statement I and II respectively. In so far as the National Commission is concerned, 13,713 cases have been filed and 7,903 cases disposed of as on 1.5.98.

(d) A three tier consumer disputes redressal machinery at the National, State and District levels have been set up to provide simple, speedy and inexpensive redressal of consumer grievances. The Central Government has taken a number of measures to increase consumer consciousness amongst people through various multi media publicity measures. Such measures include, among other, preparation of audio visual materials for broadcasting and telecasting through AIR and Doordarshan, printed publicity literature in the form of booklets, brochures, posters, post card size material in the field of consumer protection. The Department is also publishing a quarterly journal, "Upphokta Jagam", which disseminates useful information to the consumer. The printed material is made available to consumer organisations free of cost. In addition, Consumer Welfare Fund has been set up to provide financial assistance to eligible agencies/organisations for undertaking activities in the field of consumer protection and promoting consumer movement in all parts of the country with special emphasis on rural and tribal areas.

**Statement-I**  
**State Commission**

States/UTs	Number of Cases		Period of Reporting
	Filed Since Inception	Disposed Since Inception	
1	2	3	4
Andhra Pradesh	8852	7044	Feb. 98
Arunachal Pradesh	14	12	Feb. 98
Assam	951	321	Dec. 97
Bihar	4026	1785	Feb. 98
Goa	832	543	Feb. 98
Gujarat	5783	4066	Sept. 97
Haryana	5615	4236	Feb. 98
Himachal Pradesh	1756	1644	Feb. 98
Jammu & Kashmir	51	9	Dec. 96
Karnataka	6192	4127	Feb. 98
Kerala	9871	9546	Feb. 98
Madhya Pradesh	5667	3024	Feb. 98
Maharashtra	37235	22678	Dec. 97
Manipur	78	33	Feb. 98
Meghalaya	64	42	Dec. 97
Mizoram	3	3	Feb. 98
Nagaland	4	4	Sept. 97
Orissa	5459	2824	Sept. 97
Punjab	3534	1961	Feb. 98
Rajasthan	15363	4995	Mar. 98
Sikkim	12	12	Feb. 98
Tamil Nadu	8914	7086	Jan. 98
Tripura	192	135	Feb. 98
Uttar Pradesh	17317	4244	Feb. 95
West Bengal	3983	2932	Feb. 98
A & N Islands	14	11	Feb. 98
Chandigarh	1507	1385	Feb. 98

1	2	3	4
D & N Haveli	-	-	Feb. 98
Daman & Diu	1	-	Feb. 98
Delhi	7177	5394	Feb. 98
Lakshadweep	7	7	Feb. 98
Pondicherry	418	399	Feb. 98
<b>Total</b>	<b>150872</b>	<b>90482</b>	

**Statement-II**  
**District Forum**

States/UTs	Number of Cases		Period of Reporting
	Filed Since Inception	Disposed Since Inception	
1	2	3	4
Andhra Pradesh	93415	77439	Feb. 98
Arunachal Pradesh	149	119	Feb. 98
Assam	5318	3971	Dec. 97
Bihar	30985	20017	Feb. 98
Goa	2639	2206	Feb. 98
Gujarat	46419	30875	Sept. 97
Haryana	51940	38737	Feb. 98
Himachal Pradesh	10068	8705	Feb. 98
Jammu & Kashmir	6882	5837	Dec. 96
Karnataka	52055	41180	Feb. 98
Kerala	84289	78724	Feb. 98
Madhya Pradesh	45086	33095	Dec. 97
Maharashtra	270009	194224	Dec. 97
Manipur	671	647	Sept. 97
Meghalaya	193	152	Dec. 97
Mizoram	196	177	Feb. 98
Nagaland	60	42	Sept. 97
Orissa	25728	22042	Sept. 97
Punjab	23102	20612	Feb. 98
Rajasthan	103435	89489	Dec. 97
Sikkim	77	72	Feb. 98

1	2	3	4
Tamil Nadu	41038	35371	Jan. 98
Tripura	557	487	Feb. 98
Uttar Pradesh	179554	126127	Feb. 95
West Bengal	35498	26692	Feb. 98
A & N Islands	148	140	Feb. 98
Chandigarh	11178	6470	Feb. 98
D & N Haveli	26	23	Feb. 98
Daman & Diu	58	30	Dec. 97
Delhi	43921	34043	Feb. 98
Lakshadweep	30	29	Feb. 98
Pondicherry	1348	1291	Feb. 98
<b>Total</b>	<b>1166072</b>	<b>899065</b>	

[Translation]

**Appointment of Second Labour Commission**

2033. DR. CHINTA MOHAN:  
SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE:  
PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Labour Unions have demanded the appointment of Second Labour Commission;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto; and

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

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P. R. KUMARAMANGALAM) : (a) Yes Sir.

(b) to (d) Labour Laws have been enacted over a period of time to address a number of issues which assumed importance and attracted pointed attention at a particular point of time. While many of these issues are of continued nature, some of these might have ceased to be of importance, hence the need for review of Labour policies, programmes and laws flowing from them. This question has also been discussed in the Tripartite meeting of the Standing Labour Committee and Indian Labour Conference and the Government has agreed, in principle, to have these laws reviewed by setting up a high powered body so as to ensure consistency of labour laws with the general changes taking place in the economic policy as also to provide for greater welfare of the working class.

[English]

**Non-Use of Blood Collected by IRCS**

2034. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that at a time when patients are dying for want of blood, over 200 units of blood collected from voluntary donors by Indian Red Cross Society has been disposed off as waste as their dates of use have been expired;

(b) if so, the reasons for not using the blood before the expiry date;

(c) the total units of blood collected by I.R.C.S. every year against the total requirement; and

(d) the steps being taken by the Government to check such wastage of blood?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) 40,000 to 50,000 units of blood is collected every year by the Blood Bank of Indian Red Cross Society, New Delhi.

(d) Does not arise.

**HIV Positive Pregnant Women Delivering Babies**

2035. PROF. P. J. KURIEN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that the surveys across the country have revealed that nine out of ten HIV positive pregnant women in our country are not even aware of their HIV status;

(b) if so, whether the virus of HIV women not inflict injuries on the immune system of new-born children;

(c) if so, whether the World Health Organisation has predicted a devastating scenario in India with regard to HIV positive pregnant women delivering babies every year; and

(d) if so, the preventive measures being taken to check this malady?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) There is 30 to 50% chance of the virus of HIV positive women being transmitted to new born injuring the immune system of the child.

(c) The WHO prediction about the scenario in India with regard to HIV-positive women is based on surveillance data on high risk population groups in the initial years of the epidemic which was extrapolated to the general population. This is epidemiologically not correct.

(d) Implementation of awareness programme through electronic, print media, folk and inter-personal communication with Primary Health care workers, are some of the preventive measures, being taken to check this Malady. Further government is contemplating a pilot study on AZT prophylaxis in pregnant women in the last trimester of pregnancy which has proved to reduce the transmission rate by 66 to 70% in developed countries.

[Translation]

#### Family Welfare Programme

2036. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE :  
PROF. JOGENDRA KAWADE :

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount granted to Maharashtra for the family welfare programme in Dadar, Mahim, Ramabai Nagar, Matunga during 1996-97;

(b) if so, whether the Government of Maharashtra has utilised the grant fully; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI): (a) An amount of Rs. 11,734.71 lakh (both cash & kind) was released to the State Government of Maharashtra for the implementation of Family Welfare Programme during 1996-97. Central Government release funds to the States in total and not in price-meal to small units. Unit-wise distribution of funds are done by the State Governments.

(b) and (c) The Grant-in-Aid to States is both in cash and kind. The assistance in kind includes drug kits, dispensary kits, contraceptives, etc. It is given on the basis of utilisation requirements and so there is no surplus. The assistance in cash, is initially given on the basis of assessed requirement for salaries, etc. and is finally settled on the basis of audited accounts.

[English]

#### Health Care Schemes in Maharashtra

2037. SHRI MADHAVRAO PATIL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of health care schemes being implemented in Maharashtra at present;

(b) the time by which these schemes are in operation;

(c) the funds provided to the Government of Maharashtra during each of the last three years under the said schemes, year-wise and scheme-wise;

(d) the progress made under each scheme during the said period in the State; and

(e) the budgetary allocation made available to Maharashtra for implementation of these schemes, scheme-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI) : (a) to (d) Statement-I and II showing the details of major National Health and Family Welfare Programmes being implemented in the State of Maharashtra and funds provided to the State and the progress made under these schemes during last three years are enclosed.

(e) The scheme-wise allocation of funds to the States are made on annual basis after the Ministry's budget is approved by the Parliament.

#### Statement I

Central Assistance to Maharashtra under Major National Health Programmes during 1995-96 to 1997-98

(Rs. in crores)

Sl. No.	Name of the Scheme	Year of Operation	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98
1.	National Malaria Eradication Programme	1953	13.63	24.06	10.11 (Prov.)
2.	National Leprosy Eradication Programme	1955	1.64	2.71	2.64
3.	National Programme for Control of Blindness	1994*	3.70	1.18	1.33
4.	National T.B. Control Programme	1962	9.16	0.23	1.72
5.	National AIDS Control Programme	1992	3.00	9.00	5.00
6.	National Family Welfare Programme	1951	111.72	117.35	106.78

\* A World Bank assisted Cataract Blindness Control Project is being implemented in Maharashtra since April, 1994 for a period of 7 years.

Under National T.B. Control Programme cash assistance of Rs 1.66 crores was provided to District T.B. Societies during 1995-96 and 1997-98.

**Statement II****Achievements under major National Health and Family Welfare Programmes  
for the State of Maharashtra during 1995-96 to 1997-98**

Sl. No	Name of the Scheme	1995	1996	1997 (Prov.)
<b>1.</b>	<b>National Malaria Eradication Programme</b>			
(i)	Population screened for Malaria	12359334	13338232	13442669
(ii)	Case detected and treated	368796	307416	205146
(iii)	Population protected under insecticidal spray (in million)	11.8	15.2	8.4
		<b>1995-96</b>	<b>1996-97</b>	<b>1997-98</b>
<b>2.</b>	<b>National Leprosy Eradication Programme</b>			
	New cases detected	41621	40983	62473
	Cases brought under treatment	41621	40983	62473
	Cases discharged	58561	39698	54280
<b>3.</b>	<b>National T.B. Control Programme</b>			(in lakhs)
	New T.B. Cases detected	2.05	1.91	2.03
	Sputum examination	0.67	3.20	10.22
<b>4.</b>	<b>National Programme for Control of Blindness</b>			
	Cataract operations performed	3.12	3.57	3.87
<b>5.</b>	<b>Family Welfare Programmes</b>			(in lakhs)
(i)	Immunization coverage	Achievement(%)		
	D.P.T.	97.20	96.10	96.60
	Polio	97.90	96.50	97.00
	B.C.G.	101.60	100.80	102.90
	Measles	91.00	91.00	91.00
	T. T. (Pregnant women)	85.70	84.50	87.50
		Achievement (in lakhs)		
(ii)	Family Planning Coverage			
	Sterilisation	5.66	5.19	5.71
	I.U.D.	4.71	4.48	4.33
	C.C. Users	13.61	9.65	5.86
	O.P. Users	4.35	3.76	3.73

Figures for 1997-98 are provisional.

**6. National AIDS Control Programme**

In order to ensure availability of safe Blood for transfusion, 71 Government Blood banks have been modernized. The State has 46 Zonal Blood Testing centres and 196 licensed Blood Banks for providing safe blood transfusion. 38 STD clinics have been strengthened and 18 Sentinel sites have been established.

**Exploitation of Herbs**

2038. SHRI P. UPENDRA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the leading pharmaceutical companies in Europe are exploiting herbs long known in India and other countries of Asia and marketing them under allopathic names without proper patents; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (DR. A.K. PATEL): (a) and (b) No such information has been brought to the notice of the Administrative Department i.e. Department of Indian System of Medicines & Homoeopathy.

[Translation]

**Payment of Statutory Dues**

2039. SHRI C.D. GAMIT: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether a meeting was convened to consider the payment of statutory dues to employees of the public sector undertakings, decreasing avenues of employment and trends of recruiting employees on contract basis;

(b) if so, the details of the issues discussed and decision taken thereon;

(c) whether the Government have decided to provide attractive benefits under the Voluntary Retirement Scheme to the employees of those mills which are not likely to be revived; and

(d) if so, the details of the decision taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The main issues discussed in the Special Tripartite Committee Meeting on 13th May, 1998 included non-payment of statutory dues to workers of Central Public Sector Undertakings (CPSUs), current employment scenario in the organised sector, casualisation of workforce and retrenchment/retirement package for workers. It was decided in the meeting to make special efforts to liquidate outstanding statutory dues to workers of CPSUs. There was general agreement that action should be taken for making suitable amendments in the Contract Labour Act and to evolve a future strategy on contract labour. It was further decided to explore options to make retirement/retrenchment package for workers more attractive.

(c) and (d) In the Union Budget for 1998-99 it is proposed to make the benefits of VRS package more attractive to workers of enterprises destined for closure. A separate Restructuring Fund is being constituted for this purpose.

[English]

**Indigenous System of Medical Practice**

2040. SHRI N. DENNIS: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any steps has been taken by the Government to promote indigenous system of medical practice in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI): (a) to (c) The Government has set up a new Department of Indian System of Medicine and Homeopathy (ISM&H) in March, 1995 for the development and promotion of these systems including Yoga and Naturopathy in the country. The Department has taken various steps in the direction of strengthening and upgradation of the educational institutions pertaining to the ISM&H, standardisation of drugs of the ISM&H, enhancing the availability of the raw materials, such as, medicinal plants, research and development, actual involvement in the health care delivery. The details are as follows:

1. Financial assistance is provided for upgradation of the facilities in the educational institutions both at under graduate and post-graduate level.
2. Re-orientation training is provided to in-service teachers, physicians, researchers as part of continuing education programme and to update and upgrade their skills.
3. Premier national level institutes have been established in these systems of medicine, such as, national Institute of Ayurveda at Jaipur, National Institute of Homoeopathy at Calcutta, National Institute of Unani Medicine at Bangalore, National Institute of Naturopathy at Pune, Morarji Desai National Institute of Yoga at Delhi and Rashtriya Ayurveda Vidyapeeth at Delhi.
4. Pharmacopoeia Committees have been set up for Ayurveda, Siddha, Unani and Homoeopathy for developing pharmacopoeial standards for drugs of these systems. Pharmacopoeial Laboratory for Indian Medicine and the Homoeopathy Pharmacopoeial Laboratory have been set up at Ghaziabad for standardisation of drugs and testing of drugs pertaining to ISM&H.
5. Emphasis is given on development and cultivation of medicinal plants used in ISM&H. A scheme for development of agro techniques and cultivation of medicinal plants is being implemented by the Department.
6. CGHS dispensaries have been set up for ISM&H.

7. Research in ISM&H is supported through various Central Councils of Research in Ayurveda and Siddha, Unani System of Medicine, Homoeopathy, Yoga and Naturopathy.
8. Special Clinical Research Centres of Unani System of Medicine in Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital and of Ayurveda and Homeopathy in Safdarjang Hospital in Delhi have been set up and are functioning as OPDs.
9. Assistance has been provided to NIMHANS, Bangalore for setting up of a Department of Ayurveda for mental diseases.
10. A scheme for assisting international exchange programmes/seminars/workshops on ISM&H has been implemented.
11. Funds are also provided for extra mural research projects through research institutions, and
12. A scheme has been introduced to assist programmes related to information, education and communication to create awareness about these systems.

[Translation]

#### **Petrol-Diesel Reserves**

2041. SHRI CHINMAYANAND SWAMI:  
SHRI RAMPAL SINGH:  
SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA:  
SHRI SHANKER PRASAD JAISWAL:  
SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA VARMA:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of States where petrol/diesel reserves have been found in the country during the last three years and till date;

(b) the names of the States where the digging of wells for extraction of petrol/diesel is going on;

(c) whether this work is proposed to be undertaken by some foreign companies;

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

(e) whether the Government propose to use latest technique and equipments in digging wells; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) During the last three years (1995-98), oil and gas reserves have been found in Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Gujarat, Rajasthan and Tamil Nadu in addition to Bombay offshore area.

Till date, oil and gas reserves have been found in Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Gujarat, Nagaland, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu and Tripura in addition to offshore areas of Bombay, Krishna-Godavari, Cauvery, Kutch and Andamans. Recently, Coal-Bed Methane has been struck at Jharia in Bihar.

(b) Currently drilling of wells is going on in Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Gujarat, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Tripura and West Bengal in addition to the offshore areas of Bombay, Cauvery and Krishna-Godavari.

(c) and (d) Drilling work by private/foreign companies is going on/proposed in RJ-ON-90/1 (Rajasthan), Cambay/Matar, Ravva, Panna, Mukta, Mid and South Tapti oil & gas fields, etc. These areas have been awarded to private/foreign parties under the Govt. of India policy to encourage private investment in the upstream hydrocarbon sector.

(e) and (f) Most of the latest techniques and equipments are already in use to carry out drilling operations in the country.

#### **Functioning of Regional Selection Board**

2042. SHRI R.S. GAVAI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have reviewed the implementation of Marketing Scheme of 1996-97 for the selection and appointment of agents and distributors for distribution of petroleum products in various States particularly in Western region by the regional Selection Board;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to make the functioning of regional Selection Board more transparent and effective; and

(d) the details of marketing scheme in regard to petroleum products for Maharashtra during 1997-98?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) to (c) Selection of dealers/distributors for the petroleum products is made through duly constituted selection boards. In order to make the selection activities fair and transparent, functioning of these Boards is reviewed from time to time and necessary corrective steps are taken as considered desirable in public interest. Accordingly erstwhile OSBs were terminated and it was decided on 1.4.1997 to constitute 14 State/Region-wise Dealer Selection Boards (which cover States in Western Region also) with a Retd. High Court Judge as Chairman and two officers not below the rank of DGM of the oil companies as Members. New guidelines to make the procedure of selection and criteria for selection of dealers, transparent and fair were also issued.

(d) In the RO & LPG Marketing Plan 1996-98, 34 and 89 locations respectively have been included for Maharashtra.

[English]

#### Supply of Diesel on Concessional Rates

2043. SHRI N. K. PREMCHANDRAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to supply Diesel on concessional rates to foreign trawlers; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and its likely effect on the domestic fishing industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) and (b) There is no such proposal at present.

[Translation]

#### Implementation of a Commercial Training Project

2044. SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI:  
DR. MADAN PRASAD JAISWAL:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Commercial Training Project is being implemented by the Government to enhance the quality of training;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the achievements made under the Project?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) Yes, Sir. Government are implementing a Vocational (not commercial) Training Project.

(b) In order to modernise and update the training activities under the Craftsmen Training Scheme, Apprenticeship Training Scheme and other related schemes, a Vocational Training Project (VTP) with assistance from the World Bank was taken up in 1989, covering 28 States/UTs and with a base cost of Rs. 441 crore. The Project was to close originally in December 1996. It was, however, extended by one year in order to bring ongoing activities to an orderly close. The main components of the Project came to a close in December 1997. In December 1997, the World Bank conveyed its assent to continue funding only a few selected components for one more year i.e. upto December 1998.

(c) The World Bank mission conducted a joint review in January-February 1998 which revealed that nearly all the physical targets in State Sector have been achieved, although some of the Central Sector components remained behind schedule. Some of the States performed very well and even exceeded targets. A study has also revealed perceptible impact of the Project on employment of ITI certificate holders and attributed it to improved facilities and training.

[English]

#### Bomb Blasts in Delhi

2045. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA:  
SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE:  
SHRI MOHAN SINGH:  
PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of bomb blasts took place in Delhi during 1997 and 1998;

(b) the number of persons killed in those bomb blasts and the estimated loss caused to public and private property as a result thereof;

(c) the number of cases solved alongwith the steps taken to unreveal mystery and to apprehend the culprits; and

(d) the steps taken by the Union Government to remove the deficiencies in the security arrangements and to strengthen the intelligence to check the bomb blast incidents in Delhi?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI) (a) to (c) Delhi Police have reported that 21 cases of bomb blasts were registered in the National Capital Territory during 1997 and one so far in 1998 in which 12 persons lost their lives. The estimated loss to the public property was to the tune of Rs. 1,01,000/- and to private property around Rs. 1,97,000/-. The police have been able to work out twenty of these cases in addition to ten cases reported in other states with the arrest of 14 persons in case FIR No. 49 registered u/s 121/121A, IPC, 4/5 Explosive Substances Act, u/s 25/54/59 Arms Act and u/s 14 Foreigner Act at Police Station Railway Station (Main), Delhi.

(d) The measures taken by Delhi Police to strengthen security and intelligence-gathering include:

- (i) Constant vigil at border check-posts;
- (ii) Checking of suspicious vehicles;
- (iii) Checking of suspected guest houses/hideouts;
- (iv) Verification of new tenants;
- (v) Creating public awareness through the electronic media etc. about the need to give information about suspicious persons/material.
- (vi) Watch over suspected persons by the field intelligence officers; and
- (vii) Close coordination with the Central and State intelligence agencies.

**Compressed Natural Gas**

2046. SHRI ANANT KUMAR HEGDE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any proposal to extend the facility of Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) driven vehicles to different parts of the country; and

(b) if so, the details of the companies operating in that line and their profitability and the States to whom this facility is proposed to be extended?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

**Criteria for Allocation of Levy Sugar**

2047. SHRI DINSHAW PATEL:  
SHRIMATI BHAVNA DEVRAJ BHAI CHIKHALIA:  
SHRI JAYSINHJI CHAUHAN:

Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria being followed by the Government for allocation of levy sugar to States;

(b) whether the Government allot levy sugar to States on the basis of projected population of 1996;

(c) whether the Gujarat has not been allotted levy sugar on this basis;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether representations have been received from the State in this regard;

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

(g) the time by which it is likely to be supplied as per the projected population of 1996?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PAL SINGH YADAV): (a) to (d) The norm for supply of sugar in the PDS for most States/U.Ts. including the State of Gujarat, is 425 gms. per capita per month based on the 1991 census. In addition, Government also releases about one lakh tonnes per annum as a festival quota which is allocated to the States/UTs on a pro rata basis linked to their monthly levy quota.

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) and (g) The quantity of sugar accruing to the Central Government in the levy account under the current levy sugar formula, is short of the requirements for the PDS.

In these circumstances, it has not been found possible to enhance the allocation of sugar under the PDS for State Government by linking it to a more recent population figure. The Government of Gujarat has been informed of this position.

**Sarkaria Commission**

2048. SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are considering to implement the recommendations of the Sarkaria Commission on Centre-State Relations; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) and (b) Action has been initiated to ensure harmonious Centre-State Relations in the light of the recommendations of the Sarkaria Commission, etc.

**Supply of Bitumen**

2049. SHRI JAYSINHJI CHAUHAN:  
SHRI DILEEP SANGHANI:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Gujarat has approached the Central Government regarding insufficient supply of bitumen;

(b) if so, the steps taken to ensure sufficient and uninterrupted supply of bitumen;

(c) the average waiting period for supply of bitumen tankers by the Koyali Refinery during the working season;

(d) whether loading capacity of bitumen at Koyali Refinery is sufficient to meet the demand; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor and the steps taken/proposed to taken to ensure sufficient loading capacity and supply of bitumen?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The oil companies have been directed to meet the full requirement of the State.

(c) Only during the peak working season, the average waiting period is three to four days occasionally.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) Loading capacity is sufficient to meet the normal demand. By better supervision, loading efficiency is increased in case of higher demand.

**Royalty on Crude Oil**

2050. SHRI DILEEP SANGHANI:  
DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA:  
SHRIMATI BHAVNADEVRAJ BHAI CHIKHALIA:  
SHRISHANTILAL PURSHOTTAMDAS PATEL:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government fixed actual rate of royalty on crude oil on the basis of production for every year from 1993-94;

(b) if not, the reasons for delay in arriving at the decision;

(c) the manner in which the Government propose to compensate the oil producing States for increasing arrears on this account;

(d) whether representations have been received from Gujarat and other States in this regard; and

(e) if so, the action proposed to be taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Royalty in respect of crude oil is governed by the provisions of the Oil fields (Regulation & Development) Act, 1948 and the Petroleum and Natural Gas Rules, 1959. Royalty is not fixed on the basis of production.

(c) Royalty rates are worked out on the basis of actual weighted average cost of production of crude oil duly audited by C&AG. Pending fixation of final rate of royalty for the period 1993-94 to 1995-96, royalty payments have been made on provisional basis. The provisional rates are subject to adjustments on notification of final rate of royalty for this period on receipt of audited figures of cost of production from C&AG.

(d) and (e) Representations from Governments of Assam and Gujarat have been received. Certain amendments to the Oilfields (Regulation & Development) Act, 1948 are considered necessary.

**Bomb Explosions In Trains**

2051. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the incident of bomb explosions occurred in trains during 1997 and in 1998, train-wise and location-wise;

(b) the number of persons killed/injured in each incident and the value of the Government property damaged therein;

(c) whether any inquiry has been conducted in this regard;

(d) if so, the findings thereof;

(e) the details of the compensation paid by the Government to the victims of bomb explosions in trains; and

(f) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to check such incidents in future?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) to (f) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

**Shortage of Hospitals**

2052. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is acute shortage of hospitals in the country;

(b) if so, whether the Government have fixed any target for opening new hospitals during the Ninth Five Year Plan;

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

(d) the time by which the process of opening of new hospitals is likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI): (a) to (d) As per information available, there are 13692 hospitals in the country. 'Health' being a State subject, it is the responsibility of the State Government to establish hospitals in the States keeping in view their priorities and availability of resources.

[English]

**Freedom Fighters and Martyrs**

2053. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether freedom fighters and martyrs like Bhagat Singh, Sukhdeo, Rajguru and others are still treated as robbers an anti-social elements as defined by the statutes of British Raj;

(b) if so, the reasons for not commemorating their birth day and martyrdom days through official functions; and

(c) the exact status provided to these great freedom fighters by the Government?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) No proposal to commemorate the birth days and martyrdom days through official functions has been received.

However, as and when any proposal is received, the same is considered and decided on merit by the competent authority.

(c) The supreme sacrifices made by the martyrs have been recognised by:

- (i) conferring Samman Pension on the eligible dependents who are alive;
- (ii) renaming public places in their names;
- (iii) proposing to erect suitable memorials at district/state levels and also a National Memorial at New Delhi; and
- (iv) Proposing installation of plaques with names of the martyrs at important railway stations.

#### Grant to Welfare Organisations

2054. COL. SONA RAM CHOUDHARY: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) total number of Registered Welfare Organisations approved by the Ministry of Welfare functioning in the country;

(b) yearly amount of grant being paid to such organisations, State-wise;

(c) steps taken by the Government to utilise the grant properly by the organisations and avoid misappropriation;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) No approved list of voluntary Organisations engaged in social welfare activities is being maintained. However, during the year 1997-98, 1862 voluntary organisations were given financial assistance by the erstwhile Ministry of Welfare.

(b) A statement showing the total amount of financial assistance given to these organisations during the year 1997-98, State-wise is attached.

(c) and (d)

(i) Grants are released on the recommendation of the concerned State Governments/UT. Administrations;

(ii) Audited Accounts of the Organisations and Utilisation Certificates are obtained every year.

(iii) Periodic inspection of the Organisations are carried out.

(iv) Normally grants-in-aid are released in two or more instalments depending on the progress of implementation of the welfare schemes.

(e) Does not arise.

#### Statement

(Rs. in Lakhs)

Sl. No.	Name of State/UTs	Amount Released during 1997-98
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1021.17
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	113.20
3.	Assam	101.86
4.	Bihar	309.16
5.	Delhi	568.59
6.	Gujarat	171.57
7.	Goa	16.87
8.	Haryana	112.19
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	19.66
10.	Karnataka	444.70
11.	Kerala	362.00
12.	Madhya Pradesh	187.04
13.	Maharashtra	349.50
14.	Manipur	136.36
15.	Meghalaya	126.26
16.	Mizoram	40.72
17.	Nagaland	22.28
18.	Orissa	429.52
19.	Punjab	91.90
20.	Rajasthan	317.45
21.	Sikkim	2.06
22.	Tripura	24.95
23.	Tamil Nadu	335.06
24.	Uttar Pradesh	642.89
25.	West Bengal	638.00
26.	Chandigarh	8.94
27.	Pondicherry	10.82
28.	Himachal Pradesh	3.27

**Smuggling of Arms**

2055. DR. ASIM BALA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether arms are being smuggled into the country by different militant groups;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the route through which arms are smuggled by the militants through international borders; and
- (d) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) to (c) Available reports indicate that arms such as grenades, pistols, 9MM Carbines, AK Rifles and UMGs are being smuggled into the country. Anti-national elements have used western land routes and the coastal borders for infiltration of arms. Instances of Pak ISI inducting arms through some other neighbouring countries have also come to notice.

(d) At the Central level the following action is taken to check the menace:-

1. Ensuring coordination with State Governments/ Intelligence agencies/ Investigating agencies of Central Government on matters relating to exchange of information, sharing of intelligence, planning of strategy and taking coordinated action.
2. Protection of international borders by:
  - (a) Fencing and flood lighting in the sensitive areas on international borders.
  - (b) Strengthening the BSF on the borders through supply of night vision devices, hand held sets, binoculars, dragon lights etc. so as to enhance their capabilities.
  - (c) Setting up additional BOPs (Border Out Posts) with a view to reduce inter BOP distance.
3. Deployment of para military forces and providing of assistance of armed forces where necessary in affected areas.
4. Providing of financial assistance to affected State Governments over and above the on-going allocation for modernisation of Police and supply of weapons in special circumstances.

**Viral Fever Cases**

2056. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that there are spurt in viral fever cases in the Capital during the last few months;

(b) if so, the number of patients suffering from viral cases reported in various Government Hospitals and other private clinics during the last three months;

(c) whether the State Government have totally failed to control this disease; and

(d) if so, the steps taken or proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI): (a) to (d) During summer months, viral fever is common and patients are generally treated as Outdoor patients. The National Institute of Communicable Diseases at Delhi has also not reported any increase in cases of viral fever in Delhi nor it investigated any such outbreak in recent months.

**FCI Godowns**

2057. DR. RAMAKRISHNA KUSMARIA:  
SHRIMATI KAMAL RANI:  
SHRI RANJIB BISWAL:  
SHRI DATTA MEGHE:

Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of FCI godowns at present, State-wise, capacity-wise;

(b) whether the Government have received proposals from various States for setting up more Food Corporation of India godowns;

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

(d) the time by which a decision is likely to be taken;

(e) whether the Government propose to construct such more godowns particularly in rural areas during 1998-99; and

(f) if so, the details thereof, location-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PAL SINGH YADAV): (a) The total number of godowns (owne and hired/ covered & Covered and Plinth (CAP) available with FCI as on 31.03.1998 are 1590 with a total storage capacity of 223.69 lakh tonnes. The State-wise details are given in the Statement enclosed.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Does not arise.

(e) FCI builds godowns only at nodal points in the country. Therefore, there is no proposal to build godowns in rural areas.

(f) Does not arise.

**Statement**

*No. of FCI Godowns State-wise and their Capacity as on 31.3.1998*

(In lakh tonnes)

S.No.	State/UTs	No. of FCI Godowns	Capacity
1	2	3	4
1.	Arunachal Pradesh	03	0.12
2.	Andhra Pradesh	150	21.33
3.	Assam	42	2.80
4.	Bihar	55	5.61
5.	Goa	*	0.15
6.	Gujarat	40	8.63
7.	Haryana	118	15.65
8.	Himachal Pradesh	17	0.27
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	14	1.01
10.	Karnataka	48	4.78
11.	Kerala	23	5.31
12.	Madhya Pradesh	131	12.01
13.	Maharashtra	39	14.16
14.	Manipur	03	0.13
15.	Meghalaya	05	0.16
16.	Mizoram	06	0.22
17.	Nagaland	06	0.21
18.	Orissa	52	4.42
19.	Punjab	450	65.10
20.	Rajasthan	85	10.88
21.	Sikkim	04	0.16
22.	Tamil Nadu	33	7.93

1	2	3	4
23.	Tripura	07	0.35
24.	Uttar Pradesh	193	25.89
25.	West Bengal	56	11.48
26.	Chandigarh	**	0.74
27.	Delhi	10	3.78
28.	Pondicherry	***	0.41
Total		1590	223.69

\* included in Maharashtra.

\*\* included in Punjab.

\*\*\* included in Tamil Nadu.

**Discontinuation of Sugar Import**

2058. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY :  
SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY :  
SHRI HARI KEWAL PRASAD :  
SHRI AMAR PAL SINGH :

Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to discontinue policy on Import of Sugar free of duty;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Government propose to import sugar during the current year;

(e) if so, the details indicating the quantity and rate thereof; and

(f) whether the Government propose to revise the policy with regard to import of sugar?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PAL SINGH YADAV): (a) to (f) As per the present policy, import of sugar is allowed under Open General Licence (O.G.L.) and with effect from September, 1997, Government has introduced a system of compulsory registration of import contracts with the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA). Further, Government, with effect from 28.4.1998 has also imposed a basic Customs duty of 5% and a countervailing duty of Rs. 850 per tonne of imported sugar.

No import of sugar is being contemplated on Government account during the current year.

*[Translation]***Action Plan for Bhopal Gas Tragedy**

2059. SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA :  
SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU :

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

(a) whether the Government had launched any action plan for the Bhopal gas victims from April, 1990;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Madhya Pradesh Government had sent any proposal to the Union Government for sanctioning additional funds in order to complete the incomplete works;

(d) if so, whether the Union Government have provided additional funds to the Madhya Pradesh Government;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor;

(f) by when the remaining amount under the action plan is proposed to be given by the Union Government to the Government of Madhya Pradesh;

(g) whether the Central Government while demanding compensation from the multinational company, Union Carbide had categorically told the American Court that the entire wards of Bhopal were gas-affected; and

(h) if not, the number of wards ascertained in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (DR. A.K. PATEL) :  
(a) to (f) An Action Plan of the State Government of Madhya Pradesh for the medical, economic social and environmental rehabilitation of the Bhopal gas victims was approved by the Government of India, initially for a period of 5 years from 1st April, 1990 to 31st March, 1995. Subsequently, it was extended to 30th September, 1998. The outlay for the Action Plan, initially at Rs 163.10 crores has been enhanced in stages, after considering the State Government's proposals, to Rs. 258 crores and as recommended by the Finance Commission, 75% of the expenditure is met by the Central Government and the rest by the State Government. The Central Government has so far released Rs. 166.37 crores. Provision for the remaining amount has been made but the releases can only be considered after the State Government fulfils the condition for the Grant like submission of Audit certificates on the expenditure incurred and achievement of physical and financial targets.

(g) and (h) The complaint for obtaining compensation filed in the American Court was for all the victims of the Bhopal gas tragedy, unrelated to the number of wards.

*[English]***Declaration about Tribal Areas**

2060. SHRI K.D. SULTANPURI: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the name of the States requested for declaration of certain areas of the States as Tribal areas;

(b) whether the Government received any memorandum from Hati Community residing in Transgin and Renuka areas of Himachal Pradesh for declaration as Tribal areas; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

*[Translation]***SKO/LDO Distributorships**

2061. SHRIMATI KAMAL RANI :  
SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN :

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of SKO/LDO distributors in Delhi till date;

(b) the quantum of Kerosene, light diesel oil provided to these agencies during the last three years;

(c) whether several complaints have been received regarding allotment of less quantity by Bharat Petroleum Company Limited, recently; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) to (d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

*[English]***Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Refinery Ltd. Pipeline**

2062. SHRI K. YARRANNAIDU : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the likely impact of the Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Refinery on the economics of the ongoing HPCL pipeline in Andhra Pradesh; and

(b) the capacity of new pipeline is likely to be under-utilised in the initial stages?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) There will no impact on the economics of the ongoing HPCL pipeline Visakh - Vijaywada Project Pipeline or on its scheduled mechanical completion.

(b) Pipelines are normally designed to cater for the throughput for long range period keeping in view growth in demand in subsequent years. Therefore, in the initial years capacity utilization would be lower. Visakh-Vijaywada Phase-I Capacity of 4.107 MTPA is designed for the throughput upto the year 2006-2007.

[Translation]

**Freedom Fighter Pension**

2063. SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI :  
SHRI RAMCHANDRA VEERAPPA :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are considering to issue dependent certificates to the son, daughter and grand-son and grand-daughter of the freedom fighter;

(b) if so, the norms being followed in this regard;

(c) whether the Government are considering to provide freedom fighter pension to those kin of the family who have killed in Gorta (B) village in Karnataka during 1948; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) No such proposal is under consideration of the Government.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No such proposal is under consideration of the Government.

(d) Does not arise.

**Crimes in Delhi**

2064. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of incidents of pick-pocketing, murder and other criminal incidents under various police stations in New Delhi and National Capital Region of Delhi during the last two years and the current year;

(b) the action taken against the culprits; and

(c) the steps taken by the Union Government to check such incidents in future?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) The number of cases of pick-pocketing, murder and other heinous crimes reported in the National Capital Territory of Delhi, police station-wise, during 1996, 1997 and 1998 (upto 30.4.98) is given in the attached statement.

(b) The requisite information is as under:

Year	Number of Persons		
	Arrested	Challaned	Convicted
1996	76671	69904	17022
1997	68439	40218	10254
1998 (upto 30.4.98)	14372	2793	1056

(c) The steps taken by the Delhi Police to prevent such crime include *inter-alia*, intensification of beat patrolling; posting of armed pickets at strategic points; strengthening of intelligence network; close watch on the frequent raids at the suspected hide-outs of criminals; increased surveillance on history sheeters; coordination meetings with the officers of neihgbouring States; formation of anti-terrorist cell in each police district; and deployment of police personnel in plain clothes in running buses, market places, business places and other crime-prone areas.

**Statement**

**North-West District**

Police Station	Dacoity			Murder			Attempt to Murder			Robbery			Riot			Snatching			Hurt		
	96	97	98	96	97	98	96	97	98	96	97	98	96	97	98	96	97	98	96	97	98
	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
1																					
Model Town	-	1	-	8	5	-	4	3	-	7	12	1	-	1	-	15	21	3	16	30	8
Mukherji Nagar	-	-	-	4	5	1	4	3	2	-	6	5	-	2	1	7	11	1	15	10	6
Adrash Nagar	-	-	-	4	2	4	2	4	3	4	7	6	2	-	-	4	3	4	26	23	9
Jahangir Puri	1	-	-	5	15	3	11	16	8	17	3	3	1	-	-	3	3	62	51	36	

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
Shalimar Bagh	-	-	-	4	4	2	5	4	2	6	13	3	2	-	1	26	35	8	28	26	11
Rohini	-	-	-	9	11	2	4	6	3	1	7	4	-	1	-	18	28	17	20	18	10
Narela	1	1	1	7	7	5	18	9	6	3	8	4	8	2	1	2	1	2	18	38	8
Alipur	2	2	-	1	7	4	2	5	-	8	11	2	3	-	-	-	-	-	14	8	5
Samaipur Badli	1	1	-	13	14	12	7	9	3	21	6	2	3	3	-	3	-	-	27	33	12
Ashok Vihar	-	-	1	5	3	3	12	6	2	5	8	7	-	-	-	12	8	4	34	54	10
Keshav Puram	-	1	-	3	5	1	-	3	1	3	3	3	-	-	-	5	2	3	8	7	10
Saraswati Vihar	-	-	-	9	7	3	2	4	1	1	5	1	-	-	1	12	13	6	23	33	8
Mangol Puri	-	3	-	15	11	5	9	6	6	5	5	1	-	-	-	5	13	2	41	55	15
Sultan Puri	-	3	1	23	24	5	24	21	13	12	14	5	-	1	1	3	1	3	82	76	22
Kanjhawala	-	-	-	4	3	1	2	2	1	4	1	-	2	-	1	-	-	-	2	7	1

**North West District**

Police Station	Burglary			Pick Pocketing			Other Theft			Other IPC			Total IPC			Total Act		
	96	97	98	96	97	98	96	97	98	96	97	98	96	97	98	96	97	98
Model Town	19	23	8	7	9	5	124	301	111	266	238	83	572	646	219	121	118	34
Mukherji Nagar	30	20	7	5	11	1	159	167	25	232	158	75	463	394	124	80	69	14
Adrash Nagar	8	21	6	17	18	12	129	179	85	242	280	87	446	540	216	152	161	37
Jahangir Puri	20	25	6	6	11	6	68	112	43	219	209	101	407	452	209	280	185	31
Shalimar Bagh	58	49	33	6	9	9	263	303	113	320	292	135	723	739	317	106	110	22
Rohini	24	47	26	5	13	12	195	254	67	194	231	122	474	621	260	97	94	79
Narela	26	32	10	-	-	-	151	156	57	251	240	83	490	490	177	68	74	24
Alipur	18	19	5	-	-	-	110	174	43	218	277	90	379	407	149	63	68	19
Samaipur Badli	49	63	25	6	1	1	200	193	68	458	435	186	798	773	309	171	132	29
Ashok Vihar	29	42	23	4	4	1	263	265	107	256	254	58	622	646	216	213	237	69
Keshav Puram	17	11	6	6	1	1	106	134	68	141	145	48	295	312	141	36	25	10
Saraswati Vihar	62	47	25	12	14	6	186	132	98	222	340	115	533	696	264	191	695	71
Mangol Puri	19	63	23	7	17	10	177	332	131	401	343	152	689	870	345	695	392	18
Sultan Puri	63	71	15	1	4	-	253	200	102	412	367	107	906	835	374	605	295	80
Kanjhawala	1	4	1	-	-	-	32	24	16	66	98	24	133	137	45	38	25	3

## North

Police Station	Dacoity			Murder			Attempt to Murder			Robbery			Riot			Snatching			Hurt		
	96	97	98	96	97	98	96	97	98	96	97	98	96	97	98	96	97	98	96	97	98
Kotwali	-	-	-	6	3	4	3	1	1	20	10	4	4	1	-	13	5	3	36	3	10
Chandni Chowk	-	-	-	1	2	-	1	1	-	4	4	2	1	-	-	2	2	3	8	9	4
Lahori Gate	-	-	-	2	3	-	4	2	-	4	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	10	4
Sadar Bazar	-	-	1	1	1	-	2	1	-	6	1	1	-	3	2	-	2	-	17	21	7
Kashmere Gate	-	-	-	3	3	2	3	3	1	16	8	2	1	1	-	5	5	10	7	9	7
B.H. Rao	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	4	1	4	5	1	2	2	2	2	2	-	14	21	5
Subzi Mandi	-	-	-	-	2	3	3	9	1	11	7	4	1	-	-	2	6	1	47	57	19
Sarai Rohilla	-	-	-	5	4	2	3	9	5	8	6	3	2	-	-	14	7	3	25	37	11
Partap Nagar	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	1	2	1	1	2	1	-	1	1	-	15	14	1
Civil Lines	-	-	-	4	3	1	2	1	3	1	7	1	2	3	-	3	6	-	15	17	9
Timar Pur	-	1	-	8	10	7	4	10	7	9	11	6	5	4	3	1	4	-	16	26	8
Roop Nagar	-	2	-	3	2	-	4	3	1	5	3	2	7	3	1	8	6	3	5	11	5
Maurice Nagar	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	1	1	1	-	2	2	3	1	2	-	3	4	1

## North District

Police Station	Burglary			Pick Pocketing			Other Theft			Other IPC			Total IPC			Total Act		
	96	97	98	96	97	98	96	97	98	96	97	98	96	97	98	96	97	98
Kotwali	5	2	-	79	75	19	314	225	33	711	524	112	1191	876	186	379	332	15
Chandni Chowk	6	13	4	13	14	4	155	119	46	292	124	24	370	288	46	135	132	46
Lahori Gate	5	23	6	23	11	2	120	121	37	200	177	75	362	349	124	58	77	27
Sadar Bazar	2	7	1	15	17	14	106	113	31	281	222	62	430	388	119	163	163	42
Kashmere Gate	11	16	-	84	70	8	259	275	61	483	469	73	874	862	154	209	164	37
B.H. Rao	13	10	8	17	13	7	107	96	35	155	135	30	317	291	89	88	76	18
Subzi Mandi	7	13	9	22	18	3	225	234	7	284	217	56	604	568	156	91	129	50
Sarai Rohilla	35	17	7	11	13	3	125	130	45	311	304	88	539	536	167	97	134	50
Partap Nagar	13	7	4	3	1	1	10	6	10	158	146	34	226	225	52	52	71	37
Civil Lines	7	14	3	8	16	1	103	87	28	271	288	83	425	444	129	68	74	26
Timar Pur	21	16	10	2	4	2	99	95	31	358	328	122	531	517	196	95	94	46
Roop Nagar	13	16	3	17	19	4	157	194	56	212	118	25	433	381	100	55	45	12
Maurice Nagar	1	10	2	4	2	-	70	76	38	99	102	32	182	178	71	6	12	6

**Central District**

Police Station	Dacoity			Murder			Attempt to Murder			Robbery			Riot			Snatching			Hurt		
	96	97	98	96	97	98	96	97	98	96	97	98	96	97	98	96	97	98	96	97	98
Darya Ganj	-	-	-	4	1	1	4	2	-	20	6	1	-	-	-	3	1	1	3	7	6
Jama Masjid	-	-	-	3	1	-	1	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	7	7	3	
Chandni Mahal	-	-	-	6	6	1	1	2	-	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	14	19	14	
Kamla Market	-	-	-	1	2	-	1	6	2	11	6	-	3	-	-	4	4	2	8	13	4
Hauz Qazi	-	-	-	-	-	-	8	5	2	3	2	1	-	2	1	-	2	1	11	17	5
I.P. Estate	-	1	-	6	3	-	1	4	-	5	3	5	5	2	2	5	2	1	6	10	5
Pahar Ganj	-	-	-	4	2	2	3	1	2	7	11	4	-	-	1	4	5	1	28	22	
Nabi Karim	-	-	-	4	4	4	4	1	1	3	3	3	2	-	-	2	1	-	20	21	8
D.B.G. Road	-	-	-	5	3	2	3	2	2	7	11	4	2	-	-	3	3	3	15	19	4
Karol Bagh	-	-	-	1	4	2	11	-	1	3	7	1	-	2	1	1	3	2	17	7	6
Rajender Nagar	-	-	-	3	-	-	2	-	1	3	2	1	-	-	-	1	3	3	3	2	
Prasad Nagar	-	3	-	2	4	-	2	1	1	1	6	5	-	3	1	-	3	1	27	22	8

**Central District**

Police Station	Burglary			Pick Pocketing			Other Theft			Other IPC			Total IPC			Total Act				
	96	97	98	96	97	98	96	97	98	96	97	98	96	97	98	96	97	98		
Darya Ganj	10	4	-	18	24	14	166	165	56	400	501	197	650	731	276	114	228	14		
Jama Masjid	-	1	-	3	4	1	30	24	12	49	66	22	94	107	39	168	16	56		
Chandni Mahal	1	2	3	1	1	2	35	34	31	111	146	65	171	213	116	78	97	41		
Kamla Market	6	14	3	30	15	3	82	62	26	153	170	88	307	316	128	313	262	64		
Hauz Qazi	15	16	4	1	3	5	92	79	32	100	90	23	236	216	74	179	166	48		
I.P. Estate	6	3	6	9	6	2	118	108	55	421	389	119	564	534	195	109	107	37		
Pahar Ganj	6	12	5	11	11	4	150	165	54	399	270	47	620	508	135	347	268	65		
Nabi Karim	5	8	6	15	12	5	71	52	10	198	105	68	333	213	103	260	279	11		
D.B.G. Road	12	12	5	33	19	6	114	148	14	392	369	64	566	466	124	173	145	29		
Karol Bagh	22	16	6	15	13	1	345	280	-	325	266	162	741	621	201	114	95	11		
Rajender Ngr.	5	8	5	2	1	-	103	154	75	226	111	81	258	261	166	19	3	4		
Prasad Nagar	5	11	4	3	2	1	77	99	33	1774	229	163	292	369	217	125	96	44		

**East**

Police Station	Dacoity			Murder			Attempt to Murder			Robbery			Riot			Snatching			Hurt		
	96	97	98	96	97	98	96	97	98	96	97	98	96	97	98	96	97	98	96	97	98
Gandhi Nagar	-	-	-	4	1	2	1	1	1	3	7	3	2	-	-	2	-	-	20	16	5
Krishna Nagar	-	-	1	5	7	2	3	7	1	6	9	3	2	1	2	7	6	6	42	37	16
Geeta Colony	-	-	-	4	4	2	1	3	-	3	-	1	1	1	2	1	6	4	14	10	8
Vivek Vihar	1	1	1	6	2	3	2	7	1	2	5	1	2	-	-	2	8	3	16	29	4
Anand Vihar	1	-	2	2	6	4	1	1	3	4	3	2	-	1	1	7	4	1	12	10	4
Preet Vihar	1	1	-	2		2	1	-	2	2	4	-	1	1	-	6	12	1	13	14	7
Shakar Pur	-	2	-	5	6	2	5	4	-	3	7	3	1	3	-	4	10	3	33	20	10
Kalyan Puri	-	-	-	10	6	11	4	7	2	4	9	4	1	5	1	1	4	-	50	66	21
Trilok Puri	-	-	-	8	7	5	7	10	3	8	11	9	4	3	2	5	23	4	43	46	15

**East District**

Police Station	Burglary			Pick Pocketing			Other Theft			Other IPC			Total IPC			Total Act		
	96	97	98	96	97	98	96	97	98	96	97	98	96	97	98	96	97	98
Gandhi Nagar	12	13	1	4	1	-	96	7	22	66	73	28	224	172	62	122	100	9
Krishna Nagar	25	29	12	6	15	5	168	184	68	230	249	89	492	549	205	145	97	10
Geeta Colony	8	4	5	4	2	-	61	66	27	71	76	36	172	175	85	85	64	4
Vivek Vihar	23	13	10	2	2	5	92	144	43	114	123	32	266	236	103	205	202	29
Anand Vihar	35	39	20	10	2	4	78	104	43	156	116	41	251	287	125	93	65	10
Preet Vihar	45	21	13	5	5	2	167	141	31	163	132	45	407	334	102	52	44	7
Shakar Pur	38	30	11	15	7	2	161	208	75	241	266	87	508	572	193	158	98	8
Kalyan Puri	25	35	18	1	13	2	97	154	53	214	271	83	415	576	195	229	219	34
Trilok Puri	28	66	28	11	18	1	187	285	116	361	390	178	669	866	361	170	175	12

**North East District**

Police Station	Dacoity			Murder			Attempt to Murder			Robbery			Riot			Snatching			Hurt		
	96	97	98	96	97	98	96	97	98	96	97	98	96	97	98	96	97	98	96	97	98
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
Shahdara	1	-	-	5	8	4	6	5	2	11	9	10	2	4	-	14	13	1	39	45	18
Welcome	-	-	-	5	2	-	6	3	1	-	8	4	2	2	-	2	1	-	20	35	14

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
Mansarover Park	-	-	-	1	2	-	1	4	1	5	3	-	6	-	-	-	1	-	9	15	4
Seelam Pur	-	1	1	10	16	9	25	27	7	15	26	13	2	5	2	6	13	3	58	88	43
Bhajan Pura	2	-	-	10	7	6	11	15	7	6	8	12	2	2	-	5	4	6	40	41	18
Gokal Puri	-	-	1	10	21	8	11	11	11	13	15	5	5	-	2	4	-	3	72	73	32
Seema Puri	-	2	-	5	11	9	10	11	4	9	16	12	3	5	2	7	24	10	44	60	27
Nand Nagri	-	-	2	20	17	9	25	15	10	19	15	5	6	4	2	4	2	3	70	95	32

**North-East District**

Police Station	Burglary			Pick Pocketing			Other Theft			Other IPC			Total IPC			Total Act		
	96	97	98	96	97	98	96	97	98	96	97	98	96	97	98	96	97	98
Shahdara	25	42	13	13	9	5	153	188	92	408	439	104	684	634	249	92	77	20
Welcome	7	10	4	2	3	2	32	45	20	237	161	46	318	267	91	160	225	36
Mansarover Park	11	16	18	1	2	-	57	49	15	223	109	30	315	205	68	89	70	7
Seelam Pur	29	59	36	8	28	16	129	155	79	497	412	149	784	849	358	130	112	13
Bhajan Pura	36	53	13	8	11	10	153	238	98	506	382	116	786	767	286	129	104	17
Gokal Puri	69	69	24	-	6	1	150	182	86	466	338	155	819	732	328	182	111	21
Seema Puri	35	43	22	4	7	8	137	181	91	414	364	113	673	728	298	258	192	29
Nand Nagri	65	70	17	10	9	2	120	156	90	524	383	139	744	774	311	182	117	26

**New Delhi District**

Police Station	Dacoity			Murder			Attempt to Murder			Robbery			Riot			Snatching			Hurt		
	96	97	98	96	97	98	96	97	98	96	97	98	96	97	98	96	97	98	96	97	98
Parliament Street	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	2	2	-	-	-	4	8	2	-	6	1	3	2	1
Mandir Marg	-	-	-	-	1	4	2	4	-	6	2	3	2	1	3	5	8	5	12	19	6
Connaught Place	-	-	-	2	2	-	4	3	-	6	-	1	1	2	-	8	5	-	7	13	3
Tilak Marg	-	-	-	1	3	1	3	3	-	3	2	4	1	1	1	10	18	-	14	12	3
Chanakya Puri	-	-	-	4	3	-	1	2	1	4	3	2	-	6	2	1	2	1	9	8	
Tughlak Road	-	-	-	1	3	-	1	-	1	2	-	1	3	4	1	2	1	2	3	4	3

**New Delhi District**

Police Station	Burglary			Pick Pocketing			Other Theft			Other IPC			Total IPC			Total Act		
	96	97	98	96	97	98	96	97	98	96	97	98	96	97	98	96	97	98
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
Parliament Street	6	11	3	23	13	6	229	254	128	252	263	63	520	560	206	6	6	-
Mandir Marg	23	16	4	20	18	7	259	275	82	321	331	122	152	678	236	53	58	8
Connaught Place	10	23	14	82	107	36	511	652	285	571	614	115	1202	1423	454	181	125	8

