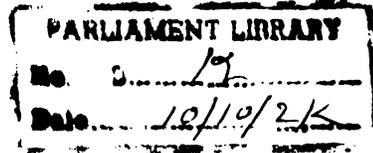


LOK SABHA DEBATES

(English Version)

Second Session
(Thirteenth Lok Sabha)



(Vol. III contains Nos. 11 to 19)

**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI**

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LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Monday, December 20, 1999/Agrahayana 29, 1921 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Shortage of Forensic Laboratories

*301. SHRI SHEESH RAM SINGH RAVI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the shortage of forensic laboratories and their ill-equipment has resulted into accumulation of cases in the courts;

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to remedy the situation?

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

Statement

Forensic examination is a part of the investigation of criminal case. The process of trial in a criminal case in the courts, starts after the report of investigation, under Section 173 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973, has been forwarded by a police officer to the Magistrate empowered to take cognizance of the offence. As such, the delay in forensic examination may not result in accumulation of cases in the courts.

'Police' being a State subject, according to the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India, investigation of criminal case registered in the territory of a State is the primary responsibility of the State Governments. For scientific investigation of crime, several State Governments have set up their own Forensic Science Laboratories. The Central Government have set up four Central Forensic Science Laboratories located at New Delhi, Calcutta, Chandigarh and Hyderabad to carry out research and development relating to the forensic science practices and

also to deal with forensic examination of the crime cases received from the States and, at times, referred by the courts of law.

[Translation]

SHRI SHEESH RAM SINGH RAVI: Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state whether cases have piled up in courts due to shortage of forensic laboratories and their not being well equipped and if so, the steps taken by the Government to improve this situation?

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: As I have said in the reply to the main question that working of forensic laboratories does not have any impact on court cases, it may have an impact on investigations because cases are referred to the courts after investigations are completed and delay in courts has nothing to do with functioning of the forensic laboratories. It is true that there are four laboratories in the country which are under the Central Government and these laboratories were set up when there were no such laboratories at the State Government level. Thereafter gradually, the State Governments set up their own forensic laboratories and at present there are twenty such laboratories belonging to different States all over the country. As far as the forensic laboratories under the Central Government are concerned, their functioning is smooth and the number of pending cases therein is going down continuously. I have figures with me for the last four years which show that the number of pending cases in these laboratories is coming down continuously and there is an improvement in this regard. It is our endeavour to bring down pendency in State forensic laboratories also.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: The hon'ble Member may ask the second Supplementary question.

[Translation]

SHRI SHEESH RAM SINGH RAVI: I am satisfied with the reply.

[English]

SHRIMATI KRISHNA BOSE: Sir, I would like to put a question on the equipment position. We are told that every State Government has forensic laboratories these days and the Central Government has one each at New

Delhi, Calcutta, Chandigarh and Hyderabad. I would like to know how many of these are equipped with instruments to see or to conduct DNA tests because it is a very important aspect in forensic science practices these days. How many of them are equipped with facilities for DNA tests?

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: I would have to check up again, but to the best of my knowledge, it is basically the Hyderabad Laboratory which is equipped for conducting DNA tests.

SHRIMATI KRISHNA BOSE: Is it the only one, Sir?

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: I am sorry, it is only conducted in Calcutta.

SHRIMATI KRISHNA BOSE: Is it not even Hyderabad?

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: It is only conducted in Calcutta. I think, there are some DNA tests conducted in Hyderabad also, but Calcutta is certainly equipped for it.

SHRIMATI KRISHNA BOSE: Would you conduct more DNA tests in other centres also?

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: The hon. Member has given a suggestion for action. I can inform her that on the 22nd and 23rd of December, we are holding an All India Directors Conference of all the Forensic Science Laboratories at Bhopal. The Bureau of Police Research and Development which is under the Ministry of Home Affairs is organising this Conference where we propose to take up the problems which the Forensic Science Laboratories in the country, be it Central or State, are facing in connection with crime investigation etc. In that course, we will pursue this matter also.

SHRIMATI KRISHNA BOSE: Thank you, Sir.

SHRI K. MALAISAMY: Sir, as we all know, the evidence of the Forensic authorities is very crucial and vital in deciding the criminal cases before a court of law. I could see, that in many of the States, that these Forensic authorities or the departments have been attached with the Police. Police are none other than the prosecuting agency. As such, the crucial evidence of the Forensic Department or its report can be free and fair unless it is independently made to act or unless it is attached to any other department other than the Police. How can we expect an agency working under a prosecuting agency, the police department will give a free and fair report and evidence. That is why my question to the Government of India is...

MR. SPEAKER: It is only a suggestion.

SHRI K. MALAISAMY: I would like to know whether you are going to give any guidelines to the effect that the Forensic Department should function not under the Police Department, but under some other Department or else they should function independently.

MR. SPEAKER: It is only a suggestion.

SHRI K. MALAISAMY: My question is, whether the Government of India has got any guideline or instruction to be issued to this effect.

MR. SPEAKER: Would you like to give any reply, Mr. Minister?

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: Sir, the Forensic laboratories are a principal prop for investigation by the Police. Therefore, the Police needs it very much, though at the Conference of DGPs and IGPs held only last week, DGPs and IGPs from several States said that earlier they used to be with the Police Department directly, now it is with the State Governments and, therefore, we are having this problem. Now, all these problems are of a nature in which the practical aspect has to be considered.

So far as the guidelines are concerned, I would like to inform the House that the guidelines and specific criteria for Forensic Science Laboratories have been evolved by the Bureau of Police Research and Development in a manner as to make an accreditation for these Forensic Laboratories necessary. At the outset, it would be on a persuasive basis, but the Government is thinking in terms of having it statutory also that these Forensic Laboratories must be accredited so that whether they have the necessary equipment, whether they have the necessary scientific personnel, all these things can be properly checked.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Understand, there are only four Research Laboratories throughout India. There are a number of cases now coming for determination. The hon. Minister will also remember that the question of paternity is in dispute everywhere, and DNA tests will have to be conducted. Whenever there is any dispute with regard to DNA, this matter is referred to the Forensic Laboratory. Since we have only one Laboratory, it takes a lot of time.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Radhakrishnan, it has already been replied that the pending cases are not because of lack of Laboratories.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: My question is, whether the Government is having an idea of opening two or three more Laboratories in the South.

Sir, it is because there is only one Forensic Laboratory at Hyderabad. There is no other laboratory in the South.

So, my question is whether the Government would be pleased to open a new Forensic Laboratory in the Southern region for facilitating the references made to these laboratories for deciding cases. That is my question.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: Sir, I said at the outset also that there are four Forensic Laboratories laboratories under the Central Government and a couple of decades back this was true that the State Governments did not have Forensic Laboratories laboratories of their own. Today, there are 20 State Forensic Laboratories laboratories. There are 31 Regional Forensic Laboratories and there are 131 District Mobile Laboratories, though it is true that the level of equipment and expertise in these Forensic Labs need to be upgraded. For that purpose, the Central Government is in touch with them. The Central Government is evolving its own procedure and we are pursuing the matter. This is a wrong impression that there are only four Forensic Laboratories in the whole country. There are a large number of such laboratories. To the best of my knowledge the State Government of Tamil Nadu also has a Forensic Laboratory.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Hon'ble Speaker Sir, in his reply the hon. Minister has said that forensic laboratories have been set up in New Delhi, Calcutta, Chandigarh and Hyderabad for conducting forensic investigations of the cases referred by the courts. I want to know that despite the dire need for a forensic laboratory in metropolitan city like Mumbai, the same has not been set up there. May I know the time by which it will be set up there?

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: It is your suggestion but it is possible that Maharashtra Government may be having such laboratory. That could be well equipped and it may be located at Pune or somewhere else, I am not sure about it.

[*English*]

My colleague tells me that there is one Forensic Science Laboratory in Pune under the State Government of Maharashtra.

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN: Sir, persons trained in Forensic Science are examined as ballistic experts and documentary experts in the courts of law. The judges also rely on their evidence. Would the Government take these experts, who are serving under the Forensic Laboratories, to be directly under the control of an autonomous body?

Sir, now they are under the the control of the DGP. Their expert evidence is being taken into consideration in murder cases to correlate whether a particular bullet has come out of a particular gun or not, also in the same way whether this document is obliterated or not. So, the judges solely depend on these evidence to give conviction. Would the Government consider placing of the Forensic Laboratories independently of the DGP?

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: Sir, we are concentrating on giving training to those who are working in these State Forensic Science Laboratories and till now about 150 scientists from these State Forensic Science Laboratories have been trained by the Bureau of Police Research and Development.

Sir, as I said in reply to an earlier question, I think, that these Forensic Science Laboratories are very invaluable props for police investigation and they are needed for police work. There is no need for any independent status etc. for them. That is what I want to submit.

Revenue Sharing Regime of Licensing

*302. SHRI C. SREENIVASAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government's stand to usher in the revenue sharing regime of licensing has been challenged;

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

(c) the legal position in the matter;

(d) whether the Government propose to establish a customer friendly regime;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the measures being taken by the Government in this regard in the light of New Telecom Policy of 1999 ?

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

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

Statement

The New Telecom Policy-1999 (NTP-99), which has been adopted effective from 1.4.1999, envisages one time entry fee and license fee based on a share of revenue for the new licensees. While approving NTP-99, the Union Cabinet noted, *inter-alia*, that it will be in public interest for the NTP to be uniformly applicable all over the country; NTP-99 also stated the Government's intention to satisfactorily resolve the problems being faced by the existing operators in a manner which is consistent with the contractual obligations and is legally tenable. In this background, the Government approved migration of the existing licensees to the revenue sharing regime of NTP-99 under a Migration Package. A note on the details of the said Migration Package approved by the Government and offered to the existing licensees of Cellular and Basic Services is appended (Annexure).

2. A Civil Writ Petition challenging the migration package offered to the existing licensees was filed by Delhi Science Forum in Delhi High Court and the matter is at present sub-judice. The Hon'ble High Court issued interim orders dated 10.8.1999 to the effect of allowing the Government to permit migration (of existing Basic and Cellular Service Licensees) in terms of the migration package subject to approval of the new Council of the Ministers and disapproval, if any, by the new Lok Sabha. In terms of the Delhi High Court interim order in the case, the New Cabinet reconsidered the matter afresh on 21.10.1999 and endorsed the decision taken by the Cabinet earlier with regard to the Migration Package. Migration of the existing licensees of Basic and Cellular Services to the New Telecom Policy-1999 regime will be subject to the outcome of the court case. Next date of hearing in Delhi High Court is 24.1.2000.

3. The Government have adopted New Telecom Policy-1999 (NTP-99), effective from 1.4.1999 which, *inter-alia*, has several stipulations to establish a customer friendly regime in terms of time bound coverage/availability of affordable and quality services. The Government have taken steps to implement the NTP-99. The objectives of the NTP-99, *inter-alia*, are as under:

- Availability of affordable and effective communications for the citizens.

- To provide a balance between the provision of universal service to all uncovered areas, including the rural areas, and the provision of high-level service capable of meeting the needs of the country's economy.
- Encourage development of telecommunication facilities in remote, hilly and tribal areas of the country.
- Transform in a time bound manner, the telecommunications sector to a greater competitive environment in both urban and rural areas.
- Make available telephone on demand by the year 2002 and sustain it thereafter.
- Encourage development of telecom in rural areas making it more affordable by suitable tariff structure and making rural communication mandatory for all fixed service providers.

Annexure

Note on Details of Migration Package offered on 22.7.1999 to the existing Licensees of Basic and Cellular Services

Salient aspects of the Migration Package offered on 22.7.1999 for migration of the existing Cellular (Metros and Telecom Circles) and Basic Telecom Service Operators to NTP-99 regime are as under :—

- (i) The cut off date for change over to NTP-99 regime will be 1.8.1999.
- (ii) The licensee will be required to pay one time Entry Fee and Licensee Fee as a percentage share of gross revenue under the licence. The Entry Fee chargeable will be the licence fee dues payable by existing licensees upto 31.07.1999, calculated upto this date duly adjusted consequent upon notional extension of effective date as in para (ix) below, as per the conditions of existing licence.
- (iii) The Licence fee as a percentage of gross revenue under the licence shall be payable w.e.f. 1.8.99. The Government will take a final decision about the quantum of the revenue share to be charged as licence fee after obtaining recommendations of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI). In the meanwhile, Government have decided to fix 15% of the gross revenue of the Licensee as

provisional licence fee. The gross revenue for this purpose would be the total revenue of the Licencee company excluding the Public Switched Telephone Network (PSTN) related call charges paid to Department of Telecommunications (DOT)/Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) and service tax collected by the licensee on behalf of the Government from their subscribers. On receipt of TRAI's recommendation and Government's final decision, final adjustment of provisional dues will be effected depending upon the percentage of revenue share and the definition of revenue for this purpose as may be finally decided.

- (iv) A total of at least 35% of outstanding dues including interest payable as on 31.7.1999 and Liquidated Damage (LD) Charges in full will have to be paid on or before 15.8.1999. The amount paid, if any, against the earlier demand sent under letter dated 25.1.99 for paying 20% or more of the outstanding dues, may be adjusted at licensee's option. The balance dues will have to be paid on or before 31.1.2000 alongwith interest calculated upto the actual date of payment.
- (v) Even where the existing bank guarantees (Financial Bank Guarantee), have been encashed earlier, these will need to be kept alive/recouped simultaneously with the acceptance of the package. The value of the financial bank guarantee(s) will have to be further enhanced within a period of four months *i.e.* by 30.11.1999 so as to cover the outstanding amounts due including further sums which may become due.
- (vi) if either of the cellular operator in a given service area does not accept the package, both the existing operators will continue in the existing licensing arrangement until the validity of the present licences.
- (vii) Consequent upon migration to the NTP-99, the licensees will forego the right of operating in the regime of limited number of operators as per the existing licence agreement and would operate in a multipoly licensing regime *i.e.* additional licenses without any limit may be issued in a given Service Area.
- (viii) There shall be a lock-in of the present share-holding for a period of five years counted from the date of licence agreement (effective date). Transfer of share holding directly or indirectly through subsidiary or holding companies shall

not be permitted during this period. However, issue of additional equity share capital by the licensee companies/their holding companies by way of private placement/public issues shall be permitted. Further, the lock-in provisions shall not be applicable in case the shares are transferred pursuant to enforcement of pledge by the lending financial institutions/banks due to events of defaults committed by the borrowers with the condition that such shares should have been pledged for investment only in the particular licensed project.

For the purpose of calculation of outstanding licence fee upto 31.7.1999, the effective date of all the licenses of Cellular Telecom Circles and Basic Telephone Services will be notionally extended by a period of six months. This does not apply to metro cellular licences. This is with the further condition that where extension of effective date has been given earlier due to whatever circumstances, further extension will be given after deducting the period of extension already given subject to the total extension period not exceeding six months. In cases where extension of period of more than six months has already been given, there will be no further change.

- (x) The liquidated damages as per the existing licence agreement shall be paid latest by 15.8.99.
- (xi) The period of licence shall be 20 years starting from the effective date of the existing licence agreement.

2. Migration to the NTP-99 on the conditions mentioned above will be permitted on the premise that the aforesaid conditions are accepted as a package in its entirety and simultaneously all legal proceedings in Courts, Tribunals, Authority or in Arbitration instituted by the licence and Associations of Cellular and Basic Service Operators (Cellular Operators Association of India - COAI & Association of Basic Telephone Operators - ABTO) against DoT or Union of India (UOI) shall be withdrawn. Further any dispute with regard to the license agreement for the period upto 31.7.1999 shall not be raised at any future date. The acceptance of the package will be deemed as a full and final settlement of all existing disputes whatsoever Irrespective of whether they are related with the present package or not.

3. After the terms and conditions of the package are accepted, amendments to the existing licence agreement will be signed between the licensor and the licensee.

4. An undertaking in the prescribed proforma by an authorised signatory of acceptance of the package by the licensee should reach DOT within a week's time and in any case not later than 29.7.1999 (Forenoon). In case no response is received within the stipulated period, it will be presumed that licensee does not propose to migrate to the new regime, and the licensee will continue to operate under the terms and conditions of the existing licence.

[English]

SHRI C. SREENIVASAN: Sir, the hon. Minister has replied that development of telecom in the rural areas will be encouraged. A similar promise was made in the Telecom Policy of 1994. But the Government could cover only 50 per cent of the villages against the target. Telecom facilities can be massively expanded only when the Government reduces the tariff for rural areas to one-third of the charges of the urban areas and only when the Government provides subsidy to service provide for operation in the rural areas.

Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government would be able to do these two things for quick expansion of the telecom services in rural areas.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Sreenivasan, your main question relates to revenue-sharing regime of licence and the question you are asking is on a different subject.

SHRI C. SREENIVASAN: They are related, Sir. About revenue sharing regime only I am asking...

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Hon'ble Speaker Sir, it is true that our achievements have not been according to the targets fixed and today also there are two lakh sixty thousand villages in which telephone connections are yet to be provided as per the target fixed. In all there are 6 lakh seven thousand villages in which telephone facility is yet to be provided. Funds are required for providing telephone facility in these villages. This time we have fixed a target for providing telephone service in 45 thousand villages but still we have not been able to proceed according to the fixed target. When I took charge of the Ministry of communications at that time telephone facility was available only in 2750 villages but the situation is improving fast now. Our target is to provide telephone connections in all villages by the year 2002. Several measures have been taken to achieve this target and three committees have been set up in this regard. A committee has been set up under the chairmanship of the Deputy Director General which will monitor the rural

areas and another committee needed by the Minister of State for communications Shri Tapan Sikdar. Our country has different geographical features such as hilly areas, desert, rivers and oceans where it is impossible to lay cables and we will use microwave and satellite in such areas to provide telephone service and this second committee will study all these aspects of the new technology. MARR system was introduced in our country and a number of telephones were installed under this system but this system is not working properly. It is just possible that at that time this technology was considered to be an advance technology. We have also set up a committee to see as to which technology can be used in our country and in which fields.

[English]

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: You consult Shri Sukh Ram.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: I have been your colleague. I will consult you only and I am doing that.

Sir, we need rupees two thousand crore for this purpose. We have also taken cooperation of the private sector in this regard because the Government cannot do this huge task of its own. Therefore, we have taken care of all these things in the newly formulated Telecommunication policy 1999. I would like to assure the hon. Member that we will achieve the target of providing telephone connection to all the villages of the country by 2002.

Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, as far as the reply to part 'b' of the question of the hon. Member is concerned, I would like to tell you that full powers have been given to TRAI in regard to tariff and on the basis of its last recommendations and after due consideration thereon we have given maximum relief to the rural areas but it is the jurisdiction of TRAI and the Government will consider the recommendations of TRAI and act accordingly.

[English]

SHRI C. SREENIVASAN: Sir, I thank the Minister for giving the assurance that more exchanges would be set up in rural areas.

My second supplementary relates to customer-friendly regime. There is absolutely no customer-friendly regime in telecom services in my Constituency Dindigul. Though Dindigul is a separate District, there is no separate telephone exchange there. For each and every facility, the consumer of Dindigul will have to go to Madurai Telephone Exchange. I wrote to the Minister on 19th May, 1998 in this regard, but no action has been taken

so far. I have a copy of it with me. If the Minister wants it, I can send it to him.

On the other hand, telephone exchanges are being set up in Uttar Pradesh and other States. I have no objection to that, but the Government should not neglect my Constituency.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Sreenivasan, your supplementary is entirely different from the main question. Please understand.

SHRI C. SREENIVASAN: Sir, part (d) of my main question refers to customer-friendly regime. So, it is related to my main question.

I would like to know from the Minister whether there is any proposal to establish a separate secondary switching facility in Dindigul and, if so, the details thereof.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, 25,523 electronic exchanges have been set up in the country till now and only 15 exchanges are remained manual. The Government has an intention to increase the number of telephone exchanges and is working in that direction. As I have stated that it is our endeavour to connect each and every village of the country by 2002. This task cannot be accomplished in the absence of telephone exchanges. So far as your area is concerned, I am not aware of what had happened earlier, however, any hon. Member can tell us his grievances relating to this constituency. I will take immediate step and will also inform you and if required I will try to resolve the grievances by calling the concerned officials immediately. This is the style of my working.

[*English*]

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, after this Government came to power, since 1998, we have had four Ministers of Communications. First, it was Shri Buta Singh. Then, we had Shrimati Sushma Swaraj, and later Shri Jagmohan And now, it is Shri Ram Vilas Paswan. Shri Mulayam Singh has very rightly said that one of his colleagues, Shri Ram Vilas Paswan has gone to the Treasury Benches and another one, Shri S. Jaipal Reddy has come to the main Opposition party. Yes, this is the position now.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, about the migration package, the hon. High Court has issued certain orders. In his statement on this question, the hon. Minister has said:

"The hon. High Court issued interim orders dated 10.8.1999 to the effect of allowing the Government to permit migration in terms of the migration package subject to approval of the new Council of Ministers and disapproval, if any, by the new Lok Sabha."

So, my pointed question to the hon. Minister is that after the issuance of the interim orders of the hon. High Court, is it true that they had approved it? If it is so, whether they are coming to the Parliament to apprise the House about it. On this particular point, several Members from CPI(M), Congress and other parties have raised vital questions, and it need to be discussed in this House. Can I get an answer from the hon. Minister that without taking Parliament into confidence, how have they done it? Is the Government transparent in doing so.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the first sitting of the new Cabinet was held on 21.10.99 in which the decisions taken by the earlier cabinet was endorsed. So far as the Cabinet is concerned, you are already aware that Lok Sabha was not in session when the committee has taken the decision regarding the policy. From 22.2.99 to 18.3.99 Lok Sabha was in session and it reconvened on 22.4.99. When the new telecom policy was announced on 26.5.99 the Lok Sabha was not in session. Therefore, the then Government kept its 5 copies in library on 1.4.99, 500 copies in Lok Sabha Secretariat and 250 copies both in Hindi and English versions in Rajya Sabha. As regards the Supreme Court, the matter is still pending with it. An Interim order was issued on 10.8.99 and the next hearing is scheduled for 24th January.

What is your second question?

[*English*]

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: When are you coming to bring it in the Lok Sabha for discussion.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: The court had mentioned these two points — the first one was that the Lok Sabha if so desire could disapprove it. The court had not given us any directives to present it in Lok Sabha again. However, a discussion will be held on this issue in Rajya Sabha at 5 O'Clock today. The Government has no objection if members would like to discuss the New Telecom Policy in the House. The Government has also no objection if the House intends to disapprove the resolution brought in this House...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it should be discussed in this House. This is our request to you.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: So far as the court is concerned, it has only stated that the Parliament can disapprove it. It has not asked for approval.

[*English*]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Yes, Sir, this issue should be discussed at length in this House.

[*Translation*]

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the House that

[*English*]

there is a rise in naxal activity all over the country and PWG has remained extremely active in Andhra Pradesh.

[*Translation*]

Due to these naxal activities the telephone exchanges are being balasted in a large number. Can you develop any kind of device that

[*English*]

you will have a blast-proof station or emergency communication system for such areas? It is because where the blast takes place, those people are cut off. Those people need communication on an urgent basis.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, satellite arrangements are being made in Orissa where a recent cyclone had caused havoc. I have at present no such information regarding the suggestion given by the hon. lady member. Till now we do not have any blast-proof exchange or blast-proof technology with telephone department. We would like to get information in this regard. Your suggestion is worth appreciating and will definitely consider it.

[*English*]

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: In view of the fact that there are serious complaints that TRAI is trying to hijack the tariff structure in favour of MNCs to the detriment of DoT and Government companies, I would like to ask the hon. Minister whether it is true that every time the Audit asks about papers and information relating to tariff fixation to

TRAI, instead of complying with the Audit request, they are going to court and spending lakhs of rupees on how they should not submit this information Audit; (b) what is the system of accountability of TRAI for its performance; and (c) is it a fact that the per diem halting allowance rates of TRAI members and Chairman were higher than the rates prescribed for officers of International Civil Service of United Nations which is the highest paid civil service in the world?

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, as far as TRAI is concerned, you will be knowing that TRAI was constituted under the Telecom Policy of 1994. The Government is intending to provide more and more powers to TRAI which is a Telecom Regulatory Authority. We would like to have it as an independent body and make it strong. In case there is some shortfall in it, we are ready to amend it. We have talked to the Chairman TRAI and its Members for four times in this regard. We have also talked to the department. Many rounds of talks have been taken place with the officials engaged in the business of financial institutions related to Telecom Sector. We are very much clear about the TRAI and we will do it. CAG is a constitutional body and TRAI is also a statutory one. Both have their own rules and regulations. So far as the question relating to the salary of the officials, I will definitely consider the suggestions in this regard...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: I just want to ask as to how TRAI has been given so much powers that it has gone beyond the jurisdiction of Parliament...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Shri Pal, you are making two contradictory questions. On one hand you are talking about making the TRAI strong and independent while on the other you are raising apprehensions that with the powers given to it, it will go beyond the jurisdiction of Parliament. Regarding the question raised by you, I am looking into the facts. Comptroller General of India is a constitutional body and TRAI is also a statutory one. At the moment I am unable to answer your main question regarding the authority of CAG to audit the accounts of TRAI.

[*English*]

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: This is a very serious question. Parliament as such should give its control to CAG. What is the definition of regulatory body? You allow half-an-hour discussion at least.

[*Translation*]

SHRI SUBODH MOHITE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, first of all, I would like to thank you for providing me an opportunity to ask the question. The telecom policy of the Government...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: Otherwise, this matter can be taken up for discussion under rule 184.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: What is the suggestion of the hon. Member, whether he wants to keep the TRAI under the jurisdiction of the Parliament or beyond the jurisdiction of the Parliament?

[*English*]

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: Parliament is supreme.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: This is your suggestion.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: No policy can be adopted without the approval of Parliament because TRAI was set up by an Act of Parliament only.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: These should be a half-an-hour discussion. There are many complaints in this regard. You can hold discussion on this under rule 184.

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: We have a number of half-an-hour discussions still to be cleared.

[*Translation*]

SHRI SUBODH MOHITE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it seems to me that the Government has brought a revenue sharing policy in the form of new telecom policy after replacing the old telecom policy. I have some doubts regarding this policy in view of the interest of the Government as well as of the users. Through the old policy, the Government used to get assured and fixed revenue.

[*English*]

There was no fluctuation.

[*Translation*]

But what is the guarantee that the new revenue sharing policy will earn more revenue than the earlier policy earned? My second question is

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Mohite, you can ask only one supplementary.

SHRI SUBODH MOHITE: Sir, the question is the same. This is part (b)

[*Translation*]

It has some shortcomings.

MR. SPEAKER: You can ask only one supplementary, not two.

[*English*]

SHRI SUBODH MOHITE: The question is the same.

[*Translation*]

There are shortcomings in it.

[*English*]

After the unfair declaration of revenues, there are also the losses due to pre-paid cards. There is no account for the pre-paid cards.

[*Translation*]

The third point is that what are the Government plans to look after the companies which will go into losses? Many companies like G.T. Mobile company were incurring loss of crores of rupees under the previous scheme.

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Mohite, otherwise, I will have to disallow your supplementary.

[*Translation*]

You should be aware of the fact that this is not a debate.

SHRI SUBODH MOHITE: What are the Government plans to take overall control of it.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, as far as the revenue is concerned, earlier it was being given on the basis of licence fee. Consequently all the companies were on the verge of closure. Now, the Government intends to set up a network of telephone lines in the whole country, but the Government cannot do it alone. Recently, I had visited USA, there I observed that the ratio of telephones per 100 persons is 55.67 or

even 80 at some places. But in our rural areas it is 0.6. In the entire world, the average ratio of telephones on per 100 persons is 15. Today telephones have become a necessity. With this point of view, we want to achieve the target by year 2002. To achieve this target, the cooperation of people engaged in Government sector and private sector is a must. With this view, the new policy has been adopted. It is true that a lot of revenue was expected from the licence fee to be paid by the private sector, but due to lack of resources, it could not be done. When the private sector expressed its helplessness in doing so, we introduced new revenue sharing system and migration package in its place. There are some positive points in it. When the debate on this issue is held, we will discuss it in detail. The Government has two types of policies in this regard that we may be able to provide more and more telephones to villages as well as to provide best telephone facilities to the entire country. The speculations can not be made about profit or loss at this stage in regard to new revenue sharing policy. Therefore, it is not appropriate to say that so much profit was being earned from the old revenue regime, and the new policy will incur loss. This estimate is hypothetical and nobody knows what lies in the future.

SHRI SUBODH MOHITE: My question is what measures the Government is taking to control it?

MR. SPEAKER: You may sit down please.

[English]

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: With regard to providing public telephone to the villages, the hon. Minister has mentioned about the MARR telephones but it so happens that the MARR telephones in the villages have proved to be a total failure. Within six months, they have gone out of order.

In that case, there is nobody in the Telecom Department to set it right. So, my question is, whether the Government will continue with the MARR or the tower telephone system in the villages or they are going in for some other method.

With regard to its installation in somebody else's house, previously it was the MP who was recommending it and now, it is the *sarpanch* in whose house it will be installed. If it is installed in somebody else's house, people do not go there. So, will the Government decide that it will be installed in an institution like a school or a club instead of somebody else's house?

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, as I have said earlier that at that time MARR system might

have been the best system to be tried on experimental basis, that is why it was procured, but now new technology has been introduced. I have directed to discontinue the MARR system. But we are trying to rectify or replace the MARR system, wherever it had been installed. Now, many new system like WLL, wireless and satellite have come in the market, and they are being tested. I have said in the beginning that we want to bring world class communication systems as soon as possible. I would like to assure the House that there would be no compromise in this regard.

As far as the question of installing instrument at anybody's house in village is concerned, no Government would like to install telephone at anybody's house, but there is a problem of security of the instrument in the villages. We are not in a position to make security arrangements in each and every village. Perhaps keeping this in view, the telephones would have been installed at somebody's house.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, we are now only in the second question.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: If there is any public place, which is secure and telephone instrument can be installed over there, the Government will consider it.

[English]

SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI: Sir, as a part of the customer-friendly service, the Telecommunication Department has sought applications for new connections and has also reduced the initial deposit. In Visakhapatnam alone, about 50,000 applications had piled up. As a part of the same customer-friendly service, will the Department of Telecommunications put up a time-bound programme for this? They have initially agreed that these applications for new connections will be cleared by the end of March next year and that everybody will be provided with a telephone. May I know whether the Government is contemplating to clear all these pending applications numbering about 50,000 by the end of this financial year? Otherwise, it will be an unfriendly service.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Sir, as far as the question of Andhra Pradesh is concerned, at present, figures are not available with me, but the situation in Andhra Pradesh is satisfactory, and our target is to provide telephones on demand by March. But sometimes

to attract the customers on special occasions like Durga Puja in West Bengal or Andhra Pradesh, we reduce the initial amount of deposit. It was reduced by 50 percent, due to which suddenly waiting list has reached upto 6 lakh subject to correction. This is a good sign. As you have said, about 50,000 applications have been piled up in Vishakhapatnam alone. In such a situation, it might be even 50 lakh. The work is on to fulfil the demand of 6 lakh customers and we will achieve this target, at least in state headquarters by the end of March. As far as the question of hon. Members is concerned, I will provide him information in this regard. We are trying to achieve this target in Hyderabad also. We will clear the backlog by March, and will provide telephones on demand.

[English]

SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI: Thank you very much.

MR. SPEAKER: We have already taken 25 minutes asking Supplementaries on this question. Now, Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Thank you, Sir. Would the Minister recall that for 13 days, the Winter Session of Parliament in 1995 was held up because the Opposition, at that time, claimed that Himachal Futuristic Limited with whom licensing fee arrangements had been made by the then Minister of Communications would not be able to meet the fee demand? In the light of that memory, could he tell us as to how many thousands of crores of rupees the Government have forsworn by changing from a licensing fee system to a revenue sharing system when this House was not in Session?

I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government proposes to secure *ex post facto* approval of this House for switching to a new regime when Parliament was not in Session which has caused losses to the tune of thousands of crores of rupees to the country.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Sir, hon'ble Member was not present at that time. I have already replied to this question.

Acquisition of Equity by IOC in Iranian Oilfields

*303. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI:
PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU:

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

(a) whether the RBI has cleared the decks for Indian Oil Corporation to acquire equity in Iranian Oilfields;

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

(c) the total annual crude oil likely to come to India as a result of this agreement from Iran;

(d) the total equity of Indian Oil Corporation in this project;

(e) whether such types of negotiations are going on with other countries for joint ventures and proposals submitted to RBI; and

(f) if so, the present stage of these proposals and future strategy likely to be adopted by IOC to get more oil by way of entering into such joint ventures?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) to (f) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

Acquisition of equity by IOC in Iranian Oil Fields

(a) to (d) As a part of its diversification plans, Indian Oil Corporation Ltd. (IOC) has been pursuing 35% participating interest in Balal oil field project in Iran involving investment of US \$59.15 million by it. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has accorded its approval to IOC for remittance of the above amount towards project cost. The RBI approval provides IOC to import into India crude oil worth US \$95.03 million.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

[Translation]

SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI: Sir, I would like to know that in view of the investments made in this project how much crude oil is likely to come to India as I feel that this point has not been clarified in the reply given...

SHRI RAM NAIK: Mr. Speaker, Sir, so far this agreement could not be concluded and at this stage no payment has been made.

SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, if even after 18 months this agreement could not be

concluded and we are suffering loss due to it, what are the reasons for it?

SHRI RAM NAIK: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I feel that there is some misunderstanding about it. According to a new arrangement, which is called equity oil concept in Balal Oil Field, they will start supplying oil for three-four years after completion of processing and exploration work. When the actual production takes place. But this arrangement could not be made as agreement in this regard could not be concluded with the other party. In such a situation there is no question of making investment in it.

[English]

SHRI PRAKASH PARANJPE: The hon. Minister, in his reply, has stated that they would be investing production cost to the tune of US \$ 59.15. If the same amount is utilized for purchasing modern equipments and introducing new technologies to increase the indigenous production crude oil, will it not be cheaper than the imported crude oil?

SHRI RAM NAIK: Sir, the thrust of this question is different. Now, on the one side, we have to ensure that we increase the domestic production of crude oil, and on the other hand, since the number of oil-fields in our country is very limited, we make efforts to ensure that we invest in the international oil-fields by going in for agreements with other countries, so that we can share some amount of crude oil in the international fields.

So far as increasing the production in India is concerned, we are on the job. But at the same time we are trying to establish ourselves in the international markets where production process is going on.

SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR: I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government is considering to bring about any improvement in the oldest oil-field in the North-Eastern region, the Digboi Refinery. Does the Government have any policy to modernise and upgrade the production process in order to increase the production in that Refinery? Has the Government any plan to increase the capacity of the oldest Refinery of the world?

SHRI RAM NAIK: Sir, the question relates to the North-Eastern region. It is our effort to increase the oil production in the North-Eastern region, but we are facing different types of handicaps in that region.

One is, the general law and order situation. Wherever we are going and trying to have exploration, problems are created by the activists there. Second is, I must discuss with the House, the Government of

Nagaland which says that the Central Government cannot explore crude oil there. We are having negotiations and discussions with the Government of Nagaland. They should not take such a stand as under the Constitution, exploration is a Central subject. These are the problems which we are facing. After the Session, I will myself visit the North-Eastern regions, have meeting with the Chief Ministers there, so that we can make some breakthrough in the present position.

DR. NITISH SENGUPTA: Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the Hon. Minister towards the pattern of relationship that prevails between Japan and Indonesia, under which Japanese companies take up prospecting, exploration and refining rights in Indonesia. There is a mutually advantageous relationship by which the Japanese companies are assured of captive supply of crude and refined products and Indonesia is assured of its export.

SHRI RAM NAIK: Sir, the question pertains to the exploration and purchase from Iran. This is altogether a different question. I would need a notice but I would certainly give information to the hon. Member.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: First of all, I would like to thank the hon. Minister for the initiative that the Indian Oil Company has taken in this regard. As a matter of policy, I would like to know from the hon. Minister, whether he is contemplating to engage other oil companies like BPCL, HP, to participate in this manner in the entire Middle-East before he proceeds to the other parts of the world?

SHRI RAM NAIK: Every oil company can do it but the Indian Oil Company has major resources. Everyone knows, out of 500 select companies of the world, Indian Oil Company has better capacity to go into the foreign market and try for its product. I must inform the House that a Delegation consisting of the top officers of the Indian Oil Company, including the Chairman has gone to Iran to sort out if we can have some other agreement on these lines.

[Translation]

SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether there is any proposal of acquiring any equity in the oil fields of other countries. If so, the names of those countries. If no, whether there is any proposal to conduct study regarding acquiring equity in the oil fields of countries like Vietnam or CIS if not reasons therefor?

SHRI RAM NAIK: Mr. Speaker, Sir, as I have already mentioned that it is a new concept to use our own

resources in other countries and conclude purchase agreement in advance. We have decided to take such initiative to work in other countries also. I have stated that in this context our delegation has again went to Iran. They have mentioned the names of Vietnam or CIS. We shall also go there. ONGC's subsidiary company, ONGC (foreign) will work in the field of export in foreign countries and ensure efficiency in this field.

[English]

**Opening of Petrol and Diesel Outlets
in Remote and Rural Areas**

*304. DR. RAMESH CHAND TOMAR:
SHRI DILEEP SANGHANI:

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

(a) whether various oil companies have any plans to open petrol and diesel outlets in the remote and rural areas of the country;

(b) if so, whether instead the oil companies have not embarked on any imaginative marketing strategy;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps proposed to review the present system in operation in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) to (d) There is already a provision under the existing dispensation for opening retail outlets in remote and rural areas.

In addition to the locations pending from earlier Marketing Plans 927 locations have been included in the Current Marketing Plan which include locations falling in rural areas also.

[Translation]

DR. RAMESH CHAND TOMAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon. Minister has given an ambiguous reply to my question. I would like to know about the criteria adopted for opening petrol and diesel outlets in rural areas? How many petrol pumps and outlets have been opened in rural and backward areas during the last three years. What is the ratio of setting up petrol pumps in rural and urban areas?

SHRI RAM NAIK: Mr. Speaker, Sir, in 1998-99, 127 retail outlets and in 1999-2000, 132 retail outlets have been sanctioned. A total 259 outlets have been sanctioned

during the last two years. Efforts are being made to reach the rural and far flung areas. I would like to give figures regarding this plan in English as I am not very good at Hindi. We have formulated a market plan of setting up 2414 outlets.

[English]

We have already advertised and applications have come for 1,693 outlets. They are being processed.

SHRI RAJESH PILOT: His question is different. He wants to know the number of outlets in rural areas.

SHRI RAM NAIK: Rural outlets are also included in this.

SHRI RAJESH PILOT: What is the ratio?

[Translation]

SHRI RAM NAIK: Out of it, more than 50 percent will be given for rural areas.

DR. RAMESH CHAND TOMAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, after Kargil war, the Government made an announcement that allotment of petrol pumps and LPG agencies will be made for the families of martyrs, I would like to ask the hon'ble Minister as to what has been done in this direction. How many petrol pumps and LPG agencies have been allotted to the families of martyrs of Kargil and by when this task is likely to be completed?

SHRI RAM NAIK: Mr. Speaker, Sir, after Kargil war, the Government prepared a plan to allot petrol and diesel outlets and LPG agencies to the families of martyrs. Ministry of Defence is nodal agency for it. We will sanction on the basis of information provided by the Ministry. So far 116 outlets and LPG agencies have been sanctioned on the basis of these recommendations. There are 51 retail outlets and 65 gas agencies. We will make allotment as and when we receive the second list. I would like to thank the hon. Member that he asked this question. It is not so that we have made allotment and our work is completed. We have decided to construct the building and pump etc. and shall spend Rs. 30 lakh on it. After it around Rs. 10 lakh will be spent on required working capital. If it is required the land will also be acquired. Thus the Government is not only making allotment but a sum of Rs. 40 lakh will also be spent for making these outlet functional. In the same way Rs. 18 lakh will be spent for acquiring land and making the LPG agencies functional.

DR. RAMESH CHAND TOMAR: Thank you very much.

SHRI RAM NAIK: I would like to say that families of soliders there...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRAKASH YASHWANT AMBEDKAR: How much interest will be charged on it?

SHRI RAM NAIK: No interest will be charged for it.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to make a submission that such investments are made on large scale and in such circumstances the close relatives try to take undue advantage. I would be grateful to Members if cooperation is extended in this regard at local level. I have also written letter to all the Chief Ministers and asked for their help as acquisition of land is an important task. These petrol pumps can be provided and made functional at the earliest if State Governments extend their cooperation in giving land. I seek cooperation of the House in this regard.

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, a survey is conducted on the basis of some fixed criteria by IOC or BP prior to the decision of the Ministry regarding setting up diesel or petrol pumps in any area.

I would like to draw the attention of Hon'ble Minister towards the hilly areas which fail to meet the norms as these areas do not have a large number of consumers to ensure financial viability. I would like to know from Hon'ble Minister as to whether he proposes to make a special provision in this regard by relaxing the norms in case of such hilly areas which do not have a petrol pump nearby and the nearest petrol pump is located at a distance of 100-150 kilometres?

SHRI RAM NAIK: Mr. Speaker, Sir, people all over the country and especially people residing in rural areas should get diesel. The Government tries to provide such a facility within the range of 12-15 kilometres or to set up low cost outlets. I request the Hon'ble Members to write to me with regard to any such areas of our country where such problems are being faced because of provision of sanctioning outlets as per norms so that wherever it is required, the outlet may be provided after proper investigation. If diesel does not reach the villages, the industries and the farmers won't be able to function. If any problem is faced anywhere in this regard, we are prepared to address it. However, if the request is forwarded in writing, the Government will definitely look into the matter.

[English]

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA: It is a known fact that certain petrol pumps and gas agencies are run by the *benami* persons. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government will conduct an inquiry about these *benami* outlets and gas agencies, and whether the Government will be pleased to allot these agencies properly to the educated youths in our country.

SHRI RAM NAIK: To have any *benami* petrol pump or gas agency is a crime. If the Members have some such information, I will be too happy to have it inquired.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: What are your Inspectors doing?

SHRI RAM NAIK: I am replying. I would request the Members to give that information, so that I can act and work effectively. There is a continuous process. There is a Vigilance Department working in the Petroleum Ministry already. We always try to do it. But I will be more careful to ensure that such *benami* outlets do not work. If we find them, we will give them to proper persons among whom unemployed youths will also be a part.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJESH PILOT: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Hon'ble Minister might recall that the Government had made an announcement after Kargil war that the physically handicapped persons would also be covered under this scheme. I believe that there is a separate Department of Directorate of Resettlement in Army Headquarter. All such cases should directly be referred to them. If the family members of 400 martyrs or 500 servicemen disabled in action are to be benefited, the Directorate could be asked to allot 900 agencies to the concerned persons so that the benefits are passed on to the families directly and smoothly. Besides the Department will find it more convenient to deal with the Army Headquarter rather than taking up each case individually. Secondly, it is brought to the notice of Hon'ble Minister that data provided regarding 50% outlets in the villages is inaccurate. The nearest outlets are located at a distance of 15-20 kilometres in some villages. I would like to know from the Government as to whether it would introduce such a policy under which an outlet agency is given on co-operative basis or to Panchayati Raj body or to the farmers in each Block Headquarter in rural areas and not on general basis. This will be of immense help to the farmers. Would the Government consider it?

SHRI RAM NAIK: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would definitely examine the suggestion made with regard to Part-B as to who should be given the agency. So far as the issue of giving agencies to the Defence personnel disabled in Kargil war is concerned, we are not dealing with it separately. Agencies are being given to all such persons whose cases have been recommended by the Establishment. So that is the nodal agency. They examine the case from all angles and determine the suitability and the merits and then again all the people do not necessarily want to have a petrol pump or gas agency for their resettlement. Various other facilities are also available for them, which they might have applied for. Right now, the agencies are being given to the people whose cases have been recommended by the establishment of Ministry of Defence.

[English]

SHRI RAJESH PILOT: Is it the policy of the Government to give it to all those people who have died and are handicapped?

SHRI RAM NAIK: I am saying that we will accept whatever recommendations are coming from them.

SHRI RAJESH PILOT: From Army Headquarters?

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Prison Reforms

*305. SHRI R.L. BHATIA:
SHRI P.S. GADHAVI:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to introduce comprehensive prison reforms and revise the Indian Prisons Act, 1894;

(b) if so, the details thereof, indicating the time-frame laid for the purpose; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) to (c) 'Prisons' is a State subject as per Entry 4 of List II-State List of the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India. It is essentially for the State Governments to carry out such amendments in the Prison Act as they consider necessary. However, in line with contemporary thinking in penology, the Central Government has prepared a draft of the Model Prisons (Management) Bill, which has been circulated to the State Governments for their views. Further, the Central Government has been providing financial assistance to

the State Governments for improving their prison infrastructure.

[Translation]

Production of Crude Oil

*306. SHRI SURESH CHANDEL:
SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE:

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

(a) the targets set for the production of crude oil in respect of each of the oil producing states during the last three years, and the actual production thereof achieved by them year-wise;

(b) whether there has been a shortfall in the production of crude oil during the said period;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) the value and quantum of crude oil imported during the last three years, year-wise;

(e) the details of countries from which the imports were made;

(f) the comparative figures in relation to on-shore and off-shore production of the crude oil; and

(g) the targets fixed for the production of crude oil in the country for the Ninth Five Year Plan year-wise and steps taken in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) to (g):

1. The targets and production of crude oil during the year 1996-97 to 1999-2000 (April-November, 1999) and Plan targets for the last two years of Ninth Plan are as under:—

Crude Oil Production

(Fig. in MMT)

Year	Plan Targets	Achievement		
		Onshore Production	Offshore Production	Total Production
1996-97	38.09	11.41	21.49	32.90
1997-98	34.42	11.52	22.33	33.85
1998-99	35.69	11.47	21.25	32.72
1999-2000	36.55	7.51*	14.11*	21.62*
2000-2001	37.18	—	—	—
2001-2002	36.98	—	—	—

*April to November, 1999

2. The reasons for shortfall in production are:—

- (i) Oil fields are entering the natural declining phase.
- (ii) Reduction in anticipated production from Mumbai High, Neelam and Gandhar oil fields due to large number of wells flowing with High Gas Oil Ratio and with increasing water cut.
- (iii) Constraints in operating conditions in the North-Eastern region.
- (iv) Shortage of power in the Eastern and Western region of the country affecting the operation of the artificial lift system.

3. The steps taken to increase the production are:—

- (i) Optimizing production from existing fields through better reservoir management, 3-D seismic surveys, infill drilling, pressure maintenance, installation/optimisation of artificial lift system and use of advanced and cost effective technologies.
- (ii) Faster development of newly discovered oilfields.
- (iii) Finding new hydrocarbon reserves through intensified exploration activities such as—
 - (a) Exploration at greater depths in existing fields.
 - (b) Extending exploration activities to deep waters and frontier areas.
 - (c) Increased private participation in exploration and production activities.

4. The quantum and value of crude oil imported during the year 1996-97 to 1998-99 was as under:—

Year	Quantity (MMT)	Value (in Rs. crore)
1996-97	33.906	18538
1997-98	34.494	15897
1998-99	39.808*	14676*

*Provisional

5. The crude oil was imported from Nigeria, Egypt, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Iran, Malaysia, Pakistan, Angola, Qatar and UAE during the above period.

*[English]***Extradition of Dawood Ibrahim**

*307. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Mafia Don Dawood Ibrahim is prepared to surrender to the Indian Police;

(b) if so, whether the Union Government have taken steps to arrest him after the signing of the extradition treaty between India and the UAE; and

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

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) As per available information, Dawood Ibrahim had conveyed to the Government his willingness to surrender if Government accepted certain conditions of his. Government rejected this proposal of conditional surrender.

(b) and (c) The Extradition Treaty between India and UAE was signed at New Delhi on 25.10.1999. The Treaty will come into force after exchange of instruments of ratification by the two contracting States. India has already ratified the Treaty. Instruments of ratification will be exchanged after the UAE Government completes the process of ratification.

Concerted efforts have been made for the arrest of Dawood Ibrahim ever since the bomb blasts took place in Mumbai in March 1993. These include:—

(i) He has been got declared Proclaimed Offender by the Designated Court, Mumbai u/s 8(3) of TADA (P) Act, 1987, r/w Section 82 of Cr. P.C.

(ii) Red Corner Notice has been got issued against him from Interpol Secretariat General (IPSG), Lyons;

(iii) His known properties have been got attached by the Designated Court, Mumbai.

Teledensity

*308. SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has the lowest Teledensity in the World;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to improve the Teledensity in the country with special emphasis on the rural areas;

(c) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) to (d) The telephone density of India is not the lowest in the World. The World average of teledensity is 14.26 and the average of low income countries is 1.64 and the teledensity in India is 2.4. However, the Government is continuing to improve the teledensity in the country by making telephone available on demand progressively by 31st March, 2002 and sustain it thereafter. As per the New Telecom Policy 1999 telephone density of the country is expected to improve to 7 per 100 persons by the year 2005 and 15 by the year 2010. In the rural areas the telephone density is expected to improve from 0.55 per 100 persons at present to 4 per 100 persons by year 2010. Steps in this regard include opening of new exchanges, introduction of new technologies and special emphasis in rural areas and speedy implementation of New Telecom Policy.

Traffic Handled by Major Ports

*309. SHRI CHADA SURESH REDDY: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of traffic volume handled by the major ports in the country at present;

(b) the likely traffic growth envisaged by the year 2011; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to handle the entire traffic volume by providing more modernised ports?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJNATH SINGH): (a) The aggregate volume of traffic handled by Major Ports during the first eight months of the current financial year was 177.68 million tonnes as compared to 162.12 million tonnes handled during the corresponding period of the previous year showing an increase of 9.6%.

(b) The Working Group for the 9th Five Year Plan has estimated port traffic of 424 million tonnes by the end of 9th Five Year Plan i.e. 2001-2002. For long term projection of port traffic upto the year 2020, a study has been recently completed by M/s. Rail India Technical & Economic Services (P) Ltd. (RITES); according to which the port traffic in the country is likely to be 866 million tonnes by the year 2011-12. The report is still under discussion with various parties involved in the ports.

(c) Keeping in view the anticipated growth of port traffic, port-wise plans are being prepared for expansion of capacity which would include construction of new berths, modernisation of ports by replacing the obsolete equipment by the state-of-the-art equipment and also acquiring new equipment, increasing productivity by changing the work culture and management. To create additional capacity, huge investment will be required and since it is not possible to fund these investments through the public sector alone, facilities at the Major Ports have been thrown open for private sector participation in identified areas, indicated in the guidelines on Private Sector Participation in the Ports and steps are afoot to corporatise major ports in a phased manner.

Amendment In TRAI Act

*310. SHRI C. KUPPUSAMI:
SHRI CHINMAYANAND SWAMI:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Chairperson of Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has called for more powers to remove the existing bottlenecks and improve efficiency in the telecom sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government propose to amend the TRAI Act, 1997;

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

(e) whether the Deputy Chairman of Planning Commission has also suggested several measures in this regard;

(f) if so, whether the Government have taken any final decision in the matter; and

(g) if so, the details thereof and the time by which necessary bill incorporating the said amendment is likely to be brought?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) to (g) The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) suggested certain amendments to TRAI Act, 1997 which *inter-alia* include making it mandatory for Government to seek TRAI's recommendations (without making them binding on Government) in matters relating to introduction of new service providers, terms & conditions of licence of service providers and revocation of licences before the Government exercises its authority in these matters, to

bring within TRAI's jurisdiction settlement of dispute between the Government (in its capacity as licensor) and any licensee.

The Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission has also made suggestions for strengthening of TRAI. The Government is considering the strengthening of TRAI through suitable legislative amendments, which is one of the terms of reference of the Group on Telecom and IT Convergence recently constituted by the Government.

[Translation]

Nexus among Criminals, Bureaucrats and Politicians

*311. SHRI AJAY SINGH CHAUTALA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have conducted/propose to conduct any study regarding the increasing nexus amongst the criminals, bureaucrats and politicians;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken to eliminate this nexus?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) to (c) A Committee was set up on 9.7.1993 under the Chairmanship of the then Home Secretary to take stock of available information about the activities of crime syndicates/mafia organisations which had developed links with and were being protected by the Government functionaries and political persons. The Committee, which came to be known subsequently as Vohra Committee, submitted its report on 5.10.1993. The findings of the Committee include:

- (i) On the basis of the extensive experience gained by our intelligence, investigative and enforcement agencies, it is apparent that crime syndicates and mafia organisations have established themselves in various parts of the country;
- (ii) The various crime syndicates/mafia organisations have developed significant muscle and money power and established linkages with governmental functionaries, political leaders and others to be able to operate with impunity;
- (iii) While the intelligence, investigative and enforcement agencies in their normal course of

functioning, come across information relating to the linkages of crime syndicates/mafia organisations, there is presently no system under which they can pass on such information to an identified nodal agency. Sharing of such information is presently of an occasional nature and no evidence is available of the same having been put to any operational use;

- (iv) Even where an agency comes across certain information about the linkages of crime syndicates, it has no mandate to immediately pass it on to other agencies. An agency which comes across information regarding linkages is also apprehensive that the sharing of such information may jeopardise its own functioning through premature leakage. In sum, the various agencies presently in the field take care to essentially focus on their respective charter of duties, dealing with the infringement of laws relating to their organisations and consciously putting aside any information on linkages which they may come across.

2. In view of the aforementioned conclusions, the Vohra Committee recommended setting up of a nodal agency headed by the Union Home Secretary to collect and collate information/intelligence from various Intelligence Agencies and to act, through identified organisation(s), so that the nexus of criminals with the bureaucrats, businessmen and politicians is broken. Accordingly, a Nodal Group was set up on 2.8.1995 with Home Secretary as its Chairman and Secretary (Revenue), Secretary (R&AW), Director (IB) and Director (CBI) as Members. The Nodal Group was reconstituted with effect from 5.1.1996 with Cabinet Secretary assuming the charge of Chairman and with Home Secretary, Secretary (Revenue), Secretary (R&AW), Director (IB) and Director (CBI) as Members.

3. Subsequently, in compliance of the directions given by the Hon'ble Supreme Court, the Nodal Group was reconstituted in January, 1998 with Home Secretary as its Chairman and Member (Investigation)-CBDT, Director General (Revenue Intelligence), Director (Enforcement) and Director (CBI) as Members. Secretary (Personnel & Training), Secretary (Revenue), Secretary (R&AW) and Director (IB) were co-opted in the Nodal Group as Special Invitees. The Nodal Group meets regularly as directed by the Supreme Court.

*[English]***Damage to the National Highways**

*312. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR:
SHRI RAJO SINGH:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the damage caused to the National Highways due to floods, rains and cyclones during this year, State-wise;

(b) the amount spent on the maintenance of each National Highway during the said period;

(c) whether all the National Highways have not been repaired fully; and

(d) if so, the time by which all the National Highways are likely to be repaired?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJNATH SINGH): (a) Damages to national highways have been reported from all over the country. The assessment of funds required to restore them as made by the state Governments is given in enclosed *Statement-I*.

(b) Details of amounts earmarked for maintenance in the year 1999-2000 in each State is given in enclosed *Statement-II*.

(c) Immediate repairs have been completed. There is no disruption of traffic on any National Highway at present.

(d) Damages and repairs of National Highways is a continuous process and is continuing.

Statement I

Assessment of Flood Damages to NHs as reported by State PWDs for the Year 1999-2000 (Rs. in Lakhs)

S.No.	Name of State/UT	Demand
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	220.00
2.	Assam	3500.00
3.	Bihar	2500.00

1	2	3
4.	Chandigarh	0.00
5.	Delhi	25.00
6.	Goa	317.00
7.	Gujarat	150.00
8.	Haryana	350.00
9.	Himachal Pradesh	5000.00
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	50.00
11.	Karnataka	900.00
12.	Kerala	865.00
13.	Madhya Pradesh	3160.00
14.	Maharashtra	1000.00
15.	Manipur	150.00
16.	Meghalaya	210.00
17.	Mizoram	300.00
18.	Nagaland	350.00
19.	Orissa	2000.00
20.	Pondicherry	15.00
21.	Punjab	100.00
22.	Rajasthan	100.00
23.	Tamil Nadu	900.00
24.	Tripura	0.00
25.	Uttar Pradesh	2000.00
26.	West Bengal	3150.00
Total		27312.00

Statement II*Current status of earmarking of Funds under M&R for the year 1999-2000 (Rs. in Lakhs)*

Sl. No.	Name of State/U.T.	Total Length in Lane KMs	Ordinary Repairs	Periodical Renewal	Flood damage Repairs	Special Repairs	Total (Normal maintenance)	Special Maintenance programme	Grand Total (Normal & Special)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1.	Andhra Pradesh	4203	830.00	2100.00	498.26	0.000	3428.26	3457.8	6886.06
2.	Assam	4136	805.00	2030.00	564.44	0.000	3399.44	3170.22	6569.66
3.	Bihar	4206	840.00	2410.00	1805.42	537.220	5592.64	6192.03	11784.67
4.	Chandigarh	64	11.00	30.00	0.00	0.00	41.00	51.33	92.33
5.	Delhi	116	32.00	90.00	2.84	0.000	124.84	160.2	285.04
6.	Goa	431	85.00	230.00	117.23	43.410	475.64	617.24	1092.88
7.	Gujarat	2846	550.00	1460.00	61.86	26.310	2098.17	1792.23	3890.40
8.	Haryana	2139	410.00	1090.00	56.84	54.860	1611.70	597.02	2208.72
9.	Himachal Pradesh	1096	300.00	630.00	642.70	184.550	1757.25	1094.22	2851.47
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	251	75.00	155.00	60.00	0.000	290.00	0	290.00
11.	Karnataka	3864	785.00	2080.00	685.90	0.000	3550.90	4524.6	8075.50
12.	Kerala	1531	310.00	820.00	1045.01	58.990	2234.00	1610	3844.00
13.	Madhya Pradesh	7803	1560.00	3830.00	619.78	129.713	6139.49	6677.99	12817.48

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
14.	Maharashtra	5207	1016.00	2590.00	54.63	0.000	3659.63	3434.23	7093.86
15.	Manipur	847	230.00	490.00	131.08	0.00	851.08	0	851.08
16.	Meghalaya	888	230.00	480.00	95.89	0.000	805.89	464.24	1270.13
17.	Mizoram	306	90.00	190.00	100.00	0.000	380.00	543.64	923.64
18.	Nagaland	276	80.00	175.00	176.63	0.000	431.63	422.86	854.29
19.	Orissa	3114	630.00	1670.00	1000.00	277.240	3577.24	2396.82	5973.86
20.	Pondicherry	106	20.00	52.00	5.00	0.000	77.00	167.1	244.10
21.	Punjab	2637	490.00	1308.00	6.00	0.000	1804.00	448.76	2252.76
22.	Rajasthan	5631	1290.00	2965.00	100.00	0.000	4355.00	4911.35	9266.35
23.	Tamil Nadu	4953	695.00	2565.00	349.00	43.250	3923.15	5801.07	9724.22
24.	Tripura	202	60.00	125.00	0.00	0.000	185.00	0	185.00
25.	Uttar Pradesh	6370	1210.00	3210.00	1310.21	175.280	5905.49	4794.62	10700.11
26.	West Bengal	2802	530.00	1395.00	1600.00	0.000	3525.00	1410.92	4935.92
27.	NHAI	14194	2567.00	6515.00	0.00	0.000	9082.00	0	9082.00
Total		80214	16000.00	40685.00	11089.62	1530.62	69305.44	54740.09	124045.53

**Rehabilitation of Persons affected due to Shelling
by Pak**

*313. SHRI AMIR ALAM: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether some villages in Uri and other sectors along the Jammu and Kashmir borders and Line of Control have been evacuated due to heavy and continuous shelling by the Pakistani soldiers during the last six months;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the number of civilians and defence personnel killed in the shelling; and

(c) the Central assistance sought and actually provided for the rehabilitation of civilians?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) and (b) No Sir. No village along the LOC has been evacuated due to heavy and continuance Pak shelling during the last six months. However, some families have migrated from some of the affected villages on their own. As per information made available by the State Government approximately 3574 families from Kargil, 540 families from Leh and 20,000 families from Jammu got displaced due to cross border shelling/firing in the recent Kargil conflict. Also as per information made available by the State Government 45 persons including army/BSF personnel were killed during the last six months in the cross border firing/shelling.

(c) State Government of J&K have sought Rs. 35 crores for providing relief to the displaced persons of cross border firing/shelling till May, 2000. The Government of India till date have released Rs. 24.8 crores for the implementation of the relief package formulated by the State Government.

**Minimum Educational Qualification
for Contesting Elections**

*314. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Chief Election Commissioner has emphasised the need for the fixation of minimum educational qualifications as regards the eligibility to contest elections to Parliament and Legislative Assemblies;

(b) if so, whether the Government have conducted any study referendum in this regard;

(c) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(d) the other measures taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Recognition of National Waterways

*315. SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY:
SHRI KRISHNAMRAJU:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken a decision to recognise some National Waterways in the country;

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

(c) the steps taken by the Government to recognise these National Waterways and renovation of canals in Andhra Pradesh; and

(d) the steps being taken to rebuild buckingham canal waterway between the Chennai and Vijayawada?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJNATH SINGH): (a) and (b) Three waterways have been declared as National Waterways so far. There are (i) Allahabad-Haldia (1620 Km.) stretch of Ganga-Bhagirathi Hooghly river system (National Waterway No. 1) which flows through the states of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and West Bengal, (ii) Sadiya-Dhubri (891 Km) stretch of the river Brahmaputra (National Waterway No. 2) which flows through the state of Assam, and (iii) Kollam to Kottapuram (205 Km.) stretch of West Coast Canal along with Champakara and Udyogmandal Canal (National Waterway No. 3) which flows through the state of Kerala.

(c) and (d) The three declared national waterways are being developed for shipping and navigation by way of creation of infrastructural facilities such as provision of navigational channels, channel marking, Hydrographic survey, issue of river notices, pilotage, terminals, night navigational facilities etc. There is no proposal to rebuild Buckingham Canal Waterway between Chennai and Vijayawada.

Sexual Abuse of Female Children

*316. SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether sexual abuse of female children is on the increase;

(b) if so, whether there is no comprehensive legislation to punish the culprits who indulge in this heinous crime;

(c) if so, whether the Government propose to bring in a comprehensive legislation in this regard during the current winter session of Parliament; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) Available information about the number of cases of sexual abuse of girls registered during the years 1996-98 does not indicate an increasing trend. Provisional figures for these years are given below:

	Rape of minor (below 16 yrs.)	Buying of girls (below 18 yrs.)	Selling of girls (below 18 yrs.)
1996	4083	22	6
1997	4414	13	9
1998	4059	13	11

(b) to (d) Sections 376 and 376C of the Indian Penal Code, 1860, *inter alia*, provide for stringent punishment for sexual offences involving minor female/females. In addition, Sections 366A, 366B, 372 and 373 prescribe the punishment for procurement of a minor girl, importation of a girl from foreign country, buying and selling of minors for purposes of prostitution, respectively. There is no proposal at present to bring in a comprehensive legislation on the subject during the current session of Parliament. However, the Central Government is presently considering a proposal to provide death as one of the penalties for the offence of rape.

Pension to Dependents of Persons Killed by Terrorists

*317. YOGI ADITYA NATH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to give monthly pension to the dependents widows of the persons killed in the terrorist attacks in J&K as was given in Punjab.

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(c) The Government of J&K have constituted a Rehabilitation Council in 1995 for rehabilitation of widows, orphans, handicapped and old aged persons adversely affected by militancy. The Council is to have a corpus fund of Rs. 20 crores income from which is utilised for implementation of various welfare schemes which include marriage assistance to widows scholarship to orphan students old age pension and organisation of rehabilitation camps for handicapped persons. At present, the corpus fund has Rs. 8.28 crores which include Rs. 6 crores from the Government of India. Rs. 1 crore from the Prime Minister's National Relief Fund. Till date scholarship has been given to 2519 orphan children marriage assistance to 50 widows and old age pension given to 596 old age persons and 24 rehabilitation camps held during which 2726 artificial limbs/appliances were distributed.

Prices of Crude Oil

*318. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK:
SHRI PRAKASH YASHWANT AMBEDKAR:

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

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

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) The average monthly

published prices as per PLATTs for major marker crude oils viz. Brent & Dubai crudes, for last six months are as under:

	June '99	July '99	Aug '99	Sep '99	Oct '99	Nov '99
Brent *	15.82	19.03	20.31	22.48	22.01	24.69
**	5132.52	6203.89	6640.89	7366.86	7205.98	8066.48
Dubai *	15.50	17.88	19.48	21.90	21.47	23.11
**	4835.00	5604.46	6124.10	6900.36	6758.43	7259.46

*US dollar/barrel

**Rupees per metric tonne

(b) The prices of crude and petroleum products are interlinked in the international market. These have bearing on our import bills, product pricing and Oil Pool Account. Presently, prices of motor spirit (petrol), kerosene (PDS), domestic LPG and aviation turbine fuel are administered. The price of diesel is fixed on import parity basis. It was last revised on 6.10.1999. Prices of other products namely Naphtha, Fuel Oil, Paraffin Wax, Low Sulphur Heavy Stock (LSHS) and Bitumen are decontrolled and Oil Companies fix their prices on market consideration. It is estimated that the oil pool deficit may be around Rs. 5000 crores as on 31.3.2000.

(c) and (d) Pursuant to the Government decision to dismantle administered pricing mechanism (APM) in phases, the process of phased dismantling of APM was initiated with effect from April 1, 1998. As per the decision consumer prices of all major petroleum products would be moved to market prices. The prices of high speed diesel are being fixed on import parity basis up to export point level. The phased programme envisages that subsidy on domestic LPG and kerosene (PDS), will be reduced in phases to reach the level of 15% and 33.33% of the import parity price by 2000-2001 and 2001-2002 respectively. The subsidy is to be transferred to the fiscal budget on full deregulation w.e.f. 1.4.2002.

Royalty on Crude Oil

*319. SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the royalty rates on the crude oil and natural gas are revised at regular intervals in consultation with the concerned State Governments;

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

(c) whether some State Governments have asked for the enhancement in royalty rates; and

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

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) to (d) Royalty on crude oil is payable at specified rates fixed by the Central Government from time to time pursuant to the provisions of Oil Fields (Regulation and Development) Act (ORDA — 1948) and the Petroleum and Natural Gas Rules, 1959. As per provisions of ORDA, 1948, royalty on crude oil and natural gas can not exceed 20% of the selling price at well-head. According to the earlier Scheme evolved by Central Government, in consultation with State Governments, royalty was worked out at 20% of selling price. Selling price was taken as weighted average cost of production of crude oil plus 15% return on capital employed plus cess of Rs. 900/MT (Metric Tonne). The last formally notified rate of royalty was Rs. 481/MT w.e.f. 1-4-1990. This rate was provisionally revised to Rs. 528/MT for period 1-4-1993 to 31-3-1996 and has since been revised provisionally to Rs. 539.80/MT. The Government had further fixed "on account" rate of royalty at Rs. 578/MT for period 1-4-96 to 31-3-98. Final rates for these periods, i.e. 1993-96 and 1996-98, will be notified on receipt of audited cost figures from Comptroller and Auditor General (C&AG) for working out final crude oil prices.

The above scheme was applicable till 31-3-98. In the meantime, some of the Oil producing States had been seeking revision of the existing royalty rate by linking the royalty amount to international price of crude oil. The State Governments had also been requesting for more frequent revision of royalty amount. In response to these proposals of State Governments and also the dismantling of Administered Pricing system, abolition of cost pricing of crude oil and gradual introduction of international rates

as the basis for pricing of indigenous crude oil, it became necessary to evolve a new Scheme of royalty. Government has initiated requisite steps to evolve this Scheme which will be done in consultation with all concerned, including the State Governments, as early as possible. Pending introduction of the new Scheme, both State Governments and Central Government, were being paid royalty provisionally at Rs. 578/MT with effect from 1-4-1998. This provisional rate has since been enhanced on 1-12-1999 to Rs. 750/MT or 20% of well-head value of crude oil, whichever is lower, with effect from June, 1999 onwards.

Complaints against Irregularities in NHRC

*320. SHRI JAGADAMBI PRASAD YADAV: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of complaints received by the Government with regard to irregularities emerging at the headquarters of the National Human Rights Commission during the current year;

(b) the action taken thereon and the outcome thereof; and

(c) the steps to be taken to bring fairness the administration and functioning of the Commission?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) to (c) Two complaints have been received in this regard. On enquiry, no substance was found in one of the complaints. In the second case a report has been received from the National Human Rights Commission and the matter is under examination. The National Human Rights Commission is an autonomous body, which has adopted the rules and regulations of the Central Government in respect of its administration and functioning. In addition, the officers and staff of the NHRC are governed by the Central Civil Services (Conduct) Rules, 1964.

Allotment of Chambers to Advocates

2944. SHRI RAJIAH MALYALA: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of the lawyers who have been allotted new chambers at Bhagwan Das Road, New Delhi during 1998 and 1999 alongwith area of their respective chambers and average standard licence fee for the purpose;

(b) the amount of standard licence fee that works out per square feet per month considering the cost of

the construction and land at the time of allotment of these chambers;

(c) the reasons for not realising the standard licence fee from the allottees;

(d) the total loss of revenue per annum being caused to the exchequer on this count; and

(e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to recover the aforesaid loss from the allottees?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI): (a) 141 new chambers have been allotted to 145 Advocates (4 chambers jointly) out of whom 13 are Senior Advocates 104 Advocates-on-Record and 28 Non Advocates-on-Record.

The area of the allotted chambers is as follows:

No. of Chambers	Area in sq. mtr.
5	9.27
2	10.75
6	10.79
5	10.99
4	11.64
6	11.67
65	11.71
40	12.11
4	13.18
3	19.34
1	22.50

The licence fee for the said chambers has been fixed provisionally as under:

No. of Chambers	Licence fee per month (provisionally)
132	Rs. 2000/- each
5	Rs. 1600/- each
4	Rs. 3500/- each

(b) The licence fee for the chambers has been fixed provisionally and the standard licence fee has not yet been fixed.

(c) to (e) do not arise at this stage.

[Translation]

Sewri-Nhava Project

2945. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR:
SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to construct a sea bridge namely, Sewri-Nhava in Mumbai;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which this bridge is likely to be completed and the amount of expenditure likely to be incurred thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) to (c) Central Government have no such proposal. However, it is learnt that the Government of Maharashtra have plans to construct a 25 kms long sea bridge to link Sewri & Nhava at an estimated cost of Rs. 6600 crores.

[English]

Use of LPG Coupons Supplied to MPs

2946. SHRI SUNIL KHAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the gas coupons supplied to the M.Ps have conditions in regard to distributing the same to those persons who are already registered for LPG connections;

(b) if so whether the common people who want to register their names but due to the change in the nearby

district though the distance is only 1 km. are not entitled to register their names;

(c) if so, whether the Government propose to remove this condition and direct LPG dealers to accept LPG coupons issued by M.Ps even the beneficiary is not registered with them;

(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 E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (e) To remove difficulties in release of LPG connections by the Members of Parliament to the residents of their Constituencies, the Public Sector Oil Companies have been advised by the Government that the LPG distributors shall make registration of the people from outside their area of operation for availing such connections under Member of Parliament quota as per the following guidelines:

(i) Any person from a MPs Constituency, urban or rural area, desirous of getting gas coupon from MP's quota can get registered with any LPG distributor in the District in which the Constituency of the MP falls.

(ii) Any person can also register and avail of LPG connection from a distributor located in the neighbouring Constituency of the MP even though in a different district so long as the person resides in the constituency of the MP who issues the coupon to him.

[Translation]

Damage to Steamer and Jetty

2947. SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a foreign steamer 'Vintake' carrying coal had collided with 'Sayajipeer Jetty' at Okha Port in Jamnagar district of Gujarat on May 25, 1999 resulting into the extensive damage to the steamer and jetty;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the extent of damage caused to each one of them and the measures taken to compensate the damage and for getting the jetty repaired;

(d) whether the local officers of G.M.B. are not paying due attention towards the development of this port and for providing necessary facilities there;

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

(f) the action taken in the matter; and

(g) the steps taken or proposed to be taken for the development of this port?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN):

(a) to (c) As required under part XII (Investigations & Inquiries) of the Merchant Shipping Act, 1958, the Directorate General of Shipping has not received any information on the subject casualty either from the Port Officer, Okha or from the Gujarat Maritime Board.

(d) to (g) The Central Government is primarily responsible for matters relating to the Major Ports in the country. Matters relating to Minor Ports are under the jurisdiction of the concerned state governments.

As Okha port is a minor port, its development is the responsibility of the state government.

[English]

Creation of Autonomous Districts on the Southern Bank of Brahmaputra

2948. SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR BWISWMUTHIARY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to create autonomous districts on the southern bank of river Brahmaputra comprising tribal dominated areas of present Goalpara district and the southern part of present Kamrup district and also the present Morigaon tribal dominated

areas of Nowgoan so as to provide political right of self-governance to the tribal people of the plains living in the aforesaid district and in Karbi Anglong and North Cachar hills;

(b) If so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) As no such proposal has been received from the Government of Assam, matter has not been considered.

Investment Plans of Mathura Refinery

2949. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Mathura Refinery has chalked out an investment plan for improving the quality of its products through the introduction of a new system as well as modernisation of the existing machinery;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps taken by the refinery to bring down the sulphur content of the entire quality of diesel; and

(d) the time by which the modernisation plan is likely to take off?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a), (b) and (d) Following investment plans have been undertaken by IOCL at Mathura Refinery for improving quality of products and modernisation of its existing facility.

Name of the Project	Purpose	Approved Cost (Rs. Crore)	Present status & Time Schedule
1	2	3	4
(i) Continuous Catalytic Reformer Unit.	To produce lead free motor splirt	545	Commissioned in May, 1999
(ii) Diesel hydro-desulphurisation Unit.	To reduce the sulphur content in high speed diesel to 0.25% wt (max)	307	Commissioned in August, 1999.

1	2	3	4
(iii) Additional Diesel Hydro-desulphurisation Facilities	To reduce the sulphur content in high speed diesel to 0.05% wt (max)	838*	project is scheduled to be commissioned in 33 months from the date of approval.
(iv) Facilities for MS quality improvement.	To improve MS quality in line with Euro emission norms as a pro-active measure.	393*	Project is scheduled to be commissioned in 27 months from the date of approval.

* (Estimated cost as per feasibility report).

