Twelfth Series, Vol. VII, No. 17

Tuesday, December 22, 1998
Pausa 1, 1920 (Saka)

LOK SABHA DEBATES

(English Version)

Third Session
(Twelfth Lok Sabha)

सत्यमेव जयते

(Vol. VII contains Nos. 11 to 18)

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CONTENTS

[Twelfth Series, Vol. VII, Third Session, 1998/1920 (Saka)]

No. 17, Tuesday, December 22, 1998/Pausa 1, 1920 (Saka)

SUBJECT	COLUMNS
OBITUARY REFERENCE	1—2
ORAL ANSWER TO STARRED QUESTION	
*Starred Question No. 321	5—9
WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS	
Starred Questions Nos. 322—340	9—45
Unstarred Questions Nos. 3633—3862	45—325
Short Notice Question No. 2	325
PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE	327—344, 414
PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE	
Third Report and Statements	344—345
COMMITTEE ON PRIVILEGES	
First Report	345
COMMITTEE ON ABSENCE OF MEMBERS FROM THE SITTINGS OF THE HOUSE	
First Report	345
COMMITTEE ON PETITIONS	
First Report and Minutes	346
STANDING COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS	
Sixtieth, Sixty-first and Sixty-second Reports	346
CALLING ATTENTION TO A MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE	
Deteriorating condition of internal security in the country especially the recent killings in North-East and Jammu and Kashmir	348—358, 371—377
Shri Rajesh Pilot	348, 350, 351—359, 362—364
Shri L.K. Advani	348—351, 362—369, 372—373

SUBJECT	COLUMNS
STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS	
(i) Bomb Blasts in Assam	
Shri L.K. Advani	360—361
(ii) Offcial visit to India by chairman of the Government of the Russian Federation—*laid*	
Shri Jaswant Singh	384—386
MESSAGES FROM RAJYA SABHA AND BILLS AS PASSED BY RAJYA SABHA	370—371
BILLS—INTRODUCED	
(i) Elections Laws (Amendment) Bill	378
(ii) Companies (Amendment) Bill	380
(iii) Madhya Pradesh Reorganisation Bill	414
STATEMENT RE: COMPANIES (AMENDMENT) ORDINANCE	383
MATTERS UNDER RULE 377	387—393
(i) Need to provide financial assistance to State Government of Himachal Pradesh for construction of five overbridges on lakes between Bhakhra Dam, Auhar, Matla and Mandwa	
Shri Suresh Chandel	387
(ii) Need to set up a Bench of Gujarat High Court at Rajkot	
Dr. Vallabhbhai Kathiria	388
(iii) Need to provide more air facilities at Kanpur Airport, Uttar Pradesh	
Shri Jagat Vir Singh Drona	388
(iv) Need to take steps to solve the power problem at Chandigarh	
Shri Satya Pal Jain	389
(v) Need to commission the All India Radio Station at Tezpur in Assam	
Shri Madhab Rajbanshi	389
(vi) Need for early completion of electrification work of the Shoranur-Kochi Railway line in Kerala	
Shri S. Ajaya Kumar	390
(vii) Need for implementation of recommendation of Backward Classes Commission for inclusion of certain castes in backward class list	
Shri Pradeep Kumar Yadav	390
(viii) Need for completion of Nabinagar Super Thermal Power Project in Aurangabad, Bihar during Ninth Five Year Plan	
Shri Sushil Kumar Singh	391

SUBJECT	COLUMNS
(ix) Need for construction of a fly over bridge on Railway level crossing between Peddapalli and Manthani, Andhra Pradesh	
Dr. Suguna Kumari Chellamella	391
(x) Need to restore the passenger facilities at Mettur railway station	
Shri K. Pary Mohan	392
(xi) Need to sanction necessary funds for translation of the Constitution of India into Kashmiri language	
Prof. Saifuddin Soz	392
(xii) Need to provide better facilities at Pune Railway Zone	
Shri Prithviraj D. Chavan	393
CUSTOMS (AMENDMENT) BILL	393—396
Motion to Consider	393
Shri Yashwant Sinha	393—396
Shri Motilal Vora	396
Clauses 2 and 1	396
Motion to Pass	396
INCOME-TAX (SECOND AMENDMENT) BILL	396
Motion to Consider	397—398
Shri Yashwant Sinha	396—400
Shri Madhav Rao Patil	398—399
Shri Sansuma Khunggur Bwiswmuthiary	399
Shri B.M. Mensinkai	399—400
Clauses 2 to 8 and 1	400
Motion to Pass	401
UTTAR PRADESH REORGANISATION BILL—INTRODUCED	401
Shri L.K. Advani	401, 407—409, 413
Shri Manoranjan Bhakta	402—403
Prof. Ajit Kumar Mehta	403
Shri Arif Mohammed Khan	403—405
Prof. Prem Singh Chandumajra	405—407, 409
Kumari Mamta Banerjee	407, 409—410
Shri Sansuma Khunggur Bwiswmuthiary	410—411
Kumari Mayawati	412

SUBJECT	COLUMNS
DISCUSSION UNDER RULE 193	
—Bilateral Talks with United States	414—424, 426—482
Shri Rupchand Pal	415—424
Shri Vaiko	426—432
Shri I.K. Gujral	432—445
Shri E. Ahamed	445
Shri Shivraj V. Patil	445—452
Shri C. Gopal	452—456
Shri V.V. Raghavan	456—459
Shrimati Krishna Bose	459—462
Shri Hannan Mollah	462—464
Shri Shanta Kumar	464—467
Shri Purno A. Sangma	467—474
Shri Pramothes Mukherjee	474—476
Shri R.S. Gavai	476—478
Prof. Saifuddin Soz	478—480
Shri Kharabela Swain	480—482
STATUTORY RESOLUTION RE: APPROVAL OF DRAFT MINISTERS' (ALLOWANCES, MEDICAL TREATMENT AND OTHER PRIVILEGES) AMENDMENT RULES	424—426
Shri L.K. Advani	424—426
Shri Mohan Singh	425
Shri P. Shiv Shanker	425
ANNOUNCEMENT RE: BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE	483
DELHI DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (VALIDATION OF DISCIPLINARY POWERS) BILL	483—485
Motion to Consider	483
Shri Ram Jethmalani	483—484
Clauses 2, 3 and 1	484
Motion to Pass	485
STATUTORY RESOLUTION RE: DISAPPROVAL OF COMPANIES (AMENDMENT) ORDINANCE, 1998 AND COMPANIES (AMENDMENT) BILL	485
Motion to Consider	488
Shri Ram Narain Meena	487—488
Dr. M. Thambi Durai	488—489, 492—495
Shri Rupchand Pal	489—491
Shri Pramothes Mukherjee	491—492
Shri Mukul Wasnik	492
Clauses 2 to 18	498

LOK SABHA

Tuesday, December 22, 1998/Pausa 1, 1920 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

OBITUARY REFERENCE

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, I have to inform the House about the sad demise of one of our former colleagues, Shri Harinath Misra.

Shri Harinath Misra was a member of Seventh Lok Sabha representing Darbhanga Parliamentary constituency of Bihar during 1980-84.

Earlier, Shri Misra was a member of Bihar Legislative Assembly from 1946 to 1977. He served with distinction the State of Bihar as Cabinet Minister from 1952 to 1957 and from 1962 to 1967. He also held the Office of Speaker of the Bihar Legislative Assembly from 1972 to 1977.

Shri Misra was Union Minister of State in the Ministry of Rural Development during 1983-84 and Minister of Irrigation and Planning during 1984.

Shri Misra took part in the freedom struggle and actively participated in the 'Quit India Movement' in 1942 and suffered imprisonment.

An able parliamentarian, Shri Misra lost no opportunity to draw the attention of the House to the problems faced by the weaker sections of the society. He made valuable contributions in the House and in the Committee of Privileges during his Chairmanship of the Privileges Committee from 1980 to 1983.

Shri Harinath Misra passed away on 17 December, 1998 at Patna, Bihar at the age of 81.

We deeply mourn the loss of this friend and I am sure the House will join me in conveying our condolences to the bereaved family.

The House may now stand in silence for a short while as a mark of respect to the memory of the departed soul.

11.02 hrs.

The Members then stood in silence for a short while.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI (Darbangha): Mr. Speaker, Sir, we have give a notice for Adjournment Motion. In today's List of Business, the motion for moving the Bill for division of Bihar figures at serial number 25.

[English]

SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA (Andaman and Nicobar Islands): Mr. Speaker, Sir, India has done well in the Asian games. Congratulations from the Lok Sabha. You can kindly say that from the Chair.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA): It has already been done yesterday.

SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon. Minister has said in his statement yesterday that what we have heard on T.V. and learnt from the newspaper is that only those States would be considered for division...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: We can take it after Question Hour.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is a very serious matter, it has to be decided today itself. Therefore, it is absolutely necessary to discuss it...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Not now, we will listen after Question Hour.

[English]

We can take up the matter after Question Hour.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI: When Bihar Assembly has already turned down the proposal for partition of Bihar and Bihar wants to remain undivided *...(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Question Hour is an important business. Please understand.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI: He has been repeatedly giving this statement that only those States would be partitioned about whom the proposals for partition has been sent by the legislative assembly of the concerned State...*(Interruptions)* This proposal has not come from assembly. He has sent it but assembly of Bihar has rejected this proposal.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I am appealing to you not to disturb the Question Hour. After Question Hour, I will hear you, but not now. Please understand...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI: Even after that, they want to bring legislation and it is in today's List of Business. This is the issue of Bihar's fate *...(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: This is not the way to represent matter in this House. This is not the proper way.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

*...(Interruptions)**

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

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: We are not taking up any Bill now. I will allow you after Question hour. Please try to understand.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, please take your seats. This is not good.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: This is Question Hour. Please take your seats.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down. this is not good.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I am appealing to hon. Members to please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, you may please sit down.

I am again appealing to hon. members to please understand that I can hear them only after Question Hour.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

*...(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Fatmi, it is not proper to disturb the entire proceedings of the House. Please try to understand.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: We are not taking up Bills now. We are taking up only Question Hour.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Is this the proper way to raise matters in this House? Now Q.No. 321. Shri N.K. Premachandran.

...(Interruptions)

*Not recorded

ORAL ANSWER TO QUESTION

11.08 hrs.

Polio Immunisation Vaccine

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

(a) whether there is any unit functioning in India which manufactures Polio Immunisation Vaccine;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government are importing the said vaccine;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government discontinued the import of vaccine from Russia;

(f) if so, the reasons therefor;

(g) the names of foreign companies which have been given permission to supply the vaccine during the current year; and

(h) the steps taken by the Government to attain self sufficiency in producing the Polio vaccine in India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI): (a) and (b) Four vaccine manufacturing units in India have obtained required licence to manufacture Oral Polio Vaccine (IP) by blending imported monovalent bulk oral polio vaccine. These units are M/s. Haffkine Bio Pharmaceuticals Ltd., Mumbai, M/s Radicura Pharma, New Delhi, M/s Biomed, Ghaziabad and M/s. Bharat Immunologicals and Biologicals Corporation Ltd., Bulandshahr. Oral Polio Vaccine from the seed stage is not manufactured in the country.

(c) and (d) Government of India is not importing Oral Polio Vaccine (OPV) from any country. However, various donor agencies have been providing OPV as commodity assistance for Pulse Polio Immunisation Programme.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

(g) According to information given by Director General of Foreign Trade, Oral Polio Vaccine is freely importable.

(h) The country is self-sufficient as far as the capacity of blending and bottling is concerned.

SHRI N.K. PREMCHANDRAN: The answer submitted by the hon. Minister is incomplete, ambiguous and also contradictory.

In part (c) of my question, I have raised a specific question whether the Government are importing the said vaccine, that is, the polio vaccine and part (e) of the question is whether the Government of India have discontinued the import of vaccine from Russia....*(Interruptions)* What is this? *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Fatmi, this is too much. You are unnecessarily disturbing the House.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI N.K. PREMCHANDRAN: The answer to part (c) of the question is: 'Government of India is not importing Oral Polio Vaccine (OPV) from any country'. Part (e) of my question is whether the Government discontinued the import of vaccine from Russia. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I am appealing to hon. Members to please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Is this the proper way to raise the matter in the House?

..(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Not now, later on.

[English]

Please try to understand. Otherwise, I will have to take necessary steps.

..(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Do not come to the podium. Please go to your seats.

..(Interruptions)

11.09 hrs.

At this State, Shri Mohd. Ali Ashraf Fatmi and some other hon'ble members came and stood on the floor near the Table.

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, please go back to your seats.

..(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: We are taking up Question Hour, not the Bills.

..(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: We are not taking up Bills. We have very important business to transact today, like Calling Attention.

..(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please go to your seat. This is not good.

..(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please go to your seat. We are not taking up Bills now.

..(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, you are unnecessarily disturbing the House. This is not good. Please go to your seats. You cannot disturb the House.

..(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Fatmi, please go to your seat. This is too much. I am appealing to you to go to your seat.

..(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Now, we are taking up only the Question Hour.

..(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You can raise this issue after question Hour, but not now.

..(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please go to your seats. This is not good. This is too much. I am appealing to you to go to your seats.

..(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Fatmi, this is not good. Please go to your seat. This can be taken up after Question Hour.

..(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I am appealing to you to go back to your seats. This matter cannot be taken up now.

..(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I am appealing once again to go back to your seats.

..(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Are you not going to listen to the Chair? Once again I am telling you that this is too much.

..(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Raghuvansh Prasad Singh, ask your Party Members to resume their seats. This is not good.

..(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali): Mr. Speaker. Sir, Bihar Government had rejected the Bill seeking creation of separate Vananchal State. Therefore, we opposing it...*(Interruptions)* This legislation is against the interests of crores of people of Bihar...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

*...(Interruptions)**

*Not recorded.

MR. SPEAKER: Please resume your seat. I have observed that you always disturb the House.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it has become a daily practice for them to create pandemonium in the House. They do so just to disrupt the proceedings of the House. .. *(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Fatmi, ask your Party Membe to resume their seats

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri S.P. Yadav, Shri Fatmi, I appeal you to resume your seat. This is not good. Will you not listen the Chair? Shri Fatmi, please go to your seat.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Once again I am appealing to you to resume your seats.

...(Interruptions)

11.19 hrs.

At this stage, Shri Raghuvansh Prasad Singh came and stood on the floor near the Table.

MR. SPEAKER: I am again appealing to you to resume your seat.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned to meet again at 12.15 p.m.

11.20 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till fifteen minutes past Twelve of the Clock

---

WITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[Translation]

FCI Godowns

*322. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY:
SHRI JAYSINHJI CHAUHAN:

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

(a) whether the present number of godowns of FCI/ CWC for preserving foodgrains under PDS are sufficient, particularly in Assam, Bihar, Kerala and Karnataka;

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

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether requests have been received from various States particularly from Bihar State Warehouse Corporation to construct more godowns;

(e) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;

(f) whether the Government propose to open/expand new godowns/offices in the States during the Ninth Five Year Plan; and

(g) if so, the details thereof, location-wise?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI SURJIT SINGH BARNALA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The State-wise details of the number of godowns available with the Food Corporation of India (FCI) including those hired from Central Warehousing Corporation (CWC) and other agencies as on 30.09.1998 are given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) and (e) No specific proposals has been received by CWC or FCI from the Bihar Warehousing Corporation to construct more godowns. FCI/CWC construct godowns in different parts of the country as per requirement. Central Government also extend financial assistance to States/ UTs for construction of small godowns upto 2000 MT capacity in the form of 50% subsidy and 50% loan.

(f) and (g) During the Ninth Five Year Plan (1997-2002), FCI purposes to construct additional storage capacity of 4.55 lakh tonnes. There is no proposal at present for opening of new offices by FCI in any State.

During the Ninth Five year Plan, CWC proposes to construct additional storage capacity of 8.20 lakh MTs with necessary office accommodation wherever required.

Statement

The Statewise number of Godowns (Owned & Hired/Coverd & Cap.) available with the Food Corporation of India as on 30.09.1998

Sl No.	Name of the State/ Union Territory	FCI Owned	Covered — Hired From				Total (Hired (4 to 7)	Total (Covered) (3+8)	Capt. (Open)			Grand Total (9+12)
			State Govt.	C.W.C.	S.W.C.	Private party			Owned	Hired	Total	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1.	Assam	18	2	—	3	18	23	41	—	—	—	41
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	4	—	—	—	—	—	4	—	—	—	4
SHILONG REGION												
3.	Meghalaya	2	—	—	3	—	3	5	—	—	—	5
4.	Manipur	2	1	—	—	—	1	3	—	—	—	3
5.	Mizoram	4	1	—	—	1	2	6	—	—	—	6
6.	Nagaland	4	—	1	—	1	2	6	—	—	—	6
7.	Tripura	2	3	1	—	1	5	7	—	—	—	7
Total of N.E. Zone:		36	7	2	6	21	36	72	—	—	-	72
8.	Bihar	19	4	5	7	18	34	53	—	—	—	53
9.	Orissa	22	1	5	18	1	25	47	—	—	—	47
10.	OM(PO) Cal.	26	9	5	2	10	26	52	—	—	—	52
11.	Sikkim	1	2	—	—	1	3	4	—	—	—	4
Total of East Zone:		68	16	15	27	30	88	156	—	—	—	156
12.	Delhi	7	—	1	—	—	1	8	2	—	2	10
13.	Haryana	37	2	4	19	22	47	84	23	1	24	108
14.	Himachal Pradesh	4	9	2	—	2	13	17	—	—	—	17
15.	J&K	11	3	—	—	—	3	14	1	—	1	15

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
16.	Punjab+Chandigarh	112	38	14	68	82	202	314	83	71	154	468
17.	Rajasthan	35	—	6	24	10	40	75	14	9	23	98
18.	Uttar Pradesh	54	52	27	72	28	179	233	34	36	70	303
Total of North Zone:		360	104	54	183	144	485	745	157	117	274	1019
19.	Andhra Pradesh	35	—	32	35	10	77	112	11	1	12	124
20.	Kerala	20	—	1	2	1	4	24	—	—	—	24
21.	Karnataka	15	—	7	30	4	41	56	10	—	10	66
22.	Tamil Nadu	16	—	6	7	—	13	29	7	—	7	36
23.	Pondichery	3	—	—	—	1	1	4	—	—	—	4
Total of south Zone		89	—	46	74	16	136	225	28	1	29	254
24.	Gujarat+JM(PO) Kandla	14	2	8	—	5	15	29	10	1	11	40
25.	Maharashtra-Goa	18	2	6	9	5	22	40	2	—	2	42
26.	Madhya Pradesh	41	17	13	60	15	105	146	10	2	12	158
Total of West Zone		73	21	27	69	25	142	215	22	3	25	240
Grand Total (All India)		526	148	144	359	236	887	1423	207	121	328	1741

* SUMMARY **

	Covered	CAP	Total
FCI Owned	526	207	733
HIRED FROM:			
State Govt.	148	—	148
C.W.C.	144	—	144
S.W.CS.	359	—	359
Private Parties (ARDC+Genl.)	236	121	357
Total	1413	328	1741

Reservation for OBC

*323. SHRI SURENDRA PRASAD YADAV (JAHANABAD): Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are contemplating to provide reservation to the Other Backward Classes (OBCs) in educational institutions including medical and vocational institutes;

(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) The matter is under consideration.

[English]

Disabled Persons

*324. PROF. P.J. KURIEN:
DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY:

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

(a) whether the number of disabled persons are increasing;

(b) whether the Union Government propose to launch any new welfare programme for the disabled;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether there is any scheme to give monthly pension to the disabled suffering from 60% disability; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) Sample survey conducted by National Survey Organisation in 1981 covering only three disabilities (viz. visual, communication and locomotor) estimated that about 1.8% of the total population of the country comprised of disabled persons. Sample survey conducted by the same organisation in 1991 covering four kinds of disabilities (viz. visual, hearing, speech and locomotor) estimated 1.9% population as disabled. Both these surveys did not include mentally handicapped persons.

(b) and (c) National Trust for the Welfare of Persons with Autism, Cerebral Palsy and Mental Retardation is proposed to be set up with a view to enable and empower the persons with disabilities to live as independently and as fully as possible within and as close to the community to which they belong. It also envisages extending support to organisations for providing need-based services during periods of family crisis. The approval of the Cabinet is awaited.

National Programme for Rehabilitation for people with Disabilities is also proposed. This envisages setting up of 128 District Rehabilitation Centres alongwith supporting structure at block/panchayat level. Since it is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme, it requires approval of the Full Planning Commission.

(d) There is no such scheme.

(e) The pension scheme for the disabled is to be implemented by State Governments/UT Admns.

Per-Capita Expenditure on Medical Facilities

*325. SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA:
SHRI PRASAD BABURAO TANPURE:

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

(a) whether the Government are aware that per capita expenditure on medical facilities in India is much less as compared with other Asian countries;

(b) if so, the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to provide better medical facilities to the public;

(c) the funds earmarked for the Health and Family Welfare Programmes during each of the last three years;

(d) the achievements made so far during the Eighth Five Year Plan;

(e) whether the Government have decided to provide more financial assistance/reimbursement of the expenditure incurred on AIDS affected people by the State Governments; 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) The details of per capita health expenditure for year 1990 in some of the Asian Countries is given in the attached Statement-I.

(b) Public health is a State responsibility under the Constitution but to enable them to fill critical gaps external assistance has been mobilised for implementing the National programmes for AIDS, Leprosy, T.B., Malaria, Blindness and the Reproductive Child Health Programme.

Besides for upgrading the rural hospitals in 6 States, World Bank assistance has been availed of which would further improve delivery of health services.

(c) and (d) The funds earmarked for the major Health & Family Welfare Programmes during the last three years and achievement made during Eighth Plan are in the attached Statements-II and III.

(e) and (f) The National AIDS Control Programme is an ongoing programme and funds are being provided as per the Action Plan. The Government has further decided to provide reimbursement for the expenditure incurred by the States for treatment of opportunistic infections of AIDS patients.

Statement I

Per Capita Health Expenditure in Selected Asian Countries

Sl. No.	Country	health Expenditure per Capita in US$ (1990)
1.	China	11
2.	Japan	1538
3.	Malaysia	71
4.	Philippines	15
5.	Republic of Korea	365
6.	Singapore	215
7.	Viet Nam	3
8.	Pakistan	12
9.	Bangladesh	7
10.	Bhutan	10
11.	Nepal	7
12.	India	21
13.	Indonesia	12
14.	Thailand	72
15.	Sri Lanka	18

Source: The World Health Report, 1995—"Bridging the Gaps"

Statement II

Statement showing Funds earmarked for Major Health & Family Welfare Programmes in the country during 1995-96 to 1997-98

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl. No.	Name of the Scheme	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98
1.	National Malaria Eradication Programme (Central Assistance)	12864.11	14397.72	14251.43
2.	National Leprosy Eradication Programme	6453.56	6532.78	7859.77
3.	National Programme for Control of Blindness	5882.00	5948.00	5500.00
4.	National T.B. Control Programme (Allocation)	4600.00	5207.00	8000.00
5.	National AIDS Control Programme	8000.00	14100.00	10000.00
6.	National Family Welfare Programme (Grant-in-aid)	122770.54	121284.16	121157.60

Statement III

Achievements under Major Health & Family Welfare Programmes in the country during Eighth Plan

Sl. No.	Name of the Scheme	Achievements
1	2	3
1.	National Malaria Eradication programme	The Malaria incidence has been contained between 2-3 million cases annually for more than a decade including 8th Plan period. The facilities for case detection and treatment for Malaria are in existence in all parts of the country free of cost. During 8th Plan period of Kala-azar endemic districts of West Bengal and Bihar States have been covered under Kala-azar Control Scheme and Filaria endemic urban areas have been covered under National Filaria Control Programme through 206 control units, 27 survey units and 199 Filaria Clinics. A programme for giving 100% assistance for Malaria Control for the North Eastern States was approved in December,

1	2	3
		1994. Newer initiatives were also introduced and responses taken to involve the Panchayats and Community as also to assess the efficacy of the strategies under the programme through operational research and independent technical studies so as to introduce the necessary correctives.
2.	National Leprosy Eradication Programme	All the districts of the country have been covered with free MDT services so far. A total of 10.8 million patients have been cured by Multidrug Therapy. Reduction in prevalence rate of Leprosy has been from 57/10,000 population in 1981 to 5.3/10,000 by March, 1998.
3.	National T.B. Control Programme	69,91,861 new TB cases were detected and put on treatment during the 8th Five Year Plan.

	1992-93	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97
4. National Programme for Control of Blindness Cataract operations performed (in lakhs)	16.00	19.13	21.65	24.70	27.20
5. Family Welfare Programmes:					
(i) Immunization coverage					
D.P.T.	21996861	23093503	23404982	22555482	23222363
Polio	22115171	23209135	23578383	22776336	23516496
B.C.G.	23460896	24091829	24704227	24133917	24924467
Measles	20863860	21947283	21602060	20542489	21114788
T.T. (Pregnant women)	21449559	22747066	23071570	22123908	22946180
(ii) Family Planning Coverage					
Sterilisation	4286306	4497450	4579514	4422319	3870226
I.U.D.	4739858	6016714	6701995	6857882	5680671
C.C. Users	15004452	17282877	17706986	17297429	1724327
O.P. Users	3001318	4302177	4873311	5090850	5250179

6.	National AIDS Control Programme	Intensive awareness campaigns through electronic and print media has resulted in generation of awareness about the disease both in the high risk groups and the general population in rural (35-40%) and urban areas (60-65%).

1	2	3
		Awareness programmes through school and college education has taken up on a large scale in 18 States. To ensure safe blood to the population, 815 blood banks in the Government and voluntary sector have been modernised in phase and 40 blood component separation facilities have been taken up through the country. Mandatory testing of blood for HIV, Syphilis, Malaria and Hepatitis B has been introduced throughout the country. Infection through blood transfusion has been brought down appreciably over the last 2-3 years. For control of Sexually Transmitted Diseases which have a direct co-relation with HIV/AIDS, 504 STD clinics in district hospitals have been taken up for modernisation. Training of doctors is an ongoing process and key trainers are conducting training programme in clinical management and AIDS case diagnosis. The Indian Medical Association has so far trained more than 20,000 general medical practitioners with support from NACO.

Investment of Funds

*326. SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether any pattern of investment of funds has been laid down for the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the pattern has been liberalised recently from April, 1998;

(d) if so, the changes introduced and the reasons therefor;

(e) whether there are instances of investments made prior to aforesaid liberalisation in breach of the pattern, particularly in the case of Employees' Provident Fund Organisation of Bangalore in Karnataka;

(f) if so, the details thereof including the number of instances, amounts involved and the nature of the breach; and

(g) the action taken thereon and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JAIYA): (a) to (g) The Employees Provident Fund contributions collected by the EPF Organisations but not immediately needed for payment are required to be invested in accordance with the pattern prescribed by the Ministry of Finance from time to time. In order to prove some flexibility for promotion of investment of PF in securities of private sector infrastructure projects, the pattern of investment has been slightly modified with effect from 1st April, 1998. Under the revised pattern, 40% of the investible surplus is to be invested in the Central/ State Government securities, 40% in the banks, public financial institutions including Infrastructure Development Finance Company Ltd. and the remaining 20% has been left for investment at the discretion of the Board of Trustees either in Government securities or in the banks/ PFI bonds/IDFC. The Board of Trustees have also been given discretion to invest PF money upto 10% out of 20% available at their discretion, in private sector bonds/ securities having investment grade rating from at least two credit rating agencies. The responsibility for making investment with different agencies on the basis of the pattern laid down by the Government is that of the State Bank of India as Portfolio Manager. According to the

EPF Organisation which administers the Fund, there is no violation of the prescribed investment pattern and as such, no action in the matter is considered necessary.

15-Point Programme

*327. SHRI E. AHAMED: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the 15-point programme formulated by the Government of India a few years ago for the welfare of minorities has been implemented;

(b) if so, the main points implemented and those not implemented;

(c) whether the Government propose to implement the uniplemented points; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) to (d) The Prime Minister's 15 Point Programme for the Welfare of Minorities drawn in May. 1993 is an on-going programme and implemented by the Government of India as well as the State Governments/Union Territory Administrators.

The points contained in the Programme are in the nature of guidelines for the all round development of Minorities.

[Translation]

Price of Medicine

*328. DR. SUSHIL INDORA:
PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA:

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

(a) whether prices of many medicines have increased in the country during the last three years;

(b) if so, the names thereof alongwith the names of the foreign countries from where these medicines have been imported;

(c) whether the NPPA has determined the prices of formulae of 71 drugs out of which the prices of 39 drugs have been increased by 50.6 percent;

(d) if so, the steps taken to lessen the burden of high price on the public; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SARDAR SURJIT SINGH BARNALA): (a) to (e) It is not a fact that prices of many medicines available in the country have increased during the last three years. There is no pattern to the change in prices. While, prices of some medicines have increased, prices of some other have declined and prices of quite a few have remained unchanged.

Currently, the country is more or less self sufficient in the requirement of formulations. Almost 98% of the formulations are indigenously produced. However, a few of the medicines which are imported are also subject to price control under DPCO 1995, having been identified for inclusion in price control based on the criteria in "Modifications in Drug Policy 1986". Some examples of imported medicines under price control are Insulin Injections (origin in Germany, Denmark and USA); Lincomycin based formulations (origin in Belgium) etc.

After NPPA was established in August, 1997 the prices of 665 formulation packs have been fixed/revised. In the case of 302 packs, prices were reduced. In the case of 269 packs, prices were increased and prices remained unchanged for 24 formulation packs. Copies of relevant notifications are available in the Parliament library. Out of these 665 formulations packs, in September 1998, 71 formulation packs had their prices re-fixed by NPPA. Of these 71 formulatin packs, there was increase in respect of 39 packs, ranging from 0.04% to 50.06%. However, there was decrease in the case of 24 packs ranging between 0.7% to 81.67%. In the case of remaining 8 packs, either there was no change or the prices were fixed for the first time.

DPCO, 1995 provides a mechanism for making available medicines to the public at affordable and controlled prices. The abundance of supply is ensured through the "Modifications in Drug Policy 1986" under which manufacture of drugs and medicines, except for a very few items, has been delicensed.

[English]

Sealing of Indo-Pak Border

*329. SHRI NADENDLA BHASKAR RAO: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the border with Pakistan is proposed to be sealed in Kashmir as has been done by Pakistan on the Western border; and

(b) if so, the action proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI) (a) and (b) There are no reports to indicate that Pakistan has sealed the Western border. As per information available, Prime Minister, Pakistan, during a meeting to review the law and order situation in Sindh, had given direction to deal the International border of Sindh.

2. Considerable portion of the border with Pakistan in J&K can not be fenced due to rugged nature of the terrain and gaps due to rivers, nallahs and streams etc. However, fencing of the Jammu International Border is under active consideration of the Government.

3. Further, Government have adopted a multi-pronged approach to tackle infiltration and militancy which includes, inter-alia, strengthening border management, gearing up the intelligence machinery, well-coordinated and sustained operations against terrorists and subversive elements by the State and Central agencies, intensification of patrolling and checking on border and other vulnerable areas, upgrading of technical equipments with the police and security forces, improved inter-action with the border population, etc.

Improvement of Unorganised Labour

*330. SHRI S. MALLIKARJUNIAH:
SHRI K.P. MUNUSAMY:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has proposed any measure for improvement the lot of unorganised labour;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of action taken in this regard so far and its impact?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) to (c) A number of labour laws enacted for protection of workers' rights and for their welfare are also applicable to unorganised workers. Some of these laws are: the Minimum Wages Act, 1948, the Equal Remuneration Act, 1976, the Payment of Gratuity Act, 1972, the Contract Labour (Regulation & Abolition) Act, 1970, the Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, 1976, the Beedi and Cigar Workers (Conditions of Employment) Act, 1966, the Inter-State Migrant Workmen (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 1979, the Beedi Workers' Welfare Fund Act, 1976 etc. Workers engaged in iron ore, manganese ore, chrome ore, limestone, dolomite and mica mines, cine industry and beedi industry are also covered by the various welfare programmes undertaken under the concerned welfare funds. State Governments have also launched insurance and social security schemes covering large number of workers engaged in specific activities like handloom weavers, rikshaw pullers, etc. Improvement in quality of employment and conditions of work of workers in these unorganised/informal sector has been and continues to be a matter of prime concern for the Government.

The Government are also implementing a number of poverty alleviation and employment generation schemes like Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP), Jawahar Rojgar Yojna (JRY), Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS), Indira Awaas Yojna (IAY), Training of Rural Youth for Self Employment (TRYSEM), Development of Women and Children in Rural Areas (D.W.C.R.A), National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP) etc. which are designed especially to benefit rural poor including workers in these unorganised/informal sector.

As regards fresh policy initiatives, the Central Government have enacted the Building and Other Construction Workers (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 1996 to protect the interest of workers engaged in construction industry which constitutes the second largest activity, after agriculture. It is also the endeavour of the Government to provide welfare measures and to extend legislative protection to more and more workers in the unorganised sector.

[Translation]

Deaths due to Poverty and Dowry

*331. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY:
SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased be state:

(a) the number of incidents of murders and suicides due to poverty and dowry demand after marriage involving the husband and his family members and friends which occurred during each of the last three years and till-date, State/UT-wise;

(b) the number of cases convicted with death sentence, life imprisonment, imprisonment for 10 years or more than 7 years or more; and

(c) the steps being taken to curb such incidents of social evil?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) and (b) Available information in regard to the number of women who committed suicide due to dowry disputes and poverty as also information regarding dowry deaths during 1995-96 to 1998 is given in the enclosed Statement. Relation-wise break-up of persons causing dowry deaths and quantum of punishment awarded to accused persons by courts is not maintained at the Central level. However, the number of cases convicted in dowry related cases during the years 1995, 1996 and 1997 was 574, 797 and 1003 respectively.

(c) 'Public Order' and 'Police' are State subjects as per the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution of India. The registration, investigation, detection and prevention of crimes, including crimes against women, is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments. However, the Central Government has been writing to the State Governments, from time to time, stressing upon them the need to take preventive and punitive measures in connection with crimes against women. The measures suggested by the Central Government include, *inter alia*, appointment of Dowry Prohibition Officers, setting up of women police stations, wider recruitment of women police officers, creation of women police cells in police stations, gender sensitisation training to police personnel, etc. The Central Government has also been advising the State Governments about the need to ensure implementation of the existing laws, both in letter and spirit, and to bring about an awareness in general public about the laws/ instructions regarding anti-dowry and other connected matters. Further, the Central Government has been modifying and amending the existing laws with a view to making them more stringent. The Central Government is now inter-acting with the State Governments on the question of providing death penalty for rapists.

Statement

Suicides committed due to Dowry Dispute & Poverty and Cases of Dowry Death during 1995, 1996, 1997 and 1998

Sl. No.	States/U.Ts.	1995			1996			1997			1998		
		Suicide		Dowry	Suicide		Dowry	Suicide		Dowry	Suicide		Dowry
		D.Dis.	Poverty	Deaths	D. Dis.	Poverty	Deaths	D.Dis.	Poverty	Deaths	D.Dis.	poverty	Deaths. Upto Oct., 98
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
1.	Andhra Pradesh	315	436	362	162	561	411	271	877	551	NA	NA	411
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	NA	NA	1
3.	Assam	9	41	44	12	28	28	9	71	16	NA	NA	14
4.	Bihar	30	6	383	50	5	478	NA	NA	495	NA	NA	0
5.	Goa	3	2	2	3	7	1	3	1	3	NA	NA	1
6.	Gujarat	58	122	61	69	117	105	73	116	81	NA	NA	66

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
7.	Haryana	39	48	218	22	22	223	42	25	212	NA	NA	219
8.	Himachal Pradesh	16	1	6	2	2	6	3	3	6	NA	NA	9
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	8	0	5	12	0	0	19	0	0	NA	NA	0
10.	Karnataka	133	541	202	33	482	182	102	530	237	NA	NA	187
11.	Kerala	10	13	21	14	392	25	37	14	21	NA	NA	16
12.	Madhya Pradesh	321	120	417	421	106	577	467	143	469	NA	NA	351
13.	Maharashtra	546	263	471	509	428	443	377	380	384	NA	NA	323
14.	Manipur	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	NA	NA	0
15.	Meghalaya	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	NA	NA	0
16.	Mizoram	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	NA	NA	0
17.	Nagaland	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	NA	NA	0
18.	Orissa	144	18	196	96	24	178	76	17	124	NA	NA	149
19.	Punjab	13	24	130	35	37	180	48	17	175	NA	NA	164
20.	Rajasthan	84	38	369	98	73	349	78	47	404	NA	NA	367
21.	Sikkim	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	NA	NA	0
22.	Tamil Nadu	140	453	94	125	637	112	91	740	104	NA	NA	107
23.	Tripura	7	0	7	19	5	19	0	19	8	NA	NA	9

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
24.	Uttar Pradesh	367	99	1850	372	66	1983	475	111	1811	NA	NA	1368
25.	West Bengal	91	101	89	80	49	77	254	39	263	NA	NA	172
Total States		2335	2331	4927	2134	3041	5378	2425	3154	5365	NA	NA	3934
26.	A&N Islands	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	NA	NA	0
27.	Chandigarh	0	0	1	3	0	2	4	0	3	NA	NA	4
28.	D&N Haveli	0	0	1	2	0	0	1	2	0	NA	NA	0
29.	Daman & Diu	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	NA	NA	0
30.	Delhi	53	30	160	41	53	132	34	55	164	NA	NA	106
31.	Lakshadweep	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	NA	NA	0
32.	Pondicherry	0	0	3	0	5	1	0	3	2	NA	NA	1
Total (UTs)		53	31	165	46	58	135	39	60	171	NA	NA	111
Total State/UTs		2388	2362	5092	2180	3099	5513	2464	3214	5536	NA	NA	4045

D.Dis. Stand for Dowry Dispute.

[English]

Oral Contraceptive Pills

*332. SHRI AJAY KUMAR S. SARNAIK: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether most of the women in the country lack knowledge about contraceptive methods;

(b) if so, the facts thereof; and

(c) the action plan prepared by the Government to bring awareness among women about the use of contraceptive methods?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI): (a) and (b) No, Sir. As ascertained in National Family Health Survey 1992-93, 96% of currently married women are aware of at least one method of contraceptive, 95% of women know about sterilisation and 58% to 66% women know about temporary methods.

(c) In addition to counselling by the health functionaries, a large Information, Education & Communication (IEC) efforts is being made through the electronic media, print media, through NGO's and through Zilla Saksharatha Samithies. Agencies of Ministry of

Information & Broadcasting like Song & Drama division and Field publicity units are extensively used for IEC.

[Translation]

International Prices of Crude Oil

*333. SHRI ARVIND KAMBLE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the prices of crude oil in the International market during each of the last six months;

(b) the impact on domestic prices of petroleum products and oil deficit due to increase in the international prices of crude oil;

(c) whether the Government propose to follow policy of market price instead of subsidised price in regard to petroleum products; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI VAZHAPADY K. RAMAMURTHY): (a) The average prices of marker crude oils in the international market as published by Platt's for the last 6 months are as follows:

(Figures in $/bbl)

	Brent	Dubai	Oman
June 1998	12.054	11.763	11.932
July 1998	12.044	12.135	12.024
August 1998	11.955	12.249	12.089
September 1998	13.390	13.095	12.669
October 1998	12.641	12.749	12.214
November 1998	10.963	11.748	11.277

(b) There has been no adverse impact on Pool Account during the last six months as prices have for the most part declined during the period.

(c) and (d) The Government had decided to dismantle the Administered Price Mechanism in the petroleum sector in phases. Consequently, oil companies have been allowed to fix the prices based on market consideration effective from 01.04.1998 for all petroleum products other than MS, SKO, LPG. HSD and ATF. Prices of HSD is fixed on import parity basis.

[English]

Foreign Terrorists

*334. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of foreign nationals found involved in terrorist activities in Jammu & Kashmir during 1997 and the current year;

(b) the number of Pakistani Nationals out of them;

(c) the number of foreign terrorists killed and arrested in the State during the said period; and

(d) the action taken against those arrested terrorists?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) to (d) While it is not possible to give the exact number and nationalities of foreign nationals involved in terrorist activities in Jammu & Kashmir, 37 foreign mercenaries were arrested and 197 were killed during 1997. 15 foreign mercenaries were arrested and 289 were killed in the current year upto 15th November, 1998.

Food Adulteration

*335. SHRI SANDIPAN THORAT:
SHRI MADHUKAR SIRPOTDAR:

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

(a) whether rise in food adulteration cases has created a great concern to the Government and to the people;

(b) if so, whether there is a need for greater consumer awareness to ensure effective implementation of safety measures;

(c) if so, the step taken to make them aware of it;

(d) whether the Government propose to set up any effective regulatory mechanism to deal with this problem;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) if not, whether the Government propose to set up any expert panel/Task Force to assess or review the present system in various States;

(g) if so, the details thereof;

(h) if not, whether the Government propose to amend the existing provision of Food and Adultration Act, 1954; and

(i) 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) According to the available information from the State/UT Governments, the overall extent of adulteration in various food stuffs has been found to range between 8 and 11 percent during the last five years i.e. 1993 to 1997. The recent tragedy in Delhi due to consumption of adulterated mustard oil is an unusal case, which has been brought under control by strict enforcement of the provisions of the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954 and allied quality control measures.

(b) and (c) Consumer awareness is an ongoing activity under the Prevention of Food Adulteration Programme. Under the provisions of Section 3 of the PFA Act, 1954 the Government has provided for representation of five members to represent the consumer interest in the Central Committee for Food Standards (CCFS), a statutory committee to advise the Central and State Governments for the administration and implementation of the Act. Provision has also been made under the Act to enable the purchasers or recognised Consumer Associations to lift samples of food, get them analysed and launch prosecution in case the sample is found to be adulterated. Regular training programmes are organised to train the representatives of consumer organisations on various aspects of the Prevention of Food Adulteration Programme. Literature on Consumer awareness is also distributed free of cost in Exhibitions, Seminars etc. A kit has been developed for Spot Test of Common adulterants in food for distribution among consumer associations.

(d) to (g) The implementation of the PFA Act rests mainly with the State/UT Governments. All the States & UTs have their own mechanism to ensure food quality and safety through their enforcement machinery, which works under the overall control of State Food (Health) Authority.

To strengthen the enforcement machinery of States/ UTs, the Central Government has been providing Central assistance in terms of Lab equipments, buildings and cash grants for strengthening the food testing laboratories and has also been providing regular orientation training progammes to Analysts/Chemists, Food Inspectors, Local (Health) Authorities on various aspects of the PFA programme. There is also a proposal to strengthen the Capacity of Central/State PFA infrastructure and lab facilities with World Bank assistance.

(h) and (i) The provisions of the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954 and the rules made thereunder are amended from time to time make them more effective and relevant to changing needs. This is an ongoing process. Suggestions received from various sources including industry and consumer organisation areas are processed taking into consideration the concerns of the various stakeholders and the objectives of the Act.

Extortion of Money from Businessmen

*336. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA:
DR. RAVI MALLU:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the incidents of extortion of money from businessmen have been increasing in Delhi;

(b) if so, the details of such cases which came to the notice of the Delhi Police during the last one year;

(c) whether the Union Government have studied the successful operation of anti-extortion cell of Mumbai;

(d) if so, whether the Union Government propose to set up a similar type of anti-extortion cell in Delhi to deal with such cases; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the extent to which the cases of extortion are likely to be checked?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) and (b) The number of cases of kidnapping for ransom registered by the Delhi Police during the current year (upto the 15th December, 1998) was 23 as against 17 such cases registered during the preceding

year. Out of 23 persons kidnapped in these cases during the current year, 17 victims were recovered and 50 persons involved in these cases were arrested.

In addition, Delhi Police registered 20 cases during the current year (upto the 15th December, 1998) in which victims had been allegedly threatened of dire consequences if they did not pay the money demanded from them.

(c) Yes, Sir. Delhi Police recently deputed a senior officer to study the functioning of Anti-Extortion Cells set up by Mumbai Police.

(d) and (e) Delhi Police have recently set up an Anti-Extortion Cell under the Crime Branch to effectively handle the cases of extortion of money. This is expected to help in particular the investigation of those extortion cases in which the victims hesitate to lodge formal complaint against the culprits.

[Translation]

Hospitals in Rural Areas

*337. SHRI MADAN PRASAD JAISWAL:
SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY:

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

(a) the number of hospitals functioning at present in rural areas in the country, State-wise;

(b) the main criteria for upgrading the primary health centres to rural hospitals in the country;

(c) whether these hospitals are sufficient to meet the requirement of local population;

(d) if not, whether the Government propose to increase the number of hospitals and provide more medical facilities to the people living in the rural areas of the country; and

(e) 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) Primary Health Centres and Community Health Centres, for providing health services to the rural population, are opened and developed by the respective State Governments with State Plan funds. According to norms, laid down by Government of India, a Primary Health Centre caters to a population of 30,000 and a Community Health Centre to a population of 1,20,000. The norms are liberalized for hilly and tribal areas. A State wise list of Primary Health Centres and Community Health Centres is given in the enclosed statement.

(c) Yes, Sir. If fully provided with infrastructure, staff and medical consumables, the Primary Health Centres and Community Health Centres are reasonably sufficient to provide the needed medical facilities to designated population.

(d) and (e) It is for the concerned State Governments to consider further expansion for Primary Health Centres and Community Health Centres.

Statement

Total number of Primary Health Centres and Community Health Centres functioning in the country as on 31.12.1997.

Sl. 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	398	64
8.	Himachal Pradesh	315	55
9.	J&K	337	45
10.	Karnataka	1601	242

1	2	3	4
11.	Kerala	956	80
12.	Madhya Pradesh	1814	198
13.	Maharashtra	1695	304
14.	Manipur	72	16
15.	Meghalaya	82	13
16.	Mizoram	38	6
17.	Nagaland	33	5
18.	Orissa	1352	157
19.	Punjab	484	105
20.	Rajasthan	1636	261
21.	Sikkim	24	2
22.	Tamil Nadu	1436	72
23.	Tripura	56	11
24.	Uttar Pradesh	3808	310
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	22962	2708

(Figures are Provisional)

Constitution of Co-ordination Committee

*338. SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a co-ordination committee has been set up to combat the Naxalite problem effectively;

(b) if so, the terms of reference of the committee;

(c) the areas affected by this problem; and

(d) the strategies considered to combat the extremists?

THE MINSTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) The terms of reference of the Coordination Centre are as under:—

(i) To review the status of the activities of the left wing extremist groups in the four affected States of Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Orissa;

(ii) To monitor the progress of the Plan of Action in respect of each State; and

(iii) To make recommendations, both on development and security aspects of the problem for their resolution.

The Coordination Centre is headed by the Union Home Secretary with Chief Secretaries and Directors General of Police of the four affected States, as Members.

(c) The districts primarily affected by Left Wing Extremism in these States are as follows:—

Andhra Pradesh: Warangal, Karimnagar, Nizamabad, Adilabad, Khammam, Medak and Nalgonda.

Madhya Pradesh: Bastar, Balaghat and Rajnandgaon.

Maharashtra: Gadchiroli, Chandrapur and Bhandara.

Orissa: Malkangiri, Ganjam, Koraput, Gajapati and Rayagada.

(d) Central Government has taken adequate measures to help the States to fight the menace. These include holding of coordination meetings with the States concerned as well as with the various intelligence and investigating

agencies of the Central Government to exchange information, share intelligence, plan strategy and take coordinated action. In certain special circumstances, financial assistance has also been given to some of the affected States over and above the on-going allocations for modernisation of police and supply of weapons. Training of police personnel in anti-extremist operations has also been arranged. Central Government, in consultation with the concerned States, has drawn up an Action Plan in this regard which includes:

(i) Ensuring security of police stations, particularly those located in naxalite affected areas.

(ii) Having a common communication system.

(iii) Setting up a Control Room in each State.

(iv) Joint Patrolling.

(v) Launching of Area Domination programme among of the States.

(vi) Strengthening of intelligence network in affected areas in concerned States.

(vii) Training of police personnel in anti-extremist operations.

State Governments have been requested to take immediate steps to implement the above Action Plan. Action taken by the States is being reviewed from time to time.

[English]

Cost-Effective Technology

*339. SHRI ANANT KUMAR HEGDE: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the availability of cost-effective technology for manufacturing nitrogen based fertilizers;

(b) the details of the present technology in use for manufacturing the same;

(c) the bottlenecks in shifting over to the latest technology; and

(d) the measures taken in this regards?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SARDAR SURJIT SINGH BARNALA): Part (a) and (b) Among the nitrogen based fertilizers, urea is the most widely used accounting for approx. 95% of the nitrogenous fertilizer production in the country. The main technologies for manufacture of ammonia (which is an intermediate for manufacturing urea) and urea, available in the world are:

1. Amonia

(i) Haldor Topsoe	—	Denmark
(ii) Kellog	—	U.S.A.
(iii) Uhde Gmbh	—	Germany
(iv) Roots & Brown Roots	—	U.S.A.

2. Urea

(i) Snamprogetti	—	Italy
(ii) Stemicarbon	—	Netherland
(iii) Toyo Engineering Corporation	—	Japan

The above technologies are more or less at par as regards cost-effectiveness. In India, most of the ammonia-urea capacities are based on Haldor Topsoe and Kellogg technologies for ammonia and Snamprogetti and Stamicarbon technologies for urea.

(c) and (d) Fertilizer companies are free to choose the latest technology for setting up new ammonia-urea plants as well as for revamp/modernisation of existing plants. Although, the existing plants are taking advantage of the latest technological advancements for revamp/ modernisation, a total shift to latest technology is not possible due to constraints posed by the technology already in use and the costs involved. Fertilizer units are provided facilities of custom duty exemption.

Essential Commodities under Public Distribution System

*340. SHRI SUNIL KHAN: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the essential commodities being sold through PDS at present;

(b) whether the Government propose to sell 14 essential commodities through public distribution system at subsidised prices;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SARDAR SURJIT SINGH BARNALA): (a) Central Government procures and makes available to the State/ Union Territories at subsidies prices five essential commodities, viz. rice, wheat, sugar, edible oil and kerosene through the Public Distribution System (PDS).

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The inclusion of each essential commodity under PS requires institutional, infrastructural and financial arrangements consistent with the nature of the commodity and its procurement, storage and transport at large scales. The Steering Committee on Civil Supplies—PDS constituted by the Planning Commission for formulation of the Ninth Five Year Plan was of the view that at the Government of India level there is at present no need to add any more items for distribution under the PDS. However, a number of States have enlarged the basket of commodities under PDS according to the local priorities by adding items to be distributed through the Fair Price Shops (FPS) such as cloth, exercise books pulses, salt, tea etc.

[Translation

Installation Charges

3633. SHRI PUNNULAL MOHALE:
SHRI PRADEEP KUMAR YADAV:
SHRI BAIJNATH RAWAT:

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

(a) whether LPG distributors of Indian Oil Corporation have been charging rupees 10/- as installation charges from the consumers/applicants in the name of Distribution Federation Society or administration for the last three years;

(b) if so, whether it is prescribed under the rules of the oil corporations or Ministry;

(c) if not, whether any inquiry has been conducted in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the amount collected by the distributors from the consumers and the amount received by the Indian Oil Corporation from distributors every year, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (c) IOC have not come across any case wherein Indane distributors are recovering installation charges of Rs. 10/- from the consumers/ applicants in the name of Distributor's Federation for the past three years. As per the guidelines issued by Public Sector Oil Companies, Administrative charges for seeking confirmation of Termination Vouchers (Rs. 10/- per TV) and Installation Charges for new connections (Rs. 10/- for a new connection) are recoverable by the distributors from the customers.

(d) IOC has not been collecting any charges from the LPG consumers towards installation charges. However, the amount collected by IOC's distributors for the period 14.7.1997 to 31.10.1998 towards installation charges is Rs. 1.70 crores.

[English]

Sales Profit at Super Bazar and NCCF

3634. DR. BIZAY SONKAR SHASTRI: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the sales and profit of the Kendriya Bhandar comparing with Super Bazar and NCCF fuding the last three years;

(b) the criteria adopted in the selection of suppliers comparing with the Super Bazar and NCCF;

(c) whether unpopular, poor and inferior quality of items are more on sale in Super Bazar and NCCF to the Government department at higher rates, if so, the manner in which it is compare with the Kendriya Bhandar.

(d) whether there is any proposal to direct the Super Bazar, NCCF and Kendriya Bhandar to weed out all proof and inferior quality items sale to Government deptt.;

(e) whether suppliers in NCCF supply number of items duly purchased from the market at higher rates; and

(f) if not, the details of items supplied by NCCF suppliers to Government departments indicating names of items, their cost price and the price at which billed to

Government departments to be laid on the Table of the House?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYAPAL SINGH YADAV): (a) A comparative statement indicating the sales and profit of Super Bazar, NCCF and Kendriya Bhandar during the last three years as enclosed.

(b) to (d) The Super Bazar, the NCCF and the Kendriya Bhandar are autonomous cooperative organisations having their own Board of Directors to take decisions about their business and other administrative matters. The Govt. of India do not interfere in these matters. As regards the criteria adopted by the Super Bazar and the NCCF for selection of suppliers, these are reported to be as under:—

(i) *Super Bazar:* Goods are introduced after purchase proposals are approved by their Purchase Committee.

(ii) *NCCF:* In respect of branded items, the purchase is made on competitive rates preferably from reputed, experienced and financially sound manufacturers. For items reserved for the small industries sector, the NCCF enroll those manufacturers who are registered as a Small Scale Industry Unit.

According to the information furnished by the Super Bazar and the NCCF they arrange to supply quality goods to the Govt. Deptts./Organisations at competitive rates. No major complaints have been received by them regarding rates and quality of goods. Since there are three organisations from where Govt. Deptts. can make their purchases, a choice is available with the Govt. Deptts./organisations for making their purchases after comparison of rates, quality etc.

(e) and (f) the NCCF has informed that they make their purchases of branded items/from manufacturers/ distributors/authorised dealers only. However, in some cases where there are no arrangements for supply of a particular item with the manufacture/distributors/dealers the goods are purchased from the local suppliers of the product. The NCCF supplies a large number of items to various Govt. Deptt. and since the information sought of is very voluminous, the NCCF has informed that it is not practically possible to compile the some.

Statement

Comparative Statement indicating the Sales and Profit of Super Bazar (SB), NCCF of India Ltd., (NCCF) and Kendriya Bhandar (KB) for last three years

(Rs. in lakh)

Year	Sales			Gross Profit			Net Profit/Loss		
	SB	NCCF	KB	SB	NCCF	KB	SB	NCCF	KB
1995-96	13654.73	24295.95	13883.18	1157.94	896.56	537.68	(+) 27.61)	(+)23.76	(+) 216.18
1996-97	13847.85	20729.17	18659.83	1157.58	904.30	714.81	(-)67.65)	(-)85.66	(+)305.12
1997-98	12846.75	25577.18	20589.00	1050.63	1345.00	925.99	(-)303.82	(+)59.82	(+)407.41

NB : Accounts of the NCCF and Kendriya Bhandar have been audited upto 1997-98. In case of Super Bazar, Delhi; these are audited upto 1996-97.

Scheme of Combatisation

3635. SHRI P. SANKARAN:
SHRI RUPCHAND MURMU:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to introduce a police/military *raj* in the Indian administration;

(b) if so, whether the Government have introduced any scheme of combatisation in some of the offices under his Ministry;

(c) if so, the present status of the scheme;

(d) whether there has been any resentment on this issue in some of the offices; and

(e) if so, the outcome of such resentment and the action taken by the Government in this regard?

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

(b) and (c) An order to combatise certain civilian cadres in the Central Para Military Forces was issued by the Government in 1989 and the same was implemented.

(d) and (e) There has been some litigation from the civilian as well as combatised ministerial staff regarding promotional avenues etc.

Supply of poor quality Unani Medicines by CGHS Dispensary

3636. SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN: 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 "Dispensarise Ki Dawaion Main Fafundi Wa Tilchatte' appeared in "Hindustan' dated December 04, 1998;

(b) if so, the details of complaints received by the Government for the supply of contaminated medicines from the CGHS Unani Dispensaries during July, 1988, till date;

(c) whether the Government had issued any instruction about the restriction of use of such unani drugs;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for delay in taking decision to impose ban on use of such Unani drugs;

(e) whether such medicines are still supplying to the patients by the CGHS Unani dispensaries;

(f) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(g) 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) Yes, Sir.

(b) Three complaints received by CGHS Unani Medical Store Depot, Sarojini Nagar were against the following medicines:—

(i) Syrup Broncene (200ml)

(ii) Syrup Ambneera (200ml)

(iii) Josnanda Packets

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Instructions were issued, a copy of same is attached as Statement. Since there is no Pharmacopoeia in Unani system and the drugs are only tested by organoleptic method, the drugs are not banned but replaced, which has been done.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) and (g) In view of (c) above questions do not arise.

Statement

F.No. 0-20/98-CGHS/UMSE/567-595
Central Govt. Health Scheme,
Unani Medical Stores Depot,
Sarojini Nagar, New Delhi-23.

Dated: 07-12-98

Circular of Instructions

There have been frequent complaints of fungus etc. found in Unani medicines issued to CGHS beneficiaries from Unani dispy./units functioning in Delhi.

The matter of a great concern was reviewed time and again and the inquiries set up for the purpose were all taken into account to find out a solution. It is also

learnt that Unani Pharmaceutical Industry in the country is in developing stage by now. So, to ensure good and complaint free supply of Unani medicines following instructions are suggestive to the medical officers and the paramedical staff working in CGHS Unani, Delhi:—

1. To ensure the good quality of medicines to be supplied to the dispy./units, the Unani pharmacist posted at CGHS-UMSD should be more vigilant and must ensure before any supply of medicines that these are in good conditions and fungus free. In case during the frequent checking of stocks in UMSD, fungus etc. is noticed the same should be reported to the incharge UMSD for further necessary action in that matter.

2. the Unani pharmacist in the dispy./units (at dispensing counter) must ensure before the issue of medicine to the beneficiary that it is totally fungus free. If there is any complaint in any medicine it should be reported to the incharge of the dispy./unit for further necessary action into the matter.

3. The incharge of the dispy./unit must act promptly and such medicine against which there is a complaint of fungus etc. should be stopped for distribution and that should be returned to the UMSD for further necessary action.

4. The UMSD incharge will receive such medicines on return voucher from the dispy./ units and will take necessary steps under the provision and guidelines of the higher authority.

5. Regular indents of the dispy./units must be in accordance to stocks available in UMSD which is informed by an information bulletin every month, because long storage of medicines in the stores at the dispy./units or UMSD may cause such and other likewise problems.

All the concerned medical officers, incharges and pharmacists are requested the strict compliance of these instructions failing which accountability/responsibility may be fixed of the person found neglegent on his/her part.

This issue with the prior approval of the authority concerned.

Sd/-
(Dr. M. Shamoon)
S.M.O. I/C UMSD

To,

All the incharges-CGHS Unani dispy./units-Sarojini Nagar, Darya Ganj, Naraina Vihar and South Avenue, New Delhi with request to bring it to the notice of all staff concerned.

Copy for information to:—

1. P.S. to the Director, CGHS, Nirman Bhawan, New Delhi.

2. P.A. to the Addl. Director (HQ), CGHS, New Delhi.

3. P.A. to the Addl. Director (CZ), CGHS, New Delhi.

4. P.A. to the Addl. Director (MSD), CGHS Dr. R.M.L. Hospital Barracks, New Delhi.

5. Office file for future reference.

CBI Inquiry against M.S. of AIIMS

3637. SHRI JANG BAHADUR SINGH PATEL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Medical Superintendent of All India Institute of Medical Sciences was arrested on the charges of accepting bribe from a medical equipment supplier recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof with the present status of the matter;

(c) whether CBI has earlier conducted any inquiry and recovered medical equipment and medicines of inferior quality in the medical and surgical stores of the hospital;

(d) if so, the outcome of the inquiry conducted by CBI with its present status;

(e) whether majority of the Government hospitals are involved in the dubious purchases of medical, surgical stores and other items·

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

(g) the action taken by the Government in this matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT

EZHILMALAI): (a) and (b) Medical Superintendent of All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi was arrested by the anti-corruption Bureau of the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi on the alleged charges of having asked and receiving illegal gratification from a supplier. After the arrest, he was placed in judicial custody and subsequently placed under suspension under Rule 10(2) of the CCS (CCA) Rules, 1965. Subsequently, a Junior Stores Officer (Hospital) was also arrested by the Anti-corruption Bureau on 29.7.98 on the charges of having tampered with evidence in this case. He has also been placed under suspension as he was under police custody for more than 48 hours. The issues regarding (a) whether the Anti-corruption Bureau of Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi had a jurisdiction to make a case of this nature (b) whether the Bureau has jurisdiction to request for sanction to prosecute these officials and the prescribed procedure which the Anti-corruption Bureau of the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi have to follow in this case, is under examination.

(c) to (g) Two cases have been registered by the Central Bureau of Investigation, after samples of hospital bandages and gauze were seized from All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Safdarjung Hospital and Dean Dayal Upadhyay Hospital relating to an allegation that the materials were of inferior quality and did not conform to the relevant specification. The matter is presently under investigation, and the details of the case including the quality of the seized bandages are part of the evidence to be produced before the Court at the appropriate juncture.

Besides the above two cases, three more cases against the employees of G.B. Pant Hospital were registered in CBI.

Implementation of Labour Ministry's Notification by IOC

3638. SHRI MOINUL HASSAN AHAMED: Will the Minsiter of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the IOC is not implementing the orders of notification issued by the Ministry of Labour in December, 1976 for abolition of contract labour system;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the IOC is giving the legal benefits like equal wages, bonus and other facilities to the contract workers; and

(d) if not, the steps taken to implement the said notification by IOC in their terminal depot and plants at various places?

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.

[Translation]

Policeman posted at Rashtrapati Bhawan

3639. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Rashtrapati Bhawan Mein Tainat Police Bhi Pak Saf Nahi" appearing in the "Rashtriya Sahara" dated September 1, 1998;

(b) if so, whether the character and record of the police personnel deployed for the security of the Very Important Persons are verified;

(c) if not, the names of the officers found guilty for this and the action taken against them; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government for early disposal of the inquiry cases against the Police personnel involved in serious crimes like cheating, murders, corruption and theft?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The deployment of the police personnel at Rashtrapati Bhawan was made by Delhi Police after assessing the suitability of the officers in security duties. It was found that 14 persons against whom criminal cases were pending were deployed in the security of Rashtrapati Bhawan. All the 14 persons have been transferred out of Rashtrapati Bhawan and Delhi Police has been asked to ensure that no person against whom criminal cases are pending is posted in the Security of Rashtrapati Bhawan.

(d) TThe cases pending in the Courts against the police officials are to be decided by the Courts. In case where departmental action is required to be taken, instructions have been issued by Delhi Police to the DCPs for expeditious disposal.

Industrial Toxicological Research Centre

3640. SHRI SURESH CHANDEL: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Industrial Toxicological Research Centre, Lucknow has developed a chemical coated paper strip to trace out adulteration in mustard oil;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to provide these strips to the concerned department; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PAL SINGH YADAV): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. A chemically coated paper strip test, termed as 'CD-Strip' has been developed by Industrial Toxicological Research Centre. This test permit the detection of artificially added synthetic colour 'Butter Yellow' if any in mustard oil. The technology of this test has been transferred to M/s Nilofe, Lucknow for commercial manufacture.

Publication of Rules and Manuals

3641. SHRI TEJVEER SINGH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of codes, manuals, rules and regulations in his ministry and its subordinate departments amended and published by the Ministry;

(b) the number out of these available only in English and in bilingual form;

(c) the language in which the latest edition was published; and

(d) the time by which the bilingual publication of those documents are likely to be brought out?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (d) This Ministry has published 13 Rules and 2 Control Orders. All are bilingual except two Rules viz., The Petroleum and Natural Gas Rules 1959 and Petroleum and Minerals Pipelines (Acquisition of Right of User in Land) Rules 1962. These two Rules have been published in English only. Efforts are under way to review and update these rules to be published bilingually thereafter.

[English]

Arrest of Khalistani Terrorists

3642. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether few months back border Police has arrested two Khalistani terrorists and seized 30 Kg. of RDX from their possession;

(b) if so, the number of insurgent outfits operating in and outside the country for the cause of separate Khalistan; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to check their activities?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) According to available information, 3 terrorists including two ex-hardcore terrorists were arrested in July, 1998 in district Batala, Punjab, and arms and ammunitions including 25 Kg. RDX were recovered from them.

(b) Half a dozen terrorist organisations who have their top leaders based mostly in Pakistan and some other countries are actively trying to revive terrorism in the State of Punjab. Pakistan ISI is putting severe pressure on Pakistan based top ranking Punjab terrorists to carry out terrorist strikes in Northern India.

(c) Several measures have been initiated to detect and neutralise the mischief potential of elements attempting revival of terrorism. These measures include (i) action against residual terrorists, their active sympathisers and harbourers (ii) identification of active

smugglers and couriers assisting Punjab militants in their trans-border operations and initiating action against them (iii) prompt exchange of information regarding militant designs with the concerned States/agencies (iv) coordinating operations against various bands of criminals assisting Punjab militants (v) gearing up of intelligence gathering channels (vi) identification of potential targets and providing them need based security (vii) special drives to locate old dumps of weapons and absconding terrorists etc.

Licence for Import of Edible Oil

3643. SHRI T. GOVINDAN: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have issued licence to import Edible Oil after reducing its duty; 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.

[Translation]

Information of Tour

3644. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the elected members of Parliament are given the prior information of the tour of President, Vice President, Prime Minister and Cabinet Ministers where meeting is to be held;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the person responsible for not complying with the orders; and

(d) the action taken against the erring officers?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) to (d) The President's Secretariat sends a copy of the tour programme of the Hon'ble President of India to the Members of Parliament representing the region being visited. In the case of tours undertaken by the Vice-President, the practice has been that the our programme is intimated to the Members of the Rajya Sabha of the State being visited. Intimation in this regard is also given to the concerned Members of the Lok Sabha whose constituencies the Vice-President intends to visit. The Prime Minister's Office informs the State Governments of the tours undertaken by the Prime Minister, and the State Governments, in turn, inform all concerned about the tours. Instructions exist that, as far as possible, the Ministers may give prior intimation of their tour programmes to the Members of Parliament of the area which they intend to visit so as to ensure that the Members of Parliament have no grievance in this regard.

Employment in Foreign Countries

3645. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of companies which were given licences particularly in Union Territory of Delhi for providing employment in foreign countries during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) whether the companies are working as per the direction of the Government;

(c) whether the Government have received complaints against some companies for irregularities and violation of law;

(d) if so, the details of complaints received against each company during the said period; and

(e) the action taken by the Government against them?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYA NARAYAN JATIYA): (a) The number of Registration Certificates issued during the last three years was as under:

1995	1996	1997	Total
225 (32)	108 (14)	112 (24)	445 (70)

Figures in brackets indicate the number of Registration certificates issued in Delhi/New Delhi.

(b) to (e) Sporadic complaints against Recruitment Agencies for violation of one or the other provision of the Emigration Act, 1983 and the rules framed thereunder are brought to the notice of the Government either by the Indian Mission or by the affected workers. Most of the complaints relate either to collection of service charges in excess of what is prescribed under the Act or to payment of lesser salary by the foreign employers than that was offered to the workers by the local agent before their recruitment. Some complaints also relate to non-availability of good working and living conditions, harassment etc. Immediate action is taken to settle the grievances of the workers by way of directions to the local agents. Indian Missions are also requested to solve the problems of the workers with the help of the foreign sponsors/Govt. In the event of the local agents failing to solve the problems of workers, action is initiated to suspend/cancel their registration certificates. During the last three years, 40 registration certificates were suspended and one Registration certificate was cancelled. In one case the bank guarantee of the agent was forfeited and distributed among the workers. Public hearings are also held on every working Tuesday and Friday in which both the complaints and the concerned recruiting agents are called. In majority of the cases, grievances of the affected persons are settled through such hearings.

[English]

Upliftment of Weaker Sections in Maharashtra

3646. SHRI D.S. AHIRE: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of schemes launched by the Government in Maharashtra and Karnataka for the upliftment of weaker sections during Eighth Plan;

(b) the number of persons of each States particularly in Maharashtra and Karnataka have been benefited therefrom during the said period;

(c) the total amount allocated to these States during the above period, scheme-wise;

(d) whether these schemes are likely to be continued during the Ninth Plan; and

(e) if so, the funds earmarked for these schemes for Ninth Plan and the amount released for the current year to these States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) to (c) Details are given in the Statement attached.

(d) and (e) It is proposed to continue these schemes in the Ninth Plan. The amount released so far during the current year has been shown in the statement referred to above.

Statement

Details of schemes launched for the upliftment of weaker sections during the Eighth Plan, the amount released in favour of the States of Maharashtra and Karnataka, No. of beneficiaries, etc.

S.No.	Name of the Scheme	No. of beneficiaries		Amount released during Eighth Plan period (Rs. in lakh)		Amount released in 1998-99 (upto 30.11.98) (Rs. in lakh)	
		Mah.	Kar.	Mah.	Kar.	Mah.	Kar.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Spl. Edl. Devt. Pro. for SC girls belonging to very low literacy levels	—	—	—	—	—	—

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
2.	Edl. Complex in low female literacy pockets for improving literacy among tribal women	150	—	12.92	—	9.33	—
3.	Village Grain Bank for Tribals	—	—	—	—	—	—
4.	Multi-Sectoral Development Plan for Minorities	Not quantifiable	—	2.00	9.00	—	—
5.	National Minorities Development and Finance Corporation	850	5392	582.95	981.10	—	—
6.	Pre-Examination Coaching scheme for Weaker sections based on economic criteria	386	160	11.72	4.44	—	4.17

Training for Anti-Sabotage Operations

3647. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Andhra Pradesh has sent on SOS to the Union Government seeking specialised training in anti-sabotage operations following the seizure of RDX from Pakistani ISI agents and their local accomplies in the Hyderabad city;

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

(c) the other measures being considered by the Union Government to help and assist the State Government in meeting the challenge thrown by the ISI activities?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Ministry of Home Affairs have released the following funds to the Government of Andhra Pradesh under the Scheme for modernisation of State Police Forces.

Year	Amount Released (Rs. in lakhs)
1996-97	709.560
1997-98	1209.560
1998-99	104.780

Government is taking all necessary steps to combat and frustrate the designs of ISI by sensitising and gearing up the intelligence machinery, sharing of intelligence, modernisation of the police force and coordinated action by concerned Central and State agencies. The Police and Intelligence Organisations are under instructions to neutralise Pak ISI modules and activities in all parts of the country whenever and wherever these come to notice.

Smaller State

3648. SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR BWISWMUTHIARY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal for creation of smaller State for Bodo-Land;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether the Government have received any resolution from the Assam Assembly in this regard?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

Exemption of Edible Oil Seeds from Storage Control Order

3649. SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have exempted the edible oil seeds and edible oils from the Storage Control Order, 1977 under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government have received representations to exempt pulses from the Storages Control Order, 1977 under the said Act; and

(d) if so, the details thereof, State-wise and the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PAL SINGH YADAV): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. This followed the commitment made in the Finance Minister's Budget Speech in 1997 to remove edible oilseeds and oils from the purview of the Storage Control Order. However, State Governments have been advised that they may enforce Storage Control for edible oils and edible oilseeds under the powers delegated to them under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. does not arise.

New CRPF Wing

3650. SHRI B.M. MENSINKAI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have propose to establish New CRPF Wing in Karnataka particularly in districts like Dharwad, Haveri, Davangere; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Construction of Hospital Building

3651. SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA VARMA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to construct a Hospital building in Kotra Sultanabad for the victims of Bhopal Gas Tragedy;

(b) If so, the progress made in this regard; and

(c) the amount provided for the construction of Hospital in Bhopal during 1998-99?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (DR. A.K. PATEL): (a) to (c) The State Government of Madhya Pradesh has informed that the Bhopal Memorial Hospital Trust has given administrative approval for the construction of mini-units (referral hospital) at Kotra Sultanabad for which land has been made available by the State Government.

T.B. and other Diseases

3652. SHRI SOM MARANDI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of people under poverty line and just above the poverty line are suffering from vulnerable diseases;

(b) the approximate fund is required to feed them adequately in order to prevent them from falling the victims of T.B. and other diseases;

(c) the total fund spent by the Centre and the State Governments for the treatment of T.B. and other diseases during the seventh and Eighth Five Year Plan;

(d) whether the Government propose to set up T.B. clinics in each district of the country;

(e) if so, the time by which these clinics are likely to be set up; and

(f) if not, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI): (a) No data in regard to percentage of people under the poverty line and just above the poverty line suffering from vulnerable diseases is reported under the programme.

(b) TB is caused by Tuberculosis bacilli and transmitted by infectious droplet from a diseased person to a healthy one when TB patient coughs or sneezes. Therefore, the only way to prevent spread of TB is to cure the sputum smear positive cases.

There has been substantial increase in the Budget provision for the National Tuberculosis Control Programme. Adequate funds have also been made available under the National Health Programme to combat the other diseases like Malaria, Filaria, Kalaazar, HIV/AIDS, Leprosy, Cancer and Iodine Deficiency disorder etc.