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
Tilak Marg	17	13	13	40	30	7	348	374	151	641	420	113	774	879	293	28	21	6
Chanakya Puri	9	7	5	10	10	3	90	149	30	190	175	14	320	367	58	12	23	9
Tughlak Road	10	7	4	6	7	2	147	199	68	195	172	51	371	400	133	9	15	2

**South District**

Police Station	Dacoity			Murder			Attempt to Murder			Robbery			Riot			Snatching			Hurt		
	96	97	98	96	97	98	96	97	98	96	97	98	96	97	98	96	97	98	96	97	98
Hauz Khas	-	-	-	2	2	2	9	1	10	11	10	5	3	5	1	9	9	1	13	24	3
Malviya Nagar	1	1	-	10	6	4	3	3	1	5	8	1	1	1	1	15	13	1	24	20	8
Mehrauli	1	1	-	4	12	5	12	5	1	12	7	-	5	14	5	4	-	-	13	17	8
Defence Cly.	1	-	-	6	-	2	4	4	3	5	7	4	1	1	2	6	12	4	10	30	7
Lodhi Colony	-	-	-	2	4	-	4	4	-	6	3	1	-	-	-	3	12	8	7	11	8
K. M. Pur	-	-	-	7	3	1	7	1	-	3	5	-	3	3	-	1	5	2	12	15	8
Lajpat Nagar	-	-	-	1	3	1	2	2	2	7	7	2	1	1	-	17	7	4	23	11	5
Srinivas Puri	1	-	-	9	10	3	8	9	2	11	16	6	8	5	1	4	5	-	41	26	7
H. Nizamuddin	-	-	-	1	5	1	2	2	1	5	6	1	0	2	-	7	6	-	23	19	3
Kalkaji	-	-	-	8	6	2	10	5	1	11	9	6	-	1	-	14	12	4	22	29	16
Okhla	1	3	1	15	14	13	8	8	5	5	8	1	5	6	1	2	3	-	30	30	24
Badar Pur	-	1	1	10	7	3	2	4	1	11	7	-	11	5	1	2	2	3	19	22	5
Greater Kailash	1	1	-	-	2	1	1	1	-	5	1	4	-	1	-	7	8	3	2	4	2
Amb. Nagar	-	-	-	6	13	1	10	10	1	16	7	-	15	12	-	6	2	2	60	48	8
C.R. Park	2	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	8	5	1	2	2	-	9	5	3	4	2	2

**South District**

Police Station	Burglary			Pick Pocketing			Other Theft			Other IPC			Total IPC			Total Act		
	96	97	98	96	97	98	96	97	98	96	97	98	96	97	98	96	97	98
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
Hauz Khas	57	35	11	12	19	6	568	558	201	308	412	108	996	1086	338	32	50	9
Malviya Nagar	41	26	13	6	17	-	497	627	188	387	482	111	974	1211	338	34	139	17
Mehrauli	34	33	16	2	6	2	222	241	44	306	318	49	619	660	130	43	79	31
Defence Cly.	76	63	19	10	13	3	617	718	247	387	498	121	1126	1354	412	50	51	16
Lodhi Colony	26	22	6	4	9	3	210	287	66	249	240	55	512	595	139	33	24	12

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
K. M. Pur	32	25	9	13	9	3	227	205	80	410	318	92	722	590	195	74	56	23
Lajpat Nagar	42	48	9	8	8	2	604	700	255	566	440	97	1276	1236	377	108	89	19
Sri Niwas Puri	45	27	18	13	4	2	485	486	174	709	720	218	1344	1313	431	76	118	19
H. Nizamuddin	35	14	7	14	9	-	242	299	81	314	407	106	648	780	200	65	71	19
Kalkaji	23	29	23	20	18	7	263	293	159	308	378	176	693	789	394	148	153	39
Okhla	24	44	22	-	2	-	194	239	80	297	334	151	591	701	298	123	157	67
Badar Pur	24	23	17	12	9	1	224	214	100	428	348	149	750	652	281	164	180	48
Greater Kailash	26	21	11	1	1	-	338	289	112	169	143	50	553	472	183	14	16	6
Amb. Nagar	40	31	9	14	11	3	179	199	80	423	415	92	785	761	195	256	287	23
C.R. Park	43	37	14	4	4	-	-	-	154	149	126	36	661	548	211	21	22	4

**South West**

Police Station	Dacoity			Murder			Attempt to Murder			Robbery			Riot			Snatching			Hurt		
	96	97	98	96	97	98	96	97	98	96	97	98	96	97	98	96	97	98	96	97	98
Vasnat Vihar	1	-	-	1	5	3	1	3	-	2	3	4	-	3	-	7	3	2	11	8	10
R.K. Puram	-	-	-	2	4	2	1	4	2	5	8	2	1	2	1	9	12	3	17	15	6
Sarojani Nagar	-	-	-	5	-	3	2	2	1	2	3	-	2	2	1	11	6	2	14	18	3
Delhi Cantt.	-	-	-	1	8	3	4	7	1	3	4	2	-	4	-	4	6	-	18	20	4
Vasant Kunj	1	-	-	4	5	1	6	4	1	3	11	2	16	6	1	6	1	2	14	21	5
Naraina	-	-	-	2	3	-	3	1	1	11	1	1	1	-	-	-	3	4	8	9	3
Maya Puri	-	-	-	3	3	2	2	1	-	1	-	-	2	2	2	1	4	-	11	8	3
Inder Puri	-	-	-	2	4	1	-	1	-	3	5	1	9	-	2	-	3	-	7	10	2
Najafgarh	1	1	1	11	23	5	8	9	1	8	12	12	2	16	-	1	3	4	41	30	6
Dabri		1	-	9	14	4	10	7	4	5	8	1	25	2	2	-	2	2	39	33	10
J.P. Kalan	-	-	-	3	5	-	1	2	2	3	2	3	-	1 <sup>2x</sup>	1	2	-	3	11	10	6

**South West District**

Police Station	Burglary			Pick Pocketing			Other Theft			Other IPC			Total IPC			Total Act		
	96	97	98	96	97	98	96	97	98	96	97	98	96	97	98	96	97	98
Vasant Vihar	16	28	9	3	6	2	119	232	91	193	250	58	446	545	169	12	22	7
Delhi Cantt.	13	13	19	4	6	2	90	103	38	384	352	102	535	524	162	40	58	17
Sarojini Nagar	56	53	8	9	9	-	298	293	109	181	234	46	584	630	173	59	91	10
R. K. Puram	57	100	27	11	19	1	275	266	121	385	569	120	772	1001	285	103	119	24
Vasant Kunj	31	27	15	1	2	-	194	235	116	330	281	102	611	612	245	22	46	19
Naraina	14	30	7	8	13	3	166	205	33	252	265	93	470	535	145	22	47	14
Maya Puri	6	17	8	2	6	5	69	52	17	235	244	119	332	342	156	55	97	27
Inder Puri	12	9	1	-	1	1	56	91	54	241	184	29	332	311	92	88	91	34
Najafgarh	43	47	19	3	2	-	40	45	68	370	343	110	655	663	214	103	123	21
Dabri	62	46	18	2	3	1	110	129	43	417	417	157	694	676	242	111	208	43
J. P. Kalan	1	5	2	-	-	-	17	23	18	73	81	25	111	130	57	16	33	2

**West District**

Police Station	Dacoity			Murder			Attempt to Murder			Robbery			Riot			Snatching			Hurt		
	96	97	98	96	97	98	96	97	98	96	97	98	96	97	98	96	97	98	96	97	98
Tilak Nagar	1	-	-	4	4	-	10	8	4	5	1	-	-	2	1	4	7	1	55	42	11
Janak Puri	-	1	-	14	14	7	13	13	2	8	9	3	-	-	-	7	13	3	37	37	20
Vikas Puri	1	-	-	7	11	2	9	7	6	4	7	2	2	2	1	8	10	2	29	39	5
Rajouri Garden	-	-	-	6	7	-	7	6	3	-	2	1	-	-	-	11	11	9	41	27	9
Hari Nagar	-	-	-	3	5	2	7	7	3	-	1	-	1	2	-	15	15	7	70	80	39
Kirti Nagar	-	-	-	3	2	3	-	3	-	-	2	1	-	3	1	2	3	-	16	27	10
Punjabi Bagh	-	-	-	9	8	3	2	-	3	6	6	1	1	1	-	9	3	2	25	14	5
Nangloi	-	1	-	17	13	11	16	8	6	5	3	4	1	-	-	2	-	-	65	53	18
Paschim Vihar	-	-	-	6	4	1	5	3	1	4	7	1	-	1	-	12	20	9	14	23	7
Patel Nagar	-	-	-	5	4	3	3	9	1	8	6	1	1	1	-	9	6	3	30	40	15
Moti Nagar	-	-	-	2	7	-	4	3	3	1	5	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	36	30	2
Anand Parvat	-	1	-	3	2	1	5	5	2	2	3	1	1	2	-	1	-	-	28	24	7

**West District**

Police Station	Burglary			Pick Pocketing			Other Theft			Other IPC			Total IPC			Total Act		
	96	97	98	96	97	98	96	97	98	96	97	98	96	97	98	96	97	98
Tilak Nagar	5	16	7	5	10	1	171	172	55	412	451	119	681	727	199	295	330	47
Janak Puri	42	85	38	2	10	1	156	279	46	554	521	107	949	996	379	307	421	23
Vikas Puri	31	29	28	6	10	-	178	192	68	305	294	130	588	606	244	180	193	88
Rajouri Garden	21	28	18	6	13	6	228	249	91	445	311	145	775	658	282	434	443	81
Hari Nagar	23	31	15	2	-	2	232	239	111	462	433	125	820	847	304	311	207	41
Kirti Nagar	10	13	5	2	2	2	117	139	46	333	206	91	485	404	159	152	178	16
Punjabi Bagh	12	14	6	14	9	2	192	182	56	565	462	226	842	706	304	366	397	96
Nangloi	39	38	15	12	4	-	160	169	-	463	438	153	777	746	249	298	311	98
Paschim Vihar	36	42	22	4	4	6	331	276	90	517	444	90	934	825	227	186	209	72
Patel Nagar	28	19	12	7	7	1	286	309	91	628	504	157	101	911	284	243	266	57
Moti Nagar	7	18	6	2	5	2	140	123	19	254	346	122	439	516	155	182	200	47
Anand Parvat	12	17	5	1	1	-	45	65	26	285	153	39	331	278	81	106	105	49

**I.G.I. Airport**

Police Station	Dacoity			Murder			Attempt to Murder			Robbery			Riot			Snatching			Hurt		
	96	97	98	96	97	98	96	97	98	96	97	98	96	97	98	96	97	98	96	97	98
IGI Airport	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	2	-	-	1	-	1	4	2	
Palam	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	1	
Mahipal Pur	1	-	1	1	2	-	-	1	-	1	2	1	-	-	-	1	-	3	4	3	
RMD	2	1	-	6	5	1	-	1	-	-	1	1	-	-	9	2	2	2	7	1	
NDLS	5	-	1	4	6	1	1	3	3	23	10	1	2	1	-	16	11	6	6	7	

**I.G.I. Airport**

Police Station	Burglary			Pick Pocketing			Other Theft			Other IPC			Total IPC			Total Act		
	96	97	98	96	97	98	96	97	98	96	97	98	96	97	98	96	97	98
I.G.I. Airport	-	-	1	2	-	1	4	29	16	474	371	239	526	408	260	19	14	8
Palam	-	-	-	-	-	-	28	35	13	17	35	11	47	71	25	2	4	3
Mahipal Pur	-	-	-	-	-	-	22	17	5	49	42	12	79	69	22	9	5	1
RMD	-	-	-	21	43	14	143	182	93	48	53	14	231	296	126	120	99	9
NDLS	-	2	-	101	135	63	965	523	213	160	110	52	784	808	347	144	101	85

**Narcotics Cell**

P.S. Narcotics existed w.e.f. 8.5.96/ Case registered reported by P.S. Narcotics relating to NDPS Act only.

1996 (w.e.f. 8.5.96)	1997	1998 (upto 30.4.98)
17	22	8

Total : 107 Police Stations.

*[English]***Import of Foodgrains**

2065. SHRI AMAR PAL SINGH:  
SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH:  
SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA:

Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether foodgrains have been imported during the last two years;

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

(c) the reasons for import of foodgrains;

(d) the quantity and countries from which these have been imported;

(e) whether the Government propose to import foodgrains during 1998;

(f) if so, the quantity and estimated cost thereof, separately; and

(g) the countries from which these are likely to be imported?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PAL SINGH YADAV) : (a) to (d) Government constantly reviews the stock of foodgrains in the central pool vis-a-vis the prescribed minimum buffer norms, production of foodgrains in the country, trend of procurement, requirement for Public Distribution System/other welfare Scheme, open market prices etc, and decision to import foodgrains is taken depending on the overall situation. Due to lower production of wheat in the country during 1996-97, Government had decided to import upto 20 lakh tonnes of wheat each during 1996-97 and 1997-98 to augment its availability in the country with a view to containing the prices in the domestic market. STC contracted for import of wheat from Australia, Canada and Argentina as per details given below:

Country	Qty. in lakh MT	Price PMT in US\$	Date of Contract
1	2	3	4
1996-97			
Australia	10.00	148.00 FOB	10.12.96
	1.25	156.00 FOB	31.01.97
	2.00	156.00 FOB	14.02.97
Canada	2.50	152.50 FOB	11.12.96
Argentina	1.00	173.00 C&F	04.02.97

	1	2	3	4
1997-98				
Australia		2.50	153.40 FOB	26.03.97
		7.50	152.65 FOB	26.03.97

(e) Yes Sir, Government, after reviewing the status of wheat production during 1997-98 Rabi season, decided to import upto 20 lakh tonnes of wheat during 1998-99.

(f) and (g) STC has contracted for import of 15 lakh tonnes of wheat from Australia @ US\$ 142.50 FOB during 1998-99. The estimated cost of 15 lakh tonnes of wheat works out to US\$ 214 million (Approx. Rs. 855/- crores @ US\$ 1+Rs.40/-). Government has decided not to import the balance 5.00 lakh tonnes of wheat at present.

**Santosh Duggal Committee**

2066. SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Santosh Duggal Committee had made some recommendations on jail reforms;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) to (c) The Santosh Duggal Committee, in its Report on 'Rationalisation of Classification of Prisoners in Tihar Jails', has made the following recommendations:

(1) The prevailing system of classification, sanctioned by Rules 34 and 38 of the Delhi Jail Manual by means of Notification No. F. 9 (75)/87-HG (IV) dated 18.04.88— the Delhi Prison (Admission, Classification, Separation, Remission, Reward and Release of Prisoners) Rules, 1988— cannot be justified on Constitutional and human rights grounds, and ought to be abolished.

(2) The broad criteria for segregation of prisoners should be as given below:

- (i) Convicts
- (ii) Undertrials
- (iii) Gender
- (iv) Age
- (v) Nature of crime
- (vi) Previous history—whether habitual or casual
- (vii) Prison term
- (viii) Kind of sentences
- (ix) Nationality
- (x) Civil Prisoners

- (xi) Detenues
- (xii) Security requirements
- (xiii) Disciplinary or administrative requirements
- (xiv) Correctional, educational or medical needs.

(3) The segregation of prisoners should be taken to its logical end and the remedial measures should include, among others, provision of adequate number of jail vans with necessary supporting staff, steps for segregation of prisoners in judicial lockups, a careful screening and selective use of convict officers.

(4) Amenities or facilities to be provided to prisoners should be uniformly available and guided by their specific needs and consistent with the objective of imprisonment, namely, deterrence-cum-punishment as also correctional for the purposes of rehabilitation and preventing recidivism.

(5) The conditions in jails should be such that these are commensurate with basic human dignity and normal requirements from the viewpoint of living space, nutrition, health, hygiene and sanitation.

(6) Concerted steps should be taken to reduce overcrowding and congestion of prisoners, as it gives rise to a number of problems and operates as a restricting factor in any effort or strategy for improvement of jail administration or the lot of prisoners.

(7) As the treatment of prisoners has to be of a uniform pattern on a need based approach, more Social Welfare Officers should be deployed to maintain touch with inmates and apprise the authorities of the problems being faced by a prisoner or a group of prisoners. A minimum of three Social Welfare Officers be appointed for each jail and one senior officer, to be designated as Chief Welfare Officer, ought to be posted in the Headquarters.

(10) Additional prison buildings preferably in proximity to the present and future court complexes as also the judicial lockups, should be planned and constructed with utmost priority and sense of urgency. This would help in relieving congestions in Jails, achieving diversification objective and providing better administration of Jails and Justice.

(11) The scheme for the rehabilitation of discharged prisoners being implemented through the Directorate of Social Welfare should be further strengthened and finance should not act a constraint for achieving the desired results.

(12) Concerted steps should be taken both as short term objective such as better management of the existing facilities and infrastructure as well as long term objective by amending the rules to provide minimum standard of food, living space, bedding, clothing etc. also taking into account the suggestions made by Justice Mulla Committee.

(13) Action should be initiated to formulate a comprehensive Delhi Jail Manual so that the system of improving the jail administration becomes stabilised.

(15) The parity with undertrials in so far as enjoyment of canteen facilities is concerned should be maintained for convicts on humanistic considerations and may also be allowed to supplement food and other articles of personal daily use from the canteen on payment.

(16) Subject to administrative feasibility and expediency as also security requirement, the activities such as cultural programmes, panchayats, samparksabhas, sports, meditation, prayer meetings, recreation (indoor and outdoor), etc., being organised in jails, should be strengthened both in terms of coverage and contents.

(17) In case any further interaction or group activity, is to be considered that should be for facilities which have the potential of generating self improvement in the prisoner, with an eye on his reformation or rehabilitation, such as with (1) counsellors, (2) vocational guides and physical instructor, (3) behavioural scientists, (4) teachers of moral and ethical values, and similar other groups.

(18) The rules pertaining to the treatment of prisoners as formulated in accordance with the recommendations of this Committee should be duly displayed in the jail buildings, besides in Hindi and English, in the languages with which majority of prisoners belonged.

#### **Epidemic Diseases Including Brain Fever**

2067. SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of children died due to brain fever (Japanese Encephalitis) in Bellary District of Karnataka during the last ten years;

(b) the number of children out of them died during 1997;

(c) whether the Union Government have received any request from the Government of Karnataka for setting up a branch of National Institute of Virology in the State to study various epidemic disease scientifically including brain fever;

(d) if so, whether any project has been prepared by the Government in this regard;

(e) if so, the details thereof and the estimated cost of the proposed project;

(f) whether the Union Government have sanctioned any amount for the implementation of the said projects; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI) : (a) and (b) As per available reports, 114

children within the age group of 0-14 years died due to Japanese Encephalitis (JE) in Bellary District of Karnataka during the last 10 years. Out of these 40 children died during 1997.

(c) The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has not received any request from the Govt. of Karnataka to set up a branch of National Institute of Virology in the State. However, field Stations of the National Institute of Virology under the Indian Council of Medical Research are already functioning in Mysore and Bangalore and attending to the problem of J.E.

(d) to (g) Does not arise.

[Translation]

**Non-availability of Coronary-Engiography Facility in M.P.**

2068. SHRI DADA BABURAO PARANJPE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the people of Madhya Pradesh have to visit other States for treatment due to non-availability of Coronary-Engiography facility in the State and to spend a lot of money on their treatment;

(b) if so, whether the Government have any plan to provide financial assistance to the State Government for providing such facilities within the State;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the steps being contemplated by the Government for providing such facility within the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI): (a) to (d) As reported by Government of Madhya Pradesh there are presently no facilities for undertaking Coronary Angiography in the State and therefore some patients from Madhya Pradesh also go outside the State for such treatment.

The Government of Madhya Pradesh reported to be actively considering to setting up catheterization laboratory and related facilities for Coronary Angiography and open Heart Surgery.

**Health Care Schemes for States**

2069. SHRI PRABHASH CHANDRA TIWARI:  
SHRI NRIPEN GOSWAMI:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the Centrally sponsored Health Care Schemes being operated through the Non-Governmental Organisations in the country particularly in Bihar and Assam, State-wise; and

(b) the total funds allocated by the Government and released to the State Governments for these schemes and utilised by them during each of the last three years, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI): (a) There is no Centrally Sponsored Health Care Scheme which is operated through Non-Governmental Organisations in the Country particularly in Bihar and Assam.

(b) Does not arise.

[English]

**Delay in supply of Wheat and Rice under PDS**

2070. SHRI C. P. M. GIRIYAPPA: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of Fair Price Shops in Delhi have been hit by a prolonged delay in supply of wheat and rice from the Food Corporation of India as appeared in the "Hindustan Times" dated May 17, 1988;

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

(c) the steps taken by the Government for timely and sufficient supply of essential items to Fair Price Shops; and

(d) the requirement and consumption of wheat, rice and other essential commodities in Delhi during each of the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PAL SINGH YADAV) (a) to (c) As per report received from the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi, Some fair price shops (FPS) did not receive supplies of foodgrains in the first fortnight of May, 1988. However, monthly allotment of foodgrains made by the Government of India remains in force from the first day of the preceding month of allotment upto the last day of the month of allocation, so that enough time of sixty days is given to the States/UTs for depositing money, lifting of the foodgrains from FCI godowns and distributing the same to the consumers. Responsibility of actual monitoring of supplies of the foodgrains to the FPS and their functioning rests with the State Government.

Food Corporation of India has been maintaining adequate stocks in its depots in the National Capital Territory of Delhi. As on 1.5.98, FCI had 57,551 MTs rice and 1,89,517 MTs wheat in their depots within the State of Delhi against monthly allocation, including the additional allotments, of 12,890 MTs of rice and 50,400 MTs of wheat. Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi has lifted

the following quantities of foodgrains against their monthly quota during April and May, 1998:

(in '000 MTs)

	Wheat		Rice	
	Allocation	Lifting	Allocation	Lifting
April' 98	50.4	35.4	12.89	7.9
May' 98	50.4	34.9	12.89	8.4

(d) Year-wise allocation and lifting of rice, wheat, sugar, edible oils and kerosene in Delhi during the period 1995-96, 1996-97 and 1997-98 are given in a statement enclosed.

#### **Statement**

*Allocation and Lifting of Rice, Wheat, Sugar, Edible Oils and Kerosene by Delhi during 1995-96, 1996-97 and 1997-98*

(in '000 MTs)

Year	Rice		Wheat		Sugar		Ed. Oil		Kerosene	
	All.	Lift.	All.	Lift.	All.	Lift.	All.	Lift.	All.	Lift.
1995-96	240.00	26.40	840.00	153.30	130.36	*	3.30	2.66	240.96	241.99
1996-97	240.00	113.60	700.00	576.90	149.70	*	3.60	2.95	243.66	241.92
1997-98	174.30	100.34	661.47	532.02	147.34	*	2.12	1.40	246.02	242.90

\*Lifting of Levy Sugar is assumed to be 100%.

#### **Advance Payment Demanded from CGHS Beneficiaries**

2071. SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the charges for different type of treatments of heart ailments in various Government as well as private hospitals and nursing homes in Delhi/New Delhi;

(b) the reasons for demanding advance payment for operation or treatment from those patients who are Government servants and are referred to such hospitals by CGHS or their administrative heads;

(c) the policy of the Government for treatment of Government servants in Government hospital/private hospital/nursing homes and claiming their re-imbursment bills; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to issue guidelines to those hospitals who are not honouring the orders of the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI): (a) The rates for different types of treatments of heart ailments in respect of Government hospitals are not available, but those for AIIMS are available at Statement-I and the rates as approved for private hospitals recognised under CGHS, Delhi are available at Statement-II which pertain to Semi-Private Ward. For making these rates applicable to General Ward, the rates would have to

be reduced by 10% and similarly in the case of Private Ward, the rates would have to be increased by 15%.

(b) to (d) Under the orders of 18th September, 1996, the Government has recognised 24 private hospitals/diagnostic centres for referral purpose in Delhi, as an additional facility extended to serving and pensioner beneficiaries. The order also mentions the package deal rates/ceiling rates for reimbursement for various medical procedures and investigations. Accordingly, the reimbursement is made to the CGHS beneficiaries (both serving and pensioners) as per approved ceiling rates or actuals, whichever is less. The amount incurred by the beneficiary over and above the ceiling rates fixed by CGHS for various medical procedures/investigations would have to be borne by the beneficiary himself/herself and no reimbursement on this account would be made by the CGHS.

According to the prescribed procedure for referral to private hospitals/diagnostic centres recognised under CGHS after the initial advice of a CGHS Specialist, a "Permission Letter" for such treatment is given by the CMO incharge of the concerned dispensary. In case of a medical emergency, the CMO incharge of the concerned CGHS dispensary may directly (i.e. even before Socialist's advice has been obtained) refer the CGHS pensioner to a private recognised hospitals for further management/treatment after recording the details thereof.

The private hospitals recognised under CGHS demand advance payment from the CGHS beneficiaries and for the same a medical advance upto 90% of the Government rates is sanctioned subject to final adjustment on production of

bills. The difference in excess of the Government rates and those charged by the private hospitals is to be borne by the beneficiaries.

The Government have issued instructions recently to all the private hospitals recognised under CGHS all over India regarding the difficulties being faced by the CGHS beneficiaries in obtaining treatment from the private recognised hospitals and reimbursement of their medical claims and to extend their cooperation to the beneficiaries.

**Statement-I**

Name of the Investigation Treatment / Treatment Procedure	With Cataract	Without Cataract
1	2	3
E.C.G.	60	
2D ECHO with colour Doppler		1000
Trans Oesophaedral ECHO (TEE)		1500
Treadmill Test (TMT)	600	
Holter Analysis	800	
Holter Report	800	
Coronary Angiography	12000	
Stress Thallium	6000	
Muga (Resting)	1200	
Muga (Stress)	1500	
Coronary Bypass Surgery	99000	
Coronary Bypass Surgery post	99,000	
Coronary Ballon Angioplasty	70000	
Ballon Angioplastus with Valvotomy	52000	
Open Heart Procedures	99000	
Patent Ductus Arteriosus	50000	
Total Correct of Tetralogy of Fallot	99000	
Rsvv Correction	99000	
Tapvc Correction	99000	
Open Asd Vsd	99000	
Open Pulmonary Valvotomy	99000	
Coarctation of Aorta		
Blalock Taussing Operation	57000	

	1	2	3
Mitral Valvotomy			
Open Mitral Valvotomy		99000	
Mitral Valve Replacement		99000	
Aortic Valve Replacement		99000	
Double Valve Replacement			
Closed Valvotomy		57500	
Coarctation on Aorta Rep. of Blk.			
Taussing Shunt		57500	
B.T. Shunt		57500	
Pericardiostomy		57500	
Pericardiectomy		57500	
Pericardio Centosis		1600	
Permanent Pacemaker		8000	
Implantation		(plus cost of pace maker)	
Temporary pacemaker		6000	
Implantation		(plus cost of pace maker)	
Partial Pericardectomy		9000	

**Statement-II***Special Procedures*

C.T.V.S.	PVT Ward Rates	
	Rate	*(Consumable Charges)
1	2	3
A.S.D.	37000.00	*(30000.00)
Angioplasty	5000.00	
Ascending Aorta Replacement	140000.00	*(120000.00)
Atrial Septostomy	8000.00	
B.T. Shunt	21000.00	*(12000.00)
C.A.B.G.	74000.00	*(60000.00)
C.A.B.G.+Double Valve Repl.	132000.00	*(120000.00)
C.A.B.G. + IABP	105000.00	*(85000.00)
C.A.B.G.+Single Valve Repl.	118000.00	*(100000.00)
C.M.V.	7000.00	*(3000.00)
Conduit Repair	54000.00	*(40000.00)
Coarctation of Aorta	21000.00	*(12000.00)

1	2	3
Coil Embolisation	2000.00	
D.S.A.	2000.00	
Double Valve Replacement	132000.00	*(120000.00)
Embolectomy	5000.00	
Fontan Procedure	58000.00	*(40000.00)
Implant	2000.00	
Mitral Balloon Valvoplasty	20000.00	*(11000.00)
P.D.A.	7000.00	*(3000.00)
Peripheral Angioplasty	5000.00	
Pulmonary Aortic Valvoplasty	20000.00	
Replant	250.00	
Single Valve Replacement	89000.00	*(80000.00)
T.O.F.	47000.00	*(35000.00)
V.S.D.	44000.00	*(35000.00)

\* The rates are inclusive of the charges for consumable items to be used for each of the procedure and are shown within brackets. These amounts are to be transferred to the hospital stores of C. T. centre for procurement and issue of the consumables required for the patients against the requisite indent.

[Translation]

#### Selection Board for Gas Agencies

2072. SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a selection Board for deciding the setting up of sanction cooking gas agencies has been constituted;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which it is likely to start functioning?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (c) 14 State-wise/Region-wise Dealer Selection Boards were constituted in September/October, 1997 and they are still operating. It is planned to create more Dealer Selection Boards to cater to large pendency of selections. Presently, the scrutiny of applications received against advertisements is in progress and interviews for selection of dealers are to commence shortly.

[English]

#### Import of Wheat

2073. SHRI CHANDRASHEKHAR SAHU:  
SHRI C.P.M. GIRIYAPPA:  
SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO:  
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:  
SHRI CHANDU LAL AJMEERA:  
SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA:  
SHRI RAMKRISHNA BABA PATIL:  
SHRI ASHOK NAMDEORAO MOHOL:  
SHRI MOHAN SINGH:  
SHRI S. S. OWAISI:  
SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK:  
PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA:  
DR. CHINTA MOHAN:  
SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA:  
DR. RAMKRISHAN KUSMARIA:  
SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU:  
SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA:  
SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK:

Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposed to import wheat from Australia and other countries during the current year;

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

(c) the quantum and rate at which it is likely to be imported and the total cost of expenditure involved therein;

(d) whether the farmers have expressed their concern over this decision;

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

(f) whether the contract for import of wheat with Australia was signed during 1997;

(g) if so, whether all the Australian wheat contracted for import has reached India so far;

(h) if not, the reasons for delay;

(i) whether this delay has caused increased in the price of wheat;

(j) if so, the time by which the Government is likely to import full contracted wheat from Australia;

(k) the arrangement made for delivery and distribution of imported wheat;

(l) whether the Government have decided to defer the contract for the remaining quantity; and

(m) if so, the loss suffered as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PAL SINGH

**YADAV** : (a) to (c) Government constantly reviews the stock position of foodgrains in the Central Pool, vis-a-vis, the prescribed buffer stock norms, production of foodgrains in the country, trend of procurement, requirement for the public distribution system and other welfare schemes, open market prices, etc. and decision to import foodgrains is taken depending upon the overall situation. Due to untimely rains during the sowing season, the Ministry of Agriculture have initially estimated the likely production of wheat during the current 1997-98 rabi season at 64.51 million tonnes as against 69.27 million tonnes produced last year. Government, after reviewing the status of wheat production during 1997-98, decided to import upto 20 lakh tonnes of wheat during 1998-99 to augment its availability in the country for keeping the prices under control. The STC has already contracted for import of 15 lakh tonnes of wheat from Australia at the rate of US \$ 142.50 FOB per tonne. The estimated total cost of 15 lakh tonnes of wheat works out to US\$ 214 million (approximately Rs. 855 crores @ US \$ 1=Rs.40).

(d) Yes, Sir

(e) Wheat is procured by the Government under price support scheme. Under the price support scheme, all the quantities of wheat conforming to the prescribed specifications offered for sale by the farmers are purchased by the Government/Government agencies at minimum support price/procurement price fixed by the Government. The minimum support price (MSP) is fixed by the Government on the recommendation of the Commission for Agriculture Costs and Prices (CACP), which, while recommending MSP takes into consideration the cost of production of wheat and a reasonable margin of profit to the farmer. MSP of wheat fixed for the rabi marketing season 1998-99 is Rs 455 per quintal. In addition to this, Government has announced a bonus of Rs. 55 per quintal for the wheat offered for sale to the procurement agencies during the period 1.4.98 to 10th June, 1998. The farmers are free to sell their produce to the government and their agencies at the MSP/procurement price fixed or in the open market at whatever price they can get. Thus, interest of farmers is not adversely affected by the decision to import wheat which is resorted to, to augment its availability in the country on account of shortfall in production etc.

(f) to (j) Against the decision taken by the Government to import upto 20 lakh tonnes of wheat during 1996-97, STC contracted for import of 16.75 lakh tonnes of wheat from Australia, Canada and Argentina. Of this, 13.25 lakh tonnes of wheat was contracted for import from Australia during 1996-97. The entire contracted quantity of wheat for import during 1996-97 has already arrived.

(k) The imported wheat is added to the Central Pool. Stocks of wheat in the Central Pool including the imported wheat is being utilised for meeting the requirement of Public Distribution System/Other Welfare Schemes on a regular basis in non wheat growing areas. FCI is receiving imported wheat ships at Cochin, Mangalore, Tuticorin, Chennai Pondicherry, Kakinada, Vizag, J.N.P. (Mumbai) and Kandla Ports and storing the stocks in the FCI depots of South Zone

and Maharashtra and Gujarat for issue for PDS and other Government Schemes.

(l) Against the decision taken by the Government to import upto 20 lakh tonnes of wheat during 1998-99, STC has contracted for import of 15 lakh tonnes. The entire contracted quantity is being imported.

(m) Does not arise.

#### **Skin Diseases due to use of Cosmetics**

2074. SHRI JAGAT VIRSINGH DRONA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the excessive use of various cosmetics, soaps, shampoos in the modern society is the main cause for various skin-diseases;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to take any steps in this regard; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI): (a) As per available information, there is no report indicating that the use of cosmetics, soaps and shampoos is the main cause of skin diseases.

(b) and (c) Standards for shampoos, soaps and other Cosmetics are drawn by Bureau of Indian Standard after taking into consideration the safety aspect of Chemicals used and the manufacturers are required to ensure the dermatological safety of their formulations before releasing the product to the market for sale.

#### **Safety of Workers in Mines**

2075. SHRI ASHOK NAMDEORAO MOHOL: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are considering seriously on the matter of safety in mines;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the measures proposed to be taken by the Government for the safety of workers in mines?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) to (c) Provisions for safety of persons employed in mines are already contained in the Mines Act, 1952, and the Rules and Regulations framed thereunder. The Directorate General of Mines Safety also issues guidelines in the form of circulars to the management for improving safety measures. These provisions are required to be complied with the mine managements. The officers of the Directorate General of Mines Safety inspect the mines periodically to oversee the status of compliance with the safety provisions, and take action as provided for under the Mines Act, 1952, in case of default.

Besides the legislative measures, the Government is promoting safety through a number of other initiatives, such as:

- (a) conferences on safety in mines;
- (b) self-regulation by managements;
- (c) workers' participation in safety management;
- (d) tripartite and bipartite reviews at various levels;
- (e) training of work persons;
- (f) observance of safety week and safety campaigns; and
- (g) national safety awards (Mines).

#### Supply of Foodgrains to Mills

2076. SHRI MOHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Food Corporation of India had purchased foodgrains from Punjab since 1995 upto now and sold it to mills at cheaper rates;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the losses suffered by the F.C.I. as a result thereof;

(d) whether the Government have conducted any inquiry in this regard; and

(e) if so, the action taken or proposed to be taken against the guilty officers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PAL SINGH YADAV) (a) to (c) The quantities of foodgrains procured and sold by FCI in Punjab during 1994-95, 1995-96 and 1996-97 are given in the Statement enclosed.

Besides, a quantity of 7.44 lakh tonnes of paddy procured in 1994-95, has been sold by FCI in the open market upto June, 1997. No quantity was specifically sold to the millers exclusively. In the process of open sale, if the millers had been in the fray, they would have availed the same rate as that of other bidders/ buyers.

(d) and (e) Based on some press reports, the Hon'ble High Court of Punjab & Haryana admitted, suo-moto, a Public Interest Litigation (No. 915/97) where it was alleged that certain irregularities were committed in the Open Market Sale Scheme of wheat. In pursuance of the directions of the Hon'ble High Court, given on 25.7.97, the matter was investigated by the Deputy Commissioners of Punjab and Haryana and based on their reports, C.B.I. pursued the matter and 13 F.I.Rs. have been lodged by C.B.I. so far.

#### Statement

##### Quantities of Foodgrains procured by FCI in Punjab Since 1995

Year	(in lakh tonnes)		
	Wheat	Paddy	Rice Levy
1994-95	23.89	27.45	0.09
1995-96	22.83	17.58	0.41
1996-97	16.64	17.18	7.88
1997-98	14.97	29.11	13.04
1998-99	18.12		
	(upto 1.6.1998)		

##### Quantities of Foodgrains Sold by FCI in Punjab since 1995

Year	(in lakh tonnes)	
	Wheat	Rice
1994-95	3.25	0.25
1995-96	7.69	0.36
1996-97	(*) 5.32	0.26

(\*) In addition to this 8.75 lakhs tonnes of wheat was issued to different buyers under Punjab Special Scheme.

#### Central Assistance for Primary Health Centres

2077. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK:  
SHRI SATNAM SINGH KAINTH:  
SHRI RAMPAL UPADHYAY:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Primary Health Centres and sub-Centre and Family Planning Centres opened in each State during the Ninth Plan till date;

(b) whether the Government emphasised the common minimum programme to increase the number of Primary Health Centres and sub-centres likely to be set up state-wise during 1998-99;

(c) whether the Government proposed to grant/provide special assistance to each State for setting up of sub centres;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT

EZHILMALAI): (a) The Planning Commission is in the process of finalising the proposals for the 9th Five Year Plan in consultation with the State Governments.

(b) One of the seven priorities set out under the Basic Minimum Services is to provide 100% coverage of primary Health Service facilities in all rural and urban areas by the year 2000.

(c) to (e) The Planning Commission is in the process of finalising the targets for setting up of Sub-Centres in Different states, during 9th Five Year Plan. The funds will flow directly to the State Governments and they will have flexibility in identifying priorities.

#### **Amendment In Existing Rules for Collection/ Preservation of Blood**

2078. SHRI MULLAPALLY RAMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any amendments are proposed to be made in the existing rules for permitting the collection/preservation of blood without license;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Hospitals/blood banks have sufficient quantity of blood to meet their requirements;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the steps taken by the Government to meet the requirement of blood?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) to (f) There is a general shortage of blood obtained through voluntary blood donations in the country. State Governments and State Blood Transfusion Councils have been asked to step up Voluntary blood donation by organising camps with the held of voluntary organisations like Indian Red Cross Society etc.

[Translation]

#### **Chemicals and Fertilisers Policy**

2079. SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the salient features of new Chemicals and Fertilisers Policy and the issues included in the policy;

(b) the time by which this policy is likely to be announced and whether the policy had been approved by the Parliamentary Standing Committee;

(c) whether the new policy would encourage the foreign and private investments in the development of infrastructure for fertilisers industries; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (DR. A.K. PATEL) : (a) to (d) There is no proposal before the Government for formulating a separate policy for the Chemicals sector.

The High Powered Fertiliser Pricing Policy Review Committee, which was constituted to review the existing system of subsidisation of urea and suggest an alternative broad based, scientific and transparent methodology, has submitted its report. The process of inter-ministerial consultations and dialogue with the industry on the recommendations of the Committee is under way. The new fertiliser policy, which would aim at harmonising the imperatives of growth with efficiency upgradation in the industry, would be formulated in the light of the conclusions of this exercise.

[English]

#### **Recognised Dental Colleges in Karnataka**

2080. SHRI A. SIDDARAJU: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Dental Colleges recognised/unrecognised running in Karnataka by the Dental Council of India;

(b) whether it is a fact that the unrecognised Dental Colleges have fulfilled all the conditions; and

(c) if so, the steps taken to recognise those unrecognised Dental Colleges in Karnataka who are fulfilling the requisite terms and conditions in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI) : (a) to (c) Under the provision of the Dentists (Amendment) Act, 1993, the Central Govt. grant permission of the establishment of dental colleges. The permission of the Central Govt. is renewed on an annual basis till such time as the first batch of admitted students appear in the final examination at which time the college, through the University concerned should apply for the recognition of the BDS degree under section 10(2) of the Dentists Act, 1948. The Central Govt. has, since the commencement of the Dentists (Amendment) Act, 1993, given its permission for the establishment of 10 dental colleges in Karnataka, as per list at Statement-I.

As regards dental colleges established in Karnataka prior to 1.6.92 i.e. prior to implementation of the Dentists (Amendment) Act, 1993 the Dental Council of India has reported that there were 28 such colleges recognised by Dental Council of India as per list at Statement -II.

**Statement I**

*Dental Council of India*

*List of Dental Colleges in Karnataka State which have been permitted by the Central Govt. under Section 10A of the Dentists Act.*

1. Oxford Dental College, Bangalore
2. KLE Society, Bangalore
3. R.V. Dental College, Bangalore
4. Maratha Mandal Dental College, Bangalore
5. Saravathi Dental College, Shimoga
6. Farooquia Dental College, Mysore
7. Shri Siddhartha Dental College, Tumkur
8. Rajeshwari Dental College, Bangalore.
9. Krishnadevaraya Dental College, Bangalore

**Statement II**

*Dental Council of India*

*List of Dental Colleges in Karnataka State which have been established prior to promulgation of Dentists Amendment Ordinance, 1992*

Sl. No.	College Name	Recognised/ Un-recognised
1	2	3
1.	Govt. Dental College, Bangalore	Recognised
2.	College of Dental Surgery, KMC Manipal	Recognised
3.	Bapuji Dental College & Hospital, Davangere	Recognised
4.	KLE Society's Dental College, Belgaum	Recognised
5.	AB Shetty Memorial Institute of Dental Sciences, Mangalore	Recognised
6.	JSS Dental College, Mysore	Recognised
7.	SDM College of Dental Sciences, Dharwad	Recognised
8.	SJM Dental College and Hospital, Chitradurga	Recognised
9.	HKE Dental College, Gulbarga	Recognised

1	2	3
10.	College of Dentistry KMC, Mangalore	Recognised
11.	VS Dental College, Bangalore	Recognised
12.	MRA Dental College, Bangalore	Recognised
13.	PM Nadagouda Dental College and Hospital, Bagalkot	Recognised
14.	College of Dental Sciences, Davangere	Recognised
15.	KVG Dental College, Sullia	Recognised*
16.	Bangalore Institute of Dental Sciences, Bangalore	Recognised*
17.	Dayananad Sagar College of Dental Sciences, Bangalore	Recognised*
18.	S. Nijalingappa Institute of Dental Science, Hassan	Recognised*
19.	M.S. Ramaiah Dental College, Bangalore	Recognised*
20.	Yenopoya Dental College, Mangalore	Recognised*
21.	K.G.F. College of Dental Sciences, Kolar Gold Field	Recognised*
22.	AME Dental College Raichur	Recognised*
23.	S.B. Patil Institute of Dental Sciences and Research, Bidar	Recognised*
24.	Al-Ameen Dental College, Bijapur	Recognised*
25.	HKDET's Dental College, Himnabad	Recognised*
26.	Dr. Shyamala Reddy Dental College and Hospital, Bangalore	Recognised*
27.	Al-Badar Charitable Trust Dental College, Gulbarga	Recognised*
28.	Rajeev Gandhi College of Dental Sciences, Bangalore	Permitted by the Dental Council of India to run the BDS Course.

\* Clarification of the Govt. of India is awaited as to whether these were actually established prior to 1.6.92.

**World Bank for Health Care In Rural and Tribal Areas**

2081. SHRI HARIN PATHAK: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether World Bank provided any financial assistance for Health Care in the rural and tribal areas; and

(b) if so, the details of amount provided during the three years, year-wise and State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI) : (a) The World Bank have provided financial assistance for the following Health Care Projects:

- (i) Child Survival and Safe Motherhood Programme.
- (ii) Area Projects (India Population Projects IV, V, VI, VII, VIII, IX).
- (iii) Reproductive and Child Health Programme.
- (iv) National Blindness Control Programme.
- (v) National Malaria Eradication Programme.
- (vi) Revised National Tuberculosis Control Programme.
- (vii) National AIDS Control Programme.
- (viii) State Health Systems Projects.
- (ix) National Leprosy Eradication Programme.

(b) Detailed information provided in the enclosed Statements I-IX.

**Statement I***Child Survival and Safe Motherhood Programme*

World Bank (IDA) Assistance was received for the Child Survival and Safe Motherhood Programme which was launched in 1992-93 by integrating all MCH basic interventions with the Universal Immunization Programme. The CSSM Programme was implemented in a phased manner covering all the Districts of the country by the year 1996-97, including Rural and Tribal Areas.

The World Bank Assistance for the CSSM Programme was received centrally, and the entire amount of IDA Credit No. 2300-IN (CSSM Programme) was utilised by the year 1996-97. The year-wise details of IDA Assistance for the last three years are as under:

Year	Amount Claimed	Amount Reimbursed
1995-96	252.47	197.07
1996-97	182.71	136.61
1997-98**	—	—

(figures provisional)

\*\* Full IDA Credit facility of SDR 160.9 million was already utilised upto the year 1996-97.

**Statement II**

*Details of Yearwise and Statewise release of funds during the last 3 years for implementation of World Bank aided Area Projects in rural and tribal areas*

(Rs. in crore)

Name of State	Yearwise releases		
	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98
Andhra Pradesh	11.34	13.49	—
Uttar Pradesh	12.00		
Madhya Pradesh	3.00	3.34	—
Punjab	2.65	1.00	—
Haryana	0.66	—	6.00
Bihar	18.00	—	—
J & K	1.71		
Gujarat	1.26	—	9.00
Assam	3.00	14.50	23.00
Karnataka	20.00	24.66	—
Rajasthan	20.00	26.54	—
	93.62	83.62	38.00

**Statement III***Reproductive & Child Health Programme*

The World Bank is extending financial support to the RCH Programme. The reimbursement on this accounts are yet to be filed. The programme was launched only on 15.10.97 for implementation during 9th plan period by integrating CSSM programme and other RCH interventions and additional component of RTI and STI. The IDA committed assistance for the RCH Programme is US\$ 248.30 million for the first phase. The budget outlays for the RCH programme during 1997-98 and 1998-99 are Rs. 150 crore and Rs. 758.00 crore respectively.

**Statement IV***National Programme for Control of Blindness*

Details of Funds released to various State Governments since inception of the World Bank assisted Blindness Control Programme.

States	(Rs. million)			
	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98	Total
	1	2	3	4
Andhra	29.064	00.000	19.750	48.814
M.P.	32.026	40.037	21.012	93.075

1	2	3	4	5
Maharashtra	31.292	36.026	9.456	76.774
Orissa	21.860	06.718	31.144	59.722
Rajasthan	26.832	06.372	3.972	37.176
Tamil Nadu	30.630	10.654	44.366	85.650
U.P.	08.377	70.006	11.20	89.583
<b>Total</b>	<b>180.081</b>	<b>169.813</b>	<b>140.900</b>	<b>490.794</b>

**Statement V**

*Information regarding Enhanced Malaria Control Project with World Bank support (Project implementation effected from 30.9.1997 only).*

- Total Cost of the Project: Rs. 891.04 crore
- Expenditure incurred during 1997-98 Rs. 4.14 crore

**Statement VI**

*World Bank for Health Care in Rural and Tribal Areas for Tuberculosis Control Programme*

World Bank provided assistance to the tune of US \$ 142.4 million for implementation of Revised National Tuberculosis Control Programme (RNTCP) in 102 Districts covering 15 States. A total population of 271.2 million have been benefited over a period of three years in a phased manner under this Programme.

The Development Credit Agreement (DCA) with World Bank was signed in May, 1997 only. In the first year, the revised strategy is being implemented in 39 Districts of the country. Of these, two Districts, namely, Valsad in Gujarat and Waynad in Kerala are in Tribal areas. After signing of DCA the funds released to the Districts T.B. Societies in these two Districts are Rs. 29.03 lakh and Rs. 8.93 lakh respectively. The amount released to 39 Districts covering Urban, Rural and Tribal population and their respective State head quarters is Rs. 1185.33 lakh.

**Statement VII**

*State-wise details regarding release of Funds under National AIDS Control Programme*

(Rupees in Lakhs)

S. No.	State/UT	1995-96 Grants Released	1996-97 Grants Released	1997-98 Grants Released
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	432.00	425.00	425.00
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	65.81	80.00	25.00

1	2	3	4	5
3.	Assam	92.70	100.00	100.00
4.	Bihar	0.00	25.00	50.00
5.	Goa	0.00	25.00	50.00
6.	Gujarat	131.26	300.00	250.00
7.	Haryana	0.00	130.00	75.00
8.	Himachal Pradesh	156.75	115.00	225.00
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	0.00	25.00	25.00
10.	Karnataka	120.00	350.00	175.00
11.	Kerala	172.62	225.00	100.00
12.	Madhya Pradesh	137.00	425.00	150.00
13.	Maharashtra	300.00	900.00	950.00
14.	Manipur	113.58	200.00	150.00
15.	Meghalaya	18.00	35.00	25.00
16.	Mizoram	74.00	150.00	100.00
17.	Nagaland	107.00	190.00	155.00
18.	Orissa	0.00	50.00	75.00
19.	Punjab	80.00	225.00	75.00
20.	Rajasthan	90.00	375.00	225.00
21.	Sikkim	25.00	50.00	50.00
22.	Tamil Nadu	650.00	1700.00	2000.00
23.	Tripura	38.00	50.00	50.00
24.	Uttar Pradesh	0.00	450.00	495.00
25.	West Bengal	288.82	600.00	100.00
26.	Pondicherry	55.04	400.00	0.00
27.	A&N Islands	50.59	7.00	31.09
28.	Chandigarh	51.70	45.91	28.00
29.	D&N Haveli	42.00	46.93	16.00
30.	Daman & Diu	43.05	17.00	24.22
31.	Delhi	164.00	16.00	25.00
32.	Lakshadweep	53.54	16.71	15.42
<b>Total</b>		<b>3552.46</b>	<b>7752.55</b>	<b>6239.73</b>

**Statement VIII**

*Details of funds projected, allocated and actually incurred during the period from 1995-96, 1996-97 and 1997-98 under State Health Systems Projects*

Name of State	Duration of project	Yr. of Commencement	Allocation Rs. in Lakhs	Expenditure											
				1995-96			1996-97			1997-98			1998-99		
				*Pro	*All.	*Act.	*Pro	*All.	*Act.	*Pro	*All.	*Act.	*Pro	*All.	*Act.
														(Rs in crores)	
1. Andhra Pd.	6 yrs	1995	608.32	43.9	6.00	5.83	71.37	31.00	30.83	117.02	92.00	91.58	150.01	125	
2. Karnataka	5 yrs	1996	546.00				58.6	55.0	1.77	115.51	77.00	60.57	N.A.	192.6	
3. West Bengal	5 yrs	1996	701.46				53.53	21.37	2.58	115.87	18.82	11.71	211.78	100	
4. Punjab	5 yrs	1996	441.88				46.20	40	1.75	89.20	45.00	26.06	112.60	126.56	

Projected-Pro.  
Allocated-All.  
Actual--Act.

**Statement IX**

*World Bank Aid on various Health Care Projects in Rural and Tribal Areas*

World Bank provided assistance to the National Leprosy Eradication Programme to the tune of US \$ 85 million (Rs. 302 Crore). It was sanctioned on 4.2.1994 i.e. during financial year 1993-94. All 490 districts of the country have been covered under the programme and the fund is utilized through District Leprosy Societies to implement Leprosy Eradication Programme in rural as well tribal areas.

*Year wise release of World Bank fund is as under:*

1995-96	Rs. 21.42 Crore
1996-97	Rs. 29.27 Crore
1997-98	Rs. 40.20 Crore

**Paraffin Wax**

2082. SHRI V.M. SUDHEERAN:  
SHRI A.C. JOS:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased state:

(a) whether any quota for allotment of Paraffin Wax to the State has been fixed;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the allotment made by the Government to each States during each of the last three years;

(c) whether representations from the Government of Kerala and other States to enhance the quota of Paraffin Wax have been received; and

(d) if so, the action taken/proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (d) Government had declared Paraffin Wax Type-I as a free trade product from 3.1.97. However, Type-II and Type-III wax for candle manufacture and match box manufacture sectors were continued to be under allocation. The quantum of quarterly allocation of Type-II and Type-III wax prevalent in the last quarter of calendar year 1996 was frozen and maintained at the same level. A Statement indicating State-wise allocation of paraffin wax for the years 1994, 1995 and 1996 is annexed.

Paraffin wax of all categories is now free trade product, and its price and distribution has been de-controlled from 1.4.98. Oil companies have the freedom to market it as per commercial consideration.