(c) Mathura Refinery has set up elaborate facilities, viz, Diesel Hydro desulphurisation project including Hydrogen Generation Unit & Sulphur Recovery unit, to bring down the Sulphur content of High Speed Diesel to 0.25% wt (max) at an approved cost of Rs. 307 crores. The project has already been completed and commissioned in Aug., 1999 and entire HSD supplied ex-Mathura Refinery is having 0.25% wt (max) Sulphur content since September, 1999.

Communications Network

2950. SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received proposal from Government of West Bengal to provide a state-wise additional communication network using V-sat, Wireless telephony and optical fibre cable;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) State-wise communication network using V-SATs, wireless telephony and optical fibre cable to cover all the District Headquarters and major Municipalities to facilitate provision of voice, data & internet access between the State Capital and Districts to begin with.

(c) Department of Telecom Services (DTS) has the network capability available to provide the desired leased connectivity to West Bengal Government at TRAI prescribed tariffs and wherever not available the connectivity can be made available on standard Rent and Guarantee (R&C) terms. Therefore, State Government can utilize the infrastructure of DTS for the said purpose.

Waiting List for Telephone Connections in West Bengal

2951. SHRIMATI MINATI SEN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons on the waiting list for the new telephone connections in West Bengal particularly in Jalpaiguri, district-wise;

(b) the number of telephones allotted during the last three years till date in the State and in the said district, district-wise; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to clear the waiting list in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) The number of persons on the waiting list for the new telephones connections in Jalpaiguri is 4231 as on 1.12.99. District-wise details of the number of persons on the waiting list for the new telephone connections in West Bengal is as per statement enclosed.

(b) The number of telephones allotted during the last three years till date in Jalpaiguri is as under:

1997-98	3797
1998-99	4094
1999-2000 (upto 12.12.99)	1191

District-wise details of the number of telephones allotted during the last three years till date in the State is as per Annexure.

(c) West Bengal Telecom Circle (including Sikkim) has provided 40,290 new telephone connections upto 30.11.99 against the target of 2,31,000 during 1999-2000. About 1,90,700 new telephone connections are likely to be provided upto March, 2000 to clear the waiting list progressively.

At present, there is no waiting list in Calcutta for new telephone connections as on 30.11.99.

Statement

State Sl.No.	West Bengal Revenue District	Number of Persons in Waiting List As on 1.12.99	Telephones Allotted During 1997-98	Telephones Allotted During 1998-99	Telephones Allotted During 1999-2000 (Upto 12.12.99)
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Bankura	2120	2729	3008	624
2.	Birbhum	4892	4999	2096	1901
3.	Burdwan	12520	20957	23287	8357
4.	Coochbehar	3017	2374	2338	2986
5.	Dakshin Dinajpur	1100	2003	2791	600
6.	Darjeelling	3157	7958	8950	3288
7.	Hooghly	7470	4832	6743	1000
8.	Howrah	5792	1202	1280	1000
9.	Jalpaiguri	4231	3797	4094	1191

1	2	3	4	5	6
10.	Malda	2211	5299	5841	1413
11.	Midnapore	10631	7781	9588	5457
12.	Murshidabad	8087	4248	5303	2743
13.	Nadia	7080	4771	8129	2939
14.	Purulia	1566	1369	7557	791
15.	Uttar Dinajpur	2114	2489	4879	969
16.	24 Parganas (N)	6378	4874	3398	3155
17.	24 Parganas (S)	2592	1992	2410	2000
Sub-Total		84958	83674	101692	40414
18.	Calcutta	0	151588	180320	79093 (upto 30.11.99)

*[Translation]***Schemes for the Development and Conservation of Sanctuaries in Bihar**

2952. SHRI RAJO SINGH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Bihar Government have submitted any schemes for the development and conservation of the sanctuaries, National Park; and

(b) if so, the details of the sanctioned schemes out of them alongwith the schemes yet to be sanctioned, also indicating the costs thereof and the contribution of Union Government therein?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Environment and

Forests had made tentative allocation of Rs. 40.00 lakhs to Bihar Government under the scheme 'Development of National Parks and Sanctuaries'. Against this state Government has submitted proposals for providing assistance of Rs. 91.628 lakhs. Ministry has released an amount of Rs. 18.30 lakhs for Udaipur and Dalma Sanctuaries. Beside this, an amount of Rs. 15.60 lakhs has been revaluated for Hazaribagh and Gautam Budha Sanctuaries.

*[English]***Ongoing Work on NH-17**

2953. SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the number and details of works ongoing on the NH-17 in Kerala;

(b) the financial allocations made for these works;

(c) whether the Government would consider to increase the present financial allocations to accelerate completion of these works; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN):

(a) There are 25 on-going works on the NH-17 in Kerala consisting of eight land acquisition, three bridges, one bypass and thirteen other improvement works.

(b) The allocation for all the National Highway works in Kerala during the current year is Rs. 65 crores which includes provision for all the on-going works on NH-17.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The actual increase in allocation will depend upon the approval of Supplementary Demands by Parliament.

Anti-insurgency Operation

2954. SHRI N.R.K. REDDY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have cleared a proposal for sustained operation against the banned ULFA, both in Assam and Bhutan;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the other intensified anti-insurgency operations proposed to be undertaken in Jammu and Kashmir and the North-East?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) and (b) No Sir. The Government of India have made several appeals to ULFA militants to give up arms and to come forward for unconditional talks to settle the issue through dialogue. The ULFA is insisting on conditions which are unacceptable to the Government of India. The Government of India continues to take necessary measures to neutralise ULFA, both in Assam and Bhutan and is in constant touch with the Government of Bhutan with a view to flush out the ULFA militants operating from within Bhutan.

(c) The Government has adopted a multi pronged approach which includes, *inter alia*, strengthening border management, neutralising plans of the militants by proactive action against them in the hinterland, gearing up intelligence machinery, greater functional integration

through an institutional framework of Operation Groups and Intelligence Groups of the Unified Headquarter at all levels, improved technology, weapons and equipments for security forces etc. Steps have also been taken afresh to flush out militants, check infiltration and curb militant activities including closer vigil on the border, by intensive patrolling and extensive search operations.

Double Lining of NH-44

2955. SHRI SAMAR CHOUDHURY: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to double lane the existing National highway No. 44 between Agartala and Charbari in Tripura;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time-frame envisaged for the completion of the said work?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN):

(a) to (c) Length of National Highway-44 in Tripura is 196 Km, out of which 28 km. is already double lane. As per the extant policy, all National Highways are to be widened to double lane subject to intensity of traffic, condition of Road, *inter-se* priority on all India basis, and availability of funds. However, due to paucity of funds, no time limit can be prescribed for double laning entire stretch of National Highway-44 in Tripura.

Proposals from Maharashtra Government

2956. SHRI NAMDEO HARBAJI DIWATHE: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Maharashtra have submitted number of proposals to the Government during the current year;

(b) if so, the details thereof and action taken in this regard;

(c) details of progress made on the ongoing projects in terms of physical and financial targets set and achieved for the past three years, year-wise as well as including the current year;

(d) details of action taken/proposed to be taken on the pending proposals, proposal-wise; and

(e) the reasons for delay in taking decision in regard to them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b), (d) and (e) 100 proposals amounting to nearly Rs. 112 crore have been received so far in 1999-2000 out of which 42 proposals costing Rs. 41.51 crore have been sanctioned, 13 proposals amounting to Rs. 26.3 crore have been referred back/returned to State PWD. The remaining are under examination. As such there is no delay.

(c) The physical targets and achievement for completion of projects and financial allocation were as follows:

Year	No. of works completed		Allocation NH (O) Rs. crore
	Target	Achievement	
1996-97	92	43	19.0
1997-98	88	45	29.0
1998-99	119	61	48.1
1999-2000	121	—	49.0

Besides there is one World Bank project of four laning on NH 8 from Km. 439/0 to 497/0 to be completed in March 2001 for which allocation has been Rs. 0.2 crore, Rs. 43.5 crore, Rs. 60.0 crore and Rs. 60.0 crore respectively in the above four years.

Financial targets in the last three years were met.

Accident Cases in Lok Adalats

2957. SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases of accident claims settled in Rajasthan through the Lok Adalats during the last five years; and

(b) the number of such cases still not disposed of in spite of mutual consent given for the same in writing?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI): (a) The requisite

information as provided by the Rajasthan State Legal Services Authority is as under:

Financial Year	Number of MACT Cases Settled through Lok Adalat
1994-95	3,949
1995-96	3,553
1996-97	4,159
1997-98	3,551
1998-99	3,813

(b) The information is being collected from the concerned District Legal Services Authorities and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Elephant Population

2958. SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Are elephants safe in their own confines" appearing in the 'Hindustan Times' dated October 2, 1999;

(b) if so, the details in this regard alongwith reasons regarding the happenings; and

(c) the stringent measures taken by the Government to save the elephants?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABULAL MARANDI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. It is a fact that speeding trains passing through the elephant corridors have killed elephants in North-East, Bihar and Uttar Pradesh during the current year. Death of 2 elephants by electrocution has been reported from Palamau, Bihar. In the first case death was accidental but in the second case the death was due to man-animal conflict, where live wires were laid on the agricultural fields. It is a matter of growing concern that the elephant habitats and corridors are getting degraded and fragmented, resulting in elephants causing depredation to life and property.

(c) The important measures taken by Government of India are (i) launching of Project Elephant in which restoration of habitat and corridor are the most important

items of work. This is a 100 percent Centrally Sponsored Scheme. Bihar has not been able to utilise the funds sanctioned under the project. Statement showing the funds

released to Bihar under central assistance and utilization during the last three years is as under:

1997-1998		1998-1999		1999-2000	
Released	Utilised	Released	Utilised	Released	Utilised
No Demand	—	Rs. 40.00 lakh	Nil	Revalidated Rs. 40.00 lakh	

(ii) The Ministry has also requested the Railway Ministry to consider speed regulation of trains, passing through elephant habitats and corridors.

Control of Pollution

2959. SHRI P.D. ELANGOVA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the existing mechanism to check and control the ever increasing levels of air, land and noise pollution in the country;

(b) whether the ongoing and proposed World Bank Aided Projects like the (IPCP) Industrial Pollution Control Project and Industrial Pollution Prevention Project (IPPP) have any positive impact on the control of pollution in India;

(c) if so, the facts in this regard;

(d) whether the IPCP started from 1991 have reached its desired objective at the end of the project in the year 1999; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABULAL MARANDI): (a) The existing mechanism includes a policy framework for preventing and controlling pollution, legislation, regulatory authorities including the Central and State Pollution Control Boards and fiscal incentives.

(b) to (e) The World Bank aided Industrial Pollution Control Project (IPCP) started in 1991 and concluded in March, 1999. This has resulted in promoting cost effective pollution abatement from industrial sources, besides strengthening four State Pollution Control Boards, namely, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh. The project has also extended financial assistance to the establishment of common effluent treatment plants in

various small-scale industrial sectors and adoption of cleaner technologies for pollution prevention and control. The Industrial Pollution Prevention Project envisages the strengthening of the State Pollution Control Boards of Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka and Rajasthan as also extending financial assistance to small scale industrial units similar to the Industrial Pollution Control Project. This project will be in operation till 2002.

[Translation]

Problem of Silt in Balharea

2960. SHRI MAHESHWAR SINGH: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the public representatives from Himachal Pradesh have been drawing attention of the Chairman of Bhakra Beas Management Board, other officers and the Ministry towards the silt problem in Balharea of district Mandi in Himachal Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the step taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) Yes, Sir, the public representatives in Himachal Pradesh from time to time have brought to the notice of authorities concerned the problems in Balharea, on account of dredging of the silt from Balancing Reservoir of Beas Sutlej Project at Sundernagar, District Mandi, Himachal Pradesh.

(b) and (c) The Bhakra Beas Management Board (BBMB) have been responsive in mitigating hardships faced by the people of Balharea of district Mandi, Himachal Pradesh. A statement showing the details of the demands raised from time to time and steps taken by the BBMB, is enclosed.

Statement

*Details of demands raised from time to time by public representatives
and the action taken/proposed to be taken by BBMB*

Demands raised	Action taken/proposed to be taken by BBMB
Compensation for 'Dried-up Sources' in Balh Valley due to the construction of BSL Project.	BBMB has paid Rs. 65 lakhs to Himachal Pradesh Government as final settlement for drinking water and irrigation schemes.
Compensation for damaged Crops	An approx. amount of Rs. 2 lakhs is being paid annually by BBMB as compensation to the farmers since 1987.
Provision of steel-foot bridges at various places for the benefit of villagers residing on both sides of Suketi Khad	<p>As many as 20 steel foot bridges have been installed so far by BBMB. Besides, the following permanent bridges were constructed including channelisation works</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) 3 Nos. foot bridges across Baggi Khud for the pedestrians to cross over. (ii) 3 Nos. tractor bridges.
Drawal of irrigation water for irrigation & drinking purposes from the Water Conductor System of BSL Project.	<p>BBMB has agreed to provide to the HP Government, the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) 20 cusecs of water from Balh Valley Irrigation Project free of cost from Sundemagar Hydel Channel of BSL Project. (ii) BBMB has also conceded the demand of 14.75 cusecs of irrigation water (including 7.45 cusecs of irrigation water already being released from Sundemagar Hydel Channel) for the area on left side of Suketi Khad. (iii) 2 cusecs of water for water supply scheme namely WSS Pung-Thathar from Balancing Reservoir.
Environmental issues vis-a-vis silt disposal by project authorities.	<p>After great deal of interaction with people representatives and various authorities, BBMB awarded a study on Environmental Impact Assessment due to silt problem and to suggest Environmental Management plan, if any, to national Environmental Engineering Institute (NEERI), Nagpur at a cost of Rs. 26 lakhs. Draft report received in November, 1999 has been circulated by BBMB to all concerned for comments/objections, if any, to enable NEERI to finalise the report for consideration and implementation by BBMB.</p>

Utility of National Highways Development Project

2961. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether in spite of all the tall claims not a single express route of International standard has come up in India so far;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to take any concrete steps for taking the country on the path of economic progress speedily; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN):

(a) Yes, Sir. However, no tall claims have been made.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The National Highway Development Programme (NHDP) comprising of upgradation of national highways along Golden Quadrilateral connecting the four Metros, the North-South and East-West corridors from Srinagar to Kanyakumari and Silchar to Porbandar respectively and Salem-Cochin section of NH-47 will be implemented in the next ten years at an estimated cost of Rs. 54000 crores (at current prices). This upgradation programme will significantly contribute towards economic development of our nation.

[English]

Special Courts for Violation of Human Rights Cases

2962. DR. V. SAROJA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to set up special courts to deal with the violation of human rights cases;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO): (a) to (c) The Protection of Human Rights Act, 1993 has an enabling provision for the State Governments to specify for each district, a court of session to be a human rights court, to try offences arising out of violation of human rights. As per the information available, such courts have been notified in Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Sikkim, Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh.

Cut in Production of Crude by OPEC

2963. DR. RAGHUVANSH RASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether as a result of oil and Petroleum Exporting Countries cutting down production of crude, the prices have shot up;

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

(c) the total expected foreign exchange outgo on import of crude in next three years; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to support non-motorized transport sector and other activities like tilling of agriculture fields etc. with the use of DAP?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. With effect from April '99 OPEC have imposed the production cuts as a result of which the crude oil prices have risen sharply resulting in consequent rise in product prices.

(c) The expected foreign exchange outgo on import of crude oil in the next three years would depend on the consumption, indigenous production and prices of petroleum products and crude oil in the international market.

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

Petrol Pumps in Rajasthan

2964. SHRI DAUD AHMAD: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of petrol pumps (Jubilee R.O.) sanctioned for Rajasthan during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) whether complaints have been received in the allotment of petrol pumps and purchase of land for construction of jubilee R.O.;

(c) if so, details of investigations carried out in this regard, company-wise;

(d) whether the CBI after conducting enquiries in the allotment of Sirahi, Rajasthan Petrol Pump Allotment case have made recommendations of disciplinary action against number of officers of Indian Oil Corporation;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to prevent recurrence of such malpractices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) 7 Jubilee ROs have been sanctioned in Rajasthan during last three years.

(b) and (c) A complaint was received alleging various irregularities including in purchase of land for one Jubilee RO in Rajasthan. The concerned Oil Company constituted a Committee to investigate the complaint. The Committee in its report has confirmed that the purchase of land was approved by the Selection Committee and in view of this the Committee felt that allegations made were baseless.

(d) to (f) CBI have registered a preliminary inquiry against two officers of Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOC). Outcome of the CBI inquiry has not been received by IOC.

LPG Agencies in Manipur

2965. SHRI HOLKHOMANG HAKIP: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of LPG agencies functioning at present in the State of Manipur and other States of North-East Region;

(b) whether the Government have any proposal to open more LPG agencies in Manipur to meet the demand of the public in near future;

(c) if so, the time by which new agencies are likely to be set up; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) As on 1.4.1999 a total of 252 LPG distributorships were functioning in the seven North Eastern States including 18 in Manipur.

(b) to (d) In addition to the locations pending from the previous Marketing Plans, 15 LPG distributorships have been included in the Marketing Plan 1996-98 for Manipur. As per the existing policy, dealerships/distributorships included in the Marketing Plan are advertised for selection through Dealer Selection Boards. It generally takes 1-2 years for commissioning of dealerships/distributorship from the date of issue of advertisement.

Personal Use of Official Vehicles

2966. SHRI DAHYABHAI VALLABHBHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether instances of misuse of the official vehicles by the Delhi Police Officers have come to the notice of the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO): (a) to (c) There have been some isolated cases in which individual police officials are alleged to have misused official vehicles. These cases are at various stages of investigation. The officials found guilty are liable to punitive action as per law.

Incorporation of Sikkim as a Telecom District

2967. SHRI BHIM DAHAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have received any request from Government of Sikkim for incorporation of Sikkim as a telecom district from West Bengal Circle to the North East;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Chief Minister of Sikkim has requested to annex Sikkim Telecom District with Assam or North East Telecom Circle to enable Sikkim to avail of the benefit/incentives associated with the other states of North East.

(c) The State of Sikkim is geographically isolated from Assam and North East Telecom Circle, whereas the road communications, as well as the Telecommunication links are through Darjeeling District of West Bengal. Inclusion of Sikkim Telecom District with the North East or Assam is administratively inconvenience in so far as the management of man and materials are concerned. As far as the benefits/incentives to the Staff/Officers are concerned, officers posted in Sikkim enjoy same financial and other benefits as enjoyed by the Officers posted in the North Eastern States.

LPG Agencies in Rohtas District, Bihar

2968. SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the number of LPG agencies in Dehri-on-Sone in District Rohtas in Bihar is not sufficient as per the demand and the population ratio;

(b) if so, the facts in this regard;

(c) whether advertisement for opening more LPG agencies was made earlier and withdrawn lateron;

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

(e) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to open more LPG agencies there?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) to (e) At present one LPG distributorship is in operation in Dehri-on-Sone in district Rohtas, Bihar. To meet the increased demand one more LPG distributorship in which case earlier advertisement was cancelled has been readvertised for setting up LPG distributorship at this place. Selection for this location has already been conducted by the concerned Dealer Selection Board. However, LOI could not be issued as a complaint has been received against the dealer selection which is under investigation as per the guidelines. Further action will be taken by the concerned Oil Company as per investigation report.

Basic Telecom Services

2969. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH:
PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of companies given permission to operate basic telecom services in the country as on date, State-wise;

(b) the areas identified for their operation;

(c) the details of the terms conditions and duration for which the licence have been given to them;

(d) whether there have been any subsequent changes in this regard;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether the Tata Telecom propose to instal 8635 telephones in the rural areas of Andhra Pradesh; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) and (b) Statement-I is enclosed.

(c) Statement-II is enclosed.

(d) and (e) The restriction on the usage of copper cable technology in subscriber access network stands removed.

(f) and (g) As per the Licence Agreement the company was to provide Village Public Telephones in all the uncovered villages in Andhra Pradesh by 30.9.98. Due to non-fulfilment of this obligation, Liquidated Damages have been charged from the licensee as per the provision of the licence.

Statement I**Names of the Companies Permitted to Operate Basic Telecom Services and the Areas Identified for their Operation**

Sl.No.	Name of the licensee	Name of the State (Service area)
1.	M/s Bharati Telenet Ltd.	Madhya Pradesh
2.	M/s Hughes Ispat Ltd.	Maharashtra
3.	M/s Tata Teleservice Ltd.	Andhra Pradesh
4.	M/s Reliance Telecom Ltd.	Gujarat
5.	M/s Essar Commvision Ltd.	Punjab
6.	M/s Shyam Telelink Ltd.	Rajasthan

Statement II**Terms and Conditions of the Licence for Basic Service**

1. The licence must be an Indian registered company.
2. The total foreign equity in the licensee company must not be more than 49% of the total equity.
3. The period of licence shall be for 15 years extendable for a period of 10 years at a time.

4. Licensee shall start the service within 12 months of the issue of the licence.
5. The licensee shall not charge tariff more than the DoT tariff.
6. The licensee can provide long distance service within the circle. Inter-circle long distance is not permitted to the licensees.

The National Telecom Policy 1999 was announced in March 1999. This policy envisages the licence period to be 20 years extendable by years. The existing licence period to be 20 years extendable by years. The existing licensees of the Basic Telephone Service have been offered Migration package from the Fixed Licence Fee regime to the Revenue Sharing Regime.

Losses on Gopalpur Port and Fishing Harbours

2970. SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the extent of loss and damage to Gopalpur port and other Fishing Harbours and Bases including Paradip in Orissa by the recent severe and super cyclones; and

(b) the steps have been/are being taken to compensate the loss, rebuild and restore the damaged Gopalpur ports, Harbours and Bases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN):

(a) The estimates of damages to the Ports and Harbours in Orissa due to the recent super cyclone are as under:—

Paradip Port	— Rs. 68.5 crores
Paradip Fishing Harbours	— Rs. 9.5 crores
Gopalpur Port	— Rs. 6.5 crores

(b) Normal operations have been resumed at all the Ports and Harbours. Paradip Port Trust have requested for Central Government grant to the extent of the damage caused to Paradip Port and Fishing Harbours and the matter is being considered. Gopalpur Port is a minor port and its rebuilding and restoration is the responsibility of the Orissa State Government.

Guidelines on Red Light on Vehicles and Siren

2971. SHRI RAMSAGAR RAWAT: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state the details of the guidelines issued with regard to the use of red light on the top of vehicles and also cars fitted with sirens?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO): As per the provisions contained in Rule 97 of Delhi Motor Vehicles Rules, 1993, the use of red light on the top of vehicles is provided to be regulated as follows:

- (i) Revolving-cum-flasher red light will be used only by motor vehicles on emergency duties such as ambulances, fire brigade, vehicles of Delhi Police Control Room, and such light shall be on top at the middle of the roof; and
- (ii) A red light without flasher will be allowed to be erected in the front, and on top of the wind screen position of a saloon vehicle of the General Officer Commanding (GOC) of Delhi area, and the Chiefs of the three services, the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court Justice of High Court of Delhi.

Similarly, it has been provided under Rule 119 of Central Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989 that no motor vehicle shall be fitted with any multitone horn giving a succession of different notes or with any other sound-producing device giving an unduly harsh, shrill, loud or alarming noise provided that this shall not prevent the use, on vehicles used as ambulance or for fire-prevent the use, on vehicles used as ambulance or for fire-fighting or savage purposes or on vehicles used by police officers or officers of Motor Vehicles Department in the course of their duties, of such sound signals as may be approved by the registering authority in whose jurisdiction such vehicles are kept.

National Highway-208

2972. SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have estimated for total amount of money to be spent Quilon-Schengottai National Highway No. 208;

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

(c) whether there is any proposal for the construction of By-pass on NH-208; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) and (b) For development N.H.-208 about Rs. 14.50 Crore are estimated to be spent during remaining period of 9th Five Year Plan.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) does not arise.

[*Translation*]

Study Groups on Article 356

2973. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government sent any study groups to some States with a view of evaluate the possibilities of imposition of Article 356 there;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government are of the opinion that there is internal disturbance in those States; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) to (d) No such study group has been sent. Analysis and assessment of law and order and security scenario is an ongoing process in the Central Government, keeping in view its constitutional obligations. Some Central teams have visited some States from time to time as part of this process. The Central Government and State Governments have all along been interacting on issues relating to law and order.

Complaint against Over Billing

2974. DR. M.P. JAISWAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received complaints regarding the over billing in telephone bills in Uttar Pradesh particularly in Bashi, District Siddarth telephone exchange during 1998-99;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) No exchange called Bashi has been located in Eastern Uttar Pradesh. However, an exchange at Bansi is functioning in Siddharthanagar district, the information for which is given at (b) below.

(b) Details of excess billing complaint received and settled during 1998-99 for U.P. (E) Circle and for Bansi

Exchange, Distt. Siddharthanagar are as follows:

	No. of Campit. received	No. of Campit. settled	Compt under settlement
UP (E)	7976	5959	2017
Bansi	01	01	Nil

The decision on the complaint in the Bansi Exchange was communicated to the subscriber on 10.5.99.

(c) (i) In Bansi, a 1000-line C-DoT exchange is working with 630 working connections. This is a digital electronic exchange with a dynamic locking facility for STD subscribers.

(ii) The monitoring of billing complaints is being done at the SSA level and the Circle level. The quick settlement of complaints is ensured through Telephone Adalats and Open House sessions. 27 Telephone Adalats and 31 Open House sessions were conducted during the year 98-99 in the U.P. (E) Circle to redress the complaints of the subscribers.

(iii) For the Bansi Telephone Exchange, one Telephone Adalat was held at Basti in 1998-99, and one this year. An open house session at Siddharthanagar (Distt. Hqtr. of Bansi) has also been held for the satisfaction of customers.

[*English*]

Seaman Training College in Andaman

2975. SHRI BISHNU PADA RAY: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal under the consideration of the Government to open Seaman Training College in Andaman; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) and (b) The Directorate General of Shipping Mumbai has accorded approval on 5th November, 1999 for conducting the four basic familiarisation courses (i) Personal Survival Technique, (ii) Elementary First Aid, (iii) Personal Safety & Social Responsibility, and (iv) Fire Prevention & Fire Fighting in Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Government Polytechnic, Port Blair.

Petrol Pumps in Tamil Nadu

2976. SHRI A.K. MOORTHY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state the number of new petrol pumps to be set up in Tamil Nadu in the remaining part of Ninth Five Year Plan period, location wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): Locations which are found economically viable are included in the Marketing Plan. Accordingly, 59 R.O. dealerships have been included in the Marketing Plan 1996-98 for Tamil Nadu. Selection of dealers for these locations and locations pending from earlier Marketing Plans will be made as per the procedure which include advertisement of location and interviews by Dealer Selection Board. This is a regular and ongoing process.

Road Construction Machinery

2977. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any scheme under which modern and essential Road Construction/Road Maintenance machinery are made available to State Governments;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the several roads, RD Roads, Rural Roads, Missing Links and National Highways have been damaged in many parts of Super Cyclone Affected/High Flood affected Orissa; and

(d) if so, the steps taken or proposed to be taken to provide such essential machinery at the block level/district level?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) to (d) Roads including National Highways have been damaged in Super Cyclone/High Flood affected parts of Orissa. Government of India is constitutionally responsible for development and maintenance of National Highways. Roads other than National Highways are the concern of respective State Governments. Road Construction/Road Maintenance machinery are procured by the Ministry within available funds & supplied to State Public Works Department for National Highway works, generally in cases where contractors are not equipped with the machines. This Ministry has no scheme to provide machines for maintenance of roads to the block level/district level authority.

CSD Facilities to Assam Rifles Personnel

2978. MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to provide Canteen Services Department (CSD) India facilities to Assam Rifles personnel;

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

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether at present any category of Assam Rifles personnel is getting CSD (I) facilities; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO): (a) to (c) The employees of Assam Rifles are already provided with CSD facilities.

(d) and (e) Presently serving officers, Junior Commissioned officers, other ranks and civilian staff working with Headquarters, units and sub-units in Assam Rifles are entitled to these facilities.

Super National Highway

2979. SHRI K. FRANCIS GEORGE:
SHRI P. RAJENDRAN:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the West coast from Kanyakumari to Mumbai bordering the States of Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Goa and Maharashtra has been left out from the Golden Quadrilateral Super Highway Project linking the four corners of the country;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether a memorandum has been submitted by the public representatives belonging to the said States to the Prime Minister and him for the inclusion of the West Coast in the proposed project; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The alignment of Golden Quadrangle and East-West and North-South corridors under the National Highway Development Project (NHDP) has been decided keeping in view the overall requirements in the country.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The memorandum have been considered and Salem-Cochin section of NH-47 has been included in the NHDP.

National Afforestation and Eco-Development Board

2980. SHRI AKBOR ALI KHANDOKER: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of various centrally sponsored schemes under the National Afforestation and Eco-Development Board with details of Central and State share in each of the schemes;

(b) the details of Central allocation made during the Eighth Plan period, State-wise, scheme-wise;

(c) the extent to which Government of West Bengal could make use of these centrally sponsored schemes;

(d) whether the Union Government are satisfied with the utilisation of the allocation by the State Government;

(e) if not, the remedial action proposed by the Government in the matter;

(f) the details of financial allocation to the States under centrally sponsored schemes of National Afforestation and Eco-Development Board during the Ninth Plan period; and

(g) the details of funds released so far to the States, year-wise separately?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) The centrally sponsored schemes operated by the National Afforestation and Eco-Development Board are listed below:

- (i) **Integrated Afforestation and Eco-Development Projects Scheme (IAEPS).** This is a 100% centrally sponsored scheme. The Scheme is intended to promote afforestation and development of degraded forests by adopting an integrated approach to the development of land and other related natural resources on watershed basis through the micro-planning process.

(ii) **Area Oriented Fuelwood and Fodder Projects Scheme (AOFFPS).** This scheme is implemented on 50:50 sharing basis with the State Governments. The scheme is implemented with a view to augment production of fuelwood and fodder in 242 identified fuelwood deficient districts of the country to meet the needs of the communities.

(iii) **Conservation and Development of Non-Timber Forest Produce (including medicinal plants) Scheme (NTFP).** This is a 100% centrally sponsored scheme. This scheme provides financial assistance to the State Governments for increasing production of Non-Timber Forests Produce (NTFP) including Medicinal Plants. It has a special focus on tribal population for whom NTFP is an important source of livelihood.

(iv) **Tree and Pasture Seed Development Scheme, (TPSD)** This is a 100% centrally sponsored scheme. Central assistance is provided to the States under this scheme to develop the infrastructure for collection, storage, testing, certification and distribution of quality seeds.

(b) State-wise central allocations made under the above schemes during the eighth plan are given in enclosed *Statement-I*.

(c) Projects under the above schemes were sanctioned to the Government of West Bengal during the eighth plan period. Utilisation of funds provided to the State Government for these projects was satisfactory.

(d) and (e) Does not arise.

(f) Details of financial allocations to the States under the centrally sponsored schemes of the National Afforestation and Eco-Development Board during the Ninth Plan period are given in enclosed *Statement-II*.

(g) Details of funds released to States so far in the Ninth Plan, year-wise, are given in enclosed *Statement-III*.

Statement I

Central Allocation (CA) to States under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes of the National Afforestation and Eco-Development Board, Ministry of Environment and Forests in the Eighth Plan

(Rs. in lakhs)

State	CA provided in the Eighth Plan (Scheme-wise)			
	IAEPS	AOFFPS	NTFP	TPSD
1	2	3	4	5
Andhra Pradesh	1057.56	313.08	297.89	22.05
Arunachal Pradesh	352.65	54.49	102.29	46.59
Assam	158.10	565.48	53.50	32.73
Bihar	109.35	694.50	188.00	15.97
Goa	38.22	29.34	34.20	7.00
Gujarat	266.09	617.25	556.92	62.28
Haryana	673.34	1320.24	291.85	149.83
Himachal Pradesh	977.74	627.94	411.89	30.60
Jammu & Kashmir	1569.82	127.01	363.26	118.88
Karnataka	1155.77	940.03	137.23	8.93
Kerala	213.77	223.30	40.16	49.29
Madhya Pradesh	2212.74	1587.79	268.45	18.98
Maharashtra	138.07	220.25	140.44	0.00
Manipur	919.40	520.88	194.61	34.45
Meghalaya	633.33	292.56	278.14	6.08
Mizoram	585.67	1634.75	122.29	27.00

1	2	3	4	5
Nagaland	222.45	25.15	43.85	5.00
Orissa	242.40	796.32	654.88	3.50
Punjab	429.28	869.30	343.00	28.93
Rajasthan	2635.95	1019.13	235.29	0.00
Sikkim	1216.03	327.62	404.25	34.71
Tamil Nadu	142.81	476.83	120.03	10.42
Tripura	273.79	176.26	56.09	0.00
Uttar Pradesh	2648.44	1300.53	9.00	32.05
West Bengal	1268.36	659.09	301.16	35.63
Total	20141.13	15419.12	5648.67	780.90

Statement II

*Central Allocation (CA) proposed for States under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes of the National afforestation and Eco-Development Board, Ministry of Environment and Forests for the Ninth Plan so far**

(Rs. in lakhs)

State	CA proposed for States in the Ninth Plan (Scheme-wise)			
	IAEPS	AOFFPS	NTFP	TPSD
1	2	3	4	5
Andhra Pradesh	669.57	670.56	311.38	67.36
Arunachal Pradesh	303.55	38.67	85.65	8.89

1	2	3	4	5
Assam	439.74	858.31	167.80	33.88
Bihar	386.82	683.81	230.80	54.19
Goa	0.36	37.92	57.42	42.56
Gujarat	289.97	913.68	376.26	87.29
Haryana	444.58	1128.62	164.50	49.21
Himachal Pradesh	344.48	744.60	167.80	9.50
Jammu & Kashmir	1560.32	797.79	782.55	99.51
Karnataka	818.92	870.67	249.51	97.44
Kerala	1412.01	517.63	66.85	0.00
Madhya Pradesh	2003.32	2772.60	615.82	69.11
Maharashtra	1150.58	515.67	443.81	31.42
Manipur	1681.35	975.22	194.36	27.70
Meghalaya	50.04	123.80	104.63	0.00
Mizoram	605.25	1114.14	136.10	0.00
Nagaland	243.80	77.65	36.90	22.38

1	2	3	4	5
Orissa	1082.77	565.47	492.00	0.00
Punjab	519.74	1204.11	158.75	0.00
Rajasthan	1673.10	1610.63	545.35	27.16
Sikkim	796.13	346.65	212.08	28.62
Tamil Nadu	140.30	663.55	118.88	43.49
Tripura	408.57	515.42	64.70	0.00
Uttar Pradesh	1923.51	1444.36	262.75	130.00
West Bengal	806.96	881.67	303.57	25.84
Total	19755.74	20073.20	6350.22	955.55

*As on 16.12.99.

Statement III

Funds Released to States under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes of the National Afforestation and Eco-Development Board, Ministry of Environment and Forests in the Ninth Plan so far (1997-98 to 1999-2000).*

(Rs. in lakhs)

State	IAEPS			AOFFPS			NTFP			TPSD		
	97-98	98-99	99-00*	97-98	98-99	99-00*	97-98	98-99	99-00*	97-98	98-99	99-00*
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Andhra Pradesh	26.59	143.51	132.44	144.88	89.79	49.92	48.39	36.86	65.00	0.00	5.17	0.00
Arunachal Pradesh	68.86	14.94	41.32	6.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	5.00	0.00	0.00	1.43	0.00
Assam	80.04	50.00	67.15	70.00	83.95	89.69	13.50	14.00	15.00	8.45	16.98	0.00

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Bihar	136.86	13.20	42.53	17.40	37.18	23.50	14.00	14.00	0.00	0.00	9.50	0.00
Goa	0.36	0.00	0.00	5.00	3.00	5.69	8.22	10.87	12.13	0.00	0.00	0.00
Gujarat	54.66	13.00	33.94	135.98	157.10	130.32	57.68	58.66	64.65	13.90	14.28	0.00
Haryana	68.76	109.93	60.97	194.38	261.00	199.27	36.30	36.25	29.44	35.00	3.00	0.00
Himachal Pradesh	17.00	52.28	0.00	142.08	58.20	100.00	28.63	4.00	23.00	9.50	0.00	0.00
Jammu & Kashmir	176.10	288.37	248.77	120.33	42.31	0.00	97.05	151.35	136.50	45.55	0.00	13.42
Karnataka	170.79	37.42	151.00	195.31	74.45	109.18	43.00	53.87	30.00	9.50	15.57	15.00
Kerala	136.53	199.35	259.43	87.17	106.96	39.77	10.35	4.00	3.50	0.00	0.00	0.00
Madhya Pradesh	350.55	231.27	213.84	210.18	500.50	388.13	71.00	69.80	77.50	0.00	21.22	0.00
Maharashtra	111.87	84.28	17.18	75.00	27.91	70.00	38.51	48.66	0.00	15.19	0.00	0.00
Manipur	100.48	283.72	351.27	100.00	128.75	96.00	18.00	47.24	11.00	6.50	7.50	0.00
Meghalaya	5.48	0.00	10.21	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	12.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Mizoram	77.81	96.26	80.87	244.12	211.91	135.00	17.90	25.00	32.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Nagaland	1.22	0.00	38.60	0.00	4.23	10.87	0.00	5.00	0.00	3.36	4.16	3.00
Orissa	46.99	176.60	18.50	91.14	69.21	42.10	48.00	102.88	50.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Punjab	69.97	37.83	28.62	169.14	20.98	0.00	29.50	4.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Rajasthan	280.14	253.39	155.00	304.61	263.35	160.00	58.61	130.40	116.21	0.00	0.00	0.00

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Sikkim	91.55	214.59	108.82	69.99	67.18	51.39	32.50	61.31	51.00	0.00	3.69	0.00
Tamil Nadu	15.82	18.02	0.00	133.45	84.24	50.00	0.00	33.00	0.00	0.00	2.00	2.80
Tripura	65.86	58.57	12.77	94.30	33.19	0.00	6.35	10.15	9.25	0.00	0.00	0.00
Uttar Pradesh	298.22	385.00	296.35	212.44	205.62	123.21	53.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	21.50	0.00
West Bengal	53.55	125.60	145.64	134.68	168.99	146.19	21.47	59.70	49.00	3.04	4.00	5.25
Total	2506.06	2887.13	2516.22	2957.58	2700.00	2020.23	749.96	1000.00	775.18	149.99	130.00	39.47

* As on 16.12.99.

Construction of National Highway No. 53

2981. SHRI NEPAL CHANDRA DAS: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any proposals from the Governments of Assam and Mizoram, for taking over the P.W.D. road from National Highway No. 53 by the Border Roads Task Force for development as the starting point at Dhaleswari Bridge to Bhairabi of Mizoram; and

(b) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN):
(a) and (b) Yes, Sir. BRO did not take over this road as it was not projected as a road of strategic importance.

Declaration of 14 New National Highways

2982. SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have declared 14 new National Highways in the country;

(b) if so, the details of the roads declared as National Highways, State-wise;

(c) the criteria being followed to declare the State Roads as National Highways;

(d) whether the Government propose to provide infrastructural facilities at all the National Highways in the country; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN):
(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A list is given in enclosed Statement-I.

(c) Criteria for declaration of new National Highway is given in enclosed Statement-II.

(d) and (e) Development of National Highway is a continuous process and all National Highways will be upgraded to acceptable standards in due course of time depending on availability of resources.

Statement I**Declaration of 14 new National Highways**

Sl. No.	NH No.	Route	State	Total Length
1.	152	Patachikuchi-Bhutan Border	Assam -	40 Kms. 40 Kms.
2.	214	Kattipudi-Kakinada-Pamarru	Andhra Pradesh -	270 Kms. 270 Kms.
3.	83	Patna-Punpun-Gaya-Dobhi	Bihar -	130 Kms. 130 Kms.
4.	85	Chapra-Siwan-Gopalganj	Bihar -	95 Kms. 95 Kms.
5.	82	Gaya-Rajgir-Bihar Sharif-Mokama	Bihar -	95 Kms. 130 Kms.
6.	84	Arrah-Buxar	Bihar -	60 Kms. 60 Kms.
7.	81	Korha-Katihar-Malda Rd.	Bihar - West Bengal -	45 Kms. 55 Kms. 100 Kms.
8.	88	Shimla-Bilaspur-Hamirpur-Nadaun-Ranital-Kangra-Bhawan-(at NH 20)	Himachal Pradesh -	115 Kms. 115 Kms.
9.	212	Kojhikode-Mysore-Kollagal	Karnataka - Kerala -	160 Kms. 90 Kms. 250 Kms.
10.	213	Palghat-Calicut	Kerala -	130 Kms. 130 Kms.
11.	86	Kanpur-Sagar	Madhya Pradesh - Uttar Pradesh -	180 Kms. 180 Kms. 360 ms.
12.	215	Panikoli-Rajamunda	Orissa -	348 Kms. 348 Kms.
13.	89	Ajmer-Bikaner	Rajasthan -	300 Kms. 300 Kms.
14.	87	Rampur-Bilaspur-Patnagarh-Haldwani-Nainital	Uttar Pradesh -	83 Kms. 83 Kms.
Total				2411 Kms.

Statement II**Criteria for the Declaration of State Roads into National Highways**

- (i) Roads which run through the length and breadth of the country.
- (ii) Roads connecting adjacent countries.
- (iii) Roads connecting the National Capital with State capital and roads connecting mutually the State capitals.
- (iv) Road Connecting major ports, large industrial centres or tourist centres.
- (v) Roads meeting very important strategic requirements.
- (vi) Arterial roads which enable sizeable reduction in travel distance and achieve substantial economic growth thereby.
- (vii) Roads which help opening up large tracts of backward area and hilly regions.
- (viii) National Highway grid of 100 Km is achieved.

*NB: The declaration of National Highways is considered based on the requirements of the country as a whole and not particularly with respect to any local requirement.

LPG Connections Sanctioned by Former Minister

2983. SHRI ASHOK KUMAR SINGH CHANDEL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the former Minister sanctioned about two and half lakhs LPG connections in his constituency;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have taken any policy decision to allot such a large number of LPG connections to other Ministers and all Members of Parliament; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) to (d) Information is being collected.

Filling up of Vacant Posts

2984. SHRI CHANDRA VIJAY SINGH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether posts of Class-I officer are lying vacant in DASS cadre in Delhi;

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

(c) whether the Government propose to fill these posts in the near future in order to safeguard the interest of the employees at large; and

(d) if so, the action proposed to be taken by the Government to fill up these posts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO): (a) to (d) There are at present 244 vacancies in Grade-I of DASS Cadre under the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi, which are in the final stage of being filled up.

International Seminar in New Delhi

2985. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether two day International Seminar on National Highways Rehabilitation and Maintenance are organised jointly by the Indian Road Congress and the International Road Federation in collaboration with his Ministry and other Central & State Government Departments and leading public and private organisations;

(b) if so, the main decisions arrived thereat; and

(c) the steps being considered to implement the suggestions made by the participants in the Seminar?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Main recommendations of the Seminar are:

(i) Maintenance should be given priority in allocation of funds.

(ii) There is a need to shift to equipment oriented method for maintenance of roads.

(iii) New materials should be used for improving the performance of the road.

- (iv) Maintenance by contracts for main roads need to be encouraged.
- (v) Easily implementable system for maintenance management should be introduced.

(c) Indian Road Congress's recommendations are considered by the Government in deciding on policy changes, updating of specifications and codes of practice.

[Translation]

Shifting of G.M. (Central) MTNL Office

2986. DR. BALIRAM: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the present office of General Manager (Central) of Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited at Khurshid Lal Bhawan is proposed to be shifted to the C.G.O. Complex;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to reconsider the said proposal keeping in view the difficulties of the subscribers;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Entire unit of GM (Central) will go to CGO Complex except following offices:

1. DGM (Mtce.) Central.
2. CAO & AO TRs for Kidwai Bhawan, Janpath, Rajpath and Sena Bhawan Exchanges.
3. AGM (Coml.) (C) and Commercial Officers for the exchanges Kidwai Bhawan, Janpath, Rajpath and Sena Bhawan.
4. TELEMART of Central area.
5. Telephone billing payment centre including the counters for issue of duplicate bills.

(c) to (e) There is no need to reconsider the shifting of office of GM (Central) as the subscribers will not face inconvenience as the Commercial and Accounts Sections

dealing with the subscribers of above exchanges are not being shifted.

[English]

Termination of Nomination of Anglo-Indian Members

2987. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Law Commission has recommended for termination of the nomination of Anglo Indian members;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Government has not yet finally formed its conclusion on this issue. The issue being sensitive will require detailed deliberations/consultations. No time-frame in this respect can be predicted.

Pilferage of Kerosene at Depots/PDS Outlets

2988. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that about 2.5 lakh tonne of kerosene is usurped between the oil company depots and PDS outlets every month; and

(b) if so, the measures taken by the Government to check the pilferage and black marketing of kerosene?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) and (b) Kerosene is an allocated product. The distribution of kerosene within the State and its monitoring is undertaken by the concerned State Government. The kerosene is uplifted by the wholeseller under the direction of State Food And Civil Supplies Department from the oil companies depots. The wholeseller release kerosene to the retailers licenced by the State Civil Supplies Department.

To prevent diversion of PDS kerosene, the following measures are adopted:—

- (1) Regular/surprise checks are conducted by Oil Industry and also State Government authorities.

- (2) Blue dye is added to PDS kerosene to prevent diversion.
- (3) PDS kerosene is also doped with furfural to detect adulteration in MS/HSD with kerosene.
- (4) Sealing of tank trucks while transferring stocks from supply point to other.
- (5) Delivered supplies at selected locations with tank lorries, duly sealed.
- (6) Special drives are also launched from time to time to check diversion of PDS Kerosene.

In case of detection of any malpractice/irregularity, action is taken by oil companies in line with Dealership Agreement.

Use of Ethanol

2989. SHRI ANNASHEB M.K. PATIL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be stated to state:

- (a) whether the Government propose to make use of Ethanol derived in Sugar factory as Fuel;
- (b) if so, the steps taken in this regard so far; and
- (c) if not, the plan of the Government in regard to consideration of such activities in the future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) to (c) An inter-Ministerial Committee constituted by the Ministry of Food in August, 1996 to examine the possibilities of blending Ethanol with motor fuel/diesel concluded that such blending was technically feasible and could be commercially viable. On further examination of the issue by the Oil Coordination Committee (OCC) of the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas on behalf of the Oil Industry in May, 1997 it was felt that although it was technically feasible to undertake the blending, however in view of substantial capital expenditure requirement, a categorical assurance from Ethanol suppliers for a guaranteed supply on a long term basis should be obtained at a price equivalent to the refinery Motor Spirit price. Since such an assurance was not forthcoming, the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas took the view that it was not possible to pursue the idea of blending ethanol with petrol. However, the Ministry constituted yet another Oil Industry Committee in January, 1998 under OCC to examine the issue in its entirety. The Committee which has been constrained by such factors as non-availability of data on region-wise/State-

wise supply-demand of anhydrous alcohol, appropriate pricing of the product *vis-a-vis* gasoline and erratic supply of the product, is yet to finalize its report.

[*Translation*]

Visit of Pope John Paul-II

2990. SHRI RAM NAGINA MISHRA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Pope John Paul-II who visited India had been honoured at the National level; and
- (b) if so, the details of the talks held with him as Head of the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) Yes, Sir. His Holiness Pope John Paul-II, was accorded all honours and courtesies as Head of State of the Vatican during his visit to India from 5 to 7 November 99.

(b) Pople John Paul-II had expressed appreciation for India's secularism and religious freedom and also for the respect that Indian culture has for all religions. Discussions also covered the evolution of Christianity in India, Mother Teresa and prospects for world peace in the coming millenium.

Misuse of the Anticipatory Bail Provision

2991. SHRI MANSINH PATEL: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the provision of anticipatory bail under the Criminal Procedure Code is being misused by the criminals; and
- (b) if so, the action proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) and (b) In the case of Balchand Jain Vs. State of M.P. AIR 1977 SC 366, the Supreme Court of India has laid down that the power under section 438 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 is of an extraordinary character and must be exercised sparingly and in exceptional cases only. However, this matter falls exclusively within the preview of the judiciary.

[English]

Correspondence In Regional Languages

2992. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any survey has been done to ascertain implementation of the Government's decision directing the Central Government Regional Offices to make correspondence with the public in the Regional languages and use all the forms and departmental literature, for the use of local people also in the regional languages;

(b) if so, whether the Union Government offices in general and in Maharashtra particular have satisfactorily implemented the same; and

(c) if not, the course of action contemplated by the Government for effective implementation of their decisions in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) No Sir. No such survey has been conducted.

(b) As per the O.M. dated 25.3.1968, issued in continuation of notification dated 27.4.1960, forms and Departmental literature etc. to be used by public should be made available in Hindi, English and regional languages in large number. Generally these are being implemented satisfactorily in the Central Government Offices and in Maharashtra too. However the Government has not accepted in the said order or subsequent orders any such provision that Central Government Offices/Organisations will correspond with the local people in the regional language.

(c) Implementation of Official Language Policy is done through the spirit of restraint, patience and cooperation. However, Heads of all the Departments have been made responsible for its effective implementation. To keep a watch on the implementation of Official Language Act, Rules and Orders, inspection of various offices etc. are conducted from time to time.

Bomb Blasts in Running Trains and Railway Stations

2993. SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways are unable to prevent bomb blasts in the running trains and on Railway Stations;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the number of bomb blasts that took place in the running trains and Railway Stations during 1998-99 and till date; and

(d) the remedial steps proposed to be taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a), (b) and (d) The registration, investigation, detection and prevention of crimes in the trains is the responsibility of the Government Railway Police, which functions under the control of the respective State Governments/UT Administrations. It is, therefore, essentially for them to take such measures as are necessary to curb crime on railways and prevent incidents of sabotage. The Railway administration, on its part, maintains close and constant co-ordination with the State Governments concerned and renders necessary assistance to them to contain crime on Railways.

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

World Bank Assistance in Karnataka

2994. SHRI H.G. RAMULU:
SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Karnataka Government has sought the World Bank assistance for the development of National and State Highways in the State;

(b) if so, the National and State Highways proposed to be developed with this assistance; and

(c) the action being taken by the Government in this regard, if any?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) to (c) State Government of Karnataka have proposed improvement of NH-63 between Hubli and Joladarsi for World Bank funding. The project is not included among the projects posed for World Bank financing. As regards State Highways, US\$ 2.9 million have been provided by the World Bank for preparation of Karnataka State Highways projects under the States Road Infrastructure Technical Assistance Projects. There is no commitment, however, by the Bank for funding of the project as and when the project is prepared.

Allocation of Naphtha to Maharashtra

2995. SHRI CHINTAMAN WANGA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government propose to allocate liquid fuel (Naphtha) to the Maharashtra State;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have received any proposal to provide Naphtha to BSES company at Dahenu from Maharashtra Government; and

(d) if so, 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 E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) and (b) As per the Liquid Fuel Policy, Naphtha is allocated to the Independent Power Producers (IPPs) within overall ceiling of power generation capacity of 12000 MWs distributed among various States. Out of this total allocation, 950 MW capacity has been allocated to the State of Maharashtra and the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas has already allocated 936.80 TMTPA of naphtha for generation of 750.20 MW through IPPs.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Telephone under MARR System

2996. SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK:
SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Multi Access Rural Radio System telephones installed by DoT so far, State-wise;

(b) the amount incurred thereon during the last three years;

(c) the targets set up for the installation of M.A.R.R. system in the rural areas of the country for 1999-2000, State-wise; and

(d) the manner in which the targets in this regard are likely to be achieved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) Upto 30.11.1999 for which data has been compiled, 203441 Multi Access Rural Radio telephones have been installed in the Country. The state-wise details are given in the enclosed *Statement*.

(b) Rs. 1259.90 crores have been incurred during the last three years for installation of VPTs on MARR.

(c) and (d) No specific targets have been fixed for MARR for 1999-2000. Only the equipment available in the field is being utilised.

Statement**Village Public Telephones on MAAR**

Sl. No.	Circles	VPTs provided on MARR as on 1.12.99
1	2	3
1.	Andaman & Nicobar	132
2.	Andhra Pradesh	12384
3.	Assam	9061
4.	Bihar	12264
5.	Gujarat	7413
6.	Haryana	3634
7.	Himachal Pradesh	2723
8.	Jammu & Kashmir	2395
9.	Karnataka	14294
10.	Kerala	32
11.	Madhya Pradesh	24138
12.	Maharashtra	18692
13.	North-East	3446

1	2	3
14.	Orissa	11439
15.	Punjab	6195
16.	Rajasthan	17703
17.	Tamil Nadu	7224
18.	Uttar Pradesh	38611
19.	West Bengal	11661
Total		203441

Building of 35T SRP Tugs

2997. SHRI GEORGE EDEN: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Cochin Shipyard has an agreement with Kandla Port Trust for building 35T SRP Tugs;

(b) if so, the cost involved in building the same;

(c) whether the same type of 35T VHP Tugs had been build at the less price;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether it is going to cause any financial losses to the Cochin Shipyard; and

(f) if so, the factors responsible for these losses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN):

(a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Cochin Shipyard Limited has an agreement to construct 5 Nos. 35T Boffard Pull SRP Tugs for Kandla Port Trust at a cost of Rs. 51.05 crores + Sales Tax & Exchange rate Variation.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

Implementation of Decisions of Company Law Board

2998. SHRIMATI KAILASHO DEVI: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the decisions of the Company Law Board are not being carried out in right earnest by the non-Banking Financial Companies;

(b) if so, the names of such companies who have failed to abide by the verdict of Company Law Board during the last three years alongwith the action proposed to be taken against each of them; and

(c) the steps taken to ensure compliance by such companies?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI): (a) to (c) The affairs of the Non-banking Financial Companies (NBFCs) are regulated by Reserve Bank of India. The Company Law Board has been given power to pass orders, under Section 45QA of the Reserve Bank of India Act, where there is default by the NBFCs in repayment of deposits. In case of non-compliance of CLB orders, the RBI has been authorised to take penal action against NBFCs under section 58E of the RBI Act.

The information about NBFCs which have failed to abide by the verdict of Company Law Board and steps taken to ensure compliance of such orders by companies is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Telephone Facility

2999. SHRI R.L. JALAPPA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of villages in the Chikkaballapur region having no telephone facilities; and

(b) the number of villages proposed to be provided with the said facilities during 1999-2000 in the region, location-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) 38 village in Chikkaballapur region do not have telephone facilities at present.

(b) During 1999-2000 telecom facilities are proposed to be provided in the following 25 villages in the Chikkaballapur subject to timely finalisation of operators/

Locations by the respective panchayats and completion of formalities by the selected operators.

1. Thimahally
2. Gontigenahally
3. Ankanagondi
4. Thondramakalahally
5. Ethamakalahalli
6. Anemadagu
7. Thammanahakanahally
8. Sonnapura
9. Balajigapade
10. Ballagere
11. Billappanagenhally
12. Roorpralahalli
13. Doddanacherlu
14. D. Kurubanahalli
15. Nallaguttaralya
16. Marvehalli
17. Amaidodda
18. Manalikere
19. Cheemanahalli
20. Suddahalli
21. Gollavanhally
22. Sadashivanahalli
23. Somalapura
24. Gautiganehudya
25. Singna Dinne.

Population of One Horn Rhino

3000. SHRI V.P. SINGH BADNORE: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the total population of the One Horn Indian Rhinoceros in the country;

(b) the details thereof for the last three census, State-wise and sanctuary-wise;

(c) the main sources of Horn Rhinoceros and the manner in which the Government propose to tackle these threats;

(d) whether the Government propose to start any special programme for saving the one Horn Rhinoceros and its habitat; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) A total population of one Horn Indian Rhinoceros in the country is 1817.

(b) The details of the population of Rhinoceros in the country State-wise for last 3 census are as follows:

	1993	1995	1998/99
ASSAM:			
1. Kaziranga	1164	1250	1552
2. Manas	80	80	12
3. Pobitora	56	60	74
4. Orang	97	100	46
5. Laokhowa	3	—	—
6. Other Pockets	40	40	—
WEST BENGAL:			
1. Jaldapara	33	38	74
2. Gorumara	14	17	46
UTTAR PRADESH:			
1. Dudhwa	11	13	13
	1509	1598	1817

(c) One Horn Indian Rhinoceros is mainly found in Assam. Main threat for the one Horn Rhino is illegal poaching for its horn.

Steps taken by the Government to protect Rhinoceros are—

1. A network of 6 Wildlife Sanctuaries and 3 National Parks has been set up in Assam for the conservation of the Rhinoceros.
2. Rhino has been placed in Schedule-1 of Wildlife Protection Act, 1972 and the trade of Rhino horn and its products is also banned.
3. The anti-poaching infrastructure in various National Parks and Sanctuaries has been strengthened and properly equipped through financial assistance provided by the Central Government.
4. Cooperation of police, BSF, Army and DRI is also taking as and when required in apprehending the poachers and illegal traders.
5. India is a party to CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wildlife Fauna and Flora) which bans international trade in the specie, its products and derivatives.

(d) and (e) A Centrally Sponsored Scheme called 'Conservation of Rhinoceros in Assam' was implemented in 7th Plan. In 8th Plan during 1990-91 and 1991-92 an assistance of Rs. 2.67 crores was provided to the State of Assam. However, in 1992-93, the scheme was transferred to the State Government as per the decision of National Development Council.

Grievances of Retired Para-Military Personnel

3001. SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any representation from the All India Ex-Para Military Personnel Association;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the action proposed to be taken thereon;

(d) whether presently the retired personnel of the Central Police Organisations are not getting any medical facilities;

(e) if so, whether the Government propose to provide medical facilities to such personnel; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Demands of the Association mainly relate to creation of Resettlement and Welfare Dte. in MHA; medical facilities, rehabilitation and resettlement of the retirees education facilities for their wards, enhancement of gallantry allowance, Ex-servicemen's status, special treatment in the matter of sales of confiscated Arms and condemned Government vehicles etc. The demands of the Association have been considered and action to provide relief to the extent possible has been taken.

(d) to (f) Retired personnel of Central Police Organisations residing in CGHS covered areas are entitled to CGHS facilities like other Central Government retirees. In addition, they have the option to avail medical facilities of CPMF Hospitals in non-CGHS areas.

[Translation]

Outstanding Dues of SEBs against Public Undertakings

3002. SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM:
SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of the State Electricity Boards outstanding against the public undertakings and the Central Government offices; and

(b) the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Union and State Government to ensure the recovery of outstanding amount?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) The Union Ministry of Power does not maintain the dues of the State Electricity Boards against the Public Undertakings and the offices of the Central Government in various States. However, based on the information available with this Ministry, a statement indicating the outstanding dues of some of the State Electricity Boards against Public Undertakings and the offices of the Central Government is enclosed.

(b) The State Electricity Boards are under the administrative control of the respective State Governments. As such, it is the responsibility of the State Governments/SEBs to work out any plan/strategy for recovery of their outstanding dues. However, the action taken/proposed to

be taken by the State Governments/SEBs for recovery of their outstanding dues include:—

- (i) Issue notices from time to time to defaulting consumers for recovery of the arrears followed by disconnection in the event of non-payment.

(ii) Personal follow-up and correspondence notices etc. Personal of civil suits.

(iii) Filing of civil suits.

(iv) Setting up of Bijlee Adalats for settlement of disputes.

Statement

Statement of SEB-wise outstandings against CPSUs and Central Government Offices.

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sr. No.	Name of the SEB	Amount Outstanding	Outstanding as on
1.	ASEB	942.00	31.3.98
2.	APSEB	5050.14	30.11.98
3.	BSEB	24553.00	25.2.99
4.	GEB	936.83	16.12.98
5.	HSEB	95.00	15.4.99
6.	MPEB	162909.00	31.8.98
7.	TNEB	124.16	30.9.98
8.	PSEB	356.04	28.2.99
9.	UPSEB	14681.00	31.3.99
10.	KEB	48900.00	31.12.98
11.	KSEB	53.58	22.10.99
12.	MSEB	7075.00	31.3.99
13.	RSEB	914.67	31.7.99
14.	DVB	10563.00	15.2.99
15.	WBSEB	728.25	31.3.99
16.	GRIDCO	6804.00	31.12.98

Source : CEA.

Water Testing Laboratory

3003. SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal is under consideration of the Union Government to set up a water testing laboratory in each district of Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government have also received proposals from some other States during last three years for setting up such laboratories in each district;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) to (e) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

Misappropriation of Funds

3004. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the officials of Tihar Jail have misappropriated crores of rupees working on the fake projects;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action being taken against them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Concept of Village Electrification

3005. SHRI DINSHA PATEL:
SHRI P.S. GADHAVI:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have recently changed the concept of village electrification;

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

(c) if so, whether the new concept would help the Government to cover more villages for electrification; and

(d) if so, the extent to which it would help in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government have recently changed the concept of village electrification. Earlier concept of village electrification was that—

“a village should be classified as electrified if electricity is being used within its revenue area for any purpose whatsoever”.

This definition was made at a time when level of electrification in the country was very low and the aim was to extend the electrical infrastructure to the village level. Consultative Committee as well Committee on Public Undertaking in their meeting, held in 1995 felt that the earlier concept of village electrification is limiting and inadequate in its spread and considered it necessary to have a re-look at the earlier definition so as to bring at least the inhabited areas of villages into its fold. The issue was examined in consultation with the Central Electricity Authority and the State Electricity Boards and it was decided that the concept be redefined as follows:—

“A village will be deemed to be electrified if electricity is used in the inhabited locality, within the revenue boundary of the village, for any purpose whatsoever”.

(c) and (d) Under the new concept of village electrification, electrical network will be closer to the consumers. This will further facilitate the availability of electricity supply to households in rural areas.

[Translation]

Pollution

3006. SHRI RAMPAL SINGH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have asked the State Governments and the local bodies to work jointly for solving the problems of pollution;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the State Governments and the local bodies thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Union Government has stipulated implementation of time bound programmes entailing coordinated inter-departmental strategies in which State Governments and local bodies are involved.

(c) The reaction of the State Governments and the local bodies is positive for solving the pollution problems.

Power Supply to M.P. from Rajasthan Power Project

3007. SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state the share of power supplied to Madhya Pradesh from Rajasthan Power Project and the share of power being supplied to Rajasthan from Madhya Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): The States of Rajasthan and Madya Pradesh have the following joint venture Power generating projects and the share of power of MPEB and RSEB in these projects is as follows:

Name of Power Project & Installed Capacity	Controlled by	MPEB's Share	RSEB's Share
Ranapratap Sagar (H) (172 MW)	RSEB	50%	50%
Jawahar Sagar (H) (99 MW)	RSEB	50%	50%
Gandhi Sagar (H) (115 MW)	MPEB	50%	50%
Satpura Thermal (312.5 MW) PH-I (5x62.5 MW Units)	MPEB	60%	40%

[English]

Hinduja National Power Corporation

3008. DR. MANDA JAGANNATH: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the progress of work of Hinduja National Power Corporation Ltd. being set up at Visakhapatnam; and

(b) the original estimate of the power project in 1990 and the present enhanced value thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) and (b) The 1040 MW Visakhapatnam Thermal Power Project in Andhra Pradesh being promoted by M/s Hinduja National Power Corporation Limited (HNPC) has been accorded techno-economic clearance of Central Electricity Authority (CEA) on July 25, 1996 at an estimated completed cost of US\$ 943.75 million + Rs. 1324.993 crores. Project was accorded Counter Guarantee by Government of India

on 14.8.1998. The Company is in the final stages of concluding the financing arrangements from Indian Financial Institutions/Banks and off-shore funding agencies. The company has invested in purchase of land and the Engineering, Procurement and Construction (EPC) Contractor has mobilised resources and completed the ground preparation work to facilitate construction to commence immediately on financial closure. The Company has submitted a firm financial package to Government of Andhra Pradesh and APTRANSCO with cost escalation due to variation in foreign-exchange rate, customs duty, value of land, increase in the non-turn-key works, overheads and financial charges. The firm financial package submitted by the promoters will be examined by the Government of Andhra Pradesh/APTRANSCO and the same will be forwarded to CEA with their recommendations for approval by CEA. The above project, which was originally envisaged as a State sector project with a capacity of 1000 MW, was accorded techno-economic clearance of CEA on October 23, 1990 at an estimated cost of Rs. 1560.28 crores.

National Highways Development Project**Statement**

3009. SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI:
SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR:

*State-wise Length of National Highway
Development Project*

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether National Highways Authority of India has decided to go ahead with the Rs. 50,000 crore, National Highway Development Project involving four-laning of 1300 Km of the Highway connecting four metropolitan cities and traversing through almost all the States;

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

(c) the salient features and the estimated cost thereof;

(d) the sources from which the funds would be mobilised for the execution of this project;

(e) physical and financial progress made in this regard so far; and

(f) the date in which this project is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN):

(a) Yes, Sir. However the total length involved is about 13000 Kms.

(b) A list is enclosed as Statement.

(c) The National Highways Development Project (NHDP) comprises of upgradation of national highways to 4/6 lanes along the alignment of Golden Quadrilateral connecting four metropolitan cities, North-South and East-West Corridors and Salem-Cochin road. The project is estimated to cost Rs. 54,000 crores (at current prices).

(d) Following sources will be mobilised for the implementation of this project:

(i) Budgetary grants

(ii) External aid

(iii) Private sector participation

(iv) Market borrowings.

(e) A total length of 1,848 Kms. has already been four laned/under implementation.

(f) The project is targeted for completion by March, 2009.

Sl. No.	Name of State/UT	Length (In Km.)
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1753
2.	Assam	677
3.	Bihar	910
4.	Chandigarh	—
5.	Delhi	47
6.	Goa	—
7.	Gujarat	1116
8.	Haryana	355
9.	Himachal Pradesh	14
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	386
11.	Karnataka	717
12.	Kerala	168
13.	Madhya Pradesh	667
14.	Maharashtra	752
15.	Manipur	—
16.	Meghalaya	—
17.	Mizoram	—
18.	Nagaland	—

1	2	3
19.	Orissa	442
20.	Pondicherry	—
21.	Punjab	268
22.	Rajasthan	1265
23.	Tamil Nadu	1089
24.	Uttar Pradesh	1499
25.	West Bengal	802
Total		12927

Regeneration of Degraded Forests

3010. SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of States in which the scheme "association of scheduled tribe and rural poor in regeneration of degraded forests on usufruct sharing basis" is being implemented;

(b) the total number of tribals provided employment in the last three years under the scheme, State-wise; and

(c) the number of tribals likely to be employed under this scheme during the Ninth Plan Period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) to (c) The centrally sponsored scheme "Association of Scheduled Tribes and Rural Poor in Regeneration of Degraded Forests on Usufruct Sharing Basis" is being implemented in 14 States in the country. The scheme is labour intensive and is likely to provide approximately 22.30 lakh mandays of employment to the Tribals and other rural poor during the Ninth Plan. State-wise employment generated during the last three years is given in the statement enclosed.

Statement

Employment Generated in Mandays

S.No.	State	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	18769	—	9828
2.	Bihar	55200	51135	49290
3.	Gujarat	14644	—	21060
4.	J&K*	—	—	18240
5.	Karnataka	21394	8550	28080
6.	Madhya Pradesh	134700	71100	72015
7.	Maharashtra	84975	—	7500

1	2	3	4	5
8.	Manipur*	—	—	14040
9.	Mizoram*	—	—	9828
10.	Nagaland*	—	—	9000
11.	Rajasthan	2625	—	23865
12.	Tripura*	—	—	6375
13.	West Bengal*	—	—	21000
14.	Orissa	17753	73693	46726

* Project under the scheme started in Ninth Plan.

Power Project in Kerala

3011. SHRI K. KARUNAKARAN: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Kerala Government has submitted any proposal to set up Power Project in Kerala;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) when the National Thermal Power Corporation Project at Kayamkulam, Kerala would be generating the full capacity of Power; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) and (b) (i) A list of power projects in State/Central Sector and Private Sector received in Central Electricity Authority (CEA) from the State of Kerala are given below:

Name of Scheme	Date of receipt
A. CEA CLEARED/APPRaised	
1. Adirapally HEP — KEB (H) (2x80 MW)	4/94
2. Vypeen CCGT (LNG) (679.2 MW) (M/s Siasin Energy Ltd.)	2/97
B. DPR UNDER EXAMINATION	
1. Kozhikode Heavy Fuel Diesel Power	7/99
2. CCPP at Kannur (513 MW) M/s Kannur Power Project Pvt. Ltd. (KPPCL).	2/98

C. Schemes not being pursued in CEA for want of inputs

1. Kerala Bhavani HEP	150	169.0
2. Trikaripur (T)	420	601.0
3. Pendiari Punnapuzha (H)	70	122.0
4. Kajahikode DGPP (T)	109.91	415.88
5. Kasargod CCGT	516	1483.4
6. Palakkad CCGT (LNG)	330	1165.95
7. Kasargod CCGT (T)	468.77	1333.381
8. Kasargod DGPP (T)	63.534	225.99
9. Kasargod CCGT (T)	459	1398.43

(ii) The details of other liquid fuel projects under examination at the Centre are as under:—

1. Edarikode in Malappuram Dist., (5 MW)	3.12.98	The request for allocation of diesel for this project is under consideration.
2. BSES Cochin Project- Enhancement of Naphtha linkage	12.5.97	Request of the project for enhancement the Naphtha linkage for third unit.

Apart from the above projects, Naphtha linkage has also been given to a 107 MW project viz. LOK EDL. This project does not require the Techno-economic Clearance of Central Electricity Authority.

(c) and (d) GT-1 & GT-2 both of capacity of 115.3 MW each of Kayamkulam Combined Cycle Power Project of NTPC were synchronised with Naphtha in 12/98 and 3/99 respectively. Steam Turbine (119.4 MW) is expected to be commissioned in December, 1999/January, 2000.

The actual power generation against the target for the Kayamkulam project at NTPC during the period April, 1999 - November, 1999 are given as under:—

	Generation (MU)	
	Target	Actual
Kayamkulam GT (230.6 MW)	937	687

The generation of power, is however, as per requirement of Kerala State Electricity Board.

Decline in Profit of MTNL

3012. DR. S. JAGATHRAKSHAKAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether profit has come down in MTNL in the 2nd quarter of the current fiscal year because of the reduced domestic long distance tariffs;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard;

(c) whether the MTNL has sought the subsidiary to provide better internet service; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Based on the provisional results, the profits of 2nd quarter of current year have fallen to Rs. 323 Crores as against the second quarter of the last year, which was Rs. 375 crores. Apart from intensive marketing, several new services like Internet, ISDN, VCC etc. have been introduced in MTNL. Some more services are proposed to be introduced.

(c) and (d) MTNL is planning to set up a subsidiary company to provide all value added services including the Internet services. The proposed company will plan, establish, develop, market, provide and maintain all type of value added services in the field of Telecommunications including internet.

[Translation]

Committee on Problem of Telecom Sector

3013. DR. ASHOK PATEL:
DR. BALIRAM:
SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have set up a committee to sort out the problems relating to the Telecom sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the committee is likely to submit its recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) to (c) Keeping in view the need for urgent resolution of problems in the telecom sector and to expeditiously implement the New Telecom Policy 1999 while taking into account the increasing convergence between telecom and IT, Government has constituted on 13.12.99 a Group on 'Telecom and IT Convergence' under the Chairmanship of Minister of Finance, with the following terms of reference:

- (1) To consider and make recommendations to strengthen the TRAI through suitable legislative amendments;
- (2) To identify and recommend measures for resolution of subsisting problems in the telecom sector with a view to ensuring expeditious implementation of the New Telecom Policy 1999;

- (3) To prepare the draft of a new comprehensive statute to replace the Indian Telegraph Act, 1885, keeping in view the rapid convergence of telecom, computers, television and electronics;
- (4) To lay down a clear road-map for corporatisation of the Department of Telecom Services;
- (5) To resolve subsisting problems in the implementation of the ISP Policy with a view to achieve rapid spread of the Internet in India, specially through liberalisation of the Gateway Policy;
- (6) To recommend measures for the rapid spread of E-Commerce.

The Group shall submit an interim report to the Government by 31.1.2000 on the issue of strengthening the TRAI through suitable legislative amendments and for the resolution of important subsisting problems in the telecom sector. The Group shall submit its final report before 31.3.2000.

[English]

Waiting List for Telephone Connections in Kerala

3014. SHRI T. GOVINDAN:
SHRI K. MURALEEDHARAN:
SHRI GEORGE EDEN:
SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of applications on the waiting list for telephone connections in Kerala at present, district-wise;

(b) the number of telephone connection allotted during the last three years, district-wise;

(c) the reasons for not releasing the new telephone connections in the State;

(d) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to clear the waiting list in the State;

(e) whether all the telephone exchanges in Kerala have been converted from Manual to electronic ones; and

(f) If so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) The details of waiting list district-wise, as on 31.10.99 are as per enclosed Statement-I.

(b) The details of number of telephone connections allotted during last three years are as per enclosed Statement-II.

(c) The telephone connections are regularly being released. During 1996-97, 1997-98, 1998-99 and upto 31.10.99 of 1999-2000 the following number of telephone connections were released. Regular efforts are being made to increase the provision of new telephone connections to clear the waiting list.

Year	number of Telephone connections released
1996-97	1.72 lakh
1997-98	2.30 lakh
1998-99	2.71 lakh
1999-2000 (upto 31.10.99)	1.06 lakh

(d) For clearing the waiting list, 4 lakh new telephone connections are planned during 1999-2000 and efforts are being made for provision of more and more telephone connections every year in future.

(e) and (f) All the electromechanical exchanges are converted into electronic exchanges except Trivandrum-Kathamukku exchange and the same is proposed to be converted into electronic exchange before 31.12.99.

Statement I

The number of applications on the waiting list for telephone connections in Kerala as on October, 1999, district-wise

Sl. No.	Name of District	Waiting list as on 31.10.99
1	2	3
1.	Alleppey	45945
2.	Calicut	62007
3.	Cannanore	61642
4.	Emakulam	54811
5.	Idukki	26521
6.	Kasaragod	32041
7.	Kottayam	39725
8.	Malappuram	78624
9.	Palghat	42685
10.	Pathanamthitta	31542
11.	Quilon	57760
12.	Trichur	70577
13.	Trivandrum	52033
14.	Wynad	17745
Total for Kerala State		673658
15.	Mahe (Pondicherry UT)	1588
16.	Lakshadweep (UT)	55
Total for Kerala Circle		675301

Statement II*The number of telephone connections allotted during the last three years, district-wise*

Sl. No.	Name of District	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99
1.	Alleppey	13618	15662	20018
2.	Calicut	14792	14314	18324
3.	Cannanore	10388	16691	15548
4.	Ernakulam	28698	32010	37392
5.	Idukki	3873	4860	6226
6.	Kasaragod	3550	7296	9366
7.	Kottayam	13084	17012	23513
8.	Malappuram	9257	15384	12253
9.	Palghat	7801	11001	13217
10.	Pathanamthitta	11000	15511	21174
11.	Quilon	13086	14617	19287
12.	Trichur	21373	30875	31128
13.	Trivandrum	19521	30135	36163
14.	Wynad	2030	3189	3601
Total for Kerala State		172071	228357	267210
15.	Mahe (Pondicherry UT)	77	333	2331
16.	Lakshadweep (UT)	627	1320	1524
Total for Kerala Circle		172775	230010	271065

Fencing of Indo-Pak Border

3015. SHRI G.J. JAVIYA:
SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA:
SHRI CHINMAYANAND SWAMI:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to fence the entire Indo-Pak border;

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

(c) the present status of fencing work along the borders in Rajasthan, West Bengal and Gujarat?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO): (a) to (c) Indo-Pak border in Punjab and Rajasthan has been fenced with security fencing augmented with flood lights except in small stretches of riverine/non-feasible areas where improvised fencing have been erected.