(c) During the Seventh and Eighth Five Year Plans, the funds Rs. 61.45 crores, and Rs. 131.18 crores respectively. The Central assistance provided during the Seventh and Eighth Plan periods for the control of vector borne diseases like Malaria, Filaria, and Kalaazar etc., is 425.23 crores and Rs. 591.06 crores respectively. The amount spent by the Government through the State Governments under National Leprosy Eradication Programme during the Seventh and Eighth Five year Plans is Rs. 85.82 crores and Rs. 305.95 crores respectively. The National AIDS Control Programme was launched on 23rd September, 1992 and the amount spent by the Centre and States for AIDS Control Programme during Eighth Plan was Rs. 274.26 crores. The expenditure incurred under the 7th & 8th Five Year Plans under the National Cancer Control Programme is Rs. 31.41 crores & Rs. 85.73 crores respectively.

(d) to (f) The National TB Control Programme is implemented through District TB Centres and TB Clinics. there are 446 Districts TB Centres in rural areas and 330 Chest Clinics in Metropolitan cities. It is proposed to set up the District TB centres in each district of the country by the end of the 9th Five Year Plan for which State have been requested.

[English]

Trade Union

3653. SHRI K.S. RAO: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are multiplicity of Trade Unions in the same industry/establishment;

(b) if so, the Government propose to arrest the mushroom growth of trade unions;

(c) whether there is any proposal to bring changes in the existing Trade Union; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) to (d) According to Sec. 4(1) of the Trade Unions Act, 1926, any seven or more members of a Trade Union may apply for registration of the Trade Union.

Amendments to the Trade Unions Act, 1926 are made keeping in view the requirements of the social partners and a cautious & pragmatic approach is adopted to ensure that the amendments take into consideration the requirements of the social partners as far as possible.

Small Pox Cases

3654. SHRI MULLAPALLY RAMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether small pox has been totally eradicated from the country;

(b) the number of cases detected in each States during 1998-99; State-wise; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government for total eradication of this disease?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT

EZHILMALAI): (a) to (c) India was declared small pox free by an International Commission for Assessment of Small Pox Eradication in April, 1977. The position continues to be the same.

Demand/Supply of Sugar

3655. SHRI SURESH WARPUDKAR: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the gap in average demand and supply of sugar in the country as a whole;

(b) whether total demand of sugar can be met by the sugar produced in the country;

(c) if so, the details of demand and supply during each of the last three years; and

(d) if not, the steps being taken by the Government to ensure availability of adequate sugar for Public Distribution System?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PAL SINGH YADAV): (a) and (b) There is no gap in demand and supply of sugar in the country at present. With the carry-over stocks of 54 lakh tonnes (provisional) of previous season and estimated production of 150 lakh tonnes during the 1998-99 season, the total availability of sugar would be sufficient for meeting the anticipated requirement of 144 lakh tonnes of sugar for internal consumption in the country.

(c) Required information is as under:—

(Figures in lakh tonnes)

Season	Production	Internal Consumption*
1995-96	164.29	131.72
1996-97	129.05	137.92
1997-98	128.30(P)	139.80

P = Provisional

*These figures exclude the sugar imported by private parties for sale in the open market under Open General Licence (OGL)

(d) During November and December, 1997, to meet shortfall of sugar on levy account, Government had taken a loan of 5 lakh tonnes of sugar from the industry out of their freesale portion with the understanding that the same shall be returned during 1997-98 season. However, due to shortfall in production of sugar in 1997-98 season, Government instead converted this quantity into purchase following an approved pricing formula. Government also purchased another 3 lakh tonnes of freesale sugar from the industry on the same basis. In addition to the above, a quantity of 2 lakh tonnes of freesale sugar has been taken on loan from the industry for use under Public Distribution System (PDS) in November, 1998.

[Translation]

Storage Capacity of Oil Depots

3656. SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of depots of Bharat Petroleum, Indian Oil Corporation and Hindustan Petroleum, particularly in backward areas of Uttar Pradesh alongwith their locations;

(b) the storage-capacity of each of the depots at present; and

(c) the extent to which these are benefited the local people there?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) and (b) The total number of depots of BPCL, IOC and HPCL in UP alongwith their location and capacity as on 1.4.98 are in the attached Statement.

(c) The benefits include uninterrupted supply of petroleum products to meet timely and full demand of the local people as well as the entire State of Uttar Pradesh, direct and indirect employment for operating of these depots etc. and in transportation of products.

Statement

(Fig. in KL)

Sl.No.	Location	BPCL	IOCL	HPCL	Total
1.	Agra	13950	32835	0	46785
2.	Aonla (Bareilly)	10114	23788	0	33902
3.	Baitalpur	9424	14065	0	23489
4.	Bareilly	0	7060	9195	16255
5.	Basti	0	3900	0	3900
6.	Gonda	6302	11888	3114	21304
7.	Gorakhpur	5101	7528	0	12629
8.	Jhansi	9138	12201	3020	24359
9.	Karari	0	0	4910	4910
10.	Kathgodam	595	1842	0	2437
11.	Lucknow	0	590	0	590
12.	Meerut	10158	2035	5462	17655
13.	Moradabad	0	5870	4088	9958
14.	Nazibabad	12794	33616	3114	49524
15.	Partapur (Meerut)	0	12550	0	12550
16.	Saharanpur	5664	5462	0	11126
17.	Shajahanpur/Bant	0	28079	0	28079
	Total:	83240	203309	32903	319452
	No. of Depots	10	16	7	33

[English]

Vegetarian Nutrition

3657. CAPT. JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware about the Dietary Guidelines issued by World Cancer Research Fund titled 'Lower your cancer risk';

(b) whether the Government are also aware about the Medical cost attributable food consumption of flesharian food, issued by European Vegetarian Union on Medical;

(c) if so, whether the Government propose to study and adopt these guidelines;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

(e) the details of arrangements exist in hospitals to advise patients on health problems caused by Meat, Fish, Chicken and Eggs; and

(f) the steps taken by the Government to introduce these guidelines in view of the benefit of vegetarian food?

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

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) In India majority of the population are vegetarians and the non-vegetarians consume less non-vegetarian products than that consumed in the west.

(e) and (f) So far as Central Government Hospitals are concerned, Dieticians are there to advise patients according to the disease condition. The Government aim is to provide adequate and nutritions food and not to promote any one particular type of food.

Synthetic Milk

3658. SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether pesticide/insecticide residues are found in milk, which cause different type of health problems;

(b) if so, whether synthetic milk made from Urea, Caustic Soda, Detergents can cause kidney problems;

(c) if so, whether any study has been made on kidney problem due to adulteration of milk;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the steps taken/proposed to be taken to ban such type of synthetic milk and check the use of pesticide/insecticide residues in the milk?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI): (a) Limited studies conducted from time to time in different parts of the country to assess the level of pesticide/insecticide residues in different food articles including milk revealed that the pesticide/insecticide residues in these samples were within the tolerance limit prescribed in the Prevention of Food Adulteration Rules, 1955.

(b) to (d) As per our information no such study has been conducted. There is no such product like synthetic milk under the PFA Act and Rules Framed thereunder.

(e) Sale of milk and milk products containing substances not provided for in the Rules, is already prohibited under the provisions of the Prevention of Food Adulteration Rules, 1955. The Food (Health) Authorities of the States/U.Ts. have been advised to step-up surveillance measures and take appropriate legal action against the offenders.

[Translation]

Food Corporation of India

3659. SHRI H.P. SINGH: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the atrocities committed on the workers of FCI in various States particularly on workers in FCI godown at Etawah in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to check such practice by the contractors?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PAL SINGH YADAV): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

Central Forensic Science Laboratory

3660. SHRI RANJIB BISWAL: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether various kind of High Tech. machines kept in the Central Forensic Science Laboratory, Lodhi Road Complex, New Delhi are being used;

(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) Yes, Sir. High-tech equipments, such as, voice spectrograph, scanning electron microscope, polygraph machine, etc. are being utilised for assisting investigation in various cases.

Medical Facilities in Trivandrum

3661. SHRI K. KARUNAKARAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the sanctioned strength of Medical Officers including specialists in the CGHS dispensary at Trivandrum and the number of Doctors actually posted at present;

(b) whether any alternative arrangements has been made by the Government to provide medical treatment in local hospitals recognised by the Government on the specialist advice/indoor treatment therein;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether there is an acute shortage of medicines and laboratory services in these dispensaries;

(e) if so, the action taken by the Government in this regard;

(f) whether the Government propose to increase the working hours in this dispensary or make two shifts system instead of the existing one shift system taking into account the inconvenience/sufferings caused to the patients who require medical treatment/attention at the dispensary after the working hours of the dispensary and on holidays; 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) The total sanction strength in the 3 CGHS dispensaries in Trivandrum is ten. Six are working as Medical Officers and one as Joint Director. Three are yet to join.

No post of specialist has been sanctioned.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The beneficiaries can take specialised treatment at Medical College Hospital, General Hospital, Sree Chitra Thirunal Hospital and Regional Cancer Centre and all State Government Hospital/Corporation Hospital/Railway Hospital.

(d) and (e) The medicines that are not available on the dispensaries are procured by the dispensaries through local purchase from the authorised local chemist and supplied to the beneficiaries. In emergency cases, authority slips are issued to the beneficiaries for obtaining the medicines directly from the local chemist without any payment.

(f) and (g) There is no proposal under consideration of the Government for introducing two shifts due to resource constraints. However, the beneficiaries can obtain the treatment from the hospitals mentioned in (c) above under emergency circumstances.

LPG Connections in Rajasthan

3662. SHRI RAMPHAL UPADHYAY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of consumers in the waiting list for LPG connections till date in Rajasthan;

(b) whether there is an acute shortage in the supply of LPG cylinders in the State;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) The number of person on the waiting list registered with the LPG distributors of the PSU Oil Companies as on 1.10.98 was about 7.74 lakhs in the State of Rajasthan.

(b) to (d) The LPG demand of existing customers enrolled with PSU Oil Companies in the State of Rajasthan is being met by and large in full. Whenever

LPG backlogs develop due to law and order problem, IR Problems, floods or any disruption in availability due to emergency shutdowns at any of the production sources etc., Oil Companies take immediate measures to meet the demand in the affected markets through maximising LPG imports and by operation of LPG bottling plants during extended hours and on Sunday and Holidays to clear the LPG backlogs.

Presently there is no LPG backlog in the State of Rajasthan as reported by Oil Companies.

Beedi Industry

3663. SHRI GIRAJALA VENKAT SWAMY NAIDU: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the number of workers employed in the beedi sector;

(b) the details of steps taken by the Government for the welfare of beedi workers to protect their interest;

(c) whether monitoring has been done on the impact of entry of foreign companies in beedi sector; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government to ensure that detrimental policies are not implemented in this sector?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) The number of beedi workers in the country is estimated to be 44 lakhs.

(b) The Government have taken a number of steps for the welfare of beedi workers which include providing benefits in the field of health care, social security, recreation, education, and housing. A list of such schemes is given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) and (d) The existing guidelines for investment by foreign companies do not stipulate any ceiling on the extent of foreign equity participation inter-alia in sectors pertaining to consumer non-durables. Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) is considered by the Foreign Investment Promotion Broad (FIPB) subject to the provision relating to compulsory licensing under the Industries (Development and Regulation) Act, 1951.

Statement

List of Welfare Schemes for Beedi Workers

A. HEALTH:

1. Static-cum-Mobile/Static Allopathic and Static Ayurvedic Dispensaries.
2. Scheme for Reservation of Beds in T.B. Hospitals.
3. Scheme for Domiciliary Treatment of beedi workers suffering from T.B.
4. Scheme for Treatment of Beedi Workers suffering from Cancer.
5. Scheme for Treatment of Beedi Workers suffering from Mental Disease.
6. Scheme for Treatment of Beedi Workers (including Gharkhata Workers) suffering from Leprosy.
7. Grant of Financial Assistance to Beedi Workers for purchase of Spectacles.
8. Maternity Benefit Scheme for Female Beedi Workers.
9. Scheme for payment of Monetary Compensation for Sterilisation to Beedi Workers.
10. Re-imbursement of expenditure as financial assistance to Beedi Workers in respect of Heart Diseases.
11. Re-imbursement of expenditure as financial assistance to Beedi Workers in respect of Kidney Transplantation.

B. SOCIAL SECURITY:

1. Group Insurance Scheme.

C. HOUSING:

1. Build Your Own House Scheme.
2. Housing Scheme for Economically Weaker Section of Beedi Workers.
3. Grant of subsidy to Co-operative Societies of Beedi Industry for construction of worksheds and godowns.

4. Group Housing Scheme.

D. EDUCATION:

1. Award of Scholarship to the Children of Beedi Workers (including Gharkhata Beedi Workers).

2. Composite Scheme for Financial Assistance to the School going children of Beedi Workers for supply of one set of dress, slates, note books and text books.

3. Payment of incentives on passing final University/Board examinations from High School onwards.

4. Scheme to provide incentive/financial assistance of Re. 1/- to female children of Beedi Workers, on the basis of attendance in schools.

E. RECREATION:

1. Establishment of Audio-Visual Sets/Cinema Vans/Exhibition of Films.

2. Organising sports, games social and cultural activities for Beedi Workers.

3. Holiday Home Scheme for Beedi Workers.

4. Supply of T.V. Sets to the Beedi Workers Industrial Co-operative Societies.

5. Establishment of Community Hall in Beedi Workers Housing Colony with colour T.V. Set.

[Translation]

Arresting persons having contacts with Foreign Terrorists

3664. SHRI MITRASEN YADAV: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons arrested in metropolitan cities having contracts with foreign terrorists during last six months;

(b) whether the terrorists have links with politicians and getting protection from them;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether any restriction is likely to be imposed on entering of such suspicious persons in politics; and

(e) if so, the steps taken to make their activities futile and to strengthen the security of the country?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) to (e) The information is being obtained and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Supply of Liquified Natural Gas

3665. SHRI RAM NARAIN MEENA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to increase the existing capacity of pipeline for increasing the capacity of L.N.G. based industries and for setting up of new industries in Rajasthan particularly in industrial town Kota;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the effective steps proposed to be taken for making distribution of L.N.G. more extensive?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) No, Sir. As on date there are no LNG based industries in the country.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Import of LNG is on the Open General Licence (OGL) and therefore, LNG can be freely imported, regassified and distributed by any party whether in the Public Sector or Private Sector. Apart from the several private initiatives to import and distribute LNG, Government have also approved formation of Petronet LNG Ltd., a Joint Venture Company with 50% equity participation from ONGCL, IOCL, GAIL and BPCL and the balance to be offered to financial institutions, private parties etc.

[English]

Anti-T.B. Drugs

3666. SHRI R.L.P. VERMA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the four drugs combination of Anti-T.B. drugs is proposed to be included in WHO list of essential drugs;

(b) if so, whether the Drug Technical Advisory Committee has recommended to ban such combination;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI): (a) The 1998 TRAC Report recommended that:

(i) National Drug Regulatory Authorities be encouraged to register FDC formulation when bio-availability has been demonstrated.

(ii) Fixed Dose Combination is to be included in WHO essential drug list.

(b) and (c) This subject matter was discussed in 46th and 47th meetings of the Drug Technical Advisory Board (DTAB) and the overall opinion was not in favour of such a combination. The following reasons were cited in this connection:—

(i) Poor bio-availabiiity, particularly of rifampicin in the FDC.

(ii) wide batch to batch variations of bio-availability.

(iii) Back of reliable testing facilities for bio-availability.

(iv) In case of side effects to one drug the whole treatment needs to be stopped.

(v) Different shelf lives of four drugs.

(vi) Ethambutol being hygroscopic discolours the FDC add it becomes non acceptable to the patients.

(d) There is no plan to change the existing policy.

Vacancies in Hindustan Fertilizers Corporation Limited

3667. SHRI RAMCHANDRA VEERAPPA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of vacancies filled up by promotions in Hindustan Fertilizers Corporation Ltd. during the last one year at the level of Jr. Officers and equivalent to addl. CE level in different Unit/Div./Offices category-wise;

(b) the details of criteria/rule adopted for filling up the vacancies;

(c) whether the said rules are strictly followed while making promotion; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (DR. A.K. PATEL): (a) The categorywise vacancies of Jr. Officers and equivalent level up to Addl. Chief Engineer, for each of the Unit/Division, filled by promotion in Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation during 1998, are given in the enclosed statement.

(b) to (d) Subject to the availability of vacancy, promotion to each category is made based on minimum qualification, experience specified for the post and performance assessment through Annual confidential Reports and interview.

Statement

Details of Promotions made in Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation Limited during the year 1998—Unit/Divisionwise

Category/Unit	Namrup	Durgapur	Barauni	Haldia	Marketing Division	CPLO, Calcutta	FP&ARD, Calcutta	Corporate Office	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Addl. CE & equivalent (Rs. 4900-7100)	5	4	2	—	2	—	—	2	15
Dy. CE & equivalent (Rs. 4300-6300)	7	5	2	2	4	1	—	2	23

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
P.M./P.E. & equivalent (Rs. 3700-5900)	14	7	10	—	2	2	—	5	40
APE/APM & equivalent (Rs. 3100-5100)	23	12	9	—	7	—	—	2	53
Asst. Engr./ Asst. Officer & equivalent (Rs. 2400-4320)	26	14	22	—	1	—	—	9	72
Asstt. Foreman/Jr. Officer & equivalent (Rs. 2200-3600)	23	15	26	—	—	—	—	—	64
Total	98	57	71	02	16	03	20	—	267

P.M. — Plant Manager
P.E. — Plant Engineer
A.P.M. — Asstt. Plant Manager
A.P.E. — Asstt. Plant Engineer

Pending Bills

3668. SHRI BHIM DAHAL: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have received any Bills from the Sikkim Government for President's assent;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which these bill. are likely to be approved?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Sikkim Transfer of Land (Regulation) Bill, 1989 and the Sikkim Alienation of Land (Regulation) Bill, 1989 have been received by the Central Government for the consideration and assent of the President.

(c) The observations of the Central Government on these Bills have been sent to the State Government for clarifications.

Scheme to empower the Women In Jammu and Kashmir

3669. SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the scheme to empower the women in Jammu and Kashmir has been undertaken by the Government recently;

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

[Translation]

LPG Connections

3670. SHRI BAIJNATH RAWAT: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the company of the Oil Corporation have stopped releasing LPG connections to those persons who get themselves registered before 1980 but shifted to other States after obtaining D.D.L. from those companies;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the action proposed to be taken to release such gas connections?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (c) As per the Ministry's direction, the Oil companies had initially planned to clear the wait list prior to 1.1.91 by 31.10.97. The prospective customers/registrants were advised through letters and press to avail the facility. However in view of the poor response from the customers, the date was extended upto 31.12.97 and further extended upto 31.1.98 and adequate publicity was also given. Hence as a policy, it was decided not to entertain the requests after 31.1.98.

[English]

Nursing Allowance

3671. SHRI SOMJIBHAI DAMOR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have recently enhanced the Nursing allowance as recommended by the Fifth Pay Commission;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the same enhancement is applicable to the nursing staff of Central Jalma Institute for Leprosy, Taj Ganj, Agra;

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

(e) the corrective measures taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to remove the disparity?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI): (a) to (e) Nursing Allowance has been enhanced from Rs. 150/- per month to Rs. 300/- per month with effect from 1.8.97 as recommended by Fifth Central Pay Commission. Subsequently it was enhanced to Rs. 1600/- per month with effect from 10.7.1998. All Nursing Personnel under Government of India registered with State Nursing Councils are eligible for Nursing Allowance.

Petrofils Co-operative Limited

3672. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Petrofils Co-operative Limited has been closed;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the steps proposed to be taken to restart it;

(c) whether any rehabilitation packages has been worked out; and

(d) if so, the action proposed to be taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (DR. A.K. PATEL): (a) to (d) Petrofils Co-operative Limited (PCL) have been incurring losses since 1994-95. Due to acute financial constraints, it has defaulted in payment on account of power supplies to the Gujarat Industries Power Corporation Limited (GIPCL). In view of impending disconnection of power supplies and also on account of stock-out of raw materials and consumables, PCL management decided to take a safe shut-down from 23.11.98. Restart of the operations of PCL may require about Rs. 10 crore which has not been tied up so far. PCL management has entrusted the techno-economic viability analysis to a reputed consultant and a proposal, based on this techno-economic viability analysis, is expected to be submitted to the Government by the end of December, 1998.

Hospital for Beedi Workers

3673. SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to construct a hospital for beedi workers in West Bengal particularly at Lotshila, in Purulia district;

(b) if so, the present status of that proposal; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) to (c) A proposal for setting up of a T.B. hospital for beedi workers at Jhalda in Purulia Distt. of West Bengal has been received by the Government. It has, however, not been possible to consider the proposal due to paucity of funds in the Beedi Workers Welfare Fund.

National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority

3674. SHRI N. DENNIS: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons employed so far by the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority;

(b) the total expenditure incurred by the Government per annum over functioning, rent, salaries, power, transport and entertainment etc. of NPPA; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to curtail the huge wasteful expenditure being incurred by NPPA?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS(DR. A.K. PATEL): (a) to (c) The number of persons employed by the NPPA is 51 including 10 persons on contract basis. The total expenditure during the year 1997-98 incurred by the Government on functioning of NPPA is around Rs. 2 crore. No instance of wasteful expenditure by the NPPA has come to notice.

Employment Exchanges

3675. SHRI PRAMOTHES MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the diplomas issued by the Institute of Para Medical Technology, New Delhi have been recognised by the State Governments;

(b) whether persons having diploma recognised by one State Government are eligible for registration by the employment exchange in other States also; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYA NARAYAN JATIYA): (a) As per records of the All India Council of Technical Education, no diplomas of the Institute of Para Medical Technology, New Delhi are approved by the aforesaid Council. However, these having diplomas issued by the Institute of Para Medical Technology, New Delhi are being registered by the employment exchange in Delhi.

(b) and (c) No, Sir.

Persons having diplomas recognised by one State Government are not automatically eligible for registration and placement services in an employment exchange situated in another State/UT. These depend on the recognition accorded to the institution by the State/UT Government; the instructions to the employment exchanges by the concerned State/UT Government and/ or the requirements indicated by the employer.

Akhil Bhartiya Swasthya Rakhshak Sangthan

3676. SHRI AMAN KUMAR NAGRA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some representations relating to the problems being faced by Akhil Bhartiya Swasthya Rakhshak Sangthan and its workers have been received;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether a committee for considering their demands has been constituted;

(d) if so, the composition of the committee; and

(e) if not, the time by which a final decision to form a committee is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government has received several representations from the Akhil Bhartiya Swasthya Rakhshak Sangthan. Their main demands are:

(i) To increase the honorarium of village Health Guides, from Rs. 50/- to Rs. 750/-.

(ii) to restore the supply of medicine kits.

(iii) to provide them with all facilities being given to Government employees.

(iv) to provide them meeting allowance, dress, stationery and identity card etc.

(c) to (e) Yes, Sir. A committee was set up in July, 1997, to look into the functioning of "Village Health Guide

Scheme". The details of the composition of the committee and its terms of reference are given in the attached Statement. The Committee has completed its work.

Statement

No. P. 17019/2/93-RHS
Government of India
Ministry of Health & Family Welfare
(Deptt. of Family Welfare)

*****

Nirman Bhavan, New Delhi.
Dated: 5 July, 1997.

ORDER

Subject:—Constitution of a Committee of Experts to assess the Village Health Guide Scheme.

With a view to assessing the usefulness of Village Health Guides in the context of programmes of the Department of Health and Family Welfare, it has been decided to constitute the following Committee:—

1. Sh. P.K. Umashankar, Madras Chairman
Ex-Director,
Indian Institute of Public Administration

2. Dr. (Mrs.) R. Baweja, Member
Administrator & Medical Superintendent, Kamla Nehru Hospital, Allahabad

3. Dr. Ajay Mehta,
Sewa Mandir,
New Fatehpura, Udaipur

4. Deputy Secretary (RHS) Member Secretary
M/o Health & F.W.

The terms of reference of the Committee will be as follows:—

(a) The Committee will make the assessment of the work done by the VHGs in various States and will advise the Government as to what extent the original objective of the scheme has been fulfilled.

(b) The Committee will assess the capabilities of the VHGs as a group in the context of the institutional arrangements available in the country and will advise whether they can be made more useful for promoting Health and Family Welfare. If so, the Committee may also suggest the specific measures for improving the capability of the VHGs.

(c) The Committee will examine the honorarium and other facilities available to the VHGs in different States and may advise an appropriate level of honorarium and other facilities in the context of its recommendations in (b) above.

The Committee should obtain feedback from the State Government about the experience of work performed by the VHGs and may visit some of the States to make first hand assessment of the work done by VHGs. The member secretary will be responsible for facilitating the work of the Committee and for making necessary arrangements for its logistics and assistance.

The committee is expected to submit its report within a period of six months.

This issues with the approval of Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare.

Sd/-
(DR. PARVINDER KAUR)
Under Secretary to the Govt. of India

P.S. : After the transfer of the then DS (RHS), Dr. V.K. Manchanda, Assistant Commissioner (CH) has designated as the Member Secretary of the Committee.

Development of Panchakarma Institute of Ayurvedic Medicine in Kerala

3677. SHRI S. AJAYA KUMAR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any plans to develop the Panchakarma Institute of Ayurvedic Medicine at Cheruthuruthi in Kerala; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI): (a) and (b) Indian Institute of Panchakarma at Cheruthuruthy is functioning under the administrative control of Central Council for Research in Ayurveda, an autonomous body under the Department of Indian Systems of Medicine and Homoeopathy on a piece of land given on lesse for 20 years by the State Government

of Kerala. The lease dead of the said land has since expired on 24.5.1996. The Council would consider the proposal received from the Institute for its further upgradation only after the land lease is revalidated by the State Government of Kerala in favour of the Council.

Panipat Public Sector Oil Refinery

3678. SHRI SHEELA GAUTAM: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Panipat (Haryana) public sector oil refinery has commenced commercial production of Petroleum products;

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

(c) the details of various by-products being produced by the said refinery, its annual production during the last six months or since commencement; and

(d) the number of CLF/Marketing Agents, distributors of these products and the area of operation assign to them and the terms thereof?

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

Cumulative production of petroleum products at Panipat Refinery till November, 1998 is given as under:

(Figs. in thousand tonnes)

	1998-99 (Till Nov. 98)**
Crude T'Put	1096.3
Products:	
Liquified Petroleum Gas	3.5
Naphtha	153.9
Superior Kerosene	25.0
High Speed Diesel	421.4
Furnace Oil	11.0
Heavy Petroleum Stock	329.9

** The above incluides trial production quantity from May' 98 to Sept. '98 and commercial production quantity from October, 1998.

(c) Panipat Refinery has not produced any by-product.

(d) There are no CLF/marketing agents or distributors appointed for the Panipat Refinery Production.

Employment Exchanges

3679. SHRI JAYARAMA I.M. SHETTY: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that the cases of registration with the sub-regional employment exchange, Curzen Road, New Delhi are increasing day by day;

(b) whether any complaint regarding several irregularities in Sub-regional employment exchange, Curzen Road has been received from Members of Parliament;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken by the Govt. to bring transparency in the functioning of this Employment Exchange?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) There is no day to day increase in the number of registration at Sub-Regional Employment Exchange, Curzen Road, now functioning at Kirby Place, New Delhi.

(b) and (c) The Govt. of NCT of Delhi received a few letters from Members of Parliament alleging that the officials of the said Sub-Regional Employment Exchange are involved in arranging fake records of seniority and sending such nominations to various employers. But no specific case was cited. A letter from another Member of Parliament regarding delay in submission of names of registrants for 134 Group 'D' posts notified vacancies was also received. Submission as against these vacancies was completed by 18th November, 1998.

(d) As per the instructions of the Govt. of NCT of Delhi, the scheme of submission is displayed on the notice board of Employment Exchanges. Additionally, the registrants are informed about their sponsorship to the employer, individually.

Muslim Families in Delhi

3680. PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ:
SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of Muslim families in Delhi have been recently served notices by the concerned sub-divisional magistrates alleging that their forefathers/predecessors were Pakistani nationals and requiring them to submit details of the properties/share of the properties owned by the alleged Pakistani nationals;

(b) if so, the number of such notices served and the number out of them disposed of and the number of pending;

(c) the law under which such notices have been served and the authorities authorised to send such notices;

(d) whether sub-divisional magistrates have no authority to send such notices; and

(e) the steps taken to ensure that there is no harassment to Muslim minority?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Since June, 1998, notices have been issued in respect of 12 properties to ascertain the status of the occupants of the Enemy Property and not for the purpose of questioning the nationality of the individuals concerned. The replies received are in the process of scrutiny.

(c) and (d) The notices were served under Enemy Property Act, 1968 and the Custodian of Enemy Property for India has, in exercise of the power, vested in him under section 8 of the Enemy Property Act, 1968, authorised Sub-Divisional magistrates to take such measures as considered necessary or expedient for the preservation and management of Enemy Property in their respective jurisdiction.

(e) The action taken to seek factual details does not amount to any harassment. Nevertheless, the Sub-Divisional Magistrates concerned as also officials processing such cases have been instructed to ensure that no harassment is caused to any person while processing these notices.

Operational activities of ONGC

3681. SHRIMATI RANEE NARAH:
PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA:
SHRI TARIQ ANWAR:

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

(a) whether the Government are aware of the increasing difficulties being faced by the ONGC in its operational activities in Assam because of black mailing, extortions and police excesses;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the extent of loss being suffered by the ONGC as a result thereof; and

(d) the measures taken by the Government to deal with the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. ONGC is facing difficulties sometime, in managing its operations in Assam due to the prevailing law and order situation and due to environmental problems. There have been frequent calls for Bandhs/barricades of the operational sites of ONGC by the local villagers/youth/various organisations causing disruption of ONGC's operations.

(c) ONGC suffered loss of oil production during 1996-97 & 1997-98 to the tune of 4113 metric tonnes & 6546.1 metric tonnes respectively. The loss of Revenue to ONGC due to loss in production during the said period is Rs. 82.48 lakhs & Rs. 146.66 lakhs respectively.

(d) ONGC has deployed its regular security personnel and CISF to safeguard and protect its personnel and property. Meetings are held regularly with district administration, police authorities and intelligence agencies.

Pharmaceutical Manufacturers Association

3682. SHRI K. PARY MOHAN: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any representation from the Pharmaceutical Manufacturers Association of Tamil Nadu demanding to keep the drugs/medicines produced by the SSI pharmaceutical manufacturers outside the price control;

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

(c) whether the ceiling prices of the controlled drugs were fixed on the production cost of major manufacturers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (DR. A.K. PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Ceiling prices are fixed under para 9 of DPCO. 95 for commonly marketed standard pack sizes of price controlled formulations in accordance with the formula laid down in Paragraph 7 of DPCO, 95. It is a conscious policy decision to keep commonly marketed standard pack sizes of formulations under price control irrespective of the size of manufacturer as stipulated at para 22.7.3. of the "Modifications in Drug Policy, 1986" announced in September, 1994, which was formulated after debate in Parliament. Other products of S.S.I. units are not under price control.

Foreigners Living in India

8683. SHRI RAVI SITARAM NAIK:
SHRI C.D. GAMIT:
SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY:
SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM:
SHRI MOHAN RAWALE:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of foreign nationals have been living in various parts of the country on long term basis;

(b) if so, the number of such foreign nationals as on November 30, 1998, State/UT-wise;

(c) the reasons for their over stay in the country;

(d) the prescribed limit/criteria made for their living in the country:

(e) the number of foreign nationals including Pakistani nationals arrested during the last three years;

(f) whether some of them have been found involved in anti-social/smuggling activities;

(g) if so, whether any directives have been issued in this regard to the State Governments/Union Territories;

(h) if so, the details thereof; and

(i) the steps taken by the Union Government to send them back to their countries?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As per available information 1,53,129 registered foreigners, excluding refugees, were staying in India as on 31.12.97. A statement regarding these registered foreigners State/UT Administration-wise is enclosed.

(c) and (d) Registered foreigners are in India for various purposes like studies, business, employment, etc. and they are granted extension from time to time by the competent authorities depending on the purpose of stay.

(e) and (f) As per available information the number of foreign nationals including Pakistani nationals arrested during 1995, 1996 and 1997 for commission of offences including smuggling, trafficking in narcotics, violation of provisions of Foreigners Act, etc. are as follows:—

1995	—	2607
1996	—	2123
1997	—	2655

(g) to (i) Instructions have been issued/reiterated to the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations from time to time to detect the foreigners involved in illegal activities or staying in the country illegally and to take action against them under the relevant laws including deportation.

Statement

State/UT-wise Registered Foreigners (excluding Refugees) staying in India as on 31.12.1997

State/U.T	Registered Foreigners
1	2
Andhra Pradesh	2,697
Arunachal Pradesh	-
Assam	61
Bihar	1,007
Goa	1,919
Gujarat	15,507
Haryana	1,051
Himachal Pradesh	981

1	2
Jammu & Kashmir	218
Karnataka	11,547
Kerala	4,459
Madhya Pradesh	6,152
Maharashtra	33,929
Manipur	7
Meghalaya	171
Mizoram	223
Nagaland	7
Orissa	528
Punjab	4,213
Rajasthan	7,488
Sikkim	7
Tamil Nadu	9,929
Tripura	19
Uttar Pradesh	6,826
West Bengal	5,588
Union Territories	
A & N Islands	37
Chandigarh	1,394
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	4
Daman & Diu	532
Delhi	32,788
Lakshadweep	2
Pondicherry	3,838
Total:	1,53,129

Possibility of Aggression from Pakistan

3684. VAIDYA VISHNU DATT: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any possibility of agression from Pakistan in view of the hard stand taken and continued support being given by the Pakistan to militants in Jammu and Kashmir and Punjab;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have given up the proposal of fencing the International Border in Jammu and Kashmir; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) and (b) there is no information about Pakistan having any immediate plan of agression.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Question does not arise.

Revamped Public Distribution System

3685. SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA':
SHRI R.S. GAVAI:

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

(a) whether the Government propose to expand coverage of Revamped Public Distribution System in various States particularly in hilly and inaccessible areas;

(b) if so, the details of the schemes proposed, State-wise, particularly in Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh; and

(c) the details of funds allotted by the Government under this scheme during the last three years, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PAL SINGH YADAV): (a) No, Sir. With the introduction of the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) in June, 1997 envisaging issue of 10 Kg. of foodgrains per month per family at specially subsidised prices to the families living below poverty line (BPL), the Revamped Public Distribution system (RPDS) which was in operation since 1992 in 1775 identified blocks in the country, and under which foodgrains for those areas were issued at 50 paise per kilogram below the normal Central Issue Prices, has ceased to exist.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No allotment of funds was made to the States/ Union Territories under RPDS as such. However, the offtake reported of foodgrains under RPDS, State-wise, for the period 1994-95, 1995-96 and 1996-97 may be seen in the attached Statement.

Statement

Offtake of Foodgrains under Revamped Public Distribution System during 1994-95, 1995-96 and 1996-97

(In 000 MTs)

Sl.No.	State/UTs	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	501.34	685.75	612.76
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	90.28	94.40	107.08
3.	Assam	20.02	58.27	106.00
4.	Bihar	134.91	104.71	132.67
5.	Gujarat	295.84	401.67	480.98
6.	Haryana	29.75	51.53	88.49
7	Himachal Pradesh	8.91	9.61	8.34

1	2	3	4	5
8.	Jammu & Kashmir	111.57	128.20	N.A.
9.	Karnataka	400.85	519.37	602.22
10.	Kerala	117.75	247.57	271.29
11.	Madhya Pradesh	219.82	209.69	400.96
12.	Maharashtra	285.15	476.00	403.70
13.	Manipur	27.41	29.78	47.51
14.	Meghalaya	136.99	197.09	207.64
15.	Mizoram	96.44	120.76	103.56
16.	Nagaland	135.17	90.37	97.44
17.	Orissa	210.33	365.27	449.20
18.	Rajasthan	447.81	441.16	748.22
19.	Sikkim	24.94	35.51	18.41
20.	Tamil Nadu	75.42	150.85	278.47
21.	Tripura	51.27	53.33	54.24
22.	Uttar Pradesh	242.76	307.97	488.31
23.	West Bengal	215.86	224.98	219.46
24.	A&N Islands	N.A.	4.51	0.04
25.	D&N Haveli	0.05	1.56	7.04
26.	Daman & Diu	1.88	0.78	1.50
27.	Lakshadweep	6.82	2.10	47.38
	Total	3889.34	5012.79	5982.91

Losses in F.C.I.

3686. COL. SONA RAM CHOUDHARY: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that FCI with Head Office at Jodhpur and branches at Kwas, Mohangarh, Nagaur, Hanmangarh etc. is running into losses:

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the manager of Jodhpur Head Office was suspended about one and half year back and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to contain the losses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (DR. A.K. PATEL): (a) and (b) The Fertilizer Corporation of India Ltd. (FCI) has its Head Office at New Delhi. FCI has mining organisation in Rajasthan with its Head Office at Jodhpur and mines located at Kwas, Mohangarh etc. Mining organisation is now showing marginal profits in overall operations.

(c) The Commercial Manager of Jodhpur Mining Organisation was placed under suspension with effect from 25.2.97. The suspension order was revoked on 10.6.97.

(d) The mining organisation of FCI located at Jodhpur is not runing into losses at present.

ISI Bases in the Country

3687. SHRI SHAKUNI CHOUDHARY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether ISI has its bases in various places in India;

(b) if so, the action taken by the Government to destroy these bases;

(c) whether certain cases of providing shelter to the terrorists of ISI have come to the notice of the Government;

(d) if so, the names of such persons so that the people of the country treat them as traitors;

(e) whether the Government propose to smesh all such bases of the ISI without delay; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) and (b) There is no information suggestive of ISI having set up bases in India. However, certain militant and terrorist modules of ISI that came to notice, were neutralised from time to time.

(c) and (d) Instances have come to notice when pro-Pak harbourers have provided shelter to Pak sponsored militants.

(e) and (f) Government is aware that Pak ISI has been engineering subeversion and violence in the country.

Necessary steps are being taken to combat and frustrate the designs of ISI by sensitising and gearing up the intelligence machinery, sharing of intelligence and coordinated action by concerned Centre/State agencies. Police and intelligence organisations are under instructions to neutralise Pak ISI modules and activities in all parts of the country whenever and wherever these come to notice.

Imposition of President's Rule

3688. DR. Y.S. RAJASEKHARA REDDY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to impose President's rule in such States in which State Government have completely failed to maintain law and orders situation;

(b) if so, the details of such State; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) to (c) President's rule is imposed in a State in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution of India. There is no proposal to place any State under President's rule at present.

Drug Price Control Order

3689. SHRI FRANCISCO SARDINHA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "DPCO list should be cut to only 15 drugs" appeared in *The Times of India* dated September, 20, 1998;

(b) if so, the facts thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (DR. A.K. PATEL): (a) to (c) There is no news item captioned 'DPCO list should be cut to only 15 drugs' appearing in the Times of India dated 20th Sept. 1998 (Delhi Edition). There is no such proposal under consideration of the Government.

Police/Judicial Custody

3690. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA:
SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons kept in police or judicial custody for over three months and acquitted during each of the last three years so far;

(b) the number of women and children out of them; and

(c) the steps taken to eliminate such violation of fundamental rights at the hands of law enforcers and to revamp the Central Law enforcing agencies to prevent unsubstantiated prosecutions?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) and (b) Functioning of police and administration of justice in district/subordinate courts fall under the purview of the State Governments and High Courts respectively. Information in regard to persons kept in police or judicial custody over three months and their acquittal, etc. is not maintained at the Central level.

(c) Apart from the provisions contained in the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973, which provides for the period of detention of a person, many judicial pronouncements have also laid down guidelines to prevent violation of fundamental rights of citizens. These are applicable to the Central law enforcing agencies as well. Regular mechanism exists within the Central law enforcing agencies to screen the cases before they are sent to courts for prosecution.

[Translation]

NDMC Electricity/Water Bill

3691. SHRI BHERULAL MEENA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the New Delhi Municipal Corporation has increased the rates of electricity and water from 15.9.98;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the basis on which each Government employee was sent enhanced bills for more than 1000 rupees for two months in September 1998;

(d) if so, whether the electricity department of the NDMD has issued a public notice to adjust this enhanced amount in subsequent bill;

(e) whether the NDMC has set up a separate counter to adjust the amount of the bill; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) The Bills for September, 1998 in respect of Government employees also included arrears. However, consumers have been allowed to pay these arrears in instalments if they so desire.

(e) and (f) A separate complaint office under the supervision of Assistant Secretary (Rates) assisted by a Section Officer and seventy junior/senior clerks has been set up at Palika Kendra to attend to the complaints of consumers regarding electricity and water bills.

[English]

Creation of Ministry for Border Security

3692. SHRI DILEEP SANGHANI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Gujarat has created Ministry for Border Security in the State to provide security to the country's frontiers; and

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

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

(b) Does not arise.

Expert Committee for Law and Order

3693. SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Delhi High Court has asked the Union Government to appoint expert committee to look into law and order and police requirement in Delhi;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) to (c) The Hon'ble High Court, Delhi has directed the Government to appoint an Expert Body to look into the manpower requirement of Delhi Police as also into the question of modernisation of the police force. The action in this regard has been initiated.

National Police Commission

3694. SHRI ANNASAHEB M.K. PATIL:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have implemented the recommendations of the National Police Commission;

(b) whether there is an immediate need for reforms and restructuring of police system in the country;

(c) whether the National Human Rights Commission has pointed out the fifty per cent of the complaints received by the NHRC were related to police excesses;

(d) whether the Supreme Court has also given some important judgments to make the police more accountable during the last two years; and

(e) if so, the reasons for not implementing the police panel report?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a), (b), (d), and (e) Pursuant to be directions of the Supreme Court, a High Powered Committee headed by Shri J.F. Ribeiro was constituted to review the recommendations of the National Police Commission and to suggest ways and means for implementation of the pending recommendations. The first report of this Committee has been sent for being filed in the Supreme Court as directed by it.

(c) A Statement indicating the Cases registered by the National Human Rights Commission during the last 5 years is enclosed.

Statement

S.No.	Year	Case regd.	Cases admitted	Related with Police criminal behaviour
1.	1993-94	496	174	96
2.	1994-95	6987	1660	801
3.	1995-96	10195	4081	1501
4.	1996-97	20514	6503	2806
5.	1997-98	36792	8619	2700
	Total	74984	21037	7904

Seizure of Weapons in J&K

3695. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether several weapons including a rocket launcher and universal machine guns have been seized from the residence of the relatives of too politicians of the Jammu & Kashmir; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) and (b) No Sir. however, as per the information given by the State Government, one Rocket Propelled Gun (RPG) and one Universal Machinery Gun (UMG) were recovered from the orchard, belonging to Sheikh Ali Mohd. resident of Saura, FIR No. 266/98 has been registered at the Saura Police Station.

Persons Migrated from Bangladesh

3696. SHRI RAJKUMAR WANGCHA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether persons migrated from Bangladesh after March, 25, 1971 have since been deported to Bangladesh;

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

(c) if not, the reasons for the delay in sending them back?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) to (c) Detection and deportation of illegal infiltrators is a continuous on-going process. The powers under the Illegal Migrants (Determination by Tribunals) Act, 1983 in the case of Assam and the Foreigners Act, 1946 to identify, detect and deport illegal migrants/ foreigners residing in various parts of the country have been delegated to the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations. The data pertaining to the number of illegal migrants/foreigners deported, Statewise is not maintained Centrally.

Inflow of Illicit Fire-Arms

3697. SHRI M. BAGA REDDY:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the CBI has drawn the attention of the Interpol towards the inflow of illicit fire-arms and explosives into the North-Eastern States and Jammu and Kashmir;

(b) if so, the response of the International Police Organisation in this regard; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) to (c) As and when any specific case relating to illicit trafficking in fire-arms having international ramifications comes to light and is taken up for investigation by Central Bureau of Investigation/State Police Authorities and assistance from Interpol or other countries is required, Central Bureau of Investigation as the National Central Bureau (NCB) for India seeks assistance from Interpol General Secretariat or other member countries on case to case basis. The matter regarding illicit trafficking in fire arms and explosives and the need to have effective regulation to check the same has also been raised at various International Meetings/ Conferences, where the subject has come up for discussion. The Interpol General Secretariat and member countries provide assistance on reciprocal basis as per their legal provisions and International practice.

Production Cost of Drugs

3698. SHRI VAIKO: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that the small scale industries of Tamil Nadu Pharmaceutical manufacturers have fixed ceiling prices of controlled drugs based on production cost of major manufacturers which is less than the operating cost of SSI;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government consider to keep the SSI outside price control; 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) Ceiling prices are fixed under para 9 of DPCO, 95 for commonly marketed standard pack sizes of price controlled formulations in accordance with the formula laid down in Paragraph 7 of DPCO, 95. It is a conscious policy decision to keep the commonly marketed standard pack sizes of price controlled formulations irrespective of the sizes of manufacturer as stipulated at para 22.7.3 of the "Modifications in Drug Policy, 1986" announced in September, 1994, which was formulated after debate in the Parliament. Other products of S.S.I. units are not under price control.

[Translation]

Ban on Foreigners

3699. DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have imposed a ban on the registration and practising Yoga by foreign tourists in any Yoga institution in the country;

(b) if so, whether any instructions have been issued to Yoga education institutions to attract more foreigners in the next tourist season;

(c) if so, the reasons for the contradiction in this regard; and

(d) the reaction of the Union Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) to (d) No Sir. All Indian Missions abroad

have been delegated powers to grant long term Yoga Visa to foreigners desirous of coming to India for study of Yoga and vedic culture at recognised institutions.

[English]

Assistance by Pakistan to Terrorists

3700. SHRI ADITYANATH:
SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE:
SHRI MADHAV RAO SCINDIA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Pakistan is providing assistance to different terrorist outfits in various parts of the country;

(b) if so, the specific steps taken by the Government to adopt a proactive policy instead of reactive policy for fighting against terrorism; and

(c) the response of the Government of Pakistan to Prime Minister's warning given on the Independence Day on August 15, 1998 to take all possible steps to "Root out terrorism supported and abetted by elements from across the border" indicating the frequency and intensity of militancy related incidents and activities sponsored by Pak-ISI and other such elements?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) Government have at every available opportunity, strongly taken up with the Government of Pakistan its active role in the instigation and sponsorship of terrorism against India and demanded that this must cease forthwith. During the meetings of the Foreign Secretaries hold in Islamabad in October 1998 and of the Home Secretaries of the two countries in New Delhi on 12 November, 1998 as a part of the composite dialogue process, Government handed over to Pakistan detailed and irrefutable evidence regarding its role in formenting terrorism against India and demanded that this should stop forthwith. In addition, Government have taken several steps which include border fencing, intensification of border patrolling, supply of equipments for effective observations during day and night, increase in number of nakas as well as movement of Pak ISI agents, anti-national elements and insurgents.

(c) Pakistan has not ceased its sponsorship of terrorism against India.

[Translation]

Minority Financial Corporation

3701. SHRI RIZWAN ZAHEER KHAN: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have released budgetary funds to the State Minority Financial Corporation;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the reasons for not releasing the budgetary funds to Uttar Pradesh Minority Financial Corporation so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMAT MANEKA GANDHI): (a) The funds are released by the National Minorities Development and Finance Corporation to the State Minority Finance Corporation and not by the Government.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The disbursement of loan under the National Minorities Development and Finance Corporation's loan schemes was temporarily stalled in Uttar Pradesh from September, 1997 on account of poor quality of utilisation of funds and non payment of funds disbursed to them during the earlier years. However, financing to Uttar Pradesh State Minorities Finance Corporation has since been resumed and an amount of Rs. 96.00 lakh has been disbursed on 9th December, 1998.

[English]

Abolition of Levy System in Sugar Industry

3702. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to abolish levy system in sugar industry;

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

(c) the reasons for not allowing sugar industry to compete the open market?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PAL SINGH YADAV): (a) to (c) The High Powered Committee

on sugar industry has recommended phased decontrol of sugar over a period of two years. The Committee has further recommended that the supply of sugar through PDS may be discontinued on expiry of two years when the complete decontrol is effected. The recommendation of the Committee is under consideration of the Government.

[Translation]

Oilseed Crushing Industry

3703. DR. CHINTA MOHAN:
PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA:

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

(a) the details of oilseeds crushing industries at present;

(b) whether the crushing capacity of these industries are sufficient for entire utilisation at the production;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PAL SINGH YADAV): (a) Vegetable Oil Industry was delicensed in 1991. As per available information, the total installed capacity of the oilseed crushing industry is estimated at around 400 Lakh MT in terms of seed.

(b) Yes Sir.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

[English]

Sugar Industry

3704. SHRI RAMKRISHNA BABA PATIL: Will the Minsiter of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether sugar industry is likely to face bankruptcy;

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

(c) the steps taken by the Government to save the sugar industry?

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.

Malnutrition in Children

3705. SHRI MADHAV RAO PATIL:
SHRI ASHOK NAMDEORAO MOHOL:

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

(a) whether any scheme to save the children from malnutrition is being implemented in the country;

(b) if so the details of the scheme thereof;

(c) the States where the scheme is presently in force State-wise;

(d) the assistance provided to each State during each of the last three years;

(e) the amount of salary being provided to each worker engaged in the scheme;

(f) the achievement made during the said period, State. wise;

(g) whether the Government have launched any action plan for the effective implementation of the scheme; and

(h) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI): (a) to (b) The Integrated Child Development Services Scheme (ICDS), *inter alia*, aims to tackle malnutrition among children. The Scheme provides a package of essential services through Anganwadi Centres. The package includes supplementary nutrition, immunization, health check-up, pre-school education, referral services and nutritional and health education to children below six years, expectant women and nursing mothers. The ICDS Scheme is impelemented in the States by Child Development Project Officers (CDPO), Additional Child Development Officers (ACDPO), Supervisors, Anganwadi Workers and Anganwadi Helpers.

(c) The Scheme is presently in-force in all the States.

(d) The financial assistance provided to each State during each of the last three years are shown in Statement-I enclosed.

(e) The CDPOs. ACDPOs and Supervisors are employees of the State Governments as per rules. The Anganwadi Workers are provided a monthly honorarium rnaging from Rs. 438 to Rs. 563. The Anganwadi Helpers get a fixed honorarium of Rs. 260 per month.

(f) 70359 Anganwadi Centres were cpened during last three years. The State and UT-wise details are shown in enclosed Statement-II.

(g) and (h) A number of measures have been taken by the Government for effective implementation of the scheme. The Monitoring and evaluation component has been strengthened. A new monthly reporting format has been developed and Management Information System has been strengthened.

Statement-I

Statement indicating State-wise Funds released under ICDS (General) Scheme during last three years

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl. No.	States/UTs	1995-96 Amount Release	1996-97 Amount Release	1997-98 Amount Released
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	2944.16	2950.58	3135.53
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	457.98	402.79	406.52
3.	Assam	1859.19	1741.46	1634.35
4.	Bihar	2955.19	2450.28	1469.02
5.	Goa	189.63	166.45	188.76
6.	Gujarat	2477.95	4355.36	5312.4
7.	Haryana	1026.86	1473.45	2203.65
8.	Himachal Pradesh	852.93	704.32	904.24
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	902.28	1531.59	511.86
10.	Karnataka	4153.54	4132.23	5158.3
11.	Kerala	1788.95	2390.12	2380.62

1	2	3	4	5
12.	Madhya Pradesh	3902.20	3898.16	4840.29
13.	Maharashtra	5409.35	5682.23	6925.69
14.	Manipur	484.31	472.55	795.1
15.	Meghalaya	549.69	120.98	524.81
16.	Mizoram	308.16	382.53	413.11
17.	Nagaland	559.76	736.30	543.85
18.	Orissa	1737.01	1629.46	2158.13
19.	Punjab	1093.17	1288.62	1525.9
20.	Rajasthan	2565.63	3238.83	3373.72
21.	Sikkim	126.40	40.46	63.29
22.	Tamil Nadu	2981.45	1140.94	2513.24
23.	Tripura	359.90	382.71	447.67
24.	Uttar Pradesh	11141.94	5798.34	7401.73
25.	West Bengal	4833.65	4704.65	5151.28
26.	Delhi	616.47	601.24	565.98
27.	Pondicherry	117.78	50.76	105.55

1	2	3	4	5
28.	Andaman & Nicobar	66.62	66.65	63.27
29.	Chandigarh	38.82	56.92	95.77
30.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	27.81	18.72	21.88
31.	Daman & Diu	36.32	30.85	26.79
32.	Lakshadweep	15.66	14.58	8.82
33.	R.K. Mission	18.74	15.66	—
34.	Miscellaneous	37.83	99.36	14.64
	Total	56838.03	52770.13	60885.49

Statement II

Statement indicating State-wise No. of Anganwadi Centres opened during the last three years viz. 1995-96 to 1997-98 under ICDS Scheme

Sl. No.	States/UTs.	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	475	0	0
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	330	0	0
3.	Assam	1866	1237	0
4.	Bihar	1152	1508	57
5.	Goa	0	0	0

1	2	3	4	5
6.	Gujarat	123	181	0
7.	Haryana	1119	711	0
8.	Himachal Pradesh	893	417	0
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	500	590	0
10.	Karnataka	9610	1718	0
11.	Kerala	3673	628	994
12.	Madhya Pradesh	2617	6636	0
13.	Maharashtra	0	3726	0
14.	Manipur	14	0	3417
15.	Meghalaya	284	180	0
16.	Mizoram	53	0	0
17.	Nagaland	0	0	0
18.	Orissa	2296	820	1236
19.	Punjab	1150	407	0
20.	Rajasthan	2934	1275	0
21.	Sikkim	172	0	0

1	2	3	4	5
22.	Tamil Nadu	937	0	8
23.	Tripura	204	309	0
24.	Uttar Pradesh	471	3126	1740
25.	West Bengal	3293	4497	0
26.	A&N Islands	22	70	0
27	Chandigarh	0	0	0
28.	Delhi	550	82	0
29.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	0	0	0
30.	Daman & Diu	6	0	0
31.	Lakshadweep	6	1	0
32.	Pondicherry	0	29	0
	Total	34750	28157	7452
	Gross Total	70359		

Dealer Selection Board

3706. SHRI RAJ NARAIN PASSI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a provision to nominate any member of SC/ST in the Dealer Selection Boards;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government are aware that no SC/ ST member has been nominated in the Dealer Selection Boards of Uttar Pradesh during 1994-95;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps 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 (e) At present the composition of Dealer Selection Boards is as under:

A retired Judge of the High Court/ District Court — Chairman

An Officer not below the rank of Chief Manager of one/concerned Oil Company. — Member

An Officer of the rank of Chief Manager of another Oil Company — Member

From 1.1.1993 the composition of the Dealer Selection Boards, which were then known as Oil Selection Boards (OSB), was as under:

(i) A retired Judge of High Court — Chairman

(ii) A representative of SC/ST/ other weaker Sections. — Member

(iii) A prominent public figure — Member

As far as Uttar Pradesh is concerned, an OSB was constituted in 1993 with the above constitution. However, in March, 1994, the OSB for Uttar Pradesh was reconstituted and set up initially with a Chairman and a Member from the category mentioned at (iii) above. The other Member pertaining to category (ii) above was to be appointed subsequently. The tenure of the Board was for "two years or until further orders, whichever is earlier". The tenure of this Board expired on 8.3.1996. A minimum of two members was to constitute the quorum of the Board.

Availability of Creches

3707. SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA:
SHRI SUNIL KHAN:
SHRI BIKASH CHOWDHURY:
DR. ASIM BALA:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the number of creches operating in the Tea planations in different States during 1996;

(b) the total number of children admitted in these creches in each States;

(c) the total wages paid to the employees of the creches in these States; and

(d) the total expenditure incurred to look after these children excluding the wages of the employees working in them?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) to (d) Provision for creches has been made obligatory on the employer under the Plantation Labour Act, 1951. Every plantation employing 50 or more women workers including women workers employed by any contractor on any day of the proceeding 12 months or where the number of children of women workers is 20 or more the employer shall provide and maintain suitable rooms for the use of children of such women workers.

In the State of Tamil Nadu the total wages paid to the employees, according to the State Government is 72.04 lakh and the total expenditure incurred to look after these children excluding the wages of employees working in them is Rs. 3.17 crore.

As per the information available with labour Bureau, Shimla, a statement showing the total number of creches and number of children admitted during 1996 is attached.

Statement

Statement showing the Statistics relating to Creches in Tea Plantations

Year	1995		1996		1997 (P)	
State/Union Territory	Total No. of Creches in Tea Plantations	No. of Children Admitted	Total No. of Creches in Tea Plantations	No. of Children Admitted	Total No. of of Creches in Tea Plantations	No. of Children Admitted
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Assam	4800	28408	4925	20792	@	@
Himachal Pradesh	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Karnataka	8	276	7	342	8	624

	2	3	4	5	6	7
Kerala	131	5508	161	5694	@	@
Tamil Nadu	252	4869	272	5244	286	4646
Tripura	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	19	128
Uttar Pradesh	@	@	@	@	@	@
West Bengal	557	8391	586	8960	@	@
Andaman & Nicobar Islands	@	@	Nil	Nil	@	@

@ Return not received.
P Provisional Subject to change.

Secretary Level Talks with Pakistan

3708. SHRIMATI KRISHNA BOSE: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have discussed issue of terrorist infiltration from Pakistan in Secretary level talks between India and Pakistan in November this year in Delhi;

(b) if so, if any concrete assurance has been given by the Pakistan delegation;

(c) the number of infiltrations and taken place in the State during the last six months; and

(d) the number of Military and civil casualities caused due to by exchange of firing in Indo-Pak border?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No response has been received from Government of Pakistan in this regard so far. However, as part of composite dialouge, it was decided to continue the talks between the two countries further.

(c) Border Security Force detected 347 cases of infiltration on Indo-Pak border during the last six months (1st June to 30th November, 1998).

(d) 79 security Personnel and 12 civilians were killed in exchange of fire on Indo-Pak border during the current year.

[Translation]

Financial Assistance for Curbing Extremist Activities

3709. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have received any project report from Bihar seeking financial assistance to curb the extremist activities in the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government have not yet released the said amount of assistance inspite of repeated request;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the time by which the said amount is likely to be released?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government of Bihar has sent a proposal seeking special financial assistance of Rs. 70.18 crores to combat extremist activities. The assistance sought is for vehicles (Rs. 22.91 crores)

modern weapons and bullet-proof jackets/helmets (Rs. 30.15 crores), construction of police lines (Rs. 13.44 crores) and training (Rs. 3.68 crores).

(c) to (e) Some other States affected by extremist activities have also sough financial assistance from the Central Government. The matter is being considered in consultation with the Ministry of Finance for devising a suitable package for affected states, including Bihar. It may, however, be mentioned that a sum of Rs. 10.16 crores has been released to the Government of Bihar since May, 1997, under the Scheme for Modernisation of State Police Forces. The Government of Bihar has also been provided with wireless sets, arms and ammunition worth Rs. 1.20 crores, on credit basis, from the Central Para-military forces.

Manufacturing of Illegal Cylinders

3710. SHRI DADA BABURAO PARANJPE:
SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:
DR. BIZAY SONKAR SHASTRI:

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

(a) whether a large number of illegal units continue to manufacture LPG cylinders endangering many lives despite a ban on the manufacture and sale of illegal LPG cylinders;

(b) if so, the number of incidents of cylinder explosions taken place in the country during each of the last three years, State/UT-wise and the number of illegal manufactures of cylinders traced during the said period,

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon;

(d) whether there is a proposal to ban the use of small cylinders; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) No case of illegal units manufacturing LPG cylinders for PSU Oil Companies has been reported. There is no ban on manufacturing of cylinders for parallel marketing and machines required for such manufacturing are the same as for manufacturing 14.2 Kg cylinders marketed by PSU Oil Companies.

(b) The following number of accidents of cylinder explosion have occurred during last three years.

Year	No. of Accidents
1995-96	63
1996-97	71
1997-98	58

The PSU Oil Companies have not come across any case of illegal manufacturer of cylinders during the last three years. However, instances of illegal manufacture of the small LPG cylinders in Meerut by some small scale units registered with the Directorate of Industry Meerut have come to the notice.

(c) The Chief Controller of Explosives, Bureau of Indian Standards and State Govt. Authorities of Uttar Pradesh and N.C.T. Delhi were requested to take action under relevant laws against the manufacture of illegal LPG cylinders.

(d) and (e) Small cylinders conforming to specifications of BIS and CCOE can be used. Therefore, ban in such cases is not feasible.

[English]

Study Group on Essential Commodities

3711. SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR
SHRI NADENDLA BHASKAR RAO:
SHRI T.R. BAALU:

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

(a) whether the shortage of essential commodities and price rise have affected the people in various States;

(b) if so, whether the Government have any proposal to set up a study group to check the availability and equitable distribution of essential commodities particularly in Uttar Pradesh and North Eastern States;

(c) if so, the details and the composition thereof; and

(d) whether the representation of each State is included in the said group?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYAPAL SINGH YADAV): (a) There was a shortage of certain essential commodities like pulses, edible oils and vegetables like potato and onion in the country during the last few months due to gap in their demand and supply and decline in production during the year.

(b) and (c) There is no proposal to set up a Study Group to check availability and equitable distribution of essential commodities in the country. However, as per the decision taken in the Chief Ministers meeting convened by the Prime Minister on 27.11.98, a National Crop Forecasting Centre has been set up under the Ministry of Agriculture which would make full use of satellite based remote sensing capabilities of the Department of Space and the Computer network set up by the National Informatics Centre covering all the districts for making forecasts relating to various agricultural crops and disseminating information thereof. A study group has been set up to identify measures required to meet the needs of north-east States and islands territories regarding the supply of essential commodities.

(d) No, Sir.

Oil Refineries

3712. SHRI RAMPAL SINGH:
SHRI PANKAJ CHOUDHRY:
SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA:
DR. ASHOK PATEL:
SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI:
SHRI PRASAD BABURAO TANPURE:
SHRI RAMSHAKAL:
SHRI D.S. AHIRE:
SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT:
SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA:
DR. RAMAKRISHNA KUSMARIA:
SHRI S.S. OWAISI:
SHRI MOTI LAL VORA:

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

(a) the number of oil refineries functioning in the country at present alongwith the refining capacity of each refinery, location-wise and company-wise;

(b) whether any demand and supply ratio for the next seven years has been worked out;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether these refineries are working as per their capacity; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor and the remedial steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to make full utilisation of their capacity and to increase their present capacity to meet the demand and supply ratio?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) The information is as under:

Refinery	Capacity MMT/Yr	Location
(1) PSU Refineries		
IOC-Digboi	0.65	Digboi
IOC-Guwahati	1.00	Guwahati
IOC-Barauni	3.30	Barauni
IOC-Haldia	3.75	Haldia
IOC-Mathura	7.50	Mathura
IOC-Koyali	9.50	Koyali
HPC-Mumbai	5.5	Mumbai
HPC-Visakh	4.5	Visakh
BPC-Mumbai	6.0	Mumbai
CRL-Cochin	7.5	Cochin
MRL-Manali	6.5	Manali
MRL-Narimanam	0.5	Nagapattinam
BRPL-Bongaigaon	2.35	Bongaigaon
IOC-Panipat	6.0	Panipat
(ii) JV Refinery		
MRPL	4.00	Mangalore

(b) and (c) The demand supply and surplus/deficit of petroleum products as per "Ninth Plan sub-group report on demand projections, marketing and Energy Conservation (August, 1996)", is as below:—

(Figs. in TMT)

	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02	2006-07
Demand	100626*	106804	112788	155305
Production	69747*	90632	113469	156077
Surplus (Deficit)	(30879*)	(16172)	679	770

* Under Revision

Year-wise projections beyond 2001-02 has not been made except for the terminal year of X Plan - 2006-07.

(d) and (e) The capacity utilisation of the refineries for 1997-98 was 105.9%.

Shelter to Accused Persons

3713. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have ordered a probe into the alleged sheltering of some of the accused persons involved in the serial bomb blasts in Coimbatore in Shivgiri Madhom;

(b) if so, whether the Union Government have received the inquiry report; and

(c) if so, the action taken by the Union Government against those held responsible?

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

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Hindustan Insecticides Limited

3714. SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Hindustan Insecticides Ltd. in Kerala is making profits;

(b) if so, the details of profits and loss during the last three years;

(c) whether this industry is working without any hindrance;

(d) if so, the details of profit and loss of the other units of HIL during the last three years;

(e) whether any memorandum has been given by the trade unions for recognisation of their Union;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the total number of employees working in HIL, Kalamhssery (Ecoor), Kerala?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (DR. A.K. PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The details of profit (before allocation of Selling Overheads and R&D Expenses and after taking benefits of pooled/transfer pricing) of Kerala Unit of HIL for the last three years are as under:

1995-96	Rs. 683.88 Lakh
1996-97	Rs. 1043.46 lakh
1997-98	Rs. 698.05 lakh

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The details of profit/loss in respect of other units of HIL are as under:

(Rs. in lakh)

	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98
Delhi	(-)177.66	*(-)180.42	(-)563.76
Rasayani	(+)352.45	(+)218.80	(-)48.14
Mktg. R&D	(-)256.03	(-)492.34	(-)283.36

*Delhi Factory has been closed w.e.f. 30th November, 96 as per Hon'ble Supreme Court's Order.

(e) and (f) A group of workmen employed in the production department of this unit formed a new union in the name of Hindustan Insecticides Production Thozhilali Union vide registration No. 07-58-97, and approached the Management for recognition in January, 1998. The request was considered by the Management and the so called union was informed that it cannot recognised as it is a craft union representing a group of workmen employed in the production department only and three registered trade unions affiliated to CITU, INTUC and BMS are already representing the workers. A petition (O.P. No. 1937 of 1998-G) was also filed on this issue by Hindsutan Insecticides Production Thozhilali Union in the High Court of Kerala, which was dismissed on 15th July, 1988.

(g) 717 (Employees covered under ID Act-Workmen-598).

Petroleum Products

3715. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the outlay fixed for petroleum sector for Ninth Five Year Plan;

(b) the estimated demand for petroleum products in that plan period;

(c) whether the Government are aware of the increasing deficit of petroleum products in the country; and

(d) if so, the specific steps proposed to be taken to reduce the deficit?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) (a) Planning Commission has indicated an outlay of Rs. 78401 crores for Petroleum Sector.

(b) to (d) Demand of petroleum products is projected to increase 113 MMT by the end of IXth Plan. To meet this growing demand, steps are being taken to increase crude oil production in the country through application of improved technologies, better understanding of reservoir behaviour, development or new fields, additional development of existing fields and by inviting foreign and private capital in the upstream sector. The refining capacity is also being increased in the country by expansion of existing refineries in the public sector and setting up of refineries in joint sector and private sector.

[Translation]

Official Secret Act, 1923

3716. SHRI PANKAJ CHOUDHRY:
SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE:
DR. ASHOK PATEL:
SHRI AMAR PAL SINGH:
SHRI SURENDRAN CHENGARA:
DR. V. SAROJA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are considering to scrap the Official Secret Act, 1923 so as to bring transparency in the transaction of its business;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) to (c) No, Sir. However, the issue relating to amendments to the Official Secrets Act, 1923, is clubbed with the formulation of Freedom of Information Bill which is under examination of the Government.

[English]

Performance of IOC

3717. SHRI C.P. RADHAKRISHNAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the refining capacity and the actual performance of Indian Oil Corporation during the last three years;

(b) the operating target set-by the IOC for 1997-98; and

(c) the measures proposed to be taken to monitor closely all the projects for optimum capacity utilisation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) The information is as under:—

Year	Capacity MMT	Actual MMT	% Cap. Utilisation
1995-96	24.400	25.636	105.1
1996-97	24.400	25.136	103.0
1997-98	25.400	27.504	108.3

(b) Refinery-wise MOU crude throughput target of IOC set for 1997-98 was as under

(Figures in thousand tonnes)

Refinery	MOU Crude t'put target 1997-98
Guwahati	900
Barauni	1950
Gujarat	9800
Haldia	4100
Mathura	8000
Digboi	550
Panipat	100
IOC Total	25400

(c) Overall capacity utilisation for IOCL was higher than 100% during last three years.

Terrorist Activities of ULFA

3718. SHRI U.V. KRISHNAMRAJU: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the terrorist activities of ULFA are increasing in Assam;

(b) if so, whether ICO high speed diesel pipeline at Lakhipathar in Uppar Assam has been blown up recently by ULFA on the observation of protest day;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether security-men of Central Industrial Security Force were also ambushed near Doba tea estate in Sibsagar district recently;

(e) if so, the steps taken to combat terrorist and insurgent activities in Assam;

(f) whether any blueprint of action plan has been prepared for execution; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) The violence by ULFA in Assam has been by and large at the same level as the previous year.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. ULFA blew up an oil pipeline in Lakhipathar area of Dibrugarh District on Nov. 26, 1998 damaging the pipeline used for bringing processed oil from Digboi Refinery to Tinsukia storage centre.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) to (g) The activities of ULFA and other militant organisations are closely monitored. Steps taken/initiated to combat terrorist and insurgent activities in Assam include, *inter-alia*, deployment of Army and Central Para-Military Forces; most seriously affected areas being notified as "disturbed area"; secessionists/extremist/militant groups being banned, and strengthening and upgradation of the intelligence machinery. Assistance has also been provided for modernisation of State Police in the region.

Expert Group on Consumer Protection Act, 1986

3719. SHRI R.S. GAVAI:
PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA:
SHRI RAJBANSHI MAHTO:

Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 5980 on July 28,1998 regarding recommendation of Expert Group on Consumer Protection Act, 1986;

(a) whether the Government have since examined the recommendations of the Expert-Group to revise the Consumers Protection Act, 1986;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYAPAL SINGH YADAV): (a) to (c) After considering the recommendations of the Expert Group, a draft note was prepared and sent to Ministries/Departments concerned inviting their comments. The note is now under finalisation. The amendments will be carried out on being passed in the Parliament.

Hindi Film referred to Home Ministry

3720. SHRI ULHAS VASUDEO PATIL: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) has referred a Hindi feature film to his Ministry on the grounds that it deals with a sensitive subject;

(b) if so the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have constituted a three members committee to see the film;

(d) if so, the findings of the said committee; and

(e) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir.

(d) and (e) The Ministry has no objection to the main story line of the film. However, some minor changes have been suggested to the Central Board of Film Certification and the Board will take further decision in that regard.

Contraceptive Injection

3721. SHRI MAGANTI BABU: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have stopped the project to develop Kising, a reversible male contracaptive injection to be used once-in-a-life time;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the committee of Experts had opposed the move and recommended stopping of sale of male contraceptives; and

(d) if so, the loss suffered in the regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI): (a) No Sir. Phase II Clinical trial of the project has already been completed. Permission has been granted by the Drugs Controller General (India) for restricted Phase-III clinical trial.

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

Pending Bills of Mysore Palace

3722. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Karnataka has sent Mysore Palace (Acquisition and Transfer) Bill to the Union Government for the assent of Hon'ble President;

(b) if so, whether the Bill has been assented by the President;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

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

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Pharmaceutical Companies

3723. SHRI AJIT JOGI: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the Government owned pharmaceutical companies functioning in the country and the investment made therein, companywise;

(b) the names of drugs being manufactured in each of these companies and the contribution of these companies in the pharmaceutical sector;

(c) the total production of bulk drugs and formulations made during the last three years;

(d) the details of profit and loss by these companies;

(e) whether the Government propose to close down some of these companies; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (DR. A.K. PATEL): (a) There are five Central Public Sector Undertakings in the Pharmaceutical Sector under the administrative control of Department of Chemicals & Petrochmicals, namely, IDPL, HAL, BIL and SSPL. The investment in equity made in these Pharmaceutical companies by the Government are as under:

IDPL	Rs. 329.49 Crores.
HAL	Rs. 40.90 Crores.
BCPL	Rs. 40.86 Crore.
BIL	Rs. 17.48 Crore.
SSPL	Rs. 24.52 Crore.

(b) There is no bulk drug production in IDPL since October, 1996. The company is producing formulations during the last three years. HAL produces a wise range of Pharmaceutical formulations including agrovet products. BCPL manufactures a wide range of industrial chemicals like Sulphuric Acid, Ferric Alum and bulk drugs Anti Venom Serum and various formulations besides Cosmetics and Home products. BIL produces Sera, Vaccines and Toxicids. SSPL manufactures Pharmaceutical formulations, namely, Tablets, Capsules, Parenterals, liquid orals, etc.

(c) Total production during the last three years as under:—

(Rs./Crore)

Name of the PSU	1995--96	1996-97	1997-98 (Prov.)
I.P.D.L.	115.43	44.07	3.52
H.A.L.	169.34	79.52	54.29
B.C.P.L.	11.64	15.69	21.03
B.I.L.	21.45	8.25	13.40
S.S.P.L.	6.00	7.16	4.37

(d) Profit/Loss during the last three years are as under:—

(Rs./Crore)

Name of the PSU	1995--96	1996-97	1997-98 (Prov.)
I.D.P.L.	(117.01	(153.28)	(157.39)
H.A.L.	(20.94)	(32.25)	(28.90)
B.C.P.L.	(3.59)	*15.75	(3.37)
B.I.L.	(4.87)	(9.91)	(8.81)
S.S.P.L.	(4.09)	(4.93)	(5.07)

* This includes Rs. 15.68 crore of sale proceeds of Land.

(e) and (f) There is no such proposal.

[English]

Guarantee Board for Agricultural Labour

3724. SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR:
SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government are contemplating to set up an Employment Guarantee Board for agricultural labourers;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Question does not arise.