**Statement**

*Details of Calendar Yearwise Allocation of Paraffin Wax for various States*

(Allocation in MTs)

State	1994			1995			1996		
	Type 1&2	Type 3	Total	Type 1&2	Type 3	Total	Type 1&2	Type 3	Total
	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Andhra Pradesh	2600	0	2600	2600	600	3200	2600	550	3150
Assam	4000	240	4240	4000	240	4240	4000	240	4240

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Arunachal Pradesh	40	0	40	40	0	40	40	0	40
Bihar	520	1200	1720	520	1200	1720	520	1200	1720
Gujarat	2000	400	2400	2000	400	2400	2000	400	2400
Haryana	160	0	160	160	30	190	160	0	160
Himachal Pradesh	40	0	40	40	0	40	40	0	40
J & K	5100	2400	7500	5100	2400	7500	5100	2400	7500
Karnataka	2400	0	2400	2400	0	2400	2400	0	2400
Kerala	4000	320	4320	4000	820	4820	4000	320	4320
Maharashtra	11600	400	12000	11600	400	12000	11600	400	12000
Madhya Pradesh	1000	0	1000	1000	0	1000	1000	0	1000
Manipur	480	0	480	480	0	480	480	0	480
Meghalaya	20	0	20	20	0	20	20	0	20
Nagaland	800	0	800	800	0	800	800	0	800
Orissa	1080	80	1160	1080	80	1160	1080	80	1160
Punjab	2760	0	2760	2760	0	2760	2760	0	2760
Rajasthan	600	0	600	600	0	600	600	0	600
Sikkim	32	0	32	32	0	32	32	0	32
Tamil Nadu	5612	4440	10052	5612	4440	10052	5612	4440	10052
Tripura	400	0	400	400	0	400	400	0	400
U.P.	3920	1120	5040	3920	1120	5040	3920	1120	5040
West Bengal	9600	280	9880	9600	280	9880	9600	280	9880
Andaman & Nicobar	40	20	60	40	20	120	40	20	60
Chandigarh	120	0	120	120	0	120	120	0	120
Dadra & NH.	40	0	40	40	0	40	40	0	40
Delhi	3600	0	3600	3900	0	3900	3900	0	3900
Goa	320	0	320	320	0	320	320	0	320
Daman & Diu	80	0	80	80	0	80	80	0	80
Mizoram	180	0	180	180	0	180	180	0	180
Pondicherry	460	160	620	460	160	620	460	160	620
Lakshdweep	20	0	20	20	0	20	20	0	20
<b>Total</b>	<b>63624</b>	<b>11060</b>	<b>74684</b>	<b>63924</b>	<b>12190</b>	<b>76114</b>	<b>63924</b>	<b>11610</b>	<b>75534</b>

### Setting up of Police Academies

2083. SHRI RAMKRISHNA BABA PATIL: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up Police Academies in the terrorist hit States;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of Police Academies still existing in various States; and

(d) the functions of these academies?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) to (d) 'Public Order' and 'Police' being State subjects as per the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India, it is essentially for the State Governments to provide

such police training infrastructure as is necessary to enable their police forces to meet the challenge of terrorism and other problems. The Central Government has, however, set up a Police Academy in Meghalaya for the benefit of North-Eastern States.

A list containing the names of Police Academies existing in various States is enclosed as Statement. In the States where the Police Academies are yet to be set up, the work of Police Academies is being carried out by the Police Training Colleges.

The functions of the Police Academies are:

- (a) to impart basic as well as in service training to police personnel of the rank of Sub-Inspector and above;
- (b) to impart specialised training to police personnel of the above ranks;
- (c) to conduct need based thematic courses;
- (d) to promote education and research facilities on police related subjects in cooperation with Universities in the States;
- (e) to formulate training policy for the police personnel of the State;
- (f) to organise seminars/workshops/studies/surveys covering matters of Police interest; and
- (g) to organise executive development programmes for Senior Police Officers.

#### **Statement**

According to available information, the following Police Academies exist in various States:

1. Andhra Pradesh Police Academy, Himayat Nagar, R.R. District, Hyderabad (A.P.).
2. Shere Kashmir Police Academy, Udampur (J&K).
3. Karnataka Police Academy, Mysore (Karnataka).
4. Jawahar Lal Nehru Police Academy, Sagar (M.P.).
5. Maharashtra Police Academy, Nasik (Maharashtra).
6. State Police Academy, Cuttack (Orissa).
7. Punjab Police Academy, Maharaja Ranjit Singh Fort, Phillaur (Punjab).
8. Rajasthan Police Academy, Nehru Nagar, Jaipur (Rajasthan).
9. Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Police Academy, Moradabad (Uttar Pradesh).
10. North-Eastern Police Academy, Barapani, Meghalaya.

#### **Campaign against Child Labour**

2084. SHRI AJAY MUKHOPADHYAY:  
SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the finding of the Campaign Against Child Labour working in the hazardous sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) and (b) The Campaign Against Child Labour (CACL) had organised a Public Hearing and National Convention on Child Labour from 30th March–1st April, 1997 in New Delhi. Its findings, *inter-alia*, included that the distinction between 'hazardous' and 'non-hazardous' occupations obtaining in the Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act, 1986 and in the Government of India policy should be done away with, as every employment of children is per se hazardous to their well-being.

(c) Considering the magnitude and the nature of the problem of child labour a gradual, sequential and integrated approach has been initiated by the Government. Under the Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act, 1986, employment of children is prohibited in seven occupations and eighteen processes listed in the schedule to the Act. The condition of employment of children is regulated in occupations and processes not prohibited under the Act. While total elimination of child labour is the ultimate objective, as a matter of prioritisation, withdrawal and rehabilitation of children working in hazardous occupations has been taken up in the first instance. So far, 76 National Child Labour Projects have been sanctioned for the rehabilitation of 1.5 lakh working children.

#### **Welfare of Women**

2085. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the fact the labourers engaged in stone quarries are not being paid minimum wages and no leave to pregnant woman; and

(b) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken to make available their legal dues?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) and (b) Whenever any specific complaint is received about payment of less than the minimum rates or wages in any employment it is investigated and if short/less payment is detected, claim cases are filed before the authority appointed under the

Minimum Wages Act, 1948, who, after hearing the parties gives its order awarding the payment of the difference of wages/overtime and compensation upto ten times of such difference. Even otherwise routine inspections are carried

out by the inspectors and follow up action as detailed above is taken. The enforcement figures and the result thereof, specifically in respect of the employment in Stone Mines for 1994, 1995 and 1996 are given in the enclosed Statement.

**Statement**

*Enforcement figures under Minimum Wages Act in Stone Mines*

Sl. No.	No. of Inspections	No of Irregularities detected	No. of Claims cases filed (including BF figures)	No. of Claims cases decided	Amount Awarded by the Authority (including compensation)
1.	1994-1867	1994-22645	1994-558	1994-284	1994-1466209
2.	1995-2527	1995-26075	1995-581	1995-216	1995-2590327.85
3.	1996-2800	1996-32746	1996-2161	1996-595	1996-5800764.49

[Translation]

**Welfare Policy for Handicapped**

2086. SHRI SHANKER PRASAD JAISWAL: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are formulating any policy to create employment and financial opportunity for the Handicapped; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI) : (a) and (b) The Government has formulated policies and programmes to create employment and financial opportunities for persons with disabilities as follows:

1. Section 33 of the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995 contains a provision that the appropriate Government shall appoint in every establishment not less than 3% of persons with disability of which 1% each shall be reserved for persons suffering from:

(a) blindness or low vision;

(b) hearing impairment; and

(c) locomotor disability or cerebral palsy.

in the post identified for each disability. 3% reservation in Group 'C' and 'D' for handicapped persons had already

been there even before the law came into force. In pursuance of this provision, extension of 3% reservation in Group 'A' and 'B' posts under the Central Government for physically handicapped persons-1% each for visually, hearing and orthopaedically handicapped have been notified by DOPT's Circular No. 36035/16/91-Estt. (SCT) dated 18.2.97.

2. 50 Special Employment Exchanges and 39 Special Cells for the handicapped persons have been set up exclusively to help the handicapped persons in getting gainful employment. Besides, the Normal Employment Exchange also help the handicapped person in finding suitable employment.

3. Seventeen Vocational Rehabilitation Centres have been set up to assess the residual ability of the disabled, arrange their training and place them in employment.

4. Self-employment is promoted through the following:

(a) Allotment of vending stalls, kiosks and shops by some State Governments/UTs;

(b) Loans from Nationalised Banks at concessional rates of interest;

(c) Preference in allotment of Public Telephone booths;

(d) Reservation in distribution of Petrol pumps, Kerosene depots etc.

5. A National Handicapped Finance & Development Corporation has been registered on 24.1.97 under Section 25 of the Companies Act, 1956 to provide opportunities for skill development and loan assistance on easy terms to the disabled persons to set up self-employment ventures.

*[English]***Free Treatment Facilities to Poor People in AIIMS**

2087. SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of poor people suffering from ailments of kidney, cancer, heart and intestine visit All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi for their treatment everyday;

(b) if so, whether these people receive some financial assistance from the Prime Minister's and the Health Minister's Relief Fund but they die due to meagre means to bear the expenditure of treatment;

(c) if so, whether the Government have formulated any scheme to provide free treatment to the poorest suffering from the said ailments; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) Financial assistance upto a maximum of Rs. 20,000/- (Rupees twenty thousand) is provided to poor and needy patients who apply for financial assistance out of Health Minister's Discretionary Grant to partly defray the expenditure on specialised treatment/costly surgical operations for undergoing treatment/operation in any hospitals anywhere in India. The Central Government has also set up a National Illness Assistance Fund and formulated guidelines to provide financial assistance for medical treatment of persons living below poverty line and suffering from major life threatening disease. All the States/UTs have similarly been advised to set up Illness Assistance Funds. It has also been decided that grant-in-aid from Central Government would be released to each of these States/UTs where Funds are set up on the line advised to them. In the Casualty of AIIMS, all patients are treated free of cost including Procedures and Investigations. Financial help is provided to poor patients from 'AIIMS Poor Fund' to purchase medicines, etc. There is a provision for exemption of hospital charges for indigent patients.

**Misuse of Consumer Protection Act, 1986**

2088. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Medical Association (IMA), has written to the Government over the misuse of the Consumer Protection Act, 1986 (CPA) resulting in irreparable damage to the reputation of doctors/hospitals and called for setting up of a screening body consisting of medical and legal experts to ascertain whether a prima-facie case of negligence exists;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the present status of the proposal regarding the proposed amendments to Consumer Protection Act, 1986 in the light of experience gained so far; and

(d) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI) : (a) Yes Sir.

(b) The Indian Medical Association has suggested the following measures:

(i) Creation of an autonomous Accrediation Body to give rating to Hospitals as per the facilities they offer.

(ii) A screening body of medical and legal experts at all levels of Consumer Courts be established to investigate whether *prima-facie* case of negligence by a doctor/hospital exists or not.

(iii) In case an allegation is not proved in a Consumer Court, the complainant should pay to the medical professional/hospital 50% of the amount he claimed.

(iv) The I.M.A. has suggested that an upper limit of claim in terms of human suffering and loss may be made.

(c) and (d) All services, if rendered for any consideration have been covered under the provisions of the Consumer Protection Act, 1986. Two years ago the Hon'ble Supreme Court had upheld the provisions of the Act in its judgement in Civil Appeal No 688 of 1993. To make it more effective and purposeful, the Consumer Protection Act has been amended in 1991 and 1993.

**Shortage of IPS Officers**

2089. SHRI SATNAM SINGH KAINTH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is shortage of IPS officers in various States in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to fill the vacant posts of IPS officers?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI) : (a) and (b) As on 1.1.98, the Total Authorised Cadre Strength of all IPS Cadres is 3442 and against this 3111 IPS officers are in position.

(c) 84 officers are likely to join the IPS from 1997 Civil Services Examination. 136 officers are likely to get into IPS by way of promotion from State Police Service in 1998. The induction into the IPS is planned taking the vacancies into account.

*[Translation]***Recognisations to SC/ST Union**

2090. PROF. JOGENDRA KAWADE: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government recognised general trade union welfare Association and other departmental staff organisations officially;

(b) if so, the steps taken to recognise the labour organisations and Union Welfare Associations of Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribes also; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) to (c) The recognition of trade union is governed by Labour Laws. The recognition of Departmental Staff Association is governed by the provision of Central Civil Services (Recognition for Service Association) Rules, 1993. According to Rule 5 (f), 'The Service Association shall not be formed to represent the interests, or on the basis, of any caste, tribe or religious denomination or of any group within or section of such caste, tribe or religious denomination'.

**FCI Offices in Maharashtra**

2091. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of offices of FCI in Maharashtra, location-wise;

(b) whether the Government proposed to open some more offices in the State during the Ninth Plan; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PAL SINGH YADAV): (a) In Maharashtra, FCI has the following set up:

Zonal Office at Mumbai.

Regional Office at Mumbai.

Sub-Regional Office at Nagpur.

District Offices at:

1. Panval
2. Mumtai City Godown
3. Borivilli
4. Manmad
5. Poona

6. Nagpur

7. General Motors (Mumbai)

8. Bombay Docks

(b) No specific proposal is currently being considered.

(c) Does not arise in view of reply to part (b) above.

**Expenditure on Research**

2092. SHRI JANARDAN PRASAD MISRA:  
SHRI MANIBHAI RAMJIBHAI CHAUDHARI:

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

(a) whether the drugs manufacturing companies are spending a meagre amount on research;

(b) if so, the percentage of amount being spent on research at present;

(c) whether the Government propose to issue any direction to drug-manufacturing companies for increasing this amount; and

(d) if not, the time by which the Government is likely to issue such directions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (DR. A.K. PATEL): (a) and (b) All drug manufacturing companies do not spend on R&D. However, quite a few of the drug companies spend on research and progressive companies spent upto 9% of their annual turnover on R&D.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

*[English]***Reconstitution of North Eastern Council**

2093. SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA:  
SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE:  
SHRI BHIM DAHAL:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have a proposal to reconstitute the North-Eastern Council with the inclusion of Sikkim as an integral part of it;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of times the said Council met during the last three years; and

(d) the main problems discussed and recommendations made therein?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The North Eastern Council is proposed to be reconstituted with the inclusion of Sikkim and the appointment of the Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission as its Chairperson. The requisite bill will shortly be move before the Parliament.

(c) and (d) The North Eastern Council has met thrice during the last three years. The important recommendations made during these meetings include, *inter-alia*, restructuring of North Eastern Council to include Sikkim; adoption of special economic and industrial policy for the North Eastern region; introduction of helicopter services in the North Eastern region; according priority to construction of roads and bridges; provision of funds for maintenance of roads constructed with funds from the North Eastern Council; and provision of resources for development of airports in the North Eastern region.

#### Pharmaceutical Pricing Policy

2094. SHRI G. GANGA REDDY: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are going to introduce pharmaceutical pricing policy;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the pricing policy for the manufacture of herbal drugs in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (DR. A.K. PATEL) : (a) and (b) 'Modifications in Drug Policy, 1986', were announced in September, 1994 and based on that Pharmaceutical Pricing Policy is already in existence.

(c) Existing pricing policy covers drugs used only for Allopathic medicines.

#### Minimum Wages for Agricultural Labour

2095. SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK:  
SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state.

(a) the number of mine/agricultural labourer in Maharashtra, category-wise, State-wise;

(b) the minimum wages fixed for these labourers in each State;

(c) the date of last revision in wages; and

(d) the factors taken into consideration for determining the minimum wages?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM) : (a) to (c) Under the Minimum Wages Act, 1948 both Central and State Governments are appropriate Government for fixation/revision of minimum rate of wages for scheduled employments under their respective jurisdiction. The Central Government is the appropriate Government in respect of the employment in various mines. Statement-I giving State-wise number of workers employed in various mines as on 1993 including coal mines and the existing minimum rate of wages as revised on 1.4.1998 for various categories of employment in mines is enclosed as Statement-II.

However, the State Governments are mainly the appropriate Government for fixation/revision of minimum rate of wages in respect of Agricultural workers. Statement -II indicating available information on minimum rate of wages for unskilled, number of workers and the date of last revision in different States/Union Territories is enclosed as statement-II.

(d) There are no uniform criteria for fixation of minimum rate of wages. The State Government take into account various factors such as socio-economic condition and market forces etc. while determining minimum rate of wages. However, the five norms recommended by the Indian Labour Conference in 1952 are generally adopted for fixation of minimum rate of wages. These norms provide for a wage rate sufficient to meet the consumption requirement of a family of 3 units on food, clothing, shelters, fuel, lighting and other miscellaneous items of consumption. There is a provision of Variable Dearness Allowance as part of minimum wages which is revised every six months as per the variation of Consumer Price Index Number.

#### Statement I

No. of mine workers and the minimum rates of wages as fixed under Minimum Wages Act.

(a) Number of Mine Workers in different States/UT's

States/UT's	No. of Workers (in thousand)
1	2
Andhra Pradesh	85
Arunachal Pradesh	1
Assam	19
Bihar	228
Gujarat	23
Haryana	5
Himachal Pradesh	1
Jammu & Kashmir	1
Karnataka	22

1	2
Kerala	2
Madhya Pradesh	128
Maharashtra	38
Meghalaya	⊙
Manipur	⊙
Nagaland	-
Orissa	55
Punjab	-
Rajasthan	29
Tamil Nadu	19
Uttar Pradesh	7
West Bengal	111
<i>Union Territory</i>	
Delhi	2
Goa	4
Tripura	⊙

(b)\*\* Existing total minimum rates of wages for the employment in Mines (as on 1.4.98)

Category	Rates of Wages	
	Above Ground	Below Ground
1. Unskilled	Rs. 28.00	Rs. 34.00
2. Semi-skilled/ Unskilled Supervisory	Rs. 34.00	Rs. 41.00
3. Skilled	Rs. 41.00	Rs. 50.00
4. Clerical	Rs. 41.00	
5. Highly Skilled	Rs. 50.00	Rs. 60.00

Note: \* Source DGMS

\*\* The Minimum rates of wages also include a component of Variable Dearness Allowance which was last revised on 1.4.1998.

⊙ Less than 500 Workers.

### Statement II

*Daily Rates of Minimum Wages for Agricultural Workers Fixed by Different States/UTs. under The Minimum Wages Act, 1948.*

(As on 1.4.98)

Sl. No.	State/UTs	No. of Workers (in thousand)	Minimum Wages for unskilled agricultural workers
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	11625	Rs. 30.00 to Rs. 36.50 p.d. (According to Zones) (12.2.96)
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	20	Rs. 21.00 to Rs 23.00 p.d. (According to Areas) (1.11.90)
3.	Assam	845	Rs. 1134.00 P.M.* or Rs. 984.00 p.m. plus food, shelter and clothing (1.8.89)
4.	Bihar	9513	Rs. 27.30 p.d. (21.12.95)
5.	Goa	35	Rs. 46.00 p.d. (8.5.95)
6.	Gujarat	3231	Rs. 34.00 p.d. (1.4.96)
7.	Haryana	897	Rs. 60.12 p.d.* with meals or Rs. 64.12 p.d. without meals (1.1.98)
8.	Himachal Pradesh	59	Rs 45.75 p.d. (1.3.96)
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	-	Rs. 30.00 p.d. (13.3.95)
10.	Karnataka	5000	Rs. 26.00 p.d. (28.3.94)
11.	Kerala	2120	Rs. 30.00 p.d. for light work Rs. 40.20 p.d. for hard work (31.3.92)
12.	Madhya Pradesh	5863	Rs. 3850 p.d.* (1.4.96)
13.	Maharashtra	8317	Rs. 20.00 to Rs. 29.00 p.d. (According to Zones) (26.6.94)
14.	Manipur	47	Rs. 47.65 p.d.* for Hill Areas Rs. 44.65 p.d. for other than the Hill Areas (8.7.95)

1	2	3	4
15. Meghalaya	89	Rs. 35.00 p.d. (16.3.94)	
16. Mizoram	10	Rs. 45.00 p.d. (10.7.97)	
17. Nagaland	7	Rs 25.00 p.d. (6.7.92)	
18. Orissa	2967	Rs. 30.00 p.d. (15.8.96)	
19. Punjab	1453	Rs. 54.07 p.d.* with meals Rs. 60.62 p.d. without meals (1.7.95)	
20. Rajasthan	1392	Rs. 44.00 p.d. (19.11.1997)	
21. Sikkim	13	The Minimum Wages Act, 1948 yet to be extended.	
22. Tamil Nadu	7899	Rs. 29.00 p.d. (10.3.97)	
23. Tripura	188	Rs. 32.00 p.d. (4.12.96)	
24. Uttar Pradesh	7833	Rs. 47.00 p.d. to Rs. 49.00 p.d. 31.10.96	
25. West Bengal	5055	Rs 45.22 p.d. * for Adults Rs 34.06 p.d. for Child, (13.8.82)	
26. Andaman & Nicobar Islands	5	Rs. 37.00 p.d. (Andaman) Rs. 40.00 p.d. (Nicobar) (15.8.94)	
27. Chandigarh	2	Rs. 52.09 p.d. *with meals or Rs 60.15 p.d. without meal (4.11.95)	
28. Dadra & Nagar Haveli	6	Rs. 40.00 p.d. (18.5.95)	
29. Delhi	25	Rs. 74.50 p.d.* (1.2.94)	
30. Daman & Diu	1	Rs 35.00 p.d. (8.5.95)	
31. Lakshadweep	-	Rs. 30.00 p.d.	
32. Pondicherry	7		
(i) Pondicherry Region		Rs. 20.00 to Rs. 22.00 p.d. (24.7.95)	
(ii) Mahe Region		Rs. 30.00 p.d. for light work Rs. 40.20 p.d. for hard work (26.7.95)	

1	2	3	4
	(iii) Yanam Region	Rs. 19.25 p.d. to Rs. 26.25 p.d. (24.7.95)	
	(iv) Karaikal	Rs. 20.00 p.d. to Rs. 22.00 p.d. (24.7.95)	
33. Central Sphere		Rs. 64.04 p.d.* to Rs 71.04 p.d. (12.7.94)	

Note: (1) The Minimum Wages also include the variable dearness allowance, wherever provided.

(2) Figure in bracket under column (4) indicate the date of last revision of basic wage.

(3) \*Indicate the provision of variable dearness allowance with the minimum rates of wage.

[Translation]

#### Testing arrangement for purity of Mineral Water

2096. SHRI ANAND RATNA MAURYA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the fact that now a days 'Mineral Water' or 'Pure Water' is available in bottles or canes of different brands and people buy these on heavy rates in the absence of any test facility;

(b) whether the Government propose to make arrangements for the test of mineral water or so called pure water so that people could know about their purity;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI) : (a) to (d) Both mineral water & sealed packaged drinking water are available in the market. Standards for mineral water have already been laid down under the provision of Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954; Rules made thereunder. The Food Health Authorities of States/UTs, administering the provision of the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954, keep a vigil on the quality of mineral water, by drawing random samples of mineral water from the market and testing the same in the food laboratories functioning in the States/Local bodies.

At present water as well as sealed packaged drinking water is not covered under the provisions of the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954.

#### Allocation of Funds to Vega Community of Madhya Pradesh

2097. SHRI FAGGAN SINGH KULESTE: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government provided funds to the Scheduled Tribe Vega Community of Mandla district in

Madhya Pradesh during the last five years for their development;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of Vega Community benefitted from these funds;

(d) whether any special scheme has been received by the Government for the development of this community; and

(e) if so, the likely time to be taken to accord its approval?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) Government of India provides Funds to the States/UTs under Central Sector Schemes and Centrally Sponsored Schemes for Socio-economic Development of Scheduled Tribes. Funds are not released Caste or Community-wise.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

[English]

#### Private Medical Colleges

2098. SHRI BHIM DAHAL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of private medical colleges functioning in the country, State-wise;

(b) whether the Union Government have received any proposal for setting up of a medical college under the Sikkim Manipal University for its clearance;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI): (a) As per the Medical Council of India, 53 private medical colleges are functioning in the country. State-wise number of such colleges is given in the enclosed Statement.

(b) to (d) The proposal of Sikkim-Manipal University of Health Medical and Technological Science, for establishing a new Medical College at Gangtok has not met the Standard/norms prescribed in the Regulations of the MCI, and the University Authorities. The State Government have therefore been asked to make good the deficiencies.

#### Statement

##### List of private recognised/permited Medical Colleges

Name of States	Number of Colleges
1. Andhra Pradesh	2
2. Gujarat	1
3. Jammu & Kashmir	1
4. Karnataka	15
5. Maharashtra	16
6. Manipur	1
7. Pondicherry	1
8. Punjab	3
9. Tamil Nadu	5
10. Uttar Pradesh	2

##### Unrecognised Colleges functioning in the States

1. Jammu & Kashmir	1
2. Maharashtra	2
3. Bihar	2
4. Haryana	1

[Translation]

#### Small Sector Chemical Project

2099. SHRI SHANTILAL PURSHOTTAMDAS PATEL: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of States utilised the full amount of the amount sanctioned by the Union Government under the Small Scale Chemicals Project Programme;

(b) the details of the unutilised amount, State-wise;

(c) the reasons for not using the sanction; and

(d) the name of the States applied for loans under the said scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (DR. A.K. PATEL): (a) This Ministry is not implementing any such programme.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

*[English]***Petrol Pumps on Highways**

2100. PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Petrol Pumps functioning on all the National Highways in the country;

(b) the criteria adopted for opening Petrol Pumps on National Highways in the country;

(c) whether the Government have assessed the feasibility of opening more Petrol Pumps on National Highways in Bihar;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the number of Petrol Pumps proposed to be opened there alongwith their locations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) There are 340 petrol pumps functioning on the National Highways in Bihar.

(b) The Oil Industry follows the "Volume Distance Norms" for setting up new retail outlet dealerships. Retail Outlets on National Highways are classified as "D" Class of market and the following criteria for opening new R.Os are adopted:

No outlet can be opened within 15 KMs along the Highway from the existing outlet unless the average combined thrupt per outlet located on the highway within 15 KM.s is over 80 KL per month.

if average sales exceeds 80 KL per month, additional outlet is justified provided the minimum expected sale during the second year of operation is as under:

Lone HSD	-	50 KL per month
Combined MS/HSD	-	MS - 5 KL per month HSD - 50 KL per month

(c) to (e) Oil Industry periodically conduct feasibility surveys as per the above "Volume Distance Norms" to identify locations for setting up retail outlets all over the country including on the National Highways in Bihar. In the RO Marketing Plan 1996-98, 36 retail outlet locations on Highways in Bihar have been included.

**Inclusion of OBC**

2101. SHRI FRANCISCO SARDINHA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a proposal received for the inclusion of Gavda, Kunbi, Dhanger and Uelip OBCs in the Schedule Castes Category from the Government of Goa is pending;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI) : (a) and (b) Government of Goa has recommended for inclusion of Gowda, Kunbi, Dhanger and Velip communities in the list of Scheduled Tribes and not Scheduled Castes.

(c) The proposal is being considered along with such other cases in the context of the proposed comprehensive revision of the lists of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

**Cases of Heat Strokes**

2102. DR. ULHAS VASUDEO PATIL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases of Heat Stroke recorded during this summer;

(b) whether it is due to the high atmospheric temperature relates to nuclear explosion; and

(c) if so, the steps taken to provide special air conditioned wards in hospitals for the heat stroke patients in high temperature areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI) : (a) No such information is compiled by the Ministry. However, 66 cases of Heat Stroke have been reported in the Hospitals in Delhi. Out of these reported cases, 14 persons have died.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) 'Health' being a State subject, it is the responsibility of the State Government to make arrangements for providing beds in air-conditioned wards in Hospitals to Heat-Stroke patients. However, arrangements have been made to provide beds in air conditioned wards/Emergency ward to Heat Stroke patients in Central Government Hospitals namely, Dr. R.M.L. Hospital and Lady Hardinge Medical College and Associated Hospitals.

**Central Assistance for Setting up of Hospitals in A.P.**

2103. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a shortage of funds which affected the setting up of hospitals in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh has sought the Central assistance in setting up of 400 hospitals in the State;

(c) if so, whether the Union Government have agreed to assist the State Government; and

(d) if so, the total amount to be provided by the Government to the State Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) The State of Andhra Pradesh had basically drawn attention to the gap in infrastructure at the primary level in the Health Sector and sought assistance for upgrading the same.

(b) to (d) The State Govt. of Andhra Pradesh had proposed funding Primary Health Component of the Andhra Pradesh Economic Rehabilitation Project, by the World Bank. The Project, inter-alia, envisages construction of new building, at 416 Primary Health Centres, and renovation and extension of various Primary Health Centres. The total cost of the project is Rs. 243.33 crore (Approx). Negotiations have already been held and the World Bank has to convey the decision on the funding of the Project.

#### Unleaded Petrol Outlets

2104. SHRI S.S. OWAISI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of outlets of unleaded petrol opened by the different oil companies, State-wise;

(b) whether only one outlet has been opened in Andhra Pradesh so far;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Government propose to open more such outlets in Andhra Pradesh and other States; and

(e) if so, the details thereof location-wise and the time by which such outlets are likely to be opened?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) The State-wise number of retail outlets selling unleaded petrol is given in the Statement enclosed.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) and (e) At present, there are 15 retail outlets selling unleaded petrol in Andhra Pradesh. The Oil Industry proposes to open 23 more such retail outlets at the following locations:

Location	Number of retail outlets proposed to be opened
1	2
Hyderabad	17
Vijayawada	2
Vizag	1

1	2
Anantapur	1
Kurnool	1
Nirmal (District Adilabad)	1

The 17 outlets proposed in Hyderabad are expected to be commissioned by 30.6.1998 and those at the remaining locations are expected to be commissioned by 31.7.1998.

#### Statement

#### State-wise Number of Retail Outlets Selling Unleaded Petrol

S.No.	State	No of Retail Outlets with ULP
1	2	3
1.	Delhi	257
2.	Haryana	59
3.	Punjab	94
4.	Himachal Pradesh	13
5.	J & K	8
6.	Rajasthan	49
7.	Chandigarh	19
8.	Uttar Pradesh	194
9.	Assam	2
10.	West Bengal	133
11.	Bihar	19
12.	Orissa	8
13.	Meghalaya	2
14.	Andaman & Nicobar	1
15.	Manipur	1
16.	Nagaland	1
17.	Tripura	1
18.	Mizoram	1
19.	Arunachal Pradesh	1
20.	Sikkim	2
21.	Karnataka	13
22.	Andhra Pradesh	15
23.	Tamil Nadu	115
24.	Kerala	23

1	2	3
25.	Pondicherry	2
26.	Madhya Pradesh	10
27.	Gujarat	21
28.	Goa	2
29.	Maharashtra	215
30.	Dadar Nagar Haveli	1

#### National Handicapped Welfare Fund in Kerala

2105. SHRI T. GOVINDAN: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government sanctioned National Handicapped Welfare Fund to the State of Kerala as per Kerala Government's request for the last three years; and

(b) if so, the percentage of amount State Government, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

#### ESI Benefits to the Workers

2106. DR. JAYANTA RONGPI: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the amount to be contributed by various organisations to the provident fund and ESI scheme, State-wise;

(b) the action taken against such defaulters;

(c) whether the Government are considering any proposal to make suitable amendment in the ESI Act to ensure uninterrupted availability of ESI benefit to the workmen in establishment under lockout and under suspension of work;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the time by which the amendment is likely to be brought?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM) : (a) A statement showing amount of the Employees' Provident Fund and Employees' State Insurance dues outstanding against the defaulting employers is enclosed.

(b) Necessary Legal & Penal action as provided under the Employees State Insurance Act, 1948, the Employees' Provident Funds and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952 and where necessary also under section 406 and 409 of

Indian Penal Code is already being taken to recover the dues from the defaulting establishments.

(c) to (f) Under the ESI Scheme Dependant Benefit and permanent total Disablement benefit are payable lifelong to the Wife and the employee respectively. Extended Sickness Benefit is payable up-to 2 years including the period of lockout if the same is admissible as per the scheme. The Medical Benefits are also admissible during lockout or even after cessation of service if the spell of sickness started during the eligibility period and treatment is required beyond eligibility period also. The ESI Scheme is of contributory nature with limited resources. As such it is financially difficult to make provisions in the ESI Act to ensure availability of ESI benefits to the workers for uninterrupted and infinite period.

#### Statement

##### A. ESI Dues (as on 31.3.1998)

S. No.	Name of the State/Region	Amount in default (Rs in Lakh)
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	2657.20
2.	Assam	470.20
3.	Bihar	1102.52
4.	Delhi	420.04
5.	Gujarat	2192.18
6.	Haryana	619.49
7.	Karnataka	1396.74
8.	Kerala	1006.67
9.	Madhya Pradesh	2140.87
10.	Mumbai	4522.20
11.	Nagpur	442.77
12.	Pune	2112.55
13.	Goa	262.00
14.	Orissa	735.53
15.	Punjab	1284.33
16.	Rajasthan	407.81
17.	Tamil Nadu	1170.67
18.	Pondicherry	84.57
19.	Coimbatore	294.71

1	2	3
20.	Madurai	702.54
21.	Uttar Pradesh	4071.37
22.	West Bengal	10003.64
<b>Total</b>		<b>38100.85</b>

**B. EPF Dues (as on 31.3.98)**

1.	Andhra Pradesh	1699.25
2.	Bihar	1606.24
3.	Delhi	268.01
4.	Gujarat	2390.30
5.	Haryana	2393.58
6.	Karnataka	734.01
7.	Kerala	500.59
8.	Madhya Pradesh	4150.19
9.	Maharashtra & Goa	4626.38
10.	North Eastern Region	166.63
11.	Orissa	1671.82
12.	Punjab	910.97
13.	Rajasthan	646.58
14.	Tamil Nadu	1802.47
15.	Uttar Pradesh	4506.03*
16.	West Bengal	19324.86
<b>Total</b>		<b>46397.91(*)</b>

\*Provisional.

*[Translation]***Corporations for assistance to minorities**

2107. SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA VARMA : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the name of corporations formed for providing assistance to minorities indicating the funds earmarked;

(b) the number of persons benefitted alongwith their assistance provided by these corporations; and

(c) the present position of loans being provided earlier to the minorities and the percentage of loans released by these corporations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI) : (a) The National Minorities Development & Finance Corporation (NMDFC) was set up in September, 1994 for promoting economic development of minorities with an authorised share capital of Rs. 500 crores. The paid up capital of NMDFC as on date is Rs. 145.76 crores.

(b) The NMDFC has so far disbursed Rs. 104 crores for over 30,000 beneficiaries through its State Channelising Agencies (SCA).

(c) The NMDFC has disbursed Rs. 104 crores to SCAs. The SCAs have further released Rs. 88.36 crores to the beneficiaries. The percentage of loans released by SCAs comes to 85%.

*[English]***Delay In Implementation of Fifth Pay Commission to Faculty Members of AIIMS**

2108. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that delay in the implementation of revised pay scales based on the Fifty Pay Commission recommendations for faculty members of the All India Institute of Medical Sciences has caused a lot of resentment among the teaching staff of this institute;

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

(c) the steps taken by the Government to revise the pay scales to the faculty members of All India Institute of Medical Sciences?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI) : (a) to (c) The Government had constituted a Committee to consider the proposal for Revision of the Pay Scales of the Faculty of All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi and PGI, Chandigarh vide order dated 24th February, 1998. The guidelines of Ministry of Finance specify that the final package of benefits proposed to be extended to the employees of Autonomous Institutions is to be within the extent admissible to the corresponding categories of the Central Government Employees. Since the demands made by the two Institutions regarding Pay Scale and various other allowances are much beyond the scope available to the Committee, advice of the Ministry of Finance has been sought in the matter.

**Cheating and Forging by Durga Builders with Plot holders**

**Statement**

2109. SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether complaints have been received against Durga Builders, 9-Scindia House, New Delhi regarding cheating and forging in realising development charges at exorbitant rates, allotment and possession of plots in Edenburg City-I (Okhla Enclave-I) without obtaining "No Objection Certificate" from competent authority;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether irregularities, cheating and forging are being practiced by Durga Builders in Allotment of plots;

(d) if so, whether any complaint has been lodged with Delhi Police; and

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

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI) : (a) to (e) Delhi Police had received 13 written complaints containing allegations of non-refund of deposits made by the investors, misappropriation of funds, cheating, etc., against Durga Builders. This included a complaint of cheating on the basis of which Delhi Police had registered a criminal case under sections 420 and 406 of IPC. All these complaints were inquired into but the investigation conducted did not reveal any criminal offence having been committed by the said Builders. The regular case registered in connection with the alleged cheating was also cancelled.

**Proportional Recruitment in Para Military Forces**

2110. SHRI RAMPAL UPADHYAY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the proportion exists in the recruitment of various para-military forces, State-wise;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the share of recruitment of Rajasthan has been fulfilled; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI) : (a) Recruitment of Constables/Riflemen in Central Para Military Forces is made on All India basis. Annual vacancies are allotted to each State/UT on the basis of the population, taking into consideration the special needs and circumstances of different areas.

(b) The details of proportion are given in the statement enclosed.

(c) Rajasthan is adequately represented in the Central Para-Military Forces.

(d) Does not arise.

Sl. No.	Name of the State/UT	Proportion
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	7.86
2.	Assam	2.64
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	0.10
4.	Bihar	10.23
5.	Goa	0.14
6.	Gujarat	4.88
7.	Haryana	1.93
8.	Himachal Pradesh	0.61
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	0.91
10.	Karnataka	5.31
11.	Kerala	3.44
12.	Madhya Pradesh	7.84
13.	Maharashtra	9.33
14.	Manipur	0.22
15.	Meghalaya	0.21
16.	Mizoram	0.08
17.	Nagaland	0.14
18.	Orissa	3.73
19.	Punjab	2.39
20.	Rajasthan	5.20
21.	Sikkim	0.05
22.	Tamil Nadu	6.59
23.	Tripura	0.32
24.	Uttar Pradesh	16.44
25.	West Bengal	8.06
26.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	0.03
27.	Chandigarh	0.08
28.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	0.02

1	2	3
29.	Daman & Diu	0.02
30.	Delhi	1.11
31.	Lakshadweep	0.01
32.	Pondicherry	0.09
Total		100

#### Renovation of FCI Godowns, Kerala

2111. SHRI A.C. JOS: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any plan to renovate all the godowns of Food Corporation of India in Kerala;

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

(c) whether the Government have any proposal to bring the FCI workers at Mavelikkara, Chalakkudu and West Hill under direct payment system;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PAL SINGH YADAV): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) to (e) No, Sir. Change of mode of engagement of labour from contract labour system, which is permissible under the law, depends on a number of factors, like issuance of notification by the appropriate Government, i.e. the Ministry of Labour, prohibiting employment of contract Labour in the godowns/depots of FCI under the Contract labour (Regulation & Abolition) Act, 1970. That Ministry has not yet notified these depots for this purpose.

#### New Health Policy

2112. SHRI K.S. RAO: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received suggestions to increase the health Care expenditure from the existing 3% of the GDP to 6% of the GDP as per recommended norms of the World Health Organisation with a view to achieving Government's statutory commitments of 'Health for All';

(b) if so, the details thereof and the Government's reaction thereto;

(c) whether the Government propose to declare 'Health Care Sector' as a core sector to receive associated incentives and benefits;

(d) whether the Health Association of India has requested the Government for a review of the present Health Policy;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether the Government propose to formulate a new Health Policy incorporating the suggestions received from the Health experts and other social organisations in the country; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI): (a) and (b) In 1981 during the World Health Assembly among the global indicators adopted by WHO the number of countries in which atleast 5% of the Gross National Product is spent on health was agreed upon. According to the World Development Report 1993 India spends 6% of its GNP on Health which represents both the public sector expenditure as well as private expenditure on health.

(c) There is no such proposal at this stage.

(d) and (e) The Voluntary Health Association of India has *inter-alia* recommended review of the National Health Policy, a realistic evaluation of performance and adoption of an integrated approach to the health problems of the country.

(f) and (g) The review of the health policy and the achievement of the goals set out under the policy is an on-going process and the views of health experts and social organisations are taken on a regular basis.

[Translation]

#### Hanumantha Rao Committee

2113. DR. CHINTA MOHAN :  
 PROF. P.J. KURIEN :  
 PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA :  
 SHRI LAKSHMAN CHANDRA SETH :  
 SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO :  
 SHRI N.K. PREMCHANDRAN :  
 SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK :  
 SHRI S.S. OWAISI :

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

(a) the total fertilizer subsidy bill at present;

(b) whether the Hanumantha Rao Committee on Fertilizer pricing has submitted its report;

(c) if so, the main recommendations of the Committee.

(d) whether any time bound programme has been set up to implement the recommendations of the said committee;

(e) if so, the time by which the said recommendations are likely to be implemented;

(f) whether the report on fertilizer pricing submitted to the Central Government has been criticised by the economists and disinvestment Commission;

(g) if so, whether according to them high level committee have strictly gone by the terms of reference and consequently did not take into account the entire agricultural system;

(h) whether the fertilizer manufacturers have cautioned the Government that they should consult the industry before revamping subsidies; and

(i) if so, the details of main objections made by them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (DR. A.K. PATEL) : (a) During 1997-98, the expenditure on subsidy on controlled fertilizers was Rs. 7426 crore and the disbursement under the scheme of special concession on decontrolled phosphatic and potassic fertilizers amounted to Rs. 2595.85 crore.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The recommendations of the High Powered Fertilizer Pricing Policy Committee have been summarised in the Statement enclosed.

(d) to (i) Divergent opinions have been expressed in regard to the recommendations of the Committee. The Disinvestment Commission has, however, not made any observations in this regard. Government decisions on the recommendations of the Committee will be taken having regard to the conclusions of the ongoing process of inter-ministerial consultation and dialogue with the industry as well as the viewpoints of informed analysts.

#### *Statement*

##### *Summary of the recommendations of the High Powered Fertilizer Pricing Policy Review Committee*

1. Unitwise Retention Price Scheme for urea units should be discontinued.
2. Promotion of balanced fertilization should be a major objective before Government and that the relative pricing of fertilizers should reflect the desirable NPK ratio.
3. In the light of the current relative pricing of different feedstocks, future fertilizer production should be appropriately based on domestic nature gas and LNG and that existing plants based on naphtha, FO and coal should be encouraged to restructure themselves to move over to more energy efficient feedstock.
4. The fertilizer industry should be deregulated and the units allowed to fix their retail prices, subject to ceiling farmgate prices (FGP) which may be notified annually having regard to the paying capacity of the farmers.
5. Local taxes such as Turnover taxes, Purchase tax and Additional Sales tax should be over and above the maximum farmgate price.
6. A normative referral price (NRP) may be determined for the existing units based on the Long Run Marginal Cost (LRMC) method for arriving at the subsidy to be paid on the sale of fertilizers within the notified ceiling FGP.
7. Subsidy be given through the manufacturers uniformly PMT of fertilizer sold to the extent of the gap between NRP plus dealers; margin and average freight, and FGP.
8. The ex-factory NRP for urea be fixed at Rs. 6050 PMT and for DAP at Rs. 11900 PMT as on 1.1.1998, and prices for delivery at farmgate be fixed at Rs. 6500 PMT and Rs. 12800 PMT respectively after including dealers margin and average freight.
9. The feedstock differential cost reimbursement (FDCR) to the tune of Rs. 1750 PMT and Rs. 1300 PMT of urea sold, as on 1.1.1998, be given to fertilizer units using naphtha/coal and FO/LSHS respectively for a period of five years.
10. The normative referral price and subsidy should be suitably revised periodically.
11. The import of urea may continue to be canalised for a period of five years.
12. Distribution of fertilizers be deregulated from Rabi 1998-99.
13. Additional freight and inventory cost be reimbursed to units in respect of fertilizers distributed in remote and inaccessible places to be notified for this purpose.
14. Output from new urea units set up on strategic consideration be given an additional subsidy to cover their higher cost of production based on LRMC.
15. Relative farmgate prices of fertilizers other than N be derived from the price of N in urea with reference to their relative productivities.
16. Gap between FGP of MOP, which is fully imported, and its border price be bridged in stages.
17. Subsidy on complex fertilizers, low analysis fertilizers and SSP be derived on the above basis with reference to their nutrient contents.
18. Increases and rationalisation in farmgate prices in the near future need to be regulated by a two fold approach to pass on further input price increases (including the increase in October, 1997) to the consumer keeping in view the product price ratio and rationalising prices through the system of relative pricing.

19. Government should evolve a system of compensating small and marginal farmers for any future increases in farmgate price. Credit availability for fertilizer for small and marginal farmers should be enhanced.
20. Any savings in subsidy should be utilised for agricultural research irrigation projects etc.
21. Units should concentrate on developing adjacent compact areas to increase fertilizer use through a comprehensive package of services.
22. With the involvement of the units, there should be creation of an adequate bufferstocking system specially to serve scarcity areas.
23. Greater use of coastal shipping for movement of fertilisers should be encouraged.
24. There should be increasing use of bulk warehousing at ports to enable long term purchases to be made and to enable rational movement of fertilizers.
25. Allocations under the Essential Commodities Act for movement of fertilizers and equated freight scheme may be discontinued from Rabi, 1998-99. ECA allocation may be made only for notified scarcity and remote areas and in other emergent situations.
26. Industry should assume a more dynamic role in propagating use of improved kinds of fertilizers like super granulated urea, NPK pellet, liquid fertilizers etc. for which there was no incentive under the RPS system.
27. For the phosphatic industry grainfield projects be set up in the form of joint ventures abroad at the source of rock phosphate. Government should step up exploration and R&D efforts for the bringing down import dependence in this segment over a period of time.
28. Government should set up a mechanism for not merely setting aside additional revenues accruing to the sick units, but making matching contribution to finance the modernisation and revamp of the older units. Simultaneously, steps should be taken to bring about managerial reforms and to rationalise work force.
29. Debt Equity ratio of the industry should be determined by market forces and not on a normative basis.
30. Imports should not be viewed merely as a residuary element to bridge the gap between requirement and indigenous production but can be used to serve deficit areas, and to build bufferstocks.
31. Joint ventures abroad near sources of abundant availability of feedstock be encouraged as a matter of policy in the coming years, given gas shortages in India and growing demand of fertilizers.
32. The Committee has observed that import parity prices do not serve as a dependable guide for domestic investment decisions because of the high degree of volatility observed for them. Any policy framework recommended for the urea industry should prove stable and recognise its strategic nature in the context of food security. The Committee has accordingly called for a positive policy to attract new investment and thereby ensure that over a period of time the level of self sufficiency already reached is not eroded to unacceptable levels. Policy prescriptions for the future should take note of what is the minimum level of self sufficiency that the country should adhere to over the years in respect of this critical input for agriculture.
33. A guaranteed price for a period of fifteen years of production of new units be announced by the Government well in advance, related to the LRMC principle for projects based on the most efficient feedstock and operating on attainable efficient norms.
34. Existing industry may be protected from dumping of fertilizers, if any, at costs below realistic estimates of production costs, so that the industry is not crippled.
35. There is a need for increasing the cohesiveness of policies in the fertilizer sector. A Fertilizer Policy Planning Board headed by an eminent economist/expert should be set up to prepare policy options for the Government in order to provide a long term perspective for the industry. The Board may be serviced by the existing FICC which should be suitably strengthened and upgraded.

[English]

#### Setting up of Sugar Mills

2114. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK:  
SHRI ASHOK NAMDEORAO MOHOL:  
SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADODA MANDLIK:  
SHRI MADHAV RAO PATIL:  
SHRI RAJVEER SINGH:

Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of proposals received for setting up of sugar mills in the country during the last three years till March, 1998, State-wise, location-wise;

(b) the number of letter of intent have been cleared/pending out of them, State-wise;

(c) the reasons for delay in according approval to the remaining cases;

(d) whether representations have been received for setting up of new sugar mills during the Ninth Plan period;

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

(f) the number of sugar mills likely to be set up during the Ninth Plan period, State-wise, location-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PAL SINGH YADAV) : (a) Statement-I showing State-wise, location-wise number of proposals/applications received for setting up of new sugar mills in the country during the years 1995, 1996, 1997 and 1998 (upto March) is enclosed

(b) to (e) Statement-II showing State-wise number of applications received letters of intent issued by the Ministry of Industry for setting up of new sugar mills during the above years is enclosed.

The main reason for delay in according approval to the pending cases is non-receipt of recommendation and clarification from the State Governments especially Maharashtra & Madhya Pradesh.

(f) Central Government does not set up sugar mills in any part of the Country. It, however, grants letters of intent/ Industrial licences for setting up of new sugar mills.

**Statement I**

*State-wise and Location-wise break-up of IL Application received for the manufacture of Sugar from January, 1995 to March, 1998*

State	Location	1995	1996	1997	1998 (upto March)
1	2	3	4	5	6
Andhra Pradesh	Karimnagar	2	-	-	-
	Nellore	5	-	2	-
	Prakasham	1	2	-	-
	East Godavari	1	-	-	-
	Shrikakullam	-	-	1	-
	Anantpur	-	-	-	-
	Chittoor	2	-	-	-
	Bihar	Sitamarhi	1	-	-
Bihar	Champaran East	-	2	1	-
	Champaran West	-	1	-	-
	Madhubani	-	2	1	-
	Gopal Ganj	-	1	-	-
	Gujarat	Valsad	-	-	2
Gujarat	Surat	-	-	1	-
	Haryana	Panipat	1	-	-

1	2	3	4	5	6
	Yamuna Nagar	-	-	1	-
	Jind	-	1	2	-
	Karnal	-	-	-	1
Himachal Pradesh	Kangra	-	-	1	-
	Una	-	-	1	-
J&K	-	-	-	1	-
Karnataka	Hassan	5	2	-	-
	Bangalore	3	-	-	-
	Bangalore(Rural)	-	1	-	-
	Mandya	9	1	-	-
	Bijapur	7	1	-	-
	Uttari Kannada	1	-	-	-
	Shimoga	2	-	-	-
	Dharwad	8	1	-	-
	Mysore	5	3	-	-
	Belgaum	12	3	1	1
Madhya Pradesh	Bellary	1	-	-	-
	Chitradurg	1	-	-	-
	Raichur	1	-	-	-
	Gulbarga	2	-	-	-
	Bidar	1	-	-	-
	Tumkur	1	2	-	-
	Kolar	1	-	-	-
	Khargone	1	-	-	-
	Narsingh Pur	4	-	-	1
	Khandwa	2	-	-	-
Dhar	2	-	-	-	
Hoshanga Bad	1	-	-	-	
Raisen	1	1	1	-	
Sehore	1	-	-	-	
Raipur	2	-	-	-	
Jabalpur	1	-	-	-	
Morena	1	-	-	-	
Datia	-	-	1	-	
Bilaspur	-	1	-	-	

1	2	3	4	5	6	1	2	3	4	5	6
	Guna	-	1	-	-	Rajasthan	Chottorgarh	-	-	1	-
	Raigarh	-	-	2	-	Tamil Nadu	Thirunelveli				
Maharashtra	Sangli	2	4	2	-	Kattaisommi	1	1	3	-	
	Sholapur	2	-	3	-	Villupuramrama-sawami	2	4	1	-	
	Kolhapur	2	-	1	-	Padachiyar	1	1	-	-	
	Jalgaon	1		-	-	Salem	2	-	1	-	
	Pune	-	-	4	1	Pariyar	1	-	-	-	
	Thane	-	-	-	-	PMT	1	-	-	-	
	Prabhani	-	1	-		Thanjavur	2	1	-	-	
	Nasik	-	1		-	Nagai Quaide Milleth	2	-	-	-	
	Osmanabad	-	3	1	-	Chengai MGR	1	2	2	-	
	Ahmednagar	-	-	1	-	Coimbatore	1	-	1	-	
	Nanded	-	1	1	-	Karur DCG	-	-	1	-	
Orissa	Jagatsinghpur	1	-	-	-	SA Velleuer	-	-	1	-	
	Puri	2	-	-	-	South Arot	-	4	2	-	
	Keonjhar	1	-	-	-	Erode	-	-	1	-	
	Malkangiri	1	-	-	-	Kanya Kumari	-	1	-	-	
	Kendrapara	1	-	-	-	Tenjore	-	1	-	-	
	Jajpur	1	-	-	-	Kamarajar	-	1	-	-	
	Mayur Bhanj	1	-	-	-	Pudukottai	-	3	-	-	
	Balasore	1	-	-	-	Parambathur	-	2	1	-	
	Sundergarh	1	-	-	-	Uttar Pradesh	Lakhimpur Kheri	4	-	-	-
Punjab	Jalandhar	2	-	-	-	Bijnor	12	4	5	1	
	Hoshiarpur	1	-	-	-	Saharanpur	7	1	3	-	
	Ludhiana	1	-	1	-	Aligarh	5	-	-	-	
	Amritsar	1	-	-	-	Barabanki	1	-	-	-	
	Fatehgarh	-	-	1	-	Shahjahanpur	4	1	1	-	
	Nawan Shehar	-	-	1	-	Bulandshehr	2	-	-	-	
	Ropar	-	1	-	-	Moradabad	3	2	1	-	
	Patiala	-	1	-	-	Gonda	1	1	1	-	
Pondicherry	Thirunallai	-	1	-	-	Deoria	3	-	-	-	
	Pondicherry	1	-	-	-	Mujaffamagar	5	4	1	-	

1	2	3	4	5	6	1	2	3	4	5	6
	Badaun	9	1	-	-		Sitapur	-	-	2	-
	Pilibhit	3	2	-	-		Jalaun	-	-	1	-
	Meerut	6	1	-	-		Farukhabad	-	1	-	-
	Bareilly	2	2	1	-		Basti	-	1	-	-
	Fatehgarh	1	-	-	-		Fatehpur	-	1	-	-
	Haridwar	1	-	1	-		Azamgarh	-	1	-	-
	Mathura	2	-	-	-		Unnao	-	1	-	-
	Padrauna	1	2	-	-		Gaziabad	-	-	-	1
	Rampur	1	-	-	-	West Bengal	Nadia	1	-	-	-

**Statement-II**

*State-wise break-up of ID Applications Received/LOIs Issued  
for the manufacture of sugar from January 1995 to March 1998*

Name of the State	Number of Applications received				No. of LOIs issued			
	1995	1996	1997	1998 (upto 3/98)	1995	1996	1997	1998 (upto 3/98)
Andhra Pradesh	11	2	3	0	0	8	4	0
Bihar	1	6	2	0	0	11	5	0
Gujarat	0	0	3	0	0	3	4	0
Haryana	1	1	3	1	0	1	2	0
Himachal Pradesh	0	0	2	0	0	0	2	0
J & K	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0
Karnataka	60	14	1	1	0	38	15	0
Madhya Pradesh	16	3	4	1	0	2	9	0
Maharashtra	7	10	13	1	0	29	8	0
Orissa	10	0	0	0	0	1	9	0
Pondicherry	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	0
Punjab	5	2	3	0	0	5	1	0
Rajasthan	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Tamil Nadu	14	21	14	0	0	9	7	1
Uttar Pradesh	73	26	17	2	2	53	25	0
West Bengal	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>181</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>1</b>

### Decontrol of Fertilizer

2115. PROF. P.J. KURIEN: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to decontrol all the fertilizers including Urea and revamp the present pricing policy during the Ninth Plan;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have also decided to provide flat subsidy on each of the fertilizers including Urea, DAP, SSP and other nitrogenous farm nutrients; and

(d) if so, the details of the consideration or criteria for fixing subsidy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (DR. A.K. PATEL) : (a) to (d) The phosphatic, potassic and low analysis nitrogenous fertilisers have been decontrolled. No decision has been taken to decontrol urea. The recommendations of the High Powered Fertilizer Pricing Policy Review Committee are being examined.