Construction of security fencing on raised embankments on Indo-Pak border in Gujarat (Rann area) has also started in Luni River adjacent to Rajasthan Basin area.

Erection of an obstacle system along the Jammu International Border has been planned.

Fencing of 507 Kms on Indo-Bangladesh border in West Bengal has been approved, out of which 482 Kms have been completed under Phase-I.

Proposal for Vadinar Port

3016. SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Gujarat has sent any proposal to the Union Government for separating Vadinar Port from Kandla Port Trust and handing over the same to them;

(b) if so, the action has been taken by the Government in this regard;

(c) whether the Kandla Port Trust has illegally given some portion of Vadinar Port Land to the Essar Group;

(d) if so, whether the Government have conducted any high level enquiry in this regard; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN):
(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The request was not considered as Vadinar has been an integral part of the Major Port of Kandla.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

Waiting List for Telephone Connections

3017. SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons on the waiting list for telephone connections in Orissa as on October 31, 1999, district-wise;

(b) the number of telephone connections allotted during the last three years, district-wise;

(c) whether Government propose to take any action to clear the backlog; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) The number of persons on the waiting list for telephone connections in Orissa as on 31.10.99 was 22282. District-wise waiting list of telephone connections in Orissa as on 31.10.99 is as per enclosed Statement.

(b) The number of telephone connections provided in the State during the last three years is as under:

1996-97	32505
1997-98	67178
1998-99	68175

District-wise telephone connections provided in the State during the last three years is as per Annexure.

(c) and (d) Out of a target of providing 87000 new telephone connections during 1999-2000, already 31434 new telephone connections have been provided upto 30.11.99. It is expected that another about 55500 new telephone connections will be provided during the period Dec., 1999 to March, 2000. The above waiting list is likely to be cleared by March, 2000.

Statement

Sl. No.	Name of the Revenue Dist.	DEs added during 96-97	DEs added during 97-98	DEs added during 98-99	Total W/L as on 31.10.99
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Angul	1378	2117	3053	299
2.	Balasore	1442	2324	3653	1281
3.	Bargarh	963	1574	1165	257
4.	Bhadrak	962	1550	1874	565
5.	Bolangir	1659	1855	1126	335
6.	Boudh	125	186	369	143
7.	Cuttack	2670	5395	7112	2989
8.	Deogarh	108	206	464	65
9.	Dhenkanal	654	2106	1742	628
10.	Gajapati	203	480	450	256
11.	Ganjam	3293	7863	4788	1110
12.	Jagatsinghpur	642	1710	1478	1525
13.	Jaipur	763	1740	1343	1086
14.	Jharsuguda	558	1682	1805	258
15.	Kalahandi	469	1396	704	269

1	2	3	4	5	6
16.	Kandhamal	282	734	380	322
17.	Kendrapara	615	1289	1377	1106
18.	Keonjhar	739	1266	1949	380
19.	Khurda	5454	13030	11348	3386
20.	Koraput	777	2165	2105	1232
21.	Malkangiri	150	282	370	66
22.	Mayurbhanj	1062	1781	1738	1381
23.	Nowrangpur	195	218	489	392
24.	Nayagarh	942	1335	1258	313
25.	Nuapada	165	234	206	99
26.	Puri	1270	1537	4519	602
27.	Rayagada	174	682	1739	499
28.	Sambalpur	1518	3388	3331	408
29.	Scnepur	310	929	384	119
30.	Sundargarh	2963	6166	5800	861
Total		32505	67178	68175	22232

Oil Exploration

3018. SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the oil exploration has considerably slowed down in the country for about the past one decade;

(b) if so, the facts in this regard and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the present production and demand of petroleum products in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The production and consumption of petroleum products in the country during the year 1999-2000 (April-September) has been as under:—

(‘000’ Tonnes)

Production	—	36490* ●
Consumption	—	44477 ● ●

: Provisional.

● : Includes LPG production from natural gas.

● ● : Excludes consumption through private imports.

Discrimination in Portage Charges

3019. SHRI C.N. SINGH: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian shipping companies are charging more portages than the foreign companies;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps being taken to remove the discrimination?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN):

(a) No, Sir. The cost of conveying goods between navigable ways is determined by the market forces.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Modernisation of Telegraph Services

3020. SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken any steps for the modernisation of telegraph services in West Bengal;

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

(c) whether any budget allocation has been made for this purpose in the current as well as the next financial year; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Telegraph network has been modernised by provision of terminals from Store and Forward Message Switching Systems/Electronic Key Board Concentrators and Formatted Terminal Concentrators. District-wise provision of modern telegraph equipment in Central Telegraph Offices, Telegraph Offices, Telecom Centres and Combined P&T Offices are given in enclosed Statement.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Budget allocation of Rs. 49 lakhs has been made for the current financial year.

Statement*Working on modernised systems*Under
Moder-
nisation

Name of District	Central Telegraph Office	Telecom Centres	Telegraph Offices	Combined Post & Telegraph Offices	Combined Post & Telegraph Offices
Bankura	—	1	1	8	11
Birbhum	—	—	2	9	1
Burdwan	—	2	4	29	4
Calcutta	1	—	14	13	12
Coochbehar	—	1	1	5	4
Darjeeling	1	2	1	12	6
Dinajpur (N)	—	—	1	—	2
Dinajpur (S)	—	—	1	—	2
Hooghly	—	3	2	2	10
Howrah	—	3	1	1	5
Jalpaiguri	—	—	1	—	4
Malda	—	—	1	8	2
Midnapore	—	1	3	3	20
Murshidebad	—	—	1	13	—
Nadia	—	—	2	—	6
Purulia	—	—	1	8	4
24 Pargana (N)	—	—	2	1	3
24 Pargana (S)	—	—	1	—	—

Petroleum Project in Bhatinda, Punjab

3021. SHRI SIMRANJIT SINGH MANN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the total investment plan for the proposed petro plant in Bhatinda District, Punjab for which the Prime Minister has laid the foundation stone; and

(b) the time by which the construction of the plant is likely to be completed and the plant would be operational?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) Approved estimated cost of grass-root refinery, alongwith associated facilities, at Bhatinda in Punjab is Rs. 9806 crores at June, 1998 prices.

(b) The project is expected to be completed within 48 months after firming up of the joint venture partner for the project, and receipt of environmental approval for Crude Oil Terminal and Crude Oil Pipeline.

Construction of N.H. Connecting Rangia to Murkong

3022. SHRI MADHAB RAJBANGSHI: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a proposal to construct a National Highway connecting Rangia (Assam) to Murkong Seleq of Arunachal Pradesh is under the consideration of the Government; and

(b) if so, the details of the survey work and budget estimates of the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN):

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Debarring Family Members of Dealers from Applying for Dealerships

3023. SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Oil companies are debarring the family members and relatives of their dealers to apply for new dealerships;

(b) if so, whether it is not violative of their Fundamental Rights;

(c) if so, whether the Government propose to change the rules etc. in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) and (b) As per the existing policy, no person shall be awarded a new dealership if he/she or any of his/her relatives as given below already holds a Letter of Intent or dealership of MS/HSD/LPG/SKO/LDO of any public sector Oil Company.

Other than PH	PH Category
(i) Spouse	(i) Spouse
(ii) Father/Mother (Not applicable for daughters)	(ii) Father/Mother (Not applicable for daughters)
(iii) Brother/Brother's wife (Not applicable for women applicants)	(iii) Son/Daughter-in-law
(iv) Son/Daughter-in-law.	

This may not be treated as violative of Fundamental Rights.

(c) There is no such proposal under the consideration of the Government.

(d) Does not arise.

Reconstruction of Bridge in Kerala

3024. SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the work of a bridge (Marthanada-Varma Bridge) at Aluva in Ernakulam in Kerala in National Highway-47 is going to be taken up;

(b) whether the bridge is so narrow that the traffic in the National Highway gets stuck for hours; and

(c) if so, the present stage of reconstruction of the bridge?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) There have been reports about traffic congestion at the existing Marthanada Varma Bridge on NH-47. A new bridge, parallel to the existing bridge has

been planned which is at the detailed design stage. An estimate amounting to Rs. 860 lakhs for construction of the new bridge has already been sanctioned.

Construction of Inter-State Roads by the North-Eastern Council

3025. SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria to select Inter-State roads for construction by the North-Eastern Council;

(b) whether there is any proposal to construct any road connecting the remotest parts of Assam and Arunachal Pradesh the Dighboi-Bordomssa Road; and

(c) if so, the date by which it is likely to be done?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) Inter-State roads are selected on the basis of proposal received from the State Governments. The proposals thus received are placed before the Council for recommendation to Planning Commission. The roads are finally approved by the Planning Commission for inclusion under NEC Plan.

(b) A proposal for constructing the Inter-state road viz. Digboi-Pangari-Bordumsa-Kharsang has been forwarded by both the States of Assam and Arunachal Pradesh for inclusion under 10th Plan of NEC.

(c) Work on the road can be started if the same is approved by the Planning Commission in the 10th Plan of NEC, which will commence in April, 2002.

Road Projects in Madhya Pradesh

3026. SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposals for the Road Projects of Madhya Pradesh Government are pending for the approval of the Government;

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government in this connection; and

(c) the time by which the said proposals are likely to be approved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The proposals are being examined and those proposals which are found to be in order, are targetted to be approved during current financial year.

Development Works in Telecom and Postal Sectors in Rajasthan

3027. COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of development works executed with regard to Telecommunication and Postal sectors in Rajasthan especially in Barmer, Jaisalmer, Jalore, Jodhpur and Bikaner districts during 1998-99 and the current financial year;

(b) the amount spent on these development works and the progress made during the said period so far;

(c) whether the present Telecom and Postal services provided in these areas are not satisfactory and adequate; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor and the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be placed on the table of the House.

Loan for Projects of NTPC

3028. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Thermal Power Corporation has recently borrowed an amount of Rs. 850 crore to support its on-going projects; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. National Thermal Power Corporation has tied up loans of Rs. 750 crore with State Bank of India and Rs. 100 crore with Housing Development Financial Corporation for its capacity addition programme. The interest rate of linked to State Bank Medium Term Lending Rate (SBMTLR) subject to change from time to time plus interest tax payable quarterly. Currently, SBMTLR is 12%. The repayment will take place in 14 half yearly equal or substantially equal instalments. There is a moratorium period of 36 months.

Training to Police Officials

3029. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY:
SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether due to the lethargy and negligence of the investigation officers, many of the accused are acquitted by the courts for want of sufficient proof in the criminal cases; and

(b) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken to impart proper training to the police officials in the area of investigation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) Several factors result in the acquittal of the accused in criminal cases including delays in trial, weakness of prosecution, prosecution witness becoming hostile, transfer of investigating officers etc.

(b) 'Police' being a State subject according to the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India, it is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments to provide adequate training to its police personnel to enable them to discharge their duties and responsibilities effectively. The Central Government has, however, set up three Central Detective Training Schools at Calcutta, Chandigarh and Hyderabad to conduct courses for training police personnel of the ranks of Assistant Sub-Inspector to Dy. Supdts. of the State Police in scientific investigation techniques.

Ahmadi Committee

3030. SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE:
SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ahmadi Committee had submitted its recommendations regarding the amendments to the Human Rights Act; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO): (a) and (b) The Government of India has not received any recommendation regarding amendments to the Protection of Human Rights Act, 1993, based on the report of the Ahmadi Committee, set up by the National Human Rights Commission.

LPG Agencies in Jalpaiguri, West Bengal

3031. SHRIMATI MINATI SEN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have received any proposal for new LPG dealership in Jalpaiguri district of West Bengal, during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details of the location identified for the approval of new LPG dealerships;

(c) whether Irregularities in distribution and malpractices by LPG dealers have been reported in the said district;

(d) if so, the steps being taken against such agencies; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) and (b) Requests are received from time to time for setting up LPG distributorships in different parts of the country including for Jalpaiguri District of West Bengal and the Oil Companies conduct feasibility surveys. Locations found viable are included in the Marketing Plan. Accordingly, 11 locations have been found feasible for setting up LPG distributorships in Jalpaiguri district of West Bengal. Additional, one more location viz. Kamakshyaguri, Distt. Jalpaiguri has been earmarked by HPCL for supplying domestic LPG through rural marketing vehicle scheme.

(c) to (e) Irregularities have been reported in the functioning of some LPG distributorships in Jalpaiguri district of West Bengal. Necessary action as per Oil Industry's guidelines has been taken against the erring distributors.

Private Sector in Power Generation

3032. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the targets fixed for power generation in the Private Sector could not be achieved by the Government during the last three years even after according the counter guarantee to them;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to strengthen the private sector power projects to achieve the said targets?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. However, it needs to be clarified that counter guarantee by the Government of India (GOI) has been committed only in respect of eight private sector power projects. Out of these, the counter guarantee has already been extended to the Jegurupadu project (216 MW) of M/s GVK Industries Limited, Ib Valley project (5000 MW) of the M/s Ib Valley Power Private Limited, Dabhol project Phase-I (740 MW) of M/s Dabhol Power Company, Visakhapatnam project (1040 MW) of M/s Hinduja National Power Corporation Ltd., Neyveli Lignite based power project (250 MW) of M/s STCMS Electric Company and Bhadravati project (1082 MW) of M/s Central India Power Company. The counter guarantee given to the Ib valley project has to be considered afresh as the project parameters have undergone substantive changes. The promoters, M/s Spectrum Power Generation Ltd., of the Godavari project (208 MW) withdrew their request for a GOI counter guarantee. Counter guarantee to the remaining project, the 1013.2 MW Mangalore project of M/s Mangalore Power Company would be given once all the necessary conditions are fulfilled.

Of the above counter guaranteed projects, the Dabhol, Jegurupadu and Godavari projects have already been commissioned and ST-CMS project has achieved financial closure and started construction.

(c) All possible assistance is being provided by GOI to facilitate early financial closure by the private sector power projects including the counter guarantee projects. The major initiatives already taken/being taken in this direction include paving the way for the establishment of the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC) (already set up) and the State Electricity Regulatory Commissions, close monitoring by a Crisis Resolution Group set up by the Ministry of Power of identified projects which have made substantial progress and are having only last mile problems towards achieving financial

closure and inter-action with the financial institutions and state Governments to sort out escrow related issues etc. In addition, the progress of all the projects accorded techno-economic clearance by the Central Electricity Authority and liquid fuel based project given fuel linkage by GOI, are being monitored on a regular basis.

Strength of Judges

3033. SHRI MOINUL HASSAN: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of backlog cases from the district level courts to the Supreme Court as on date;

(b) the separate number of Judges per million population in India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and other developing countries;

(c) the gross national product earmarked for the judiciary in India and other countries;

(d) whether 20th Law Commission had recommended a substantial increase in the number of Judges for clearing the backlog of pending cases and coping with future needs in this regard; and

(e) if so, the details of the increase in the number of Judges effected since then so far?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI): (a) The available information as regards backlog cases is as follows:

	Number of cases pending	As on
Supreme Court	20,307	1.11.1999
High Courts	31,98,547	31.12.1998
District/ Subordinate Courts	2,02,00,000	31.12.1998

(b) As per information contained in the Report of the first National Judicial Pay Commission, there were 12.8 Judges per million population in India as in September, 1999. Such information in respect of other countries is not available.

(c) According to information contained in the Report of the first National Judicial Pay Commission, the expenditure on Judiciary in terms of gross national product in India is 0.2 per cent; in Korea, it is more than 0.2 per cent; in Singapore, it is 1.2 per cent; in U.K., it is 4.3 per cent and in USA it is 1.4 per cent.

(d) and (e) The 11th Law Commission, in its 120th Report, which was placed before Parliament in the year 1988, had, *inter alia*, recommended that the present strength of 10.5 Judges per million population be increased to 50 Judges per million population. As stated above, the present strength is 12.8 Judges per million population.

Private Investors in Highway Projects

3034. SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA:
SHRI J.S. BRAR:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is not possible to attract the private investors on the basis of collecting direct toll tax on the highways linking four metropolitans of the country;

(b) if so, whether these highways have been assessed as unviable under the direct toll tax arrangement;

(c) if so, the steps proposed to be taken by the Government in future to implement the scheme for the expansion of these highways; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN):
(a) and (b) Not all sections of the National Highways are viable under BOT scheme.

(c) A study has been instituted to identify National Highway sections which are viable to be taken under BOT scheme. The balance would be financed from (a) budgetary support, (b) external aid, and (c) market borrowings.

(d) The entire Golden Quadrilateral project is to be implemented in five years.

Foundation of Bridge over Brahmaputra River

3035. SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the foundation of bridge over the Brahmaputra river at Bogibeel, Dibrugarh Assam had been laid;

(b) if so, the amount sanctioned for the project;

(c) the progress achieved in the project till now; and

(d) the time by which the project work is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN):
(a) Yes, Sir, foundation stone for this rail cum road bridge has been laid.

(b) The work has been included in the Railway Budget at an anticipated cost of Rs. 1000 crores, on cost-sharing basis between Ministry of Railways and Ministry of Surface Transport. An outlay of Rs. 5 crores has been provided during the current financial year.

(c) The detailed investigation including hydraulic model studies and final location survey for this bridge have been taken up by the Railways, which are expected to be completed by June, 2000. Work can be taken in hand by the Railways once the detailed survey and investigation report is received, final clearance of Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs is obtained, land becomes available and requisite funds against share of Ministry of Surface Transport are received by the Railways.

(d) No target date has been fixed. The work will be progressed to completion in the coming years as per availability of resources.

Crude Oil Reserves

3036. SHRIMATI BHAVNA BEN DEVRAJ BHAI CHIKHALIA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a comprehensive survey has been conducted all over the country to gather information about the total quantity of crude oil reserves;

(b) if so, the date of the survey and the total estimated reserve of petroleum in the country as per the said survey;

(c) whether the Government have set any time bound programme for the full exploitation of these reserves; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and average annual quantity of the total estimated reserves in percentage produced during the last year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) to (d) Survey, exploration, location of hydrocarbon reserves, discovery of new fields and

production from discovered fields is a continuous and on-going process. Crude oil reserves are updated on the basis of the discoveries and fresh accretions every year normally on the 31st of March, based on the latest inputs. India's reserves (balance) of Oil plus Oil Equivalent Gas (O+OEG) were estimated at 1417.34 Million Metric Tonnes as on 1st April, 1999. During 1998-99, 4.24 per cent of the estimated reserves of O+OEG were produced.

[*Translation*]

Mobile Cellular Services

3037. SHRI RAMSHAKAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to simplify the Mobile Cellular Service;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the facilities made available to the consumers in this sector as on date; and

(c) the details regarding the participation of foreign companies in this sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) Yes, Sir, the Government have offered a package of migration to New Telecom Policy-99 regime to the eligible existing Cellular Licensees.

(b) and (c) A statement is enclosed.

Statement

A Package for migration from the fixed license fee regime to New Telecom Policy-99 regime was offered in respect of thirty six out of the existing forty two Cellular Licensees. The licensees will now be required to pay one time entry fee and license fee based on revenue share. The licensees will forego the right to operating in the regime of limited number of operators and would operate in multiply licencing regime. *i.e.* additional licences without any limit may be issued in a given service area. There shall be a lock-in of the present share holding for a period of 5 years from the effective date of licences. The period of licence shall be 20 years.

It is expected that with the increased financial viability of the projects and increased competition, the consumers will get a better and cost effective service.

In addition to Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL), the service has been licenced to Indian companies who may have joint ventures with foreign

companies with maximum 49% direct foreign investment. The major foreign companies participating as partners in Indian Joint Ventrue Companies (JVC) operating Cellular Services in the country are as follows:

1. AIG (Mauritius) LLC, Mauritius.
2. Airtouch International, Mauritius.
3. Air Touch International, USA.
4. Asia Tech. Mauritius Ltd., Mauritius
5. Asian Infrastructure Andhra Pradesh, Mauritius.
6. Asian Telecommunications Investment (Mauritius) Ltd., Mauritius.
7. AT & T Cellular Pvt. Ltd., Mauritius.
8. Bell Canada International (India) Cellular Ltd., Mauritius.
9. Bell Canada International Inc. Canada.
10. Bell South International, USA
11. Bezeq Globe Mauritius Holding, Mauritius.
12. BT (Netherlands) Holding BV, Netherland.
13. CCII (Mauritius) Inc., Mauritius.
14. Celphone Ltd., Mauritius.
15. Cellunet India Ltd., Mauritius.
16. Distacom Communications, Mauritius.
17. Euro Pacific Securities Ltd., OCB.
18. First Pacific Co. Ltd. Hongkong.
19. France Telecom. France.
20. Hutchison Telecommunications Ltd., Mauritius.
21. Indian Telecommunications BV, Netherlands.
22. Itochy Corp., Japan.
23. Jasmine International Public Co. Ltd., Thailand.
24. Media One Cellular Investment Company, Mauritius.
25. Millicom International, Luxembourg.
26. Mitsubishi Corp. Japan.

27. Mobile Systems International Cellular Investments Ltd., Netherland.
28. Mobile Wireless Co. Ltd., Mauritius.
29. Mobivest (Mauritius) Ltd., Mauritius.
30. Nynex International (Asia) Ltd., Mauritius.
31. PCM (Mauritius) Pvt. Ltd., Mauritius.
32. Personal Communications (Mauritius).
33. Philippino Telephone, Philippines.
34. Prime Metals Ltd., OCB.
35. Shinwatra International Public Co, Thailand.
36. STET International, Netherlands NV, Netherland.
37. STET Mobile Holding NV, Netherlands.
38. Swiss PTI, Switzerland.
39. Telekom Malaysia, Malaysia.
40. Telephone Organisation of Thailand, Thailand.
41. Telesystem Pvt., Ltd., Mauritius.
42. Telia AB Sweden.
43. Telstra International Ltd., Australia.
44. Telstra South Asia Holding Ltd., Mauritius.

[English]

Shifting of CISF Training Centre

3038. SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA:
SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to shift the Regional training centre of the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) from Paradip to Deoli in Rajasthan; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO): (a) and

(b) Because of extensive damage to the training

infrastructure in the temporary location at Paradip on account of recent super cyclone, CISF has decided to temporarily shift trainees to Deoli, Rajasthan so that the training is continued. However the permanent location of the RTC is already decided at Mundali (Chakradharpur), near Cuttack (Orissa) where construction is under way.

Safeguarding the Interests of Small Investors

3039. SHRI RAMANAIDU DAGGUBATI: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to amend laws to safeguard the interests of small investors;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action envisaged against especially those firms who do not pay interest or dividend for a period of one year from the date on which this was first due?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI): (a) and (b) The Government is contemplating few amendments in the Companies Act, 1956 and that would include provisions for protection of the interest of the small investor where companies fail to make re-payment of deposits on maturity.

(c) Action against defaulting companies in such cases can be taken under Section 207 of the Companies Act, 1956 which provide that where a dividend has been declared by a company but has not been paid or the warrant in respect thereof has not been posted within 42 days from the date of the declaration, to any shareholder entitled to the payment of the dividend, every director of the company shall, if he is knowingly a party to the default, be punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to seven days and shall also be liable to fine.

As regards non-payment of interest on deposits, section 58A of the Companies Act, 1956 provides for penal action against companies which fail to repay deposits as per terms and conditions of inviting such deposits from public. A default of this nature is punishable with imprisonment which may extend to three years and also liable to a fine of not less than fifty rupees per day. This fine is proposed to be enhanced to Rs. Five hundred per day in the Companies Bill, 1997 which was introduced in the Rajya Sabha on 14-8-1997.

Allotment of Petrol Pumps under 'Coco'

3040. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether some petrol pumps have been allotted or likely to be allotted on short term or long term basis under the scheme "Coco";

(b) if so, the number of petrol pumps allotted or proposed to be allotted under "Coco" scheme during the current financial year;

(c) whether private parties can avail the benefit of this scheme; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. Oil Companies have allotted 51 'COCO' outlets during the current financial year.

Government has laid down guidelines for awarding contract for operation of COCO outlets. As per the guidelines Sales Officer of the Area of the concerned Oil Company will be incharge of the Retail Outlet and the contractor will be selected by a team of Officers of the Divisional Office of Oil Company. The following can apply for the contract:—

- (i) Haulage contractor.
- (ii) Transport contractor.
- (iii) Bulk LPG transporter.
- (iv) Taxi/Auto Rickshaw/Truck Operator's Association.
- (v) State Government Corporation.
- (vi) Any other individual/party as deemed fit by the Divisional Office-in-charge.

Development and Channelling of Investment on N.Hs.

3041. SHRI K. MURALEEDHARAN: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Kerala has approached the Union Government regarding the heightened activity in road sector development and channelling resources for the investment on the National Highway; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN):

(a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

Three new National Highways, totaling to a length of 340 kms have been added to the existing NH system in Kerala. An amount of Rs. 65 crores for development and Rs. 18.4 crores for Maintenance and Repairs of National Highways have been allocated to the State during the current financial year. Further, six special repair works costing Rs. 16.1 crores have been recently sanctioned for Improvement of riding quality on the various National Highways in Kerala. The Government of Kerala also propose to take up some realignment and bypasses on Build, Operate & Transfer (BOT) basis.

Petroleum Production

3042. SHRIMATI RANEE NARAH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the country's petroleum production and exploration work is likely to be adversely affected due to the economic recession;

(b) if so, whether the Government have taken any steps to neutralise its adverse affect on the petroleum production; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Modernisation of Postal Service

3043. SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to modernise Postal Service in the country, particularly in the inaccessible areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Department of Posts has been trying to modernise the postal services by adapting information and communication technologies to the needs of Post. The Department has been computerising the counter operations as it is the most important point of interface of the post office with the customer. As on 31.3.1999 the Department has installed 5007 Multipurpose Counter Machines in the post offices including the post offices in inaccessible areas. The Department has installed 75 VSAT Stations for transmission of money orders via Satellite and 610 Extended Satellite Money Order Centres (ESMO) as on 31.3.1999 in the country including the remote areas. During the 9th Plan the Department proposes to install 150 VSAT stations for transmission of money orders.

Review of Performance of Power Projects

3044. SHRI SHIVAJI VITHALRAO KAMBLE: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have recently reviewed the performance of power projects;

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

(c) whether the Government propose to undertake reforms in the power sector; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) and (b) The Government of India is monitoring the performance of power projects from time to time. The State-wise generation performance of hydro and thermal stations of SEBs/power utilities from April, 1999 to November, 1999 is given in enclosed Statement.

(c) and (d) The Government of India has constituted the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC) whose main functions are to regulate the tariff of generating companies owned or controlled by the Central Government, to regulate inter-state transmission including tariff of transmission entities, to regulate inter-state bulk sale of power; to aid and advise the Central Government in formulation of tariff policy; etc. Similar State Electricity Regulatory Commissions (SERCs) have also been notified/set up by 13 States including Orissa which pioneered the reforms legislation and created an independent tariff regulatory body way back in 1996. Orissa has also unbundled its SEB and has privatised its distribution. The States of Haryana, Andhra Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh have already brought in their own Reforms Act. Haryana and Andhra Pradesh have also corporatised their SEBs. Several other states like Arunachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Delhi, West Bengal, Tamil Nadu, Gujarat, Maharashtra and Punjab have notified the constitution of their SERCs. Separately, the Government also passed the Electricity Amendment Act, 1998 to enable greater participation of the private sector in the transmission system, making it as a distinct activity.

Statement

A. State-wise Generation Programme of Hydro Stations during the year 1999-2000

Sector	Annual target 1999-2000 (MU)	April to November, 1999		
		Target (Generation) (MU)	Achievements (Generation) (MU)	% of Gen. Over target
1	2	3	4	5
1. ELECTRICITY BOARDS/UNDERTAKINGS				
J&K	812	620	459	74.0
HPSEB	1365	1166	1026	880
HSEB	225	183	182	99.5
RSEB	1356	788	587	74.5

1	2	3	4	5
PSEB	3700	2653	2473	93.2
UPSEB	5425	4144	3889	93.8
GEB	1630	1100	819	74.5
MSEB	3793	2276	2154	94.6
MPEB	2375	1655	1745	105.4
APSEB	8712	5980	6171	103.2
KPCL	9774	6135	7567	123.3
KEB	442	304	280	92.1
KSEB	7170	4886	4807	98.4
TNEB	4915	3553	3081	86.7
BSEB	290	230	130	36.5
OSEB	5010	3106	2848	91.7
WBSEB	383	298	316	106.0
Sikkim	45	33	7	21.2
Meghalaya	468	313	445	142.2
Tripura	50	34	39	114.7
Arunachal Pradesh	20	13	8	61.5
Total State Sector	57940	39470	39033	98.9
Central Utilities	21544	16931	16956	100.1
All India	81000	57492	57168	99.4

*B. Plant load factor (%) of Thermal Stations
(April '99 to November '99)*

Delhi Vidyut Board	48.3
Haryana Power Generation Corporation	53.0
Rajasthan State Electricity Board	76.9
Punjab State Electricity Board	76.0
Uttar Pradesh State Electricity Board	48.7
Gujarat Electricity Board	64.5
Gujarat State Electricity Corpon. Ltd.	65.0
Maharashtra State Electricity Board	68.6
Madhya Pradesh Electricity Board	65.0
A.P. Generation Corporation	80.9
Tamil Nadu Electricity Board	68.9
Karnataka Power Corpon. Ltd.	79.3
Bihar State Electricity Board	18.6
Tenughat (Bihar) Vidyut Nigam Ltd.	33.7
Orissa Power Generation Corpon.	82.6
West Bengal State Electricity Board	39.7
West Bengal Power Development Corporation	54.1
Durgapur Projects Ltd. (W.B.)	23.8
Assam State Electricity Board	17.9
State Sector Total	61.8
Central Sector	70.5
Private Sector	70.0
All India	65.0

Tender for Telephone Lines

3045. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE:
SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government had floated tenders for 45 lakh telephone lines in July 1999;

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

(c) whether 30 lakh of these lines were awarded to Indian manufacturers at the rate from Rs. 1900 to Rs. 2600 per line and another 13 lakh lines to multinational companies at the rates between Rs. 4300 to Rs. 5600 per line; and

(d) if so, the reasons for such vast disparities in the award-rates for Indian companies and Multi-national companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) DoT has procured about 36.67 lakh lines against tender enquiries for SBM, MAX-XL and New Technology exchanges.

(b) Details of Tenders floated are given in enclosed Statement-I.

(c) Allocation of lines to different companies, as per their eligibility for different equpts (equipments) in various tenders alongwith price per line given by DoT, is given in enclosed Statement-II.

(d) Department of Telecom issues separate Tenders for procurement of these exchanges. As these exchanges have different features, capabilities and specifications, these are thus having different rates. SBM exchanges are medium capacity exchanges and are used in Rural areas. MAX-XL exchanges are large capacity exchanges. New Technology Exchanges are very large capacity Exchanges having wide range of technical features.

Statement I

Sl. No.	Type of Exchanges	Tender No.	NIT Date	Date of Opening of tender	Qty. Ordered
1.	SBM	MM/RN/011999/000158	11.2.99	07.4.99	12.31 Lakhs
2.	Max-XL	MM/SW/121998/000151	18.2.99	26.4.99	11.36 Lakhs
3.	New technology	MM/SW/031999/000165	12.3.99	12.5.99	13.00 Lakhs

Statement II**I. ELIGIBILITY CONDITIONS:**

The invitation for bids is open to all suppliers/Indian company registered to manufacture the tendered equipment in India.

II.	Name of Product	Weighted Average Rate/line	Tender No.
	1	2	3
	A. SBM Exchange Eqpt.:	Rs. 2718/-	MM/RN/011999/000158 opened on 7.4.99

Allotment to different companies:

(In Lakh lines)

Sl. No.	Name of the Companies	(Quantity)
1.	United Telecom Ltd.	2.46
2.	Crompton Greaves Ltd.	1.30
3.	Bharat Electronics Ltd.	1.34
4.	Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd.	1.10
5.	Punjab Communications Ltd.	1.03
6.	I.T.I. Ltd.	1.16
7.	HTL Ltd.	1.00
8.	Instrumentation Ltd.	0.52
9.	Guj. Narmada Valley Fert. Co. Ltd.	0.90
10.	Electronics Corpn. of India Ltd.	0.74
11.	Kerala State Electronics Corpn. Ltd.	0.76

1	2	3
B. MAX-L/XL:	Rs. 3570/-	MM/SW/121998/000151 Opened on 26.4.99
		(In Lakh lines)
Sl. No.	Name of the Companies	Quantity
1.	United Telecom Ltd.	1.55
2.	Crompton Greaves Ltd.	1.55
3.	Bharat Electronics Ltd.	1.55
4.	Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd.	1.08
5.	Punjab Communications Ltd.	1.55
6.	I.T.I. Ltd.	1.49
7.	Instrumentation Ltd.	1.04
8.	Electronics Corpn.	1.55

C. New Tech. Local : Rs. 4389.41 MM/SW/031999/000165
Opened on 12.5.99

Sl. No.	Name of the Companies	Quantity (in lakh lines)
1.	Siemens	4.55
2.	HTL	2.24
3.	AMNS	2.13
4.	TLTL	2.06
5.	Ercason	2.02

Clearance to Kannur Airport

3046. SHRI A.P. ABDULLAKUTTY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any action has been taken by the Government to give clearance to the already sanctioned Kannur Airport; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) and (b) A high level team visited the site for technical feasibility of the Airport. The Team has recommended that a runway of length more than 6600 feet cannot be constructed at Kannur. Moreover, Kannur is only 120 kms. from Calicut and 135 kms. from Mangalore. Under the existing policy, no greenfield airport is to be developed within an aerial distance of 150 kms. of the existing airport. Further, no proposal for environmental clearance has been received.

Suicide Squads of ISI

3047. SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether ISI has formed suicide squads in Jammu and Kashmir;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the specific action proposed to be taken in the matter, if any?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO): (a) to (c) Government has received some inputs that militant outfits like LET and HM are having Fidayee (suicide squads) which are being instigated to attack Indian Security Forces and VVIPs. The security forces have been asked to be fully vigilant by taking measures to provide better security around the Camps/Establishments and to be extra alert while on the move on foot or by vehicles.

[*Translation*]

Hydro-Power Generation in J&K

3048. SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is huge potential for generating hydro power in Jammu and Kashmir;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the policy of the Government to tap the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) and (b) As per the "Reassessment of Hydro-electric potential of major & medium HE schemes" carried out by Central Electricity Authority (CEA) during 1978-87, the H.E. potential of J&K is assessed as 7487 MW at 60% Load Factor. Out of this, 480 MW (6.4%) has been developed, 407 MW (5.4%) is under implementation and H.E. Schemes with aggregate potential of 503 MW (6.7%) have been appraised by CEA.

(c) The various steps taken by the Government to develop the hydro potential in the country include creation of various Power Corporations under Central/Joint Sector, liberalisation of policies and procedures to attract private investment, emphasis on renovation, modernisation and uprating (RM&U) of existing hydro power plants, establishing a policy framework for accelerating the pace of hydro power development.

Allotment of Petrol Pumps to Political Leaders and their Relatives

3049. DR. CHARAN DAS MAHANT: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of leaders of political parties and their relatives to whom the Government have allotted petrol pumps during the last three years; and

(b) the criteria for allotment of such petrol pumps?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) and (b) As per existing policy, there is no reservation for leaders of political parties or their relatives. Allotment of dealerships/distributorships is made to the candidates meeting the eligibility criteria relating to age, nationality, educational qualification, income, multiple dealership norms, residence, etc. Selection is made through the Dealer Selection Board on merit.

[*English*]

Construction Work in J&K

3050. VAIDYA VISHNU DATT SHARMA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to start work on Doda-Chamba road;

(b) if so, the amount earmarked for the purpose and utilized therefrom so far;

(c) the time by which the work on Jammu-Poonch National Highway is likely to be completed; and

(d) the estimated cost of the project and the agencies involved in the execution of its work?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) to (d) The roads referred to in the question are neither National Highways nor covered under any centrally sponsored road scheme. Improvement and maintenance of these roads is the responsibility of the State Government.

[*Translation*]

Power Stations of NTPC

3051. SHRI BRAHMA NAND MANDAL: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria fixed for setting up power station by NTPC in the country, State-wise;

(b) whether National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) propose to set up Thermal Power Plants in the country in the near future; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) The setting up of a power plant in a particular region/state by National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) is

determined, with reference to availability of coal/fuel, demand and supply position in the region, availability of key inputs like land, water, project site meeting environmental standards and guidelines with minimum displacement of Project Affected Persons and acquisition of minimum prime agricultural/forest land, ability of the beneficiary States to pay and willingness to sign Power Purchase Agreement with adequate safeguard mechanisms and other techno-economic considerations.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. The details of the projects under construction/likely to be commissioned in the near future by NTPC are as follows:—

Name of the Project/ Location	Capacity (MW)	Already Commissioned Capacity (MW)
Vindhyachal Thermal Power Project Stage-II, Madhya Pradesh	1000	500
Faridabad Gas Power Project, Haryana	430	286
Simhadri Thermal Power Project, Andhra Pradesh	1000	Nil
Talcher Thermal Power Project Stage-II, Orissa	2000	Nil

Further, NTPC plans to undertake Rihand Thermal Power Project Stage-II (1000 MW) in Uttar Pradesh, Ramagundam Thermal Power Project Stage-III (500 MW) in Andhra Pradesh, 2nd Sipat Thermal Power Project (2000 MW) in Madhya Pradesh. NTPC has also programmed to set up coal based mega power projects at North Karanpura, Barh and Kahalgaon in Bihar and Cheyyur in Tamil Nadu and gas based mega projects at Kawas (650 MW), Gandhar (650 MW) in Uttar Pradesh. The benefits from these projects will accrue during the 10th and 11th Plan. Techno-economic clearance to Rihand Stage-II and Ramagundam Stage-III projects have already been accorded by Central Electricity Authority.

Telegraph Offices

3052. SHRIMATI JAYASHREE BANERJEE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the number of telegrams sent through the telegraph offices have declined due to development of other means of communication during the last few years;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to reduce the expenditure on the setting up of the telegraph offices and to wind up them as a result thereof; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The pace and quantum of setting up new Telegraph Offices and expansion has been lowered to a very great extent. There is no proposal under consideration to wind up Telegraph Offices.

*[English]***Telephone on Demand in Gurgaon**

3053. CAPT. JAI NARAIN PRASAD NISHAD: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned 'Telephone on Demand by 2000' appearing in "The Hindustan Times" dated August 24, 1999;

(b) if so, the facts of the matter reported therein;

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto;

(d) whether the Government propose to post additional manpower for the Gurgaon Telecom District in view of the prevalent situation there;

(e) if so, the time by which it is likely to be done; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (f) The news-item which appeared in the "Hindustan Time" of 24th August 1999, captioned 'Telephone on Demand by 2000' pertains to telecom services in Gurgaon such as provision of telephone on demand, incidence of higher fault rate, introduction of new telecom facilities like Customer Service Centers, Call Centres etc. The news-item also contains demand from Gurgaon Chamber of Commerce for services like Radio Paging, Voice Mail, Internet etc.

It has been planned to make telephone available on demand in Gurgaon by March, 2000. Fault rate in Gurgaon city area was comparatively high in the month of August, 1999, but it has come down by now and efforts are being made to reduce the fault rate further to single digit figure. It is planned to set up Customer Service Centre at Gurgaon during the current financial year.

Further, the Government is aware of the shortage of manpower in Gurgaon Telecom District which is in Haryana Telecom Circle. To improve the situation, permission for recruitment of additional Telecom Technical Assistants and Motor Drivers has already been given to the Chief General Manager, Haryana Telecom Circle. Action has been initiated for the recruitment of Junior Telecom Officers for Haryana Circle.

Non-Functioning of Telephone Lines

3055. SHRI V. VETRISELVAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the people in and around Thali area of Hosur Taluk in Tamil Nadu are facing difficulties for non-functioning of the telephone lines;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to rectify the same and to improve the telecom facilities in that area?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) and (b) Sir, the telephone lines are working satisfactorily in Thali area of Hosur Taluk, however, difficulties are being faced by customers for calls to and from other exchanges due to overhead transmission media and inadequate junctions.

(c) Reliable transmission media (optical fibre cable) with adequate junctions has been planned between Thali and Denkanikottah which is likely to be commissioned by 31.3.2000.

Electronic Telephone Exchange

3056. SHRI ARJUN SETHI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the 2048 I.L.T. Electronic Exchange have been commissioned recently at Bhadrak district of Orissa;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the extent to which it will be beneficial to the subscribers and to improve the quality of telecom services in the said district?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) to (c) 2048 I.L.T. Electronic Exchange was commissioned during 1993-94, another 4000 line CDOT exchange has been commissioned at Bhadrak during August, 99 which will provide better quality of telecom services to the subscriber of Bhadrak.

Setting up of Power Projects in U.P.

3057. SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL:
SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have recently received some proposals for the setting up of power projects in the public and in private sectors in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof and places where such plants are likely to be set up;

(c) whether the Government propose to enter into any agreement with foreign institutions to the effect or to accord guarantee for setting up these projects; and

(d) the time by which the new projects are likely to be approved and implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) and (b) Seven projects (both in private and public sector) have been given techno-economic clearance by the Central Electricity Authority and separately, fuel linkages have been given to eight private sector projects. Two projects, (one in State sector and one in private sector) are under examination in Central Electricity Authority, 24 projects have been returned by CEA. Details are given in enclosed Statement.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) The implementation will depend upon all pending inputs/clearances being tied up and the projects achieving financial closure.

Statement

S.No.	Name of the Project	Capacity (MW)	Date of receipt in CEA	Date of TEC clearance
A. CEA CLEARED/APPRAISED				
1.	Anpara-C(T)-UPSEB	2x500	11/94	9.8.96
2.	Vishnuprayag HEP (H) (M/s Jaiprakash Power Venture Ltd.)	4x100	4/97	3.6.97
3.	Rosa TPP (Ph. I) (T) (M/s. Indo-Gulf Fertilizer	2x283.5	4/96	20.8.97
4.	Tehri Dam St. II HEP (H) (U.P.)-Tehri Hydro Power Corp. Ltd.	4x250	3/81	10.10.88
5.	Auraiya CCST St. II (T) (U.P.)- NTPC	1x650	5/97	28.9.98
6.	Rihand STPP St. II (T) - NTPC	2x500	9/98	22.7.99 1.10.99
7.	Srinagar HEP (H) (M/s Duncans North Hydro Power Co. Ltd.)	5x66	10/99	26.11.99

Liquid Fuel Projects given fuel linkages

		Capacity (MW)	Fuel
1.	Kosikalan (Wasan Exports)	355	Naphtha
2.	Ghaziabad (Noida Power Co.-RPG)	100	Naphtha
3.	Sahibabad (Elec. Supply Co. India Ltd.)	100	Naphtha
4.	Saharanpur (M/s Control & Switch Gear)	100	Naphtha
5.	Chandausi (IPP Ltd.)	100	Naphtha
6.	Lucknow (Ginni Filments)	100	Naphtha
7.	Varanasi (Guj. Florochemicals)	100	Naphtha
8.	Gajraula (Enpro Ind.)	100	Heavy Fuel
B. DPR UNDER EXAMINATION IN CEA			
1.	Maneri Bhal-II HEP (H)-UPSEB	4x76	8/98
2.	Jawaharpur TPP (T) (M/s Jawaharpur Power India Pvt. Ltd.)	2x400	26.12.96

C. SCHEMES RETURNED/SUBMISSION OF DPR EXPECTED

		MW	Date of return
1.	Pala Maneri HEP (H)	4x100	1/87
2.	Kotlibhel Dam HEP (H)	4x250	9/83
3.	Panchnad HEP (H)	6x15	7/83
4.	Paricha Extn (T)	2x210	6/79, 4/89
5.	Auraiya GT (T)	5x120	7/84
6.	Narora (T)	3x210	3/82
7.	Partabpur (T)	2x500	1/84
8.	Dohrighat (T)	2x210	5/78
9.	Bowla Nand HEP (H)	3x44	5/93
10.	Tapovan HEP (H)	3x120	5/93
11.	Belthara Road (T)	3x250	11/92

	MW	Date of return
12. Lohari Nagpala HEP (H)	4x130	12/88
13. Aonla CCGT (T)	600	3/91
14. Babrala CCGT (T)	600	4/91
15. Shahgehanpur CCGT (T)	600	5/91
16. Jagdishpur GTCC (T)	4x35	5/89, 8/90
17. Tiuniplasu HEP (H)	3x14	1/93
18. Farukhabad Gas (T)	800	12/90
19. Dadri Gas Based (T)	600	9/88
20. Boriganga HEP St I & II (H)	3x20	10/90
21. Goriganga HEP St. IIIA & B (H)	3x40	4/92
22. Dhouliganga HEP (H)-NHPC	3x70	11/96
23. Kishau Dam MPP (H)	4x150	6/98
24. Lakhwar Vyasi MPP (H)	3x100	9/99

*[Translation]***Land of Farmers Acquired by Indian Oil Corporation**

3058. SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Oil Corporation had acquired the land of farmers of village Panewadi, Ghotane, tehsil Nandgaon, district Nasik Maharashtra for setting up a gas and bottling plant there and had promised to give employment to one person from each family of those farmers;

(b) if so, whether the family members of the farmers have not been provided employment inspite of the assurance given to this effect so far; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) to (c) Indian Oil Corporation has taken over the land at Village Dhotane/Budruk/Panewadi in District Nasik, Maharashtra through land acquisition process for setting up LPG Bottling Plant. No promise was given to the land-losers by Indian Oil Corporation to employ one person from each family of the land-losers.

However, all six land-losers who were found to be meeting the eligibility norms have been provided employment. The other candidates were not meeting the eligibility norms for employment, hence were not considered for employment.

*[English]***Production of Hydro-Carbons**

3059. SHRI PRAKASH PARANJPE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to have any expert guidance from other countries to increase production of Hydro-Carbons from the existing wells; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) and (b) At present, there is no such proposal.

Construction of Coastal Highway in Orissa

3060. DR. PRASANNA KUMAR PATASANI: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to construct a Coastal Highway along the Coast of Orissa to prevent the recurrence of cyclon in future; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN):

(a) No Sir, there is no such proposal from Union Government.

(b) Does not arise.

Militancy In Assam and Arunachal Pradesh

3061. SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have worked out any joint strategy with the Government of Bhutan to flush out the militants from out territory;

(b) if so, the details thereof?

(c) whether in a meeting held between the militants commander and the Officials of Bhutan the militants Leader has agreed to thin down his outfit's presence in Bhutan;

(d) whether Government propose to shift out militants from the neighbouring Districts of Assam and Arunachal Pradesh to Bhutan; and

(e) if so, the steps taken by the Government to strengthen the security network in the region and also check the re-entry of militants into our territory?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) to (c) The matter relating to presence of North Eastern militants in Bhutan has been discussed with the King of Bhutan on several occasions. The King has assured that Bhutan would not allow its territory to be misused against the interests of India.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Unearthing of Heroin Manufacturing Unit

3062. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a heroin manufacturing unit has been unearthed in Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Narcotic Control Bureau seized 18.83 kgs. of heroin from a hotel at Bangalore on 28th November, 1999 and arrested one person connected with the case. The follow up searches on his residential and business premises at Delhi on 29th November, 1999 resulted in seizure of 32.50 kgs. of heroin and 70 litres of Acetic Anhydride, an essential precursor chemical, alongwith certain other chemicals and equipment used for the manufacture of heroin. This led to arrest of three other persons and all the accused persons were remanded to judicial custody.

New Telephone Connections

3063. SHRIMATI SANTOSH CHOWDHARY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have given telephone connections to all the consumers who have booked their telephone connections by depositing Rs. 3000/-;

(b) if so, whether the Idgah telephone exchange (Delhi) has also cleared the backlog of connections booked in September, 1999; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) No, Sir. About 20,320 OB's are pending in different areas of MTNL, Delhi for the consumers who have booked their telephones by depositing Rs. 3000.

(b) and (c) In Idgah Telephone Exchange (Delhi), 349 cases are pending for provision of new telephones out of total registration of 490 done in Sept. 1999. All out efforts are afoot to provide telephones by June 2000.

Rapping of CBI

3064. SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN:
SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Mattoo case: CBI

clueless on what went wrong with the investigation" appearing in "The Hindustan Times", dated December 5, 1999;

(b) if so, the facts of the matter reported therein; and

(c) the action taken/proposed to be taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Government clarified its position in respect of "Priyadarshini Mattoo's Case" in the *sup motu* statement made on the Floor of the august House on 14th December, 1999.

Setting up of Petrol Pumps and LPG Agencies in Maharashtra

3065. SHRI UTTAMRAO DHIKALE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up some new petrol/diesel pumps and LPG agencies in Nasik district of Maharashtra in the next financial year;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) to (c) 22 Retail Outlet dealerships and 17 LPG distributorships are to be set up in Nasik District of Maharashtra. As per the existing policy, dealerships/distributorships included in the Marketing Plan are advertised for selection through Dealer Selection Boards. It generally takes 1-2 years for commissioning of dealerships/distributorships from the date of issue of advertisement.

Exemption under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980

3066. SHRI M.V.V.S MURTHI:
SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE:

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

(a) whether the Union Government have received a request from the State Government of Andhra Pradesh for exemption under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 to permit to grow coffee in the forest areas of Vishakhapatnam and East Godavari district;

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

(c) whether the exemption in F.C. Act, 1980 has been granted to State Government; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) to (d) A request for relaxation of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for growing of coffee in forest areas of Vishakhapatnam and East Godavari district was received from the State Government of Andhra Pradesh. As per the provisions of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 Rules & Guidelines, cultivation of coffee has been defined as non-forest activity and therefore for carrying out of such activity on forest land, prior approval of Central Government is required.

Accordingly State Government was informed that it is not possible to grant general exemption under the provisions of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, however, if State Government submits formal proposal then it can be considered.

[Translation]

Telephone Directories in Bihar

3067. SHRI DINESH CHANDRA YADAV: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether telephone directories have not been printed in Bihar during the last two years;

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

(c) the steps taken by the Government for ensuring the timely printing of telephone directories?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The SSA-wise (Telcom. Distt.) details of the directories printed is given in enclosed Statement.

(c) The printing of telephone directories was delayed at number of places due to contractual problems. The policy for printing of telephone directories has been revised recently for timely publication of telephone directories. The revised features include vendor pre-qualification, stringent penalty clause, performance Bank Guarantee, Staged bidding, delegation of powers to Chief General Managers to decide printing of telephone directories on negative

royalty basis; telephone directories on Internet and CD-ROM in major cities etc.

Statement

S. No.	Name of SSA	Year of Print of Current Directory	Corrected Upto
1.	Arrah	1997	Aug, 1997
2.	Bhagalpur	1996	Oct, 1996
3.	Chapra	1997	Aug, 1996
4.	Dhanbad	1997	Aug, 1997
5.	Darbhanga	1997	Mar, 1997
6.	Dumka	1997	Aug, 1996
7.	Gaya	1997	Aug, 1997
8.	Hazaribagh	1997	Aug, 1997
9.	Jamshedpur	1997	Aug, 1997
10.	Motihari	1997	Aug, 1996
11.	Muzaffarpur	1994	Dec, 1993
12.	Munger	1996	Oct, 1996
13.	Patna	1996	Nov, 1996
14.	Ranchi	1997	Dec, 1996
15.	Sasaram	1997	Aug, 1997
16.	Saharsa	1997	Oct, 1996
17.	Daltanganj	1997	Aug, 1997

Production of Crude Oil

3068. DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA:
SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI:

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

(a) whether the Government have explored the possibilities to increase the production of crude oil in the country;

(b) if so, the quantum of crude oil likely to be produced in the country on the basis of the possibilities explored so far; and

(c) the quantum of crude oil being produced in the country at present?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) to (c) The crude oil production during the year 1998-99 is 32.72 million metric tonnes (MMT). Constant endeavours are made to increase the production of crude oil through the following measures:

(i) Optimizing production from existing field through better reservoir management, 3-D seismic surveys, infill drilling, pressure maintenance, installation/optimisation of artificial lift system and use of advanced and cost effective technologies.

(ii) Faster development of newly discovered oilfields.

(iii) Finding new hydrocarbon reserves through intensified exploration activities such as—

(a) Exploration at greater depths in existing fields.

(b) Extending exploration activities to deep waters and frontier areas.

(c) Increased private participation in exploration activities through implementation of New Exploration Licensing Policy.

The crude oil production by the end of the 9th Plan has been projected at 36.98 million metric tonne (MMT) as per the IXth Plan document.

[English]

LOI issued to LPG Dealers of IOC

3069. SHRI J.S. BRAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of LPG distributorship opened by way of the 'Letter of Intent' area by I.O.C. Delhi Zone during the last three years;

(b) whether such distributorships have got permission from the Government;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the action being taken on such under allotments?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) to (d) There is no such system for opening LPG distributorships by IOC called 'Letters of Intent' area.

However, during the last three years, i.e. 1996-97, 1997-98 and 1998-99, Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOC) has issued 5 Letters of Intent for setting up LPG distributorships in Delhi, of which 3 LPG distributorships have already been commissioned.

Development of Forests in Uttar Pradesh

3070. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have recently received any proposal from Uttar Pradesh for the development of forests;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) to (c) Ministry has received the project proposals under centrally sponsored schemes of this Ministry for the Ninth Plan. Ministry has approved an outlay of Rs. 3421 lakh for these projects to be implemented in Uttar Pradesh during the Ninth Plan. Details of the financial assistance provided to the State scheme-wise is given in enclosed Statement.

Statement

1. Integrated Afforestation and Eco-Development Project Scheme (IAEPS)

(Rs. in Lakhs)

District	IX Plan Outlay	1997-98		1998-99		1999-2000	
		San.	Rel.	San.	Rel.	San.	Rel.
Dehradun	344.60	45.01	45.01	73.69	73.69	78.65	37.90
Uttarkashi	340.90	30.81	30.81	72.14	72.14	81.03	40.52
Pauri	285.39	41.63	41.63	56.19	56.19	64.80	48.60
Nainital	725.98	67.97	67.97	158.58	158.58	174.90	116.40

2. Area Oriented Fuel and Fodder Plantation Scheme (AOFFPS)

(Rs. in Lakhs)

9th plan outlay	1997-98		1998-99		1999-2000	
	San. ctioned	Released	Sanctioned	Released	Sanctioned	Released
1444.36	217.02	212.44	298.61	205.62	343.17	123.21

3. *Non-Timber Forest Products Scheme (NTFPS)*

(Rs. in Lakhs)

9th plan outlay	1997-98		1998-99		1999-2000	
	Sanctioned	Released	Sanctioned	Released	Sanctioned	Released
262.75	62.00	53.00	77.70	0.00	64.85	0.00

Yanam Yedurulanka Bridge

3071. SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE:
SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI:

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

(a) whether any request for Rs. 50 crore contribution from Oil and Natural Gas Corporation for Yanam Yedurulanka Bridge has been received from the State Government of Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the contribution asked for has been made by the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation; and

(d) if not, the time by which the same is likely to be made?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) to (d) The Government of Andhra Pradesh had requested ONGC for providing financial assistance towards the cost of construction of the Yanam Yedurulanka Bridge. ONGC had agreed to contribute Rs. 10 crores as its share, payable in four equal installments of Rs. 2.50 crores each. The first installment is being released shortly, after completing requisite formalities in accordance with agreement between ONGC & State Government.

Construction of Over Bridges

3072. SHRI M. CHINNASAMY:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) reasons for not starting the works regarding the construction of KAPUR- Bypass Road Level crossing KAPUR-PVGALUR Road Railway level crossing and Lala Pettai Railway level crossing for which the foundation stones have already been laid on 25.10.98;

(b) whether this project will be started in this financial year; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) to (c) The construction of Karur Road Over Bridge (ROB) on NH-7 in lieu of the existing level crossing on Karur bypass has already been started.

Karur-Pugalur road being a State road does not come under the Purview of this Ministry.

Construction of Lalapet ROB on NH-67 involves substantial land acquisition and shifting of utilities. The project preparation has already been taken up and the work is targeted to be awarded in the next financial year after completion of land acquisition and shifting of utilities.

National Highway No. 209

3073. SHRI P. KUMARASAMY: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government had allocated Rs. 130 crore to undertake the road improvement works on the National Highway in Tamilnadu;

(b) if so, whether the major portion of the said amount would be utilised for NH-209; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) Yes, Sir. A sum of Rs. 142.24 crores have been allocated for improvement (development & maintenance) works on National Highways in Tamil Nadu.

(b) No, Sir. This amount is to be spent on all National Highways in Tamil Nadu.

(c) Does not arise.

Deportation of Persons of Indian Origin

3074. SHRI BALBIR SINGH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons of Indian Origin deported at the Indian Airports during the year ending No. 1999, country-wise and airport-wise; and

(b) the number of Indian Passport holders and foreign Passport holders therein, category-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO): (a) and (b) Data regarding deportation of foreigners is maintained nationality-wise, irrespective of their origin. During the year 1999 (upto September), 380 foreigners were deported out of India and 972 were refused entry at the five major airports. The country-wise and airport-wise data is as follows:

Foreigners Deported

Delhi	Mumbai	Calcutta	Chennai	Trivandrum
47	41	66	188	38

(Sri Lanka-160; Bangladesh-51; Afghanistan-16; France-14; Myanmar-13; Nigeria-13; Canada-10; China-10; Kenya-10; Others-83; Total-380)

Foreigners refused entry

Delhi	Mumbai	Calcutta	Chennai	Trivandrum
283	366	63	212	48

(Sri Lanka-120; USA-60; UK-40; Pakistan-34; Bangladesh-26; Canada-24; Dutch-22; France-21; Australia-19; China-14; Others-592; Total-972) The above figures pertain to foreign passport holders, some of whom might be of Indian origin. Indian passport holders cannot be deported out of India.

Multipurpose Berth at Vishakhapatnam Port

3075. SHRI S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Vishakhapatnam Port propose to hand over running of the multipurpose berth, to a private party;

(b) whether the port is also studying the feasibility of having a partner for operating the multipurpose berth which will be commissioned in March next year;

(c) the total tonnage handled by the Vishakhapatnam port in 1998-99;

(d) the extent to which it was more in comparison to 1997-98; and

(e) the latest position for handling the tonnage in Vishakhapatnam port during the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN):

(a) and (b) The multipurpose berth is to be commissioned by mid, 2000. VPT is inviting expressions of interest by private entrepreneurs for equipping and developing a container terminal on the multipurpose berth and for operation and management as per the Government, guidelines on BOT basis.

(c) The total tonnage handled by the Vishakhapatnam Port in 1998-99 was 35.65 Million Tonnes.

(d) There was a marginal decline of total traffic by about 0.36 Million Tonnes (0.99%) in 1998-99 in comparison to 1997-98.

(e) The traffic handled in the current financial year (upto Nov., 1999) is 25.22 Million Tonnes.

Killing of Forests Guards In Dehradun

3076. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item captioned "Forest staff intensify agitation over killing of guards" appearing in the 'Times of India', New Delhi dated November, 15, 1999;

(b) the facts of the matter reported therein;

(c) the reaction of the Government to the observations made in the report; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to check the reign of terror in the forest areas of Dehradun and protect the forests in Dehradun and Hardwar?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) and (b) Two forest guards and one daily wage employee were allegedly done to death by an active forest mafia members in the Atarodi range of Dehradun Forest division.

(c) and (d) Strengthening the enforcement infrastructure is crucial to safeguard such happenings. The Central Government is providing financial assistance to the State Government to purchase vehicles, weapons and wireless sets under various centrally sponsored schemes. Rajaji Park is already part of the elephant reserve, which is entitled to assistance from the Central Government under Project Elephant, where assistance is admissible for conservation even outside the protected area, particularly the elephant corridors.

LPG Agencies in Kakinada, Andhra Pradesh

3077. SHRI KRISHNAMRAJU: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of LPG agencies operating in Kakinada district of Andhra Pradesh and the number of consumers being served by them;

(b) the total number of LPG connections allotted to each one of them; and

(c) the time by which pending applications for setting up LPG agencies in the said district are likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) and (b) At present there are a total of 5 LPG distributors in operation in Kakinada which is the Headquarters of East Godawari District of Andhra Pradesh with more than 50,000 customer population. In addition to the above one more project distributorship has been given to APS Police — Kakinada, who have a customer holding of about 1600.

(c) 5 more LPG distributorships have been planned for Kakinada. As per existing policy, dealerships/distributorships included in the Marketing Plan are advertised for selection through Dealer Selection Boards. It generally takes 1-2 years for commissioning of dealerships/distributorships from the date of issue of advertisement.

Shortage of Staff in Jamnagar

3078. SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a shortage of Postmen and other staff in the various post and telephone offices in Jamnagar district of Gujarat;

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

(c) the steps taken by the Government to fill up the vacant posts in the district?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

Department of Telecom Services

(b) Details of staff (Group-wise) in Jamnagar SSA is as below:

Group	Sanctioned Strength	Working
Gr. A	11	9
Gr. B	40	23
JTOs	64	38
Gr. C	931	763
Gr. D	168	147
Total	1214	980

Shortage in Group 'C' and other cadres of Group 'D' is due to ban on recruitment.

Department of Post

In the Jam Nagar Post Division comprising Jamnagar district, 4 posts of Postmen, 1 post of Group 'D' and 17 posts of Postal Assistant are vacant. These vacancies are due to transfers, retirement on medical invalidation and voluntary retirement as also death of officials.

(c) Department of Telecom Services

1. Department examination is being conducted to fill up the posts.
2. Limited direct recruitment in certain cases has been permitted.
3. Promotion for JTO to Group 'B' is under process.
4. UPSC has been asked to conduct examination for filling up of JTO Posts.

Department of Post

The vacant posts in the Postal Division are being filled by recruitment as per existing rule. 16 Postal Assistants are also under training for appointment against these vacancies.

World Bank Assistance for Bihar

3079. SHRI RAJO SINGH: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the World Bank has assured to provide monetary assistance for the development of roads and bridges-culverts and other transport infrastructure facilities in Bihar;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the World Bank had provided assistance for such purposes in the past also; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) The World Bank had granted a loan for improvement of State roads in various states including Bihar in March, 1989 in which the amount allocated to Bihar was US\$ 56.6 million. The projects included Sonapur-Chapra and Hazipur-Muzaffarpur roads and bridge including approaches across Ganga at Bhagalpur. As the projects were not completed, the loan was subsequently reduced to US\$ 23.6 million.

Gas Based Power Projects in the Country

3080. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of gas based power projects in the country with power generation capacities thereof;

(b) whether some of these power projects are facing some problems;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps being taken by the Government to overcome these problems?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) A Statement indicating the gas based power projects in the country with their generation capacities is enclosed.

(b) to (d) As against the generation target of 31847 Million Units in respects of gas fired stations for the period April - November, 1999, the actual generation was of the order of 31771 Million Units (99.8%). This is 13.3% more than the generation achieved during the last year during the same period. Targets for gas based power stations in the utilities are fixed in consultation with the State Electricity Boards and Central Public Sector Undertakings keeping in view the gas availability and demand requirement etc. In view of gas shortage in the country, the Government have issued instructions to go in for back up liquid fuel to meet the power requirements. The operation on liquid fuel is based on the requirements of the constituent States.

Statement*Installed Generating Capacity of Gas power projects above 20 MW as on 30.11.99 (Utilities only)*

S.No.	Name of the Power Projects	Installed Capacity (in MW)
1	2	3
1.	Faridabad CCCT	286.00
2.	Ramgarh (Rajasthan)	38.50
3.	D.V.B. GT	282.00
4.	Auriaya (U.P.) NTPC	652.00
5.	Dadri (U.P.), NTPC	817.00
6.	Anta (Rajasthan) NTPC	413.00
7.	Dhuvran (Gujarat)	54.00
8.	Utran (Gujarat)	144.00
9.	Vatva (Gujarat)	100.00
10.	Hazira (Gujarat)	515.00

1	2	3
11.	GIPCL Baroda Gas Turbine (Gujarat)	167.00
12.	Paguthan (Gujarat)	655.00
13.	Uran (Maharashtra)	912.00
14.	Tata Trombay (Maharashtra)	180.00
15.	Dabho (Maharashtra)	740.00
16.	Kawas (Gujarat) NTPC	644.00
17.	Gandhar (Gujarat) NTPC	648.00
18.	Vijeswaram (A.P.)	99.00
19.	Godavari Power Project (A.P.)	208.00
20.	Jegurupadu Ind. Pvt. Ltd. (A.P.)	235.40
21.	Cochin (Kerala)	90.00
22.	Basin Bridge (Tamil Nadu)	120.00
23.	Karaikal (Pondicherry)	22.90
24.	Kayamkulam (Kerala) NTPC	350.00
25.	Salgaocar (Goa)	48.00
26.	Haldia (W.B.)	40.00
27.	Lakwa (Assam)	120.00
28.	Namrup (Assam)	103.50
29.	Rokhia (Tripura)	48.00
30.	Kathalguri (Assam) NEEPCO	291.00
31.	Agartala (Tripura) NEEPCO	84.00
Total		9107.00

Civil and Criminal Cases in Maharashtra High Court

3081. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of civil and criminal cases pending before the High Court of Maharashtra for disposal; and

(b) the steps taken/being taken by the Government for the early disposal of these cases?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI): (a) As on date, 2,52,868 civil cases and 22,537 criminal cases were pending for disposal in the High Court of Bombay.

(b) Various measures taken by the Government for early disposal of pending cases in various courts, including the High Courts, are amendment of the Civil Procedure Code and Criminal Procedure Code, increase in the number of posts of Judges/Judicial Officers, appointment of Special Judicial/Metropolitan Magistrates and adoption of other alternative modes of dispute resolution, such as, Lok Adalats, reconciliation, mediation and arbitration. The High Courts have also taken a number of steps for expeditious disposal of cases, viz., grouping and classification of cases involving similar questions of law, setting up of specialised benches, computerization of listing of cases, etc.

Fencing of Borders in North-East

3082. SHRI SAMAR CHOUDHURY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the deployment of BSF on the Kashmir border is much more intensified than the borders of the North-East;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to enhance the presence of BSF in the North-East;

(c) if so, the details thereof?

(d) the distance of border outposts in Kashmir and in the North-East;

(e) whether the Government propose to fence the entire international border in the North-East; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) do not arise.

(d) In Kashmir, on Line of Control (LC) mainly army is deployed. While the average distance of BSF border outposts on the International border in the Jammu sector is 2 kms. the distance between the BSF border outposts in the North East is 5.6 kms.

(e) and (f) It is proposed to raise fencing in another 2429.50 kms. length of the Indo-Bangladesh border. This is in addition to 857.36 kms fencing already sanctioned. There is no proposal to fence other international borders in the North East.

[Translation]

Road Construction and other Schemes

3083. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether after the enforcement of the Forest (Conservation) Act-1980 in the country, the work of road construction and many other schemes being implemented in SC/ST dominated forest areas has come to a standstill;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to give any special concession to restart the work going under such Government schemes so that public could be benefited therefrom;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the Union Government have received any proposal in this regard from the State Government during last three years; and

(f) if so, the action taken or proposed to be taken by the Government in this matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) As per the provision of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, for carrying out non-forestry activities such as construction of roads, etc. in forest areas, prior approval of Central Government is required. The Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 does not prohibit any activity on forest land but only regulates diversion of forest land with the objective that all other alternatives have been examined and the demand of forest land is made only when inescapable and to the barest minimum.

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

(e) and (f) A statement showing status of proposals in respect of roads and other schemes received during the last three years (1996, 1997 & 1998) under for Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 is as follows:

S.No.	Category of Proposals	No. of Proposals Received	Sanctioned	Rejected	Rejected for want of information	Returned/withdrawn by states	Under consideration of Ministry	Pending with states for wanting information
1.	Roads	469	310	25	70	5	5	54
2.	Other schemes	1947	1336	145	92	35	134	205
	Total	2416	1646	170	162	40	139	259

Railway Cross Over Bridge

3084. SHRI SUNIL KHAN: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the railway cross over bridge near Rampur of Burdwan district in West Bengal will be completed during this year; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) There is no Railway cross over bridge near Rampur of Burdwan district in West Bengal under construction on National Highway.

(b) Does not arise.

Postal Services in Maharashtra

3085. SHRI NAMDEO HARBAJI DIWATHE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government had formulated an action plan for the development/modernisation and expansion of postal services in the urban and rural areas of Maharashtra particularly in Vidarbha and Chimur regions during Eighth Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the amount spent thereon; and

(c) the details of the programmes for development and expansion of said services in the rural and urban areas of the State and the said regions for the Ninth Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The details of various programmes for development/modernization and expansion of postal services in Maharashtra Circle with special reference to Vidharbha and Chimur regions during the Eighth Plan period are given in enclosed Statement-I.

(c) The details of programmes for development and expansion of said services undertaken in the first two years (1997-98 and 1998-99) of the Ninth Plan and being implemented in the current Annual Plan (1999-2000) in Maharashtra Circle with special reference to Vidarbha and Chimur region are given in enclosed statement-II.

Statement I

Programmes for development/modernization and expansion of postal services	Maharashtra Circle		Vidarbha and Chimur regions	
	Targets Accomplished	Expenditure incurred	Targets Accomplished	Expenditure incurred
1	2	3	4	5
Extra Departmental Branch Post Offices opened	237	Rs. 1,11,97,000	66	
Departmental Sub Post Offices opened	42		3	
Post Offices modernized	182	4,39,60,766	29	Rs. 73,31,903
Railway Mail Service offices modernized	1	Rs. 2,00,000	Nil	Nil
Automated Mail Processing Centre installed	1	Rs. 20,20,00,000	Nil	Nil
Multi-purpose Counter machines installed at Post Offices including those for Savings Bank Local Area Networks	252	Rs. 1,50,00,000	32	Rs. 19,00,000

1	2	3	4	5
Very Small Aperture Terminal Stations Installed	6	Rs. 60,00,000	1	Rs. 10,00,000
Registration Sorting Work Computerised	2	Rs. 72,53,558	Nil	Nil
Transit Mail Office Computerised	1	Rs. 23,90,035	Nil	Nil

Statement II

Programmes for development/modernization and expansion of postal services	Maharashtra Circle		Vidarbha and Chimur regions	
	Targets Accomplished in 1997-99	Targets for 1999-2000	Targets Accomplished in 1997-99	Targets for 1999-2000
Opening of Extra Departmental Branch Post Offices	103	50	27	
Opening of Departmental Sub Post Offices	7	3		
Modernization of Post Offices	39	3	7	1
Modernization of Railway Mail Service office	6	1	Nil	1
Installation of Multi-purpose Counter machines including those for Saving Bank Local Area Networks at Post Offices	230	98	24	4
Installation of very Small Aperture Terminal Stations	Nil	3	Nil	1
Computerization/Upgradation of Registration Sorting Work	1	1	Nil	Nil
Computerisation of Transit Mail Office	Nil	1	Nil	Nil

Foreign Tours by Members of TRAI

3086. SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether some observations were made by the Comptroller and Auditor General regarding the over-spending by the Chairperson and members of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India on the foreign tours undertaken by them;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details regarding the allowances and other facilities provided by the Government as per rules in favour of chairperson and members of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India in this regard; and

(d) the reaction of the Government in regard over-spending by them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Extract of Audit Report is given in enclosed Statement I.

(c) Copies of various orders and other sanctions issued by Government regarding terms and conditions of service, allowances and other facilities provided to Chairperson and Members of TRAI are given in enclosed Statement II.

(d) Does not arise in view of (c) above.

Statement I

REPORT OF THE
COMPTROLLER AND AUDITOR GENERAL
OF INDIA

for the year ended March 1998

UNION GOVERNMENT (CIVIL)
Other Autonomous Bodies
No. 4 of 1999

CHAPTER IV

MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS

Department of Telecommunications

4. Telecom Regulatory Authority of India — Audit of Entitlements

The form of accounts of Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) and its funding arrangements were not finalised by the Government even after about two years of establishment of the Authority. TRAI unauthorisedly issued a number of orders without approval of the Central Government in violation of provisions of TRAI Act. The unauthorised orders sought to give the best possible package of benefits to the Chairperson and Members of TRAI. The system of internal checks and controls was also found lacking resulting in a number of serious irregularities.

4.1 Introduction

Telecom Regulatory Authority of India was established by an Act of Parliament, called the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India Act, 1997 to regulate the telecommunication services and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto. The Act came into force on the 25th day of January 1997.

4.2 Maintenance of accounts and funding arrangements

- Section 23(1) of the TRAI Act stipulates that the Authority shall maintain proper accounts and other relevant records and prepare an annual statement of accounts in such form as may be prescribed by the Central Government in consultation with the Comptroller and Auditor General of India. But Government could not finalise the form of accounts of TRAI as of December 1998 and therefore, the accounts of the Authority for the year 1997-98 were prepared and certified in a provisional format.
- Government failed to finalise funding arrangements for the Authority as of December 1998. The expenditure of TRAI during the year 1997-98 was met mainly from the grants provided by the Government.

4.3 Functioning of TRAI Establishment

In the audit of Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) during April-May 1998, a number of instances came to light where the Chairperson and Members of

the Authority exceeded their powers and decided matter relating to their personal entitlements which were to be decided by the Central Government under the Act. There were also serious irregular payments in settlement of personal claims. The important cases of irregularity and impropriety are discussed below:

4.4 Conditions of service of Chairperson and Members

Central Government alone is empowered to decide conditions of service of Chairperson and Members of TRAI under the Act

The Central Government is the sole authority under Section 35(2)(a) of the TRAI Act empowered to frame rules relating to Conditions of Service of the Chairperson and the Members of TRAI. The Central Government notified scales of pay and rates of dearness allowance of the Chairperson and Members of TRAI in December 1997 but failed to determine and notify other Conditions of Service of Chairperson and Members of TRAI immediately.