C.R.P.F. Centres

3725. SHRI BASWARAJ PATIL SEDAM: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of CRPF centres in the country, State-wise;

(b) whether the Government propose to set up the C.R.P.F. Centre at Gulberga (Karnataka); and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) The details of CRPF centres in the Country, State-wise, are given in the Statement enclosed.

(b) There is no such proposal.

(c) Does not arise.

Statement

Details of CRPF Centres in the Country, Statewise

1. Andhra Pradesh

IGP, Southern Sector, CRPF, Hyderabad.
DIGP, CRPF, Hyderabad.
GC, CRPF, Hyderabad.
GC, CRPF, Rangareddy.
Base Hospital No. II, CRPF, Hyderabad.
AWS No. I, CRPF, Hyderabad.

2. Assam

DIGP, CRPF, Gauhati.
DIGP (Ops), CRPF, Bongaigaon.
GC, CRPF, Gauhati
GC, CRPF, Khatkhati.
Base Hospital No. III, Gauhati.
AWS No. III, CRPF, Gauhati.
AWS-V, CRPF, Khatikhati.
Static MT Workshop, CRPF, Gauhati.
Mobile Workshop, Gauhati.

3. Bihar

IGP, Bihar Sector, CRPF, Patna.
DIGP, CRPF, Patna.
GC, CRPF, Mukamehghat.
GC, CRPF, Muzaffarpur.
GC, CRPF, Jamshedpur.
Signal Group Centre, CRPF, Ranchi.

4. Delhi

Directorate General, CRPF, New Delhi.
IG, Northern Sector, CRPF, N/Delhi.
IG, Special Sector, CRPF, N/Delhi.
IG, RAF, CRPF, N/Delhi.
DIGP, CRPF, New Delhi.
DIGP, Special Range, CRPF, N/Delhi.
DIGP, RAF, CRPF, N/Delhi.
GC, CRPF, New Delhi.
Base Hospital No. I, CRPF, N/Delhi.

5. Gujarat

DIGP, CRPF, Gandhinagar.
GC, CRPF, Gandhinagar.

6. Haryana

GC, CRPF, Pinjore.
GC, CRPF, Gurgaon.

7. Jammu & Kashmir

IG (Ops), CRPF, Jammu.
IG (Ops), CRPF, Srinagar.
DIGP, CRPF, Srinagar.
DIGP (Ops), CRPF, Srinagar.
DIGP (Ops), CRPF, Batote.
GC, CRPF, Bantalab.
RTC-IV, CRPF, Humhuma, Srinagar.
20 Bedded Hospital, CRPF, Srinagar.
AWS-VI, CRPF, Awantipur.
AWS-IV, CRPF, Jammu.
Mobile Workshop, Awantipur.

8. Kerala

GC, CRPF, Pallipuram.
RTC-III, CRPF, Pallipuram.

9. Karnataka

DIGP, CRPF, Bangalore.
GC, CRPF, Bangalore.

10. Maharashtra

IG, CRPF, Western Sector, Bombay.
DIGP, CRPF, Nagpur.
GC, CRPF, Nagpur.
GC, CRPF, Pune.
CTC-III, CRPF, Mudkhed (Nanded).

11. Meghalaya

IGP, NES, CRPF, Shillong.

12. Madhya Pradesh

DIGP, CRPF, Bhopal.
DIGP, CRPF, Neemuch.
GC, CRPF, Neemuch.
GC, CRPF, Bhopal.
GC, CRPF, Shivpuri.
CTC-I, CRPF, Neemuch.
RTC-I, CRPF, Neemuch.

13. Manipur

IG (OPS), CRPF, Imphal.
DIGP, CRPF, Imphal.
DIGP (OPS), CRPF, Imphal.
GC, CRPF, Imphal.
AWS-VII, CRPF, Imphal.

14. Nagaland

DIG, CRPF, Kohima.
DIG (OPS), Dimapur

15. Orissa

DIGP, CRPF, Bhubneshwar.
GC, CRPF, Bhubneshwar.

16. Punjab

Addl. Director General, North West Zone, CRPF Chandhigarh.
DIGP, CRPF, Chandigarh.
DIGP, CRPF, Jallandhar.
GC, CRPF, Jallandhar.

17. Rajasthan

Internal Security Academy, CRPF, Mt. Abu.
DIGP, CRPF, Ajmer.
Group Centre, No. I, CRPF, Ajmer.
Group Centre, No. II, CRPF, Ajmer.

18. Tripura

IGP (OPS) Tripura at Agartala.
DIGP (OPS), Agartala.

19. Tamil Nadu

DIGP, CRPF, Avadi.
GC, CRPF, Avadi.
Recruits Training Centre No. II, CRPF, Avadi.
Central Training College, No. II, CRPF, Coimbatore.

20. Uttar Pradesh

IGP, Central Sector, CRPF, Lucknow.
DIGP, CRPF, Allahabad.
DIGP, CRPF, Rampur.
GC, CRPF, Allahabad.
GC, CRPF, Lucknow.
GC, CRPF, Rampur.
Central Weapon Store, CRPF, Rampur.
Arms Workshop No. II, CRPF, Rampur.

21. West Bengal

IGP, Eastern Sector, CRPF, Calcutta.
DIGP, CRPF, Calcutta.
Group Centre, CRPF, Durgapur.

[Translation]

Inclusion of Castes in the Central List of OBC

3726. SHRI PRADEEP KUMAR YADAV:
SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT:
SHRI JANG BAHADUR SINGH PATEL:

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

(a) the number of castes, subcastes recommended by the National Commission for OBC included in the Central list of OBC during 1997-98;

(b) the number of castes out of them notified in the Gazette of India;

(c) whether the Government is bound to comply the recommendations of the National Commission for OBC as per the law; and

(d) if so, the number of recommendations complied with so far and the result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) Inclusion of 291 castes/sub castes/synonyms were recommended by the National Commission for Backward Clases from 1st April, 1997 to 31st March, 1998.

(b) 06 castes/sub-castes/synonyms have been notified in the Gazettee of India as Backward Classes vide Resolution No. 12011/13/97-BCC, dated 03.12.1997.

(c) Section 9 (2) of the NCBC ACT 1993 (27th of 1993) inter-alia provides that the recommendations of the Commission shall ordinarily be binding upon the Central Government.

(d) 3 recommendations involving inclusion of 6 castes/sub-castes/synonyms have been accepted and their inclusion in the Central List of Backward Classes for Uttar Pradesh has been notified. Other recommendations of National Commission for Backward Classes are under consideration.

[English]

Release of Central Share

3727 SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN:
" SHRI SURENDRAN CHENGARA.

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

(a) whether the Union Government have received any request from Kerala for release of Central assistance for the Kerala Institute for Research, Training and Development Studies of Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes (KIRTADA) for 1997-98;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The proposal received in December, 1997, consisted of two parts:

(i) Release of Rs. 20 lakhs for the year 1997-98.

(ii) Release of Rs. 11.97 lakhs as arrears for the years 1991-92 to 1996-97.

(iii) Rs. 20 lakhs were released as it was in accordance with the prescribed conditions. Regarding the arrears claim the State Government has been requested to furnish utilisation certificates for the grants released by the Ministry in the previous years.

Eye Banks

3728. SHRI CHANDRASHEKHAR SAHU: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Eye Banks functioning in the country, State-wise;

(b) the number of persons benefited from these banks during each of the last three years, State-wise;

(c) whether the Government have received any complaints about inactivity of eye banks in the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to streamline their working?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI): (a) 166 eye banks are functioning in the country.

(b) Year-wise details of persons benefited from the eye banks during the last three years are as under:

Year	Collection of Eyes Corneal	Grafting Done
1995-96	11,618	8,895
1996-97	13,517	8,245
1997-98	14,446	9,533

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Question does not arise.

(e) Under National programme for Control of Blindness, financial assistance is being provided to Government as well as Non-Govt. Eye Banks for promoting eye banks. A National Fort-night is also observed from 25th Aug. to 8th Sep. every year for intensive motivational work on eye donational activities.

Illegal Deduction from Salary of ONGC's Employees

3729. SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether complaints have been received from the ONGC Employees Association regarding illegal deduction of amount from the employees' monthly salary by the management of ONGC in the name of self contributory post retirement and death in service benefit scheme (PRBS);

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action 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) Yes, Sir. This Ministry has received complaints from the ONGC Employees' Association alleging illegal deduction of amount from monthly salary of the employees by the management of ONGC in the name of self contributory Post Retirement and Death-in-service Benefit Scheme (PRBS).

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

Arrest of Smugglers/Terrorists

3730. DR. RAMKRISHNA KUSMARIA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of smugglers and terrorists arrested during 1997 and the current year so far;

(b) the details of arms and ammunition seized from them; and

(c) the action taken against them?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) to (c) The information is being obtained from States/Union Territory Administrations and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Expenditure incurred for controlling Law and Order

3731. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state the details of expenditure incurred to control law and order in the North-Eastern States Coastal Regions Separately by different police agencies during the last three years; State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): Subject matter pertains to respective State Governments.

[Translation]

Vocational Training Institutes in Uttar Pradesh

3732. SHRI CHINMAYANAND SWAMI:
DR. RAM VILAS VEDANTI:

Will the MINISTER OF LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the number of vocational training institutions in the country at present;

(b) the financial assistance provided to these institutions during the last three years, State-wise;

(c) whether the Government have received any request from the State Governments to set up more regional vocational training institutes; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) Total number of Industrial Training Institutes/ Centre in the country imparting Vocational Training is 4086, as per latest information available.

(b) A Vocational Training Project with assistance from the World Bank is being implemented in 28 States/UTs covering inter-alia 565 Government Industrial Training Institutes through Centrally Sponsored Schemes on 50:50 sharing basis. The financial assistance provided during the last three years, State-wise is shown in the enclosed Statement.

(c) and (d) Demand for setting up of three more Regional Vocational Training Institutes (RVTIs) for Women has been received from State Governments of Orissa, Bihar and Punjab. For setting up three new institutes, proposals have been sent to Planning Commission for the Ninth Five Year Plan. Setting up of these institutes depends on availability of funds and clearance from Planning Commission and at present no view with respect to these proposals has been taken.

Statement

The Grant-In-Aid to the States/UTs under V.T.P. with World Bank Assistance

(Rs. in lakh)

Sl.No.	Name of States/ UTs.	Amount 1995-96	Amount 1996-97	Amount 1997-98
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	167.81	150.64	126.69
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0.00	9.50	0.00

1	2	3	4	5
3.	Assam	75.97	46.82	50.77
4.	Bihar	64.14	240.22	85.51
5.	Chandigarh	0.89	0.00	2.81
6.	Daman & Diu	0.00	0.00	0.00
7.	Delhi	14.56	106.10	29.23
8.	Goa	0.00	17.41	19.89
9.	Gujarat	223.62	202.47	154.21
10.	Haryana	71.21	61.79	441.37
11.	Himachal Pradesh	7.17	44.17	63.15
12.	Karnataka	76.40	287.67	249.22
13.	Kerala	69.07	196.72	45.24
14.	Madhya Pradesh	78.04	389.35	79.53
15.	Maharashtra	234.31	599.20	1,041.50
16.	Manipur	2.99	29.05	5.47
17.	Meghalaya	0.59	10.44	0.00
18.	Mizoram	0.00	0.00	13.25
19.	Nagaland	0.00	0.00	0.00
20.	Orissa	40.75	153.71	40.33

1	2	3	4	5
21.	Punjab	111.13	273.97	54.78
22.	Rajasthan	32.68	134.38	68.83
23.	Tamil Nadu	272.17	202.09	613.15
24.	Uttar Pradesh	107.37	258.17	76.82
25.	West Bengal	36.61	45.45	61.79
26.	Jammu & Kashmir	11.73	9.94	33.18
27.	Pondicherry	0.00	1.41	6.82
28.	Tripura	0.44	9.92	7.39
	Total:	1,699.65	3,480.59	3,370.93

[English]

National Human Rights Commission

3733. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Human Rights Commission has called for a report from the Government of Bihar on the police firing on a demonstration organised by flood victims on August 11, 1998;

(b) if so, the main points of the report; and

(c) the action taken by the Union Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The National Human Rights Commission has called for a report on the incident from the State Government of Bihar. The report called for from the State Government of Bihar has not been received by the National Human Rights Commission.

Involvement of ISI in Bomb Blast

3734. SHRI HARIN PATHAK: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether ISI was involved in the incident of bomb blast at the Kaithal Bus Stand, Haryana;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether CBI has been conducting any inquiry in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) and (b) No evidence is available so far to point out the involvement of any particular terrorist group in the incident of bomb blast at Kaithal Bus Stand.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Arrest of Criminals

3735. SHRI K.D. SULTANPURI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of criminals arrested for committing various crimes like murder, rape, dacoity and kidnapping in the country during the last six months, State/UT-wise;

(b) the details of financial help given to the families of victims; and

(c) the number of criminals still to be arrested by the Government?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) "Police" is a State subject as per the Constitution of India. Information in regard to criminals arrested is not maintained at the Central level on monthly basis.

(b) It is essentially for the State Governments to provide financial and other assistance to the families of victims of various crimes.

(c) The information relating to the number of criminals still to be arrested is not maintained at the Central level.

[English]

Declaration of Old Persons Year

3736. SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU:
SHRI MOHAN RAWALE:
SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA:
SHRI ANNASAHEB M.K. PATIL:
SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE:
SHRI N. DENNIS:
SHRI BIJOY HANDIQUE:

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

(a) whether this year has been declared as old persons year;

(b) if so, the schemes that are being implemented by the Government for the welfare of old persons and senior citizens;

(c) whether the Government propose to provide concessions and other reliefs to old persons and senior citizens; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) The year 1999 has been declared as International Year of Older Persons by the United Nations.

(b) to (d) The Government has a number of ongoing schemes for Older Persons including:

(i) Scheme of Assistance to Voluntary Organisations for Programmes relating to Aged under which Grants-in-aid are provided to Voluntary Organisations for establishing and maintaing Old Age Homes, Day Care Centres & Mobile Medicare Unit for older persons.

(ii) Scheme of Assistance to Panchayati Raj Institution/Voluntary Organisations under which grants-in are provided to eligible organisations for construction of Old Age Homes.

(iii) The National Old Age Pension Scheme under which monthly pension is provided to the destitute elderly.

A National Policy for older persons is also under consideration of the Government. The Policy seeks to ensure the well being of older persons by attending to their social security, health care, welfare and other development needs.

Chairman Delhi WAKF Board

3737. SHRIMATI BHAVNA DEVRAJBHAI CHIKHALIA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of NCT of Delhi has furnished a report on the alleged allegations made against the Chairman, Delhi Wakf Board;

(b) if so, the main features of the report; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) The Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi have not furnished a report on the alleged allegations made against the Chairman, Delhi Wakf Board, but have informed that a Sub-Committee has been constituted to look into these allegations and the outcome will be communicated to the Central Government as and when it is received.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Mis-branded Products

3738. SHRI BASWARAJ PATIL SEDAM: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is no direct action on the Chemicals & Fertilizers company, if products were found mis-branded or low quality;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (DR. A.K. PATEL): (a) There are provisions under various Acts/Orders to take action against the Companies who manufacture mis-branded or low quality products. For fertilizers, the quality of fertilizers is regulated under the Fertilizers Control Order, 1985. For pesticides and insecticides, adequate provisions exist in the Insecticides Act, 1968 to take action against the erring companies.

Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) has formulated a large number of Indian Standards for chemicals and related products. Besides, BIS operates a product certification scheme based on the Indian Standards under which licences are granted on product groups on voluntary applications. Actions are taken against the manufacturers who violate the BIS Act, 1986.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Killings of Terrorists

3739. SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of terrorists killed from January, 1998 to October, 1998;

(b) the places where illegal arms and ammunition seized during the said period indicating the quantum thereof; and

(c) the special measures taken by the Government to prevent such terrorist activities?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) The details of terrorists killed during the current year are as under:—

State	No. of terrorists killed
Arunachal Pradesh	1
Assam	161
Jammu & Kashmir	930
Manipur	91
Meghalaya	1
Nagaland	59
Tripura	26

(b) Statement indicating the State-wise recovery of arms/explosives during 1998 is attached.

(c) "Public Order and Police" being State subjects, it is for concerned State Governments to devise various methods and take concrete steps in this regard. At the Central level, action is taken to facilitate coordination of the anti-terrorist operations of different states and to improve flow of information useful for control of their activities among the States. Further, help is being provided to the State Governments in terms of financial assistance for modernisation of police, supply of improved weapons, deployment of para-military forces etc. In certain special circumstances, financial assistance has also been given to some of the affected states over and above the on-going allocations for modernisation of police and supply of weapons.

Statement

State-wise recovery of Arms/Explosives during 1998

ANDHRA PRADESH		
	RDX	16 Kgs.
	Pistols	19 nos.
DELHI		
	AK-47 Rifles	1 Nos.
	Pistol	44 Nos.

Revolver	11 Nos.
Ammn/Pistol	204 Rds.
Grenades	8 Nos.

GUJARAT

AK-47 Rifles	2 Nos.

PUNJAB

AK-47 Rifles	7 Nos.
AK-56 Rifles	2 Nos.
Sniper Rifles	2 Nos.
Rocket	69 Nos.
Pistol/Revolver	24 Nos.
Ammn/AK Rifles	276 Rds.
Ammn/Pistol	70 Nos.
Grenades	62 Nos.

RAJASTHAN

Pistol	1 Nos.
Revolver	20 Nos.
Ammn/Pistol	55 Rds.
Grenades	20 Nos.

TAMIL NADU

Pistol	2 Nos.
Revolver	4 Nos.
Ammn/Pistol	1 Rds.
Grenades	1 Nos.

UTTAR PRADESH

AK-47 Rifles	1 Nos.
Ammn/AK Rifles	102 Rds

JAMMU & KASHMIR

Anti-Aircraft Gun	1 Nos.
Anti-Tank Gun	1 Nos.
Missile	10 Nos.
Pika Gun	23 Nos.
Mortar	17 Nos.
Rocket Launcher	257 Nos.
GPMG/UMG	57 Nos.
Grenade Launcher	72 Nos.
AK-Rifle	1312 Nos.
Sniper Rifle	35 Nos.
Pistol/Revolver	525 Nos.
Guns	49 Nos.
Grenades	6942 Nos.
Rocket	612 Nos.
Rocket Booster	235 Nos.
Ammn.	319636 Nos.

[English]

Oil Exploration

3740. SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of agencies engaged in exploring new sources of oil and natural gas in Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Himachal Pradesh during 1996, 1997 and current year;

(b) the names of places where exploration work is in progress;

(c) the amount spent on this work during the said period; and

(d) the results of this exploration work?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) and Oil India Ltd. (OIL) had/have been engaged in exploration work in these states. The consortium led by M/s HOEC also operated in block GN-ON-90/3, a part of which falls in Madhya Pradesh (MP).

(b) The areas where exploration work has been conducted/is being conducted during the year 1998-99 are:—

1. Near the Himalayan foothills in Ganga Basin —Uttar Pradesh (UP).
2. Kumhari-Hatta-Katni (MP)
3. Haneh-Kothi-Amanganj (MP)
4. Katni-Kawai-Amanganj (MP)

5. Gowadi-Delakhari (MP)

6. Sarkaghat-Lambargaon, Himachal Pradesh (HP)

7. Hamirpur-Sundernagar (HP)

(c) Survey expenditure is maintained region-wise by ONGC. The total expenditure on surveys during the year 1995-96 to 1997-98 is as under:—

NRBC (includes HP and UP) : Rs. 81.34* crores

WRBC (includes Rajasthan, MP&Gujarat) : Rs. 151.81* crores

(*includes expenditure on surveys in respect of Joint Venture also).

ONGC has incurred a sum of Rs. 14.68 crores on exploratory drilling during the year 1995-96 & 1996-97 in MP.

The expenditure incurred by OIL for geoscientific surveys and exploratory drilling during the year 1995-96 to 1997-98 is Rs. 13.05 crores.

The amount spent by the consortium in block GN-ON-90/3 under Phase-I during 29.3.93 to 28.3.97 was Rs. 2.54 crores.

(d) Drilling of 2 wells in Madhya Pradesh has not resulted in oil or gas discovery. Drilling at Bilaspur is continuing. At other places, exploration data is at various stages of evaluation and results will be known as and when drilling is carried out and completed after fixing up the locations.

Petrol Pumps on Highways in Bihar

3741. PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA:
SHRI SURENDRA PRASAD YADAV (JHANJHARPUR):

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to refer to reply USQ 2100 dated 9.6.98 regarding 'Petrol Pumps on Highways' and state:

(a) whether applications have been invited for allotment of petrol pumps on highways in Bihar;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

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

(d) the time by which the whole procedure for early opening of petrol pumps in Bihar is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. Oil companies have invited applications for 189 retail outlet dealerships for locations on different State/National Highways in the State of Bihar with reference to the locations pending from various marketing plans including current retail outlet marketing plan 1996-98.

It generally takes about 1-2 years for commissioning of the dealership/distributorship from the issue of advertisement.

Regional Language

3742. SHRI VITHAL TUPE: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government had issued any notification making all the offices of Government of India to correspond with public in regional languages and availability of all the forms and departmental literature for use of local people in regional languages;

(b) if so, whether the Government have also instructed all the Central Government Offices, corporation, companies undertakings, nationalised Banks to implement the provision of the notification dated 27.4.1960;

(c) if so, whether the Government have monitored the implementation of such instructions by the State Governments;

(d) if so, the outcome thereof;

(e) whether in Maharashtra such instructions are not being followed by the Central Government officers;

(f) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(g) the steps being taken by the Government to make it mandatory for all the Central Government offices located in Maharashtra to follow the instructions?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Central Government has not issued any notification wherein instructions have been given to all offices of Central Government to correspond with Public in regional languages. However, in continuation of notification dated 27.4.1960, instructions have been issued on 25.3.1968 that the forms to be used by public should be made available in three languages i.e. in regional language, Official Language Hindi and English. In addition, instructions have been issued that name-plates, rubber stamps, letter headpads and logo etc. in region "A" and "B" should be prepared in bilingual form and in region "C" in three languages.

(c) and (d) No, Sir.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Question does not arise.

(g) Implementation of Official Language is done through the spirit of restraint, patience and cooperation. However, all the Heads of Departments are responsible for implementation of Rules, Acts and Instructions in this regard. To keep a watch over this inspection of various offices are conducted from time to time.

Terrorists Arrested by Delhi Police

3743. SHRI CHETAN CHAUHAN:
SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of terrorists, subversives and Pak spies arrested by the Delhi Police during each of the last three years till date;

(b) the number of such anti-national elements handed over to Jammu and Kashmir Police;

(c) the countries to which these terrorists belong and the action taken against them;

(d) whether some of such arrested persons had links with bureaucrats and police officials;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether some of such terrorists/subversives in their interrogation revealed their involvement in political activities and transportation of the arms/ammunition and explosives; and

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

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) The number of such persons arrested by Delhi Police during the period in question is as under:—

Year	Number of persons arrested
1995	28
1996	65
1997	40
1998 (upto 30.11.98)	64

(b) The requisite information is as under:

Year	Number
1995	8
1996	24
1997	3
1998 (upto 30.11.98)	Nil

(c) The requisite information is as under:

Switzerland	1
Iran	2
Pakistan	19
Bangladesh	4
Myanmar (Burma)	1
India	170
	197

Of these, 35 militants were handed over to Jammu and Kashmir and one each to Punjab, Maharashtra and Central Bureau of Investigation. Of the remaining, four were acquitted, two discharged, one convicted and 152 are facing trial in the court.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

(f) and (g) With the arrest of some of the subversives during 1998, 25 incidents out of a total of 31 incidents of bomb-blasts in Delhi and 16 incidents of bomb-blasts in neighbouring States were solved. These arrests also led to recovery of 40 Kgs. of RDX, 60 Kgs. of explosives power, 3 Kgs. of PETN, 10 slabs of TNT, 2 hand grenades, 4 ABCD timers, 60 detonators, 2 AK series rifles and 69 pistols/revolvers. These arrested subversives have been, *inter alia*, charged of waging war against the Government of India.

Wastage of Gas in Gujarat

3744. DR. VALLABH BHAI KATHIRIA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large quantity of gas has been wasted in Gujarat;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have any plan to utilise the gas of various places in Gujarat;

(d) if so the details thereof; 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 (e) No, Sir. During the first half of the current financial year, only 0.972 MMSCMD of gas out of the total production of 8.597 MMSCMD in Gujarat has been flared on account of the minimum technical requirement of flaring and due to the problem of very low pressure gas from isolated fields. To further reduce the flaring, ONGC has initiated schemes of installing additional compressors and booster compressors at various locations. Govt. has also permitted ONGC to directly market low-pressure gas upto one lakh SCMD from isolated fields in order to improve the gas utilisation further.

Gastro-Enteritis Cases

3745. SHRIMATI LAKSHMI PANABAKA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of deaths took place in Andhra Pradesh due to Gastro-enteritis;

(b) whether the Government have received any request from Andhra Pradesh to provide Central assistance to the State to meet the situation; and

(c) if so, 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) As per the information furnisned by the Government of Andhra Pradesh 873 deaths have been reported due to gestro-enteritis during 1998, till 6.10.1998.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Supply of Medicine

3746. SHRI PRABHASH CHANDRA TIWARI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the formula made by the Government for the supply of medicine by Medical Store Depot to C.G.H.S. had expired on April 1, 1998;

(b) whether medicines are at present being purchased from local chemists;

(c) if so, the reasons for not reviving the formula;

(d) whether the patients are not getting medicine in time;

(e) if so, the action being taken by the Government in this regard; and

(f) it not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI): (a) and (c) The CGHS formulary for the year 1996-98, which was valid upto 31.3.1998, was further extended upto 30.9.1998.

(b) and (d) to (f) Medicines which are not readily available in the dispensaries are purchased from authorised local chemists against individual prescriptions and supply is made within 24 hours. In case of emergency, authority slips are issued to beneficiaries for getting medicines from local chemist without payment, to ensure timely supply.

Non-availability of medicines occurs at times due to various reasons which include prescription of new drugs by specialists which are not included in the formularly, demand for proprietory drugs and at times delayed supply by the Medical Stores depots which indent medicines in bulk.

Export and Import Policy for Fertilizers

3747. SHRI RAMSHAKAL: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have formulated any export and import policy related to fertilizers; 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) Exports and Imports of fertilizers from part of the Export & Import (EXIM) Policy 1997-2000 of Government of India. As the country is net importer of fertilizers no exports of fertilizers except that of SSP are allowed. Limited exports of urea have been made on country to country basis to Nepal and Bhutan in the past on special requests.

As regards the imports of fertilizers, all types of nitrogenous, phosphatic, potassic and complex fertilizers except DAP, MOP, MAP, SOP, NP and NPK are included as canalized items in part III of the Negative List of Imports in the EXIM Policy. MMTC Ltd., has been designated as the canalizing agency for imports of all canalized fertilizers whereas the State Trading Corporation of India Limited (STC) and Indian Potash Limited (IPL) are the co-canalyzing agencies for the import of urea only.

[English]

Priorities for Health

3748. SHRI BIJOY HANDIQUE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government contemplate to rest new imperative and new priorities to control the situation arising out of emerging and re-emerging diseases;

(b) if so, the major thrust areas demanding fresh attention and application;

(c) whether the Research and Development in indigenous medicines will be promoted to meet the new health situation; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI): (a) and (b) In view of the emerging and re-emerging communicable and non-communicable diseases, the thrust are in the health sector *inter-alia* include measure to contain various diseases, improvement of surveillance and epidemic response system, reproductive and child health, capacity building institutions and health infrastructure and health education.

(c) and (d) Research is being promoted through the Central Councils of Research under the Department of ASM&H. There are four such councils one each for Ayurveda, Siddha, Yunani System of Medicine, Homoeopathy and Yoga and Naturopathy conducting various types of research such as clinical research. Drug proving research, drug standardisation research, literacy research, family welfare research, tribal health care research etc. The Indian Systems of Medicine and Homoeopathy have a lot to offer to meet the new health situation. For example, research is being carried out in HIV/AIDS through Homoeopathy Research Council and the results have been encouraging. Similarly research on HIV/AIDS through Siddha system has shown positively encouraging results. Research is also being carried on treatment of Cancer through Ayurveda.

The ISM & H have remedies for some non-communicable diseases and life style diseases, such as treatment for Fistula in Ano.

Eradication of Polio

3749. SHRI ASHOK NAMDEORAO MOHOL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are some difference between the Government and India Polio Pulse Committee of the Rotory International towards the movement of National Polio eradication campaign phase-II which is likely to be started from December 6, 1998;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to sort out the differences so that Polio eradication campaign phase-II can be implemented smoothly?

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Publication Code Manual in Bilingual Language

3750. SHRI JAISINGRAO GAIKWAD PATIL: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of codes, manual, rules and regulations formed in his Ministry, attached offices and the subordinate offices for which his Ministry is responsible to make amendment in them and to publish them at times;

(b) the number out of them are in English and the number out of them published bilingual;

(c) whether the last edition was published in English only or in bilingual; and

(d) the date by which it has been decided to publish all publications in bilingual?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) to (d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

Mahajan Commission

3751. SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Mahajan Commission has submitted its final report regarding the border dispute between Karnataka and Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time when Mahajan Commission was constituted by the Government;

(d) whether the Government proposed to implement the recommendations in toto;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) to (f) The Mahajan Commission was constituted in October, 1966. It submitted its report in August, 1967.

The Commission recommended transfer of 264 villages, along with the towns of Nipani, Khanapur and Nandgad, from Karnataka to Maharashtra. It also recommended transfer of 227 villages from Maharashtra to Karnatka.

While the Government of Karnataka accepted the recommendations of the commission in toto, the Government of Maharashtra rejected it. The Government of India's stand has consistently been that this dispute can be resolved only with the willing co-operation of the State Governments concerned and that, towards this end, it would be glad to extend all possible assistance to the two States.

Freedom Fighters Pensions

3752. SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN:
SHRI H.P. SINGH:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that large number of freedom fighters are living in the Union Territory of Chandigarh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the total numbers of cases of freedom fighters disposed of during 1998; and

(d) the number of cases still pending State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) and (b) 89 freedom fighters from the Union territory of Chandigarh have been sanctioned Samman Pension. Information in regard to freedom fighters actually living in the said territory at present is not available.

(c) and (d) From 1.1.1998 to 30.11.1998, 24,776 cases were disposed of. 4,168 review applications were pending as on 30.11.1998. Out of them 1,731 applications have been disposed of, leaving a balance of 2,437 review applications (as on 11.12.1998). State-wise break-up of these applications is given in the enclosed statement. Besides these review applications, there are also applications for grant of Samman Pension in respect of the Hyderabad Liberation Movement and the regional

movements of Kerala, which have been referred to the concerned State Governments for verification.

Statement

Sl.No.	State/UT	Review Petitions
1.	Andhra Pradesh	96
2.	Bihar	512
3.	Jammu & Kashmir	48
4.	Karnataka	138
5.	Kerala	157
6.	Madhya Pradesh	169
7.	Maharashtra	201
8.	Orissa	13
9.	Punjab	98
10.	Rajasthan	12
11.	Tamil Nadu	92
12.	Uttar Pradesh	278
13.	West Bengal	561
14.	Indian National Army (INA)	62
	Total	2,437

Industrial Tribunal-*cum*-Labour Courts

3753. SHRI RAMA CHANDRA MALLICK: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

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

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

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

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

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) and (b) The Number of Industrial Disputes & Applications Pending in the Central Government Industrial Tribuanl-cum-Labour Courts as on 31.10.98.

Sl. No.	Name of CGIT	Cases Pending	Applications Pending	
1.	Asansol	179	43	
2.	Bangalore*	630	435	
3.	Calcutta	243	39	
4.	Chandigarh	1237	358	(Sept. 98)
5.	No. 1 Dhanbad	1091	255	(Sept. 98)
6.	No. 2 Dhanbad	961	57	
7.	Jabalpur**	1598	1142	
8.	Kanpur	369	664	
9.	No. 1 Mumbai	213	51	(Aug. 98)
10.	No. 2 Mumbai	167	1248	
11.	New Delhi	863	384	
12.	Jaipur***	132	17	(Sept 98)
	Total:	7683	4698	

* Bangalore as on 30.4.98

** Jabalpur as on 31.8.97

*** Started functioning from 1.9.98.

(c) and (d) Major reasons for delay and steps taken thereof are:—

(i) Shortage of Labour Courts in States/Union Territories.

(ii) Filling up of vacancies of the post of Presiding Officer takes time.

(iii) Procedural impediments such as absence of affected parties at the time of hearing, adjournments sought by parties to file documents etc.

(iv) Expeditious steps are taken to fill up posts of Presiding Officers in Central Government Industrial Tribunal-cum-Labour Courts after observing all necessary formalities.

(v) Presiding Officers are also impressed upon about the need to reduce pendency of Industrial Disputes Cases in their Central Government Industrial Tribunal-cum-Labour Courts.

[Translation]

Supply of Liquified Natural Gas

3754. SHRI NARENDRA BUDANIA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have formulated any long term policy for liquified natural gas;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) If not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the role of interested private companies in the liquified natural gas sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (d) The import of Liquified Natural Gas (LNG) is on the OGL and, therefore, LNG can be imported, regassified and marketed by any party whether in the private sector or public sector. There are several private initiatives with regard to import of LNG and approval of the Foreign Investment Promotion Board has also been given in cases where foreign equity is involved.

[English]

List of VDIS leaked to Under-World

3755. SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the list of Voluntary Disclosure of Income Scheme was leaked to the under-world, which used it for extortion; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to identify and punish the officials held responsible?

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

(b) Does not arise.

Private Cars for Security Duties of VVIPs

3756. SHRI SATNAM SINGH KAINTH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have engaged private cars for security duties of VVIPs;

(b) if so, whether it is a violation of Motor Vehicle Act and also the Insurance Act; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to remedy the situation and hiring of commercial cars for the security duty of VVIPs?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) No, Sir. No private cars are used in the security of VVIPs.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Does not arise.

Procurement of Rice

3757. SHRI RAGHVENDRA SINGH: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the rice procured from rice millers under the levey scheme during the last three years have become substandard;

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

(c) the loss suffered to the Government as a result thereof;

(d) the steps taken by the Government against the guilty officials;

(e) whether substandard rice is lying at port at present; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PAL SINGH YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir. Some small quantities of rice have become substandard in the last three years.

(b) and (c) The stocks of rice procured under levy remain in storage in FCI often for a considerable period. During storage, shredding and shedding of rice bran takes place, due to which the rice stocks contain lose bran. Stocks containing more than 0.5% lose bran is categorised as Category 'D'. Such stocks are not issued for PDS and other welfare schemes till these are upgraded, to reduce bran percentage to less than 0.5% by sieving/cleaning.

A statement showing quantity of rice which became substandard during the last three years is attached. This includes both levy rice and custom milled rice.

(d) whenever any report of any officer/official violating the standing instructions regarding procurement of levy rice, strictly in accordance with the Govt. of India specifications, comes to notice, the matter is investigated and necessary disciplinary action is taken against those found guilty for such lapse.

(e) and (f) Since no import of rice has been done/ handled by FCI during the last three years, no stock of sub-standard imported rice is lying at the ports.

Statement

Quantity of Rice which became substandard in the last three years

(in MTs)

Year	Qty. of rice	Category
March, 1996	366949	'D'
March, 1997	440216	'D'
March, 1998	466206	'D'

T.B. Disease

3758. SHRI C.D. GAMIT:
SHRI MULLAPALLY RAMACHANDRAN:
SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA:
SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR:
SHRI AJAY CHAKRABORTY:
SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV:
DR. RAVI MALLU:
SHRI DINSHAW PATEL:
SHRI T. GOVINDAN:

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 "Five lakh succumb to TB every year" appeared in the 'Hindustan Times' dated November 7, 1998;

(b) whether India has the world's highest incidence of Tuberculosis with almost 2 million new cases every year;

(c) if so, the details of these cases detected in each State during each of the last three years;

(d) whether the World Health Organisation report published in March has criticised the Indian Government for delaying TB control plans;

(e) if so, the main reasons for not taking immediate action in controlling the Tuberculosis which has once again assumed alarming situation;

(f) if so, whether the Government had received a loan of US$142 million from the World Bank for TB control programmes;

(g) if so, whether the World Bank loan was cleared in February, 1997 and no action plan has been prepared by the Government to utilise this loan;

(h) if so, the reasons therefor;

(i) the time by which this action plan is likely to be prepared; and

(j) the further steps taken to eradicate these diseases from the rural as well as metropolitan cities of the country?

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

(b) and (c) Under the National tuberculosis Control Programme, around 14 lakhs new TB cases are detected and put on treatment each year. There is no authentic data available in regard to number of TB patients seeking treatment from private sector. Statement indicating the new TB cases detected in each State during each of the last three years is attached.

(d) WHO report has indicated a delay in the adoption or the expanded use of DOTS strategy under RNTCP.

(e) DOTS strategy was pilot tested in October, 1993 covering 2.35 million population and for administrative feasibility covering a population of 13.83 million. The RNTCP Programme with DOTS strategy was launched on 26th March, 1997. Currently under implementation covering 85 million population and shall be extended to cover 271 million population by the year 2000. In addition, 203 SCC districts with 447 million population will be strengthened as a transitional step towards adopting strategy at a later date.

(f) Yes, Sir.

(g) The credit agreement with World Bank became effective from May, 1997 and the loan was cleared by the World Bank on the basis of action plan submitted by the Government.

(h) and (i) Does not arise.

(j) With the implementation of DOTS strategy as mentioned above, a large number of microscopy and direct observation treatment centres will be opened which will result in further decentralization of the services in the rural areas as well as in metropolitan cities. These will be in addition to existing 446 Districts TB Centres in rural areas and 330 Chest Clinics in urban areas.

Statement

National TB Control Programme

No. of new TB cases detected and put on treatment under the Programme

Sl. No.	Name of the State/UTs	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	65999	65680	74137
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	3296	2880	3801
3.	Assam	15757	20108	18625
4.	Bihar	113409	112710	11133
5.	Goa	3432	2974	2810
6.	Gujarat	157074	116158	104635
7.	Haryana	21751	47944	37668

1	2	3	4	5
8.	Himachal Pradesh	16079	12084	5347
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	7302	11014	26993
10.	Karnataka	67311	71776	78883
11.	Kerala	27972	36829	19711
12.	Madhya Pradesh	72803	135050	77045
13.	Maharashtra	204569	190630	202299
14.	Manipur	3959	6645	3469
15.	Meghalaya	2614	4618	3060
16.	Mizoram	1067	1482	1332
17.	Nagaland	1192	1350	1626
18.	Orissa	29871	40850	24912
19.	Punjab	42341	48260	42121
20.	Rajasthan	36228	69344	46071
21.	Sikkim	2220	2800	1861
22.	Tamil Nadu	98665	125751	114165
23.	Tripura	2107	2528	2601
24.	Uttar Pradesh	265079	279789	289431

1	2	3	4	5
25.	West Bengal	67817	74352	66018
26.	Pondicherry	3311	3401	3417
27.	A&N Islands	1954	635	711
28.	Chandigarh	1383	1711	1819
29.	D&N Haveli	725	300	506
30.	Delhi	51603	42951	43313
31.	Lakshadweep	194	160	145
32.	Daman & Diu	611	244	—
		1389695	1533008	1309681

Promotion in Delhi Police

3759. SHRI AMAR PAL SINGH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Civilian Group 'D' Staff serving in Delhi Police are being given even a single promotion during their entire career;

(b) if so, the facts thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken to improve the career prospects of the said staff?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) and (b) The Civilian Group 'D' staff in Delhi Police, excepting those in the category of "Sweepers" and "Daftari", do not at present have any promotional avenue as there are no higher posts in direct line of promotion available to them.

(c) The Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi have been advised to expedite their decision on a proposal forwarded to them by Delhi Police for grant of *in-situ* promotion to such staff.

Allocation of Rice/Wheat to Orissa

3760. SHRI ARJUN SETHI: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the total quantum of rice and wheat being provided to Orissa under PDS/TPDS, during the current year month-wise;

(b) whether any complaint has been received regarding shortage of five to ten kgs of rice and wheat in each bag released from the F.C.I. Depots;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the action taken against the responsible officials; and

(d) the steps taken to check pilferages of foodgrains in the different Depots of F.C.I.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PAL SINGH YADAV): (a) Statement is attached.

(b) No Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Wheat and Rice are being supplied to the State Government of Orissa or their nominee after due certification of quality and quantity.

Statement

The Allotment and Offtake of Rice and Wheat to Orissa under TPDS during the current year (1998-99)

(In '000 Tonnes)

Rice

Month	Allotment				Offtake			
	BPL	APL	Addl.	Total	BPL	APL	Addl.	Total
April	31.82	3.72	10.00	45.54	26.55	11.83	—	38.38
May	31.82	3.72	15.50	51.04	30.99	11.91	—	42.90
June	31.82	3.72	15.50	51.04	38.58	18.64	—	52.22
July	31.82	3.72	15.50	51.04	33.50	15.12	—	48.62
August	31.82	3.72	15.50	51.04	31.89	3.70	15.50	51.09
September	31.82	3.72	15.50	51.04	33.17	20.68	—	53.85
October	31.82	3.72	15.50	51.04	34.23	3.72	8.90	46.85
November	31.82	3.72	25.50	61.04				
December	31.82	3.72	25.50	61.04				
January	31.82	3.72	25.50	61.04				
February—March	@ Includes 500 MT rice for Emergency Feeding programme in KBK Districts from May 98 onwards.							

Wheat

Month	Allotment				Offtake			
	BPL	APL	Addl.	Total	BPL	APL	Addl.	Total
April	—	—	25.00	25.00	—	23.95	—	23.95
May	—	—	25.00	25.00	—	22.20	—	22.20
June	—	—	25.00	25.00	—	28.59	—	28.59
July	—	—	25.00	25.00	—	—	30.81	30.81
August	—	—	25.00	25.00	—	—	32.57	32.57
September	—	—	50.00	50.00	—	—	47.03	47.03
October	—	—	50.00	50.00	—	—	47.39	47.39
November	—	—	40.00	40.00				
December	—	—	40.00	40.00				
January	—	—	40.00	40.00				
February								

Allotment Upto Jan. 99
Offtake upto October, 98 (P)

Repair of Bombay High Wells

3761. SHRI T.R. BAALU: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have accepted recommendations of Dr. Narayanan Committee on Bombay High oil fields;

(b) if so, the details of projects being executed for improving the wells in Bombay High and expenditure incurred and the progress made so far;

(c) the time by which these projects are likely to be completed: and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (d)

I. The Narayanan Committee has submitted its first Report covering Bombay High field to the Government. The major recommendations of the Committee are:—

1. Management of reservoir health.
2. Enhancement of oil production both in the medium term and long term basis from Bombay High.
3. Undertaking of some pilot projects which may be extended to fields later on.

4. Closure of certain wells with high gas oil ratio.

5. Organisational re-structuring of ONGC.

II. Action already initiated by ONGC for improving the Bombay High reservoir are:—

1. 3-D seismic data acquisition and processing completed.

2. Services of reservoir engineering consultant of international repute have been hired.

3. Management consultants are already working with ONGC for organisational re-structuring.

4. Out of 25 wells recommended for closure by the Committee, action on 16 wells having high gas ratio has already been taken. 7 wells have not been closed as opined by reservoir consultant. Performance of one well is under observation whereas action on remaining one well has been planned.

5. Action has been initiated on pilot projects namely Application of water alternate gas injection and Polymer Gel Treatment for water/ gas shutoff and for improved conformance.

III. As far as expenditure incurred by ONGC for the schemes being executed for improving the health of wells in Bomaby High is concerned, the details upto 30.11.98 are as under:—

	(Rs. in Crs.)
1. For data acquisition	118.71
2. For data processing	46.24
3. For consultancy services for hydro carbon at Bombay High (M/s Geffney Cline & Associates)	2.98
Total	167.93

IV. The anticipated completion time for major activities for Bombay High reservoir are as follows:—

1. Reservoir description especially in terms of permeability trend, flow units, mapping and integration with 3D Seismic data by August, 1999.

2. Integration of existing geological model with the recent findings of bio-litho stratigraphic studies by May, 2003.

3. Up scaling of geological model and preparing more accurate simulation model by August, 1999.

4. Development Plan Studies.—

- S1 sand by March, 1999.
- Western part of Bombay High South by March, 1999.
- Central part of Bombay High South by December, 1998.
- Western sector of Bombay High North by March, 1999.

5. Full scale simulation studies and planning spacing reduction programme by mid-2000.

6. Feasibility of application of Water Alternate Gas process-lab studies by May, 2000 and pilot design by June, 2000.

7. Pilot projects on polymer treatment for gas and water conformance control-field trial and post job evaluation by April, 1999.

V. A committee of experts set up by the Government has drawn up a monitorable action plan in consultation with ONGC and DGH. The action plan would be monitored by the Ministry on continuous basis.

[Translation]

Atrocities on Women

3762. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Commission for SCs/STs has played a meaningful role in redressal of unconstitutional excess committed on SC and ST employees in the public sector;

(b) whether some public sector undertakings are violating the orders of the said commission and openly challenging the rights of the commission set up under the Constitution;

(c) whether the National Fertilizers Ltd. an undertaking of chemicals and fertilizers department, has not implemented the order issued by the commission for the last ten months; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by the Government to fully implement the orders of the commission for redressal of excesses committed on caste basis to the SC/STs employees in public sector undertakings?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) So far no such specific case has been brought to the notice of the Government by the Commission.

(c) National Commission for SCs/STs do not issue order but make their recommendations to the Govt. through annual report or a special report, if any. Their Report alongwith Action Taken Memorandum is laid on the Table of both Houses of Parliament as per Article 338 of the Constitution.

(d) All necessary steps are taken to ensure that appropriate action is taken by the concerned organisation in such cases as are recommended by the National Commission for SCs/STs. Thereafter, the Report containing recommendations of this commission alongwith Action Taken Memorandum is laid on the Table of both Houses of the Parliament.

[English]

Widow Marriage

3763. SHRI G. GANGA REDDY: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EXPOWERMENT be pleased to state

(a) whether there is a proposal under consideration to encourage widow marriage by enacting a law;

(b) if so, the details of the proposed law;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether in order to encourage re-marriage or widow marriages including of divorcees the expenses are likely to be borne by Central/State Governments;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the amount paid at present to the widows marriage as a token of encouragement by Central/State Governments?

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

Foreign Visits of ONGC's Officials

3764. SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of foreign visits made by the officials of Oil and Natural Gas Commission (ONGC) during the last two years; and

(b) the purposes of their visits and the amount of expenditure incurred thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) A total of 853 foreign visits have been made by employees of ONGC during the last two years.

(b) These visits were undertaken for attending International Seminars/Conferences, Training Programmes, Work Association, attending Business meetings connected with the activities of ONGC, for evaluation of data/ equipment, for participation in International sports events, for participation in exhibitions/expositions connected with oil industry and for fulfilling contractual obligations connected with operation of ONGC abroad. The expenditure incurred on account of T.A. on these visits has been Rs. 26.36 Crores.

[Translation]

Appointment of Governors

3765. SHRI MOHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of Governors in various States whose tenure has been over; and

(b) the time by which new Governors in vacant places are likely to be appointed?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) and (b) Shri Mata Prasad, Governor of Arunachal Pradesh and Dr. A.R. Kidwai, Governor of West Bengal have completed five years in office, which is the normal term of office of a Governor. However, they continue to be in office by virtue of the provisions of article 156(3) of the Constitution of India. It may also be mentioned that consequent upon the death of Shri

Darbara Singh, Shri Justice Navaran Lal Tibrewal has been discharging the functions of the Governor of Rajasthan since May, 1998. The question of making regular appointments of Governors is receiving attention.

[English]

Purchase of Vehicle Tracking System

3766. SHRI SHANTILAL PURSHOTTAMDAS PATEL: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are considering a proposal to purchase Vehicle Tracking System for Delhi Police for efficient policing;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the estimated cost of the equipment; and

(d) the time by which it is likely to be installed by Delhi Police?

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

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

ONGC's Projects

3767. SHRI KAMAL NATH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the projects of Oil and Natural Gas Commission to boost oil production in Gujarat have got bogged down;

(b) if so, the details of projects to be set up along with their costs; and

(c) the total amount proposed to be invested by ONGC in these projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (c) Two projects of ONGC for Enhanced Oil Recovery (EOR) at Balol and Santhal field in Gujarat have suffered some delay due to non-availability of land for modification works. The details of the project are as under:—

	Name of the project	Total cost (Rs./Cr.)	Anticipated Completion date
1.	Commercialization of *In-situ* combustion South Balol	118.49	March '98 (without modification) March '99 (with modification)
2.	Commercialization of *In-situ* combustion North Santhal	278.37	Jan., 99 (without modification) May '99 (with modification)

[Translation]

Lithotripsy in Government Hospitals

3768. SHRI BIJOY KUMAR BIJOY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the best method to remove stone from kidney without pain is lithotripsy;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to introduce this new technique in Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia and other Government hospitals;

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

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI): (a) Lithtripsy is one of the techniques by which a kidney stone can be removed without pain. The use of this technique depends on various factors and hence it does not have universal application in treating kidney stone cases.

(b) No decision has been taken in this regard.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

[English]

Oil Exploration in Barmer

3769. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Shell India Production and Development Ltd. has explored oil in Barmer, Rajasthan;

(b) if so, the area of the oil field and the amount invested on drilling;

(c) whether the Oil and Natural Gas Commission (ONGC) has given option to stake in the venture; and

(d) if so, the percentage of stake?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) and (b) M/s Shell India Production and Development BV Netherlands, who have been awarded contract for exploration block RJ-ON-90/1 in Barmer Basin are carrying out exploratory activities in an area of 8887 sq. kms. There is no expenditure on drilling so far.

(c) and (d) Oil and Natural Gas Commission (ONGC) has not exercised its option to take 10% participating Interest at the time of signing of Contract. However, as per the provisions of contract, ONGC has an option to take 30% of participating interest, after commercial discovery.

Activities of NSCN(M) after Cease-Fire

3770. SHRI TH. CHAOBA SINGH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether despite the existing cease-fire between the Union Government and the Nagaland Socialist Council of Nagaland (M) the people are still suffering from kidnapping, extortion, threats and so on in the hands of the NSCN (M) cadres;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) if so, the scope and jurisdiction of this existing cease-fire?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) to (c) There are reports of kidnappings and extortions committed by NSCN (I/M) cadres. Security forces have been instructed to take strict action in all such cases and to proceed against such violators under law.

The current cease-fire is between the Government of India and the NSCN(I/M) as an organisation.

It has, *inter alia*, been agreed that during the Cease-Fire, the NSCN (I/M) would not undertake offensive operations like ambush, raid, sniping, and attack leading to death/injury/damage or loss of property; there would be no parading; (either in groups or individually) of NSCN (I/M) cadres in uniform and/or with arms; there would be no blockade of roads and communications, disruption of economic or developmental activities as well as essential services by the NSCN (I/M); no safe haven or sanctuary to any armed group or elements will be maintained; and forcible collection of money on essential supplies and intimidation of individuals including Government officials would be prevented.

Petroleum Exploration

3771. SHRI PRABHAT KUMAR SAMANTARAY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Oil India Limited has undertaken half-way its targeted petroleum exploration venture in the basin of river Mahanadi and Bay of Bengal;

(b) whether no exploratory drilling is being undertaken by the company despite encouraging results of earlier drillings;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the latest position in regard to exploration project in Orissa and adjoining offshore in the Bay of Bengal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (d) During the period 1978-1990, Oil India Limited (OIL) carried out about 3814 GLKM and 13943 LKM of seismic survey including processing and interpretation in Mahanadi Onshore and Mahanadi offshore and North East Coast offshore areas respectively. Additionally, aeromagnetic and deep seismic sounding were also carried out. Based on the geoscientific data several wells were drilled to probe the hydrocarbon

prospects in various geological plays available in the area. Although most of the wells could be drilled down to the objective depths, a few wells had to be abandoned due to severe down-hole problems encountered before reaching the objective depths. No commercial hydrocarbon prospects, however, could be established in any of the wells. Despite various geoscientific studies carried out by a firm of international repute, no hydrocarbons were discovered. OIL has already surrendered its petroleum exploration licence in the State of Orissa and North East Coast in Bay of Bengal. Nine blocks are proposed to be offered in offshore Mahanadi & North East Coast (NEC) area including four blocks in deep water areas under New Exploration Licencing Policy.

[Translation]

Intensive Development in Insurgency affected States

3772. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR CHAUDHARY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government had given directions to State Governments to have co-ordination in matters of intensive development, road construction and providing communication facilities in terrorist and naxalite affected areas;

(b) if so, whether the Government of Bihar has sent any proposal in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the scheme to be formulated by the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) to (d) No such proposal has been received from the Government of Bihar. Government of Bihar has been advised to speed up their socio-economic programmes.

[English]

Memorial of Mahatma Gandhi

3773. SHRI TATHAGAT SATPATHY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government purpose to establish a memorial of Mahatma Gandhi at Washington DC; and

(b) if so, the time by which the said Memorial is going to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) The Embassy of India, Washington is working towards it.

(b) The architecture of the memorial is required to be approved by the concerned statutory bodies in Washington. Work for the completion of the memorial will be undertaken thereafter. It is, therefore, not possible to indicate any definite time frame in this regard at present.

New Delhi Municipal Council

3774. SHRI NRIPEN GOSWAMI:
SHRI NARESH PUGLIA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the New Delhi Municipal Council has not sent any electricity and water bills during 1996-97;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the NDMC has sent Electricity and Water bills in lump sum and also charged 3% surcharge on the arrears;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether NDMC have received a large number of requests to accept the bill with surcharge in installments;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the steps taken by the Government to streamline the functioning of the NDMC?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) and (b) There was a gap of about seven months from September, 1996 to March, 1997 when NDMC could not send bills to the consumers because the contract awarded to a private contractor for preparation of electricity and water bills had to be rescinded on account of certain irregularities and it took NDMC some time to set up an in-house computer system for the purpose.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. The surcharge of 3% is levied only when the consumer defaults in making full payment against an earlier bill.

(e) and (f) Yes, Sir. The request received from the consumers for payment of charges in instalments is allowed subject to the payment of surcharge at the rate of 3% per cent on the deferred payment.

(g) After the installation of the in-house computer system, some shortcomings were observed in the software which are being progressively rectified.

Bhatinda Oil Refinery

3775. DR. SAROJA V.: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have given approval to oil Refinery project in Bhatinda;

(b) if so, whether the construction work has been started on this project; and

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

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

(b) and (c) Demarcation work is in progress in respect of 2,000 acres of land acquired for the project. Order has also been placed for construction of boundary wall.

Smile for All National Oral Health Programme

3776. SHRI S.S. OWAISI:
SHRI PRASAD BABURAO TANPURE:

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

(a) whether the Government have launched a "Smile for All National Oral Health Programme" to generate awareness about oral health hygiene among school children;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of schools covered and number of children so far provided this awareness programme:

(d) whether this programme has been launched all over the country; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and further strategy chalked out to promote health among school children?

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

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Supply of LPG through Pipelines

3777. SHRI JANARDAN PRASAD MISRA:
SHRI M.R. CHAUDHARI:

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

(a) whether the Government propose to supply LPG through pipelines in the country;

(b) if so, whether there is any proposal to provide such facility in Uttar Pradesh;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the names of other States to whom such facility is proposed to be provided; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (d) Presently, there is no proposal of the Public Sector Oil companies to supply LPG to consumers through cross-country pipelines in the country. However, there is a proposal of M/s. GAIL to lay a pipeline from Kandla/Jamnagar terminating at Loni *via* Delhi for Bulk Transportation of LPG to meet the LPG requirements of the Bottling Plants, primarily in the Northern Region. The project is scheduled to be completed by the end of April, 2001.

The main reason for not considering supply of LPG through Pipeline to household consumers is high cost involved in laying the pipeline network and safety reasons due to absence of any foolproof system to ensure safety of the pipeline network passing through public places in a city/town.

[English]

Shelter to ISI Agents and Militants

3778. SHRI SRIRAM CHAUHAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the ISI agents and militants of Lashkar-e- Toiba have taken shelter in Mosques and Madarsas in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Union Government in this ard?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) and (b) As per available information, a Pak national who was allegedly involved in a series of bomb blast cases in Delhi had stayed in a Madrasa in Shergarh, district Bareilly, in November-December, 1996.

(c) Government is aware of the sinister designs of Pak ISI to destabilise India by sponsoring terrorism and subversive activities in different parts of the country including its efforts to target and train misguided youth for engineering violence. A close and continous watch is, therefore, being kept on the situation and all necessary efforts, including sustained operations against terrorists and subversive elements, are being made to ensure that such designs are not allowed to succeed.

Supply of LPG to Tea Garden

3779. SHRIMATI MINATI SEN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the bulk supply of LPG cylinders for the workers of Tea Garden has been stopped;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the action proposed to be taken for supply of LPG in forest contiguous areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) and (b) The scheme of release of LPG connections under single subscription vouchers scheme including for the workers of Tea gardens has been stopped by IOC on the direction of the Govt. in the interest of preventing discrimination. There is no justification for giving priority connections on bulk basis when large waiting lists are there. Such workers may get themselves registered with the nearby LPG distributors for supply of LPG cylinders individually.

(c) In order to protect the forests in hilly areas, Government has allowed release of LPG connections across the counter at the locations situated above altitude of 2000 ft. MSL in all the hilly areas.

Development Corporation for Backward Classes

3780. SHRI ABHAYSINH S. BHONSLE:
SHRI VITHAL TUPE:
SHRI D.S. AHIRE:
SHRI MADHAV RAO PATIL:

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

(a) whether the Government have received any proposal from Maharashtra Government for setting up of a separate Development Corporation for Backward Classes;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the assistance provided to the Maharashtra Government for the said corporation; and

(d) the number of persons to be benefited therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) and (b) No Sir, the setting up of Development Corporation for Backward Classes by the State Government does not require approval of the Central Government.

(c) No assistance is provided by the Central Government for setting up of such corporations.

(d) Does not arise.

Appointment of Class-IV Staff

3781. SHRI JOGENDRA KAWADE: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether any direction to all the Ministries/State Governments/Banks/Financial Institutions/PSUs and other Government Organisations to recruit regular employees on permanent basis for the purpose of sweeping, cleaning, dusting and watching of office premises;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the action taken by the Government in view of the directions of Supreme Court thereto?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) to (c) The Central Government have prohibited employment of contract labour in the jobs of sweeping, cleaning, dusting and watching of buildings

owned or occupied by establishments falling under the central sphere except outside cleaning and other maintenance operations of multistoreyed buildings where such cleaning or maintenance operations cannot be carried out except with specialised experience. The Supreme Court in their judgment dated 6.12.96 in the case of Air India Statutory Corporation Ltd. *Vs.* United Labour Union & Others have *inter-alia* ruled that consequent upon abolition of contract labour under Section 10 of Contract Labour (Regulation & Abolition) Act, 1970, the linkage between the the contractor and the employee stood snapped and direct relationship stood restored between principal employer and the contract labour as its employees. In compliance with aforesaid directions of the Supreme Court, the enforcement authority under the Act have issued instructions to strictly enforce the said prohibitory notification in respect of establishments falling under the central sphere.

[Translation]

Permission for Marketing Anti-Impotency Drug 'Viagra'

3782. SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any requests from drug manufacturing companies for giving permission of marketing anti-impotency drug Viagra;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have taken into consideration the financial impact as well as impact of this drug on the health of a human being;

(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) and (b) Yes, Sir. A number of firms have applied for registration for manufacture of the drug Sildenafil Citrate, which is sold under the brand name Viagra by M/s. Pfizer USA, for domestic marketing. This drug taken orally as tablet, is stated to be effective for treatment of impotency. However, it is also contra-indicated for coronary-artery-disease patients, particularly if they are taking drugs like nitrates.

(c) to (e) Before approval is given for registering the drug, the applicants would be required to conduct preclinical toxicity and efficacy studies in animals before they establish the same in human beings. Appropriate authorities will also be consulted on the implications of introducing the drug in the country, including social and economic factors involved, before a final decision is taken.

Impact of PDS in States

3783. PROF. RITA VERMA: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Public Distribution System has different impact in different States and this system is not effective in states like, Bihar, Orissa and Madhya Pradesh;

(b) if so, the reasons for different achievements in different States;

(c) whether initiatives have been taken to strengthen the PDS in these States during the last three years; and

(d) if so, the extent to which this has changed the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PAL SINGH YADAV): (a) and (b) While the Public Distribution System (PDS) may not have had uniform impact across all the States/Union territories, it is not correct to state that PDS is not effective in States like Bihar, Orissa and Madhya Pradesh. In such a vast country with diverse production and consumption patterns it is difficult to pin-point all the reasons for varying impact of PDS. However, it can be stated that generally the performance and impact of PDS is more favourable in those States which have better administrative and more developed physical infrastructure backed by a sponger social consensus towards commitment of PDS as an instrument of social security programme and supported, in some cases, by the additional subsidy and foodgrains etc. from the states' own resources.

(c) The PDS has been criticised in the past, amongst other things, for its failure to serve the population below poverty line (BPL) and its negligible coverage in the States with the highest concentration of the rural poor. The Central Government took a major initiative towards correcting this imbalance by launching in June 1997, the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) envisaging issue of 10 kg. of foodgrains per month to each BPL family at specially subsidised Central Issue Price (CIP).

(d) A comprehensive formal assessment of the new initiative has not been made. However, indications are that the targeting measures undertaken under TPDS may have increased the amount of foodgrains reaching the poor.

[English]

Primary Health Centres

3784. SHRI HARI KEWAL PRASAD: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Primary Health Centres opened in the country during each of the last three years;

(b) the number of such centres in Uttar Pradesh;

(c) whether there is any shortage of doctors in the primary health centres in the rural areas of Uttar Pradesh; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI): (a) The number of Premary Health Centres functioning in the country as on 1.4.92 was 20701 and it was 22962 as on 31.12.97. The no. of PHCs opened year-wise during 1995-96, 1996-97 and 1997-98 (upto 31.12.97 figures provisional and under clarification) were 404, 85 and 516 respectively.

(b) As on 31.12.1997, 3808 Primary Health Centres are functioning in Uttar Pradesh.

(c) As per information available, as on 31.12.1997, there is a shortage of 1545 doctors in Primary Health Centres of Uttar Pradesh.

(d) The recruitment and posting of doctors in Primary Health Centres, is the responsibility of respective State Governments. The Central Government, however monitors and reviews the position and advises the state Governments from time to time to take special measures for filling up the vacancies.

Seven-Point Programme for Combating Terrorism

3785. SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI:
DR. ASHOK PATEL:
SHRI CHETAN CHAUHAN:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have formulated a seven-point programme to deal with terrorism;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) whether the Government have formulated a seven-point programme to deal with terrorism;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) and (b) The Union Home Minister convened a Meeting of the Chief Ministers of Delhi, Punjab, Jammu and Kashmir, Uttar Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Haryana and Rajasthan on 14.10.1998 to review the action being taken by these States to curb terrorist activities in these States. The Meeting, among others, recommended setting up of Special Task force to evolve and implement an Action Plan to identify and tackle the problems being created by terrorists and criminal gangs for coordinated operations against Inter-State criminals, greater coordination of intelligence and strategy, amending of old laws for effective countering of strategies adopted by the criminals, and strengthening of State Police forces, etc.

(c) Concerned State Governments have been requested to take immediate steps to implement the decisions taken at the meeting.

[Translation]

Supply of M.T.O. and Solvent

3786. Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd. has made a provision to supply kerosene and light diesel

oil to the retailers allowing direct lifting of oil from the company through oil tankers;

(b) if so, whether the Government are aware that all the S.K.O./L.D.O. distributors of the Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd. have not been supplied petroleum products *viz.*, M.T.O. and solvent by the company;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps being taken to remove the discrimination in the supply of different petroleum products?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (d) SKO, LDO, MTO and solvents are released by BPCL to its agents/distributors on ex-MI basis directly from its installations in tanks lorries. SKO is further distributed under the control of the Civil Supplies Deptt. of State Government, to various retailers/ consumers. As regards the other products, they are sold to consumers by BPCL's agents/distributors as per pre-cribed guidelines.

BPCL supplies MTO solvents to only those SKO/LDO agents, who have nec[illegible]y infrastructure to handle these products in addition to SKO/LDO. No discrimination is shown in this regard.

[English]

Oil Exploration

3787. SHRI ANAND RATNA MAURYA:
SHRI A.F. GOLAM OSMANI:

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

(a) whether the Government propose to invite the Private Sector for the exploration of oil in different blocks of the Sea adjoing eastern coast;

(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 STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (c) The New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP) approved by the Government in February, 1997, provides a level playing field in which both private and public sector companies can compete for the award of exploration acreages.

Various steps have been taken for implementation of this policy. At present, 48 blocks have been identified for offer, of these 26 blocks are in the eastern offshore. Bids are expected to be invited by early 1999.

Central Quota for MBBS Courses in State Medical Colleges

3788 SHRI GORDHANBHAI JAVIA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is Central Government quota of seats for MBBS courses in various medical colleges in the country particularly in Gujarat and Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the names of such colleges and the number of such seats, collage-wise;

(c) the eligibility criteria for admission against these seats;

(d) whether the Government have received complaints regarding mismanagement and irregularities in filling up these seats; and

(e) if so, the action 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) Yes, Sir. Some of the States, including Gujarat and Maharashtra, and some medical institutions are voluntarily contributing few of the MBBS seats in their medical colleges to the Central Pool maintained by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare on a year to year basis.

(b) Names of such colleges and number of seats reserved for central pool nominee are given in the annexure mentioned in Statement-I attached.

(c) Eligibility criteria is given in Statements-II attached.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) does not arise.

Statement I

Details of Medical Colleges in the country in which Central Government quota of seats for MBBS course are available alongwith the number of seats in each College

Sl. No.	Name of Medical College	Place	State	No. of seats
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Guwahati Medical College	Guwahati	Assam	6
2.	Assam Medical College	Dibrugarh	Assam	6
3.	Silchar Medical College	Silchar	Assam	3
4.	Patna Medical College	Patna	Bihar	5
5.	Rajendra Medical College	Ranchi	Bihar	5
6.	Dharbhanga Medical College	Lehariasarai	Bihar	5
7	J.N. Medical College	Bhagalpur	Bihar	4
8	Nalanda Medical College	Patna	Bihar	4
9.	M.G.M. Medical College	Jamshedpur	Bihar	2
10.	S.K. Medical College	Muzaffarpur	Bihar	4
11.	A.N. Magadh Medical College	Gaya	Bihar	4
12.	Maulana Azad Medical College	New Delhi	Delhi	6
13.	A.I.I.M.S.	New Delhi	Delhi	5
14.	L.H.M.C.	New Delhi	Delhi	30
15.	Pt. B.D. Sharma Medical College	Rohtak	Haryana	1

1	2	3	4	5
16.	Indira Gandhi Medical College	Shimla	Himachal Pradesh	5
17.	Medical College	Thiruvananthapuram	Kerala	5
18.	Medical College	Kozhikode	Kerala	5
19.	Medical College	Kottayam	Kerala	5
20.	Medical College	Alapuzha	Kerala	5
21.	Medical College	Trissur	Kerala	4
22.	Gandhi Medical College	Bhopal	M.P.	7
23.	G.R. Medical College	Gwalior	M.P.	6
24.	M.G. Medical College	Indore	M.P.	3
25.	Medical College	Jabalpur	M.P.	8
26.	Pt. J.L.N. Medical College	Raipur	M.P.	3
27.	S.S. Medical College	Rewa	M.P.	3
28.	Grant Medical College	Mumbai	Maharashtra	2
29.	I.G. Medical College	Nagpur	Maharashtra	1
30.	Govt. Medical College	Nagpur	Maharashtra	2
31.	S.R.T.R. Medical College	Ambajogai	Maharashtra	1
32.	Govt. Medical College	Aurangabad	Maharashtra	1
33.	Dr. V.M. Medical College	Sholapur	Maharashtra	1

1	2	3	4	5
34.	B.J. Medical College	Pune	Maharashtra	2
35.	Govt. Medical College	Miraj	Maharashtra	1
36.	Govt. Medical College	Nanded	Maharashtra	1
37.	S.B.H. Govt. Medical College	Dhule	Maharashtra	1
38.	S.V.N. Govt. Medical College	Yeotmal	Maharashtra	1
39.	S.M.S. Medical College	Jaipur	Rajasthan	4
40.	S.P. Medical College	Bikaner	Rajasthan	4
41.	R.N.T. Medical College	Udaipur	Rajasthan	4
42.	Dr. S.N. Medical College	Jodhpur	Rajasthan	4
43.	J.L.N. Medical College	Ajmer	Rajasthan	4
44.	K.G. Medical College	Lucknow	U.P.	3
45.	G.S.V.M. Medical College	Kanpur	U.P.	3
46.	S.N. Medical College	Agra	U.P.	3
47.	L.L.R.M. Medical College	Meerut	U.P.	3
48.	M.L.N. Medical College	Allahabad	U.P.	3
49.	B.R.D. Medical College	Gorakhpur	U.P.	3
50.	M.L.B. Medical College	Jhansi	U.P.	3

1	2	3	4	5
51.	Burdwan Medical College	Burdwan	West Bengal	3
52.	B.S. Medical College	Bankura	West Bengal	3
53.	North Bengal Medical College	Darjeeling	West Bengal	4
54.	M.P. Shah Medical College	Jamnagar	Gujarat	10
55.	J.I.P.M.E.R.	Pondicherry	Pondicherry	18
56.	Instt. of Medical Sciences (BHU)	Varanasi	U.P.	4
57.	M.G.I.M.S., Sewagram	Wardha	Maharashtra	4
58.	Christian Medical College	Vellore	Tamil Nadu	1
59.	St. John's Medical College	Bangalore	Karnataka	1
			Total: MBBS Seats:	252

Statement-II

Categories of Students Eligibe to be considered for Admission against the Central Government Quota of Seats for MBBS Course

(1) Students belonging to States/Union Territories with no Medical/Dental College.

(2) Wards of Defence personnel

(3) Children of para-military personnel serving in CRPF/ BSF etc.

(4) Children of personnel serving in Cabinet Secretariat (SSB/R&AW/SFF)

(5) Children of Indian staff serving in Indian Missions abroad

(6) Self-financing foreign students to be nominated by M/o External Affairs for meeting diplomatic/bilateral commitments

(7) Tibetan Refugees

(8) National Bravery Award Winning Children

(9) In addition to the category of students mentioned above, few MBBS seats are also allotted to Jammu & Kashmir on an adhoc basis due to the disturbed conditions in the state for allotment to students who have been affected by terrorism.

The eligibility conditions to be fulfilled by the candidates fro admission against the seats reserved for the Government of India and the guidelines to be followed while making selection of candidates are contained in the M/o Health and Family Welfare letter No. U 14014/ 84/86-ME(UG) dated 9.12.1986 which is enclosed at *Annexure.*

ANNEXURE

P.P. CHAUHAN
JOINT SECRETARY

NO.U.14014/84/86-ME(UG)
MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND
FAMILY WELFARE
INDIA
NIRMAN BHAVAN, NEW DELHI-11

Dated the 9th December, 1986.

Dear Sir,

As you are aware, we have been allocating MBBS/BDS seats to your state/Union Territory for the selection and nomination of eligible candidates, some instances have, however, come to our notice where some of the allottee agencies have not followed the relevant instructions issued by the Government of India while selecting and nominating candidates against the seats allotted by us.

2. It is once again reiterated that only children of (i) permanent residents of the State/UT concerned, (ii) the employees of the State/UT Government concerned; (iii) the employees of the Central/other State/UT Government on deputation to the State/UT concerned; and (iv) the employees of the Central/other State/UT Government posted in and having their headquarters within the State/UT concerned; will be eligible.

3. The children of Central/State/U.T. Government employees, aforementioned, should be treated at par with the local resident. The sole criteria for selection will be the academic merit of the candidates, subject to any special orders issued with the concurrence of the Government of India.

4. 22$^1/_2$% of the seats allotted to each State/UT concerned will be reserved for students belonging to Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes of that State/U.T. The break-up of this reservation will be as follows:—

(a) a distinct reservation of 15% for Scheduled Castes and 7$^1/_2$% for Scheduled Tribes.

(b) the reservation as mentioned in sub-para (a) above, can be interchanged. Thus, if a sufficient number of candidates are not available to fill up seats reserved for Scheduled Tribes, they may be filled up by suitable candidates from Scheduled Castes and *vice-versa*; and

(c) if the number of available Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe qualified candidates is less than 22$^1/_2$% of the seats; the balance can be given to non-Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe candidates.

5. Only those candidates will be eligible for admission against the seats reserved for the Government of India who have secured at-least 50% (40% in the case of candidates belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes or as amended by the Medical Council of India from time to time of the aggregate marks in English, Physics, Chemistry and Biology in the qualifying examination, Pre-medical/Ist year of three years degree course/Ist year of three year B.Sc. (Hons.) Course Pre-degree (two years ocurse/Pre-University (two years course)-10+2 under the new pattern of 10+2+3 or any other examination recognised as equivalent by the Medical Council of India). 80% weightage is to be given to the results of the eligible examinations for admission and 20% to that of matricultation or school leaving examination; when a candidate has passed B.Sc. or M.Sc. examinations, then 80% weightage is to be given to the results of the eligible examination, 10% to the results of the matriculation or school leaving and 10% on the results of the B.Sc. or M.Sc. examinations.