Under the scheme of concession on sale of phosphatic and potassic (P&K) fertilisers to the farmers, the level of concession is decided keeping in view the cost involved in their manufacture/import and the sale prices indicated by the Government. In the case of urea, the gap between the unitwise retention price (i.e. cost of production as assessed by the Government plus reasonable return on networth) and the notified sale price is paid as subsidy.

[Translation]

### Performance of LPG Companies

2116. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have assessed the performance of the public sector LPG companies alongwith the private companies;

(b) if so, the outcome of the assessment;

(c) the details of the private companies functioning for the supply of LPG in the country at present; and

(d) the steps taken to maintain the monopoly of the public sector companies in this field?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) and (b) The Government reviews the performance of the Public Sector Oil Companies marketing LPG from time to time. In regard to the private companies information on the quantity of LPG imported and

sold, LPG import facilities developed by them are collected by the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas. Upto 30.4.1998, 18 private parties have imported about 355 TMT of LPG in bulk and 2 private parties have imported about 0.19 TMT in packed under Parallel Marketing Scheme. In addition, M/s Reliance Petroleum is marketing LPG produced from their Naphtha Cracker at Hazira and sold about 91 TMT upto April, 1998. The private parties, so far, could not make significant impact on LPG marketing of PSU oil companies. At present their market share is only 4.60% against 95.40% of Public Sector Oil Companies.

(c) 129 parties have obtained 'rating' as per the provisions of the amended LPG Control Order for engaging in LPG related business; at different periods of time. However, as of 31.3.98, only 46 parties have now got valid 'rating' certificate issued by notified agencies.

(d) Consequent upon introduction of Parallel Marketing Scheme of LPG, there is no monopoly of the Public Sector oil companies in LPG marketing nor is it intended, in the interest of competitive price and better service to consumers.

### World Bank Aided Health Project in Maharashtra

2117. SHRI MADHAVRAO PATIL:  
SHRI ASHOK NAMDEORAO MOHOL:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of health projects being launched in Maharashtra with the assistance of World Bank;

(b) the amount spent by World Bank on these projects so far;

(c) whether some more health projects with the World Bank assistance are likely to be launched in the State;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI) : (a) to (e) A project proposal received from the Government of Maharashtra under the State Health System Development Project has been posted to the World Bank for assistance. Such State Projects are developed through detailed discussion with the World Bank and past experience has shown that they take 12 to 24 months to fructify, depending up on the size of the project. The State authorities have been kept fully involved in the discussions with the Representatives of the World Bank at each stage, but it is not possible to comment on the final dimension of the project at this juncture.

*[Translation]***Foodgrains Subsidised Scheme**

2118. SHRI MAHESH KANODIA:  
DR. MADAN PRASAD JAISWAL:

Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the scheme to provide 10 kilograms foodgrains at half of the centrally fixed prices to every family has come into effect in all the States:

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the price at which foodgrains are being made available, State-wise; and

(d) the names of the States where this scheme is not being implemented so far indicating the reasons for delay?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PAL SINGH YADAV) : (a) and (b) Under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) which was launched from June 1997, 10 kg. of foodgrains, per family per month are issued to the identified families Below Poverty Line (BPL) at specially subsidised prices. The TPDS is under implementation in all States/UTs except Delhi and Lakshadweep.

(c) The Central issue prices (CIP) of foodgrains, for all States/UTs, under TPDS are as under :

	(Rs. Per quintal)	
	Wheat Common	Rice Grade 'A'
Below Poverty Line (BPL)	250	350
Above Poverty Line (APL)	450	700

State Governments have been advised to fix the end retail prices not more than 50 paise per kg. over the CIP in case of foodgrains for BPL families and in case of foodgrains for APL families States are free to fix the end retail prices.

(d) The TPDS is yet to be implemented in Delhi and Lakshadweep as the identification of the poor and issue of special cards is still to be completed by them.

*[English]***Health Care Schemes for Rural Areas in Gujarat**

2119. SHRI C.D. GAMIT: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have made any arrangement for introducing health care schemes in the tribal and rural areas in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether tribal and border areas of Gujarat are extremely lacking in health services;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the Government have formulated any concrete policy in this regard;

(f) if so, the details thereof;

(g) whether the Government have set up any Central fund for the States under which every State could be provided prescribed financial assistance; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The tribal-Sub-Plan and special component plan are being implemented for improving health care services in the tribal and rural areas. The recently launched Reproductive and Child Health Programme has also introduced special Programme for improving the quality, expanding the coverage and filling gaps in the primary health infrastructure in rural and tribal areas.

(c) and (d) As per information received Health Care facilities are being provided by the State Government in the border and tribal areas of Gujarat. Further improvement in these areas is being achieved through the implementation of various National health schemes and the Reproductive and Child Health Project.

(e) and (f) The National Health Policy, 1983 has accorded priority to the provision of health services in the tribal, hilly and backward areas. Accordingly, the population norms for setting up Primary health centres and sub-centres in such areas have been relaxed. The State Governments have been advised to consider further relaxation while establishing sub-centres, primary health centres in tribal areas/ SC hamlets which are more than 5 kilometre away from the nearest health delivery point. The Government has also been advised to set up at least 15 per cent of the sub-centres in SC villages having 20 per cent SC population and 7.5 per cent of sub-centres in tribal areas.

(g) and (h) The Ministry has set up a National Illness Fund for providing financial support to patients below the poverty line suffering from serious and fatal ailments. Under the Basic Minimum Services Programme, additional plan assistance is available to the States for improving the primary health care services and bridging the gaps in the infrastructure wherever necessary.

**Eradication of Filaria**

2120. SHRI N. DENNIS:  
SHRI RANJIB BISWAL:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have formulated any scheme for the eradication of Filaria;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether this scheme is being implemented in the States particularly in Orissa;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the fund sanctioned to the States during each of the last three years for this scheme and the number of Filaria control centres set up in each State;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor;

(f) whether the Government have also identified the Filaria affected areas in the country;

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

(h) the steps taken by the Government to control Filaria in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI) : (a) to (c) The National Filaria Control Programme (NFPC) is in operation in 17 States/UTs. Under this Programme about 48 million population is protected through recurrent anti-larval measures by 206 control units

and 199 Filaria clinics. This programme was *inter-alia* implemented in the districts of Khurda and Pari in Orissa in 1997 successfully.

(d) to (g) The following expenditure under the NFPC have been incurred during the last three years;

Year	Expenditure
1995-96	1260.00
1996-97	1262.00
1997-98	1323.00

A statement indicating State-wise details regarding Filaria Control units, Survey Units and Filaria Clinics in operation and population protected under the programme is annexed.

(h) The steps taken for control of Filariasis *inter-alia*, include: -

- Recurrent anti-larval measures with larvicides to control the vector mosquitoes.
  - Environmental methods of controlling mosquito breeding including source reduction by filling up of ditches, pits, low lying areas, dewatering, desilting, trimming of drains, etc.
  - Biological control of mosquito breeding through biological agents especially larvivorous fish.
- Anti-parasitic measures through detection and treatment of carriers and administering DEC Tablets through Filaria clinics.
- Single dose DEC therapy in selected districts of seven endemic States of Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Orissa, Uttar Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal & Kerala.

**Statement**

*State-wise Details of Population protected, Number of Filaria Control Units, Survey Units and Filaria Clinics.*

Sl. No.	State/ UTs	Population Protected (In Million)	Filaria Control Units	Survey Units	Filaria Clinic
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	5.46	29	2	5
2.	Assam	0.29	1	1	0
3.	Bihar	7.61	35	2	38
4.	Goa	0.34	4	0	6
5.	Gujarat	3.54	9	0	7
6.	Karnataka	0.65	6	1	19
7.	Kerala	4.02	16	2	9
8.	Madhya Pradesh	0.66	9	3	8

1	2	3	4	5	6
9.	Maharashtra	5.91	16	6	10
10.	Orissa	2.30	15	2	15
11.	Tamil Nadu	8.54	21	1	42
12.	Uttar Pradesh	6.64	29	2	34
13.	West Bengal	1.39	10	4	3
14.	Pondicherry	0.49	2	0	0
15.	A & N Islands	0.05	1	1	1
16.	Daman & Diu	0.03	2	0	2
17.	Lakshadweep	0.01	1	0	0
<b>Total</b>		<b>47.93</b>	<b>206</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>199</b>

### Bomb Blasts

2121. DR. BIZAY SONKAR SHASTRI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether due to failure of the police to connect any of the accused in 1990 Delhi blasts, the Court had to acquit them;

(b) if so, whether the Government looked into the affairs of poor prosecution case and taken steps to check such acquittal in future; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI) : (a) Delhi Police have reported that there were 10 cases of bomb-blasts in Delhi during 1990. Out of these, in five cases, the accused were acquitted by the Court.

(b) and (c) During the regular meetings between the Directorate of Prosecution (Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi) and Delhi Police, the weaknesses and shortcoming in the investigation/prosecution of cases which have resulted in acquittal are discussed thoroughly with a view to preventing their recurrence.

[Translation]

### Extraction of Money by Constables

2122. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether money is extracted by the constables of Delhi Police from the people selling their items on the pavement in Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of such complaints received during the last three years; and

(d) the number of constables against whom the action has been taken and the number of constables out of them dismissed from the service?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI) : (a) to (d) During the last three years, Delhi Police had received six specific complaints against one Head Constable and six constables in which it was alleged that they had harrassed or extorted money from hawkers, rehriwalas, etc. Four of these officials were placed under suspension and the departmental inquiries instituted against all the seven officials have so far ended with forfeiture of two years' service in case of one Constable and imposition of "Censure" on another Constable. In the third case, the Constable complained against was transferred to a non-sensitive unit pending completion of departmental proceedings. The departmental proceedings instituted in the remaining cases are at various stages of completion.

[English]

### Abduction of Japanese Girl

2123. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "*Iskan Mandir ke pass se Japani Yuwati ka apharan*" appearing in 'Dainik Jagron' dated April 9, 1998;

(b) if so, the facts thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Delhi Police have informed that, on 8.4.98, Ms. Miriko Koseki, a Japanese citizen was abducted at about 5.00 A.M., while on her morning walk, from Garhi Area near Iskcon Temple by four occupants of a dark blue Maruti car. A case FIR No. 264/98 u/s/ 365/354/34 IPC was registered at Police Station Lajpat Nagar, New Delhi. Ms. Koseki was later found abandoned on the main road in Mandawali area. The lady was got medically examined at Swami Daya Nand Hospital, Delhi. However, she could not make a statement due to shock and trauma caused by the incident. She was taken away by the officials of the Japanese Embassy on the assurance that she would be brought for recording her statement as soon as she was fit to do so. However, Ms. Koseki left the country on 11.4.98 without giving any statement to the police.

#### **Worker In Un-organised Sector**

2124. SHRI CHANDU LAL AJMEERA:  
SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether any study has been undertaken in respect of workers in Un-organised sector to increase their partnership with organised sector workers; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

#### **Visit by Specialist Doctors to CGHS Dispensaries**

2125. SHRI JANG BAHADUR SINGH PATEL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that Central Government Health Scheme beneficiaries have to drive to Government hospitals due to irregular/scant visit of the Specialist doctors to their dispensaries;

(b) if so, whether it is necessary for the heart and blood pressure patients to get their ECG before prescribing treatment;

(c) if so, whether the CGHS dispensaries have such arrangements in their respective dispensaries;

(d) if so, the details thereof, dispensary-wise; and

(e) if not, the steps taken by the Government to ensure punctuality of the doctors to visit their dispensaries regularly and provide ECG facility in these dispensaries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI) : (a) As per current policy, specialists of the Government Hospitals visit CGHS dispensaries which have been designated as "Nodal" centres. Such Nodal centres have been formed by clubbing three to four dispensaries for the purpose of specialist consultations. However, due to unavoidable circumstances, if any specialist is not able to visit the dispensary, in such cases the CGHS beneficiaries may visit the specialist in Government hospitals.

(b) It is for the treating specialist to decide whether ECG is required as part of the treatment.

(c) to (e) E.C.G. machines have been provided in some of the CGHS Dispensaries. Whenever any complaint about irregular attendance of doctors is received, the same is looked into and further necessary action taken to ensure punctuality of doctors.

#### **Illegal Trade of Human Beings**

2126. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item published in the *Times of India* of April 8, 1998 regarding the regular operation of trade in humans through "Bhaiya Mandi" in Hoshiarpur;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have made any inquiries in this reported trade;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the remedial measures taken to check such illegal trade?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (e) Information in regard to the allegations contained in the Press Report and the stage of investigation into the matter is being collected from the State Government of Punjab, and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

#### **Employment to OBC**

2127. SHRI R.S. GAVAI: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have introduced any self-employment scheme for the Other Backward Class in Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the amount of financial assistance provided to the youth under this scheme during 1996-97; and

(c) the provision made for the allocation of funds during 1997-98?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) Sir, The National Backward Classes Finance and Development Corporation (NBCFDC) provides loans for self-employment ventures at concessional rates of interest to the eligible members of OBCs through State Channelising Agencies (SCAs) throughout the country including Maharashtra.

(b) During the year 1996-97, Rs. 1,483 crores were disbursed to SCAs in Maharashtra.

(c) No State-wise provision is made by NBCFDC.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Now, please take your seat.

[Translation]

SHRI LALU PRASAD (Madhepura) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, no reply has been given to my question. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Now, Papers to be laid on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

DR. SHAFIQR RAHMAN BARQ (Moradabad) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is an important issue .....*(Interruptions)* it should be debated .....*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA (Ponnani) : I have given an Adjournment Motion on Ayodhya. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Banatwalla, please take your seat.

.....*(Interruptions)*

12.01 hrs.

## PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

### Notifications Under Citizenship Act, 1955 etc.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI) : I beg to lay on the Table:

- (1) A copy of the Citizenship (Amendment) Rules, 1998 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 141 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 19th March, 1998, under sub-section (4) of section 18 of the Citizenship Act, 1955

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 541/98]

- (2) A copy of the National Human Rights Commission (Group A and Group 'B' Posts) Recruitment (Amendment) Rules 1998 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 137 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 18th March, 1998, under sub-section (3) of section 40 of the Protection of Human Rights Act, 1993.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 542/98]

- (3) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (4) of section 20 of the Protection of Human Rights Act, 1993:

- (i) Annual Report of the National Human Rights Commissions for the year 1996-97.
- (ii) Memorandum of Action Taken on the Annual Report of the National Human Rights Commission for the year 1996-97.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 543/98]

- (4) A copy of the Arms (Amendment) Rules, 1997 (Hindi and English version) Published in Notification No. G.S.R. 1 in Gazette of India dated the 3rd January, 1998, under sub-section (3) of section 44 of the Arms Act, 1959.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 544/98]

### Memorandum of Understanding between the Fertilisers and Chemicals Travancore Ltd. etc. with Department of Fertilisers for the year 1998-99

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SARDAR SURJIT SINGH BARANALA) : I beg to lay on the Table :

- (1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) :
  - (i) Memorandum of Understanding between the Fertilisers and Chemicals Travancore Limited and the Department of Fertilisers, Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers for the year 1998-99.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 545/98]

- (ii) Memorandum of Understanding between the Pyrites, Phosphates and Chemicals Limited and the Department of Fertilisers, Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilisers for the year 1998-99.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 546/98]

- (iii) Memorandum of Understanding between the Madras Fertilizers Limited and the Department of Fertilizers, Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers, for the year 1998-99.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 547/98]

- (iv) Memorandum of Understanding between the Paradeep Phosphates Limited and the Department of Fertilizers, Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers, for the year 1998-99.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 548/98]

- (v) Memorandum of Understanding between the Rashtriya Chemicals and Fertilizers Limited and the Department of Fertilizers, Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers, for the year 1998-99.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 549/98]

- (vi) Memorandum of Understanding between the National Fertilizers Limited (NFL) and the Department of Fertilizers, Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers, for the year 1998-99.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 550/98]

- (vii) Memorandum of Understanding between the Hindustan Insecticides Limited and Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers, for the year 1998-99.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 551/98]

- (2) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956 :-

- (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Hindustan Vegetable Oils Corporation Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1996-97.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Hindustan Vegetable Oils Corporation Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1996-97, alongwith Audited accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

- (3) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (2) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 552/98]

#### Notifications Under Apprentices Act, 1961 etc.

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM) : On behalf of Dr. Satyanarayan Jatiya, I beg to lay on the Table:

- (1) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (3) of section 37 of the Apprentices Act, 1961:

- (i) The Apprenticeship (Amendment) Rules, 1997 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 404 in Gazette of India dated the 13th December, 1997 together with a corrigendum thereto in Hindi version only published in Notification No. G.S.R. 88 in Gazette of India dated the 18th April, 1998.

- (ii) The Apprenticeship (Amendment) Rules, 1997 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 269 in Gazette in India dated the 21st June, 1997.

- (iii) The Apprenticeship (Amendment) Rules, 1997 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 293 in Gazette of India dated the 19th July, 1997 together with a Corrigendum thereto in Hindi version only published in Notification No. G.S.R. 339 dated the 27th September, 1997.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 553/98]

- (2) A copy of the Financial Estimates and Performance Budget for the year 1998-99 (Hindi and English versions) of the Employees' State Insurance Corporation under section 36 of the Employees' State Insurance Act, 1948.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 554/98]

- (3) A copy of the Building and Other Construction Workers' Welfare Cess Rules, 1998 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 149 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 26th March, 1998 under sub-section (3) of section 14 of the Building and other Construction Workers Welfare Cess Act, 1996 together with a corrigendum thereto published in Notification No. G.S.R. 257 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 20th May, 1998.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 555/98]

#### Demands for Grants of Department of Mines etc. for the Year 1998-99

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI NAVEEN PATNAIK) : I beg to lay on the Table :

- (1) A copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Department of Mines, Ministry of Steel and Mines, for the year 1998-99.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 556/98]

- (2) A copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Steel for the year 1998-99

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 557/98]

**Report of C.A.G. for the year 1998 of (Defence Services) Army and Ordnance Factories etc.**

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SARDAR SURJIT SINGH BARNALA) : On behalf of Shri Yashwant Sinha, I beg to lay on the Table :

- (1) A copy each of the following Reports (Hindi and English versions) under article 151 (1) of the Constitution:

- (i) Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India-Union Government (No. 7 of 1998) for the year ended the 31st March 1997 (Defence Services) Army and Ordnance Factories.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 558/98]

- (ii) Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India-Union Government (No.9 of 1998) for the year ended the 31st March 1997 (Railways)

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 559/98]

- (iii) Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India -Union Government (No.8 of 1998) for the year ended the 31st March, 1997 (Defence Services) Air Force and Navy

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 560/98]

- (2) A copy of the Appropriation Accounts (Union Government) of the Defence Services for the year 1996-97 (Hindi and English versions).

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 561/98]

- (3) A copy of the Appropriation Accounts, Indian Railways, for the Year 1996-97, Part-I (Review) (Hindi and English versions)

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 562/98]

- (4) A copy of the Appropriation Accounts, Indian Railways, for the year 1996-97, Part-II-Detailed Appropriation Accounts (Hindi and English versions).

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 563/98]

- (5) A copy of the Block Accounts (including Capital Statement Comprising the Loan Accounts), Balance Sheets and Profit and Loss Accounts of the Indian Government, Railways, for the year 1996-97 (Hindi and English versions).

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 564/98]

**Demands for Grants of Department of Posts for the year 1998-99**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA): On behalf of Shrimati Sushma Swaraj, I beg to lay on the Table :

- (1) A copy of the detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Department of Posts for the year 1998-99.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 565/98]

- (2) A copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting for the year 1998-99.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 566/98]

**Annual Report, Audited Accounts and Review of the working of ICMR etc. for the year 1996-97**

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI) : I beg to lay on the Table :

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Council of Medical Research, New Delhi, for the year 1996-97.

- (ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Council of Medical Research, New Delhi, for the year 1996-97, together with Audit Report thereon.

- (iii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indian Council of Medical Research, New Delhi, for the year 1996-97.

- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 567/98]

- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Central Council for Research in Unani Medicine, New Delhi for the Year 1996-97 alongwith the Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Central Council for Research in Unani Medicine, New Delhi, for the year 1996-97.

- (4) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (3) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 568/98]

- (5) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Lala Ram Sarup Institute of Tuberculosis and Allied Diseases, New Delhi for the year 1995-96 alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Lala Ram Sarup Institute of Tuberculosis and Allied Diseases, New Delhi for the year 1996-97.
- (6) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (5) above.
- [Placed in Library. See No. LT 569/98]
- (7) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Institute of Unani Medicine, Bangalore, for the year 1995-96 alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Institute of Unani Medicine, Bangalore, for the year 1995-96.
- (8) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (7) above.
- [Placed in Library. See No. LT 570/98]
- (9) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Postgraduate Institute of Medical Education and Research, Chandigarh, for the year 1996-97.
- (ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Postgraduate Institute of Medical Education and Research, Chandigarh, for the year 1996-97, together with Audit Report thereon.
- (iii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Postgraduate Institute of Medical Education and Research, Chandigarh for the year 1996-97.
- (10) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (9) above.
- [Placed in Library. See No. LT 571/98]
- (11) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956 :
- (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Hindustan Latex Limited, Thiruvananthapuram, for the year 1996-97.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Hindustan Latex Limited, Thiruvananthapuram, for the year 1996-97, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments to the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.
- (12) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (11) above.
- [Placed in Library. See No. LT 572/98]
- (13) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Acharya Harihar Regional Cancer Centre, Cuttack, for the year 1996-97 alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Acharya Harihar Regional Cancer Centre, Cuttack, for the year 1996-97.
- (14) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at 13 above.
- [Placed in Library. See No. LT 573/98]
- (15) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Institute of Homoeopathy, Calcutta, for the year 1996-97 alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Institute of Homoeopathy, Calcutta, for the year 1996-97.
- (16) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (15) above.
- [Placed in Library. See No. LT 574/98]
- (17) (i) A copy of Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Cancer Institute (W.I.A.), Madras, for the year 1996 alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Cancer Institute (WIA) Madras, for the year 1996.
- (18) Statement (Hindi and English Versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (17) above
- [Placed in Library. See No. LT 575/98]

- (19) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions ) of the Regional Cancer Centre Kamala Nehru Memorial Hospital. Allahabad, for the year 1996-97 alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Regional Cancer Centre Kamala Nehru Memorial Hospital Allahabad, for the year 1996-97.
- (20) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (19) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 576/98]

- (21) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Gujarat Cancer and Research Institute, Ahmedabad, for the year 1996-97 alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Gujarat Cancer and Research Institute, Ahmedabad, for the year 1996-97.
- (22) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (21) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 577/98]

**Annual Report, Audited Accounts and review of the working of National Institute of Mentally Handicapped, Secunderabad etc. for the year 1996-97**

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): Mr. Speaker, Sir, on behalf of Shrimati Maneka Gandhi I beg to lay the following papers on the Table :

- (1) (i) Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Institute for the Mentally Handicapped, Secunderabad, for the year 1996-97 alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Institute for the Mentally Handicapped, Secunderabad, for the year 1996-97.
- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 578/98]

- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Institute for the Visually Handicapped, Dehradun, for the year 1996-97 alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Institute for the Visually Handicapped, Dehradun, for the year 1996-97.

- (4) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (3) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 579/98]

- (5) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Institute of Rehabilitation Training and Research, Cuttack, for the year 1996-97 alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Institute of Rehabilitation Training and Research, Cuttack, for the year 1996-97.
- (6) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (5) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 580/98]

- (7) (i) A copy of the annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Institute for the Physically Handicapped, New Delhi, for the year 1996-97.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Institute for the Physically Handicapped, New Delhi, for the year 1996-97.

- (8) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (7) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 581/98]

- (9) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Institute for the Orthopaedically Handicapped, Calcutta, for the year 1996-97 alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the national Institute for the Orthopaedically Handicapped, Calcutta, for the year 1996-97.

- (10) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (9) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 582/98]

(11) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Ali Yavar Jung National Institute for the Hearing Handicapped, Mumbai for the year 1996-97 alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Ali Yavar Jung National Institute for the Hearing Handicapped, Mumbai, for the year 1996-97.

(12) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (11) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 583/98]

(13) A copy of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956.

(i) Review by the Government of the working of the Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation of India, Kanpur, for the year 1996-97.

(ii) Annual Report of the Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation of India, Kanpur for the year 1996-97 alongwith audited accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

(14) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (13) above

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 584/98]

(15) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1996-97 alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1996-97.

(16) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (15) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 585/98]

(17) A copy of the Second Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) on the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989 for the year 1991-92, under sub-section (4) of section 21 of the said Act.

(18) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (17) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 586/98]

(19) A copy of the Thirty-Third Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Commissioner for Linguistic Minorities in India for the period from July, 1992 to the June, 1993.

(20) A copy of the Explanatory Note (Hindi and English versions) to the report mentioned at (19) above

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 587/98]

#### **Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Rural Areas and Employment for the Year 1998-99**

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BABAGOUDA PATIL) : I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Rural Areas and Employment for the year 1998-99.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 588/98]

#### **Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Coal for the Year 1998-99**

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY) : I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Coal for the year 1998-99.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 589/98]

#### **MOU between I.T.D.C. and Ministry of Tourism etc. for the Year 1998-99**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI OMAK APANG) : I beg to lay on the Table:

(1) A copy of the Memorandum of Understanding (Hindi and English versions) between the India Tourism Development Corporation Limited and the Ministry of Tourism for the year 1998-99.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 462/98]

(2) (a) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Institute of Hotel Management, Catering and Nutrition, New Delhi, for the year 1996-97 alongwith Audited Accounts.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 463/98]

- (ii) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Institute of Hotel Management, Catering Technology and Applied Nutrition, Mumbai, for the year 1996-97 alongwith Audited Accounts.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 464/98]

- (iii) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Institute of Hotel Management, Catering Technology and Applied Nutrition, Chennai, for the year 1996-97 alongwith Audited Accounts.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 465/98]

- (iv) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Institute of Hotel Management, Catering Technology and Applied Nutrition, Goa, for the year 1996-97 alongwith Audited Accounts.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 466/98]

- (v) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Institute of Hotel Management, Catering Technology and Applied Nutrition, Calcutta, for the year 1996-97 alongwith Audited Accounts.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 467/98]

- (vi) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Institute of Hotel Management, Catering Technology and Applied Nutrition, Bangalore, for the year 1996-97 alongwith Audited Accounts.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 468/98]

- (vii) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Institute of Hotel Management, Catering Technology and Applied Nutrition, Lucknow, for the year 1996-97 alongwith Audited Accounts.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 469/98]

- (viii) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Institute of Hotel Management, Catering Technology and Applied Nutrition, Hyderabad, for the year 1996-97 alongwith Audited Accounts

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 470/98]

- (ix) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Institute of Hotel Management, Catering and Nutrition, Ahmedabad, for the year 1996-97 alongwith Audited Accounts.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 471/98]

- (x) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Institute of Hotel Management, Catering Technology and Applied Nutrition, Bhubaneswar, for the year 1996-97 alongwith Audited Accounts.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 472/98]

- (xi) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Institute of Hotel Management, Catering Technology and Applied Nutrition, Jaipur, for the year 1996-97 alongwith Audited Accounts.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 473/98]

- (xii) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Institute of Hotel Management, Catering Technology and Applied Nutrition, Bhopal, for the year 1996-97 alongwith Audited Accounts.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 474/98]

- (xiii) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Institute of Hotel Management, Catering Technology and Applied Nutrition, Gwalior, for the year 1996-97 alongwith Audited Accounts.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 475/98]

- (xiv) A copy of Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Institute of Hotel Management and Catering Technology Thiruvananthapuram, for the year 1996-97 alongwith Audited Accounts

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 476/98]

- (xv) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of Dr. Ambedkar Institute of Hotel Management, Catering and Nutrition, Chandigarh, for the year 1996-97 alongwith Audited Accounts.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 477/98]

- (xvi) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Institute of Hotel Management, Catering and Nutrition, Gurdaspur, for the year 1996-97 alongwith Audited Accounts.,

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 478/98]

- (xvii) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Institute of Hotel Management, Catering Technology and Applied Nutrition, Srinagar, for the year 1996-97 alongwith Audited Accounts.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 479/98]

- (xviii) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Institute of Hotel Management, Catering Technology and Applied Nutrition, Guwahati, for the year 1996-97 alongwith Audited Accounts.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 480/98]

- (xix) A copy of Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Council for Hotel Management and Catering Technology, New Delhi, for the year 1996-97 alongwith Audited Accounts

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 481/98]

- (b) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Institutes of Hotel Management, Catering Technology and Applied Nutrition at New Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, Goa, Calcutta, Bangalore, Lucknow, Hyderabad, Ahmedabad, Bhubaneswar, Jaipur, Bhopal, Gwalior, Thiruvananthapuram, Chandigarh, Gurdaspur, Srinagar, Guwahati and National Council for Hotel Management and Catering Technology, New Delhi for the year 1996-97.

- (3) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (2) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 482/98]

**Annual Report, Audited Accounts and Review of the working of Oil Industry Development Board etc. for the year 1996-97**

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : Mr. Speaker Sir, I beg to lay the following papers on the Table :

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Oil Industry Development Board for the year 1996-97 alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Oil Industry Development Board for the year 1996-97.
- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 590/98]

- (3) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) :

- (i) Memorandum of Understanding between the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited and the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas for the year 1998-99.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 591/98]

- (ii) Memorandum of Understanding between the Oil India Limited and the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas for the year 1998-99.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 592/98]

- (iii) Memorandum of Understanding between Cochin Refineries Limited and the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas for the year 1998-99.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 593/98]

- (iv) Memorandum of Understanding between the Balmer Lawrie and Company Limited and the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas for the year 1998-99.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 594/98]

- (v) Memorandum of Understanding between the Indian Oil Corporation Limited and the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas for the year 1998-99.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 595/98]

- (vi) Memorandum of Understanding between the Engineers India Limited and the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas for the year 1998-99.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 596/98]

- (vii) Memorandum of Understanding between the IBP Company Limited and the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas for the year 1998-99.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 597/98]

- (4) A copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas for the year 1998-99.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 598/98]

- (5) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956 :

- (a) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited, Mumbai, for the year 1996-97.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited, Mumbai, for the year 1996-97 alongwith audited Accounts and comments to the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 599/98]

- (b) (i) review by the Government of the working of the Biecco Lawrie Limited, Calcutta, for the year 1996-97.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Biecco Lawrie Limited, Calcutta, for the year 1996-97 alongwith audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 600/98]

- (c) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the IBP Company Limited, Calcutta, for the year 1996-97.

- (ii) Annual Report of the IBP Company Limited, Calcutta, for the year 1996-97 alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller an Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 601/98]

- (d) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited, Mumbai, for the year 1996-97.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited, Mumbai, for the year 1996-97 alongwith Audited Accounts and comments to the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 602/98]

- (e) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Indian Oil Corporation Limited for the year 1996-97.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Indian Oil Corporation Limited for the year 1996-97 alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

- (6) Five statements (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (5) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 603/98]

**Notification Under Bureau of Indian Standards Act, 1986 etc.**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PAL SINGH YADAV) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to lay the following papers on the Table :

- (1) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi

and English versions) under section 39 of the Bureau of Indian Standards Act, 1986 :

- (i) The Bureau of Indian Standards (Terms and Conditions of Service of Employees) Amendment Regulations, 1997 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 374 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 9th July, 1997.

- (ii) The Bureau of Indian Standards (Certification Amendment) Regulation, 1997 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 634 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 4th November, 1997.

- (iii) The Bureau of Indian Standards (Terms and Conditions of Service of Employees) (Amendment) Regulations, 1997 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 635 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 5th November, 1997.

- (iv) The Bureau of Indian Standards (Recruitment of Administration, Finance and Other Posts) Amendment Regulations, 1997 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 636 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 5th November, 1997.

- (v) The Bureau of Indian Standards (Terms and Conditions of Service of Employees) Amendment Regulations, 1997 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 649 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 15th November, 1997

- (vi) The Bureau of Indian Standards (Terms and Conditions of Service of Employees) (Amendment) Regulations, 1997 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 725 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 31st December, 1997.

- (vii) The Bureau of Indian Standards (Recruitment to Administration, Finance and Other Posts) (Amendment) Regulations, 1997 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 726 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 31 December, 1997.

- (viii) The Bureau of Indian Standards (Terms and Conditions of Service of Employees) Amendment Regulations, 1998 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 79 (A) in Gazette of India dated the 20th February, 1998.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 604/98]

- (2) A copy of the Standards of Weights and Measures (Package Commodities) (Amendment) Rules, 1998 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 60 (A) in Gazette of India dated the 29th January, 1998 under sub-section (4) of section 83 of the Standards of Weights and Measures Act, 1976.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 605/98]

[English]

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA (Ponnani) : My Adjournment Motion is there.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Banatwalla, please take your seat.  
... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Banatwalla, this is too much. Please take your seat.

... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I have already informed you. This is too much.

[Translation]

SHRI LALU PRASAD : Mr. Speaker Sir, we boycott the proceedings of the House.

12.02 hrs.

*Shri Lal Prasad and some other hon. Members then left the House.*

12.05 hrs.

[English]

## ELECTION TO COMMITTEE

### All India Institute of Medical Sciences

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI) : I beg to move:

"That in pursuance of Section 4 (g) of the All India Institute of Medical Sciences Act, 1956, the members of this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct, two members from among themselves to serve as members of the All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi, subject to other provisions of the said Act."

MR. SPEAKER : The question is:

"That in pursuance of Section 4 (g) of the All India Institute of Medical Sciences Act, 1956, the members of this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct, two members from among themselves to serve as members of the All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi, Subject to other provisions of the said Act."

*The motion was adopted*

[Translation]

DR. SHAFIQUK RAHMAN BARQ (Moradabad) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the business of the House should be suspended to hold discussion on this issue... (Interruptions) Sir, no other matter is more important than this the ... (Interruptions) It is a very important issue ... (Interruptions) This issue should be ... (Interruptions).

[English]

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE (Calcutta South) : Sir, the atrocities on women are increasing day by day and in West Bengal where we have contested the elections, women are paraded naked and killed brutally. They are raped.

MR. SPEAKER : Now the House will take up Zero Hour. Kumari Mamata Banerjee, please.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : Sir, I condemn ... (Interruptions) Shri Jaipal Reddy, please allow me to speak ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Banatwalla, please understand. The consent has been withheld. Please understand the position.

... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I have already informed you that the consent has been withheld. Please take your seat.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : Please re-consider the decision.

MR. SPEAKER : Later. Please take your seat. You are a senior Member. There is other procedure.

... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Except the speech of Kumari Mamata Banerjee, nothing will go on record.

... (Interruptions)\*

MR. SPEAKER : I will call you. I allowed Kumari Mamata Banerjee to speak. I will come to you.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : Sir, I appeal to the House to please listen to me and to support me. The atrocities on women are increasing day by day and have gone sky high. While I condemn this act of atrocities committed on women, I appeal to my friends in the Opposition and also on the Government side to know what is happening.

MR. SPEAKER : Order please.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : We contested the Panchayat elections in West Bengal. Women candidates were paraded naked in West Bengal. Women are murdered. They are brutally killed. They are dying. They have been raped. Women candidates, especially of minority communities such as SC and ST, are being paraded naked. They have been gangraped. Up to yesterday, the death toll was 92. 56 from Trinamool Congress 14 from BJP, 5 from RSP, 4 from Forward Block and one each from CPI and SUCI have been killed. So many deaths have taken place ... (Interruptions)

\* Not recorded.

MR. SPEAKER : Except the speech of Kumari Mamata Banerjee, nothing will go on record.

... (Interruptions)\*

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : You are giving 33 per cent reservation to women but you are not giving protection to them. This is the question of prestige of women. At first, you must give protection and then reservation. The Government has the duty to give security to women. We want the Central Government's intervention in this, within the jurisdiction of the Indian Constitution. Women belonging to SC and ST communities are feeling insecure. The Central Government must take action so that this type of atrocities is stopped. The Home Minister must make a statement. He must inform us what action he is going to take.

We condemn it if it happens in Rajasthan or in any other parts of India. What happens in West Bengal is not an exceptional one. Is West Bengal, both politically and geographically, an exceptional one?

There is no parliamentary democracy there.....\*\*

They are killing the grass root democracy. If grass root democracy is killed, how will they protect democracy? (Interruptions) Sir, I have documents with me. I have the video cassette. Please look at this. We want justice ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seat.

... (Interruptions)

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : We want justice.

MR. SPEAKER : Madam, please complete your speech.

... (Interruptions)

12.09 hrs.

*At this stage, Shri Sudip Bandyopadhyay and another hon. Member came and stood on the floor near the Table.*

MR. SPEAKER : You please go back to your seat.

... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : You please go back to your seat.

... (Interruptions)

12.09½ hrs.

*At this stage, Shri Sudip Bandyopadhyay and another hon. Member went back to their seats.*

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : We want justice.

MR. SPEAKER : Madam, please complete.

... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Basu Deb Acharia, please take your seat.

... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seat.

Shri Basu Deb Acharia, please take your seat. No, no, please take your seat.

... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Basu Deb Acharia, please take your seat.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : Sir, 93 women have been killed. ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Basu Deb Acharia, what is your submission?

Now I have allowed Shri Basu Deb Acharia. Please understand. Please take your seat. Please ask your Members to take their seats.

... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Dhananjaya Kumar, take your seat.

12.13 hrs.

*At this stage, Kumari Mamata Banerjee and some other hon. Members came and stood on the floor near the Table.*

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record.

... (Interruptions)\*

MR. SPEAKER : You please go to your seats.

12.13½ hrs.

*At this stage, Shri Mohammad Ali Ashraf Fatmi and some other hon. Members came and stood on the floor near the Table.*

MR. SPEAKER : Please go back to your seats.

... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : The House is adjourned to meet again at 2 P.M.

12.14 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Fourteen of the Clock.*

\* Not recorded.

\*\* Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

\* Not recorded.

14.00 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha reassembled at Fourteen of the Clock.*

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

... (Interruptions)

[English]

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE (Calcutta South) : Sir, please allow the Home Minister to make a statement ... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI (Darbhanga) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the House towards an important matter.

MR. SPEAKER : It would be taken up tomorrow not today.

... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seats. The Minister of Railways will reply to the debate.

... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Shailendra Kumar, please go to your seat.

... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Home Minister, would you like to respond?

... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seats.

... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Basu Deb Acharia, not like this. Please take your seat.

... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members, please take your seats.

... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : First of all, please take your seats. Let there be some order in the House

... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Shailendra Kumar, this is too much. Please go back to your seat.

... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

DR. SHAFIQR RAHMAN BARQ (Moradabad) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, several persons have died due to drinking of contaminated water .... (Interruptions)

14.05 hrs.

*At this stage Dr. Shafiqur Rahman Barq and some other hon. Members came and stood near the Table.*

... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Please go to your seats.

... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record.

....(Interruptions)\*

MR. SPEAKER : Please go to your seats. What is this? You go to your seats. This is not the way.

14.06 hrs.

*At this stage Dr. Shafiqur Rahman Barq and some other hon. Members went back to their seats.*

MR. SPEAKER : Today, the House has to complete important business. Please take your seats.

... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seats.

... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Fatmi, please take your seat. Shri Basu Deb Acharia, please take your seat.

... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record.

....(Interruptions)\*

MR. SPEAKER : Madam, please take your seat.

... (Interruptions)

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\* Not recorded .

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Basu Deb Acharia, you are a senior Member. Please have your seat. I will allow you.

... (Interruptions)

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : We want protection in West Bengal.

... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record.

(Interruptions)\*...

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seats.

Now, the Minister of Railways may reply please.

... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Madam, Please take your seat.

... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Basu Deb Acharia, please take your seat.

We have to complete discussion on the Railway Budget. There are five more Bills. You have to discuss those Bills also. This is not a good practice. Please take your seat.

... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record.

... (Interruptions)\*

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Mukul Wasnik, please take your seat. I will allow you. Please take your seat. What is this? You are a senior Member.

... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Ramdas Athawale, please take your seat.

... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record.

(Interruptions)\*

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Mukul Wasnik, please take your seat.

... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record.

(Interruptions)\*

\* Not recorded.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Mukul Wasnik, this is not the procedure. This is not a zero hour. Please hear me.

... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record.

(Interruptions)\*

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Ramdas Athawale, please take your seat. You must know the procedure. You are not supposed to stand up like that. Please take your seat. I have allowed Shri Buta Singh.

SHRI BUTA SINGH ( Jalore ) : I am on a point of order arises out of Article 338 clause 5 sub-clauses (a) and (b) of the Constitution of India. Can I have a copy?

MR. SPEAKER : What is your point of order?

SHRI BUTA SINGH : Let me have a copy.

DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY (Madurai) : Shri Buta Singh probably means Article 356 for Tamil Nadu.

SHRI BUTA SINGH : Article 338 of the Constitution enjoins on the President of India a special duty of protect the life and property of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes in this country. Under this Clause, the President of India has appointed a Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. Sub-clause (a) of Clause 5 reads as follows:

“(a) To investigate and monitor all matters relating to the safeguards provided for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes under this Constitution or under any other law for the time being in force under any order of the Government and to evaluate the working of such safeguards.”

Today it has become the order of the day that in every State, dozens and dozens of Scheduled Caste women are being subjected to inhuman atrocities. In Rajasthan alone, last week two women belonging to Dalit community were paraded naked.

MR. SPEAKER : What is your point of order?

SHRI BUTA SINGH : This is my point of order. Please listen to me.

SHRI BUTA SINGH : This is the point of order. Kindly listen to me... (Interruptions)

SHRI C. GOPAL (Arakonam) : Is this a point of order? What is your exact point of order? ... (Interruptions)

SHRI BUTA SINGH : Are you not interested in the welfare of the scheduled caste and scheduled tribe people? Do you want the scheduled caste women to be raped?

\* Not recorded.

In Rajasthan, in one of the village, two young ladies belonging to scheduled castes were paraded naked. Their hands and feet were tied. They were hanged from the tree. Similarly, in West Bengal, two women candidates belonging to this community were raped ... *(Interruptions)* Many of the women candidates were raped in the open, in the public and the Government and the police have taken no action against the accused ... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : I have allowed him. Let him complete. Please take your seat.

... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI BUTA SINGH : It has come in the Press. Do you not read the newspapers? It has appeared in the front page of *the Statesman*, a Delhi-based newspaper. It has carried this news.

My submission to you and through you to the hon. Home Minister is that you should ask the National Commission for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes as well as the National Commission for Women and the Minorities Commission to send a special team to find out the position ... *(Interruptions)* It has come in the Press.

My request to the hon. Home Minister is that under Article 338 of the Constitution, he should direct the Commission for the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes as also the National Commission for Women to collect and send the facts so that this House is taken into confidence and the whole facts, the entire story are brought before the House.

Sir, as a custodian of the Constitution, you are also competent to deal with it. You should constitute an All-Party team especially consisting of women Members. They should be sent to all the States including the ones that I have mentioned to bring the factual position to you from those States so that the hon. Home Minister can be directed by the House to take appropriate action.

Before the hon. Home Minister is allowed to make a statement, my submission to you and through you, to the Government of India, especially to the hon. Prime Minister is this ... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : He is referring to the Constitution. Please take your seat.

SHRI BUTA SINGH : The hon. Prime Minister is always a champion of the cause of the underdogs, the weaker sections and the women of this country. They have a special claim. The entire women-folk of this country today look upon Ms. Mamata Banerjee because she is raising the point in this House. Therefore, my submission to you is kindly ask the Home Minister to get the factual reports. I would also request you to fix a special date and day in this very session so that we can discuss the atrocities on the women and the dalits. This is my submission. Kindly give a ruling on my point of order ... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : The hon. Home Minister to give a reply now.

... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI ANIL BASU (Arambagh) : Sir, what is this? I am on a point of order... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Please hear me. The hon. Home Minister is on his legs.

... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Madam, please take your seat. I have allowed the Home Minister.

... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Anil Basu, what is your point of order. Please ask your Members to take their seats.

... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI ANIL BASU : According to the Directions of the Hon. Speaker and the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business, one has to maintain decorum in the House. Today, there is occurrence and recurrence of unruly scenes inside the House and it has brought down the honour, dignity and fame of this House.

Sir, due to the occurrence and recurrence of unruly scenes inside the House, the honour and dignity of the House are at stake ... *(Interruptions)* You are the custodian of the House. We request you to restore the honour and dignity of the House. Unruly scenes cannot be allowed inside the House on the wish of any Member of the House ... *(Interruptions)* The honour and dignity of the House should be protected by the Chair. The occurrence and recurrence of unruly scenes has brought down the prestige and honour of the House. We want your ruling on this, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER : There is no point of order. This matter is not connected with the business of the House.

... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI ANIL BASU : Rules of procedure and directions by the Chair are being violated as per the wishes of some Members of the House ... *(Interruptions)*.....

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, few days back the Leader of Opposition raised the issue of atrocities on women in Rajasthan and today also an hon. lady Member and Shri Buta Singhji have again raised the issue of atrocities on women especially the women belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. Rajasthan and West Bengal have been blamed for it. I sought information in this regard from the Government of Rajasthan and they have asked to conduct a C.B.I. inquiry in this matter which took place in Jaipur and Kota.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : Inquiry should be conducted in matters pertaining to West Bengal ...  
(*Interruptions*)

SHRI L.K. ADVANI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to give assurance to this House that in this matter information from West Bengal Government would be sought in the same manner as was done in the case of Rajasthan... (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER : Now, the Minister of Railways may reply for the debate.

... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seat, Shri Swamy. Today we have to complete the discussion on the Railway Budget. Nothing will go on record except the reply of the Minister of Railways.

(*Interruptions*)\*

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN (Karad) : Sir, what about the Calling Attention which is listed in the agenda paper today?

MR. SPEAKER : We may take up the Calling Attention after the reply of the Minister.

... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Sathiamoorthy, please take your seat. Shri Muthiah, please take your seat.

... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : I have called the Minister of Railways to reply and not you. Please understand that this is not 'Zero Hour', Shri Swamy.

... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record.

(*Interruptions*)\*

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Muthiah, this is not 'Zero Hour'. We have to complete an important business. Please understand. You may raise it tomorrow.

... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seat now, Shri Swamy.

... (*Interruptions*)

DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY : Will you give me time to raise it tomorrow? When I came to your Chamber, you said that you would fix a time for it. It is a question of national security. ... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : No, this is not 'Zero Hour'.

... (*Interruptions*)

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): The House is not in order, Sir. ... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Muthiah, please take your seat.

... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record.

(*Interruptions*)\*

MR. SPEAKER : Once again I am requesting you all to take your seats.

... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : We will see tomorrow. Please take your seat.

... (*Interruptions*)

DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY : Will you allow me tomorrow? ... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : You please take your seat.

DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY : You please say 'tomorrow'.

MR. SPEAKER : Tomorrow. Now, the Railway Minister.

... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Chavan, yesterday, we had decided that the Minister of Railways would give his reply at two o'clock. It is already 2.20 p.m.

... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI R. MUTHIAH (Periyakulam) : Sir, I want to raise an issue.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Muthiah, please take your seat. You can raise it tomorrow.

... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : No, no. There is no point of order. Please take your seat.

... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : This is not good. Please take your seat.

... (*Interruptions*)

\* Not recorded.

\* Not recorded.

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Railway Minister, you continue your reply.

... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record except the speech of the Minister of Railways.

(*Interruptions*)\*

[*Translation*]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, about 108 hon. Members have participated in the general discussion on Railway budget and this discussion continued for 20 hours and 29 minutes.... (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record except Railway Minister's speech. Please continue.

(*Interruptions*)\*

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA (Ponnani) Sir, when will the Minister of Home Affairs give the statement about Hyderabad and Moradabad? ... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : That is at four o'clock.

SHRI P.M. SAYEED (Lakshadweep) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am on a point of order. In the List of Business, you have put 'Calling Attention' first and then only the reply. I do not have any objection. But according to the Rules of Procedure, if it is listed, then, you have to take consent of the House.

MR. SPEAKER : Yesterday, it was divided with the consent of the House.

SHRI P.M. SAYEED : Procedurally, you will have to take consent of the House.

MR. SPEAKER : I take consent of the House. Is it the consent of the House that after reply of the Minister of Railways, we will take up the Calling Attention?

... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : Please cooperate. Yesterday, we had decided that the Minister would reply at two o'clock.

... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : Yesterday, you were not there in the post-lunch session.

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN : In that case, it should have been listed in the agenda. ... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : Now, I request the House. Is it the sense of the House that the Minister of Railways can give his reply?

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: Yes.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY (Mahbubnagar) : Sir, I have a point of order.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : What is your point of order, Shri S. Jaipal Reddy? ... (*Interruptions*) We all were sitting throughout the whole night. And you were sleeping in your bedroom ... (*Interruptions*) What is this? .....

[*Translation*]

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN: You have to remain awake once in the whole year ... (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : No, no. You all were sleeping in your bedroom. ... (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAJVEER SINGH (Aonla): How the Business of the House would be conducted if Member resort to chain pulling by interrupting the speech ... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Please do not interrupt the Members otherwise how will they be able to make their points.... (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER : Order please.

14.26 hrs.

MOTION RE : CONSIDERATION OF STATUS  
PAPER ON RAILWAYS

BUDGET (RAILWAYS) 1998-99—GENERAL DISCUSSIONS  
AND  
DEMAND FOR EXCESS GRANTS— (RAILWAYS)  
1995-96— *Contd.*

[*Translation*]

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): Mr. Speaker, Sir, around 108 hon'ble Members have participated in the general discussion held on railway budget and the Status Paper regarding the Indian Railways laid on the table of the House and this discussion has taken a total of 20 hours and 29 minutes. First I would like to express my thanks to them.

They have participated in the discussion on general budget and Status Paper and shown their interest. This discussion is about budget proposals. After this Parliamentary Standing Committee on Railways will consider the Demands for Grants and voting on this will be possible only in the month of July. General discussion was held on the Budget and alongwith that the motion which was moved in connection with appropriation of excess expenditure incurred during

\* Not recorded

1995-96, discussion was also held on that. I laid the Status Paper in which position, challenges, problems and limitations of Indian Railways were mentioned. Everyone has some expectations from Railways and those hon'ble Members who have participated and those who could not participate in this, all have some or the other expectation. Is Railway capable of fulfilling those expectations. What is the economic condition of Indian Railways and what kind of burden it has to bear and under what challenging conditions it has to operate. All hon'ble Members are aware of this fact. We find it appropriate to discuss it after preparing Status Paper and similarly this was discussed in the other house also. I would like that the challenges which the Railway has to face today and the important issues should be discussed outside the House also and we should reach a consensus on that and accordingly railway should operate. Today the condition of Indian Railways is such that the ongoing railway projects which include projects of new railway lines, gauge conversion and electrification, require a huge amount of Rs. 35,000 crores for their completion. But the railways do not have funds for this purpose. As compared to last year, this year higher allocation has been made in the budget. In the interim budget I had indicated that the size of the plan would be Rs. 8300 crores but now we have increased it to Rs. 9500 crores. As compared to last year, the Central Government has given more budgetary support and besides this the age of retirement has been increased. As a result, the government has to give fewer pensions. Now government have to make less provision for this item of pensions. We have decided that the size of plan should be Rs. 9500 crores which is the biggest upto today. We have formulated the budget in such a way that not many new projects are included in it. Our emphasis is to complete the ongoing projects. We have also taken this aspect into consideration that since we do not have much resources, therefore new projects should not be included. We find it appropriate to consolidate the existing services instead of introducing new ones and decided to increase the existing services. That is why we have introduced a number of new trains about which I have already mentioned in my budget speech.

This time we have decided to increase the number of coaches in long distance and super fast trains to 24 in order to accommodate more passengers. We have also tried to increase its capacity by 25%. With a view to removing inconvenience being faced by second class ordinary passengers it has been decided that 50% of the new coaches would be second class ordinary coaches. This will provide facility to the ordinary passengers. Through status paper we have mentioned the condition of railways and that cross subsidisation in the railways is continuously increasing. As a result thereof, there has been no increase in the passenger fares during the last three years. However, the freight rates have been increased all along. Perhaps this is due to some political reasons. Many elections were held and considering that the previous governments might have taken this decision. Passenger fare is a service charge. We are taking service-charge for the service which we are providing. Trains helps us to travel from one place to other place. As at the time of devaluation of rupee, prices of other things increase, similarly

there should be adjustment in passenger fares also. Every time this was made a political issue. Every time freight rates have been increased. Indirectly it will result in additional burden on common man and they have to suffer from inflation. After taking charge of Railway Ministry, I have felt that we have reached a point from where it is not possible to increase the freight rates any more because there has been a rapid diversion from rail traffic to road traffic. This has to be checked. If we have to keep the railways going, we have to pay attention towards the source which gives good earning. If that source dries up no funds will be available for laying of new railway lines, gauge conversion and doubling of lines in any particular area. We have made minor adjustment in freight rates. We have been increasing freight rates to cover loss in passenger fares. The limit of cross subsidisation has reached Rs 2800 crore. This is not a good situation. There was no option in such situation. As a matter of principle we shall reduce the cross subsidisation. We have made an effort not to subsidise freight rate and passenger fare and have made only minor increase in the fares. As a result of this, railway will earn Rs 450 crores. 80% of passengers do not have to pay one rupee extra upto 50 km. Prices of everything is increasing and even then people are spending money on all things. Therefore it will not put burden on people if they have to pay 1 rupee extra. But it was necessary to establish this in the form of principle. Cross subsidization cannot continue any longer and, therefore, we have made efforts in this direction. With increase in fares, we have made an effort to improve our service also. Therefore as compared to last year we have kept more funds for passenger amenities this year. Besides, we will introduce trains which will have 24 coaches and this year we have decided to increase the number of coaches from 24 to 26 in some selected trains. For this platform facilities and traffic facilities will have to be improved. Therefore, we have allocated more funds as compared to last few years to improve the traffic facilities. As compared to last year, we have made higher allocation this year for the rolling stock, whether it is coaches, wagons or locomotives. All hon'ble members are concerned about protection. Therefore, tracks should be renewed. I have mentioned in this House in one of my replies that there is around 10,000 kms. of track which has to be renewed. This year a higher allocation has been made for the track renewal. In this way, this budget has been presented by adopting an equitable approach.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the problems faced by the Railways will have to be taken into account. The demands are raised from everywhere and it is quite natural for such demands to arise that rail lines should be laid. Development will take place wherever the rail lines are laid and it is necessary also that rail lines should be laid in all the areas. Also wherever it is possible, the rail lines should be laid. It is very important to undertake development of the backward areas. If the backward areas remain undeveloped and are not connected with the rail network, they will lag behind. Hence it is essential to lay rail lines in backward areas in order to ensure development of such areas. However, when rail lines are laid in the backward areas, the rate of return is negative or very low. How will the Railways be able to offset such losses?