Chairperson and Members issued orders about their own conditions of service without approval of Government

It was noticed in Audit that in utter disregard of provisions of TRAI Act, the Chairperson and Members of TRAI issued orders fixing the rates of travelling allowance for domestic and foreign travel, medical benefits, furnishing of residential accommodation etc., for themselves without even informing the competent authority viz. the Central Government, of these unauthorised decisions. The details of adhoc decisions taken by the Chairperson and Members between 29th May and 1st September 1997 relating to their own Conditions of Service are given in Appendix IX. Neither the Authority had any power under the Act to issue such orders nor did it take prior approval or concurrence of the Central Government in this regard.

To an Audit inquiry, the Ministry of Communications stated that it had no information about the interim decisions taken by the Chairperson and Members of TRAI about their own Conditions of Service.

TRAI in their reply in November 1998 stated that in view of the independence sought to be vested in the Authority by the TRAI Act, the approval of the Central Government for the bonafide decisions taken may not be necessary, especially since these were taken in the context of the Central Government not having made rules Governing the Conditions of the Service.

The reply of the Authority is not tenable as the Chairperson and Members have no powers under the TRAI Act to issue any order fixing their own Conditions of Service without the approval of Central Government. Top executives are becoming dispensers of largess to themselves against all established norms. In all other agencies where independence is equally vital these powers have never been usurped by any agency/authority.

4.5 Irregular orders allowed high rates of entitlements

The Central Government granted the pay scale of Rs. 9000 fixed (Prevised) to Chairperson and Rs. 8000 fixed (pre-revised) to Members of TRAI which are the scales of pay of the Cabinet Secretary and the Secretary to Government of India respectively. The Central Government also allowed rates of dearness allowance to the Chairperson and Members at par with Central Government Group A officers only.

It was noticed in Audit that the entitlements provided to the Chairperson and Members by the Authority under its adhoc orders were substantially higher than those admissible to the officers of the equivalent status in Government of India to whom the Chairperson and Members of TRAI were equated by the Government in the matter of pay scales and dearness allowance.

4.5.1 Foreign Travel

Inordinately high rates of allowances for foreign travel

The TRAI in its meeting held on 17 June 1997 fixed the entitlement of the Per Diem halting allowance for foreign tours in respect of Chairperson, Members and other officers and staff as under:

Designation	Scale of Pay (Pre-revised) Prescribed by the Central Government	Per Diem Halting Allowance* Rate fixed by TRAI (All countries except Nepal)
Chairperson	9000 (fixed)	US \$ 500 per day
Members	8000 (fixed)	US \$ 500 per day
Secretary	7300-7600	US \$ 500 per day
Economic Advisor	5900-7300	US \$ 500 per day
Joint Secretary and Directors	5900-6700/ 4500-5700	US \$ 350 per day
DS and below	3700-5000	US \$ 250 per day

NOTE: In Nepal all the officers will be entitled for Per diem Halting Allowance @ US \$ 250 per day
* For lodging and boarding

TRAI fixed rates higher than the highest paid civil service in the world

Audit examination revealed that:

- (i) The Per Diem halting allowance rates of TRAI were higher than the rates prescribed for the officers of International Civil Service of United Nations which is the highest paid Civil Service in the world. A comparative position of rates of Per Diem halting allowance of TRAI officers and UN officers for various stations/countries is given in Appendix X. The United Nations conducts regular surveys in various countries to determine cost of lodging and boarding and fixes rates of Per Diem halting allowance (daily subsistence allowance) for the officers of International Civil Services. The uniform TRAI rate of US \$ 500 was much higher than the UN rates even in the costliest cities like London, New York, Geneva, Singapore, Paris and Tokyo.
- (ii) The above rates of Per Diem halting allowance for foreign travel for TRAI Chairperson, Members and other officers were much higher as compared to the rates admissible to Central Government officers of equivalent status. A direct comparison of TRAI rates with the rates of Daily Subsistence Allowance prescribed by the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) for foreign travel was not possible as MEA provides a panel of hotels for stay and reimburses lodging charges in addition to paying daily allowance between US \$ 60 to US \$ 100 depending on the cost of boarding in the country of visit. The TRAI on the other hand allowed uniform lumpsum rates covering meals, hotel charges etc. Audit however compared MEA rates with TRAI rates in cases where free accommodation is provided to the visiting delegation and found that while daily subsistence allowance ranging between US \$ 60 to US \$ 100 was admissible under MEA rules, TRAI would pay at a flat rate of US \$ 200 uniformly in all the countries except Nepal.
- (iii) The decision of the TRAI to fix uniform lumpsum rate of Per Diem halting allowance for various countries is against the basic principles of determination of daily allowance viz. (a) D.A. shall be so fixed that it does not become a source of profit and (b) since the D.A. is paid to meet the cost of meals, hotel etc., the rate of D.A. should have some linkage with the cost of lodging and boarding at a particular place/country.
- (iv) The uniform rates of Per Diem halting allowance prescribed by the Authority makes the allowance a source of profit for TRAI officers.

In the first year, TRAI officers undertook foreign tours to Singapore, Manila, Australia, Hong Kong, Los Angeles, US, London, Paris, Malta, Canada, Geneva, Sweden, Kathmandu and Bangkok between May 1997 and March 1998 in connection with various study tours and for attending the meetings of International Telecommunication Union etc. Most of these tours were undertaken by the Chairperson, Members and Secretary TRAI.

TRAI stated in their reply that the rates of Per Diem halting allowance were fixed broadly in line with the entitlements of equivalent grades in other organisations like SEBI, C-DOT and MTNL and cannot be termed excessive in the context of work required to be done and the stature accorded to the Members of the Authority.

The reply is not tenable as the Reserve Bank of India fixed the Per Diem ceiling for special scale for Chief/Senior Executives at a rate not exceeding US \$ 500. Thus, the rate of US \$ 500 fixed by RBI is only a ceiling rate and cannot be made applicable uniformly for all the countries. Adoption of the ceiling rate uniformly for all the countries as the base rate is indicative of the intention of TRAI *i.e.*, to make it a source of profit.

4.5.2 Sanction for foreign tours

The Authority in its meeting on 29th May 1997 decided that a Committee consisting of the Chairperson, Vice Chairperson and senior most Member of TRAI would decide all cases of foreign tours of TRAI officers including Members and the Chairperson.

TRAI, therefore, did not take any approval of Government of India in respect of foreign tours/deputation undertaken by TRAI officers including the Chairperson and Members during 1997-98. This action was without any authority.

The Sections 6(1) and 35 (2)(b) of the Act *inter alia* prescribe that the Chairperson shall have powers of general superintendence and directions in the conduct of the affairs of the Authority and shall discharge such powers and functions of the Authority as may be prescribed by the Central Government by notification. On being asked by Audit, the Ministry of Communications clarified in May 1998 that no orders had been issued by the Central Government empowering Chairperson or any other Member of TRAI to exercise the functions of the Screening Committee for the purpose of giving approvals for foreign travel. Since the Conditions of Service Rules of Chairperson and Members of TRAI and the powers to be exercised by them were to be prescribed by the Central Government, the decision of the TRAI to approve cases of foreign travel including those of Chairperson and Members, was not covered under the provisions of

the Act or any delegation of powers made by the Central Government to TRAI in this regard.

On being pointed out by Audit, TRAI modified the procedure in November 1998 to submit such proposals in respect of the Authority for the approval of the Minister of Communications prior to undertaking a foreign tour.

4.5.3 Domestic Travel

No limit on expenditure in domestic travel

While the Central Government officers of the rank of the Secretary to Government of India get daily allowance of only Rs. 650 per day for stay in hotel in A-1 class cities in India and do not get any additional boarding charges, the Chairperson and Members of the TRAI prescribed reimbursement of lodging charges on actuals for stay in five star hotels and also boarding charges on actuals on production of vouchers for themselves. Hence, the rates of daily allowance for domestic travel in respect of TRAI officers were also higher as compared to the Central Government rates.

4.5.4 Other facilities

- The issue regarding grant of status of the Chief Justice of High Court to the Chairperson of TRAI had been under consideration of the Government. Without waiting for any Government notification in this regard, the Chairperson of the TRAI was provided free furnishing at residence and electric appliances totalling Rs. 2.26 lakh.
- The Chairperson has also been allowed free water and electricity at residence.

The TRAI stated that an amount of Rs. 1.60 lakh was incurred on furnishing of Chairperson residence and Rs. 0.66 lakh for providing furniture for office at his residence upto March 1998 keeping in view the status of the Chairperson who was earlier a Chief Justice of High Court. The reply is not tenable as the amount is higher than the entitlement of Rs. 2 lakh of a Chief Justice of High Court.

4.6 Comparative position

A comparative position of entitlements of officers of the rank of Secretary to Government of India and those permitted by TRAI to its Chairperson and Members under the adhoc orders is given in Appendix XI.

The TRAI stated that since the Authority was not a Government department, a comparison of entitlements of its officers with those admissible to the officers of Central Government was not correct. The reply is not acceptable

since the Central Government equated Chairperson and Members of TRAI with the Cabinet Secretary and Secretary to Government of India for the purpose of pay and dearness allowance; and hence rates in other matters cannot be far different.

After the issue being raised by Audit, the Central Government notified the Conditions of Service of Chairperson and Members of TRAI on 15th March 1999. As per the notification, the Chairperson and Members of TRAI would be entitled to foreign travel allowance only at par with equivalent grade officers of Central Government. For daily allowance in domestic travel the Chairperson would be entitled to allowances according to his entitlement as a Judge on the rates admissible at the time of his re-employment. The Members of TRAI have been equated with equivalent status Group A officers of Central Government. The Chairperson would be entitled to rent free furnished accommodation at rates specified by the Central Government of House Rent Allowance at the rate of 12½ per cent of his pay in lieu thereof.

The notification has been issued on 15th March 1999 by the Central Government and the above rates have been made applicable with effect from that date. The Central Government would have to take a decision for the period prior to 15th March 1999.

4.7 Lack of Internal Financial Control

A number of serious irregularities in settlement of personal claims of the Chairperson, Members and officers of TRAI were noticed indicating complete lack of internal financial control and monitoring in the Authority. Some of the irregularities are listed below:

4.7.1 Irregular Claim of entertainment allowance

Though entertainment allowance is admissible for entertaining foreign dignitaries/guests abroad, the Chairperson claimed his hotel stay bills also as entertainment allowance in Hong Kong dollars and Australian dollars equivalent to Rs. 39547. These irregular claims pertained to his visits to Hong Kong and Melbourne in September 1997 and were passed by the Authority. On being objected by Audit, the TRAI recovered the whole amount from the Chairperson as per reply furnished in November 1998.

4.7.2 Double payment of allowance

- One Member of the TRAI during his tour to Nepal in May 1997 stayed in a hotel for which an amount of Rs. 7355 was paid by TRAI through the travel agent for his stay, meals and transport. He also claimed full Per Diem halting

allowance at the rate of US\$ 250 per day in Indian Rupee totalling Rs. 30068 for this visit resulting in double payment of allowance. On being pointed out by Audit, TRAI recovered Rs. 7355 from the Member in April 1998.

- There were also cases of double payment of boarding charges domestic travel by Chairperson, Vice Chairperson and Members in respect of their visits to Mumbai, Jaipur, Bangalore and Chennai. On being pointed out by Audit, TRAI recovered Rs. 3399 from the officers concerned. TRAI also stated that action was being initiated to review other cases for appropriate action.

4.7.3 Travel by Foreign Airlines

Government of India, Department of Civil Aviation instructions of October 1985 prescribe that in all cases of deputation abroad, where the cost of air passage is met from Government funds, the person concerned should travel by national carriers. In case the national carriers are unable to offer a passage on or about the desired date, or if the national carriers do not operate on the sector or do not have flights to the nearest connecting point for which the passage is required, the department/undertaking concerned will approach Air India/Indian Airlines directly for travel by foreign airlines in the prescribed proforma. In violation of these instructions of the Central Government, the Chairperson, Vice Chairperson and the officers of TRAI performed journeys abroad using foreign airlines for visiting USA, Canada, Australia, U.K., France, Sweden and Geneva though Air India's flights are available for many of these countries.

TRAI stated that travel by foreign airlines was undertaken because they could offer convenient schedules and confirmed accommodation. But TRAI did not furnish any evidence to show that it did not get confirmed accommodation or convenient schedule from Air India in respect of these visits. Nor did the TRAI produce any documentary evidence to show that it had approached national carriers for the purpose as required under the Rules.

4.7.4 Air travel by first class

Prior to 1st October 1997, Government of India, Ministry of Finance instructions issued in July and August 1991 specifically debarred officers of the Government, Public Sector Undertakings and Autonomous bodies including officers of the level of Secretaries to Government of India to perform journey by first class by air whether within the country or abroad. But two Members of TRAI performed five air journeys abroad by first class between

May and September 1997 in violation of Government instructions.

TRAI stated in their reply that the Cabinet Secretariat O.M. of March 1995 permit the Secretary level officers to travel by first class. The reply is not tenable as these instructions contained in paragraph 1(ix) of Cabinet Secretariat O.M. are applicable in cases of foreign travel by Central Ministers and their personal staff. The O.M. specifically clarifies in paragraph 2 (i) that the cases of deputation abroad of Government officers will be governed strictly under the guidelines of Ministries of Finance and External Affairs, issued from time to time.

4.7.5 Journeys before joining office

Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson of TRAI took charge in the Authority on 25th March 1997. The Chairperson claimed Travelling Allowance in respect of three journeys performed by him between 27th February to 24th March 1997 from Chandigarh to Delhi *i.e.* before joining of the Authority. Similarly the Vice Chairperson also claimed travelling allowance in respect of three journeys performed by him between 27th February to 24th March 1997 from Jaipur to Delhi. The claims were passed by the Authority.

4.7.6 Excess claim of Per Diem

Test check of TA claims relating to foreign travel revealed cases of excess drawal of Per Diem halting allowance as under:—

- Ministry of Finance instructions of May 1980 provide that where an officer is deputed abroad to attend meeting/conference sponsored by any foreign government/agency and is granted subsistence allowance by it, he will not be entitled to any daily allowance from Government of India. Secretary TRAI in violation of these instructions claimed Per Diem halting allowance from the Authority at the TRAI rate of US \$ 200 per day for his deputation to Asian Development Bank Manila from 17 to 21 August 1997 in connection with ADB Technical Assistance project instead of taking subsistence allowance of US \$ 75 per day while in transit and US \$ 55 per day in Manila offered by ADB. Thus, Secretary TRAI was given undue benefit of US \$ 705 during his visit to Manila.
- TRAI stated in their reply that no excess payment was made to the Secretary as his TA claim was regulated according to TRAI's guideline. The reply is not tenable as TRAI has not framed any guidelines in this regard. The Per Diem halting allowance was allowed at TRAI

rate as it was much higher than the rate offered by ADB Manila, thus giving undue benefit in violation of Government's policy guidelines.

TRAI also made excess payment of US \$ 7250 and AS* \$ 480 to various officers on account of Per Diem halting allowance for foreign travel by incorrectly computing number of days of tour or permitting more days for visit than actually justified.

TRAI in their reply stated that the visits by the Authority included not only the specified seminars but also informal meetings with telecom sector professionals, regulators, multilateral bodies and others. The reply is not tenable as tour programmes were approved for specific purpose and holding informal consultations with others were not indicated in the tour programmes approved.

4.7.7 Questionable payment of Entertainment allowance

Ministry of Finance instructions of January 1992 allow entertainment allowance of only Rs. 7500 to Ministers and Rs. 6000 to officers of the level to Secretary to Government of India in cases where it was obligatory to host lunch/dinner by the delegation while on foreign tour. TRAI neither followed these Government instructions nor had any guidelines in respect of its officers undertaking foreign tours and arbitrarily allowed entertainment allowance advance which was much higher as compared to the rates prescribed by the Ministry of Finance under the above instructions.

For his visit to Australia and Hongkong from 3rd September to 19th September 1997, the Chairperson was reimbursed entertainment allowance of US \$ 1830 equivalent to Rs. 66520. Out of the total entertainment allowance of Rs. 66520, Rs. 39547 pertained to his hotel room charges as already discussed above and for the balance amount of Rs. 26973, the Chairperson did not furnish complete vouchers and details of foreign dignitaries entertained alongwith the bills. This was highly irregular as according to the Government instructions it was obligatory on the part of officers claiming entertainment allowance to support the TA claim with original vouchers in cases where the actual expenditure on entertainment

exceeded the limits fixed by the Government. If such details were not furnished, the claim was liable to be disallowed.

4.7.8 Delay in refund of unutilised tour advance for foreign travel

General Financial Rules prescribed that the amount of TA advance should be adjusted within 15 days of completion of tour or the date on which the Government servant resumes duty after the completion of tour. Section 8(3) of Foreign Exchange Regulation Act also provided a limit of 30 days for selling unused foreign exchange to an authorised dealer or a money exchanger.

It was observed in Audit that TRAI on one hand gave excess tour advance to its officers and on other it did not adjust the unutilised advance within the above time limit in violation of Rules.

- Five officers of the TRAI including the Chairperson and a Member were given tour advance of US\$ 2980 over and above their full entitlement of Per Diem halting allowance for their foreign visits.
- Six officers of the Authority including the Chairperson and Secretary did not refund the unutilised advance of US\$ 7913 within the prescribed time limits. The unutilised amount was finally refunded or adjusted against subsequent visits after a delay of one to seven months.

The TRAI stated that full tour advance could not be utilised on account of partial utilisation of entertainment allowance and stay in places other than hotels or hotel charges being covered by other agencies. It explained that foreign exchange was in the form of Travel Cheque and was retained for re-use for subsequent tours which were foreseen in a short period.

The TRAI's reply is not acceptable as there was a time gap of three to seven months between the tours for which the advance became surplus and the tours against which the surplus advance was adjusted or refunded by the Chairperson, Secretary and Economic Advisor. This is a blatant violation of rules in this regard.

4.8 Leased accommodation

The rates of lease accommodation fixed by TRAI for its staff were also excessive as indicated in the table below:

Basic Pay in revised scale	Type of lease accommodation allowed by TRAI	Maximum lease rent admissible under TRAI orders (in Rs.)	Maximum house rent admissible under Central Government rules (in Rs.)
2550-3049	I	1500	765-915
3050-4589	II	2500	915-1376
4590-8499	III	4500	1376-2550
8500-10999	IV	6000	2550-3300
11000-18399	V	9500	3300-5520
18400-22399	VI	12000	5520-6720
22400 and above	VII	15000	6720-9000

In addition, TRAI has permitted the facility of self leasing to its employees. The employees can lease their own houses and claim lease rent at the rates indicated in the table above. In the Central Government, employees/officers residing in their own houses are entitled for House Rent Allowance ranging between Rs. 765 to Rs. 9000 per month as compared to Rs. 1500 to Rs. 15000 per month allowed to TRAI's officers and staff. The scheme of self leasing of own house introduced by TRAI indirectly gives huge undue benefit to TRAI staff by the way of granting house rent allowance at almost double the rate in the form of lease rent.

4.9 Unjustified purchase of vehicle

Authority has eight staff cars including five air conditioned Ambassadors and three non-AC cars. It also purchased one Maruti Esteem EX air-conditioned car for VIP visitors.

On Audit examination it was found that Maruti Esteem AC car was neither on the approved list of Ministry of

Finance nor under the DGSD rate contract. It was also observed that there were only three visits by foreign dignitaries during 1997-98 and therefore maintaining of separate Maruti Esteem car for VIP visitors was not justified.

TRAI stated that the utility of the Maruti Esteem car was felt in the flexibility available for receiving and entertaining VIPs. The Maruti Esteem car was also used as a back up vehicle for the Authority. The reply is not tenable in view of the fact that the Authority already has a number of staff cars which could be utilised for occasional visits of foreign dignitaries or suitable vehicles hired for the short period of visits of foreign delegates.

The matter was referred to the Ministry in August 1998. The Ministry directed TRAI to furnish reply to Audit instead of giving its comments on the points raised by Audit. The final reply of the Ministry was awaited as of December 1998.

APPENDIX IX

(Referred to in paragraph 4.4 at page 14)

Ad hoc orders issued by TRAI without approval of Central Government

Subject	Date of the meeting of TRAI	Unauthorised approvals accorded by Chairperson and Members for their own conditions of service
1	2	3
Foreign Travel		
1. Procedure for approving foreign deputation/tours of Chairperson, Members and staff of TRAI	29 May 1997	A three member committee consisting of Chairperson, Vice Chairperson and a Member will decide all cases of foreign deputation including their own.
2. Rates of Per diem halting allowance for foreign travel	17 June 1997	The Chairperson and members would be entitled to per diem allowance @ US \$ 500 per day for all countries except Nepal. In Nepal they would paid US \$ 250 per day in equivalent Indian Rupee.
3. Incidental expenses in case of foreign travel where all expenses are borne by the host institution	17 June 1997	US \$ 100 per day subject to a minimum of US \$ 400 in case of all countries except Nepal In Nepal the rate of incidental expenses to be paid would be US\$ 50 per day subject to a minimum of US \$ 200
4. Cash allowance in case of foreign travel	17 June 1997	When accommodation is arranged by host institution/embassy abroad, the actual expenses incurred for the purpose of accommodation would be reimbursed. In addition they will be paid cash allowance equivalent to 40 per cent of eligible per diem for the country of halt.
Domestic Travel		
5. Lodging charges	17 June 1997	Lodging charges will be reimbursed on actuals for stay in the Five Star Hotels.
6. Boarding charges	17 June 1997	Actual expenses on production of vouchers
7. Halting allowance	17 June 1997	At the rate of Rs. 400 per day if own arrangements are made for lodging and boarding.

1	2	3
8. Incidental expenses	17 June 1997	At the rate of 25 per cent of halting allowance in the event of claiming boarding charges
9. Entitled class for travel	17 June 1997	Executive class by air and AC 1st class by train
Medical Facilities		
10. Medical reimbursement	30 May 1997 and 4 June 1997	The cases of Chairperson, Members and their dependants may be dealt with on case to case basis. (no limit laid down)
Transport Facilities		
11. Transport for official use	30 May and 4 June 1997	All officers of the level of Advisor (Rs. 5900-7300) and above would be provided individual chauffeur driven cars
12. Transport for personal use	30 May and 4 June 1997	The officers of the rank of Advisors and above can use individual chauffeur driven cars for personal use upto 500 km per month on payment of Rs. 250 for non-AC and Rs. 400 for AC cars.
Facilities at Residence		
13. Electricity and water charges, Furniture and fittings	1 September 1997	The Chairperson has been extended the facilities of free furnishing including electrical appliances upto Rs. 2 lakh and free water and electricity at par with the Chief Justice of a High Court.

APPENDIX X

(Referred to in paragraph 4.5.1 at page no. 15)

Comparison of Per diem Halting Allowance paid by TRAI to its officers with DSA rates paid by UN to International Civil Service

Place/Country	TRAI		United Nations	
	Designation	Per diem Rate per day (US \$)	Designation	Per diem/ DSA Rate per day (US \$)
1	2	3	4	5
Canberra/ Australia	(i) Chairperson/Member	500	(i) USG/ASG	228.2
	(ii) Secretary/E Advisor	500	(ii) D1/D2	187.45
	(iii) Director	350	(iii) P5	163
	(iv) DS and below	250	(iv) P4 and below	163
Ottawa/ Canada	(i) Chairperson/Member	500	(i) USG/ASG	245
	(ii) Secretary/E Advisor	500	(ii) D1/D2	201.25
	(iii) Director	350	(iii) P5	175
	(iv) DS and below	250	(iv) P4 and below	175
Beijing/ China	(i) Chairperson/Member	500	(i) USG/ASG	259
	(ii) Secretary/E Advisor	500	(ii) D1/D2	212.75
	(iii) Director	350	(iii) P5	185
	(iv) DS and below	250	(iv) P4 and below	185
Hong Kong	(i) Chairperson/Member	500	(i) USG/ASG	271.60
	(ii) Secretary/E Advisor	500	(ii) D1/D2	223.10
	(iii) Director	350	(iii) P5	194
	(iv) DS and below	250	(iv) P4 and below	194
Tokyo/Japan	(i) Chairperson/Member	500	(i) USG/ASG	368.2
	(ii) Secretary/E Advisor	500	(ii) D1/D2	302.45
	(iii) Director	350	(iii) P5	263
	(iv) DS and below	250	(iv) P4 and below	263
Malta	(i) Chairperson/Member	500	(i) USG/ASG	141.4
	(ii) Secretary/E Advisor	500	(ii) D1/D2	120.15
	(iii) Director	350	(iii) P5	101
	(iv) DS and below	250	(iv) P4 and below	101
Paris/France	(i) Chairperson/Member	500	(i) USG/ASG	275.80
	(ii) Secretary/E Advisor	500	(ii) D1/D2	226.55
	(iii) Director	350	(iii) P5	197
	(iv) DS and below	250	(iv) P4 and below	197
Kathmandu/ Nepal	(i) Chairperson/Member	250	(i) USG/ASG	173.6
	(ii) Secretary/E Advisor	250	(ii) D1/D2	142.6
	(iii) Director	250	(iii) P5	124
	(iv) DS and below	250	(iv) P4 and below	124

1	2	3	4	5
Singapore	(i) Chairperson/Member	500	(i) USG/ASG	292.60
	(ii) Secretary/E Advisor	500	(ii) D1/D2	240.35
	(iii) Director	350	(iii) P5	209
	(iv) DS and below	250	(iv) P4 and below	209
Johannesburg/ South Africa	(i) Chairperson/Member	500	(i) USG/ASG	201.6
	(ii) Secretary/E Advisor	500	(ii) D1/D2	165.6
	(iii) Director	350	(ii) P5	144
	(iv) DS and below	250	(iv) P4 and below	144
Colombo/ Sri Lanka	(i) Chairperson/Member	500	(i) USG/ASG	117.6
	(ii) Secretary/E Advisor	500	(ii) D1/D2	96.6
	(iii) Director	350	(iii) P5	84
	(iv) DS and below	250	(iv) P4 and below	84
Switzerland (All areas)	(i) Chairperson/Member	500	(i) USG/ASG	266
	(ii) Secretary/E Advisor	500	(ii) D1/D2	218.5
	(iii) Director	350	(iii) P5	190
	(iv) DS and below	250	(iv) P4 and below	190
Bangkok/ Thailand	(i) Chairperson/Member	500	(i) USG/ASG	126
	(ii) Secretary/E Advisor	500	(ii) D1/D2	103.5
	(iii) Director	350	(iii) P5	90
	(iv) DS and below	250	(iv) P4 and below	90
London/UK	(i) Chairperson/Member	500	(i) USG/ASG	338.8
	(ii) Secretary/E Advisor	500	(ii) D1/D2	278.3
	(iii) Director	350	(iii) P5	242
	(iv) DS and below	250	(iv) P4 and below	242
Washington/ USA	(i) Chairperson/Member	500	(i) USG/ASG	274.4
	(ii) Secretary/E Advisor	500	(ii) D1/D2	225.4
	(iii) Director	350	(iii) P5	196
	(iv) DS and below	250	(iv) P4 and below	196
New York/ USA	(i) Chairperson/Member	500	(i) USG/ASG	301
	(ii) Secretary/E Advisor	500	(ii) D1/D2	247.25
	(iii) Director	350	(iii) P5	215
	(iv) DS and below	250	(iv) P4 and below	215

USG — Under Secretary General
 ASG — Assistant Secretary General
 D1—Director Level-1
 D2—Director Level-2
 P5—Professional grade 5
 P4—Professional grade 4

APPENDIX XI
(Referred to in paragraph 4.6 at page 18)

A comparison of entitlement of Secretary to Government of India with Chairman/Members of TRAI (as per decisions taken by TRAI)

Subject	Entitlement of Secretary to Govt. of India (Pay Range Rs. 16,400 and above)	Decisions taken by TRAI regarding conditions of service of Chairperson and members of TRAI
1	2	3
Foreign Travel		
1. Rates of Per diem halting allowance for foreign travel	MEA rates <i>i.e.</i> actual room rental for approved panel of hotels plus Daily allowance ranging between US \$ 60 to US \$ 100 depending on the country of visit.	The Chairperson and members would be entitled to per diem allowance @ US \$ 500 per day for all countries except Nepal. In Nepal they would be paid US \$ 250 per day in equivalent Indian Rupee.
2. Incidental expenses in case of foreign travel where all expenses are borne by the host institution	Only 25 per cent of Daily Allowance <i>i.e.</i> between US\$ 15 to US\$ 25 per day depending on the country of visit to a minimum of US\$ 200	US\$ 100 per day subject to a minimum of US\$ 400 in case of all countries except Nepal In Nepal the rate of incidental expenses to be paid would be US\$ 50 per day subject
3. Cash allowance in case of foreign travel	Where the accommodation is provided free entitlement for daily allowance ranging from US\$ 60 to 100 only	When accommodation is arranged by host institution/embassy abroad, the actual expenses incurred for the purpose of accommodation would be reimbursed. In addition they will be paid cash allowance equivalent to 40 per cent of eligible per diem for the country of halt <i>i.e.</i> US\$ 200 in all countries except Nepal. In Nepal it is US\$ 100.
Domestic Travel		
4. Lodging charges	Only Rs. 650 for stay in hotel in A-1 Class Cities. This amount also includes boarding charges.	Lodging charges will be reimbursed on actuals for stay in the Five Star Hotels.
5. Boarding charges	Included in lodging charges.	Actual expenses on production of vouchers
6. Halting allowance	Rs. 260 in A-1 class cities	At the rate of Rs. 400 per day if own arrangements are made for lodging and boarding (irrespective of class of city)

1	2	3
7. Incidental expenses	Nil	At the rate of 25 per cent of halting allowance in the event of claiming boarding charges
8. Entitled class for travel	By Air or AC 1st Class in train	Executive class by air and AC 1st class by train
Medical Facilities		
9. Medical reimbursement	CGHS Facilities	The cases of Chairperson, members and their dependants may be dealt with on case to case basis. (no limit laid down)
Transport Facilities		
10. Transport for official use	Independent Staff Cars.	Individual Chauffeur driven cars
11. Transport for personal use	Can use officials cars for private purposes upto 500 km. per month on payment of the following (a) Rs. 350 p.m. for Cars upto 16 hp (b) Rs. 450 p.m. for Cars above 16 hp	All officers of the level of Advisors and above can use individual chauffeur driven cars for personal use upto 500 km per month on payment of Rs. 250 per month. For use above 500 km, the officer will have to pay Rs. 1 per km.
Facilities at Residence		
12. Electricity and water charges, Furniture and fittings	Government Accommodation. No facility like free electricity and water charges, furniture furnishing etc. etc.	The Chairperson has been extended the facilities of free furnishing including electrical appliances upto Rs. 2 lakh and free water and electricity at par with the Chief Justice of a High Court.

Statement II

Copy of Letter No. 1-1/94-TCO (Vol. X) (Pt. II)
dated 14th June, 1999

Office Memorandum

Subject: Terms and Conditions of Chairperson and Members of Telecom Regulatory Authority of India.

Ex-post facto sanction of Competent Authority is hereby accorded to provision of the following additional facilities to the Chairperson and Members of Telecom Regulatory Authority of India effective from the date of assumption of their charge till 14th of March, 1999.

i. Additional facilities to the present Incumbent of the post of Chairperson:

- (i) Sumptuary Allowance @ Rs. 3,000/-
- (ii) Scale of furniture of official residence—Rs. 2,00,000/-
- (iii) Allowance for electricity and water @ Rs. 10,000 units power per annum and 36,000 K.L. of water.
- (iv) Monthly quota of Petrol @ 200 litres of fuel (maximum) per month or actual consumption of petrol per month, whichever is less.

(v) Medical facilities — equivalent to a Union Cabinet Minister.

(vi) LTC facility — LTC twice in a calendar year.

The facilities listed at (i) to (vi) above shall be provided to the present Chairperson of TRAI as personal to him.

(vii) Expenditure incurred by the present incumbent to the post of Chairperson in overseas travel upto 14.3.1999 shall be regularised subject to a maximum per diem allowance at the Rate of US \$ 500.

(viii) The Chairperson during domestic official travel shall be given facility to stay in ITDC hotels on reimbursement basis and wherever ITDC hotels are not available, in other hotels on reimbursement basis.

II. Additional facilities to other Members, TRAI

(i) Entitled to facility of Government accommodation equivalent to Secretary to the Government of India.

(ii) Entitled to conveyance facilities at par with those available to Secretary to the Government of India.

(iii) Entitled to stay in Government houses at par with Secretary to the Government of India.

(iv) Shall be entitled to CGHS facilities.

(v) Members of TRAI during domestic official travel shall be given the facility to stay in ITDC hotels on reimbursement basis and wherever ITDC hotels are not available in other hotels on reimbursement basis.

(vi) Members of the TRAI will not have the status equivalent to that of a Judge of the High Court but would be provided terms and conditions equivalent to a Secretary to Government of India.

III. Additional facilities to Vice-Chairperson, TRAI.

The present Vice-Chairperson, TRAI shall be given the additional facility of a residential office as well as rent free residential accommodation.

The above facilities shall be provided to the present Vice-Chairperson, TRAI as personal to him.

Sd/
(Gurdip Singh)
Joint Secretary (T)

Copy of Letter No. 1-1/94-TCO (Vol. X) (Pt. II) dtd.
14.06.1999

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

Subject: Terms and conditions of service of Chairperson and Members of Telecom Regulatory Authority of India.

In exercise of the powers conferred by rule 8 of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (Salaries, Allowances and other Conditions of Service of Chairperson and other Members) Rules, 1999, notified on 15th March, 1999, the Central Government has decided to relax the terms and conditions of service of the Chairperson and other Members as under.

2. Additional facility in relaxation of the rules to the present incumbent to the post of Chairperson, TRAI.

The present incumbent to the post of the Chairperson shall be entitled to the following additional facilities as personal to him:

(i) **Sumptuary Allowance at the rate of Rs. 3000/- per month.**

(ii) **Entitlement for furnishing at the official residence subject to the maximum of Rs. one lakh including the expenses already incurred prior to notification of the Rules on 15th March, 1999.**

(iii) **Allowances for electricity and water at the rate of 10,000 units of power per annum and 36,000 K.L. of water.**

(iv) **Entitled for monthly quota of petrol at the rate of 200 Litres of fuel (maximum) per month or actual consumption of petrol per month whichever is less.**

(v) **Entitlement to medical facilities at par with the medical facility as admissible to the Union Cabinet Ministers.**

(vi) **The Chairperson shall be entitled to LTC twice in calendar year.**

The above provisions shall be applicable only to the present incumbent to the post of Chairperson, TRAI, as personal to him and shall cease to have effect on his relinquishing the office.

3. *Additional facility to the Chairperson, TRAI in relaxation of rules.*

- (i) Indian Missions abroad shall take care of arrangements during official tours of Chairperson, TRAI abroad and extend them all facilities as a sitting judge of the Supreme Court/ Chief Justice of High Court.
- (ii) The Chairperson, during domestic office tour, shall be given the facility to stay in ITDC hotels on reimbursement basis and wherever ITDC hotels are not available, in other hotels on reimbursement basis.

4. *Additional facility to the Members of TRAI in relaxation of rules*

- (i) The Member shall be entitled to stay in government house at par with the Secretaries to the Government of India.
- (ii) The Indian Missions abroad shall take care of arrangements during official tours of Members of TRAI abroad and extend them all facilities as admissible to the Secretary to the Government of India.
- (iii) Members, during official domestic tour, shall be given the facility to stay in ITDC hotels on reimbursement basis and wherever ITDC hotels are not available, in other hotels on reimbursements basis.

The above provisions shall be effective from the date of the notification of the Rules, 15th March, 1999.

Sd/
(Gurdip Singh)
Joint Secretary

Copy of Letter No. 1-1/94-TCO (Vol. X)
(Pt. II) dated 14-6-99.

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

Subject: Terms and conditions of service of Members of Telecom Regulatory Authority of India.

In exercise of powers conferred by rule 7 of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (Salaries, Allowances and other Conditions of Service of Chairperson and other Members) Rules, 1999, notified on 15th March, 1999, the Central Government has decided to provide the following additional facilities to the Members/Vice-Chairperson of Telecom Regulatory Authority of India.

- (i) The Members shall be entitled to the following additional facilities:
 - (a) Entitled for facility of Government accommodation equivalent to the Secretary to Government of India.
 - (b) Entitled for conveyance facilities at par with those available to Secretary to Government of India.
- (ii) Members of the TRAI will not have the status equivalent to that of a judge of the High Court but would be provided terms and conditions equivalent to a Secretary to Government of India.

The above provisions shall take effect from the date of issue of notification of rules, 15.3.1999.

- (iii) The present Vice Chairperson TRAI shall be given the additional facility of a residential office as well as rent free residential accommodation, as personal to him.

The above provisions for Vice Chairperson, shall be effective from the date of notification of the rules, 15th March, 1999 and shall cease to have effect on his relinquishing the office.

Sd/
(Gurdip Singh)
Joint Secretary

**Copy of Letter No. 1-1/94 TCO (Vol. X) (Pt. II)
dated 2nd August, 1999**

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

Subject: Terms and conditions of service of Chairperson and Members of Telecom Regulatory Authority of India.

In partial modification of the Office Memorandum of even number dated 14th June, 1999 on the above noted subject, sanction of the competent authority is hereby accorded for the following facilities to the Chairperson and Members of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India.

I. Facilities to the present incumbent to the post of Chairperson

(i) Medical Facilities

- (a) Reimbursement of actual expenditure on treatment by medical practitioners and in medical institution of choice, from the date of appointment till 14.3.1999, subject to the condition that such treatment has been obtained within India.
- (b) Reimbursement of actual expenditure from 15.3.1999 till the issue of requisite authorization by the Ministry of Health, for availing CGHS facilities, subject to the condition that the scale of expenditure involved in such treatment does not exceed that permitted under this Office O.M. of even number dated 14.6.99.

(ii) Reimbursement of expenditure on hotel accommodation during domestic travel

Reimbursement of actual expenditure on hotel accommodation on domestic travel from the date of appointment till 14.3.99 on single room occupancy basis.

(iii) Office at residence

Facility of residential office at the residence of the present incumbent to the post of Chairperson, as personal to him from the date of his joining till the date on which he relinquishes the office.

II. Facilities to be provided for Vice-Chairperson and other Members

(i) Medical Facilities

- (a) Reimbursement of actual expenditure on treatment by medical practitioners and in medical

institution of choice from the date of appointment till 14.3.1999, subject to the condition that such treatment has been obtained within India.

- (b) Reimbursement of actual expenditure from 15.3.1999 till the issue of requisite authorization by the Ministry of Health for availing CGHS facilities, subject to the condition that the scale of expenditure involved in such treatment does not exceed that permitted under this Office O.M. of even number dated 14.6.1999.

(ii) Reimbursement of expenditure on hotel accommodation during domestic travel.

Reimbursement of actual expenditure on hotel accommodation on domestic travel from the date of appointment till 14.3.1999 on single room occupancy basis.

(iii) Reimbursement of expenditure incurred on overseas travel till 14-3-1999

Regularisation of expenditure incurred by Members in overseas travel from the date of their appointment up to 14.3.1999 subject to per diem allowance at the rate of U.S. \$ 500.

(iv) Conveyance facilities

Conveyance facilities with monthly quota of petrol at the rate of 200 litres of fuel (Maximum) per month or actual consumption of petrol per month whichever is less for Vice-Chairperson and other Members from the date of their appointment till 14.3.1999.

2. All cases of reimbursement of expenditure mentioned in this O.M. will be subject to production of vouchers to the satisfaction of the Accounting Authority as per normal principles governing such transactions.

3. The scale of furnishing/furniture etc. in the office at the residence of Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson shall be in accordance with Department of Expenditure O.M. No. F. 1 (7)-EG-1/54 dated 15th June, 1954 as amended from time to time and as provided for in rule 610 A of P&T Manual Volume-II.

Sd/
(Gurdip Singh)
Joint Secretary

**Copy of Letter No. 1-1/94 TCO (Vol. X) (Part II)
dated 2nd August, 1999**

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

Subject: Terms and conditions of service of Chairperson and Members of Telecom Regulatory Authority of India.

In partial modification of the Office Memorandum of even number dated 14th June, 1999, providing additional facilities to Chairperson and Members of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India to be effective from 15th March, 1999, under the rule 88 of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (Salaries, Allowances and other Conditions of Service) Rules, 1999 notified on 15.3.99. It is clarified that the facility provided in paras 3(ii) and 4(iii) relating to stay in hotels on official domestic tours for Chairperson and Members respectively shall be on a single room occupancy basis.

Sd/-
(Gurdip Singh)
Joint Secretary

**Copy of letter No. 1-1/94-TCO (Vol. X) dated
8th September, 1999**

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

Subject: Terms and conditions of service of Chairperson and Members of Telecom Regulatory Authority of India.

In exercise of the powers conferred by Rule 8 of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (Salaries, Allowances and other Conditions of Service of Chairperson and other Members) Rules, 1999, notified on 15th March, 1999, the Central Government has decided to relax the provision of residential accommodation to Chairperson/ Members of the Authority and to allow retention of residential accommodation on the same terms & conditions for two months after demitting office.

Sd/-
(Anil Kumar)
Joint Secretary

**LPG Agencies/Petrol Pump Transferred to Khurja in
Uttar Pradesh**

3087. SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of L.P.G. agencies/petrol pumps transferred to Khurja region of Uttar Pradesh from other places during the last three years;

(b) the grounds on which these were transferred;

(c) the criteria fixed by the Government for such transfers;

(d) whether the criteria is being strictly adhered to; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) to (e) Government has laid down guidelines for resitment of RO dealerships/LPG distributorships. No retail outlet dealership or LPG distributorship has reportedly been transferred to Khurja Region of Uttar Pradesh from other places during the last three years i.e. 1996-97, 1997-98 and 1998-99.

**Supply of Coal to Bhusawal and Paras Thermal
Power Stations**

3088. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Maharashtra Government has approached his Ministry to ensure adequate supply of coal for the Bhusawal and Paras Thermal Power Stations for their expansion; and

(b) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) and (b) The Government of Maharashtra had requested the Government of India for grant of coal linkage for Bhusawal TPS Expansion and Paras TPS Expansion in June, 1998. The request of Government of Maharashtra was considered and they were informed that the question of linkage to these units would be considered only after the list of power projects for the Xth Plan was firmed up and these units are included thereto.

Starting of Millennium Telecom Company

3089. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the MTNL has obtained share-holders approval to start a subsidiary company called Millennium Telecom;

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

(c) whether the Value-Aided Services are likely to be provided by the said company; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) to (d) MTNL has got the approval of the shareholders for amendment to its Articles of Association, *inter alia* to from a subsidiary company in India and abroad. Specific approval to the name of the subsidiary company called "Millennium Telecom Ltd." has not been sought from the shareholders, as this is not required as per the law. The Registrar of Companies, Maharashtra has granted approval to the name of the subsidiary company called "Millennium Telecom Ltd.

The proposed company will plan, establish, develop, market, provide and maintain all types of value added services in the field of telecommunications including but not limited to providing Cellular Mobile Services, ISP Services, In Services, ISDN Services, Multi-media Services, Paging Services and other value added services to meet the demands of the customers or otherwise as deemed appropriate from time to time.

Official Language

3090. DR. V. SAROJA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to make some languages, including Tamil, specified in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution as the official languages of the Union;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) to (c) Government is of the view that the feasibility to grant official language status to all the languages included in

the 8th Schedule of the Constitution should be examined. A proposal for setting up a Committee in this regard is under consideration of the Government.

Extensions to Chairman and Members of ONGC

3091. MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has any policy regarding giving Extensions to Chairman and Members of ONGC;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Chairman and a number of Members are on Extension at present;

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

(e) whether the Government propose to review the present policy and discontinue giving Extension at this level; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) to (f) The appointment of Chairman & Managing Directors and other full time functional Directors of Central Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) are made, based on the recommendation of the Public Enterprises Selection Board (PESB), by the competent authority. This appointment is normally for a period of five years or till the date of the superannuation of the officer whichever is earlier. Government guidelines also stipulate that if the concerned Board level Director is left with some more years of service after completion of the first five years tenure, decision on the further extension of such officers in the same Public Sector Undertaking is taken by the concerned Administrative Ministry in consultation with the PESB with the approval of competent authority in Government. When the age of superannuation of Board Level Directors was raised to 60 years on 30 May, 1998, it was also decided that wherever board level officers are left with a balance period of service out of a tenure of five years, orders for extension till the date of superannuation or completion of five years shall be issued by the concerned Ministry.

There is no proposal with the Ministry to review the present policy of Government of induction and continuation of board level officers working under this Ministry. In Oil & Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGCL), Director (Finance) and Director (Personnel) have completed their first five years tenure and the proposal for grant of next

tenure for their continuation is under consideration. Director (Drilling) has completed his original tenure, and have reached 58 years of age, his further continuance is under consideration. Pending these decisions, these officers are on ad-hoc extension at present.

GAIL's Joint Venture with France Oil Company

3092. SHRI R.L. BHATIA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a leading natural gas company of France has initiated talks with Gas Authority of India Ltd. (GAIL) for the gas distribution joint venture in India; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) and (b) Gas Authority of India Limited (GAIL) has signed a Joint Cooperation Agreement on September 7, 1999, with TOTAL-FINA of France and Tata Electric Companies (TEC), Mumbai for development of Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) Import Terminal at Trombay in Maharashtra, with a participating interest of 33.33% in the project.

Forest Wealth in North-Eastern States

3093. SHRI BHIM DAHAL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the present situation of forest wealth in the North-Eastern States including Sikkim;

(b) the details of the action plan formulated to check deforestation and enhance the forest area in these States; and

(c) the provisions made for the purpose during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) Information is given in enclosed Statement.

(b) Ministry has prepared a National Forestry Action Plan to enhance the contribution of forestry and tree resources for ecological stability and people centered development for conservation and development of forest resources of the country including North Eastern states and Sikkim through improvement in investment.

(c) Information is given in enclosed Statement.

Statement

Forest Wealth in North-Eastern States

Names of the State	Forest Cover in Sq Km as per State of Forest Report 1997	% of Geog Area	Provision made for afforestation under Centrally sponsored Schemes of the Ministry (Rs. in Lakhs)		
			1996-97	1997-98	1998-99
Arunachal Pradesh	68602	81.9	146.32	69.17	75.99
Assam	23824	30.4	178	244.03	325.49
Manipur	17418	78	495.66	288.51	606.58
Mizoram	18775	89.1	366.92	339.35	404.07
Meghalaya	15657	69.8	140.95	14.03	43.95
Nagaland	14221	85.8	147.7	188.92	208.2
Tripura	5546	52.9	40	0	15.75
Sikkim	3129	44.1	368.35	215.22	321.45

Extremists in North-Eastern Region

3094. SHRI HOLKHOMANG HAOKIP: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of extremists apprehended in North Eastern Region during the last one year and till date;

(b) the number of Pakistani people out of them; and

(c) the details of the measures being taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to check the Inter Services Intelligence activities in North Eastern Region?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) and (b) During 1998, 1497 extremists were arrested in the North Eastern Region. During 1999, upto December 15, 1390 extremists were arrested in the region. Out of the above, one extremist, arrested in 1999, is reported to be a Pakistani national.

(c) Government is aware of the sinister designs of Pakistan ISI and is keeping a close and continuous watch on the situation. All necessary efforts, including sustained operations against terrorist groups and subversive elements, are being undertaken to ensure that such designs do not succeed.

Shortage of Staff

3095. SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is shortage of staff in the Kerala Telecom Circle;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to fill up the vacant posts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) Yes, Sir. There is shortage of staff in certain cadres.

(b) There is ban/restriction on filling up of posts in Gr. C&D cadres by direct recruitment.

(c) The posts are being filled up by promotion of departmental candidates. Limited direct recruitment has been permitted in some cadres in which there was shortage.

*[Translation]***Rehabilitation of Citizens in J&K**

3096. SHRI CHINMAYANAND SWAMI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have approved any special package for the rehabilitation of the citizens affected due to the war in Kargil, Dras, Batalik and Leh regions;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the amount of assistance sanctioned by the Union Government to J&K Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO): (a) and (c) The State Government of J&K have formulated a relief package for the displaced persons from Kargil and other areas. The relief package contains following major items:

(a) free ration @ 9 kgs of foodgrains per person of displaced families per month;

(b) cash assistance @ Rs. 200 per member of displaced families per month;

(c) free kerosene oil @ 10 litres per displaced family per month;

(d) free fodder for animals @ Rs. 150 per big animal and Rs. 30 per small animal per month subject to a ceiling of Rs. 1000 per family per month;

(e) ex-gratia relief for loss of life @ Rs. 1 lakh per death case and relief for immovable property damaged @ 50% of the loss assessed of the immovable property subject to a ceiling of Rs. 1 lakh per case;

(f) Rs. 200 per month as rental for such families who are not in a position to go back to their homes due to continuous shelling; and

(g) free medical treatment including free drugs for affected families.

The Government of J&K have estimated an expenditure of Rs. 35 crores in order to implement the relief package till May 2000. To meet the expenditure towards the relief package, the Government of India has, till November end, provided to the State Government of J&K an advance of Rs. 17 crores. This includes Rs. 15 crores from the National Defence Fund and Rs. 2 crores

from the Security Related Expenditure of MHA. Steps have also been taken to give one-time relief for six months to displaced persons from Kargil and Leh during the current winter season. PMO has released Rs. 7.80 crores @ Rs. 1.30 crores per month for six months for the purpose.

[*English*]

IOC and GAIL Agreement with Petronet

3097. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Oil Corporation and GAIL have entered into an agreement with Petronet for re-gasified LNG from Dahej terminal;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reasons of undue haste on the part of IOC to conclude such an agreement?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Ex-Gratia payment to Employees

3098. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Departments under his Ministry have granted ex-gratia payment to the employees of Postal and Telecom posted in Orissa;

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

(c) whether the Postal & Telecom employees belonging to the Cyclone affected areas posted outside Orissa including in the Public Sector Undertakings under Communications Ministry are not being granted similar ex-gratia (non-recoverable) amount;

(d) if so, the details in this regard;

(e) whether the Government propose to grant the similar ex-gratia payment to them as well;

(f) if so, the details thereof;

(g) whether the Government propose to enhance the ex-gratia amount of Rs. 10,000/- in view of the large scale damage to their ancestral properties;

(h) if so, the details thereof; and

(i) the time by which the employees of Telecom/ Postal Department posted outside Orissa belonging to cyclone/flood affected districts of Orissa are likely to be paid the ex-gratia amount?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR):

Deptt. of Telecom

(a) No Ex-gratia payment has been granted. However, financial assistance from Telecom Staff Welfare Fund has been given.

(b) Financial assistance has been given at the following rates:

- | | |
|---|-----------------|
| (i) Employees in areas affected by cyclone of 17.10.99 | Rs. 1000/- each |
| (ii) Employees in areas affected by super cyclone of 29.10.99 | Rs. 3000/- each |

(c) to (f) Telecom employees posted outside Orissa but having immovable property at the places affected by super cyclone of 29.10.99 are also being granted financial assistance at the rate of Rs. 3000/- per person. In so far as Public Sector Undertakings under the Telecom Deptt. are concerned, while one request for financial assistance has been received in Videsh Sanchar Nigam Ltd., none of the other PSUs has received any request for financial assistance on account of cyclone in Orissa.

(g) No, Sir.

(h) Question does not arise.

(i) Payments are made after verification of the claims.

Department of posts

(a) No ex-gratia payment has been granted. However, order for payment of financial assistance from Welfare fund of the Department have been given.

(b) Financial assistance has been ordered at the following rates:—

	Dept. Emp.	EDAs
Cyclone Affected	Rs. 1500/-	Rs. 750/-
Super cyclone affected.	Rs. 3000/-	Rs. 1500/-

(c) Employees posted outside Orissa but having immovable property at the affected place are eligible for the above assistance. There is no public sector undertaking with the Deptt. of Post.

(d) As for (b) above.

(e) and (f) Question does not arise in view of reply at (c) above.

(g) There is no such proposal.

(h) Question does not arise.

(i) As soon as the employees claims are verified.

Pollution Abatement in Damodar River

3099. SHRI AKBOR ALI KHANDOKER: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the date in which the scheme of pollution abatement of river Damodar was approved by the Government together with the estimated cost thereof;

(b) the amount of money released by the Government of West Bengal so far, year-wise separately;

(c) whether the Government are satisfied with the progress made by the State Government towards implementation of the scheme; and

(d) if not, the steps taken by the Government to expedite completion of the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) The scheme of pollution abatement of river Damodar was approved by Government under the Ganga Action Plan Phase II in October, 1996 at an estimated cost of Rs. 22.41 crore. Of this, the estimated cost of the West Bengal component is Rs. 12.19 crore and that of Bihar is Rs. 10.22 crore.

(b) The Ganga Action Plan Phase II which is part of the National River Conservation Plan is a fully funded

Centrally Sponsored Scheme in which the State Government is to bear the cost of land only. An amount of Rs. 10.74 lakhs was released to the Government of West Bengal in the year 1996-97. No further release has been made since then.

(c) and (d) Out of the expected 20 Detailed Project Reports, only five reports have been submitted by the State Government. These reports have not been prepared according to the guidelines of Government. Due to problem of land acquisition, the State Government has prioritized the pollution abatement works and the priority given to the works of river Damodar is low.

Streamlining of Delhi Police

3100. SHRI AJAY SINGH CHAUTALA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any study/survey/analysis has found that there is rampant corruption, dereliction of duty and inefficiency in the Delhi Police;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to make Delhi Police free from corruption and inefficiency?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, as and when any case of misconduct comes to notice, immediate action is taken against the delinquent official.

(c) The steps taken in this regard include a continuing assessment of the scope, extent and modes of corruption; exercise of preventive vigilance to eliminate corruption; and enforcement of a rigorous disciplinary regime against instances of misconduct, breach of discipline, corrupt practices, etc.

Creation of Bodoland

3101. SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR BWISEMUTHIARY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to create a separate State of Bodoland out of Assam;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time by which it is likely to be done; and

(d) if not, the manner in which the Government propose to redress the legitimate grievances of the Bodo people?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

(d) The Bodo Accord has been signed in 1993 with a view to providing autonomy to the Bodos for their socio-economic, educational, ethnic and cultural advancement. The Bodoland Autonomous Council was set up in May 1993 by an Act of the State Legislature. The Assam Government has notified the boundary of the Bodoland Autonomous Council.

The Government is committed to improve the economic condition of the BAC areas. The Central Government released Rs. 14.29 crores as special assistance to the BAC for development activities. The Government has also sanctioned Rs. 4.00 crores for construction of Primary Health Centres and Rs. 2.50 crores for construction of Sports Stadium, Libraries, maintenance of roads etc. in BAC areas from Central Non-lapsable pool of resources for the year 1999-2000. A seminar on economic development of the BAC area was held on 26.03.99 at Kokrajhar (Assam) which was inaugurated by H.E. the Governor of Assam and presided over by the Chief Minister of Assam. In the said Seminar 20 Central Ministries and Departments of the State Government participated and certain recommendations were made for economic development of BAC area. The State Government and Central Ministries have been directed to take actions on the recommendations made in the said seminar.

Other issues under the Bodo Accord are being reviewed periodically in the tripartite talks with the Government of Assam and prominent Bodo Groups.

Allotment of Dealerships of Petroleum Products to Minorities

3102. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any reservation for SCs/STs at district level in the allotment of dealership for various petroleum products;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to allot dealerships to minorities where their population is on the high side on the lines of SC/ST;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) to (d) As per the existing policy 25% dealerships/distributorships of petroleum products are reserved for SC/STs on Statewise basis. In the States of Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Nagaland and Mizoram higher reservation has been provided for Scheduled Tribes category. At present there is no proposal to provide any reservation for minorities.

Allotment of Petrol Pumps in Tamil Nadu

3103. SHRI P.D. ELANGO VAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the petrol pumps in the Districts of Salem, Dharmapuri, South Arcot, North Arcot and Vellore are given to persons belonging to some specific community in proportion to the density of the said community population in these districts;

(b) if so, whether this policy would be followed for allotting the new LPG outlets and kerosene depots as well; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) to (c) As per the existing policy 25% RO/SKO-LDO-LDO/LPG dealerships/distributorships are reserved for the Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes on Statewise basis. In the States of Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Nagaland and Mizoram higher reservation has been provided for Scheduled Tribes category. No separate reservation is provided for persons belonging to any specific community anywhere including in Tamil Nadu.

Remarks by EPA

3104. SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Environmental Pollution Authority has called for strict measures to reduce air pollution in the capital and also called for scrapping the Indraprastha Power Station; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) The Environment Pollution (Prevention & Control) Authority for the National Capital Region has called for strict measures to reduce air pollution in the capital and also called for scrapping the Indraprastha

Power Station as it has outlived its normal life and to replace it by gas based plant.

(b) To reduce air pollution in the capital, the measures taken by the Government includes implementation of action plan for reducing pollution in Delhi, draft notification of stringent emission norms akin to Euro-II norms effective from 1.4.2000, phasing out of leaded petrol, phasing out and ban on plying of all commercial/transport vehicles of 15 years old and above, notification of specification of two-stroke engine oil effective from 1.4.1999, ban on sale and supply of loose 2-T oil effective from 31.12.1998, improvements in fuel quality, promotion of use of clean fuels, augmentation of public transport buses, improvement in integrated transport management systems, monitoring of emission levels from thermal power plants and industrial units, ambient air quality monitoring programme, promotion of large scale plantations and public awareness.

Probe into Irregularities

3105. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY:
SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI:
SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE:

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

(a) whether his Ministry has ordered a probe into alleged violation of tendering norms including tampering of bids by officials of the Engineering India Limited and an oil infrastructure company;

(b) if so, the details in regard to the violations made by EIL and an oil company;

(c) whether there is large scale corruption and irregularities in various oil companies and PSUs under his Ministry;

(d) if so, whether the Government propose to conduct CBI enquiry in this regard; and

(e) if so, the steps taken by Government to bring transparency in the functioning of various oil companies and PSUs under the administrative control of this Ministry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) and (b) A probe was ordered into alleged irregularities by Engineers India Ltd. (EIL) in connection with a tender pertaining to Petronet CCK Ltd. (a joint venture company of oil sector PSUs to implement the Cochin-Coimbatore-Karur product pipeline). However, the probe revealed that all established tender norms and procedure were followed by EIL.

(c) to (e) No, Sir. Further, all the Public Sector Enterprises under this Ministry have a separate Vigilance Wing whose functioning is monitored by Central Vigilance Commission and the Chief Vigilance Officer of this Ministry.

Expansion of Mahanagar Gas Company

3106. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the expansion programme of Mahanagar Gas Company has since been finalised;

(b) if so, the total finance Mahanagar Gas Company propose to raise as a result of this agreement;

(c) whether the British Gas, H.P.C.L., Indian Oil Company have agreed for the expansion programme of the Mahanagar Gas Company by way of installing many more Compressed Natural Gas fuel supply outlets in Mumbai;

(d) if so, the details in this regard;

(e) whether due to differences between British Gas Company and H.P.C.L. and other Government companies the said project is being delayed since 1995; and

(f) if so, the details in this regard and the corrective measures proposed to be taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) Mahanagar Gas Ltd. (MGL) has the mandate to initially supply and distribute piped natural gas in and around Greater Mumbai and Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) to vehicles. The company has drawn its plans to cover the Greater Mumbai area in a phased manner.

(b) The company raises the finances through long-term borrowings from financial institutions, banks etc.

(c) and (d) MGL has already opened 16 CNG outlets, of which 14 outlets are operating along with the petrol outlets of oil marketing companies, namely, Indian Oil Corporation Ltd. (IOCL), Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd. (HPCL) and Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd. (BPCL).

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

Visit of Ministers

3107. DR. BALIRAM: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the countries visited by the Ministers of various Ministries during the last two months till date;

(b) the reasons therefor and the details of the agreements signed during these visits; and

(c) the total expenditure incurred thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[*Translation*]

Tehri Dam

3108. YOGI ADITYA NATH: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of the multipurpose higher altitude dam being constructed on river Bhagirath in Tehri Garhwal of Uttaranchal region in Uttar Pradesh; and

(b) the time by which it is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) The Tehri Dam and Hydro-electric Power Project (1000 MW) Stage-I of the Tehri Power Complex (2400 MW) on river Bhagirathi in Tehri Garhwal is under execution by the Tehri Hydro Development Corporation. The construction activities are going on in full swing.

The Main Dam has since been raised to an average height of about 105 metre from the deepest foundation level; the excavation of all the four Head Race Tunnels have been completed. The lining work is also completed in the Stage-I Tunnels, while it is in progress in the Tunnels for Pump Storage Project. The Civil works of the underground Power House Complex and the excavation of the power house cavern are in advanced stage of completion. The construction on Spillways is in progress. The Contracts for the main generating plant and equipments have been awarded, while the contracts for the remaining equipment are at various stage of processing.

(b) All the 4 Units (250 MW each) of the Project are scheduled to be commissioned by December, 2002.

[*English*]

Children taking to Crimes

3109. SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH:
SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any study to identify the reasons responsible for the indulgence of children in various crimes has been carried out/proposed to be carried out;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the measures taken/proposed to be taken to check this menace?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) 'Public Order' and 'Police' are State subjects as per the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India. As such, the registration, investigation, detection and prevention of crimes is the responsibility of the State Governments. It is essentially for the respective State Governments to take such preventive and punitive steps, as are necessary, to check the crime by children.

National Environment Engineering Research Institute

3110. DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Director, National Environment Engineering Research Institute, Nagpur has said that India is having minus 5 percent growth in the Environment and Forest sector; and

(b) if so, the measures proposed to be taken by the Government to get over the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) Director, National Environmental Engineering Research Institute, Nagpur in his study published in August, 1997 issue of *Yojana*, concluded that the GDP shows a minus 4.74 percent growth during 1991-95 if total environmental and ecological damage costs are accounted.

(b) The Ministry of Environment and Forests propose to spend about Rs. 3013.84 crore in the Ninth Plan to improve the country's environment and forests.

Development of Oil Fields

3111. SHRI DILEEP SANGHANI:
DR. RAMESH CHAND TOMAR:

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

(a) the number of small and medium oil fields discovered and offered for development to private companies during the last three years;

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

(c) the progress made in the development of these oil-fields so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) to (c) Since 1996, Government has awarded 12 small and medium sized discovered fields to private companies for development and production of oil and gas. The details of these fields are given in Statement enclosed. Development of these fields by private companies or joint ventures can be undertaken only after respective production sharing contracts are signed which has not taken place for any field.

Statement

S.No.	Fields	Location/State
Medium Sized Fields:		
(i)	Ratna & R-Series	Mumbai Offshore
Small Sized Fields:		
(ii)	North Balol	Gujarat
(iii)	North Kathana	Gujarat
(iv)	Allora	Gujarat
(v)	Unawa	Gujarat
(vi)	Kanwara	Gujarat
(vii)	Dholasan	Gujarat
(viii)	Karijsan	Gujarat
(ix)	Modhera	Gujarat
(x)	Oganj	Gujarat
(xi)	Sanganpur	Gujarat
(xii)	Amguri	Assam

[Translation]

Environmental Tribunals

3112. SHRI SURESH CHANDEL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up an environmental tribunal at the earliest;

(b) if so, the objectives thereof; and

(c) the time by which these are likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Government is in the process of setting up a National Environment Tribunal under the National Environment Tribunal Act, 1995. The Act provides for strict liability for damages arising out of any accident occurring while handling any hazardous substance and for effective and expeditious disposal of cases arising from such accident, with a view to giving relief and compensation for damages to persons, property and the environment and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

[English]

LPG Dealers at Namakkal, Tamil Nadu

3113. DR. V. SAROJA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state the details of LPG dealers in Namakkal district of Tamil Nadu?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): Presently there are following 6 LPG distributorships in operation in Namakkal district of Tamil Nadu:

- (1) M/s. Ponnig Gas Service.
- (2) M/s. Mohanpur Sugar Mills (Project distributor).
- (3) M/s. R.A.P.C.M.S. Limited.
- (4) M/s. T.A.P.C.M.S. Limited.
- (5) M/s. V.K.R. Gas Agencies.
- (6) M/s. Maruti Gas.

Poaching of Tigers

3114. SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY:
SHRI V.P. SINGH BADNORE:

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

(a) the main reasons responsible for reduction in the population of tigers;

(b) the details of the tiger population in different parks and reserves;

(c) the number of tigers killed by poachers during the last three years and the punishment meted out to them; and

(d) the policy of the Government to strengthen and protect the population of tigers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABULAL MARANDI): (a) The main reason responsible for reduction in the population of tiger is shrinkage of tiger habitat due to (i) pressure on the habitat from ever increasing population, (ii) developmental activities, and (iii) increasing cattle population.

(b) The details of tiger population in different Tiger Reserve according to 1997 estimation is as per the enclosed Statement I.

(c) The number of tigers killed as reported by the States and other agencies during last three years is as below:

1997	1998	1999
88	44	50

(d) The policy of the Government to strengthen and protect the population of tigers is as per the enclosed Statement II.

Statement I

Population of Tigers in the Tiger Reserve Areas as Reported by the States

S.No.	Name of Reserve	1997
1	2	3
1.	Bandipur (Karnataka)	75
2.	Corbett (Uttar Pradesh)	138

1	2	3
3.	Kanha (Madhya Pradesh)	114
4.	Manas (Assam)	125
5.	Melghat (Maharashtra)	73
6.	Palamau (Bihar)	44
7.	Ranthombore (Rajasthan)	32
8.	Simlipal (Orissa)	98
9.	Sunderbans (West Bengal)	263
10.	Periyar (Kerala)	N.R.
11.	Sariska (Rajasthan)	24
12.	Buxa (West Bengal)	32
13.	Indravati (Madhya Pradesh)	15
14.	Nagarjunasagar (Andhra Pradesh)	39
15.	Namdhapa (Arunchal Pradesh)	57
16.	Dudhwa (Uttar Pradesh)	104
17.	Kalakad (Tamil Nadu)	28
18.	Valmiki (Bihar)	53
19.	Pench (Madhya Pradesh)	29
20.	Tadoba (Maharashtra)	42
21.	Bandhavgarh (Madhya Pradesh)	46
22.	Panna (Madhya Pradesh)	22
23.	Dampha (Mizoram)	5
Total		1458

N.R. — Not reported by the State.

Statement II**Steps taken by the Government of India to Protect Tiger****National Level:**

1. Setting up of a National Coordination Committee to control poaching and illegal trade in wildlife with enforcement agencies like Customs, Revenue Intelligence, Indo-Tibetan Border Police, Border Security Force, Central Reserve Police Force, Coast Guards, State Police, Deputy Director, Wildlife Preservation & Scientific Organisations like Zoological and Botanical Survey of India.
2. Training programmes and Workshops have been organized to sensitize the above departments to be proactive in control of trade and smuggling of wildlife products.
3. A special co-ordination committee with Secretary (E&F), Special Secretary (Home), Director, CBI and representative of the Chairman, Central Board of Excise & Customs has been created to ensure better co-ordination in the efforts to curb smuggling of wildlife products.
4. Central assistance is being provided to State Governments to strengthen the protection infrastructure including armed squads, vehicles, communication network and co-ordination between the Park managers.
5. Schemes for awards and rewards for outstanding performance and acts of valour has been introduced to encourage detection and reporting.
6. The State Governments have been advised to strengthen vigilance and intensify patrolling.
7. Launching of public awareness programme to involve Non-Governmental Organisations and others for supporting the Government in its efforts towards wildlife conservation.
8. Supporting programmes of Institutions and NGOs in exploring tiger-trade routes and developing a forensic identification reference Manual for tiger parts and products.
9. Funds are being provided to the State Governments for the eco-development of the areas to reduce the biotic pressure thereon.
10. Site specific special force in Project Tiger Areas.

International Level:

1. Initiated creation of a Forum of Tiger Range Countries, i.e. Global Tiger Forum for addressing international issues related to tiger conservation.
2. To control transboundary trade and effect mutual cooperation in tiger conservation:—
 - (i) A protocol has been signed with People's Republic of China.
 - (iv) An MOU with His Majesty's Government of Nepal has been signed.
 - (v) Dialogue with Bangladesh has been initiated.
3. Several resolutions at CITES to check illegal trade in tiger parts and products have been adopted at India's initiative.
4. The Millennium Tiger Conference was held in March, 1999. The conference declaration suggested several action points for conservation of tiger both at national and international level.

Widening of National Highway-203

3115. SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken to widen and straighten the National Highway No-203 (from National Highway No. 5 at Bhubaneswar to Purl); and

(b) the estimated cost involved therein and the time frame envisaged for the completion of said National Highway?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN):

(a) and (b) For immediate improvement, a few original works including maintenance totalling to about Rs. 3.03 crores have been sanctioned during 1999-2000 for NH-203. Improvement of National Highways is a continuous activity and depends upon availability of funds and inter-se priority of works on all India basis, therefore, further development works on NH-203 will be considered in phases depending upon availability of funds.

LPG Agencies in Kurukshetra, Haryana

3116. SHRIMATI KAILASHO DEVI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of distributors of LPG in and around Kurukshetra in Haryana;

(b) the number of persons on the waiting list for LPG connections in Kurukshetra; and

(c) the time by which the connections are likely to be released to the waitlisted persons?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) and (b) At present there are 6 LPG distributorships in and around Kurukshetra with a waiting list of 10880.

(c) LPG connections are released in a phased manner to the wait-listed customers depending on the availability of the product and the enrolment plan etc.

[*Translation*]

Persons Killed by Extremists

3117. SHRI AMIR ALAM:
YOGI ADITYA NATH:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of security personnel and civilians killed and wounded due to across the border shelling by Pak army in Jammu and Kashmir during the last three years till October 1998, year wise;

(b) the details of the loss of property suffered as result of the extremist violence during the said period in the State; and

(c) the details of the compensation paid to the dependents of the persons killed in the extremist attacks during this period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO): (a) According to the information furnished by the Government of J&K, 112 civilians and 61 non-civilians were killed and 196 civilians and 11 non-civilians were injured due to firing by Pak troops in J&K during the last three years upto October, 1998.

(b) A Statement is enclosed.

(c) Payment of ex-gratia relief to victims of militant violence is an ongoing process and is given by the State Government as per the norms of the State Government. The Central Government reimburses to the State Government of J&K, the amount paid towards such relief/compensation as part of the security related expenditure. No record about recipients is maintained by the Government of India.

Statement

The details of loss of property suffered as a result of extremist violence during the said period in the State of J&K is as under:

Year	Total incidents	Govt. Bldg.	Educational Institutions	Private Houses	Bridges	Shops	Hospitals
1995	688	127	133	1814	16	402	2
1996	482	52	68	602	2	161	3
1997	259	13	11	437	5	67	1
1998 (till Oct. 1998)	152	11	15	239	1	51	—

[*English*]

Notification of Areas under the Wildlife Protection Act

3118. SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY:
SHRI KRISHANAM RAJU:

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

(a) whether the Government have notified areas under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 in the country;

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

(c) whether the Nelapattu Bird Sanctuary in Andhra Pradesh has been included in the notification.

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the restrictions imposed in regard thereto under the notification?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) The power of notifying any area as Sanctuary or National Park vests with the State Government.

(b) List of areas notified as National Parks and Sanctuaries are given in enclosed Statement.

(c) Nelapattu is a notified Bird Sanctuary under the Act.

(d) An area of 458.92 hectare in the Nellore district of Andhra Pradesh is declared as Sanctuary vide the Andhra Pradesh gazette notification No. 356 dated October 4, 1997.

(e) All the activities have to be carried out in a Sanctuary keeping due regard to the interests of wildlife and exercise of such rights which have been admitted by the collector is permitted.