6. It may further be noted that —

(a) For a candidate who has passed the qualifying examination in the 2nd attempt, 2% of the marks from the total aggregate should be deducted in determing his merit; and

(b) Candidates who have passed the qualifying examination in more than two attempts should not normally be considered suitable for medical studies.

7. It is requested that the above criteria for the selection and nominations of candidates against the MBBS/BDS seats reserved for the Central Government should be strictly followed. The Central Selection Committee in this Ministry will also follow this procedure.

8. I shall be grateful for a line in acknowledgement of this letter.

Yours sincerely,

sd/-
(P.P. CHAUHAN)

To: Sates/UTs without medical Colleges.

Copy forwarded for information and necessary action to:—

1. The Ministry of Defence (ISSA) Board, New Delhi.
2. The Ministry of Home Affairs, (Rehabilitation Division), Jaisalmer House, Mansingh Road, New Delhi.
3. The Ministry of Home Affairs (Shri P.Vijayaraghavan, Deputy Secretary), New Delhi.

4. Director General, Border Security Force, New Delhi.
5. Commandant, C.R.P.F., R.K. Puram, New Delhi-110 066.
6. Director, S.S.B., East Block, R.K. Puram, New Delhi-22.
7. Ministry of External Affairs (Student Cell), (Shri G.P. Kapoor, Under Secretary), Shastri Bhavan, New Delhi.
8. Ministry of External Affairs (Welfare Cell), (Shri J.R. Blah, Deputy Secretary), New Delhi.
9. Cabinet Secretariat (Shri R.K. Ganger, Deputy Secretary), Bikaner House Annexe, Shahjahan Road, New Delhi.
10. The President, Medical Council of India, Diwan-e-Galib Marg, Temple Lane, Kotla Road, New Delhi.
11. DDG(M)/Dte. GHS (ME Section) Nirman Bhavan, New Delhi.

Sd/-
(P.P. CHAUHAN)
JOINT SECRETARY

[Translation]

Increase in CGHS Subscription

3789. SHRI A.F. GOLAM OSMANI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the amount of C.G.H.S. subscription from the Central Government employees has been increased five fold at one stroke;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the medical facilities have also been improved alongwith this increase in the subscription from the Central Government employees; 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) and (b) No, Sir. The information is given in the statement attached.

(c) and (d) Improvement of facilities under CHGS is a constant process. With a view to strengthen the facilities to CGHS beneficiaries, private hospitals have already been recognised under CGHS for various diagnostic/general/ specialised/super-speciality treatment facilities.

Rates of CGHS subscription prior to 1.5.98		Revised rates of CGHS subscription w.e.f. 1.5.98.	
Pay range (Rupees per month)	Subscription (Rupees per month)	Pay range (Rupees per month)	Subscription (Rupees per month)
Upto Rs. 1200	5	upto Rs. 3,000	15
Rs. 1201 to 1500	10	Rs. 3,001 to 6,000	40
Rs. 1501 to 1800	15	Rs. 6,001 to 10,000	70
Rs. 1801 to 2500	20	Rs. 10,001 to 15,000	100
Rs. 2501 to 3200	25	Rs. 15,001 and above	150
Rs. 3201 to 4000	30		
Rs. 4001 to 5000	40		
Rs. 5001 and above	50		

[English]

Supply of LPG

3790. SHRI BHARTRAHARI MAHTAB:
SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY:

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

(a) the details of demand, supply and consumption of LPG cylinders in Orissa at present;

(b) whether there is acute shortage of LPG cylinders in some parts of Cuttack, Angal and Jagatsinghpur of Orissa and Bihar;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken to improve the supply position in the States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) The LPG sales during 1997-98 were about 50 TMT in Orissa.

(b) and (c) The LPG demand of existing consumers enrolled with PSU oil companies in the State of Orissa and Bihar is being met by and large in full. However, whenever LPG backlogs develop due to law and order problems, floods or any disruption in availability due to emergency shutdowns at any of the productions sources etc., oil companies take immediate measures to meet the demand in the affected markets through maximising LPG imports and by operation of LPG bottling plants during extended hours and on Sundays and holidays to clear the LPG backlogs. Presently there is no LPG backlog in the States of Bihar and Orissa as reported by oil companies.

(d) Plans have been drawn for higher availability of LPG by increasing the capacity of existing production sources, putting up new plants and higher imports through existing and new facilities.

Reduction of Customs Duty

3791. SHRI SURESH KURUP: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to provide financial assistance to FACT (Cochin);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government are aware that the Fertilisers and Chemicals Travancore Ltd. (FACT) has suffered heavy loss due to the reduction of Customs Duty on caprolactum; and

(d) if so, the steps taken to tide over the present situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (DR. A.K. PATEL): (a) to (d) FACT has submitted a proposal seeking *inter-alia* moratorium on payment of interest for a period of two to three years on Government loans taken for the ammonia replacement project and for rescheduling of repayment of the principal.

The company has earned profit up to the year 1997-98. However, during 1998-99 (up to Oct. 98), it has reported loss which is ascribed amongst other things due to reduction of basic customs duty on caprolactum.

The financial performance of FACT during the past few years are as under:

(Rs. Crore)

Year	Profit/Loss
1995-96	76.76
1996-97	61.78
1997-98	53.94
1998-99 (up to Oct. 98)	(-) 78.99 (Prov.)

The company has requested for enhancing the basic customs duty on caprolactum, which has not been found to be tenable.

Hidings of Militants in Bangladesh

3792. SHRI SAMAR CHOUDHURY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the insurgent groups have made their hidings in hilly areas of Bangladesh adjacent to Indo-Bangladesh border and spreading their activities in Tripura;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Union Government so far on the requests made by the Government of Tripura for

the deployment of additional battalions of Border Security Force, Army of Assam Rifles in the State.

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) and (b) Reports indicate that there are camps in Bangladesh which are being used by North East insurgent groups for safe havens, sanctuary, and training purposes. The matter has been taken up with the Government of Bangladesh and they have assured that they will not allow negative elements to use their territory for activities prejudicial to the interests of India.

(c) The deployment of Army/Central para Military Forces is reviewed from time to time in view of the overall security scenario and the availability of these forces.

Review of National Health Policy

3793. SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have undertaken any review of the National Health Policy in view of the situation arising from emergence and re-emergence of diseases;

(b) if so, the details of lines on which this review has been undertaken;

(c) whether AIDS is proposed to be included in the National Health Policy; and

(d) if so, the details of programmes undertaken/ proposed to be undertaken indicating the success achieved over the years in curbing the different diseases under the National Health Programme/National Health Policy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI): (a) to (d) The exercise for revision of the National Health Policy has been initiated and will be finalised only after taking into account the views of State Governments, experts and all concerned.

The achievement made in respect of major National Health & Family Welfare Programmes is in the attached statement.

Statement

Statement showing Achievements under Major Health & Family Welfare Programmes in the Country during Eighth Plan

Sl. No.	Name of the Scheme	Achievements
1	2	3
1.	National Malaria Eradication Programme	The Malaria incidence has been contained between 2-3 million cases annually for more than a decade including 8th Plan period. The facilities for case detection and treatment for Malaria are in existence in all parts of the country free of cost. During 8th Plan period of Kala-azar endemic districts of West Bengal and Bihar states have been covered under Kala-azar Control Scheme and Filaria endemic urban areas have been covered under National Filaria Control Programme through 206 control units, 27 survey units and 199 Filaria Clinics.
	National Leprosy Eradication Programme	All the districts of the country have been covered with free MDT services so far. A total of 10.8 million patients have been cured by Multidrug Therapy. Reduction in prevalence rate of leprosy has been from 57/10,000 population in 1981 to 5.3/10,000 by March, 1998.

1	2	3				
3.	National T.B. Control Programme	69,91,861 new TB cases were detected and put on treatment during the 8th Five Year Plan.				
4.	National Programme for Control of Blindness	1992-93	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97
	Cataract operations performed (in lakhs)	16.00	19.13	21.65	24.70	27.20
5.	Family Welfare Programmes					
	(i) Immunization coverage					
	D.P.T.	2199681	23093503	23404982	22555482	23222363
	Polio	22115171	23209135	23578383	22776336	23516496
	B.C.G.	23460896	24091829	24704227	24133917	24924467
	Measles	20863860	21947283	21602060	20542489	21114788
	T.T. (Pregnant women)	21449559	22747066	23071570	22123908	22946180
	(ii) Family Planning Coverage					
	Sterilisation	4286306	4497450	4579514	4422319	3870226
	I.U.D.	4739858	6016714	6701995	6857882	568071
	C.C. Users	15004452	17282877	17706986	17297429	17214327
	O.P. Users	3001318	4302177	4873311	5090850	5250179
6.	National AIDS Control Programme	Intensive awareness compaigns through electronic and print media has resulted in generation of awareness about the disease both in the high risk groups and the general population in rural (35-40%) and urban areas (60-65%).				
		Awareness programmes through school and college education has taken up on a large scale in 18 States.				
		to ensure safe blood to the population, 815 blood banks in the government and voluntary sector have been modernised in phase and 40 blood component separation facilities have been taken up throughout the country. Mandatory testing of blood for HIV, Syphilis, Malaria and Hepatitis B has been introduced throughout the country. Infection through blood transfusion has been brought down appreciably over the last 2-3 years.				
		For control of Sexually Transmitted Diseases which have a direct co-relation with HIV/AIDS, 504 STD clinics in district hospitals have been taken up for modernisation.				
		Training of doctors is an ongoing process and key trainers are conducting training programme in clinical management and AIDS case diagnosis. The Indian Medical Association has so far trained more than 20,000 general medical practitioners with support from NACO.				

National Human Rights Commission

3794. SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the recommendations of the National Human Rights Commission has been implemented;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the decision taken by the Government thereon; and

(d) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to implement the recommendations by the National Human Rights Commission?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) to (d) The recommendations of the Nation Human Rights Commission as contained its four Annual Reports for the years 1993-94, 1994-95, 1995-96, 1996-97 were laid on the Tabie of tne Lok Sabha alongwith the Action Taken Report on 26.8.94, 26.8.95, 10.9.96 and 9.6.98 respectively.

Killings of Kashmiri Pandits/Hindu Labourers

3795. SHRI AJAY KUMAR S. SARNAIK: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether incidents of killing the Kashmiri Pandits and Hindu Labourers by the terrorists are increasing;

(b) if so, whether the Government realise that deeds of terrorism cannot be checked through resolutions and Diplomatic channels;

(c) if so, the strategy adopted by the Government in this regard;

(d) whether the Government presume to support the stand taken by the United States of America against the terrorists recently; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) Separate Statistics of killing of Kashmiri Pandits and Hindu Labourers are not maintained. However, there has not been any increase in the number of terrorist incidents in the country as a whole and the number of terrorist incidents in J&K have alsc decreased during the current year as compared to the corresponding period of previous year.

(b) and (c) Question does not arise.

(d) and (e) India has consistently condemned international terrorism and expressed its shock and sorrow over the tragic loss of innocent lives which it leads to. It is an issue of particular concern to us, as India has itself been a victim of State sponsored, cross-border terrorism in its most heinous form.

It is our view that to tackle the menace of international terrorism what is required is not selective unilateral action, but a meaningful international cooperation to identify and act against those responsible for international terrorism-whether individuals, terrorists groups or States.

Foreign Mercenaries

3796. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the entire militant operations/activities in J&K are now under the control of foreign mercenaries;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) and (b) Available inputs indicate that Pak sponsored militant outfits have been trying to push more and more foreign mercenaries into J&K to sustain militancy in the wake of local youth getting disenchanted with militancy.

(c) Government have adopted a well coordinated and multi-pronged approach for tackling the situation which *inter-alia* includes strengthening the border management, neutralising plans of militants by proactive steps against them in the hinterland, as also setting up of outposts of security forces and constituting Village Defence Committees, gearing up intelligence machinery, modernisation and upgradation of police and security forces with advanced/sophisticated weapons and communication system, training etc.

Super Bazar

3797. SHRI JANG BAHADUR SINGH PATEL: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Super Bazar is registered under Multi State Cooperative Societies Act;

(b) whether the Super Bazar has only one or two branches at Noida; and

(c) if so, the steps taken to open more of its branches in other towns of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYAPAL SINGH YADAV): (a) The Super Bazar, Delhi, is now registered under the Multi-State Cooperative Societies Act w.e.f. 22.1.1996.

(b) and (c) The Super Bazar has informed that, at present, they run branches at Noida, U.P. As regards opening up of more branches in other towns of the country, they have stated that apart from making their own efforts in this regard, they have approached various State Governments for allotment of space for branch expansion.

[Translation]

Renaming of Railway Stations

3798. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of railway stations whose names have been changed during the last three years; and

(b) whether there is any proposal to change the name of Dadar Railway Station of Mumbai as Chaityabhoomi?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) According to available information, the names of four Railway stations/junctions were changed during the last three years, from November, 1995 to November, 1998. These are:

1. Victoria Terminus as Chatrapati Shivaji Terminus.
2. Alwar Rly. Station as Alwar Junction.
3. Dehkora Halt as Rohad Nagar.
4. Bowanipore Rly. Station as Netaji Bhavan Station.

(b) No such proposal is under consideration at present.

[English]

Atrocities on Women

3799. SHRI B.M. MENSINKAI: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any plans to recognise Non-Government Organisations and other Government agencies to provide protection to women keeping in view the increase in crimes against women; 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 information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

Training Research and Rehabilitation Centre

3800. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to stated:

(a) whether the Government have received any proposal for setting up State level training research and rehabilitation institute in Madhya Pradesh;

(b) whether the State Government have agreed to provide suitable land and building for setting up this centre; and

(c) if so, the reasons for the delay and the time by which it is likely to be approved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) and (b) Yes.

(c) The reasons for delay are mentioned below:—

(i) The Planning Commission did not agree to this proposal as it was not included in the 9th Five Year Plan.

(ii) Since, there were other proposals of similar nature from different state Govts, the Deptt, of Expenditure suggested that all such proposals may be integrated for purpose of financial clearance.

It is not possible to indicate the timeframe in view of the various formalities involved.

[English]

Sexual Harassment

3801. SHRI SURESH WARPUDKAR: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether some women employees of Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) New Delhi have complained of sexual harassment at their workplace to the National Commission for Women (NCW);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the action taken/proposed to be taken by the NCW in this regard; and

(d) the steps likely to be taken by the Government to avoid such incidents in future?

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

Sugar Zones in Maharashtra

3802. SHRI PRASAD BABURAO TANPURE: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Maharashtra was divided into two sugar zones on the recommendations of BIFR to avoid injustice in levy price fixation;

(b) if so, whether Maharashtra was again divided into three zones in 1993-94 and put the sugar mills in central zones;

(c) whether sugar mills have requested the Government to put the Central zone in either of the two zones; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Government in this regard while announcing the levy sugar price for 1998-99?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYAPAL SINGH YADAV): (a) and (b) Prior to 1993-94, Maharashtra was divided into two zones *viz.*, (i) North Maharashtra comprising of Beed. Jalgaon, Aurangabad, Nanded, Buldhana, Parbhani, Osmanabad, Dhulia, Yeotmal, Dhule, Jalna and Latur area (ii) South Maharashtra comprising of Ahmednagar, Satara, Sholapur, Pune, Kolhapur, Nasik and Sangli areas. However, on representations from Industry a reference was made to Bureau of Industrial Costs & Prices (BICP), and on recommendations of BICP, the government sub-divided the South Maharashtra Zone into two zones *viz.*, South Maharashtra (Kolhapur, Sangli and Satara Districts) and Central Maharashtra (Pune, Nasik, Ahmednagar and Sholapur districts) with effect from 1993-94 season (Oct.-Sept,) for the purpose of determination of Levy price of Sugar.

(c) and (d) In the recent past no representation has been received from the sugar mills for inclusion of Central zone in either of the two zones, namely, North Maharashtra and South Maharashtra. However, the Hon'ble Member of Parliament has sent a letter requesting restoration of two levy pricing zones for Maharashtra instead of three zones at present. The levy sugar prices for the current 1998-99 season would be determined on the basis of the BICP Report submitted during 1997.

Health and Massage Centres

3803. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of health and massage parlours, slimming saloons are flourishing in the capital rather than as health services for the people;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether most of these centres are being run without any medical degrees;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) 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) to (e) The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare does not maintain data in this regard.

State Human Rights Commission

3804. SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the decision of the Uttar Pradesh Government has resolved against setting up of State Human Rights Commission;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereof;

(c) the number of complaints of Human Rights violations reported in U.P. during the last three years;

(d) the steps taken by the Government in this regard; and

(e) whether the Government propose amendment of the National Human Rights Act to make it mandatory for State Government to set up State Human Rights Commissions?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) Yes, Sir. The State Government of Uttar Pradesh after considering the matter decided that it is not necessary to set up a State Human Rights Commission as alternate grievance redressal mechanisms exist, such as :

(i) Uttar Pradesh Legislative Assembly and Legislative Council.

(ii) State Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes Commission.

(iii) State Backward Caste Commission.

(iv) State Minorities Commission.

(v) (1) Human Rights Cell in the Home Department of the State Government.

(2) Human Rights Cell in the Office of Director General Police.

(b) There is an enabling provision under Section 21 of the Protection of Human rights Act, 1993 to set up State Human Rights Commissions. The State Government which have not set up State Commissions have been advised from time to time to set up their respective State Human Rights Commissions.

(c) The number of complaints of human rights violation in the State of Uttar Pradesh as registered by the National Human Rights Commission, during the last three years are as follows:

Year	No. of Complaints Registered
1995-96	2,679
1996-97	8,668
1997-98	17,638

(d) The recommendations of the National Human Rights Commission are sent directly to the concerned authorities of the State Governments for appropriate action.

(e) At present, no such proposal is under consideration.

Petrol Pumps

3805. SHRI T. GOVINDAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of petrol pumps directly run by Oil Companies in Kerala;

(b) the details of profit and loss made by these companies in the operation of these petrol pumps during each of the last three years; and

(c) the steps taken by these companies to provide better service to the consumers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) No retail outlet is being directly run by the Oil Companies in Kerala.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Homoeopathy Colleges

3806. SHRI JAYSINHJI CHAUHAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of homoeopathic colleges functioning in the country, state-wise;

(b) whether the Government propose to encourage Homoeopathy treatment system with its prospects in future in the country;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Government in this direction; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI): (a) State-wise details of Homoeopathic Colleges functioning in the country as on 1.4.1998 are in the attached statement.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. In order to promote and propagate the Homoeopathic system of treatment alongwith other Indian system of Medicines namely Ayurveda, Siddha and Unani the Central Government has set up an independent Department of Indian Systems of Medicines and Homoeopathy under the Ministry of Health & F.W. from March, 1995. In order to stream-line the education in Homoeopathic system the Central Govt. has set up a statutory regulatory body by the name of Central Council of Homoeopathy. National Institute of Homoeopathy at Calcutta has been set up as a premier educational Institute. For undertaking the research activities, the Govt. has set up a research Council *viz.* Central Council for Research in Homoeopathy, New Delhi. The Department of Indian System of Medicines & Homoeopathy is also providing grant-in-aid to Homoeopathic Colleges in the country to upgrade their under-graduate and post-graduate faculties. In order to make available quality and standard drugs in Homoeopathy. An Homoeopathic Pharmacopoeia Committee is engaged in preparing and finalising the monographs, laying standards for preparation of Medicine. This committee has already finalised 710 monographs. For having quality control of Homoeopathic drugs Homoeopathic Pharmacopoeia Laboratory is functioning at Gahaziabad. Further more, to upgrade the Knowledge of Homoeopathic teachers and physicians, the Department is also operating re-orientation training programme for them and is providing grant-in-aid to U.G., P.G. College of Homoeopathy for development of infrastructure.

(d) Does not arise.

Statement

State-wise number of Homoeopathic Medical Colleges as on 1.4.1998

Sl.No.	Name of the State/UT	No. of Homoeopathic Medical Colleges*
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	4
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	—
3.	Assam	3
4.	Bihar	1
5.	Delhi	2
6.	Goa	—
7.	Gujarat	10
8.	Haryana	—
9.	Himachal Pradesh	—
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	—
11.	Karnataka	9
12.	Kerala	4
13.	Madhya Pradesh	8
14.	Maharashtra	37
15.	Manipur	—
16.	Meghalaya	—
17.	Mizoram	—
18.	Nagaland	—

1	2	3
19.	Orissa	5
20.	Punjab	5
21.	Rajasthan	3
22.	Sikkim	—
23.	Tamil Nadu	3
24.	Tripura	—
25.	Uttar Pradesh	10
26.	West Bengal	13
27.	A & N Island	—
28.	Chandigarh	1
29.	D & N Haveli	—
30.	Daman & Diu	—
31.	Lakshadweep	—
32.	Pondicherry	—
33.	C.G.H.S.	—
34.	Central Research Councils	—
	Total	118

Note:

Includes Govt. & Non-Govt. Colleges.

— Nil Information.

Figures are Provisional

Incidence of T.B. in Mining Sector

3807. SHRI RAM NARAIN MEENA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether growing incidence of tuberculosis (T.B.) among the labourers of mineral mining sector is spreading due to hard labour, malnutrition and polluted atmosphere;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether symptoms of T.B. have been found in more than fifteen per cent in poor labourers working in various mineral mining sectors including Satalkheri, Raniganj Mandi in Rajasthan;

(d) if so, the details of the steps taken to check the said disease;

(e) whether the Government propose to set up hospitals in such areas, location-wise; and

(f) if so, the time by which these hospitals are likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) to (f) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

Export of Rice by FCI

3808. SHRI K.S. RAO:
SHRI NADENDLA BHASKAR RAO:

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

(a) whether the Food Corporation of India has decided to export rice to liquidate its stocks since the domestic market is not in a position absorb the entire rice stocks;

(b) if so, the extent to which this decision is likely to help in maintaining the price of rice in the open market;

(c) the details of the present rice stock position with Food Corporation of India;

(d) the quantity of rice procured by Food Corporation of India so far and likely to be procured during the current season;

(e) whether the Food Corporation of India is in a position to procure the entire quantity of rice that is offered; and

(f) 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.

(c) The stock position of rice in the Central Pool as on 1.11.98 was as under:—

(Qty. in lakh mt.)

With FCI	With State Govts.	Total
87.05	19.47	106.52

(d) As on 16.12.98 a total of 51.60 lakh tonnes of rice (including paddy in terms of rice) has been procured for the Central Pool by FCI and State Government Agencies Procurement of rice is likely to be 115 lakh tonnes in the current marketing season keeping in view the current trend of procurement.

(e) and (f) Yes Sir. FCI procures paddy under Price Support Scheme directly from the farmers. Rice is procured under a system of levy imposed by the concerned State Governments on rice millers. FCI has made arrangements for procuring all quantities of paddy as well as rice subject to the condition that they conform to the specifications laid down by the Govt. of India.

[Translation]

Bhopal Gas Tragedy

3809. SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA VARMA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the families of the victims of the Union Carbide Gas Tragedy are not being provided homes free of cost as promised;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the family members of victims of the Union Carbide have to pay bribes for allotment of houses;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken to provide houses to the families of the victims?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (DR. A.K. PATEL): (a), (b) and (e) There is a scheme for providing residential houses to gas victims free of cost in the Action Plan which is implemented by the State Government of Madhya Pradesh. According to the criteria laid down by the State Government, houses have been allotted to the widows and orphans of the deceased gas victims. So far, 2293 houses have been allotted under the scheme.

(c) and (d) According to the state Government, no such complaints have been received, so far.

Ban on Manufacture of D.D.L.

3810. SHRI BAIJNATH RAWAT: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether oil corporation companies have imposed a ban on the manufacturing of D.D.L.;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government are contemplating to lift this ban; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (d) D.D.L. is not a petroleum product and hence oil companies are not concerned with it.

[English]

National Goitre Control Programme

3811. SHRI RANJIB BISWAL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the states where the National Goitre Control programme is being implemented;

(b) the amount spent on this programme during each of the last three years; and

(c) the details of achievement made under this programme in each State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI): (a) National Iodine Deficiency Disorders Control Programme (formerly known as National Goitre Control Programme) is being implemented in all the States/UTs of the country. The programme strategy includes Iodine Deficiency Disorders surveys, supply of iodised salt, monitoring of iodine content of salt as well as urinary Iodine Excretion and health education to increase public awareness.

(b) The amount spent on the programme during the last three years is as under:—

1995-96	Rs. 138.22 lakhs
1996-97	Rs. 240.00 lakhs
1997-98	Rs. 292.00 lakhs

(c) The details of the achievements made under this programme in the States/UTs are placed in the attached statement.

Statement

Prevalence of IDD & status of NIDDCP in different States/UTs of India

Name of States/ UTs	Total No. of Distts.	No. of Distts.		Ban notification issued	IDD Cell Estb.
		Surveyed	Endemic		
1	2	3	4	5	6
Andhra Pradesh	23	07	06	Partial*	Yes
Arunachal Pradesh	10	10	10	Complete	Yes
Assam	18	18	18	Complete	Yes
Bihar	38	22	21	Complete	Yes
Goa	02	02	02	Complete	Yes
Gujarat	19	16	8	Complete	Yes
Haryana	16	9	8	Complete	Yes
Himachal Pradesh	12	10	10	Complete	Yes
Jammu & Kashmir	15	14	14	Complete	No

1	2	3	4	5	6
Karnataka	20	17	6	Complete	Yes
Kerala	14	14	11	No Ban*	Yes
Madhya Pradesh	45	16	16	Complete	Yes
Maharashtra	31	29	21	Partial*	Yes
Mizoram	4	4	4	Complete	Yes
Manipur	8	8	8	Complete	Yes
Meghalaya	5	2	—	Complete	Yes
Nagaland	7	7	7	Complete	Yes
Orissa	30	2	2	Complete	Yes
Punjab	12	3	3	Complete	Yes
Rajasthan	27	3	3	Complete	Yes
Sikkim	4	4	4	Complete	Yes
Tamilnadu	21	12	12	Complete	Yes
Tripura	3	3	3	Complete	Yes
Uttar Pradesh	67	34	29	Complete	Yes
West Bengal	18	5	5	Complete	Yes

1	2	3	4	5	6
Andaman Nicobar	2	—	—	Complete	Yes
Chandigarh	1	1	1	Complete	Yes
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	1	1	1	Complete	Yes
Delhi	1	1	1	Complete	Yes
Lakshadweep	1	-	—	Complete	No
Pondicherry	4	—	—	Complete	No
Daman & Diu	1	1	1	Complete	Yes
Total	480	275	235		

(*) Complete ban notification is effective w.e.f. 27th May, 1998 as per notification issued under PFA Act. But the matter is *sub-judice* in the High Courts of Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra and Karnataka.

IDD: Iodine Deficiency Disorders.

NIDDCP - National Iodine Deficcency Disorders Control Programme.

Reply to the Letters of MPs

3812. DR. BIZAY SONKAR SHASTRI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that the Commissioner of Delhi Police is not responding to the letters of the Members of Parliament inspite of repeated reminders;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the steps taken by the Union Government to advise the Commissioner of Delhi Police in this regard; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) and (b) Delhi Police have reported that letters addressed to the Commissioner of Police by Members of Parliament are duly responded to, except in certain isolated cases in which the reply could not be sent in time because of the non-availability of the requisite information.

(c) and (d) There are standing instructions of the Government that the letters received from Members of Parliament should be promptly replied to.

[Translation]

Appointment of N.D.M.C.

3813. SHRI SOMJIBHAI DAMOR: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether all appointments to Group 'B' and Group 'C' posts in the New Delhi Municipal Council are being filled up by the Delhi Recruitment Board, as per the decision of the Cabinet dated 29th June, 1998.

(b) if so, whether any appointment has been made to the said groups in violation of Cabinet decision; and

(c) if not, the grounds on which the appointment to the posts of security officer and assistant security officer was made in N.D.M.C. by the Delhi Recruitment Board?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. However, the posts of Security Officer and Assistant Security Officer were directly filled up by NDMC by appointment of Ex-Servicemen.

[English]

Sanction of Battalions

3814. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh has urged the Union Government to sanction some battalions of the India Reserve Battalions to curb growing Naxalite activities in the State;

(b) if so, whether the Union Government have agreed to share the expenditure of each battalion that is likely to be deputed to Andhra Pradesh; and

(c) if so, the number of battalions so far sent to Andhra Pradesh and the extent to which the Union Government have agreed to help and assist the State Government in combating the terrorist/naxalite activities?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) The Central Government has already sanctioned 4 India Reserve Battalions for Andhra Pradesh. There is no demand for additional Bns.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) The Central Police Forces are made available to assist the State Government to maintain public order. The levels of deployment in any State, depend upon the overall security scenario and the availability of the Central Para Military Forces. It is, however, not in public interest to indicate the details of the Forces and their levels of deployment.

Tribals Suffering from Malnutrition

3815. SHRI MULLAPALLY RAMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that a large number of tribals are still living in abject poverty and suffering from malnutrition in the country;

(b) if so, whether any study has been made by Government into the living conditions of aborigines and tribals;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to increase their standard of living and provide nutrition to the tribals?

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

(b) to (d) Statement attached.

Statement

No study has been made by the Central Government regarding the living conditions of the aboriginees and tribals. However, based on newspaper reports of tribal deaths in some parts of the country in 1993, a Central Planning Committee under the chairmanship of Secretary, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment was set up to monitor preventive measures against deaths of children in remote and backward tribal areas. This Committee, in consultation with the State Governments, has identified 369 blocks in 52 districts of 13 states for priority attention. State Governments have been requested to prepare Action Plans consisting of measures such as setting up of an early warnings system, intesification of important programmes such as Drinking Water Health Services, Nutrition, Public Distribution System and employment generation to be implemented and monitored in coordination with the concerned Departments.

More specifically, the Ministry of Social Justice and Employment has launched a village Grain Bank Scheme during 1996-97 as a preventive measure against deaths of children in these areas. This is in addition to the various other 100% Centrally Sponsored Programmes under implementation for the Socio-economic development of the tribal such as assistance to Girls Hostels, Boys Hostels, Ashram Schools etc., schemes run through NGOs for the education of women in low literacy areas and for

assistance, to voluntary organisation for tribal welfare etc.

Allocation of Fund for ISM & H

3816. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the fund provided to the Department of ISM and Homoeopathy during each of the last two years;

(b) the fund provided to the CCRH and CCRA out of the total funds allocated to the Department of ISM and Homoeopathy; and

(c) the fund provided to the allied organisations under the Department of ISM and Homoeopathy and the criteria adopted in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT (EZHILMALAI): (a) The fund provided to the Department of ISM and Homoeopathy during 1996-97 and 1997-98 are as under:—

(Rs. in crores)

Year	Plan	Non-Plan	Total
1996-97	23.19	21	44.19
1997-98	32.80	33.65	66.45

(b) The fund provided to Central Council for Research in Homoeopathy (CCRH) and Central Council for Research in Ayurveda & Siddha (CCRAS) were as under:—

(Rs. in crores)

Year	Plan	Non-Plan	Total
CCRH			
1996-97	1.80	1.87	3.67
1997-98	2.25	2.84	5.09
CCRAC			
1996-97	2.98	9.86	12.84
1997-98	4.95	15.47	20.42

(c) The funds provided to the allied organisations are shown in the enclosed statement.

The criteria adopted to provide fund to the allied organisations, under Department of ISM and Homoeopathy are:

(i) The requirement (like research needs and administrative expenses) of the organisations as projected in their Budget Estimate/Revised Estimate and Five Year Plan and Annual Plan to run the organisation and implement various programmes.

(ii) The overall allocation of fund provided to the Department in Budget Estimate/Revised Estimate by the Ministry of Finance and under Five Year Plan and Annual Plan by the Planning Commission.

Statement

Funds provided to allied organisations (subordinate and autonomous bodies) under the Deptt. of ISM & H during 1997-98

(Rs. in crores)

S.No	Name of Organisation	1996-97	1997-98
1	2	3	4
1.	Pharmacopoeial Laboratory for Indian Medicine, Ghaziabad.	0.39	0.4
2.	Homoeopathic Pharmacopoeia Laboratory, Ghaziabad	0.5	1.68

1	2	3	4
3.	National Institute of Ayurveda, Jaipur	4.24	5.63
4.	National Institute of Homoeopathy, Calcutta	1.53	2.09
5.	National Institute of Unani Medicine, Bangalore	1	1.5
6.	National Institute of Naturopathy, Pune	0.25	0.21
7.	Rashtriya Ayurveda Vidyapeeth	0.4	0.26
8.	Institute of Post-graduate Teaching and Research, Jamnagar	2.65	2.4
9.	Central Council for Research in Ayurveda and Siddha	12.84	20.42
10.	Central Council for Research in Unani Medicine	6.31	8.39
11.	Central Council for Research in Yoga and Naturopathy, New Delhi	0.66	1.07
12.	Central Council for Research in Homoeopathy, New Delhi	3.67	5.09
13.	Central Research Institute for Yoga, New Delhi	0.7	1.09
14.	Central Council of Homoeopathy, New Delhi	0.67	0.52
15.	Central Council of Indian Medicine, New Delhi	0.51	0.69

Visit of J&K by Team of Officers

3817. SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS to be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have recently deputed a team of officers to visit J&K to study the situation created by Pak troops along the borders of J&K;

(b) if so, the details of reports submitted by the team of officers; and

(c) the action taken by Union Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) to (c) An Officer of Ministry had visited some of the affected areas to make preliminary assessment. As per available information, 2955 families from Bishnah, Samba and R.S. Pura Tehsils of Jammu district and Hiranagar Tehsil of Kathua District have been affected by the firing from across the border. The State Government have already announced certain relief measures for the victims of the border firing. the State Government have been requested to provide additional relief and also make available alternative shelters in the safe areas to the affected population.

Pulses on Subsidised Rates in Super Bazar

3818. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether pulses are being sold on subsidised rates without prior approval of the Board of Directors in Super Bazar since November, 1998;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the loss suffered so far as a result thereof;

(d) whether an enquiry has been conducted in this regard:

(e) if so, the outcome thereof and the action taken against the responsible officials?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYAPAL SINGH YADAV): (a) and (b) According to the information furnished by Super Bazar, Delhi; they have not sold any pulses at subsidised rates in November, 1998. However, the prices of pulses in Super Bazar were reduced at the instance of the Govt. of NCT of Delhi.

(c) to (e) Since pulses were sold at reduced rates, the Super Bazar Delhi has requested the Govt. of NCT of Delhi for meeting the losses.

Srikrishna Commission Report

3819. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE:
SHRI RAMKRISHNA BABA PATIL:
DR. RAM CHANDRA DOME:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Maharashtra had made any reference to the Union Government with regard to Justice Srikrishna Commission report and the action taken report thereon;

(b) the situation arising from rejection of the said report by the Government of Maharashtra;

(c) if so, the norms for such reference; and

(d) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) Government of Maharashtra had not made any reference to the Union Government with regard to the issues contained in the Srikrishna Commission Report and Action Taken Report thereon. However, they made references seeking assistance of Central Para-Military Forces and also forwarding copies of the Report and Action Taken Report.

(b) to (d) 'Public Order' and 'Police' are State subjects as per the constitution of India and therefore, maintenance of law and order, as well as the prevention of crime are primarily the responsibility of the State Governments.

[Translation]

Campaign against Consumer Courts

3820. SHRI RAMPAL UPADHYAY:
SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY:

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

(a) whether consumer movement is getting momentum with the assistance of consumer applications;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the campaign being carried out by the vested interests against the consumerism and the utility of the consumer courts;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the number of cases reported and the action taken against them during the last two years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYAPAL SINGH YADAV): (a) and (b) Consumer movement is gaining momentum as a result of the continuos efforts made by the Government, voluntary consumer organisations, consumer activists and others working in the field of consumer welfare. The Government has taken a number of steps for creating consumer awareness which include among others publicity through audio-visual/print media, encouraging voluntary consumer organisaions/ NGOs to propagate the message of consumer welfare in rural and urban areas as well as to make the consumers aware of their rights and resposibilities.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) does not arise.

[English]

Allotment of LPG Agencies and Petrol Pumps

3821. SHRI AMAN KUMAR NAGRA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Oil Corporation has violated multiple dealerships norms and allotted L.P.G. agencies and petrol pumps to two members of the same family in Uttar Pradesh;

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

(c) if so, the details thereof and number of distributors and proprietors found guilty; and

(d) the action taken/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) IOC has reported that no LPG distributorship and retail outlet dealership has been sanctioned to two members of the same family in Uttar Pradesh.

(b) to (d) do not arise.

Ciba Vision

3822. SHRI SANDIPAN THORAT: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "CIBA VISION launches product not approved by FDA" appearing in "The Observer" dated July 29, 1998;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of steps taken/proposed to strengthen Drug Regulatory Mechanism at State level?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (DR. A.K. PATEL): (a) to (e) Yes, Sir. As per the information supplied by the Drug Controller General of India, it is not rue that 'Solocare' marketed by M/s. Ciba Vision is not approved by the FDA, USA. Further the product in question is a soft lense cleaning solution and has not been notified as a drug under Section 3(b)(ii) under Drugs & Cosmetics Act.

[Translation]

Multi-Purpose Agency for Jain Commission Report

3823. SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up a multi-purpose agency for inquiring into the doubts raised in the Jain Commission report;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the progress made in the inquiry; and

(c) the time by which the inquiry work is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) The Central Government have constituted a Multi-disciplinary Monitoring Agency (MDMA) in the CBI for monitoring, co-ordinating and investigating issues arising out of Memorandum of Action Taken (MOAT) on the Final Report of the Jain Commission of Inquiry relating to the Assassination of Shri Rajiv Gandhi former Prime Minister of India.

(b) The preliminary work regarding posting of personnel and acquisition of premises for the MDMA has been started.

(c) It is expected that the MDMA will complete its task as soon as possible but not later than two years as per mandate given to it by the Government.

[English]

Targets for Oil Reserves

3824. PROF. P.J. KURIEN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any differences over the setting up of targets for the accretion of oil reserves for the Ninth Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken to resolve the differences?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (c) No, Sir. However, DGH'

view on estimation of reserve accretion during the IXth plan was lower from those projected by ONGC in their recast IXth plan programme. Such differences in the quantum of future estimation emanate from the perception and methodology followed which is a common industry-wide phenomenon.

Flesh Trade

3825. SHRI BHERU LAL MEENA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether flesh trade is flourishing in various parts of Delhi particularly at Baba Kharak Singh Marg, New Delhi;

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

(c) the number of persons arrested and jailed after legal proceedings during the last three years;

(d) whether in many cases the police officials released the guilty persons after arresting them;

(e) if so, the action taken against the guilty police officials; and

(f) the steps taken by the Union Government to check such trade?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) to (c) Year-wise details of cases reported, number of persons arrested and number of persons convicted during the last three years in Delhi under the Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956 are as under:

Year	Number of cases reported	Number of persons arrested	Number of persons convicted
1996	131	365	36
1997	117	310	25
1998 (upto 30.11.98)	69	174	18

Of these cases, the number of cases reported at Baba Kharak Singh Marg, New Delhi is as under:—

1996	03	10	02
1997	13	21	06
1998 (upto 30.11.98)	Nil	Nil	Nil

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

(f) The steps taken by Government to check such crime include intensification of patrolling especially from 6 P.M. to 10 P.M.; surveillance over the anti-social elements, improved intelligence gathering and high visibility of police in such areas.

Strike by Resident Doctors

3826. SHRI D.S. AHIRE:
SHRI MOHAN RAWALE:
SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT:
SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK:
SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SINGH:

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

(a) whether the Services in the Government Hospitals paralysed due to Resident Doctors' strike in the Capital in November, 1998;

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

(c) the steps taken by the Government to redress their grievances?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI): (a) The resident doctors had gone on strike in November, 1998.

(b) Their demands were for increase in their emoluments, book allowance, financial assistance for thesis, grant of leave, LTC, categorisation of Resident Doctors, grant of transport allowance, bonus and provision of better accommodation etc.

(c) The orders on revision of emoluments and book allowance have been issued.

Translation]

International Line of Control

3827. PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA:
DR. CHINTA MOHAN:
SHRI SHANKAR PRASAD JAISWAL:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir has suggested to accept the present line of control as International Line of Control to resolve the Kashmir problem; and

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

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) and (b) Government are aware of certain reports in the Media about such Statements, purportedly made by the Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir. The position of the Government is that the whole of the State of Jammu and Kashmir, including the area under illegal occupation of Pakistan, and portions of the State illegally ceded by Pakistan, is an integral part of India. Resolutions were passed by both the Houses of Parliament in this regard on 22nd February, 1994 and Government remains committed to them.

[English]

Insurgency in North-East

3828. SHRI ANANT KUMAR HEGDE: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the amount spent to work out insurgency in North-Eastern States during each of the last three years;

(b) the number of persons killed by the militants in the States during the said period, State-wise; and

(c) the number of militants killed and arrested?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) Subject matter pertains to respective State Governments.

(b) The requisite information is as follows:—

State	1996	1997	1998
Arunachal Pradesh	0	15	4 (upto Oct.)
Assam	389	370	466 (upto Oct.)
Manipur	182	344	135 (upto Nov. 15)
Meghalaya	7	3	13 (upto Oct.)
Mizoram	0	4	0 (upto Nov. 15)
Nagaland	192	135	39 (upto Nov. 15)
Tripura	99	211	222 (upto Oct.)

(c) As per available information, during 1996, 1997 and 1998 (upto Nov. 30), 1171 militants have been killed in the North Eastern States and 3955 have been arrested.

Supply of Fertilizer

3829. SHRI CHETAN CHAUHAN: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any agreement has been signed with any foreign country for the supply of fertilizers during 1997 and 1998 till date;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the terms and conditions thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (DR. A.K. PATEL): (a) to (c) Amongst fertilizers, Urea, DAP and MOP are the major fertilizers which are imported. Urea is imported on Government account while DAP and MOP are freely importable on private trade account. No agreement has been signed during 1997 and in 1998 till date for import of Urea. It is purchased on the basis of global tenders by canalizing agencies. Similar information for DAP and MOP is not maintained in the Department.

ESI Hospitals in Kerala

3830. SHRI N.K. PREMCHANDRAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to improve the existing Homoeo and Ayurvedic treatment facilities available to the employees in Kerala through ESI schemes;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government accord sanction for commencing new Homoeo units in the existing selected ESI Hospitals in Kerala; and

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

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) Under the ESI Scheme there are already 10 Ayurvedic dispensaries/wings and 14 Homoeo Units providing treatment/cure to the ESI beneficiaries in Kerala. The ESI Corporation has decided to improve the Indian System of Medicines in certain states including Kerala. The responsibility for administration of medical care under the ESI Scheme vests in the State Governments Therefore, new units are sanctioned by the ESIC as and when the same is recommended by the State Government on the basis of norms evolved in this regard.

[Translation]

Official Language

3831. SHRI RAMTAHAL CHAUDHARY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there have been large scale financial irregularities in the department of the official language;

(b) if so, whether the Government have ordered any probe into it and taken any action against the erring officials; and

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

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) to (c) No incident of large scale financial irregularities in the Department of Official Language has come to notice at present.

Deployment of Central Reserve Forces

3832. SHRI SURENDRA PRASAD YADAV (JAHANABAD): Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government propose to continue the deployment of Central Reserve Police Force until the terrorism is uprooted completely in the terrorism affected States;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government also propose to waive of the payment for such deployments;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) to (e) The Central Para Military Forces are made available to the State Governments on their request to maintain public order. Keeping in view the overall security scenario and the availability of these forces, Central Para Military Forces have been deployed in various States. It is not in public interest to indicate the details of the Forces and their levels of deployment. Some of the States like Jammu & Kashmir and North Eastern States except Assam are fully exempted from payment of deployment charges. In the case of Assam, only 10% of the deployment charges are levied.

Minority Status

3833. DR. CHINTA MOHAN: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a senior leader of US Congress Mr. France-Palon has requested the Union Government to

accord status of minority to the Hindus of Jammu & Kashmir;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the decision 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) No such proposal has been received by the Government.

(c) Does not arise.

Review of Fertilizer Industry

3834. SHRI ARVIND KAMBLE:
SHRI SANDIPAN THORAT:

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

(a) whether the position of fertilizers Industry and its production has been reviewed at the Prime Minister level recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of growth strategy and time bound plan of action for better performance for the current year and Ninth Plan formulated PSU-wise; and

(d) the present position of acute financial problems in the fertilizer sector in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (DR. A.K. PATEL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The fertilizer industry has adopted the following strategy to increase fertilizer production:—

(i) Retrofitting/Revamping of existing fertilizer plants.

(ii) Overcoming the constraints in the availability of natural gas by setting up naphtha based expansion projects and installing dual fuel/ feedstock facilities in the existing plants and projects under implementation; and

(iii) Setting up joint venture projects in countries having abundant and cheap raw material resources.

To encourage investment in the fertilizer sector and to reduce the cost of production, the following concessions are available to the fertilizer industry.

(i) Normally, no industrial license is required for setting up a fertilizer plant.

(ii) Duty free import of capital goods for setting up of new plants/modernisation of existing units.

(iii) Deemed export benefits to indigenous suppliers of goods to fertilizer projects provided such supplies are made under the procedure of international competitive bidding.

(iv) Duty free import of fertilizer raw materials and intermediates.

(v) Concession on decontrolled phosphatic and potassic fertilizers to promote the balanced use of nutrients.

(d) Urea is covered under the Retention Price-cum-Subsidy Scheme (RPS) under which the units are assured a reasonable return not the investment. In respect of decontrolled phosphatic fertilizers, Government have been giving concession the rates of which have been hiked significantly in the recent years and the administration of the scheme streamlined with a view to enable the units to improve their financial performance.

Welfare of the Backward Classes

3835. DR. MADAN PRASAD JAISWAL: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of schemes proposed for providing benefits to the other Backward Classes by the Government;

(b) whether the said schemes for the welfare of other backward classes have been implemented during the last two years;

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

(d) the special efforts made by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) Recently Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment has launched five new schemes for providing benefits to the Other Backward Classes as under:

(i) Scheme of Hostels for OBC Boys & Girls;

(ii) Scheme of Pre-Metric Scholarships for OBC Students;

(iii) Scheme of Post-Matric Scholarships for OBC Students;

(iv) Scheme of Pre-Examination Coaching for OBC Students;

(v) Scheme of Assistance to Voluntary Organisations for Welfare of OBCs.

(b) No Sir, all these schemes have been launched recently.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) A National level Conference of States Secretaries incharge of Backward Classes welfare was held on 04-12-1998 to speed up the implementation of these schemes.

Revenue Earned by Fertiliser Industry

3836. SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the revenue earned by the Union Government from the Fertilizer Industry during 1996-97, 1997-98 and till date;

(b) the total amount spent on various fertilizer schemes during the said period;

(c) the details of the policy formulated by the Government to encourage fertiliser industry during 1998-99; and

(d) the total value of the fertilizers produced till 31.10.98 as compared to the corresponding period of the last year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (DR. A.K. PATEL): (a) There is no excise duty on the fertilizers. The details of the corporate tax paid by the fertilisers companies are not available in the Department.

(b) An amount of Rs. 6192.35 crore and Rs. 8617.93 crore was spent in 1996-97 and 1997-98 respectively on various schemes, such as Retention Price-cum-Subsidy Scheme, Scheme of Concessional Sale of Decontrolled P & K Fertilizers, Interest Concession Scheme, Import Substitution Incentive Scheme, etc.

(c) The following incentives are available for encouraging investment in fertilizer sector:—

(i) Normally no industrial licence is required for setting up a fertilizer plant.

(ii) Duty free import of capital goods for setting up of new plants/modernisation of existing units.

(iii) Deemed export benefits to indigenous suppliers of capital goods to fertilizer projects provided such supplies are made under the procedure of international competitive bidding.

(iv) Duty free import of fertilizer raw materials and intermediates.

(v) Reasonable return on investment to the entrepreneurs under the Retention Price-cum-Subsidy Scheme, at present applicable to urea.

(vi) Concession on decontrolled phosphatic and potassic fertilizers to promote the balanced use of nutrients.

(d) The production of nitrogenous and phosphatic fertilizers during 1998-99 (till Oct '98) has been 59.08 LMT and 17.05 LMT, respectively as compared to 55.68 LMT and 17.00 LMT, during the corresponding period in 1997-98. Urea is sold at the statutory sale price fixed by the Government of India. Similarly, phosphatic and potasstic fertilizers are sold at the indicative sale price fixed by the Government.

[English]

Medicine for AIDS, TB and Cancer

3837. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH:
DR. ULHAS VASUDEO PATIL:
SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SINGH:
SHRI SADASHIV RAO D. MANDLIK:

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

(a) whether the Government are aware that a medicine has been developed to regain resistence power of the persons suffering from AIDS, TB and Cancer in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the likely time by which its availability is possible in the market?

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

World Food Programme

3838. SHRI ANNASAHEB M.K. PATIL: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have signed an agreement with World Food Programme for improvement of food security through forestry activities in tribal areas of the country;

(b) if so, the details and objectives thereof;

(c) whether the Government had declined the offer made by World Food Programme for assistance; 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) Yes, Sir. The Government of India, Ministry of Agriculture have signed an agreement with the World Food Programme (WFP), for implementing a project titled—"Improvement of Food Security through Forestry Activities in Tribal Areas of Bihar, Orissa, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan".

The main objectives of the project are:—

(i) To provide sustainable improvement in the target group's food security and income; and

(ii) Empowerment of communities particularly women and households through participatory integrated rural development.

Under the Project, WFP will provide wheat (91355 MT), Rice (42600 MT), pulses (12560 MT) and Vegetable Oils (3465 MT) with an estimated Food cost of US$ 45.560 million over a period of five years for distribution at concessional prices to the daily wage labourers of the State Forest Department belonging to the most disadvantaged & poorest population.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Enquiry against IOC's Officers

3839. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:
SHRI BAIJNATH RAWAT:

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

(a) whether an inquiry is being conducted against some officers in the Vigilance department of Indian Oil Corporation;

(b) if so, the number thereof;

(c) the number of cases out of them disposed of; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) and (b) As on 15.12.98, 81 inquiries are being conducted against some officers of IOC by the Vigilance Deptt. of IOC.

(c) Nil.

(d) The cases are under various stages of enquiry. It is not possible to indicate firm time schedule for completing these enquiries.

LPG Bottling Plants

3840. SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR:
SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH:
SHRI PRABHAT KUMAR SAMANTARAY:
SHRI PRABHASH CHANDRA TIWARI:
SHRIMATI MINATI SEN:
SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT:
SHRI D.S. AHIRE:

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

(a) whether there is any proposal to set up new LPG Bottling Plants to meet the demand of LPG in the country particularly in Bihar;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith their locations, names of oil companies with their bottling capacity and the cost likely to be involved in each plant, State-wise.

(c) the number of such plants at present in the country alongwith their locations and bottling capacity of each plant;

(d) the details of safety measures implemented for the welfare of workers in these plants; and

(e) the time by which Bottling plant envisaged at Haldiagara in Orissa is likely to be made operational?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The details of new bottling plants planned in the State of Bihar are as under:

Location	Oil Co.	Capacity (TMTPA)
Jamshedpur	IOC	88
Barauni	IOC	15
Begusarai	BPC	22
Purnea	HPC	10
Ranchi	BPC	22
Patna	HPC	22
Jamshedpur	HPC	10
Bokaro	IOC	22
Patna	IOC	44
Muzaffarpur	IOC	22
Darbhanga	IOC	22
Bhagalpur	IOC	22

The cost of the bottling plants, yet to be firmed up, will depend on a number of factors like cost of land, type of land, quality of soil etc. The exact cost for such plants is evaluated after land approval and soil investigation etc.

(c) As on 1.10.98, there were 100 LPG bottling plants of PSU Oil Companies operating in the country with a total capacity of 3795 TMTPA.

(d) LPG Bottling Plants are constructed as per the existing National standards/statutory codes like OISD, Static and Mobile Pressure Vessels Rules, Gas Cylinder rules, Factory Act etc. to comply with the requirements of Safety and Welfare of the workers.

(e) In view of deregulated scenario, economic viability of Haldigara LPG bottling plant is under study. It takes about 24 months for the construction of a LPG bottling plant after approval of its project report.

[English]

Subsidy on Onion

3841. SHRI MADHAV RAO PATIL:
SHRI ABHAYSINH S. BHONSLE:
SHRI PRASAD BABURAO TANPURE:
SHRI VITHAL TUPE:
SHRI ASHOK NAMDEORAO MOHOL:

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

(a) whether the Union Government have provided 50 per cent subsidy to the National Capital Territory of Delhi for distribution of onion at subsidised rate through Ration Cards;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Maharashtra has also distributed the onion at subsidised rate in Mumbai and other States at its own cost;

(d) if so, whether the Union Government have decided to imburse the subsidy to Maharashtra which was incurred on the distribution of onion;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor;

(f) whether some requests have been received for providing subsidy on onion from other States;

(g) if so, the details thereof; and

(h) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYAPAL SINGH YADAV): (a) and (b) The Union Government has agreed in principle to provide subsidy on matching basis to the Government of NCT of Delhi for distribution of onions at a subsidised rate.

(c) the State Government of Maharashtra distributed onions through public distribution outlets in the State.

(d) to (h) In the meeting of Chief Ministers convened by Prime Minister on 27.11.98, States/U.T.s had requested for financial assistance to distribute essential commodities including onion through PDS. It has, therefore, been decided in the meeting that in the event of abnormal increase in the prices of any perishable essential commodities, State Governments/UT Administrations would undertake market intervention operations for distribution of these commodities at reasonable prices till the situation reverts to normalcy. To facilitate such market intervention, Central Government would provide necessary funds on matching basis. For distribution of such commodities, States/U.T.s will use the existing mechanisms of PDS.

Translation]

Engagement of Labour In Stone Querries

3842. SHRI SOM MARANDI: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether workers engaged in stone quarrying industry in Bihar do not have provident fund and medical facilities;

(b) whether silicosis and TB diseases are found in several workers engaged in stone quarrying industry; and

(c) if so, the steps taken to provide PF and medical facilities to them?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) The application of the provisions of Employees' Provident Fund & Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952 was extended to stone quarries producing stone chips, stone sets, stone boulders and ballasts employing twenty or more persons *vide* notification issued by the Central Government on 28th January, 1997.

Stone quarry owner's Association of Pakur has a dispensary located in mining area to provide medical facilities to mine workers. There are about 200 small permit quarries engaging about 15 to 20 persons each. First-Aid Stations as required under Rule 44 of the Mines Rules, 1955, have been provided in about 160 of the mines.

(b) and (c) No case of silicosis to the workers engaged in stone quarries has been reported to the Directorate General of Mines Safety so far. Tubecrulosis is not a noticeable disease under Section 25 of the Mines Act, 1952. All coverable establishments engaged in stone quarry industries in Pakur and Sahibganj district have been covered under the provisions of the Employees' Provident Fund & Miscellaneous Act, 1952 and its eligible employees are getting the provident fund benefits.

[English]

Hazardous Industries

3843. SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the details of hazardous industries in Jamnagar and other districts in Gujarat;

(b) the concrete steps taken or proposed to be taken to save the lives of the labourers;

(c) the number of labourers and staff affected due to hazardous industries during the last three years; and

(d) the facilities and compensation given to labourers in this connection during the said period?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

Health Centres

3844. SHRI SURESH CHANDEL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount earmarked in the Ninth Five Year Plan for the Ancillary Health System in the country;

(b) the number of proposed primary health centres and community health centres that are likely to be set up in various states during the Ninth Five Year Plan;

(c) whether the Union Government have received any request from the State Government to recognise this Ancillary Health System in the States; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI): (a) No system called "Ancillary Health System" is operating in the country.

However, health care facilities are provided in the rural backward and tribal areas of the country through a network of Community Health Centres, Primary Health Centres, Sub-centres, Rural Family Welfare Centres, and Post-partem Centres. Ninth Five Year Plan outlays are yet to be finalised by the Planning Commission.

(b) The State-wise tragets for setting up of Primary Health Centres and Community Health Centres are given in the attached statement.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Statement

Ninth Plan Targets for establishment of PHCs and CHCs

Sl. No.	States/UTs	Primary Health Centres			Community Health Centres		
		R	P	Target	R	P	Target
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1707	1335	372	427	207	220
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	37	47		9	9	—
3.	Assam	726	619	107	181	105	76
4.	Bihar	2637	2209	428	659	148	511
5.	Goa	23	18	5	6	5	1
6.	Gujarat	1028	960	68	257	186	71
7.	Haryana	414	398	16	103	64	39
8.	Himachal Pradesh	162	315	*	40	55	
9.	J & K	196	337	*	49	45	4
10.	Karnataka	1072	1601	*	268	242	26

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
11.	Kerala	721	956	*	180	80	100
12.	Madhya Pradesh	2020	1814	206	505	198	307
13.	Maharashtra	1756	1695	61	439	304	135
14.	Manipur	57	72	*	14	16	*
15.	Meghalaya	77	82	*	19	13	6
16.	Mizoram	20	38	*	5	6	*
17.	Nagaland	54	33	21	14	5	9
18.	Orissa	1062	1352	*	265	157	108
19.	Punjab	476	484	*	119	105	14
20.	Rajasthan	1247	1636	*	312	261	51
21.	Sikkim	14	24	*	4	2	2
22	Tamil Nadu	1237	1436	*	309	72	237
23.	Tripura	96	56	40	24	11	13
24.	Uttar Pradesh	3723	3803	*	931	310	621
25.	West Bengal	1726	1556	170	431	89	342
26.	A&N Islands	7	17	*	2	4	*

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
27.	Chandigarh	2	—	2	1	1	—
28.	D&N Haveli	7	6	1	2	—	2
29.	Daman & Diu	2	3	*	1	1	—
30.	Delhi	32	8	24	8	—	8
31.	Lakshadweep	1	4	*	—	3	*
32.	Pondicherry	10	43	*	3	4	*
	All India	22349	22962	1521	5587	2708	2903

[English]

Smuggling of Sandle Wood

3845. SHRI N. DENNIS: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the smuggling of sandle wood is increasing in the country; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to prevent it?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Grant-in-Aid to Voluntary Organisations

3846. SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA:
SHRI CHETAN CHAUHAN:
SHRI PRABHASH CHANDRA TIWARI:
SHRI PRADEEP KUMAR YADAV:

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

(a) the number of voluntary organisations which have sought grant-in-aid for various welfare schemes during the last three years, till date, State-wise;

(b) the number of voluntary organisations whose requests have been accepted during the said period, State-wise; and

(c) the grant-in-aid sanctioned and released to those voluntary organisations during the said period, year-wise?

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.

Bridge at River Ravi

3847. SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to construct a bridge across the river Ravi near Basohli Bani and Billawar in J&K;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any fund has been allocated by the Government for the purpose in the current Five Year Plan;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the efforts being taken by the Union Government to construct the dam across the river of Ravi?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) to (d) The Central Government is concerned only with the development/construction of National Highway and Bridges thereon. All other roads and bridges fall within the purview of the respective State Government.

(e) The State Government of Punjab has undertaken the construction of Thein Dam across the river Ravi.

Diversion of Wheat by FCI

3848. SHRI VITHAL TUPE: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large quantity of wheat worth several crore of rupees has been allegedly diverted by the officials of the Food Corporation of India during 1997-98 till date;

(b) if so, whether the Government have conducted any inquiry in this regard;

(c) if so, the number of persons found guilty and the action taken/being taken against them; and

(d) whether any guidelines have been issued by the Government to check/stop such activities in future?

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) Does not arise.

(d) The Central Government has asked the States/UTs to constitute Vigilance Committees at fair price shop (FPS), Taluk, District and State levels to monitor the functioning of PDS. State/UTs have been requested to draw up inspection schedules for the District/Taluk level officers. Introduction of a greater level of transparency has been emphasis upon, including display of information at FPS and wide publicity to the allocation and offtake at local level. A Model Citizens Charter for targeted PDS has been brought out for adoption by the States/UTs.

[Translation]

Rackets Involved in Adulterated Medicines

3849. SHRI MITRASEN YADAV:
SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK:
PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA:
SHRI VITHAL TUPE:
SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA:
SHRI SATNAM SINGH KAINTH:
SHRI ABHAYSINH S. BHONSLE:
SHRI JANG BHADUR SINGH PATEL:
SHRI ASHOK NAMDEORAO MOHOL:
SHRI A.F. GOLAM OSMANI:
SHRI MADHAV RAO PATIL:
SHRI RIZWAN ZAHEER KHAN:
SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY:

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 "Milawat ka Jahar Janata Par Kahar" appeared in 'Dainik Jagran' dated September 17, 1998;

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

(c) whether the Government are aware of the rackets involved in such adulteration;

(d) if so, the number of persons lost their lives during each of the last three years due to use of adulterated, outdated and spurious medicines in general and particularly in Government hospitals/dispensaries in Delhi;

(e) whether Delhi Police has probed the matter as per the directions of the Delhi High Court;

(f) if so, the number of cases detected during each of the last three years, till date;

(g) the total number of cases of using expired medicines reported in Government hospitals/dispensaries as on date particularly in metropolitan cities;

(h) whether C&AG has also made their observations in regard to supply of expired/spurious medicines to the patients in hospitals, dispensaries and also through chemists;

(i) if so, the details thereof;

(j) the action taken by the Government against these persons; and

(k) the steps taken to check adulteration in medicines, supply of expired date and spurious medicines to the patients?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Based on the new item (which *inter-alia* reported about the lack of manufacturing technology and testing labs., in units approved for manufacture of drugs in the Industrial areas in and around Delhi and about practises leading to adultenation of drugs, which are being dispensed through Govt. Hospitals,) the State Drug Control authorities in Delhi conducted surprise checks on 36 factories and 18 dealers. They lifted 53 samples in all for the test and analysis. Out of these, reports have been received in 21 cases, all of which have been found to be or standard quality. The representatives of the Central Drug Standard & Control Organisation also participated in some of these surprise visits/raids which were also assisted by the police.

(c) to (f) No reports have been received regarding rackets involving drug adulteration.

There are no confirmed reports regarding loss of life due to use of adultered, outdated and spurious medicines.

Delhi Police conducted a raid at Turkman Gate on 25-10-98 where they unearthed a racket involving changing wrappers/lables of local made injections with that of reputed companies and supplying same in the market at high rates. Two persons were also arrested in this connection. Delhi Police also conducted a raid on Bhagirath Place on 30-10-98, alongwith the Drug Control authorities. The police unearthed a case involving imitation of 3 popular brands of medicines in connection with which 2 persons were arrested. Both the investigations were based on information received by them.

(g) As per information available, no reports have been received regarding the use of expired medicines in Govt. Hospitals in metropolitan cities. All medicines supplied through the Medical Stores Organisation are prechecked before accepted into stock. These drugs are further sampled at random and tested through in-house quality control machanism as well as by the Central Drug Standard & Control Organisation till it is dispensed.

(h) and (i) As per information available no such observations have been received from the C&AG regarding supply of expired/spurous medicines to patients in hospitals/dispensaries & chemists.

(j) and (k) Elaborate provisions are available in the Drugs and Cosmetics Act 1940 and Rules thereunder to prohibit manufacture, sale and distribution of adulterated, spurious and date expired medicines. Penal provisions are also available for violation of the Drugs & Cosmetics Act. These provisions are enforced through the State Drug Control authorities. They conduct regular surveillance checks like surprise checks on manufacturing units, on traders and hospicals, random samping of medicines, using decoy customers to test purchase drugs and the police to unearth illegal activities. Consumer Organisations and consumers respectively have been empowered under the Act to draw samples of any suspicious drugs for testing and to file complaints in Courts of law if drugs are found to be spurious or adulterated. Requisite penal action is taken under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act wherever infringements of its provisions come to notice.

[English]

Migration from Jammu and Kashmir

3850. VAIDYA VISHNU DUTT:
SHRI RAMSHAKAL:
SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of families migrated from Jammu and Kashmir to lodge in camps and other places within and outside the State;

(b) the amount spent for providing relief including cash assistance, cost of free rations and other facilities every year;

(c) whether any action plan has been chalked out for return and rehabilitation of these migrants to their respective homes;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor alongwith the financial assistance sought by the State Government to tackle this problem; and

(f) the steps being taken for restoration of their properties?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) There are 29,074 registered Kashmiri migrant families staying in various places in Jammu region and 19,338 families are registered in Delhi. In addition 2743 families are living in other States in the country. 240 migrant families are living in 14 camps in Delhi and 4674 families in 15 camps in Jammu.

(b) As per available information, the year-wise expenditure on relief to migrants in and outside the State of Jammu and Kashmir is as follows:—

	Rs. (in lakhs)
1990-91	5051.52
1991-92	4279.59
1992-93	3057.45
1993-94	3053.37
1994-95	3941.50
1995-96	3563.94
1996-97	3824.05
1997-98	3450.81

(c) to (e) The Government of Jammu and Kashmir intimated that the issue regarding return of Kashmiri migrants is on the top agenda of the State Government. To achieve this objective, the State Government have constituted a Sub-Committee of Ministers of Revenue, Law, Finance and Tourism to examine the whole issue and make recommendations thereon. Meanwhile, a social interaction programme has been initiated under which groups of migrants have visited various districts of the Valley wherein they have interacted with the locals with a view to pave the way for the return of the migrants.

(f) The properties of migrants who left the Valley are protected under the provisions of Jammu and Kashmir Immovable Property (Preservation, Protection and Restraint on Distress Sales) Act, 1997. The concerned District Magistrates have been designated as Custodians of the migrants' immovable property for the protection and preservation of the same under the aforesaid Act.

Opening of Medical Colleges

3851. SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH:
SHRI AJIT JOGI:
SHRI B.M. MENSINKAI:
SHRI RAVI SITARAM NAIK:
SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL:
SHRI MANIKAO HODLYA GAVIT:
SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR BWISWMUTHIARY:

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

(a) whether the Government propose to open some more medical colleges in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof, location-wise and if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) the funds allocated for these colleges, State-wise;

(d) the details of medical colleges set up during Seventh and Eighth Five Year Plan, State-wise;

(e) the details of medical colleges recognised at present, State-wise;

(f) the details of medical colleges runing at present with and without Government's grant-in-aid in the country, State-wise;

(g) the grant provided to the students enrolled in each medical college during each of the last three years;

(h) whether the Government have received any request from the State Governments for opening of more medical colleges in their States;

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

(j) the action taken by the Government in each case?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI): (a) to (c) The Central Government has already created facilities for graduate and/or post graduate studies at:

(1) AIIMS, New Delhi.

(2) PGIMER, Chandigarh.

(3) JIPMER, Pondicherry

(4) LHMC, New Delhi.

The Central Govt. do not provide funds for establishments of medical colleges in the States.

(d) The details of medical colleges established from 1985 to 1997 are given in attached statement-I.

(e) At present 158 medical colleges are recognised/ approved by the Medical Council of India/Govt. of India. State-wise number of colleges is given in attached statement-II.

(f) Grants are given to medical institutions set up by the Central Government and to Mahatma Gandhi Institute of Medical Sciences, Wardna. NEC also gives assistance to Regional Institute of Medical Sciences, Imphal and three medical colleges of Assam. Information of assistance being given by University Grants Commission is being collected.

(g) Govt. is providing subvention @Rs. 5,000/- per student admitted against merit and payment seats (except students admitted against NRI/foreign student quota) in private recognised medical colleges. The subvention is being paid towards fee.

(h) to (j) Requests have been received form Govts. of Himachal Pradesh and Tamil Nadu for starting new medical colleges, Letter of Intent has already been issued for establishment of new medical college at Tanda, Himachal Pradesh. The proposal of medical college at Toothikudi, Tamil Nadu was found deficient of certain documents. The State Govt. has been requested to expedite these documents. However, the matter relating to establishment of a new Medical College at Tanda, Himachal Pradesh is *sub-judice*. Grant of permission for starting of these colleges depends on fulfilment of prescribed eligibility criteria and infrastructural facilities by the applicants.

Statement-I

Number of Medical Colleges set up in the Seventh Five Year Plan 1985—1990

1. ANDHRA PRADESH

    1. Deccan Colleges of Medical Sciences Hyderabad.

2. GUJARAT

    1. Prumukhswami Medical College, Karamsad.

3. KARNATAKA

    1. Siddhartha Medical College, Tumkur.
    2. Sridevraj Urs Medical College, Kolar.
    3. Addichunchahagiri Instt. of Medcial Sci., Bellary.
    4. BLDEA Shri B.M. Patil Medical College, Hosp. & Res. Centre, Bijapur

4. MAHARASTRA

    1. Padmashree Dr. D.Y. Patil Med. Coll., New Bombay.
    2. Mahatma Gandhi Mission's Medical College, New Bombay.
    3. NDMVP Samaj's Medical College, Nashik.
    4. Bharatiya Vidyapeeth Medical College, Pune.
    5. Sri Bhausaheb Hire Govt. Medical College, Dhule.
    6. JMF's ACPM Medical College, Dhule.
    7. Dy. Patil Medical College, Kolhapur.
    8. Mahatma Ghandhi Mission's Medical College, Aurangabad.
    9. Govt. Medical College, Nanded.
    10. Maharashtra Instt. of Medical Sciences & Res., Latur.
    11. J.N. Medical College, Swangi, Wardha.
    12. NKP Salve Instt. of Medical Sciences, Nagpur.
    13. Sir Vasantrao Naik Govt. Medical College, Yavalmal.

5. TAMIL NADU

    1. Mohan Kumar Mangalam Medical College, Salem.
    2. PSG Instt. of Medical Sciences, Coimbatore.

3. Sri Ramachandra Med. College & Research Instt., Puror, Maores.

4. Rajash Muthia Med. College, Annamalainagar.

Medical college established during 1991 & 1992

(I) **1991**

1. CHANDIGARH

1. Govt. Medical College, Chandigarh.

2. MAHARASHTRA

1. K.J. Somaiya Med. College & Res. Centre, Mumbai.

2. Terna Medical College, Navi Mumbai.

(II) **1992**

1. MAHARASHTRA

1. Rajiv Gandhi Medical College, Thane

2. TAMIL NADU

1. Perundurai Medical College, Perundurai

1994

1. Maharashtra Academy of Medical Education and Research, Dhabade, Pune.

1995

1. Acharya Shri Chander College of Medical Sciences, Jammu Tawi.

2. PV Narasimha Roa Medical College, Dehradun.

3. Dr. D.Y. Patil Medical College for Women, Pimpri, Pune.

4. Govt. Medical College, Bhavanagar, Gujarat.

5. Govt. Medical College, Rajkot, Gujarat.

6. Academy of Medical Sciences, Pariayaram, Kannur, Kerala.

1996

1. Santosh Medical College, Gaziabad, Uttar Pradesh.

2. Vinayaka Mission Medical College, Salem, Tamil Nadu.

1997 (upto March, 1997)

1. Vinayaka Mission Medical College, Karaikal, Pondicherry.

Statement II

Number of Medical Colleges in the country State-wise, as on Nov., 1998

Name of the State/ Union Territories.	Recognised			Unrecognised			Permission given under Section 10(A)			Total
	Govt.	Univ.	Pvt.	Govt.	Univ.	Pvt.	Govt.	Univ.	Pvt.	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Andhra Pradesh	9	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	11
Assam	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3
Bihar	8	—	—	1	—	2	—	—	—	11
Chandigarh	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Delhi	3	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4
Goa	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Gujarat	5	—	1	—	—	—	2	—	—	8
Haryana	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Himachal Pradesh	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Jammu & Kashmir	2	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	4
Karnataka	4	—	15	—	—	—	—	—	—	19
Kerala	5	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	6
Madhya Pradesh	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6
Maharashtra	16	—	16	—	—	—	—	—	2	34
Manipur	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Orissa	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3
Pondicherry	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2
Punjab	3	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	1	6
Rajasthan	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6
Tamilnadu	10	—	4	—	—	—	1	—	1	16
Uttar Pradesh	7	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	11
West Bengal	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	7
Total	102	3	40	1	—	3	4	—	9	162
Grand Total		145			4			13		162

Petrochemical Complex

3852. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of petro-chemical complexes proposed to be set up by Indian Oil Corporation during Ninth Five Year Plan; and

(b) the places identified for the location of those petrochemical complexes, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) and (b) Indian Oil Corporation during 9th Five Year Plan has proposed for setting of a grassroot petrochemical complex at Panipat in Haryana.

[Translation]

Stock Procurement of Foodgrains

3853. SHRI PANKAJ CHOUDHRY:
SHRI ASHOK NAMDEORAO MOHOL:

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

(a) the stock position of foodgrains in the Central Pool at present;

(b) whether this is sufficient to meet the requirement of the country;

(c) whether there is any increase in the procurement of wheat and rice in any State during the last three years;

(d) if so, the quantity procured and the amount spent thereon in each State as compared to the last two years;

(e) whether the target for procurement of wheat and rice has since been achieved;

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

(g) the quantity of wheat and rice released for export during 1997-98 and 1998-99?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYAPAL SINGH YADAV): (a) The stock position in Central Pool as on 1.12.98 is given as under:

Figs. in Lakh MTs.

Wheat	Rice	Total
137.31	112.23	249.54

(b) Wheat and rice are issued from Central Pool for distribution under TPDS and other welfare schemes. Supply of foodgrains through PDS is only supplemental to open market availability and not meant to meet the entire requirements of foodgrains in the country. The present level of stock of foodgrains in the Central Pool is sufficient to meet the TPDS and other welfare schemes requirement.

(c) and (d) The quantity of wheat procured during the last three years (State-wise) alongwith the amount spent on procurement of that quantity (value at declared MSP) is given in the attached statement-I.