[Shri Nitish Kumar]

Railways pay dividend on the funds given by the Union Government from the general revenue and the percentage of dividend is decided by the Railway Convention Committee comprising of members of both the Houses of Parliament. This Committee decides as to how much dividend is to be paid by the Railways. The dividend decided upon by the Joint Committee of Parliament is paid. Right from the beginning till date, whenever assistance has been given to the Railways from the Central Revenue, dividend @ 7% has also been charged. The Railways make borrowings from the market as well which proves to be a costly borrowing. It costs around 16-17%. Hence funds are mobilised by paying 16-17% as interest. So should that money be invested in the places from where returns are not expected? These are the issues which have been highlighted in the status paper. These issues have been highlighted so that the House may discuss it. The backward areas should be developed but it won't be appropriate to depend solely on the Railways for the development of the backward areas. Hence, it is essential that consensus be evolved on the status paper and rail lines should be laid for the development of such areas. However, this much should be done at least that the Railways is freed of its responsibility of paying the dividend. More funds are required to be provided for the development of such areas. Such steps can be implemented only if public opinion is mobilised and consensus is evolved in this regard.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, many Hon'ble Members have raised issues pertaining to their constituencies. I have listened to these problems quite attentively and have also take down notes. I shall give a detailed reply regarding the steps that the Government can take and is in a position to take with regard to the issues raised by Hon'ble Members. A member from North East area has also raised a question. So far as the North-East sector is concerned, I would like to assure him that the Union Government has decided to spend 10% of the budgetary assistance for the development of North-East sector. I would like to assure him that this promise will be fulfilled. The Government has made allocations in the present budget for the projects already cleared. However, a token provision could be made for the projects which have not been given clearance so far and that has been done. The Government is taking steps to ensure clearance of the projects and after clearance, the commitment made regarding incurring of expenditure will be fulfilled.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, questions were posed regarding Jammu and Kashmir also ... *(Interruptions)* I will take all points one by one. Please listen to me. Our colleague from Jammu and Kashmir was speaking. I intervened to discuss it and we will also discuss other projects mentioned here so that more provision could be made for these projects.

If more funds are required, we will try to make more allocations. If the need arises, we'll come to the House. However we expect the House to lend us support and we expect it to treat all such matters equally. It is not as if the

Railways have the liberty to act at will. The Railways has its own problems. The House should take into account these problems and we expect it to take steps to resolve these problems as well. The Railways is continuing its services with the help of limited resources at its disposal. Several announcements have been made. Facilities have been provided to senior citizens. The Government has provided facilities to the unemployed youth appearing for interview. The O.B.C. associations in the Railways will be accorded recognition. Provision has been made to empower the O.B.C. group to put forth its views in the similar way as the S.C. and S.T. groups. We are taking steps regarding their right to progress and ensuring accessibility of such rights at state level. Besides, steps are also being taken to clear the backlog in appointments and we have discussed all these issues.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE (Calcutta South) :  
Minorities should also be included.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: Yes. The provision is already there at the lower level. In fact the provision exists at all the levels of recruitment. Some initiatives have been taken in the Railways recently. Some Hon'ble Members also raised questions regarding recruitment in the Railways. Several complaints were being made. The complaints were made both inside as well as outside the House. It was being said the providing a job in the Railways has become a job itself. Hence the Government took some decisions and also steps have been taken to rectify the situation. As a follow-up of that very decision, the Government decided to change chairman of 17 boards out of 19 Railway Recruitment Boards except the two Chairmen who were appointed through UPSC. Amongst the 17 Chairmen, 12 were non-officials and 5 were Government officials... *(Interruptions)* Please listen to me first. I do not wish to speak at length but I would like to cover all the points in brief. We have made an attempt to bring more transparency in the system and establish its credibility. We were receiving such complaints that blank copies are returned in the examination hall which are filled up later on before being checked by computer. Such a business was going on. We have initiated a new system. Now the answer sheet provided during examination will have carbonless duplicate copy and whatever is written on the original page will leave its imprint on the duplicate copy. The Government have also set up Railway Recruitment Control Board at the Railway Board level control the functioning of 19 Railway Recruitment Boards and to provide them guidelines and guidance. When the candidates appear in the examination hall for taking test, whatever they write on the answer sheet will leave an imprint on the carbonless duplicate copy. The duplicate copy of the answer sheet will be sent directly from the examination centre to the Delhi Railway Recruitment Control Board in sealed cover whereas the original copy will be sent to the evaluation centre in sealed cover. Those copies will no longer be routed to the house of Chairman or any official of Railways because the malpractices began only when the answer copies were diverted to somebody's house.

SHRI BRAJAKISHORE TRIPATHY (Puri): What are you doing about the question paper?

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Questions are of objective type. There will be four sets of questions. Hon'ble Members should read the newspapers and if they wish, they may go through the guidelines running into just four-five pages. Since it is a test comprising objective type questions, there will be four sets of question papers and the candidates sitting next to each other would be given different sets so that they do not copy and in spite of that, if there is any incident of mass copying, the vigilance staff is there to keep an eye on the examination centres. If copying taken place or unfair means are adopted, the examination taken at that centre will be treated as cancelled. This decision has also been taken. Thus an attempt has been made to solve the problem after taking into consideration all its aspects. However, there is a saying that along with the locks, the keys to unlock them are also available in Aligarh. We have started a new experiment. An attempt has been made to find a way to deal with the unscrupulous and dishonest practices and if anybody comes up with new tactics, we will try to find an appropriate way to counter these as well. We have made an attempt to bring improvements in the process of recruitment so that selection is made on the basis of merit only. Besides, in order to ensure that the interests of people belonging to special classes provided reservation coverage, are not overlooked and their rights are not violated, the Government has placed a representative of each of those special classes on the interview board who will look after their interests. Written tests will carry 85% marks and 15% marks are earmarked for interview. An attempt has been made to bring transparency and credibility in the process of recruitment so that recruitment is made in the Railways on the basis of merit. We have tried to make such an arrangement so that those trying to use unfair means are not spared. Several steps have been taken in this regard.

It is quite natural for people to be concerned about the issue of environment. People are concerned about the growing use of polythene due to which environment is getting polluted as polythene is not bio-degradable. Polythene was being used on a large scale in the Railways. Even bedrolls were being provided in polythene packs which are harmful. Hence it was decided to make minimum possible use of polythene in the Railways. A decision has been taken in this regard that polythene would not be used in the Railways. Now the bedrolls provided in the Railways will also be packed in paper.

Earlier curd in the Railways was served in earthen pots or 'Kulhars'. Thereafter the practice of serving it in plastic glasses caught on. However, from last month onwards, we have banished the use of plastic glasses. Now curd is being served in earthen 'Kulhars' so as to protect the environment from getting polluted. It has been decided to use earthen 'Kulhars' more and more. We shall try to ensure that tea is also served in earthen 'Kulhars'. I am making all these points because the passengers come from different backgrounds. Some people would not like to take tea served in 'Kulhars'.

SHRI LALU PRASAD (Madhepura) : You have done a commendable job because the potters will now be employed.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Such a step has been taken to ensure the use of bio-degradable material in place of thin plastic glasses so as to avoid any threat to environment.

SHRI LALU PRASAD : The contents of four plastic glasses were equal to one normal glass.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Along with the wastage of money, the environment was also getting polluted. You may oppose us in some other matters but you are supporting us in this case.

SHRI LALU PRASAD : I said so because you talk about promoting 'swadeshi' items. Kulhar is also 'swadeshi' item and thus employment opportunities will be provided for the potters.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : You are right and that is why we are taking this step.

Besides instructions are being issued with regard to purchase of cloth for the Railways that only handloom cloth will be used henceforth in the Railways so that weavers may be employed. 'Pattals' (leaf plates) are now available in various attractive shapes and we have decided to make progressive use of leaf bowls or 'donas'. ... (*Interruptions*)

I am coming to that. Steps are being taken in this regard. In my opinion, the use of plastic and polythene is harmful for the environment. Hence the leader of the Opposition should not have any objections in this regard.

SHRI ANAND MOHAN (Sheohar) : You may introduce bullock-carts in the country in place of trains ... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : You should recollect the speech made by you earlier. Take care lest you may find yourself in their company. It would be better for you to come to our side.

Issue of security and safety is also raised. We have made much higher allocations in comparison to the earlier level for modernisation, upgradation and signalling and Telecommunication to ensure more safety.

As I stated earlier also that more accidents occur now-a-days due to human failure. Hence it is essential to pay more and more attention towards track renewal and track maintenance. Also emphasis should be laid on the training of employees. Orientation programmes should be held for them. We are paying attention in this regard.

Besides, the issue of sabotage has also been mentioned with regard to matter of security. Security is a matter of concern. Such incidents are occurring in the moving trains and on the railway track, which are a cause of concern. It should not be converted into a political issue because this is such an issue about which all of us are concerned. Hence it should be resolved. If a saboteur or miscreant commits an

[Shri Nitish Kumar]

act of sabotage, it brings bad reputation to the Railways. The Railways do not have the powers to deal with such cases. The Railways do have the Railways Protection Force, but their responsibility is limited to protecting the railway property. They do not have the powers enjoyed by the police officials. They cannot make any investigation and cannot take any action. This responsibility lies with the Government. Railway police and the Department of Railways bears 50% expenses in this regard. We hold several meetings with them and instructions are also issued to them from the Ministry of Home Affairs. In spite of that, the situation is deteriorating to such an extent that is a cause of concern. The State Governments, the Department of Railways and the Union Government will have to sit together to decide upon the action to be taken in case of incident of sabotage and also how the railway property can be protected.

Crimes are taking place in moving trains. Though the responsibility of R.P.F. is restricted to protecting the Railway property, however it is being used to escort and guard the train. R.P.F. cannot manage this work on its own. G.R.P.F. has R.P.F. jawans in their teams but the control remains with the G.R.P. In such circumstances, concern is being expressed regarding the issue of security and this concern is genuine also. Railways does not have the required authority. Though Railways officials remain to touch and co-ordination meetings are also held. At times, it becomes difficult to get information, and it is the Railways which is held responsible. I have mentioned all these points in the status paper. Just now the leader of opposition made some points. Hence I urge upon you to discuss these issues and all of us should think over it cutting across the party lines otherwise the criminals will keep on committing crime and we will remain embroiled in this controversy as to whose responsibility it is and who would set it right and who would take the action. Hence I would make an appeal to you to consider this issue seriously ... (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI BASUDEBACHARIA (Bankura) : The Government should bring a status paper some time in the next session.

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : We are prepared to discuss this issue and that is why we have raised it in the House. If this issue regarding delegation of authority is discussed separately, it should be welcomed. The Railway running staff could be granted some power. Laws can be framed with regard to all such issues, however decision can be taken only if there is a consensus in this regard.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Please look into the issue of the R.P.F. association.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : That is an issue always raised by you. We shall discuss it separately.

There are some such States and Union territories. Which do not have rail services. Especially a demand is

raised from Lakshadweep that the rail service should be provided there. Shri P.M.Sayeed is present here. He is one of the Senior most Members of Parliament. Shri Manoranjan Bhakta is also present. He has also mentioned it. Andaman and Nicobar Island did have the rail service earlier but it is not functional now. In the constituency of Shri Sayeed, the children are shown the toy train so as to make them understand what a train looks like. I cannot tell you the specific date by which the rail service will be started in that area but a survey is being conducted in Andaman... (Interruptions)

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR (Nagpur) : Besides Andaman and Nicobar there are many districts and areas in the country, where people have not yet seen trains. You must talk about those areas also.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : At this moment, we are talking about islands, not inland... (Interruptions)

15.00 hrs.

SHRI NARESH PUGLIA (Chandrapur) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, that is a nexalite affected area ... (Interruptions)

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, when we were talking about island, they start discussing inland. Mr. Muttemwar, don't you want that we should tell something about island which is an integral part of our country? ... (Interruptions)

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to say in this context that keeping in mind their sentiments we have decided that one train should be named after Sikkim state, one after Lakshadweep and one after Andaman... (Interruptions)

SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA (Andaman and Nicobar Islands) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to request the hon. Minister that it should be Andaman-Nicobar, not Andaman... (Interruptions)

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, we are going to name 'Nizamuddin-Cochin-Mangla Express' as 'Andaman-Mangla Express' and 'New Delhi-Jalpaigudi Express' as 'Mahananda-Sikkim Express' ... (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI N.K. PREMCHANDRAN (Quilon) : Are these new trains?... (Interruptions)

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : We are renaming the existing trains.... (Interruptions)

SHRI N.K. PREMCHANDRAN : We are demanding a new train. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Let me complete ... (Interruptions)

SHRI N. K. PREMCHANDRAN : He may please announce some new trains.... (Interruptions) What is the use of it? ... (Interruptions)

SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS (Palakkad) : We oppose it, what is the urgent need of renaming ... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Krishnadas, please take your seat.

... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Nitishji, please address the Chair, not the Members.

... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seat.

... *(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, we are going to name 'Jammu Tavi-Udhampur- New Delhi-Chennai Express' as 'Andaman-Udhampur Express'. Besides that ... *(Interruptions)* Mr. Vilas Muttemwar, you should have told this yesterday only. Yesterday, we both the Ministers, had listened to the suggestions of hon. Members and had taken notes. At that time you were sleeping and now you are telling all these things... *(Interruptions)*

Mr. Speaker, Sir, we have also decided to give computerised reservation facility to major islands. Action is also being taken in this regard. The matter will be discussed with local stations also. And local stations will be tied up with the major islands. We will try to improve this facility.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, most of the hon. Members have raised the issue of manning unmanned railway crossings and the construction of road over bridges. As per the prevailing system the State Governments will have to come forward for manning at railway crossings. They also have to bear expenditure. Similarly, for the construction of road over bridges also, the State Governments will have to bear 50% of expenditure. Demands do come from State Governments, but the proposal for sharing the cost do not come or they are having some financial problems. That's why we want to evolve a consensus on this issue by discussing this problem with you people. It can be discussed, but this work cannot be done by railways alone. We should also think about this matter.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, in future whenever the hon. Members get an opportunity to discuss this matter, they should also discuss and consider whether a special fund can be created by imposing some kind of cess for the State Governments which are facing some financial problems or are unable to bear expenditure. We should consider to create a fund by imposing some kind of cess. I want a consensus should be evolved in the House on this matter. It should be discussed so that a decision can be taken ... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI NARENDRA BUDANIA (Churu) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the condition of villages is very poor. People are unable to

reach villages due to inadequate railway facilities. Even today, there are hundreds of villages in Rajasthan which are not having railway facility. I request the Minister for Railways to take special measures to connect these villages with railways ... *(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record except the reply of Shri Nitish Kumar

... *(Interruptions)\**

*[Translation]*

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, many complaints are received about services in railways and its employees. These complaints are not being satisfactorily attended. That is why we have decided that all complaints will be feeded in computer, so that it can be monitored whether the complaints are being attended to or not. In this way we will try to remove the grievances of people, The arrangements for this are being made.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have got an opportunity to work under the guidance of hon. Prime Minister, Mr. Atal Bihari Vajpayee. According to the guidelines and the new ideas given by honorable Prime Minister, I would like to introduce many new schemes for railways. I would like to request you to give your full support to these schemes. The reference of status papers is given here. It should also be discussed and a consensus should be evolved. And only on that basis railways should be operated ... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI SIS RAM OLA (Jhunjhunu) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Rajasthan is the second largest state after Madhya Pradesh... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Mr. Ola, you should not only raise demands, but also study the demands of railways. Study the status paper to know the condition of railways. Besides that I have tried to reduce the regional imbalance with available resources in such a short time. With your support and cooperation the shortcomings that are still there can be overcome. All efforts will be made in that direction.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to clear through you to the people who are having apprehensions about the survival of this government that their apprehensions will be belied because the government will survive and complete its full term of five years. I would like to state that country's railways will move forwards with new speed.

With these words, I request you to accept and pass the demands of railways which are presented in the House ... *(Interruptions)*

We will make railway facility available to Kashmir also. We have discussed about Kashmir also. On 24th June, 1998,

\* Not recorded.

[Shri Nitish Kumar]

Home Minister has called a meeting on Kashmir. We are going to take part in that meeting alongwith railway officers ... (Interruptions)

I would like to mention in the context of West Bengal that though the budget outlay is more than last year, but as Ms. Mamata Banerjee has told me about the condition of Eklakhi-Balurghat-Dhinga' and Metro Project of Dumdu area, we would like to assure all the friends from Bengal and Ms. Mamata Banerjee that we will allocate all necessary funds for these projects. There will be no shortage of funds. Central Government will take all necessary steps for the metro system. I would like to request the State Government to come forward and pay its share of money. In Tamilnadu and Maharashtra, State Governments are paying their share of money for metro system. Likewise, West Bengal government should also do so.... (Interruptions)

SHRI SIS RAMOLA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, after Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan is the second largest state in term of area and population but the second largest state has got least facilities of Railways and least amount of money is allocated to this state. I would like to request the hon. Minister that more money should be allocated to Rajasthan for the progress of railways in the State ... (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : I have already mentioned about the North-Eastern projects. Ten per cent of the budgetary support has to be spent in the North-East ... (Interruptions) Let me complete first. Why are you disturbing me? Do you not want projects? Do you just want to interrupt me? Then, I take my seat. What is this? ... (Interruptions)

I have already mentioned that steps have already been initiated to take the necessary, requisite clearances for the North-Eastern projects. As soon as we get clearances, we will spend the money on them.

MR. SPEAKER : I shall now put the Demands for Excess Grants (Railways) for 1995-96 to the vote of the House.

The question is:

"That the respective excess sums not exceeding the amounts shown in the third column of the Order Paper be granted to the President of Indian out of the Consolidated Fund of India to make good the excess on the respective grants during the year ended on the 31st day of March, 1996, in respect of the heads of Demands entered in the second column thereof against Demands Nos. 8, 12, 13, and 14."

*The motion was adopted.*

#### Demands for Excess Grants (Railways) for 1995-96 Voted by Lok Sabha

No. of Demand	Name of Demand	Amount of Demand Voted by House
8.	Operating Expenses—Rolling Stock & Equipment	Rs. 7,77,16,373
12.	Miscellaneous Working Expenses	4,96,23,241
13.	Provident Fund, Pension and Other Retirement Benefits	37,90,57,456
14.	Appropriation to Funds	552,63,28,939
	Total	603,27,26,009

15.12 hrs.

#### APPROPRIATION (RAILWAYS) NO. 2 BILL\*

[English]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the authorisation of appropriation of moneys out of the Consolidated Fund of India to meet the amounts spent on certain services for the purposes of Railways during the financial year ended on the 31st day of March, 1996 in excess of the amounts granted for those services and for that year.

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the Authorisation of appropriation of moneys out of the Consolidated Fund of India to meet the amounts spent on certain services for the purposes of Railways during the financial year ended on the 31st day of March, 1996 in excess of the amounts granted for those services and for that year."

*The motion was adopted.*

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : I introduce\*\* the Bill.

\* Published in the Gazette of India Extraordinary Part-II, Section-2 dated 9.6.98.

\*\* Introduced/moved with Recommendation of the President.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Sir, I beg to move: \*

"That the Bill to provide for the authorisation and appropriation of moneys out of the Consolidated Fund of India to meet the amount spent on certain services for the purposes of Railways during the financial year ended on the 31st day of March, 1996 in excess of the amounts granted for those services and for that year, be taken into consideration."

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That the Bill to provide for the authorisation and appropriation of moneys out of the Consolidated Funds of India to meet the amounts spent on certain services for the purposes of Railways during the financial year ended on the 31st day of March, 1996 in excess of the amounts granted for those services and for that year, be taken into consideration."

*The motion was adopted.*

MR. SPEAKER : The House will now take up clause-by-clause consideration of the Bill.

The question is :

"That clauses 2 and 3 stand part of the Bill.

*The motion was adopted.*

*Clauses 2 and 3 were added to the Bill.*

MR. SPEAKER : The question is:

"That Schedule stand part of the Bill."

*The motion was adopted.*

*The Schedule was added to the Bill.*

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Long Title stand part of the Bill".

*The Motion was adopted.*

*Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Long Title were added to the Bill.*

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill be passed."

MR. SPEAKER : The question is:

"That the Bill be passed."

*The motion was adopted.*

15.15 hrs.

### CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

#### Import of exotic dangerous Wheat from Australia

[English]

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN (Karad) : I call the attention of the Minister of Food and Consumer Affairs to the following matter of urgent public importance and request that he may make a statement thereon:

"The situation arising out of the Government's decision to import 1.5 million tonnes of exotic dangerous wheat from Australia, contracted by the previous Government at an exorbitant price and the steps taken by the Government in regard thereto."

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SARDAR SURJIT SINGH BARNALA) : Sir I thank you for giving me this opportunity to make a statement on the ongoing import to wheat.

Ensuring food security is a prime responsibility of the Government. Accordingly, Government constantly reviews the stock position of foodgrains in the Central Pool *vis-a-vis* the prescribed minimum buffer norms, production of foodgrains in the country, procurement trend, requirement for public distribution system/other welfare schemes, open market prices etc. Decisions to import foodgrains are taken depending on the situation arising out of factors just mentioned by me. During 1996-97 and 1997-98, Government had decided to import upto 20 lakh tonnes of wheat in each year. Against this authorisation, 17.51 lakh tonnes in 1996-97 and 10.18 lakh tonnes in 1997-98 were imported from Australia, Canada and Argentina.

In January, 1998, the then Government reviewed the estimates of wheat production during the rabi season of 1997-98. It was decided that it would be desirable to immediately import 20 lakh tonnes of wheat through STC to build up adequate reserves for keeping prices under control. Accordingly, the STC was requested on 19.2.98 and 27.2.98 to take immediate action to arrange for the imports.

Let me elaborate here about our wheat production. The target fixed for wheat production during the rabi season of 1997-98 was 68.50 million tonnes against a production of 69.27 million tonnes in the previous year. However, due to inclement weather and untimely rains during the sowing season, the Ministry of Agriculture estimated that production was likely to be only 64.51 million tonnes. This meant that the production was likely to go down by almost five million tonnes. Production of wheat for the Central Pool depends largely on the actual production during a particular year. Since there was a likelihood of shortfall in production of wheat, there could also be a corresponding drop in wheat production for the Central Pool. This occurred in 1996-97

\* Introduced/Moved with the recommendation of the President.

[Sardar Surjit Singh Barnala]

when wheat production fell by around 3.5 million tonnes and producement also decreased by four million tonnes at that time.

During 1996-97, procurement for the Central Pool was 81.44 lakh tonnes and in 1997-98, it was 93 lakh tonnes. After introduction of the targetted public distribution system from June, 1997, it has been estimated that around 110 lakh tonnes of wheat are required to feed the public distribution system and other welfare schemes of the Government. Moreover, during times of price rise, as a strategy, Government releases additional quantities of wheat in the open market to control prices. Therefore, it is necessary to build up adequate reserves of wheat for ensuring food security of the country's population and imports are resorted to whenever domestic production is likely to dip.

Let us now compare the relative costs of import *vis-a-vis* domestic wheat. The Cost and Freight Price of imported Australian wheat is around Rs. 6,420 per tonnes. This includes cost of grain at the rate of US\$ 142.50 per tonne, which was the contracted FOB price, and approximate freight charges of US\$ 18 per tonne, that is, US\$ 160.50. One US\$ has been taken at Rs. 40. In the past contracts of 1996-97 and 1997-98, the C&F price of Australian wheat varied between US\$ 170 and US\$ 178 per metric tonne C&F. The current C&F price is around US\$ 10 to 17 less than the purchase made during 1996 and 1997 from Australia. I may add for Members information that during 1996-97, wheat imports from Canada were at US\$ 189 C&F and from Argentina at US\$ 173 C&F per tonne. If we compare the C&F price of imported wheat to that of the acquisition cost of indigenous wheat, the costs are quite comparable. FCI's acquisition cost of indigenous wheat, after adding cost of grain, procurement charges and carry over charges, amounts to Rs. 6,521 per tonne.

Permit me to share with you now the present import scenario. Up to 8th June, 1998, 32 ships have already been fixed by Transchart of Ministry of Surface Transport for a quantity of 10.64 lakh tonnes of wheat. Twenty-two ships have already sailed from Australian ports with a quantity of 7.53 lakh tonnes. Six lakh tonnes have already landed at Indian ports, and the balance quantity for which ships have been nominated is expected in June and early July. As per the schedule drawn up, 10.5 lakh tonnes of wheat will come by July, 1998, and the remaining 4.5 lakh tonnes will be shipped from Australia after the monsoons.

Now, I talk about the hon. Member's understandable concern about the quality of imported wheat. As regards the presence of exotic weeds in the Australian wheat, Ministry of Agriculture advised STC to ensure that the consignments should be fully in conformity with the provisions of the Plants, Fruits and Seeds Order, 1989, and the Prevention of Food Adulteration Rules, 1955. Weeds are an integral part of any crop, and I am informed that the complete elimination of weeds from any origin wheat is just not possible. However, in the contract with Australian Wheat Board, STC has specified that the wheat shall conform to PFS Order and PFA Act, and

has also stipulated that the seller would endeavour to minimise the presence of exotic weed seeds in the wheat consignments shipped to India.

As per the contract entered into by STC, only sound Australian standard white wheat in dry and clean condition, free from insect infestation and fit for human consumption, is being imported from Australia. The imported wheat stocks, upon arrival at the Indian ports, are jointly inspected by the quality control officials of Ministry of Food and Consumer Affairs and Food Corporation of India. As per the first inspection reports of our quality control officials, these stocks have been found conforming to the contractual specifications as well as the provisions under PFA Rules, 1955. The supplier, that is, Australian Wheat Board, an authority of the Australian Government, is also providing a certificate that wheat shipped is in accordance with the grade and quality specification stipulated in the contract and is fit for human consumption in respect of each vessel at the load port in Australia.

Each imported wheat consignment on arrival at Indian ports, is also inspected by the PPQ authorities of the Ministry of Agriculture, as well as by Custom Commissioners assisted by Port Health Authorities of the Ministry of Health. There are, thus, enough checks and balances in the existing system of inspection of imported wheat directly at the ports as and when these consignments arrive.

Sir, I fully share the concern of the House about protecting the interests of the country. I assure the House that the Ministry of Food and Consumer Affairs will continue to protect the interests of our farmers as well as our consumers.

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN : Chairman, Sir, the statement of the Minister is silent over many crucial and important issues in the most scandalous contract I think ever executed in this country.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mr. Chavan, no debate is allowed. You have only to ask a few questions.

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN : This contract was concluded when the Lok Sabha elections were going on and the new Government was just about to take over. The tendering procedure was completely opaque. It was conducted in a great hurry, without any transparency, overruling the objections of FCI, Ministry of Agriculture and Food Department. There was no need to import this wheat at all. It was imported at a much higher price than the wheat prices in the international market, causing a great loss to the national exchequer. Deliveries also were accepted when our local Rabi crop was coming into the market causing great hardship to Indian farmers.

The tender was finally given to the Australian Wheat Board, which is a Government authority. This contract had a middleman, a company called Arco of Singapore. The penalty clause was added later on. It was not there in the original tender was offer. It was added later on just so that the new Government could not cancel the order easily. Enough protection was not taken against the harmful and dangerous

weed which is capable of destroying Indian agriculture because the Government decided not to conduct phytosanitary tests. The Weed Discount Formula which could have lowered the price of wheat, was not entered into the contract. The STC Chairman, who was directed by the Government to go through the deal, rushed through it without taking his own Finance and Legal Directors into confidence. The Indian High Commission in Australia was not informed about this deal at all. It was completely misled. This was about the role of the previous Government, but the role of the present Government is also very important. When it took over, it took very crucial decision. It will just take me a minute to highlight the chronology.

On 16th February, this country went for the first phase of the Lok Sabha elections. On 19th February, the Government decided to import the wheat. On 21st February limited tender was floated. And, on 25th February, which was a holiday on account of Mahashivratri, the order was finalised. On 26th February, an order for the import of 10 lakh tonne of wheat was given to an Australian wheat Board. I have got tender comparison chart. Out of the nine offers that were received, five offers were lower than the Australian Wheat Board offers but those were rejected and in a hush-hush manner on a weekend, on a holiday, orders were given for import of 10 lakh tonne of wheat from the Australian Wheat Board. Not only that, initially on the 19th when the Government wrote to STC, the Government wanted STC to import 10 lakh tonnes of wheat, but the tender went for only 2 lakh tonne. One does not know why. After that, the order was given for 10 lakh tonne. On the very next day, on the 27th February, the Government wanted the order to be doubled. STC went to Australia but the Australian Government could not supply 20 lakh tonne of wheat. Therefore, the order was finally placed for 1.5 million tonne at a price which was decidedly higher than the international price ruling at that time.

I have got the tender comparison chart. The offer of the Australian Wheat Board was higher than the Columbian Grain, it was higher than the Continental Grain Company of Chicago and was higher than the Singapore offer. In spite of that the Government decided to favour only one company. It was higher than the Canadian Wheat Board, was higher than Kargil, was higher than the Continental Grain Company of America.

It was higher than that of the United Grain of America. All these companies had quoted lower prices. Still, STC favoured Australian Wheat Board. Many controversial issues have come up in this case. The order was placed in spite of FCI's objection. What was the objection of FCI? It was that there was no need to import this wheat because it contained exotic weed. It was not meant for use in North India because it could cause problems in North India. It was meant for consumption in South India. What was the consumption in South India? It was one lakh tonnes per month. And the stock in South India was five lakh tonnes. So, there was no need to import wheat. Also there was shortage of port facilities, storage facilities and there was shortage of gunny bags. All these objections were overruled.

They were in such a great hurry because they were afraid that a new Government would take over and something would go wrong. They were in such a great hurry that they wanted the wheat to come in when domestic wheat comes in. Prices of our wheat get depressed when this wheat comes in. STC pushed the whole deal in a matter of eight days, when elections were taking place and when all political personalities were busy. Who directed the STC? Who was the Minister in charge of STC then? The Minister in charge of STC then belonged to Telugu Desam Party. That Minister directed STC to do it and the Government cleared it.

Sir, I come now to the price aspect. As I said earlier, the country has lost at least Rs. 100 crore on account of this order apart from its effect on farm prices. The loss was Rs. 100 crore in this deal of Rs. 900 crore. What is the propriety of a deal of Rs. 900 crore being executed in seven or eight days, on holidays, and during the days when elections are going on? There are many moral questions involved in this issue which the House must take serious note of. One of them is as to what extent a caretaker, Lame-duck Government can go?

There is another very interesting aspect to this deal. At the time of tender, there was no penalty clause in the contract against Indian Government. The penalty clause of 2.5 dollars per tonne per month for delayed delivery was added later to make it difficult for a later government to cancel the contract. I would like the government to clarify whether it is a fact or not that there was objection from the Director (Legal) of the STC. I have got papers here and I can show that there was. There was objection from the Director (Finance) of STC that they were not taken into confidence at all. The FCI had objected to the whole deal. The Chairman, STC, dealt with the whole deal alone. Is it not a fact that the then Commerce Minister and the STC Chairman visited Australia from the 1st to 4th of September? What happened then? Suddenly elections came, the deal had to be put through at any cost and they had finally put through the deal when elections were going on. There are serious implications to it. Everybody was kept in dark.

I would like to ask this Government about its role in this. The dates are very crucial here. The contract was entered into on 27th Feb. The Government was going to take oath on 19th March. On 19th March, the STC Board met to take this deal on record. But the STC Board refused to take this deal on record because Director (Finance) had objected to this. But later on, Shri Barnala, who is a farmer himself and who has the interests of farmers at his hand ....(Interruptions)

**MR. CHAIRMAN :** Shri Chavan, please conclude.

**SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN :** I will conclude in one minute, Sir, it involves Rs. 100 crore.

After Shri Barnala became the Food Minister, a report was published in 'The Economic Times' of 27th March. It said, "Barnala may tear up Aussie wheat import contract",

[Shri Prithviraj D. Chavan]

Shri Barnala should have done it. He was reported to have said that the wheat import contract with Australia faces termination. Prime Minister, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, asks the Food Minister to send a status report on the issue as it may have serious legal and diplomatic implications. Shri Vajpayee calls a meeting with the Food Minister, Shri Barnala, on 25th. The Government was facing the Vote of Confidence on 27th of March. On 25th the Prime Minister calls a meeting with the Food Minister and asks for a written note on the matter and says that a decision will be taken after the Confidence Vote. What decision did they take?

I quote from a report from 'The Economic Times'. It says:

"Food Minister Shri Barnala while stating that imports would be gone through, if necessary, was of the opinion that figures (i.e., the wheat availability figures) add up to a comfortable wheat stock and hence no imports were needed."

He was also concerned about the import of wheat in the procurement season in April as it would not fetch the farmers a good price. The imported wheat will also create storage problems in FCI godowns which already had a bufferstock of 5.9 billion tonnes. This is what the Food Minister said after he took over the office.

You see 'The Economic Times' of 6th April. It says that Vajpayee puts his seal on row-ridden wheat import suddenly. Government suddenly decides after the Vote of Confidence—it is very crucial—to allow the import.

There is another report in 'The Telegraph' of Calcutta, dated 3rd April. It says that the Government begins probe into a 141 million dollar wheat deal. The new Government had started probe into the 141 million dollar wheat deal signed by the previous Government. This is what the investigating officials said. They had received allegation that up to Rs. 90 crore were paid as kickbacks and a probe had been ordered by this Government into the deal. It further says that the Australian deal had been finalised too quickly. This is what the investigating officials say. Even the State Trading Corporation, which is a buying agency in this case, did not know of the deal till the final stages. They were simply told to go ahead and sign. Who told the STC to go ahead and sign and who contracted everything? There is a political angle to it and it is very unfortunate.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Come to the question, Mr. Chavan.

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN : Our High Commissioner did not know anything about it. This Government initially wanted to order a CBI inquiry but something happened. The Vote of Confidence was taken up. Certain political parties supported the Government. The survival of the Government was decided by a political party. If you remember, that political party was with you and that certain political party suddenly decided to support the BJP. The BJP Government survives the Vote of Confidence and there is no CBI inquiry. The deal is pushed under the carpet and nothing happened.

Many issues are involved here. My question to the Government is : Are you going to order a CBI inquiry or not? Is it going to be a Damocles sword over the TDP for continuous support? Some kind of deal is going on. A hundred crores of rupees of kickbacks have been alleged here. A deal worth Rs. 900 crore was worked out in seven days—two holidays. Saturday and the *Mahasivaratri* and when the Lok Sabha elections were going on. What is this? There should be a thorough probe.

I demand the hon. Minister to institute a CBI inquiry into this whole deal. I demand that a Parliamentary Joint Committee be instituted.

Not only this, moral and ethical questions are also involved. Can a lame duck Government, which is going to demit the office in a matter of hours or days, can enter into such a deal involving thousands of crores of rupees and incur loss of a few hundred crores? Who made the money in this deal? Is the Government going to start a CBI inquiry or not? Is there a political deal between the TDP and this Government? This Government's survival is dependent on the continuous support of TDP whose Minister is completely behind this deal.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Ajit Jogi, you can ask only questions, no discussion and no debate.

SHRI AJIT JOGI (Raigarh) : I can only ask questions.

[Translation]

Sir, although many scams have been discussed in the House, but the scam, which we are going to discuss today, has got special importance. It is different from others. In history, in such a short time, a few officials have never been involved in such a big scam. That is why with your permission. I would like to ask a few questions.

This deal was carried out when the whole country was busy in elections. All of us have come to the House after the elections of February 16, 22 and 28. I would like to ask a few questions about this period.

Would you like to make an effort to find out, as to why the deal was finalised at the time when the whole country was busy in elections? On February 21 tenders were called and on February 25, it was finalised. Would you make an inquiry how the STC had finalised the deal worth Rs. 900 crores in just four days. The day on which tenders were called was the holiday and the day on which it was finalised was also the holiday. Why the STC's Chairman, M.D. and other officers had worked so hard on holiday and had given final shape to the tender? They were aware that a new government was going to be formed in 15-20 days. We all have been in government and are aware of the fact that when the formation of a new government is due then such a big deal is not finalised. You must fix the responsibility of officers of STC as to why they had finalised the deal when the formation of new government was due in 20 days. You must also inquire, why the tender was invited in clandestine manner. It was said that

international wheat prices will rise and tender was invited from only a few selected people or only limited tenders were called. Why did it happen? I say, the decision taken by committee of secretaries in January, that we will be in need of wheat, was wrong. But suppose they had decided that we are in need of wheat, why they hadn't purchased it in January itself? Why they had waited for a time, when the country was going for polls, when country's attention was focussed on elections? Why it was not done in January? Was it because the wheat was available at low prices in January? Was it because of the fact that from whom STC wanted to purchase wheat was not giving kickbacks to the officers in January? It should also be probed why the STC officers hadn't finalised the deal in January and why it was done in February only.

Part (b) of my question is about prices. STC chart has got signatures of four senior officers, Mr. V.D. Jain, Mr. M. Rao, Mr. S. K. Kapoor and Mr. K.K. Sood. It has got quotations of nine firms and the prices quoted by them are also shown. I won't like to read all. *Prima facie*, the rates quoted by most of them appear less than the rates on which STC had purchased wheat. When wheat on less rate and of longer shelf life was available, then why the STC had purchased it on higher rates? The responsibility in this regard should also be fixed. What action was taken on the letter by American Ambassador to the Indian Minister for Commerce and the Minister for Food to register America's disapproval on deal? Was reply to that letter given?

The whole deal was anti-farmer. You have been representing the causes of peasants and they consider you as their leader, therefore in context of peasants, I would like to ask you three questions. First, you are buying wheat at the rate of Rs. 510 per quintal from Indian peasants and you are paying Rs. 850 for the same to Australia. Don't you consider this deal as anti-peasant? Why delivery of wheat was scheduled at a time, when the arrival of wheat is maximum in country's food grain markets? The delivery of maximum wheat was scheduled for March and April. At this time of the year maximum quantity of levy's wheat arrives in country's food grain markets. Then why at that particular time, the wheat was imported? The imported wheat contains poisonous weed, which till now is not present in India fields. This type of wheat seeds if once reach our soils. These will harm the country's wheat fields for years. Why this type of wheat was allowed to be imported, although objection in this regard was registered.

Now, I will like to ask part (c) of my question.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You have already asked three questions

[English]

SHRI AJIT JOGI : This is question No. 1 (a), (b) and (c), (d) is still there. I have got some important questions which have not been answered. I would also like to get a reply to it.

[Translation]

In September, 1997 the STC's Chairman, Shri S.C. Deewan, who was then PIC Chairman and was selected as the Chairman of STC had gone to Australia with Minister, Mr. Ramaiah. There, they had not contracted Indian Ambassador and stayed there as guest of ANZ Bank. I request hon. Minister to inquire whether at that time arrangements for his lodging, hotel and vehicle were made by ANZ Bank. All this arrangement was made by the agent and the banker of the company from which wheat was finally purchased. Would you also inquire whether Mr. Ramiah and Mr. Deewan, who were in Australia in September 1997' itself? Just before the deal was finalised. Mr. A.K. Behal who was General Manager, Incharge was transferred by General Manager, wheat, STC and on his place Mr. Sood was appointed. It was done just before the finalisation of deal. Why Mr. Sood was appointed in place of Mr. Behal, just before the deal? Please also inquire as to why the whole deal was finalised by Mr. Sood? Please enlighten the House in this regard.

[English]

I have just three or four questions which are relevant. As I told you it is a shady deal where three or four officers have cheated the country.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Dr. T. Subbarami Reddy.

[Translation]

SHRI AJIT JOGI : I would also like to know whether Mr. Sood who was appointed as General Manager had gone to Geneva and Zurich in January 1998. It should also be verified whether he had discussed the matter with junior Manager of Swiss Bank. I would also like to state that whenever the inquiry has been ordered the vigilance commission has tried to inquire the matter and now the CBI has also asked for the papers. I have official reports of CBI and Vigilance Commission Officers and I would also like to inform the House that STC is not providing all relevant papers to the CBI and Vigilance Commission Officers and that's why they are unable to pursue an inquiry. I would like to know through you from hon. Minister the reason for not providing papers of deal by STC Officers to the CBI and the Vigilance Commission. The time by which these papers will be made available to CBI Officers, so that they can complete their inquiry. There is a major political reason behind this big scam which has been clarified by my predecessor speaker. This government has paid a big price to gain the support of Telugu Desam Party. On the assurance, that it will not probe the Rs. 100 crore scam, it has gained the support of Telugu Desam Party. If this is not true, then make all papers available to CBI or make a joint committee of the Members of both the Houses to probe Rs. 100 crore scam. If you won't do this, then the country will assume that the Bharatiya Janata Party has paid this price, i.e. to cover the corruption, to gain the support of Telugu Desam Party.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Dr. T. Subbarami Reddy. Only one question, Mr. Reddy.

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY (Visakhapatnam) : Why not more, Sir? What is the difference between Shri Jogi and myself, I want to know from the Chair.

MR. CHAIRMAN : There is no difference.

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : If you do not want me to speak, I shall sit down.

MR. CHAIRMAN : No, please speak.

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : This is not fair, Sir....(Interruptions)

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA) : The hon'ble Member has raised this question about the government whereas this scandal pertains to that Government, which was....(Interruptions)

SHRI AJIT JOGI : I would like to say that in this matter. ....(Interruptions)

SHRI LAL MUNI CHAUBEY (Buxar) : Your party is involved in it ....(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Chaubeyji, please take your seat.

SHRI MOHAN SINGH (Deoria) : Do you consider it a scandal?

SHRI LALU PRASAD (Madhepura) : Hon. Minister Khuranaji has intervened in this issue saying that this scandal does not pertain to present government but the previous government. It means that it has been considered as a scandal. Now the question arises as to whether an inquiry should be conducted in this regard or not? Or who will conduct this inquiry? ....(Interruptions)

SHRI LAL MUNI CHAUBEY : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the word scam has not been mentioned for it. He has said that in the tenure of which Government this incident took place. This incident took place in the tenure of that government which was supported by your party ....(Interruptions) Leaders of Congress Party are involved in it ....(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Chaubeyji, please take your seat.

[English]

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY (Visakhapatnam): Sir, I draw the attention of the hon. Minister, Shri Khurana. Here, in God's creation, Governments come and go but the matters

are always perpetual. This is not the time for me to speak about the Government, I want to speak only about the facts that took place during the last few months. I want to question the hon. Minister. He gave a nice reply that two and two is equal to four.

We would like to know what made the Commerce Ministry to decide to import wheat. First, in January, they decided to import one million tonnes and then again on February 21, they decided to float a tender and on 26th, they opened the tenders. Our country is full of red-tapism. When a tender is floated it takes three to four months. But here, the tenders were opened within 24 hours. Perhaps in the last fifty years, history of India, this is the first time that this has happened involving Rs. 950 crore. Then, on 27th, within 24 hours the order was passed - not by you, by the then Government. Then immediately they got a dream that ten lakh tonnes was not sufficient, it should be twenty lakh tonnes.

[Translation]

It should be 20 lakh tonnes, otherwise the country would face problems.

[English]

Immediately, within 24 hours, they made it two million tonnes and immediately they changed the contract to Australian people. Instead of one million tonnes, they said two million tonnes. But the Australian people said that they could not supply two million tonnes, they could supply 1.5 million tonnes. That is why it became Rs 950 crore. Rs. 950 crore worth of foreign exchange is involved. Secondly, the Food Corporation of India vehemently, effectively and straightaway said that it was not necessary to import wheat. They said, they were going to get the new crop in the month of April. Then what made the Government to think of importing wheat in the month of February? They knew that elections were coming and the new Government was going to be formed in the month of March. Heavens were not going to fall. If such things happen, there will definitely be a suspicion in the minds of the people of India. Ninety crore people of India are wondering what made this wheat deal. *The Hindustan Times, The Economic Times, The Indian Express, The Telegraph*, every newspaper highlighted the scandal of wheat import.

Has he not seen the newspapers? Similarly, the Commerce Minister recently informed the Rajya Sabha that the CBI had seen the papers. What made him to say so? It means they also looked into it. Unless there is a scam or a scandal, what made the CBI or others to see those papers? The Minister says that everything is all right and they wanted to import wheat only because the country required it as *Kharif* was not good and the country should have adequate wheat.

Originally, 64 million tonnes of wheat was expected to be produced in the country. Suddenly, they said 64 million tonnes can be produced and then, again they said that 66.5

million tonnes can be produced within the country. These three figures have been given by the Ministry of Food and Consumer Affairs only. I was surprised to see these figures. When 64 million tonnes of wheat is available in the country in the crop season, we needed only two million tonnes more. So, I want to question the basis to import two million tonnes of wheat. It was the most imaginary, vague, artificial, absurd and meaningless basis.

One more thing is that the Ambassador of the United States of America expressed his unhappiness about what made the Government of India, having accepted to give equal opportunity to the traders of America who are in the business of wheat, not to give an opportunity to American traders. This is a very serious matter. Of course, they say that the quality of the wheat produced in America is not good, but nobody will agree to it. This is a very serious matter. We have also to think on this point.

Another most important thing is that when there was found to be exotic dangerous wheat, they said that the Minister of Food and Consumer Affairs had sent to them a confidential report about it a few days back. They say that this is a normal thing that when they import wheat, the exotic dangerous seeds also come in. But since in South India, people do not grow wheat, it was sent to South India. In South India, the Food Corporation of India is crying that they have no godowns to store that wheat as the demand of the people of South India is only one lakh tonnes per month and hence, they are unable to keep five lakh tonnes.

Like this, the circumstances leading to this Rs. 950 crore deal are malicious and it seems that some scam is there. I do not want to go into details. If the government feels that everything is fine and in order, it is very good and I welcome it. Then, why do they not institute a CBI inquiry or an inquiry by a Joint Parliamentary Committee, and make things very clear? They talk of *Ram Rajya*. Therefore, they should make the people of India know that they have followed the perfect rules. What made this present Government to say that everything is in order and there is no necessity to cancel the import of wheat? Should they lose the most valuable foreign exchange of India? There is one more thing that there is a penalty of 2.5 dollars per tonne if the wheat is not imported in time. They could not do it. They could not import more than five lakh tonnes. It is the most amazing and a sorrowful thing. Now, the Government is paying penalty also. Therefore, all these things give an impression, as Shri Khurana said.

[Translation]

This is done due to personal interest and not otherwise.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Okay, Dr. Reddy.

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Sir, I have not even put a single question.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Okay, you raise your last question.

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Sir, I am going to speak about West Bengal and other States also.

Sir, I spoke just now without reading any paper. Is it not?

MR. CHAIRMAN : Yes.

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : As my friend said, it has been told several times that red-tapism is there even after 50 years of Independence of India. Please remove it. Let us attain prosperous progress of the country by removing red-tapism. But we must give a special award to the Commerce Ministry for they passed orders within 24 hours. If this takes place in every Ministry, perhaps, the glorious success of India will be an unparalleled and a matchless phenomenon in the world history.

[Translation]

This has not been done by this Government but the previous one. I accept that he has made a good speech.

[English]

So, I want to put last few questions to Shri Barnala, our good and respect friend. I would request him that he may please see this matter more thoroughly and should not be led by only these things. Hegde Sahib is a very matured Commerce Minister. This has been done by the Commerce Ministry, State Trading Corporation and also Food and Consumer Affairs Ministry. He should take a lesson for future and he should be more cautious to estimate and assess the foodgrains' availability in the country as the foreign exchange is very sacred for the people of India and the country.

16.00 hrs.

We cannot afford to only assume that we need two million tonnes of wheat. What was the basis to say, firstly, one million tonnes? Then what was the basis to make it two million tonnes? Again, what was the basis to make it 1.5 million tonnes? What was the basis to say that in the month of March the country was going to produce 68.5 million tonnes of wheat? What was the basis to make it 64.5 million tonnes? ....(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : All right. Now, please take your seat.

....(Interruptions)

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : I am not politicising the issue.

As my friend has rightly said, there is some misconception, wrong inception and doubtful perception. It is most important to bear in mind that what the actual information is. When the CBI asks for the details, you must show all the relevant papers to them. They should not harass, as they have done in the case of Bihar with Shri Lalu Prasad Yadav. They should do all the inquiries under the rules to see that the things are put perfectly in order and make the people know the truth.

[Dr. T. Subbarami Reddy]

All the media persons are here. Every paper was wondering as to what had happened to this scam of Rs. 50 crore. Therefore, in conclusion, I am requesting this Government to show their capacity, cleanliness, dynamism and commitment for the *satya*, to come out with truth. *Dharmam Karmam Ghachham*.

Thank you.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, there was a Statement to be made by the Home Minister at 4 o'clock today. Should we take it just now or after the Calling Attention is over?

....(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Or, Mr. Home Minister, do you want to make a Statement just now?

....(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: All right, first let the hon. Home Minister make a Statement about Communal Situation in Moradabad and Hyderabad. After that, we will come back to the Calling Attention.

Yes, Mr. Home Minister.

16.01 hrs.

## STATEMENT BY MINISTER

### Communal Situation in Moradabad and Hyderabad

[English]

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): First, I come to communal situation in Moradabad. During the period 7-9 May, 1998, Moradabad witnessed minor communal disturbances over the Tazia procession as part of Moharram festival. The trouble started when some miscreants allegedly threw acid bottles from a multi-storeyed building on the Tazia Procession. Police had to fire in air to disperse the unruly mob. Curfew was imposed in the troubled areas under four police stations in the city. Besides four deaths, 16 persons were injured in these incidents. The police rounded up 242 persons. Three Companies of the Rapid Action Force were deployed in addition to the local police to control the communal situation in the affected areas. Even though curfew was lifted in a phased manner in the troubled areas, tension continued in the city for a few days. Presently, the situation is under control and constant vigil is being maintained.

Now, I come to communal situation in Hyderabad. On the 1st June, 1998, a highly derogatory pamphlet was found in circulation in Shamsar Ganj locality of the old city of Hyderabad. A local MLA brought the pamphlet to the notice of the Police Commissioner, Hyderabad and expressed apprehension of communal disturbances in the city if such activities continued as it hurt the sentiments of the minority community.

On the night of the 2nd June, some miscreants pelted stones or two transport buses in Shalibanda area of the old city in protest against the circulation of the pamphlet. On the 5th June, immediately after Friday Namaz at Mecca Masjid at Charminar, some miscreants pelted stones on passerby and the police personnel deployed in the vicinity. Two persons were stabbed in front of the Masjid and a wine shop was looted and its owner attacked and injured. Ten State Transport buses were damaged by the violent mob at the Charminar bus depot. About seven police personnel were also injured in the stone-pelting. In other areas of old city, there were some incidents of violence and arson. During these incidents on the 5th June, 24 persons were injured, five shops, two houses and three vehicles belonging to the two communities were damaged in various areas of old city.

The communal violence further escalated on the 6th June, in which a total of 32 persons were injured, five seriously, and a mosque and a temple were damaged. Two persons including a Police Sub Inspector were killed in the police firing. Another two persons were stabbed to death, and an auto-rickshaw driver was burnt to death. Another seriously injured person subsequently died increasing the death tally to six. The police fired 60 rounds at various places to disperse the violent mob. Prohibitory orders under Section 144 Cr. PC were promulgated in areas under 13 police stations. Incidents of arson and looting of houses continued. The State Government alerted the Army besides requisitioning 18 more Companies of the CRPF/RAF from the Central Government. The police made about 100 precautionary detentions.

The communal situation in the old city of Hyderabad remained tense but under control on June 7. Sporadic incidents of violence and arson continued. Some more persons were injured in stone-pelting. Besides 83 persons injured, the death toll so far has risen to seven. The curfew was relaxed in the old city in phases on 7th and 8th June, 1998. In addition to intensive police patrolling, flag march was also conducted in the vulnerable and communally hyper-sensitive areas to infuse confidence in the people. A Peace Committee meeting was also held on 6th and 7th June, 1998. The State Government has reported that all the communal offences are being investigated by a Special Investigation Team.

The Central Government has so far provided 11 Companies of (PMFs including 8 RAF Companies to the State Government for maintaining law and order situation in the communally affected areas. The State Government has been taking all necessary steps to maintain peace and communal harmony.

....(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Under the rules, no clarifications can be sought. Shri Sambasiva Rao to speak now.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: Sir, I have just received the latest position. The total number of persons who have died in these

incidents is eight. The total number of persons injured is 85. Curfew has been relaxed today from 8.00 a.m. to 5.00 p.m., and the situation is under control ....(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Under the rules, no clarifications can be asked.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN SINGH (Deoria) : Mr. Chairman, Sir clarifications should be permitted in special circumstances.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : It cannot be done. You can give notice for it. You can give a notice for discussion under Rule 193.

SHRI P. UPENDRA (Vijayawada) : Sir, to assess the law and order situation, we wanted a Central Team to be sent to Hyderabad. The Home Minister has not reacted on this demand. I believe, he is going to Hyderabad and he will be accompanied by a team of officers ....(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN SINGH : Sir, in special circumstances the permission for clarification has been given by the Chair....(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : You can give notice.