Statement

Wild Life Sanctuaries of India

S.No.	Name	District	Area (Sq. Km.)
1	2	3	4
Andaman & Nicobar Islands			
1.	Arial	Andamans	0.05
2.	Bamboo	"	0.05
3.	Barren	"	8.10
4.	Battimalve	Nicobar	2.23
5.	Belle	"	0.08
6.	Benette	"	3.46
7.	Bingham	"	0.08
8.	Bliter	"	0.26
9.	Bluff	"	1.14
10.	Bondovile	"	2.55
11.	Brush	"	0.23
12.	Buchanan	"	9.33

1	2	3	4
13.	Channel	Nicobar	0.13
14.	Cinque	•	9.51
15.	Clyde	•	0.54
16.	Cone	•	0.65
17.	Curlew	•	0.03
18.	Curlew (B.P.)	•	0.16
19.	Cithbert Bay	Andaman	5.82
20.	Defence	•	10.49
21.	Dot	•	0.18
22.	Dottrel	•	0.13
23.	Duncan	•	0.43
24.	East	•	6.11
25.	East of Inglis	•	3.55
26.	Egg	•	0.05
27.	Enterance	•	0.96
28.	Elat	•	9.36
29.	Gander	•	0.05
30.	Galathea Bay	Nicobar	11.44
31.	Goose	•	0.01
32.	Gurjan	•	0.16

1	2	3	4
33.	Hump	Nicobar	0.47
34.	Interview	"	133.80
35.	James	"	2.10
36.	Jungle	"	0.52
37.	Kwangtung	"	0.57
38.	Kyd	"	8.00
39.	Landfall	"	29.48
40.	Latouche	"	0.96
41.	Lohabarrack crocodile sanc.	"	106.00
42.	Mangrove	"	0.39
43.	Mask/Bask	"	0.78
44.	Mayo	"	0.10
45.	Megapode	"	0.01
46.	Montgomery	"	0.21
47.	Narcondum	"	6.81
48.	North	"	0.49
49.	North Brother	"	0.75
50.	NortheReef	"	3.48
51.	Oliver	"	0.16
52.	Orchid	"	0.10

1	2	3	4
53.	Oyster	Niobar	0.21
54.	Oyster	"	0.08
55.	Ox	"	0.13
56.	Paget	"	7.36
57.	Parkinson	"	0.34
58.	Passage	"	0.62
59.	Patric	"	0.13
60.	Peacock	"	0.62
61.	Pitman	"	1.37
62.	Point	"	3.07
63.	Potanma	"	0.16
64.	Ranger	"	4.26
65.	Reef	"	1.74
66.	Roper	"	1.46
67.	Rose	"	0.01
68.	Rowe	"	0.01
69.	Sandy	"	1.56
70.	Sea Serpent	"	0.78
71.	Shark	"	0.60
72.	Shearne	"	7.85

1	2	3	4
73.	Sir Huge Rose	Nicobar	1.06
74.	Sister	"	0.36
75.	Snake	"	0.03
76.	Snake	"	0.73
77.	South Reef	"	1.17
78.	South Sentinal	"	1.61
79.	South Brother	"	1.24
80.	Spike	"	11.70
81.	Spike	"	0.42
82.	Stoat	"	0.44
83.	Surat	"	0.31
84.	Swamp	"	4.09
85.	Table (Delgrano)	"	2.29
86.	Table (Excelsior)	"	1.69
87.	Talabaicha	"	3.21
88.	Temple	"	1.04
89.	Tillenchong	"	16.83
90.	Tree	"	0.03
91.	Tribby	"	0.96
92.	Turf	"	0.29

1	2	3	4
93.	Turtle	Nicobar	0.39
94.	West	"	6.40
95.	Wharf	"	0.11
96.	White Cliff	"	0.47
			481.66

Andhra Pradesh

1.	Coringa	East Godavari	235.70
2.	Eturnagaram	Warangal	803.00
3.	Gudia Brahameshwaram	Kurnool/Prakasham	1194.00
4.	Kaundinya	Chittoor	357.60
5.	Kawal	Adilabad	893.00
6.	Kinnersani	Khammam	655.41
7.	Krishna	Krishna/ Guntur	194.81
8.	Kolleru	West Godavari	673.00
9.	Lanjamadugu (Sivaram)	Adilabad (Karimnagar)	36.29
10.	Manjira	Medak	20.00
11.	Nagarjunasagar (Tiger Reserve)	Guntur, Prakasham Kurnool, Mehboobnagar Nalgonda	3598.00
12.	Nelapattu	Nellore	4.58
13.	Pakhal	Warangal	600.00
14.	Papikonda	East Godavari, West Godavari, Khammam	591.00

1	2	3	4
15.	Pocharam	Medak/Nizamabad	130.00
16.	Pranahita	Adilabad	136.02
17.	Pulicat	Nellore	500.00
18.	Rollapadu	Kurnool	614.00
19.	Sri Venkateswara	Chittoor, Cuddapah	153.94
20.	Sri Lankamalleswara	Cuddapah	464.42
21.	Sir Penusila Narsimha WLS	Cuddapah/Nellore	1030.85
			13115.624

Arunachal Pradesh

1.	Eagle Nest	East Kamang	217.00
2.	Itanagar	Papum pare	140.30
3.	Kamlang	Lohit	783.00
4.	Lali (D'ering)	East Siang	190.00
5.	Mehao	Dibang Valley Lohit	281.50
6.	Pakhui	East-Kamang	861.85
7.	Sessa Orchid	West Kamang	100.00
8.	Dibang	Dibang Valley	4149.00
9.	Kane	West Siang	55.00
			6777.75

1	2	3	4
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Assam

1.	Bamadi	Kamrup	28.00
2.	Dibru Saikhowa	Kamrup	640.00
3.	Dipar Beel	Kamrup	4.14
4.	Garampani	Sibsagar	8.00
5.	Laokhowa	Naogaon	70.00
6.	Manas (Tiger Reserve)	Kamrup/Golapara	391.00
7.	Nameri	Sonitpur	130.00
8.	Orang	Darrang	75.80
9.	Pabitora	Naogaon	28.84
			1381.58

Bihar

1.	Bhimbandh	Monghyr	681.99
2.	Betia	Palamau	747.60
3.	Dalma	Ranchi	193.22
4.	Gautam Budha	Gaya	269.50
5.	Hazaribagh	Hazaribagh	188.25
6.	Kaimur	Rohtas	1342.00
7.	Koderma	Hazaribagh & Gaya	177.95
8.	Kabar Lake	Begusarai	63.11

1	2	3	4
9.	Lawalong	Hazaribagh	207.00
10.	Mahuadandanar	Palamau	63.25
11.	Nagi Dam	Monghyr	1.91
12.	Nakti Dam	Monghyr	3.32
13.	Parasnath	Hazaribagh	49.33
14.	Rajgir	Nalanda	35.84
15.	Topchachi	Dhanbad	8.75
16.	Udaipur	Champanan	8.74
17.	Valmiki (TR)	Champanan	544.54
18.	Vikramshila Gangetic Dolphin	Bhagalpur	50.00
19.	Pant Aranya	Nalanda	
			4624.30
Chandigarh			
1.	Sukhna Lake	Chandigarh	25.42
			25.42
Daman & Diu			
1.	Fudam	Diu	2.18
			2.18
Delhi			
1.	Indira Priyadarshini (Asola)	Delhi	13.20
			13.20

1	2	3	4
Goa			
1.	Bhagvan Mahavir	Goa	240.00
2.	Bondla	Goa	8.00
3.	Cotigao	Goa	85.65
4.	Chorao (Dr. Salim Ali)	Goa	1.78
			335.43
Gujarat			
1.	Balaram Ambaji	Banaskantha	542.081
2.	Barda	Junagadh Jamnagar	192.31
3.	Dumkhal (Shoolpaneshwar)	Rajpipla, Bharuch	607.70
4.	Gaga (GIB)	Jamnagar	3.33
5.	Gir	Junagadh	1153.42
6.	Hingolghadh	Rajkot	6.54
7.	Jambughoda	Panchmahals	130.68
8.	Jessore	Banaskantha	180.66
9.	Kachchh Desert	Kachchh	7508.22
10.	Khijadiya	Jamnagar	6.05
11.	Marine	Jamnagar	295.03
12.	Nalsarovar	Ahmedabad & Surendranagar	120.82

1	2	3	4
13.	Narayan Sarovar	Kachchh	765.79*
14.	Paniya	Amreli	39.63
15.	Porbandar	Junagadh	0.00
16.	Rampura	Rajkot	15.01
17.	Ratanmahal	Panch-Mahal	55.66
18.	Thol	Mehsana	6.99
19.	Wild Ass	Surendranagar, Banaskantha, Rajkot/Mehsana	4953.70
20.	Purna	Dangs	160.84
21.	Kutch Bustard	Kutch	2.03
			16744.27
Haryana			
1.	Bhindwas	Rohtak	4.06
2.	Chhilchhila	Kurukshetra	0.28
3.	Nahar	Rohtak	2.09
4.	Bir Shikargarh	Ambala	7.58
5.	Chautala	Sirsa	113.96
6.	Saraswati	Kurukshetra	49.96
7.	Bir Baraban	Jind	4.14
8.	Kalesar		46.28
9.	Khaparwas		0.81
			229.18

1	2	3	4
Himachal Pradesh			
1.	Bandli	Mandi	41.82
2.	Chail	Solan	108.54
3.	Churdhar	Sirmaur	58.15
4.	Daranghati I & II	Shimla	167.40
5.	Gangul Siya-Behi	Chamba	108.85
6.	Gobindsagar	Bilaspur	100.34
7.	Kalatop & Khajiar	Chamba	69.26
8.	Kanawar	Kullu	60.70
9.	Khokhan	Kullu	14.05
10.	Kias	Kullu	14.19
11.	Kugti	Chamba	378.86
12.	Lippa Aarang	Kinnaur	30.89
13.	Majathal Hasarang	Solan	39.38
14.	Manali	Kullu	31.80
15.	Nargu	Mandi	278.37
16.	Nainadevi	Bilaspur	122.68
17.	Pong Dam Lake	Kangra	307.29
18.	Raksham Chittkul (Sangla)	Kinnaur	650.00
19.	Renuka	Sirmaur	4.02

1	2	3	4
20.	Rupi Bhaba	Kinnaur	269.14
21.	Sachu Tuan Nala	Chamba	102.95
22.	Shikari Devi	Mandi	72.00
23.	Shilli	Solan	2.13
24.	Simla Water Catchment Area	Shimla	10.25
25.	Simbalbara	Sirmaur	19.03
26.	Takra	Shimla	40.49
27.	Tirthan	Kullu	61.12
28.	Tundah	Chamba	64.22
29.	Kibber	Lahaul-Spiti	1400.50
30.	Dhauladhar Sanctuary	Kangra	944.00
31.	Darlaghat	Darlaghat	6.00
32.	Sangla	Kinnaur	650.00
33.	Sainj	Kullu	90.00
			6315.92
Jammu and Kashmir			
1.	Batal	Srinagar	203.00
2.	Changthang	Leh	4000.00
3.	Gulmarg	Baramulla	188.00
4.	Hirapora	Srinagar	110.00

1	2	3	4
5.	Hokersar	Srinagar	10.00
6.	Jaerota	Jammu	4.00
7.	Karakoram	Kargil	5000.00
8.	Lachipora	Baramulla	80.00
9.	Limber	Baramulla	26.00
10.	Nandani	Jammu	33.34
11.	Overa	Srinagar	32.00
12.	Overa-Aru	Srinagar	425.00
13.	Ramnagar Rakha	Jammu	12.20
14.	Surinsar Mansar	Jammu	39.13
15.	Tirkuta	Jammu	3.00
16.	Thajwas		
			10163.67
Karnataka			
1.	Adichunchunagiri	Mandi	0.84
2.	Arabithittu	Mysore	13.50
3.	Bhadra	Shimoga & Chikmagalur	492.46
4.	Biligiri Ranga Swamy Temple	Mysore	539.52
5.	Brahmagiri	Madikeri	181.29
6.	Cauvery	Mysore, Mandya Bangalore	510.51

1	2	3	4
7.	Dandeli	Uttara Kanada	834.16
8.	Ghataprabha	Belgaum	29.78
9.	Gudavi	Shimoga	0.73
10.	Melkote Temple	Dakshina Kannada	49.62
11.	Mookambika	Mandya	247.00
12.	Nugu	Mysore	30.32
13.	Pushpagiri	Kodagu	102.92
14.	Ranganthittu	Mysore	0.67
15.	Ranebennur	Dharwad	119.00
16.	Shettihally	Shimoga	395.60
17.	Sharavathi Valley	Shimoga	431.23
18.	Someshwara	Dakshina Kannada	88.40
19.	Talakaveri	Kodagu	105.59
20.	Doraji Bear Sanctuary	Bellary	55.873
			<hr/>
			4229.213
			<hr/>
Kerala			
1.	Aralam	Cannanore	55.00
2.	Chimmony	Trichur	100.00
3.	Chinnar	Idukki	90.44
4.	Idukki	Idukki	77.00

1	2	3	4
5.	Neyyar	Trivandrum	128.00
6.	Parambikulam	Palghat	285.00
7.	Peechi Vazani	Trichur	125.00
8.	Peppara	Trivandrum	53.00
9.	Periyar (TR)	Idukki	427.00
10.	Shenduruny	Trivandrum	100.32
11.	Thattakad	Idukki	25.16
12.	Wayanad	Calicut & Wayanad	344.44
			1810.36

Maharashtra

1.	Andhari	Chandrapur	509.27
2.	Anar Dam	Dhule	82.94
3.	Bhimashankar	Pune/Thane	130.78
4.	Bor	Wardha	61.10
5.	Chandoli	Sagli Satara Ratnagiri/Kolhapur	308.97
6.	Chapraia	Gadchiroli	134.78
7.	Gautala Autramghat	Aurangabad/Jalgaon	280.61
8.	Great Indian Bustard (Nanaj)	Solapur/Ahmednagar	8496.44
9.	Jayakwadi	Aurangabad	341.05
10.	Kalsubai Harish Chandragarh	Ahmednagar	361.81

1	2	3	4
11.	Karnala	Raigarh	4.48
12.	Katepurana	Akola	52.79
13.	Koyna	Satara	423.55
14.	Malvan (Marine)	Sindhudurg	29.12
15.	Meighat (TR)	Amravati	1597.23
16.	Nagzira	Bhandara	152.81
17.	Nandur Madmeshwar	Nasik	100.12
18.	Painganga	Yavatmal/Nanded	324.62
19.	Phansad	Raigarh	69.79
20.	Radhanagari	Kolhapur	371.88
21.	Deulgaon Rehekari	Ahmednagar	2.17
22.	Sagareshwar	Sangli	10.87
23.	Tansa	Thane	304.81
24.	Yawal	Jalgaon	177.52
			14308.51
Madhya Pradesh			
1.	Achanakmar	Bilaspur	551.55
2.	Badaikhol	Raigarh	104.55
3.	Bagdara	Sidhi	478.90
4.	Bamawapara	Raipur	244.66

1	2	3	4
5.	Bhairamgarh	Bastar	139.00
6.	Bori	Hoshangabad	518.00
7.	Gandhi Sagar	Mandsaur	368.62
8.	Ghatigaon Great Indian Bustard	Gwalior	512.00
9.	Gomarda	Raigarh	277.82
10.	Karera Great Indian Bustard	Shivpuri	202.21
11.	Ken Gharial	Panna Chatterpur	45.00
12.	Kheoni	Dewas	132.70
13.	Narsingarh	Raigarh	59.19
14.	National Chambal	Morena	320.00
15.	Neoradehi	Sagar Damoh Narsinghpur	1034.52
16.	Pachmarhi	Hoshangabad	461.85
17.	Pamed	Bastar	262.00
18.	Parpatha	Shahdol	245.84
19.	Palpur (Kuno)	Morena	345.00
20.	Pench	Seoni/Chhindwara	449.39
21.	Phena	Mandla	110.74
22.	Ratapani	Raisen	686.79
23.	Ralamandal	Indore	234.55

1	2	3	4
24.	Sailana	Ratlam	12.96
25.	Sanjay (Dubri)	Sidhi	364.59
26.	Sardarpur	Dhar	348.12
27.	Semarsot	Sarguja	430.36
28.	Singhori	Raisen	287.91
29.	Sitanadi	Raipur	553.36
30.	Son Gharial	Sidhi, Satna, Shahdol	209.00
31.	Tamor Pingla	Sarguja	608.52
32.	Udanti Wild Buffalo	Raipur	247.59
			10847.29
Manipur			
1.	Yagoupokpi Lokchao	Chandi	184.85
			184.85
Meghalaya			
1.	Baghmara (Pitcher plant)	West Garo Hills	0.027
2.	Nongkhyillem	East Khasi Hills	29.00
3.	Sijju	West Garo Hills	5.18
			34.07
Mizoram			
1.	Dampa (TR)	Aizawal	500.00
2.	Ngengpui	Ngengpui	170.00
3.	Khwanglung	Thenzwal	50.00
			720.00

1	2	3	4
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Nagaland

1.	Fakim	Tuensang	6.41
2.	Puliebadze	Kohima	23.24
3.	Rangapahar	Kohima	4.70
			34.35

Orissa

1.	Balukhand-Konark	Puri	71.72
2.	Bhitarkanika	Chandbali	170.00
3.	Chandka-Dampara	Puri	175.79
4.	Chilka	Puri & Ganjam	15.53
5.	Debrigarh	Sambalpur	346.91
6.	Hadgarh	Keonjar Mayurbhanj	191.60
7.	Khalasuni	Sambalpur	116.00
8.	Kotgarh	Phulbani	399.00
9.	Kutdiha	Balasore Mayurbhanj	272.75
10.	Lakhari Valley	Ganjam	165.87
11.	Mahanadi Balsipalli	Puri	166.35
12.	Nandankanan	Puri	14.26
13.	Satkosia Gorge	Dhenkanal Puri Cutlack, Mayurbhanj	795.52
14.	Simitpal	Mayurbhanj	2200.00
15.	Sunabeda	Kalahandi	600.00

1	2	3	4
16.	Ushakothi (Badrama)	Sambalpur	304.03
17.	Karlapat	Kalahandi	147.66
			<hr/>
			6175.49
			<hr/>
Punjab			
1.	Abohar	Ferozepur	186.00
2.	Bir Bunerheri	Patiala	6.50
3.	Bir Gurdial Pura	Patiala	6.10
4.	Bir Motibag	Patiala	6.40
5.	Harike Lake	Ferozepur	86.00
6.	Takhani Rehampur	Hoshiarpur	3.82
			<hr/>
			294.82
			<hr/>
Rajaasthan			
1.	Bandha Baretha	Bharatpur	192.76
2.	Bassi	Chittorgarh	152.90
3.	Bhensroadgarh	Chittorgarh	229.14
4.	Darra	Kota	285.80
5.	Jaisamand	Rajsamand	52.00
6.	Jamwa Ramgarh	Jaipur	300.00
7.	Jawahar Sagar	Kota	100.00
8.	Keladevi	Sawai Madhopur	676.38

1	2	3	4
9.	Kumbhalgarh	Udaipur	578.25
10.	Mt. Abu	Sirohi	288.84
11.	Nahargarh	Jaipur	50.00
12.	National Chambal	Kota	280.00
13.	Phulwan-Ki-Nal	Udaipur & Pali	811.41
14.	Ramgarh Visdhari	Bundi	307.00
15.	Sariska (TR)	Ahwar	492.00
16.	Sajjanganrh	Udaipur	5.19
17.	Shergarh	Kota	98.71
18.	Sita Mata	Chittorgarh	422.84
19.	Sawai Mansingh	Sawai Madhopur	127.80
20.	Tal Chappar	Churu	7.90
21.	Todgarh Rawli	Ajmer	495.27
22.	Van Vihar	Dholpur	59.93
			5694.02
Sikkim			
1.	Fambung LHO	East Sikkim	51.76
2.	Kyongnosia Alpine	Rongneck Chu	31.00
3.	Maenam	South Sikkim	35.34
4.	Shingba (Rhododendron)	Yumthang	43.00
			161.10

1	2	3	4
Tamil Nadu			
1.	Anamalai (Indira Gandhi)	Coimbatore	841.49
2.	Kalakad (Tiger Reserve)	Tirunelveli	223.58
3.	Mudumalai	Nilgiris	217.76
4.	Mundanthurai (Tiger Reserve)	Tirunelveli	567.38
5.	Point Calimere	Thanjavur	17.26
6.	Pulicat	Chengalpattu	153.67
7.	Vedanthangal	Chengalpattu	0.30
8.	Vettangudiipatti/ Chitrangudi/ Kanjirankulam	Ramanathapuram	1.90
9.	Karkli	Chengal Anna	0.61
10.	Srivilliputhur Grizzled Squirrel	Kamarajar	485.20
11.	Udayamarhandapuram	Thanjavur	0.45
12.	Vallanadu	Chidambaram	16.41
13.	Vaduvoor	Quid-e-Millath	1.28
			2527.29
Tripura			
1.	Gumti	South Tripura	389.54
2.	Trishna	South Tripura	194.70
3.	Sepahijala	West Tripura	18.53
4.	Roa	North Tripura	0.85
			603.62

1	2	3	4
Uttar Pradesh			
1.	Askot	Pithoragarh	600.00
2.	Bakhira	Basti	28.94
3.	Binsar	Almora	45.59
4.	Chandra Prabha	Varanasi	78.00
5.	Sohagibarwa	Maharajganj	428.21
6.	Govind Pashu Vihar	Uttarkashi	953.12
7.	Hastinapur	Meerut, Moradabad Muzzafarnagar Ghaziabad	2073.00
8.	Kaimur	Mirzapur	500.75
9.	Katarniaghat	Bahraich	400.00
10.	Kedarnath	Chamoli	957.00
11.	Kishanpur	Lakhimpur Kheri	227.12
12.	Lakh Bahosi	Farukhabad	80.23
13.	Mahavir Swami	Lalitpur	5.00
14.	National Chambal	Agra/Etawah	635.00
15.	Nawabganj	Unnao	2.24
16.	Ranipur	Banda	230.00
17.	Samaspur	Ree Bareilly	7.99
18.	Sohelwa	Gorakhpur	452.57
19.	Sonanadi	Pauri Garhwal	301.76

1	2	3	4
20.	Turtle	Varanasi	7.00
21.	Sandi	Hardoi	3.00
22.	Okhla	Ghaziabad	4.00
23.	Saman	Mainpuri	5.00
24.	Parvatiarga	Gonda	11.00
25.	Vijay Sagar	Hamirpur	3.00
26.	Patna	Eta	1.00
27.	Sursarovar	Agra	4.00
28.	Surahatal	Balla	34.00
			8078.52
West Bengal			
1.	Ballavpur	Birbhum	2.00
2.	Bethuadahari	Nadia	1.21
3.	Buxa (Tiger Reserve)	Jalpaiguri	251.89
4.	Chapramari	Jalpaiguri	9.60
5.	Gorumara	Jalpaiguri	8.73
6.	Halliday	24-Paraganas	5.95
7.	Jaldapara	Jalpaiguri	216.51
8.	Jore Pokhri	Darjeeling	0.04
9.	Lothian Island	24-Paraganas	38.00

1	2	3	4
10.	Mahananda	Darjeeling	127.22
11.	Narendrapur	24-Parganas	0.10
12.	(Parmadan) Bibhuti Bhusan	Nadia 24-Parganas	0.60
13.	Raiganj	West Dinapur	1.30
14.	Ramnabagan	Burdwan	0.14
15.	Sajnakhali	24-Parganas	362.40
16.	Senchal	Darjeeling	38.60
			1064.29

National Parks of India

Andaman & Nicobar Islands

1.	Campbel Bay	Nicobar	426.239
2.	Galathea	Nicobar	110.00
3.	Mahatama Gandhi Marine	Andaman	261.50
4.	Middle Button	Andaman	0.64
5.	Mount Harriet	Andaman	0.46
6.	North Button	Andaman	0.44
7.	Rani Jhansi Marine	Andaman	256.142
8.	Saddle Peak	Andaman	32.54
9.	South Button	Andaman	0.03
			1153.951

1	2	3	4
Andhra Pradesh			
1.	Kasu Brahma Reddy	Hyderabad	14.25
2.	Mahavir Harina Vanasthal	Ranga Reddy	145.90
3.	Mrugavani	Ranga Reddy	36.00
4.	Sri Venkateshwara	Chittoor & Cuddapah	352.62
			<hr/> 548.77 <hr/>
Arunachal Pradesh			
1.	Mouling	East Siang	483.00
2.	Namdapha (Tiger Reserve)	Tirap	1985.23
			<hr/> 2468.23 <hr/>
Assam			
1.	Kaziranga	Jorhat	430.00
2.	Manas (Tiger Reserve)	Kamrup-Golapara	500.00
			<hr/> 930.00 <hr/>
Bihar			
1.	Betla (Tiger Reserve)	Palamau	231.67
2.	Valmiki (Tiger Reserve)	West Champaran	335.65
			<hr/> 567.32 <hr/>
Goa			
1.	Bhagwan Mahavir	Goa	107.00
			<hr/> 107.00 <hr/>

1	2	3	4
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Gujarat

1.	Gir	Junagadh	258.71
2.	Marine	Jamnagar	162.89
3.	Vansda	Valsad	23.99
4.	Velavadar	Bhavnagar	34.08
			479.67

Haryana

1.	Sultanpur	Gurgaon	1.43
			1.43

Himachal Pradesh

1.	Great Himalayan	Kullu	765.00
2.	Pin Valley	Lahaul-spiti	675.00
			1430.00

Jammu and Kashmir

1.	City Forest	Srinagar	9.07
2.	Dachigam	Srinagar	141.00
3.	Hemis High Altitude	Leh	3350.00
4.	Kishtwar	Kishtwar	310.00
			3810.07

Karnataka

1.	Anshi	Uttarakanada	250.00
2.	Bandipur (Tiger Reserve)	Mysore	874.20

1	2	3	4
3.	Bannerghatta	Bangalore	104.27
4.	Kudremukh	South Kanada & Chikmagalur	600.32
5.	Nagarhole	Mysore Kodagu	643.39
			2472.18
Kerala			
1.	Eravikulam	Idukki	97.00
2.	Periyar (Tiger Reserve)	Idukki	350.00
3.	Silent Valley	Palghat	89.52
			536.52
Madhya Pradesh			
1.*	Bandhavgarh (Tiger Reserve)	Shahdol	105.40
2.	Fossil	Mandia	0.27
3.*	Indravati (Tiger Reserve)	Bastar	1258.00
4.	Kanger Valley	Bastar	200.00
5.*	Kanha (Tiger Reserve)	Mandia Balaghat	940.00
6.	Madhav	Shivpuri	337.00
7.	Panna (TR)	Panna, Chatarpur	543.00
8.	Pench	Seoni	289.00
9.	Sanjay	Sidhi, Sarguja	1938.00
10.	Satpura	Hoshangabad	524.00

1	2	3	4
11.	Van Vihar	Bhopal	4.45
			<u>6143.12</u>
Maharashtra			
1.	Gugamal (Tiger Reserve)	Amravati	361.80
2.	Navegaon	Bhandara	133.88
3.*	Pench	Nagpur	257.26
4.	Sanjay Gandhi	Bombay Thane	86.96
5.*	Tadoba (TR)	Chandrapur	116.55
			<u>956.45</u>
Manipur			
1.	Keibul Lamjao	Imphal Bishenpur	40.00
2.	Sirohi	East District	41.80
			<u>81.80</u>
Meghalaya			
1.	Balphakram	West Garo Hills	339.22
2.	Nokrek	West Garo Hills	47.48
			<u>386.70</u>
Mizoram			
1.	Blue Mountain		50.00
2.	Murlen		200.00
			<u>250.00</u>

1	2	3	4
Nagaland			
1.	Intanki	Kohima	202.02
			<hr/>
			202.02
			<hr/>
Orissa			
1.*	North Simlipal (Tiger Reserve)	Mayurbhanj	845.70
2.	Bhitar Kanika	Cuttack	367.00
			<hr/>
			1212.70
			<hr/>
Rajasthan			
1.	Keoladeo Ghana	Bharatpur	28.73
2.*	Ranthambore (Tiger Reserve)	Sawai Madhopur	392.00
3.*	Sariska (Tiger Reserve)	Alwar	273.80
4.	Desert National Park	Jaisalmer	3162.00
			<hr/>
			3856.53
			<hr/>
Sikkim			
1.	Khangchendzonga	North Sikkim	850.00
			<hr/>
			850.00
			<hr/>
Tamil Nadu			
1.	Guindy	Madras	2.82
2.	Indira Gandhi	Coimbatore	117.11

1	2	3	4
3.	Marine	Gulf of Mannar	6.23
4.	Mudumalai	Nilgiris	103.24
5.	Mukurthi	Nilgiris	78.46
			307.86
Uttar Pradesh			
1.*	Corbett (Tiger Reserve)	Garhwal Nainital	520.82
2.*	Dudhwa (Tiger Reserve)	Lakhimpur Kheri	488.29
3.	Gangotri	Uttar Kashi	2390.00
4.	Nanda Devi	Chamoli	630.33
5.	Valley of Flowers	Chamoli	87.50
6.	Rajaji	Dehradun-Haridwar	820.03
7.	Govind Pashu Vihar	Uttar Kashi	672.08
			5409.05
West Bengal			
1.	Neora Valley	Darjeeling	88.00
2.	Singalila	Darjeeling	78.00
3.*	Sunderbans (TR)	24 Parganas	1330.10
4.*	Buxa (TR)	Jalpaiguri	117.10
5.	Gurumara	Jalpaiguri	79.45
			1692.65

*Denotes Tiger reserves where there are included National Parks and sanctuaries in addition to other Forest areas.

By-Pass Road Work

3119. SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken up the By-pass road work at Chennarayapatna and Sakaleshpur in Karnataka;

(b) if so, the estimated cost involved therein;

(c) if not, whether the Government propose to take steps to start the said work to ease traffic congestion; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN):

(a) to (d) The proposal for land acquisition of Chennarayapatna Bypass and construction of Sakaleshpur Bypass on National Highway-48 in Karnataka have been included in the Annual Plan 1999-2000. The detailed proposal and estimates for these projects are awaited from the State Government and as such the estimated cost involved cannot be indicate at this stage.

Speed Post Facility

3120. SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI:
SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN:
SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the cities/towns where speed post facility is available and proposed to be provided during 1999-2000 in the country State-wise; and

(b) the time by which the said facility is likely to be provided in the remaining cities/towns of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) and (b) Statewise list of cities/towns with Speed Post facility on National Network is given in enclosed Statement to the reply. Speed Post is a premium product providing time bound and guaranteed delivery. It is run on commercial considerations. Expansion of this network is an ongoing process, depending upon market situation.

Statement*Inland Speed Post Service*

Centres	Cities having Speed Post Centres
1	2
Andhra Pradesh	Hyderabad, Visakhapatnam, Tirupati, Vijayawada
Assam	Guwahati, Silchar, Dibrugarh, Jorhat
Bihar	Patna, Ranchi, Dhanbad, Jamshedpur
Delhi	Delhi
Gujarat	Ahmedabad, Vadodara, Surat, Rajkot
Jammu & Kashmir	Srinagar, Jammu
Kerala	Cochin, Trivandrum, Alwaya, Calicut, Trichur, Quilon, Kottayam
Karnataka	Bangalore, Mangalore, Mysore, Udupi, Hubli-Dharwad, Belgaum, Gulbarga
Madhya Pradesh	Indore, Gwalior, Bhopal, Raipur
Maharashtra	Bombay, Pune, Nagpur, Panaji, Nasik, Aurangabad
North Eastern	Agartala, Imphal, Shillong, Aizwal, Dimapur, Kohima
Punjab	Chandigarh, Jullundhar, Ludhiana, Amritsar
Himachal Pradesh	Shimla.
Haryana	Faridabad, Gurgaon, Ambala, Panipat
Orissa	Bhubaneswar, Cuttack
Rajasthan	Jaipur, Jodhpur, Udaipur, Ajmer
Tamil Nadu	Chennai, Coimbatore, Trichy, Madurai, Salem, Kanchipuram, Pondicherry, Tirupur, Hosur

1	2
Uttar Pradesh	Kanpur, Agra, Meerut, Allahabad, Lucknow, Varanasi, Moradabad, Gorakhpur, Dehradun, Bareilly, Noida, Ghaziabad.
West Bengal	Calcutta, Howrah, Siliguri, Gangtok.
APS	56 APO, 99 APO
Total : 91	

Storage of Chemicals

3121. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Loss Prevention Association of India has called upon the Government to take stringent measures against the careless and irresponsible owners and carriers and insisted on the safe storage practices for avoiding any chemical explosions and fire;

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

(c) whether any guidelines in this regard have been issued so far; and

(d) if so, the extent to which these guidelines are being observed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABULAL MARANDI): (a) and (b) No Sir. The Loss Prevention Association of India Limited issued a press release which appeared in the Hindi on 7th June, 1999 indicating the guidelines for safe storage and handling of chemicals accidents.

(c) and (d) The Ministry of Environment & Forests has notified the Manufacture, Storage and Import of Hazardous Chemicals Rules, 1989 (amended in 1994) and the Chemical Accident (Emergency Planning, Preparedness and Response) Rules, 1996 under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, for proper handling of chemicals and management of chemical accidents. Different authorities specified under the Rules have been entrusted with responsibilities to ensure compliance.

Financial Assistance for Karnataka

3122. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Karnataka has submitted a list of proposed works to be undertaken under the Inter State Importance and Economic Importance amounting to Rs. 133 crore during 1998-99 for the approval and financial assistance;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

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

(d) the time by which approval is likely to be accorded to them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Since there are limited funds under this scheme, the State Government was requested to prioritise the proposals. The State Government of Karnataka has finally forwarded revised proposals for four projects amounting to approximately Rs. 10 crores.

(c) Certain information is awaited from the State Government.

(d) No definite time frame can be given as it depends on the receipt of reply from the State Government, availability of funds and all India priority of such works.

[*Translation*]

Strengthening of Para-Military Forces

3123. SHRI AJIT SINGH:
SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY:
SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV:
SHRI J.S. BRAR:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have formulated any concrete policy to deploy the para-military forces in terrorism torn States and to eradicate terrorism in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the total strength of the Para-military forces deployed in each State at present and the details of the approximate expenditure being incurred thereon by the Union and the concerned State Governments;

(d) whether the Government have allocated any funds for the development of terrorism torn States;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether the Government propose to upgrade the weaponry and equipment of the para-military forces and also to increase their present strength; and

(g) if so, the details thereof including the time frame laid down for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO): (a) to (c) The Central Para Military forces are made available to assist the State Governments to maintain public order. The level of deployment of these forces in any State depends upon the over all security scenario and the availability of these forces. It is, however, not in public interest to indicate the details of these forces and their levels of deployment. Expenditure at the rate of Rs. 6.60 crores per Battalion per annum is recovered from the States as deployment charges. However the States of Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Union Territories without legislature Sikkim and North Eastern States except Assam are exempted from paying these deployment charges. In case of Assam, only 10% of the normal deployment charges are charged.

(d) and (e) Besides providing financial assistance for meeting security related expenditure and modernisation of State Police forces, there are different schemes for the overall development of terrorists affected States, especially Jammu & Kashmir and North Eastern States. Developmental schemes for Left Wing Extremism affected States are also being given priority.

(f) and (g) It has been the constant endeavour of the Government to equip the Central Para Military forces, within the over all resource constraints, with sophisticated weapons and equipment etc. to enable these forces to effectively tackle terrorism. Modernisation and the strengthening of the forces is a continuous process and the position is reviewed from time to time.

Telecom Regulatory Authority of India

3124. SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI:
SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Telephone Regulatory Authority of India was set up in 1997;

(b) if not, the facts in this regard, alongwith the number of persons appointed therein and the duration of their appointment;

(c) the criteria laid down for their appointment; and

(d) the purpose of constituting such an authority?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) to (d) The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) was established on 20.2.97 through Telecom Regulatory Authority of India Ordinance, 1997 promulgated on 25th January, 1997. The Ordinance was later replaced by an Act of Parliament on 28.3.97. TRAI was established to regulate telecommunication services, and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

As per section 3 (3) of the TRAI Act, 1997, the Authority shall consists of a Chairperson and not less than two, but not exceeding six members to be appointed by the Central Government. Accordingly, the Central Government has appointed Chairperson and six Members making the composition complete as stipulated in the Act. Sections 5(2) and 5(3) of the TRAI Act provides that the Chairperson shall hold office for a term of five years from the date on which he enters upon his office and the member for a term of five years from the date on which he enters upon his office or until he attains the age of 65 years whichever is earlier.

The qualifications of appointment of Chairperson and members, stipulated in section 4 of the TRAI Act are as under.

(1) The Chairperson shall be a person who is or has been a Judge of the Supreme Court or who is or has been the Chief Justice of a High Court.

(2) A member shall be a person who has special knowledge of, and professional experience in, telecommunications, industry, finance, accountancy, law, management and consumer affairs.

Provided that a person who is or has been in the service of Government shall not be appointed as a member unless person has held the post of Secretary or Additional Secretary, or the post of Additional Secretary and Secretary to the Government of India or any equivalent post in the Central Government or the State Government for a period of three years.

[English]

Performance of Public Sector Shipyards

3125. DR. MANDA JAGANNATH: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the performance of public sector shipyards under the Ministry during the current year;

(b) whether they could attract the sufficient orders for the productivity as well as sustenance;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN):

(a) There are four public sector shipyards under this Ministry namely Hindustan Shipyard Ltd. (HSL), Visakhapatnam, Cochin Shipyard Ltd. (CSL), Cochin, Hooghly Dock and Port Engineers Ltd. (HDPE), Calcutta and Rajabagan Dockyard of Central Indian Water Transport Corporation (CIWTC), Calcutta. Barring Cochin Shipyard Ltd., other shipyards have been incurring losses.

(b) to (d) In the prevailing scenario of open economy one of the pre-requisites for attracting orders is the competitiveness of shipyards in terms of price of their products and adherence to delivery schedule. Shipyards have, however, been endeavouring through managerial techniques to reduce the cost of construction, improve productivity, rationalize manpower, phase out unproductive expenditure and reduce overheads. Aggressive marketing is also resorted to for securing shipbuilding orders. Government had also brought into force in 1997, the shipbuilding subsidy scheme for a period of five years.

Telephone Connections after Issuing of O.B.

3126. SHRI RAMSAGAR RAWAT:
SHRI C.N. SINGH:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether telephones have not been provided/shifted in the Delhi even after the issuing of O.B. long time back;

(b) if so, the details of such cases during 1998-99 till date and the time by which the telephones are likely to be provided in all such cases;

(c) the reasons for the delay in the matter;

(d) whether lakhs of telephones are lying unserviceable in Delhi for a long time; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor and since when these are lying unserviceable and the time by which the same are likely to be set in order?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) Sir,

telephones are normally being provided/shifted after the issue of O.B.'s with-in the prescribed norms; except for the following reasons:

(i) Some pockets/areas being technically not feasible, due to non-availability of Under Ground Cable pairs.

(ii) Due to subscriber's reasons.

(iii) Due to bulk release.

(b) Details of OBs pending on date for new telephone connections and shift cases issued during 1998-99 in MTNL Delhi are as given below:

New Telephone Connections	—	6733
Shift Cases	—	96

All out efforts are afoot to provide telephones by March, 2000 for the pending OBs.

(c) Reasons for delay as given in (a) above.

(d) and (e) No, Sir. On an average, 16617 complaints of faulty telephones are booked against 18,32,619 working telephones.

On an average;

Telephone complaints set

Right same day	—	30.9%
between 24 to 48 hours	—	42.65%
within 7 days	—	25.11%

Remaining faults rectification gets delayed due to cable breakdowns or theft cases.

All out efforts are made to restore faulty telephones quickly.

Installation of Thermo Sensor in Tihar Jail

3127. DR. ASHOK PATEL: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to install sophisticated security machine 'Thermo Sensor' in the Tihar Jail in view of the apprehension that hardcore terrorists could run away by breaking the jail;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the estimated cost likely to be incurred thereon; and

(d) the time by which the said machine is likely to be installed in the Bihar Jail?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

[*Translation*]

Maintenance of Bhuntar-Gadsa-Shilagarh Roads

3128. SHRI MAHESHWAR SINGH: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the people are facing great hardships due to lack of proper attention by National Hydro Corporation for the maintenance of Bhuntar-Gadsa-Shilagarh and Manikaran-Barshaini Roads ever since the transfer of Parvati Hydro-Electric Project in Himachal Pradesh from Himachal Pradesh Electricity Board to National Hydro Power Corporation Limited;

(b) if so, the details in this regard; and

(c) the remedial measures being taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) and (b) The Bhuntar-Gadsa Road is being maintained by the State Public Works Department (P.W.D.). The Gadsa-Sheelagarh Road was constructed by Himachal Pradesh State Electricity Board (HPSEB) and handed over to National Hydroelectric Power Corporation (NHPC) during the last week of May 1999. Subsequent to such handing over, it is observed that this road is not fit to take heavy loads and needs execution of permanent works such as soling, retaining walls, breast walls, drainage and cross drainage works, which were not carried out by the HPSEB, before handing it over to NHPC. The Manikaran-Barshaini road was constructed by the HPSEB and handed over to NHPC, during September 1999. The condition of this road as taken over is also unsatisfactory.

The Government of India has approved the commencement of Survey, Investigation and Infrastructure works of this Project. The work of improvement of these roads would be taken up, on receipt of funds. This would mitigate the inconvenience being faced by the local population.

(c) NHPC would undertake repairs of this road, as soon as funds are released for carrying out Infrastructure/enabling works of Parvati (Stage-II Project).

[*English*]

Plan Allocation for Construction/Maintenance of National Highway

3129. SHRI G.J. JAVIYA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any study has been conducted to make an assessment with regard to required plan allocation for the construction and maintenance of the National Highways in Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the allocations made to the State Governments for National Highways during the last three years, State-wise; and

(d) the details of Government plans regarding the passenger facilities along national highway in the said States particularly in Saurashtra-Kutch?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN):

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Details are given in Statement I and II.

(d) Ministry has a scheme for providing basic wayside amenities consisting of parking areas, rest rooms, restaurants, first-aid and telephone facilities etc. along national highways both through Government sector subject to availability of plan funds and through private sector as well.

Such facilities are already operational at Km 325 on Durg-Rajnand Gaon section of NH 6 in Madhya Pradesh under private sector financing scheme. Such wayside amenities are to be provided at Khalghat on NH 3 in Madhya Pradesh and at Vapi on NH 8 in Gujarat through Government budget. Land acquisition and development of site has already been completed.

Statement I*Allocation of Funds Under Maintenance & Repairs (Rs. in Lakhs) in various States*

Sl. No.	Name of State/UT	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000 (earmarked) Normal Maintenance Month ending November, 1999)	1999-2000 (earmarked) Special Maintenance Month ending November, 1999)
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	3898.00	4568.40	3428.26	3457.80
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
3.	Assam	1162.55	2815.51	3399.44	3170.22
4.	Bihar	3410.77	3336.97	5592.64	6192.03
5.	Chandigarh	71.00	48.04	41.00	51.33
6.	Delhi	330.20	210.00	124.84	160.20
7.	Goa	450.39	617.08	475.64	617.24
8.	Gujarat	3758.96	3296.94	2098.17	1792.23
9.	Haryana	772.34	1239.42	1611.70	597.02
10.	Himachal Pradesh	2024.32	2256.01	1757.25	1094.22
11.	Jammu & Kashmir	87.40	129.65	290.00	0.00
12.	Karnataka	3002.90	3111.75	3550.90	4524.60
13.	Kerala	2268.11	2090.63	2234.00	1610.00

1	2	3	4	5	6
14.	Madhya Pradesh	3313.78	3945.04	6139.49	6677.99
15.	Maharashtra	5157.68	4957.67	3659.63	3434.23
16.	Manipur	277.03	365.59	851.08	0.00
17.	Meghalaya	584.54	625.80	805.89	464.24
18.	Mizoram	0.00	0.00	380.00	543.64
19.	Nagaland	37.11	382.90	431.63	422.66
20.	Orissa	2522.00	2761.15	3577.24	2396.62
21.	Pondicherry	29.96	64.18	77.00	167.10
22.	Punjab	1357.75	1538.81	1804.00	448.76
23.	Rajasthan	3841.71	3718.19	4355.00	4911.35
24.	Sikkim	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
25.	Tamil nadu	2981.37	3740.00	3923.15	5801.07
26.	Tripura	0.00	0.00	185.00	0.00
27.	Uttar Pradesh	4949.19	6128.44	5905.49	4794.62
28.	West Bengal	3264.94	2757.83	3525.00	1410.92
29.	NHAI	375.00	274.00	9082.00	0.00
30.	Other Institutions	13.00	—	0.00	0.00
Total		49750.00	54980.00	69305.44	54740.09

Statement II

*Allocation of Funds Under National Highways (Original) (Rs. in Lakhs)
in various States during the 9th Plan Period*

Sl. No.	Name State/UT	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	2949.83	4500.00	5000.00
2.	Assam	1821.00	2600.00	3100.00
3.	Bihar	1900.00	3405.31	3400.00
4.	Chandigarh	30.00	82.00	100.00
5.	Delhi	800.00	1400.00	1200.00
6.	Goa	900.00	1100.00	1400.00
7.	Gujarat	3675.00	5346.96	5000.00
8.	Haryana	1100.00	2613.50	4000.00
9.	Himachal Pradesh	1700.00	2500.00	3000.00
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	150.00	100.00	135.00
11.	Karnataka	2900.00	3500.00	4500.00
12.	Kerala	3600.00	6744.46	6500.00
13.	Madhya Pradesh	1700.00	2200.00	3000.00
14.	Maharashtra	2900.00	4811.83	4900.00

1	2	3	4	5
15.	Manipur	700.00	700.00	1000.00
16.	Meghalaya	920.00	1000.00	1500.00
17.	Mizoram	0.00	0.00	300.00
18.	Nagaland	100.00	200.00	450.00
19.	Orissa	2600.00	4000.00	4350.00
20.	Pondicherry	70.00	100.81	150.00
21.	Punjab	1300.00	2500.65	2500.00
22.	Rajasthan	2550.00	3450.00	3800.00
23.	Tamil Nadu	2500.00	3624.75	5000.00
24.	Tripura	0.00	0.00	50.00
25.	Uttar Pradesh	4608.00	7078.14	6300.00
26.	West Bengal	5375.00	7150.94	6600.00
27.	Joggigappa Bridge	1244.00	0.00	0.00
28.	Ministry	0.17	3.86	506.00
29.	BRDB	7031.00	8500.00	10300.00
Total		55124.00	79213.01	88041.00

[*Translation*]**Supply of LPG in Bihar and Uttar Pradesh**

3130. SHRI BRAHMA NAND MANDAL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the supply of L.P.G. made to Bihar and Uttar Pradesh alongwith the demand thereof during the last three years separately:

(b) whether L.P.G. Cylinders are in short supply in these States;

(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 E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) to (d) The details of Sale of packed LPG in the State of Bihar and Uttar Pradesh during the last three years are as under:—

State	Supply (Sales) (Figures in TMTs)		
	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99
Bihar	124.33	135.69	147.65
Uttar Pradesh	500.64	566.87	620.21

The demand of LPG customers of the PSU Oil Companies in the country has been, by and large, met. Presently no shortage in supply of LPG cylinders in the State of Bihar and Uttar Pradesh has been reported. However, whenever LPG backlog develops, PSU Oil Companies take various measures including maximising imports, operating the bottling plants on extended hours/Sundays and holidays, etc. to meet the demand in the affected markets.

[*English*]**Construction of Ahmedabad-Baroda Express Highway**

3131. SHRI MAN SINH PATEL: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any possibility to complete the construction work of Ahmedabad Baroda Express Highway has been explored;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the efforts made to commence work on the said highway in view of such possibility?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Balance work is to be completed by NHAI in two phase from km. 0 to 43.4 and km. 43.4 to 93.3. Bids from pre-qualified contractors for first phase are under evaluation and project preparation for second is in advanced stage of progress.

Pollution in Mahanadi

3132. SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of industries polluting the Mahanadi river in Madhya Pradesh and Orissa;

(b) the steps taken to save Mahanadi river from pollution.

(c) the extent to which these measures have been successful in controlling the pollution; and

(d) the perspective plan of the Government in this regard if any?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) to (d) A total of 5 grossly polluting industries have been identified which are accountable for pollution of river Mahanadi. Out of these, 4 units have installed effluent treatment plants and are complying with prescribed discharge standards. The 5th unit namely the Orissa Textile Mill, Choudwar, Cuttack has no effluent treatment plant as yet. Directions have been issued by the Central Pollution Control Board to the Orissa State Pollution Control Board for ensuring installation of effluent treatment plants by all defaulting grossly polluting industries including this unit. No effluent discharge from any industry is permitted into Mahanadi River in Madhya Pradesh. Under the National River Conservation Plan pollution abatement works at an estimated cost of Rs. 14.04 crores have been sanctioned for Cuttack in Orissa. The detailed project report submitted by the State Government for these works were not prepared according to the guidelines of Government. As a result these projects have not been approved so far.

Constitutional Protection to Election Commission

3133. SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to provide the same constitutional protection to the Election Commissioners as is available to the Chief Election Commissioner in terms of tenure and removal from the office; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI): (a) and (b) Election Commission of India has made a suggestion to the effect that the method of appointment and the constitutional protection after appointment should be the same for the Chief Election Commissioner and other Election Commissioners. The Government has, however, not formed any view in the matter.

Computerisation of Post and Telegraph Offices

3134. SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN:
SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR:
COL. (RETD.) DR. DHANI RAM SHANDIL:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of post and telegraph offices computerised in the country particularly in West Bengal, Karnataka and Himachal Pradesh during the last three years till date State-wise;

(b) the number of said offices likely to be computerised in the country particularly in the said States during 1999-2000 and the next year, location-wise;

(c) whether the Government have a proposal to computerise all the post and telegraph offices in the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the extent to which these computerised post offices would help in reducing the work load and also cut down delays;

(f) whether the Government have also a proposal to review the satellite money order despatch system as the system is not working upto the expectation; and

(g) if so, the steps taken by the Government to avoid unnecessary delay in the despatch of money order?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) The number of post office computerised during the last three years is 406 which includes twenty in West Bengal, five in Himachal Pradesh and twelve in Karnataka. Details may be seen in Statement I attached. The number of telegraph offices computerised during the last three years is 468 which includes ten in West Bengal. No telegraph office has been computerised in Himachal Pradesh and in Karnataka during the last three years. The details may be seen in Statement II attached.

(b) Ninety post offices have been identified for computerisation during the year 1999-2000. This includes 5 post offices in West Bengal, 4 post offices in Himachal Pradesh and seven in Karnataka. Details may be seen in Annexure-IA. One hundred seventy five telegraph offices have been identified for computerisation during the year 1999-2000. This includes 57 post offices in West Bengal. Details may be seen in Statement III attached.

(c) Yes the Department propose to computerise all the departmental post offices depending on availability of funds. In regard to telegraph offices the computerisation will be done on need basis depending upon the requirement of traffic.

(d) The Department proposes to computerise 185 post offices upto March, 2002. The number of post offices to be computerised and the details thereof would depend on availability of funds. In regard to telegraph offices the computerisation will be done on need basis depending upon the requirement of traffic.

(e) Computerisation of operations in post offices, especially in front offices, has resulted in provision of all the services to the customer at a single window and as a consequence reduced the queuing time. It has also helped in reducing the time per transaction, in streamlining the work processes, and has brought improvement in the work environment. The skills of the staff working in these offices have also been upgraded which has in turn boosted their morale. The improvement in the output has enabled the Department to cope with the additional workload generated over the year as no new posts have been sanctioned in the Department during the Eighth Five Year Plan and thereafter.

(f) The Department constantly reviews and monitors the programmes of technology induction.

(g) The Department is monitoring the output of the Very Small Aperture Terminals every month. The network is now handling one crore money orders annually. A new version of the software has been released recently.

Statement I

Sl. No.	Name of Circle	Number of Post Offices Computerised		Number of Post Offices proposed to be computerised during 1999-2000
		1997-98	1998-99	
1.	Andhra Pradesh	10	5	7
2.	Assam	31	2	4
3.	Bihar	10	6	7
4.	Delhi	13	7	Nil
5.	Gujarat	34	3	7
6.	Haryana	7	3	5
7.	Jammu & Kashmir	1	1	3
8.	Himachal Pradesh	3	2	4
9.	Karnataka	9	3	7
10.	Kerala	11	3	5
11.	Madhya Pradesh	9	7	7
12.	Maharashtra	27	3	8
13.	North East	1	6	5
14.	Orissa	14	7	5
15.	Punjab	14	4	7
16.	Rajasthan	9	7	Nil
17.	Tamil Nadu	30	8	4
18.	Uttar Pradesh	58	8	Nil
19.	West Bengal	17	3	5
Total		308	98	90

Statement #

(1) No. of Telegraph Offices computerised in the country during the last three years till date.

Sl.No.	Name of Circles	TOs	TCs	Combined Post & Telegraph Offices
1	2	3	4	5
1.	A & N	—	—	—
2.	Andhra Pradesh	—	27	—
3.	Assam	19	—	14
4.	Bihar	—	—	—
5.	Gujarat	—	—	36
6.	Haryana	—	—	—
7.	Himachal Pradesh	—	—	—
8.	J & K	—	—	—
9.	Karnataka	—	—	—
10.	Kerala	—	51	210
11.	Madhya Pradesh	5	6	2
12.	Maharashtra	—	—	—
13.	North East	—	—	3
14.	Orissa	1	—	—

1	2	3	4	5
15.	Punjab	6	—	—
16.	Rajasthan	—	—	—
17.	Tamil Nadu	—	9	44
18.	UP (East)	11	1	—
19.	UP (West)	3	6	—
20.	West Bengal	—	—	10
21.	Delhi (NTR)	1	2	1
		48	102	320

Statement III

Locations of the Offices likely to be Computerised in the Country during the year 1999-2000 and 2000-2001

Locations

Name of the Circle	Telegraph Offices	Telecom Centres	Combined Offices
1	2	3	4
Andaman & Nichobar	Nil	Nil	Nil
Andhra Pradesh	—	1999-2000 Vemulavada, Kadian 2000-2001 Mantralayam Nagarjuna University Campus, Guntur, RTC Bus Stand Vijayawada, Ashibabad, Koratla, Manthai.	—

1	2	3	4
Assam	1999-2000 Nil	1999-2000 Nil	
	2000-2001 Bongaigaon, Bhubri, Tezpur, Nagaon, Sibsagar, Tinsukia, Silchar, Karimganj, Assam Sachivalaya, North Lakhimpur, Ulubbari, Noonmati, Diphu, Hojai, Haflong.	2000-2001 Borjhar Airport (Arrival Terminal), Borjhar Airport (Departure Terminal)	
Bihar	1999-2000 Nil	1999-2000 Nil	
	2000-2001 Garhawa, Bhabua, Chiabasa, Madhepura, Godda, Dumka, Sahebganj, Supaul, Gumla	2000-2001 Patna Jn. Patna Aerodram, Patna Vir Kuwer Singh Parak, Patna Indira Gandhi Medical Institute, Pawapuri, Nalanda, Rajgir, Barh, Masaurhi, Ranchi Rly. Station, Ranchi Aerodrome, Ranchi RMCH, Tatanagar Rly. Station, JM Telco, Chakradharpur, Dhanabad Rly. Station, Jhumritilaya, Bhagalpur Rly Station, Kahalgaon, Barauni, Barauni Urvark Nagar, Teghre, Roshra, Jainnagar, Kathiar Rly. Station, Jogbeni, Chapra Gandhi Chowk, Chapra Roly Station, Dwivedi Coloney Siwan, Rajiv Nagar Siwan, Mashrak,	

1	2	3	4
Gujarat	—	<p>Marhowrah, Motipur, Ara Kucthery, Bikramganj, Lakhisarai, Sheikhpura, Simribakhtiyarpur, Bihariganj, Jamtara</p>	<p><i>1999-2000</i> Dholka, Bavla, Bayad, Talod, Modasa, Jasdan, Paddhari, Kotda Sanghani, Thangadh, Chotila, Wadhwan City, Sachin Vijapur, Harij, Sami, Kharalu, Chanasma, Vadnagar, Mansa, Umreth, Khambhat, Balasinor, Valabhipur, Sihor (A), Dharampur, Killa Pardi, Khergam, Bundlav, Sanjan, Bhilad, Sarigam, Padra, Miyagam, Bodeli, Dahej, Vaghra, Netranj, Rajpardi, Umalla, Hansot, Visavdar, Kalawad, Bhanvad, Jamnagar-Valsure, Jamnagar-Airforce, Jodia, Dhrol, Jam Nodhpur, Santrampur, Devgad, Baria, Jhalod, Snatroad, Timba Road, Shehra</p>
Haryana	Nil	Nil	Nil
Himachal Pradesh	<p><i>1999-2000</i> Nil</p> <p><i>2000-2001</i> Keylong</p>	—	—

1	2	3	4
Jammu & Kashmir	—	1999-2000 Nil	—
		2000-2001 Tourist Reception Centre, Srinagar, Sher-e-Kashmir Institute of Medical Science.	
Karnataka	Nil	Nil	Nil
Kerala	Nil	Nil	Nil
Madhya Pradesh	1999-2000 Tikamgarh, Sidhi, Panna	—	—
	2000-2001 Nil		
Maharashtra	Nil	Nil	Nil
North East	1999-2000 Radhakishorepur, Kailashahar, Pasighat, Bomdila, Churachandpur	—	1999-2000 Nil
	2000-2001 Nil		2000-2001 Nong-stion Nongpoh, Cherrapunjee, Barapani, Nonglyer, Laitmukhrah, Jowai, Happy Valley, Williamnagar, Bagmara, Barengapara, Phulbari, Mahendraganj, Along, Ziero, Daporizo, Churachandpur DTO, Thoubal, Ukhrul, Biahempur, Senapati, Champai, Dimapur Bazar, Purana Bazar, Jaluki,

1	2	3	4
			Chumukdima, Mokokohung, Tuensang, Wokha, Phek, Mon, Zunheboto, Sabroom, Sonmura, Khowai, Teliampura, Amarpur.
Orissa	Nil	Nil	Nil
Punjab	1999-2000 Nil	1999-2000 Nil	1999-2000 Ropar
	2000-2001 Mansa, Amritsar Golden Temple	2000-2001 Patiala City	2000-2001 Samana, Bahadurgarh, Sanaur, Pataran
Rajasthan	Nil	Nil	Nil
Tamil Nadu	—	—	1999-2000 Pernambut, Sholingur, Tiruvetipuram, Walaiapet, Aroot, Kannamangalam, Palligonda, Melvisharam, Porayar, Sembanarkoil, Kuthalam, Anikaranchatram, Vaitheesvarandoli, Tiruvankandu, Manalmedu, Tiruvaleputhur, Kambudi, Abiramam, Kallai, Kilakkrai
			2000-2001 Nagarasampatti, Morappur, Pappireddipatti Kambalnallur, Papparapatti Masinagudi, Emerald, Thangadu, Kundabridge, Ketti, Chengam, Avalurpet,

1	2	3	4
			Kilapennatur, Sathanurdam, Thandarai, Ambathurai, Kannivadi, Kovilur, Nallamanarkottal, Semmedu, Kalapapanaikenpatti, Emaneswaram, Chittirakkudi, Maravamangalam, Paganeri, Koradacheri, Kollumangudi, Peralam, Tirunellikavfai, Tirumarugal, Arachalur, Modakurichi, Chittode, Vellode, Avalpoondurai, Gandhinagar, Industrial Colony Rettai, Reddiarpatti, Perumalapuram, Thiruvithampillai, Palayapettai, Thachanallur, Chengulam, Alakkudi, Jambugapuram, Kattur, Kovilady, Kachamangalam, Thirupanturuthy, Puthur, Senglapatti, Nadu Cauvery, Nadungulam, V Ailankanni, Sikkal, Nannilam, Thittacherry, Nagore, Kilvelur, Tirupaudi
U.P. (East)	Nil	Nil	Nil
U.P. (West)	1999-2000 Rudraprayag, Bageshwar 2000-2001 Bagpat, Amroha,	1999-2000 Karanprayag, Joshimath, Lansedown, Kotdwara, Satpuli, Vidyutnagar, Mohan Nagar, Pilakhawa,	1999-2000 Dadri, Loni Doiwala, Raiwala, Veerbhadra IDPL, Clementown, Jolly Grand, Herburtpur, Chakrauta, Kath Godam, Bajpur

1	2	3	4
		<p>Garhmukteshwar, Gulaothi, Khuja, Loni, NOIDA Nepa, Dakpathar</p>	<p>2000-2001 Aonia, Bissalpur, Ujhani, Sarrawa, Jalalabad, Nanuta, Thanabhawan, Mangalore, Rampur,</p>
		<p>2000-2001 Chaupala, Rajindernagar, CB Ganki, Nawabganj Baheri, Airforce Gate, Meerganj, Deoband, Gangoh, Lakshar, Mawana, Sardhana, Hashnagapur, Khatauli, Shamil</p>	<p>Saharanpur, Kandhia</p>
West Bengal			<p>1999-2000 Asansol, Bahula Topai, Magra, Panagarh, Kallaganj Gangarampur, Halli, Dalkhola, Islampur Sushrutnagar, M.B. University, Pakuahat Samal, Bijonbari Nagrispur Changrabandha, Mekhliganj Tistabazar Tindharia, Tung, Kamalabagan Lataguri, Barulpur, Coseipore, Circus Are, Tiljais, Khargrapatty, Dhikuria, Haltu, Kasba, Purba Putiary, Alkare HPO, Hastings, New Allpore, Birati, New Barrackpore, Rajarhat, Habra Bongaon, Basirhat Madhyamgram, Lilfoah, Bally, Amta, Domjur, Bargachia, Angus,</p>

1	2	3	4
			Kannagat, Baidyabuti, Shonapalli, Katwa, Kalna .2000-2001 Mandekchak, Kotaali, Old Malda, Sujapur, Takda, Lopchu, Belgachi, Thakurganuj, Dawanhat, Pundiabari, Nishigarh, Sitakuchi, Sitaihat, Birpara, Falakata, Banarhat, Kalchini, Hamiltonganj; Dalsinghpara, Hansimara, Rajabhatkhawa, New Land, Andul, Bauria, Sankrail, Saldah, EP, Bartala, Kiddérpor, Garden Reach, SE Rly, Banasdonna, Rajput, Tolyganj, Bajha Jatin, Haroa, Haroa, Hamabad, Taki, Deralaya, Deganga, Kholapota, Badlura, Chhoti Jagulia, Nilganj, Mirhali, Ghighudanga, Dum Dum, Singar, Haiapad, Telimpara, Nasagaon
New Delhi	Nil	Nil	Nil

Dredging Work at Bhavanapadu Port

3135. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Dredging Corporation of India has begun work at Bhavanapadu Port in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the total work to be done by the Dredging Corporation of India at Bhavanapadu Port; and

(c) the time by which the work is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN):

(a) The Dredging Corporation of India Ltd. commenced dredging at Bhavanapadu Port on 10th November 1999 after entering into an agreement with the Government of Andhra Pradesh.

(b) The total estimated quantity to be dredged as per contract is 1.2 lakh cu.m. insitu.

(c) So far 27 dredging days have been completed as against the initial contract period of 30 days.

LNG Terminal at Cochin

3136. SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of the proposed LNG Terminal at Cochin;

(b) whether all the clearances have been obtained for this project; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) to (c) Petronet LNG Ltd. (PLL) has signed a Long Term Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) Sale Purchase Agreement with M/s Ras Gas of Qatar for supply of LNG to the Cochin Terminal. The Detailed Feasibility Report (DFR) and Basic Engineering Package (BEP) and all other pre-project activities have been completed. Land for the terminal has been allotted. The clearance to carry out coastal activities, sea-water utilisation and consent to establish LNG import terminal has been obtained.

Malfunctioning of PCOs In Rajasthan

3137. COL. (RET.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of PCOs provided in the Western Rajasthan, especially in Barmer and Jaisalmer districts during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) whether 50% to 60% PCOs in the said districts are out of order/unserviceable;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the action Government propose to take to ensure proper maintenance and efficient functioning of such PCOs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) The

number of PCOs provided during the last three years in Barmer, Jaisalmer and Bikaner Districts of Rajasthan are as under:

Year	Barmer	Jaisalmer	Bikaner
1996-97	49	5	52
1997-98	73	54	414
1998-99	89	68	461

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) As and when complaints of non-functioning of PCOs are received, those are attended to by the field staff. Regular monitoring is also done to ensure efficient functioning of the PCOs.

Right to Ancestral Property

3138. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Law panel move to put son, daughter on par" appearing in the *Hindustan Times*, dated November 13, 1999;

(b) if so, whether the Law Commission has undertaken an extensive study to remove the inequality in the provision to give a daughter equal status as a son with regard to inheritance of property; and

(c) if so, the time by which a notification is likely to be issued in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Law Commission of India issued a questionnaire on 1st April, 1999 seeking the views of interest groups, academic institutions, lawyers, social workers, judges, journalists, etc, seeking their views on the question of making change in the rights of inheritance of property by Hindu women. The matter is still under examination of the Commission and as such it will take some time for the Commission to submit a report. It is, therefore, not possible to specify any rigid time frame within which the Government could examine the report of

the Commission as may be submitted to it and take necessary legislative measures to implement the same.

[Translation]

LPG Dealers/Diesel and Petrol Outlets in Bihar

3139. SHRI TRAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of sub-divisions and blocks in the country and especially in Bihar without the facility of L.P.G. distributors and diesel/petrol retail outlets; and

(b) the efforts made by the Government to increase their number in the country and especially in Bihar so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) and (b) Retail Outlet dealerships and LPG distributorships are set up all over the country at the locations meeting viability norms of the Oil Industry.

As on 1.4.1999, there were 17185 R.Os and 5848 LPG distributorships functioning all over the country which include 1131 Retail Outlets and 214 LPG distributorships in Bihar.

To meet the increasing demand, more locations for RO & LPG distributorships are included in the Marketing Plan including in Bihar.

[English]

Shift System for Disposal of Cases

3140. SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the High Court of Rajasthan has agreed to make arrangements for the shift system so as to clear the backlog of pending cases expeditiously;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the services of retired judges are to be taken for the purpose; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI): (a) There is no proposal before the Rajasthan High Court for introducing the shift system so as to clear the backlog of pending cases.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Violation of Human Rights

3141. SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases of violation of Human Rights brought to the notice of the Government during the last three years, State-wise;

(b) whether the National Human Rights Commission have given instructions to the Union and State Governments for the payment of compensation to the affected people;

(c) If so, whether the Government have taken appropriate action against the persons responsible for the violation of Human Rights; and

(d) if so, the details in the regard during the said period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO): (a) A statement is enclosed.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) As per the laid down procedure of the National Human Rights Commission, recommendations of the Commission are directly addressed to the concerned Ministries and Departments of the Central Government as well as to the State Governments. These recommendations are generally accepted by the concerned authorities and are implemented as per the Commission's directions.

Statement**Number of Cases of Violations of Human Rights**

S.No.	State	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	250	201	230	681
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	10	13	10	33
3.	Assam	72	68	58	198
4.	Bihar	985	894	1674	3553
5.	Goa	16	23	14	53
6.	Gujarat	115	124	203	442
7.	Haryana	218	363	852	1433
8.	Himachal Pradesh	25	46	25	96
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	197	129	136	462
10.	Karnataka	116	136	165	417
11.	Kerala	171	163	206	542
12.	Madhya Pradesh	355	709	909	1973
13.	Maharashtra	299	486	829	1616
14.	Manipur	48	26	19	93
15.	Meghalaya	12	5	18	35

1	2	3	4	5	6
16.	Mizoram	Nil	12	11	23
17.	Nagaland	62	14	6	82
18.	Orissa	241	212	214	667
19.	Punjab	181	226	354	761
20.	Rajasthan	375	489	857	1721
21.	Sikkim	Nil	3	1	4
22.	Tamil Nadu	236	399	502	1137
23.	Tripura	5	10	6	21
24.	Uttar Pradesh	3921	8749	12286	24956
25.	West Bengal	284	154	285	723
26.	Union Territories	581	763	1667	3011
Total		8775	21539	14419	44733

[English]

Human Rights Commission

3142. SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA AND SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Human Rights Commission are supposed to be set up in all the States;

(b) if so, the details in this regard; and

(c) the steps being taken to ensure that the commissions are set up in all the States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO): (a) and (b) There is an enabling provision in the Protection of Human Rights Act, 1993 for the State Governments to set up State Human Rights Commission. As per the available information, 10 State Governments, namely Assam, Manipur, Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, West Bengal, Tamil Nadu, Punjab, Jammu & Kashmir, Kerala and Rajasthan have set up State Human Rights Commissions.

(c) The Union Government has been writing to the concerned State Governments, from time to time, to set up State Human Rights Commissions. The last

communication addressed to the State Chief Minister in this regard was issued on 10th July, 1999.

Power Projects In Gujarat

3143. SHRI DINSHA PATEL: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of power plants set up in Gujarat during the Eighth Five Year Plan and proposed to be set

up during the Ninth Plan; and

(b) the cost thereof and the details of participation of the private sector therein?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) and (b) The details of Projects set up in the Eighth Five Year Plan are as follows:—

S. No.	Project	Total installed Capacity (MW) (Proposed)	Total Estimated Cost (Rs. Crs.)	Capacity MW) for 8th Plan	
				Target-	Achievement
8th Plan					
STATE SECTOR					
1.	Kadana-II Unit 3&4	120	121	60	60
2.	Sikka Extn. U-2	120	179	120	120
3.	Utran CCGT	144	268	78	78
CENTRAL SECTOR					
4.	Kakrapara (N)	440	N.A.	440	440
5.	Kawas CCGT	644	1641	538	538
6.	Gandhar CCGT	648	2442.4	648	648
PRIVATE SECTOR					
7.	Hazira CCGT	515	1745	330	330

The projects proposed to be set up/already set up in the Ninth Plan are as follow:

S. No.	Project	Total I.C. (MW) Proposed	Total Estimated Cost (Rs. Crs.)	Likely benefits during 9th Plan
1	2	3	4	5
STATE SECTOR				
1.	Kadana-II	120	121	60
2.	Kutch Lignite U-3	75	474	75

1	2	3	4	5
3.	Sardar Sarovar (16%)	232	3249	104
4.	Gandhinagar U-5	210	569	210
5.	Wanakbori U-7	210	698	210
PRIVATE SECTOR				
6.	Hazira CC-ST	185	1745	185
7.	Mangrol LIG	250	1530	250
8.	Sabarmati TPS	120	580	120
9.	Pagutham CCGT	655	2298	655
10.	Baroda CCGT	167	368.22	167
CENTRAL SECTOR				
11.	Jhanor Gandhar-II	650	1745.66	650
12.	Kawas St. II CCGT	650	1813	650

Joint Authority for Taj Mahal

3144. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up a joint authority for the security and protection of the environment surrounding the Taj Mahal;

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

(c) the amount proposed to be allocated for the purpose; and

(d) the time by which the authority is likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL

MARANDI): (a), (b) and (d) Under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, the Central Government had constituted the Taj Trapezium Zone Pollution (Prevention and Control) Authority vide S.O. 350(E) dated 17.5.99 for a period of two years. Commissioner, Agra Division is the Chairman of the authority.

(c) The authority has not been allocated any budget for the implementation of schemes. However, the Central Government has been implementing a scheme known as the Taj Protection Mission with 50:50 per cent sharing basis with the Govt. of U.P. In this scheme the Planning Commission has allocated an amount of Rs. 200 crores to the Central Government for the Ninth Plan period.

Success Rate of Appeals Made by Government

3145. SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government dominate to a large an extent in all the civil suit appeals;

(b) if so, whether despite this the Government's success rate in appeals is miserably low;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Government would consider reforms in the manner in which decisions to appeal are taken and also to improve substantially the success rate in their appeals; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI): (a) to (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(d) and (e) There is no proposal under consideration to change the existing procedure for taking decisions to file appeals in courts.

1984 Riots

3146. SHRI SIMRANJIT SINGH MANN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Sikhs killed in the riots in the last week of October 1984 and thereafter;

(b) the number of Sikhs looted, arrested, and detained during the said period;

(c) the number of cases registered in respect of the aforesaid heinous crimes and the number of perpetrators brought before justice and convicted;

(d) whether the Government propose to set up special courts for the speedy trials of the accused;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether the Government propose to offer public apology for the riots; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) The Ahooja Committee appointed by the erstwhile Delhi Administration to determine the number of persons who were killed during 1984 riots in Delhi came to the conclusion that the number of persons so killed was 2733.

(b) The number of Sikhs looted during 1984 riots in Delhi was 984 as per the cases registered with Delhi Police. The number of Sikhs arrested in Delhi during the period of the riots was 70.

(c) The number of cases registered by Delhi Police in connection with 1984 riots was 646 and the number of accused persons convicted so far is 386.

(d) and (e) Three Special Courts were set-up in Delhi in 1990 for the disposal of 1984 riot cases. However, only two Special Courts, presided over by the same Judge, functioned during the years from 1991 to 1995 to exclusively handle such cases. Later from 1996 till date, one Court each has been functioning in Karkardooma Courts and Patiala House Courts for disposal of 1984 riot cases alongwith the other cases.

(f) and (g) The 1984 riots constitute one of the saddest chapters of post-Independence India and the Government views it as such.

[Translation]

Renewal of Licences of Fishermen

3147. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any memorandum from the fishermen unions of Mumbai regarding the renewal of licence;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the facilities and assistance provided by the Government to the fishermen for running their business smoothly;

(d) whether any facility regarding the licence is included among these facilities; and

(e) if not, whether any proposal is under the consideration of the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a), (b), (d) and (e) Yes, Sir. A memorandum was made by the Maharashtra Sagari Matsyavyavasayik Sangh for registration of fresh trawlers by the Mumbai Port Trust. Due to inadequacy of facilities and congestion of the fishing harbour by existing boats, no registration of fresh trawlers is being done by the Port Trust. However, renewal of licences is being carried out by the Port.

(c) The Government is providing facilities and assistance for supply of diesel, rest shelter, dispensary, canteen, fish auction hall etc.

[English]

Package for North-Eastern States

3148. SHRIMATI RANEE NARAH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether an economic package was planned by the Government for the North-Eastern State;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the measures taken for its implementation;

(c) whether any high-powered committee has been set up to suggest the measures for the implementation of this package; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) to (d) During the visit of then Prime Minister to the North East in Oct. 1996, new initiatives for North Eastern Region were announced. A number of schemes are included in the PM's Economic Package. List of the Scheme is given in Statement attached. Instructions have been issued to the concerned Ministries to take necessary action to implement these schemes. The implementation of this package is monitored in the MHA and PMO.

Statement

Assam

1. Construction of Rail-cum-Road Bridge at Jogigopa.
2. Upgradation of Guwahati Airport.
3. Construction of Rail-cum-Road Bridge at Bogibheeli.
4. Setting up of three Industrial Growth Centres in Assam.
5. Flood Control Works at Brahmaputra.
6. Commissioning of LPG Bottling plant at Bongaigaon.
7. Commissioning Numaligarh Refinery.
8. Declaration of Damra-Baghmara road as NH in Assam and Meghalaya.

Nagaland

1. Commissioning of Hydro Electric Project.
2. Commissioning of New Terminal Complex at Dimapur Airport.
3. Upgradation of Naga Hospital for referral facilities.
4. Setting up of Industrial Growth Centre at Dimapur.
5. Infrastructure for Nagaland University.
6. Four-laning of NH-39.

Meghalaya

1. Upgradation of North Eastern Indira Gandhi Regional Institute of Health & Medical Sciences, Shillong.
2. Construction of Shillong by-pass road.
3. Railhead at Burnihat.
4. Development of Umroi Airport.
5. Setting up of Satellite Township near Shillong.
6. Setting up of Regional Biological Products unit.
7. Industrial Growth Centre at Mendipather.
8. Setting up of Institute for Hotel Management.
9. Construction of Dowki bridge.

Mizoram

1. Setting up of Turrial HEP (60 MW).
2. Upgradation of State Referral Hospital.
3. Commissioning of Aizawl urban drinking water supply (Phase-II).
4. Schemes for Border Area Development Programme (Myanmar).
5. Setting up of Industrial Growth Centre.
6. Widening of NH-54.

Tripura

1. Execution of Kumarghat-Agartala Railway Line.
2. Upgradation of Agartala Airport.
3. Commissioning of LPG Bottling Plant.
4. Setting up of Industrial Growth Centre.
5. Upgradation of Agartala Sabroom highway.

Manipur

1. Widening of NH-53.
2. Setting up of Industrial Growth Centre.
3. Setting up of LPG Bottling Plant.
4. Upgradation of Regional Institute of Medical Sciences (Phase II).
5. Setting up of Loktak Down Stream HEP (90 MW).
6. Declaration of Third NH in Manipur connecting Aizawl—Tipaimukn—Churachandpur—Imphal—Ukhrul—Jessami and terminating in Nagaland.

Arunachal Pradesh

1. Commissioning of Itanagar—Nanarlagun Water Supply Scheme.
2. Setting up of Biodiversity Studies Institute.
3. Setting up of New airport at Itanagar.

4. Upgradation of Lilabari Airport.
5. Extension NH-52A from Itanagar-Gohpur.
6. Construction of new Assembly Hall at Itanagar.
7. Setting up of Growth Centre.