The quantity of levy rice (State-wise) procured during the last three years alongwith its vlaue is given in the attached statement-II.

(e) and (f) The procurement of wheat and paddy under price support scheme is purely voluntary in nature, as only the wheat and paddy offered by the farmers can be procured. Similarly, the collection of rice under levy scheme also depends on the purchase of paddy made by the millers. Hence, no targets are fixed for procurement of foodgrains.

A quantity of 126.53 lakh tonnes of wheat has been procured upto 14.12.98 in the current Rabi Marketing Season 1998-99, whereas 52.98 lakh tonnes of rice (including paddy in terms of rice) has been procured for Central Pool as on 18.12.98 in the current Kharif Marketing Season.

(g) No quantity of wheat and rice has been released for export from the Central Pool during 1997-98 and 1998-99. However, a quantity of 19,914 MTs parboiled rice was gifted by the FCI to Bangladesh as Flood Relief on behalf of Govt. of India during the year 1998-99.

Statement-I

Details of region-wise Estimated Purchase of Wheat for the year 1995-96, 1996-97 and 1997-98

Quantity in Lakh Tonnes
Value in Rs. Crores

Region	1995-96		1996-97		1997-98	
	Qty.	Value	Qty.	Value	Qty.	Value
Punjab	72.99	2627.57	56.42	2143.84	59.61	2831.35
Haryana	31.02	1116.67	20.22	768.23	22.90	1087.88
U.P.	13.02	468.64	2.60	99.10	6.18	293.29
Rajasthan	4.54	163.60	2.29	87.00	3.20	151.91
Delhi	Neg.	0.17	—	—	—	—
M.P.	1.69	60.68	0.04	1.69	1.07	51.03
Gujarat	0.01	0.29	—	—	—	—
Chandigarh	—	—	—	—	0.02	0.84
Total	123.27	4437.62	81.57	3099.86	92.98	4416.30

Statement II

Region-wise Quantity and Value of Rice procured for the crop year 1995-96, 1996-97 & 1997-98 levy rice only.

1995-1996 (Qty. in Lakh Tonnes value in Rs. Cr.)

Regions	Common		Fine		Superfine		Total	
	Qty.	Value	Qty.	Value	Qty.	Value	Qty.	Value
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Punjab	0.22	73.65	0.19	12.64			0.41	26.20
Haryana	0.07	4.37	0.01	0.97	5.12	346.42	5.20	351.45
Uttar Pradesh	6.78	407.19	0.38	22.63	0.06	3.83	7.20	433.65

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Rajasthan	0.01	0.32					0.01	0.92
Chandigarh		•						
Andhra Pradesh	0.36	21.36	29.18	1809.17	7.21	469.56	36.75	2300.08
Karnataka	0.00	0.10	0.00	0.27	0.79	49.29	0.78	49.66
Madhya Pradesh	1.50	86.40	0.86	51.62			2.37	128.02
Maharashtra	0.34	19.36	0.02	1.35			0.36	20.71
West Bengal								
Bihar								
Assam	0.02	1.17					0.02	1.17
Orissa	4.40	264.72	0.04	2.70			4.45	267.42
Pondicherry	1.30	77.51					1.30	77.51
Tamil Nadu								
Total	14.99	896.25	30.69	1901.35	13.16	859.10	58.84	3866.69

1996-97

Regions	Common		Fine		Superfine		Total	
	Qty.	Value	Qty.	Value	Qty.	Value	Qty.	Value
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Punjab	0.31	21.03	7.91	555.99			3.02	577.02
Haryana	0.13	8.50	0.25	17.51	10.19	742.88	10.57	768.89
Uttar Pradesh	8.59	559.35	0.37	24.69	0.15	10.71	8.10	594.75

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Rajasthan	0.03	2.10					0.03	2.10
Chandigarh								
Andhra Pradesh	0.94	63.48	38.38	2592.65	5.58	410.04	44.91	3166.18
Karnataka			0.01	0.79	0.92	55.32	0.83	55.10
Madhya Pradesh	3.46	216.36	2.35	152.36			5.81	368.71
Maharashtra	0.30	19.09	0.02	1.20			0.32	20.30
West Bengal	1.59	98.76	0.01	0.34			1.59	99.10
Bihar								
Assam	0.01	0.52					0.01	0.52
Orissa	3.74	237.14	0.05	3.45	0.97	69.14	4.76	309.74
Pondicherry								
Tamil Nadu								
Total	19.09	1226.33	49.35	3449.00	17.72	1288.09	86.15	5953.41

1997-98

Regions	Common		Grade 'A'		Total	
	Qty.	Value	Qty.	Value	Qty.	Value
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Punjab	0.56	41.25	12.72	999.79	13.28	1041.04
Haryana	0.02	1.46	11.54	898.04	11.56	899.50
Uttar Pradesh	9.07	641.43	1.58	119.21	10.65	760.54

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Rajasthan	0.001	0.72	0.01	0.77	0.02	1.49
Chandigarh			0.11	8.41	0.11	8.41
Andhra Pradesh	2.01	147.76	36.41	2856.00	38.42	3003.75
Karnataka	0.02	1.36	0.89	64.49	0.91	66.85
Madhya Pradesh	3.84	260.89	2.39	173.18	6.22	434.07
Maharashtra	0.23	15.55	0.03	2.18	0.26	17.83
West Bengal	2.02	136.51			2.02	136.61
Bihar	0.06	4.29			0.06	4.29
Assam						
Orissa	6.75	479.45	0.09	6.82	6.84	486.27
Pondicherry	0.06	4.04	0.02	1.44	0.08	6.48
Tamil Nadu						
Total	24.65	1734.90	65.79	5130.32	90.44	6866.23

[English]

Training to Mentally Retarded Children

3854. SHRI MADHUKAR SIRPOTDAR:
SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE:

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

(a) whether the Union Government propose to set up more institutes for imparting education training to mentally retarded children in the country;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. The Union Government proposes to set up 6 Composite Regional Centres for disabled which will serve as a regional resource centre for rehabilitation and special education of persons with disabilities such as orthopaedic, visual, mental, hearing and multiple disabilities at all ages and

severity levels. The Government proposes to set up 6 such composite regional centres at Lucknow, Jabalpur, Bhatinda, Silchar, J&K and Himachal Pradesh. The proposal has been circulated to various appraising agencies and their comments are awaited.

(c) It is not possible to indicate the timeframe in view of the various formalities involved.

Contribution of Child Labour in Gross National Products

3855. SHRI R.S. GAVAI: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Child Labour contributes more than 20 per cent of the country's G.N.P.;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the percentage of G.N.P. contributed by child labour from First to Eighth Five Year Plan, Plan-wise; and

(d) the names of other Asian countries where child labour contributes 10 per cent of G.N.P.?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) to (c) The estimates of National Product are derived from the estimates of Domestic product, which are compiled by kind of economic activity and by broad institutional categories, like organised and unorganised and public sectors. These estimates are not made by age-group.

(d) No such information is available.

Malaria Cases

3856. DR. ULHAS VASUDEO PATIL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a conference of Health Ministers of Eastern Region was held recently at Calcutta;

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

(c) whether the Government have launched an anhanced Malaria Control Project to curb the incidence of malaria in the North-Eastern region particularly in Bihar, Orissa and West Bengal; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A Conference of Eastern Region Health Ministers was held at Calcutta on 5-6th November, 1998. The agenda included discussions on the National Health Policy, the implementation of National Health Programme, medical education, public health etc.

(c) and (d) Seven North Eastern States have been covered under 100% Central assistance w.e.f. December, 1994 for the intensification of anti-malaria activities. Under the Enhanced Malaria Control Project, 10 districts of Bihar, 22 districts of Orissa and one town each in the States of Bihar, Orissa and Calcutta city of West Bengal have been included in the project. However, if the demographic epidemiological data and local conditions so warrant allocation of insecticides, drugs, commodities etc. can be made to needy districts in other States also.

Manpower, development, enhanced information, Education and Communication activities and improved Management Information system are some of other components which cover the entire country under the enhanced Malarial Control Project, in operation with World Bank assistance.

HIV Cases

3857. SHRI MADHAV RAO SCINDIA:
SHRI DILEEP SANGHANI:
SHRI CHHITUBHAI GAMIT:
SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV:
COL. SONA RAM CHOUDHARY:
SHRI ANANT KUMAR HEGDE:
SHRI MULLAPALLY RAMACHANDRAN:
SHRI RANJIB BISWAL:
SHRI S.S. OWAISI:
SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK:
SHRI BIJOY HANDIQUE:

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

(a) the number of AIDS cases detected or likely to be detected by the and of the century in the country particularly in the metropolitan cities during each of the last three years, State-wise;

(b) the reasons for increase in such cases;

(c) whether according to the survey, India has five high prevalence States where HIV infection occurs in more than one per cent of general population conducted by the National AIDS Control Organisation;

(d) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;

(e) whether the percentage is much high of the total population in some States particularly in Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh;

(f) if so, the details in regard to other prevalent States thereof, State-wise;

(g) whether the Government have received any proposal from the state Governments for the implementation of AIDS prevention control programme in their States;

(h) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;

(i) the action taken by the Government thereon;

(j) the total amount provided so far during the current year and the number of programmes going on at present to stop HIV, State-wise; and

(k) the steps being taken by the Government to check or prevent this disease?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI): (a) The number of AIDS cases detected as on 30-11-98 is 6690. The number of AIDS cases detected in major cities is as shown below (upto 31-10-98):—

Chennai	454
Coimbatore	44
Madurai	63
Vellore	104
Bangalore	19
Delhi	219
Mumbai	605
Calcutta	100

State-wise AIDS cases detected during each of the last 3 years are in the attached statement-I.

(b) Various factors are responsible for rapid spread of the epidemic across the country. They are labour migration and mobility in search of employment from the economically backward regions to the more advanced ones, poor awareness among high risk groups due to low literacy levels, gender disparity Sexually Transmitted Diseases and Reproductive Tract Infections and social stigma attached to Sexually Transmitted Infections.

(c) to (f) According to the survey, prevalence in ante-natal mothers have been found to be more than 1% in five states of Maharashtra, Tamilnadu, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka & Manipur. Report is in the attached statement-II.

(g) to (i) National AIDS Control Programme is centrally sponsored scheme and is being implemented by all the States/Union Territories.

(j) Govt. of India has released Rs. 50 crores so far during the current financial year. State-wise list is enclosed.

(k) In order to prevent and control the spread of HIV/AIDS in India, a comprehensive programme is currently under implementation throughout the country as a centrally sponsored scheme. The main strategy consists of:

* Strengthening Programme Management capabilities at Central and State levels.
* Creation of awareness amongst high risk behaviour groups and general public about HIV/AIDS.
* Control of Sexually Transmitted Diseases.
* Promoting blood safety and rational use of blood through proper licensing of blood banks and encouraging voluntary blood donation.
* Strengthening capacity for surveillance and diagnosis; and
* Extending training in Clinical Management of HIV/AIDS.

Statement-I

AIDS cases in India (Reported to NACO)

Sl.No.	State/Union Territory	AIDS Cases		
		1996	1997	1998 (Upto 30.11.98)
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	19	39	45
2.	Assam	00	12	22
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	00	00	00
4.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	00	00	00
5.	Bihar	01	03	03
6.	Punjab/Chandigarh	00	100	100
7.	Delhi	27	206	219
8.	Daman & Diu (U.T.)	00	01	01
9.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	00	00	00
10.	Goa	00	12	12
11.	Gujarat	104	134	210
12.	Haryana	00	01	01
13.	Himachal Pradesh	00	09	09
14.	Jammu & Kashmir	00	02	02

1	2	3	4	5
15.	Karnataka	12	118	157
16.	Kerala	26	105	106
17.	Lakshadeep (U.T.)	00	00	00
18.	Madhya Pradesh	06	134	210
19.	Maharashtra	520	2491	3315
20.	Orissa	00	02	02
21.	Nagaland	00	10	10
22.	Manipur	55	301	301
23.	Mizoram	00	05	05
24.	Meghalaya	00	08	08
25.	Pondicherry	24	132	141
26.	Rajasthan	00	54	77
27.	Sikkim	00	02	02
28.	Tamil Nadu	199	1092	1624
29.	Tripura	00	00	00
30.	Uttar Pradesh	48	109	125
31.	West Bengal	11	57	57
	Total:	1072	5139	6690

Statement-II

Sentinel Surveillance for HIV Infection
(1st Feb. to 31st March, 1998)

Sl. No.	States	No of Sites	STD			IDU			ANC		
			No. Tested	Tota +ve	%	No. Tested	Tota +ve	%	No. Tested	Tota +ve	%
1.	Andhra Praiesh	ANC-3 STD-3	700	144	20.5	—	—	—	1200	19	1.58
2.	Karnataka	ANC-3 STD-5	743	72	9.6	—	—	—	516	12	0.08
3.	Maharashtra	ANC-12 STD-8	1762	473	26.8	—	—	—	4800	116	2.4
4.	Manipur	ANC-5 STD-3 IDU-3	1160	52	4.4.	587	397	67.6	2026	24	1.2
5.	Tamil Nadu	ANC-4 STD-6	1120	108	9.6	—	—	—	1516	17	1.1

Statement-III

National AIDS Control Programme
Release of funds during 1998-99

(Rupees in lakhs)

S.No.	State	Funds Released
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	650.00
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	
3.	Assam	
4.	Bihar	110.00
5.	Goa	35.00
6.	Gujarat	
7.	Haryana	160.00
8.	Himachal Pradesh	100.00
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	
10.	Karnataka	335.00
11.	Kerala	
12.	Madhya Pradesh	315.00
13.	Maharashtra	800.00
14.	Manipur	210.00
15.	Meghalaya	
16.	Mizoram	60.00
17.	Nagaland	160.00

1	2	3
18.	Orissa	
19.	Punjab	110.00
20.	Rajasthan	
21.	Sikkim	50.00
22.	Tamilnadu	800.00
23.	Tripura	
24.	Uttar Pradesh	200.00
25.	West Bengal	350.00
26.	Pondicherry	40.00
27.	A&N Islands	
28.	Chandigarh	60.00
29.	D&N Haveli	
30.	Daman & Diu	
31.	Delhi	110.00
32.	Lakshadweep	
33.	Mumbai Distt. AIDS Society	350.00
	Total	5005.00

Petroleum Projects

3858. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of petroleum projects which are going on in the country;

(b) the present position of each of these projects, project-wise;

(c) whether these projects are being implemented with foreign assistance/investment;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time by which these projects have been going on the and the time by which these are likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (e) Details of the on-going petroleum projects, costing more than Rs. 100 crores, are given in the statement attached.

Statement

Sl. No.	Name of the Project	Date of approval	Foreign Assistance/ investment for the project		Status as on 31.10.1998		Completion Schedule (Date)	
			Equity (Rs./Crores)	Loan (Rs./Crores)	Physical Progress (%)	Financial Progress (%)	Original	Anticipated
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
	BHARAT PETROLEUM CORPORATION LIMITED							
1.	Diesel Hydro Desulphurisation Project	June, 1997	Nil	Nil	79.3	33.8	March 1999	April 1999
2.	Product Terminal at Bina	November, 1997	Nil	Nil	—	1.5	November, 2000	November, 2000

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
3.	Central India Refinery Project	December, 1995	549.0	Nil	5.3	2.5	December, 1999	October, 2002
4.	Cochin Coimbatore Karur product pipeline Project	December, 1997	Nil	Nil	6.84	0.38	November, 2000	November, 2000
	HINDUSTAN PETROLEUM CORPORATION LIMITED							
5.	Visakh Refinery Expansion Project (Expansion by 3 MMTPA)	September, 1995	Nil	Nil	76.40	57.77	September, 1998	Other Units: April 1999 FCCU: Sept. '99
6.	Diesel Hydro Desulphurisation Project, Mumbai Refinery.	June, 1997	Nil	Nil	43.10	7.86	March, 1999	June, 1999
7.	Diesel Hydro Desulphurisation Project, Visakh Refinery.	June, 1997	Nil	Nil	54.00	19.33	March, 1999	June, 1999
8.	Mangalore Refinery Expansion Project	November, 1996	Nil	1243.58	87.20	55.60	November, 1999	November, 1999
	NUMALIGARH REFINERY LIMITED							
9.	Numaligarh Refinery Project	July, 1992	Nil	Nil	93.5	68.7	July, 1997	April, 1999
10.	Numaligarh Refinery Marketing Terminal Project	July, 1998	Nil	Nil	81.85	34.5	April, 1999	April, 1999
	MADRAS REFINERIES LIMITED							
11.	Diesel Hydro Desulphurisation Project	June, 1997	Nil	Nil	76.6	52.2	March, 1999	June, 1999

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
	COCHIN REFINERIES LIMITED							
12.	Diesel Hydro Desulphurisation Project	June, 1997	Nil	Nil	60.72	20.76	March, 1999	December, 1999
	OIL AND NATURAL GAS CORPORATION LIMITED							
13.	B-55, Development Project	March, 1996	Nil	NIl	100	42.7	March, 1999	March, 1999
14.	Booster Compressor Platform in Bassein Field	October, 1997	Nil	Nil	67	39.5	January, 2000	May, 1999
15.	Commercialisation of Insitu Combustion, South Balol	October, 1995	Nil	Nil	95.6	58	July, 1997	March, 1999
16.	Commercialisation of Insitu Combustion, North Santhal	October, 1995	Nil	Nil	93.3	59	October, 1997	May, 1999
17.	Gandhar Development Phase-II	May, 1992	Nil	ADB loan of US$198.563 Million; World Bank loan of US$ 14.40 million (for Ph. I&II)	99.36	99	May, 1996	March, 1999
18.	Additional Co-Generation Unit at Uran	July, 1998	Nil	Nil	3.1	—	December, 2000	July, 2000
	INDIAN OIL CORPORATION LIMITED							
19.	Panipat Refinery Project	October, 1992	Nil	Nil	99.40	84.86	April, 1997	December, 1998
20.	New Delayed Coker Unit at Digboi	March, 1995	Nil	Nil	78.50	65	December, 1998	March, 1999

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
21.	Matching Secondary Processing Facilities at Mathura Refinery	May, 1996	Nil	Nil	62.8	29.23	November, 1999	November, 1999
22.	Gujarat Refinery Expansion Project	December, 1996	Nil	Nil	49.85	15.67	December, 1999	December, 1999
23.	Diesel Hydro Disulphurisation Project, Gujrat Refinery	June, 1997	Nil	Nil	76.23	16.07	March, 1999	April, 1999
24.	Diesel Hydro Desulphurisation Project, Haldia Refinery	June, 1997	Nil	Nil	57.54	17.63	April, 1999	May, 1999
25.	Diesel Hydro Desulphurisation Project, Mathura Refinery	June, 1997	Nil	Nil	72.39	16.69	March, 1999	April, 1999
26.	Diesel Hydro Desulphurisation Project, Panipat Refinery	June, 1997	Nil	Nil	76.55	17.81	March, 1999	May, 1999
27.	Haldia-Barauni Crude Oil Pipeline	January, 1996	Nil	124.27	90.35	68.56	July, 1999	December, 1998
28.	Salaya-Viramgam-Koyali Crude Oil Pipeline	December, 1996	Nil	4.77	48.22	11.90	December, 1999	December, 1999
29.	Eastern India Refinery Project	July, 98	860	1624	Initiated		May, 2002	February, 2003

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
	GAS AUTHORITY OF INDIA LTD.							
30.	U.P. Petrochemical Complex, Pata	October, 1992	Nil	8,236,627,938 (Jap. Yen) 23,950,000 (US$)	Under Commiss-ioning	89.96	December 1996	January 1999
31.	LPG, Auraiya	October '97	Nil	Nil	55.1	11.26	June, 2000	June, 2000
32.	Jamnagar-Loni LPG Pipeline	October '97	Nil	150,000,000 (US$)	5.3	0.59	April, 2001	February, 2001

[Translation]

Funds Allocated for Promotion of National Integration

3859. SHRI AJIT JOGI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the funds allocated to promote national integration indicating the expenditure incurred during the last three years;

(b) the names of the voluntary organisations engaged in this act;

(c) the financial assistance provided to each of the organisation during the above period; and

(d) the details of the programmes organised by such organisations?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) Rs. 10 lakh has been provided every year for promotion of national integration and the expenditure incurred during the last three years i.e. 1995-96, 1996-97 and 1997-98 is as under:—

Years	Expenditure incurred
1995-96	Rs. 1,79,190
1996-97	Rs. 2,78,600
1997-98	Rs. 4,96,000

(b) No such list is maintained as the voluntary organisations registered under registration of societies Act are eligible to apply for non-recurring grant-in-aid under the Scheme which are routed through the concerned State Goernments.

(c) and (d) A statement indicating names of the organisations to whom financial assistance was provided and the programmes organised by such organisations during the years 1995-96, 1996-97 and 1997-98 is attached.

Statement

Names of the Organisations to whom Financial Assistance was provided and the programmes organised by such Organisation during the years 1995-96, 1996-97 & 1997-98

Sl. No.	Name of Organisation	Amount released	Programmes for which amount released
1	2	3	4
		1995-96	
1.	Rajiv Gandhi Centre Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala.	22,400	Cultural Shows, Inter-regional Camps, Public Meetings, & Exhibition and Publication of Material.
2.	Vaishali Samajkalyan Sansthan, Vaishali Bihar	3,690	Cultural Show
3.	Refro, Rural Development Environment Protection, Patna.	18,400	Cultural show, Inter-regional camps and oxchange of visits & publication of material.
4.	Chandrabhaga, Distt. Balasore, Crissa.	10,600	Seminars and discussion group, Cultural show, Inter-regional camps, publication of material and public meeting, exhibition.
5.	Gandhi Peace Foundation, Quilon, Kerala	46,400	Seminar and Discussion groups, State level two days seminar, Inter-regional camps
6.	Gania Sishu Raija, Distt. Nayagarh, Orissa	6,400	National Integration Camps
7.	All India Scheduled Caste Yuvjan Samaj, Gondha, Delhi.	60,000	Three Seminar in Delhi, Maharashtra, Haryana.
8.	Balurghat Social Welfare Association, Balurghat, W. Bengal	11,300	Birthday celebration of National Leaders, Seminar and discussion groups, Cultural Shows.
	G. Total	Rs. 1,79,190	

1	2	3	4
		1996-97	
1.	Kalyan Parishad Uttar Pradesh, Lal Kuan, Lucknow	1,20,000	4 Cultural Shows, 2 Public Meetings, 2 Inter-regional camps/exchange of visits, Sadbhavana Visit, Gathering for communal harmony
2.	Sri Sanjay Prasad Singh Gramin Nigrani Satmiti, Saran, Bihar	30,500	Inter-Community Celebrations of National Days and Festivals, Inter regional camps/exchange of visits, Cultural shows: Essays/ Painting & Competitions, Public Meetings, exhibitions
3.	Bhagath Singh Youth Club & Reading Room, Kozhikode, Kerala	32,600	Inter-regional camps/exchange of visits, Cultural Show, Public Meetings, exhibitions.
4.	Moulana Abul Kalam Azad Memorial Society, Hyderabad.	45,500	Inter-regional camps/exchange of visits, Cultural shows, Public Meetings, exhibitions, Mushaira/Kavi Sammelan.
5.	Adhivakta Jan Seva Sansthan, New Hyderabad, Lucknow.	30,000	Two Public Meetings, One Exhibition.
6.	Tripura University, Agartala.	20,000	Organising Seminar and group discussion.
	G. Total	Rs. 2,78,600	
		1997-98	
1.	Akhil Bharat Rachnatmak Samaj, Kingsway Camp, Delhi.	1,55,000	Sarva-Dharam-Sambhav Sammelans, at 5 places, Inter-regional camps, specialised Youth Camps.
2.	Young Utkal Project, Distt. Balasore, Orissa.	46,000	Inter-community celebration of National Days & Festivals, Cultural Shows, Inter-regional camps & exchange of visits, Citizen's Committee formation, Peace rally.

1	2	3	4
3.	National Theatre Arts Society, Patiala, Punjab.	70,000	Three Cultural Shows, Inter-Regional Camps, Exhibition & Public Meeting.
4.	Pefro, Rural Development Environment Protection, Patna	50,000	Cultural Shows, Inter-regional Camps, exchange of visits, Public Meetings, exhibition, Nukkad Natak/Folk Dance & Songs
5.	Bharath Social Service Centre, Thiruvananthapuram Kerala.	15,000	Arranging Inter-regional camps, exchange of visits.
6.	Rajiv Gandhi Centre, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala.	15,000	Arranging one Inter-regional camp, exchange of visits.
7.	Lokanayak Club, Distt. Cuttak, Orissa.	15,000	Arranging National Integration Camp, Inter-state exchange programme
8.	Women's Forum Krishna Education & Cultural Society, Malappuram Distt. Kerala.	15,000	Cultural Shows, Public Meetings and exhibition.
9.	Secular People's Forum, Chanchalguda, Hyderabad.	40,000	Cultural Shows, Inter-regional Camps, exchange of visits, Public Meetings, exhibition, Mushaira/Kavi Sammelan.
10.	Arasan Rural Development Society, Tirunelveli Distt., Tamilnadu	20,000	Cultural Shows, Public Meetings on National Integration & Exhibition.
11.	Arshabharath, P.O. Nathamkuni Wayanad Distt. Kerala.	25,000	Cultural Shows, Inter-regional camps, exchange of visits.
12.	All India Schedule Caste Yuvjan Samaj, Gonda, Delhi.	30,000	Inter-regional (State) camps in the cause of National Integration.
	G. Total	Rs. 4,96,000	

[English]

National Commission for Rural Labour

3860. SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR:
SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government propose to give permanent status to the National Commission for Rural Labour;

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

(c) the extent to which the rural labourers are likely to be benefited from the said Commission?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) to (c) The National Commission on Rural Labour had been set up in 1987 and gave its report on the conclusion of the task assigned to it. Its term expired in July, 1991. Therefore, the question of according permanent status to it does not arise.

Out of Court Settlement in Urea Supply

3861. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE:
SHRI RAMSHAKAL:
SHRI K.S. RAO:
SHRI KAMALNATH:
SHRI NRIPEN GOSWAMI:

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

(a) whether the Government have again rejected the latest offer of the Turkish firm Karsan for an out of court settlement in the urea supply deal;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(d) the present position of investigation in urea scam?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (DR. A.K. PATEL): (a) to (c) The counsel for M/s Karsan Ltd. made an offer on 19.8.98 for out of court settlement. The offer was rejected as criminal case had been launched against the Executives of M/s Karasan Ltd. and others on charges of misappropriation and cheating and also on the ground that arbitration proceedings had been filed separately before the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) for recovery of the amount alongwith damages.

(d) On the basis of the investigations carried out so far, the CBI filed a chargesheet on 26.12.97 in the Court of Special Judge, Delhi against 9 accused persons including the former Chairman & Managing Director of National Fertilizers Ltd. The Court of Special Judge, Delhi has framed charges on 1.12.98 against 8 accused persons, including the two executives of M/s Karsan Limited.

[Translation]

LPG Connections in Delhi

3862. SHRI H.P. SINGH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of gas connections of Indian Oil/ Bharat Gas/Hindustan Petroleum issued to registered consumers in Delhi during 1998;

(b) the year for which waiting list is being processed at present;

(c) whether the restriction to issue new connections imposed on May 15th, 1998 has been lifted; and

(d) if not, the time for which restriction is likely to be lifted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) IOC, BPC and HPC have released 69028 new LPG connections to the registered consumers in Delhi during 1998 (January to October).

(b) The waiting list for new LPG connections registered prior to 1.1.91 all over the country including Delhi to all desirous registrants has been cleared by the Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies during 1997-98 as per the directive of the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas as part of the enrolment plan for 1997-98. Connections are being released now against the wait lists of later years, as per the policy of release of connections through distributors on the basis of slack available with distributors and seniority of registration etc.

(c) and (d) There was delay in finalisation of LPG enrolment plan for 1998-99 due to import capacity constraints. In September 1998, Govt. has approved the release of 25 lakhs new connections and 25 lakh DBCs

and in December 1998, the number of new connections to be released was revised from 25 to 35 lakhs for the whole country. In addition, Govt. has approved release of additional 3 lakh new LPG connections exclusively for Delhi Market during 1998-99 against surrender of kerosene quota being distributed to 3 lakh families in Delhi. With this, most of the waiting list in Delhi is expected to be cleared by 31st March, 1999.

SHORT NOTICE QUESTION

Dubious Deals in I.A.F.

2. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the Press Report appeared in the "PIONEER" dated December 9, 1998 regarding a major racket in operation in the I.A.F. for purchasing sub-standard spares for transport planes and helicopters compromising flight safety and operational readiness;

(b) if so, whether the sub-standard spares are being bought from the dubious foreign suppliers;

(c) if so, whether over 40% of IAF accidents are caused due to technical defects of sub-standard spares;

(d) if so, whether recently tyres of dubious quality were responsible in two recent tyre burst incidents of fighter aircraft; and

(e) if so, the steps taken to check such frauds?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) No, Sir.

(e) There are in built time tested checks and balances in the IAF provisioning system.

12.16 hrs

The Lok Sabha re-assembled at sixteen minutes past Twelve of the Clock.

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

...(Interruptions)

12.16 hrs.

At this stage, Shri Raghuvansh Prasad Singh, Shri Surendra Prasad Yadav and some other hon. Members came and stood on the floor near the Table.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Now, Papers to be laid on the Table. Item No. 4. Shri L.K. Advani.

...(Interruptions)

12.17 hrs.

At this stage, Prof. Rita Verma, Shrimati Abha Mahto and some other hon. Members came and stood on the floor near the Table

MR. SPEAKER: What is this? Please take your seats.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned to meet again at 1 p.m.

12.17 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Thirteen of the Clock.

13.01 hrs.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled at one minute past Thirteen of the Clock.

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Now, Papers to be laid on the Table.

Item No. 4. Shri L.K. Advani.

PAPER LAID ON THE TABLE

Intelligence Organisation (Restruction of Rights) Rules, 1998 and Statement showing reasons for delay in laying these papers etc.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): I beg to lay on the Table—

(1) A copy of the Intelligence Organisation (Restriction of Rights) Rules, 1998 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 112 in Gazette of India dated the 27th June, 1998 under sub-section (2) of Section 7 of the Intelligence Organisation (Restriction of Rights) Act, 1985.

(2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2073/98]

(3) A copy of the National Security Guard (Group 'D' posts) Recruitment (Amendment) Rules, 1998 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 233 in Gazette of India dated the 5th December, 1998, under sub-section (3) of Section 139 of the National Security Guard Act, 1986.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2074/98]

(4) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Repatriates Cooperative Finance and Development Bank Limited, Chennai for the year 1997-98, alongwith audited accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Repatriates Cooperative Finance and Development Bank Limited, Chennai for the year 1997-98.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2075/98]

(5) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the Border Security Force (Seniority, Promotion and Superannuation of Officers) (Amendment) Rules, 1998 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 98 in Gazette of India dated the 23rd May, 1998.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2076/98]

(6) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the Arms (Amendment) Rules, 1998 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 99 in Gazette of India dated the 23rd May, 1998.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2077/98]

(7) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of Section 619 A of the Companies Act, 1956:—

(i) Review by the Government of the working of the Rehabilitation Plantations Limited, Punalur for the year 1997-98.

(ii) Annual Report of the Rehabilitation Plantations Limited, Punalur for the year 1997-98, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2078/98]

(8) Statement (Hindi and English versions) (i) correcting the reply given on the 14th July, 1998 to Starred Question No. 382 by Sarvashri D.S. Ahire and C.D. Gamit regarding fencing at Indo-Pak Border; and (ii) giving reasons for delay in correcting the reply.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2079/98]

Annual Report and Review of the working of the Garden Reach Shipbuilding and Engineers Ltd., Calcutta for the year 1997-98 etc.

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): I beg to lay on the Table—

(1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:—

(i) Review by the Government of the working of the Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers Limited, Calcutta, for the year 1997-98.

(ii) Annual Report of the Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers Limited, Calcutta, for the year 1997-98, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2080/98]

(2) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Himalayan Mountaineering Institute, Darjeeling, for the year 1997-98, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Himalayan Mountaineering Institute, Darjeeling, for the year 1997-98.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2081/98]

Annual Report and Review of the working of the Fertilizer Corporation of India Ltd., New Delhi for the year 1997-98

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SARDAR SURJIT SINGH BARNALA): I beg to lay on the Table—

(1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:—

(a) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Fertilizer Corporation of India Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1997-98.

(ii) Annual Report of the Fertilizer Corporation of India Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1997-98, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2082/98]

(b) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1997-98.

(ii) Annual Report of the Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1997-98 alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2083/98]

(c) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Rashtriya Chemicals and Fertilizer Limited, Mumbai for the year 1997-98.

(ii) Annual Report of the Rashtriya Chemicals and Fertilizers Limited, Mumbai, for the year 1997-98 alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2084/98]

(d) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Madras Fertilizers Limited, Chennai, for the year 1997-98.

(ii) Annual Report of the Madras Fertilizers Limited, Chennai, for the year 1997-98, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2085/98]

(e) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Projects and Development India Limited, Dhanbad, for the year 1997-98.

(ii) Annual Report of the Projects and Development India Limited Dhanbad, for the year 1997-98 alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2086/98]

(2) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of three Institute of Pesticide Formulation Technology, Gurgaon, for the year 1997-98, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Institute of Pesticide Formulation Technology, Gurgaon, for the year 1997-98.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2087/98]

Copy of the Statement of the Action Taken in regard to International Labour Organisation Convention No. 177 and Recommendation No. 184 concerning Home work.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): I beg to lay on the Table—

(1) A copy of the statement (Hindi and English versions) of action taken on the International Labour Organisation Convention No. 177 and Recommendation No. 184 concerning Home Work adopted at the 83rd Session of the International Labour Conference (1996).

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2088/98]

(2) A copy of the Building and Other Construction Workers (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Central Rules, 1998 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 689(E) in Gazette of India dated the 19th November, 1998, Under sub-section (3) of section 62 of the Building and Other Construction Workers (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 1996.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2089/98]

Annual Report and Review of the working of the Steel Authority of India Ltd., New Delhi for the year 1997-98 etc.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI NAVEEN PATNAIK): I beg to lay on the Table—

(1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:—

(a) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Steel Authority of India Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1997-98.

(ii) Annual Report of the Steel Authority of India Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1997-98, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2090/98]

(b) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Sponge Iron India Limited, Hyderabad, for the year 1997-98.

(ii) Annual Report of the Sponge Iron India Limited, Hyderabad, for the year 1997-98, alongwith audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2091/98]

(c) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the, Metallurgical and Engineering Consultants (India) Limited, Ranchi, for the year 1997-98.

(ii) Annual Report of the Metallurgical and Engineering Consultants (India) Limited, Ranchi, for the year 1997-98, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2092/98]

(d) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the National Mineral Development Corporation Limited, Hyderabad, for the year 1997-98.

(ii) Annual Report of the National Mineral Development Corporation Limited, Hyderabad, for the year 1997-98, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2093/98]

(2) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Institute of Rock Mechanics, for the year 1997-98, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Institute of Rock Mechanics, for the year 1997-98.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2094/98]

Annual Report, Annual Accounts and Review of the working of Maulana Azad Education Foundation, New Delhi for the year 1997-98.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA): On behalf of Shrimati Maneka Gandhi, I beg to lay on the Table—

(1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Maulana Azad Education Foundation, New Delhi, for the year 1997-98.

(ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Maulana Azad Education Foundation, New Delhi, for the year 1997-98, together with Audit Report thereon.

(iii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Maulana Azad Education Foundation, New Delhi, for the year 1997-98.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2095/98]

(2) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Animal Welfare Board of India, Chennai, for the year 1997-98, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Animal Welfare Board of India, Chennai, for the year 1997-98.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2096/98]

Notifications under the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954 etc.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI): I beg to lay on the Table—

(1) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (2) of section 23 of the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954:—

(i) The Prevention of Food Adulteration (8th Amendment) Rules, 1998 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 171(E) in Gazette of India dated the 6th April, 1998 together with a corrigendum thereto published in Notification No. G.S.R. 477(E) dated the 7th August, 1998.

(ii) The Prevention of Food Adulteration (9th Amendment) Rules, 1998 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 174(E) in Gazette of India dated the 6th April, 1998 together with a corrigendum thereto published in Notification Nos. G.S.R. 476(E) and G.S.R. 646(E) dated the 7th August, 1998 and 28th October, 1998 respectively.

(iii) The Prevention of Food Adulteration (2nd Amendment) Rules, 1998 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 178(E) in Gazette of India dated the 6th April, 1998 together with a corrigendum thereto published in Notification No. G.S.R. 479(E) dated the 7th August, 1998.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2097/98]

(2) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Population Research Centre, New Delhi, for the year 1997-98, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Population Research Centre, New Delhi, for the year 1997-98.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2098/98]

(3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the International institute for Population Science, Mumbai, for the year 1997-98, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the International Institute for Population Science, Mumbai, for the year 1997-98.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2099/98]

(4) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the New Delhi Tuberculosis Centre, 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 New Delhi Tuberculosis Centre, New Delhi, for the year 1996-97.

(5) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (5) above.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2100/98]

(6) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro Sciences, Bangalore, 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 Mental Health and Neuro Sciences, Bangalore, for the year 1996-97.

(7) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (7) above.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2101/98]

(8) 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 Latex Limited, Thiruvananthapuram, for the year 1997-98.

(ii) Annual Report of the Hindustan Latex Limited, Thiruvananthapuram, for the year 1997-98, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2102/98]

(b) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Hospital Services Consultancy Corporation (I) Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1997-98.

(ii) Annual Report of the Hospital Services Consultancy Corporation (I) Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1997-98, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2103/98]

(9) A copy of the Memorandum of Understanding (Hindi and English versions) between the Hospital Services Consultancy Corporation (India) Limited and the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, for the year 1998-99.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2104/98]

(10) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Pasteur Institute of India, Coonoor, for the year 1997-98.

(ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Pasteur Institute of India, Coonoor, for the year 1997-98, together with Audit Report thereon.

(iii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Pasteur Institute of India, Coonoor, for the year 1997-98.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2105/98]

Annual Report of the Institute of Hotel Management Catering Technology and Applied Nutrition, Chennai for the year 1997-98 etc.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI OMAK APANG): I beg to to lay on the Table—

(1) (a) (i) 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 1997-98, alongwith audited Accounts.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2106/98]

(ii) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Institute of Hotel Management, Catering and Nutrition, Ahmedabad, for the year 1997-98, alongwith Audited Accounts.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2107/98]

(iii) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Institute of Hotel Management, Catering and Nutrition,

Gurdaspur, for the year 1997-98, alongwith Audited Accounts.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2108/98]

(iv) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Council for Hotel Management, Catering Technology, New Delhi, for the year 1997-98, alongwith Audited Accounts.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2109/98]

(v) 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 1997-98, alongwith Audited Accounts.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2110/98]

(vi) 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 1997-98, alongwith Audited Accounts.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2111/98]

(vii) 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 1997-98, alongwith Audited Accounts.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2112/98]

(viii) 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 1997-98, alongwith Audited Accounts.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2113/98]

(ix) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Dr. Ambedkar Institute of Hotel Management, Catering and Nutrition, Chandigarh, for the year 1997-98, alongwith audited Accounts.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2114/98]

(x) 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 1997-98, alongwith Audited Accounts.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2115/98]

(xi) 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 1997-98, alongwith Audited Accounts.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2116/98]

(xii) 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 1997-98, alongwith Audited Accounts.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2117/98]

(xiii) 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 1997-98, alongwith Audited Accounts.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2118/98]

(xiv) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Institute of Hotel Management, Catering Nutrition, New Delhi, for the year 1997-98, alongwith Audited Accounts.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2119/98]

(xv) 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 1997-98, alongwith Audited Accounts.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2120/98]

(xvi) 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 1997-98, alongwith Audited Accounts.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2121/98]

(xvii) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Institute of Hotel Management, Catering and Applied Nutrition, Patna, for the year 1997-98, alongwith Audited Accounts.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2122/98]

(2) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Institute of Hotel Management, Catering Technology and Applied Nutritions at Mumbai, Chennai, Goa, Calcutta, Guwhati, Bangalore, Lucknow, Hyderabad, Ahmedabad, Jaipur, Bhopal, Gwalior, Chandigarh, Gurdaspur and National Council for Hotel Management at Patna and Delhi for the year 1997-98.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2123/98]

Annual Report, Annual Accounts and Review of the working of National Cooperative Housing Federation of India, New Delhi for the year 1997-98

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): I beg to lay on the Table—

(1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Cooperative Housing Federation of India, New Delhi for the year 1997-98.

(ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the National Cooperative Housing Federation of India, New Delhi for the year 1997-98, together with Audit Report thereon.

(iii) A copy of the Annual Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Cooperative Housing Federation of India, New Delhi for the year 1997-98.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2124/98]

(2) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Building Materials and Technology Promotion Council, New Delhi, for the year 1997-98, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Building Materials and Technology Promotion Council, New Delhi, for the year 1997-98.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2125/98]

(3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Central Government Employees Welfare Housing Organisation, New Delhi, for the year 1997-98, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Central Government Employees Welfare Housing Organisation, New Delhi, for the year 1997-98.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2126/98]

(4) 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 Prefab Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1997-98.

(ii) Annual Report of the Hindustan Prefab Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1997-98, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2127/98]

Annual Report and Review of the working of the Indian Oil Corporation Ltd. Mumbai for the year 1997-98 etc.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): I beg to lay on the Table—

(1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:—

(a) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Indian Oil Corporation Limited, Mumbai, for the year 1997-98.

(i) Annual Report of the Indian Oil Corporation Limited, Mumbai, for the year 1997-98, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2128/98]

(b) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Bongaigaon Refinery and Petrochemicals Limited, Bongaigaon, for the year 1997-98.

(ii) Annual Report of the Bongaigaon Refinery and Petrochemicals Limited, Bongaigaon, for the year 1997-98, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2129/98]

(c) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Lubrizol India Limited, Mumbai for the year 1997-98.

(ii) Annual Report of the Lubrizol India Limited, Mumbai, for the year 1997-98, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2130/98]

(d) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Engineers India Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1997-98.

(ii) Annual Report of the Engineers India Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1997-98, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2131/98]

(e) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Gas Authority of India Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1997-98.

(ii) Annual Report of the Gas Authority of India Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1997-98, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2132/98]

(f) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the IBP Company Limited, Calcutta, for the year 1997-98.

(ii) Annual Report of the IBP company Limited, Calcutta, for the year 1997-98, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2133/98]

(g) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Biecco Lawrie Limited, Calcutta, for the year 1997-98.

(ii) Annual Report of the Biecco Lawrie Limited, Calcutta, for the year 1997-98, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2134/98]

(h) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Madras Refineries Limited, Chennai for the year 1997-98.

(ii) Annual Report of the Madras Refineries Limited, Chennai for the year 1997-98, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2135/98]

(i) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited, Mumbai, for the year 1997-98.

(ii) Annual Report of the Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited, Mumbai, for the year 1997-98, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2136/98]

(j) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Cochin Refineries Limited, for the year 1997-98.

(ii) Annual Report of the Cochin Refineries Limited, for the year 1997-98, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2137/98]

(k) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited, Mumbai, for the year 1997-98.

(ii) Annual Report of the Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited, Mumbai, for the year 1997-98, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2138/98]

(l) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1997-98.

(ii) Annual Report of the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited, New Delhi for the year 1997-98, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2139/98]

(m) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Oil India Limited, Dibrugarh, for the year 1997-98.

(ii) Annual Report of the Oil India Limited, Dibrugarh, for the year 1997-98, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2140/98]

Annual Report and Review of the working of Indian Petrochemicals Corporation Ltd., Vadodara, for the year 1997-98.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SARDAR SURJIT SINGH BARNALA): On behalf of Shri A.K. Patel, I beg to lay on the Table—

(1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:—

(i) Review by the Government of the working of the Indian Petrochemicals Corporation Limited, Vadodara, for the year 1997-98.

(ii) Annual Report of the Indian Petrochemicals Corporation Limited, Vadodara for the year 1997-98, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2141/98]

13.03 hrs.

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE

Third Report

[English]

SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA: I beg to present the Third Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Public Accounts Committee on Union Government Appropriation Accounts—Railways (1996-97).

13.03½ hrs.

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE

Statements

[English]

SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA: I beg to lay on the Table (Hindi and English versions) of the Statements showing action taken by Government on the recommendations of the Public Accounts Committee contained in Chapter-I and final replies in respect of Chapter-V of the following Reports:

(1) 55th Report (Tenth Lok Sabha) on Trade Development Authority.

(2) 70th Report (Tenth Lok Sabha) On Assessment of Small Scale Industrial Undertakings.

(3) 76th Report (Tenth Lok Sabha) on Doordarshan's Commercial Services.

(4) 90th Report (Tenth Lok Sabha) on Assessment of Lottery Business.

(5) 98rd Report (Tenth Lok Sabha) On Collection and recovery of Tax and arrears of demands.

(6) 114th Report (Tenth Lok Sabha) on Customs Receipts—Loss of revenue due to non-availability of a provision in the act.

(7) 116th Report (Tenth Lok Sabha) on Union Excise Duties System defects in working of Chief Accounting Offices.

(8) 118th Report (Tenth Lok Sabha) on Tube making plant at Jabalpur.

(9) 3rd Report (Eleventh Lok Sabha) on National Cancer Control Programme.

(10) 10th Report (Eleventh Lok Sabha) on Injudicious leasing of aircraft.

13.04 hrs.

COMMITTEE OF PRIVILEGES

First Report

[English]

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER: I beg to present the First Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee of Privileges.

13.04½ hrs.

COMMITTEE ON ABSENCE OF MEMBERS FROM THE SITTINGS OF THE HOUSE

First Report

[English]

SHRI T. GOVINDAN: I beg to present the First Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on Absence of Members from the Sittings of the House.

13.04½ hrs.

COMMITTEE ON PETITIONS

First Report

[English]

SHRI AJOY MUKHOPADHYAY: I beg to present the First Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on Petitions (Twelfth Lok Sabha).

13.04¾ hrs.

COMMITTEE ON PETITIONS

Minutes

[English]

SHRI AJOY MUKHOPADHYAY: I beg to lay on the Table of the House the Minutes (Hindi and English versions) of the Seventh to Seventeenth Sittings of the Committee on Petitions of Eleventh Lok Sabha.

13.05 hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS

Sixtieth, Sixty-first and Sixty-second Reports

[English]

CAPT. JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD: Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy (Hindi and English versions) of the Sixtieth, Sixty-first and Sixty-second Reports of the Departmentally-related Standing Committee on Science and Technology, Environment and Forests on the Action taken by Departments of Bio-technology, Scientific & Industrial Research and Electronics on Committee's Fifty-fourth, Fifty-sixth and Fifty-eighth Reports on Demands for Grants (1998-99) of the Departments of Bio-technology, Scientific & Industrial Research and Electronics respectively.

MR. SPEAKER: Now, the House will take up the next item—Calling Attention. Shri Rajesh Pilot.

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY (Puri): Mr. Speaker, Sir, we have given a notice to raise a matter of very urgent public importance regarding the deteriorating law and order situation in Orissa...*(Interruptions)* We have also personally met you and requested you to allow us to raise it. A very serious situation is prevailing in Orissa. The law and order situation is mostly deteriorating...*(Interruptions)* The law and order situation is mostly deteriorating...*(Interruptions)* There is no law and order situation. In R. Udayagiri, 5000 tribals have revolted against the State Government of Orissa. As I said earlier, a most serious situation is prevailing there. There is a communal riot...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRASANNA ACHARYA (Sambalpur): Sir, please allow us two minutes...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Not now. I will allow you tomorrow.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRASANNA ACHARYA: Sir, the Chief Minister of Orissa is moving....* There is absolutely no law and order...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: No. You cannot raise it today. Today, we have a very hectic agenda.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PADMA NAVA BEHERA (Phulbani): We demand that the State Government should be removed. There is no law and order in the State of Orissa...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRASANNA ACHARYA: Article 356 should be invoked in respect of Orissa....*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: The Government will take note of it.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: As I said, the Government will make a note of it. Please take your seat.

*Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

13.08 hrs.

CALLING ATTENTION TO A MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

Deteriorating condition of internal security in the country especially the recent killings in North-East and Jammu and Kashmir

[English]

SHRI RAJESH PILOT (Dausa): Sir, I call the attention of the Minister of Home Affairs to the following matter of urgent public importance and request that he may make a statement thereon:

> "The deteriorating condition of internal security in the country especially the recent killings in North-East and Jammu and Kashmir and the steps taken by the Government in regard thereto."

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): Sir, the overall security situation in the country has not deteriorated. However, the areas of concern are Pak-guided insurgency in Jammu and Kashmir, the subversive activities of militant groups in the North East and the violence perpetrated by the Left Wing extremist groups...*(Interruptions)*

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY (Visakhapatnam): Sir, what about Andhra Pradesh?

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: I have included that. Some positive results are discernible in Jammu and Kashmir. The number of violent incidents in the State is on the decline. There have also been a large number of arrests and recovery of weapons and explosives. An Action Plan involving, *inter alia*, measures to curb infiltration, counter-militancy in the hinterland, protection of minorities, enhanced intelligence capabilities, greater functional integration and coordination amongst security forces, greater interaction with border population and technological upgradation of security forces has been launched to tackle militancy. These efforts are coordinated and overseen by the two Unified headquarters at Jammu and Srinagar which are headed by the Chief Minister. Periodic reviews are also carried out at the State Government and Central Government levels. Support from Pakistan for the terrorists/foreign mercenaries, however, continues undiminished.

The militants in Jammu and Kashmir have enlarged the area of violence to Jammu region. The killings in

Doda district of Jammu and Kashmir in July, 1998 and in Chamba district of Himachal Pradesh in August, 1998 have been condemned by all. Security in these areas has been tightened. The State Government of Jammu and Kashmir has been providing an *ex-gratia* grant of rupees one lakh each to the next of kin of those killed and Rs. 50,000 to each of that injured in acts of terrorist violence and these *ex-gratia* payments are subsequently reimbursed by the Central Government.

The total number of persons killed in insurgency-related violence in the North East has shown a decline this year, from 1655 in 1997 to 1262 in 1998 (upto December 2). Four States in the North East are, at present, affected by insurgency. These are Assam, Manipur, Nagaland and Tripura. Though there has been an increase in incidents of violence in Assam and Tripura, the situation in Manipur and Nagaland has shown signs of improvement. In Manipur, 79 civilians have been killed this year as against 233 in 1997.

In Nagaland, where there is an ongoing cease-fire between the Governent of India and the NSCN(I/M), there is a significant improvement. Only 25 civilians were killed in Nagaland this year as compared to 92 in 1997. The number of civilians killed in Tripura during 1998 is 200 as against 205 during 1997. However, the number of civilians killed in Assam has gone up from 285 in 1997 to 463 in 1998. The Government of India is closely monitoring the situation and is rendering necessary assistance to the State Governments concerned.

Insurgency in the North East has never been looked upon only as a law and order problem. The strategy to curb insurgency includes a willingness to meet and discuss legitimate grievances; resolve that violence would not be tolerated; friendly relations with neighbouring countries; accelerated infrastructural development; stress on employment schemes; and good governance and decentralisation.

Left wing extremism continues to remain a disruptive force, especially in parts of Andhra Pradesh and Bihar. However, Left wing extremist violence has shown a downward trend in terms of the number of incidents the number of persons killed during the current year (up to November, 1998) was 466 as against 584 in 1997 and 541 in 1996. Andhra Pradesh and Bihar are the major theatres of Left wing extremists activity accounting for the bulk of incidents and casualities. Special assistance is being given by the Central Government to the States seriously affected by Left wing extremism.

The activities of the Sikh extremists in Punjab and neighbouring States remain at a low ebb.

The communal situation in the country is under control. The number of deaths in communal violence in the country this year has been the lowest in the last ten years.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJESH PILOT: Mr. Speaker, Sir, when this Calling Attention Motion was moved then this was for drawing attention of the Government towards reality. Hon'ble Home Minister will agree that such figures exist and they get changed but perception which is there in the country is very necessary. You accept this or not but you have taken credit that in Tripura last year *i.e.* in 1997 205 deaths took place and this year *i.e.* in 1998 number of deaths was 200, it means five less. About this also, you have tried to take credit from the statement.

[English]

It is there. He says that the number of civilians killed in Tripura during 1998 is 200 as against 205 during 1997.

1312 hrs.

(MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*)

The situation has so improved that the number of deaths has come down by 5. It is there in the statement of yours. It is your statement the number of civilians killed in Tripura during 1998 is 200 as against 205 during 1997.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: I have not called it improvement...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAJESH PILOT: I am just telling the perception.

[Translation]

Perception in the country is not evolved by these figures that 200 died or 205 died. On files, we can believe credibility of these figures but you and we, by taking representatives...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: Statement also says that though there has been an increase in incidents of violence in Assam and Tripura...

SHRI RAJESH PILOT: I agree. But this is also there in your statement. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: I have given the figures. But, I have not called it improvement.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJESH PILOT: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the perception in country is that activities have increased. You may agree or disagree with this view believing these figures but if you ask the common man about internal security then we will find that everyone has doubt whether we are having any internal security or not. If Home Minister remembers that Government tried internal security. I think our both the borders are in danger. I do not think this is an easy work that all things can set in one day, and all things will set in one day. Whichever Government comes in power, faces difficulties it could be either you or we but the efforts which Government would have made are not being made. Therefore, we have moved Calling Attention before you. A treaty was signed with Nepal and Bangladesh. Our two borders touching Nepal and Bangladesh were causing inmense loss. Nepal border is such widely open that if some militant from Pakistan wants to come to India then instead of Kashmir route he would like to come via Nepal. About this we had dialogue with Nepales Government many times and on this issue they made a plan but I am not aware of the extend to which this plan succeeded in curbing this problem. Even today, border of Nepal is much open. There is no manpower there and we had conducted talks about wire fencing on borders but it could not be materialised.

So for as border of Bangladesh is concerned on this. Government level dialogues were held many times and this was also talked in our meetings of paramilitary forces.

Through Bangladesh whichever ammunition comes either it is RDX or IDG, all these things come through that route only. This comes from seashore of Bangladesh to Tripura and Mizoram and then it reaches Nagaland, Manipur. Twice, army men have done commendable job on this track when 100-125 militants were caught. After that we told Bangladesh Government about these developments in very categorical terms. Cox Bazar is a sea port there from where all supplies take place. Dialogue with Bangladesh was going on that Government will put restriction on supplies from Cox Bazar to Mizoram and Agartala track. I do not know whether today work is going on according to that agreement or not. But this is true. Today there is cease fire between NSCNI and Government, cease fire is also going on with Nagaland militants organisation. But even today ammunition is coming. But I have information that more is coming. Before ceasefire some checkmetes were there, because army thinks that cease fire has taken place.

[English]

The army does not feel responsible for that and if the Army takes strong action, then the cease fire gets violated.

[Translation]

Today ammunition is coming in more quantity through this track and reaches these two States. I do not think that I do not have knowledge of this and how much progress had been there and what ban has Government imposed from its side so that this track gets isolated. Unless this track is isolated present conditions in whole north-east will remain unchanged. Hon'ble Minister has himself agreed that whether it is Andhra Pradesh or Bihar, some activities were done by Naxalite movement and extremists and conditions have deteriorated there. Hon'ble Minister has termed internal security in sound position. I have two points to tell hon.'ble Minister that this is true that this is very big, difficult work and for this what is happening is this that some weakness have come in our system, institutions. Why this weakness have come, one is that of coordination, there is no coordination between our institutions. We people made one effort in this regard that Intelligence Bureau, agencies, and other channels of State should co-ordinate more and more. News came from channels which were made, on which all three had talks between them. We tried coordination with I.B. and I think at that time it was not successful, but a trial was made so that channels of I.B. become up-to-date. Schemes was made from all sources from district level to State level and national level. Hon.'ble Minister may be knowing whether that scheme is still going on or not because we feel that all the northern states joining with Kashmir will have direct impact on internal security. Direct effect of militancy falls on them.

I do not know whether zonal Co-ordination Committee that was constituted, is functioning or not but a marked improvement was seen in the situation due to the support of the I.B. and holding of meetings of the Co-ordination Committees in Kashmir. Whether those systems have been functioning or not, the hon. Minister would like to tell?

So far as I.B. and information is concerned, tomorrow when I was reading the Asian Age, the photograph of a militant was published in it about whom search operations have been going on for the last one and half years. His photograph has been published but there is no information about his whereabouts.

[English]

You can make out how coordination is lacking in our agencies.

[Translation]

While making a mention of Kashmir, the hon. Minister said that the situation has improved there. You look at the figures. I do not have the latest figures with me but there has been no change in the figures of 1996, 1997 and 1998, especially in respect of Jammu and Kashmir. Outwardly, it may seem that the circumstances in the Kashmir are improving, but I have a little bit of information and idea that infiltration has been on increase there. Infiltration has been going on even today in the Kupwara border. In the village Lohab, situated in this region, some people were nabbed some days back. They have revealed that even today, nearly 72 camps are running in P.O.K. In Pakistan, near Pakistan border, approximately 85 and in Afghan border nearly 21 camps are under operation. Even today, at this very time, 178 camps are going on in that border. This inofrmation was received from the people nabbed from Lohab and this fact is known to local people and commonman alike. Infiltration has risen to such an extent that the people and youngmen from the surroundings of Kupwara have been missing from their homes. Infiltrators have taken them away along with them. That is why they are missing. Outwardly, it appears that Kashmir is peaceful but the news which I am receiving at personal level, indicates that even today, infiltration is going on there and the same attitude which was prevalent in 1991-92 has been developing once again. Perhaps infiltration may not have been increasing in figures. Armymen say why they should keep on fighting with them. They have spent ten years fighting. When army takes strict measures, State Government complaints that excesses were committed. If action is taken against someone who has links with high-ups, then army has to bear the brunt. There, even the Army is working with laxity. Let it continue. Even the army is not taking that much tough measures which is the need of the hour, which in turn, has led to increase in infiltration. In 1991-92, when hon. George Fernandes and you were sitting this side, you said migration has increased a lot. At that time some increase really took place owing to militancy which led to the exodus of people from that area. But today migration has been taking place even from the places like Jammu. In our times, the situation in valley was extremely bad. We tried to improve it but allegations were made against us that migration has been increasing. Today, people have been abandoning even the places like Jammu. In our time, migration did not take place from Jammu. People who migrated from the valley took shelter in Jammu. Now migration has been taking place even from Jammu and the minorities have been fleeing their native land. It is a matter to ponder over. 1991-92 was bad time for Kashmir but Rajouri and Punch were not bad. Doda's situation was a bit worse but Rajouri, Punch and Swarnkot were not affected. Today, army camps are being attacked in Swarnkot.

[English]

In Swarnkot, army was attacked by militants.

[Translation]

This much deterioration has taken place, it should not be taken lightly. I think that the hon. Chief Minister keeps on saying it every third day that situation has been improving. When nobody talks to him, he says that Centre is not providing assistance. But the truth is that the impact which should have been in Kashmir, is not taking place. I do not want to go into the issue of whether it is a lapse on the part of the Central agencies or the State Government. But the impact which should take place at the border is not taking place. The situation in Punch and Rajouri has deteriorated. Killings have taken place in Doda. You too went there and I also visited that place. The reasons you learnt well that our men even did not reach the checkposts which were to be constructed there. The villagers had already told them that the militants have been staying there for the last ten days and they have been appeasing them with offers of milk and luncheons and they may come out anytime to kill us, but nobody pays a heed to it and these killings took place. You talked about unified commands that is going on there. I do not know how it is going on. But the purpose for which the unified command was constituted, is not being fulfilled. I only want to say that bring some effectiveness in it. You have said that the hon. Chief Minister of the State has been heading the unified command.

Ask them how many meetings have been held in the last 7-8 months, which agencies took part in it, and who were the people who participated in those meetings. Therefore, we have kept army, its information, intelligence bureau and state police in a unified command so as to make it effective by working in coordination with each other. Therefore, we have kept army in unified command. You have appointed the Chief Minister as its Chairman. I do not know what progress has been made in this regard.

You have talked of improvement. I read in the newspapers that the weapons are being provided to infiltrators in Kashmir in large scale. They are up-to-date and are equipped with sophisticated equipments. The microlight was never noticed with them earlier in the period from 1990 to 1997. Have we ever read in the newspaper that microlights are being displayed by the B.S.F. wherefrom these are being supplied. There has been an influx of the I.D.S. and sophisticated weapons in a large quantity. Definitely there has been some source and inlets of the supply of these weapons. It is considered that the situation in Kashmir has improved. I think that

[Shri Rajesh Pilot]

with the holding of elections people had hoped the situation to improve the Government are also making efforts in this direction but even today this fact cannot be denied that infiltration is on increase sophisticated arms are also being supplied in increased quantity. The point is what steps the Governemnt is taking in this regard. All incidents are related to the I.D.S. Behind all attacks on the Army it is the I.D.S. Hon. Minister need to pay more attention on the issue of Kashmir, especially as to why the situation has deteriorated in the Rajouri, Punch and Swarnkot sectors. Attention has to be paid in this regard. The people of these areas have always stood against the intrusion of militants in the valley, however these militants could not make entry into Rajouri-Punch areas. But today, I regret to say that these three districts are also on the line of valley.

There were talks on Mughal Road Project. I do not know what progress has been made in this regard. But you and the Chief Minister of J & K had promised to hold discussion on giving autonomy to J & K. People have taken this promise seriously but you have done nothing in this direction. In 1990, in our tenure, some complaints were registered, however we did not take them seriously and situation in Kashmir deteriorated. Now you say that the situation has improved in the Kashmir, but it has to be mewed with other aspects also, the talks on autonomy have been going on for long. It should be explained as to what happened to that. The hon. Chief Minister had stated that he would soon constitute a committee to do something in this regard. People have this feeling that the promises made before the elections are not fulfilled. It will not go in Kashmir. People in Kashmir are closely watching it.

As far as the north-east is concerned, the entire House agrees with me. Many people from north-east are present here, today the situation is deteriorating in Assam, it has deteriorated in entire north-east. You were holding talks with L.S.C.N(T) on ceasefire. I do not know what progress you have made in that direction. You should take the entire House in the confidence. This is a national issue. You should tell us whether any progress is being made in this direction or not. One aspect is that militants want ceasefire, so that they may be able to consolidate their power. If their strength grows, it will be harmful for us.

SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR BWISWMUTHIARY (Kokrajhar): If you want to discuss it, it should be discussed seriously. Don't make a show of it.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please do not interrupt now.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: No interruption please.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Pilot has to seek the clarification and not you. Please do not interrupt now.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Let him finish, please.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI ABDUL HAMID (Dhubri): Sir, this is a very serious matter...*(Interruptions)* The hon. Home Minister should make a statement on the floor of the House with regard to Assam only...*(Interruptions)* Sir, Assam is burning ...*(Interruptions)* Within seven days, 38 people have been killed in the bomb blasts...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Pilot is seeking clarification, please do not interrupt him.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJESH PILOT: Sir, this is true and hon. Minister has also accepted the facts about the situation prevailing in North-East in this statement...*(Interruptions)* Our friends, who belong to Bodoland, Assam are present here. The decisions taken in regard to North-East are usually far away from the reality. As long as we are unaware of their problems and as long as we do not take decisions, keeping in mind their sentiments, their point of view is right.

SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR BWISWMUTHIARY: You should discuss Bodoland by heart, not by mere words.

[English]

This Parliament is not a dramatic stage, this is a stage of reality...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI RAJESH PILOT: You have to take the Parliament in confidence in regard to the dialogue being held with N.S.C.N.(I). You should apprise the Parliament of the progress in this regard. Almost one year has passed what progress has been made in that regard, you should tell it...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please do not interrupt.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJESH PILOT: It is almost one year. The hon. Minister has admitted that the situation is very critical in the four States of Tripura, Assam, Nagaland and Manipur. In Nagaland and Manipur, the clashes may be ethical, but the situation is deteriorating over there and militants are also taking advantage of it. A Joint Information Centre has been set up in Shillong, and every Chief Minister has been linked with each other through hotline, so that the problems in all States may be taken note of. Whether any progress has been made in that regard or not or whether that experiment is successful or not, the hon. Minister of Home Affairs should reply in this regard. It was set up so that we may have up-to-date information about all seven States and we may also get news from far flung areas. But the fact is that, the things mentioned by our friends in regard to Assam are true and for the last ten days, the condition over there has deteriorated. 144 people were killed in October, 103 were killed in November and today is 22nd of December, and still yesterday evening, 86 people have been killed in Assam. When so many people are killed in a month, you should take some steps so that the common man get assured that the Government are doing something in this regard. If the Government do note take an effective step, everyman feels that the Government is failing on that front. What are the reasons for it. ULFA activities are on rise, they have not been controlled, the dialogue with Bodos has also not been successful. The agreement has not been successful. Bodos have raised again their heads and are demanding for the Bodoland. All of you are well aware of the stand of the Assam Government in this regard. It is true that when the agreement was reached, the people over there had demanded Bodoland on the 10 km. belt. As they have not been able to do so, the Bodos are now convinced that whether it is Central Government or the State Government they are not willing to give them autonomy. At that time, the State Government has opposed it. And today the circumstances are such that the Bodos have risen again with their guns. It is the matter of great concern that in Assam and especially in the adjoining state of Tripura, the condition has deteriorated. The hon. Minister of Home Affairs should pay attention in this regard. The figures provided by the leader of opposition about Assam are different from your figures. According to him.

[English]

"Extremists killed in encounter with Army and other security forces from 1996 to November 1998—about 4213; kidnapping - 3597; and rape cases - 1750".

[Translation]

It was stated in the statement, that there is no deterioration in the situation from the statement made by the Chief Minister of the Assam that the condition is deteriorating.

I want to make two points North-East is a sensitive area and state. Every Government has made an effort to bring that area in the main-stream. I am happy that the hon. Prime Minister has visited the state of Assam. He made a statement and said the economic condition over there will be improved and the formula of Planning Commission will be changed but as long as the policy will not be effective and steps will not be taken after understanding their problems, the condition will not improve. I suggest that an All Party meet should be convened in Assam and especially on North-East so that they may feel that the concern is being taken care of by the House over the killings. The Government and the Parliament should not remain silent on the issue. A delegation should be constituted to visit these places. It may help you in this matter. The truth should come before everybody. Mr. Speaker, Sir, it will help you and the House. The stringent steps would be taken. The accountability is not seen in this matter. The accountability does not come in any system till the approach is result-oriented whether it is a question of North-East or Kashmir. I would like to speak in subdued tone about the Kashmir that there is a need to remain alert. The way the propaganda is being carried out, the way the administration is ignoring the matter, probably you are not aware that a many Ministers have not visited their constituency in the Kashmir. We were expecting that after the Government would be formed, it will meet the people, it will share their grief and sorrow, but it is not happening over there. I hope that the hon. Home Minister will not go by figures, but will take stringent measures keeping in view the reality. The Minister of External Affairs called it a hot pursuit and said, we do not have any such policy. You may please remove this confusion. You may pursue

[Shri Rajesh Pilot]

hot or cold policy but please cure this malady. This is my request to you...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have got names of six to seven Members seeking clarifications. I cannot do that

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA (Patiala): I request hon. Home Minister to make an amendment 'Sikh Extremists' is written in the statement. It gives an impression that sikh community is extremist...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY (Madurai): Yes, he cannot say Sikh Extremists...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: I can say that 'Extremists in Punjab'. I am sorry...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA: The hon'ble Minister of Home Affairs should issue directions in this regard...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please, let him give clarification. Please resume your seat. Do not interrupt, please.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI ABDUL HAMID (Dhabri): Sir, this is a very serious matter....*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I cannot permit you. The rules do not permit me. How can I do that? It is a Calling Attention Motion, clarifications can be sought by the Member whose name is there on that.

...(Interruptions)

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE (Calcutta South): Sir, it is a very sensitive matter, please allow, at least, three-four Members to speak on this...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: It is not possible. Seven clarifications are sought, it cannot be converted into a discussion. As per rules, I cannot do that.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA (Guwahati): Sir, my point is different.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Your point cannot be brought within this Calling Attention Motion.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, yesterday, apart from this Calling Attention notice that has been given by Shri Rajesh Pilot, the issue of recent bomb blasts in Assam was raised by several hon. Members. In response to which I had said that I would be making a statement on that. If you permit me, I make a statement on that right now.

Then, I also simultaneously deal with the points raised by Shri Rajesh Pilot. *...(Interruptions)*

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: Recently the Lucknow Police went to Calcutta. They killed four terrorists who were involved in ISI activities. They were operating from Calcutta. So, please let us know the details. *...(Interruptions)*

13.35 hrs.

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

Bomb Blasts in Assam

[English]

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): On December 18, 1998, at 1105 hours, a powerful bomb blast occurred in a car, 200 metres away from Dispur Janata Bhavan on Guwahati-Shillong Road, near Assam Tea Auction Centre. As a result of this blast, 6 persons lost their lives. Besides, 46 persons, including 25 construction labourers working nearby, were injured. The injured persons were admitted in Guwahati Medical College Hospital. Preliminary investigation indicates that three of the victims killed were inside the car in which the bomb had been planted. five persons have been arrested so far. Further investigation is in progress.

On December 19, 1998, there was another incident in which a powerful bomb exploded while a police party was crossing a wooden bridge at Laokhowapara village, about 11 kms. from Bilasipara, in Dhubri district. As a result of this explosion, 10 persons, including the officer in-charge of Bilasipara Police Station and five other police personnel, were killed on the spot. This police party had

gone to conduct a raid in Raniganj area in connection with some cases. The incident took place when the police party was returning in a jeep after apprehending four accused persons. The four accused persons travelling in the jeep were also killed. ULFA extremists are suspected to be behind this bomb blast.

Following the incident, massive search has been undertaken, and security arrangements in Dhubri district have been strengthened. State DGP and other senior civil and police officers also visited the site.

The Government of Assam has announced payment of Rs. 5 lakhs to the next of kin of the police personnel killed.

SHRI ABDUL HAMID (Dubri): Thrity-eight people have been killed in the last week. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: I have a long list of the incidents that have taken place. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: After the statement of the hon. Minister, you cannot ask a clarification in this House.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. ABDUL HAMID: It is a serious matter. Twenty people of the minority communities have been killed by the extremists. But, so far, no action has been taken by the Government. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I do not know how I have to deal with you.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The hon. Home Minister has made a statement.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: The list will not be exhaustive. Even in the statement that I have made

[Translation]

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Shri Rajesh Pilot had asked about the position of the internal security. As the issue regarding incident of two bomb blasts was raised here yesterday, therefore I have given separate statement in regard thereto. However, I have stated in my statement that the situation in Assam has worsened during the last few months. I have accepted that N.E.K.

[English]

SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA (Guwahati): Everyday, there is a killing in Assam and bomb blasts are happening on every alternate day. The law and order has collapsed. We do not see any serious measures being taken by the Government. The State Government also has failed to maintain the law and order situation. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Why do you not sit? Shri Kalita, you please hear the hon. Home Minister.

...*(Interruptions)*

CALLING ATTENTION TO A MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

Deteriorating condition of internal security in the country especially recent killings in the North-East and Jammu & Kashmir—Contd.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, you will accept the fact that I could not have confined myself to the Assam issue only while replying to the calling attention. I did not mention many other incidents occurred in J & K. I am talking about Bodo and I know the situation prevailing there. While giving statement regarding the internal security of the country, I have to speak on many aspects. I gave a separate statement regarding Assam as recently two bomb-blasts occurred there, otherwise, I was aware of....

[English]

SHRI E. AHAMED (Manjeri): Let there be a comprehensive statement. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Let him complete.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAJESH PILOT: Let us be factual. Yesterday the Minister of Home Affairs had agreed that he would make a statement on the situation in Assam separately. Today he has made a statement about the bomb blast on the 18th at Kokrajhar where 20 minority people were

[Shri Rajesh Pilot]

killed. He could have included that situation also in his statement. He has spoken on Assam. He said yesterday that he would give a statement. He has spoken on Assam. He said yesterday that he would give a statement on Assam. What they are saying is right. This is away from the Calling Attention. Yesterday he made a commitment. He could have enlightened them about the Kokrajhar incident also today. In Kokrajhar 20 Muslims were killed.

SHRI E. AHAMED: The statement of the Minister of Home Affairs is very vague. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P. UPENDRA (Vijayawada): The statement of the Minister of Home Affairs is very sketchy. For example, in Andhra Pradesh the law and order situation is very bad. The ISI activities are on the increase. there are political killings daily.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Upendra, the Calling Attention deals only with the North-East.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: No; it is not dealing with only the North-East. It is about the North-East, Jammu and Kashmir and the overall deteriorating condition of the internal security.

[Translation]

I can tell you if you so desire. I know, people belonging to other States can also say the same thing as has been stated just now regarding Andhra Pradesh. Mamataji mentioned the situation of Bengal...*(Interruptions)* Any member can say that the incidents occurred in his area have not been mentioned. It is not possible to mention all the incidents but as the matter of Assam was raised yesterday, I mentioned two incidents of bomb-blasts that occurred there. I have information of many such incidents. If I start mentioning the incidents the debate will become a lengthy one. I shall have no objection if a discussion on Assam is held tomorrow itself....*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY (Puri): We are also raising the issue about Orissa.

SHRI BIJOY HANDIQUE (Jorhat): The Balsipur incident took place long after the Guwahati incident. He should have spoken about the Balsipur incident also.