SHRI MOHAN SINGH : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to know as to what action has been taken by the administration against the officials responsible for riots in Moradabad. Because there is a custom in Uttar Pradesh that collectors or SSPs are suspended immediately after the communal riots.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mohan Singhji, as per rules no clarification can be given after statement.

SHRI MOHAN SINGH : Sir, in special situation you have allowed clarification.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You can give notice under the Rule 193.

SHRI MOHAN SINGH : Would you allow for discussion tomorrow if I give notice in this regard.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please give notice to this effect. We would held discussion.

DR. SHAFIQR RAHMAN BARQ (Moradabad) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to ask something about Moradabad.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please give notice under the Rule 193.

DR. SHAFIQR RAHMAN BARQ : Allright ....(Interruptions)

SHRI S.S. OWAISI (Hyderabad) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the persons who set ablaze the buses and houses and printed those Pamphlets belong to which political party. The information should be sought in this regard.

شری سلطان صلاح الدین اویسی (حیدرآباد) : اسپیکر صاحب، جن لوگوں نے بسوں اور مکانوں کو جلیا ہے، پمفلٹ شائع کئے ہیں، وہ کون سی پارٹی کے ہیں، یہ جانکاری ملنی چاہئے۔

[English]

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA (Ponnani) : Sir, it is a very disappointing statement. Various important aspects of the whole thing have been ignored in this statement.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Banatwallaji, you can give a notice for discussion.

SHRI NADENDLA BHASKARA RAO (Khammam) : Sir, we have already given a notice and the Home Minister acted upon that notice only. The statement from the Home Minister has come only after we all gave a notice.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You may give another notice for discussion under Rule 193.

SHRI NADENDLA BHASKARA RAO : Again, this will go on. We only want to seek some clarifications.

SHRI P. UPENDRA : We want much more. What is the preception of the Central Government and what are the agencies telling? The Central Government has got its own agencies in Hyderabad. What is your information? ....(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : In the Lok Sabha, it is not permitted. You know the rule. This cannot be permitted.

....(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please take your seat.

SHRI NADENDLA BHASKARA RAO : It is a continuous affair taking place every year and, for at least two or three years, it is recurring ....(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : I called Shri R. Sambasiva Rao.

SHRI KONIJETI ROSAIAH (Narasaraopet) : The Home Minister has made a statement and the Minister of State for Urban Development who hails from Secunderabad has also gone to the place.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please take your seat. I have called Shri R. Sambasiva Rao.

SHRI KONIJETI ROSAIAH : Do you not allow us to raise a supplementary?

SHRI NADENDLA BHASKARA RAO : It is a different issue. What we want is a clarification. Every two or three years, it is recurring. What are the permanent steps the Home

[Shri Nadendla Bhaskara Rao]

Minister wants to take? Temples have been brought down. Mosques have been destroyed. What are the permanent steps that the Home Minister proposes to take?

MR. CHAIRMAN : All this will come in a discussion. You give notice for a discussion under Rule 193.

SHRI P. UPENDRA : It is a simple demand. You can as well despatch a Central team .... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI NADENDLA BHASKARA RAO : It has to be brought down. What steps the Government of India would like to take to bring down the tension?

DR. RAVI MALLU (Nagar Kurnool) : Is it the duty of the Home Minister to tell only the information given in the newspapers or has he got to say whether he has got any information about who is responsible or what is the information so far received and all that?

SHRI P. UPENDRA : Why is the Home Minister not sending a Central agency and taking information from them?

MR. CHAIRMAN : The Home Minister is sharing whatever information he has with him.

DR. RAVI MALLU : All that information is available in the newspapers. There is no need for the Home Minister to say all these things.

## CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

### Import of exotic dangerous wheat from Australia – *Contd.*

*[English]*

SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO (Guntur) : I fully agree with the stand taken by the previous speaker with regard to import of wheat. I would not like to repeat the same thing. I would like to ask one or two questions from the hon. Minister.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You ask only one question.

SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO : I would like to know whether the then Food and Agriculture Minister has asked the STC or the Ministry of Commerce to import one million tonnes or two million tonnes of wheat.

The second point I would like to know from the hon. Minister is, what is the total penalty India will have to bear due to the delay in lifting the Australian wheat. When the present Government came to know about the dubious deal, the Prime Minister called for the files and then okayed the deal. After the deal was okayed, it is reported that Chief Vigilance Commissioner has launched an inquiry into the Australian wheat import deal and CVC gained some vital information pertaining to the deal. If so, I would like to know whether the Chief Vigilance Commissioner has given his report and what are his findings and what is the fate of this deal.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Manoranjan Bhakta will now speak. There is no discussion and there is no debate.

SHRI MANAORANJAN BHAKTA (Andaman and Nicobar Islands) : I am not going for discussion because already Shri Madan Lal Khurana has said that this is a scandal and when it is a scandal, then it is the responsibility and the duty of the Government to clear it off. It is not known what action has actually been taken because there are allegations of Rs. 90 crore kickbacks. This is the allegation which has been published in the newspapers. There after, as you know, my colleague explained everything in detail. I am not going into detail. What I would like to ask is why the lower price which was quoted by Canacians and Americans was rejected.

Then a question arises. In every foreign deal, as far as my knowledge goes, the High Commissioners are consulted and taken into confidence in such deals. In this case, I would like to know whether the Indian High Commissioner in Australia was taken into confidence or not.

I would further like to know whether the Minister of Agriculture, the Minister of Food and the Minister of Commerce, all three of them had a meeting in this regard and jointly they decided that needful should be done. I am posing this question because this deal involved more than Rs. 900 crore.

I come to the next point. The Minister has stated in his reply that enough caution was taken in this regard and the Health Officers, the Port Officers and others examined whether the Australian wheat was good for human consumption or not. I would like to know whether any laboratory test was done or it was on the basis of just looking at the foodgrains that they had given the clean chit saying that it was good for human consumption. Is there any system or method which is applied to test such grains? I would like to know whether that was followed or not.

Basically, I would like to put only one question to this Government. First, the Government itself has accepted that this is a scandal. In the past, we heard many promise to eradicate corruption. If this Government is serious and sincere to end corruption, whether it will institute proper investigation either through the CBI or a Joint Parliamentary Committee, whatever it may be, so that the truth would come out. When some issues and allegations have come up before the people, it is necessary that this Government must clear itself by explaining its position as to why it is supporting this position, why the deal was done in such a wishy-washy manner and why the deal was completed hurriedly. These are my questions. If the hon. Minister kindly replies, we will be happy.

*[Translation]*

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS  
AND MINISTER OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS  
(SARDAR SURJIT SINGH BARANALA) : Mr. Chairman, Sir,

several questions have been raised here and the very first question is that there was no need to import wheat then why it was imported? As we all know that this decision was taken by the previous government and I have tried to explain the reasons and circumstances under which this decision was taken. At the time of shortage of foodgrain, its import is required. It was not done for the first time but at several occasions foodgrain have been imported. In 1997-98, on 6.9.97 wheat was imported. The Government found that the country was going to face shortage of 5 million tonne of foodgrains. It is a large quantity and then the Government took a decision to import 2 million tonnes of foodgrain.

**SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN :** It was mentioned in Economic Survey that six million tonne foodgrains would be required.

**SARDAR SURJIT SINGH BARNALA :** In such circumstances the decision was taken to import. It has been objected here as to why they did not wait for crop harvest of March-April. In this context I would like to say that due to bad weather at the time of sowing low yield of wheat was expected.

Due to untimely rains the sowing of crops was delayed and due to bad weather low yield was expected. The second objection is that wheat was imported in haste and information about it was not circulated properly. Some other method should have been adopted for it. Reddyji has stated that four-five months' time would have been given while inviting tenders. Whether it should be publicized throughout the world that we require that much quantity of wheat and we want to import it so that we can find out which country was interested to make the bid. However this practice is not followed actually. It has been convention of this country that whenever we want to import, it is done in subtle manner and hue and cry is not made for it. Low profile is maintained so that prices of the commodities may not increase. The price of wheat would increase if some one come to know that we require 2 million tonne of wheat. I have seen this trend and I have its record with me. We have also imported wheat in 1996-97 and 1997-98. At that time a requirement of 50 thousand tonne was disclosed whereas the actual requirement was 20 lakh tonne. While entering the market less quantity is mentioned so that market price may not flare up. Similar practice has been followed this time also. We required 20 lakh tonne but only two lakh tonne was mentioned. An objection has been raised that it was done in hush hush manner. But actually it is not so. I have information with me that all the big wheat suppliers of the world were informed. There are total 21 wheat suppliers and they all were informed.

*[English]*

A limited tender was issued to 21 internationally renowned wheat suppliers which included the Australian Wheat Board, the Canadian Wheat Board, European traders and American traders.

*[Translation]*

Names of these 21 traders of wheat have been given in it. Out of those 21 wheat traders, eight showed their interest in supplying wheat. Four American traders moved out of it on the plea that conditions of Prevention of Food Adulteration Act were stringent and they were unable to comply with that. It is the decision of the country that we can not purchase foodgrain from a country that refuse to comply with Food Adulteration Act. They refused to furnish certificates of micro toxin. Thus they backed out and Australia and Canada were left in the field. C&F increases in case of Canada because freight charge of ship is 27 dollars in Canada whereas in Australia the freight charge is 18 dollars. The price of wheat of Canada was higher and it may increase further due to it so ultimately a decision was taken to purchase wheat from Australia. It is not for the first time that we purchased wheat from Australia. I have a chart with me which shows that we have purchased wheat at higher rates from it. In December 1996 wheat was purchased from Australia at a rate of 148 dollars. Later on 11th December 1996, wheat was purchased from Canada at a rate of 156 dollars on 3rd January, 1997, wheat was purchased from Australia at a rate of 156 dollars and in March 1997 wheat was purchased from Australia at a rate of 154 dollar. Now it has been purchased at a rate of 142 dollars. We imported wheat at internationally low prices. It is not for the first time that wheat has been purchased. It has been noticed that earlier 1 lakh tonne of wheat was purchased from Argentina and it was not liked and 11-12 or 16 thousand tonne wheat is still lying there. Therefore, a decision was taken that wheat would not be purchased from Argentina. It has also been blamed that agents were involved in this deal. But as per my information neither STC nor the other country engaged any agent for it. It was a direct deal. It has also been stated that it was done in haste and on the holiday of Shivratri. I would like to say that whether it is Shivratri or any other holiday, it does not affect international tender in anyway. Much time is not given in finalising international deals....(Interruptions) Though enough time was given for receiving and examining the concerned documents before taking any action. It has also been mentioned that it was an anti-farmer deal. I always thing for welfare of farmers. I am telling this because nothing such has happened here. It has been mentioned that we had more money for import of wheat whereas here farmers are paid less money for their produce. In this context I have stated in my statement that.

*[English]*

"The freight price of imported Australian wheat is around Rs. 6420/- per tonne."

*[Translation]*

He was talking about 8 or 8½ thousand. It is not so. It comes to Rs. 6,420/ per tonne, including C and F whereas the execution price of FCI comes to Rs. 6521/-. As all this wheat was to be supplied to Southern areas, I am telling all this. It is not so that farmers have been cheated. But its impact has been noticed here that in comparison to earlier this time

[Sardar Surjit Singh Barnala]

procurement of foodgrains took less time and traders did not take part in it. This time traders have not purchased much wheat because they had an apprehension that prices would not fluctuate much. As per my calculation traders have purchased only 4 or 5 lakh tonnes of wheat and the remaining quantity was procured by government agencies. Therefore, this time there is no scope of fluctuating prices of wheat by traders for earning profit. So this deal may be considered as traders friendly. Several members from that side have also expressed their apprehensions about this deal. I would like to say that deal was not signed during the rule of this Government but it is being materialised now. Ships are arriving now and we are unloading and trying to distribute. It is our responsibility and inquiry may be conducted if any lacunae is found. Any type of inquiry may be conducted ....(Interruptions) CBI was asked to ....(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Let him complete.

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN (Karad) : is it an assurance by the Government?

DR. ASIM BALA (Nabadwip) Who had made the survey?

(Translation)

SARDAR SURJIT SINGH BARNALA : It has also been stated....(Interruptions) Please listen to me ....(Interruptions) A mention has been made here that related documents and files are not being given to CBI. I have no problem in it. CBI may conduct inquiry any time. We would provide related files to them ....(Interruptions) I have no problem in it. But I would like to say that inquiry may not be conducted only for this deal but for all the three deals signed in 1996-97 and 1997-98. I have no objection to it. I would like to say to all the members that ....(Interruptions)

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN : It is alright that inquiry is being conducted in this regard.

SARDAR SURJIT SINGH BARNALA : What more assurance may be needed here....(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI P. UPENDRA : How do you want to proceed?

MR. CHAIRMAN : The Minister has given assurance.

16.30 hrs.

## BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

### Second Report

[English]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA) : I beg to move:

"That this House do agree with the Second Report of the Business Advisory Committee presented to the House on the 8th June, 1998."

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That this House do agree with the Second Report of the Business Advisory Committee presented to the House on the 8th June, 1998.

*The motion was adopted.*

16.32 hrs.

## MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

(I) Need to Declare Dr. Sir Harisingh Gaur University in Madhya Pradesh as Central University

[Translation]

SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR (Sagar) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, Dr. Sir Harisingh Gaur University situated at the headquarter of my Parliamentary constituency is an important institution from educational and historical point of view. Dr. Sir Harisingh had established it with great efforts and named it as Sagar Vishwavidyalaya. And as per his will, this university got recognition of Sagar Vishwavidyalaya.

Several subjects were taught in this university in the past and a large number of foreign students used to come here to study. It has been a long pending demand of the students community, student unions, public representatives and representatives of social organisations to declare this university as a central university.

Therefore, Central Government is requested to take up the important task of educational development and expansion of Dr. Sir Harisingh Gaur University situated in the beautiful mountains of Sagar city and declare it as a Central University, The Government should accomplish this task at the earliest to realise the dreams of Dr. Gaur and thereby fulfil the aspirations and sentiments of the students of Sagar Vishwavidyalaya and local people.

(ii) Need to provide Compensation to the People Displaced due to Central Projects In Robertsganj Parliamentary Constituency

SHRI RAMSHAKAL (Robertsganj) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I hail from the Robertsganj Parliamentary Constituency of Uttar Pradesh where 80% people belong to the scheduled castes and backward community. Here NTPC project of the Central Government and many other projects of Uttar Pradesh Government and of private sector are going on and the local people have been displaced from their lands. Neither the adequate compensation nor the employment in those projects has been given to them. These displaced families are wandering here and there in search of food.

I urge upon the Union Government to conduct a survey of these projects once again and provide adequate compensation to displaced families and participation of the displaced local inhabitants in these projects should be ensured.

**(III) Need to Suitably Amend Gazette Notification of September 10, 1993 Issued by the Ministry of Welfare by Placing "Sahu" or "Rathore" after the word 'Teli' at Sl. No. 46**

SHRI CHANDRASHEKHAR SAHU (Mahasamund) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, anomalies have been created due to the placing of word 'Rathore' in brackets after the word 'Teli' in the reservation list of other backward classes for the examination conducted by UPSC. As a result, the future of many talented candidates has become bleak. For the Civil Services examination for all India services conducted by central government, the effective reservation list for OBC contains Teli (Rathore) at serial No. 46.

Therefore, Central Government is requested to suitably amend the Gazette Notification of 10th September, 1993 issued by the Ministry of Welfare by placing 'Sahu' or 'Rathore' within brackets after the word 'Teli'.

16.34 hrs.

[SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH *in the Chair*]

**(Iv) Need to provide Adequate Funds to the State Government of Uttar Pradesh for construction of a Bridge on River Ganga at Balua in Varanasi District**

SHRI ANAND RATNA MAURYA (Chandouli) : The construction of a bridge over river Ganga at Balua in Varanasi (U.P.) is essential. The local people, farmers and labourers are facing lot of problems in absence of a pucca bridge. There is lot of resentment among the people there. The construction of this bridge would prove a boon for the local people. Besides, this would enable a direct link with Bihar.

Therefore, Central Government is requested to provide adequate funds to the State Government of Uttar Pradesh for construction of a bridge on River Ganga at Balua in Varanasi District so that resentment among the farmers and labourers could be removed.

**(v) Need to Ban Import of Edible Oils with a view to Saving Indigenous Oil Industry**

[*English*]

SHRI C.P.M. GIRIYAPPA (Chitradurga) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the import of edible oils in large quantities for the last several years has adversely affected our indigenous oil industry. Once upon a time, our country was importing palmolive oil. Fortunately, the import of palm oil has been stopped. But the import of edible oils has increased steadily and it is gradually destroying our oil industry. There are more than 1,000 industrial units which are producing edible oils in the country at present. About 500 additional units have been added recently. The situation is very serious, particularly in Karnataka.

The oil producers have obtained loan from various financial institutions and all the infrastructural facilities are available. But there is no work in these units. All the workers are idle without any job. Almost all edible oil producing units have become sick. The oil producers are adversely affected as they are not able to pay the loan instalments to the financial institutions. This has also led to the steep increase in the price of indigenous edible oil. There is no market for our oil. If the situation is allowed to go ahead like this, then, many oil producers will become paupers in no time.

I therefore urge upon the hon. Minister to check the import of oils, specifically edible oils and to rescue the oil producers.

**(vi) Need to take Steps to remove Water Pollution in Underground Water at Churu in Rajasthan and to have permanent solution to drinking water problem.**

[*Translation*]

SHRI NARENDRA BUDANIA (Churu) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the underground water available in my Lok Sabha constituency Churu, tehsil Ladnu of Rajasthan supplies drinking water to about 80 villages and also to the nearby cities of Sujargarh, Ladnu, Chapar, Chadvas, Jasvantgarh Nimby. It has been found by the chemical tests that the compounds like fluoride, sulphate and nitrate are crossing solubility limit and there are some salts and compounds which have not been identified so far. As a result during the last few days a lot of diseases like bone-deformation, arthritis, gastro-enteritis and various types of stones in various parts of the body have taken its toll in this area. Even heart attacks are on the increase.

I request the Central Government to evolve a permanent and effective solution of this problem by conducting an intensive chemical investigation of water of this area so that people of my area do not get ill by drinking polluted water and potable drinking water could be made available to them.

**(vii) Need to open LPG outlets in Important towns of Uluberia Parliamentary constituency, West Bengal**

[*English*]

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH (Uluberia) : Sir, the growing demands for L.P. cooking gas in my constituency is creating serious problems as the supply is negligible. With growing number of higher income group people in our rural areas among farmers, such demands are increasing every day. At least, in all the block towns, one L.P.G. supply centre should be opened as early as possible.

The block Headquarters at Udaya Narayan Pur, Amta, Uluberia and Shyampur immediately should have L.P.G. supply centres to cope with the demands of the people of my constituency.

I would urge upon the Government to open such supply centres immediately.

**(viii) Need to remove anomaly Arising Due to new definition of poverty line as adopted by the Planning Commission**

SHRI BHARTRAHARI MAHTAB (Cuttack) : Sir, the definition of poverty line as adopted by the Planning Commission on the basis of the Lakdawala Committee Report affects Orissa adversely. This issue has been taken up with the Government of India repeatedly. The definition of poverty line in 1991-92 for a rural family was an income of Rs. 11,000/- per annum. After accounting for inflation, it works out to Rs. 19,910/- for 1997-98. The present definition communicated by the Government of India is Rs. 249.69 per month per person. Assuming as average of a rural family to be of five members, this works out to Rs. 14,982/- per family. It means that a family having an income higher than Rs. 14,982/- and lower than Rs. 19,910/- will be declared 'non-poor' because of the change of the definition and not because of any real improvement in the quality of their lives.

Because of the change of definition from 'family' to 'per capita', many anomalies arise. For example, a family having two members with an income of Rs. 10,000/- per annum in 1991-92 was declared 'poor'. But the same family, even if there present income has been reduced to Rs. 7,000/- will be now declared 'non-poor' because of the change of definition.

The new methodology adopts different definitions for different States. For example, a person having a monthly income of Rs. 300.90 in Chandigarh will be 'poor' but a person having a monthly income of Rs 249.70 in Orissa will be non-poor'. The present definition of poverty line for Lakshadweep is Rs. 327.48, for Kerala it is Rs 327.48, for Haryana it is Rs 289.31, all higher than Orissa without any apparent reason. I urge upon the Government of India to correct the anomaly as early as possible and oblige.

**(ix) Need to Recognise State Level Trade Unions**

SHRI C. KUPPUSAMI (Madras North) : Sir, in the changed political scenario, where coalition Governments have come to stay with the help of Regional parties and Regional parties having a major role of the national level, State level trade unions are not being recognized by the Central Government. When a decision regarding labour matter is taken at the Central level in tripartite talk, State level trade unions which have a lot of influence and sizable number of workers in their unions are ignored. The feelings of majority of workers represented by State level unions are not considered whereas the decision is thrust upon them.

To have a better labour-industrial relations and to involve the majority of workers in the talk, I would urge upon the Government and the Labour Minister to give recognition to State level trade unions, determined by the norms of no. of workers by poll, such as Labour Progressive Federation, which is a Labour Wing of DMK Party in Tamil Nadu.

**(x) Need to Provide Adequate Postal Facilities at Bandra (East)**

SHRI MADHUKAR SIRPOTDAR (Mumbai North-West) : Bandra (East), Mumbai is a very important locality in Khervadi Assembly segment with around 4-5 lakh residents. The Post Office at Bandra (East) does not have proper telegraph and speed post facilities. The telegrams tendered at Bandra (East) are sent to another Post Office for actual transmission. The arrangement is wholly unsatisfactory and causes inconvenience to the general public. The postal services at Bandra (East) need all round upgradation.

This matter was discussed with the hon. Minister of Communications and it was promised that full postal facilities will be provided there by April, 1997. This has not been done so far.

The Postal Department has adequate land in Bandra (East) to establish a full-fledged post office with all modern services. There is an apprehension that even this land, if not used for expanding and establishing postal services, may be encroached upon by the hutment dwellers.

Since the Bandra-Kurla Complex is likely to be developed very fast and most of the commercial activities of the Mumbai city are likely to be shifted to this complex, naturally there will be much demand for postal and communication services.

Therefore, I urge upon the Union Government to give top priority to this issue. This will enable the Communication Department to render the services to the people and also generate better returns.

**(xi) Need to set up an L.P.T. at Mananthody in Wynad District of Kerala to make available TV Programmes to the Tribal People**

SHRI MULLAPALLY RAMACHANDRAN (Cannanore) : The Wynad district in the State of Kerala is the most backward district in the State. It is also the district that has the largest number of tribals in the State. These poor and hapless tribals live in abject poverty and ignorance. The progress made in the field of science and technology has not reached this remote area in the State. Even the Malayalam TV programmes telecast from Trivandrum Doordarshan Kendra do not reach the Mananthody area of Wynad. On several occasions, this matter has been brought to the notice of successive Ministers of Information and Broadcasting. Ultimately assurances were given by the Government both on the floor of this august House and outside the House that an L.P.T. would be set up at Mananthody in the Wynad District. But concrete steps to initiate the work on the proposed L.P.T. have not yet been taken.

I therefore request the hon. Minister for Information and Broadcasting to take necessary steps to start the work on this Project so that the same could be completed without any loss of time.

16.47 hrs.

STATUTORY RESOLUTION RE: DISAPPROVAL  
OF ELECTRICITY REGULATORY COMMISSIONS  
ORDINANCE  
AND  
ELECTRICITY REGULATORY COMMISSIONS BILL

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : I want to make one suggestion. This is a very important Bill. When this Bill was brought forward last time before this House, it was referred to the Standing Committee. The Standing Committee has also deliberated on the Bill. But because of the dissolution of the Lok Sabha, it could not be taken up.

THE MINISTER OF POWER ( SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM) : Sir, I think he knows the procedure.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Sir, my suggestion is that this very important Bill may be referred to the Standing Committee on Energy. The Standing Committee has already been constituted under the Chairmanship of Shri Karunakaran. So, now also, this should be referred to the Standing Committee.

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM : Should I react to that? The Speaker has already taken a decision in this regard on the Statutory Resolution. Sir, he may now move the Statutory Resolution.

SHIR BASU DEB ACHARIA : I will move that.

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM : Sir, the Speaker has taken a decision; otherwise, it could not have come before the House.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : No. It can come and the House can decide whether it should be referred to the Standing Committee or not.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Resolution should be moved first.

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : I move the Statutory Resolution.

I beg to move:

“ That this House disapproves of the Electricity Regulatory Commissions Ordinance, 1998 (No. 14 of 1998) promulgated by the President on 25th April, 1998.”

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM : I beg to move:

“That the Bill to provide for the establishment of a Central Electricity Regulatory Commission and State Electricity Regulatory Commissions, rationalization of electricity

tariff, transparent policies regarding subsidies, promotion of efficient and environmentally benign policies and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto, be taken into consideration.”

I rise to move\* for consideration the Bill known as the Electricity Regulatory Commissions Bills, 1998 and also I wish to move some amendments to it today.

I am confident that this Bill will help improve the financial condition of the Indian power sector to enable it to invest in the much needed addition of generation, transmission and distribution facilities and set the tone for a new era of competition, efficiency and transparency in the Indian power sector. Before I elucidate on the salient features of the Bill, it is essential that I dwell upon the overall power situation in the country which has warranted these reforms.

Indian power sector is beset with problems that impede its capacity to respond to the rapidly growing demand for energy brought about by economic liberalisation. Despite the stated desire for reform and the initial measures that have been implemented, serious problems persist. As the problems of the power sector deepen, reform becomes increasingly difficult underscoring the need to act decisively and without delay.

It is essential that the Government implement significant reforms by focussing on fundamental issues facing the power sector, namely, the existence of an irrational retail tariff structure, the high level of cross-subsidies, poor planning and operation, inadequate capacity, the neglect also of the consumer, the limited involvement of other sources including private sector resources and expertise and the absence of an independent mechanism for regulating monopolistic tendencies.

The Indian power sector has been deteriorating very fast. There has been a heavy shortfall in the planned capacity in the power sector during the Eighth Five Year Plan. The Planning Commission had proposed a capacity addition of 30,538 MW for the Eighth Plan, after taking into account the anticipated demand, the feasible capacity additions from ongoing and new power projects and the possible improvements that could be brought about in the performance of the power sector within the time frame of the Eighth Plan. However, the total capacity addition that was realised in the Eighth Five Year Plan was only 16,423 MW *vis-a-vis* a plan of 30,538 MW, that is, just a little above 50 per cent of what was planned for the Eighth Five Year Plan. There was very little investment in transmission and distribution sectors resulting in poor grid supply conditions. This has further resulted in increasing grid failures. Just now, a little while ago, we saw the impact even in Parliament of a power shortage situation when the generators came on. One of the reasons for these shortfalls was the poor financial health of State power utilities and its further deterioration during the Eighth Plan. The main cause for

\* Moved with the Recommendation of the President.

[Shri P. R. Kúmarangalam]

this is the irrational tariff structure of the State power utilities whose average cost of recovery through tariff remained around 75 per cent. That is, for every Rs. 100 worth of power that they distribute, they are only able to recover Rs. 75. This is the situation if full recovery is done on the basis of the existing tariff. In 1992-93, the total commercial losses of the State Electricity Boards were only around – if I may use the word 'only'—Rs. 4560 crore without any subsidy. In 1996-97, the losses increased to Rs. 9798 crore. The SEBs owe an amount of Rs. 12,139 crore as on 31st January, 1998 to the various central public sector undertakings. The Delhi Vidyut Board alone owes Rs. 6000 crore to Badarpur Thermal Power Station owned by the Government of India. The outstanding dues of the SEBs to Ministry of Railways as on 31.1.1998 were of the order of Rs. 1083 crore. Even though the Electricity (Supply) Act, 1948 requires the SEBs to earn a minimum rate of return of three per cent on their fixed assets, the existing tariff structure does not permit them to comply with this requirement due to the various varieties of tariffs which are subsidized. The existence of an independent regulator will not only ensure that the retail tariff structure is so adjusted as to meet this requirement but also ensure that the SEBs are made accountable for their operational efficiency and consumer service.

As per the available information, the total effective subsidy to agricultural and domestic sectors is over Rs. 19,200 crore during 1996-97. Of this, the State Governments proposed to compensate only Rs. 2634 crore through budgetary subventions. This is only 12.7 per cent of the effective subsidy that the SEBs had to bear at the given levels of tariffs for agricultural and domestic sectors. SEBs recovered around Rs. 8035 crore through cross-subsidization. Thus, the total net loss to the SEBs on account of low agricultural and domestic tariffs has been of the order of Rs. 8500 crore. This is around 20 per cent of the total revenue of SEBs for the sale of electricity. The adverse impact of this unsatisfactory financial condition of the State power utilities has been in the following areas:

(i) Instead of generating positive internal resources that could be invested, the SEBs have been left with negative internal resources. The internal resources of SEBs needed to plan and undertake new investments have gone down from a negative level of Rs. (-) 161.6 crores in 1992-93 to Rs. (-) 4,482 crores in 1996-97. In other words, if our SEBs are financially looked at, today, they are at a value asset level of Rs. -4,482 crores. The SEBs, capacity to invest in critical activities, such as, renovation and maintenance, system improvement schemes, etc., has declined considerably, apart from their inability to invest in new generation capacity. This has directly affected the performance of the existing power plants in some States, led to high transmission and distribution losses, affected the quality of power supplies to the consumers in almost all States and resulted in time and cost overruns of many ongoing power projects.

(ii) The high level of outstanding dues of SEBs to CPSUs has had an adverse impact on the capacity of CPSUs to invest in their own capacity addition programmes. This has also compelled the CPSUs to depend upon costly borrowings from the domestic and international markets.

(iii) The poor financial condition of the SEBs has also resulted in prospective private investors and developers seeking sovereign guarantees for the power projects which they have proposed to set up in different parts of the country. The total escrow capacity of the SEBs may not total up to 10,000 MW and this has to provide coverage for SEBs commitments to CPSUs and private developers. The limited escrow capacity of the States has acted as a severe constraint on new capacity addition in the States.

The unsatisfactory financial health of the SEBs has led to an unsustainable situation in the power sector. The high level of inter-sector cross-subsidisation has resulted in most SEBs charging their industrial consumers heavily. As a result, the industry has been leaning more and more on captive generation which, in many States, is proving to be cheaper for industry than grid electricity. This, in turn, has been eroding the finances of SEBs further because the customer who pays is moving out of the net. It is, therefore, important to maintain the industrial tariffs within reasonable levels to enable the SEBs to provide electricity at affordable rates to agricultural consumers and domestic consumers. As a result of the inability of the SEBs to invest in many critical activities, as already referred to by me, the scope for optimising the operational performance of the SEBs has been severely constrained and the transmission and distribution losses of the SEBs have been on the increase. In turn, this is making the operation of the SEBs cost intensive and adversely affecting the quality of power supplied to the consumers. Most SEBs are not in a position even to install adequate mechanisms for maintaining and operating the grid in a safe and reliable manner. This has also severely constrained the capacity of the system to be operated in an integrated manner so as to optimise the use of the available capacity at the national level. Any delay in correcting these imbalances would make the task of improving the sector that much more difficult.

These are the ground realities faced by the Indian power sector which need to be addressed decisively and without any delay if we are to make any kind of meaningful progress in the sector. Today, my Government has the onerous responsibility of coming to grips with these problems. To meet this challenge, we have decided to adopt a three-pronged strategy.

The first one is transition strategy. As an immediate transition strategy, we have accorded the highest priority to renovation and maintenance schemes, investments of critical transmission links, system improvement schemes and providing adequate funding for accelerating the implementation of ongoing power projects. The Power Finance Corporation has been providing concessional finance for this programme to be implemented by the SEBs.

17.00 hrs.

In fact, around Rs. 250 crore worth of subsidy is given every year as interest subsidy alone so that the SEBs are able to manage the present position.

In regard to additions to generation and transmission capacities, the Central PSUs and the State utilities are planning to add 22,656 MW during the next four to five years. Another 17,569 MW of generating capacity is in the pipeline in the private sector. The petroleum refineries are also planning to set up another 2,000 MW of new capacity during the next five years. In addition, we are planning to set up a number of mega power projects.

The Power Grid Corporation of India Limited has taken up a number of transmission projects. In addition, we are planning setting up inter-regional transmission lines both with private and public investments in transmission. This will require certain legislative amendments. Towards restructuring transmission sector to enable more public and private investments, I will be separately introducing a Bill in this Session itself.

Sir, the policy initiatives that we need to take to improve the health of the power sector are basically augmenting the hydro-electric generating capacity, the policy on the use of liquid petroleum fuels for power generation, measures to reform the distribution sector so as to attract larger investments, introduction of availability tariff for better performance and greater grid discipline etc. The present Bill forms the basis of policy initiatives, being taken by my Government and also by earlier Governments, for setting up Regulatory Commissions. Within 37 days of my taking over as Minister, the President was pleased to promulgate the Electricity Regulatory Commissions Ordinance and within next 38 days, I have come to Parliament with a Bill to replace this Ordinance.

Many hon. Members, I think, have asked me about the reasons for this Ordinance. In fact, what is worrying them is the rush with which it is being done. I must point out to them the situation. As I have already pointed out that we are today in a critical financial situation in the power sector. Some of the Members, in fact, asked me about the circumstances that justify the need to be fully appreciated. I have already explained about the poor and fast deteriorating financial health of the SEBs. With their finances fast getting eroded, the SEBs will find it difficult to realise any improvement in their operational performance and unless their financial condition improves, they may not be able to realise even the limited capacity addition programme that is now envisaged in the State sector during the next four to five years. It must not be forgotten that the gestation period for a power plant varies from three and a half years to five years. So, if it takes that long then one really has to add to the capacity programme. I think, it is relevant to point out that with the increasing burden of cross-subsidization in industry, the latter will progressively become dependent on captive generation to the further detriment of the financial

health of the SEBs in the coming years. In short, if the present scenario of the power sector is allowed to continue, the ability of the SEBs to provide adequate electricity in a reliable manner to the consumers will fast get eroded. You will have a situation where there will be no power except to certain specified areas.

In this, irrespective of the subsidy provided to the agricultural consumers, it is doubtful whether the SEBs will be in a position to meet the rapidly increasing demand for electricity in the agricultural sector. While the State Governments may have their own compulsions to subsidize the agricultural consumers, it is doubtful whether the agricultural consumers will stand to benefit in the long run as their pumpsets will be subject to the vagaries of the grid and many of them will have to invest additionally on standby diesel pumpsets as a contingency measure. In other words, the cost of subsidy to the agricultural consumer arising from unreliable and poor quality power would be much more than the subsidy he actually receives on limited and unreliable supply. Additionally, the poor health of the State Electricity Boards will have an adverse impact on their ability to take up expansion schemes like 'Kutir-Jyoti'.

I am sure that this august House is aware that despite 85 per cent of coverage of villages, electricity only reaches about 30 per cent of households. This position has to be changed by investment in rural distribution. There is a proposal, under consideration, by my Ministry to give interest subsidy on rural electrification but this can only be given when SEBs are financially able to absorb this subsidy.

At present their financial position inhibits them from borrowing even limited amounts from the Rural Electrification Corporation and their overdues are heavy. This must change in the interest of development of power sector and rural areas where distribution gaps are largest.

Any delay in tariff reforms will aggravate the already precarious financial health of the Central PSUs. As the hon. Members are aware, the Finance Minister's proposed securitisation measure by giving a guarantee for dues of Rs. 10,000 crore in order to see that the CPSUs are at least able to go over this hump at the present moment.

The United Front Government did appreciate this situation and it was based on this that they organised two Conferences of Chief Ministers—not one but two—in October and December, 1996 to discuss the whole gamut of issues in the power sector. Shri Acharia is very strong about it but he should know the background for himself. The outcome of these Conferences was the adoption of a Common Minimum National Action Plan for Power, CMNPP. You have this love for the Common Minimum National Action Plan. They have love for these terms.

The CMNPP recognized that the gap between demand and supply of power is widening and acknowledged that the financial position of the State Electricity Boards is fast deteriorating. It was considered that the future development

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of the power sector cannot be sustained without viable State Electricity Boards and improvement of their operational performance. In fact they identified creation of regulatory commissions as a step in this direction and specifically provided for the establishment of the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission and State Electricity Regulatory Commission.

The consensus among the States—I repeat—the consensus among the States was that the retail tariffs should be rationalised. However, it was unanimously decided that no sector shall pay less than 50 per cent of the average cost of supply. It was also decided that tariffs for agricultural sector would not be less than 50 paise per KWH to be brought up to 50 per cent of the average cost in not more than three years. It is not a decision of our Government. It is a decision of your Government in consensus with all the Chief Ministers and I am going on record in Parliament to say this. And when we brought this, we dropped 50 paise saying that it should be the jurisdiction of the State and we said let the subsidy be given by the State.

It was in line with the above consensus that the Electricity Regulatory Commission Bill of 1997 was introduced in Lok Sabha on 14th August, 1997. The Bill was referred to the Standing Committee on Energy. The same Bill you wanted again to be referred to the Committee. The intentions are that you do not have power in this country. The Committee advised the Government to circulate the Bill among all the State Governments to elicit their views. This was done. Their views were taken into account while reformulating the Bill but before the Standing Committee could meet again to accept the views of the Power Ministry, the House was dissolved. This has resulted in delay in establishing the Regulatory Commission leading to misgivings among various sections about the commitment of our Government to tariff reforms and restructuring of the power sector, irrespective of which Party is in power. Government of India is a continuing process. Needless to say, this has also slowed down the flow of public and private resources into power sector.

Introducing the Bill in the Parliament would have taken considerable time. As I have already explained to you, the fast deteriorating financial health of the State Power Utilities and the adverse implications of delaying reforms, the need of the hour is to act decisively and without delay. In the normal course, if I had moved a Bill, it would have taken me to the end of the year before I could come anywhere near bringing into existence the Regulatory Commission and it would have been next year before it could ever become operational, creating a situation which might not have been ever correctable.

Since it was considered necessary to ensure the speedy establishment of the Regulatory Commission and as the Parliament was not in Session, the Ordinance was promulgated. It is my firm belief in the ancient Indian saying, "Subhasya Sheeghram". Whatever is good should start early unlike what Shri Acharia believes in. It is our firm belief that

setting up of independent Regulatory Commissions is one such good step which could not have been delayed. 1/

Because we promulgated the Ordinance, steps for setting up the CERC are nearing completion. I am confident that the CERC would be set up within the stipulated time i.e., before 25th of July 1998. The very fact that many States are in favour of setting up Regulatory Commissions is evident from the steps being taken by a number of States like Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Haryana. This is a heartening trend that at least they realise despite some people not wanting to realise.

Let me now briefly explain the salient features of the Bill. The main functions of the CERC are to regulate the tariff of generating companies owned or controlled by the Central Government; to regulate inter-state transmission including tariff of the transmission entities; to regulate inter-State bulk sale of power; to aid and advise the Central Government in formulation of tariff policy etc. The main functions of the SERC, to start with, would be to determine the tariff within the State for electricity, wholesale, bulk, grid and retail; to determine the tariff payable for use by the transmission facilities; to regulate power purchase and procurement process of the transmission utilities etc. Subsequently as and when each State Government notifies, other regulatory functions could also be assigned to SERCs. The State Regulatory Commission will not only be able to fix tariff in an objective and rational manner but also regulate the working of licences and SEBs, which they would not be able to do without being given the authority to do so under law. The consumers' interests will be protected by the Commission in such a way that there is emphasis on efficiency in the operation of the State power utilities. It will be ensured that the reasonably-priced electricity would be made available.

The idea is not to increase prices. The idea is to make transparent the cost and supply. Everybody should know at what price power is produced and at what price it is being distributed including the cost of distribution; where is cross-subsidisation; who is getting power at what cost; and what are the subsidies that the Government is giving. Let matters in the power sector be visible to all. Today we are going through a crisis. Nobody is able to understand why we have lack of power and shortage of power in almost every State. People are complaining about it. Today we have a situation where we have power cuts in almost every region except in eastern region. Today, if the eastern region does not have power cuts, very frankly, it is an unfortunate situation because they do not have industrial consumption to the extent they should have. If industrial growth in the eastern sector is matched to the growth of the additional capacity generation which was planned, they would have had the same problem today. The truth of the matter is that we are in a critical situation. I believe that setting up of Electricity Regulatory Commissions will be the single-most important measure for making available reasonably-priced and adequate power to the consumers. If we are not able to provide adequate power, it is of no use. If we bring in reforms

and improve the functioning of our State Electricity Boards, we can give power to all our agricultural consumers, if necessary, free of cost; give power honestly and truthfully to our domestic consumers; give power to our industrial houses so that they can produce, allow growth and employment.

What is the use of being negative all the time. We do not want to progress in this country? We want to set the clock back. It is time that some serious approach is taken. I am sure that all the Members would understand the critical situation that the power sector is in today. We are facing power cuts right across the country. In fact, we are now transferring power from the eastern sector right down to the South because of short supply of power in the South. Kerala is getting 100 MW of power. The North is also getting power from the eastern sector because there is surplus power there. Back up of generation is taking place there. There was no planning to ensure such a network wherein surplus power that was there could have been evacuated to other centres. Today you have a situation where you have short supply in the rest of the country and in the eastern sector, generators are being switched off because power cannot be pushed out. We are in a critical situation where we need investments. Today, 50,000 MW is what is considered to be the requirement by the Planning Commission for the year 2002 as additional capacity generation.

At today's average thumb rule rate of four crore mw, we are talking of Rs. 200,000 crore of investment. Electricity is not given by God. It is manufactured. It is not wind. It is not water which nature has produced. It has to be manufactured. There is a cost of manufacture. You have to meet the cost of manufacture for it to be distributed.

Keeping the matters in mind, I have brought forward this Bill before this august House. I am sure, hon. Members will understand because I want to make one thing clear—this Bill is the first step—that if we are not able to tighten our belts, understand what efficiency is, what is the operational efficiency, reduce the transmission and distribution losses, bring in modern technology, ensure power reaches every citizen, I do not think we are doing our fundamental duty as a State. I do not think, each Member is contributing for the development of this nation.

Without power, without electricity, there can be no modern State and I think, we need to realise this. Today, we have only 30 per cent households, as I mentioned, who have power. Seventy per cent of the households of this country do not have electricity and we sit here talking about this and that without realising what is our fundamental problem.

Sir, I have also proposed to move two amendments which I have mentioned. The first one pertains to Section 17 (1) which reads as:

"The State Government shall, within three months from the commencement of this Act, by notification in the

Official Gazette, establish, for the purposes of this Act, a \_\_\_\_\_ (name of the State) Electricity Regulatory Commission."

When the Ordinance was circulated, some of the State Governments ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil) : Are you moving as Amendment?

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM : Along with consideration. I am allowed to. You consider both ...*(Interruptions)* I am moving for consideration at the moment. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : Another hon. Member has moved an amendment. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM : That is a normal courtesy we have in this House ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : But, no decision has been taken by the House with regard to that amendment. *(Interruptions)* Is his amendment complete or not? *(Interruptions)* Then only you can move your amendment. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM : I agree that my learned senior colleague, Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan, from Kerala knows the procedure. I think, he was the Speaker earlier. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : Under the Constitutional provision, he has moved an amendment. That is before the House. A decision will have to be taken. Then, you can move your amendment and we can move ours. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM : Would you excuse me for a moment? I have been permitted to move a Bill for consideration. Along with that, I am moving an amendment. It is a standard procedure.

Now, we have heard that many of the State Governments are explaining that they have difficulties in establishing SERC's within the time-frame of three months. They wanted to have more time to work out the details. There were others like some North-Eastern States, perhaps, it is more economical to have one common Regulatory Commission for the entire North-East because some of the States are so small that they cannot afford a Regulatory Commission. Considering all this, it is proposed to amend Section 17(1) of the Bill as follows:

"The State Government may, if it deems fit, by notification in the Official Gazette, establish, for the purposes of this Act, a \_\_\_\_\_ (name of the State) Electricity Regulatory Commission."

This amendment would ensure that the establishment of the SERC is optional and not mandatory. However, I would

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appeal to all States to set up SERC's as early as possible. I am sure, they will appreciate the advantage of having an independent Regulatory Commission. The present Bill provides a ready structure for such a Commission. Since we are having an integrated grid it is essential that all the regions work in tandem and this will be possible only when all the States follow the uniform pattern.

The second amendment relates to the provision for agricultural tariff. I am not reading Section 29 (3) of the Bill.

The provision was included in the Bill in consonance with the consensus reached—I repeat, in consonance with the consensus reached—in the Chief Ministers' Conference held when the United Front Government was in power.

We are aware that no specific benchmarks are provided, of the type that was provided in 29(3) in the Orissa and Haryana Reforms Acts which had the concurrence of the Government of India. Nor is there such a provision in the AP Bill which has been passed by the AP State Legislature. However, we specifically provided for a period of three years for the SERC's to limit the cross-subsidisation below fifty per cent as the CMNAPP provided for the same. But since some apprehensions were raised by certain States about the interpretation of this subclause, I held a meeting with several hon. Members including the leaders of the political parties on May 20, 1998. The participants included Shri S. S. Barnala, Shri Ram Jethmalani, Dr. Manmohan Singh, Shri M. Muthaiah, Shri Omak Apang, Shri Saifuddin Soz and Shri J. Chittaranjan. As per the suggestions made at this meeting, we now propose to delete this Section to dispel all doubts and bring in more clarity. It will now be left to the regulator and the State Government to determine the tariff for agricultural consumers or, for that matter, for any group of consumers.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : What is the result?

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM : Let me finish my speech.

The basic idea is that ultimately, electricity is a matter which is a Concurrent Subject. It is true that the Union Government can impose. There is no problem about it. But ultimately, power or electricity is such fundamental issue that it is no use bringing politics into it. I think, it is time that we all understand that this is one fundamental infrastructure, which must rise above politics. This is the need of the hour today. I think across political party lines, I plead that here is an Act which is an enabling Act, which is no longer an Act that can be interpreted on the farthest thought or being a mandatory enforcing Act. This is to enable the State Governments. If a State Government does not find it suitable, they have the legislative authority to come out with their own Bill. But if they find it suitable, at least, to save the time of those State Governments who want to, I repeat who want to, have reforms, who want to solve their problems of power, who want to have growth and do not want to play with the most fundamental requirement of this nation, give them the

option to choose. Do not close even their doors. Do not send this country from a little amount of light to complete darkness.

The establishment of Regulatory Commissions would help in rationalising tariff and also provide for cross-subsidisation, wherever required, so that the State power utilities may function on financial viable lines. The setting up of Regulatory Commissions does not preclude, I repeat does not preclude, the State Governments from extending subsidies to agriculture which is an important and crucial sector of the economy. I come from a place, which in Salem, where it is ultimately the pumps that bring us irrigation. There is no canal, there is no river. So, I understand this problem. The State Governments can exercise the option of providing subsidies over and above those recommended by Regulatory Commissions. Such subsidies could even be extended to cover free power to agriculture, to weaker sections, etc. on condition that the State Governments compensate the SEB's by providing adequate budgetary support. When tariffs are rationalized and budgetary support is provided, the SEB's will improve their financial health and their capacity to invest on many crucial activities. This, in turn, will help in the flow of resources, both public and private, into the power sector, on a much larger scale than now, thereby improving the power situation considerably.

Sir, enabling the SEB's in investing on crucial and critical works such as renovation and modernisation of existing generation facilities, improvement of transmission and distribution systems, etc., will go a long way.

In the long run this will have the effect of optimising operational performance, reducing the T&D losses, promoting integrated grid operation, improving the quality of power supplies and also reducing the tariffs for the consumers.

Before I end, I would like to point out to my hon. friends, who seem to think that I am trying to impose or push down their throats, through a back-door method, something which will work against their interests. On the contrary, I have said more than once that as the Minister of Power, I look upon the SEBs as my sister organisations to the Central public sector utilities, which we have got and it is as much my responsibility as much as the responsibility of my friends in the State Governments to see that we solve these problems. We have a national grid. We are one nation. We do not have separate grids. We are inter-connected. If the frequency or the voltage in Bihar drops, immediately U.P. gets affected; if the frequency or the voltage in U.P. drops, Delhi gets affected. We are inter-connected. The four national regional grid patterns that we have got are all inter-connected. We are inter-dependent. Let us understand the crucial situation that we are in.

I plead with the Opposition Members, please realise that we are at the edge of a precipice. The more we delay the greater is the danger of the fall from which we may not be able to rise.

With these words, I request that the Bill be taken into consideration.

SHRI T.R. BAALU (Madras South) : Mr. Minister, are you repealing Clauses 29 (3) and 29 (5)? ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM : Clause 29 (5) remains.

SHRI T.R. BAALU : It becomes infructuous.

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM : Please read my amendments, which have been circulated. Nothing is infructuous. I have explained it. If you want, I can explain it later on after you speak. Please read my amendments first.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Motions moved:

"That this House disapproves of the Electricity Regulatory Commission Ordinance, 1998 (No. 14 of 1998) promulgated by the President of 25 April, 1998."

"That the Bill to provide for the establishment of a Central Electricity Regulatory Commission and State Electricity Regulatory Commissions. rationalization of electricity tariff, transparent policies regarding subsidies, promotion of efficient and environmentally benign policies and for matter connected therewith or incidental thereto, be taken into consideration."

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : I beg to move :

"That the Bill be circulated for the purpose of eliciting opinion thereon by the 15th September, 1998." (4)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Sir I will have to speak first.

[*Translation*]

MR. CHAIRMAN : You have the right to reply. You may speak at that time. Just now hon'ble members will speak. I am calling Shri K.S. Rao. You can reply in the end.

[*English*]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Sir, I will have to speak first. The Statutory Resolution is in my name. I have just moved it but I have not spoken while moving it.

[*Translation*]

I have not spoken a single word. I want to speak.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Not now. You have been given the opportunity. Please speak at the time of giving reply. Till then listen to the other hon'ble Members.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : You did not let me speak.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please speak in the end.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : It is a statutory resolution, why I should speak in the end.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You should have discussed the same at the time of moving it.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : You did not give me the opportunity to speak.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Sufficient time will be given to you.

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM : Generally the procedure in the House is that a matter is moved as Statutory Resolution. However, the member who moves a bill get the opportunity to speak on the consideration of bill and in the end also.

MR. CHAIRMAN : O.K., opportunity will be given.

SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR (Mangalore) : He will speak on his turn.

[*English*]

PROF. P.J. KURIEN (Mavelikara) : He wanted to speak now.

SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR : He cannot speak now. Both on the Resolution and on the Bill, that is the procedure in the House.

[*Translation*]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Alright. Consent of all the members will be taken.

[*English*]

SHRI K.S. RAO (Machilipatnam) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, power generation is proved to be playing a very important role in deciding the economy of any nation. There are some amendments which have to be brought to the existing Act in a wholehearted manner and not half-hearted manner. After going through the Bill that has been presented by the hon. Minister, I am of the opinion that this Bill has been brought here because of his anxiety and hurry to bring some changes immediately in the power sector of our country. My only apprehension is that maybe, in his hurry to prove that he is an efficient Minister, he is bringing this legislation without taking into account several other aspects involved in the life of the common man. However, if all these amendments were brought to regulate the cost of generation, then I would have understood, but it is not like that. He has also provided for curtailing a lot of subsidies that are being given to the agricultural community and to the underprivileged sections of the society. At the same time, when the hon. Minister is bringing this power regulation Bill, if the Agriculture Minister were also to bring in an amendment to the provision of fixation of prices for the agricultural products, then I would have understood this. We are thinking of the agricultural community. Everyone of us knows that the farmers are not being paid any remunerative price.

[Shri K. S. Rao]

If any State Government were to give any subsidy on electricity to the farming community after the underprivileged, as has been given to the Harijans and to the poorer sections of society, it is only after taking into account the various aspects of their life. But our hon. Minister does not think of all these things. He is only concentrating on power and getting remuneration on commercial principle not only for power generation but also supply the same to those unfortunate sections of the society.

Shri Radhakrishnan had raised a hue and cry on the very first day itself that this is not within the purview of or confidence of the Government of India and that it is coming under concurrent subject etc. After that, the Minister had agreed to bring in an amendment which he has brought here.

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM : That is wrong. I would like to intervene. I never said that.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN : His reply is at the end.

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM : A wrong statement has to be corrected.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN : You correct it at the end. Why do you want to correct it now.

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM : The point is, a statement which is not correct was made by my friend. He objected saying that we have no jurisdiction at all. There is concurrent jurisdiction. The amendment is not because of this. (*Interruptions*) It is unfair.

SHRI K.S. RAO : I am of the opinion that while fixing also, he could have concentrated more on the method of reducing the cost of generation than on distribution or giving it to the underprivileged sections on subsidy. For example, when the power sector was permitted to enter into the arena of privatisation, there was no clear-cut thought on the part of any officer or on the Government to decide on how to get the privatisation done in a proper manner. If anyone of us were to think of that, it was a pathetic state. In the initial stages of privatisation, several companies have taken advantage of establishing power projects with high cost per megawatt.

Those days, it was as they liked it. If some industrialist were to think that he would establish a power project at Rs. 5 crore per megawatt, it was permitted by the Government. If some other industrialist were to say Rs. 4 and a half crore, it was also permitted; if another said Rs. 4 crore, it was also permitted. After two or three years now the same industrialists have come down to a stage where they are ready to establish projects with Rs. 3 crore per megawatt.

The Minister never mentioned even one word about the exploitation that it has been done earlier taking advantage of the lacuna in the Act or in the system of the Government. So, if he were to say that he would concentrate

more on reducing his anomalies and exploitation by the generating companies of the individual or multinationals, we would have been very happy and garlanded him. He did not mention that. His entire concentration is only on that there should not be any subsidy. There should not be any subsidy to anybody, any section.