Major Projects in Maharashtra

3149. SHRI SHIVAJI VITHALRAO KAMBLE: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have reviewed the implementation of ongoing major projects in Maharashtra in terms of their performance during the Eighth Plan;

(b) if so, the details thereof in terms of standard norms and targets project-wise; and

(c) the details of investment proposed for Maharashtra for such projects during Ninth Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Environment and Forests reviewed all the major schemes implemented in Maharashtra during the Eighth Plan at the time of formulation of the Ninth Five-Year Plan. The progress of all the schemes was found satisfactory.

(c) Allocations are made to the states annually under various schemes based on the project proposals received from them. So far an amount of Rs. 1361.31 Lakhs has been released to the state of Maharashtra during Ninth Five-Year Plan for various schemes.

Caller Line Identification Facilities

3150. SHRI ANNASAHEB M.K. PATIL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Caller Line Identification Facilities provided in the MTNL Telephone are approved by TEC;

(b) if so, the names of the companies approved by TEC;

(c) the steps taken by the Government to stop the use of unapproved Caller Line Identification facilities by the subscribers; and

(d) the amount incurred by MTNL on advertisement and other publicity items during the last two years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) Yes, Sir. Subscribers asking for the Calling Line Identification Presentation (CLIP) facility are advised to use the TEC-approved gadgets only.

(b) Details are placed at Statement I and II.

(c) Generally the subscribers are requested to give in writing the model number and name of the company

of the gadget he is using. It is further checked by the staff with the approved list.

In the absence of the above information, subscriber is requested to give an undertaking that he will use the gadgets of TEC-approved companies only.

(d) During the last two years Rs. 28.71 crores has been incurred by MTNL on advertisement and other publicity items.

Statement I

List of Interface Approved Vendors for Calling Line Identification Units

Sl. No.	Approved Vendor/ Manufacturer	Product Name & Model	Certificate No. Date & Valid upto
1	2	3	4
1.	M/s. AGT Electronics Ltd., Coimbatore-641014.	SSU for Calling Line Identification, CLIP-400	TEC/SR//SIU-02/02/001. Jan. 99. 27.01.99 upto 01.02.02
2.	M/s. Siri Communications & Consultants, Hyderabad -500 062	SSU for Calling Line Identification, CLIP-SX	TEC/CR//SIU-02/02/004 Jan 99 29.01.99 upto 31.01.02
3.	M/s Aeries Telecom, Centre, Bangalore-600029	SSU for Calling Line Identification, AEIRES-39110	TEC/SR//SIU-02/92/004 Feb 99. 01/02/99 upto 28/01/004
4.	M/s. Liscot Electronics Ltd., Chennai-600002	SSU for Calling Line Identification, IP-9308DF	TEC/SR//SIU-02/02/006 Feb. 99 01/02/99 up 28/01/02
5.	M/s. M.L. Telecom Chennai-600 002	SSU for Calling Line Identification, D-800	
6.	M/s. Namtech Systems Bangalore-560008	SSU for Calling Line Identification, PX-2000	TEC/SR//SIU-02/02/005 02/02/99 upto 28/01/02
7.	M/s. Priyaraj Electronics Ltd., Bangalore-560 008	SSU for Calling Line Identification Call SCAN-198	TEC/SR//SIU-02/02/008 Feb. 99 02/02/99 upto 28/01/02

1	2	3	4
8.	Ms. Decan Power Products Secunderabad-500003 M/s. Bi-Calinic Telecom Corpn. Taiwan	SSU for Calling Line Identification, BP 664D	TEC/CR/I/SIU-02/02/009 Feb. 99 04/02/99 upto 28/01/00
9.	M/s. S.N. Telecommunication Pune-411 029	SSU for Calling Line Identification, CID SN 2001	TEC/WR/I/SIU-02/02/003 10/02/99 upto 28/02/02
10.	M/s. Linkwell Telesystems Ltd. Secunderabad-500 014	SSU for Calling Line Identification, VISIONTEK-21	TEC/CR/I/SIU-02/02/010 18/02/99 upto 28/02/02
11.	M/s. Promotional Computer Tech. Pvt. Ltd. New Delhi-110 052	SSU for Calling Line Identification, PTCL-V0198	TEC/NR I/SIU-02/02/013 28/02/99 upto 20/02/02
12.	M/s. Ruchi Telecom Pvt. Ltd., New Delhi-110062	SSU for Calling Line Identification, RT-C501	TEC/NR/I/SIU-02/02/011 Feb. 99 28/02/99 upto 28/02/02
13.	M/s. Accord Communications Ltd., Meerut (UP)	SSU for Calling Line Identification CLD-100	TEC/NR/I/SIU-02/02/012 Feb. 99 18/02/99 upto 28/02/02
14.	M/s. Indo Hong Kong Ind. (P) Ltd., New Delhi-17. M/s. Idea Tech Group Ltd., Hongkong.	SSU for Calling Line Identification, IT-9308 DF	TEC/NR/I/SIU-02/02/014 Feb. 99 04/03/99 upto 31/03/02
15.	M/s. Five Star Telecommunications (P) Ltd. Mohali (Punjab)	SSU for Calling Line Identification, TELEGUARD	TEC/NR/I/SIU-02/02/016. Mar. 99 04/03/99 upto 31/03/02
16.	M/s. Medi Tech. Inc. New Delhi-110 049	SSU for Calling Line Identification, MTI-5401	TEC/NR/I/SIU-02/02/015 March 99 04/03/99 upto 31/03/02
17.	M/s. Digicontrols Northern Pvt. Ltd., Delhi-110 020	SSU for Calling Line identification, CALLID	TEC/NR/I/SIU-02/02/017. March 99 04/03/99 upto 31/03/02

1	2	3	4
18.	M/s. Universal Solder Systems (P) Ltd. Hyderabad-68 M/s. Hong Kong Texas Co. Ltd., Hongkong	SSU for Calling Line Identification, Texas TX-910	TEC/CR//SIU-02/02/018 March 99 05/03/99 upto 31/03/02
19.	M/s. Xpert Impex Pvt. Ltd., Mumbai-400102 M/s. Gida Enterprises Co. Ltd., Taiwan	SSU for Calling Line Identification, RH-3000	TEC/WR//SIU-02/02/019 March 99 09/03/99 upto 31/12/01
20.	M/s. Global Telesystems Ltd., Mumbai-400038 M/s. Xiamen C&D Inc. China	SSU for Calling Line Identification, GLOBAL BOX-1	TEC/WR//SIU-02/02/020 March 99 15/03/99 upto 25/01/02
21.	M/s. PEP Infotech Ltd., Meerut-250 002	SGU for Calling Line Identification, Call GUARD CD-01	TEC/NR//SIU-02/02/024 March 99 31/03/99 upto 31/03/02
22.	M/s. Pulsetone Industries Bangalore-560 010	SSU for Calling Line Identification, CID-TRAP.	TEC/NR//SIU-02/02/021 March 99 31/03/99 upto 31/03/02
23.	M/s. Venus Electronics Bangalore-560 010	SSU for Calling Line Identification, SSU-200A	TEC/SR//SIU-02/02/021 March 99 31/03/99 upto 31/03/02
24.	M/s. Rave Exim (P) Ltd., Chennai-600 105 M/s. Shenzhen Baon Changhe, China	SSU for Calling Line Identification, CH-6811	TEC/SR//SIU-02/02/023 March 99 31/03/99 upto 31/03/02
25.	M/s. Copper Connections New Delhi	SSU for Calling Line Identification, CC-CID-1	TEC/NR//SIU-02/02/026 March 99 31/03/99 upto 31/03/02
26.	M/s. BPL Telecom Ltd., Palakkad-678 007	SSU for Calling Line Identification, CLI 9000	TEC/SR//SIU-02/02/025 March 99 31/03/99 upto 31/03/02
27.	M/s. Eltech Enterprises New Delhi-110 020	SSU for Calling Line Identification, SONITEL ST-8097 FD	TEC/SR//SIU-02/02/027 April 99 01/04/99 upto 30/04/02

1	2	3	4
28.	M/s. Innovation Commu. Systems Pvt. Ltd, Hyderabad-500 034	SSU for Calling Line Identification, ICS-CLIP-01	TEC/CR/1/SIU-02/029 April 99 01/04/99 upto 30/04/02
29.	M/s. Electronics Home, New Delhi-110 020	SSU for Calling Line Identification, SONICS HT-9708FD	TEC/NR/1/SIU-02/02/028 April 99 01/04/99 upto 30/04/02
30.	M/s. Mirages Marketing Bangalore-560 032	SSU for Calling Line Identification, MH-108	TEC/NR/1/SIU-02/02/030 April 99 05/04/99 upto 30/04/02
31.	M/s. RS. Technologies Hyderabad-500 062	SSU for Calling Line Identification, CID 990	TEC/CR/1/SIU-02/02/031 April 99 12/04/99 upto 30/04/02
32.	M/s. India Robotics Pune-411 029	SSU for Calling Line Identification, CID 990	TEC/WR/1/SIU-02/02/032 April 99 12/04/99 upto 30/04/02
33.	M/s. Onex Technologies Mumbai-400076 M/s. Ideatech Group Ltd., Hongkong.	SSU for Calling Line Identification, VISIO IT 9308 DF	TEC/WR/1/SIU-02/04/033 April 99 23/04/99 upto 14/01/02
34.	M/s. Benson Power & Controls Pvt. Ltd, Bangalore-560 042	SSU for Calling Line Identification, BEN-TEL 2000	TEC/SR/1/SIU-02/02/034 April 99 28/04/99 upto 30/04/02
35.	M/s. Computer Peripheral Devices Bangalore-560001	SSU for Calling Line Identification, KID-01	TEC/SR/1/SIU-02/02/033 May 99 05/05/99 upto 31/05/02
36.	M/s. Anant Exports, Jaipur-302001 M/s. Osia International Hongkong	SSU for Calling Line Identification, 08-SLO21	TEC/SR/1/SIU-02/02/036 May 99 12/05/99 upto 31/05/02
37.	M/s. Bharti Telecom Ltd., Gurgaon	SSU for Calling Line Identification, CHECKMATE	TEC/SR/1/SIU-02/02/037 May 99 14/05/99 upto 31/05/02
38.	M/s. Multiline Communications System, Trivandrum-695 018	SSU for Calling Line Identification, Multiline MC-2000	TEC/SR/1/SIU-02/02/39 May 99 17/05/99 upto 31/05/02

1	2	3	4
39.	M/s. Aurocom Pondicherry-605 009	SSU for Calling Line Identification, KID-02	TEC/SR//SIU-02/02/038 May 99 17/05/99 upto 31/05/02
40.	M/s. Vijay Electro Automation Ltd., Palakkad-678 007	SSU for Calling Line Identification, VEAL GALLER ID 1.0	TEC/SR//SIU-02/02/040 May 99 17/05/99 upto 31/05/02
41.	M/s. Ceniub Industrial Ltd., Faridabad	SSU for Calling Line Identification D-3804 B	TEC/NR//SIU-02/02/043 June 99 15/06/99 upto 30/06/02
42.	M/s. Rajasthan Telematics Pvt. Ltd., Kota-324 005	SSU for Calling Line Identification, DETECT	TEC/NR//SIU-02/02/042 15/06/99 upto 30/06/92
43.	M/s. Nakamichi Techo Pvt. Ltd., Delhi-110 054 M/s. Ever Peace Electronics Co., Hongkong	SSU for Calling Line Identification, FUJICON CID-209	TEC/NR//SIU-02/02/041 June 99 15/06/99 upto 30/06/02
44.	M/s. Tata Telecom Ltd., Palakkad-678623 M/s. Integrated Synergy International Ltd., Singapore	SSU for Calling Line Identification, TATAFONE R 60 ND	TEC/SR//SIU-02/02/044 July 99 06/07/99 upto 31/07/02
45.	M/s. Godrej Telecom Ltd., Hyderabad-500 015. M/s. Ocean Regent Interna- tional Ltd. Hongkong	SSU for Calling Line Identification, CALLER ID GL-100	TEC/CR//SIU-02/02/045 July 99 13/07/99 upto 31/07/02
46.	M/s. Puri Electronics Pvt. Ltd., New Delhi-110 017	SSU for Calling Line Identification, TELESOUND	TEC/NR//SIU-0202/046 August 99 09/08/99 utp 31/08/02
47.	M/s. Rohni Micro Sstems, Mohali-160059	SSU for Calling Line Identification, WHO's THAT	TEC/NR//SIU-02/02/047 September 99 01/09/99 upto 30/09/02
48.	M/s. BPL Telecom Ltd. Palakkad-678007	SSU for Calling Line Identification, CLI 9100	TEC/SR//SIU-02/02/048 September 99 01/09/99 upto 30/09/02

1	2	3	4
49.	M/s. Link Tele Image Ltd., Mumbai-400 059	SSU for Calling Line Identification, LT 9902	TEC/WR/1/SIU-02/02/059 October 99 07/10/99 upto 31/10/02
50.	M/s. Nitya Deep Enterprises Mumbai 400 049. M/s. Automatic Mfg. Ltd., China.	SSU for Calling Line Identification, NDO 99 AUTOMAN	TEC/WR/1/SIU-02/049 October 99 07/10/99 upto 31/10/02

Statement II*List of Interface Approved Vendors for TPS Telephone with CLI Facility*

Sl. No.	Approved Vendor/ Manufacturer	Product Name & Model	Certification No. Date & Valid upto
1.	M/s. Uniword Telecom Ltd., Noida-201 301	TPS Telephone with built-in SSU for CLIP, Reverse CLI	TEC/HR/1/TEL-01/02/103. Aug. 99 17/08/99 upto 31/08/02
2.	M/s. M.L. Telecom Chennai-800 002 M/s. Telewell Electric Co., Ltd., Taiwan	TPS Telephone with built-in SSU for CLIP, E-300	TEC/SR/1/TEL-01/02/104. August 99 17/08/99 upto 31/08/02
3.	M/s. Sree Lakshmi Agencies, Chennai-800 102	TPS Telephone with built in SSU for CLIP, CH-1998	TEC/SP/TEL 01/02/108 October 99 08/10/99 upto 31/10/02

Import Duty on Petroleum Products

3151. SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI:
SHRI UTTAMRAO DHIKALE:

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

(a) whether the Government propose to cut in import duty on petroleum products;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether import policy with respect to parity in prices have not been followed in letter and spirit; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) and (b) There is no decision to cut import duty on petroleum products, at present.

(c) and (d) The prices of motor spirit, high speed diesel, kerosene (PDS), domestic LPG and aviation turbine fuel are administered and the price of diesel is fixed on the principles of import parity pricing up to the ex-storage point level. The prices of other petroleum products like Naphtha, Fuel Oil, Low Sulphur Heavy Stock, Bitumen, Paraffin Wax etc. have been decontrolled w.e.f. 1.4.1998 and oil companies have the freedom to fix the prices on market considerations.

[Translation]

All India Judicial Service

3152. SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up All India Judicial Service; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI): (a) and (b) The matter relating to the creation of an All India Judicial Service is under consideration of the Government. However, it will require a resolution to be passed by the Rajya Sabha by not less than two-thirds of the members present and voting, followed by an appropriate enactment by Parliament under Article 312 of the Constitution of India.

[English]

Shortage of Technical Staff

3153. SHRI PRAKASH PARANJPE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is shortage of technical clerical staff in Kalyan Telecom Circle;

(b) if so, the time by which the said posts are likely to be filled up; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to improve the rural telecom network in Maharashtra during the last three years and proposed to be taken during 1999-2000?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) Yes, Sir. There is a shortage of 253 technical staff in the Kalyan Telecom District as below:—

Telecom Technical Assistant	—	45
Telecom Mechanic	—	62
Junior Telecom Officer	—	146

However there is no shortage of electrical staff.

(b) Telecom Technical Assistant:— Recruitment Rules have been framed. Recruitment is in process and post will be filled at the earliest.

Telecom Mechanic:— Training programme is in progress & vacancies will be filled on completion of the training.

Junior Telecom Officers:— Recruitment Rules have been notified on 1/9/99 classifying JTO as Group (B) gazetted. Recruitment process has already been initiated in consultation with Union Public Service Commission and the same is expected to be completed within a year.

(c) The new technology switches Time Division Multiplexing Point to Multipoint (TDM-PMP) System were installed at Aurangabad & Sangli Districts. This will improve the communication in rural network. In other districts also this system will be introduced gradually.

(ii) Wireless in Local Loop (WILL) system has been planned for the remaining districts to improve the communication in the rural network. Proper maintenance care has been taken to augment the system for maintenance.

(iii) Plans have been drawn for providing Optical fibre cable or Radio systems for connecting rural telephone exchanges to connect to the respective telephone exchanges at Tahsil Head quarters/Short Distance Chargeable Area (SDCA), so as to extend Subscriber Trunk Dialing services & other Value added services.

(iv) Large number of lands have been taken for construction of telephone exchange buildings & quarters in rural areas.

Causes of Oil-Spills

3154. SHRI C.N. SINGH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are ill-equipped and unable to identify the cause and source of the oil-spills;

(b) if so, whether these oil spills have killed many dolphins and turtles;

(c) if so, whether the agencies to deal with oil spills in the Gulf of Kutch are not equipped to tackle the major emergency; and

(d) if so, the time by which the technology is likely to be developed to know the cause and source of the oil spills to deal with any major event of the oil spill?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) to (d) Coast Guard have published

National Oil Spill Disaster Contingency Plan (NOS-DCP) which was promulgated in July, 96. As per NOS-DCP, Director General, Coast Guard has been declared as Central Co-ordinating Authority (CCA) by Govt. of India for oil spill response, including surveillance of Maritime zones against oil spills. The first report of sighting of oil slick at Nararabet was communicated to Indian Oil Corporation's Vadinar Installation by the Forest Guard, National Marine Park, on 20.11.99. The crude oil unloading system of Indian Oil Corporation Ltd., was thoroughly checked by experienced operating and maintenance personnel and the system was found to be in order. Two skeletons purported to be of dolphins were reportedly found. Indian Oil Corporation Ltd., on its part have established Tier-I level oil spill response facilities to combat upto 100MT spill volume in their area of operation at its Vadinar Installation.

Productivity of Indian Ports

3155. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the current level productivity of Indian Ports is considerably below the international standards;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps being taken to increase the productivity of Indian Ports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) and (b) In the absence of authenticated notified data and differences between ports in terms of cargo-mix, technology & equipment, a comparison of productivity of Indian Ports with other ports world-wide may not be possible.

(c) Several steps including training, incentive schemes and payment of Productivity Linked Reward, have been taken to increase the productivity of Indian Ports.

Conservation of Nainital Lake Region

3156. SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 30 on November 29, 1999 regarding Ecological and Environmental Protection of Uttaranchal and state:

(a) the action taken by the Government to approve the all-important National Lake Conservation Plan (NLCP) including the conservation proposals for the Nainital Lake region so far;

(b) whether the Tenth Finance Commission has sanctioned some amounts for the conservation and safety of the Nainital Lake Region; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the progress made thereunder?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) A proposal for conservation of 10 urban lakes (which includes Nainital lake also) at an estimated cost of Rs. 637 crore was put up for approval of the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs in December, 1997. The Cabinet Committee did not approve the proposal and directed to bring up the matter for consideration after a fresh appraisal of scheme in the light of a firm tie up of external financial assistance. A number of bilateral and multilateral funding agencies were approached, but none evinced interest in the proposal.

(b) and (c) The Tenth Finance Commission sanctioned an amount of Rs. 8 crore for ecological and environmental protection of the Nainital lake region for the following works:

- (i) Beautification & regeneration of Bhimtal lake.
- (ii) Beautification & regeneration of Naukuchiatal lake.
- (iii) Beautification & regeneration of Sattal lake.
- (iv) Beautification & regeneration of Shamilal lake.
- (v) Beautification & regeneration of Khurpatal lake.
- (vi) Bhimtal sewerage scheme.
- (vii) Catchment Afforestation around lake region.
- (viii) Railing around Bhimtal and Naukuchiatal

An amount of Rs. 90 lakhs was released by the Tenth Finance Commission to the State Government in July, 1997. So far, an amount of Rs. 401.18 lakhs has been spent on the above activities by the State Government.

Telephone connections in Andhra Pradesh

3157. SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI:
SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE:
SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH:
PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons on the waiting list for telephone connections in Andhra Pradesh, district-wise and also particularly in Hitech City in Hyderabad, Vishakhapatnam, Vijayawada and Krishna district;

(b) the number of telephone connections allotted during the last three years, district-wise and in the said cities; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to clear the waiting list for the telephone connections in the State particularly in the said cities/district?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) The district-wise/city-wise details as on 30.11.99 are as per the Statement I enclosed.

(b) The district-wise/city-wise details are as per the Statement II enclosed.

(c) The present waiting list of the Hitech city in Hyderabad is planned to be cleared by March, 2000 and at other places, the waiting list will be cleared progressively within one year.

Statement I

The number of persons on the waiting list for telephone connections in Andhra Pradesh as on 30.11.99, District-wise and City-wise;

Sl.No.	Name of District	Waiting List
1	2	3
1.	Adilabad	14715
2.	Ananthapur	26517
3.	Chittoor	44246
4.	Cuddapah	27631
5.	East Godavari	52000

1	2	3
6.	Guntur	34270
7.	Hyderabad	114655
8.	Karimnagar	44459
9.	Khammam	28827
10.	Krishna	32137
11.	Kurnool	18156
12.	Mahabubnagar	18726
13.	Medak	20056
14.	Nalgonda	29032
15.	Nellore	27777
16.	Nizamabad	23717
17.	Prakasam	29586
18.	Rangareddy	18958
19.	Srikakulam	10170
20.	Visakhapatnam	44994
21.	Vizianagaram	9116
22.	Warangal	42217
23.	West Godavari	35801
Total		747763

Sl.No.	City	Waiting List
1.	Hitech City in Hyderabad	18
2.	Vijayawada	3575
3.	Visakhapatnam	34645

Statement II*The Number of telephone connections allotted during the last three years, District-wise and City-wise;*

Sl.No.	Name of District	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Adilabad	4100	7679	8008
2.	Ananthapur	3396	7282	15508
3.	Chittoor	6115	8608	21048
4.	Cuddapah	3073	4563	11517
5.	East Godavari	10632	13027	20440
6.	Guntur	7194	11365	23072
7.	Hyderabad	66798	47020	95077
8.	Karimnagar	1837	11007	16900
9.	Khammam	2826	4048	15032
10.	Krishna	11891	16068	24809
11.	Kurnool	4431	8155	12270
12.	Mahabubnagar	3132	3941	7405
13.	Medak	4619	4500	8100
14.	Nalgonda	2267	7497	13560
15.	Nellore	1255	9098	13505

1	2	3	4	5
16.	Nizamabad	1038	7742	11500
17.	Prakasam	1471	9002	11533
18.	Rangareddy	1490	2428	6978
19.	Srikakulam	2060	2069	5756
20.	Visakhapatnam	5694	12022	23754
21.	Vizianagaram	2037	3490	4772
22.	Warangal	1917	2900	7514
23.	West Godavari	4333	12976	26922
Total		153806	216487	404980
Sl.No.	City	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99
1.	Hyderabad	66798	47020	95077
2.	Vijayawada	7780	3593	11454
3.	Visakhapatnam	5271	9217	18917

Sabarimala Pilgrimage Centre

3158. SHRI K. FRANCIS GEORGE: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a comprehensive master plan has been submitted by the State of Kerala in regard to the development of Sabarimala Pilgrimage centre;

(b) if so, whether the Government agrees to the proposal put forth in the Master Plan to release 100 hectares of forest land for the development of Sabarimala; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) to (c) The State Government of Kerala had in 1993 submitted a proposal for diversion of 115.60 hectare forest land under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for providing amenities to pilgrims of Sabarimala Temple. While the proposal was under process, the State Government in December 1995 forwarded another proposal involving 20 hectares of forest land for the same purpose. This proposal was examined by the Ministry and after discussion with the State Government officials,

the State Government was requested to carry out a study so as to minimise any adverse environmental effect of the development activity in the area and to prepare a long term Master Plan as majority of the forest area formed part of Periyar Tiger Reserve. Despite repeated reminders, the State Government did not furnish the required information. However, in the interim, the Ministry has approved diversion of 0.4225 hectare area for construction of sewage treatment plant at Cheriyavottam as it was site-specific and for an eco-friendly use. The State Government has been again requested to get a detailed study done from an institute of repute on the requirement of facilities in the area and its impact on wildlife and environment including preparation of a detailed master plan of the area. Decision on proposal for balance area is not possible in the absence of the required information.

Integrated Petroleum Policy

3159. SHRI DAUD AHMAD: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up a committee to evolve an integrated petroleum policy and to work out a specific frame work for India's Hydrocarbon Vision 2020;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have also set up a deadline for preparing and finalising the petroleum policy;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the measures adopted to promote investment in the Hydrocarbon industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) to (e) With an objective of making the country a major hydrocarbon power of the world in the near future, the Government have constituted a Group on India Hydrocarbon Vision — 2025. The terms of reference inter-alia include identification of measures and policies in the areas of exploration, production, refining, transportation, marketing of hydrocarbons for rapid development of the industry etc. Further, to promote investments in the Hydrocarbon industry, the Government have taken several measures which inter-alia include private and foreign equity participation in both upstream and downstream oil sector, delicensing of refining, New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP) and phased dismantling of Administered Pricing Mechanism etc.

Funds for Development of Roads

3160. SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry of Finance had pointed out that the money allocated for development of roads has not been spent by his Ministry while the demand for fund kept increasing;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of the hurdles being faced by the Government to implement the major projects; and

(d) the details of efforts being made by the Government to lure the private sector investment for the development of roads?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN):

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Delays in land acquisition, shifting of utilities, financial constraints, site specific problems and contractual problems are hurdles faced in implementation of some of the projects.

(d) The following steps have been taken to lure private sector investment for development of roads:—

(i) National Highway Act, 1956 has been amended to enable Government of India to enter into the agreement with private parties for development of National Highways.

(ii) Procedure for land acquisition has been simplified.

(iii) Fiscal and Tax benefit to private entrepreneur participating in National highway development works.

(iv) Duty free import of certain selected heavy machineries/equipments have been allowed.

(v) Import of bitumen allowed under OGL.

100% Foreign Direct Investment allowed with total equity limited to Rs. 1500 crores.

Border Fencing in J&K

3161. SHRI VAIDYA VISHNU DATT SHARMA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken for putting up barbed wiring along the international border in J&K;

(b) the total amount sanctioned for the purpose;

(c) whether the material procured in this regard earlier has not been utilised and crores of rupees have been wasted;

(d) if so, the action taken in the matter; and

(e) the time by which the fencing is likely to be done?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO): (a) to (e) Work of construction of fencing along the Jammu International Border was started in 1995 at an estimated cost of Rs.71.76 crores but was suspended due to persistent firing from Pakistan side. The material and equipment purchased for this purpose was used for the fencing work in Punjab and Rajasthan sectors and some of it was transferred to BSF for their use. Now the Government has planned erection of an obstacle system along with Intruder Alarm System for the Jammu International Border and a decision to start this work will be taken at an appropriate time.

Loan Advance from Oil and Natural Gas Corporation

3162. SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE:
SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI:

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

(a) whether any representation for interest free loan advance of Rs. 30 crore from the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation for the purpose of improving the road used by Oil and Natural Gas Corporation has been received from the State Government of Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reasons for not releasing the loan advance; and

(d) the time by which it is likely to be released?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) to (d) Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) had received representations from Government of Andhra Pradesh for advancing an interest free loan of Rs. 30 crore for undertaking repairs and maintenance of roads used by the corporation. The loan was proposed to be repaid by way of adjusting against the annual royalty of Rs. 5 to 6 crore. Payment/adjustment of royalty is to be decided only in terms of provisions of Oilfields Regulation & Development Act, 1948 & Petroleum & Natural Gas Rules, 1959, as amended from time to time; and as per provisions of Mining lease signed between State Government & ONGC, however.

Clearance to East Cost Road Project

3163. SHRI P. KUMARASAMY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have given environmental clearance for East Cost Road Project to complete the remaining portions of the project; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Review of Blacklisted Persons

3164. SHRI BALBIR SINGH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to review the blacklisted persons suspected to be involved in the terrorist activities both inside and outside the country;

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

(c) the basis of such a review; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO): (a) to (d) The Ministry of Home Affairs maintains lists of names of foreign nationals whose entry into India is considered to be undesirable. These lists are reviewed periodically. It would not be in the public interest to disclose more details in this regard.

Power Plant at Shankarpalli

3165. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Power Plant at Shankarpalli in Rangareddy district was sanctioned exclusively for the power supply to Hyderabad city;

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

(c) whether in spite of its sanction long ago, the work has not started on this project as yet;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor and steps taken to start the project; and

(e) the time by which it is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) to (e) A proposal was made in August, 1995 by NTPC for a thermal plant of 650 MW capacity at Shankarpalli. But the techno-economic clearance was not given by Central Electricity Authority (CEA) due to non-availability of land and water for the project and the proposal was returned to NTPC in October, 1996.

Royalaseema Thermal Power Project

3166. SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the implementation of Royalaseema Thermal Power Project. (Stage-II) envisaging the construction of two units of 210 MW each has been entrusted to a Chinese firm;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the total cost of the project and the time by which it is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) and (b) Andhra Pradesh Generation Company issued a Letter of Intent (LOI) on M/s. Zhejiang Machinery and Equipment Import Export Corporation for implementation of Royalaseema Thermal Power Project Stage-II Expansion

(2x210 MW) by getting an external assistance to meet the cost of the project by 100% credit package from this Chinese Government Company, subject to requisite clearances from the Government of India, Reserve Bank of India and other statutory bodies.

(c) The Central Electricity Authority had accorded techno-economic clearance to the project at an estimated cost of Rs. 1045 crores (excluding interest during construction) and Rs. 1275 crores (including interest during construction) in June, 1993. Implementation of the project will start only after acceptance of LOI by the Chinese Government Company.

Pench Tiger Reserve

3167. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Pench Tiger Reserve has been created in Maharashtra by the Government during 1998-99;

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to ensure maintenance of a viable population of tigers in this Reserve; and

(c) the financial assistance given to the Maharashtra Government for the maintenance of this tiger reserve during the current financial year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABULAL MARANDI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The steps taken for maintenance of viable population of Tigers in the country including Pench Tiger Reserve are as per the Statement enclosed.

(c) As on December, 1999, the central assistance released to the Maharashtra Government for maintenance of Pench Reserve is Rs. 25.00 Lakhs as 1st instalment against a sanction of Rs. 43.8 Lakhs.

Statement

Steps taken by the Government of India to Protect Tiger

National Level:

1. Setting up of a National Coordination Committee to control poaching and illegal trade in wildlife with enforcement agencies like Customs, Revenue Intelligence, Indo-Tibbetan Border Police, Border Security Force, Central Reserve Police Force, Coast

Guards, State Police, Deputy Director, Wildlife Preservation & Scientific Organisations like Zoological and Botanical Survey of India.

2. Training programmes and Workshops have been organized to sensitize the above departments to be proactive in control of trade and smuggling of wildlife products.
3. A special co-ordination committee with Secretary (E&F), Special Secretary (Home), Director, CBI and representative of the Chairman, Central Board of Excise & Customs has been created to ensure better co-ordination in the efforts to curb smuggling of wildlife products.
4. Central assistance is being provided to State Governments to strengthen the protection infrastructure including armed squads, vehicles, communication network and co-ordination between the Park managers.
5. Schemes for awards and rewards for outstanding performance and acts of valour has been introduced to encourage detection reporting.
6. The State Governments have been advised to strengthen vigilance and intensify patrolling.
7. Launching of public awareness programme to involve Non-Governmental Organisations and others for supporting the Government in its efforts towards wildlife conservation.
8. Supporting programmes of Institutions and NGOs in exploring tiger-trade routes and developing a forensic identification reference Manual for tiger parts and products.
9. Funds are being provided to the State Governments for the eco-development of the areas to reduce the biotic pressure thereon.
10. Site specific special force in Project Tiger Areas.

International Level:

1. Initiated creation of a Forum of Tiger Range Countries, *i.e.* Global Tiger Forum for addressing international issues related to tiger conservation.

2. To control transboundary trade and effect mutual cooperation in tiger conservation:—
 - (i) A protocol has been signed with People's Republic of China.
 - (ii) An MOU with His Majesty's Government of Nepal has been signed.
 - (v) Dialogue with Bangladesh has been initiated.
3. Several resolutions at CITES to check illegal trade in tiger parts and products have been adopted at India's initiative.
4. The Millennium Tiger Conference was held in March, 1999. The conference declaration suggested several action points for conservation of tiger both at national and international level.

Telephone Exchanges in Bihar

3168. SHRI RAJO SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of Rural telephone exchanges set up during the last three years till date in Bihar, district-wise;
- (b) the number of rural telephone exchanges proposed to be set up during 1999-2000 in the State particularly in Shekhpura Lakhisaral, Begusaral and Jamui districts, location-wise;
- (c) whether the Government have received representations for the establishment of telephone exchanges in urban areas as well as rural areas in the State;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the time by which the said exchanges are likely to be set up;
- (e) whether any proposal for the expansion of telephone exchanges in the State is under consideration of the Government; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) and (b) During the last three years (upto 31.3.99), 99 rural telephone exchanges were set up in the whole of Bihar. District-wise information is given in the enclosed statement. Another 56 exchanges are proposed to be set up during the year 1999-2000.

Exchanges are proposed to be set up in the Districts of Shekhpura, Lakhisarai, Begusarai and Jamui at the following locations:—

District	No. of Exch. proposed	Locations
Shekhpura	1	Shekhopur Sarai
Lakhisarai	3	Tetarhat, Halsi and Nizal.
Begusarai	2	Sambho diara and Garha
Jamui	1	Mahadeo Simaria

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Representations for opening of new exchanges have been received and 56 new exchanges have been planned for the current year. These are expected to be set up by March, 2000.

(e) and (f) Yes, Sir. Net switching capacity addition of 2,13,000 lines has been planned for the current financial year.

Statement

District-wise details of Rural Telephone Exchanges Opened in Bihar during the Last Three Years (upto 31.3.99)

S.No.	District	No. of Rural Exchanges
1	2	3
1.	Khagaria	3
2.	Augrangabad	1
3.	Gumla	4
4.	Madhubani	4
5.	Begusarai	4
6.	Patna	4
7.	Muzaffarpur	5
8.	Vaishali	5

1	2	3
9.	Sitamarhi	5
10.	Gopalganj	2
11.	Chapra	4
12.	Ranchi	3
13.	Lohardagga	2
14.	Jahanabad	2
15.	East Champaran	5
16.	West Champaran	3
17.	Bhabua	1
18.	Sahib Ganj	1
19.	Araria	3
20.	Purnia	3
21.	Katihar	3
22.	Palamu	2
23.	Deoghar	1
24.	East Jamshedpur	1
25.	Munger	3
26.	Nawadah	2
27.	Gaya	2
28.	Banka	2
29.	Bhagalpur	2

1	2	3
30.	Dhanbad	1
31.	Rohtash	1
32.	Darbhangha	3
33.	West Singhbhum	1
34.	Dumka	1
35.	Sheikhpura	1
36.	Siwan	1
37.	Bhojpur	2
38.	Pakur	1
39.	Hazaribagh	1
40.	Kishanganj	1
41.	Lakhisarai	1
42.	Jamui	1
43.	Madhepura	1
Total		99

[Translation]

Development of Konkan in Maharashtra

3169. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have received any proposal from the Maharashtra Government for the development of coastal areas of Konkan;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the date from which the proposal is pending for approval/sanction of the Union Government;

(d) whether any scheme related to Raigarh District has been included in the proposals; and

(e) if so, the time by which the pending proposals are likely to be approved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Opening of the Cyber Cafe and Cyber Dhabas

3170. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited propose to open cyber cafe and cyber dhabas in the capital in collaboration with the Government of Delhi to encourage the use of internet; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) MTNL has been coordinating with Delhi Financial Corporation to encourage PCO operators to launch cyber communication centres. MTNL will provide technical help in this regard to Delhi Government. Delhi Government will select the cyber dhaba operator from out of the existing PCO operators. A nodal officer from MTNL is coordinating the same.

Installation of Captive Power Plants by Industries

3171. DR. CHARAN DAS MAHANT: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether industries have been permitted to install captive power plants in the country to improve their power supply;

(b) if so, the details in this regard, State-wise; and

(c) the extent of power purchased from these plants by the Union and the State Governments during the year 1999-2000 and the total amount paid to them separately?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The State Governments have been requested to encourage setting up of captive generation plants and to create an institutional mechanism which may allow captive

power units an easy entry into the power sector by quickly clearing captive power applications, giving the developers a rational tariff for purchase of surplus power by the grid and third party access for direct sale of power to other industrial units. Details regarding the number of the captive power plants permitted by the various SEBs, the extent of power purchased from them and the amount paid to them separately are not available as under Section 44 of the Electricity (Supply) Act, 1948, the State Electricity Boards (SEBs) give consent to setting up of captive power plants by various industries irrespective of the capacity of such plants. Consultation of Central Electricity Authority is necessary only in cases where the capacity of the captive power project exceeds 25 MW.

[*English*]

Extension of Road

3172. SHRI NEPAL CHANDRA DAS: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any representation for taking over of Lowerpoa-Rangamati P.W.D. Road, starting from National Highway No. 44 and extending the same upto Kanman of Mizoram by the Border Road Task Force; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN):

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

12.00 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

[*Translation*]

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): 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 Rehabilitation Plantations Limited, Punalur, for the year 1998-99.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Rehabilitation Plantations Limited, Punalur, for the year 1998-99, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library See No. LT 918/99]

(2) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Repatriates Cooperative Finance and Development Bank Limited, Chennai, for the year 1998-99, 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 1998-99.

[Placed in Library See No. LT 919/99]

(3) A copy of the Central Reserve Police Force (Combatised Para-Medical Posts) Recruitment (Amendment) Rules, 1999 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 392 in Gazette of India dated the 22nd November, 1999 under sub-section (3) of section 18 of the Central Reserve Police Force Act, 1949.

[Placed in Library See No. LT 920/99]

[*English*]

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): I beg to lay on the Table—

(1) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (4) of section 74 of the Indian Post Office Act, 1998:—

- (i) The Indian Post Office (Second Amendment) Rules, 1999 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 46 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 22nd January, 1999 together with a corrigendum thereto published in Notification No. G.S.R. 116(E) dated the 17th February, 1999.

- (ii) The Indian Post Office (4th Amendment) Rules, 1999 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 345 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 13th May, 1999.

[Placed in Library See No. LT 921/99]

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) A copy of the Notification No. S.O. 1189(E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 29th November, 1999 regarding delegation of Power to the State Governments of Rajasthan and Haryana under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 issued under section 23 of the said Act.

[Placed in Library See No. LT 922/99]

- (2) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the G.B. Pant Institute of Himalayan Environment and Development, Almora, 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 G.B. Pant Institute of Himalayan Environment and Development, Almora, for the year 1997-98.

[Placed in Library See No. LT 923/99]

- (3) A copy of Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Central Pollution Control Board, Delhi, for the year 1997-98, together with Audited Report thereon.
- (4) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (3) above.

[Placed in Library See No. LT 924/99]

- (5) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Salim Ali Centre for Ornithology and Natural History, Coimbatore, 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 Salim Ali Centre for Ornithology and Natural History, Coimbatore, for the year 1997-98.
- (6) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (5) above.

[Placed in Library See No. LT 925/99]

- (7) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of working of the Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education, Dehradun, for the year 1996-97 alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education, Dehradun, for the year 1996-97.

- (8) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (7) above.

[Placed in Library See No. LT 926/99]

- (9) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Institute of Forest Management, Bhopal, 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 Indian Institute of Forest Management, Bhopal, for the year 1997-98.

- (10) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (9) above.

[Placed in Library See No. LT 927/99]

- (11) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Centre for Environment Education, Ahmedabad, for the year 1998-99, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Centre for Environment Education, Ahmedabad, for the year 1998-99.

[Placed in Library See No. LT 928/99]

- (12) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the C.P.R. Environmental Education Centre, Chennai, for the year 1998-99, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the C.P.R. Environmental Education Centre, Chennai, for the year 1998-99.

[Placed in Library See No. LT 929/99]

- (13) A copy of the Notification No. S.O. 350(E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 18th May, 1999, constituting an Authority to be known as the Taj Trapezium Zone Pollution (Prevention and Control) Authority for a period of two years with effect from the 18th May, 1999 issued under section 3 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.

[Placed in Library See No. LT 930/99]

[English]

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM): On behalf of Shrimati Jayawanti Mehta, 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 National Hydroelectric Power Corporation Limited, Faridabad, for the year 1998-99.
- (ii) Annual Report of the National Hydroelectric Power Corporation Limited, Faridabad, for the year 1998-99, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.
- [Placed in Library See No. LT 931/99]
- (b) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Nathpa Jhakri Power Corporation Limited, New Shimla, for the year 1998-99.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Nathpa Jhakri Power Corporation Limited, New Shimla, for the year 1998-99, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.
- [Placed in Library See No. LT 932/99]
- (c) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Power Grid Corporation of India Limited for the year 1998-99.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Power Grid Corporation of India Limited, for the year 1998-99, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library See No. LT 933/99]

- (2) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Central Power Research Institute, Bangalore, for the year 1998-99, along with Audited, Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Central Power Research Institute, Bangalore, for the year 1998-99.

[Placed in Library See No. LT 934/99]

- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Power Training Institute, Faridabad, for the year 1998-99, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Power Training Institute, Faridabad, for the year 1998-99.

[Placed in Library See No. LT 935/99]

- (4) A copy of the Annual Budget (Hindi and English versions) for the Damodar Valley Corporation for the year 1999-2000 under sub-section (3) of section 44 of the Damodar Valley Corporation Act, 1948.

[Placed in Library See No. LT 936/99]

- (5) A copy of the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission General Rules, 1999 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 813(E) in Gazette of India, dated the 15th December, 1999 under section 56 of the Electricity Regulatory Commission Act, 1998.

[Placed in Library See No. LT 937/99]

- (6) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission for the year 1998-99 under section 35 of the Electricity Regulatory Commission Act, 1998.

[Placed in Library See No. LT 938/99]

- (7) A copy of the Memorandum of Understanding (Hindi and English versions) between the Power Grid Corporation of India Limited and the Ministry of Power for the year 1999-2000.

[Placed in Library See No. LT 939/99]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN):
I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (4) of Section 24 of the Major Port Trust Act, 1963:—
- (i) G.S.R. 135(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 23rd February, 1999 approving the Amendment to New Managalore Port Trust Employees (Leave) Regulations, 1999.
 - (ii) G.S.R. 297 (E) published in Gazette of India the 29th April, 1999 approving the New Mangalore Port Trust Employees (Recruitment, Seniority and Promotion) Amendment Regulations, 1999.
 - (iii) G.S.R. 325(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 10th May, 1999 approving the New Mangalore Port Trust Employees (Recritment, Seniority and Promotion) Amendment Regulations, 1999.
 - (iv) G.S.R. 364(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 19th May, 1999 approving the Mormugao Port Employees' (Leave) Amendment Regulations, 1999.
 - (v) G.S.R. 623(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 6th September, 1999 approving the Visakhapatnam Port Trust Employees (LTC) Amendment Regulations, 1999.
 - (vi) The Tariff Authority for Major Ports (Transaction of Business Regulations, 1998 published in Notification No. C-19011/98-TAMP in Gazette of India the 13th August, 1998.
 - (vii) Notification No. C19011/1/98-TAMP published in Gazette of India dated the 4th May, 1999 making amendment to Regulation No. 3(i) of the Tariff Authority for Major Ports (Transaction of Business) Regulations, 1998.
- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (vi) and (vii) of item No. (1) above.
- (3) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (4) of section 212 of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988:—
- (i) The Central Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Rules, 1999 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 214(E) in Gazette of India dated the 18th March, 1999 together with an explanatory memorandum.
 - (ii) The Central Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Rules, 1999 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 399(E) in Gazette of India dated the 1st June, 1999 together with an explanatory memorandum.
 - (iii) The Central Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Rules, 1999 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 627(E) in Gazette of India dated the 5th October, 1999, together with an explanatory memorandum.
 - (iv) The Central Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Rules, 1999 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 684(E) in Gazette of India dated the 5th October, 1999, together with an explanatory memorandum.
- (4) Three Statements (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (i, ii and iii) of item No. (3).
- [Placed in Library See No. LT 941/99]
- (5) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) issued under section 110 of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988:—
- (i) G.S.R. 33(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 14th January 1999 making certain amendment in Notification No. GSR 29(E) dated the 15th January, 1998 together with an explanatory memorandum.
 - (ii) GSR 520(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 14th July, 1999 making certain amendments in the Central Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Rules, 1998 together with an explanatory memorandum.
 - (iii) G.S.R. 688(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 8th October, 1999 making certain amendments in the Central Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Rules, 1998 together with an explanatory memorandum.
- (6) Two statements showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (i and ii) of item No. (5) above.

[Placed in Library See No. LT 940/99]

[Placed in Library See No. LT 942/99]

- (7) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under section 10 of the National Highways Act, 1956:—
- (i) S.O. 491(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 5th June, 1998 directing and entrustment of the part of newly declared National Highway 58 to the State Government of Uttar Pradesh.
 - (ii) S.O. 581(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 10th July, 1998 notifying the rates of levied and paid fees on mechanical vehicles, for the use of the part of the National Highway i.e. four lane road over bridge in lieu of level crossing between Km 261/2 to Km 261/4 in Ahmedabad-Mumbai.
 - (iii) S.O. 697(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 14th August, 1998 notifying the fees to be levied on mechanical vehicles for use of six bridges at Musi, Palleru, Gundlakama, Manneru, Mudigonda on NH-5 in Andhra Pradesh.
 - (iv) S.O. 716(E) and S.O. 717(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 21st August, 1998 notifying the rates to be collected from users of Coimbatore Bypass.
 - (v) S.O. 797(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 9th September, 1998 regarding entrustment of the development and maintenance of National Highways.
 - (vi) S.O. 847(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 22nd September, 1998 regarding entrustment of the development and maintenance of National Highways.
 - (vii) S.O. 912(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 20th October, 1998 regarding entrustment of the development and maintenance of National Highways.
 - (viii) S.O. 978(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 19th November, 1998 making certain amendments in the notification No. S.O. 581(E) dated the 10th July, 1998.
 - (ix) S.O. 979(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 19th November, 1998 making certain amendments in the notifications No. S.O. 432(E) dated the 6th June, 1997.
 - (x) S.O. 983(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 20th November, 1998 regarding appointment of Land Acquisition Officer for Hubli-Dharbar Bypass.
 - (xi) S.O. 990(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 24th November, 1998 regarding Acquisition of land under section 3D for Second Vivekananda Bridge over River Hoogly.
 - (xii) S.O. 7(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 6th January, 1999 declaring new National Highways.
 - (xiii) S.O. 127(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 21st January, 1999 regarding acquisition of land for Hubli-Dharwad Bypass.
 - (xiv) S.O. 139(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 3rd March, 1999 making certain amendments in the Notification No. G.S.R. 21(E) dated the 21st January, 1999.
 - (xv) S.O. 282(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 23rd April, 1999 regarding entrustment of newly declared National Highways in Bihar.
 - (xvi) S.O. 291(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 29th April, 1999 regarding entrustment of newly declared National Highways in Orissa.
 - (xvii) S.O. 394(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 28th May, 1999 regarding entrustment of new National Highways.
 - (xviii) S.O. 489(E) published in Gazette of India dated 24th June, 1999 regarding acquisition of land for Hubli-Dharwad Bypass.
 - (xix) S.O. 561(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 7th July, 1999 regarding declaration of new National Highways.
 - (xx) S.O. 771(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 17th September, 1999 regarding declaration of National Highway.
 - (xxi) S.O. 767(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 15th September, 1999 regarding declaration of land acquired for Hubli-Dharwad Bypass.

- (8) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (6) above.

[Placed in Library See No. LT 943/99]

- (9) 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 Hooghly Dock and Port Engineers Limited, Calcutta, for the year 1998-99.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Hooghly Dock and Port Engineers Limited, Calcutta, for the year 1998-99, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library See No. LT 944/99]

- (b) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Shipping Corporation of India Limited, Mumbai, for the year 1998-99.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Shipping Corporation of India Limited, Mumbai, for the year 1998-99, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library See No. LT 944A/99]

- (10) A copy each of the following (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (3) of section 23 of the Delhi Motor Vehicles Taxation Act, 1962:—

- (i) Notification No. F.AO/Accts./93-94/271—292 published in Delhi Gazette dated the 14th July, 1997 enhancing the rate of Motor Vehicles Tax in respect of commercial and transport vehicles with a view to raise resources for Mass Rapid Transit System together with an explanatory memorandum thereto.

- (ii) Notification No. F.AO/Accts./93-94/391—413 published in Delhi Gazette dated the 13th August, 1997 increasing the rates of tax in respect of all motor vehicles described in column (1) of the Notification with effect from the 15th August, 1997 with a view to raise resources for Mass Rapid Transit System together with an explanatory memorandum thereto.

- (iii) Notification No. F.AO/Accts./93-94/480—501 published in Delhi Gazette dated the 12th September, 1997 increasing the rates of tax in respect of all motor vehicles described in column (1) of the Notification with effect from the 15th September, 1997 with a view to raise the additional resources mobilisation for financing the plan outlay/expenditure, together with an explanatory memorandum thereto.

[Placed in Library See No. LT 945/99]

- (11) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (2) of section 103 of the Major Port Trust Act, 1963:—

- (a) (i) Annual Accounts of the Kandla Port Trust for the year 1998-99, together with Audit Report thereon.

- (ii) Review by the Government on the Audited Accounts of the Kandla Port Trust for the year 1998-99.

[Placed in Library See No. LT 946/99]

- (b) (i) Annual Accounts of the Visakhapatnam Port Trust, for the year 1998-99, together with Audit Report thereon.

- (ii) Review by the Government on the Audited Accounts of the Visakhapatnam Port Trust for the year 1998-99.

[Placed in Library See No. LT 947/99]

- (12) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) by the Government Visakhapatnam Port Trust for the year 1998-99, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Visakhapatnam Port Trust for the year 1998-99.

[Placed in Library See No. LT 948/99]

- (13) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Tuticorin Port Trust for the year 1998-99, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Tuticorin Port Trust for the year 1998-99.

[Placed in Library See No. LT 949/99]

- (14) (i) A copy of the Annual Administrative Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Visakhapatnam Dock Labour Board, for the year 1998-99, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Visakhapatnam Dock Labour Board, for the year 1998-99.

[Placed in Library See No. LT 950/99]

- (15) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Madras Dock Labour Board, for the year 1998-99, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Madras Dock Labour Board, for the year 1998-99.

[Placed in Library See No. LT 951/99]

- (16) (i) A copy of the Annual Administration Report (Hindi and English versions) on the Paradip Port Trust, for the year 1997-98.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Paradip Port Trust, for the year 1997-98.

- (17) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (16) above.

[Placed in Library See No. LT 952/99]

- (18) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Institute for the Training of Highway Engineers, New Delhi, for the year 1998-99, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Institute for the Training of Highway Engineers, New Delhi, for the year 1998-99.

[Placed in Library See No. LT 953/99]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF
PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E.

PONNUSWAMY): 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 Madras Refineries Limited, Chennai, for the year 1998-99.

(ii) Annual Report of the Madras Refineries Limited, Chennai, for the year 1998-99, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library See No. LT 954/99]

(b) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Bongaigaon Refinery and Petrochemicals Limited, Bongaigaon, for the year 1998-99.

(ii) Annual Report of the Bongaigaon Refinery and Petrochemicals Limited, Bongaigaon, for the year 1998-99, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library See No. LT 955/99]

(c) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Lubrizol India Limited, Mumbai, for the year 1998-99.

(ii) Annual Report of the Lubrizol India Limited, Mumbai, for the year 1998-99, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library See No. LT 956/99]

(d) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Gas Authority of India Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1998-99.

(ii) Annual Report of the Gas Authority of India Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1998-99, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library See No. LT 957/99]

(e) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Engineers India Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1998-99.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Engineers India Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1998-99, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library See No. LT 958/99]

- (f) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Cochin refineries Limited, Emakulam, for the year 1998-99.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Cochin Refineries Limited, Ernakulam, for the year 1998-99, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library See No. LT 959/99]

- (g) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Biecco Lawrie Limited, Calcutta, for the year 1998-99.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Biecco Lawrie Limited, Calcutta, for the year 1998-99, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library See No. LT 960/99]

- (h) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited, New Delhi; for the year 1998-99.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1998-99, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library See No. LT 961/99]

- (i) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Oil India Limited, Dibrugarh, for the year 1998-99.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Oil India Limited, Dibrugarh, for the year 1998-99, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library See No. LT 962/99]

- (j) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the IBP Co. Limited, Calcutta, for the year 1998-99.

- (ii) Annual Report of the IBP Co. Limited, Calcutta, for the year 1998-99, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library See No. LT 963/99]

- (2) A copy of the Memorandum of understanding (Hindi and English versions) between the Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited and the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas for the year 1999-2000.

[Placed in Library See No. LT 964/99]

- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Oil Industry Development Board, for the year 1998-99 alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Oil Industry Development Board, for the year 1998-99.

[Placed in Library See No. LT 965/99]

- (4) A copy of the Report* (Hindi and English versions) of Inquiry headed by Justice S.C. Jain to enquire into the fire incident at HPCL Visakh Refinery (in Hindi version only) under sub-section (4) of section 3 of the Commissions of Inquiry Act, 1952.

[Placed in Library See No. LT 966/99]

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR: 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 Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1998-99.

* Report of the Inquiry Commission (in English versions only) and Memorandum of Action taken on the Report (in Hindi and English versions) were laid on the Table of the House on 29.10.1999.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited, New Delhi for the year 1998-99, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library See No. LT 967/99]

- (b) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Telecommunications Consultants India Ltd., for the year 1998-99.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Telecommunications Consultants India Limited, for the year 1998-99 alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library See No. LT 968/99]

- (c) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Videsh Sanchar Nigam Limited, Mumbai, for the year 1998-99.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Videsh Sanchar Nigam Limited, Mumbai, for the year 1998-99 alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library See No. LT 969/99]

- (d) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the ITI Limited, Bangalore, for the year 1998-99.

- (ii) Annual Report of the ITI Limited, Bangalore, for the year 1998-99 alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library See No. LT 970/99]

- (e) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the HTL Limited, Chennai, for the year 1998-99.

- (ii) Annual Report of the HTL Limited, Chennai, for the year 1998-99 alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library See No. LT 971/99]

- (2) A copy of the Memorandum of Understanding (Hindi and English versions) between the HTL Limited and the Department of Telecommunications for the year 1999-2000.

[Placed in Library See No. LT 972/99]

- (3) A copy of the Memorandum of Understanding (Hindi and English versions) between the ITI Limited and the Department of Telecommunications for the year 1999-2000.

[Placed in Library See No. LT 973/99]

12.02 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 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 Trade Marks Bill, 1999 which has been passed by the Rajya Sabha at its sitting held on the 16th December, 1999.

- (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 Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Bill, 1999 which has been passed by the Rajya Sabha at its sitting held on the 16th December, 1999.

- (iii) In accordance with the provisions of rule 111 of the Rules and Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Copyright (Amendment) Bill, 1999 which has been passed by the Rajya Sabha at its sitting held on the 17th December, 1999."

2. Sir, I lay on the Table the Trade Marks Bill, 1999 and the Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Bill, 1999, as passed by Rajya Sabha on the 16th December, 1999. Sir, I also lay on the Table the Copyright (Amendment) Bill, 1999, as passed by Rajya Sabha on the 17th December, 1999.

RE: WOMEN RESERVATION BILL

...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRIMATI SONIA GANDHI (Amethi): Mr. Speaker Sir, in the President's Address, the President has made a prominent mention of the intention of the Government to provide 33 per cent reservation for women. When this issue was raised in this House last week, the Government reiterated its intention once again. We have only three days left before the adjournment of this House *sine die*. There is no sign of the Bill being introduced, let alone the Bill being discussed and passed. I would like to know the real intention of the Government. I would like to know from the Government as to whether it intends to pass this Bill before this House rises for the millenium. This is our demand. Thank you.

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV (Sambhal): Mr. Speaker, Sir, at no cost the Women Reservation Bill should be introduced in the House in its present form. It is an assault on democracy. There is no need to introduce this Bill in the House in its present form...(Interruptions) The Samajwadi Party has always been opposing it. We want that it should not be presented. There should be provision of reservation for O.B.C.'s and Muslims in it...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Hon'ble Member, Please take your seats.

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: We have always maintained that unless provision of reservation for the Muslims and backwards is made in it...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You please sit down first.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: First of all our viewpoint should be on record, only then it should be introduced.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I think, the Government has already said twice in this House that they are going to introduce the Bill...

...(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I reiterate again the Government's intention to introduce the Women's Reservation Bill in this very Session itself.

As far as passing of the Bill is concerned, it is in the hands of the Lok Sabha and not in the Government's hands...(Interruptions) I would like the Leader of the Opposition to understand that as far as passing of the Bill is concerned, it is in the hands of this august House and not in the Government's hands. We can only introduce the Bill. Passing of it is left to the House...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali): Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, B.J.P. and Congress have come together...(Interruptions)

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, B.J.P. and Congress have joined hands...(Interruptions) They have come together...(Interruptions) It is a serious issue...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I will call you later on.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You can also speak. First you sit down.

[English]

SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI (Salem): Sir, let them introduce the Bill. About passing of the Bill, let the House take any decision. They are not to worry about the passing of the Bill...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Now, Shri Indrajit Gupta to speak.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA (Midnapore): Mr. Speaker, Sir, you may kindly consult the record of the proceedings. Last Friday, the hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs said about it...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I have called Shri Indrajit Gupta to speak. Please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing should go on record except Shri Indrajit Gupta's speech.

..(*Interruptions*)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat.

[*Translation*]

SHRI DHARM RAJ SINGH PATEL (*Phulpur*): Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, until the backwards and minorities are provided with reservation. ..(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: You please sit down.

12.08 hrs.

At this stage Shri Dharm Raj Singh Patel came and stood on the floor near the Table

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Patel, please go back to your seat. This is too much.

12.08 1/2 hrs.

At this stage Shri Dharm Raj Singh Patel went back to his seat

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: If I am not mistaken, last Friday, when my hon. Members had raised the same issue, the hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs had stated that in the coming week it would be introduced..(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat.

[*Translation*]

SHRI DHARM RAJ SINGH PATEL: Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, Congress, B.J.P. and C.P.I. have all joined hands..(*Interruptions*)

12.09 hrs.

At this stage Shri Dharm Raj Singh Patel came and stood on the floor near the Table.

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Patel, please go back to your seat. This is too much. What is this?

12.09 1/2 hrs.

At this stage Shri Dharm Raj Singh Patel went back to his seat.

[*Translation*]

SHRI DHARM RAJ SINGH PATEL: Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, these two have joined hands.

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Please cooperate with the Chair. What is this?

..(*Interruptions*)

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: When several hon. Members had raised this issue last week, the hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, last Friday, had stated that this Bill would be introduced in the coming week..(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI DHARM RAJ SINGH PATEL: You can terminate our membership of the House. We are ready to forgo our membership of this House..(*Interruptions*) You can terminate our membership..(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Patel, please take your seat. Otherwise, I will take action against you.

..(*Interruptions*)

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: Sir, the hon. Minister had stated that Government has every intention of bringing this Bill. I understand that many Members have some objections to the various provisions of the Bill and all that.

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Mulayam Singhji, please ask your Members to sit down. This is not good.

..(*Interruptions*)

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: You can raise and speak on these points during the course of discussion on it, who stops you? ..(*Interruptions*)

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: Dada you can speak, who is stopping you..(*Interruptions*)

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: How I can speak? When you are shouting so loudly, how I can speak?..(Interruptions)

SHRI DHARM RAJ SINGH PATEL: Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, the voice of 85 percent people of the country is being suppressed in the House..(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: He had stated that that hon. Members would find the Bill included in the List of Business this week. This is the assurance he had given. I think, I am not mistaken about that. ..(Interruptions)
This is what I understood.

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record, except what Shri Indrajit Gupta says.

..(Interruptions)*

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: Sir, he had said that hon. Members would find the Bill in the List of Business before the House this week. But now he does not say anything further about it. ..(Interruptions) The session is about to end. ..(Interruptions)

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, we have still three days to go; before the House adjourns, we will introduce it. ..(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Mulayam Singhji, what is this? Please stop the Members of your party. This is not fair.

..(Interruptions)

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, you have called me to speak but now I am not being allowed to speak, instead some other Member has been asked to speak.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav, please understand, he is the 'Father of the House' and he is a very senior Member. That is why I have given him a chance.

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, it is alright that he is the father of the House and he should be given an opportunity to speak, but we should also be given opportunity.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, neither the Samajwadi Party nor Rashtriya Janta Dal is against the Women Reservation Bill. But the question is that given the basic nature of this Bill, the relationship between people's representative and the public will come to an end.

Sir, second thing I want to say is that...(Interruptions)

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA (Guna): Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is not a discussion. When the debate takes place over it you can give such arguments...(Interruptions)

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: Mr. Scindia, I am not junior to you in any way. I have heard a lot from the people like you. I do not have to learn from you. You please, allow me to speak...(Interruptions)

Mr. Speaker, Sir, you have allowed me to speak. As far as BJP and Congress are concerned, both of these are the cards of the same pack and it is due to this reason alone that they have brought forward this Women Reservation Bill and hatched a conspiracy to mute the voices of backwards, pears, dalits and muslims who account for 90 percent of population of this country through this Bill. Both these parties are responsible for the deterioration of the country and they also want to destroy whatever parliamentary democracy is left in the country.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Prime Minister had promised to present and pass this Bill only through consensus but, sir, no consensus has been made and it is being considered for presentation. I think that not only consensus but unanimous decision should be reached over it. I insist that as the consensus as promised by the Prime Minister is yet to emerge, this Bill should be brought only after consensus is reached. It should be presented in its amended form...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav, you are discussing the merits of the Bill without any Bill before the House.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: How can you discuss the merits of the Bill now? You can discuss it only when the Bill is before the House.

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, if you want us to forego the membership we will do so, but we can not tolerate such a big insult. If the Bill is passed simply on the strength of majority then it will not be in the interest of democracy. You have the majority in the House so you can get it passed here but I am raising the voice of those who are in majority in the country as I can not bear the poors being neglected. Therefore my voice should be heard...(Interruptions) The Bill should only be introduced in the House only when the Government's promise of evolving a consensus in this regard is reached...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: How can you discuss the entire thing? The Bill is not before the House.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: The Leader of the Opposition raised something. That is why I called the Minister.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: There is no Bill before the House.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You please understand it.

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU (Srikakulam): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am asking the hon. Minister for Parliamentary Affairs. ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Are you on the same point?

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: What is this?

...(Interruptions)

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU: What is the problem in introducing the Bill tomorrow? First of all, that is my question. ... (Interruptions) The introduction of the Bill should be there. ... (Interruptions) We can discuss it later. ... (Interruptions) The NDA has given an assurance to this country. The TDP has also given an assurance to this country. Therefore, it could be introduced tomorrow or day-after-tomorrow.

MR. SPEAKER: Anything from the Government's side?

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: No. ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: No, no; it has already been replied to.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please understand that since the Leader of the Opposition raised the matter, I called the Minister and he had given the reply.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: On the same subject, is there anything from the Government's side?

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: I have told hundred times that we will introduce it in this session. ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: He has already said it.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: No, no; they are going to introduce the Bill in this session. Now, Shri T. Govindan will speak.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing should go on record except what Shri T. Govindan says.

...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, please understand that since the Leader of the Opposition raised the matter, I asked the Government to reply, They have already said that they are serious to introduce the Bill in this session. Please understand it.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Madhavrao Scindia, I cannot compel the Government. Now, Shri T. Govindan.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: How can the Chair decide about 'today' or 'tomorrow'? The Government has already said about it.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: What is this?

*Not recorded.

[Translation]

SHRI VIJAY GOEL: He is diverting the attention of the House...(Interruptions) Hence he is not allowing us to present our point of view...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI T. GOVINDAN (Kasargod): Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Union Government and the hon. Minister for Surface Transport towards the request of Kerala Government to include the third travel circuit in the list of circuits recognised for intensive development under the Action Plan for Tourism.

This circuit is in the northern part of Kerala, namely, Mangalore-Bekal-Kapad and Kozhikode Vythiri-Sultan Battery-Mysore, which has potential for intensive tourism development.

Press reports say that the then Union Minister of Tourism in November, 1996 had announced that this circuit has been sanctioned for Kerala. Considering the need for the overall development of the area which will boost the tourism industry also, I request the Union Government to issue formal orders for the recognition of this third travel circuit for Kerala immediately.

[Translation]

SHRI VIJAY GOEL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, he is diverting the attention of the House...(Interruptions) Hence he is not allowing us to present our view...(Interruptions)

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: I am in favour of 50 per cent reservation. But there should be share of women belonging to backward castes, scheduled castes and tribes and minorities...(Interruptions) The Government has repeatedly announced that it will work on the basis of consensus. This promise should not be breached...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Please understand and take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

VAIDYA VISHNU DATT SHARMA (Jammu): Every year about fifty to sixty lakh pilgrims visit Vaishno Devi and Amarnath...(Interruptions) Apart from it, about 50 lakhs of population and the security forces deployed there...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Scindia, he has already replied.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

VAIDYA VISHNU DATT SHARMA: People desire to visit Haridwar during festival season...(Interruptions) Whether it is full moon's day, new moon's day or any other festival, everybody wants to visit Haridwar. It is my submission that arrangements should be made for running a train from Jammu to Haridwar for facilitating those pilgrims...(Interruptions) The railway line from Jalandhar to Jammu is a single rail line, it should be converted into double track...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: Sir, let the hon'ble Minister say 'Yes' or 'No'. The Congress will support the consensus...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

VAIDYA VISHNU DATT SHARMA: The rail line from Jammu to Udhampur has been lying incomplete for the last 18 years...(Interruptions) But from the last 18 years till date not even 40 Kms. line has been completed...(Interruptions) The Government should complete work of completing Udhampur railway line at the earliest.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Is there anything from the Government?

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: No, Sir.

[Translation]

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI (Sitamarhi): Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards PDS. The Government has launched a very significant scheme of PDS under which 10 Kg. of foodgrains will be made available to the families living below poverty line at half the cost of normal. But 10 Kgs. foodgrain is not sufficient for a family...(Interruptions)

12.22 hrs.

At this stage, Shrimati Sonia Gandhi and some other hon. Members left the House

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI: Through you, I would like to submit before the Government that the target of 10 Kgs. foodgrains should be increased to 30 Kgs. per month for each family. Bihar is the poorest state. 56 per cent of its population live below poverty line. But the Bihar Government is discriminating in making red card and even those who have red card did not get the foodgrains. Those who should be issued red cards, have not been provided one...(*Interruptions*) Hence it is submitted that the Government should include Bihar, Bengal, Orissa in the special category of targeted PDS and issue the red cards to all those poor persons who have been living in these states and the amount of foodgrains should be increased from 10 Kg. per month to 30 Kg. per month.

[*English*]

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN (Tirunelveli): Sir, we condemn the attitude of the Government. This Government is not able to fulfill the commitment which it made to the people of this country. Therefore, we walk out in protest...(*Interruptions*)

12.23 hrs.

At this stage, Shri P.H. Pandiyan and some other hon. Members left the House

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): Sir, the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs has not said anything on the Women's Reservation Bill. Therefore, we also walk out in protest...(*Interruptions*)

12.24 hrs.

At this stage, Shri Basudeb Acharia and some other hon. Members left the House

[*Translation*]

SHRIMATI REENA CHOUDHARY (Mohanlalganj): Village Rassulpur Bagia is situated in the Assembly segment of my Constituency Mohanlalganj. The villagers there are terrified by some people...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Please understand. You are disturbing the House. How can I accommodate all of you at a time? You have not given notice and you are disturbing the House. Please take your seat.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR (Ballia, U.P.): Sir, I am sorry that I came a little late, I was not able to hear the observation made by the Leader of the Opposition. This matter has been raised many a time in this House and in the earlier Houses also. There were objections from certain friends and they were very valid objections.

I remember, some time back, Shri Sharad Yadav, who happens to be the Minister now, was the most vocal person against this Bill. The same was raised by Shri Lallu Prasad and very strongly by Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav. What they said and what my friend, the stormy person in the House, has just said, 'there is apprehension' and genuine apprehension that the very character of the Lok Sabha will be changed if this Bill is passed. That is why, the Government time and again said that it would try to evolve a consensus. If it does not happen, I do not know, what is the urgency to divide the House further on this issue?

There are other matters. My friend, the Law Minister must be having so many problems before him to solve. Let us try to evolve a consensus and only then bring this Bill. Otherwise, there will be more fragmentation, there will be more disorder in this House...(*Interruptions*)

PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM (Badagara): Sir, let us pass this Bill as it is...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat, Madam.

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR: Mr. Speaker Sir, some people talk about intentions. It is not intention that counts in politics, but the result that counts. What will be the result if this Bill is passed? We must have some sight in the future also. We should not do it, in order to get something out of this immediately, in the electoral battle. That thought should not guide us. I shall very humbly request that we should not try to divide this House not only in numbers but in psychology and in mental make up also when enough trouble is there in this country in future.

I am sorry—my friend, the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs is here — I do not know, what was the intention when the Leader of the Opposition and the Prime Minister were talking about CTBT without the information given to any of us. We do not count, I know, but the future of the nation counts and that is more vital issue than this reservation issue is...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: No, that matter is over.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI REENA CHOUDHARY (Mohanlalganj): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw your attention towards the assembly segment Hasanganj of my Constituency Mohanlalganj. Village Rassulpur Bagia is situated in it and another village Baradeo is also contiguous to it. Some of the persons who have spent many years of their lives in jail over murder cases, are tormenting and torturing the villagers there. Beating of villagers by them in the name of extortion is a common thing. When the police went there to deal with the complaint they too were beaten before the villagers. Villagers have been subjected to so much torture and atrocities by them that it has become difficult to live in villages.

I demand from the House that the villagers should be given protection and be freed from the ongoing ordeal.

[English]

SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI (Salem): Sir, I would like to raise a very serious issue about the Task Force Committee set up by the Confederation of Indian Industry, CII.

Sir, the CII had recommended to the Government closure of three nationalised banks, that is, the Indian Bank, UCO Bank, and the United Bank of India. This report has created a panic and a kind of uncertainty among the general public, the borrowers from the banks and the depositors in particular. It is going to create an adverse impact on the people who have deposited money in these nationalised banks. This report is going to have a run on the entire nationalised banks in this spectrum.

Sir, fearing exposure and fearing disclosure of the defaulters' list, now the CII has backed out of the report and they have reported in the Press that they are withdrawing the report submitted to the Government.

Sir, now, the cat is out of the bag. Fearing exposure in the hands of the Bank Employees' Union, the CII has come out with the withdrawal of the Report. There is something hidden in this entire episode. The Task Force consists of certain corporate sector industrialists, mainly, two members, Shri Rahul Bajaj and Shri Bharat Ram, both of them owe Rs. 500 crore and Rs. 350 crore respectively to these nationalised banks. Fearing exposure, they have recommended liquidation of all the three nationalised banks.

Sir, this is a serious issue. Who are these people to recommend closure of these banks? They have not only

recommended for the closure of these banks but also for liquidation of all three banks.

Sir, I reiterate that the Government is in the grip of the defaulters. I want the Government to publish the list of defaulters. The fact is that almost all these corporate sector people owe Rs. 45,000 crore to the nationalised banks. This is a serious issue.

Now, we are talking of liberalisation and globalisation; increasing the revenue of the nation. ...*(Interruptions)* These are the people who are taking shelter under it. Sir, this is a serious issue. The Government is shielding them. When Rome was burning, Nero was fiddling. The Government is fiddling with these industrialists. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Is there anything from the Government side?

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI: Sir, they are chasing the poor farmers for the pittance amount. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Now, Dr. Dhani Ram Shandil.

COL. (RETD.) DR. DHANI RAM SHANDIL (Shimla): Sir, I am grateful that you have given a chance to speak in this House. I want to raise a point regarding up-to-date...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing should go into record except what Dr. Dhani Ram Shandil is saying.

...*(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER: I have asked the Government also. There is no response. I cannot compel the Government to give a reply.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Selvaganpathi, please take your seat. You have taken more than five minutes. There are other Members who would like to raise their important matters. What is this?

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: This is too much. There are other Members who would like to raise their matters.

...*(Interruptions)*

*Not recorded.

COL. (RETD.) DR. DHANI RAM SHANDIL (Shimla): Sir, I want to raise a point regarding...(*Interruptions*) Please sit down. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: I have asked the Government to respond. I cannot compel the Government.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Is there anything from the Government side?

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAJESH PILOT (Dausa): Sir, a very strong point has been raised. Some assurance should be given to us. He has raised a point that they owe a sum of Rs. 800 crore to these nationalised banks and they want that these banks to be closed. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: What is this? Please take your seat.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR: Mr. Speaker, it is not an ordinary matter. In the name of disinvestment and in the name of liberalisation, you cannot go on committing financial crimes. If what the hon. Member has said is correct—I have every reason to believe that he has said it correctly—the Government cannot just keep quiet. They should give a statement whether these facts are correct or not. Otherwise, it will be assumed by all of us that the Government is not only guilty of dereliction of duty but they are concealing the financial crimes. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN (Coochbehar): Why are you shielding Bharat Ram? ...(*Interruptions*)

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): Who is this Bharat Ram?...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (Hoogly): Sir, this is a very serious matter. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Rupchand Pal, please take your seat. Now the minister.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: This is too much. You have raised a point and when the Government is replying, you are not allowing the Government to reply. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Sir, I do not know who is Mr. Bharat Ram. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: You can all associate with what Shri Selvaganpathi has said.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN (Tirunelveli): While associating with the matter raised by him, I ask the Government to place the list of defaulters, especially, of Indian Bank on the Table. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat.

[*Translation*]

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon'ble Member has raised a very serious matter. As the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, I have my own limitations to respond immediately over the matters raised during Zero Hour...(*Interruptions*)

I am ready to listen, if you want to continue. I do not have prior information regarding the matters to be raised in Zero Hour and I am also not an expert of every subject. I do not know who is Mr. Bharat Ram...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN: Everyday the Minister is reading the newspaper...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Thank God, you are not the Speaker in the House.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Pandiyan, please take your seat.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: I would like to assure Shri Chandra Shekhar that it is not the intention of the Government to shield any fact or harm anyone. I would definitely bring this issue to the notice of the Finance Minister and if he likes, he can make statement in this regard.

[*English*]

SHRI RAJESH PILOT: It is for the House to note. The concerned Minister must come back with the information.

MR. SPEAKER: It is already replied please.

SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI: Several crores of rupees have been withdrawn.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Selvaganpathi, please take your seat.

COL. (RETD.) DR. DHANI RAM SHANDIL: Sir, I want to raise an important issue in this House. This is regarding the upgradation of Doordarshan Kendra facilities across the Northern hills, starting from J&K, Himachal Pradesh, U.P. hills and the North Eastern parts of India. We see that the Doordarshan Kendras are not doing full justice of service anywhere there. I want to quote the example of Shimla. We see that these are geo-strategic important places and the Damocles sword of nuclear threat, as it is, hanging over our head. If such a threat comes to our head, we must have a very efficient system all across these hills, and this, at the moment, to my mind, is not really efficient because in Shimla, nothing is visible around five kilometres range from the town. The same should be true of all the hills in Himachal Pradesh, J&K, U.P. and North-Eastern areas. My request to the Minister of Information and Broadcasting is to pay particular attention towards this most important aspect because these are all geo-politically important places.

[Translation]

SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI (Jodhpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards the serious problem of electricity prevailing in Rajasthan for the last few months. Farmers are staging 'Dharna' in villages. They have also demonstrated at 'Tehsil' level. The Government is deliberately curbing the supply of electricity in Jodhpur Parliamentary Constituency from where I have got elected. That is why farmers have started staging 'Dharna' at headquarter of every 'Tehsil'. Through you, I would like to request the Central Government to pay immediate attention towards this problem.

[English]

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN: I gave notice on privatisation and de-nationalisation... (Interruptions)

SHRI UTTAMRAO DHIKALE (Nasik): My notice is about a regional matter.

MR. SPEAKER: I have called Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav.

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV (Sambhal): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the question which I am going to raise is concerned with the poor farmers, labourers and destitutes. Now-a-days by getting favour from Government and flattering the Ministers a person can become a billionaire without doing much hard work or investing money. It is evident from the fact that Government has not taken any action against the S.R. Company which owes Rs. 10,000

crores to various institutions. What to talk of interest it has not paid even the principal amount. Rs. 2006 crores is outstanding against S.R. Steel Company of various financial institutions till 30th September. Till date neither interest nor principal amount has been paid. Now the Government is advancing another loan of Rs. 455 crores whereas the company has to pay Rs. 325 crores as interest only. The company is owned by Shashi Ruia and Ravi Ruia who are NRIs. They are being given loan on their personal guarantee. However, their personal guarantee has no value once they have become NRIs. Under which compulsion Government is sanctioning loan to them? No assistance is being given to small scale industries. There are two laws one for the poor farmers and one for big companies like S.R. Company. We have no objection if units are handed over to them. However, giving assistance to S.R. Company which has neither returned the previous principal amount nor paid the interest, is improper. We would like the Government and the Finance Minister to clearly state in the House that it is not good that the poor people are being deprived of means of their livelihood. Now it has become a tendency in the country that people would become billionaire by taking loans from Government and financial institutions. A poor farmer is being booked into jail if he fails to repay a loan of Rs. 300 whereas S.R. Company has to return a loan of Rs. 10,000 crore. Instead of taking action against it, Government is sanctioning a further loan of Rs. 455 crores. What is the compulsion behind it? ... (Interruptions) Sir, it is a very serious matter ... (Interruptions).

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Mulayam Singh, other members have also given notices.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: My demand is that Finance Minister should make a statement in the House to clarify it as this practice is giving way to loot the hard earned money of poor people. If such a practice is allowed to continue in the country it will ruin the poor people and only handful of people will become billionaire with help of Government money. Therefore, I will urge upon the Finance Minister and this House not to remain silent on such issues. Many leaders are present in the House. I would like them to express their views on the issue which I have raised here and oppose this practice.

We would like the Government to tell the House the compulsion which lead it to do such favour to this company. Government is sanctioning further loan to this company to enable it to repay the loan of Rs. 10,000 crore. Government should clarify it in the House otherwise the statement given by Shri Mohan Guruswami is proving true. Therefore, members of the House whether belonging to ruling party or opposition should not remain

silent on this issue as the hard-earned money of poor people is being used to favour few persons whose personal guarantee holds no value. Therefore, we would like the France Minister or Parliamentary Affairs Minister to apprise the House of the current position.

[*English*]

SHRI UTTAMRAO DHIKALE: Sir, I want to raise an important issue about my constituency. ...(*Interruptions*).

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN: Sir, I have given a notice at 8.30 a.m. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Ramesh Chennithala.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI UTTAMRAO DHIKALE: Sir, I also gave a notice around nine o'clock to raise an urgent matter...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat. What is this? I am calling all the names. Please try to understand.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI UTTAMRAO DHIKALE: Sir, I gave the notice around nine o'clock. I want to raise an urgent matter concerning my constituency...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat. This is too much. It is the discretion of the Chair to call the names.

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA (Mavelikara): Mr. Speaker, Sir, 2.9 million Indians are living and working in the Gulf countries. The general condition of the people who are working in the Gulf Countries is very bad and no attention has been paid to these people. They are facing a lot of problems, namely: (1) substitution of employment contract; (2) non-payment of salary; (3) premature termination of service; (4) lack of proper living conditions; and (5) ill-treatment, mostly of housemaids. Time and again, all the Members from Kerala have been raising this issue before the Ministry of External Affairs to set up a special Cell for attending to the grievances of the people who are working in the Gulf countries, but unfortunately, nothing has been done. It was said that the Missions in the Gulf countries had been given instructions to solve the issues of these workers whenever they come and approach them to settle

their issues, but unfortunately, from practical experience, it is observed that the Missions are not taking much interest in solving the issues of the people who are suffering. After the Kuwait War, a lot of people had suffered and the Government of India had constituted a Kuwait Cell. A lot of applications were given to this Cell for compensation and other things. They are all piling up in the Ministry. So, I would like to request the hon. Minister of External Affairs to have a special Cell in the Ministry of External Affairs to resolve the issues of the Indians who are working in the Gulf. Also, the Government of India may kindly take certain immediate measures for the rehabilitation of the people who are coming from the Gulf. Unfortunately, the Government is not taking any interest in this matter. Through you, Sir, I request the hon. Minister to take certain immediate measures to solve the issues of the people who are working in the Gulf. Thank you, Sir.

SHRI UTTAMRAO DHIKALE: Sir, I have also given a notice...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Member, please, first of all, understand how to behave in the House. Then only you can raise the matter. What is this? Are you compelling the Chair to give you the permission?

SHRI UTTAMRAO DHIKALE: Sir, I gave the notice around nine o'clock.

MR. SPEAKER: Please understand the procedure in the House.

SHRI UTTAMRAO DHIKALE: I know, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER: What do you know? Please understand the procedure first.

SHRI UTTAMRAO DHIKALE: Shall I start, Sir?

MR. SPEAKER: Okay.

[*Translation*]

SHRI UTTAMRAO DHIKALE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the hon'ble Railway Minister towards the shortage of railway wagons. My Parliamentary Constituency Nasik is famous for onion and there is a big market for it. I am talking about the Nasik Road Railway Station of Maharashtra. Earlier our farmers used to send their produce to Calcutta by trucks but now due to rise in diesel price they are unable to do so and are compelled to send it through railway wagons. However, in the absence of adequate number of railway wagons, they are facing lot of problems. Therefore, I demand that Government should make more and more railway wagons available at Nasik Road Railway Station.

[English]

PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM (Badagara): Sir, thank you very much for the opportunity given. I, through you, would like to draw the attention of the Government to one issue. The Government of India have, so far, recognised only two travel circuits in Kerala under the National Action Plan for tourism. Kerala is awaiting the recognition of the third route, namely Mangalore-Bakel-Kappad-Kozhikode-Vythiri-Sultan Battery-Mysore, which will definitely connect Kerala with the neighbouring State, Karnataka and this will give great development to tourism as well as general development in the northern part of Kerala.

In 1996 the then hon. Minister for Tourism, during the World Tourism Market in London, had announced specifically that this route would be the third travel circuit route in the National Plan. But, so far, we have not received any official communication in this respect.

Therefore, I urge upon the Government and request that the Government be pleased to sanction this travel circuit route at the earliest as the third route in this Action Plan. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I am coming to you. Please understand it. Shri Prakash Ambedkar to speak now.

SHRI PRAKASH YASHWANT AMBEDKAR (Akola): Sir, in the first week of December the hon. Prime Minister and the Minister for Social Welfare had called a meeting of the M.Ps. belonging to the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes to discuss the matters regarding the five official memoranda issued by the Government which go against the basic reservation policy. The hon. Prime Minister had assured in that meeting that during this Session a Bill will be introduced either to amend the Constitution or a legislation will be introduced to safeguard the reservation policy of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

12.52 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

Sir, only four days are left for the Session to get over and yet the Government is not coming forward for the withdrawal of the five official memoranda. The Federation of the S.C./S.T. Employees has taken out a *Morcha* on 13th of this month. The *Morcha*, was not only lathi charge and tear gas used but firing also took place without any rhyme or reason.

May, I know from the Government whether, as they have promised in the meeting which was held in the first week of December, the Bill would be brought in? May I know from the hon. Minister whether the Bill would be brought in before 23rd of this month? ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: All those who have given notices will be given a chance. I am going according to the list.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please wait for your turn.

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN: Sir, I gave notice at 8.30 a.m.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Pandiyan, I have given the floor to Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please resume your seat. I will give you a chance.

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, there are 42 castes among Muslim community which are socially, economically and educationally downtrodden. They should be included in Scheduled Castes list. The condition of 'bhatiyara', 'bhishti', 'chik', 'dajali', 'dhuniya', darji, fakir, gujar, julaha, kalai' and 'kalinder' etc. castes is worse than dalits, but they have not been included in the reservation list. I demand that under Article 341 of Constitution, the names of dalit Muslims and dalit Christians should also be included in reservation list. In order to justify social justice, they should be provided reservation facility in political organisations and Government Services.

SHRI RAJO SINGH (Begusarai): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we support the views of Shri Raghuvansh babu...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Rajo Singh, you have associated, you have made your point.

[English]

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN: Sir, I gave the notice at 8.30 a.m.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Pandian, I will call you, but please be patient. Shri Radhakrishnan, kindly resume your seat now. I have called him and I will call you later.

[Translation]

PROF. S.P. SINGH BAGHEL (Jalesar): Mr. Deputy Speaker, in Zero Hour I would like to draw the attention of Central Government. ..(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI RAJESH PILOT (Dausa): Sir, I have a point to make. 'Zero Hour' is meant for raising important issues, but it is being used to read 377 matters.

[Translation]

SHRI VIJAY GOEL (Chandni Chowk): Mr. Deputy Speaker according to the present system the opportunity is provided to those who give notice before 10 a.m.

[English]

SHRI RAJESH PILOT: If they have given notices, does it mean that they can raise any issue here? You may please take the sense of the House. 'Zero Hour' is meant for raising important issues. You may please take the sense of the House on this.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Rajesh Pilot, you may kindly discuss this matter with the hon. Speaker.

SHRI RAJESH PILOT: Sir, the House is superior to BAC.

[Translation]

SHRI SHANKAR PRASAD JAISWAL (Varanasi): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, they take all the time. I have given notice to speak during Zero Hour, through that. I would like to express my views in your support.

[English]

SHRI RAJESH PILOT: You may please take the sense of the House.

[Translation]

SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV (Parbhan): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we come at 8 o'clock in the morning to give notice.

[English]

SHRI RAJESH PILOT: You may please take the sense of the House.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Rajesh Pilot, this has been the practice in this House.

SHRI RAJESH PILOT: But we will change it.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Let me complete. The matters being raised during the 'Zero Hour' are mostly constituency-related issues. Therefore, we will have to streamline it.

SHRI RAJESH PILOT: The House is superior to BAC. So, you may please take the sense of the House.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Today, I have to go according to the list finalised by the hon. Speaker. The leaders of all the parties will have to meet in order to streamline the business during the 'Zero Hour'.

[Translation]

SHRI VIJAY GOEL: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, discussion can be held on what Shri Rajeshji is saying.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Goel, please let me go according to the list.

[Translation]

SHRI S.P. SINGH BAGHEL: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am grateful to you for giving me an opportunity to speak. I have been elected from Jalesar district of Uttar Pradesh where floods in three rivers—Isan, Sirsa and Aarid have destroyed Kharif crop on thousands of hectares of land. Farmers are not in a position to sow rabi crop. All link roads have been washed away. The floods in these rivers which flow through Etah and Ferozabad district have completely ruined the farmers of Nigholi, Mehraa, Jalesar, Abagarh block of Etah district and Tundla, and Narakhi block of Ferozabad district. These rivers have become so shallow, that in other seasons they do not have water and if you pass through that area, at that time, you cannot make out whether it is a river or not, but in rainy season, they cause havoc. Though they are not demarcated as big rivers in the map of the country, but they have adversely affected farmers of thousands of villages of my area. For last three years, not even single harvest has been obtained from Kharif and Rabi crops. There has not been even a single year, when the area has not been affected by floods. It has completely ruined the farmers. I request the Central Government that National Water Commission or National River Commission or any other commission concerned with it should make arrangements for desilting of these shallow rivers. Desilting of rivers will prevent water logging. In this way, we will be able to save farmers from ruin. The State Government is not having funds under district plan for desilting of these rivers. I would

[SHRI S.P. SINGH BAGHEL]

like to request the Central Government to allocate funds for desilting of these shallow rivers so that the farmers of my area could be saved from ruin.

[English]

SHRI P. KUMARASAMY (Palani): Sir, I wish to raise a very important matter concerning my Constituency, Palani, which is a municipal town and a renowned pilgrim centre in the South. It is renowned for Lord Murgaon Temple. Due to floating population of the pilgrims, there is a huge tumbrel of waste everywhere in the town, and the authorities are not able to clear the waste.

13.00 hrs.

Sir, it is learnt that the experiment to generate power from Biogas at Chennai has been successful. I also have come to know from newspaper reports that the Ministry of Non-conventional Energy Sources is planning to set up such a power plant, which would generate 1500 MW of power, in the country. Palani would be the suitable place to set up such a power plant. I would like to request the hon. Minister to set up such a power plant in Palani.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Nitish Sengupta.

SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR BWISWMUTHIARY (Kokrajhar): Sir, I have given a notice.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please resume your seat. You will not get priority over the persons who have already been listed here.

..(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Bwiswmuthiary, you are always interrupting.

[Translation]

SHRI NAGMANI (Chatra): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am on a point of order.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The point of order cannot be raised in Zero Hour.

SHRI NAGMANI: You should at least listen to me..(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI RAJESH PILOT: Sir, we have given a notice for a Calling Attention Motion. You are not considering that..(Interruptions) You are calling the names of those..(Interruptions) What is the procedure that you are going to follow here..(Interruptions) How do I ask the Government..(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Pilot, this has been the practice here which has been adopted with the consent of the Leaders of all the Parties. If you want to streamline this, then do it. Now, this list has been drawn already and I have to go through it.

..(Interruptions)

SHRI RAJESH PILOT: How do I streamline the system?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You do it in the BAC.

SHRI RAJESH PILOT: How?..(Interruptions) Sir, the House is superior to the BAC..(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI VIJAY GOEL: We also want to raise an important issue.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The list for today has already been drawn up. I just cannot do away with it.

..(Interruptions)

SHRI RAJESH PILOT: Sir, the BAC cannot be superior to the House..(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI NAGMANI: Sir you should at least listen to me.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Pilot, time and again you are raising this point.

..(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Nagmani, there is a limit to it. Would you please take your seat?

[*Translation*]

SHRI NAGMANI: When are you going to listen to me?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Are you a new Member?

SHRI NAGMANI: I am a new Member.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You have to follow the rules. Shri Raghuvanshji, you are the Chief Whip, make him understand.

..(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: This is not the Bihar Assembly. This is the Lok Sabha of India.

..(*Interruptions*)

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: He is an old Member of the Rajya Sabha..(*Interruptions*)

SHRI NAGMANI: We cannot bear disgraceful remarks made against Bihar..(*Interruptions*) Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, you should listen to me.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will listen to you only when you will sit down. Are you threatening the Chair?

[*English*]

I have given the floor to Shri Nitish Sengupta.

SHRI NAGMANI: At least listen to me.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Only the person, I have called, will speak.

..(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

..(*Interruptions*)*

[*Translation*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: There are some rules. When the floor is given to a Member, the opportunity to

speak can be given to the other Members only after listening to the first Member.

..(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Bangarappa, would you please resume your seat?

[*Translation*]

SHRI NAGMANI: I am a Member of Parliament.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I know that you are a Member of Parliament, that is why you are present in the House. You have to follow the rule. Being the Member of Parliament does not mean that you can rise at any time to speak.

[*English*]

Nothing will go on record.

..(*Interruptions*)*

[*Translation*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You are doing injustice to the Chair.

SHRI NAGMANI: Why? We will do the same, if injustice is done to us..(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please sit down.

SHRI NAGMANI: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have been giving notices for 'Zero Hour' for the last eight days continuously.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You know that there are certain rules in this regard and you have to follow the rules.

SHRI NAGMANI: Sir, as such my point will also have to be acceded to.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Have you not gone through the rule, will you not follow the rule?

SHRI NAGMANI: Sir, I have regard for you.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: If you have regards for me, then please sit down.

SHRI NAGMANI: But injustice is being done to the new Member..(Interruptions) On every issue, opportunity is being given to the senior Members. This is injustice to the new Members and I will not tolerate it..(Interruptions) Senior Member speak on every issue. ..(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Your name has been included in the list as per the order of your notice. I will call you on your turn. ..(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

..(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The member seems to be an incorrigible interrupter.

[Translation]

SHRI J.S. BRAR (Fandkot): Hon'ble Deputy Speaker, Sir, we do not want to violate the observations given by the Chair. Our hon'ble Members have raised an issue and all that we want is that an opportunity should be given to speak to all these hon'ble Members who have given notices.

[English]

We endorse you.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have been asking the Member to sit down. He is a new Member. He should know the rules. The Rule says that according to the time the notices are received, the Secretariat gives numbers. I am going by the list. Dr. Nitish Sengupta is on his legs. When this number of the hon. Member comes, he will get the chance.

SHRI J.S. BRAR: All that the Member want is that a Member who has given notice should be given a chance.

[Translation]

Chance has been given to the Member who has given notice but some hon'ble Members do not get chance to speak. This is all we want to say.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: All the notices given are not in order. This is a state subject hence I cannot call you to speak.

..(Interruptions)

SHRI NAGMANI: Hon'ble Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have been giving notices for the last eight days continuously. This matter pertains to the Centre. There is a proposal to set up a factory at Chatra based on seventeen types of minerals, is it a state subject?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will note your behaviour very seriously.

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (Pandharpur): Sir, despite giving notices for the last fifteen days continuously my name has not been included in the list.

[English]

DR. NITISH SENGUPTA (Contal): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw the notice of the House to the serious situation caused by the accidental bomb blasts in a number of offices of a political party which happens to the Ruling party in West Bengal causing death of a number of people and inability of the police to arrest any culprit named in the FIR in the last fortnight. ..(Interruptions)

SHRI LAKSHMAN SETH (Tamluk): Sir, it is a matter concerning a State. This matter cannot be raised in the House.

DR. NITISH SENGUPTA: We have discussed the naxal trouble in Bihar. Why cannot we discuss this? How long can we turn a deaf ear to such issues saying they are State issues?

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: Sir, please give your direction that State matters cannot be raised in the House.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please sit down.

DR. NITISH SENGUPTA: Sir, in fact, there is an unwritten rule in the rural areas in West Bengal that no *thana* records an FIR unless it is approved by the Secretary of the local unit of the Communist Party.

[Translation]

SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV (Parbhani): Sir, I have been giving notices for the last eight days but my name has not been included in the list.

* Not recorded.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Much time of the House has been lost due to frequent interruptions.

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Firozabad): Hon'ble Deputy Speaker, Sir, in order to protect 'The Taj' from pollution 'Taj Trapezium Zone' was created. The coal based furnaces in Firozabad and Agra were closed and as an alternative the Supreme Court directed the Gas Authority of India Limited in 1996 that these furnaces should be made gas based. There were hundreds of furnaces there and gas has been made available to only 30 to 32 furnaces and gas has not been made available to rest of the furnaces. As a result of the units at Firozabad which is known all over the world for its glass industries, are lying closed.

Hon'ble Deputy Speaker, Sir, thousands of labourers are jobless and the situation there is taking an alarming proportions. At the one hand labourers are jobless on the other the Government is suffering loss of revenue worth 15 to 20 lakh per month. The technical experts are trying to complicate this matter in different ways and one of the reasons they are giving for this is that gas pipeline cannot be laid beneath the railway line whereas the fact is that the gas pipe line from Bombay High to Firozabad is passing through beneath the railway line atleast at 15 to 20 places but hurdles are being created in laying of gas pipeline beneath the railway line of Firozabad. Sir, it is a very serious matter. If gas is not supplied, Firozabad will be ruined. The only means of earning livelihood for the people of Firozabad is the glass industry..(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Ramji Lal Sumanji tell me what do you want from the Government?

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Hon'ble Deputy Speaker, Sir, the local people have approached the Gas Authority of India Limited and the Government to do justice to them. I want that gas should be supplied through the gas pipeline in Firozabad so that industry there could be saved from ruin and gas should be supplied on priority basis in order to ensure supply of gas to the industries.

SHRI J.S. BRAR: Hon'ble Deputy Speaker, Sir, I fully agree with you.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: If you interrupt like this then, I will not call you to speak despite your name being there in the list.

SHRI J.S. BRAR: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards a very important issue which relates to microscapic Sikh minority community. The leader of

opposition had written a letter to the hon'ble Prime Minister an year ago on the occasion of tricentenary celebration of the Khalsa Panth. In furtherance of that letter tricentenary of the Khalsa Panth was celebrated. Sir, I would like to remind you that the most important pilgrimage of the Khalsa Panth is Hemkund Sahib which is situated ten kilometre ahead of Joshimath in Uttar Pradesh. Shri Bhuvan Chandra Khanduri is not present in the House at present and he is well aware of that place. A thirteen kilometre long stretch to reach there is very tough and the people who go their for 'Darshan' fall sick. Hemkund Sahib is the Holiest place and lakhs of people from all over the country visit that place but the way to this place being inaccessible the pilgrims have to suffer a lot and many times severe accidents have also taken place there resulting in the death of pilgrims...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Brarji tell me what do you want from the Government?

SHRI J.S. BRAR: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to submit that the 13 kilometre long stretch from Govindsagar Ghat to Hemkund Sahib be made pucca on this holy occasion of tricentenary of the Khalsa Panth. If it is done, a major problem of the microscopic Sikh minority community will be solved and an atmosphere of trust will be created due to this.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, Shri M. Chinnasamy.

I think, he is not present. Then, Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil): Thank you, Sir, for at least calling me now.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Do you not want to say anything now?

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Yes, Sir, I want to submit. First, I had to make that remark, because that is very essential, for having denied justice.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: But be brief.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Yes, Sir, I shall be brief. I am putting a very important issue.

SHRI M. CHINNASAMY (Karur): Sir, I am also present.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I called your name twice. But there was no response.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER]

Hon. Members, please have order in the House. I called his name but he could not hear. But now, he has stood up.

Anyway, Shri M. Channasamy, please raise your issue.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: So, shall I have to sit down now?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes, please sit down. After Shri M. Chinnasamy, you may raise your issue. Hon. Members, please be attentive.

SHRI M. CHINNASAMY: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise here to make a mention about the pathetic plight of the sugarcane growers who supply sugarcane to private sugar mills in Tamil Nadu. Out of 35 sugar mills in Tamil Nadu, 15 are in private sector.

The Central Government for the year 1999-2000 has announced Rs. 561 as statutory minimum price for one tonne sugarcane linked with 8.5 per cent recovery. Sir, the Government of Tamil Nadu has not yet announced the SAP.

The State Government of Haryana has already announced the SAP for the current year as Rs. 1,100 per tonne.

The private sugar mill owners in Tamil Nadu are challenging the authority of the State Government to fix the SAP. The Sugarcane Control Act of 1966 stipulates that cane growers should be paid within 15 days of supply of sugarcane. But because of this violation of the Act, about three lakh cane growers are affected.

To save the cane growers of Tamil Nadu, I make the following submission to the Centre:—

(1) The SMP should be increased to Rs. 1,000/- since it is just half of the SAP given by Haryana;

(2) The Central Government should warn the private sugar mill owners of Tamil Nadu to accept both SMP and SAP and make immediate payments to the cane growers.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: I would like to draw the attention of the Government of India to a matter concerning the employees of Kerala working in Gulf countries. The Trivandrum International Airport is fourth of its kind in India. Thousands of people of Kerala fly through this airport for employment in Gulf countries. The Airport Authority of India had recently neglected this airport

and they have not given any facilities to the travelling passengers though it is declared as an international airport and the standard of this airport is far below the approved international standard. Besides, there is a concerted move on the part of the Airport Authority of India to downgrade this airport. Yesterday some Gulf returnees complained to me that they had been put to many difficulties by the Airport Authority of India and there is a conspiracy to neglect this airport intentionally. So, I request the Government to take immediate steps to upgrade this airport and afford all facilities to this Trivandrum International Airport because it is a revenue earning airport.

[Translation]

SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, NDA Government has stated in its manifesto that one crore youths will be provided employment every year. However, the Union Government has banned the lottery business. I would like to submit that more than one crore people are engaged in this business...(Interruptions)

SHRI VIJAY GOEL: It is a gamble and you are supporting it...(Interruptions)

SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV: Please let me make my point...(Interruptions) It concerns the livelihood of 5 crore people...(Interruptions) The lottery business

[English]

This is already permitted under Seventh Schedule List-I Entry 4 of our Constitution.

[Translation]

My only submission is that it is the question of livelihood of 5 crore people...(Interruptions)

SHRI VIJAY GOEL: Many people are engaged in smuggling...(Interruptions)

SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV: I would like to submit that the lottery business should not be stopped...(Interruptions) Through you, I would like to request the Government that it is not a gamble...(Interruptions) It is a business and it should not be stopped...(Interruptions)

SHRI SHANKAR PRASAD JAISWAL (Varanasi): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the Government and this House towards a serious matter regarding the irregularities prevailing in

Kashi Hindu University. Law and order situation has been deteriorated in this University. I would like to put forth another point before you. Not a single research student has been given admission this year. Though Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee the Prime Minister of our country has given a slogan of 'Jan Vigyan' yet the chancellor of this University has stopped the research work. On one hand such irregularities are prevailing there and on the other hand funds of the University are being spent on litigation. It has become a practice in the University to go in for an appeal in the Supreme Court in the event of losing a case in the High Court. Even after losing in the Supreme Court. Orders of the Apex Court are not being complied with...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please state about the action to be taken. There are irregularities in the Banaras Hindi University. Ask about the steps which should be taken by the Union Government.

SHRI SHANKAR PRASAD JAISWAL: Eight crore rupees allotted for the maintenance of the building have also been misappropriated. Through you, I would like to request the Government to set up a Parliamentary Committee of 3 or 5 Members of Parliament to probe into the irregularities in this university and to take remedial action.

[*English*]

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY (Calcutta North West): Sir, the 'Vande Mataram' programme has been initiated by the Department of Youth Affairs and Sports since the 11th December, 1999 and will conclude on the 12th January, 2000, on the birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda.

The composer of 'Vande Mataram' was Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay. I would propose that at Vishwa Bharati, Shanti Niketan, founded by Kaviguru Rabindranath Tagore, a light and sound record system be introduced at this juncture so that in the new millennium, the recorded voices of Kaviguru Rabindranath Tagore and Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay could be heard.

I would also propose in the city of Calcutta, in the great Victoria Memorial Hall, the recorded voices of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose and other important famous personalities like Swami Vivekananda - on whose birth anniversary on the 12th January, the programme will conclude—can also be played in the form of a light and sound programme at the initiative of the Department of youth Affairs and Sports.

I would appeal to the Government to intimate the House about the programmes and proposals adopted by them.

[*Translation*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Had you not interrupted the proceedings earlier, you would have got the chance. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: If your name is in the list, you will get the chance to speak.

SHRI NAGMANI: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards an important issue relating to my Parliamentary Constituency Chatra. Recently, Union Government has proposed to develop a field firing range in Chatra—which will be spread over 518 villages of Chatra, Hartarganj and Barachati blocks. 17 types of minerals are found in Bihar. Not a single mineral factory has been set up in this area though the Government is going to develop a firing range there. Lakhs of unemployed people will get the employment opportunities if a mineral factory is set up there. There is no justification for developing Field firing range there. We have stated this in the midst of 50 thousand people of Chatra. In spite of that if firing range is developed there. I will commit self-immolation in Parliament and the responsibility will be that of the Government. Naxalite agitation is going on at large scale in the whole country. However, the reasons which are responsible for naxalite activities are being ignored. Nothing is being done for generating employment opportunities for educated unemployed. People will continue to become naxalites if mineral factory is not set up there. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Nagmani, please do not listen to them.

SHRI NAGMANI: Why are they interrupting, what right have they got to interrupt me?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You are a senior member. Should he be interrupted like this?

SHRI NAGMANI: Is he free to do all this being a senior member? Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to make a submission that for the last 8-10 days I am continuously giving notices to raise issues during zero hour. However, every time senior members get the opportunity to speak. We, the new members will not tolerate all this. I would like to state clearly that only few members start speaking every day as if only they are answerable for the whole country. If you do not listen to

[SHRI NAGMANI]

us, we will make a Union and would fight against this discrimination through this Union...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH (Aurangabad, Bihar): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is not that I am desperate to speak in this House. But since the issue was very important, I was trying to speak for the last five days. So, I thought that I would bring this to the notice of this august House.

Sir, in my constituency, in Aurangabad - you must have read it through papers - for the last four consecutive days, there have been firing and many people swing. The Railway Station has been burnt down and there is not a single law and order situation which is being taken care of.

I would like to bring this to the notice of the Government so that it better takes stock of the situation in Aurangabad, Jahanabad and Chatra - my colleague has just now spoken about it - and I request that necessary police action is taken. Thank you.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Sansuma Khunggur Bwismuthiary. Please be brief.

SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR BWISMUTHIARY (Kokrajhar): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am very much thankful for giving me an opportunity here.

[Translation]

I would like to draw the attention of the Union Government towards a very serious matter. Most of the people of our country worship Lord Krishna as a God but the Bodo language which was spoken by the in-laws of Lord Krishna is in neglected State. I want to draw your attention towards it. Till now 18 languages of our country have been included in the 8th Schedule of our Constitution. But, the 'Bodo' language which is a very rich language has not been included in the 8th Schedule of our Constitution even after the 52 years of our independence. It hurts the Bodo people the most. Union Government should include this language in the 8th schedule immediately because till now not a single tribal language of our country has been included in it. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: What do you want the Government to do?

SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR BWISMUTHIARY: I want the Government of India to take concrete steps to include Bodo language in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution without any further delay. Thank you.

[Translation]

SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MOHALE (Malegaon): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Union Government had formulated a drinking water scheme in Malegaon tehsil, district Nasik of Maharashtra 25 years ago. Hon'ble Shri Vajpayee had inaugurated it. The population of this area has increased from 50 thousand to one lakh. There is a acute problem of availability of drinking water, therefore, through you, I request the Union Government to double its capacity...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Christmas is falling on 25th. I have got an information that the christian community of Daang district of Gujarat state has been threatened by some Hindu Jagran Manch there. I would like to submit to the Central Government that Christmas is a main festival of Christian community. Ours is a secular country. The people of other religion should participate in Hindu festivals, Hindus are also required to participate in this Christian community's festival. But if somebody tries to threaten them, or try to create law and order problem, then will the Central Government fulfill its responsibility by providing security to the people of Christian community. The Minister of Law and Company Affairs is present here. I would like to ask him whether he is going to provide security to the Christian community or not? I am asking a question and the Government should reply to it...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI THIRUNAVUKARASU (Pudukottai): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister of Railways and the Central Government to the proposed indefinite strike of the Station Masters.

Sir, the All India Station Masters Association have given a notice to go on an indefinite strike. I would like to mention a few of their demands, like revising the minimum pay scale, grant of running allowance on par with the running staff, to vacate all the penalties imposed for trade union activities on 11.8.1997. These are the important issues which are lying long pending. They have given the strike notice. If they are allowed to go on strike, it would lead to a lot of hardships to the general public.

So, I would like to request the Central Government in general and the hon. Minister in particular, to call the Association for a meeting and settle the issue.

SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN (Sivaganga): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, foreign law firms are coming into India and they are issuing advertisements also in the Internet. The Delhi Bar Association has issued a notice to all the Indian law firms not to mention their names in the Internet. They have announced an agitation also. From tomorrow onwards the lawyers of the Delhi High Court and other courts are going to strike work in order to impress upon the Government to take a policy whether the foreign law firms should be allowed to practise in India on par with the Indian firms and also the policy regarding listing in the Internet and other booklets.

[Translation]

SHRI VIJAY GOEL: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, last night, the third part of the report regarding persons who have taken kickbacks in Bofors gun deal has been received in our country...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Vijay Goel, since this matter is pending before the Court. I have disallowed Shri Kirit Somaiya also to raise this subject.

[Translation]

SHRI VIJAY GOEL: I am raising the other issue. I would like to know from the Government, whether some other documents are yet to be obtained from other countries in addition to these papers...*(Interruptions)**

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record now.

...*(Interruptions)**

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN: Sir, *The Economic Times* and *The Hindu Business Times* and other leading newspapers have reported that the ICICI and its Chairman have submitted a Memorandum to the Minister of Finance to take up and liquidate certain banks.

I would request the Government to release the list of borrowers and defaulters who owe crores of rupees to the Indian Bank. An amount of Rs. 1,500 crore is due to the Indian Bank. Heavy borrowers are there.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: A Member from your Party has already raised this matter.

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN: I have given notice for the Indian Bank, whereas the Member has talked about other banks.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: He talked about the bank in any way.

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN: We can club our remarks. There are leeches and parasites in the Indian Bank. They have obtained loans but not paid a pie. One individual owe more than Rs. 200 crore.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: What do you want the Central Government to do?

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN: I have lost my lung power. I am trying from the morning, but I am unable to catch your eyes.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I cannot do that either, because I am observing a fast.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will be able to do justice now. Kindly ask what do you want the Government to do.

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN: There is no Government. Where is the Government? The Prime Minister's seat is vacant. The Home Minister's seat is vacant. Almost all the benches are vacant.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: In that case, why do you want to ask anything?

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN: We do not feel the existence of the Government. The Government will immediately say that it is going to release the list. The Parliament has a right to know about the borrowers. The Parliament is privileged to know, who are the borrowers. The poor people who stand in queue to get free rice or *dhotis* are exposed. I want all these sharks, leeches and parasites to be exposed to public. They should be watched by the public. Instead, they go in Benz cars. The heavy borrowers go in Benz cars. Let these people be exposed.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: What do you want the Government to do?

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN: Where is the Government? I am speaking in air. The Law Minister is here.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Is he not a part of the Government?

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN: He is a lawyer. I do not talk to him as a Minister.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: What do you want the Government to do?

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN: In the Supreme Court, a cover was given to the Justice Verma about the Indian black-listed borrowers. Even that was not released.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Pandiyan, you were the Speaker in Tamil Nadu Assembly. This is 'Zero Hour'. You have to pointedly mention an urgent public important matter but you are making the speech.

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN: It is an urgent matter, Sir. It appeared in all the newspapers. The Government is silent about privatisation and other things.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: If you do not have anything to ask, I will adjourn the House.

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN: If the Government want to answer it, it can do so. What are the steps taken by the Government, either in the Supreme Court case or in the Parliament, in this regard? The Parliament has a right to know.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned to meet at 1440 hours.

13.38 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned for Lunch till Forty Minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.

14.45 hrs.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch at Forty-Five Minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.

[SHRI BASU DEV ACHARIA *in the Chair*]

CENTRAL VIGILANCE COMMISSION BILL*

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shrimati Vasundhara Raje to move for leave to introduce the Central Vigilance Commission Bill.

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN (Tirunelveli): There is a constitutional point on this Bill, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Let the Minister move first.

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN: It cannot be moved. It is dictated by the Supreme Court. It has given three decisions.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Pandiyan, you have not given any notice.

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN: I have told the hon. Speaker this morning.

MR. CHAIRMAN: But the rule is, if you have to oppose the introduction of a Bill, you have to give notice before 10 o'clock. You have not done that.

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN: This is for the sovereignty of the Parliament; not for anything else.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please take your seat.

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN: In the Havala case the Supreme Court has said that this shall be done immediately.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): Sir, if you have not permitted him, this should not go on record. This is strange.

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN: I am not opposed to the Bill. I am for it. I want to uphold the sovereignty of Parliament.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please take your seat, Shri Pandiyan. You have made your point.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj): While we support the introduction of the Bill, I would like to make only one submission. I would like to inform the hon. Minister that in the name of canvassing for the Bill, the Chairman of the CVC is not entitled to send letters to MPs. before the hon. Minister brings the Bill to the House. This is very unfair. I hope the Minister will take note of it.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): I beg

*Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2, dated 20.12.99.

to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the constitution of a Central Vigilance Commission to inquire or cause inquiries to be conducted into offences alleged to have been committed under the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 by certain categories of public servants of the Central Government, corporations established by or under any Central Act, Government companies, societies and local authorities owned or controlled by the Central Government and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the constitution of a Central Vigilance Commission to inquire or cause inquiries to be conducted into offences alleged to have been committed under the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 by certain categories of public servants of the Central Government, corporations established by or under any Central Act, Government companies, societies and local authorities owned or controlled by the Central Government and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto."

The motion was adopted.

SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE: I introduce the Bill.

14.48 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

- (I) **Need to Include Bogies of Second Class in 'Kangra Queen' and Extend It upto Jogendra Nagar in Himachal Pradesh**

[*Translation*]

SHRI MAHESHWAR SINGH (Mandi): Sir, with the grace of Minister of Railways, the 'Kangra Queen' which was introduced this year on the lines of 'Himalayan Queen' on Pathankot-Jogendra Nagar railway lines runs upto Palampur only. When this train was introduced, we were assured that for the time being, the train is being run on experimental basis upto Palampur only and if experiment proves to be successful it will be extended up to Jogendra Nagar, district Mandi.

Sir, according to my information, till now this train has not been successful from the economic point of view. The reason behind it is because all the boggies of the train are of first class and it is difficult rather impossible to get first class passengers in such a large number in

this area. When gradually, the basic facilities will become available at tourist spots of Kangra valley and Mandi district, then definitely the number of present boggies will not be enough to meet the demand and the demand to attach more first class boggies to the train will also be made. But at present, I would like to suggest that like Himalayan Queen more and more boggies of second class should be attached to this train and there should be only one first class boggy. If this is done, this train will not only earn profit for Railways, but the local people will also get transportation facility in true sense. At the same time, I would like to request that this train service should be extended upto Jogendra Nagar, so that alongwith the people of Kangra district, the people of my constituency should also be benefited, as per assurance given earlier.

- (II) **Need to include fishermen caste of Andhra Pradesh in Scheduled Tribe list**

[*English*]

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU (Srikakulam): There are about 60 lakh traditional fishermen in Andhra Pradesh with different caste names such as Goondia, Gandaputra and Bestha in Telangana region, Agnikula, Kshatriya, Vada Balga, Kandra, Jabri Neyallu, Vasikyakula Kshatriya and Pattapu and Palli in coastal region. They have demanded that the fishermen community be included in the ST list.

A delegation of fishermen of Andhra Pradesh met the hon. Prime Minister in March, 1999 and urged him for introducing a Bill regarding inclusion of fishermen community in the ST list. But, there is hardly any progress made in this regard.

The fishermen of Andhra Pradesh are a poor lot who are oppressed by the vagaries of nature. They have to fight for their livelihood throughout the year. They need assistance from the Union Government for procuring modern mechanised trolley boat and gadgets for better catch and safety of their lives from the hazards of sea storm etc.

The Andhra Pradesh Government from their side have done their best to help them by constructing 25,000 houses for traditional fishermen and identifying them to provide tools under Adama Schemes. But, if their demand for inclusion in ST list is fulfilled, they will be benefitted a lot for getting assistance under component plan of SCs/ STs and other schemes like DRI Scheme etc.

Hence, I request the Union Government to initiate early action to include fishermen community of Andhra Pradesh in the Scheduled Tribes list at an early date.

(III) Need to Link Varanasi in U.P. by Air*[Translation]*

SHRI SHANKAR PRASAD JAISWAL (Varanasi): The cultural capital of India, Varanasi is one of the main tourist centres of the world and every year thousands of tourists from every part of the world visit this place. Varanasi is the centre of three main religions of the world. Varanasi is an important place for the followers of Bodh, Hindu and Jain religions.

Kashi Hindu Vishvavidyalaya is an internationally renowned university where foreign students and scholars pay regular visits. Alongwith this, the city has other four universities.

Varanasi, Mirzapur and Bhadohi are also famous for carpet production and its trading. Most of the people engaged in this trade have to pay regular visits abroad. At the same time, thousands of traders engaged in export of silk textile, Banarasi Sari, toys of Banaras and artificial pearls also visit other countries regularly. From the tourism point of view, internationally famous Ghats of Varanasi attract thousands of international tourists. Varanasi is not only the religious capital, but also is famous as a cultural centre, and is associated with international trade also. It has links with the main cities of the world. In view of this, it is essential to link Varanasi by air with all the important cities, trade centres and cultural places of the world. It is also important that Varanasi is situated between the international airports of Delhi and Calcutta. The international flights can easily pass through Varanasi also.

Therefore, I request the Central Government to introduce an international air service from Varanasi.

(iv) Need for construction of high level bridges over rivers Ravi and Beas on Gurdaspur-Mukerian Road and Gurdaspur-Kathua Road respectively*[English]*

SHRI VINOD KHANNA (Gurdaspur): In my constituency, Gurdaspur, there is a need to construct two high-level bridges over rivers Ravi and Beas on Gurdaspur Mukerian Road and Gurdaspur Kathua Road which have rendered people of either side of both Ravi and Beas immobile. Incredibly, the water flowing into the rivers within the country illustrates more in the nature of an LOC on the border. The fact is that the poor farmers of Punjab have to pay heavy toll taxes to Jammu and Kashmir and Himachal Pradesh and bear double transportation costs to enter into Punjab from Punjab. It is because re-routing costs them a stretch upto 80 kilometres and more. Therefore, construction of these bridges is of such vital importance and indispensable since even the produce of

small farmers decays wherever it grows. People of either parts of the rivers Ravi and Beas do not marry in one another's families. I demand that construction of these two bridges may be brought under the jurisdiction of National Highway Authority of India through the Government funding or construction may be permitted on the basis of Central Loan Assistance Programme for State Roads in respect of Inter-State Roads because of economic importance.

(v) Need to provide financial assistance to State Government of Rajasthan for providing relief to the people affected by famine*[Translation]*

SHRI BHERU LAL MEENA (Salumber): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the hon'ble Prime Minister towards the severe famine condition prevailing in the country especially in Rajasthan where the condition is worse than other parts of the country. It is submitted to the Prime Minister that adequate funds should be allotted to Rajasthan to initiate the famine relief measures timely so that the poor unemployed people could be saved from starvation. People have been rendered unemployed due to the absence of famine relief measures. Failure of rain this year has also severely affected both the crops resulting in negligible production. There is a large scale scarcity of drinking water for common men and the cattle. The redressal of the problems of drinking water, wages, fodder for cattle, supply of foodgrains is absolutely essential. The quota of wheat should be increased to 10-15 kg per person and should be made available at fair price shop. Handpumps should be installed for solving the problem of drinking water. The wells already existing should be deepened and new wells should be dug immediately.

The Rajasthan Government should be provided Rs. 25 thousands crore for the early implementation of the said schemes so that the affected section of the population could be provided relief.

(vi) Need to ensure availability of good quality seeds at subsidised rates to the farmers of Bihar through Central Agencies*[English]*

SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH (Aurangabad, Bihar): Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards the poor condition of farmers in the country, particularly farmers in Aurangabad District of Bihar which is my Parliamentary constituency.

The farmers in Bihar are presently facing scarcity of high quality wheat seeds and this has dashed the hopes of the farmers who may have nursed hopes of making

good the losses they had suffered owing to the floods that ravaged vast areas of Bihar earlier this year. As the wheat sowing season comes to a close, there is little hope of availability of subsidised and certified wheat seeds that the State Government used to provide them in the past. As a result thereof, the farmers have been forced to either buy sub-standard or spurious seeds at high rates or to forego sowing the wheat crop. A large number of poor, small and marginal farmers are being forced to opt for the poor quality seeds which may result in a shortfall in the production of wheat. This is the third consecutive year in which the farmers have suffered. Last year, no seeds could be distributed even after the State Cabinet's decision to provide seeds to farmers free of cost in the flood hit districts.

Keeping in view the poor condition of farmers in Bihar and particularly in Aurangabad District, I urge upon the Government to take immediate steps to provide good quality seeds and at a subsidised price to the farmers there through the Central Government agencies/the PSUs directly.

(vii) Need to shift Office of Central Railway from Mumbai to Nagpur

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR (Nagpur): Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Minister that Nagpur is a major transshipment centre for goods. It has the advantage of central location. With the passage of time, the generation of goods cargo in and around Nagpur especially coal, foodgrains, oranges and cement has increased. The Government of India as well as the Maharashtra Government are promoting Nagpur as a multi-modal hub for air, surface and rail transportation.

Mumbai being the over-crowded place, the shifting of Office of the Central Railway will remove the congestion and improve the functioning of the Central Railway Office.

Therefore, there is an urgent need to shift the Office of the Central Railway at Nagpur which is an obvious centre of India and not Mumbai. It has also been pointed out that there will be no financial loss to the Railways for shifting as it has also acquired 5000 acres of land for this purpose. Mumbai is at present having both the Offices of Western Railway and the Central Railway.

The people of Nagpur have also been demanding that this Central Railway Office should be established at Nagpur. This will also remove the congestion and over-crowding that the Mumbai Office at present is facing. The shifting of Central Railway Office to Nagpur will give a boost to the Region and also will help in generating wealth and improve efficiency in working. The Maharashtra

Government is also keen to have this Office shifted from Mumbai to Nagpur.

Sir, I, therefore, request that the Ministry of Railways should consider the demand for shifting the Office of the Central Railway from Mumbai to Nagpur.

(viii) Need for revival and modernisation of Indian Iron and Steel Co. Ltd., Burnpur, West Bengal

SHRI BIKASH CHOWDHURY (Asansol): Sir, I like to draw the attention of the House to the overall modernisation of Indian Iron and Steel Co. Ltd., Bumpur near Asansol, prime Steel Plant of India. The Steel Plant was nationalised in 1979 with an object of modernisation of this plant. Since then, several proposals for modernisation of IISCO have been mooted, but the Central Government has not been able to take decision on such a vital matter for the last twenty years.

In this connection, I like to submit that IISCO has ownership of vast properties consisting of large and valuable reserves of quality iron ore in the mines of Monohorpur, Gua and Chiria, several coking coal mines, Kulti works, manufacturer of Span Pines, etc. alongwith other raw materials, required for the Ideal Steel Plant.

In the later stage, one proposal for the Joint Venture with T.P.E., a Russian firm was mooted with the Steel Authority of India Limited having 51 per cent share and the cost of modernisation was estimated at Rs. 2,107 crore in 1997. Almost all the Unions, promoters and others agreed to such a package, but the Central Government has not been able to take a clear decision for implementation of this package yet. On the other hand, the workforce has already been reduced and existing workmen have already sacrificed so many facilities in the interest of modernisation of the Steel Plant. In view of this, I strongly urge upon the Ministry of Steel to consider revival and modernisation of IISCO without any further delay.

(ix) Need to bring relief, rehabilitation and resettlement of the people affected by natural calamities in the list of works to be taken under MPLADS

SHRI HOLKHOMANG HAOKIP (Outer Manipur): Sir, the Government of India, on the 23rd December, 1993 announced the MPs Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS). Detailed guidelines on the scheme concept, implementation and monitoring of MPLADS were issued subsequently. Pursuant to these guidelines, the

[SHRI HOLKHOMANG HAKIP]

Department of Programme Implementation has been issuing circulars from time to time on matters relating to operational details.

My simple and earnest request to the Government is that the MPs should be allowed to utilise the MPLADS fund for the relief, rehabilitation and resettlement of the people who are affected by cyclone, flood, drought, riot ethnic clash etc., not only in their respective constituencies, but also in other parts of the country. For such noble and benevolent pursuits, hon. Members be allowed to sanction any amount of money from the earmarked MPLADS fund (Rs. Two crore). I urge upon the Government to kindly incorporate this work of relief, rehabilitation and resettlement of the people in the list of works that can be taken up under MPLADS.

- (x) **Need to provide financial assistance to make Pyrite Phosphate Chemicals Ltd., in Rohtas District of Bihar viable.**

[Translation]

SHRI RAM PRASAD SINGH (Arrah): Mr. Chairman, Sir, there are a huge deposit of Sulphur pyrites in Kaiyur series of hills at Amjhor in Rohtas district of Bihar. The Government of India approved the setting up of a single super phosphate fertilizer plant based on this pyrite in 1986. This approval was in the form of a pilot plant to test the feasibility of this scheme so that a big plant could be set up here. Owing to the relentless efforts on the part of the workers and the technical experts, success has been achieved in this regard. But due to the liberal industrial policy and reduction in subsidy and cut throat competition in the market we could not mobilise the sufficient funds for it. The Government of India also could not be able to provide the adequate funds.

Sulphur is not available in elementary forms in India. All the fertilizer producing companies engaged in phosphate production have to remain dependent upon imported sulphur for the production of sulphuric acid being used in Chemical industries. There are about 275 million tonnes of Sulphur pyrite deposits at Amjhor in Rohtas district of Bihar. It is the largest deposit in the world. The Government of India has set up a pilot plant also for the production of sulphuric acid of iron pyrite for single super phosphate fertilizer under the Retention Price Scheme. The plant has been running for the last ten years but is on the verge of closure because of financial constraints. Consequently, about 1500 workers and officers working in this plant are facing the problem of starvation.

I would therefore, request the Government of India to provide financial assistance under a special scheme

to this institution so that all the workers working in the plant could be saved.

- (xi) **Need to ensure direct entry of persons coming from Pakistan to visit their relatives residing in Malerkotla, Punjab.**

[English]

SHRI SIMRANJIT SINGH MANN (Sangrur): Sir, Muslims residing in Malerkotla in my constituency and other parts of Punjab, face a great difficulty in receiving their relatives visiting them from Pakistan. The Pakistanis visiting their relatives in Punjab do not get a direct visa for Malerkotla, Punjab. They are sent to Delhi first. After the Police agencies give a clearance to them to visit Malerkotla and other parts in Punjab, then only they are allowed to travel to Punjab.

Punjab is no longer a disturbed area. My Muslim constituents are too poor to travel and live in Delhi till their Pakistani relatives get permission to visit them in Malerkotla, Punjab. I demand from the Government of India to take the following steps to mitigate this problem:

- (a) Since Punjab is a peaceful State, the Pakistani Muslims be given visa directly to go to Malerkotla and other parts of Punjab; and
- (b) Immediate steps be taken to allow them direct entry into Punjab.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, the House will take up item No. 12.

SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL (Patan): Sir, my name is there. I was informed by the Table Office.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Your name is not in the list.

SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL: Sir, it is a very serious and an important item.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You can raise it tomorrow.

15.09 hrs.

VICE PRESIDENT'S PENSION (AMENDMENT) BILL*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, Shri L.K. Advani will move the Bill to amend the Vice-President's Pension Act, 1977 be taken into Consideration.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I beg to move* "That the Bill further to amend the Vice-President's Pension Act, 1997 be taken into consideration".

Mr. Chairman, Sir, it is a small Bill. There are only two clauses in it and in a way, the suggestions given by some hon'ble members during the discussion of this Bill in the House when the provision of Pension at first, was made in 1997; are being implemented. upto 1997, the Vice-President was not entitled to get the pension and as per Constitution the Vice-President is the ex-officio Chairman of the Rajya Sabha and the salary he used to to get, was given as an officer of the Parliament.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, it was felt in 1997 that the Government should make a change in the situation and a provision for providing pension should be made. Vice-President's Pension Act come into force in 1997. During the discussion over this Bill, it was expressed that the facilities and amenities provided under the Act are not in tune with the dignity of the post of the Vice-President and it was also somewhere mentioned in the Bill that the residence which the Vice-Presidents gets after his retirement, will be equivalent to that given to a Deputy Minister, etc.

Sir, today, the Bill which I am moving on behalf of the Government contains all these provisions. Besides this, it is also being provided under the Bill that as the salary of the President was hiked to Rs. 40 thousand per month, hence this pension after retirement will be Rs. 20 thousand per month. These provisions have been made in it. Besides, several other minor provisions have also been added in it like the official expenditure have been raised from Rs. 6000 to 12000 per annum. Some provisions have also been made for the spouse or any other person after his retirement on the same lines as for the spouse or any other person of the MPs and due to this the section 3 of unanimously, we will move on.

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj): Sir, as the principal Opposition party, we would like to address through you to the hon. Minister — the House will agree — that the position of the Vice-President stands in such a dignified manner in the entire framework of the Constitution that this particular Bill should not be discussed and debated. It should be passed straightaway.

*Introduced/moved with the recommendation of the President.

[Translation]

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: I am grateful to you.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That the Bill to amend the Vice-President's Pension Act, 1997, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House shall now take up clause by clause consideration of the Bill.

The question is:

"That clause 2 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 2 was added to the Bill.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That clause 1, Enacting Formula and the Title stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Title were added to the Bill.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: I beg to move:

"That the Bill be passed."

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That the Bill be passed."

The motion was adopted.

15.14 hrs.

CENTRAL INDUSTRIAL SECURITY FORCE (AMENDMENT AND VALIDATION) BILL

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: We shall now take up Item No. 13

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): I beg to move:

"That the Bill further to amend the Central Industrial Security Force Act, 1968, and to validate certain revision petitions disposed of under the rules made under the said Act, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration."

Sir, it was in 1968 that the CISF was raised and given a statutory status by the adoption of a CISF Act 1968. The concept was that we have so many public undertakings and there was need for creation of a special security apparatus for these industrial undertakings.

Sir, the Central Security Force serves this purpose. But it has been experienced that the Government of India has to attend to the security of several other sections which may not strictly fall within the definition of public undertakings. Take for example, all places and establishments connected with Atomic Energy or Space. Now, we need securities for them. But the law itself says that this particular CISF will be used for public undertakings; those particular Government bodies do not come within the purview. One purpose of today's Amendment is to ensure that the CISF can be used for other Government units also, which may not strictly fall within the purview of a public undertaking. Also, because of the changes that have been coming about in the economic set up and because of the fact that the CISF has developed a kind of an expertise in the matter of security, which even private institutions and private undertakings would like to avail of, a provision is being made to allow CISF to be a consultant to such undertakings, which are not public undertakings but private undertakings.

These are the two purposes for which this Central Industrial Security Force (Amendment and Validation) Bill has been brought. It has already been passed by the Rajya Sabha, and, therefore, as passed by the Rajya Sabha, I have come to this House to secure its endorsement.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Motion moved:

"That the Bill further to amend the Central Industrial Security Force Act, 1968, and to validate certain revision petitions disposed of under the rules made under the said Act, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration."

There is an amendment to the Motion for Consideration of the Bill.

Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi, are you moving?

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, I am not moving the amendment but I will certainly make a few observations.

Sir, the hon. Home Minister has just stated the objectives of this Central Industrial Security Force (Amendment and Validation) Bill, 1999, which is before the House.

There are serious concerns among the CISF cadres, senior officials about their fate in future.

Sir, I quite share with the observation of the hon. Home Minister that in the changed scenario both in the economic front and political front, deployment of officials, specially of the paramilitary forces are the order of the day. But in the case of CISF, this Amendment says one thing, which did not specify and clarify as to what it means. It says:

"Any such other duties as may be entrusted to it by the Central Government"

Further, Section 7 of the principal Act says:

"(h) any other duty which may be entrusted to him by the Central Government from time to time."

Also I understand that the scope of this Bill is to provide consultancy to the private industrial houses. Maybe in the long run, the meaning of 'industry' as it is given here, 'private industrial houses, Indian partnership firm in any manner or form', CISF could be asked to go there; and even to those places where CRPF, BSF or other IPS cadres are functioning in whatever form or nature of the duty it may be.

My first objection to this Amendment is that this subject was dealt with thoroughly in the Fifty-fourth Report of the Standing Committee of the Home Affairs where this matter was discussed in depth after gathering information from all quarters.

Finally, this Standing Committee was of the opinion that in future the parity of these officers who are coming from the Civil Services Examination and other details should be examined first. The Ministry of Home Affairs thereafter, in response to the Standing Committee's observation, formed one Committee, headed by the then Special Secretary, Mr. Nikhil Kumar. I understand the second Committee was also formed which was headed by Mr. Kakkar, and they made certain recommendations. Nikhil Kumar's recommendations were not very clear. Therefore, another Committee was set up which was

headed by Mr. Kakkar. The recommendations are not known to us. But in the light of the recommendations, the Home Minister should explain how the Government came forward with this Bill.

Therefore, the change of nature of duties as envisaged in the CISF (Amendment and Validation) Bill should also be coupled with the issue of these directly recruited officers of CISF, in consonance with the 54th report of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Home which had discussed this issue at length and recommended reallocation of the direct officers of CISF into IPS or any other Group 'A' Civil Service. Here the amendment is silent.

The direct Group 'A' officers of CISF have qualified the same Civil Services Examination meant for intake of IPS. These officers have undergone the same foundation course meant for the IPS and the other Central Group 'A' Civil Services, and moreover, they also underwent the same indoor and outdoor training as that of an IPS officer. All restrictions imposed on IPS in Rules 4 and 17 were imposed on direct Group 'A' officers of CISF but not on direct officers of CRPF, BSF and ITBP. In this context, it may be mentioned that even Group 'B' officers of State or Provincial Police Services are conferred with IPS after certain years of service.

Even the Fifth Central Pay Commission has recommended for merger of isolated posts with an organized cadre in the same Ministry or outside as per annexure 224(1) of the Report of the Fifth Pay Commission.

The Home Minister must clarify this position in regard to the future of these officers. The Home Minister may come out with a statement straightaway saying that this is not a problem of directly recruited officers of CISF but there are similar other problems of the paramilitary forces.

I would like to address the hon. Home Minister through you that of the entire paramilitary forces in the country CISF is the only paramilitary force whose officers are selected through Combined Civil Services Examination. Thus, there is no question of clubbing them with others together. This is my submission to the Home Minister.

Some of the officers in CISF were allotted other Group 'A' services like IPS, Audit and Accounts, Railways but were not permitted to join them due to rules existing in the past.

Therefore, I would humbly submit to the hon. Home Minister that there is a very strong IPS lobby both in the Ministry of Home Affairs and in the entire bureaucracy

(*Interruptions*) Please do not take it otherwise. I met some of the officers and I can tell the hon. Minister that some of such bright officers, even the women, are suffering, even for their status and rank: At the same time, when an IPS officer who is now DG or DIG in CISF is asked to go and take, they even cannot become Commodore. So, this kind of disparities are still there.

While candidates selected for IPS and for Central Group 'A' Services can take extension for one year to appear at the Civil Service Examination, an IPS officer will be eligible to appear for IAS, IFS and Central Group 'A' Services. Central Group 'A' officer can also appear for IAS, IFS and IPS.

The CISF recruitment rules were not changed accordingly after the recruitment in CISF started through Civil Services Examination, and there was no initiative on the part of CISF to change the same to bring parity with other Central Services included in Civil Services Examination list.

The Department had never been honoured such parity as mentioned even though the same was upheld by the Delhi Bench of CAT in some cases.

Now, I would urge upon the hon. Minister that while such restrictions — rule 4 and 17 — are based on the parity among higher Civil Servants, what action has the Ministry of Home Affairs taken to give these officers such parity in the Service Conditions?

I can cite so many examples or cases of so many officers. I have with me, cases of at least 15 bright officers, who had been victimised. I do not like to quote by taking much time of the House. Out of these officers, three of the officers were women.

There are many officers in CISF who were selected for the IPS, IRAS, IRTS and IRPS and were not allowed to join the same on account of rule 4 and 17 on the premise that all Central Group A Civil Services stand on equal footing.

15.26 hrs.

(SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA *In the Chair*)

Therefore, it would have been better if the hon. Minister of Home Affairs considered it fit, without getting it passed today — I have withdrawn my amendment as I do not want to embarrass the hon. Minister — to have a look into the whole thing, if not sending it further to the Standing Committee on Home Affairs and come out again with the Bill. It is because, one of the observations

[SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI]

of the Committee that was appointed is not clear to us, even to the House. Since it was not clear, and on the recommendations of the Standing Committee, you have appointed another Committee — Kakkar Committee, I think, it is not reflected in this Bill. It would have been more proper to ensure justice or whether the hon. Minister of Home Affairs will ensure the House that if there are lapses where my observations have not been put into effect to protect the interests, the parity and other things of the CISF cadre, will he come out with some relevant rules along with this amendment in future course to see that their future, ambition, status and their long duration of service -- they have a better mental faculty — are not disturbed with?

After all, spending such a long time in the service, the same kind of batchmates are facing different kinds of treatment. It is not fair also for the homogeneity of the system for which your Bill is got that you have to deploy them for other activities and other duties.

Therefore, I would like very sincerely to address the hon. Minister to look into the issue. I will just explain a few attributes of Group A Civil Services.

"The highest cadre post is not below the rank of Joint Secretary

It has all standard time scales

At least 50 per cent of the vacancies in junior time scale are filled by direct recruitment.

All vacancies above junior time scale and up to Senior Administrative Grade (SAG) are filled by promotion from the lower grade.

The Senior scale to these officers is given in the 5th year, the JAG in the 9th year, the SAG in the 14 year as per time scale. They will be eligible for Joint Secretary/IG after 16th year subject to DPC.

All direct officers at Junior scale of a particular year are bunched together and placed at the top of the existing vacancies of a particular year followed by the promotee officers at the bottom.

Feeder cadre for these Group A services should be a Group B service with a minimum of six years of service.

It is mandatory that there is no deputation till the level of JAG.

They are all eligible for central deputation pool."

These are the attributes of Group 'A' Civil Services.

CISF could not appear before many Committees because they have no organised associations and three of their representations have been turned down on so many occasions.

Now, the example can be cited about some of the sections of the Ministry of Home Affairs as to how they could be amalgamated. There are instances how on earlier occasions such things had happened. I will just give an example for the information of the hon. Minister — I hope he is in possession of such an information — that earlier, the recommendations of the National Police Commission in regard to the status and promotional alternatives, which recommended certain things by Shri Nikhil Kumar.

"According to the Committee's recommendations (accepted by the Government), the faulty system of fixation of seniority in CISF (Rota Quota System), has been discontinued and quota of deputation from the IPS has been reduced. Since the seniority of direct officers cannot be changed retrospectively, it is simply not going to have any effect on their plight."

Therefore, the recommendation which the other Committee, that is, the Kakkar Committee has made, also requires to be seen, and since we are not in the knowledge of that recommendation, it is difficult at this stage to make any contribution in the light of the amendments because we do not know whether the recommendation of the Kakkar Committee also has been reflected in these amendments or not.

I would, therefore, humbly submit that please do not cover them under rule 4 and 17 of the Civil Services Examination. If you are sincere to engage them in any other duties, maintaining their status, their promotional avenues at par, then have a re-look at the entire thing and if the lapses are there, either frame rules and regulations or the hon. Minister may not insist on the Bill to be passed today. He himself can *suo motu* refer it for further examination by the Standing Committee in the light of the two recommendations which are expected to come before the House, that is, (i) the Nikhil Kumar Committee's recommendation which is lying with you, and (ii) the Kakkar Committee's recommendation. I would humbly appeal to the Home Minister that without making any hurry, he should have a direct interaction at his level with the CISF officials, without leaving it to be interacted by the bureaucracy because there is an apprehension and fear that these officers will not be given justice by the existing cadre, the IPS, in the Home Ministry.

With these, words, I conclude and hope that the Home Ministry will very favourably respond to remove the anxiety, apprehension and anguish of the CISF cadre.

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI (Garhwal): Thank you, Madam Chairperson. I rise to support the Bill with certain suggestions. My suggestions are in two parts. In the first part, I would like to make some comments, some minor observations on the various clauses that have been included in this Bill, and in the second part, I would also like to dwell on what Shri Dasmunsi has just now stated.

In clause 2 of the Bill, the only change from the existing Bill is that the words "and to provide technical consultancy services to industrial establishments in the private sector" have been added. This is the only addition to the title and I do not know whether the various major changes that have been included in the Bill would really legally tenable. This may please be looked into because we are changing the major issues but we are not changing the title. If those issues are also to be brought in, then, may be, the title would also need to be suitably modified.

About clause 3, it has nothing to do with this Bill, but just I want to bring to the Home Minister's notice that we are referring to the Indian Partnership Act of 1932. I think it is time that somebody should look into it and update it. My suggestion is that even if this 1932 Act is to be reproduced and some minor changes are to be made, then it should be updated and we should not go by an Act which has been made in 1932.

There is an existing omnibus provision in clause 4 of the existing Bill and, therefore, I do not know why various additional things are being included. We have this omnibus clause which says: "and to perform such other duties as may be entrusted to it by the Central Government". Was this clause by itself not sufficient to get the many types of duties or was it necessary to specifically add some duties into it and then also close the scope for any duties other than those duties? Therefore, when you say in clause 3 that such and such shall be inserted, that means we have both the clauses—the omnibus clause as well as the specific clauses...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV (Sambhal) Shri Khanduri, you were a supporter of Swadeshi, but now you are speaking in a foreign language.

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI: All right, I shall speak in Hindi Hon'ble Minister has included some penalties through para 5. As was mentioned earlier that the terms and conditions of the service have been changed by the Government. Is it legally tenable to do

so without the consent of the people? Several penalties have been introduced. Is it legally tenable to do so?

No attention has been paid to sub class 2 of para 6. It is stated in Sub-clause 2 of Section 9:

[English]

"In disposing of an appeal, the prescribed authority shall follow such procedure as may be prescribed."

[Translation]

This clause grants full authority to adopt any procedure. Hence, it is not clear as to why sub-clause 2(a) and (b) have been added. I am unable to comprehend the reasons therefor.

There is a phrase in para 7—"owned and funded". I would like to know whether all these institutions are fully funded or partially funded by the Government? This problem may arise later on. Funds are being provided by the Government. Some other institutions are also funding them and they might have been receiving some financial assistance from the World Bank also. Please look into it whether this point has been covered therein or not.

Secondly, I would also like to say something regarding the point made by Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi. This point has been taken up in detail in the 54th Report. The terms and conditions of the Services of CISF Officers—who have been granted relaxation by UPSC—are being changed. It is not appropriate to do so. This point has been discussed in detail in 54th Report and para 117 to para 130 of the Report are devoted to this point. I would like to quote only para 129 and 130. It is stated in para 129:

[English]

"129. The Committee feels that due to faulty and skewed personnel policies followed in CISF (e.g. ROTA QUOTA System etc.) taking its toll, and due to lack of initiative on the part of CISF/MHA in the last 10-12 years to rectify these faults, an irreparable damage has already been done to these officers which cannot be reversed by Cadre Review as stated by the Special Secretary before the Committee. Their promotions will continue to remain vacancy based due to the need based deployment pattern of CISF. ..."

[Translation]

Much harm has already been done. It will be injustice to them if their service conditions are changed and they are transferred to paramilitary cadre from UPSC Cadre. Again it is mentioned in para 130:

[MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI]

[English]

"The Committee expresses its deep concern over the issue and strongly recommend reallocation of the direct Group 'A' officers of CISF who were recruited through Civil Services Examination into Indian Police Service (IPS) or in other Group 'A' services in order to settle their grievances'.

[Translation]

In this regard, I would like to say to Hon'ble Minister that this demand is justified. There are about 150 officers which include both male and female officers. Appropriate provision should be made for these officials. This is not a new suggestion. Earlier also, there has been an instance of Indian Frontier Administrative Group B Service. They were in Group 'A' Service and were brought under Frontier Service. Similarly, their demand is justified. I urge upon you to accept it. I request you to clarify it in your statement so as to boost their morale.

With these words, I support the Bill and conclude.

[English]

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (Hoogly): Madam Chairman, I rise to oppose the Bill because as a direct consequence of the disastrous policy of disinvestment, one of the casualties of that process is the CISF. The Central Industrial Security Forces was set up to ensure security to the public sector industrial establishments. Now, through this Amendment, two basic proposals are being made. One is, this particular Force will render security assistance to the private sector, of course, against payment of, maybe subsequently, a very token and nominal fee. Second is, there are 140 and odd officers in the Central Industrial Security Force who were recruited through the combined All India examination. Among the Central paramilitary forces, CISF is the only paramilitary forces which has its officers selected through the combined Civil Services examination. But now, changes are proposed to be made in the nature of their duties. They are going to be deployed to curb militancy; and these people, who were trained to ensure security in our important and vital industrial establishments, will be provided for MPs, and even for VVIP or VIP duties. This is humiliation which no right-thinking person can tolerate. These people who sat for these Combined Services Examinations, some of them were offered All India services like IAS and IPS, but they were not allowed to join the services. Now, the nature of their duties are being changed.

Some of the Committees might have gone through this issue. My colleague on the other side had made a

mention to Shri Nikhil Kumar Committee. This Committee had submitted its Report and the Action Taken Report which, to my mind, is not very specific about the role of these officers, on how parity can be ensured to them in respect of seniority, promotion, discontinuation of the rota/quota system, and also parity in respect of pay-scales. I think, the Government is very evasive on this particular issue.

I think, there is another Committee which was set up, to which a reference has already been made, that is, the Kakkar Committee. I would like to know from the hon. Home Minister about the recommendations, if there are any, that might have been made by this Committee. I am saying this because the National Police Commission, very recently, has made a specific recommendations that parity should be ensured to these people. But the Government, I think, is yet to spell out its reaction to the recommendations made by the National Police Commission.

A reference has been made to the Fifty-fourth Report of the Standing Committee where the Committee expressed its deep concern over the issue and strongly recommended the reallocation of these direct Group 'A' officers of CISF, who were recruited through All India Civil Services examination, into either the Indian Police Service or any other Group 'A' Services in order to settle their grievances. Instead of taking into account the unanimous recommendation of the Standing Committee contained in its Fifty-fourth Report, the Government is now proposing to make changes which will have far-reaching consequences in the services itself. It will be ultimately dismantled and it will be misused.

Madam, I am making a reference to the Bill; I am trying to be very much relevant to that. It is mentioned here:

"The Central Industrial Security Force have achieved specialisation in the field of industrial security."

Sir, now all those persons who have achieved that specialisation would be deployed for taking care of the MPs to ensure their security. This is a gross misuse of their talent and their training which have been imparted on public money only.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: The hon. Minister is considering the MPs as industrial units...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: Madam Chairperson, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government has any concrete thinking about the merger of this service. It has been mentioned by my colleague

from that side that in case of some 'B' Group officers, their service has been merged with the All India Services. Why not, this service is also merged with the All India Services? They are competent and talented officers, who had been given offers to join the IPS and such other Services but deprived themselves of joining those Services and joined the CISF. Now, after so long a period of their efficient and competent service to the nation, they are being humiliated by being asked to render service to the private sector.

Madam Chairperson, how would the private sector use their services? They are at their discretion. We cannot permit our own people, who have been trained by public money, to be grossly thrown at the mercy of the private sector who would be using their services for pittance.

I would like to make a suggestion that these officers of the CISF should be considered, through amendments, for inclusion or for joining the All India Services. They should be granted parity in matters of promotion, in matters of seniority, and in matters of pay scales. Only then we can support this Bill. Otherwise, we cannot support it. Moreover, they should never be allowed to render services to the private sector. There are umpteen number of areas in the industrial establishments and in such other areas where militancy is on the rise and where the Government has a re-thinking on tackling insurgency and containing militancy. Things are happening on a daily basis — sometimes in Bihar, sometimes in Madhya Pradesh and sometimes in Andhra Pradesh.

Madam Chairperson, only today some hon. Members from that side were speaking about providing security to the communication installations, like telephones and such other things, in the State of Andhra Pradesh and such other areas. There are so many areas which need protection. I think, the services of the CISF should be used for giving protection to Government establishments and for giving protection to the public sector establishments.

Madam, Chairperson, I would finally like to repeat that the officers of the CISF should be given parity; they should be considered for selection to the All India Services, which they are quite competent to enter.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balaore): Madam Chairperson, I rise to support this Bill. From what the hon. Home Minister had said while making his initial comments about this Bill and from what I have gathered by going through this Bill, I do not agree with the views expressed by the hon. Member, Shri Rupchand Pal that the CISF would be used at discretion by the private organisations. It is because the hon. Minister has already said that their services would be utilised for protection of

certain installations like the atomic installations, the space centres etc. which strictly do not come under the private sector.

Madam Chairperson, Shri Pal has mentioned that CISF is the only one organisation of its kind in the world and it has got the expertise as well. Since 1968, this organisation has been engaged in just manning the industrial institutions of India and so they know where exactly the shoe pinches. Now, there is no harm if they give some specific advice about security to the private organisations.

With regard to providing consultancy service, the CISF can provide consultancy services to private installations in matters of threat perception, risk analysis and crisis management. As a package, they can offer to private sector, consultancy services in designing of integrated security plans, contingency plans for rescue and evacuation, security of industrial townships, selection, installation and use of gadgetry, high protection, and responsibility schedules of security hierarchy and, last but not least, safeguard against sabotage and subversion. When this organisation is capable of providing this service to private agencies and earn some money by that, why should they not do so? The services will not be provided free of cost. The Government has taken the right decision in bringing this Bill forward to enable the CISF to render service not only to the public sector undertakings but to private installations also.

I do not wish to go into the details. I agree with what Shri Dasmuni has said with regard to Group A officers of the CISF. I agree with Maj. Gen. Khanduri and Shri Rupchand Pal in this regard. I am not going to repeat what they have already mentioned. But I will try to bring one or two points to the attention of the House. I was also a civil servant once, so, I understand their problems. The CISF was started in the year 1967. I would like to say, for the kind information of the hon. Home Minister, that since 1996 there has been no recruitment to posts in Group A service in CISF. Not only the Group A officers of the civil service recruited to posts in CISF but officers from Army and IPS are also appointed to those posts. Officers of the CISF are also promoted to Group A posts in that organisation. So, it is not similar to any other Group A service. When the officers joined the service in 1967, they knew it to be like any other Group A service and that they will get promotions like in any other Group A service after they put in a service of six to seven years.