SHRI RAJESH PILOT: Our plea is that on the 18th in Kokrajhar 20 people were killed. He gave a statement about the bomb blast near the Secretariat. My colleagues are saying that a comprehensive statement could have been made on Assam. That is all they are saying. They are not saying anything else. What they are saying is, tomorrow the hon. Minister, if he feels like, may tell us about the situation in Assam about the subsequent bomb blasts; sequentially bomb blasts are taking place. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: I have an information that many people were killed when an altercation ensured between the Bodos and Muslims on 12th. Since then nobody raised the matter, however when it was raised yesterday...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR BWISWMUTHIARY: This is about the incident that took place at Kokrajhar where 20 Muslims of Bodoland were killed.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: Yesterday I was not even able to hear because so many people were shouting. Ultimately I was told that it was about the bomb blast. Therefore, I said that I would find out the facts in that regard and come here. And, therefore, I have come. That was the statement made about the internal security climate, particularly about Jammu and Kashmir and the North-East. I have made certain pertinent observations in which I have conceded that so far as Assam is concerned, the situation is worsening.

SHRI P. UPENDRA: It does not reflect the law and order situation in the country. It is very sketchy and unsatisfactory. He should make a comprehensive statement or you please allow a full-fledged discussion on the law and order situation in the country.

[Translation]

SHRI K.D. SULTANPURI (Shimla): The issue of Kashmir has been discussed, hon. Minister may please state about the steps being taken to stop the infiltrators coming into Himachal Pradesh...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Sultanpuri, can anybody stand up and speak?

[Translation]

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, Shri Rajeshji has emphatically stated that infiltration is on the increase and the internal security condition is deteriorating in J & K though the situation may appear on improving. Cautiousness should be observed in this regard. My view is that situation has improved and I have repeatedly stated the facts which show the improvement and I would not like to repeat again now. The largest tourist centre in the state has been closed since last 10 years. The people who were employed in tourism industry there, have been rendered jobless. Thousands, hotels and restaurants were all closed. 1998 is the first year after 1989 when tourists visited the state in such a large number...*(Interruptions)* But there is nothing to applause. ...*(Interruptions)* Insurgency activities are not confined to J & K ...*(Interruptions)* That's why I have mentioned improvement in the situation in my statement whose last sentence is

[English]

But the support from Pakistan for the terrorists and for the foreign mercenaries, however, continues undiminished.

[Translation]

In my statement I have stressed upon the fact that not even a slight change has come in the intentions of Pakistan who is regularly creating trouble in the State. You have mentioned about not pursuit that I have said to the Government as a member of opposition for which I was strongly criticised. In spite of such a large scale disturbances, the strategy of not pursuit would have been successful few years back. During the conference held regarding the situation of J&K which was attended by Chief of the Army, Chief Minister and Governor of the State and Defence Minister. I was asked about the policy of the Government. I said that now I will emphasise.

[English]

that we have to be proactive.

[Translation]

People asked if proactive means not pursuit. I said, no, Union Government do not advocate the policy of not pursuit in today's perspective. Shri George Fernandes has stated the same thing just now. It is wrong to say that we have difference of opinion. My views which I expressed 6 years ago were right at that time but not now. There are many reasons for it...*(Interruptions)* Yes, that can be your view. It would be better if Congress party will say it clearly.

SHRI RAJESH PILOT: This you have stated after becoming Home Minister.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: I never mentioned not pursuit.

SHRI AJIT JOGI (Raigarh): You have had stated proactive.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: The Government is not careless about the things which Shri Pilot has mentioned regarding J&K. The intention of Pakistan backed militant has not changed. A large number of weapons and other things have been supplied to them not today but they are being supplied for some time back. Today, the Government has tried to awake the people of the country by publicly displaying these weapons. This is not an ordinary militancy situation.

[English]

This is the real war. This is proxy war in the real sense of the word.

[Translation]

A number of Anti-Aircraft guns and micro light flying bombs etc. have been found there. As soon as Pakistan gets arms and ammunition from other countries like Afghanistan, these are supplied to the militants in J&K. The only good thing is that among the militants nabbed or killed during last days, only few belong to J&K. Most of them are foreign mercenaries. It shows that local recruitment as militants is decreasing. It means people there are maintaining a distance from the militants. It is the biggest success. I do not say that this success goes to the credit of our Government.

[English]

It is the process that has been going on.

[Translation]

The achievement of the year 1998 is that tourism has increased there and many people have got employment therein.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, there are total seven States in North-Eastern region the eighth state, Sikkim has just been included. Out of these, 4 states have comparatively

[Shri L.K. Advani]

no extremism. It is not in Meghalaya. Recently, I have visited Mizoram, it is peaceful since long. Mizoram, Meghalaya, Sikkim and Arunachal Pradesh...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

I know that.

[Translation]

Extremism is not there in these 4 States. Regarding the remaining 4 States, I myself have accepted in my statement that this year it has increased in Assam and Tripura and declined in rest of the States. Though, I have given figures of all the four and of Tripura also but in case of Assam and Tripura I have stated that there is increased violence in these two states and Government always remain in contact of Chief Ministers and Governors of both the States. Coordinate efforts are being made to stop extremists.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, infiltration is still going on. Undoubtedly, it is a major problem. Necessary steps are being taken to solve it. Therefore, in the whole perspective, I have stated that

[English]

> "saying that the situation has deteriorated on the whole in respect of the internal security climate, is not correct."

[Translation]

The problem of naxalism is also involved in international security. You may not agree with me but I am of the view that the steps taken by the Andhra Pradesh Government during the last few days have shown good results...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI P. UPENDRA: No Even day before yesterday, one ex-MP was killed by Naxalities. There are political murders everyday. Ex-MLAs and ex-MPs are being killed. How can he say that there is an improvement? This is not correct. The Union Government is turning the Nelson's Eye to the law and order situation in the States ruled by the supporting parties. Whether it is Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh or Assam, they are turning the Nelson's Eye. They send Central Teams to Tamil Nadu and West Bengal but they do not send a Central Team to Andhra Pradesh.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: Shri Upendra, that is your own view. A coordination committee involving all the States in the grip of naxalism was set up three-four month ago after discussing the problem with D.G. police of those States. It regularly monitors the situation. Due to this step situation has improved in Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra. The problem of Bihar is not only of naxalism but the other aspect of the problem is land reforms...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Sir, there is no law and order in Orissa...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: What is this? Let him answer. Please do not interrupt like this. Let him complete.

[Translation]

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the House should accept the fact that we are not discussing the States here...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I am on my legs. Please take your seats.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Sir, we draw the attention of the Home Minister to the deteriorating law and order situation in Orissa...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to make a submission in the House that while discussing the law and order situation and internal security, we cannot discuss each and every State here and I would not be able to reply to all such questions. We should take up matters as to whether the Government have fulfilled its responsibility and extended their cooperation in solving the main problems pertaining to States or not? Central Government fully cooperates with State Governments in these matters. In spite of our efforts if the situation does not improve, we will provide more assistance for the purpose. But law and order situation is mainly the responsibility of State Governments. It is not proper that Members start raising issues pertaining to their respective States.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to tell that the Government has paid attention towards the problem of naxalites and communal violences. I have also made a mention that in comparison to the last 10 years period, in 1998 only a few incidents of communal violence have taken place. I am satisfied on this account and a comprehensive reply was given on it during discussion on the issue of communal violence.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Rajeshji has raised some points and one of that point was about ceasefire in Nagaland. I would like to say that incidents of violence have declined due to ceasefire and public heaved a sign of relief. I am not making the claim that incidents of extortions have stopped. We have been continuously discussing with the State Government the matter of proper implementation of guidelines issued for the period of ceasefire. The Government is alert to ensure that no one utilises this period for collecting arms. However, the apprehensions expressed here cannot be called altogether baseless.

SHRI MOHAN SINGH (Deoria): In today's newspaper several news items pertaining to extortion alongwith receipts of ransom have been published...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: I know about that...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MOHAN SINGH: A member of your party in Rajya Sabha stated about ceasefire that...*(Interruptions)* It has been imposed throughout India...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: I have already admitted that problem of extortion of money is quite grave. This problem has not cropped up today itself but it is prevailing in various areas since long. We are alert in this regard. If you want to get some information about Assam, I will make a statement tomorrow...*(Interruptions)* I have no objection to it...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: All right, you can make statement on it tomorrow.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI BHUBANESHWAR KALITA: Sir, we are not at all satisfied with the statement of the hon. Minister...*(Interruptions)*

13.56 hrs.

MESSAGES FROM RAJYA SABHA AND BILLS AS PASSED BY RAJYA SABHA—*LAID*

[English]

SECRETARY-GENERAL: Sir, I have to report the following messages received from the Secretary-General of Rajya Sabha:—

(i) "In according with the provisions of rule 111 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to enclose a copy of the Marriage Laws (Amendment) Bill, 1998 which has been passed by the Rajya Sabha at its sitting held on the 21st December, 1998."

(ii) "In accordance with the provisions of rule 111 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to enclose a copy of the Indian Majority (Amendment) Bill, 1998 which has been passed by the Rajya Sabha at its sitting held on the 21st December, 1998".

(iii) "In accordance with the provisions of rule 111 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to enclose a copy of the Administrators-General (Amendment) Bill, 1998 which has been passed by the Rajya Sabha at its sitting held on the 21st December, 1998."

(iv) "In accordance with the provisions of rule 111 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to enclose a copy of the Merchant Shipping (Second Amendment) Bill, 1998 which has been passed by the Rajya Sabha at its sitting held on the 21st December, 1998."

(v) "In accordance with the provisions of rule 127 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to inform the Lok Sabha that the Rajya Sabha at its sitting held on the 21st December, 1998 agreed without any amendment to the Leaders and Chief Whips of Recognised Parties and Groups in Parliament (Facilities) Bill, 1998 which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 18th December, 1998.

(vi) "In accordance with the provisions of sub-rule(6) of rule 186 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to return herewith the High Court and Supreme Court Judges (Salaries and Conditions of Service) Bill, 1998 which was

[Secretary General]

passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 17th December, 1998 and transmitted to the Rajya Sabha for its recommendations to make to the Lok Sabha in regard to the said Bill."

Sir, I lay on the Table the Marriage Laws (Amendment) Bill; the Indian Majority (Amendment) Bill; the Administrators-General (Amendment) Bill, 1998; the Merchant Shipping (Second Amendment) Bill, 1998 as passed by Rajya Sabha on the 21st December, 1998.

13.57 hrs.

CALLING ATTENTION TO A MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

Deteriorating condition of internal security in the country especially the recent killings in the North-East and Jammu and Kashmir—Contd.

SHRI RAJESH PILOT (Dausa): Sir, the real idea was not just to give a statement and listen to his statement. That was not the idea. The whole House would agree with me that situation is deteriorating in the North-East today. If the Home Minister says that it is improving, we can believe him.

[Translation]

SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA (Jhabua): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the whole issue should be discussed honestly...*(Interruptions)* We stage a walk out to oppose it...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI RAJESH PILOT: But look at the perception of the North-East. We were expecting that he would come out with effective measures. He has not talked about the track. I have told him that ammunition is coming from Cox Bazar. I have told him that the situation in Nagaland is deteriorating and extortion is on. He says

[Translation]

'we are alert'

[English]

Satark is not the solution. The House would like to know what effective measures he is going to take about it. On Kashmir, he has explained many things, but he has not talked about infiltration. He has to tell the measures taken. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Whatever he wanted to say, he has already stated.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAJESH PILOT: What are the measures he is taking?...*(Interruptions)* It is not correct...*(Interruptions)* What is the use of Calling Attention. He must satisfy the House that these are the effective measures taken by the Government for future. He is not saying anything about that. Does he agree that Assam is happy?...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA (Guwahati): He must tell what measures he has taken. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAJESH PILOT: He must tell us something about what he is doing about it. We were not happy. That is why, we raised a Calling Attention.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You may not be happy, but he has already stated this.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAJESH PILOT: He has not stated the measures taken...*(Interruptions)* You speak, we speak and sit down here. That is all.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: For your clarification, he has already stated whatever he wanted to State.

SHRI RAJESH PILOT: Is the situation happy there? Law and order is bad and bomb blasts are taking place. The situation in Nagaland is also bad. He says that he is happy about it. ...*(Interruptions)* he must come out with some measures.. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the problem of law and order situation is very grave...*(Interruptions)* The Government is misleading the people of this country...*(Interruptions)* Murders have become order of the day...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI RAJESH PILOT: This is not the way ...*(Interruptions)* Hon. Prime Minister has given statement in Guwahati. Hon. Prime Minister also made a statement in Parliament...*(Interruptions)* Hon. Prime Minister himself gave a statement...*(Interruptions)*

14.00 hrs

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Rajesh Pilotji has raised several points in his speech and given a good suggestion. All the members of Parliament are concerned about the situation prevailing in north-east. This problem does not

relate to any particular party or Government only but all the political parties are interested in finding solution to it and thus all the political parties are interested in finding solution to it and thus a parliamentary delegation should be sent to north east.

I would like to say that the Government is ready for it. An all party delegation should go there to take stock of the situation...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: What about Orissa? There is no law and order in Orissa. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAJESH PILOT: I am very happy to hear what the hon. Home Minister said. But what I was pleading with you, hon. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, is that this House would like to know about the steps taken by the Government to solve this problem. Delegations would not solve the problem. I have requested to Home Minister to tell us what effective measures he has taken to control the problem in the North-East, especially in Assam. Everyday, there is a bomb blast there. We want an assurance on that also.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: The delegation would guide me in this regard.

SHRI RAJESH PILOT: He has to assure the House by informing us about the effective measures which the Government will take. The State Government has been demanding for paramilitary forces. Has he given the paramilitary forces to the State Government? They are asking for modernisation of weapons in the North-East. In the North-East, still, they are functioning with 302 rifles. The Home Minister has not touched that point. I am saying that the weapons have to be modernised. The Home Minister says, 'We are alert'. But he is not talking about modernisation of weapons. Our policemen are fighting with 303 rifles whereas the militants are fighting with AK-47 rifles. The Home Minister has not paid any attention to that. so, he has to say something positive on that. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: What is happening? Please go back to your seats. I will hear you, please go back to your seats.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAJESH PILOT: Sir, we are walking out because he has not given any assurance.

14.02 hrs.

Shri Rajesh Pilot and some other hon. Members then left the House.

SHRI E. AHAMED (Manjeri): Sir, in protest, we are also walking out.

14.02¼ hrs.

Shri E. Ahamed and some other hon. Members then left the House.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: So far as item Nos. 23, 24 and 25 are concerned, a discussion is being held in the chambers of the hon. Speaker. We can take up item No. 26.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Please allow me to speak for some time.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will allow only one of you to speak.

SHRI BHARTRAHARI MAHTAB (Cuttack): Sir, in Orissa, there is a serious law and order problem. Five thousand tribals have revolted against the callous attitude of the Orissa Government. There are history-sheeters who have been protected by the Congress Government in Orissa. The tribal people who were going to Mumbai, after mortgaging their land, to earn their livelihood have been looted repeatedly. Still, the Government did not arrest anyone. When the tribal people revolted, then only two persons were apprehend and put behinds the bars. But no action was taken against the group, which was getting the protection of the Government. It happened in Udaigiri and Ramgiri in Gajapati District. After that, the tribal people revolted on 8th December. They broke through the jail and killed two people. One person fled away from the jail and he was apprehended at a different village. Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, after they caught hold of that person, they brought the dead body and also another person to the police station and then they were burnt alive. Even after that, no action has been taken. The tribals, apprehending serious breach of law and order, fled the villages. Two weeks after this incident, another village has been put on fire. There is a serious apprehension of breach of peace.

[Shri Bhartrahari Mahtab]

In Bhubaneshwar today, a Cabinet Minister opened fire in a hotel. No action has been taken so far.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Member, I heard you. Kindly sit down.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Will you please sit? I am on my legs. Please sit down.

SHRI BHARTRAHARI MAHTAB: A news item has been telecast in Zee news.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please sit down.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore): Sir, you should allow me also to speak.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: What is this? There is a limit. All of you are new Members. You should know the rules.

The Calling Attention was taken up and the hon. Minister replied to it. Clarifications were sought and the Minister replied to them also. The hon. Member who spoke just now was talking about law and order situation in Orissa. The calling attention was not on the law and order situation, it was on the deteriorating condition of the overall internal security in the country. Therefore, let there be no interruptions now. We will have to transact the business of the House.

Let us take up Item No. 26 now.

SHRI AJIT JOGI: Sir, what about Item No. 24. There is no dispute regarding creation of Chattisgarh. Let that Bill be introduced. *...(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

The Bill regarding creation of Chhattisgarh should be introduced here...*(Interruptions)* The hon. Prime Minister is present here. During election campaigning he gave an assurance of creating a separate State but it is not being done how. *...(Interruptions)* Now he is backing out...*(Interruptions)* Not only in one meeting but in all the meetings there, he had given this assurance. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI DATTA MEGHE (Nagpur) Discussion should also be held about Vidarbha State also *...(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please take your seats.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI BRAJA KISORE TRIPATHY: Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, we want the response of the Government.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Tripathy, please sit down. We have a lengthy List of Business for today. We will have to transact a lot of business.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Sir, we want the response of the Government. You please ask the Home Minister to respond. *...(Interruptions)* This is a serious issue. The Government is remaining silent. *...(Interruptions)* We want a Parliamentary delegation to be sent there.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Tripathy, please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Braja Kishore Tripathy, please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

KUMARI KIM GANGTE (Outer Manipur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, may I speak for a minute?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I am on my legs, Madam. Please resume your seat.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have to inform the House as to why we are not taking up item nos. 23, 24 and 25. Regarding these matters, the hon. Speaker is holding a meeting with the leaders in his Chamber. Afterwards, we will take them up.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Members, when these matter come up, then you talk about them. Please take you seats now.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Will you please allow me to conduct this House, Shri Braja Kishore Tripathy?

[Translation]

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR (Nagpur): Assurance had been given by him during election campaign but later when he became Prime Minister he just forgot that. This is not expected from the Prime Minister of the country...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: This is not the way to conduct the House. I am sorry. Senior Members should not behave like this.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nobody can conduct the House like this.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: All the Members of your party and you yourself had given this assurance. Hon. Prime Minister and Minister of Defence said that...*(Interruptions)* How long such false promises will be made...*(Interruptions)* In this manner, how the country would be run.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Vilas Muttemwar, you are a senior Member. Please take your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Where is the question of Vidarbha now? Where is the item on Vidarbha in the List of Business?

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Will you allow me to conduct the House?

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY (Puri): Mr. Deputy-speaker, you please direct the Government to respond

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri Tripathy, I cannot compel the Government to respond.

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Sir, the Government should respond...*(Interruptions)*

14.12 hrs.

ELECTION LAWS (AMENDMENT) BILL*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, we take up item no. 26. The hon. Law Minister, Shri Thambi Durai.

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI M. THAMBI DURAI): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Representation of the People Act, 1951 and the Indian Penal Code...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Motion moved:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Representation of the People Act, 1951, and the Indian Penal Code.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil): Sir, I have an objection to the introduction of the Bill. Will you please allow me to speak?...*(Interruptions)* Sir, I may be permitted to speak. I have already given a notice in this regard.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: What is that notice?

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Sir, I have given two notice regarding the introduction of the Bill. Sir, it is against the fundamental principles of the Constitution. It is a proxy Bill, proxy in the sense, that even the secrecy of the ballot will get ruined. The secrecy of the ballot is the material concern of our democracy.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Radhakrishnan, your notice has not been received.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Sir, please hear me. If this Bill is allowed to be introduced, it will go against the principle of Constitution...*(Interruptions)* Please hear me.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Radhakrishnan, you have given notice on the Companies Act and not on this.

...*(Interruptions)*

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*Published in the Gazette of India, Extra-Ordinary, Part-II Section-2 dt. 22.12.98

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Oh, my goodness!

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Sir, the secrecy of the Bill will be ruined if this Bill is introduced. I strongly object its introduction.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You have given notice to the Companies (Amendment) Bill, but not this Bill.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: I object to the introduction of this Bill because the secrecy of the ballot would be lost. It is against the fundamental provisions of the Constitution.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI R.S. GAVAI (Amravati): The logic and rationale which apply for the reorganisation of U.P., Madhya Pradesh and Bihar, the same logic and rationale are quite applicable to Vidarbha. It is not only that; the BJP has included that in the Agenda. The hon. Prime Minister has time and again assured that Vidarbha will be given. Now there is a meeting of the Hon. Speaker with the leaders. I want to know whether formation of Vidarbha is included in the meeting or not. You have to look into it.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: That item is not there. We are not discussing that.

SHRI R.S. GAVAI: Hon. Speaker has agreed with the leaders regarding these three Bills. What about Vidarbha? Hon. Prime Minister is here. I request him because he has assured us.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: We are going to the Agenda. When it comes, then only your matter would be considered.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please sit down. When it comes before the House, you can say that and not now, Shri Vilas Muttemwar.

[Translation]

PROF. JOGENDRA KAWADE (Chimur): They have betrayed the people of Vidarbha therefore, we stage a walkout.

14.17 hrs.

Prof. Jogendra Kawade and some other Hon. Members then left the House.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to amend the Representation of the People Act, 1951, and the Indian Penal Code."

The motion was adopted.

DR. M. THAMBI DURAI: I introduce* the Bill.

14.18 hrs.

COMPANIES (AMENDMENT) BILL**

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Members, I have to inform that the Minister of Law, Justice and Company Affairs through his letter addressed to the Secretary-General, Lok Sabha received in the Secretariat today morning has intimated that the President has recommended the introduction of the Companies (Amendment) Bill, 1998 in Lok Sabha under Article 117 (1) of the Constitution and also its consideration by Lok Sabha under Article 117 (3) of the Constitution.

The Minister may now seek leave of the House to introduce the Bill.

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI M. THAMBI DURAI): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Companies Act, 1956.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Motion moved:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Companies Act, 1956."

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*Introduced with the recommendation of the President.

**Published in the Gazette of India, Extra-ordinary, Part-II, Section 2, dt. 22.12.98.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil): Sir, I oppose the introduction of this Bill itself. We have taken a decision that whenever a Bill is introduced before the House, we refer it to a departmentally-related Standing Committee. Now this Companies (Amendment) Bill was introduced in this House. This Bill was referred to a Standing Committee. The Standing Committee is considering it. The hon. minister has himself admitted that the Companies (Amendment) Bill, 1998 has been referred to departmentally-related Standing Committee and the report of the Standing Committee is awaited. So, the hon. Minister has himself admitted that the report of the Standing Committee is awaited. Now the House is seized of the matter. When the House is seized of the matter, it is quite improper on the part of the Government to issue an Ordinance about the very same Bill which is being considered by the Standing Committee and the report is also awaited. What is the urgency of issuing an Ordinance? The Government may think it urgent but the House should also be taken into confidence. What was the urgency of issuing such an Ordinance?

No word has been said about it in the statement of objects and reasons. What prompted the Government to think that this is urgent? Do the multinational companies influence the Government? Were they influenced? Did the extraneous forces influence the Government to issue an Ordinance when this august House is considering the Bill, when we have asked the Committee to submit a Report to explain the matter? I cannot understand how without the Committee explaining the matter, ignoring the provisions of the law, the Government has issued an Ordinance by-passing the Standing Committee of Parliament. You could have by-passed the Standing Committee — and I could have understood it — if there was an urgency, if the situation demanded that an Ordinance be issued. When once the House is seized of the matter, you cannot issue an Ordinance on the very same matter. you have issued an Ordinance on the very same matter that has been given to a Committee for consideration. The Departmentally-Related Standing Committee is seriously considering it. Is it a farce? We have referred the Bill to the Standing Committee and, in the meanwhile, the Government has issued an Ordinance without even taking into confidence the House as well as the Standing Committee. The Standing Committees were formed not as a mere procedure: it is not a farce. This is my objection.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Radhakrisham, I think, you have made your observation.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: I understand that the Government is committed to certain multinational companies on allowing them the buy-back of shares. ...*(Interruptions)* This is a crime against the Company Law which is in force for four decades. For four decades, from 1956, the Company Law has been here. ...*(Interruptions)* This Ordinance is quite irrelevant, improper and amounts to trespassing the rights of this House and the Standing Committee as a whole....*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Dhananjaya Kumar, what are you doing? You are stepping into the shoes of Shri Radhakrishnan.

DR. M. THAMBI DURAI: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I want to make it clear why we brought in the Ordinance.

The hon. Member himself admitted when he spoke that if there was any emergency we could bring in an Ordinance. Based on the prevailing situation of our economy, many hon. Member raised this even in the pervious Session also. Our economy is going down; we have to bring it up somewhat. That is the concern of everybody. Most of the industries have represented their grievances also. As the hon. member said, there are even some foreigners trying to take away our good companies. ...*(Interruptions)* We are performing well but these are the apprehensions. So, only in order to ensure that our economy flourishes and industry gets activated we have brought in this Ordinance. We are now bringing it before the House for its approval. It is up to the House to accept it or not. An Ordinance is not a permanent law; it is a temporary phenomenon. It is for this House to approve it or not. I am seeking the approval of the House.

There are many factors included in the Companies Act, for the consideration of the Standing Committee. This is not a comprehensive Bill. There are many issues. We thought that this issue was important. It is only for this reason that we issued the Ordinance. We are going to bring a comprehensive Bill, including all the other factors, in the next Session. We will be trying to do that. This Bill is an important Bill. We seek the approval of the House for this Bill.

SHRI E. AHAMED (Manjeri): Sir, I may be permitted to ask only one question.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Ahamed, I allowed Shri Radhakrishnan because he had given a notice.

...*(Interruptions)*

DR. M. THAMBI DURAI: This is only the introduction stage.

SHRI E. AHAMED: We are nearing the last day of this Session. The hon. Minister has said that the country is facing a financial crisis and this is the only remedy. Why did this Government not bring this Bill on the very first day of this Session? Is it only now that they know that the country is going down financially? Are you not responsible to this House and the people of this country? Is this the only way to do it when the House is adjourning tomorrow? *...(Interruptions)*

DR. M. THAMBI DURAI: Sir, this is only the introduction stage.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You will get an opportunity later.

DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY (Madurai): There should be a Special Session on the economic emergency in the country.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Companies Act, 1956."

The motion was adopted.

DR. M. THAMBI DURAI: I introduce the Bill*

14.25 hrs.

STATEMENT RE: COMPANIES (AMENDMENT) ORDINANCE—*LAID*

[English]

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI M. THAMBI DURAI): I beg to lay on the Table an explanatory statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for immediate legislation by the Companies (Amendment) Ordinance, 1998.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2142/98]

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*Introduced with the recommendation of the President.

14.26 hrs.

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

Official Visit to India by Chairman of the Government of the Russian Federation—*Laid**

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Indo-Russian Press Statement (English version only) issued on the official visit to India by the Chairman of the Government of the Russian Federation.

Indo-Russian Press Statement

The Chairman of the Government of the Russian Federation, His Excellency Mr. Yevgeny M. Primakov, paid an official visit to India from 20-22 December 1998. The visit marked a continuation of the long-standing tradition of high level bilateral exchanges between India and the Russian Federation.

During the visit, H.E. Mr. Primakov called on the President of India, Shri K.R. Narayanan, the Vice President of India, Shri Krishan Kant, and held in-depth talks with the Prime Minister of India, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee. Meetings with other high Indian dignitaries were also held. The discussions were held in the warm and friendly atmosphere traditional to such Indo-Russian exchanges.

Both Sides expressed satisfaction that Indo-Russian bilateral cooperation was proceeding well in all spheres. They agreed to identify new ways to jointly exploit the tremendous capabilities including scientific, technical and industrial skills, available in India and Russia. It was also agreed to jointly exploit the new opportunities emerging from economic changes underway in both countries. The determination to impart a qualitatively new character and long-term perspective to their multifaceted ties and actively develop them into the 21st century was reaffirmed.

The Sides intend to move towards strategic partnership, which will be confirmed during their next Summit level meeting by the signing of the Declaration on Strategic Partnership between the Republic of India and the Russian Federation. This would mark a new step forward in the elaboration of the principles contained in the bilateral Treaties of Peace, Friendship and Cooperation of 9 August 1971, of Friendship and Cooperation of 28 January 1993, the Declaration on further Development and Enhancement of Cooperation of

*[Also Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2143/98]

30 June 1994 and the Moscow Declaration on the Protection of Interests of Pluralistic States of 30 June 1994. This political document of paramount importance will set new parameters and guide the further development of the close partnership between India and Russia.

The Sides expressed deep satisfaction over the outcome of the 5th Session of the Indo-Russian Inter-Governmental Commission on Trade, Economic, Scientific, Technological and Cultural cooperation, held in Moscow from 26-28 November 1998. While appreciating the growth of Indo-Russian trade in 1997-98, it was hoped that the implementation of long-term bilateral trading arrangements in jointly identified items would lend stability to bilateral trade and encourage its growth on a sustained basis. The Sides agreed to make concerted efforts to significantly increase trade in the years ahead.

The Sides expressed particular satisfaction that cooperation was progressing well in such fields as power, oil and natural gas, coal, steel and transport, and agreed to further strengthen it to mutual benefit.

It was noted that wide-ranging and multifaceted cooperation in science and technology continued to show excellent progress. The Sides agreed to focus efforts on commercially exploiting the achievements of joint research in science and technology.

The Sides expressed satisfaction over their continuing cooperation in the peaceful uses of atomic energy.

Acknowledging the importance of people-to-people contacts and expressing satisfaction at the present level of Indo-Russian cultural exchanges, the Sides agreed to further intensify such cooperation.

Satisfaction was expressed over the progress in broad, mutually beneficial military-technical cooperation during recent years, which has good prospects.

The following bilateral documents were signed during the visit: Extradition Treaty, Agreement on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters, Consular Convention, Long term Agreement on Military—Technical Cooperation upto the year 2010, Joint Document on Development of Trade, Economic, Industrial, Financial, Science and Technology Cooperation, Agreement on Cooperation in the field of Communications, Air Transport Agreement. The Sides expressed the confidence that their signing would further reinforce the framework of their cooperative ties in the concerned fields.

While reiterating their commitment to the ideals of peace, democracy, rule of law, non-violence and secularism, the Sides proceed from the understanding that it was necessary to create a multipolar world based on the sovereign equality of all states, democratic values and justice. They agreed to jointly contribute to securing international peace and security, the democratisation of international relations, as well as to the promotion of the establishment of a new, just and stable world order with a strengthened role for the UN and its specialized agencies.

During the talks, views were also exchanged on a wide range of important international issues of mutual interest. In these discussions both sides supported the process of nuclear non-proliferation. The discussions also demonstrated a convergence of views on international terrorism, illicit trafficking in narcotic drugs and arms, as well as the situation in and around Afghanistan and other parts of the world, the Middle East Peace Process, Asia-Pacific problems.

Both sides expressed the view that the development of active and constructive bilateral relations between India, Russia, and other major countries of the Asia and Pacific region would contribute to stability and security.

The Russian side also reaffirmed its support for India's efforts to normalise relations with Pakistan on the basis of the 1972 Simla Agreement.

The Sides deplored the recent missile strikes against Iraq. They strongly urged resumption of diplomatic efforts under UN auspicious. The Sides noted that these actions had raised serious questions regarding the functioning of the collective and consultative procedures of the UN Security Council.

Acknowledging the important role of India and the Russian Federation in international affairs, the Sides agreed to maintain regular consultations on major foreign policy issues and initiatives.

The Sides agreed on the need to expand the UN Security Council to make it more representative and increase its effectiveness. Russia considers India, an influential member of the international community, to be a strong and appropriate candidate for permanent membership of an expanded UN Security Council.

Both Sides assess the talks held in New Delhi as an important and constructive stage in preparation for the next Indo-Russian summit in 1999.

22 December 1998
New Delhi.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now the House will take up Matters under Rule 377.

14.27 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

(i) Need to provide financial assistance to State Government of Himachal Pradesh for construction of five overbridges on lakes between Bhakhra dam Auhar, Matla and Mandura

[Translation]

SHRI SURESH CHANDEL (Hamirpur) (H.P.): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, more than one lakh people live in about 200 square kms. area of Geharvi assembly in district Bilaspur under my parliamentary constituency, Hamirpur in Himachal Pradesh. But in the absence of any bridge over the lake spreading in 52 kms. area from Bhakhra dam to Auhar and also 20 kms. long lake from Matla to Mandwa, the whole area remains cut-off from the district headquarter Bilaspur. Due to lack of transportation facility and overbridges people have to travel additional 80 kms. to reach the area which can be covered in five minutes and thus people are facing great difficulties. For solving this problem it is essential to construct overbridges at each 5 kms. distance on 52 kms. long stretch of lake from Bhakhra dam to Auhar, Bhajwani and 20 kms. long stretch of lake from Matla to Mandwa.

14.28 hrs.

(PROF. RITA VERMA in the Chair)

Construction of atleast four bridges is urgently required for immediate solution of traffic problem being faced by the public. Madam, I, therefore, request the hon. Minister of Power, through you that these bridges should be constructed in this order — first bridge at Luhanu Maidan — Beri Dadola near Bilaspur district headquarter, second at Jyor Pattan, third at Kala Kund near Sri Naina Devi and fourth at Jajvi — Naral in Naral — Dehlavi so that after 40 years people displaced for construction of Bhakhra dam could be relieved of their problems. Adequate funds should be provided to the State Government for this purpose.

(ii) Need to set up a Bench of Gujarat High Court at Rajkot

[English]

DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA (Rajkot): Rajkot, the capital of erstwhile Saurashtra State, enjoys the states of main centre of Saurashtra region of Gujarat State. There was a separate High Court for the State of Saurashtra. At present, yearly forty per cent cases in Gujarat High Court come from Saurashtra Kutch region. There is a constant demand from public, politicians, social workers and chambers of commerce of the region for establishing the 'Circuit Bench of Gujarat High Court' at Rajkot, since long.

I request the Union Government to take steps for setting up a Circuit Bench of the Gujarat High Court at Rajkot.

(iii) Need to provide more air facilities at Kanpur Airport, UP.

[Translation]

SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA (Kanpur): Madam, Chairman, Kanpur is the most populated city of UP having several industries which make vital contribution in progress of the country. But traders coming from abroad do not get air services to reach Kanpur. In Kanpur, the first airport was set up in 1934 and there was regular air service for Kanpur from Delhi, Calcutta, Ahmedabad and Mumbai but all these air services were withdraws in 1992. This has adversely affected the industrial development of Kanpur and several industrial units have since been closed down. I have raised this matter in the House time and again but proper attention has not been paid towards it.

Kanpur airport has all the required facilities and after making some improvement in it even airbus can land there. Some improvements are required for providing airservice at night and that can be done easily.

I request the Government to introduce flights from the industrial city Kanpur to Delhi, Calcutta, Ahmedabad and Mumbai so as to protect the industrial feature of this city. It will be better if one aircraft is provided on this route which takes passengers once a week to Delhi and twice a week to Calcutta, Ahmedabad and Mumbai. Cargo is also available at Kanpur and thus exporters will be benefited by it. Private airlines may be given incentives for playing on this route. I hope that hon. Minister of Civil Aviation will take it seriously and solve this problem.

(iv) Need to take steps to solve the power problems of Chandigarh

SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN (Chandigarh): Madam, Chairperson, Chandigarh was accorded the status of union territory in 1966 at the time of division of Punjab under the Punjab Recorganisation Act. This region came into existence after division of Punjab thus it is a 'succeeding state'.

Every succeeding state coming under Punjab Reorganisation Act was to get its share of power generated by Bhakra-Beas Management Board. Being a succeeding state, Chandigarh was also a claimant of its share in generated power and that also at a cheaper rate. But Chandigarh was not given its share and thus there is a great resentment among people on this account.

This area is already facing shortage of power. It has to purchase power from here and there to meet the demand of people and that too at higher rates. At present, no means of power generation are available in Chandigarh and this further complicates the problem. It adversely affects the employment and industrial sector.

I request the Central Government to take steps for tackling the problem of power shortage and removal of discrimination that is being done against Chandigarh. Therefore, I demand that Chandigarh should be treated as succeeding state and it should be given its due share in the power being generated by the Bhakhra Beas Management Board. It should also be compensated for the loss caused due to not giving its due share for the last thirty years. Besides this power plants would be given sanction for providing Chandigarh its own sources of power generation so that power shortage could be removed. People of Chandigarh would be grateful to Central Government for it.

(v) Need to commission the All India Radio station at Tezpur in Assam

[English]

SHRI MADHAB RAJBANSHI (Mangaldai): In 1972, the then Prime Minister had announced that there would be a station of All India Radio at Tezpur, the principal town of North Bank districts of Brahmaputra Valley. The sanction renewed and work was started at Tezpur. The Transmission Tower for a medium wave AIR Station was completed eight years ago. It took some time to identify the site for the studio. The studio premises, staff quarters, water supply and power installation have also been complied. Some new and some used electrical and studio equipment have also been installed with all fittings and fixtures.

The insurgent activities of the Ultra are spreading into newer areas of North Assam and they are equipped with their own wireless apparatus. In order to contain their unlawful activities, an official broadcasting system is a must without delay. For the benefit of the rural people, who are tribals and adivasis in mid-Central Assam districts of the valley as far into Western Arunachal, Bhutan Kingdom and over a hundred tea plantations and many other forest habitats, the Air, Tezpur should go into the air as soon as possible.

(vi) Need for early completion of electrification work of the Shoranur-Kochi Railway line in Kerala

[English]

SHRI S. AJAYA KUMAR (Ottapalam): The electrification work of the Shoranur-Kochi Railway line in Kerala has not been completed yet.

This work, which was to be completed by March, 1998 is unfortunately still going on, that too, at snail's pace. Due to this delay, severe hardship is caused to the people of the State.

The people also want the Government of India to take up the electrification of the Kochi-Thiruvananthapuram as they do not want Thiruvananthapuram to remain a State capital without electric train facilities. I demand speedy completion of the Shoranur-Kochi line.

I also request for making provision of adequate funds for the completion of the electrification of the Kochi-Thiruvananthapuram Railway line in the next budget.

(vii) Need for implementation of recommendations of Backward Classes Commission for inclusion of certain Castes in Backward Class list

[Translation]

SHRI PRADEEP KUMAR YADAV (Kannauj): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Backward Classes Commission has submitted a list of castes to be included in the List of Backward Castes and made recommendations since its inception. But only three castes from the lists have been included in the list of Backward classes.

The Backward Classes Commission has sent the list after deep study. Therefore, I request the Government to

[Shri Pradeep Kumar Yadav]

immediately accept recommendations of the Commission so that Backward Castes are benefitted in their upliftment.

(viii) Need for completion of Nabinagar Super Thermal Power Project in Aurangabad, Bihar during Ninth Year Plan

[Translation]

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SINGH (Aurangabad) (Bihar): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I represent Aurangabad which is very backward area of Bihar and also affected by Militancy.

The condition of this area is critical in the matter of electricity, roads, irrigation and law and order. In the absence of Employment opportunities people are facing starvation. People are migrating to Gujarat, Punjab, Haryana and Delhi in search of employment. In this area more than average people are living under poverty. A proposal to construct Nabi Nagar Super Thermal Power Project in aurangabad is under consideration for the last 10 years.

Through you, I urge upon the Government of India to complete construction of the proposed Nabi Nagar Thermal Power Project during Ninth Five Year Plan period itself with a view to ensure the development of this very backward area of Bihar.

(ix) Need for construction of a fly over-bridge on Railway level crossing between Peddapalli and Manthani, Andhra Pradesh

[English]

DR. SUGUNA KUMARI CHELLAMELLA (Peddapalli): On the road from Peddapalli to Manthani, there is a Railway level crossing. It is the only approaching road from district headquarter Karimnagar to Manthani Assembly Constituency, which includes seven Mandal headquarters with nearly 2,60,000 population.

When Railway Gates are closed, people have to wait for 45 minutes an hour. It has been reported that many serious patients have lost their lives due to such long waiting.

So, I request the hon. Railway Minister to consider the construction of a fly over bridge on this level crossing at the earliest.

(x) Need to restore the passenger facilities at Mettur railway station

SHRI K. PARY MOHAN (Dharmapur): Sir, the passenger facilities such as boarding, halt, etc., had been abandoned at Mettur Railway Station in Dharmapuri district falling under my parliamentary constituency about six years back. Now this station is being used only for the benefit of goods trains, depriving the benefit to the people of the area.

Mettur is a municipal town having a sizable population. And it is an industrial town too having several textile, steel, chemical units etc. Majority of the population of the Mettur and its surrounding areas belong to working class community. Since the passenger facilities at Mettur Railway Station has been closed, the people of this area have to undertake journey by road involving about 45 kilometres to catch trains for other destinations at Salem. The people of this area are facing great hardship on account of the closure of Mettur Railway Station for passengers. Therefore, I urge upon the hon. Railways Minister to direct the concerned to restore the Mettur Railway Station for the benefit of passengers of the said area.

(xi) Need to sanction necessary funds for translation of the Constitution of India into Kashmiri language

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ (Baramulla): Sir, Kashmiri language has been included in the Eighth Schedule to the Constitution of India. This position remained on records but adequate efforts have not been made to promote Kashmiri not only as a regional language but as mother-tongue for more than 45 lakh people.

There was a plan for translating the Constitution of India into all languages included in the Eighth Schedule. Initially, rupee one crore sanctioned for this purpose was released to the States concerned in 1960 except for Jammu and Kashmir. As a result, the Constitution of India has been translated into all languages except Kashmiri. Even the project is nearing completion for Nepali and Konkani languages.

I urge upon the Law Minister to release necessary funds at the earliest for this purpose. The Sahitya Academy and the Jammu and Kashmir Cultural Academy can make proper selection of Kashmiri writers to undertake this project and implement it successfully. If the discrimination against the Kashmiri language is not removed within a month, it will be difficult for me to make a positive contribution in the House with a hurt feeling in my mind.

(xii) Need to provide better facilities at Pune Railway Zone

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN (Karad): Sir, railways have decided to from a new Railways zone at Pune. The Pune-Miraj section of South Central Railway was to be transferred to this zone. However, even bare minimum facilities have not been provided here so far. It is causing a lot of difficulties to travelling public I request the Government to immediately provide better facilities at the Pune Zone.

14.44 hrs.

CUSTOMS (AMENDMENT) BILL

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House shall now take up Item no. 28 Shri Yashwant Sinha to speak.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): Madam, Chairman, Sir, I beg to move*:

> "That the Bill further to amend the Customs Act, 1962, be taken into consideration."

The Bill seeks to amend Section 75 of the Customs Act, 1962 so as to provide where any drawback payable to a claimant, is not paid within a period of three months from the date of filing of claim to the date of payment of such drawback, the claimant shall be paid in addition to the amount of drawback, interest fixed under section 27A of the said Act from the date of expiry of the said period of three months till the date of payment of such drawback.

I propose to amend section 75A of the Customs Act. Rule 13 of the Customs and Central Excise (Duty Drawback) Rules, 1995 provides that the Shipping Bill filed by an exporter shall be treated as a drawback claim. The said rule also prescribes the documents which shall accompany the drawback claim, *viz.*, the Shipping Bill, for payment of Drawback to the claimant. However, sub-rule (3)(a) of the said rule 13 provides that where the prescribed documents/information is not furnished along with the shipping Bills as required under the said rules, the Customs Department may issue a query memo within ten days. Thereafter, the exporter shall be required to submit the documents/information indicated in the query memo and the claim will be treated as having been received afresh, and the period of three months prescribed in Section 75A(I) of the Customs Act, 1962 will be reckoned from the date on which the rectified claim is received.

Despite provisions of a period of three months for payment of drawback, and for payment of interest to the claimants on claims which are paid after the expiry of this three months period, it has been experience of the exporters that under the manual system of processing drawback, there is considerable delay in payment of drawback claims and, therefore, there is a need to tighten the existing procedure with a view to reducing the time taken for payment of drawback.

It was in this background that my colleague the hon. Commerce Minister had made a statement in the Lok Sabha on 5th August, 1998 while announcing a package of new measures for boosting exports. One of the measures announced is to reduce the aforesaid period from three months to two months within which the drawback claims must be paid, failing which the Government would be liable to pay interest to the claimant, as is already provided for in Section 75A of the Customs Act, 1962. The objective of reducing the time limit is to further expedite the process of payment of drawback to the exporters and simultaneously to emphasise the urgency of delivering export related benefits to the exporters within the shortest possible time.

I also propose that interest in addition to drawback is paid to claimant (exporters) if drawback is not paid within two months from the date of filing of claim (Shipping Bill). To maintain equity, I also propose that where a claimant (exporter) has been refunded drawback erroneously, such claimant would be required to pay interest if drawback is net refunded within two months from the date of demand.

This is an important fiscal concession and will have impact on incomes and revenues of the current year. I would seek that the Bill to be considered and passed in the current Session.

I now move the Bill with the request that the same may be considered and passed. It is a very simple amendment. We are reducing the period from three months to two months. We are taking on ourself the

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*Moved with the recommendation of the President.

[Shri Yashwant Sinha]

responsibility. And because it is such a simple amendment, I hope, the House will pass it without discussion.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Motion moved:

"That the Bill further to amend the Customs Act, 1962, be taken into consideration."

MAJOR GENERAL BHUVAN CHANDRA KHANDURI, AVSM (Garhwal): The Bill may be passed without discussion.

[Translation]

SHRI MOTILAL VORA (Rajnandgaon): Hon'ble Chairman, Sir, Hon'ble Minister of Finance has presented Customs (Amendment) Bill, 1998.

As Hon'ble Minister has said, there is not much scope to say anything on this Bill. Amendment to Section 52 has been brought here. Earlier there was considerable delay in payment of drawback claims and interest to the claimants and therefore with a view to overcome this problem the time limit of 3 months has been reduced to 2 months. I feel that the steps taken by Minister of Finance to check delay, will facilitate exporters. There was a great decline in our export and many reasons were responsible for that. Earlier the situation was such that cases were pending for three months altogether and no attention was paid towards them. Government has brought this Bill though late but as the saying goes better late than never. There was a great decline in export and to improve that the Union Government has decided to pay the interest amount. I support this Bill and hope that the exporters would be benefitted in real terms after this amendment. I also hope that the unsolved issues from retrospective effective would also be taken care oi.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Madhav Rao Patil, would you like to speak?

SHRI MADHAV RAO PATIL (Nasik): No.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Minister may reply now.

[Translation]

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: I am satisfied that this House has accepted the fact that we have brought this amendment Bill in the interest of exporters. Therefore, Hon'ble Motilal Voraji has also supported this. I fully believe that it would be a progressive step and therefore the House will pass the Bill unanimously.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"The the Bill further to amend the Customs Act, 1962, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House will 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.

MR. CHAIRMAN: 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 YASHWANT SINHA: I beg to move:

"That the Bill be passed."

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That the Bill be passed."

The motion was adopted.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJO SINGH (Begusarai): See, how we are co-operating with the Hon'ble Minister. You please request him to bring some schemes for Bihar also.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Alright.

14.53 hrs.

[English]

INCOME-TAX (SECOND AMENDMENT) BILL

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): I rise to move for consideration the Income-tax (Second Amendment) Bill, 1998. The Bill seeks to amend the Income-tax Act, 1961 to extend and clarify certain fiscal incentives and to remove some anomalies in certain sections of the Income-tax Act.

I propose to amend Section 10 (23G) to allay the apprehensions generated among certain tax-payers that the benefit of the provision may not be available to investments made prior to 1.6.1998. The proposed amendment seeks to clarify that the exemption available under Section 10 (23G) in respect of income from investment made before the 1st day of June, 1998 shall continue to be governed by the provision as it stood before its amendment by the Finance (No. 2) Act, 1998.

I also propose to extend the existing five year tax holiday benefits available to Export Processing Zones and Export Oriented Units, under Sections 10A and 10B of the Income-tax Act, to ten years.

With a view to remove sluggishness in the commercial vehicle sector, I further propose an amendment to Section 32 to provide that depreciation on commercial vehicles acquired by the assessee on or after the 1st day of October, 1998 but before the 1st day of April, 1999 and put to use before the 1st day of April, 1999 for the purpose of business shall be allowed at full percentage prescribed for such assets, irrespective of the period of user of the assets during the relevant year.

With a view to harmonize Section 44 AD and Section 44 AE providing for presumptive taxation of certain incomes with Section 44 AA and 44 AB which provide for compulsory maintenance and audit thereof in such cases with effect from 1.4.98, I also propose amendments to Sections 44 AD and Section 44 AE to extend the benefit of option for offering lower profits under these Sections for the assessment year 1997-98.

Under section 80P of the Income-tax Act, profits derived by a cooperative society engaged in the marketing of agricultural produce of its members are fully deductible in computing the taxable income. The deduction was intended for primary cooperative societies marketing the agricultural produce of their farmer members. The hon. Supreme Court in the case of Assam Cooperative Marketing Federation Limited held that if it was not so understood, even a cooperative society comprising traders dealing in agricultural produce would become entitled to exemption. However, the Supreme Court has reconsidered the said decision in the case of Kerala State Cooperative Marketing Federation and held that the use of the words "of its members" in the relevant clause could mean the agricultural produce belonging to the members and not necessarily grown by them. The broader interpretation given to the use of the words in the provision is not in accordance with the legislative intent of the existing provision. If an amendment in section 80P (2) (a) (iii) is not made, it is likely to have serious impact on revenues and to extend the benefit to trading societies. The amendment seeks to restrict the deduction to the profits derived by a cooperative society engaged in the marketing of agricultural produce grown by its members.

As these important fiscal concessions and clarifications have impact on incomes and revenues of the current year, I would, madam, seek that the Bill be considered and passed with expedition.

It is also a very simple amendment. I hope the House will pass it without much discussion.

I beg to move.*

"That the Bill further to amend the Income-tax Act, 1961, be taken into consideration."

MR. CHAIRMAN: Motion moved:

"That the Bill further to amend the Income-tax Act, 1961, be taken into consideration."

[Translation]

SHRI MADHAV RAO PATIL (Nasik): Hon'ble Madam Chairperson, Sir, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak. I do not want to speak much on this Bill but through you, I would like to draw the attention of the Hon'ble Finance Minister towards the problems faced by common people in depositing Government taxes and Government revenue. At the end of March people have great difficulty in drawing money from all Nationalised Banks and they have to wait for 3–3 hours. All nationalised banks do not deposit Government revenue. So, at the end of March an extension counter of State Bank should be opened at Income Tax Offices and a separate arrangement should be made to deposit Government revenue in Naticnalised Banks.

*Moved with the recommendation of the President.

[Shri Madhav Rao Patil]

Secondly, I would like to say that the condition of Permanent Account Number (PAN) for opening bank account should be stopped and the limit for the same should be raised from Rs. 50,000 to Rs. 5 lakhs. People have to face difficulty in getting Permanent Account Number and 'PAN' is not required while depositing in a Non-Banking Finance Company. People are ready to fill up Income Tax Forms but they are afraid of the complications involved therein. Therefore, I urge the Hon'ble Minister of Finance to reconsider the issue of withdrawing PAN.

[English]

SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR BWISWMUTHIARY (Kokrajhar): Madam Chairperson, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Union Finance Minister to certain burning problems which are being faced by the plains tribal people of Assam. Interestingly, one very serious discrimination has been done against the plains tribal people of Assam in relation to the Income-tax.

In the entire North-Eastern region, all the tribal people are getting exemption from payment of Income-tax. But the plains tribal people of Assam shall have to pay the Income-tax. So, this kind of a discrimination should not be done by the Union Government. So, I would like to request the hon. Union Finance Minister to do justice to the plains tribal people of Assam also on the lines of the hills tribal people. Even in the case of Assam itself, the tribal people living in these two Autonomous District Councils under Sixth Schedule namely, Karbi Anglong and the North Cachar Hills are also getting exemption. But unfortunately the plains tribal people of Assam are being deprived of the aforesaid previlege enjoyed by hills tribal. So, a great discrimination has been done against the Bodos and the other plains tribal people as also the Bodo people. So, in this regard, I would like to request the hon. Union Finance Minister to do justice...*(Interruptions)*, to the plain tribal people of Assam too.

15.00 hrs.

SHRI B.M. MENSINKAI (Dharward South): I have been requesting the hon. Finance Minister regarding the amendment of Sections 44AB and 44AF which provide for maintenance of accounts and auditing by Chartered Accountant. Section 44AB is also there. My request for including the amendment to Section 44AF is avoided.

Therefore, in this connection, I would like to interfere and request the hon. Finance Minister to give concession to three lakh self-employed income-tax practitioners and income-tax advocates by amending Section 44AB and 44AF so that they may be benefited and may survive in their profession. But unfortunately, this request of mine is overlooked or not taken into consideration. I request the hon. Finance Minister to have a view in this matter.

[Translation]

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: As I had stated in the beginning that it was essential to bring these amendments in this session itself. Many Hon'ble Members have given suggestions which would be taken care of while presenting the next budget.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: The questions is:

"That the Bill further to amend the Income-tax Act, 1961, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House will now take up clause-by-clause consideration of the Bill.

The question is:

"That clause 2 to 8 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 2 to 8 were added to the Bill.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That the 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.

[Translation]

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: I beg to move.

"That the Bill be passed".

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That the Bill be passed."

The motion was adopted.

15.04 hrs.

UTTAR PRADESH REORGANISATION BILL*

[English]

(MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*)

MR. SPEAKER: The House will now take up Item No. 23. Shri L.K. Advani. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA (Patiala): Mr. Speaker, Sir, opposition to the Bill which is introduced has been long prevalent...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Some Members have given notices. Let him first seek the leave of the House.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): I will tell about that...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: He is asking for leave.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please understand that he is only asking for leave of the House. He is not introducing the Bill.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the reorganisation of the existing State of Uttar Pradesh and for matters connected therewith.

MR. SPEAKER: Motion moved:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the reorganisation of the existing State of Uttar Pradesh and for matters connected therewith."

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I have received some notices from hon. Members. I have to call them first. Shri Manoranjan Bhakta.

[Translation]

SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA (Andaman and Nicobar Islands): Mr. Speaker, Sir, as a matter of policy I am not opposing to the Bill which has been presented here. I support this Bill. I had brought a Private Member's Bill in this House regarding Andaman Nicobar Islands. At that time the whole house supported this Bill. But when the time came to pass that Bill the then Minister of Parliamentary Affairs gave me an assurance that the Government would bring a Bill in this regard and discuss the matter with the opposition. Under the Chairmanship of the Home Minister this issue was discussed with the Opposition parties. At that time it was conceded that there is no controversy in regard to Andaman and Nicobar Islands. we can understand the issue of Bihar. Due to this Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh are being divided into two parts but as far as Andaman and Nicobar Islands is concerned, it has one entity and one administration. Thus Question of division does not arise. At that time ruling party had extended open and full support to it. When I kept the related proposals then the Minister of Home Affairs had said that this proposal should be withdrawn and this should be discussed but discussion could not be held. Instead he brought another proposal. I want to know as to when a Bill in regard to Andaman and Nicobar Islands would be brought and when an assembly is going to be provided there? The political system of the country. ...*(Interruptions)*

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*Published in the Gazette of India Extra-ordinary, Part-II, Section 2, dated 22.12.98.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Manoranjan Bhakta, this is a separate issue.

[Translation]

SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, we want your protection. Both small and large States have equal rights. Hon'ble Minister of Home Affairs is requested to say something in this regard. The Prime Minister is going to visit this Island and I hope that people of this Island will welcome him. We are making arrangements for his arrival. We want that he should declare State status to Andaman and Nicobar Islands on this occasion. This will be good opportunity for him.

PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA (Samastipur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs Shri Madan Lal Khurana had made an announcement in this House that the Bill for division of only those States will be brought, the Legislative Assemblies of which have recommended for division...*(Interruptions)* He has said so, you can ask him. Let Khuranaji admit or deny it. I do not want to listen this from you.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to remind that Uttar Pradesh Assembly has proposed not to include some areas in the proposed new State. That recommendations have not been accepted so I oppose this Bill and would like to say that Udham Singh Nagar and Haridwar are controversial areas which should not be included in the ambit of this Bill. With these words while opposing this Bill, I conclude my speech.

[English]

SHRI ARIF MOHAMMED KHAN (Bahraich): Sir, thank you very much. The Bill, for which the hon. Minister has sought leave to introduce, is certainly outside the legislative competence of this House because the procedure or the provision of the Constitution and the letter and the spirit are not being followed in seeking leave to introduce this Bill.

I would like to draw your kind attention to article 3 of the Constitution which deals with formation of new States and alteration of areas, boundaries or names of existing States. It says:

"Parliament may by law —

(a) form a new State.....;

(b) increase the area of any State;

(c) diminish the area of any State;

(d) alter the boundaries of any State;

(e) alter the name of any State;"

After this, the Proviso says:

"Provided that no Bill for the purpose shall be introduced in either House of Parliament except on the recommendation of the President and unless, where the proposal contained in the Bill affects the area, boundaries or name of any of the States, the Bill has been referred by the President to the Legislature of that State for expressing its views thereon within such period as may be specified..."

Now, it the Bill has to be necessarily referred to the Legislature of this State, the views which have been expressed by the Legislature must be known to the hon. Members of this House before a view is taken and before the Minister of Home Affairs asks for leave to introduce the Bill in this House.

I have gone through this Bill. In the papers attached with it, there is absolutely no mention whatsoever about the views which have been expressed by the Legislative Assembly of Uttar Pradesh.

The proposed area certainly is not what has been recommended as we know from the proceedings of the Assembly. The proposal given by the Uttar Pradesh Legislative Assembly is not contained in this Bill.

Moreover, the legislation is a serious business. There must be an application of mind. Enough care must be taken. Here, I would like to draw your kind attention to para 3 of the Statement of Objects and Reasons. This Bill deals with the creation of a new State by carving out an area from the existing State of Uttar Pradesh. This is what para 3 of the Statement of Objects and Reasons says:

"While taking the decision to carve out a separate State of Uttarakhand out of the existing State of Uttar Pradesh, the Government has also decided that a dedicated Unit shall be set up in the Planning Commission under the direct charge of the Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission, to deal exclusively with the matters relating to the rest of Bihar consequent upon formation of the State of Uttarakhand."

Now they are carving out a State...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: No, please.

[Translation]

MAJOR GENERAL BHUVAN CHANDRA KHANDURI, AVSM (Garhwal): You have not read out the amendment. Please do that.

[English]

SHRI ARIF MOHAMMED KHAN: There may be an amendment, but my point is ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN (Chandigarh): Sir, I am on a point of order...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Khan, what is your objection to this Bill?

SHRI ARIF MOHAMMED KHAN: Sir, my objection is that this matter was necessarily to be referred to the UP Legislative Assembly by the President and the Legislature was supposed to express its view. Now, we do not have any account of that. The House should be informed what view has been expressed by the Legislature. Therefore, my request is that the hon. Minister should reconsider this proposal...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA (Patiala): Mr. Speaker, Sir, there was a commitment from you that you will allow me to speak after introduction of this Bill...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Minister has assured that your point would be heard.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Chandumajra, not like this. Whoever gives the notice before 10 o'clock, only he is given a chance to speak. You are giving a notice just now. It cannot be taken up.

[Translation]

PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA: Sir, first of all we would like to have a discussion on it...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: How can you have a discussion on it?

PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA: Sir, you have told from the Chair that let the Bill be introduced first...*(Interruptions)* This is not justice from you.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: There is an established rule and procedure for that. How can you speak like this.

[Translation]

PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA: Sir, you said let the Bill be introduced and thereafter...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE (Calcutta South): Mr. Speaker, Sir, we want clarifications before the hon. Minister introduces the Bill...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Home Minister is asking for leave to introduce the Bill. You must follow the procedure. You cannot go against the procedure.

...*(Interruptions)*

PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA: Sir, you assured us that after the introduction of the Bill, we could seek clarifications...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please understand first. There is a procedure and you have to go according to the procedure. You cannot go against the procedure.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA: Sir, we want a clarification on it...*(Interruptions)* Sir this is not good.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I am appealing to you. This is not the procedure.

...*(Interruptions)*

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: All right, Sir, you do not allow so many Members to speak, but allow, at least one person to speak. We appeal to you...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Why do you not understand? He is just asking for leave to introduce the Bill.

...*(Interruptions)*

PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA: Sir, you have the power to call anyone...*(Interruptions)*

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: Sir, may I appeal to you? ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Minister will clarify the position.

...*(Interruptions)*

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: Sir, before the hon. Minister introduces the Bill, we would like to say something. We have also given notice...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You have to follow the procedure.

...*(Interruptions)*

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: Sir, we want to place it on record that we have an objection before the introduction of the Bill...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: Now we are adopting the procedure. Whereafter we would allow them to speak.

[English]

Mr. Speaker Sir, according to the prescribed rules, you have permitted those who have given notices of objections to introduction. Shri Manoranjan Bhakta has raised that issue and even in the Preamble he said that he had no objection to this Bill as such. But he availed of the occasion to speak about Andaman & Nicobar Islands being given statehood. This is a demand which is being raised by several Union Territories including Andaman & Nicobar Islands.

I have already told him that if a demand being made by Pondicherry, if a demand being made by Delhi and, in fact, even about Lakshadweep I heard that the demand is growing gradually...

SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN: Sir, Chandigarh also.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: Yes, Chandigarh also.

SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR BWISWMUTHIARY (Kokrajhar): Mr. Speaker Sir, what about Bodoland? Why is there no such Bill? It is the most genuine and legitimate demand of the people of that area. It is not in the interest of anti-national people...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Not like this, please.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: This is a different matter and I have been in communication with him. He also mentioned that the Prime Minister is visiting Andaman & Nicobar Islands.

A point was raised by our B.S.P. Leader, Shri Arif Mohammed Khan in which he quoted that this is a Bill which is being introduced under Article 3 of the Constitution. That Article says that when Parliament by law seeks to carve out a new State or alter the boundaries of any State or diminish the area of any State or increase the area of any State, such a Bill cannot be introduced in either House of Parliament except on the recommendation of the President. He is very right. This is a limitation imposed on the Government when a Bill of this nature is introduced. Further, that Article imposes a restriction on the President also and says that the President cannot recommend such a Bill where the proposal contained in the Bill affects the area, boundaries or name of any of the State. The Bill has been referred by the President to the legislature of that State for expressing its views thereon within such periods as may be specified.

These are the two limitations which govern introduction of a Bill under this particular Article. I can only say that both these limitations were kept in mind when the Government considered the Bill in the last Session. After the Session, we sought the recommendation of the President. The President said that I cannot recommend it. I, first, under the law, have to refer it to the Assembly and seek its opinion. He sought its opinion and then conveyed to us a recommendation formally which I have given to you. So, all the necessary requisites have been followed. Therefore, for anyone to suggest that it is not within the legislative competence of this House to enact the Bill is not quite correct.

It has been stated in the Rules of Procedure itself that the only substantial point on which the introduction of a Bill can be opposed is that it is not within the legislative competence of the House. As far as

amendments, etc. are concerned, the Parliament can consider, we can all consider and the views of the Assembly also can be considered. But as far as the basic conditions which are needed to introduce a Bill are concerned, they have been duly fulfilled. I have already conveyed them to you. Therefore, that I expect this House to permit me to move this Bill. ...*(Interruptions)*.

MR. SPEAKER: There is one observation from the Chair, Prof. Chandumajra, even though you have not given a notice before 10 o' clock, as a special permission from the Chair, I am allowing you one minute. I am allowing one minute to Kumari Mamata Banerjee also.

[Translation]

PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to oppose the Bill being introduced by the hon. Minister of Home regarding reorganisation of UP. Our party has opposed the proposal to include Udham Singh Nagar in the proposed Uttrakhand and today also I oppose it. The language, culture and geographical situation on Udham Singh Nagar do not match with that of Uttrakhand. Therefore, that should not be included in Uttrakhand. We met the hon. Prime Minister and lodged our protest in this regard. He has constituted a committee under the chairmanship of Shri George Fernandes. Only one sitting of the said committee has so far taken place and views of the people of Udham Singh Nagar have not been heard so far. Their sentiments have not been taken into account This committee are conductive more meetings. So I urge the hon. Minister of Home kindly not to introduce the said Bill till this committee exists and meetings of this committee are being held. If this Bill is introduced, there will be no use of the said committee and its meetings. After the introduction of this Bill there will be no use of this committee. Therefore, through you, I urge the hon. Minister that there should not be any further discussion on this Bill until report of the said committee is received. I want that there should be no discussion on this Bill in the House till the submission of the report of said committee. If discussion on this takes place in the House, we will oppose it and we will not allow inclusion of Udham Singh Nagar with Uttrakhand.

[English]

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: Thank you very much. We do not have any objection for the creation of the new States or any other thing because we appreciate the feelings of the people of this country. The only problem is regarding this Udham Singh Nagar. There are some problems because the refugees came after partition, especially the Bengalis and the Sikhs and there are some other people also. Out of 225 Panchayats we have received more than 200 recommendations from them. They want to stay with the plains people, with Uttar Pradesh. This has certainly nothing to do with the U.P. politics.

But we appeal to the hon. Minister of Home Affairs that before taking any decision we should not compel those people to be a part of a particular State. We have to consider from the humanitarian grounds also and the sentiments of the local people also. If they agree to be in Uttar Pradesh we do not have any objection. But when the Committee was set up, they have not visited the site and they have not talked to the people. May I request the Minister of Home Affairs - he is a sensible man, I believe so - and the Prime Minister who is here, that before taking any final decision they may consider the wishes of the people so that the people from the other side also should not feel hostile, that they do not want to stay with that stay.

So, I request the Minister of Home Affairs to say something regarding this.

SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR BWISWMUTHIARY (Kokrajhar): Hon. Speaker, Sir and the learned Members of this House, my heart is bleeding because of the fact that the present Union Government of India has betrayed the genuine cause of the original people of Assam in regard to the demand for a separate State of Bodoland.

I do support from the core of my heart the creation of three separate new States in the country for according deserved justice and for its equitable distribution of the whole kinds of justice and good governance. But what I have been observing here is that the most genuine and legitimate demand of the indigenous people of Bodoland has usually been neglected. Today the Government is going to introduce only three Bills which relate to the creation of separate States of Uttranchal, Vananchal and Chattisgarh.

Since the beginning of the Bodoland movement in 1987 till today more than 2000 people were either butchered or killed. In the present situation we the indigenous Bodo people cannot co-exist within Assam. That is why we do not want to remain in Assam and we want a separate Bodoland. This is our genuine demand and it is our birth right. Due to the same reason our Naga brethren, our Mizo brethren, our Arunachal brethren and the people of Meghalaya were even compelled to go out of Assam. So, in the present situation the Government of India should consider our demand. And, therefore, I would like to request the hon. Minister of Home Affairs to consider our demand and bring in a Bill to amend the

[Shri Sansuma Khunggur Bwiswmuthiary]

Constitution for the creation of a separate Bodoland without any further delay in the best interests of the country. Otherwise, we cannot feel that we are Indians.

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down now.

SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR BWISWMUTHIARY: Otherwise the meaning of India's independence will be of no use for Bodos. I would like to appeal to all the parliamentarians. I want them to consider my humble request and to appreciate our feelings. I would like to have a very positive assurance from the Minister of Home Affairs and the Prime Minister.

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

*...Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Manoranjan Bhakta, you have already spoken. Now, the Minister please.

[Translation]

SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA (Andaman & Nicobar Islands): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I was disappointed with the reply given by the hon. Minister of Home just now...*(Interruptions)* ...I have been elected to this House seven times and I had always maintained decency in the House...*(Interruptions)*...Even today also I shall maintain decency in the House...*(Interruptions)*...But I am sorry to say that it has become a tradition in the country that until the people resort to armed violence, they are not heard...*(Interruptions)*...The people who take utmost care of decency are not heard, they are always neglected...*(Interruptions)*... Hon. Prime Minister, Sir, all over the country...*(Interruptions)*... Please tell something about this...*(Interruptions)*... So that I could know your views...*(Interruptions)*... I will realise that executive of this country is paying attention to this...*(Interruptions)* If you say something on this...*(Interruptions)* I have always maintained decency...*(Interruptions)* Today also I will not go beyond decency...*(Interruptions)*... I have not been given any assurance that is why I am walking out.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down now.

*Not Recorded.

15.30 hrs.

Shri Manoranjan Bhaktra then left the House.

*KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: This was the assurance of the Government. Yes, I was there in the committee. The Prime Minister is visiting you.

[Translation]

KUMARI MAYAWATI (Akbarpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to say something about Uttranchal because just now the hon. Minister of Home quoted the rules and said that we had not followed the rules. I think he himself has not followed the rules and he is misleading the House.

So far as the matter of Uttar Pradesh is concerned, when the matter was referred to Uttar Pradesh Legislative Assembly in connection with creation of a separate state namely Uttaranchal, at that time a special session of Uttar Pradesh Legislative Assembly was convened and the question of both Haridwar and Udham Singh Nagar came up for discussion in that special session. Uttar Pradesh Assembly took a decision not to include Haridwar district in the proposed Uttranchal state and the question of Udham Singh Nagar was left to the Central Government to take a decision. But today the bill being introduced, the decision taken by the Assembly in this regard... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI MANBENDRA SHAH (Tehri Garhwal): It was not a decision but a proposal.

KUMARI MAYAWATI: Whatever decision has been taken by him should be made clear. I am of the view that the Bill being introduced by the treasury bench in haste to take political mileage without the knowledge of people of these two districts is not correct. If this Bill is introduced forcibly, we will oppose it. We are deadly against it. If this Bill is introduced forcibly without knowing the views of people of these two district it will be a wrong tradition.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Now, the Minister please.

SHRI R.S. GAVAI: Please give me a minute. I want to speak on this issue. I will not take more than a minute.

MR. SPEAKER: No, I have allowed them because they are from that State. Please understand that.

[Translation]

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the points raised by Prof. Chandumajra, Kumari Mamata Banerjee and Kumari Mayawatiji will be considered at the time when this House will take up this issue for discussion. If this matter is referred to the Standing Committee, the decision on this will be taken up keeping in view all these points in view. The question of getting this Bill passed forcibly does not arise.

Since long it has been the tradition of this House not to oppose any Bill at the stage of introduction. Shri Arif Mohammad Khan has rightly questioned whether this Parliament has really got power to get such a Bill passed? Whether necessary formalities for this have been completed or not? In addition to this no decision will be taken in this regard without knowing the views of the people of Haridwar and Udham Singh Nagar. This is not related to the Parliament. But in the coordination committee Kumari Mamata Banerjee and some other people expressed some apprehensions in this regard and the hon. Prime Minister immediately handed over this to a committee of three senior leaders to know the views of the people of Haridwar and Udham Singh Nagar to submit a unanimous report on this matter. I want to assure the House that this Bill will be passed after the report of the said committee is received. Whatever may be the report, importance will be accorded to it. This I want to assure you

PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA: Discussion on this should be held after that.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: Yes, it will be held after that. No discussion is taking place now.

PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA: In the meantime this Bill should be referred to the Standing Committee.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the reorganisation of the existing State of Uttar Pradesh and for matters connected therewith."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: Sir, I introduce* the Bill.

15.36 hrs.

MADHYA PRADESH REORGANISATION BILL**

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the reorganisation of the existing State of Madhya Pradesh and for matters connected therewith.

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the reorganisation of the existing State of Madhya Pradesh and for matters connected therewith."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

PAPER LAID ON THE TABLE

15.36½ hrs.

[English]

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: Sir, I also beg to lay on the Table of the House the views of the concerned State Legislatures, both of Uttar Pradesh and of Madhya Pradesh@ @@ on the reorganisation of the respective State.

15.37 hrs.

DISCUSSION UNDER RULE 193

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, as discussed with the leaders of the various parties, item No. 25 will be taken up later...*(Interruptions)*

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*Introduced with the recommendation of the President.

**Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2, dated 22.12.98.

***Introduced with the Recommendation of the President.

@[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2145/98]

@@[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2146/98]

[Translation]

SHRI KARIYA MUNDA (Khunti): Why item No. 25 is not being taken up...*(Interruptions)* What is the reason for not taking up this Bill today...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Now the Chair wants to take the sense of the House. At four o'clock, we have to take up discussion under Rule 193 on External Affairs. If the House agrees, we shall take up that discussion now itself.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: Yes....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (Hoogly): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Prime Minister, in his statement on bilateral talks with U.S., has referred to the major issues...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT (Shajapur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am on a point of order.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: What is your point of order?

[Translation]

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT: Under Rule 376, my point of order is that the item No. 31 mentioned in List of Business regarding report of Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe Commission has to be discussed today. The issue which is being taken up now is that last item in the List of Business and it has been stated in the List of Business that it will be taken up at 4.00 p.m. or after the disposal of previous items, whichever is earlier. Item No. 31 has yet to be discussed. Discussion on the 1981-1991 report of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes has yet to be discussed. If this discussion is not held then it will be injustice with the people of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Member, please understand that there is a request from the Minister with regard to the discussion on External Affairs. I have taken the sense of the House also. So, please understand. There is no point of order.

[Translation]

SHRI KARIYA MUNDA: I am also on a point of order.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: If so may points of order are raised, there will be disorder in the House.

[English]

Sir, the Prime Minister has mentioned the major issues being discussed in the several rounds of talks. This Parliament has been kept in the dark about the talks that have been going on during those several rounds of talks.

15.40 hrs.

[SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH *in the Chair*]

Sir, the nation has been eager to know about the discussions because there have been reports that in the discussion itself, India has been gradually surrendering to the pressure being mounted by the American representative and other interlocutors.