There cannot be uniformity in the price of power everywhere in the country. The cost of power generation varies from place to place. In a particular area like Bihar, coal is available amply. At the pithead, the power can be generated at a lower cost. The Bihar Government is underdeveloped in various other aspects. They wanted to supply power in their State to the farming community at a very low price. Nothing wrong in it. In another State where coal is not available if they want to produce power it will cost more. If the power is supplied at a higher cost the cost of the transport and for other reasons should have to be more. So, there cannot be any uniformity in price throughout the country. It depends on various factors. Maharashtra and Gujarat are very economically developed and forward States. It is easy for them. There may be competition from the people who can invest and then generate power at a lesser rate. We cannot compare a developed State and an underdeveloped State. So, the regional imbalances have to be checked.

The prices of various commodities which are produced in the country should also have to be fixed on the same principle as what the Minister of Power fixed. In one of the earlier Sessions when Shri Devi Lal was the Deputy Prime Minister I asked him whether he was going to fix the prices of agricultural products in the same way as he fixed up the industrial goods. He asked me "how"? If a capitalist were to invest money in an industry for producing tyres or even power, he will take into account, while fixing up the price of the particular product, the power, the investment, the interest that he will pay on the investment. They will pay depreciation also. If the owner of the power generation or the partners of the power generation were to employ their personal services and paid services which may be a big amount, all these things are added. Then their inputs, the profits, all those things are added to it. Then I asked the Deputy Prime Minister. "If a farmer has got one acre of land its worth is one lakh of rupees. Will you add the interest on the cost of the land in deciding the price? The farmer is working from morning to evening; not only himself, his wife and children are also working from morning six o'clock to night ten o'clock. Are you going to incorporate the cost of their services rendered as inputs? Do not take the profit angle. Only the inputs and the capital. Capital is land." When he said, "Yes". But nothing has been done. Even today, if all these things are taken into account the farmer is still not paid properly.

Now if the hon. Minister of Power were to suddenly say that the cost of power generation is very high, it cannot be given to a farmer for a lesser price, and that he wants to charge fully, then what is the fate of the farmer? Can he afford to raise a crop at all? Particularly in dryland areas where the water has to be brought out from about 300 or 500 feet he has to pay a high price depending upon the

power generation. And then he has to pay interest on the motor or the equipment that he fits in and then he must get his share of power. But the Minister of Agriculture does not do anything.

None of us decide the agricultural prices on this basis. The hon. Minister wants to fix up the prices. Is there any rationality in deciding the prices on the basis of power? Should the hon. Minister not take into account the various aspects of life of various sections of people in this country?

Now, today, when we visit the villages, in our Constituencies, the *dalits* are asking who will pay for the street lights in our habitats. So, some underprivileged sections have got to be given power at highly subsidised rates. The hon. Minister says that the State Government has to commit a budgetary support for all those things. If the same things were to be enforced during the last 50 years, there could not have been the need for the hon. Minister to bring this management at all. He himself has said that under the Act of 1948, all the Electricity Boards have to fix up a price giving three per cent return to the investment. Nobody has observed this. The Government of India never acted and a lot of bad things went on in the Government of India and also in the States. Now, the hon. Minister comes with the proposal, not in a comprehensive way, having power only in his mind and nothing else. So, I would request the hon. Minister not to be in a hurry, just by thinking only of power, cost of power generation, distribution and nothing else. A comprehensive Bill can come only when he is not in a hurry. Please give some time; take the advice of several Members, not the Chief Ministers, alone including the Members of the Committee on Energy. Let him say that he is bringing such a Bill. Let him discuss in detail. What is it? What are the effects of this Bill? The hon. Minister should not think that he must pass this Bill today, as he suggested earlier. Let it be sent to the Standing Committee on Energy. Let it be discussed in depth with knowledgeable people who can take all these aspects into account. (*Interruptions*).

SHRI MOHAN SINGH (Deoria) : How many times?

SHRI K.S. RAO : Any number of times in the public interest. We cannot forget the interests of the people who are underprivileged. Why did we discuss a few days back about so many deaths of farmers? Why did they commit suicides? (*Interruptions*). How will a farmer commit suicide? He will commit suicide only in a desperate state. Now, the hon. Minister wants to pass this Bill and charge Rs. 3/- per unit tomorrow. He says that even this rebate can be given only for three years. It is all right. The country's situation is going to change totally and every farmer would be rich after three years. He specifically mentions that of this rebate not more than 50 per cent can be reduced, that too only for three years and not beyond. (*Interruptions*).

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM : That is removed. (*Interruptions*).

SHRI K.S. RAO : So, I am convinced beyond doubt that the hon. Minister is in a hurry to pass this Bill. (*Interruptions*). The multinationals are not coming forward to invest big amounts in power generation. We are not clear about the intentions of the Government of India and also not clear about the provisions in this Act whether there will be red-tapism, whether the Government will support, as it is speaking in the public. Is it going to bring a Bill in this context to prove that their intentions are clear and they can earn profits? The hon. Minister is bringing this Bill keeping that in mind. It is all right, but not in keeping with the interests of the farmers and other underprivileged sections of the society.

Sir, I have gone through the various sections of the Bill. The Clause 6 (1) says that the term of the Chairman and the Members are for five years. Now, he has brought the Bill. He appoints the Chairman of his choice. Tomorrow, there will be a change in the Government. The Chairman will remain. Then, what happens tomorrow? What should the Government do? So, I would request that the term of five years is too long for any Chairman. It is not a policy. The policy is decided by the Government here. His job is only to implement it. Though there are some ways to select that man, yet still knowing full well how things are being done in the society or in the Government, I wish that there must be a change.

He has brought an amendment today and the very first word he changed is that the State Governments 'may' and not 'shall'. That means once again he does not want the State Governments of form a commission. The powers of the State are being totally taken away by the Government. What is the federalism then? The Objects of the Bill which he mentioned also say that it is to regulate the tariff of the generating companies 'owned or controlled'. That means everything comes under the Government of India. It is not only owned, it is also controlled. In some manner or the other, any State Government which wants to start a project, has to necessarily take the permission of the Government of India. That means, it is controlled by the Government of India in some way or the other. It has to come under the purview of the Government of India. No State Government can act on its own. That means once again there is concentration of power. The State Governments will become subsidiary to the Government of India. Similarly, in the same clause he says "to regulate the tariff also, generating companies other than owned and controlled by the Government of India". That means he wants to keep every power in the hands of the Power Minister of the Government of India. We all discuss every time Bihar, Bengal and all that. Everybody is fighting that we must have federalism and the State Governments should not be encroached upon. But here is total encroachment. I wish the hon. Minister should think of some more amendments on these aspects and not to be in a hurry. After the amendments are brought, we can pass the Bill.

The hon. Minister has brought an amendment on a very important and vital aspect, that is, clause 29, where the very impact is once again to satisfy the Members. He is withdrawing several things by which the very principle and

[Shri K. S. Rao]

the purpose for which he has brought this legislation and is in a hurry to get it passed, is lost.

Sir, there are several more things to be discussed but since you are saying that there is a constraint of time, my humble request to the hon. Minister is not to be in a hurry to get the Bill passed today itself and give chance for a detailed discussion, not to encroach upon the powers of the State Governments and not to deprive the common of the facility that was available to him earlier.

\*SHRI S. MALLIKARJUNIAH (Tumkur): Mr. Chairman Sir, I am speaking in Kannada. This is an important language in South India. Electricity plays a vital role in the progress of any nation particularly in the field of industry and agriculture. Wonderful results have been achieved in agriculture with the help of electricity. As we are all aware, there is a great need to increase the production of electricity. Distribution of electricity of the farmers should also be done systematically. Unfortunately there is shortage of electricity and the farmer is not getting sufficient electricity. Karnataka State is incurring huge losses every month and every year due to shortage of electricity. Sufficient voltage is not there and this has adversely affected the distribution of electricity particularly to the farmers. Sometimes, electricity poles are given but the farmers have to wait for the arrival of wires. Sometimes they have to wait two to three years. They have to wait for getting other equipments. There is huge loss in the field of agriculture as the distribution system of electricity is erratic.

In Karnataka, electricity was supplied to the farmers freely when late Shri R. Gundu Rao was the Chief Minister. Former Chief Minister Shri S. Bangarappa also helped the farmers to a greater extent by providing them electricity free of cost. Despite these efforts of the former Chief Ministers the farmers in Karnataka could not gain much benefit as the supply of electricity was not continuous. The supply of electricity was stopped from two to three hours each day. Hence the farmers could not get their crops and the losses were mounting year after year. Such circumstances force the farmers to commit suicide and in fact the number of farmers committing suicide has gone up these days. On one hand he is not getting support price and on the other he is not able to pay the loan instalments. Banks and cooperative societies also create problems to farmer to recover his loans. He cannot lead a respectable life and ultimately decides to commit suicide. I feel that the number of such deaths would increase in future.

The rainfall in Karnataka is very low particularly in Tumkur, Chitradurga, Kolar, Bangalore Rural, Gulbarga, Bidar and Raichur Districts. Farmer in my State is always depending upon the rain. Added to this there is no proper supply of electricity. Sufficient voltage is not available. The supply of electricity will be stopped for two to three hours in a day. Sometimes the motor is burnt. The farmer has to pay about 300 to 400 rupees for the repair of motor. This is the miserable condition of a farmer in our country particularly in Karnataka.

The State Electricity Boards are trying very hard to supply more electricity to industries and agriculture. They are not able to provide sufficient electricity as there is paucity of funds. If I question the sincerity of the administrators and other related officials of the State Boards, it may pain them. The State Electricity Boards want to open new power stations. They want to provide power to Harijan colonies. Where are the funds for these works? Only two to three inches of water supply is available to farmers. He has to wait for years to get water for 5 to 6 acres of land. How can a farmer progress under such pressing circumstances?

Now, we want to fix tariff. The Bill also seeks to set up Commissions at the State and Centre level. These days a number of private sectors are coming forward to produce electricity. They have to be provided with proper land and other facilities. Care has to be taken to protect the ecology and environment of the area. Above all, the processing of such projects has to be done quickly and without any delay. In fact, all of us expect that such plans have to be cleared in a rocket speed. I am in the opposition party for the last 25 years. Of course, now I am in the ruling party. I can compare the performance of both the Governments. My assessment of the performance leads to the conclusion that there is a great need to improve our performance.

Governments are changing periodically. But what we have to see is that whether there is any change in the attitude of the administrators and other related officers who are at the helm of affairs.

Now, Shri Kumaramangalam has taken over as the Minister of Power. I have met him on several occasions. I have requested him for power to Karnataka as it is facing acute shortage. He has visited our State several times. In fact he is very close to us as he hails from Hosur and he is fully aware of the power shortage problem in our State. The Hon'ble Minister has brought this Electricity Regulatory Commissions Bill, 1998. The Bill seeks to establish a Central Electricity Regulatory Commission and State Electricity Regulatory Commissions. It also intends to promote efficient and environmentally benign policies. It seeks to rationalise the tariff. I welcome this Bill and hope that it would help the farmers. In my opinion electricity must be provided to farmers free of cost. According to the Bill the tariff will be fixed by the Central Government and the farmers have to pay 50% compulsorily. This will be very difficult for the farmers. The cost of inputs has increased enormously. The farmer sweats in the field throughout the day and produces foodgrains. He supplies vegetables, fruits, milk, etc. You are utilising the services of farmer at all stages. But what is the response of the Government to the farmer? He is being totally exploited. We think that we are born as agriculturists because of our previous births' sins.

The financial position of a farmer is very bad. The agriculturist can buy a car or build a house only when he is having some agency or other business. Otherwise, he cannot dream of a car or a well built house. There may be some exceptional cases. The farmer will be a debtor till his

\* Translation of the speech originally delivered in Kannada.

last breath and this is 100% true. Agriculture is the backbone of our economy. If agriculture has to flourish in this country the farmers must be supported by all sections of our society. Support price for agricultural produce is a must. Electricity should be provided to the farmer freely. Irrigation facilities should be given to the farmer and then only we can think of any progress in our country.

I am a legislator for the last 25 years. I have worked as a labourer and I continue to work in my fields. I am least bothered about formalities. Moreover, these days it has become very difficult to get labourers. These are the conditions prevailing in our agriculture fields. We have to look at the farmer sympathetically and on humanitarian grounds. He works hard and always believes that work is worship. He does not know how to calculate. He is concentrating only on work.

A paan-beeda shop owner or a person who sells cigarettes, match box, etc., will be in a better position than a farmer financially. Unfortunately, the financial condition of a farmer is pitiable. I request the Hon'ble Minister to help our farmers who are feeding the entire nation and also enabling us to export foodgrains and other items like cotton, silk, etc. He should not repent for being a farmer. He should never think that it is sin to be born as a farmer. A Class IV Government employee will be more happy than a farmer processing 100 acres of land in our country. An attender or a second division clerk in a Government office would get around 5,000 rupees per month as salary. He gets many other facilities like housing, medical, etc. Government employees lead a happy life but no farmer can get more than 2,000 rupees in a month. There are so many political leaders here in this august House who are well aware of the problems of farmers. These politicians have come up in their lives and it is good. I was a member of the 10th Lok Sabha and many of my colleagues were real agriculturists. They were explaining the basic difficulties of a farmer in this country.

Today nobody would come forward to marry off his daughter to a farmer. Even a Post & Telegraph employee or any other Government employee can easily find a bride for his marriage. He would get dowry also. There is a great need to change the attitude of our society towards farmer. He deserves all encouragement. The subsidy which was given to him all these years should continue in future also. Otherwise what are you going to do if the farmer does not produce wheat, paddy, vegetables, fruits, milk, etc.? Hence the farmer should never be exploited. Our country's progress is depending upon the farmers. Therefore, the main concern of our Government should be the welfare of our farmers. I trust that this Bill would go a long way in helping the cause of the farmers.

Once again I support the Bill and thank the Chair for allowing me to express my views on the subject.

18.00 hrs.

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER (Tenali) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I do not propose to speak on the merits of the Bill because a large number of friends are to speak on the Bill.

I have known the father of the hon. Minister. He was one of the greatest advocates and a brilliant lawyer of this country. I have known my friend as a Parliamentarian. But I have not known him as a lawyer. I want to bring to his notice certain provisions which are unfortunate and the drafting seems to be either flippant or without taking into consideration certain aspects which ought to have been addressed.

on page 3 Clause 4 (2) says:

"Notwithstanding anything contained in sub-section (1), the Central Government may appoint any person as the Chairperson from amongst persons who is or has been a Judge of the Supreme Court or the Chief Justice of a High Court."

Therefore, a person who had been a judge of the Supreme Court and who retired could also have been appointed under Clause 4 (2). But if you look at Clause 6 Proviso (1), it says:

"Provided that no Chairperson or other Member shall hold office as such after he has attained, - (a) in the case of the Chairperson, the age of sixty-five years."

I thought my friend had been a good lawyer. I know his wife is a better lawyer than him. A judge of the Supreme Court always retires at the age of 65 years and if you want to appoint under Clause 4 (2), a person who had been a judge, the means he has to be appointed after 65 years. But in Proviso 6 (1) it is said that a person who is beyond 65 years cannot be appointed. It is something which you will have to look into. In any case you will have to amend it.

18.03 hrs.

[ SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU *in the Chair* ]

SHRI S. MALLIKARJUNIAH : If a person is dismissed before the age of 65 years, he can be appointed.

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER : But here the wording is: "who is or has been". So, a man who retires at the age of 65 years, how could he be appointed?

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM : Sir, it is true that this point came to my notice at the time of drafting itself. Originally, we had the limits of 67 and 65. Then, it was felt collectively that this habit of going on increasing the age limit or the age being unlimited as is the case in many commissions, it is far better to put a ceiling. Generally, it was thought of 65 years and 62 years. I feel this has been an issue because I am naturally aware that at the age of 65 years a judge normally retires. But there are cases where you could voluntarily retire. Therefore, there is very little I can say about that.

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER : But a Judge, in the normal Course, retires at 65 years.

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM) : This is in respect of normal courts. But in non-normal courts, it is not so.

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER : How?

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM : You know about one instance.

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER : It is only an instance of resigning and that is all.

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM : I think, you know what I am talking about.

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER : Please look into this. It is a bad draftsmanship

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM : I looked up. According to what you are saying, it is not a bad draftsmanship but a bad oversight.

SHRI VAIKO (Sivakasi) : Whatever it is, it has to be rectified.

SHRI K. BAPIRAJU (Narsapur) : You want to welcome a person who could not serve as a Judge for 65 years. Where is the necessity to welcome that man who could not serve for 65 years?

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER : Mr. Chairman, I regret to say that the Minister seems to be standing on a false prestige. It is very unfortunate. If good sense prevails, I think, he will think over it. I am sure, if his father was there, then he would have immediately amended it. I knew him so closely. I had the opportunity to assist him in a large number of cases. That is why, I know what he was.

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM : I also know that my father said 'no' to you.

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER : You have never assisted me. I am proud of the fact that you have never assisted me because if you commit these types of mistakes, I am sure, I would have also committed the same mistakes.

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM : These are not fair aspersions. I am sorry, Shri Shiv Shanker, these are not fair aspersions. You do not hear another person, but you pass judgments on him. I do know what you did on the Bench.

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER : Anyway, it is very unfortunate. I leave it there.

The second aspect is with regard to clause 17 (1). There, 'shall' is sought to be transformed into 'may'. I would just

like to bring to his notice that the courts had been often interpreting 'may' as 'shall' and 'shall' as 'may' having regard to the context in which the word appears. I would not like to go into the details of the interpretation of the Statutes and all that. But the courts had been interpreting that way. Once you say that "The State Government shall, within three months from the commencement of this Act, establish a Commission ...", it is possible. I have not gone into the details.

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM : The amendment is different.

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER : It is possible that having regard to the time factor, they might interpret 'may' as 'shall'. I thought that you have left the option, but there is no option to the State.

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM : In fact, the amendment is different. Please see the amendments.

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER : Then the other aspect which I thought I should bring to his notice is that in the Statement of Objects and Reasons, what has been said will be against the amendments that have been brought in. The amendments that have been brought in will necessarily have the effect on the Objects and Reasons, and appropriate amendments will have to be made in that regard.

These are the aspects which I thought that I should bring to his notice. Otherwise, on the merits, my other friends will be speaking and I would not like to say anything on that.

SHRI T.R. BAALU (Madras South) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the hon. Minister has brought before the House a Bill which is atrocious in nature and which has got overriding powers over the rights of the State Government. Clause 22 (3) says:

"The State Commission shall exercise its functions in conformity with the national power plan."

It is just like threatening the State Government as if the Central Government is a master and the State Governments are its servants. This attitude of the hon. Minister is very much atrocious. The Central Government has got no overriding powers over the State Government.

At the same time, the hon. Minister has said in the course of his speech: "That it is not wind to supply it free of cost. It is not water to supply free of cost." If this is the attitude of the Minister, Sir, the agriculturists are producing the paddy. What is the production cost? What is the cost of seed, fertiliser and labour? That way, paddy is also produced by the farmers, by the agriculturists. The agriculturists have been given the benefit of 100 per cent subsidy by our government. From 1971 onwards, more than 7 lakh pump sets were energised and agriculturists have been given free power. One hundred per cent subsidy is there. Taking all these things into account, if the energy is charged to the agriculturists, what will happen? In the common pool, Central Government is procuring the paddy. While procuring the paddy, invariably

the agriculturist has to charge the power cost also if they remove subsidy of power. It is not? Industrial produce costs labour, power and everything and, at the same time, the agricultural produce also has to cover the power charges. If the subsidy is not there, the agriculturist naturally would expect the cost which he has to pay for electricity, for labour, for seeds and everything. Just like that, in a way, the Central Government has to pay somehow or the other. The present Power Minister has come forward quickly to amend the Bill or bringing the Bill before the House. What is happening in NTPC? What is the power load factor? You know the power factor under which the NTPC is functioning.

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM : It is better than in your State.

SHRI T.R. BAALU : It is not better than in my State. I challenge. Are you ready? ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM : It is better than in other States...*(Interruptions)* if you may permit me, the hon. Member is challenging me.

SHRI T.R. BAALU : I would challenge the hon. Minister for the matter facts.

Sir, in Clause 29 (3), as presented by the hon. Minister, it is stated that no consumer will be allowed to be charged below 50 per cent of production cost; any subsidy should be compensated to the State Electricity Board and it is not extended beyond three years.

Secondly, it has now been replaced any an amendment. The hon. Minister has stated that the State Commission, while determining the tariff under this Act shall not show undue preference to any consumer of electricity, but may differentiate according to the consumer's load factor, power factor, total consumption of energy during any specified period.

Here I agree. You have allowed cross subsidy. May I repeat, Mr. Minister, that you have allowed cross subsidy? In that case, I would like to know whether the Commission will fix or the producer will fix the power generation and the total cross subsidy.

There are a lot of private generators who have come into the field. It is not only the Government, it is not only the Electricity Boards which are there but a lot of independent power projects have come up. They will definitely ask more than what the Electricity Board now charges. In that case, what will the Government do? I want to know about this.

There is another thing. In clause 29, sub-clause (4), a new clause, he says:

"The holder of each licence and other persons including the Board or its successor body authorised to transmit, sell, distribute or supply electricity wholesale, bulk or

retail, in the State shall observe the methodologies and procedures specified by the State Commission from time to time in calculating the expected revenue from charges which he is permitted to recover and in determining tariffs to collect those revenues."

Sub-clause (5) says:

"If the State Government requires the grant of any subsidy to any consumer or class of consumers in the tariff determined by the State Commission under this section, the State Government shall pay the amount to compensate the person affected by the grant of subsidy in the manner the State Commission may direct, as a condition for the licensee or any other person concerned to implement the subsidy provided for by the State Government."

In that case, the State Commission has to direct as per the direction given by the Commission of the Central Government. Is it a fact or not? Kindly go through clause 22, sub-clause (3) in which the Government has directed the State Commission to act according to the directions and whims and fancies of the proposed Central Electricity Commission. Is it not a fact? Mr. Minister, do you agree or disagree with me? I would request you to just stand up and tell me if you agree with me or not. I will yield the floor to you ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM : Since he requested me to clarify the position, I would like to intervene.

MR. CHAIRMAN : On each and every point, you need not reply now itself. This is not the way. You may cover it in your speech.

SHRI T.R. BAALU : Sir, it is very much anti-farmer. It is very much anti-poor and it is very much anti-democratic. It is very much interferes with the State autonomy. Therefore, I would request the hon. Minister, who is hailing from Salem district where a lot of pumpsets have been energised by our Government of Tamil Nadu to the agriculturists, to have some patience. I would request him to go thought the Bill once again himself, not by his officials.

As has been pointed out just now by Mr. Shiv Shanker, there are a lot of corrections in this Bill. My request to him is to just pass it on to the Standing Committee or a Select Committee. The Committee can go through the Bill clause by clause and then he can come to the House. Otherwise, the farmers and the agrarian community are definitely doing to agitate as they are going to be the sufferers. That is all I can say at this stage. I would, therefore, request the Minister to kindly withdraw this Bill or send it to Standing Committee.

With these words, I oppose the Bill. Thank you.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri V. Radhakrishnan.

... *(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : So many names are there. I am calling one by one. There is no problem.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil) : Sir, I am constrained to oppose the Bill. It is not because that I am against the objective of the Bill but because the manner in which it has been piloted... *(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Radhakrishnan, the time allotted to this Bill is one hour. Please be brief. You may cover some more new points.

... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : It is such an important Bill. At least four hours are needed... *(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : This decision was taken in the All-Party meeting. It was not taken by me. Your party representative was also there.

... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : I have to oppose the Bill because of the manner in which it has been piloted. First, it curtails the powers of the State Governments in respect of power generation. Secondly, the Bill is a hasty piece of legislation. Thirdly, I would like to submit that the Bill will have to be sent to a Committee for further evidence.

As we all know, legislation is a process by which the social requirement obtaining in a particular situation is met.

In that sense, no legislation is there. We find that 1948 Act is the basic Act. This Bill deals with tariffs, tariff policy, imposition of tariff and so on. All those matters are contained in 1948 Act. Now the main purpose of your Act at this stage is to create a Central Regulatory Commission and State Regulatory Commission. These bodies are created to determine the tariff policy with a view to increasing the power generation.

Now the objectives are good. You know it better than me. As you know, this is a State as well as Central Subject as it is in the Concurrent List. Before we go into a comprehensive legislation, I would require to the hon. Minister to have a consultation with all the States. I do not say that you have not consulted. The Committee have consulted and they have obtained the opinion and recommendations of the Standing Committee. Now the present Standing Committee can do the remaining work which can be done within a short time. Why do you not allow the Committee to finish the work? After all, the legislation will have to go through the normal process. You want the legislation to be a hasty one. You do not want to take into consideration all the issues involved in this legislation.

Now you are telling me that you are in a haste. You are saying that because of requirement of power generation, no delay can be tolerated. Now due to the changing conditions, you say that the Bill has to be passed without delay. Now you have made it obligatory or optional.

Last time when I objected to the introduction of Bill, the hon. Minister had promised to bring in an amendment. Now the hon. Minister has brought an amendment. The objectives of the amendment are two-fold. In the first place, it has become an optional matter. Secondly, the Minister has given some direction with regard to the tariff policy. These are the two objectives of the amendment which the hon. Minister has brought. I oppose this legislation because it is tainted in the sense that it has been brought to meet a particular situation. It is a deal between the ruling party and the Leader of the AIADMK. Can you deny that fact? You cannot deny that fact. You have brought a Bill with this amendment. This is a tainted legislation ... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI VAIKO (Sivakasi) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, our hon. Member, Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan, for whom I have got the greatest respect, has made a reference that there is a deal between the Leader of the AIADMK and the Government. That sentence need not be there as it is not at all true. First of all, there is no such deal. Whosoever is affected—whether it is the AIADMK or the allied parties—because of this provision, has opposed it. It was because of this opposition even among many sections of the ruling party, that this amendment has been brought by the Government. There is no such deal. I think, our hon. Member would change his idea that there is no such deal ... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : I do not dispute it ... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI R. MUTHIAH (Periyakulam) : Sir, the hon. Member should withdraw that word. What do you mean by the word 'deal'? ... *(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Muthiah, I think, Shri Vaiko has replied to it.

... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : I can explain the position. The circumstantial evidence is such that it will irresistably lead to that conclusion because it was duly reported in the newspapers that this Bill was brought in by the hon. Minister without consulting the Leader of the AIADMK. It seems, you have not read it... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI R. MUTHIAH : Sir, my point is whether you are allowing the word 'deal' to go in the proceedings... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am on a point of order.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Muthiah, let the hon. Minister have his say.

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM : Sir, not taking names of the people who are not present in the House is a normal etiquette and part of the rules of this House. My senior colleagues who has been the Speaker of Kerala Assembly

may not know it but we are very strict about not taking name of any person who is not present in the House to defend himself... *(Interruptions)* He has mentioned the name ... *(Interruptions)*

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS : No, he has not.

SHRI R. MUTHIAH : Sir, the hon. Member has referred to my leader saying that this amendment was introduced here because of the deal with AIADMK ... *(Interruptions)* Are you allowing it?

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : It is not unparliamentary.

SHRI R. MUTHIAH : It is not correct. Sir, we want your ruling. ... *(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Muthiah, Vaikoji has already denied this on behalf of all of you. So, please sit down.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : What I am submitting is based on the paper reports, which has not been, till date, denied. In Tamil Nadu, farmers are given subsidy and that subsidy is made by the State Government with the Central aid also. That is my information.

Now, the hon. friend has brought in the Amendment dealing with the same subject. The second and third paragraphs deal with subsidy. There main contention was that the subsidy to farmers should not be standardized. If you go through the amendments moved by my learned friend, it is abundantly clear there that these subsidies will be continued without interruption. Why such an Amendment is being brought at this stage? That is why, I hold that this is a change of legislation with political convenience. That is why, I submit that a legislation should originate to meet the social requirements in a given situation. But what is the situation? Now, they have a situation to meet the demand of..... \* that the subsidies to farmers should not be done away with. That is the situation there.... *(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Radhakrishnan, you should not take her name in this House. She is not a Member of the House.

... *(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : I am removing this name from the records. There is no problem.

... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI VAIKO (Sivakasi) : You are dwelling on the subject on merits. Why should you talk like this?... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : I never wanted to offend anybody. But what I have submitted is the situation there. An amendment was brought. If the Minister had not brought the Amendment, I would not have made such comments.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Radhakrishnan, please come to the subject.

SHRI VAIKO : His point is that she took up the case in the right earnest. That is conceded. It is his point ... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: That is only one of the points. Now, I have to deal with another major and important points. This was only a secondary point. Because the circumstances are such that my friend has to continue with his habit ... *(Interruptions)*... I can understand his political consciousness and political necessity. But what is the necessity of India? He is encroaching upon the rights of the State. It is an encroachment which we cannot tolerate. My Amendments are brought in with a view to eliminate those processes by which encroachments on the State should be obviated. That is my contention. For that purpose, the amendments have been moved.

Now, in the Bill, that is placed before the House, two things are there. One. 'The primary object is to first create a Central Commission'. I fully agree with it. Second, 'The Central Commission Chairman will be the sitting judge of the Supreme Court.' About it also, nobody has any objection.

You are mistaken, my dear friend. A sitting judge of the Supreme Court shall be the Chairperson of the Central Commission. A sitting judge of the High Court shall be the Chairperson of the State Commission and these two Commissions will have to determine the tariff policy. This is the gist of his Bill.

But I do not understand as to what was the urgency to bring such a Bill. All other things could be done easy by the existing Act, 1948. Even after hearing with rapt attention I could not understand the reason for the haste with which he is piloting the legislation. Why should you do away with the mechanism of referring it to a Standing Committee or for eliciting public opinion, so that we can get the opinion of all those who are concerned, the consumers? There opinion will have to be recorded. You eliminated all this process and you are showing undue haste. Why do you show undue haste? That leads me to think in terms of political necessity. Otherwise I would not have made such a contention. It is a case where the political necessity is the predominant factor for piloting this Bill with undue haste. We cannot be a party to that.

Even after going through his argument that for power generation this was a necessity and that they had to take immediate steps for power generation, we are not convinced. If that be the case, then why should my friend say that States will have the option? They need not even act under the provision of the proposed legislation. He has agreed that any State can take any decision. I commend that proposal. Then what is the necessity? What prompted him to bring this hasty legislation? He has not given a convincing reply. Why should the Central Government show so much haste? All other things could be achieved by the existing legislation. The State Electricity Board should be called in, they should

\* Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

[Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan]

be summoned so that a discussions can be had and a consensus evolved. Without doing all this he has taken such hasty move of bringing this legislation denying all the democratic processes, denying the right of the House to discuss the Bill and denying the right of the States to discuss the Bill. I have my own reservations.

MR. CHAIRMAN : At the time of the introduction of this Bill also you had taken a lot of time. You have already argued everything and everything has been recorded here. You need not dwell on the same points again. We were all here at that time also. Many hon. Members are waiting to participate in the debate. That is why it is my request to you to conclude your speech.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : The way in which amendments have been dealt with can be seen from one portion to which I will invite the Chairman's attention. Please see Page 13, Sub-clause 3. It says:

"The State Commission while determining the tariff under this Act shall not show undue preference..."

Why should it be stated like this? Does it mean that a State Commission will show undue preference? The State Commission is headed by the Judge of a High Court. How could he presume that the State Commission will show undue preference? That matter is to be clarified. Would a man with self-respect, especially the judge of a High Court, come to serve as the Chairman of the State Commission?

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Delete that word.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: I have moved an amendment for that purpose.

This is the way they are dealing with the State subject. They are dealing with it in the most undemocratic way without taking into consideration all the mechanisms that are available. You should change your approach. You should show better magnanimity towards all the States. You should also understand that whenever you deal with a legislation you must be patient and you must be tolerant towards the States.

With these words, I conclude.

SHRI R. MUTHIAH (Periyakulam) : Sir, at the outset, I appreciate the hon. Minister for moving an amendment for deleting clause 29 (3) from this Bill. Otherwise, I would have been put to the task of opposing the entire Bill in its original form. That is why, when the Ordinance was promulgated and the news appeared in the Press, our leader, Dr. Puratchi Thalaivai Jayalalitha had opposed it and objected to this Bill being brought in here.

We opposed it in its original form because in our opinion this Bill, in its original form, was a blow on the head of the poor farmers of this country. That is why we had opposed this Bill in its original form. But after that the hon. Minister had introduced some amendments to the Bill and we appreciate him for that act. Even though we are a part of this

Government, we shall not hesitate to oppose anything which is against the interest of the poor agriculturists of this country. This is why we had opposed the increase in the urea prices also and the Government is having a rethinking of its decision. We oppose something which in our opinion is against the interests of the poor. When we express our desire to oppose such aspects, the Government accepts our requests and demands. Then, they act on it. How can any hon. Member here say that it was a deal? When we demand something for the benefit of the country, for the benefit of the poor, is it a deal?

The hon. Minister, in his opening speech, had observed that we should have some progressive thinking. I accept this observation of his. We should have some progressive thinking. What is the plight of the farmers in this constituency? The farmers in his constituency are getting water from the wells with the aid of three or four pump-sets from great depths. In my constituency, we are getting too little water from three or four wells, put it all in one well and then getting water using compressors. For a single irrigation, we are using three or four pump-sets. What is the aid that the Government is going to give to these farmers? This is why we are insisting that supply of free electricity to farmers should continue and our leader had opposed this Bill in its original form.

Anyway, now an amendment has been introduced and we are appreciating it. Otherwise, we would have opposed this Bill. It is because of this amendment that we are not opposing this Bill. Our earnest appeal to the hon. Minister is this. Please do not equate agriculture with other sectors like industry. In his opening address, he has equated both agriculture and industry. While some of the industrialists are going away from the grid system, the agriculturists are getting power only from our grids.

Please do not equate them. This is my earnest appeal to you. Had these amendment not been made, we would have opposed this Bill. Since these amendments have been moved, we are not opposing the Bill.

With these few words, I conclude.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : The hon. Minister in his statement has stated that it is for safeguarding the interests of the customers and not for safeguarding the interests of the agriculturists....(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN : The hon. Minister will give the clarification later. Please do not argue.

[*Translation*]

SHRI MOHAN SINGH (Deoria) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I do not intend to oppose the ordinance presented by the Hon'ble Minister which was earlier prepared by the previous Government as a bill. I am not among the Members who were Ministers in the previous Government, prepared and introduced this bill and now when they are sitting in the

opposition benches, they are opposing the same. I do not consider it political morality.

The second thing which I would like to state is that by the statement given by the hon'ble Minister in support of the bill presented by him, it seems that he has a misunderstanding that the problem of electricity will be solved if such type of regulatory commissions are set up in states and at the centre. He is requested to remove this thought out of his mind. I am dead against the thinking that Supreme Court and High Court Judge can be a pannaacea to every matter or the police and CBI can conduct the enquiries properly. To appoint a judge of Supreme Court or High Court as Chairman of any commission has become a convention in our country. This regulatory Commission is concerned with the transmission, power tariff and with all the arrangements to be made for power generation.

I am at loss to understand that now a Supreme Court or High Court judge can be an expert to head such commissions.

I would like to state one more thing that why only the regulation of tariff. It has been stated all over the country that Vidyut Board is over-burdened with the loan and debts as it has to provide the electricity to the poor and dalit people free of cost and has to make electricity arrangements in the remote villages for farmers on easy instalments. It is a misleading statement and it should be corrected. I am of the definite view that this regulatory commission is not set up only to regulate the tariff. I can say on the basis of my personal experience that the engineers of Vidyut Board are getting 2½ times more salaries than the engineers of any other department. Employees of Vidyut Board may say anything but they all are getting the electricity supply without paying tax or tariff. This fact should also be taken into consideration. When we talk of transmission losses of Vidyut Board, that contain 10% of power which is pilfered and this pilferage is not possible without the connivance of the employees of Vidyut department. Reasons of loss of the Vidyut Board should also be regulated in the regulatory commission. It should also be ascertained wither it is due to the free supply of electricity or due to the pilferage of electricity. Moreover, I request you that this regulatory board should also regulate the issues regarding the burden of salaries on Vidyut Board, facilities, funds of the board, pilferage in connivance with employees, bureaucratic pressure etc.

As far as the supply of power to private sector is concerned, entrepreneurs from all over the world are inspired by the infrastructure of our country. We have made efforts that private sector should make investments to provide basic amenities for the progress and industrial development of our country and the foreign investment may also come to our country. However, on the basis of my personal experiences, I can say that an area of our state was handed over to private sector for generation and distribution of power. Today, the people of Noida are facing great difficulty because now the electricity is provided to them by the private sector four times costlier than the power

supplied by the Uttar Pradesh Vidyut Board earlier. Now the position is that the private firm is ready to supply the electricity but people are not willing to take the power from it. We should seriously consider this issue while planning all aspects of the power. As far as hydro-electricity generation is concerned, the work on Tehri Project is not progressing for the last 22 years due to some hurdles. The Himalaya is the biggest source to generate hydro-electricity in our country, however, hon'ble minister should consider the point that how much electricity is being generated through this source. Therefore emphasis should be made for the maximum generation of electricity through atomic power and hydro-electricity, Conventional system of Thermal Power should also be taken into consideration and a proper planning should be evolved because at present electricity is generated through this medium with heavy losses. Government is under the false impression that by just constituting the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission, all the problems relating to power generation or power supply would be solved. This bill is confined only to some limited points. I support it and it should be passed but alongwith it a uniform system for tariff all over the country should be evolved. There are some states where electricity is supplied to the farmers free of cost. However, there are some states where farmers have to resort to agitation path for the settlement of their electricity arrears. No uniform system is prevailing in the country for the supply of electricity all over the country and the same should be evolved.

With all these suggestions, I thank you. During both 10th and 12th Lok Sabha, I had seen hon'ble Minister sitting on treasury benches. I wish him to remain in power to work for the country. I conclude with my best wishes to you.

*[English]*

SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR (Mangalore) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I stand in support of the Electricity Regulatory Commissions Bill which is under consideration in this House which was introduced by the hon. Minister of Power.

Sir, at the outset, I would like to know the minds of the hon. Members sitting on the Opposition benches. They have been vehemently arguing about the capability of the State Electricity Boards. I would like to remind them about one thing. We have the experience of many private entrepreneurs who have come forward to make investment for generation of power. No single investor ever relied upon or ever trusted the State Electricity Boards; and everyone of them wanted a counter-guarantee from the Government of India. Why is it so? If the State Electricity Boards are capable enough to satisfy those investors that the money invested is safe, it would not happen.

SHRI T.R. BAALU : They need a sovereign guarantee.

SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR : It is a counter-guarantee. You may please verify it. Every single investor wanted a counter-guarantee from the Government of India. That shows the health of the State Electricity Boards.

[Shri V. Dhananjaya Kumar]

Sir, today the whole country is having a shortage of an estimated 15,000 MW of power and the estimated increase in the demand every year is at the rate of 7000 megawatt.

SHRI D.C. SRIKANTAPPA (Chickmangalore) : It is not 15,000 MW. That is wrong. The connected load in Karnataka is 12,500 MW. The available power is to the extent of 3500 megawatt.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Let the Minister clarify that point.

SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR : As per the information which I have, as of now, the shortage in the country is of the order of 15,000 megawatt. The increase in yearly demand is on the order of 7000 megawatt. At this rate, we would require 6000 MW more every year to the national grid. Today, when the Minister was speaking, he has of course escalated the cost saying that the cost per megawatt would work out to be Rs. 4 crore but it is estimated at Rs. 3.5 crore approximately. At the rate of Rs. 3.5 crore for generating a megawatt of power, we would require Rs. 1,75,000 crore by the end of 2002 to meet the estimated demand of an additional 50,000 megawatt of power. From where will this money come? Now, my friend, Shri Mohan Singh had been arguing just a while ago that the Minister or the Government need not be under the impression that by just constituting the Central Electricity Regulatory Authority or Commission, the position of power generation or power supply would improve.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN SINGH : The speech was like that...*(Interrptions)*

[English]

SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR: There is no doubt about it. Nobody is under that belief but this is only to enable us to generate more resources. Unless you rationalise power tariff in the whole of the country, when we have the national grid system, you cannot generate more resources to meet our demand.

Sir, the transmission position is very bad. Very old lines and other equipments installed require restructuring. The whole supply network will have to be restructured. The improvement of the system must be attended to. Renovation, maintenance, etc. would require a lot of money. Over and above that, every consumer would like to have quality power supply. Unless you have quality power supply, you cannot have proper use of it.

SHRI T.R. BAALU : It is a good advice to the Minister ...*(Interrptions)* ... I am only supporting what you are saying.

SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR : My friend, Shri Baalu has been arguing.....*(Interrptions)* ... I will not take much time.

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM : Are you speaking on behalf of the Government? It would be a breach of privilege! ...*(Interrptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Baalu, do not interrupt. Please sit down. Shri Dhananjaya Kumar, please wind up.

SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR : All of us will have to sit back for a while and think seriously about the power crisis being faced by the country. Why is there a crisis today? It is because of the failure of the successive Governments both at the Centre as well as the States. We must admit it. No Government had a perspective long-term plan. I know that even today, power is being generated at the oldest hydel power project at Shimsa in my State, Karnataka, at a meagre cost of 16 paise per megawatt. It is the oldest project installed in the early 19th century.

The hydel project was set up at Shimsa. We have enough hydel resources. We have all other kinds of resources from where power can be generated. Since the successive Governments have failed to have a long-term perspective plan, we are facing the crisis. Today, we have to pay through our nose. We have to spend nothing less than Rs 3.5 crore per MW. Keeping this in view, the Regulatory Commission, which is going to be set up, will definitely venture to rationalise the power tariff in the entire country. It allows powers to the States. The State Governments also can have the Regulatory Commissions. With the able assistance of the Advisory Committees, they can very well fix the tariff.

Now, I will conclude with one observation. A wrong impression is being carried that since power is being supplied at a much cheaper rate or free-of-cost to the agriculture sector, the State Electricity Boards are sustaining loss. It is not so. On an average, the power that is being supplied to the agriculture sector is not more than 15 to 16 per cent. If that itself is the single factor, which would contribute to sustenance of loss by the Electricity Boards, only God can save us.

With the setting up of these Regulatory Commissions, the power will vest with the State Governments and with the State Electricity Boards. If they so desire, they can supply power to the agriculturists at a cheaper rate or even free-of-cost. That power is not being taken away. So, we should not have any false notion about that.

I do not know why my hon. friends, especially from the Communist benches, have been vehemently opposing the consideration of the Bill.

MR. CHAIRMAN : No, no; the Minister will reply about it all these things.

SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR : Do they still want the country to be kept in darkness? I do not know the mental status of our friends. So, I would request them to kindly lend full support to this Bill. This is really a welcome measure. All

sections of this House must support it so that the growing demand for the industrial sector, agriculture sector, and for domestic use as well as for commercial use is met. By the end of 2002, the country will be able to generate more power. Then, we can utilise the generated power properly and the power will be supplied at a reasonable rate to every consumer.

*[Translation]*

SHRI VIRENDRA SINGH (Mirzapur) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, if the Government comprising of any party wishes to enact a bill in the interest of the people, I think the whole House should be unanimous over it.

This point concerns the interest of farmers of our country. I connect the word 'lok' particularly in relation to the rural people engaged in agriculture. I would like to give some suggestions to the hon'ble Minister on this bill which concerns free supply of electricity to farmers, increase in electricity generation or to solve the problems of power sector.

This bill was prepared by the previous Government but it has been presented now with some amendments. I think that while presenting the amended bill, you must have considered the welfare of the farmers of our country. I would like to give the following suggestions.

19.00 hrs.

The disparity is right at the place where the electricity is generated and distributed. Even today the distribution of power is not proper in Northern as well as in Southern India. I am not dividing the northern and southern India but I would like to mention that in Northern India, the transmission lines are inadequate in all of the power generation units whether they are of NTPC, Bihar Government or U.P. Government. 20 thousand MW of electricity is produced but in absence of sufficient transmission lines, it has to be routed to Southern India. It results in the lesser power supply to the farmers.

We people belong to the rural areas. Most of the Members in House belong to farmer community. Many Hon'ble Members have given many suggestions for generation of electricity and one of them is natural hydro based one.

There are many rivers in our country which can help in power generation and that power can be provided to the farmers in villages for irrigation purposes. But the system of hydro-electric generation is termed as costly and such schemes are not taken up and Thermal Power Projects are prepared. If we had paid attention to this aspect and made proper arrangement for hydro-electric generation throughout the country, farmers of the country would have got the facility of electricity thereby enabling them to have irrigation.

When it comes to giving free electricity to farmers, various kinds of questions are raised here. It is argued that

they should not be provided electricity either free of cost or at lower rates and if it is provided then restrictions should be imposed on that. But no one will say this that electricity should not be provided either free of cost or at lower rates to factory owners. My opinion is that tax should be imposed on them. The big factory owners set up their own power plants to run their factories. According to the agreement signed some fifty years ago, they are getting coal at the same price to run their power plant. But when it comes to giving electricity to farmers at lower rates, various kinds of questions are raised here. The farmers of our villages should get electricity free of cost. I would like to say that even today we remember Sardar Vallabh Bhai Patel. He had launched movement alongwith farmers in Bardoli over this issue and shook the British Government. In our country every government had deprived the farmers of this right of free electricity. The members sitting in opposition benches have ruled this country for more than 45 years but they never paid attention towards facilities of farmers. Now, since our government is in power, arrangements should be made to supply power free of cost to the farmers to make them self-reliant. When the farmers of our country prosper, no one can stop India from becoming self-reliant. Whether it is America, Germany or Pakistan, they may conduct number of nuclear tests still they cannot harm us once we become self-reliant. Therefore I would like to request government to harness the farmer power because it is the real power.

With these words, I support this Bill and want that government should make arrangements to supply power free of cost to farmers.

*[English]*

DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARY (Adilabad) : Sir, I rise to support the Bill as it is very much necessary for any country's development. Many hon. Members have expressed their anguish over the scarcity of power. Without power, there will be no industry and without any industry, there will be no employment generation. Several Members have raised this point in different forums. When we take up reforms, we may face many hardships from all sides. If you see the developed countries, they have a well-developed infrastructural facility which India does not have. Keeping this in view, the United Front Government had concerned two Conferences with all the Chief Ministers in a year. After conducting these two Conferences, the then Government prepared a Common Minimum National Action Plan for Power. In these two Conferences, leaders from almost all the States were there and only after arriving at a consensus the Government prepared this Common Minimum National Action Plan for Power. The view of all the Chief Ministers were incorporated in this Action Plan.

This Bill was introduced in the Lok Sabha in the month of August, 1997. Now, the Bill is being introduced to replace the Ordinance. The points on which we are having a discussion are not at all necessary as the scope of the Bill is very limited. It only seeks to replace the Ordinance. The present Government has also, based on some of the amendments, modified it. I cannot comment on the drafting

[Shri S. Venugopalachary]

of the Bill the way Shri Shiv Shankar has, because I am not capable. I would say, for a developing country like India, reforms are not at all necessary, especially in power sector. Privatisation started simultaneously both in India and Pakistan but we are lacking in every field. As against the normal electricity standard, the gap between demand and supply is 20 per cent. But, Pakistan has a surplus of about 3000 MW. This is how a neighbouring country has developed by introducing the reforms. When it comes to India, there are obstacles from every side. We have to seriously think about it. Without power, there will be no industrial development and without industry there will be no employment. Reforms are very necessary. But the lack of rational retail tariff and high level cross-subsidy ... (Interruptions) I will finish it within two minutes. The hon. Minister has rightly said, in the Ninth Plan one year has already gone. The Bill was also introduced one year back but because of the dissolution of Lok Sabha it could not be taken up. I humbly request all the hon. Members to support it because already T&D losses are there and CEBs dues are increasing day-by-day. For the sake of better reforms and speedy development in the power sector, I support this Bill. It need not be sent to the Standing Committee.

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO (Kalahandi) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I wholeheartedly support the Electricity Regulatory Commission's Bill introduced by the hon. Minister of Power. The Bill will definitely get to the root cause of the electricity problem in the country and will help improve the availability of power and implement power reforms by the end of the Ninth Plan.

It was contemplated that during the Eighth Plan period the country would be in a position to generate 30,000 plus megawatts of electricity. But it was seen that there was a shortfall of nearly 15,000 megawatts which retarded the process of development in the sector.

The Bill which has been introduced today is expected to check corruption in the various Electricity Boards. It has been seen that all the Electricity Boards have been in red. Therefore, to improve the state of transmission, generation and distribution and to ensure transparency, this Bill has been brought by the hon. Minister. We hope that within a period of five years from now, the power supply in the country will become stable.

It can be seen that in 1947, power generation in the country was only 13,062 megawatts; in 1992, it came to 69,082 megawatts; and in 1997 it reached 99,620 megawatts. In 1995-96, the addition made to power generation was 2124 megawatts. It was hardly 1000 megawatts in 1996. This gives a very bleak picture of growth in generation of power in the country which has become a necessity in today's world.

The previous Governments had planned to bring the Bill forward. The United Front had prepared the Bill but they did not have the guts to introduce it. Today, by coming forward to introduce the Bill, the hon. Minister has taken a

strong step towards development of the power sector. I congratulate him for that.

You will see that a major portion of power in the country is generated in the thermal power sector. Here, I would like to mention the State of Orissa as a test case. One will be surprised to know that before the Regulatory Commission was formed in Orissa, all thermal power plants in that State were running in losses. The Plant Load Factor of Talcher thermal power plant was only 26 per cent before. But after the Regulatory Commission was formed, there has been a marked improvement in its PLF ... (Interruptions) It was Congress Government which introduced it. Orissa has shown the path. Setting up such a Regulatory Commission at the Centre will definitely improve the power station in the country.

I would like to say that the state of hydroelectric power generation in the country has been bad. The NTPC has no dearth of funds, they can put up more power plants. But in the case of hydroelectric power generation, it should be said that most of the big projects like Upper Indravati, Sardar Sarovar are languishing because of dearth of funds and because of environmental problems. A proper perspective, a thorough check has to be made into all the delayed hydroelectric projects because that is the cheapest way of generating power today.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Deo, please conclude.

SHRI BIKRAM DEO KESHARI : Sir, I request the hon. Minister to lay emphasis on hydroelectric power to improve the power situation in the country. With these words, I once again support the Bill introduced by the hon. Minister of Power.

Thank you for giving me time.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Five more Members to speak.

... (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Every hon. Member wants to speak.

... (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : If you compare this Bill with other Bills, it is only a small Bill. It is a new Bill but all the hon. Members are interested to speak.

... (Interruptions)

DR. ULHAS VASUDEO PATIL (Jalgaon) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to speak on the Electricity Regulatory Commissions Bill which is engulfed by controversies. I oppose this Bill. A number of controversial points had been discussed in the Chief Ministers, Conference and it was decided to bring forward this Bill. While forming such an important Bill, the confidence of experts in the field, experts in farming community and other should have been taken. They should have been consulted before this Bill is brought before the House.

There are a number of differences. It does not contain operational performances in the Bill. The State autonomy would be hampered because of this Bill. There is no mention of the consumers welfare. A detailed explanation is required in this regard.

Regarding agriculture, I would like to say that in my constituency, 90 per cent of the farmers are dependent on electricity supply. They have electricity only for two or three days in a week. For the remaining four or five days, there is no electricity supply. Jalgaon is a banana growing region where the need for continuous supply of electricity is required.

In Maharashtra, we have come across some cases of suicidal attempts and some cases of deaths because of the inability to pay electricity bills. In this Bill, farmers and agriculturist have not been given good opportunity. There is no subsidy. Safety measures have also not been included.

The most important point is that of corruption. If we take steps to remove corruption, the chances of collection of more tariff or revenue will be more. There is no mention about this point in the Bill. Tribals living in the tribal areas should be 100 per cent exempted from paying the electricity bills. This should also be included in the Bill.

Provision for vigilance squad should have been included in this Bill.

While constituting this Bill, it is mentioned that the Supreme Court or the High Court Judge will be chairperson the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission and his tenure has been mentioned as five years. I think, the tenure should not be more than two years or should be only one year. One respected Member has mentioned that the age of retirement of the Judge is 65 years.

Secondly, the number of the members of the Central Advisory Committee is 31. It is mentioned that it should not be more than 31. But I feel that the number of members on the Central Advisory Committee should be more than 31.

Considering all these points, an anti-agriculturist, anti-tribal Bill, and not mentioning about the NGOs, I oppose this Bill.

SHRI VAIKO : Mr. Chairman Sir, 'let us get electricity and the prosperity will bestow its dawn. These were the famous words of the great man, Lenin, who changed the course of history.

I will be failing in my duty if I do not express my points of view and register in the records of the proceedings of this House that any attempt to trample upon the rights of States should be resisted. We are for State autonomy and the concept of federalism should be accepted in letter and spirit for the future integrity of this country.

This Bill was contemplated by the previous Government and introduced in the Eleventh Lok Sabha but it lost.

SHRI AJIT JOGI (Raigarh) : Sir, there is no quorum in the House.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Here, there is a custom that once there is quorum at the time of the start of the proceedings, it goes on.

SHRI AJIT JOGI : No Sir, I have raised the question of Quorum... (Interruptions) The members of the Treasury Benches are not there... (Interruptions)

SHRI VAIKO : I would request Shri Jogi to bring the members of his party in the House ... (Interruptions)

SHRI AJIT JOGI : Sir, you give a ruling that if the House can function without a quorum then I have no objection ... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAJVEER SINGH (Aonla) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, Shri Ajit Jogiji is not counting correctly, there is Quorum in the House at present.

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY (Mandsaur) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, we all know that after 6.00 p.m. whenever House sits, the question of Quorum is not raised. Though at present quorum is there ... (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI AJIT JOGI : I want a ruling from the Chair and not from the hon. Members... (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please sit down, I will give my ruling.

.... (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please sit down. Why are you coming to this side? The Marshal is counting.

... (Interruptions)

SHRI AJIT JOGI : Sir, you please give your ruling... (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : There is quorum in the House. Please proceed.

SHRI VAIKO : I am sorry, Shri Ajit Jogi is trying to mislead the House.

SHRI AJIT JOGI : Sir, according to me, there is no quorum.

SHRI VAIKO : The Chair has given the ruling.