Madam, you will be surprised to know that to get to the rank of a Commandant, the equivalent of Superintendent of Police in IPS, it takes 20 to 23 years

[SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN]

in this organisation. In IPS or any other service, to get to this grade it takes only four to five years. Other points have been elaborated by Shri Dasmunsi, Maj. Gen. Khanduri and I will not repeat them. I only appeal to hon. Home Minister to consider this point very sympathetically and see that justice is done to the Group A officers of the CISF.

Finally, I would like to make a point which may not be a direct concern of the Bill under consideration but it is a related topic. It is with regard to another paramilitary force, the Railway Protection Force (RPF). I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister to this issue. Fifty per cent of the money given to GRP goes from the Railway Department but they are not under the control of the Railways. If a robbery takes place, or a murder is committed, or there is a theft in a train, people cannot approach the RPF. They will have to go to the GRP which is not under the control of the Railways but under the control of the respective State Governments. Wherever a State Government feels that somebody has become inefficient he is posted to the GRP.

So, I would appeal to the hon. Home Minister that he should consider the points of giving more power to the RPF by calling the Home Secretaries of the States because law and order is a State Subject. Without the consultation of the State Governments, this will not be possible.

Sir, I would also appeal to the hon. Home Minister that he should convene a meeting of the Home Ministers of all the States to see that the RPF is given more power so that they can effectively man the railway installations in India.

SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN (Sivaganga): Respected Chairperson, it is really a wide approach that an amendment is brought about here. But the services given to the private enterprises are also appreciable because now-a-days there are many private consulting services coming up. They are coming up like mushrooms. They are getting a lot of money as deposits but they are providing a very less amount as salaries to the security people who are sent for the private industries. Therefore, if the Government interferes in the matter, the ordinary people can get jobs as well as better salaries.

Madam, I am just representing the cause of constabularies. I am not talking about the IPS ranks or Central Services people who are recruited in Class-I posts. I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Home Minister to a point that the ratio between the number of

officers and the men is very low. That ratio should be increased so that more constabularies are recruited.

Moreover, the constabularies are coming from remote rural areas. Especially from my constituency and other such areas, many people have come up. These people are having home sickness when they are put up in States like Assam or other similar places. With the result, after completing in five years or ten years, they are resigning from their jobs and coming back to their native places. But these types of things can be avoided by posting them in the States where they belong to. It is because, we have mostly joint families, and we have to look after their mothers, fathers, brothers, sisters and children. Therefore, we have to find a way out to have their postings in their own States.

Madam, another point on which I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Home Minister is that they should be provided with more training to combat terrorism because in this type of industries especially in petrol industries, lots of terrorists activities are taking place. It may not be as severe as in Assam but it is there in almost every State. Even in Chennai, a lot of theft is taking place in the pipelines and other things. So, they should be fully trained. They should have the way of finding out the culprits. They should be in a position to protect the property of the nation in a proper manner.

Finally, I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Home Minister that the provisions regarding the service matters should be properly framed because it is not controlled by the Government alone. It is only controlled by the private employers. Therefore, their job securities are to be protected. The private employers should not exploit the situation of a very stringent and disciplined force being recruited there. There should be protection for the people who are sent to the private sector.

SHRI SUNIL KHAN (Durgapur): Madam Chairperson, the Central Industrial Security Force Act was framed only to protect the public sector undertakings, that is, the Government property. As the Government has decided to close down certain public sector undertakings, the activities of CISF will, also to a large extent, be extended to the private sector. The CISF Act was framed only to protect the properties of public sector undertakings, and the Government properties throughout the country. Despite public sectors undertakings have their own security forces.

Even at the time of framing of this principal Act, some hon. Members opposed it in this very House.

1600 hrs.

At that time, Government has assured further that the CISF would not be utilised to suppress the trade union movement. But everybody knows that there were numerous unknown reports of the deployment of CISF against the trade union movement.

In various places, several people have been the victims of CISF firing, even those who safeguard corrupt officials.

On the other hand, CISF have completely failed to protect the property to which they entrusted. Still the pilferage is going on. The only art of specialisation which they have achieved is to suppress the trade union movement.

The private sectors are very much interested to have such specialisation as provided in Section 10 Clause (e) of the principal Act which is perhaps given at free or nominal charges.

Again in the case of theft or otherwise, particularly keeping the eye on the protection of private sector, the removal of such personnel is substituted with forced retirement in Section 8 Clauses (I) and (II) sub-clause (e) in which many punishment clauses are inserted. If the CISF personnel are to be utilised in the suppression of workers' movement, what would be the position of the Government?

In Section 9 of the principal Act, sub-Section (1), Clause 2 (c) is to be inserted by which the aggrieved personnel force may be allowed to appeal its case to judicial court if the aggrieved personnel is not satisfied with the order of Authority.

For example, if some incident of corruption happened in case of public sector or private sector against which workers demonstrate, then generally we see CISF deploy to disperse the demonstration or order to fire on the demonstrators.

CISF should not be deployed to suppress such type of demonstration. So, I oppose this Bill.

SHRI ANADI SAHU (Berhampur, Orissa): Madam Chairperson, I rise to support the Bill. Before I speak on the Bill, let me speak about the plight of the Assistant Commandants who have been recruited earlier. My friend Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmuni suggested that they be taken into Indian Police Service. But I would suggest that it would not be proper to take them into the Indian Police Service at this stage after they have put in about 15 or 16 years of service. I would appeal to the hon. Home Minister to think of reserving some posts for them in the rank of DIG and IG so that the bottleneck that might

have been created could be eased out and after a few years, those officers who had been recruited at the initial stage in Class I Services may not be there and things can be sorted out in a different manner.

So far as this Act is concerned, the intentions are two-fold in bringing this amendment. One is to widen the scope and ambit of this Act itself and the second is, once the scope has been widened, to add certain more duties to the persons in the CISF. Once certain duties have been added to, then the question of punishment will come. The main intention of this Act is to see that the Supreme Court decision on Sanatan Sahu and CISF regarding dismissal from service has to be taken into consideration and a retrospective order is to be made. That has to be made in Clause 10 of this amending Act.

I will start with the amending Act Clause 10 itself. May I request the hon. Home Minister to think of those persons who could not afford to go to the Supreme Court to fight out their case because of certain delegated authority?

Now, this delegated authority is proposed to be validated by clause 10. Those persons who have lost their jobs may not have an opportunity to get their service back. Sanatan Sahu could be one single person who has got the job back. I would request the Government to be condescending enough to take into consideration the memorials. After the Bill is passed, it will be an Act and so nothing can be done later. I would request that the Government should be condescending enough to take up their cases whenever a memorial comes to the Government and see if they could be reinstated in service. That is the first appeal I would make to the hon. Minister of Home Affairs because this would deprive many persons from getting back their jobs.

So far as the ambit and scope are concerned, private industrial undertakings would be able to take the services of the CISF. Since the CISF has the expertise, it would be able to give guidance in running private industrial establishments. The one good provision here is that it will give technical consultancy services and would protect individuals. I had seen earlier that when the CISF was constituted in 1968, the Indian Police Service officers were not interested in going there because many public sector undertakings were taken together and the persons who had been serving in the security Branch in those undertakings who did not have proper training or attitude were taken as part of the CISF. Later on, in 1983, it became a Force. So, some sort of an authority came in slowly, a good number of people have been recruited.

[SHRI ANADI SAHU]

There were instances when the CISF personnel were not willing to give protection to individuals. That is being provided for in this Act so that both establishments and individuals would get equal protection and equal security. By amending section 3 of the CISF Act, the duties of the CISF personnel have been widened. It has been added here 'any other duties that may be entrusted by the Central Government'. This, I hope, would mean quelling riots, calamity relief and even anti-terrorist activities. The CISF did a very good job at Paradip during the super-cyclone. It could become a rule since there are provisions for making rules. The duties to be performed as per section 3 could be specified. Another issues that has come up in the Courts is regarding the punishment that has been provided. In clause 5 (e), it has been provided, 'withholding of promotion'. It is not very specific. So far as promotion is concerned, in any police service, if the ACR is not good, if there has been a punishment, the person is not promoted. But if the punishments are expunged or the ACR is expunged, his case comes up before the board which takes up promotions. Withholding of promotions as a punishment may not be good in the sense that as to the period for which the promotion will be withheld, increments can be withheld, as a specific pecuniary loss. But withholding of promotions is very ambiguous and may create confusion as it has created confusion for which clause 10 is being revalidated.

1609 hrs.

(SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN *in the Chair*)

So, I would request the hon. Minister of Home Affairs to kindly consider this aspect and remove any confusion regarding punishment as such with regard to withholding of promotion. These are matters which need to be thought of.

Last but not least, there are a number of private security agencies which have come up. Uniformed officers, on retirement, set up such institutions for providing security to industrial organisations. Some of these security organisations have adopted a little bit bullying tactics. In 1987, there was a talk to make an enactment for registration and control of private security agencies but it did not come into being.

Even now, there is scope in this Act to provide for certain regulatory mechanism under the provisions of Sections 3, 10 and 14(a). They are to regulate the work of the private organizations by providing certain provisions under the rules which are being made by the Central Government from time to time. So, I would request that these rules may be made so as to regulate the work of the private security agencies.

With these words, I support the Bill. I thank you very much.

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am extremely grateful to all the hon. Members who have participated in this debate.

The focus has been on the conditions of the CISF Services. So far as this Bill is concerned, I can only say that it does not directly relate to that except in minor matters such as the one referred to just now by Shri Anadi Sahu and the Bill essentially does relate to firstly defining or rather, not limiting the CISF merely to public undertakings and widening the scope with which they could be concerned.

The Government does not presently propose that the CISF personnel should be providing security to private enterprises. No. There have been appeals, why can they not give us consultancy or advice, since they have specialisation. So, it was felt that there was no harm in that, whatsoever in the new economic environment that has developed. Shri Rupchand Pal or someone else may continue to have a certain strong bias against the private sector. But this Government does not have a bias against the private sector. We think that both the public sector and the private sector have a very important role to play in the Indian economy and in this, the Government is also to be the principal regulator of the economic growth and economy. Therefore, if it has certain expertise, which it could extend to the private sector, it certainly would be willing to do it.

As you would notice, we have specified it in the Statement of Objects and Reasons that:

"Over the years, the CISF have achieved specialization in the field of industrial security which can be used gainfully by providing consultancy services to the private sector to develop and strengthen their security network. Such consultancy services will be on full cost recovery basis."

I emphasise this and it is not a sort of payment or anything of that kind. I am aware that in March 1999, a meeting of the Standing Committee on Home was held in which this issue of CISF was discussed at length. It is a result of those discussions that a high level committee was constituted. The information that there was a Nikhil Kumar Committee and then subsequently, there was a Kakkar Committee is not quite correct. There was just one Committee, the Nikhil Kumar Committee; and that Committee made several recommendations. It is a result of those recommendations which were accepted by the Government, that CISF cadre officers today can go up to

the level of IG; they can go up to the level of IG. IPS quota has been considerably lowered, after the recommendations of the Committee were accepted by the Government.

So, today the Service Conditions of CISF cadre officers have considerably improved after the discussions among the MPs in the Standing Committee and the decisions of the Government.

As regards the request that has been made by Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi that this Bill does not directly relate to the Service Conditions of CISF, to the direct recruits, their relative positions, vis-a-vis IPS officers, I can only assure the House that I would go into it thoroughly and independently and I would try to see that no injustice is done.

An hon. Member remarked that the CISF has failed to give security to the public undertakings. That is not at all true. Their performance has been very good, and excellent. I must compliment them on the manner in which they have been looking after the 222 public undertakings that we have in this country. As for the concerns expressed by the hon. Members regarding the service conditions, particularly in regard to the grievances of the directly recruited people, I would go into them independently. As far as this Bill is concerned, it provides consultancy services to the private sector and their area of responsibilities would be beyond public undertakings. It would be Government units or Government-funded units.

There was a suggestion that this concept may be extended to the VIP security. But I am of the view that the para-military forces who are on the VIP security need to be withdrawn. The other day I had discussed this matter at some length. So, there is no question of providing this kind of security to the VIPs.

With these few words, I commend this Bill for the unanimous acceptance of this House.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: I have said that there are many officers in the CISF who have been selected for IPS, IRS etc. and are not allowed to join the same because of Rules 4 and 7, on the premise that all Central Government civil servants cannot be treated on equal footing. Now, after this amendment, will they be adversely affected? If they are going to be adversely affected, how is their interest going to be protected?

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: The hon. Home Minister has just replied that the scope of this Bill is limited to providing consultancy services to the private sector. I think it is very essential. But the moment you

say, 'any other duties', the duties become an obligation. The apprehension of the CISF is that the parity may not be maintained. Since the hon. Minister has asserted that he would not look into it as it is not linked to the Bill, may I submit, through you Mr. Chairman, to the hon. Minister, in consultation with officers of his Ministry, to meet a group of officers, whomsoever he feels competent, to remove their anxieties and also to look into some points that they raise.

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI: Sir, since 1996 no recruitment has taken place. So, there is a feeling among the officers that their services are being wasted. As the hon. Members has suggested, these sort of misgivings could be removed if an interaction takes place.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: I will have a candid interaction with the CISF officers and ensure that if there are any grievances on this score, particularly on the question of parity, they would be removed.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That the Bill further to amend the Central Industrial Security Force Act, 1968, and to validate certain revision petitions disposed of under the rules made under the said Act, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, the House will take up clause by clause consideration of the Bill.

The question is:

"That clauses 2 to 10 stand part of the Bill".

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 2 to 10 were added to the Bill.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That Clause 1, Enacting Formula and Title stand part of the Bill.

The motion was adopted.

Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Title were added to the Bill.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill be passed".

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That the Bill be passed".

The motion was adopted.

1619 hrs.

CODE OF CIVIL PROCEDURE
(AMENDMENT) BILL—*CONTD.*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House shall now take up Item No. 14. Shri Prabhunath Singh to continue.

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (Maharajanj, Bihar): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am speaking in favour of Code of Civil Procedure (Amendment) Bill, 1999 introduced by the Hon'ble Minister. Several points have been made in this regard earlier. I had raised the issue of arbitration and affidavits for solving the issue of vacancies of Judges in the court while speaking on this bill earlier and now I would like to discuss the procedure of tendering evidence before the Oath Commissioner. The oath commissioner appointed in the courts are generally lawyers. The reputed lawyers having a large clientele do not wish to be appointed as Oath Commissioners. The advocates who are not successful in their practice, become oath commissioners. Evidences are tendered in presence of these officials. There are many such oath commissioners who do not even bother to ask for the personal appearance of the person tendering evidence under oath. They have a fixed fee and they simply put their signature on the documents after taking their fee. I feel that it will be very difficult to get justice under such circumstances. If the provision of tendering evidence before oath commissioner in the courts is to be made, at least the power of awarding punishment should be retained with the Executive Magistrate. It is not appropriate to vest such powers with the oath commissioner.

As regards the issue of interim relief, the Hon'ble Minister has stated that the persons desirous of availing this facility from the court, will have to deposit money. It is a fact that there are some drawbacks in this system. I am reminded of a case of Panapur Police Station lying

pending since 1995. The police was going to file a chargesheet in that case. Orders had been issued but the accused filed a petition in the High Court and he was awarded the interim relief that there will be a stay on further action in the case till the ruling is given by the court. That ruling is still pending and the charge-sheet prepared by the police has still not been filed. It is true that problems are faced in some cases but the procedure of getting interim relief after depositing money is not appropriate. Those who have money, will be able to avail this facility after depositing money. The poor and those who do not have the money will be deprived of the facility of interim relief. Hence we want such a law to be enacted by the Hon'ble Minister with regard to the interim relief that a time limit is set for disposal of such cases for which interim relief has been granted. The facility of interim relief should not be misused otherwise the poor people and the villagers will not be able to get justice. Hon'ble Minister has also made a mention about reducing the time limit of summons.

I would like to congratulate the Hon'ble Minister for it. The time limit for summons should definitely be reduced. However I would also request the Hon'ble Minister to consider the procedure of serving summons. The summons are served sometimes through the police and at times, the peon from the court delivers the summons. I would like to bring to your notice the actual position and practical aspect in this regard that sometimes summons are not served to the concerned person. These are intercepted in the way by some other person by paying a bribe of 50-100 rupees to the peon and the summons are not handed over to the concerned person, in person. Hence, at times, *ex-parte* decision is given in such cases. The Judges present in the court are annoyed that the summons served by the court have not been honoured. Hence they give such decision out of anger. Such a provision should be made that the summons are served to the person concerned. If that person deliberately avoids it, the summons could be served to his close relative so that the concerned person may be informed about the date of hearing the orders of the court. If the procedure of serving summons is not managed properly, *ex-parte* decisions will continue to be given and justice will not be done.

Sir, I would like to bring to notice one or two such cases. At times the accused spends far more time in jail than we would have spent in case he were convicted. Such a case was reported in the 'Rashtriya Sahara' dated 16th under the caption — "37 varsh se jail mein band qaidi ke mamle ki nayaik jaanch ke aadesh" (orders for judicial enquiry into the case of prisoner imprisoned for 37 years) The maximum punishment is death sentence or life imprisonment under Section 302...(*Interruptions*)

[English]

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI): If you do not mind, I would remind you that this Bill deals with Civil Procedure. We are not discussing Criminal Procedure now.

[Translation]

When the Question of Criminal Procedure Code will come up for consideration at that time all your points will come in mind.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Prabhu Nath Singh, you had taken nine minutes the other day. Kindly conclude. You have taken maximum time.

[Translation]

SHR PRABHUNATH SINGH: Sir, I would like to tell you about the report of Sethi Commission. The Sethi Commission Report has been presented to Hon'ble Prime Minister and Minister of Law and in that report Sethi Commission has made a number of recommendations. In the recommendations, on the one hand it has been stated that there is a shortage of judges and on the other hand the issue of facilities available to them has also been discussed. In the report it has also been mentioned that their retirement age should be increased from 58 to 62 years. It is presumed that delay in judicial process is due to shortage of judges etc. in Judiciary particularly in Bihar where no appointment has been made in Judiciary since 1990. In the absence of appointment of judges in the Judiciary, the cases are not being disposed of properly in Bihar. Most of the people retire in the month of November and December. It seems to me that the cases will remain pending as a number of judges are about to retire. I am unable to understand as to what action the Government propose to take in regard to implementation of Sethi Commission Report. Hence, I would like that the persons who are going to retire in December in Bihar should be allowed to continue till new judges are appointed so that pending cases are disposed of quickly as well as properly.

Sir, with these words, I hope that the Hon'ble Minister will pay attention towards my suggestions and accept the feasible suggestions. We hope that you will give a satisfactory reply in the House.

[English]

SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI (Salem): Hon. Chairman, Sir, I am thankful to you for having given me this opportunity to speak on the Code of Civil Procedure (Amendment) Bill, 1997.

Before I support this Bill, I would like to state that there are varying opinions with regard to the amendments which the Government seek to propose before this august House. Of course, there cannot be two opinions with regard to the law delays. Justice delayed is justice denied. This maximum is known to the legal luminaries like Shri Ram Jethmalani, and also known to the Hon. Chairman who is a senior advocate in the Madras High Court...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Justice hurried is justice buried.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI: Justice must not only be done but justice must seem to be done. If I may be permitted to quote my own case, I would like to state that my father was subjected to a civil litigation in 1971 which is still pending and probably my grandson would come to complete the process. So, this is the situation now.

Sir, as per a Report, there are twenty million cases which are pending in various courts. Then, why is this piecemeal legislation brought forward? Of course, a prolonged deliberation must have gone into it. A Committee, which sat on this issue, had decided about all these amendments. The hon. Minister also accepted that this is not the only solution. There has to be a Conference on legislation in order to remove the manner of the law delays. If this is not the only solution, then what else is required? If the hon. Minister like Shri Ram Jethmalani cannot do it, nobody else can do it.

There are many legal experts in this country including our hon. Chairman who is a constitutional expert. There has been a continuous demand for a Judicial Commission. As the learned Member Shri Radhakrishnan has pointed out the other day, a number of vacancies exist. All these vacancies have to be filled up. But there are cases in various States where they hurry in filling up the vacancies. They hurry up in order to benefit the persons of their liking. They are doing it according to their whims and fancies. So, that also has to be taken into consideration.

My point is that instead of attempting a piecemeal legislation, we should try for increasing the number of courts. We should try to fill up all the vacant seats which

[SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI]

exist in the courts. If the number of the courts is increased, if more courts are instituted, then the delay could be reduced to a large extent. Therefore, in this context, I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister to one thing. Having given me an opportunity to speak on this Bill, I would also like to seek for an establishment of a separate Supreme Court bench in the Southern States and the Headquarters may be placed in Chennai. It would benefit about 25 crore people. This demand has been pending for an innumerable number of years. Decade after decade we have been raising this demand. Why should a person from Kanyakumari or why should a person from Sikkim come down to Delhi which is very costlier? To file a litigation, many litigants lose the opportunity where the decision-making court is established in Delhi, where the dispute involves a question of law. The Supreme Court deliberates in respect of many of these cases. Because of paucity of funds and because of the situation of majority of this nation, it has happened all these years..(Interruptions) Whether it is to be established at Hyderabad or any place, let us come to a unanimous decision. First, let us have a Bench in the Southern part of India—whether it is at Hyderabad or any other place. Let us have a separate Bench in the North East also.

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU (Srikakulam): It may be established at Hyderabad which is a convenient place. From almost everywhere, it is one hour's journey to reach Hyderabad..(Interruptions)

SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI: I may agree to disagree.

But this is essential now because 25 crore people of the southern part of the country will be benefited by the setting up of this Bench. Since we do not have a Supreme Court Bench in the southern part of our country now, many people have been losing the opportunity of coming down to the Supreme Court to have justice.

Sir, the subject in one Unstarred Question, which my learned friend from Periyakulam, Shri T.T.V. Dhinakaran had posed before you, was with regard to the setting up of a High Court Bench at Madurai in the State of Tamil Nadu, the lack of which also involves the question of law delay. The sanction for the setting up of this Bench was accorded in the year 1995 and during the period of six months when our dynamic leader, Dr. Puratchi Thalaivi was in power we had processed the acquisition of land, but, unfortunately, when another Government came to power, acquisition of land is pending for almost five years now. So, I would request the hon. Minister to pull up the Government, the Government which sleeps. He has to awaken the Government. If it takes five years to acquire

land for setting up a High Court Bench, then you can imagine the concern of that Government which it is having for law delay. ..(Interruptions) I am not accusing anybody. I want them to correct their mistake. This is very important to expedite the pending cases.

Coming to the core of the Bill, Section 102 of the principal Act relates to second appeal. I may be permitted to quote that Section. It says:

"No second appeal shall lie from any decree, when the amount or value of the subject-matter of the original suit does not exceed twenty-five thousand rupees."

This section deals with the original suit. We would be happy and we would not mind if it deals only with the money suit or a mortgage suit, because the right of appeal to a person is ensured in our legal system. But this Section curtails the right of appeal to a person. I would even say that it would be unconstitutional; there are provisions to substantiate this. But why should we take away this right? For us, one rupee may not be significant; it may be a pittance, but for a poor farmer, for a man from the village, the amount of Rs. 25,000 is very big. So, why should he be deprived of a provision for appeal in the name of law delays? Our country is based on agrarian economy, dominated by farmers and majority of them are poor. If they are subjected to a litigation and the amount of the subject-matter of the original suit is less than Rs. 25,000, they cannot appeal to a higher forum. So, this has to be removed, considering the socio-economic conditions of our nation.

Secondly, this also applies to a title suit. Under the Court Fee Act, agricultural land is valued on the basis of the *kisth* paid for the land, that is, the market value of agricultural land is assessed at 30 times the *kisth* payment made to the Government. My land may be costlier, worth lakhs and lakhs of rupees, but as per the Court Fee Act, the value is fixed at 30 times of the *kisth* paid. If that is so, I would prefer to pay the court fee in accordance with the Court Fee Act, because the value is fixed on the basis of the Court Fee Act. So, I would request the hon. Minister to instruct that the property should be correctly valued. In that case, it should be on the original value, either guideline value or market value. So, he should first amend the Court Fee Act. I hope the hon. Minister would not object to my suggestion. If a codified Section is there—it is codified—that the value of agricultural land should be assessed on the basis of the *kisth* payment, the I foresee that there is going to be an anomaly, a crisis in this particular Amendment.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have taken ten minutes. Your party was allowed only eight minutes. I have given two more minutes.

SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI: Sir, please be gracious to give me some more time. The issue involved is very important.

MR. CHAIRMAN: There are nine more Members to speak.

SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI: I will try to complete it.

Even if a property is worth more, the court fee suggests the way it should be valued. Therefore, I appeal to you that this may be scrapped.

As per Section 18, the Bill seeks to amend a very valuable provision. In this case, a settlement is permitted. It may even be made obligatory in many of these cases. But here I see that there is no time-limit prescribed for settlement. If we say that the settlement has to be accepted, the Presiding Officer has to refer it to a *Lok Adalat* for an arbitration. A time has to be prescribed. Otherwise, a litigant who is interested in protracting the litigation, would make use of this provision. In the case of a compromise, he would try to evade settlement and protract the issue. Therefore, I say that the prescription of time-limit is essential.

Section 100-A also bars a second appeal. The Chairman knows very well if a will is disputed. If a will executed by my father or grandfather is disputed, the first appeal lies with the High Court—the Single Bench. The second appeal is not allowed there. A person has to go to the Supreme Court. Why is this anomaly? It is because various High Courts in the States have different Rules of Procedure. In Delhi High Court, second appeal is not allowed. The Division Bench is not taking it. One has to go to the Supreme Court. In the Madras High Court, it is allowed. Again in the case of a judgement from a single Judge, one can prefer an appeal to the Division Bench. Therefore, there has to be uniformity throughout the nation. I call upon the Government to have a Division Bench. The second appeal should also be allowed. The hon. Minister knows that when we come to the Supreme Court for a Special Leave petition, it is just thrown away in a minute. They do not even listen to us. they do not even hear us. Maybe they could listen a person like our hon. Minister or our hon. Chairman! There are a number of advocates who simply file it for the sake of filing it. It is a waste of money. They file it and in a minute, it is disposed of and the bundle is thrown away. This is the case today.

Moreover, a majority of our litigants are poor. They cannot afford to come to Delhi because it is costly. The litigant cannot afford it. Therefore, the second appeal should be allowed in the High Court—Division Bench.

The other point is about the examination of witnesses. It is based purely on the Evidence Act. If we allow it to go into the hands of the Notaries or the junior Advocates, I do not think that expertise will benefit the Magistrate or the District Munsif or the Subordinate Judicial Officer. They are trained in the Evidence Act. Whether there is a dispute of marking the exhibit or not, it cannot be solved there. There will arise a dispute which will ultimately result in a lot of delay.

It is good that the Bill envisages a time-limit for Written Statement. For the plaintiff, there is a provision of Additional Written Statement. That also has to be taken into consideration.

By unearthing a fresh material evidence, a party should be allowed to file an Additional Written Statement for which an amendment has been sought. A time-limit has to be prescribed. There is Section 105 of the Limitation Act.

MR. CHAIRMAN: A time-limit of 10 minutes has been prescribed for your party. Now, you have taken 14 minutes.

SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI (Visakhapatnam): That is why the cases are piling up in the courts. *..(Interruptions)*

SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI: I will wind up in a minute. I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister to Section 5 to the Limitation Act. It gives ample powers to the Judicial Officers. I know that there are suits in which a party gets *ex parte* order and he has been sleeping for almost two years. After two years, he files a petition to set aside the *ex parte* order and that *ex parte* order is also set aside after two years and subjected to litigation.

Again he goes as *ex parte* and maybe on some flimsy reasons he projects a petition and it is allowed in the Limitation Act. The hon. Minister may take a note of all these things and also a provision is made to award compensation on a punitive action in the injunction suit.

There are cases where legitimate demand is made. There are cases where responsible allegation is made. In such types of cases you cannot make it mandatory to provide compensation or provide punitive action. Therefore, it should be left to the discretion of the court.

With all this, my humble submission is that the Law Ministry instead of striving for a piecemeal legislation should do something. If it cannot be done now, it can never be done, if such is the menace now as far as civil litigation is concerned.

[SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI]

I welcome this Bill and say that a piecemeal legislation is brought before this House. I expect the Government to come with a comprehensive legislation.

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH (Farrukhabad): Hon'ble Chairman, Sir, I am thankful that you have given me an opportunity to speak. There is a saying in our village towards which I would like to draw the attention of the Hon'ble Minister — "Baap ki kami beta bhugte". That is what happening today in India in the case of justice. At present about 2.08 crore cases are pending in various courts and it is our bad luck that at present 8,65,000 cases are pending in the High Court of Uttar Pradesh to which I belong. Sikkim is one such state where only 99 cases are pending. But our Uttar Pradesh is the most ill-fated state where more than 8.5 lakh cases are pending. According to the report submitted by your committee, the average comes to 1367 cases on each judge of High Court. It is also a misfortune that in the Supreme Court of India 20,000 cases are pending. A case generally takes 10 to 15 years duration for its disposal causing a lot of difficulties to the litigants as their time and money are wasted in the process. Normally, what happens today is that those who have money get bail and those who do not have money will have to languish in jail for years. As a result, the criminals get bail by spending money and commit crimes again. The misfortune is that people are losing fear of punishment resulting in rising of crime graph.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would also like to tell that at present in India Government is a party in almost all the civil cases. 65 percent cases are being contested by the Government. Generally, the Government does not put its point of view properly in these litigations as a result, it loses in 90 per cent of the cases. Thus, I have felt that the delay is caused mainly on the part of the Government and the advocates nominated by the Government because they do not argue their cases properly and in this way the case goes on lingering.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I feel it appropriate to mention this also that few days back our Minister of Home Affairs had said one thing verbally that in rape cases, the person who is guilty should be hanged. I would like to submit in this regard that only 15 to 20 per cent rape cases are registered out of which normally only 3 percent guilty are punished. Sir, there is no use of making frequent amendments. My request is that these cases should be expedited. If people get quick justice, the laws already in

existence in the country will suffice. Sometimes you and your Government also face such sort of problems.* This matter has been kept in cold storage because you have an alliance with them and they have an understanding with your party.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to give four-five suggestions..(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: I appeal to the hon. Member not to mention the name of any former Member of the House.

SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH: Thank you, Sir, I withdraw my words.

[Translation]

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to give four-five suggestions. The system of Lok Adalats is very good and, they are functioning well. If they should be made more effective, a large number of cases can easily be settled. Special courts should be set up for family disputes so that petty matters can be decided early. If the judicial officer delays any case, and if proved, necessary entries should be made in his confidential report.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would also like to request that the Government nominated advocates should be duty bound and vigilant so that they can argue their case properly and help the cases settled at the earliest. Alongwith this, it is also essential that the cases should be classified so that important cases may be disposed of speedily and early justice can be delivered to the people. Apart from this, I would also like to make one more request that at present there are 180 working days in High Courts and they work only for five hours in a day. The daily working hours should be increased to eight hours. According to the general practice, other civil employees have to work for eight hours. The working hours of the court should also be raised to eight hours, such arrangement should be made.

Sir, the Supreme Court remains closed for two months in summer and for fifteen days in winter. It was alright during the British regime because they came from a cold climate and they were unable to work in extreme hot and cold season but now what has happened to the brown Sahib i.e. we Indians? If they are also unable to tolerate the heat and cold then they should leave the country. I demand that this practice of summer and winter vacation should be discontinued and the employees and Judges of the courts should also work round the year as the employees of civil services do.

*Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

Hon'ble Chairman, Sir, as has been said by Shri Prabhunath Singhji just now that if you authorise the oath commissioner for recording the evidence and if he goes to record the evidence, it will not be good. This is absolutely right. Only these persons accept the job of an oath commissioner who do not get cases and who are unable to earn sufficient money. Therefore, I appeal you not to implement this practice. Former Justice Shri Sabyasachi Mukherjee had said one thing that a monitoring committee should be constituted and retired eminent Judges should be nominated for that committee so that people could get justice and corruption in judiciary could be removed. If such committee is constituted, corruption prevailing in the judiciary could be checked to a great extent and people will be able to get justice in the normal course.

Hon'ble Chairman, Sir, I am very grateful to you for giving me an opportunity to speak. With these few suggestions I conclude my speech.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer): Hon'ble Chairman, Sir, I whole heartedly support the Code of Civil Procedure (Amendment) Bill, 1999 introduced by the hon'ble Minister of Law. This Bill has been introduced to further amend the code of civil procedure. Besides effort has been made to introduce the Bill to further amend the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908, Limitation Act, 1963 and Court Fee Act, 1870.

I would like to say that it is essential in a democratic country and welfare state that people should get inexpensive, accessible and prompt justice. I have to say with great regret that these days justice has become expensive in our country. Therefore, through you I would like to draw the attention of the hon'ble Minister of Law that the time has come, as he has himself admitted, that there is a pressing need to initiate judicial reforms. When the Government have moved a Bill to effect so many amendments in the Code of Civil Procedure from the point of view of initiating judicial reforms, speedy disposal of cases and early dispensation of justice to the people. I would like to request you to kindly constitute a judicial commission as early as possible because there is a demand in this regard from all over the country.

There are three organs of democracy i.e. Executive Legislature and Judiciary. When all the three organs of democracy do not function smoothly and as one unit then some problem crops up in the society. Today, I have to say with great regret that corruption has crept into the lower rung of our judiciary as my friends were saying just now and the advocates themselves try to

shift the cases in the courts of Judges of their liking to have the judgements of the case in their favour. In the High Courts I have seen the advocates are always looking for the Judges of their choice so that they could get their cases transferred to their courts otherwise they try to extend the date of hearing their cases. This is a horrible situation.

In order to effect amendments in the Code of Civil Procedure, you have accepted the recommendations of the Committee on Subordinate Legislation of the Eleventh Lok Sabha and you have also taken into account the 129th report of the Law Commission of India and some changes have also been made in it to implement the report submitted by Justice V.S. Malimat. When you have kept all these things in mind as such I would like to request you to that the time has come to remove the complexities of our Laws as they should be implied so that the people could get justice easily.

Sir, this has been our experience that a poor villager spends lot of money to reach the court in connection with his case and on reaching there he comes to know that the lawyers are on strike. Lawyers strike lingers on for 15-20 days or even one month. I want to say that there should be some code of conduct for the lawyers also. The Bar Association should look into it. If a client attends the hearing of his case time and again after spending fare to reach the court from his village and the magistrate fixes next date for hearing repeatedly because the lawyers strike lingers on for a long time, as such the litigant has to face a lot of difficulties and inconvenience. Just now my friend was saying.

[English]

Justice delayed is justice denied.

[Translation]

If delay is caused in dispensing justice it amounts to denial in dispensation of justice.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, there is a saying.

[English]

Justice hurried is justice buried. Justice hurried is justice worried.

[Translation]

If justice is done in hurry then a worrisome situation may arise. Therefore, there should be some coordination

[PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT]

in between these two. You have taken care of these things in the proposed amendments. I want that there should be minimum wastage of money, time and energy in getting justice.

Similarly a legal assistance cell was also constituted so that the poor could get assistance from this cell to pay fee to the lawyers for pleading their cases in the court. A legal assistance cell was constituted for this purpose at district level. I would like to say that it should be made more powerful so that it could provide assistance to poor people easily. Besides, the court buildings are in dilapidated condition. Attention should be given towards improving the condition thereof. The courts should permit construction of Sheds etc. for litigants within the court premises. Strength of Judges should be increased as several posts of Judges are lying vacant. While drawing attention towards all these points, I whole heartedly support this Bill and request that this Bill should be passed unanimously.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Pravin Rashtrapal—Not present. Shri A.C. Jos — Not present. Shri M.O.H. Farook — Not present.

1700 hrs.

[Translation]

SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV (Parbhan): Hon'ble Chairman, Sir, I and my party support the Civil Procedure Code (Amendment) Bill. There has been a detailed discussion on this Bill in the House. There cannot be two opinions that when a plaintiff files a law suit in the courts, files any claim against the defendant be it in the Lower Court, District Court, High Court or the Supreme Court he must get speed and impartial justice. Large number of cases are pending in the High Courts all over the country and in the Supreme Court. The Government should pay attention towards this also because.

[English]

Justice delayed is justice denied.

[Translation]

Delay in dispensation of justice amounts to non-dispensation of justice.

Under rule 14(3) at page 6 of this Bill it has been written—where a document or a copy thereof is not filed with the plaint under this rule, it shall not be allowed to

be received in evidence on behalf of the plaintiff at the hearing of the suit. When a plaintiff files a suit against the defendant in a court of Law, there are several documents which he cannot get at the time of filing the suit, he can get them later on. I request the hon'ble Minister of Law that he should consider allowing the plaintiff to file documents at the time of hearing of the case.

Be it the Lower Court, High Court or the Supreme Court the verdicts in the cases of the Central Government or the State Governments are not favourable. Why is it so, we should ponder over it. The plaintiff should be allowed to file any document at the time of hearing of his case. With these suggestions I conclude my speech.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali): Hon'ble Chairman, Sir, the world famous scholar of Political Science, Prof. Laski has said that if a person who is master of any particular subject is made the Minister incharge of that particular department he will not succeed, he cannot deliver the goods.

SHRI RAM JETHMALANI: It has not been said by Prof. Laski, you have said it..(Interruptions)

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Why should I say this, Laski has said so, you can check it.

Hon'ble Minister of Law is an eminent lawyer. When other lawyers are unable to handle any particular case the comes forward to handle it. He takes such cases in his hands which no other lawyer dare to take. He was the Government counsel in the reservation case in the wake of Mandal Commission report. He has a good record and we hope that he will enact good law which will enable speedy dispensation of justice. We hope that as a result of his efforts poor man will get inexpensive and speedy justice, justice will not be said or purchased, people will get justice, it is my expectation from him. He is an able person and earlier he was the Minister of Urban Affairs and Employment and was doing well there also he was making efforts to allot houses to all the Members of Parliament but it seems to me that we will not get houses as he is no more Minister incharge of that particular Ministry and it is a loss to us. The hon'ble Minister of Parliamentary Affairs is listening to me and the matter of allotment of houses to the Members of the Parliament was persued at the time when the present hon'ble Law Minister was the Minister incharge of Ministry of Urban Affairs and Employment. Anyhow, now he will look into it.

Amendments have been moved in the Civil Procedure Code and the entire House is concerned about two crores

eight lakh cases which are pending in different courts all over the country. Just now the hon'ble Member was giving figures about it. 32 lakhs cases are pending in the High Courts due to shortage of Judges. Judiciary is of the view that it is functioning well. It is the Government that is to be blamed. Either there is shortage of Judges or adequate facilities have not been provided to them which results in delay in early dispensation of justice. The Government are of the view that there is some faults in the procedure. I do not know where the fault lies but it results in delay in dispensation of justice, to the affected people *i.e.* common man. There is a saying I do not know who said it which goes. "Justice delayed is Justice denied." I think it is correct in our context. Cases linger on for 15 to 20 years in the courts, people face lot of difficulties, they pay fees to the lawyers. A conference of Law Ministers was held in 1997 and the Law Commission report was also submitted. It is very good that this amendment has been moved, though much cannot be expected from this. It cannot be claimed that the pending cases will be settled early due to this amendment. However, it is a good efforts in that direction, it is a welcome and appreciable effort due to which less time will be taken in settlement of cases and people will get justice easily.

In fact prompt justice is the true justice. Effort has been made by the Government in this direction by providing the clauses in the proposed Bill. Practically we know a notice is to be served to the defedant in any case and it is despatched by post. Nobody receive the notice and it is returned undelivered. The Peon who goes to deliver the notice sometimes can not deliver it because premise is found locked and as such he pastes the notices on the wall of the house. Sometimes the petitioner suffer a lot due to due to non-delivery of notice. Sometimes much delay is caused in issuing the notice. But in this clause we have seen that provision has been made for early delivery of notice to the defendant so that he could file objections and reply early. It is a good effort. We hope that lesser time will be taken in legal proceedings. But the Judges are to be appointed by the Government. The Law Commission is of the view that there should be five fold increase in the number of the Judges. 5000 Judges should be appointed. It is the responsibility of the Government to see as to why the posts of Judges are lying vacant?

What will be achieved by merely enacting law? If there is shortage of Judges, how will it be possible to dispose the cases early. Be they the Judges in the Supreme Court, High Courts or the Magistrates in lower courts...*(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): I have heard the word 'Judge' what is this 'Judgen'?

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: It is the plural of the word Judge. The Itligants will come to know about the amendments proposed to be made in this law but the Judges should be appointed early. Irregularities are being committed in respect of pleading of cases in courts. Besides the lawyers, Judges are also pleading the cases in the courts. Earlier eminent Lawyers used to plead the cases in the courts but now maximum number of R.S.S. people are being appointed to plead the cases in the courts. Sometimes the Government also take unduly more time particularly when it itself is a party in any case. I demand that appointments should be made through the Law Commission. Sons and daughters of the Judges are appointed to plead the cases. In such a situation how can we expect fair judgement in any case. Therefore, appointment of the Judges should be fair and it should be made through the Law Commission and there should be provision of reservation in appointment of Judges.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES AND MINERALS (PROF. RITA VERMA): When the wife of a Chief Minister can become the Chief Minister then why the sons and daughters of the Judges cannot become Judges?

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: These people are against reservation and backward castes. These are also against providing reservation to women. We are the people who are in favour of reservation. It was the firm view of our leader Dr. Lohia that there should be reservation for women. We support that. We expect that there should be speedy settlement of cases, justice should be inexpensive and accessible which will mitigate the difficulties of the people.

You have moved amendments in Code of Civil Procedure. I expect that C.R.P.C. and I.P.C. should also be amended so that the lacunae in civil and criminal cases be done away with. So we want that people should get justice easily in court cases—both Civil Criminal.

[English]

SHRI RAM JETHMALANI: Sir, I have heard with great attention all the speeches that have been made by hon. Members. Some hon. Members, very rightly, have left the subject of Civil Procedure behind and made other suggestions which are very valuable. Sir, just to save time today—because I am most anxious that this Bill be passed today before 5.30 p.m.—I can only assure them

[SHRI RAM JETHMALANI]

that every suggestion that has come from them will be considered at the proper time when we are considering legislation on other topics like the Criminal Procedure Code and other things. Some of the suggestions related to criminal law and we are about to amend the Criminal Procedure Code and bring a lot of other changes.

I have never pretended—when I moved this Bill—that this is a final solution of the problem with which we are dealing. This is a hundred year old disease and there are no quick fixes. I do not pretend that the moment you pass this and this becomes law, our problems will be solved and people will get speedy justice. No. All that I claim is a very modest claim that this is a welcome step, this is a necessary step but this is a modest step in the direction in which we wish to go.

If you pass this, there are a lot of other steps which have to be taken and I am conscious of those steps and be sure that one of the major steps that is to be taken is the appointment of more judges.

It is well-known that if a job cannot be accomplished by two persons, then you have to put more men on the job. This will be done. What is troubling us is the fiscal resources which are necessary for paying salaries, for putting in existence court houses, other infrastructure, bailiffs, process-servers and so on and so forth.

The subordinate judiciary is a matter of concern for the State Governments and the local High Courts. We are impressing upon the State Governments that they have to carry out the proposals which have been made by various expert committees.

Sir, one or two objections were raised, and I wish to deal with them in two minutes. One of my friends objected that we are abolishing the right of appeal. We are not abolishing the right of appeal. What we are abolishing is the right of second appeal in petty cases. We are only taking away one intermediate appeal. The second appeal, Sir, even otherwise, lies on point of law only, and it does not lie on issues of fact. There has been a provision in the Code of Civil Procedure, from time immemorial, that if Rs. 3,000 or less is the value, then there shall be no second appeal. Now, bearing in mind the value of money today, we are increasing that amount of Rs. 3,000 to Rs. 25,000. Now, Sir, in matters of this kind, there is always some arbitrariness, some unreasonableness, some intelligent guess-work. If you put it at Rs. 25,000, then somebody will say, "Why not Rs. 24,000 or Rs. 26,000?" You cannot logically justify these things. You will have to leave these matters to the experts. Each provision, each clause in this Amendment Bill is the handiwork of expert committees — not one, not two, but sometimes,

three and four. Let us leave this matter to the experts and, to some extent, I also claim to be an expert, and I heartily recommend this Bill to be passed. If you pass it, I think, Sir, we will have gone a long way in solving the kind of problems we have.

Be sure that we have the interests of the poor man in mind. Somebody said, "How can you ask for security?" The court has been given the power because the court can, sometimes smell that 'this man is coming with a frivolous case; I am making an interim order because I have not got the other side before me. I will, at least, take security from him. If it turns out that he has come to court with a false case, then I will ask him to first give security.' But Sir, security is not compulsory. When the Judge sees a poor man, he may not ask for security. There is no question of any deposit because the words used are "take security or otherwise". Therefore, there is a judicial discretion, but we have given the power to ask for security.

I am very grateful to my friend, Shri Bansal, for the speech which he made on that day, and in which he made elaborate suggestions. One of the things which you objected to is about clause 31. Now, that clause 31 was removed in the Rajya Sabha. Unfortunately, you had the wrong text. That does not exist any longer. So, be sure that that provision has gone. It is because of the renumbering that you still see clause 31. But Rajya Sabha had already removed it. So, your wisdom was anticipated by the Rajya Sabha, and we have already removed it.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL (Chandigarh): Was it under rules 17 and 18?

SHRI RAM JETHMALANI: We said, "Within seven days, one should file a suit". You have very rightly objected to it. The Rajya Sabha saw to it and we removed that clause, but because of renumbering, clause 31 still exists now in the new. It is old clause 32 which has now become clause 31. So, what you are objecting to has gone. Be sure about it.

Sir, I do not wish to make a long speech. My Prime Minister himself is extremely exercised about it. The other day, in addressing a meeting of very distinguished lawyers and distinguished Judges of the Supreme Court, my Prime Minister made the very same point which was made by one of the Members here. I am aware that many a time delays are caused by the Government itself. There is an urgent need to curb that strong appetite in departments and the lawyers representing them for causal litigation and for wasting Government money. So, we are aware that we ourselves are the cause of our delays in our courts. Fifty to sixty per cent of the litigation is caused

by the unreasonableness of bureaucrats. We are trying to remove it. We will see to it that that prolific cause of delay is removed.

Sir, to save time, please spare me from a long speech today. I assure you that, within a year, you will find the legal system in a much better shape than you find it today.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That the Bill further to amend the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908, the Limitation Act, 1963 and the Court Fees Act, 1870, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, the House will take up clause-by-clause consideration.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That clauses 2 to 15 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 2 to 15 were added to the Bill.

Clause 16

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal, are you moving your amendment?

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL (Chandigarh): Sir, I beg to move:

Page 5, —

for line 36,

Substitute "(iii) for rule 18, the following rule shall be substituted, namely:—

'If a party who has obtained an order for leave to amend does not amend accordingly within seven days from the date of the order, he shall not be permitted to amend after the expiration of such seven days.'

SHRI RAM JETHMALANI: Sir, I would appeal to my learned friend not to press his amendment because he is moving an amendment to a clause which does not exist.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: No, this is a different thing. The present amendment relates to order VI rules 17 and 18 that is regarding the amendment of pleadings.

SHRI RAM JETHMALANI: Rule 18 is consequential on rule 17. When rule 17 itself is being repealed then...(Interruptions) I understand that you want rule 17 to be repealed...(Interruptions)

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: No let me make my point clear. Maybe, I agree with you finally. Perhaps, my amendment has not been understood correctly.

Sir, first the hon. Minister wants to delete both rules 17 and 18 of order VI which deal with the amendment of pleadings. My amendment is to the effect that rule 17 should remain and there should be a little modification in the existing rule 18. So, technically there is nothing wrong with my amendment as such. But if the hon. Minister wants to assure us that that aspect will be taken care of, then I have no problem.

SHRI RAM JETHMALANI: Sir, I wish to assure the House and the hon. Member that all the Expert Committees have reported that these rules 17 and 18 are redundant. The power now is lodged in section 153 of the Civil Procedure Code and section 148 is the general provision which gives one the time for extension.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Bansal, are you moving your amendment?

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Sir, this is an important thing. Let the hon. Minister clarify the point.

- Sir, now that he has assured us, about it in view of that I do not press my amendment.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Is it the pleasure of the House that the amendment moved by Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal be withdrawn?

The amendment was, by leave, withdrawn.

Now, the question is:

"That clause 16 stand part of the Bill"

The motion was adopted.

Clause 16 was added to the Bill.

Clauses 17 to 34 were added to the Bill.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That clause 1, the Enacting Formula and Title stand part of the Bill.

The motion was adopted.

Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Title were added to the Bill.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, the Minister may move that the Bill be passed.

SHRI RAM JETHMALANI: Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill be passed."

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That the Bill be passed."

The motion was adopted.

1723 hrs.

MARRIAGE LAWS (AMENDMENT) BILL

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, the House will take up the Marriage Laws (Amendment) Bill.

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI): Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill further to amend the Hindu Marriage Act, 1955 and the Special Marriage Act, 1954, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration."

Sir, this is another non-controversial Bill. Again, the wisdom contained in the Bill is not mine. I have inherited it from the previous Government...*(Interruptions)* It is very simple.

Sir, Epilepsy is one of the grounds either for annulment of marriage or for divorce. Now, modern medical science has shown that Epilepsy is not such a dangerous disease as it used to be considered once upon a time. Once upon a time it was considered almost an equivalent to insanity. Some people who suffered from Epilepsy was supposed to be possessed by the Devil. But modern medical science says that it is curable and affected persons can perform normal functions.

Sir, our practice has shown that it is operating very unfairly against the women in this country. As soon as a poor woman gets a fit of Epilepsy, the husband instead of taking care of her gets a ground of divorce. Women organisations have supported this Bill and hon. Members would trust us that we have a much concern for women as anybody else. I commend that this Bill can be passed without a debate. All that is being done is that from the two places of legislation, the word 'Epilepsy' is being dropped.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Motion moved:

"That the Bill further to amend the Hindu Marriage Act, 1955 and the Special Marriage Act, 1954, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration."

Smt. Renuka Chowdhary — Not present.

Shri P.R. Dasmunshi — Not present.

Shri Prakash Jaiswal — Not present.

Shri A.C. Jos — Not present.

SHRI SIMRANJIT SINGH MANN (Sangrur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I as a Sikh have a great deal of objection to foisting the Hindu Marriage Act on the Sikhs. It is repugnant to the Sikh mind that we are bracketed with honourable members of the Hindu religion. We have a separate history, a separate culture, a separate language, separate customs and separate ceremonies. As such, in 1909 the British passed the Anand Marriage Act and it was signed by Viceroy and the Governor-General.

I want to know from the hon. Law Minister whether he would like to separate us and make the legislation which was passed in 1909 applicable to the Sikhs.

SHRI RAM JETHMALANI: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I can only tell my learned friend that I have received some representation from other Sikh organisations also. This is a matter under consideration and the wishes of the Sikh community will certainly be borne in mind in enacting any future legislation. At the moment, there is no question of really separating the two.

*SHRIMATI MINATI SEN (Jalpaiguri): Sir, thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak on the Marriage Laws (Amendment) Bill, 1999, which is going to amend the Hindu Marriage Act, 1955, and the Special Marriage Act, 1954. My party and I feel that the word epilepsy in the Hindu Marriage Act, 1955, and the Special Marriage Act, 1954 should be omitted. Sir, the whole world has been brought inside our bedroom through satellite and

*Translation of the speech originally delivered in Bengali.

high tech modern technology. There is immense development in medical science. Many complicated and serious diseases are well controllable. Of course it is true that medical facilities are out of the reach of the downtrodden and the poor. Epilepsy nowadays is curable. So it is inhuman to equate epilepsy and insanity together for divorce or annulling a marriage. It is true that our constitution makers guaranteed certain rights and privileges to women and the lawmakers also have enacted many laws keeping in mind the equal rights for both men and women enshrined in the Constitution and for ameliorating the condition of women. But in a country like India where class-divided society and socio-economic discrimination is still prevailing, the poor and the downtrodden are deprived of the constitutionally and legally provided facilities. That is why the legislative provisions are never implemented in reality. Successive legislative provisions have not made much difference in the social status and economic freedom of women. In the words of Tagore, "The verdict of justice weeps in silence and solitude."

Women as part of the poor section in the society have been the most exploited in a feudal social set up. She becomes the victim of the most pathetic and unbearable situation due to sex discrimination. The gender bias continues unabated. Although in the forum for international year for women, the woman decade, woman welfare, the recently held world conference of the international fortnight violence against woman, the conference from Mexico to Beijing, focussed on the problem of women, the suggestions and demand to solve those problems. Yet no headway has been made towards ameliorating the pathetic condition of women. Still female foetuses continues. Child marriage though legally banned continues unabated just under the nose of the administration in Rajasthan and despite ban on Sati the glory of sati is eulogised in UP. Rup Kanwar was burnt in the name of sati in Rajasthan and Chunri festival is held in her name although we have Anti Sati Act and in spite of Anti Dowry Act, bride burning has become the order of the day. Retrenchment of women continues in organised and unorganised sector. There is no wage parity, no employment assurance and job security and women have been deprived of Labour Protection Act. Despite the Supreme Court verdict, women face sexual harassment and exploitation either by the employer or the agent in their place of work. I quote a news item from the Statesman. "In every 26 minutes a woman is molested, a rape occurs every 34 minutes. "In a land of 29 crore illiterates, 18 crore women are illiterate. 5-10% women can sign their names. It is a matter of regret even after so many legislations to safeguard their interest, the women are lagging behind in every aspect. The only pride that our country can boast of now is in beauty

contest. We are super power in beauty. Fashion show and fashion parade are the talk of the day. The organisers of all these contests are the multi-nationals because they want to capture the market in the third world. We are overwhelmed by their performance and do not register any protest against them.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude.

SHRIMATI MINATI SEN: Sir, I am taking a little more time. We talk of equal partnership of men and women in the decision making. Then why the Women Reservation Bill could not be introduced in the House. Mere legislation is not enough. There must be a drastic change in the prevailing scenario, there must be social justice, poverty alleviation programme and compulsory free education for girl child. After supporting the Amendment Bill I would furnish some suggestions.

1. Whenever a petition for divorce, judicial separation, annulment, etc., is filed, the court shall *suo motu* enquire what are the provisions that have been made by the parties to provide further maintenance and residence of the children and the wife, and the court, in the first instance, direct parties to provide for the same.

2. A change in section 27 of the Hindu Marriage Act. The gift in cash and kind (*Streedhan*) in the name of dowry from the girl's father should be returned to the girl. The property acquired after marriage will belong equally to both the parties and should be decided by Court.

3. The court must decide about the custody and visitation within three months of the petition filed.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You can directly meet the Minister and seek clarification. Please conclude now.

SHRIMATI MINATI SEN: I am concluding, Sir. With these suggestions I thank again for giving me an opportunity to speak on this Bill. After supporting the Bill, I conclude my speech.

SHRI RAM JETHMALANI: Sir, I share all the sentiments that have been expressed by the hon. Lady Member, and steps will be taken. One of the remedies is higher political empowerment of the women, and we are committed to that kind of legislation and that shall soon be introduced.

Sir, the hon. Member is free to communicate with me and we will sort out whatever problems she is mentioning. In the meantime, I request that this Bill, as passed by the Rajya Sabha, be passed.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That the Bill further to amend the Hindu Marriage Act, 1955 and the Special Marriage Act, 1954, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House shall 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. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That Clause 1 the Enacting Formula and the Title stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Title were added to the Bill.

SHRI RAM JETHMALANI: Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill be passed."

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That the Bill be passed."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI RAM JETHMALANI: Sir, in an answer to your query, the legislation on the Indian Divorce Act is separately almost ready, and it will be introduced at a proper time.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

17.35 hrs.

HALF AN HOUR DISCUSSION RE: IMPORT OF DUTY-FREE MILK POWDER

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, the House shall take up Half-an-Hour Discussion.

SHRI R.L. JALAPPA (Chikballapur): Sir, I am raising this Half-an-Hour discussion consequent upon the reply given by the hon. Minister on the Starred Question No. 50 on 1st December, 1999.

The question is this — "Whether the Government have decided to allow duty free import of 10,000 tonnes of skimmed milk powder."

The answer is — "At present, the tariff rate of duty of skimmed milk powder is bound at nil. As such, import of skimmed milk powder does not attract any customs duty irrespective of the quantity of import.

The second question is — "If so, the reasons thereof and also whether the Government are aware that due to subsidy being provided for milk production in foreign countries, the imported milk powder is available at cheaper rates and this will adversely affect the domestic industry."

The hon. Minister has agreed that it is affecting our domestic production.

The hon. Minister is aware that in our country millions of people have taken up dairying and they are getting their livelihood by taking up the milk production with two or three cows or buffaloes. After launching this Operation Flood, our country has become a surplus milk producer.

Everybody knows that the small and marginal farmers and the landless labourers have taken loans from the cooperatives and commercial banks at the interest rate of 12½ per cent to 16 per cent and they are now taking to milk dairying.

Secondly, even big farmers like me have also borrowed huge money from commercial banks and we have also taken up dairying. Today we are a surplus country. We have more milk and if Government permits us and if they subsidise, as is being done by the European Union and also by the USA, we can also export this milk powder to other countries now.

Today, milk producers have formed cooperatives. They are supplying milk to the cooperatives at village level and those societies have a Union of their own at the district level and those societies will supply this milk to the Milk Cooperative Unions where it is pasteurised and distributed among urban population and they are getting money for this supply once in 15 days.

These Cooperatives unions are having only a marginal income and they are not only supporting the small cooperatives of milk producers but they are also keeping the interest of the consumers by supplying milk at reasonable rate.

This milk production is subjected to too much of seasonal variations. The production increases during a few months called the flush season and during April, May, June, July and August, it will be the lean season. For example, when the production is more during flush period, we in Karnataka are having only 6.11 lakh litres of excess milk per day. We cannot throw away this milk. We have to convert it into milk powder, but milk powder is not being sold now. I will come to that point later. This milk is converted into powder and as on November 30th, we have a stock in our State worth Rs. 21 crore.

For the information of the hon. Minister, I have some figures with me about the stocks of milk powder in each State. In Gujarat, it is 5,000 metric tons of milk powder; in Haryana, it is 100 metric ton; in Punjab, it is 2,000 metric ton; in Rajasthan, it is 300 metric ton; in Uttar Pradesh, it is 900 metric ton; in Andhra Pradesh, it is 100 metric ton; in Tamil Nadu, in your own State, it is 3,500 metric ton; in Madhya Pradesh, it is 300 metric ton; in Maharashtra, it is 6,000 metric ton; and in Karnataka, it is 2,800 metric ton. This is the position as on the 30th November and this is going to be increased in the next three to four months. Till the end of March, this flush season will be there.

What will be the impact of this import of milk powder? I do not know why we are being thrown to the wolves, like chicken. Multinationals are being allowed. You have allowed silk to be imported; you have allowed oil to be imported; you have allowed sugar to be imported; you have allowed wheat to be imported; and now you are allowing milk powder, butter and every other thing to be imported. What are we doing? How can we survive if you allow all these under the WTO?

The other day, the hon. Minister was kind enough to say that they have imposed fifty per cent tariff duty on wheat. He gave the statement on the other day. Now, we have already 22,000 metric ton of milk powder in our country and it is going to be 45,000 metric ton by the end of March. Where are we going to sell it? We are not selling milk powder for the last two months. Nobody is purchasing even a kilogram of milk powder because our cost of conversion of milk into milk powder is Rs. 70 to Rs. 75 per kilogram and in the market, the imported milk powder is sold at Rs. 50. Who will purchase our milk powder? This is what is happening now. The cost of animals have gone up. It is about Rs. 15,000 to 20,000 for a cow yielding six litres of milk per day.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You can only put a question.

SHRI R.L. JALAPPA: Allow me for five more minutes.

The cost of feed has also gone up. I am told, the hon. Minister is also a good agriculturist. I do not know whether he is involved in dairying. The cost of the wheat bran has gone up by 30 per cent. It was being sold at Rs. 150 per 50 kilogram bag. Now, it is sold at Rs. 190 to Rs 200. The cost of groundnut cake that was being sold at Rs. 6,000 per tonne last year has now gone up to Rs. 9,000. You must please consider how it is possible for us to take up dairying profitably incurring this much cost.

I have already told that our conversion cost is very high whereas the milk that is being imported is being subsidized. They are subsidizing \$ 1,000 for each tonne of exports made from the European Union and the USA. That is, they are subsidizing Rs. 44 per kilogram of milk powder which is being exported from these countries. How can we compete with these people? It is not at all possible. What is going to be the effect of this? Our small farmers will give up dairying. I am myself a person who is supplying some milk to the societies. I am getting only the dung and urine of these animals. I am getting no profit.

Sir, I am speaking honestly. In my State, there is an agitation and some people even started beating a representative of the Milk Union. That is the position. There is no other way. They have borrowed money; they cannot repay their money nor can they get a few rupees for their livelihood.

I have a request to make to the hon. Minister. We should not forget the fact that we had 'white revolution' only by the sweat and toil of millions of people. They have built it like this now and we are now surplus in this country. We also should not forget those people who have toiled much to bring our country as one of the major milk producers.

I have some suggestions to make to the hon. Minister. Firstly, the skimmed milk powder as well as butter oil shall be dropped from OGL; please for Heaven's sake, it should be done. Secondly, since the local production of dairy products is not subsidized, duty on imported SMP has to be imposed to bring the import prices on par or at the competitive levels as the local production costs. Thirdly, the Government shall subsidize the milk produced in our country so that Dairy Cooperative Societies and millions of farmers can survive. The next suggestion is that at least, during flush season, the school children shall be provided with milk free of cost.

Money is blocked and farmers are not getting their money. They are declaring milk holidays, that means, once a week, they would not take milk. They have also

[SHRI R.L. JALAPPA]

reduced the price of milk. Certain Unions have reduced it by 30 paise per litre and in certain others, they have reduced it by 65 paise per litre.

Finally, my suggestion would be this. The Defence Department purchase milk powder for the jawans who are fighting in the border areas; whenever they make such purchases, let them purchase from the Cooperatives so that the farmers get money and they can survive.

I have already brought these things to the kind notice. We are all small chicks, doing dairying. Please do not throw us to the wolves, that is, the multinationals. Please bear it in mind and save us from this perilous situation.

SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA (Kolar): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The senior hon. Member, Shri Jalappa has narrated the whole thing. I would like to give a few suggestions to the hon. Minister. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have not given notice earlier.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: You should have given notice in the morning itself. Since you have not given, your name has not been listed here.

...*(Interruptions)*

[*Translation*]

SHRI SHANKAR PRASAD JAISWAL (Varanasi): Mr. Chairman, Sir, my name was there in the list of speakers for the Half-an-Hour Discussion held last time but I could not participate in it as the hon'ble Minister requested me not to speak...*(Interruptions)*

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: I cannot go against the rules. I will read out that rule for you. It says:

"There shall be no formal motion before the House nor voting. The Member who has given notice may make a short statement and the Members who have previously intimated to the Speaker may ask a question."

If you see that rule, you will find that it does not permit.

...*(Interruptions)*

[*Translation*]

SHRI SHANKAR PRASAD JAISWAL: Mr. Chairman, Sir, you have the power. You can allow me to speak for two minutes...*(Interruptions)*

[*English*]

SHRI GUTHA SUKENDER REDDY (Nalgonda): We have already intimated. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: I do not want to create a bad precedent. Have you intimated to the Speaker earlier? No. So, your name did not find a place in this list.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: No. The rule does not permit. I am going only by that rule. You should have given a notice in writing in advance to the hon. Speaker. You have not done that. I can go only by that rule. If I allow anybody now, it will become a precedent hereafter. That is why, I do not want to allow anybody.

...*(Interruptions)*

[*Translation*]

SHRI SHANKAR PRASAD JAISWAL: Mr. Chairman, Sir, what will the Members from the Congress Party can speak on this issue for your information. I would like to tell that the Government of their party removed ban from it in 1995-96. I do not know under what pressure it was done. I feel that it was done during the Congress Government regime due to pressure from WTO and as a result of it milk producers of the country are unable to face competition in the market. ...*(Interruptions)*

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: I cannot go against the rules.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV (Silchar); Sir, I am glad to see that you are a different person when you are in the Chair than when you are sitting with us.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I was also denied like that!

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: This will not go on record.

...*(Interruptions)**

MR. CHAIRMAN: I do not want to expunge it. I only disallow him to speak.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA: Sir, this is a very important subject. Hon. Member, Shri Jalappa, has given the details and the figures. I would like to inform the House that providing markets is the only way to save our agro-based industries. ...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: You should have given a notice in advance.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI M.V.S. MURTHI (Visakhapatnam): Being an ex-Speaker, you can understand the situation better. You need not go strictly by the rules every time. You can take a decision based on the importance of the subject. ...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: I do not want to create a new precedent.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: I do not say it is bad. But I do not want to create a new precedent.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI R.L. JALAPPA: It is a question which affects millions of people. ...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: If everybody wants that kind of a decision, then we can create a new precedent. I will establish any precedent that you like.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA: Sir, providing market is the only way to save the farmers. The agro-based industries like fruit and vegetable processing are very important for our country. I belong to Kolar district which is in the State of Karnataka. There, every household has one or two cows and they are producing 10 to 25 litres of milk every day. More than 4,000 villagers are there. If the Unions do not procure the milk, where will the farmers go? That is their only livelihood. The same is the case with the silk industry. Silk industry is also affected because of the liberalisation. Multi-nationals dump their products in our country. It is because of the liberalisation, we are

not able to control the silk industry. The position of the milk industry is also the same. Where will the farmers go? Some solution will have to be found out. Otherwise, the farmers would be in a bad shape.

Mr. Chairman, through you, I would suggest to the hon. Minister that milk should be procured through a nodal agency and whatever is procured should be distributed in a proper manner. If there is more production, they can be stored and converted into milk powder. The milk powder should be sold within and outside the country. The Government of India should come forward to take this step. Why should we import when the indigenous production is more than our necessity? Why should we import milk powder and silk products? These are very serious matters. The hon. Minister is very much concerned about these issues. The industries are also affected. So many tonnes of iron is dumped in this country. They dump our own products also. Lakhs of workers are affected. If we stop the industrialisation, ultimately our people would suffer. We have to stand against dumping. Otherwise, our industries would be destroyed within five years. We will not be able to find any industry in this country. I would request the hon. Minister to take care of the farmers as well as the industrialists. Otherwise, we would be in a bad shape. After that, the multi-nationals will charge double the rates. This is a known fact. We all know this. We have to find out a solution. We have to put an end to this. In order to prevent this dumping, we have to increase the import duty on these items. I agree that liberalisation policy is there. But there should be some limit to it. If you do not levy any duty on these items, how can you save the farmers and the industrialists? Today the public undertakings are becoming sick because there is no proper control of liberalisation.

There is no proper control over dumping. I would suggest that the Government should impose duty on it. If the Government imposes 30-40 per cent duty, there will be salvation. This way, we can protect our local, domestic industry. We can save our own industry. The Government can insist on quality. Local industry can be asked to maintain quality.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, you belong to the farming community. You know all these things. We want 6,000 tonnes of silk, out of which 4,000 tonnes are produced in our country. We want only 2,000 tonnes of silk but the Government is importing 6,000 tonnes of silk and dumping it on our farmers. There is nobody to control it. In this situation, how can we progress? Moreover, the cost of production is high and the farmers are not able to bear with it as the Government is selling our products at low price. Farmers are suffering a lot because of this. Same is the case with milk.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Under the rule, you are allowed to only put question.

SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA: I would suggest that the import of milk powder should be stopped. There is already over-production in our country. On the same line, silk also should not be imported. The Government should import only those items which are needed in our country.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the hon'ble Members wanted to have this discussion on the basis of the starred question No. 50 which was replied on 1st December. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI R.L. JALAPPA: I cannot follow Hindi. I will be grateful if the Minister speaks in English.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: Interpretation is going on. You will not find any difficulty. Our Interpreters are very learned persons.

[Translation]

Several points have been made by both the hon'ble Members in this regard and there is no question of disagreement with them on certain points. Interests of milk producers of this country should be protected. The problems being faced by the milk producer union should be removed. It is correct that imported skimmed milk powder is being sold at cheaper rates in Indian market and our indigenous produce costs more. This item has been included in OGL and it has been included in the free list since 1995-96. So far the question of import duty is concerned. I would like to say that import, duty was not imposed on this item even earlier. Import duty is bound at zero percent on this item. As per the Geneva protocol import duty was bound at Zero percent on it. In Uruguay Round the schedule of Geneva protocol was carried forward. As on date import duty is bound at zero percent on this item. Jalappaji moved to the other side when economic liberalisation was introduced in the country in 1995-96. WTO agreement was signed afterwards and now all these items are being included under OGL. In 1995-96 skimmed milk powder was included under OGL. Earlier it was a restricted item and licence for its import used to be issued by DGFT but in 1995-96 it was put in the free list.

1800 hrs.

On the other hand import duty is bound at Zero percent, anybody can import it and that is happening today. There was no problem in this field upto 1998-99.

[English]

Import duty is bound at zero percent despite the fact that skimmed milk powder was placed in open general, free list of import items.

[Translation]

Thereafter till 1998-99, there was no problem and only a small quantity was being imported. However, it is true that its import increased all of a sudden in 1999-2000. You have also given information about it and I have also secured information in this regard which reveals that import has increased all of a sudden. I have figures for April to September of this year.

[English]

Subject to correction, I would like to give some figures which we have collected till September.

[Translation]

Mother Dairy, Delhi has imported 5000 MT of skimmed milk powder, Nestle India 2000 MT, Mother Dairy Calcutta 6000 MT, Mother Dairy, Calcutta 2000 MT, Government Dairy, Calcutta 1000 MT and Verna Dairies 717 MT. thus, a total of 16,717 MT powder was imported during this period. It is the figure given to me by official sources. It is just possible that some more persons may have imported. There are no two opinions about the fact that import has increased all of a sudden. Earlier this import was not to that extent. This problem cropped up this year only. Previously 215 MT skimmed milk powder was imported in 1994-95, 1103 MT in 1995-96, 283 MT in 1996-97, 670 MT in 1997-98 and 1424 MT in 1998-99 though the figures given for 1998-99 are provisional. This import has increased rapidly and there are two reasons for this increase. Firstly, it is cheaply available and there is no problem in its import.

On the other, our big dairies like Mother Dairy and others have tried to import it. They formulate their plans in February or March. They found that requirement of skimmed milk powder has increased in view of the increased demand of milk. Their procurement was not in accordance to that demand so import of skimmed milk powder was resorted to meet this demand. When they

inquired about the availability of skimmed milk in this country which was not sufficient for the requirement then decision was taken to import it. They imported the skimmed milk powder as per the information given.

Secondly skimmed milk powder is cheaply available in foreign countries and these are the two reasons for this problem. Now what is solution to it. What is the remedy. It is the policy of the Government to assist farmers and milk producers of the country. Now according to WTO Agreement we have to adopt a process for the items bound at zero percent rate. Commerce Ministry of the Government of India have adopted this process. Now, we want to impose import duty on it to increase the bound rate. We have started this process. A notification has been issued for trade partners, holders of INR, persons holding initial negotiating rights or principal supplying interests. To begin with, the members of WTO have been notified. Except Canada our negotiations are going on with Australia, USA and European countries. Canada has not shown any interest in this regard. Our negotiations are going on in this regard for all the agricultural commodities on whom bound rate is quite low or is zero so that interests of the indigenous producers could be protected. This is the intention of the Government.

SHRI GUTHA SUKENDER REDDY (Nalgonda): They should also be given support price for their produce.

[English]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: That is a different thing. It is not related to this topic. That is all together different. I am responding to their queries now.

[Translation]

Negotiations are going on and their outcome will come after sometime. I feel that its result will be known by the beginning of the next year. After completing our negotiation the bound rate will be increased to protect the interests of our indigenous milk producers.

In that situation we can increase the import duty but at present we cannot impose import duty unilaterally. We have to go through this process and we are doing that. I would like to assure the hon'ble Members that the Government is alert on this issue and results of our efforts will be known at the earliest and then we will be able to protect their interests. So far the question of including it under restricted items is concerned, Commerce Ministry feels that it will be a retrograding step in view of liberalisation. So it is not being enlisted under restricted items and we will protect the interests of our milk

producers by increasing its bound rates through imposing import duty to restrict its import.

SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV (Parbhani): What do you want to say about WTO.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Member, you cannot put a question. The hon. Minister will not respond to it.

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: This matter relates to Commerce Ministry. But since you have asked, I would like to tell that it is essential to notify it first to the Members of WTO. One member did not show any interest and our negotiations with the remaining three partners are not at the final stage. It is not possible for me to tell about the details of this negotiations as on date because it can affect the negotiations. But I would like to assure you the interests of our producers will be protected. I hope that, we will be in a position to impose import duty after sometime.

[English]

Shri R.L. JALAPPA: Sir I want to seek only one clarification ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: There are no more clarifications. The Rules do not permit it.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI R. L. JALAPPA: I have given notice.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Jalappa, you cannot ask any other question.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU (Srikakulam): Sir, under the Rules of Procedure, you have got residuary power. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Under the residuary power, the Chair can overrule everything.

SHRI R.L. JALAPPA: Under the WTO, they are insisting that no subsidy can be given to the agricultural produce. If that is the case, how are the European Union and America subsidising it to the extent of \$1000 per tonne?..*(Interruptions)*

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: Your question does not relate to this subject. It is altogether a different question. Some countries are definitely subsidising their exports. India has taken this position. India has opposed this thing. We have taken up this issue during the WTO negotiation. You should know our stand. It is your baby.
...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Jalappa, you cannot make any other statement. The rules will not permit it.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: So far the question of milk holidays is concerned, I would like to say that this problem is being faced in Karnataka only.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Am I not bound by the Rules? The rules do not permit it.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI R.L. JALAPPA: Sir, kindly do not go by the rules very strictly. Sometimes, everything will have acceptance...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : The Minister has already replied to it.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: the House stands adjourned to meet tomorrow, the 21st December, 1999 at 11 a.m.

1807 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Tuesday, December 21, 1999/ Agrayana 30, 1921 (Saka).

Corrigenda to Lok Sabha Debates
(English Version)

...

Monday, December 20, 1999/Agrahayana 29, 1921 (Saka)

...

Col./line	For	Read
41,42/2	5207	5202
/11	695.00	965.00
70/2	DR. RAGHUVANSH RASAD SINGH	DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH
105/2	SHRI CHINTAMAN WANGA	SHRI CHINTAMAN WANAGA
337, 338/19	2024.32	2034.32
462/19	SHRI S.P. SINGH BAGHEL	PROF. S.P.SINGH BAGHEL
476/6	SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MOHALE	SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE
479/30	SHRI BASU DEV ACHARIA	SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA

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