India's nuclear policy, as a part of its foreign policy in the pre-Pokhran period, had been one where there was a national consensus, but in the post-Pokhran scenario, we had stated that this misadventure would make India more vulnerable to pressures, particularly of the US and the exclusive nuclear club, and cause isolation of India.

During the last few months, our apprehensions have proved to be correct. It has been said that there has been some progress during the talks that are taking place till today. The hon. Minister of External Affairs himself has been engaged in the deliberations and can confirm whether the talks were of six rounds or seven rounds. I am saying this because there is a reference to six rounds of talks in the statement, but we know that there was another talk held in Rome on 19th November.

During the seventh round of talks, the American side had exposed their cards. On 12th of November, President Bill Clinton, in a notification, had suggested that not only India should sign CTBT, but India should also join the NPT. On the question of deployment, it was mentioned that India would never be allowed deployment of nuclear weapons. As a follow-up of that notification of 12th of November, the American representative, Strobe Talbott,

who had been engaged in the deliberations, in one article in *The Times of India* and also prior to that in a speech in the Booking's Institution, had made clear that India should not only sign CTBT but also put a cap on the fissile material and join Fissile Material Cut-off Treaty and then, desist from deployment of delivery system and nuclear weaponisation.

Till this was revealed by the American representative, this nation was kept in the dark. Although Pakistan had also been engaged in a similar dialogue, yet they made everything transparent as to what was going on, what the areas of the dialogue were, where there was an agreement, and where there was not agreement.

Unfortunately, Sir, whenever we had asked this question, we were told that these were 'secret talks'. But the veil was lifted by the American Representative himself and that too through an article in an Indian national daily. Openly, she has put forward the American conditions.

After the Pokhran-II tests, in reply to a question, on the 4th of June, it was said that, "After the nuclear tests on 11th and 13th May, 1998 at Pokhran, Government have signalled their willingness to consider adhering to some of the undertakings of CTBT, but not in a political vacuum and depending upon reciprocal responses." This was the same statement made by Shri Brajesh Mishra, immediately after the blasts; this was the position taken by Shri Pramod Mahajan on behalf of the PMO. What is this 'reciprocal response'?

During the seven rounds of talks, what was the response of the American side? The Prime Minister reiterated the Indian position that we are committed to our goal of total disarmament and a nuclear weapons free world. Have they agreed to it? Our experience is that, till today, whatever and wherever discussions have taken place about disarmament, that they have not agreed to that. They wanted to form an exclusive nuclear club and they have now extended NPT also.

On CTBT, the Americans had great reservations. But at a point of time, they revised their position and in the latest version of CTBT, they included certain things conforming to their interest allowing vertical proliferation, sub-critical tests, computer simulation and so on. At least, three American laboratories are very near to producing pure fusion weapon systems. They are outside this CTBT. They are interpreting things in their own way. In their superb national interest, they are going on experimenting weapons of mass destruction, of a very sophisticated and refined type, in their laboratories and they will never need underground tests because they have done a lot. By this time, more than 2,000 such experiments have taken place and, at least, a little more than half have been done by the Americans themselves.

Sir, we have been putting our arguments, our nuclear doctrine, our no-first-use concept, that we shall not use nuclear weapons on non-nuclear powers, and we have spoken about credible minimum nuclear deterrence. What is their response? What does this concept of credible minimum nuclear deterrence mean?

It is not my question only; it is not the question of Parliament only, it is the same question asked by the American representative through several dialogues. The Americans do have their own concept of deterrence. In a book, it has been stated clearly by the American expert that they do not have any faith in what is being projected from the Indian side as minimum nuclear deterrent, credible deterrent. What does it mean? Weaponisation. After the blast, the Government has to go for weaponisation. We have great objection to it. This nation, the scientists and other have serious objections to it. They say that this misadventure will land the whole nation in serious difficulty.

Now, in the post 12th November situation, things are coming—no missile, however bravado we may be in our statement. The crux of the problem is that they are tightening their screws one by one. If there is any result, it is that the screws have been tightened. There is no reference to it in the statement. The Brooking Institute's speech, the *Times of India* article and the American President's notification about the Entities list consisting of 200 Indian Private and Public Sector companies which came just four days before the Rome dialogue. Who are these companies? There are even food-processing units in the entities list. Larson and Toubro who had done something for the Nuclear Power Corporation five years back and Godrej and Boyce company who had the tool rooms engaged in the civilian production only are also in the list. They had nothing to do with nuclear research or anything like that. But what has happened to them? Has there been any objection even in the midst of the deliberations? It has not happened. We are succumbing to their own position to which they are sticking.

In the Statement, there are four major issues that have been discussed and mentioned by the hon. Prime Minister. One of them is the CTBT. We know our position with regard to the CTBT. In 1996, when it came, the Indian representative had opposed the CTBT on the ground that it had no commitment to total disarmament which is our goal and commitment, and which we have been pursuing for the last five decades since the days of

[Shri Rupchand Pal]

Pandit Nehru. Even when we acceded to this CTBT, we had hoped that step by step, it would lead to disarmament, total elimination of the weapons of mass destruction. Even when Rajiv Gandhi had placed his historic formula of a time-bound programme, what was the reaction? Be it America or for that matter the Nuclear Club, they want to perpetuate their monopoly in a different language, at a different level by allowing them the scope and opportunity for vertical proliferation while denying others, the developing countries. The developing countries have agreed but the three threshold countries; India, Pakistan and Israel are the targets of CTBT.

The whole history of American diplomacy with regard to Pakistan shows that particularly in the current scenario, in their geo-political strategy, Pakistan is important. It will give them access to the CIS countries to control oil of these areas. You find that even the Talibans of Afganistan are not being criticised. They are soft to Pakistan. However, they may try to show a semblance of equity. Even in the last sanctions which were lifted, what do you find? You will find that it is selective and partial and it is against us. Maybe, we are also interested that Pakistan's economy should be saved and that Indians and Pakistanis should have friendly relations which should grow. We want better relations with friendly countries like Pakistan, Bangladesh and China which were developed and strengthened during the United Front Government's time. But the American game plan is to put Indian and Pakistan first at the same level and at par with it and then to pursue their game plan. These dialogues are being held simultaneously. It has a meaning that they are discussing with India and also alternatively with Pakistan. They are putting pressure on both India and Pakistan to sign CTBT and we are talking of credible minimum nuclear deterrents. Whatever it may be, I am not going into the details. I will come to that later. Will these credible minimum deterrents be not allowed to Pakistan also? With their concept of difference, shall we not go a step further? If we go a step further, will it not lead to arms race? In this sub-continent, we have committed ourselves to deterrence and ironically we are contributing ourselves to arms race. Leave aside the question of cost factor. How much is required? According to a calculation, this weaponisation will require not less than Rs. 50,000 crore in the first lap only. It may be a conservative estimate. Their game plan is they will compel us, pressurise us, to push us through CTBT and, at the same time, whatever we consider about the weaponisation programme, they will stay at the top to supervise and monitor. Under American monitoring and American supervisorship, India and Pakistan will play with these two toys. Wherever required, they will pull it and stop it. Otherwise, it may be said that it is categorically spelt out in the Brooking Institution's speech of Mr. Srobe Talbot. It is not CTBT or NPT only. US want India to join NPT. They want that India should restrain from development also. We have been told that India stop fissile material production and put a cap on it. They are asking us to join the MTCR. They are asking us to join in the name of export control regime with nuclear Suppliers Group. I would like to mention here that a few week ago the American experts come, the Pentagon people. The officials of the State Department of the Ministry of Commerce and Government of United States had discussions with India. But this Parliament has been kept in the dark on this visit of American Experts.

16.00 hrs.

Parliament was never informed how American experts had come for examining our Export Control Regime. This is very unfortunate.

There are American nuclear ships in Diego Garcia. when it was raised, the hon. Minister of Defence said that he had no knowledge about it. He has no knowledge about the American nuclear presence in Diego Garcia.

Incidentally, let me remind—and I hope the Government will reply to this point—that there has been partial lifting of sanctions. It is just a token, symbolic lifting of sanctions. Do you know the areas in which sanctions have been lifted? If is joint military education and training between the American Defence Department and the Indian Ministry of Defence. This is one of the areas where sanctions have been lifted. If we want to borrow some money from the IMF to face a certain situation in our economy, India is not allowed but Pakistan is allowed to do that.

I would like to ask the hon. Prime Minister and the hon. Minister of External Affairs, himself a very knowledgeable man who had been present in all these discussions and interlocutions, whether any country—be it the USA, the UK or France or any other country—belonging to the P-5 or, for that matter, the G-7 has accepted the Indian position as a nuclear weapon State. This is a specific question. Has any country recognized India till today as a nuclear weapons country? I may say that, you may say that and the Government may also say that India is a nuclear weapons State but no country has said it. They have ridiculed us and asked us to join the NPT as a non-nuclear nation. The cut-off period of 1st January, 1967 is well known.

There is a willingness to join the CTBT. Has it ceased to be discriminatory? Has CTBT added any Commitment

to our disarmament goal? Will it serve our security concerns?

I would like the Government to respond to the point on the Rome deliberations. Prior to the Rome deliberations, pressure was mounted through the entities list. I would like to know whether this question was raised in the meetings. What was the response? The response was arrogance. The response was: 'I have told your people but you have not told them that we are imposing conditions and that you are agreeing, complying or surrendering to our position one-by-one'. This is the tone and tenor of the speech and also of the article in *The Times of India*.

I am told that a question was raised in the deliberations about this new element. I am referring to the 19th November meeting. This was about delivery systems, deployment, missiles and all the other things. Are they new elements at all? If you look at the whole history of the US approach to Indian position, it is nothing new.

The Government should have known it. But still they are so enamoured of the nuclear programme for small political gains. They entrapped the whole nation and made this nation vulnerable. How come such a pressure is possible now which was not possible earlier? It is because we are isolated. In the comity of nations, our distant neighbours, the countries belonging to the Non-Aligned Movement had faith in us and they belived in our leadership. They cannot believe us any more. We have lost that high pedestal or moral authority to tell them or to give them the leadership. If the nation is to be saved, we shall have to regain that position. For regaining that position, two things are there. If the Government fails, this message should go from the Parliament that this country will not sign the CTBT and that this country will not go in for weaponisation. This will make us regain our position. Instead, what are we doing?

During the period of the United Front's Government, the relations with Pakistan, the relations with China and the relations with many other neighbours were strengthened. Suddenly we find after the blasts that our Prime Minister is writing a letter to the US President saying that China is our main enemy. How suddenly, overnight, such a discovery could be made? Some of the responsible or irresponsible partners of this Government and also some important leaders made things worse and caused us isolation and as a result of that isolation, there is this mounting pressure.

I will conclude my speech within ten or fifteen minutes. I am initiating this. On the points that I make, there will be many discussions.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude your speech now. Time is limited and thus unlimited time cannot be given. Other Members also want to speak on this and therefore please conclude.

[English]

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: No. I am not going to do that. I would not take much time. I am concluding.

Now, one idea is being sold, but there is no buyer. What is that? They are talking of *quid pro quo* — we shall sign the CTBT, provided we are given high technology or dual use technology and the sanctions are lifted. What was the response of the US Government? It was a big 'no', in a language to which they are used to. But still we are speaking about dual use technology and about all other things.

Both India and Pakistan now have been put at par by the US; and through the deliberations, they are gradually cornering us. Now, it has come to such a situation because of the entry clause of the CTBT which we had opposed. There are three thousand countries as I told earlier. Leave aside Israel; Pakistan will also ultimately fall in line with US our geostrategic plan. So, India is the button in the whole game plan; US want to push it and if India agrees other countries will follow suit till today out of the 70 or 78 countries that had signed, how many had ratified? We are in a hurry to sign it. Day in and day out, we are expressing our willingness to sign it. It has been mentioned in the PM's statement itself that it is not to be delayed beyond September 1999 and endeavours are to be made to take it to a successful conclusion through discussions. Only ten countries have done it and out of them only two P-5 countries, that is, the UK and France have ratified CTBT.

France has its own interpretation of CTBT. Russia has not done it; and China has not done it. Out of the 54 countries, including India, only ten countries had done it. Why are you in a hurry? What is the compulsion? The Americans know that once they push through their agenda through India, others will follow suit and that they can manage things with Russia and China at different level. What happened to the ratification of the US itself? I have a lot of materials to show as to what is the reaction of

[Shri Rupchand Pal]

the Republican Senator Mr. Henz who heads the Committee on External Affairs. Will they be able to pass it as easily as it is made out to be?

Unfortunately, India had not condemned the recent attack on Iraq by the US and the UK. The Government only deplored it. Russia, despite all its problems, condemned it; China condemned it; and even some smaller countries condemned it. The opinion of the American people and the world has made them to stop bombing. We failed to criticise America when it was bombing Sudan and Afghanistan.

What would happen to this ratification? No one knows. But we are in a hurry. From the speeches of the former Finance Minister, it seems to me that the Congress Party has taken a position of 'wait and watch till September, 1999'. But our position is very clear. We have categorically stated not to sign the CTBT. It is mortgaging the sovereignty of the nation, and our independence. Do not go for weaponisation. Then only will we be able to get back to our independent position. There are hundreds of others who would rally round us to oppose the new world order. The desire of the US and some of its allies is to bring about a change in the scheme of things by subverting our independence.

As far as the fissile material is concerned, our country will not be allowed to have even fifty per cent of the lowest stock of any of the P-5 countries. What about our missile programme? The hon. Prime Minister is speaking about national consensus on this. He has convened a meeting of the leaders belonging to many political parties. National consensus on what? On the issue of surrender of our independent position! Through the misadventure of Pokhran, the Government has made our position vulnerable. That is being used by the US and other countries to mount pressure on us to submit to their gameplan. They want to have authority even to supervise our nuclear programmes and our defence postures. This did not happen during the regime of the United Front Government. I was reading a letter written by the former Prime Minister. Even during 1996 the question of CTBT did come up. Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee was consulted; and Shri Chandra Shekhar was consulted. But this time you want national consensus to extricate yourself from the serious difficulty in which you have landed yourself.

The national consensus had been there. It is the BJP led Government that has destroyed it. A National Policy was there. If this national consensus is to be brought back, it can be done. I would suggest, do not fall victim to the US game plan, extricate yourself from the trap, do not weaponize and do not sign CTBT. By this, we shall regain our position and people from whom we have isolated, will have new faith on us.

Lastly, in the Statement, the Prime Minister has said a lot about the bilateral dialogue. But, there had been dialogue with France, UK and with many more countries. Their representatives had come and it has been referred towards the end but no mention has been made about the response of our position, whether they appreciate or stick to the position? What is the position of the South African Government? How Mr. Nelson Mandela takes it? How the developing countries who have faith in us, who have accepted our leadership, who are friendly with us, with whom we have long age old friendship, look at it? There is no mention of what their response is.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude now.

[English]

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: I would conclude by saying that the BJP in its enthusiasm, or should I say jingoism, has landed the country in serious difficulties and it is the duty of the Parliament to save the nation. Even if the Government has failed to send the correct message to the American Government and their allies and say that we would not sign CTBT, we shall not go for weaponisation, then the Parliament has a right to send such a message.

16.17 hrs.

STATUTORY RESOLUTION RE : APPROVAL OF DRAFT MINISTERS' (ALLOWANCES, MEDICAL TREATMENT AND OTHER PRIVILEGES) AMENDMENT RULES

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: In between we will take up Statutory Resolution. Item No. 32. Hon'ble Minister of Home Affairs.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): I beg to move:

> "That this House approves the draft Ministers' (Allowances, Medical Treatment and Other Privileges) Amendment Rules, 1998 framed under section 8 and sub-section (1) of section 11 of the Salaries and Allowances of Ministers Act, 1952 (58 of 1952) and laid on the Table of the House on the 15th December, 1998."

This is a simple Resolution, which seeks to amend Rule 31 of this particular Act and this relates to advance car allowance. It has already been done in the case of Members of Parliament. While earlier, the advance used to be Rs. 50,000, it has been increased to Rs. 1,00,000. This was done in 1987. Correspondingly, for the Ministers also, the advance is being increased from Rs. 50,000 to Rs. 1,00,000. This is the only purpose of this Bill. I, therefore, commend it to the House for adoption

MR. CHAIRMAN: Motion moved:

"That this House approves the draft Ministers' (Allowances, Medical Treatment and Other Privileges) Amendment Rules, 1998 framed under section 8 and sub-section (1) of section 11 of the Salaries and Allowances of Ministers Act, 1952 (58 of 1952) and laid on the Table of the House on the 15th December, 1998."

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN SINGH (Deoria): I have some suggestions over this issue.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have not given any notice.

SHRI MOHAN SINGH: I have not given any notice but I have some suggestions. 15% interest is charged on the car advance given by the Government. This interest is higher as compared to the advance given by any bank. Thus this advance is useless. Now, banks are giving Rs. 1 lakh for one year without charging any interest.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Alright, Shri Mohan Singhji. Now please take your seat.

SHRI MOHAN SINGH: If you are so anxious that Rs. 1 lakh should be given to the Members of Parliament and Ministers then you please re-consider about the rate of interest and get this reduced.

[English]

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER (Tenali): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I want to bring one fact to the notice of the hon. Home Minister. A lot of former Members of Parliament have approached us. They are worried over this issue.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: I am aware of it.

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER: Will you kindly look into this and try to help them under some rules so that their grievances are alleviated.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: The Government is conscious of it. Now that you have drawn our attention to it, I will certainly convey it to the Government.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That this House approves the draft Ministers' (Allowances, Medical Treatment and Other Privileges) Amendment Rules, 1998 framed under section 8 and sub-section (1) of section 11 of the Salaries and Allowances of Ministers Act, 1952 (58 of 1952) and laid on the Table of the House on the 15th December, 1998."

The motion was adopted.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN SINGH: Please say something about the 15% rate of interest which is being charged.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: Just now, what Shri Mohan Singhji has said, I was not aware of that. Infact, we have Joint Committee of Parliament for this purpose. It is applicable on Members of Parliament and will be applicable on Ministers also. Had the Committee brought this into notice, we would have consulted the Hon'ble Speaker. The Government have no problem to reduce this rate of interest. I am thankful that you have drawn my attention towards it, we will look into it.

16.21 hrs.

DISCUSSION UNDER RULE 193

Bilateral Talks with United States—*contd.*

[English]

SHRI VAIKO (Sivakasi): Mr. Chairman, Sir, thank you very much for the opportunity given to me. It is history that our country gave a clarion call in fifties to end all nuclear weapons testing. Today, our hon. Prime Minister has categorically, in no uncertain terms, reiterated our undiluted commitment to global disarmament. He has reiterated our commitment to world peace; he has reiterated our commitment to see that all the weapons of mass destruction be eliminated.

I may be permitted to invite the attention of my hon. colleagues that late lamented Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, the architect of our foreign policy, stated on 2nd April on

[Shri Vaiko]

the floor of this House that nuclear, chemical and biological power and energy shall not be used to forge weapons of mass destruction. So, again in the year 1965, it was our country which formulated along with some Non-Aligned countries that the world should adopted a Non-Proliferation Agreement so that the nuclear weapon States get rid of the nuclear arsenal.

The situation changed. Our security concerns deepened, the security environment took a total change and in the year 1968 the late Shrimati Indira Gandhi, former Prime Minister asserted on April 5th, 1968 on the floor of this House that we shall entirely be guided by our enlightenment and the considerations of national security. Yes, of course, in the year 1988, the then Congress Government tried its best in the United Nations to bring a comprehensive formula to eliminated nuclear arsenal from the face of the earth. But Sir, Shri Rupchand Pal who moved this discussion made an accusation that the country now headed by Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee has surrendered its sovereign rights to the pressure of United States. But we should not forget the fact that it is in the year 1962 that we had to face the bitterest betrayal from China when we were stabbed behind our back. Right from that day, another neighbour with whom we have fought three wars, had been continuously getting nuclear technology, the nuclear missiles posing a security threat.

The Standing Committee in which Members from all political parties, cutting across party lines, participated, came to the conclusion that China was a primary security challenge to India. I put it the other way. Under these circumstances, in order to safeguard the territorial integrity and sovereignty of this great country India, to protect the sovereignty against any use of force or against any threat to use force, we had to adopt the posture of nuclear deterrence. The words have been very carefully coined—'minimum nuclear deterrence', the 'credible minimum nuclear deterrence'. Under these circumstances, when the so-called five powers, the self-proclaimed monopolists of the nuclear umbrella, were building up the abominable edifice of nuclear apartheid, it is our country that had taken a step to demolish that edifice.

My friend was telling that nobody had admitted that India is a nuclear State. Whether anybody admits or not, whether the United States admits or not, whether Russia, China, UK or France admit or not, you call by any name, rose is rose. India today is a nuclear State. That is a fact; that is a reality. When we conducted the Pokhran tests on 11th May and 13th May, a hue and cry was raised. Sanctions were imposed because they wanted to perpetuate the nuclear apartheid policy of preaching sermons by saying, "You should not go for production of nuclear weapons. You should not go for conducting nuclear explosion." These countries have conducted more than 2000 nuclear tests.

India has taken the earnest step. That is why, it was called the defining moment in the history of this country. History will salute the decision taken by Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee. My friends from the Congress benches may have difference of opinion, they may have other political differences, but on the issue of CTBT, the Government had taken them into confidence and the consensus build up is going on. As we have debated on the floor of this House, the issue of CTBT was debated and a consensus decision was arrived at, that we should not sign the CTBT.

Of course, in the initial stages, both the Treaties—the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty—were unequal, discriminatory, not comprehensive and not universal. But at one point of time, we also extended our cooperative hand for the CTBT. What happened? Article 14 of the CTBT was targeted against India. 319 monitoring stations will be located in India. Then, when they found it difficult to get us into their trap, they altered the Article. So, Article 14 was altered and the entry into force was made conditional on the ratification of the 44 countries. It is very important. I would like to emphasise this point. The entry into force was made conditional on the ratification of the 44 countries.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude.

SHRI VAIKO: Sir, from the Government side, I am the first speaker. I have not yet started my speech. I have to meet the criticism point by point because many charges have been levelled against the Government. It is a very serious matter. It is a very important discussion. In the whole Session, this is going to be the important discussion.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please be brief and try to conclude.

SHRI VAIKO: There is no question of dirty politics in this. I am putting it in brief only. Otherwise, it will take hours.

Coming to my point, Mr. Chairman, when the CTBT was altered, it was made conditional. On the ratification of the 44 countries which have been designated by the International Atomic Energy Agency, it was made conditional. That is totally against the concept of the Vienna Convention. We were forced and we were

compelled to subjugate ourselves to become a signatory to the CTBT. But the Government of India did not budge. What happened? Then, the matter was taken to the United Nations General Assembly. Australia moved a resolution to adopt the non-consensus Draft Treaty for which 158 countries voted in favour. India, Bhutan and Libya opposed that resolution. Cuba, Lebanon, Tanzania, Syria and Mauritius abstained when the voting took place. It was asked that how many countries have ratified it. Shri Rupchand Pal raised this question. Of course, only ten countries have ratified it. In the United States, the CTBT would be signed by the President. That is their system. The President has to sign the CTBT. Then, it will go to the Senate for ratification. It is a paradox. The impeachment motion is also going to the Senate for ratification. The United States, at any time, will ratify it. Some other countries, the so-called monopolists of the nuclear umbrella will also ratify it.

I would commend the decision of this Government. The desire of the international community is that the CTBT should come into effect in September, 1999. That is the wish of the international community. We cannot stand in isolation. The situation is totally different from 1996; the situation is different when it was debated on the floor of this House in 1996. So, a new situation has arisen and the new situation warrants appropriate decision. Our hon. Prime Minister on 24th September, when addressed the United Nations General Assembly, reiterated the stand taken on the floor of this Parliament. Hon. Prime Minister in his address stated:

> "India is now engaged in discussions with our key interlocutors on a range of issues including the CTBT. We are prepared to bring these discussions to a successful conclusion so that the entry into force of the CTBT is not delayed beyond September, 1999. We expect that other countries, as indicated in Article XIV of the CTBT, will adhere to this treaty without condition."

May I ask a question to our hon. friends? Where are we surrendering the sovereign rights? Very carefully we have coined the words "the desire of the international community is that the CTBT should come into effect in September, 1999." Entry into force of the CTBT is not delayed beyond September, 1999. We expect that other countries, as indicated in Article XIV of the CTBT, will adhere to this treaty without condition. We have not made any compromise; we have not made any commitment. At the same time, we should not forget the fact that the condition is that it should be ratified by 44 countries designated by the International Atomic Energy Agency. May I put a question? What will happen if India is left out and suppose if other 43 countries have put their signatures? Yes, at the same time, we have to protect our sovereignty. We may not bother about the sanctions imposed by the U.S.A. and other countries, but we should look from this angle. There may be sanctions; there may be impediments; there may be obstacles from the international community in so many forms. We are not going to lose anything. Had we signed the CTBT, we could not have gone in for conducting the Pokhran tests.

In the year 1987 itself, Pakistan was boasting of possessing nuclear weapons. ...*(Interruptions)* From the Government side, I am the first speaker, Mr. Chairman. Kindly permit me to continue my speech. I crave your indulgence.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude in two minutes.

SHRI VAIKO: I have two or three important points. I have to meet some of the criticisms levelled by my friend. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: We have a long list of hon. Members.

SHRI VAIKO: India has taken the commendable decision by conducting the Pokhran tests. Today, protecting the supreme national interest, security interest is very much there. Even Article IX of the CTBT clearly establishes the fact that this treaty shall be of unlimited duration. Each State body shall, in exercising its national sovereignty, have the right to withdraw from this treaty, if it decides that extraordinary events related to the subject matter of this treaty have jeopardised its supreme interest. That option is there for every country. The tests on 11th and 13th May have produced critical data for the validation of our capability in the design of nuclear weapons of different yields for different applications.

The scientists Dr. Abdul Kalam and R. Chidambaram, for whom the whole country owes its gratitude, have stated:

> "We have complete mastery over a range of nuclear weapon technologies and they are intended for different delivery systems. Also, we can do computer simulation of subcritical experiments in the future."

These are taking place in the world today.

Sir, Dr. P.K. Iyengar, the former Chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission, who was closely associated with the May, 1974 peaceful nuclear explosion at Pokhran

[Shri Vaiko]

when Shrimati Indira Gandhi was at the helm of affairs, has stated:

> "India must also look to the future. Pursuit of more sophisticated nuclear devices for weapons is a part of the continuing research in national weapons laboratories.
>
> Laboratories around the world are working on these and other paths towards producing *fourth-generation* nuclear weapons. One important feature of these *fourth-generation* weapons will be that they will not use uranium or plutonium, and therefore will not come under the purview of the NPT or the CTBT. This is a matter of enormous political significance, and India should seriously pursue research in these areas. These researches could lead to new concepts in the controlled release of fusion energy."

Now, we are competent to do that. We are competent to go in for subcritical experiments which the other nuclear weapon countries are doing.

Sir, regarding our research and development proramme, the Prime Minister, in his statement, has clearly stated that it does not constrain us from continuing with our research and development programmes, nor does it jeopardise in any manner the safety and effectiveness of our nuclear deterrent in the years to come. therefore, India will not accept any restraint on the research and development capabilities.

As far as the Fissile Material Cut-off Treaty is concerned, I would like to say that India is a signatory of non-discriminatory treaties, like the Chemical Weapons Convention or the Biological Weapons Convention. But the treaty should be non-discriminatory, universal and comprehensive. We have expressed our willingness to arrive at a non-discriminatory treaty that will end the future production of fissile material for the purpose of weapons in accordance with the 1993 consensus resolution of the UN General Assembly.

Sir, my friends were telling that the US pressures have yielded results. Where is the pressure? Where have we succumbed to their pressure? The Prime Minister, in this statement, has stated that it was suggested to us that we might examine announcing a moratorium on fissile material production. But our Government have clearly conveyed that it is not be retrospective. We have clearly stated that it can be prospective and it cannot be retrospective.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude now.

SHRI VAIKO (Sivakasi): Sir, I am concluding. Kindly allow me a few minutes more. A lot of time is swallowed on so many debates.

MR. CHAIRMAN: There are so many speakers.

SHRI VAIKO: It is an important discussion and we are going to sit late in the night also. Kindly allow me some more time.

As far as export controls over sensitive materials and technology are concerned, we are taking steps to make our laws more stringent in this regard. Likewise, we have clearly stated that the CTBT cannot be linked with the question of Kashmir. We have also stated that there is no question of third party mediation with regard to Kashmir issue and that the Kashmir issue is not negotiable at any cost.

Sir, under the stewardship of Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, the Government took the right decision to conduct the grand tests and the future history is going to tell that. Today, we are in a better position even with regard to CTBT. We are in a safer position. We can go in for subcritical tests. We are at par with those so-called monopolists of nuclear umbrella. And with pride, we are insisting that the whole world should be kept rid of these weapons of mass destruction. Therefore, when the hue and cry was raised from the United States, our hon. Prime Minister designated the competent person with all capability and merit, Shri Jaswant Singh. He deputed Shri Jaswant Singh and he has done his job wonderfully well. There are six rounds of talks. We have never yielded. We have never compromised. We have safeguarded the interests of this country. We have safeguarded the supreme interest, that is, the security interest. That is why they have coined the words 'nuclear deterrent'. Therefore, the history of this country, the decision taken by this Government and also the steps taken so far in this regard will be commended. I commend all the steps taken by the Government and also the talks which Shri Jaswant Singh had held who was deputed by the Prime Minister. He had done a valuable and creditable job.

With these words, I commend the efforts made by the Government. I also appeal to my friends on that side. It is not a partisan issue. It is not a political issue. It is an issue to protect the interest and future of the country. Therefore, I would like to make an appeal on this particular issue. The consensus-building is going in. I expect cooperation from these Benches.

SHRI I.K. GUJRAL (Jalandhar): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I must say that the discussion today acquires a much wider

dimension with the two statements made by the Prime Minister. I say 'much wider' because since the two statements were made, a few more things have happened. But I think, before I come to these incidents and their history I must begin by complimenting Shri Jaswant Singh first.

I am glad that he has been given this portfolio at this very crucial moment. Not only do I wish to congratulate him because he is a personal friend and also a member of long-standing in the two Houses of the Parliament, he has given an evidence of his remarkable intellect and also his Parliamentary style and articulation. I wish him well.

I said just now that it is unusual that a personality like Shri Jaswant Singh, even before he takes charge of the Foreign Office, was really working as Minister of Foreign Affairs. I think, that was a good decision because going by the record of his articulation and by his interlocutions with the Americans, I think, he has given an evidence of the fact that he deserves to be placed where he has been placed. My good wishes to you, Shri Jaswant Singh.

I said a while ago that the two statements that the Prime Minister had made recently are in the background of the situation that is happening in our region, in Asia and the world as a whole. Every day, we see a new chapter turned. And one of the happening last week itself, that is, the Baghdad bombing by the power which assigns to itself the role of a policeman of the world. I have no objection to their being policemen provided the policeman discharges a responsibility in the way it is supposed to. It is not only of interesting to note that also causes concern that the United Nations sees and feels that the most important member of the Security Council, a permanent member, a member that enjoys the power of Veto decides to bypass the Security Council, decides to overlook the fact that whatever sanctions the United Nations imposed on Iraq, nearly a decade ago, were on the order of the United Nations and not on the order of an individual country or two countries.

When these two countries, as I sad just now, proceed to fracture the structure of the United Nations this House has to feel concerned see because we in India from the day one the United Nations was perceived, have taken a great deal of interest in it. Since the days of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, there was hardly a moment in the world history when the world was called upon to do something that India did not respond. There is no incident in the world history that I can recall in the last fifty years, be it Korea or Indo-China and I could go on counting endlessly, when India was as a responsible member of the United Nations expected to play a role, it did come up and played a role. That is why, if some times we feel that a seat or two in the Security Council are vacated, we feel that it requires reformulation and it requires redefinition. We feel in the broader interest it is important for us to take note and realise that any weakening of the United Nations is not in our interest. Its weakening is not in the interest of the world peace as a whole.

16.52 hrs.

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

It is an unfortunate fact that last week's incidents do weaken the faith in the Untied Nations itself, not caused by the United Nations' structure, its bureaucracy, the Secretary-General or anybody but by those who were supposed to play a more responsible role.

Much has been said to criticise what America has done and what the UK has done. I will not repeat that. I think, both the Prime Minister's Statement here and the discussion in the other House have brought this point home. So, therefore, I will only say that the more concern causing is, apart from the fact that Iraq has been damaged, it is more important for us to sit up and see what is the future of the United Nations itself.

For quite some time, both here and outside all parties in the House whether in power or on this side of the House, we have been wanting some sort of a reform in the United Nations. I think, if ever it was urgent, its urgency is now more because we feel that United Nations' leadership is not safe in the hands of those who are supposed to lead it.

I would also say it is a very new scenario opening before us. The United States has their bases in some Arab countries also. Those of us, who have been keeping an eye on what is happening the world over see that the largest base in Middle-East was in Saudi Arabia. But, when this hour came, the Americans could not dare to fly their planes from Saudi Arabia. Those bases could not dare to fly their planes from Saudi Arabia. Those bases could not be used because they know that the sentiments of the Arabs in this context are totally out of step with what they were trying to do.

I was, last week, in the UAE and saw for myself in my discussions with the Defence Minister and others, the situation that they were apprehending. It is not that they knew that this thing was coming but the sentiment, the emotion, the outlook was very visible. And that visibility

[Shri I.K. Gujral]

also is glittering when we see the UAE bases would also not being used.

Therefore, I feel and I think, the Prime Minister's Statement has been correct and I support it. We all think that it is a matter of great concern for all of us in India particularly, because whenever we think in terms of the weapons placing in the bases and the gunboat diplomacy coming back again, we in India and I think, all of us in South-Asia feel concerned about it.

It means that the day can come, God forbid it should not, but if it does come that India does not bend before the will of a power, then this type of 16th, 17th, 18th Century gun boat diplomacy can be revived I have said here and I repeat, this act is a very reprehensible act and I do hope that this will be the end of such reprehensibility and arrogance of power.

It was a happy coincidence that, at this moment, the Prime Minister of Russia was visiting India. I am sure that in the coming days, the Minister of External Affairs and the hon. Prime Minister will take this House in confidence and tell us something more than what the media has said.

India-Russia relationships are the relationships of long standing. This House and outside the country one of the items on which great deal of consensus touching unity exists regarding friendship with Russia. It is a fine friendship which has stood the test of time, it is a friendship which has been very useful to both sides at difficult moments. Therefore, when Mr. Primakov came here and talked to the hon. Prime Minister and his colleagues. I am sure, more areas must have been discovered for added cooperation. Whatever one has read in the media encourages this feeling. It also makes one feel that although there is a moment of not strength for Russia, we are talking in terms of close friendship, we are talking in terms of strategic partnership, we are talking in terms of declaration that was to be signed. President Yeltsin could not come, but when the comes, it will be signed.

The newspapers have also said that there was a casual remark by Mr. Primakov about cooperation between India, China and Russia. I am glad that it has been corrected. We are wanting to have good relations with China. That has been our policy for quite some time. I think, it is in the interest of both China and India to have good and friendly relations. But I do not think and I think and rightly the Prime Minister and Mr. Primakov have clarified that this is not the era of camp formations. We do not want to form any camp between three of us, but that does not also mean that three of us cannot be and need not be good close friends. The world economic order is such that neighbours have to cooperate. The world is moving in a direction where neighbourhood friendship is of great deal of significance and importance.

Very often and some people have been saying whether somebody is trying to play a China card or not. I think not now, but even when I sat on the Treasury Benches, I had clarified and I am glad that the hon. Prime Minister of India also has said the same thing that India has no intention of playing any such card against any other country. We want to have very good relations with America, but even more important is our relations with neighbours in South Asia. For some time now, we have been contributing our might to strengthen the SAARC. Ultimately, the salvation of this region lies in a strong SAARC region. Regional cooperation is now more feasible, desirable and also possible. I see and encourage from the fact that although in the month of May tests were performed both in India and Pakistan, the discussions and the talks between India and Pakistan have been very encouraging. Who could have imagined that three months after such tests and acrimony, we could think in terms of starting a bus service from Delhi to Lahore and *vice versa*, who could ever think that three months after this, we would go to Pakistan and buy about one million tonnes of sugar. It is very interesting.

Some Pakistani friends were talking to me last week. I said that the compulsions of economy are very interesting. Whenever we talk in terms of the free trade zone in this area, Pakistan always apprehended the India would swamp its economy.

It was also apprehended that our industrialists would go there and really take over the weaker economy of Pakistan. And now when I hear that some Indian sugar interests getting hold of my friend the Minister of Agriculture and Minister of Food, asking them to impose some restrictions on that — I am not commenting on the merits and demerits of it — but I think they will not succumb to it. Opening markets is in India's interests both ways and wherever we are opening markets we must keep in mind the fact that at some point or the other, one side or the other will always be pinched. Therefore, all such pinches should not decide our policies. Broader vision of what we have been trying to say of South Asian region, open market, free market area is ultimately will the salvation of our problems, both political and economic.

I do feel that this is a matter for which we can derive great deal of satisfaction that the policies that we have been following by various Governments, by the Treasury Benches, various parties who ran them, the

continuity of their policy has been sustained and for this also I draw a great deal of satisfaction and when I say this I mean my colleague Shri Jaswant Singh.

Relationships with America are of importance. Even when momentarily me feel sometimes the difficulties have been created, we do feel at the same time, that what has happened in West Asia should not have happened. Sometimes we feel that the responsible powers should behave differently but I think, I suggest and I commend this should not stand in the way of improving our relations with America.

The talks that have been going on between Mr. Talbott and Shri Jaswant Singh and some recourse and justifiably because I do feel that those who were negotiating with Shri Jaswant Singh should have been more responsible. Because the type of Press Conference that was given or the statement that was made or the speech that was made, gave a very different message than what Shri Jaswant Singh was trying to give and I think this is a message which does not help in building friendship in particular.

One day before the Rome meeting the *Times of India* carried that long statement, long constructive article and the opening paragraph by itself says that' "we are trying to talk to the Indian people" I talked to one of the diplomats of that country and I asked him what was the purpose in that, was he trying to bypass the Government of India. Was it necessary for him; to talk to the Indian people and the Indian Parliament over the head of the Government of India, were he under the impression that the Government of India was not telling the truth to the Indian people, that the Government of India in the name of confidentiality was not telling Parliament what it should have. Otherwise, I could never justify and I think we need not justify the type of article that was sent by under Mr. Talbott's own signature. Even the veil of the relying source was not used. His name has been used.

I have seen Shri Jaswant Singh's statement in the other House. Where he has tried to defend him. I think 'defend' may not be the correct word. But perhaps trying to provide them an escape route and I think this is something that we must forthright understand that whatever our internal views may be, when it comes to a third country or a second country or outside country we are a phase of India and the Government of India whosoever party may be, enjoys the confidence of the people of India. Therefore, when the talks are going on this must be kept in mind that such methodologies may not impose sufferance on India, may not divide and our voice is raised in unitedly.

I do not want to take your time on the issue of nuclear weapons and nuclear powers. I think the debate has been considerably discussed here and I think the doctrine which Shri Jaswant Singh has been projecting and the Prime Minister has been talking about the minimum deterrent and the argument that he has given in the other House has really defined as to what it means. I will not ask him to repeat again nor will I try to ask him those questions. But I think one thing has come; which I must note, for we must note by ourselves and that is that the CTBT is a road towards the NPT.

And that is a *Lakshman Rekha* which we must cross with great deal of care and great deal of certainty, and understand where it will take us. I do hope whenever that stage comes, the Foreign Minister and the Prime Minister will take us in confidence. We may be able to suggest some ways and means of meeting the situation.

17.05. hrs.

[SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU *in the Chair*]

In the beginning, I had mentioned about the economic crisis. The economic crisis is something which all of us have to keep in mind. In the last few months, I have undertaken some travels, particularly, in the East Asian countries. I have been to Japan. I have been to Korea and I have been to Hong Kong. I have given a great deal of attention to study the type of crisis that these countries are facing. In Seoul, last month the UNDP had convened a Conference of 32 nations. The Government of India was represented by its Secretary and the Member of Planning Commission. I had the privilege also that I was invited by the UNDP to address them as a keynote speaker. What was happening there? What do we see there? We see for ourselves a situation which depresses everyone. We see that as the new millennium is coming, there is a great deal of depression all around. For instance, you go to Seoul. You see that a nation, which, in a matter of 20 years became from a developing nation to a developed nation with remarkably large GDP growth and reserves, is overnight improverished. I saw for myself the entire middle-class of South Korea wiped out in a way that one sees and feels very sad about.

The situation regarding Thailand has been eugally upsetting. A few weeks before the crisis so quickly came to Thailand, the organizations like the World Bank and other similar organizations were telling us about the merits of the economy of this country. They were recommending us to follow them. One of the statements made was about the most vibrant economy of the world. I asked a question when I met some of them what happened to

[Shri I.K. Gujral]

them. How did it happen? These organizations which give us the *gurumanthra* all the time, did not know what was going to happen in Korea. They did not know what was going to happen in Malaysia. when did they discover that the leader of Indonesia was corrupt? When did they discover, for instance, that Malaysia was investing more money than it should have in the real estates? When did they decide and discover? When did IMF know that South Korea was overstepping itself by taking short-term loans? A few weeks before the crisis in South Korea, South Korea was invited, in OCED, an elite organization of the developed nations. Then, in a few weeks, you find it crashing in the way I have described you just now. I raised the question with these great pundits of the IMF and the World Bank and asked them here as well as there, what has happened. Why has it happened? You must tell us so that we are able to take care of ourselves. This year alone, for example, the economy of Indonesia will shrink by further 16 per cent. You imagine the impact it has on the people and their lives. You imagine that the economy of Korea will shrink by another six per cent. Therefore, they are still on the negative side. Even if the negative side stops, it takes time. We do not know when it will happen. In this darkness that one sees around, I must compliment the UNDP. The UNDP has taken steps and given a new way of thinking. I do not know how many hon. Members had the opportunity of seeing their annual reports of human development. The human development is being defined now in a different fashion. Up-till now, we were made to believe that the rate of growth only means the GDP.

We were made all the way to believe that if we go on liberalising on the lines that the IMF indicates, the growth will come. You will kindly recall that every time India was told that look at the tigers where they are going, and when the tigers suddenly jump down, nobody tells us what has happened and why its has happened. I was saying that I am giving tribute to UNDP and thanks to one of our fellow South-Asian, Mehboob-ul-Haq, a citizen of Pakistan—unfortunately, he died a few months ago. he was a man of new vision. He re-spelt for us that ultimately development means elimination of illiteracy, elimination of poverty, elimination of those children's circumstances which stand in the way of their going to schools. It also means how much drinking water has been given. how much *per capita* food has been consumed. I commend to my hon. Friends that this report must be seen some of us. Recently, the UNDP also came out with a report on South Asia, and all our countries have been examined one by one.

Two or three things come out very pertinently which are of importance to us. It points out that whenever you want to tackle the problem of growth of population, the short and the tested way out is removal of illiteracy, and we have picked it up. They have told us: Look at Kerala, for instance. When the literacy touches about 100 per cent, the growth of population stops. Take particularly the literacy of women. Wherever women have been made literate, be it in Goa, be it in Tamil Nadu, be it now Karnataka and in Andhra, and more so, in Mizoram, you see a new thing. The second thing that the report brings out is that it does not depend upon the resources. For instance, the *per capita* income of a Punjab citizen is much higher than in Kerala. But unfortunately and I say it with great deal of regret because I come from the State and my friend Shri Barnala is sitting here—I do not think we can raise our heads with pride because Punjab's average literacy is near about the national average of 50 per cent, and women's literacy is about 26-27 per cent. The report also rings out another interesting thing. It does not depend upon the resources; it also does not depend upon the religious beliefs. In our neighbourhood, there is a country, a small country, a proud country called Maldives. They have 100 per cent Muslims, 100 per cent literacy. Men and women, all are literate. Therefore, when we are making foreign policy today, we cannot possibly divorce our foreign policy from the economic policy because that is that we are told everyday. What drags us in India, unfortunately—and I say it with regret and apology—is our Hindi belt. And I do hope, our friends who get elected by those people, be it Bihar, be it U.P. particularly, will give a great deal of attention to this. On the same writings, same way of thinking, another Indian, of whom we can be proud, Amartya Sen, has been given Nobel Prize. This Nobel Prize has been given because Amartya Sen's thinking is that he has devoted his life to argue that there is no more to economic growth and change than merely economic statistics at the macro leves. I take this opportunity, therefore, to pay my tributes to these two great stalwarts of South Asia, Mehboob-ul-Haq and Amartya Sen. The difficulty is that unless consumption grows, unless consumption of the poor people grows and unless poverty is vanished, there is no question of talking of eight per cent rate of growth or five per cent rate of growth. That does not help us at all. Time and again, many conferences take place here. One took place two weeks back also. And these conferences were telling us on the same way that we are going—rate of growth of 8 per cent, seven per cent, liberalisation, globalisation. Liberalisation or globalisation has to be redefined in terms of India itself. And unless we redefine it, our difficulties will continue. Even today I was seeing in *Herald Tribute* that 1.2 billion dollars go out of Brazil everyday. Likewise South Korea. One trillion dollars move out everyday from there. Therefore, whenever you think in terms of reforms, whenever you

think in terms of going the way as indicated by IMF and the World Bank, we must keep this in mind that the prescription that they give is not always in our national interest.

Also at the same time, we in India have been always wanting reforms of the Security Council and the UNO. It is important, but more important to us is the reform of the Brettonwood organisations. It is more important for us to reform the World bank and the IMF. Unfortunately, these two organisations which control the economies of the world are not under the roof of the UNO itself. Only America controls them and the result of it is that a country can be impoverished overnight. For instance, look at the example of India. We took most of the loans from outside at a time when one dollar was costing Rs. 8 or Rs. 9. I do know what is its value today, but let me assume that it is between Rs. 42 and Rs. 43. This means, your debt burden has gone up five times because you have to repay it in dollars.

Mehboob-ul-Haque in one of his formulations made a very interesting formulation. He said that the developing countries are faced with a situation which prevails in the villages of this area that you pay more than what you owe. Once you have taken a debt, you can never get rid of it because it is manipulated.

I had gone to Malaysia some years ago to attend a G-15 meeting. Now, the much maligned leader of that nation, Mahathir, had raised his voice for the first time. He told us at the time in the Conference of the G-15 that some years back some amount of money had been taken as a loan by Malaysia from Japan. They did not add a penny to that, but the currency was so manipulated that the debt burden of Malaysia was multiplied several times. Since he has the courage to speak up, you are seeing the type of campaigns that have been launched against him. They will always try to crush any leader who tries to defy. Defiance can be of several types. One defiance is of the type of Mahathir, another defiance can be defiance by cooperation and that is the defiance of a country like South Korea.

For some time now, whenever we talked of the next millennium, we were talking of the next century as the century of Asia. I think, it is time for us to realise that this pride has already been neutralised. When we are getting near the next century, I do not see enthusiasm anywhere in the world. As I mentioned just now, I have travelled very extensively in the last three or four months. People are not looking at the next millennium with hope, they are not looking at the next millennium with excitement, they are not looking at the next millennium in the terms of people.

Three weeks ago I had the opportunity of attending a seminar in France and the seminar was on 'Human rights and Poverty'. We are now celebrating fiftieth year of the adoption of the Charter of Human Rights and every time we celebrate this, we turn into a *mela* as if State versus people and police versus offender. Though the dimensions are there, I suggested to our own Human Rights Commission that we should now think in terms of specifics, human rights and women. How do we empower women? Can any country progress without empowerment of women? That is what the Human Development Report says. It says that without development of women, there can be no change. Therefore, when we are thinking in this House whether to give 30 per cent or 35 per cent of seats to women or not, the issue should not be looked at only in terms of politics; it should be looked at in terms of development and future. If you read the reports carefully, you will find that without empowerment of women, without elimination of illiteracy and without attending to our own problems in our own ways, we cannot solve the problems. The upshot of discussion in that seminar—I am again drawing your attention to it—was only one that every nation must go to the development perception in its own right, in its own light and in its own ethos.

Do not buy the prescription from elsewhere. I think, in this House particularly, we examine issue by issue. Sometimes, we discuss patent rights; sometimes; we discuss insurance and so on. We do not look at them collectively. We are taking view only one by one, and then parties take their own attitude.

The next millennium is coming. I strongly urge the Government that let us sit down together as a nation and decide what is our vision of the next millennium. Jargons like 'liberalisation' do not help. We must learn from the experience of our neighbours. A question must loudly be asked: "What happened to tigers, why have they sunk and are we being taken and pushed in that direction or not?"

I do not want to take more time, Sir You have been very kind to me. But I would only say this that foreign policy today is a very comprehensive approach. We are dealing with nations, we are dealing with neighbours and we are dealing with economy. I think, Shri Jaswant Singh holding the two caps—as the Minister for Planning on one side and as the Minister of Foreign Affairs on the other — will try to marry the two. We know what he has

[Shri I.K. Gujral]

to say about issues as such. We want to learn from him about his vision of the next millennium. Where does he want the nation to go? How does he want the nation to cope with the challenges that we are all facing?

SHRI E. AHAMED (Manjeri): Thank you, Mr. Chairman, Sir. After the brilliant speech from a person like Shri I.K. Gujral, I do not think that there are many points to be raised in this discussion on the foreign policy.

At the outset, I also join Shri Gujral in complimenting Shri Jaswant Singh, who has been appointed as the Minister of External Affairs. Our Prime Minister was an expert on external affairs. But having a Minister exclusively for foreign affairs was the long-standing wish of a majority of the Members of this House. It is because it will help them in at least meeting a Minister in charge of External Affairs. In this respect also, I join Shri Gujral in wishing him all the best in conducting the affairs as the Minister of External Affairs of India.

Sir, the world is celebrating the Golden Jubilee of the adoption of human rights by the United Nations. During the present Century, may I say that America is the flagrant violator of human rights. In this House, the other day, all of us have raised the issue of what they have done in Iraq. We have been asked to raise it again during this discussion. The defenceless people of Iraq have been attacked mercilessly by America and Britain, which was the head of the Commonwealth, of which we are also a member. We have seen what America has been doing in this Century. In 1945, they have dropped atom bombs in Hiroshima and Nagasaki eliminating 2,00,000 people. They have again started the very same thing against a defenceless country, Iraq.

We all have criticised Iraq, some years back, when it committed aggression on Kuwait. But that is a past, so far as history is concerned. But America, without any reason whatsoever, as stated by Shri Gujral, is behaving like a policeman of the world. America has utilised the United Nations cover even to do the espionage inside Iraq. The UNSCOM officials, who have the cover of the United Nations, working presumably under the instruction of the United Nations, have taken the measurements of the buildings of the defence and military installations in Iraq, and they have supplied it not only to Kofi Annan and United Nations but even to the American Defence Ministry and Pentagon enabling America to do this carpet bombing in Iraq.

Sir, it is very sad in the history of the United Nations, on whom the people have the hope, that it is also, directly or indirectly, helping such wanton attack on a defenceless country, that also on the eve of Ramazan, the holy month of Muslims in the world. Therefore, their continuing sanctions has put the great hardship and difficulties so far as the people of Iraq are concerned. Twenty million people are dying in that country for want of medicines. And, this world is now celebrating the Golden Jubilee of the adoption of Human Rights by the United Nations. This is the situation.

Sir, India has a crucial role to play in these matters. As rightly pointed out by Shri Gujralji, India is the leader of the non-aligned countries. India has its own political vision and perception given by our great leader of the country, Pandit Jawharlal Nehru. At no time, India has missed the opportunity to condemn such wanton attacks on the helpless countries by the super powers. But this time, India has found only one word "to deplore" such a wanton attack on a defenceless country instead of condemning it

Sir, as it is pointed out by the Deputy Prime Minister of Iraq that hundreds of innocent people have lost their lives and hundreds of people are still in the hospital. Why all this is happening is because of only one thing. It is because America is very much afraid of Iraq, not that Iraq would attack on the neighbouring Arab countries. Actually, America is very much afraid of Iraq's power that may some time turn against Israel.

The Prime Minister of India, our Vajpayeeji was also very much anxious to see the Prime Minister of Israel. I have no objection to it. Let the Prime Minister see the Prime Minister of any country. But the way over-enthusiasm was shown by our Prime Minister meeting Mr. Netanyahu, the Prime Minister of Israel, would definitely give some misgivings in the minds of Arab countries. That is what I want to say. I have no objection of our Prime Minister meeting any of the Heads of the State of the world. But this over-enthusiasm of our Government to go with Israel is not in tune with the policy which we have been adopting or following since days of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru.

Sir, this American bombing has come as a blessing in disguise. The Arabs were a little bit disintegrated in certain things. But this American bombing has made them to have Arab solidarity and revive the Arab nationalism and established solidarity with the people of Iraq.

Sir, I take this opportunity as a Member of this august House to express deepest sympathy to the people of Iraq who have been massacred and subjected to such

an inhuman and reprehensible attack by American regime in collusion with the Great Britain.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude now.

SHRI E. AHAMED: Yes, Sir, I do not want to take much of the valuable time of the House. This is also the time for me to break my fast. I would say one or two sentences about the CTBT and then conclude.

The Government of India should make abundantly clear as to what their stand is about the CTBT Sometime back the Prime Minister said in Bangalore that it is not conducive for India to sign the CTBT.

Does it mean that if only the House will agree, he will do so? Let the Government be clear about what is the perception so far as CTBT is concerned and if there is any deviation or not.

I just conclude my speech with only a few words which I could see in one of the newspapers written by an eminent columnist, Shri Inder Malhotra. With your kind permission, I quote. It is in the best interests of the foreign affairs of our country and also of the Government of the BJP that I would like to read this quotation:—

> "Not only has the BJP-led coalition failed to evolve national consensus on the nuclear issue and on such specific matters as the signing of the CTBT, but also it has failed equally miserably to educate the public opinion. Even with the Government, Shri Jaswant Singh and the Prime Minister's Principal Secretary, Mr. Brijesh Misra seem to be working at cross purposes altogether. Foreigners have not the impression that domestic discord has rendered the present Government unable to do anything about the CTBT."

I hope this Government will take it seriously as a future guideline in conducting the affairs of the country in external affairs.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL (Latur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, Shri Jaswant Singh is not in the House. Maybe, after a few minutes, he will come to the House. But I would like to congratulate him. He was really a *de facto* Foreign Minister. But now he is a *de jure* Foreign Minister and he will also be acting as Foreign Minister. We would like to wish him all the best. That would be in the interests of the country also. With his knowledge and capacity, I think he will be able to discharge the duties in the best possible manner.

India and the United States of America have been talking to each other and Shri Jaswant Singh and Shri Talbot have met many times. We think that this dialogue should be continued. It is not always possible to get good results immediately when dialogues take place in one or two meetings. But if dialogue or the discussions do not take place, the possibility of misunderstanding increasing is greater and in order to avoid this kind of possibility, the dialogues are always welcome. Through this dialogue, it will be possible for India to explain its point of view to the leaders in United States of America and the concern that India feels can also be explained and if there is any misapprehension in their minds, that misapprehension, if not totally eliminated, can be reduced. It should be possible for us to find common denominator and if the denominator is found, it may become possible for us to act on the common denominator. If we come to the conclusion that there is a lot of distance between the stands taken by the two countries on certain points in certain respects, we can understand even that position and we can formulate our policies to meet the situations and eventualities which may arise out of the non-convergence of opinion between the two countries.

We think that the dialogue should be continued but when the dialogue is going on, we shall have to be very careful. We shall have to carry on the dialogue not only to explain and please but we have to carry on the dialogue to protect our interests and to do justice also. If these principles are kept in mind and I am sure that these principles are kept in mind—sometimes, a mistake here or a mistake there can take place—and if the dialogue is carried on in this fashion, it will be very useful to our countries.

Meeting too many times at too many places and too ambiguous an agenda also may not help. Meetings held with clear understanding as to what is to be achieved and what can be achieved will certainly be useful but it is not possible to lay down the principles and fix the criteria which can be used for carrying on the dialogue. It should be left to the parties which are talking to each other and certainly it will be left to our Minister of External Affairs and the representative of the United States of America.

In the statement which has been issued by the hon. Prime Minister, which is the subject matter of today's discussion, one of the points which has been dealt with is the issue of disarmament itself. When we talk about disarmament, we shall have to remember and it will be very useful to remember the speech delivered by Shri Rajiv Gandhi in 1988 in the General Assembly of the United Nations. That session was held to discuss

[Shri Shivraj V. Patil]

disarmament and the speech was delivered by Shri Rajiv Gandhi. It is a very comprehensive speech which lays down the policies which India can follow with respect to disarmament. I think, the principles which are laid down in that policy can certainly be followed.

India is for reducing the nuclear weapons or any other non-conventional mass destructive weapons. India would like to go along with other countries on this point. the weapons cannot be eliminated at the first instance but they can be reduced and then they can be eliminated. This elimination of non-conventional weapons should be done in a time frame. It is not only the non-conventional weapons which have to be reduced but the conventional weapons should also be reduced to such an extent that only the objective of defending the country can be achieved and the objective of invading a country may not be achieved. Those were the principles which were laid down in the policy framework which was submitted to the United Nations by Shri Rajiv Gandhi. By and large, the policy India has been following is the same policy. We do want to march with other countries in this respect but we do not want to be discriminated against.

Any principle which is applied for reducing and eliminating nuclear weapons in a discriminatory manner is not going to be helpful. I think, that is the stand the present Government is also taking, if I have understood the purport of the statement made by the hon. Prime Minister in this respect, India is for peace and prosperity and tranquillity in the world. India wants that the world should be free from war, weapons and nuclear weapons and that would be the policy India would like to follow with respect to disarmament.

On CTBT, I think, India should cooperate. But when I say that India should cooperate, India cannot cooperate without protecting its own interest. If the interest of the country cannot be protected, it may not be possible for India to sign the CTBT; and India should not sign the CTBT if the interest of the country is not protected. India should be treated on par with other weapon possessing countries and if India is not treated on par with other weapon possessing countries, there is likely to be a discrimination against India and that position may not be possible for India to accept. When I say this, I would also like to say that it is not necessary for India to be in a hurry to sign the CTBT. If there is a timeframe within which it has to be done, and if within that time frame we can arrive at a formula which can protect the interest of the country and which can also help in this matter, then there should not be any difficulty. But it is not necessary for India to be anxious to sign the CTBT or no intention should be made that the CTBT should be signed in this manner. This matter is very intricate; it has to be carefully examined and very very skilfully handled. If it is not carefully examined and skilfully handled, then the national objectives and the international objectives would not be achieved. That is why, we do think that there is scope for taking a cautious view and we have to cautiously move in this respect. On the one hand. We should march with the world and on the other hand, the interest of the country should be protected. I would like to say that India should be treated on part with other weapon possessing countries. Then only the objectives can be achieved.

As far as FMCT is concerned, the statement is very clear and there is no great scope to say anything on this. The stand that the Government has taken, I am sure, would be acceptable to all of us. Here also, we shall have to be careful. No discrimination shall be accepted. The most important point which is coming out of the discussions and the present situation is that India should not be discriminated against. If India is treated on par with other weapon possessing countries, in order to get India agree to international treaties, well, then that should be acceptable. But here also, if there is anything which discriminates against India, it may not be possible for us to accept that.

Now, let me come to export controls. We do have some technologies; very sophisticated technologies and the technologies at the horizon are also available in India. We have been careful and we are not making dangerous technologies available to any other country. We would be responsible in future also. But at the same time, we would like to say that there are dual use technologies available to any other country. We would be responsible in future also. But at the same time, we would like to say that there are dual use technologies. They have invented a formula saying that a technology can be used for the purposes of producing weapons and for other purposes also — this is dual use technology. But in my opinion, everything that is happening in the area of advanced technology can be used for many purposes. It can be used for helping human beings or it can be used for producing anything or it can be used for destructive purposes also.

The distinction between the technologies which can be used for war purposes or for the purposes of destruction and the technologies used for helping human beings is very much reduced. You take any technology, like electronic technology, genetic technology, space technology and communication technology. Any technology can be used for dual purposes. The distinction is very very minimal. That is why this formula or theory of dual

purpose is not at all relevant. This formula can be used against any country to deny any particular technology to a country. I think there is a lot of scope to carry on discussion on this point. Now, India can take a stand that this theory of dual purpose should not be applied blindly without understanding the implications of it and without understanding which technology cannot be used for dual purpose. I am not sure whether this point was taken up for discussion that took place between our Foreign Minister and the representative of United States of America. There is a lot of scope to speak on this point. One cannot deny any technology to India on the ground that it can be used for defence purposes or for the purposes of producing weapons. This should not be there. We would like to urge upon the Foreign Minister to discuss this issue a little more carefully and try to reduce the sanctions which are imposed on the technologies which can be given to India. There is very little scope for distinguishing which technology can be used for dual purpose and which cannot be. We would like the Indian representative to be very careful and try to gain something on this point.

Now, let me come to defence postures. India has won freedom by using non-violence. India has not invaded any country. But war had been inflicted on India five times. I am not saying that it is four times, because I am including the conflict in Rann of Kachh. Willy-nilly, India had to defend itself. India had to protect its sovereignty, its territory, its borders, its interests, and its people. India cannot refuse to defend itself. India has to defend itself. India can pledge to the world that India will not invade any other country, but India has to defend itself. India will not fail in its duty.

While talking about the nuclear weapons it is said that India will not be the first country to use the nuclear weapons against any country. I do not know whether it was necessary to make this statement or not. We could have followed this principle even without making this statement. Once we have made this statement, there is nothing wrong in it. Even without making this statement, there is nothing wrong in it. Even without making this statement, we would have done the same thing. Had we not made this statement, some defence advantage would have been available to us.

India is very correct in making a statement that India will not use the nuclear weapons against any non-nuclear State. We can keep on repeating this statement. Why is India trying to have nuclear weapons? It has been made very clear that our purpose is very limited, that it is to defend ourselves. We do not want to compete with the United States of America or for that matter with any other country which is having the nuclear weapons.

We cannot be equated with other countries. We are very advanced in these areas. Our purpose is very limited and for that limited purpose we have a right to be vigilant and a right to prepare ourselves for any eventuality. We will rightly prepare ourselves to face any eventuality. The Defence posture of ours is correct.

As far as the missile technology is concerned, we do not find any difference of opinion. To a very large extent we tend to agree with what has been said with respect to the Defence technology and Defence manufacturers on this point.

Having said this much, I would like to say that while trying to have good relationship with the United States of America, let us not concentrate only on the nuclear technology, nuclear weapons or anything of this sort. There are many other areas in which India and the United States of America can cooperate with each other. It would be useful to concentrate on those areas and try to find out as to how we can strengthen our relationship with them. There is a lot of scope in trade and commerce. In trade and commerce, India can cooperate, coordinate its activities and this should be looked into.

There is a scope for helping the industry in India, America as also in the Third-world countries. Nowadays, we are helping each other in matters which are in the realm of Services. There also, we will try to do it in a manner that our interests are protected. The third area is the area of Science and Technology. This is really a very important area. The scope of cooperation in this area is getting limited because of the theory of 'dual use technology'. This theory has to be discarded and we shall have to increase our cooperation in Science and Technology. There is a lot of scope in electronics. If others can prepare the hardware, we can prepare the software. There is a lot of scope in genetics. In the area of genetics, India is one of the richest countries in the world as far as genetic resources are concerned and America is one of the countries in the world which does not have the genetic resources but does have the genetic technology. If genetic technology and genetic resources can come together, it will not only be good for India or America but for other countries of the world as a whole. Informatics and communication are the other areas in which we can cooperate. We have cooperated in Space technology. Some of our satellites were launched in America and there is a scope for cooperating in that area also. One of the biggest areas in which there can be a long-term futuristic cooperation is the area of

[Shri Shivraj V. Patil]

knowledge. If we emphasise on this area, there would be very useful cooperation between the United States of America and India. We shall have to explore these areas. We shall have to carefully prepare to cooperate. We shall have a vision as to how to cooperate. We should go one step ahead to plan as to how to cooperate and then we should acquire the wherewithal required to cooperate in these areas.

It is very good that India has discussed some of these important matters with Russia, France, Japan and other countries. I think there has not been much of a dialogue between the United Kingdom and India.

Now if that is so, let us explain to them our point of view and let us understand their point of view also. That will help us to find out as to where we agree and as to where we do not agree. Where we agree, we cooperate with each other, where we do not agree, we have our own plans and we have our own strategies to help ourselves. That would be very necessary.

Today, we are discussing the relationship between India and United States of America and fortunately for us, we have the Prime Minister of Russia in our country. We have seen on television and are reading in the newspapers also that India and Russia have signed about seven agreements. Now, this kind of cooperation will certainly be very useful. The erstwhile USSR and India were cooperating and now also we are cooperating. The United States of America and India cooperated before Independence. After Independence, if there was some scope for talking to each other to remove misunderstanding, we did that also and there is scope for that. Now, India has been talking to these countries. It is good. I think, Japan is one of the countries to which we shall have to talk a little more because the statements which have come from Japan are little more disconcerting. I do think that there is a scope for speaking to Japan also on this matter. Now, we have to speak with United Kingdom also.

Now, it is said that the present Government would like to discuss the matters with other parties. I thank, the present Government has discussed the matters with other parties and I think they should continue discussing the matters with other parties. But may I say one thing? If you discuss a matter with other parties and you arrive at conclusions and use the same matter in elections to say that this is your policy and this policy has succeeded, is it correct? It has to be avoided. If it is a policy of the country and if it is a policy of the entire Parliament and the people, the credit for it should not be taken by one party. If the credit is taken by one party, I think, other parties will be more careful while expressing their agreement to the proposals made by you and there will be a hurdle in your real discussion on this matter. Now, did the Government make use of what happened when the Government came to power in an election? If the Government did make use of that thing, probably it is enough to disrupt the consensus which should be there on defence and foreign matters. The Defence Policy is something which should arise out of agreement between all the parties. If one party is trying to take advantage of it, the scope for arriving at an agreement is limited. The External Affairs Policy is a Policy which should arise out of the consensus between the parties. Here and there some divergent opinions may be expressed. But the agreement should be there. If this agreement is not used for partisan purposes, political purposes and electioneering, then it will be good. I do think that this has to be there.

By and large, we, from the Congress Party, would like to cooperate in matters relating to Defence, External Affairs and long term planning. But at the same time, we are free and we are duty bound to criticise the Government where our views are different from the Government. On those points, we are not going to mince words. On the one hand, we will not criticise the Government for the sake of criticism. But on the other hand, we will not spare the Government where criticism is required and where our views are completely different. By and large, there is scope for agreement and we should arrive at agreement. But we do think that the Government has expressed its views to arrive at agreements yet on some points, the Government has committed some errors because of which it has not been fully possible to agree with the Government's point of view also.

18.00 hrs.

I do think that with this kind of approach, let us have a defence policy which can defend our country; let us have an external affairs policy which can help us to protect our interests, protect the interests of the people in the world, protect the interests of peace, tranquility and prosperity of the people throughout the world.

[English]

SHRI C. GOPAL (Arakkonam): Respected Chairman, Sir, I will put my views on behalf of my Party and my leader Dr. Puratchi Thailavi on the statement made by the hon. Prime Minister in this House with regard to bilateral talks with the United States.

As the Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission, our hon. Minister has played a very important role with

regard to our foreign policy and he visited many nations. During this right time, he is given the charge of the Minister of External Affairs. Therefore, on behalf of my Party, I congratulate him now.

Our foreign policy is now criticised by one group and it is appreciated by the ruling party group. On behalf of myself, I want to start my point from the year 1947. Our nation has been adopting our policies against foreigners for the past fifty years. In the year 1947, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru through a radio broadcast to the nation, gave our nation's view on foreign policy. He said and I quote:

> "We shall take full part in international conference as a free nation with our own policy and not merely as a statellite of another nation. We hope to develop close and direct contacts with other nations and cooperate with them in the furtherance of world peace and freedom. We propose, as far as possible, to keep away from the power politics of groups aligned against one another which have led in the past to world wars and which may again lead to disaster even on a vaster scale."

I want to point out what our policy is today. I want to put some points with regard to bilateral talks with United States. India's commitment to global nuclear disarmament remains undiluted. India has maintained that a nuclear weapon free world would enhance not only our security but the security of all nations. Indo-US relations particularly in the economic field are broadened and diversified. US also remains India's largest trade and investment partner.

18.04 hrs.

[SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH *in the Chair*]

Only in the month of May, 1998, our Government conducted nuclear test. Even at that time, it was criticised by the Congress Party also. My humble submission would be that the nuclear test conducted in May 1998 was a continuation of the decision taken nearly 25 years ago.

Shrimati Indira Gandhi was taking more interest. Shri Rajiv Gandhi was also taking more interest. But only when credit went to our hon. Prime Minister Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, that the intention came to the minds of the Congress people. It is not only India's nuclear tests held in May 1998 that brought about a new twist in the Indo-U.S. relations. At that time, the reaction of the United States was critical and harsh. Also, in the wake of the tests conducted by Indian and Pakistan, a joint statement was issued by China and the United States during Mr. Clinton's visit to China. At that time also, our foreign policy was criticised. That is why, I am making this point now. Even at that time, India categorically rejected the statement and described its approach as entirely unacceptable.

India's foreign policy with regard to the attack on Iraq is very much essential to be mentioned at this time. Everybody is watching what is the option of India in regard to this policy. I want to submit before this House that killing of people anywhere and for any purpose is wrong. Whatever reasons one may give to vindicate such an action but the military strikes by the United States and Britain are unacceptable. Of course, the attack has been stopped now. The strikes by the United States and Britain flagrantly violated the norms of the international law and openly ignored the world communities efforts to settle the situation.

At the time of the incident, what is the view of this nation? At the right time, our hon. Minister of External Affairs said that the air strikes on Iraq were deplorable and a matter of grave concern; and differences over the implementation of the Security Council resolutions by Iraq ought to have been resolved through negotiations and dialogue, and India wanted military operations to be halted immediately. Therefore, my humble submission would be that on that incident, our Leader Dr. Puratchi Thalaivi had released a statement saying that it is unfortunate that on the eve of the holy month of Ramajan, the people of Iraq are getting no relief from their privations but a rain of bombs. She also released a statement stating:

> "The bombing of Iraq by the United States and the United Kingdom thus amounts to a crime against humanity, and as such deserves international censure. I call upon the Prime Minister to immediately get move a resolution in the United Nations General Assembly calling for the immediate cessation both of the bombing as well as all sanctions against Iraq."

But, anyhow, my humble submission would be that I want to appreciate the hon. Prime Minister because at the right time he has issued the proper statement.

Sir, I want to put my views on Indo-Pakistan relationship. There is a dispute between Pakistan and India. I want to bring the incident of 1947 to the knowledge of this House. In 1947, the State of Jammu and Kashmir everybody knows and our eminent leaders know—refused to join Pakistan and they only had opted for India. Pakistani leadership has since argued that if a majority area can remain part of India, then the *raison*

[Shri C. Gopal]

d'etre of Pakistan collapses. That is their attitude and that is their idea. But as far as Indian leadership is concerned, likewise we believe that being the only Muslim majority State in India, Kashmir is central to India's philosophy of secular nationalism. That is why, till today clashes between two nations are continuing.

Foreign policy is popularly believed to be based on a broad national consensus. As far as our relations with the United States are concerned, talks are being conducted on the basis of a comprehensive platform that India has put forward on disarmament and non-proliferation matters, our unilateral moratorium, willingness to discuss converting it into *de jure* obligation, our offer to enter into constructive negotiations and reaffirming our policies on stringent control on export of sensitive technologies.

I want to put forward some suggestions with regard to India-Pakistan relationship. The official dialogue between India and Pakistan at the level of Foreign Secretaries, as well as interaction at political levels, were resumed only in 1997. Our respected former Prime Minister, Shri Gujral met his Pakistani counterpart four times. Through those meetings, India's concern regarding Pakistani's activities which impinge adversely on India's security and national interest, were conveyed, as well as its desire to establish a relationship of trust, friendship and cooperation with Pakistan.

Disagreement of our views with Pakistan again started only after we conducted nuclear tests. Our hon. Prime Minister on 14th June, 1998 wrote a letter to Prime Minister, Mr. Nawaz Sharif of Pakistan that their presence in Colombo for the SAARC Summit would enable them to hold bilateral discussions and to decide how the dialogue process could be carried forward. The Prime Minister also said that India was committed to fostering a peaceful and friendly relationship and developing a stable structure of cooperation between the two countries.

The Prime Minister of Pakistan Shri Nawaz Sharif replied on 23rd June, 1998 agreeing with the Indian Prime Minister's suggestion to hold talks while in Colombo. In spite of this statement of the Prime Minister of Pakistan, what is the attitude of Pakistan towards India? The international community also recognised that all outstanding issues between India and Pakistan should be settled bilaterally, in a peaceful manner. But Pakistan is continuing its attack on Indian posts and since September this year, it made 11 attempts to capture our posts. India has also foiled another attempt to capture one of the world's highest posts, Bila Top. India and Pakistan have also expelled one staff member each of their High Commission in New Delhi and Islamabad on charges of espionage. This is the attitude of Pakistan towards India. Anyhow, our Prime Minister has reiterated that there is no place, whatsoever, for any third party mediation in respect of Kashmir. It is also categorically stated by our country and our Prime Minister that we should not give room for any third party negotiations. The US State Department's Annual Report on Patterns of Global Terrorism, which was released on 30th April, 1998, also stated that there were continuing reports of official Pakistani support to terrorist activities in India. As far as our relationship with Pakistan is concerned, our hon. Prime Minister is riding on the right path without compromising the integrity of the nation. This is my humble submission.