SHRI AJIT JOGI : Sir, I am requesting for recount.

SHRI VAIKO : There is no need for recount.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Vaiko, please proceed.

SHRI VAIKO : Mr. Chairman Sir, when I heard the news that there was a move to take away the rights of the States to fix the tariff, I made a Press Statement against that move. Immediately, the hon. Minister, Shri Kumaramangalam, was kind enough to send a fax message alongwith the proposed Bill to me.

Sir, it was brought to the notice of the hon. Prime Minister, other hon. Ministers and also to Shri P.R. Kumaramangalam that Clause 29 (3) is transgressing the domain of the States. I am happy that the hon. Minister has brought an amendment but still this problem is there. In the Statement of Objects and Reasons, you will notice that the thrust is very much on the high level of cross subsidies. The last paragraph of the Statement of Objects and Reasons says:

"Hence, it is made mandatory for State Commissions to fix tariff in a manner that non of the consumers or class of consumers shall be charged less than fifty percent of the average cost of supply".

Then, Sir, before it was amended, it was mentioned, "... it may allow the consumers in the agricultural sector to be charged less than fifty per cent for a maximum period of three years from the date of commencement of the Ordinance." Now, they could say that they have brought an amendment. We have to look into the whole Bill, particularly the Statement of Objects and Reasons.

Again, the proposed amendment, which has been brought by the hon. Minister, says:

"(3) The State Commission, while determining the tariff under this Act, shall not show undue preference to any consumer of electricity.."

Sir, still there is a mischief. That is my point. It enables anyone to move to the court of law. The Statement of Objects and Reasons of the Bill would be cited and the above mentioned portion would also be cited as if some undue preference is being given to the farmers or some other section.

When we accept that the farmers should not be equated with others, when we accept that the State Governments have got the right, that right to fix the tariff, to give the benefit to the farmers should continue. Why should you use the words, 'undue preference'?

We should not fail to understand one point. The farmers sweat of their brow through their hard labour and are brining the foodgrains to feed the millions and millions of population. What they use pumpsets, due to fluctuations in electricity, there pumpsets get damaged.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : I have moved an amendment. Will you support it? ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI VAIKO : I am coming to that point. I will not miss any point.

When their pumpsets get damaged, they have to spend Rs. 4,000 to Rs. 5,000 towards repair. Who is there to compensate them? Therefore, the right of the State Governments to give the concession to the farmers should be there. There should not be any attempt of encroachment. There should not be any attempt of trampling upon the right of the State Governments. Therefore, I would request the hon. Minister to accept the amendment moved by Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan on this. The words, "undue preference" should be deleted.

When the hon. Minister has been kind enough in bringing an amendment and when he accepts our demand, what is wrong in accepting his amendment? This is my point. I am compelled to say this because I am taking up the cause of the farmers. There is no political point. It is the cause of the farmers. Therefore, Sir, I express my resentment and I conclude my speech.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now I call upon Shri Ramdas Athawale to speak. Kindly conclude within three minutes. Normally you get more time. Please cooperate.

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (Mumbai North-Central) : Sir, my party has got four Members. Please allow me to speak for ten minutes.

*[Translation]*

Mr. Chairman, Sir, this bill, brought by Hon'ble Minister is transgressing the powers of State Governments. This bill which has been presented in such a haste, reeks of political pressure. Electricity is the key to development of any country. Nothing has been mentioned in this bill about generation of electricity. There is need to prepare plan for this. Merely setting up of any commission will not help. Many commissions are set up but this will to help in development. You have said that the Chairman of the commission will be a retired judge of the Supreme Court having 65 years age. I oppose this. If the Chairman will be so old he can't work properly. The Chairman should not be more than 60 years of age. Further the tenure of the Chairman is 5 years. I think it should be 3 years.

Even after 50 years of independence, many people are living without electricity. In Mumbai, many people who are living in slums have no electricity in their houses. There is a need to consider over this. In rural areas, farmers submit application seeking power connection but they are denied. We should consider to give them power connection at the earliest. When someone dies as a result of electric shock, the Minister should consider giving compensation. Our hon'ble Minister is an experienced person. He has the experiences of being on this side and he will gain the experience of being on the other side as well. He is an active Minister. We should not make hurry in passing this bill. We need discussion on this bill at all India level. The Minister should hold discussions on this bill with the Chief Ministers of all States on this. You don't even have support of your alliance parties and Chief Ministers of various States on this Bill.

Today, there is State Electricity Board in every state which have its Chairman and members. Today there is no need to set up such commissions. I oppose this bill on behalf of my party. I request Kumaramangalamji to withdraw this bill and make amendments in it and then bring it in the next session. He can announce constitution of a Parliamentary Committee also comprising members from both sides. After that detailed debate should be held thereon. With these words I oppose this Bill. I have raised many other points also...*(Interruptions)* Today, people belonging to scheduled castes and scheduled tribes are not getting electricity ...*(Interruptions)* I may be given some more time to speak.

*[English]*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Athawale, please cooperate with the Chair. The time allotted for discussion on the Bill is only one hour but we have already taken a lot of time. Please cooperate with the Chair.

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Sir, I am cooperating.

*[Translation]*

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I oppose this Bill. Unless the Hon'ble Minister withdraw this Bill, I will not sit.

*[English]*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Nothing will go on record.

...*(Interruptions)\**

SHRI N.K. PREMCHANDRAN (Quilon) : Respected Chairman, Sir, this Electricity Regulatory Commission Bill has come up before this House when our country is facing an acute shortage of power.

I oppose the consideration of this Bill because the Bill is lacking national consensus. The implications and consequences of this Bill are far-reaching. So, if the Bill is passed in such a hurry without considering the objections raised by the Opposition, it would be against the principles followed by the country in the 73rd and 74th Constitutional Amendments.

We are living in the era of decentralization. This is a Bill which is aiming at centralisation of power. I would like to suggest and appeal to the hon. Minister not to be in a hurry in considering and passing this Bill except in having a national consensus and it should go for further discussion and evidence either to the Select Committee or the Standing Committee on Energy.

This is absolutely abrogating and infringing the powers which are conferred upon the States. There is no doubt about it which has already been mentioned here.

I would like to enlighten this House that clause 13(b) is meant to regulate the tariff of the generating companies other than owned or controlled by the Central Government

\* Not recorded.

specified in the clause if such generating companies enter into or specialise in a composite scheme for generating electricity in more than one State.

I would like to cite an example. If power is generated in a particular State and that particular State is having an electricity tariff, where the autonomous right or the right of the State to sell the power to the neighbouring State is there, then if certain restrictions are being imposed, it is curtailing the autonomous rights of the States. That is why I would like to repeat that this is a Bill which is abrogating or infringing the rights which are conferred upon the State as a State subject.

Also, I would like to mention clauses 29(3) and (5) and I am fully supporting and endorsing the views which have already been expressed by Shri V. Radhakrishnan and Shri Vaiko. That is about undue preference. What is meant by undue preference? The subsidy on power or any subsidy or benefit is being given to the downtrodden people and the poor people of this country.

It is an undue preference? It is also a restriction imposed upon the people, a restriction upon the State that they should do this and that. What is the interest? The country is facing power shortage, I do agree. This Bill is only regulating the tariff and all these things. If the Bill is intend to or purported to generate more power, that is not the intention. The intention is to curb the subsidy. According to this Bill, the subsidy given to the farmers is an undue preference. It is enlightened from this Bill.

So, I would like to say that these subsidies should be continued and the autonomous rights and rights which are being conferred upon the State should not be taken away. Also, regarding generation, transmission and distribution, there are heavy transmission losses. Even though we are generating more power, we are not able to utilise it. All these things have to be taken into consideration. They should be rectified without taking away the powers of the States.

I would like to say regarding the Central pool distribution also. The State of Kerala is having acute power shortage. We requested the hon. Minister to allocate power from the Central pool. So far, it has not been allocated and also I appreciate the Minister for having enhanced the capacity of the Kayamkulam Thermal project to 2,500 megawatt. I appreciate that also and once again I request and appeal to the hon. Minister to send this Bill to the Standing Committee on Energy or Select Committee for further discussion and evidence.

*[Translation]*

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR (Chail) : Hon'ble Chairman, Sir, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak on Power Regulatory Commission. Hon'ble Mohan Singi and many other Hon'ble Members have spoken on

[Shri Shailendra Kumar]

behalf of my party. They have opposed this Bill. Hon'ble Minister has proposed to set up Power Regulatory Commission. I do not agree with it.

So far as putting burden on State Governments is concerned I would like to suggest that had advisors been appointed in the Commission it would have been better. Members of Parliament and State Legislatures should be made members. I would like to remind hon'ble Minister that Anpara Power Project, Firoz Gandhi Thermal Power Project, Shakti Nagar, Singrauli on Madhya Pradesh Border should be given special attention to increase power generation there.

I would like to mention something about the issue of providing electricity to farmers. Today exemption is not being given to farmers in the electricity tariff and they are being harassed. State Governments talk about giving power to farmers for 18 hours but they do not get it and face many difficulties. Condition of substations is pathetic. There is shortage of staff everywhere and sub-stations are not able to function properly. There is need to introduce radical changes in power distribution system.

19.41 hrs.

[SHRI V. SATHIAMOORTHY *in the Chair*]

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to say one more thing that power cuts should be made in cities instead of rural areas. There is need to provide more electricity in rural areas. Since 76% of farmers are living in villages, therefore their problems whether it relates to irrigation, harvesting or hedging all depends upon electricity. I want to emphasise on hydro-electricity because we have many rivers from which we can generate electricity and can enhance of capacity. Similarly there is need to pay special attention on Thermal Power also so that its generation capacity can be increased. Sometimes issue of privatising power sector is raised which is wrong. There may be some problems in the present system but this sector should not be privatised. In every five year plan budget is increased. The Department of Power should control all Thermal Power Station or systems relating to power. Thus, this sector should not be privatised. With these words, I oppose this bill presented by the Hon'ble Minister.

[*English*]

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY (Visakhapatnam): Mr. Chairman Sir, now the biggest football match is going on. Some Members are opposing it and some Members are for passing it. (*Interruptions*). I find that there is a lack of communication. The philosophy of the Bill is to regulate the electricity generation, transmission and distribution. We all appreciate it, but, at the same time, there are a number of loopholes and defects. A number of hon. Members are very much afraid and concerned that this Bill might come in the way of giving subsidy to the farmers because everybody is interested in the farmers' and poor men's welfare activities.

Now, the Ruling Party is going to pass the Bill because they are in a majority. All our friends have gone for tea and coffee and they are not present here. (*Interruptions*). Our hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, Shri Madan Lal Khurana is a very clever man. (*Interruptions*)

I would like to say that 17,000 MWs of power was the only increase in the Eighth Plan. As far as the Ninth Plan is concerned, already one year is over and the government is proposing 40,000 MWs of power generation. Perhaps, it may be very difficult. The entire country is reeling under the shortage of power. The prosperity and progress of the country depends on the power generation. So, I would like to say that all the 545 Members must stand for power production.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Dr. Reddy, you are having extraordinary powers. You can contribute.

...(*Interruptions*)

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : I sleep only for four hours because I am having extra powers. I am active for 20 hours with different social, political, spiritual and cultural activities. ...(*Interruptions*)

I quote the hon. Member, Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan's amendment which says: "Shall not show undue preferences". It is poor English. Our hon. Minister, Shri P.R. Kumaramangalam is having a vibrant personality in any language and jurisprudence. Why does he put little different English. Everybody wants it in simple words. The farmers and poor people's subsidy should not be wiped away by this Bill. The hon. Minister is bringing this Bill to help the nation. That is his philosophy. However, our people are thinking that it is going to harm them. So, it should be made simple. (*Interruptions*). Anyway, the Government is going to pass this Bill because they are in a majority.

My submission is that 40,000 MWs should be produced in the Ninth Plan. This is a challenge to the hon. Minister. Our hon. Minister is a very dynamic man. (*Interruptions*). No new project is coming in India in spite of our dream. There are some red-tapisms and there are some problems. Some State Governments agree but the Central Government does not agree.

Otherwise the Finance Minister does not agree. If all the three agree, there will be foreign collaboration problems. So, something or the other is coming in the way and nothing is moving. We want that God, Ishwar, Allah must help us to give power to the entire nation without effort.

In this Regulatory Bill, they must add one more thing. As on today, in India, only 30 per cent efficiency is being achieved in generation, distribution and transmission whereas in advanced countries, eighty per cent efficiency is being achieved. So, with Shri Kumaramangalam's dynamism, it must increase to at least sixty per cent. This he must take as a challenge. Shri Baalu, do you agree with me or not?

SHRI T.R. BAALU : No, I do not, because I know that he cannot go up to that level.

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Of course, he can. Why not? Nothing is impossible for him. He will prove it. Do not underestimate Shri Kumaramangalam. What do you think of him? He will definitely do it. When Shri Jogi mentioned about quorum, immediately quorum was there. So, what is impossible for him?

Passing the Bill or not passing the Bill is not the question. The Bill will get passed through I have to oppose it because we have taken a policy decision to oppose it. But that is not the point. The point is that it is a good and noble cause. Electricity is not a film making, electricity is the most important thing for human life and for modern society. Without generation and transmission of electricity, no modern energy will come from human life. Therefore, let us be united and fight this problem out. It is a big task before the Government. My request is that the hon. Minister should take into consideration various suggestions given by all the Opposition Members, who are also intelligent people and who are also Members of Parliament. Even Shri Radhakrishnan will have a sound sleep if you given consideration to his modification also. He is not asking anything for himself. His only worry is what you call ... (Interruptions)

AN. HON. MEMBER : Undue preference.

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Undue preference is a very vague word. What is the meaning of 'undue preference'? Shri Kumaramangalam once said that State Governments have got full liberty to give subsidy. If Electricity Boards give subsidy, they should not become sick. The State Governments should reimburse and make the State Electricity Boards as strong as the ruling party now is. That is what he wants. We want a more stronger ruling party, like the Opposition party, the Congress party, by allowing more modifications because the Congress party has been the strongest all these years. Therefore, even though the Minister is proposing and various friends are supporting it consciously and judiciously, I also feel that the basic principal and philosophy of the Regulating Bill is to build up a more efficient system of transmission, distribution and generation of electricity and to solve the problem, for which I congratulate, appreciate and admire him. But, at the same time I request him to make everybody feel happy by accepting all their amendments, modifications, this and that and make it a complete, beautiful *panchshakti* in such a way that this Bill should help in nation's prosperity. Therefore, I support the bill with modifications and I oppose the Bill without modifications.

SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY (Dhenkanal) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, thank you for giving me this opportunity to speak on an important subject which is not only foremost in the minds of the Members of Parliament but is also being discussed by the common man.

Sir, I support the Bill in all its totality, but I have certain doubts about the intention of this Bill because it has been in vogue now and at least in India, we know it since long—and one of the strongest proponents of this idea was Mahatma Gandhi—that small is beautiful. Therefore, decentralisation is an idea which is in focus right now all over the world. We are also trying it out in India in every sphere.

But somehow it seems as if this Bill—maybe that is not the intention—is going against the spirit of decentralisation. If we talk about a Central Regulatory Authority and State Regulatory Authorities, the very word 'regulatory' seems a bit scary because what are we regulating? We are not regulating generation, we are not regulating distribution, we are not regulating efficiency and we are not regulating losses that are incurred in all the SEBs all over India due to bad transmission. We have to incur tremendous losses due to transmission and that is solely because of very poor efficiency at the level of State Electricity Boards. We all know that all over the world, if there is no power, there is no life today.

It is not only the farmer who is interested in getting subsidised power. But in a country like India where we are desperately trying for industrialization and especially in the backward States where there are no industries except in certain clusters in the Western part of the nation, we are very much interested that power be supplied at a steady pace and at a rate that is affordable not only by the farmer but by the industrialist also. But if you go through this Bill, you will find that there is a move to bring about a parity in tariff. I welcome this move to bring about a parity. But the question is : parity with what? Suppose the hon. Minister decides that he will bring about a parity with the rate of Enron, the rate at which it is selling power in Maharashtra, then I do not think that farmers or small scale industrialists in Orissa or other backward States like Bihar, West Bengal or even Uttar Pradesh would be able to pay that rate. So, parity with what? He can bring about parity with the United States of America or he can bring about parity with Sri Lanka or Pakistan. So, that is the moot point which I hope the hon. Minister, if he is listening to me, will elucidate on and tell us what he thinks is the meaning of 'parity'.

Sir, as you know, in Orissa, the late Biju Patnaik was an innovative man and he was the first to bring about privatisation in the power sector. The Orissa State Electricity Board which is called GRIDCO now has....

MR. CHAIRMAN : It is enough Sir.

SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY : Sir, I am just finishing.

It has taken a lot of steps in privatisation. But we find that although there is privatisation, yet there is no transparency as far as ensuring efficiency in the organisations is concerned. So, unless there is efficiency in the organisation, unless there is increase in the production of power and unless there is a thought given to the farmer and the small industrialist, this Power Regulatory Commission, which is an attempt to centralise power at Delhi-level, could prove counterproductive.

[Translation]

SHRI K.D. SULTANPURI ( Shimla ) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to oppose the Bill presented by Hon'ble Minister in this House to provide for the establishment of a Central Electricity Regulatory Commission and State Electricity Regulatory Commissions, rationalization of electricity tariff, transparent policies regarding subsidies, promotion of efficient and environmentally benign policies and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, as it has been said by most of the Hon'ble Members in this House and specially the suggestion which the opposition members have given that this bill should be sent to the Standing Committee of Parliament for consideration, I am also of the same opinion. If this Bill is sent to the Standing Committee for an indepth consideration, the committee would be in a position to give it suggestion on the Bill.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to present some facts about Himachal Pradesh. There is a great potential of power generation in Himachal Pradesh but the Government has not taken care of it. In Himachal Pradesh, 20,000 Megawatt hydro-electricity can be generated which will not only suffice the needs of the state but also provide power to the entire Northern region of the country. The government does not have to incur any extra expenditure in this regard.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, Himachal Pradesh, Punjab and Haryana were formed after reorganization but justice has never been done to Himachal Pradesh by the Union Government as 7.19 per cent share of power promised to the state has not been provided so far. Today your government is in power both in Himachal Pradesh and at the Centre. I request that the same may be provided so that development work in the state could take place.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, Khurana Saheb is not present here. I would like to tell that in the conference of the Chief Ministers of Rajasthan, Punjab, Delhi and Haryana held few days ago, this question was raised that Himachal Pradesh should provide electricity to other states. The states which have to pay revenue on account of power supplied by us are not paying their dues. Neither Punjab nor Haryana are paying their dues we are not being given the share which was provided under the Act and which was decided at the time of agreement.

SHRI SHANKAR PRASAD JAISWAL (Varanasi) : If you will not provide electricity to us then what will you do with your surplus electricity ... (Interruptions)

SHRI K.D. SULTANPURI : So far as issue regarding judgest is concerned, you are not accepting that also. You are not giving reservation to women. You have made provisions for male members only. I submit that women should also be covered. I would like to request that things won't work the way you want them to. This government is not functioning properly. I once again request you that 7.19

per cent share of revenue should be provided to Himachal Pradesh. There is a potential of generating 20,000 MW power in the State and the Central Government should extend help to Himachal Pradesh Government in exploiting the said potential. With these words, I request to withdraw this bill.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Bwiswmuthiary. He is the last speaker in this debate and after him the hon. Minister will reply to the debate.

SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR BWISWMUTHIARY (Kokrajhar) : Honourable Chairman, Sir, the hon. Minister of Power and the learned Members of this House, I would like to draw your attention to the untold sufferings and troubles which are being faced by the Bodoland populace because of the negligence of the Government of Assam as well as its State Electricity Board authorities. There is no well established infrastructure for electricity in the remote areas. For example, in my own native village which is called Goybari village in Bongaigaon district, there is no electrification and because of the dearth of this facility millions of downtrodden, indigenous tribal people have been facing a lot of problems in respect of their socio-economic life, in respect of their cultivation irrigation and also in respect of their industrial activities.

20.00 hrs.

Within the proposed Bodoland Territory, we have got one Thermal Power Station which is called Bongaigaon Thermal Power Station located at Jalakati. This project was set up during 1980s. Before setting up on this station, the Assam Government convinced the indigenous tribal people to lend their landed property for setting up the said project. With a high hope and expectation of getting facilities, the local tribal people had given their landed properties. A large number of foresteries have been destroyed in the name of setting up of that very project. Now, what is happening? Due to certain conspiracies of the concerning authorities themselves that project is forced to the jaws of death. This project is located within Bodoland. The Assam Government having got the defeatist mentality that Bodoland is going to be created and if this difficult project is not either leased out or sold out to any other foreign company the Assam Government will be put to heavy loss, it is planning to lease out that biggest Thermal Power Station located in the Bodoland to one American company. But the provisions to avoid such a thing have not been made in this Electricity Regulatory Commission, Bill, 1998.

So, I would like to appeal to the hon. Minister to direct the State Government of Assam to set aside that sort of a detrimental idea. We all the indigenous tribal people, various trade unions, labour unions, employees' organisations and associations have been strongly opposing that move. So, I would like to appeal to the Central Government to direct the Assam Government to give up that very idea which is very detrimental. I also appeal to the Government to take concrete

steps at the national level to provide electricity at subsidised rates to the tribal farmers. It should provide a well defined rural electricity system in the entire areas of Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribes and the backward people of the whole country.

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM : Sir, firstly I am very grateful for the participation of the hon. Members...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mr. Minister, you have already spoken for an hour while introducing the Bill itself. So, a very limited explanation is expected by the hon. Members.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI DATTA MEGHE (Wardha) : Mr Chairman, Sir, I too have to speak on this Bill. Please allow me to speak for two minutes...(Interruptions) I have come straight to the house after catching a flight from Nagpur ...(Interruptions) You are not allowing me to speak ...(Interruptions) what is this...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please cooperate with the House. The Minister has already started his reply. You were not at all present in the House. Before your arrival, I called Mr. Minister.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : The time allotted was one hour. You came after three hours.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM : It is not proper. Sir, I move that the Bill be taken into consideration.

[Translation]

SHRI DATTA MEGHE : I don't have anything ...(Interruptions) I have come straight to the House after catching a flight from Nagpur ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : If such a system is allowed, then the House cannot be properly conducted. The Minister has already been called by the Chair to begin his reply.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM : I move that the Bill be taken into consideration. ...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mr. Minister, you can continue.

[Translation]

SHRI DATTA MEGHE : Mr. Chairman, Sir, please allow me to speak only for two minutes ...(Interruptions)

[English]

PROF. P.J. KURIEN (Mavelikara) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, please allow him to speak for at least two minutes. ...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : The hon. Member was not available.

...(Interruptions)

PROF. P.J. KURIEN : I request you, Sir, to please allow him to speak for two minutes.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You are requesting, but it will not be proper. You know very well that I have declared Shri Bwiswmuthiary as the last speaker. When I said that he was the last speaker, at that time, he was not present. When the hon. Member finished his speech, at that time, he was not available here. So, I asked the Minister to speak.

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM : I do not want to take much time, Mr. Chairman, Sir. Only a simple point was raised that why only tariffs, why is there no regulation dealing with generation, cost of generation of power etc. I would draw the attention of the hon. Member to Clause 22 (c) and (d) of the Bill. It is very specific. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI DATTA MEGHE : Sir, in protest, I want to walk-out.

MR. CHAIRMAN : It is your right.

20.08 hrs.

*At this stage, Shri Datta Meghe left the House.*

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM : Sir, Clause 22 (c) says:

"to regulate power purchase and procurement process of the transmission utilities and distribution utilities including the price at which the power shall be procured from the generating companies..."

Some others had an issue of whether the State Commission ...(Interruptions)

PROF. P.J. KURIEN : The hon. Home Minister is here. I would like to submit one thing.

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM : You do not even request me to yield.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You are not permitted because the Minister is not yielding. Mr. Minister, you can continue with your reply.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN : Do you not want our cooperation? It is very bad.

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM : You do not deem it fit even to request me to yield.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The Minister need not reply to anybody else. The Minister is expected to reply to the discussion on the Bill alone.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN : Sir, the Minister is yielding. I am only submitting this much that the Government needs the cooperation of the Opposition also. In a democracy, cooperation is important between the Treasury Benches and the Opposition. We have assured you that we will cooperate in passing all the Bills. One of our hon. Members, whose plane was late, came straightaway from the airport to the House. He only pleaded for two minutes time. I am sorry to say that the Treasury Benches are not accommodating even such a request from the Opposition. This is not the way the Government should function. I am telling you that this is not the way.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The Opposition leader should not speak in this way. At the time of concluding the discussion, the concerned Member was not available in the House.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN : That is why, we made a request to you.

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI) : There will be a second reading. At that time, he can say a few words. He is replying only to the first reading.

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM : I think, through you. I should clarify that very carefully I was on my feet. (*Interruptions*) You can call him right now.

If I may point out, the situation that many people have thought that this Bill does not deal with anything other than tariff, is a misapprehension. In fact, Clause 22 (c) and (d), both clearly indicate that they deal with not only the cost of generation issue, not only the cost of transmission, but also losses of transmission and also efficiency of SEBs. The idea is that this matter can be considered comprehensively and consumer interests are specifically provided for in Clause 26. Today you do not have a forum where a consumer can go and appeal and be heard in the matter of cost.

With regard to the other issues whether it is interfering in the State jurisdiction, I would like to point out that, in fact, this is the first Bill which has come in the arena of electricity which has been a concurrent subject, where the State has been given an option. I think the hon. senior Member on the other side, who is not there, mentioned 'may' being interpreted as 'shall'. It is because being a lawyer, being aware that such interpretation is possible, I added the words "if it deems fit" so that the State Governments may remain genuine 'may' and the option remains the genuine option. Today under this Bill, as it stands now with my amendments, the State government has the option to implement or not to

implement it. This is an enabling provision for the State Governments. If they wish, there are other State Governments like the Orissa Government, the Government of Andhra Pradesh and the Government of Haryana to come out with their own legislations. We have accorded our total assent to those Bills to show that we are not trying to intervene in what is considered to be part of the concurrent jurisdiction which they hold. Here, with regard to the provision providing for undue preferences, I think my friend should point out, if I may submit, to Shri Vaiko— he has also left— very clearly that the amendment which I have brought forward reads as follows:

"The State Commission while determining the tariff under this Act shall not show undue preference to any particular consumer of electricity, but may differentiate"

It is very clear.

"but may differentiate, according to the consumers either load factor"

That is, if you are a very high consumer or a very low consumer of power.

"Total consumption of energy during any specified period or the time at which the supply is required or the geographical position of any area."

That is, tribal, for example.

"the nature of supply"

The type of supply, whether it is high tension, low tension.

"and the purpose for which the supply is required."

For example, if it is for farming, if it is for poor single hut dwellers for which we have a system of subsidies, the differentiation can be given.

These words "under preference", are in fact not words which are formed for the first time for the Electricity Act. It is very clearly enshrined in Section 49 (4) of the Electricity Supply Act, 1948. It is lifted verbatim from there. What has been added is in fact "but may differentiate". Those first two lines are lifted verbatim from Section 49(4). It is not a new enactment which I have brought in ... (*Interruptions*) In the original Section 49(4), it says that in fixing the tariff and terms and conditions of supply of electricity, it shall not show undue preference to any person.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : That is used in another context. That is why, I moved the amendment.

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM : It is used in the context of tariff. Section 49 says :

"Provision for sale of electricity by Board to persons other than licences."

That is, consumers. It is in Section 49 (4), these words are used. I am specific about it. These are not the words which I have invented. These are not words which have been borne out of my mind. These are the words which are there in sub-section (4) of Section 49 of Electricity Supply Act of 1948.

I do believe that sub-clause (3), which has been introduced by me, is very clear in allowing differentiation in so far as the purpose for which the supply is to be required—agriculture.

I want to make it clear that the purpose of this Act is not at all in any way to say that agriculture should not be given subsidised tariff or free power should not be given even to the single-hut dwellers or the poor people or the tribal people. But the only thing it says is that when you do that, after the cross-subsidisation that you have done between electric power on the one hand and maybe total free power on agriculture, if there is a balance left and it is required that a subsidy must be given by the State Government to ensure that the Electricity Board does not go into financial ruin so that there is generation, then there is a future. If there is no power in the State, what free power are you going to supply? What is the use of trying to fool ourselves? You are not going to achieve anything. So, all I request is that keeping this in mind, you should cooperate.

Our objectives are clear. We are very clear that where subsidy has to be given, that subsidy, after cross-subsidisation, must be made available by the State Governments. That is there is the original Act. But the unenforceability of the original Act was due to the fact that enforceability was not there. When a State Government did not make good the loss of the SEB, three per cent return on investment, there was no way in which it was implementable. Today, it is implementable under this Act by a regulator. It is only to ensure that there is some stability in the power arena so that there is a future for this nation. We are very conscious.

As I said openly, only 30 per cent of the households in India have power. Seventy per cent of the houses in India do not have power. Do you not think it is our responsibility to ensure that every citizen gets at least one bulb in his house? We have a *Kutir Jyoti*. We subsidise from the Central Government at the rate of Rs. 1000/- per connection in respect of a hut. Why do we do that? It is because we believe that the poor need to be supported. We believe the people in the tribal areas, the farmers, if I may say so, those who are not the haves, they need the support. We are not against it. But you can only support within what you have got. If you go beyond what you have got, ultimately, in the long run, you create a situation which has happened today. Today, we have got about 15 per cent straight shortage in power. In terms of peaking power, they say, it is 12 per cent. We are in such a situation.

20.18 hrs.

[ MR. SPEAKER in the Chair ]

My friend Shri Baalu was talking of 45 cycles being the frequency on the grid in Ramagundam Thermal Station. Let me tell one small technical detail. Add 48 cycles to the Southern Grid...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI T.R. BAALU : Please stand corrected that it is 48 cycles and not 50. I think you agree with me.

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM : You are correct. That is all. Of course, it is not 50. When you are minus 500 in Tamil Nadu, minus 800 in Andhra Pradesh, minus 600 in Karnataka, minus 250 in Kerala, you are, on an average, minus in the whole Southern region. There is no way in which you are going to get 50 cycles until you have enough generation of power. You know it and I know it. That is the reality. But how long are we going to allow this reality to kill us? My pleading is this. It is not a question of voting. It is for you to understand that this Bill is an enabling Bill. This Bill is brought forward only from the point of view of enabling those States which want to reform their sectors to ensure that they have greater generation capacity, those States which are honest enough to say that they will provide subsidy to those people. We believe that is their first priority. Whether they be the farmers or the single-hutments, it is something which is a policy decision. Any subsidy is a policy decision of the Government of the day—whether it is the Government of the State or the Government at the Centre.

I can tell you one thing. From our side, we are moving to give subsidised loan to the SEBs, through the Rural Electrification Corporation (REC). It is meant to every single rural area. Today, there is a situation where many SEBs are not able to take the loan.

They have not even got the ability to receive a loan. I do not have to mention the names of the States. The situation is quite bad. I think, I have taken enough time. Therefore, without going too much into it, I would only reply to one point raised by Shri Shiv Shanker. I think, he needed to realise that I had released the same point which he had raised. But then there was one argument which was important. There is a possibility of a judge voluntarily resigning and being less than 65 years of age. They said, "why are you closing out that option?" I said, "all right, it is not fair for me to close out any option. But a judge is not compulsory. The judge is optional both at the State level and at the Central level. It is an option provided in consultation with the Chief Justice at the particular level."

With this, I would request that the hon. Members do take my Bill into consideration and permit me to move this Bill for being passed. I would request my hon. friend Shri Basu Deb Acharia who is going to reply on the Statutory Resolution to realise that I am not trying to force anything. That is an option. If there is any State Government which thinks that this law is not fit enough for them, it can come up

[Shri P.R. Kumaramangalam]

with its own law in the manner in which we have given the total consent for assent. I think, he can be convinced that we are not interested in curtailing the rights of the States. We are enabling the States.

With your permission, I would request the House to pass this Bill.

SHRI VAIKO (Sivakasi) : Can you kindly consider the amendment moved by Shri V. Radhakrishnan?

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM : I think, you were not there when I replied to this point. I can say that there are no undue words and undue preferences...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Vaiko, he has already replied to this point when you were not present in the House

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I think, he has made a good suggestion. All the Members from the Opposition have also suggested that this Bill should not be passed hurriedly. The Government, the Cabinet decided to convene the Parliament on the 25th of April. The Ordinance was promulgated the next day, that is, on the 26th April, the day after the Cabinet decided to summon the Parliament.

This Bill was introduced on the 14th of August, 1997 and at that stage also we were supporting the Government from outside. We had expressed our apprehension at that time also and because of our opposition, the Bill was referred to the Standing Committee at that time. The BJP was in the Opposition. They also wanted that the Bill be referred to the Standing Committee for an indepth study and scrutiny. The Standing Committee deliberated on the Bill and took two decisions. One was to take the views of the State Government and the second was to circulate the Bill for eliciting public opinion as it concerned millions and millions of poor people of our country.

We need electricity. It is indeed a fact that electricity now reaches 30 per cent of our population. What had been our experience during this panchayat elections?

All the villages are well connected with roads. People want only electricity now. Each village has now been provided with school. But there are still villages where there is no electricity. The only demand from the rural people is 'Give us electricity. Give us life'.

Because of all this, we want that this Bill be referred to the Standing Committee. Even when the Bill was introduced, there was a difference of opinion. Even some of the ally parties were against some of the provisions of the Bill. Even Sardar Surjeet Singh Barnala also expressed his reservations against some of the provisions of the Bill. The AIADMK and some other parties had also expressed difference of opinion. Shri Vaiko had expressed his views on one of the provisions of the Bill. The amendment has been moved by the hon. Minister today when there is an

opposition even from the ally parties. Heavens will not fall if they can wait for another 15 days. The Standing Committee on Energy has already been constituted and they can take up this Bill. There is no hurry. They can deliberate, discuss and take the opinion of the State Governments also.

There have been two Conferences of the Chief Ministers before this Bill was drafted. May I know from the hon. Minister whether this was the only recommendation of the Chief Ministers' Conference on Minimum Programme for Poor. The problem is that most of the SEBs are in a bad shape. Is it because that power is being supplied to the farmers at a cheaper rate? If that be so, why is there power crisis in Delhi where power is not being supplied to the farmers at a subsidised rate? So, this is not the only reason.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, while moving that Bill, he had referred to the power situation in my State. It is not a fact that the demand is not there and because of that, there is surplus power in the State of West Bengal. This was not the situation a decade ago. Ten years ago, there was power crisis in West Bengal also. There is one thermal power station in my town known as Santhal Power Station whose plant load factor is 22 per cent.

In that particular power plant what is the plant load factor today? It is now 56 per cent, even more. The same is the case with Bandel and Kilaghat and other power stations. Now the plant load factor of all the plants of SEBs is even more than the national average. All this could be done without any reform in SEBs.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Acharia, please conclude.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : While moving the Resolution I was not allowed to speak. So, I should be given at least double the time. The Minister spoke for 45 minutes. He read out 15 pages in order to convince us. Even after speaking for 45 minutes he could not convince us.

Shri V. Radhakrishnan has moved a very simple amendment that undue preference should not be given to anybody. Shri Vaiko has supported that amendment. Dr. T. Subbarami Reddy has also supported it. What is the intention, what is the motive stated in the Statement of Objects and Reasons? It is stated:

"It is made mandatory for State Commissions to fix tariff in a manner that none of the consumers or class of consumers shall be charged less than fifty per cent of the average cost of supply. It enables the State Governments to exercise the option of providing subsidies to weaker sections on condition that the State Governments through a subsidy compensate the SEBs."

I would like to know whether any provision can be made mandatory for the State Government? He has, however, moved an amendment. But he has not changed the State of Objects and Reasons. It is written there that it will be mandatory for the State Government. It infringes upon the

rights of the State. Many people have raised objections to it. So I am raising the objection. I have this apprehension. I have to express my apprehension. He has not removed our apprehension.

SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR : Under what rule is he allowed to speak so long ?

MR. SPEAKER : He is the mover of the Statutory Resolution. He should not be obstructed. Let him complete his speech.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : If West Bengal State Electricity Board can improve its performance, if it can improve all its power plants without any regulatory commission, then what is the need and what is the urgency for these measures?

I request the hon. Minister at least to listen to our suggestion to refer the Bill to the Standing Committee. The Report of the Standing Committee will be with us by the first week of the next phase of this Session. At least this suggestion should be accepted. Otherwise, what is the use of setting up of the Standing Committees? The earlier Standing Committee could not finalise its Reports. So, at this stage, I request the hon. Minister to refer this Bill to the Standing Committee. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Basu Deb Acharia, are you withdrawing your Statutory Resolution?

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : How can I withdraw it unless the hon. Minister accepts the simple amendment of Shri Radhakrishnan and my suggestion to refer the Bill to the Standing Committee? I am not withdrawing my Statutory Resolution.

MR. SPEAKER : The question is:

"That this House disapproves of the Electricity Regulatory Commissions Ordinance, 1998 (No. 14 of 1998) promulgated by the President on 25 April, 1998."

*The Motion was negatived.*

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan, are you withdrawing your amendment No.4 to the Motion for consideration?

*...(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : He has not spoken on his amendment.

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM : I am sorry, there is no procedure which says that he has to speak on his amendment.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : But he has not spoken on it.

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM : He has already spoken.

MR. SPEAKER : Are you withdrawing your amendment No. 4?

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : No, I am pressing my amendment.

MR. SPEAKER : Now, I shall put amendment No.4 moved by Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan to the vote of the House.

The question is :

"That the Bill be circulated for the purpose of eliciting opinion thereon by the 15th September, 1998." (4)

*The motion was negative.*

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That the Bill to provide for the establishment of a Central Electricity Regulatory Commission and State Electricity Regulatory Commissions, rationalization of electricity tariff, transparent policies regarding subsidies, promotion of efficient and environmentally benign policies and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto, be taken into consideration."

*The motion was adopted.*

MR. SPEAKER : The House shall now take up clause-by-clause consideration of the Bill.

The question is :

"That clause 2 stand part of the Bill,"

*The motion was adopted.*

*Clause 2 was added to the Bill.*

### **Clause 3**

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Radhakrishnan, do you move your amendment No. 5?

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : Sir, I may be allowed to speak a few words.

MR. SPEAKER : At this stage, you cannot speak. Do you want to move your amendment or withdraw it?

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : I move my amendment No. 5.

I beg to move:

Page 3, —

*After line 11, insert —*

"(c) the Chairperson of the State Electricity Commission shall be the Member, ex-officio." (5)

MR. SPEAKER : I shall put amendment No. 5 moved by Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan to the vote of the House.

*The amendment was put and negatived.*

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : Sir, I wanted to speak something on this amendment.

MR. SPEAKER : This is not allowed in the procedure. How can you speak at this stage? The amendment has already been negatived.

*...(Interruptions)*

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM : You have no right to speak on it now.

MR. SPEAKER : Please be seated.

*...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : No, this is not the procedure. It has already been negatived.

*...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That clause 3 stand part of the Bill".

*The motion was adopted.*

*Clause 3 was added to the Bill.*

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That clauses 4 to 12 stand part of the Bill".

*The motion was adopted.*

*Clauses 4 to 12 were added to the Bill.*

**Clause 13**

MR. SPEAKER : There is an amendment to clause 13. Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan, are you moving your amendment?

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : I beg to move:

Page 7, line 2, —

*after "clause (a),"*

*insert "with the concurrence of the concerned States,"(6)*

MR. SPEAKER : Now, I put amendment No. 6 moved by Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan to vote.

*The amendment was put and negatived.*

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That clause 13 stand part of the Bill".

*The motion was adopted.*

*Clause 13 was added to the Bill.*

MR. SPEAKER : The question is:

"That Clauses 14 to 16 stand part of the Bill".

*The motion was adopted.*

*Clauses 14 to 16 were added to the Bill.*

**Clause 17**

*Amendment made:*

Page 8,—

*for line 3 to 6—*

*substitute-*

"17. (1) The State Government may, if it deems fit, by notification in the Official Gazette, establish, for the purposes of this Act, a Commission for the State to be known as the (name of the State) Electricity Regulatory Commission.". (1)

(Shri P.R. Kumaramangalam)

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That clause 17, as amended, stand part of the Bill".

*The motion was adopted.*

*Clause 17, as amended, was added to the Bill.*

MR. SPEAKER : The question is:

"That clause 18 to 28 stand part of the Bill."

*The motion was adopted.*

*Clauses 18 to 28 were added to the Bill.*

**Clause 29**

*Amendment made:*

Page 13, —

*for lines 26 to 47 —*

*Substitute —*

"(3) the State Commission, while determining the tariff under this Act, shall not show undue preference to any consumer of electricity, but may differentiate according

to the consumer's load factor, power factor, total consumption of energy during any specified period or the time at which the supply is required or the geographical position of any area, the nature of supply and the purpose for which the supply is required.

(4) The holder of each licence and other persons including the Board or its successor body authorised to transmit, sell, distribute or supply electricity wholesale, bulk or retail, in the State shall observe the methodologies and procedures specified by the State Commission from time to time in calculating the expected revenue from charges which he is permitted to recover and in determining tariffs to collect those revenues.

(5) If the State Government requires the grant of any subsidy to any consumer or class of consumers in the tariff determined by the State Commission under this section, the State Government shall pay the amount to compensate the person affected by the grant of subsidy in the manner the State Commission may direct, as a condition for the licensee or any other person concerned to implement the subsidy provided for by the State Government". (2)

(Shri P.R. Kumaramangalam)

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That clause 29, as amended, stand part of the Bill".

*The motion was adopted.*

*Clause 29, as amended, was added to the Bill.*

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That clause 30 to 36 stand part of the Bill."

*The motion was adopted.*

*Clauses 30 to 36 were added to the Bill.*

**Clause 37**

MR. SPEAKER : There is an amendment of Clause 37. Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan, are you moving your amendment?

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : I beg to move :

Page 15, line 17,—

*add at the end—*

"and there shall be adequate provision for information regarding action taken under this Act". (7)

MR. SPEAKER : Now, I put amendment No. 7 moved by Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan to vote.

*The amendment was put and negatived.*

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That clause 37 stand part of the Bill".

*The motion was adopted.*

*Clause 37 was added to the Bill.*

MR. SPEAKER : The question is:

"That Clause 38 to 50 stand part of the Bill."

*The motion was adopted.*

*Clauses 38 to 50 were added to the Bill.*

**Clause 51**

*Amendment made:*

Page 17, —

*after line 16, insert—*

"Provided that different dates may be appointed for different states." (3)

(Shri P.R. Kumaramangalam)

MR. SPEAKER : The question is:

"That clause 51, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

*The motion was adopted.*

*Clause 51, as amended, was added to the Bill.*

MR. SPEAKER : The question is:

"That clauses 52 to 61 stand part of the Bill".

*The motion was adopted.*

*Clauses 52 to 61 were added to the Bill.*

MR. SPEAKER : The question is:

"That clauses 1, the Enacting Formula and the Long Title stand part of the Bill".

*The motion was adopted.*

*Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Long Title were added to the Bill.*

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM : Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed."

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed".

*The motion was adopted.*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Now, the House shall take up item Nos. 26 and 27.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : Sir, please adjourn the House now. We shall take it up tomorrow ... (Interruptions)

SHRI K. BAPIRAJU (Narsapur) : Kindly do not impose it now, Sir. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM: Sir, it was decided that those Bills would be passed without discussion. They are PF and Gratuity Bills. ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Basu Deb Acharia, please understand it. These are all small and non-controversial Bills. We can pass them without discussion.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI K. BAPIRAJU : Please do not say whether it is small or big. Everything is important. ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Basu Deb Acharia, you can move the Statutory Resolution.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Sir, we can take it up tomorrow and not today. ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : It is a small Resolution. ... (Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI) : Sir, in the morning, it was pointed out that these are Ordinances that had been issued by the earlier Government. The only new Ordinance was the one that we have just now passed. Otherwise, the other Bills are all to replace the earlier Ordinances. Therefore, it was agreed, by and large, that we would pass them without discussion. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : No. It cannot be done without discussion because we have a number of amendments. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI L.K. ADVANI : In that case, we will have less time for the General Budget discussion. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : We can take it up tomorrow. ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Basu Deb Acharia, you must understand one thing. Tomorrow, we have to take up the discussion on the General Budget which is an important business. Please understand the position.

...(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : If we do not do it now, we would not have sufficient time for discussing the General Budget. ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : There are only two days are left to discuss this.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI N.K. PREMCHANDRAN (Quilon) : So far, you were asking us to pass some Bills without discussion. Now you have started asking us to do the same for the Ordinances also. ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : They are all old Ordinance and not new Ordinance.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAM NAIK : I would again appeal to all the hon. Members. These are Ordinances which had been issued against the Ordinances issued by the previous Government. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : We know that ... (Interruptions)

SHRI RAM NAIK : My point is this. We can pass them tomorrow also, if you are agreeing for passing them without discussion. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI N.K. PREMCHANDRAN : No. Please do not say so. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI RAM NAIK : Then there would be less time for discussing the General Budget. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Kindly do not insist on that today because the House is to adjourn at 9 o'clock. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI RAM NAIK : We have another ten minutes within which we can pass them ... (Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : It cannot be done in ten minutes. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI RAM NAIK : We thought that you would cooperate ... (Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Please take the Opposition into confidence at least for a while. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI AJOY MUKHOPADHYAY (Krishnagar) : This is not fair. ... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD (Madhubani) : When you were on this side, you used to say that discussion should be held but today when you are on the other side you are saying that discussion should not be held. The bill should never be passed without discussion ... (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : When an important legislation is there, we have got the right to speak on it... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : We have to begin the discussion on the General Budget tomorrow.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : These items can be completed by lunch break.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN (Mavelikara) : In the BAC, it had been decided that the House will sit upto 9 p.m. and the decision was also that we will pass these Bills. Now, the Electricity Regulatory Commission Bill has taken more time. As the hon. Home Minister and also the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs have said, my suggestion is that these Bills may be passed. It is because ordinances had been promulgated. Instead of insisting to pass them without discussion, we may have a short discussion and pass one more Bill today. It is important to pass the Payment of Gratuity Bill because it is to increase the ceiling of gratuity from Rs. 1 lakh to Rs. 4 lakhs. I would suggest that we should take up this Bill and pass this Bill today and tomorrow, we may take about one hour or so and pass the other two Bills also. This is a *via media* because they also want to make some points on them.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : It has been decided in the BAC that the House should adjourn at 9 p.m. Now, only six to seven minutes are left. I would take ten minutes to speak and then Shri Mukhopadhyay will speak for another ten minutes.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Acharia, please cooperate.

MAJOR GENERAL BHUVAN CHANDRA KHANDURI, AVSM (Garhwal) : It was accepted that we should pass these two Bills.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Shri Khanduri, the decision was taken in the BAC that the House may sit upto 9 p.m. ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Acharia, you are always seeing the clock and not the Chair.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : If the House is to adjourn by 9 o'clock, I will not be able to finish my speech within five minutes. I have many points with me.

MR. SPEAKER : You may first move the Statutory Resolution.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : I will move and I will speak.

But the House should adjourn at 9 o'clock as per the decision of the BAC. You may not worry because we also want that these two Bills concerning the working class should be passed.... (Interruptions)

SHRI RAM NAIK : We had a gentlemen's agreement. If you do not want to observe it, then it is okay. We do not mind it.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Acharia, please cooperate.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : But the House should sit upto 9 p.m.

SHRI RAM NAIK : Why upto 9 p.m.? You may take it up tomorrow... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : He is moving Statutory Resolution listed at item No.26.

... (Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Do you want to change the order?

MR. SPEAKER : No, we have to go according to the serial number given in the Order Paper.

SHRI RAM NAIK : We are not agreeing to change the order of items.... (Interruptions)

20.55 hrs.

STATUTORY RESOLUTION RE: DISAPPROVAL OF  
THE EMPLOYEES' PROVIDENT FUNDS AND  
MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS (AMENDMENT)  
ORDINANCE  
AND  
EMPLOYEES' PROVIDENT  
FUNDS AND MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS  
(AMENDMENT) BILL\*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Basu Deb Acharia.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : Sir, I am not against the Employees' Provident Funds and Miscellaneous Provisions (Amendment) Bill.

MR. SPEAKER : You have to move the Statutory Resolution first. Then, you can speak

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Sir, I beg to move:

"That this House disapproves of the Employees, Provident Funds and Miscellaneous Provisions (Amendment) Ordinance, 1998 (No. 8 of 1998) promulgated by the President on 23 April, 1998."

\* Published in the Gazette of India Extraordinary Part-II, Section-2 dated 9.6.98.

[Shri Basu Deb Acharia]

I support the Provident Fund Bill to increase the contribution from 8.33 per cent at 10 per cent and to a maximum of 12 per cent. The intention is good. But the problem is that in a large number of public sector undertakings, the provident fund is not being deposited. I can give a number of examples. In my State, there are a large number of public sector undertakings. The deductions made for the provident fund in the case of hundreds of employees are not deposited. As a result of this, the workers have to wait after their retirement for years together to get the retirement benefits like provident fund and gratuity. You can increase the contribution to the provident funds. But there are lacunae in the labour laws.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA): Shri Achariaji had said that House should be adjourned by 9.00 p.m. now it is 9 o'clock, the House should be extended for one more hour.

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : What does he say?

MR. SPEAKER : I have seen the sense of the House. It is about extension of time for one hour.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : No, Sir. *...(Interruptions)* I will continue tomorrow.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Basu Deb Acharia, these Bills have already been passed by the Rajya Sabha.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : I know it. Both the Provident Fund and the Gratuity Bills were discussed at length in the Rajya Sabha. Shri Madan Lal Khurana, how can you deprive the hon. Members of the Lok Sabha of that opportunity? *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM : Mr. Speaker, Sir, with your permission, at least please give us an idea. All the leaders are here. How much time would they take tomorrow?

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : One hour.

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM : There are four Bills. *...(Interruptions)* these are repeat Ordinances which have been issued by the United Front Government and supported by the Congress Party.

21.00 hrs.

These are Ordinances which are acceptable beyond Party lines. The surprising thing is that they are cutting into the time that will be available for discussing the Budget. I think, they must understand what they are doing *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Sir, let there be no lunch break tomorrow. All these Bill will be completed by 2 p.m. tomorrow...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Acharia, please cooperate. We would extend the time of the House by one more hour today.

*...(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Sir, please do not extend the time of the House today...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA (Guwahati) : Sir, you should see the interest of the Members also ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Sir, the House sat till 6 a.m. in the morning today. I was present in the House till 3 a.m. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM : Sir, what will happen is that the time for discussing the General Budget would not be available and they will be responsible for it...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Sir, the passage of all these Bills would be completed by 2 p.m. tomorrow...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Then there will be no 'Zero Hour' tomorrow. We are cancelling the 'Zero Hour' tomorrow.

*...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Acharia, if you want 'Zero Hour' tomorrow then these Bills would have to be passed without discussion tomorrow.

*...(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Sir, please do not do that. We would take only five minutes each ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI K. BAPIRAJU (Narsapur) : Sir, it should not be done without discussion...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA : Sir, it should not be done today because we sat till 6 a.m. in the morning today...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : The Minister for Parliamentary Affairs is on his legs. Please listen to him.

*...(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, if you want to pass this bill without discussion or cancel Zero Hour...*(Interruptions)* They will raise another issue tomorrow and raise the issue of temple during Zero Hour ...*(Interruptions)* You have to sit late for Zero Hour. I feel that he wants to reduce the time of discussion on budget...*(Interruptions)*

461 *Statutory Resolution Re :  
Disapproval of Employees PF  
and Misc Provisions (A) Ordinance*

JYAISTHA 19, 1920 (SAKA)

*and Employees PF and 462  
Misc. Provisions (A) Bill*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : We don't want to reduce the time of discussion on budget. We will sit during lunch Break tomorrow...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, you decide after conducting meeting of party leaders tomorrow...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER : All right. Now, the House stands adjourned to meet tomorrow, the 10th June, 1998 at 11 a.m.

2103 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on  
Wednesday, June 10, 1998/Jyaistha 20, 1920 (Saka)*

**CORRIGENDA TO LOK SABHA DEBATE**  
(English Version)

Tuesday, June 9, 1998/Jyaistha 19, 1920 (Saka)

<u>COL/LINE</u>	<u>FOR</u>	<u>READ</u>
30/18	32.04	32.4
37/10	19146	191461
44/6 (Col. 3)	2	5
44/7 (Col. 3)	2	0
58/19-20	The Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment (Shrimati Maneka Gandhi)	The Minister of State of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (Shrimati Maneka Gandhi)
59-60/4 (from below) (Col. 3 & 6)	65865.80; 866.60	65855.80; 856.60
71-72/4 (Col. 4 & 5)	36.83; 115.00	86.63; 155.00
73/3 (from below)	2374	2347
91/23	65	67
93-94/5 (from below)	Net	Not
99/14 (from below)	Jan. 97	Jun. 97
107-108/5 (from below)	Jr. Director	Jt. Director
113-114/7 (from below) (Col. 14)	111	119
115-116/5 (Col. 9)	114	144
115-116/2 (from below)	2435	2485
141-142/6 (Col. 7)	0.20 crs.	0.02 crs.
153-154/5 (from below)	20.33.24	2033.24
157/9 (from below)	89513762.00	89513792.00
161-162/6 (Col. 6)	124.0	124.1
161-162/14 (Col. 7)	28.9	28.8
161-162/5 (from below)	685.4	686.4
167-168/7	340.6	430.6
175/18	4.47	4.74
183-184/8	39	30
183-184/12	1.12.85	2.12.85
183-184/16	700	100
197/4	Feb. 95	Feb.98
221-222/last (Col. 11)	17	7
227-228/2 (from below)	261	361
256/6	0.09	9.09
262/10	3.34	3.43
264/3 (from below)	16.00	19.00
318/16 (from below) ]	Sardar Surjit Singh Baranala	Sardar Surjit Singh Barnala
380/Last		
355/22	Central	Control
378/5-6	May be treated as deleted	
380/3	Shri Manoranjan Bhakta	Shri Manoranjan Bhakta

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