As far as Katchatheevu is concerned, I would like to say that once it was a part and parcel of India. It was ruled by a Tamilian called Sethupathi Raja. But Shri Karunanidhi, the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu has given it to Sri Lanka.

SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM (Thanjavur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, it was given by the Central Government. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI C. GOPAL: Sir, he does not know the history. ....*Interruptions)* When Shrimati Indira Gandhi was the Prime Minister, this matter was referred to the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu. But it was not objected by the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, even though he is always talking about Tamilians by saying that he is living for Tamilians. Now, the fishermen of Tamil Nadu are suffering a lot and even, day-before-yesterday, 16 fishermen from Tamil Nadu were detained in Jaffna. Therefore, Katchatheevu must become a part and parcel of our country and I would request that necessary steps should be taken by the Government in this regard. Our leader is also raising her voice on this issue.

So, in the end, I would like to appreciate the statement made by the Prime Minister. With these words I conclude my speech.

SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN (Trichur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the world today is not the same as it was a week ago. Vast changes have taken place in the international situation. Out of the five member UN Security Council, the two big powers, the United States of America and Britain have violated the United Nations' Charter, the Rules

of the UN Security Council and the attack on Iraq by the United States of America and Britain is not only an attack on Iraq alone.

It is an attack against the United Nations. It is an attack especially against Third-World countries. Three out of the five permanent Members of the Security Council—the People's Republic of China, Russia and France—warned against this attack. Even then, the missile attack and the cruel bombardment on civilian people went on for four nights. Even after they stopped the attack, yesterday, the Secretary of State of the United States, that is, their Foreign Minister, appeared on the TV and said: "We are free to attack again at any time." That is a challenge against humanity. So, the things have changed vastly. We are not discussing the two statements of our hon. Prime Minister alone. We have to take stock of this new situation. But the United States of America and Britain, as the erstwhile imperialist powers, have challenged the nations that their brute power will be imposed for their interests. Mr. Bill Clinton was frank enough to say "To safeguard the interests of America, we will do that." They will go against the United Nations. They will go against the Security Council. They will go against humanity. That was bluntly told by Mr. Bill Clinton. That was repeated yesterday by the secretary of State of the United States. How are we going to face this? That is a crucial question now facing the Government of India and the nation.

The root-cause of enmity towards Iraq of the erstwhile imperialist powers is that after the Second World War, they were bold to nationalise their oilfields unlike the other Arab nations. Has the country not a right to do that? That is the root-cause of this enmity. In attacking this independent country, their claims are utterly false. I do not go extensively on that point because I fear the Chairman will ring the Bell.

When we deal with America, what are they doing towards us? They have not yet sent the missiles. They have not warned the Navy when their ships armed with nuclear heads went from Diego Garcia to the Gulf countries. But in the name of sanctions, they are pressuring us. Please excuse me when I say that. I see that Government of India is succumbing to their pressure.

Yesterday, the Chairman of the New York International Insurance Company in Delhi gave a Press statement. He is eagerly waiting the fate of our IRA Bill. He is in Delhi.

Sir, for what else they want exclusive marketing rights for their fair produce in India? They want to capture the market of 98 crore of people. Are we going to succumb to them? If we amend our Patent Bill, the model Patent Bill, and open up our market for exclusive marketing right, what will be the fate of this country?

Yes, the economic affairs are interlocked with our Foreign Policy. How do we deal with these erstwhile imperialist powers, that is a crucial thing. If Iraq had opened up its oilfields, there would have been no missiles, no bombardment. Saddam is a very good diplomat and gentleman. We are facing erstwhile economic powers on economic field. The question is how to face them and how to deal with them. Our Foreign Policy is interconnected with the Economic Policy.

Sir, they are out to plunder this country. They are out to capture the key sectors of our economy. If we yield to them, our nation will not survive. We may find out so many reasons. Economic Pundits are saying that we can also export. True, we have to export our produce, we have to balance our exports and imports policy. If we are aseptic against the United States, they may do some harm to us in the European market, in the United States market and even in the Japanese market.

We are 98.84 crore people here in India. This is a vast market. We do not go to Europe or anywhere. If you reform the Agricultural Sector, if you enact fundamental land reform and improve the purchasing power of the rural poor, the poorest of the peasantry, the purchasing power of the 98 crore people will lead us to industrial revolution, industrial development and our economy will be strengthened. That is what I understand from *Swadeshi*. We are now facing *Swadeshi* and globalisation. Globalisation is very good to say but you are projecting the vast masses of a great nation. You are restructuring your economic policy.

I am sorry for this offence to the Congress Party. After *Pachamarhi*, we thought that they may make some changes to some extent. *Pachmarahi* was a hope for us, as far as Congress is concerned. But after *Pachmarhi*, even today, what we see now? The Congress Party is on the same footing and at the same low to plunder this country. They have hedged the Congress Party and the BJP together. This may temporarily sabotage the fundamental structure of this nation. But I would like to remind them that the people will not forget them.

The victories of Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh are after the *Pachmarhi* session. They gave some hope that they were changing, but today they are not changing, they are far ahead of BJP in allowing the international capital, the multi-nationals, the erstwhile imperialistic

[Shri V.V. Raghavan]

powers to reenter our economic sectors and plunder this country and loot this country. I would also like to bring it to there notice that when they talk with the Americans, they must keep in mind our Foreign Policy.

On CTBT, we have not much difference.

SHRI C.P. RADHAKRISHNAN (Coimbatore): We are happy that their offer has been rejected by the Congress Party.

SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN: How can we strengthen our security? In my humble opinion, our security cannot be strengthened by nuclear weaponisation in this modern world. Nuclear weaponsisation is nothing in this modern world. Our security can be strengthened by strengthening our bond with our allies, namely, the Third-world countries, China and Russia. If we come together and have agreements, as we did yesterday with Russia, and friendship with the vast masses of the Third-world countries, that is the only guarantee for our security. Nuclear weaponisation is not the way.

SHRIMATI KRISHNA BOSE (Jadavpur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, as I rise to take part in this debate, I am overwhelmed with a sense of great responsibility.

The international community today faces a very difficult situation. All of us have to be very sensible and balanced. Perhaps, the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Mr. Kofi Annan, struck the right note when he said that the need of the hour is a heeling diplomacy. I hope and pray that my country will play a significant role in the application of that heeling diplomacy.

Sir, we are debating the statement of the hon. Prime Minister which he made in this House. But we have been overtaken by events and we have to mention the events of the last few days. The hon. Prime Minister's statement has to be examined in the backdrop of what happened in the last few days. We have seen a face of America which has made us apprehensive. The Indo-U.S. talks are going on. We have a very distinguished interlocutor in Shri Jaswant Singh, but we have to be very cautious after we saw in the last few days.

In this House, we have unanimously deplored the aggression of the Iraqi people by America. The Americans have violated the international law in the name of protecting the international law. The Iraqi people were suffering already because of the very cruel sanctions imposed on them for the last eight years. Children are dying there because of lack of medicine and because of malnutrition. After that came the bombardment. I do not see why the Iraqui people have to be punished because of the transgression of their dictator. I am shocked by the role that Britain played in this and that also Tony Blair's Britain. I could not believe that Hugh Gateskel's Party is sort of playing a second fiddle to America, in America's indiscriminate, if I may use the word, international terrorism. How can we forget that when Anthony Eden's Tory Government attacked Egypt during the Suez Canal crisis, it was Hugh Gateskel who had raised his voice of protest as the Opposition Leader at that time? However, world opinion has now separated and isolated the USA and Britain. We have heard the viewpoint of Russian Prime Minister, who is with us at the moment. We have also heard the voices of China and France.

What is most heartening is this, that the American general public and the academicia have not supported this aggression. Their feeling is somewhat like this: That in trying to contain what is termed a 'rogue state', they are appearing to be a rogue state themselves and they do not appreciate that sort of an attitude.

This aggression is clearly counter-productive. It has brought hurt and suffering to the people of Iraq. But it has not touched Saddam at all. He loves this, he triumphs on this war psychosis. He is a despot. People have to rally round him when such a situation arises.

I have to say one thing, that we must have some sort of a mechanism with which we can control troublesome states like Saddam's Iraq. But that must be based on world opinion or that must be a consensus and unilateral aggression cannot be the answer to that. But a little while ago Shri Gujral did point out that the United Nations which was such an organisation had been undermined in this and may be apart from the people of Iraq the only other casualty has been the United nations. because the Unscom, the Inspection Commission which was working there had come to a stop and they could never go back and do anything there.

The Prime Minister had called upon us that we should have an armaments-free world where the security of all the nations will be taken into account.

Now we heard, or we have read that Mr. Richard Butler the Inspector of the Commission had said that Iraq had amassed what they called, WMD, Weapons of of Mass Destruction from the days of Hiroshima, Nagasaki, Vietnam, Korea, down to Baghdad and that when we go nuclear we have to hear the criticism of the United States Government. We are aware that our Government and

the United States are in the midst of a very delicate negotation.

As I have already said, we have a very good interlocutor on our side. The negotiations are in a delicate stage. We must not say anything or do anything which will jeopardise them. We have to be very cautious in the negotiations. We have kept our nuclear options open till 1998 and we exercised our options, as we all know, in May and we ended the nuclear ambiguity. But at the same time, we have told the world that our nuclear capabilities are of a defensive nature. We have told the world that we only want, what we say, a minimum credible deterrent. We have declared a moratorium voluntarily. Now whether our voluntary moratorium should be a *die jure* one is for you to consider. I should think that we will leave it to our scientists to decide. If they think that we have enough of data, if they think that we do not need more tests, we can go into that.

The Prime Minister has said that we have focussed the attention on four things. The CTBT is one of them. The Prince of Denmark, Hamlet, said, "To be, or not to be" That is the question. That is, to sign or not to sign, seems to be the question. I do not believe what the other side said that if we sign the CTBT we shall be doing an abject surrender, as if it will be a surrender of our sovereignty. Or, they see a conspiracy in everything. I do not say that

Our signature is necessary for the treaty to come into force. We do not wish to be identified as a permanent dissident, who are trying to block this treaty. But we shall abide by our national interest. As I said, we shall abide by what our scientists say. One of the Republican Senators—I forgot his name—had made a cynical remark about India. He said that now to make India sign the treaty is like closing the stable door when the horses have fled. It may be so. But we have to take care of our security.

Regarding the other three points, particularly, on FMCT, we have said that fissile material production will continue. Regarding export controls, we have restrained ourselves. About defence posture security, we have said that we believe that a non-discriminatory application of the treaty will be possible.

Sir, at the backdrop of all these things, I have a feeling that India has a chance to reclaim its traditional role as the leader of the non-aligned nations now. As a friend of the Arab world and the Third World nations, we can rely on our traditional allies like Russia.

Many of us in this House including myself had reservations about going nuclear. But I must say that on the negotiating table, we are today in a much stronger position because of that. I would urge upon the Opposition to rally behind the Prime Minister so that he has a stronger position.

I would like to conclude by reminding you that Rabindranath Tagore talked about *Viswa Maitri* when the Second World War was raging. I hope that all of us will take India towards effecting *Viswa Maitri* in this world. Thank you.

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH (Uluberia): As our Party hon. Member, Shri Rupchand Pal had explained in details our views on the subject, the scope of the discussion will be extended widely. So, I am not going into the details of all those things because as I am told, my time is only limited.

I want certain clarifications on the statement made by the hon. Prime Minister. At first, I want a clarification on CTBT where he has said that India remains committed to converting our voluntary moratorium into a *de jure* obligation. I want a clarification from my hon. friend and Minister what is the reaction of U.S.A. regarding our declaration of this voluntary moratorium into a *de jure* obligation because you had a long discussion stretching up to nine rounds. I want to know that first.

I want to raise certain questions. Probably, I have got 10 questions. In the same statement, the Prime Minister has said that we are prepared to bring the discussion to a successful conclusion because you have a different perception. I do not know whether you have a different stand. For 50 years, we have a different perception with U.S.A. So, in that context, when you say that you want to bring the discussion into a successful conclusion, actually what are you contemplating as 'successful discussion'? You are coming together on what idea? Where do we differ? Where are we coming together on those differences? It is because all were closed door discussions. So, we want to know how you have bridged those gaps. We want some categorical analysis on those discussions. It will help us in understanding the statement in a better perspective.

The other point is that we have announced a new version *Agni* with an extended range. I want to know whether during the discussions with Mr. Talbott, they have raised any objection regarding this Indian Missile Development Programme, especially on the question of the extended version of it. If they raised any objection, then what is our reaction because now they are not

[Shri Hannan Mollah]

international police, they are now international bandit. Now, in the post-Cold War situation, they think that they can do anything to anybody. So, in this situation, I want to know categorically what is their reaction on this issue and what is your reply to that.

Another point you have made in this statement is: "This Government remains unequivocally opposed to any suggestions that seek to place India at a technological disadvantage through intrusive or sovereignty violative measures." I want to know whether during the Seventh meeting at Rome, U.S. made any suggestions which put India at technological disadvantage and which is violative to our sovereignty. If so, what is our Government's position on that?

The next point in the statement is that discussions have also taken place with UK and China at your level. I want to know what was the response of both these countries, that is, U.K. and China to the new nuclear policy which this Government has declared, and also that is the U.S. reaction to that declared policy. He can clarify those positions which will help us to understand their policy.

Along with that, he has mentioned the names of another four countries—France, Russia, Germany and Japan. With these countries also they have discussed. What is their reaction to this Government's declared new nuclear policy, I want to know that also because that will help us to understand the international position *vis-a-vis* our policy.

It is also reported that India has been bargaining for dual-use technology. What is the response of the U.S. and France with whom we have had discussions at political level? I want some clarification on what is their reaction on the dual-use technology and whether we will accept their reaction or we will take our independent policy in this regard.

I also want a clarification whether the Prime Minister has protested against the breach caused to the continuation of talks by the major foreign policy address on South Asia at the Brooking's Institution on November 12 by one of the key U.S. interlocutors, Mr. Talbott. If so, what is the reply of the U.S. President to our Prime Minister because our Prime Minister has written a letter on that? We want to know what is the reply of Mr. Clinton to that letter.

Another question is whether you have had discussions with non-nuclear States regarding CTBT and other nuclear issues. If so, what is their reaction? Have they been convinced or not? If they have been convinced, then why have they voted against us in the U.N. General Assembly? Did we fail to convince them or what is the reason? I want to have some clarification on that also.

Then, there is another question. We want good bilateral relations with neighbouring countries and international community also. But the hon. Prime Minister had written a letter to Clinton after conducting the nuclear tests. I want to know if Clinton is our headmaster. We have difference with you, but we will settle it here. At the same time, I cannot tolerate his writing a letter with folded hands to Clinton. He is not our headmaster. What was the necessity for him to write a latter and inform him about the tests? Now, he is attacking another country to save his character. We are not going to take lecture from him. What is his reaction to it? I want a clarification from him.

Regarding Iraq also, I told that they are doing dacoity and they are doing this type of banditry. We want to condemn that. The whole world has condemned it. The Government has only deplored it. We want that the Government should condemn the attack. We should not do this just for appeasing America. If they are wrong, we have to show them their correct position. That is the independent position of our country.

Finally, Sir, Mr. Primakov is here and his speech is encouraging. He has said that we can have good relations with countries around us, including China. We are not against anybody, but after having good relations with other countries around us, we can be able to stall the US-dominated world order. This world order means domination of US. They want to dominate all. We want to counter that. If we take the statement made by Mr. Primakov into account, we can be able to play a meaningful role in this region.

With these questions, I thank you. I hope, I will get the reply.

[Translation]

SHRI SHANTA KUMAR (Kangra): Mr. Chairman, Sir, there is a fundamental difference between today's discussion and post-Pokhran discussion. At that time, the heat of the Pokhran test existed there was bitterness in the discussion and many a time it was felt that criticism was done only for the sake of criticism. But today, I thank the hon. Members of the opposition for participating in a debate which is pleasant, constructive and full of suggestions.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, in the talks which have been going on with USA, the topmost item of the agenda of the discussion in my view, is national security which is commensurate with our foreign policy. The security of the country has been mainly discussed and deliberated upon and a clear mention has also been made of our commitment towards a weapon free and peaceful globe. The effort and the commitment of India in this direction is towards building up a weapon free and peaceful globe. But we should not live only in dream world and thoughts but also be conscious of the ground realities. So there was a mention of minimum credible deterrence. An effort to combine idealism with realism has been made in it and the reason is the presently prevalent circumstances around us. I think that this subject has been discussed quite at length as to whether Pakistan has been conspiring against us and indulging in supporting and spreading terrorism in our country. This is known to every one. The situation and circumstances in Kashmir and Punjab are the witness of this malicious tendency of Pakistan which has led to the killing of 40-50 thousands innocent people and spending of huge funds by India. One more thing which should be paid special attention is the happenings in Afghanistan over the last several years, Pakistan promoted, provoked and offered all kinds of assistance to religious fanatics and fundamentalist outfit of Taliban there.

If Taliban becomes successful in taking whole of Afghanistan under its web, then both Afghanistan and Pakistan can combine to emerge as a major threat for India. Pakistan has always been behaving in this way with India and China has attainment of the status of a nuclear super power. Keeping in view all these developments, on one hand the foreign policy of India has always been committed towards global, on the other it is never keeping its eyes closed to the ground realities. In this way these things have particularly taken place, one, we have stood on our feet after conducting Pokhran test. This has been said very rightly that today when our country has a dialogue with other nation's of the world, difference is clearly noticeable in its standing. Now it is no more a weak country. Now this country has a standing in the form of a nuclear power. One major thing is that earlier when the news of Pakistan's attaining nuclear capability reached here and Pakistanis openly declared about it, the security forces of the country had to suffer the bouts of inferiority complex with the thoughts in mind that the country which has been launching a proxy war against our country has become powerful by possessing atom bomb and nuclear devices which our country does not have. This kind of inferiority complex and the feeling of dejection used to prevail in their psyche but after Pokhran test, this kind of feeling has been erased from their minds. The feeling of self-respect, self-pride and self dependence in terms of security has come into the minds of Indians. This country made a major historical achievement by conducting Pokhran tests but it was not enough. Continuing dialogue with Pakistan is a major achievement. Earlier, the talks with Pakistan had come to a naught. The link of talks, once broken in Dhaka, could not be joined again after the arrival of this Government, the progress which has been made through the efforts of hon. Prime Minister and Shri Jaswant Singh, in my opinion, is a great achievement.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the special thing abut it is that for the first time after Shimla Agreement, talks have been going on with Pakistan over composite dialogue and pre-negotiated Agenda. This is a very big achievement of the foreign policy that we attained self-dependence by becoming a nuclear power and also started a second round of talks with Pakistan. The attitude of the Government with regard to foreign policy has resulted in improved situation in Kashmir. The situation in Kashmir has improved due to Pokhran test, dialogue with Pakistan and making India powerful.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, when the Pokhran test was conducted, an effort was made to instil a big fear of economic sanctions in the minds of public but it has been proved beyond doubt that India has successfully withstood all those sanctions and the Indian economy survived. This is a very big achievement of Indian foreign policy.

The issue of Kashmir was not raised in SAARC summit despite persistent efforts made by Pakistan. Indirectly, many countries supported India. Many smaller countries supported India in the Non-Aligned Summit in Durban, South Africa.

At the end, I would like to say two more things. It has been said here that 50 thousand crore rupees will be spent on weaponisation. In my opinion, the security of the country is supreme. I do not know as to how much will be spent on national security but the spending is not the issue before us. The main thing is that the security of the country can neither be mortgaged, nor can it be kept in a state of indecisiveness. Earlier, too it was discussed here.

19.00 hrs.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, we have seen in 1952. Many a time we have been deceived. From one side China and from other side Pakistan is staring at us and the grip of Taliban has become stronger. Under such circumstances

[Shri Shanta Kumar]

it is not desirable to think over national security and expenditure. One more thing that appeared before us was that they did not recognise us as an atomic power. We have not appeared in a matriculation examination for which we require a certificate. One accepts it or not, India has emerged as a nuclear power. America has imposed economic sanctions against us because it considers India a nuclear power. Therefore, I think that both the foreign policy of India and the dialogue with America, have been running with success. I am happy that the leaders of opposition have congratulated Shri Jaswant Singh on his success and we too, congratulate the Government.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I agree with this proposition of Shri Shivraj Patil that the security and foreign policy of a nation do not belong to a political party or a Government but to the whole nation and it should be so. Hon. Prime Minister has made consultations over such major subjects and I trust that he will continue to do so but he should keep it in mind that while taking suggestions, the interest of the nation and the country should be given precedence over the interest of the party.

[English]

SHRI PURNO A. SANGMA (Tura): Mr. Chairman, Sir, first of all I would like to congratulate Shri Jaswant Singh on his taking over the charge of the Ministry of External Affairs. Though it was very late, better late than never.

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH (Uluberia): It was you who proposed it.

SHRI PURNO A. SANGMA: In a meeting of the Standing Committee on External Affairs, I voiced my concern about the absence of a Minister in the Ministry of External Affairs. When we discussed Pokhran-II, when we discussed here the foreign policy, I raised the question, 'why at this crucial juncture, India does not have a Foreign Minister?' Let me thank the Prime Minister for ultimately giving us a very competent Foreign Minister.

After having said this, I want to make a very important point. The Prime Minister of India had designated Shri Jaswant Singh, the Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission, to negotiate with the United States. President Bill Clinton on his part designated Mr. Talbott, Deputy Secretary of State, to negotiate with Shri Jaswant Singh. Today, Shri Jaswant Singh is no more Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission alone. Shri Jaswant Singh is the Foreign Minister of this biggest democracy in the world. I would expect that India would urge upon the United States to upgrade the level of dialogue. I would not like Shri Jaswant Singh carrying on talking to Mr. Talbott who is a Deputy Secretary of State. I would expect that the future negotiations between India and the United States will be between Shri Jaswant Singh and Mrs. Albright.

I have gone through the statement of the Prime Minister. The statement says that what had happened in May at Pokhran was in continuation of the policy adopted by the Government of India 25 years ago. I respectfully disagree with this. In fact, in the previous debates I had already pointed this out saying that the consistent policy of the Government of India after 1974 has been to reserve our options, to keep our option open whether to restrain ourselves or whether to go for a test.

19.05 hrs.

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

For 25 years, we have exercised our restraint. And, in May, the present Government decided to exercise that option to go for a Test. Therefore, it is not the same thing of the policy of the Congress Government and the successive other Governments to keep our options open. That is one difference.

The second difference, I had already pointed earlier, was that whenever there has been a new Test, it has been based on certain doctrines adopted by different countries. The 1974 option that we had exercised was very clearly on the doctrine of peaceful purposes, that we were doing it for peaceful purposes. But the present Government's option for a Test was not for peaceful purposes. It was for 'from the point of view of security threat from the neighbouring countries.' In fact, in Prime Minister's letter to Bill Clinton, the countries were named, which is never in the area of diplomacy. And, therefore, for the Prime Minister to come to the Parliament and say that what has been done in continuation of the decision taken by the Government of India 24 years ago, I do not subscribe to this view.

What is the outcome of this? We all know that today India stand isolated in the commity of nations. Whether we like it or not, our country has come to be projected in the international community as a hegemonistic in its intent.

In the last debate, we have pointed out that the nuclear policy and our foreign policy of this country have

been based on national consensus, and the decision of the Government of India to have gone for the second Test is a departure from that national consensus.

I had expected that after having committed the kind of a mistake, the Government would, at least, try to bring about a consensus on the strategy to explain the rationale of the Test to the international community. That is what I had expected. But that has not been there. We had a debate in this Parliament and the matter ended there. I have also been travelling in different parts of the world and I have also been in touch with Members of Parliament in different parts of the world; I have also been in touch with our diplomats in different parts of the world. The impression that I had gathered is that 'we have not tried enough to explain our strategy.' It is high time that the Government thinks about it seriously.

I do not understand, where is the difficulty in Prime Minister calling the leaders of the Opposition and important political parties and take them into confidence, even on other issues, which I will be coming a little later. For example, on CTBT, what is the talk that is going on between Shri Jaswant Singh and Mr. Strobe Talbott?

The Prime Minister, in para 6 of the statement says that dialogue between Shri Jaswant Singh and Mr. Talbott was conducted on the basis of a set of comprehensive proposals put forward by India. These are proposals put by India. We do not know whether there are any other counter proposals from the United States of America. But the Prime Minister's statement says as follows:

> "These are the proposals put forward by India and these proposals have been spelt out in the statement as including a voluntary moratorium on further tests, willingness to transform the voluntary moratorium into a *de jure* commitment, a joining negotiations on a treaty for ban of future production of fissile material, implementing more stringent contrc' over sensitive materials and technology."

What are the full implications of these proposals? We do not know. The country does not know about it. The full implications of these proposals have not been told to this country. The way these proposals have been put forward by India to the United States of America, to me it appears that you have become very apologetic for what we have done on May 11 and 13. You have become repentent and you say we are very sorry for what we have done. I said in the previous debate that the intention of the Government of India to have gone for a second test was to equate ourselves with the United States of America. If the United States of America and India are nuclear powers today, where is the question of India going to America and saying here are my proposals and we have done it and what can we do now and please have mercy on us? I think we are not talking frrom the position of strength. We must talk from the position of strength. I endorse the points which have been made by hon. lady member Shrimati Krishna Bose. After what had happened a few days back to Iraq, I will not go into this. I will confine myself to say that India needs to be more cautious. India needs to be more assertive. Anyway, the talks are going on. Six rounds of discussions had already taken place. After six rounds of talks, the Prime Minister tells this nation that USA is turning around to see the viewpoint and concerns of India. Is there anything more in this or that is all? We would like to know some more details.

What is the position after the USA has turned around to see our viewpoint? The sanctions still continue. Two hundred Indian private and public companies are in the US' entities list. A large number of Indian organisations, public undertakings, scientific institutions, etc., have been included in this list. Even sub-contracting firms have been included in this list and these bodies are subjected to export restrictions. They will be subject to denial of trade, particularly in the matter of technology exports. Of course, I know the Government's stand of Swadeshi and self-reliance but I am afraid, the realities are different.

We are all aware that on the World Bank assistance to India, the United States Government has taken an official position which is discriminatory. What is that position? The USA has held a position that Pakistan deserved a more lenient treatment in the matter of World Bank Assistance than India did. This is the official position taken by the United States of America after six rounds of talks.

I will not speak for long. I straightway come to CTBT. In the earlier stages, after the Pokhran tests—I do not know about it but Shri Jaswant Singh will be able to reply—it was widely reported in the media that India might ultimately sign the CTBT on certain conditions. What are those conditions? It was reported widely in the media. I think, some of the Ministers have also made some utterances but I do not want to take their names. The number one condition was that the US should stop restrictions on use of dual use technology to India. The second condition was exemption of indigenously built reactors from international safeguards mechanism. The third condition was that there should be no curbs on future plans to deploy missiles or weaponise India's nuclear capabilities. I really do not know whether there can be any condition at all.

[Shri Purno A. Sangma]

I was associated—directly or indirectly—with the Uruguay round of talks. I was directly or indirectly connected with negotiations on WTO. In fact, when the question of social clause came up. I was assigned a duty by the then Prime Minister Shri Narasimha Rao to mobilise public opinion around non-aligned and developing countries to oppose the introduction of the social clause. A meeting of the Labour Ministers was convened here and I had one week of sleepless nights during the negotiations. I am quite familiar with the subject. According to me, either you take it or leave it. We have reached a stage where there is the CTBT, whether we sign it or not. I do not know where the scope for putting any condition is.

I would like to know from the hon. Foreign Minister as to whether these parameters are there in his negotiations with Mr. Talbott. Nothing is clear from the statement of the Prime Minister which we are discussing today.

In fact, I do not like to go into the details. For example, restrictions on flow of dual use technology is in fact unrelated to CTBT and I do not know how it is put as one of the conditions. It is rather related to Non-Proliferation Treaty. On CTBT, my colleague and former Speaker, Shri Shivraj Patil has made our position very clear. Our policy was spelt out at the Panchmarhi Convention. We had cautioned the Government not to be in a hurry. We have time to think over it and we have time to discuss about it. If he wishes so, perhaps Shri Jaswant Singh can take some of us into confidence, that is, some leaders of the political parties into confidence. Our only point is that they should not rush through.

FMCT is the second area. I, frankly speaking, could not make out much from the Prime Minister's statement on this. The statement is rather vague. Here again, I wish that the Government had taken some leaders of the political parties into confidence, at least on the parameters of the discussion unless he wants to keep it away from us as a secret.

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): I do not wish to interrupt you at all. I would like to say something here because this point has been raised three or four times. I do not wish to interrupt. In fact, in addition to Parliamentary debates, there had been three rounds of consultations with leaders of political parties held at the initiative of the Prime Minister in which leaders from the Congress Party were also present. They had expressed entire satisfaction with the details; the process and all other information were made available to them. The leaders included the Leader of the Opposition of this House and the other House as well. There were leaders from other parties as well. So, to suggest that no consultation had been made is perhaps not doing justice to the process that is started. Everyone was not consulted obviously, but leaders were certainly consulted.

SHRI PURNO A. SANGMA: Your coming into the Ministry is making a difference.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Prime Minister has observed in his statement and I quote:

> "The objective of FMCT negotiations at Geneva is ending of future production of fissile material for weapons purposes."

In this connection, I have a few questions to ask. How are we going to fulfil the superority of fissile material stocks already secured by P-5 countries? Russia and the USA have stocks to produce 10,000 warheads. How are we going to fulfil the superority? The second question that I would like to ask is what commitment will we agree to. The third question is what level and kind of verification of our fissile material capability production will we agree to. Will India be prepared to freeze the present asymmetries in fissile material stock holdings of various countries? Before you go to Geneva, I would expect the Government to tell this to Parliament.

I would like to make two more points. The Prime Minister's statement refers to dialogues which are going on with Germany, Frances, China, Russia and Japan. The names of these countries have been mentioned in the statement. But nothing has been mentioned about Pakistan. I would like to refer to China, since the Prime Minister has made a reference to China. Could the External Affairs Minister, in his reply, tell us as to what is the progress of dialogue between India and China? The country knows how our relationship had been strained and how the confidence building exercise between these two countries have been somehow negated by the Pokhran blasts. What are we doing to restore that confidence between India and China? How much progress has been made? I am happy that our relationship with Russia is growing and that the Prime Minister of Russia, Mr. Primakov, is here in India. I would like to thank the Government for whatever they are doing to strengthen the relationship with Russia. I am worried about our relations with Pakistan and other SAARC countries. I am particularly worried because the SAARC has a direct impact on the people of North-East. I do not know what

is the future of the SAARC. North-East India is trying to integrate its economy with the neighbouring countries, particularly with Bangladesh. It is only with this objective two agreements were arrived at, the SAPTA and the SAFTA. SAPTA is already in force and SAFTA would come into force by 2001 A.D. This is very-very important for North-East. Have you taken up this matter with Pakistan? I would like to know whether Pakistan is going to sign SAFTA or not, particularly after the nuclear blasts. What measures are you taking to ensure that SAARC becomes successful and SAFTA comes into operation by 2001?

Today we are not debating foreign policy. Today's discussion is limited to Indo-US relations. Our foreign policy is very important. When we were in the Youth Congress, we used to come to New Delhi for leadership training and seminar. It used to be addressed, among others, by Finance Ministers and the Foreign Minister. The Finance Minister used to tell us about the economic policies and the Foreign Minister used to explain the foreign policy. I remember, in one of the seminars, the then Foreign Minister, Sardar Swaran Singh, telling us that the position of India in the comity of nations is so high that in any international conference, India need not speak.

It is not necessary that India should participate in the debate, speak out in the debate. The mere presence of India in the Conference Hall is enough. That is the stature of India. That was India. I do not know whether we are the same country. Why had we that kind of recognition from the world? I think because as far as the Foreign Policy was concerned, we used to take the national consensus. The whole world used to know that as far as India is concerned, they are unanimous on their Foreign Policy. Unfortunately, that is no more the case. It is very important. The whole world new that India was the largest democracy in the world. It is not only the largest democracy, India has a functioning democracy, stable democracy, an un-interrupted democracy. It is very important. India used to be respected. And, today we have to ask questions on this.

I am not addressing Shri Jaswant Singh or Shri Vajpayee led Government. I am addressing it to the whole House. The way our Parliament is functioning today, are we projecting to the whole world that we are a functioning democracy, a stable democracy? I think it is a very important question. It has a lot to do with our Foreign Policy. The whole world knew that we had national consensus on many and most of the national issues. The whole country would be one on matters which are of vital importance to this country. I do not know whether we are projecting that image today.

The Parliament is not able to function for days together because we are projecting ourselves as a country with differences, as if we have no consensus or unanimity in this country. It is weakening us. So, Shri Jaswant Singh's hands, who is not going to meet Mr. Talbott next time and who is going to meet Mrs. Albright, will be strengthened if we cooperate. I wish him best of luck and success not only in negotiations but also in his career as the Foreign Minister of this great country.

MR. SPEAKER: The Minister will reply to the debate tomorrow.

SHRI PRAMOTHES MUKHERJEE (Berhampore) (WB): Sir, my name may be there. I know the hands of the clock are running faster....*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: We have no time left. We have to take up one more Bill also.

SHRI PRAMOTHES MUKHERJEE: This is an important subject. I belong to a small Party and nobody from my Party has spoken on this subject. I should express the opinion of my Party.

MR. SPEAKER: You should not worry. Though you belong to a small Party, you are a strong leader.

[Translation]

SHRI HIRA LAL ROY: (Chhapra): Nobody was allowed to speak from our R.J.D. Party whereas members from smaller parties are being called.

[English]

SHRI PRAMOTHES MUKHERJEE: I will conclude within five minutes' time.

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): I just wanted to have one clarification as to what time you wish me to answer the points tomorrow and how much further this discussion is to go on today. I am entirely in the hands of the House except that I have an obligation in the other House which is in a few minutes from now. I will certainly be guided by your directions and the wish of the House. Also, I could benefit with your direction as to what time tomorrow am I to give my reply tomorrow?

SHRI PRAMOTHES MUKHERJEE: Sir, please give me five minutes or I will conclude within two minutes.

MR. SPEAKER: You can speak not for five but two minutes.

[English]

SHRI PRAMOTHES MUKHERJEE: Sir, it is so nice of you.

Sir, I have heard many valuable speeches on this subject. I will not waste much of the time of this House. Sir, with your kind permission, I beg to refer to one question to which the Government had responded. That question was raised by Shri S.S. Owaisi on 10th March, 1997. The question was:

> "Whether powerful US Congressmen have supported India's stand of Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty?"

The answer was:

> "The Government is aware of the support and stand taken by some US Congressmen on India's position on the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty including Mr. Benjamin Gilman, Chairman of the International Relations Committee. There is a considerable understanding of India's position on the CTBT within the press and the academic community in the United States."

May I ask a very simple question from the Government? Is the Government aware of the full situation or has the Government taken stock of the situation of mutual understanding and the public sympathy in the United States of America in favour of India's Foreign Policy?

Sir, we have gone through the *suo motu* statement of the Prime Minister on the Indo-US bilateral dialogue and talks. It has a tradition of its own and India has a glorious heritage of its own. We are committed to peace and tranquillity. We are also committed to global nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. But I am surprised to see what happened to the Government just after the nuclear test in Pokhran. What was the compulsion on the part of the Government to come forward and continue a dialogue with USA? Were the sanctions imposed upon India by America or any pressure mounted upon the head of the Government of India to sign the CTBT or was it a partial lifting of sanctions from India and Pakistan? What were the compelling circumstances which led the Government of India to continue Indo-JS bilateral talks even after the nuclear tests in Pokhran?

Sir, India is still the leader of the Non-Aligned Movement. We know that after the disaster in Soviet Russia or after the disintegration of Russia, the bipolar world turned into a unipolar world yet the Non-Aligned Movement has its significance. As the leader of the Non-Aligned Movement, India has to play a significant role even today. But India has failed to do so. Today, we see that India is subservient to the dictates of American imperialism. That is why, the Government of India, out of threat perception, has begun to continue its dialogue with USA. This was not desirable. Just after the nuclear tests in Pokhran, the Government of India claimed to be a nuclear weapon State and it also claimed that that that was a bold and the best step in respect of its national security and sovereignty. Where is that stand today?

Now I want to ask another question. Is it a fact that CTBT cannot be made operational without the conncurrence of India? Sir, economy is the basis to interpret any policy. It may be internal policy or it may be foreign policy.

India is now a bankrupt country in respect of economic policy and internal policy. Yesterday, we had discussed on the Supplementary Demands for Grants. Today, the debt trap of the World Bank which has engulfed India in a death trap. We are caught in the debt trap. Indonesia is caught in the debt trap. Our former Prime Minister Shri I.K. Gujral has already explained that economic interpretation of the political situation and the foreign policy of the Government of India has made us to learn that this Government has failed. It is below the prestige of the Government of India to start afresh bilateral dialogue with USA. We have gained the consensus in respect of foreign policy. That is the glorious heritage of our country. We must not sign the CTBT. We must stand for ourselves, for our sovereignty and for our democracy.

SHRI R.S. GAVAI (Amravati): Mr. Speaker, Sir, at the outset, I extend my sincere thanks to hon. Shri Jaswant Singh for having assumed the post of the Foreign Minister. That was the consensus of the whole House earlier. I will be very brief. I will complete within two minutes. The subject matter before the House is the bilateral talks with the United States. The answer is yes. There should be bilateral talks. And decision out of discussion should be the spirit of talks.

I have gone through the statement of the Prime Minister. I will not enlarge my speech. Till today, six rounds of talks have taken place. It is mentioned in the statement that the problems are narrowed down. As a layman, I want to understand what were the problems, how have they been narrowed down or how have they bridged? Then it was mentioned in the statement that there will be a seventh round of talk in the middle of January wherein the topic will be CTBT and allied matters. In one sense, I can say that the very principle of the international relations and particularly the relations between a nation and a nation is very clearly spelt out by the foreign policy of India founded by Pandit Jawaharla' Nehru. The learning example of that is that the Prime Minister of the country Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, when he was the External Affairs Minister, had himself advocated the case of the foreign policy. Within that framework, I will sum up in one sentence. We have to think about the problems which are supposed to be under discussion on the seventh round. I only feel that signing the CTBT should be logical and rational as if we could not project ourselves that we are eager to sign the CTBT. The Pre-condition is that we are supposed to safeguard the interests of the national unity, integrity and sovereignty.

I have an apprehension that the statement is not self-explanatory, it is having some ambiguity. I do not want to point that out. I will just request the hon. Minister to clarify the position to the House as to what is what. It is rather difficult to say whether the Pokhran test is justified or not.

I do not want to enter into that controversy. But what we exhibit is rebounded by Pakistan. That is also a thing of great concern. At least, we may have restraint. Any responsible Minister sitting there must think that we will have a venue, date and time to extend the invitation to Pakistan. Somebody has uttered the same thing regarding China.

MR. SPEAKER: Again, it is a repetition of what has already been said.

SHRI R.S. GAVAI: Lastly, I would like to tell that it is a matter of great concern that the sanctions imposed by America are not yet spelt out. The eventuality has come to us to face. Considering the devaluation of the rupee, what will be the financial implications on the country? We are supposed to examine that aspect. By and large, in a good spirit, I extend my support subject to the condition that the hon. Minister should make a safe explanatory statement in the reply.

PROF. SAIFUDDING SOZ (Baramulla): Mr. Speaker, Sir, if Shri Jaswant Singh is not going to be here, I have no need of speaking. My Party has got only four or five minutes. But I will speak when the hon. Foreign Minister is here...*(Interruptions)* If he has to leave, if it is a routine thing for him, then, I do not speak. My point is the smaller parties suffer at the fag end. This is a House that wastes two hours for the Zero Hour. I am not going to repeat a single word. But I have something to say...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Prof. Soz, the Minister of State is already here.

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ: No. Sir, I have greeted Shri Jaswant Singh because we are relieved today that there is a Foreign Minister. We have suffered for nine months. So, I want only five minutes to speak. But the hon. Minister Shri Jaswant Singh has to be here. If he is not here, I will not speak. I withdraw...*(Interruptions)* As I said earlier, I will not repeat a single word. But I have a hurt feeling that we have to come at the fag end of the Session and speak for four minutes only. I have something to say.

First thing is that I am very much relieved that Shri Jaswant Singh has taken his position very deservedly. We are very happy that we are very safe. I must support Shri Sangma about one thing. I was one of those who raised the question here that the Foreign Minister should not speak to Mr. Talbott because for Foreign Minister represents this great nation. But now I support Shri Sangma when he said that Shri Jaswant Singh should speak only to the Foreign Minister of the United States of America Ms. Madeleine Albright.

Since I said that I will not repeat, I will not speak anything about the CTBT. I feel that the Government will have good sense to consult people around and take a good and correct decision for the nation. Of that, I am sure. But, from time to time, it must become a routine thing and it must be institutionalized in the system that the opposition leaders must be consultud. Sometimes, smaller parties are there. You cannot force us to join bigger parties. The future is for the coalition. I say it. Therefore, I request you to give us time to express our ideas.

The Prime Minister's statement on the Gulf was inadequate, in my opinion. I do not say it because of Iraq. Iraq has stood with us in the past on Kashmir. Iraq is a different country, a special country for India. Iraq always stood with us on Kashmir. When I said that it was inadequate, I did not say it because of Iraq only. I

[Shri Saifuddin Soz]

say it because we are a big country and a big nation. Therefore, it must be adequate with the nations, dignity. I want the Prime Minister to condemn it. I say it primarily because the whole world is watching India. India is emerging into a very big situation for the whole world. I have no anxiety in my mind if today we are not in the Security Council. India cannot be refused that position. India will win that position. But where I feel very much anxious and very much worried is that India is not performing any role this time for ushering in a situation of multipolarity.

I want to remind the hon. Minister Shri Jaswant Singh that when Baghdad was attacked by America last time in 1991, many Indians including myself wanted Russia to show a first although that fist was empty because Russia was in difficulty at that time. People like me think that it is not because of the Armed Forces that nations can act and react on the globe. There are so many other things like the cultural factor, the regional factors, the strategic factors and the ideologies. So, now a multipolar world is emerging. India should decide about it. Shri Jaswant Singh is equal to the task. We are happy about it. India must decide to contribute and not wait for Mr. Primakov to come and tell us that we are going to usher in a multipolar world.

India must take the lead. I am one with them today on the Bomb. I was against it at that time. Even today, I can say, I have travelled internationally a lot, Jawaharlal Nehru's name and Mahatma Gandhi's name is much more powerful as compared to Pokhran. But, today I take a position with the B.J.P., the Congress, and with the whole House that we have not committed any crime. We are a sovereign nation and we had done the tests. It is all right. But we are not doing anything as far as ushering in a multi-polar world is concerned. India must give the lead.

But since there is no time, I will not bring in Russia. I have greeted the Russian Prime Minister because I felt that when there was a crisis in Gulf, when they recalled their Ambassadors from two countries, why should the Russian Prime Minister rush here? It is because Russia considers India important; China considers India important. I have not been happy with some statement made about China earlier by some people. I am not an expert about China. But, I would like to say that in Kyoto, in 1997, while I led my country on environment, in the first meeting with my counterpart from China, I could feel that China on the question of climate change, wanted to come closer. But it was a difficult decision. I consulted my officials, then I consulted myself. I felt as a Cabinet Minister at Kyoto, where Japan and Britain were holding brief for the U.S. that U.S. was wrong in asking India or China to accept responsibility. U.S. is the largest polluter of the world. With five per cent of the population, the U.S. was emitting emission into the atmosphere to the tune of 25 per cent of the entire emissions in the world. Yet, the U.S. at that time wanted to pressurize China, wanted to pressurize India and through us, the G-77. But I found in my first meeting that our counterpart from China was willing to cooperate with me and then after consultations, China and India went together. We came closer and we defeated the U.S. designs at that time. It was a very big issue. Environment is now globally very important. I want to say, of China and India could come closer, on environment they can do so in other issues also even in Buenos Aires this time, America agreed to cut back emissions by five per cent on 1990 level, it is not because of discussions there but it is because China and India came close on this issue. Shri Gujral said that he does not want a Russia-India-China Bloc and he is not interested in a Bloc. But we are interested in a very close friendship with China. We have heard so many statements. I have convinced myself, as a citizen of this country that we can improve relations with China. China is as much eager to forge relations with India. Therefore, tomorrow, when you reply to this debate in this House, you kindly tell us something about the Sino-Indian relations.

MR. SPEAKER: The Chair wants the sense of the House to take up the reply by the Minister tomorrow immediately after the Question Hour. Does the House agree?

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: Yes.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore): Yesterday, I sat till 19.00 hours on the discussion on floods. My name was there but I could not speak. After sitting for three hours, I went. Today, I was told that my name was there. Sir, do you mean to say that the discussion is meant only for the senior Members? Do you think that we, junior Members and new Members like me, do not have anything significant to contribute? Tell us, Sir. Then, we will not sit or say anything.

MR. SPEAKER: I have no objection in giving time. But, we have to pass two Bills.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Already injustice is being done to new Members like me.

MR. SPEAKER: No. You have to understand the position also. We have one or two Bills to be passed today itself.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: We sit here for hours together. We read volumes of papers. Then, you say that you do not have any time for us. I express my frustration before you, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Swain, you can speak for two minutes.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Sir, our hon. Prime Minister and the Government has avowed intentions that India needs a nuclear weapon-free world. India wants disarmament; India wants non-proliferation. Sir, I mean to say, are we not the only country having nuclear weapons but arguing for the total elimination of the nuclear arsenal?

No other nuclear weapons State does so. Are we not the only country who have made a *de facto* declaration of the intention of 'no first use' and 'no use against non-nuclear weapons States'? We want to make it a *de jure* obligation. Is it not a fact that no nuclear or fissile material technology was transferred to any third country from India in the past? Does it not prove the reliability of India that India does what it says? I can tell you that other nuclear weapons States like America, England, Russia and China have transferred this technology to other countries. Now, they say that there are some rogue States in the world like Iraq, Iran, Sudan and Libya. From whom have they received this technology? these rogue States have received it from America, Russia, England and other countries who are having this nuclear weapons technology.

Sir, our national security is not negotiable. Nobody can dictate us as to what security measures we can take. I would like to say that we should have a credible nuclear deterrent for our security. Then, the Government should develop a reliable delivery system and create an elaborate nucler command, control and communication chain.

Sir, while initiating this debate, Shri Rupchand Pal has said that we do not require nuclear bomb. It is very surprising. When China exploded nuclear bomb in the early 1960s, the same Leftists went *gaga* over it and said that it was a 'workers' bomb' and now they say that it is not required. When China did it, it was very good, but when India did it, it is very bad. They also say that we have been isolated. Has NAM isolated us? Have we been isolated by SAARC? Have we been isolated by ASEAN? which country has isolated us? The Prime Minister of Russia which is having nuclear weapons, has come to our country now.

MR. SPEAKER: Please conclude.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Sir, I will conclude within a minute.

So, we have not been isolated. Then, they say that sanctions have been imposed on us. I would like to tell that it is rather America which has been isolated in imposing sanctions against us. Which other country has imposed sanctions against us? It is only America which has imposed sanctions against us. The United States of America asked other countries to impose sanctions against us, but nobody did it and, so, we are not isolated.

Sir, they say that we do not require weaponistation. Unless we weaponise, what is the need of testing it? We tested it in 1974, but it was not proven that it was beneficial to us in any way, because we did not weaponise then.

Sir, when Shri Sangma spoke, he found fault with the Government for everything. He said that we are hegemonistic. But like America, have we attacked Iraq? Have we attacked Bangladesh? Have we attacked Pakistan? We are not hegemonistic. He also said that the rationale behind the nuclear tests has not been explained. What rationale does he require? The rationale is that we want to have a credible nuclear deterrent for our national security. Does he not find it a strong rationale?

Sir, the Leftists always go on criticising America and they find fault with America on every issue. It is just like giving the dog a bad name and killing it. America is not our enemy. America may be a *dada*, America may be a bully, but it is one of the biggest democracies in the world and we must have communication with it. It is not against us.

Finally, I would like to say that our hon. Prime Minister, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, is the chosen man to lead India to victory and bring *'Param Vaibhav'* to India. I would also like to say that he would take India from darkness to light, from indignity to dignity and he would make India the best country in the 21st Century. So, I congratulate him for what he did.

With these words, I conclude my speech.

20.00 hrs.

ANNOUNCEMENT RE: BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, Dr. M. Thambi Durai, Minister of Law, Justice and Company Affairs has requested me to allow the consideration and passing of the Companies (Amendment) Bill, 1998 today. The Bill has been introduced in Lok Sabha today and it seeks to replace the Companies (Amendment) Ordinance, 1998. If the Bill is not passed by both the Houses during this Session, the Ordinance after the prescribed statutory period shall lapse.

If the House agrees, we may take up consideration and passing of the Companies (Amendment) Bill, 1998 after the Delhi Development Authority (Validation of Disciplinary Powers) Bill, 1998 has been disposed of by the House.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (Hoogly): Sir, it is all right about the Delhi Development Authority (Validation of Disciplinary Powers) Bill. We have no objection.

But about the Companies (Amendment) Bill, a very serious discussion is required. The Members must be given some time to express their viewpoints. We have serious reservations about this Bill.

20.01 hrs.

DELHI DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (VALIDATION OF DISCIPLINARY POWERS) BILL

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Now, Shri Ram Jethmalani, Minister of Urban Affairs and Employment may move the motion for consideration of the Bill.

THE MINISTER OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI): Sir, I beg to move:

> "That the Bill to provide for validation of disciplinary powers exercised by the Vice-Chairman and officers of the Delhi Development Authority, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration."

It is a Bill which was inherited by me from the previous Government. But I fully endorse its wisdom as well as its utility.

Due to some technical flaw in the Notification, which had been issued under the Delhi Development Authority Act—the flaw was discovered by a High Court judgment after 11 years—it has been found that a large amounts of money will have to be paid to officers who are dismissed for corruption and other charges. So, to save us from that consequence, this Validation Act is brought forward. It is in consonance with the legislative practice. Many Validation Acts of this kind have been passed.

The Ministry of Law has examined it. The Rajya Sabha has unanimously passed the Bill without dissent. So, I move that without any further consideration that this Bill may be considered and passed.

MR. SPEAKER: Since there are no speakers on this Bill, I will put the question.

The question is:

> "That the Bill to provide for validation of disciplinary powers exercised by the Vice-Chairman and officers of the Delhi Development Authority, as passed by Rajya Sabha, 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 Clause 1, Enacting Formula and the long title stands part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 1, the Enacting formula and the Long Title were added to the Bill.

SHRI RAM JETHMALANI: May I, in advance, express my gratitude to the House?

I beg to move:

"That the Bill be passed."

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Bili be passed."

The motion was adopted.

MR. SPEAKER: Now, Dr. M. Thambi Durai.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (Hoogly): Sir, we have just now received a Supplementary List of Business and together with it, the Statutory Resolution and also the legislative business. Bill for consideration and passing. It is not in today's revised list of business.

Now, it is five minutes past eight of the clock. Apart from the discussions under Rule 193, we had discussed in the meeting of the Business Advisory Committee about the Customs (Amendment) Bill, Income-tax (Second Amendment) Bill, and the Delhi Development Authority (Amendment) Bill. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Rupchand Pal, you can take up the Bill tomorrow.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: We have been informed about it just now.

20.05 hrs.

STATUTORY RESOLUTION RE : DISAPPROVAL OF COMPANIES (AMENDMENT) ORDINANCE, 1998 AND COMPANIES (AMENDMENT) BILL

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Please understand the request of the Minister.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (Hoogly): Sir, let him introduce it tomorrow...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: It has already been introduced.

...*(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. M. THAMBI DURAI): Sir, tomorrow, this Bill has to go Rajya Sabha, that is why we are requesting it to be taken up now...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: We must be given an opportunity to give our arguments about the legislative competence and all these things...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: If the House agrees, I can call the names of those Members who have given the Statutory Resolution.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: That is different. That can come after the introduction of the Bill. It can be introduced tomorrow...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: It has already been introduced. Now, it is for consideration and passing only.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Prof. Saifuddin Soz—absent.

Shri Chinta Mohan—absent.

Shrimati Geeta Mukherjee—absent.

Dr. T. Subbarami Reddy—absent.

Dr. Subramanian Swamy—absent.

Shri Ram Narain Meena, please.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: Sir, what will happen to those who do not know about this. They have given notice. Just now, we got this revised List of Business. It can be taken up tomorrow and we can complete it as early as possible so that it can go to Rajya Sabha...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN (Chandigarh): The Members are supposed to be present in the House...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Tomorrow, we have a hectic schedule.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: We will extend full cooperation tomorrow. Even within that stipulated time, it can be taken up so that very briefly Members can give their views...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN: Sir, from the Statutory Resolution, only one Member is allowed to speak and he is present in the House...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Pal, please cooperate.

SHRI RAM NARAIN MEENA (Kota): Sir, I beg to move:

"That this House disapproves of the Companies (Amendment) Ordinance 1998 (No. 19 of 1998) promulgated by the President on 31 October, 1998".

[Translation]

Mr. Speaker, Sir, except me all the members who have given notice for its disapproval, have gone. This is true that hon.'ble members were not aware of the fact that Companies Amendment Bill will be taken up today. By chance I was present here and come to know about it.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, before moving this bill an ordinance was issued, which had no immediate necessity. Keeping in view the increasing number of sick industries in India and the manner in which this bill is brought, the number of sick industries will further increase. No industrialist will be able to buy shares of a company with a view to save his other Company. In such a situation subsidiaries or corporate bodies will not be in a position to save themselves. Government has brought this bill in hurry. As without considering the circumstances prevailing in the country. I would like to ask that there is no industry in India which is not sick. You go to Kota and there you will find how J.K. and D.C.M. are winding up. The main reason for this is that the provisions of 30 percent was not allowed to them.

There should have been no ban on it. You have made a provision of 60 per cent, but what is attitude of your funding agencies, through which they want to take loan. In how many days they will clear the file?

Mr. Speaker, Sir, this type of ban should not be imposed on industries. Therefore my submission is that there was no need of this and such type of ordinance was also not needed. Therefore through you I would request the House that this ordinance should be disapproved.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. M. THAMBI DURAI): Sir, I beg to move*:

"That the Bill further to amend the Companies Act, 1956, be taken into consideration.'

I rise to request the House to take for consideration the Companies (Amendment) Bill, 1998 which has been introduced to give effect to the provisions of the Companies (Amendment) Ordinance promulgated by the President on 31st October, 1998, as Parliament was not in Session.

The Companies Act, 1956 has been in operation for more than 40 years. During this period, a lot of changes have taken place, nationally as well as internationally in the economic scenario. It has, therefore, been felt that the Companies Act, 1956 required extensive changes in order to bring it in tune with the Government's current policies of liberalisation and de-regularisation. Accordingly, the Government had introduced a comprehensive Companies Bill, 1997 in the Rajya Sabha on 14.8.1997 to replace the Companies Act, 1956. This Bill has been presently referred to the Standing Committee on Home Affairs.

The Corporate Sector is going through a difficult time and the capital market is at low ebb. This situation requires an effort on the part of the Government to give a fillip both to capital market and to promote investor's confidence. The economy also needs certain impetus for promoting inter-corporate investments considering slow in-flow of funds by way of new capital issues. In view of the necessity to overcome the situation, the Government felt an urgent need to make immediately few important changes in the Companies (Amendment) Ordinance, 1998 (No. 19 of 1998) on 31st October, 1998, as the Parliament was not in Session at that time.

The Ordinance seeks to promote investors' confidence in capital market and to encourage corporate investments. It also seeks to allow the companies to buy-back their own shares for enabling them to restructure their capital and to allow them to make investments or give loans without prior approval of the Central Government. It also

*Moved with the recommendation of the President.

provides to nominate person who will hold shares or debentures in the event of death of the holders of shares and debentures and to make a provision in law for establishment of an Investors Education and Protection Fund.

I now move for leave for consideration and passing the Companies (Amendment) Bill, 1998 to replace with appropriate modifications the Companies (Amendment) Ordinance, 1998 (No. 19 of 1998) issued on 31st October, 1998.

MR. SPEAKER: Motions moved:

"That this House disapproves of the Companies (Amendment) Ordinance, 1998 (No. 19 of 1998) promulgated by the President on 31 October, 1998."

"That the Bill further to amend the Companies Act, 1956, be taken into consideration."

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (Hoogly): Sir, this Government is in a hurry, under pressure to bring about momentous changes in the existing financial and economic laws. I had an occasion to interact with important people in the Government in connection with the changes that are being brought about in the financial sector. For example, Foreign Exchange Management, replacing FERA by FEMA and for that matter the changes in the financial institutions, its structure, its authority and many more things. But do these changes contribute to our ailing economy in any way? I am saying this because the very people who had been waxing eloquent about our programme of liberalisation, privatisation, globalisation have now taken a 'U' turn.

What we had said at that time was that the phasing and sequencing and the direction of the reforms should be such that for a large country like India with such a vast market, with a self-reliant public sector base we must appropriately direct the liberalisation. We are not against reforms. But the reforms must be brought out where they are needed most. But we see and in the direction itself there is a distortion and currently more people, the corporate sector, have been demanding certain thins. Now it has come to be a part of these things of corporate investment and shares. I will come to that later on.

The same people I had occasion, in connection with a Committee meeting when I had gone, to meet the captains of industry at Mumbai. And they were asked a pointed question about the slow down of the industry, how far this Government's policy was responsible for all this chaos and downward trend in the industrial production, or is it more so about their corporate governance, lack of transparency and lack of accountability. We have not learnt any lessons.

Serious developments had taken place in the banking sector, in the corporate sector and in the share market. We had passed laws. The small investors who had come to the capital market were robbed of their money and now new Bills are coming to protect the offenders only, money exporters. The subsidy has been given to the exporters, they had exported and through invoice irregularities amassed wealth and now they are being regularised.

In Florida two research workers who are eminent economists, have come out with the conclusion that the Indian money to the tune of eight billion dollars has been amassed in the United States alone within a short period through irregular invoices only.

Now I come to buy back of shares. What will happen? I have seen a section of the corporate sector which had also expressed reservations about this buy back thing. It needs to be studied in depth on the basis of the experience of the corporate sector. Money has been taken from the bank and the bank siphoned it off. The investors have been robbed. The shares have been rigged in the market and as a result of the rigging and the exports inspired drain and many more things we have reached such a stage in the capital market and the corporate sector that there is no transparency of planning today. We are globalising. The Chartered Accountants, Cost Accountants in an unsigned statement have been saying that we must change our accounting system. But still if we look for the BIFR Reports coming, up to 80 per cent—80 per cent!—of the industries are referred to the BIFR as sick industries. It was as a result of the siphoning off of the money.

So, I have serious objections to many of the provisions here. I am not against infrastructure funds. I am not against it. Infrastructure needs a priority and what the hon. Prime Minister stated on many occasions about the need of our infrastructure and how should it be achieved. I may have serious differences on this point or that. But what is being sought to be done by radical changes in the Companies Act?

They say that it is to bring in tune with the changes in the industrial laws, in our industrial policy and in our liberalisation policy. Will it help? I do not think so because there is a serious reservation among the economists, among the political leaders and even among a section of

[Shri Rupchand Pal]

the corporate sector about what is being proposed now. So, I think this Bill should rather be sent to the Standing Committee for a detailed study. I am not objecting to this promulgation of Ordinance some time back. This Bill needs to be sent to the Rajya Sabha.

SHRI MUKUL WASNIK (Buldana): The Bill is already with the Standing Committee. The report is awaited. No report has come.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: Maybe, there are many more new things. So, its implication should be adequately, properly and deeply studied. I do not object only because that BJP has brought it. If it had served the national economy, I would have been the first person to support it. But going through the several changes that are being brought about, I have my reservation. They are the same people. I have seen them. I have asked some of them. You are the same people who submitted a memorandum in 1991. They were welcoming the changes. How is it that you are submitting another memorandum considering the level playing field and all these things? You are the same people. Who is to account for the slowing down in the economy, chaos in the corporate sector and share markets? If we go through the records of several big companies of India, this is the picture. We talk of dismantling and disinvesting the public sector. How many private companies in India have become sick as a result of siphoning off money and all these things? So, my plea is that such radical and momentous changes should not be brought about. It will have an adverse effect on the prestige and image of this Parliament also. At the tag end, you are giving us a revised Supplementary List of Business and we have been asked to pass it within a few minutes. I, as a Member of this Parliament, cannot agree to it. We have our responsibility to the nation. I object to it. At best, I can suggest that it should be referred to the Standing Committee for proper study. Thank you.

SHRI PRAMOTHES MUKHERJEE (Berhampore) (WB): I shall be very brief. It is not to raise any objection but to put my suggestion for the consideration of the Government before passing of this Bill.

The purpose of this Bill is to replace the Ordinance. It is very clear. But we are living in an age of highly sophisticated capitalism and the market economy is the main feature of this capitalism. In this market economy area, we have to be careful about the role to be played by the corporate sector and the companies. This Companies (Amendment) Bill is a highly significant Bill. I will draw your kind attention to one line at page 12 of the Statement of Objects and Reasons. "The Companies Bill, 1997 stands referred to the Departmentally related Standing Committee on Home Affairs and the Report of the Standing Committee is awaited." Unless we can review the report of the Standing Committee, what suggestions can we give to this in respect of the passage of this Bill? So, I would appeal to you to give us sufficient time or the Bill be sent to the Standing Committee again for sending their recommendations and findings. Let us have the findings of the Standing Committee on this matter and then we can come to the conclusion about the passage of this Bill. Thank you.

SHRI MUKUL WASNIK (Buldana): Sir, the manner in which the Bill is taken up for consideration is something which is normally not adopted in this House. This particular Bill was not listed in the Revised List of Business.

Secondly, even the Statutory Resolution was circulated just about 15 or 20 minutes back when almost all the Members in whose name the Statutory Resolution was listed, had left the House. The Companies (Amendment) Bill, 1997 has been referred to the Standing Committee and the report is still awaited. We are not aware as to why the report has still not been tabled in the House. The Committee could have been asked to expedite it and submit the report as soon as possible. The Ordinance was promulgated on 31st October, 1998. Normally whenever Ordinances are issued, it is an effort undertaken by the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs that the Ordinances are listed first in the Business of the House so that they are taken up and passed as soon as the House commences. But this has not been done. It is coming to the Lok Sabha on the penultimate day. Tomorrow the House will be adjourned and we are being asked that this Bill should be taken up now at such a late hour because it has to go to the Rajy Sabha. This is not an ordinary legislation. This has a far-reaching effect. This is a comprehensive legislation and we would not like to get identified ourselves in the manner in which the Bill is taken up for consideration and for passing. This I particularly wanted to point out and I would like to urge the Government that they can ask the Standing Committee to expedite their proceedings and to submit the report to the House as soon as possible. But this is not the manner in which we should take up such a far-reaching legislation.

20.27 hrs.

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. M. THAMBI DURAI): Mr. Speaker, Sir, many hon. Members have expressed their concern about this Bill.

They have said that the Companies (Amendment) Bill is still pending before the Standing Committee. We are aware of that. We have also requested the Standing Committee to take up that Bill early and try to see that whatever changes they want to be made in that Bill, these can be incorporated in the Comprehensive Bill.

As regards the urgency for having brought this Bill, in the Statement of Objects and Reasons, I have clearly explained everything as to why we had to promulgate the Ordinance. Even if the House passes this Bill now, if the Standing Committee wants to change it, they have every right to do so. Nobody can stop them from doing that. Therefore, we are not, in any way bypassing the Standing Committee and it is not our intention to do that. When the country is facing such kind of an economic problem, we want to solve it. That is why the Cabinet also discussed this. The Bill actually aims at creating some kind of confidence amongst the investors to invest in the capital market. This Bill seeks to give freedom to companies to restructure their capital through buy-back of shares. Secondly, it gives them freedom to take decisions to make investment or grant loans to companies, with the approval of the shareholders, if surplus funds are available with them. The Bill also seeks to give to the investors the facility of nominating their successors in the event of their death, in respect of shares and deposit receipts held by the companies. I want to make it very clear that this Bill is, in no way, going to affect the companies or those which will be coming up afterwards. We are doing this only to create confidence amongst the investors. The industries are suffering and they need capital. There is some kind of an atmosphere prevailing in the economy now as depression is coming and inflation is developing. Not only in India but throughout the world they are facing such kind of problems. Therefore, we have to tackle this problem in some way to create some kind of confidence amongst the investors, and for that only we have done all this. Buy-back is an experiment that we are doing in India. This concept has not been introduced by this Government, this was introduced by the United Front Government when they were in power. They only brought all these amendments and referred them to the Standing Committee. It is not as if this Government is bringing them and thrusting them on the Parliament. This is not our idea. This buy-back concept, amendment of Section 370 and all that, were actually brought by the previous Government. The Congress also supported it at that time.

Even the Marxists were also a part of that Government. ...*(Interruptions)* They were a part of that Government whether they supported it or not.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: We opposed many things. We had objected to such Bills particularly in the House.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Ram Narain Meena.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil): It was objected to in the morning. I had also raised my objection.

DR. M. THAMBI DURAI: He had raised it. I am not denying it. But this concept or idea was developed by the previous Government.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: We cannot agree to such things. When a Bill has been referred to the Standing Committee and the Report of the Standing Committee is awaited, and we pass the Bill, it will create a bad precedent. We cannot agree to it. ...*(Interruptions)* What will happen even if they withdraw the Bill? They can bulldoze anything. If they want to pass, they are coming out to get it passed. If it is passed, we have no objection, but we want to put on record that we have serious objections particularly with regard to inter-corporate investment, on the basis of our experience, buy-back of shares and to make investments or loans freely without prior approval. We have serious objections to these three things. ...*(Interruptions)*

DR. M. THAMBI DURAI: Sir, I want to answer the point raised by him regarding inter-corporate investment. If they go deep into that clause, they will find that nothing has actually been changed. There is already existing provision that they can invest in subsidiary activities by taking 30 per cent from the Reserve Fund and 30 per cent by way of loan, which comes to 60 per cent. We have given only that and there is nothing new. Previously also, they did not necessarily need to get any permission from the bank even for diverting funds in some of the industries.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: It is not that simple.

DR. M. THAMBI DURAI: Therefore, I have not changed it. The existing law still continues. We are only giving certain clarifications about how it can be done. That is all. As far as buy-back is concerned, I accept

[Shri M. Thambi Durai]

that it is a new thing. That is also a child of that Government. This is also not a new one. Also, we want to experiment with it and if, at all, any drawbacks come to notice, we can amend the provisions when we take it up comprehensively in the Budget Session. At that time, we can make changes. Therefore, the novel idea which I want to experiment should be encouraged by Parliament.

So far as the representatives of the industry are concerned, they are telling that by way of bringing this provision, we can see that foreign companies may not be in a position to take over our industries. Hon. Members know that there are good industries developing and multinationals go and try to take them over. If they go and take them over, what will happen? Only to protect our industry, we have brought this provision. With the help of this provision, they can purchase the shares and see that the industry is managed by the same people, Indians. In no other way fluctuations will be there and they are also not going to be there by any other market process. It is no way going to affect the market. So, I should request the House to pass this Bill.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Ram Narain Meena.

[Translation]

SHRI MITRASEN YADAV (Faizabad): Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, I would like to submit that the hon'ble Minister is specialist of law and Prime Minister is specialist of parliamentary traditions. This bill is pending with the standing committee...*(Interruptions)* . In such a situation the Prime Minister should ask this bill to be passed in a proper way...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: It is already discussed. Shri Ram Narain Meena.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM NARAIN MEENA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the manner in which amendments are made...*(Interruptions)* I am not talking about violation of rules, how many hon'ble members are present. I also I do not want to ask whether quorum is complete or not, but the fact which the hon'ble Minister just told is not true this will encourage foreign investors. The request which I want to make is that amendment which I have given is very reasonable and Government should accept it without any hitch.

[English]

"The prior approval of the public financial institutions referred to in section 4(a) where any term loan is opted".

[Translation]

Earlier also, there was such a provision. If the state is unable to do, then the subsidiaries, incorporate bodies will have to go somewhere. Approval has to be taken. This clearly shows that foreign investors want to do funding. I do not want to talk about swadeshi but the way Government is playing role in the name of national interest, I am also not condemning that. But this is our misfortune that such type of bill is brought without any thinking. The method adopted by the Government is not in national interest. I do not want comment whether it is good for Swadeshi or not. But it will definitely help the foreign investors and will unstable the domestic industry. Nothing has been said in it about promoting the domestic industry.

Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, my request to you is that the amendment which I have given.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Are you withdrawing your statutory Resolution or not?

[Translation]

SHRI RAM NARAIN MEENA: Sir, I am coming to that point. My amendment in line 34, 35 and 36 of question 10 is —

For "And is not adopted by the prior approval of Public Financial Institution referred to in section 4A, where any term loan exists"

substitute, "Is not adopted".

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I extend this. I want to record my objections and my sentiments in the proceeding of the House. This makes no sense that it will be changed in Budget session. This is about making of law regularly and violating it. Who are those industrialists you tell their names.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Are you withdrawing your statutory resolution or not?

[Translation]

SHRI RAM NARAIN MEENA: I want to record my point of view in the proceedings of the House. You disclose the name of industrialists. Majority of prominent industrialists of the country are against this. In this type of situation I extend my views and I am firm on the amendments which I gave.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Ram Narain Meena, are you withdrawing your Statutory Resolution or not?

SHRI RAM NARAIN MEENA: No, I will do the opposite.

[English]

DR. M. THAMBI DURAI: Hon. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Member has expressed some apprehension, and I would like to clarify to him that the provision of obtaining prior permission of the financial institutions is already there in the existing Bill. When it exceeds 60 per cent, they have to get prior permission of the financial institutions. That provision is there. In no way, it is going to be affected. Therefore, I request the hon. Member to withdraw this Statutory Resolution.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Ram Narain Meena, are you withdrawing your Statutory Resolution?

SHRI RAM NARAIN MEENA: I am not going to withdraw it.

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That this House disapproves of the Companies (Amendment) Ordinance, 1998 (No. 19 of 1998) promulgated by the President on 31 October, 1998."

The motion was negatived.

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Bill further to amend the Companies Act, 1956, 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 clause 2 to 18 stand part of the Bill."

Those in favour will please say 'Aye'.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: Aye'.

MR. SPEAKER: Those against will please say 'No'.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: 'No'.

MR. SPEAKER: I think, the 'Ayes' have it. The 'Ayes' have it.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: The 'Noes' have it. Sir, we want a division.

SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN (Chandigarh): This is not fair.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: You cannot bulldoze it like that. Is this fair? We have not referred to the issue of Quorum. We have demanded only a division. We have to put it on record.

You have done it several times in the past. We want a division.

DR. M. THAMBI DURAI: Anyway, this Bill is going to the Rajya Sabha and they are going to discuss it. Why can you not allow it to be passed now?

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: It is the prerogative of this House.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil): That is their business. How can you take the plea that it will have to go to Rajya Sabha?

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: The Government should have brought it earlier. We should have been given an opportunity to discuss it.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: This is the only opportunity available to discuss this issue. It is the fundamental right of Members to express their views on it. You did not give us an opportunity.

[Translation]

SHRI MITRASEN YADAV (Faizabad): While introducing this Bill it was not told that this has to be

passed today itself. Therefore we have not come prepared...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: this Bill is under consideration of the Standing Committee. In the statement it is stated that the report is being awaited. Discussing and taking a decision on a matter which is under the consideration of a Parliamentary Committee is an unheard of practice. It is very unfortunate and it creates a very bad precedent. Heavens will not fall if we discuss it tomorrow.

[Translation]

SHRI MITRASEN YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, this type of thing should not happen in your presence ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Members can raise their hands.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: No, Sir, we want division. This is going to set a bad precedent. Parliament has referred it to the Standing Committee and a report it awaited. Before the report is submitted, the Government is trying to pass it at the fag end of the day. Moreover, we have serious objection to the Bill itself.

DR. M. THAMBI DURAI: The House is supreme. It has every right to discuss and pass it.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: I have demanded division. Let it be recorded.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: We are not demanding quorum. We have the right to ask for division. We are only exercising our right.

MR. SPEAKER: Let the lobbies be cleared —

MR. SPEAKER: Due to want of quorum, the House stands adjourned to meet again tomorrow at 11.00 a.m.

20.46 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Wednesday, December 23, 1998/Pausa 2, 1920 (Saka).

Corrigenda to Lok Sabha Debates

(English Version)

Tuesday, December 22, 1998/Pausa 1, 1920(Saka)

Col./Line	For	Read
24/22	THS MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JAIYA)	THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA)
39/20	SHRI MADAN PRASAD JAISWAL	DR. MADAN PRASAD JAISWAL
74/27	SHRI RAMPHAL UPADHYAY	SHRI RAMPAL UPADHYAY
89/7	SHRI SHEELA GAUTAM	SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM
112/14 (from below)	(a) to (b)	(a) and (b)
113 & 114/2 (from below)	5158.3	5158.03
145/11	SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPLOYMENT	SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT
170/11	43	48
187/26	SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EXPOWERMENT	SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT
202/-	DELETE Lines	12 to 17
202/-	ADD "SHRIMATI KAMAL RANI"	before line 4 from below
251/1&2 (from below)	(a) to (e)	(a) to (c)
412/2	Shri Manoranjan Bhaktra	Shri Manoranjan Bhakta
478/1	PROF. SAIFUDDING SOZ	PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ

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580

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