

LOK SABHA DEBATES

(English Version)

Third Session
(Thirteenth Lok Sabha)



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LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
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LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Thursday, April 27, 2000/Vaisakha 7, 1922 (Saka)

*The Lok Sabha met at
Eleven of the clock.*

[Mr. Speaker in the Chair]

[Translation]

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, three activists of Shiv Sena have been killed within three days. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Not now, you can speak on this during Zero Hour.

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE : The killing of Shiv Sainiks is continuing unabated.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Not now.

[Translation]

Please sit down now, you can raise this point during Zero Hour.

...*(Interruptions)**

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE : Three Shiv Sainiks have been killed within eight days. ...*(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER : Not now, make your point during Zero Hour.

....*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : You are a senior member. You know the procedure of Question Hour very well. I will not allow you now. I will allow you in the Zero Hour.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

11.01 hrs.

Computerised Railway Reservation

+
*461. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR :

SHRIMATI. NIVEDITA MANE :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

*Not recorded.

(a) whether the Government are aware that computers provided at various railway reservation centres in the country are not functioning satisfactorily and causing hardships to the general public;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the names of centres where such problems arises frequently;

(c) whether the Government have conducted any enquiry to find out the reasons for failure of computers;

(d) if so, the details and outcome thereof; and

(e) the steps being taken/proposed by the Government to improve the functioning of computers in the railway reservation centres?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) to (e) A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Statement

(a) and (b) The computerised reservation facilities are generally satisfactory. However, occasional interruptions do take place in the PRS service due to the failure of electrical equipments like UPS, telecom equipments, Computer systems and software as well as failure of communication channels. There have been no cases of persisting problems at any particular locations.

(c) to (e) Existing machinery to monitor the computer system and rectify the defects as soon as they are identified, is considered adequate. To maintain the services system hardware, application software, telecom and electrical infrastructure are upgraded from time to time. Replacement of old equipments is done regularly to minimise failures. Annual maintenance contracts is in force to take care of preventive maintenance.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the computers installed at the railway stations for reservation remain out of order frequently which results in difficulty to thousands of passengers. The passengers have to face difficulties due to over crowding and they have to cancel their journey due to failure of computers. Last year, Rs. 70 crores were allocated for computerised reservation but subsequently it was revised to Rs. 43 crores. Due to this reduction in allocation, maintenance of computers is not carried out properly. Due to non-availability of the air-conditioned computer rooms, at major stations like Nagpur, Chandrapur and Wardha, faults occur in computers early. Therefore, I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister of Railways as to what she proposes to do for providing air-conditioned computer

rooms, trained staff and for proper maintenance of computers in order to check the frequent breakdown in computerised reservation service?

My second question is whether the Government propose to provide computerised reservation facility at Karjat, Roha and Mangaon railway stations under Konkan Railways in Raigarh district of Maharashtra in view of the importance of these stations due to ever increasing number of passengers. If so, by what time this facility will be provided at these stations and if not, the reasons therefore?

SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, It is correct that sometimes problem do arise in computerised reservation. But we should also keep this fact in view that we are providing reservation to eight lakh people daily through these computers. There are two categories of failures. First sort of failure is called the system failure and the other is the terminal failure. The failure which extends upto two hours and due to which it is impossible to issue tickets anywhere as a result of breakdown in the system is called the system failure and the failure which extends to more than six hours at any particular station is called the terminal failure. During 1999-2000, system failure occurred 13 times and terminal failure has occurred about 470 times so far.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, in view of the computerised reservation for eight lakh people daily, this failure does not account for even one per cent. The hon'ble Member is aware of the reasons of the failures. It is true that most of our computerised reservation centres are air-conditioned but some reservation centres have not been air-conditioned so far and we will make efforts to provide this facility there.

Secondly, the hon'ble Member has asked whether a computerised reservation centre at a particular station will be set up or not? In this regard, I would like to say that we have laid down a criteria for this and we set up the computerised reservation centres at the places where more than two hundred tickets are reserved daily. We will consider the particular station mentioned by the hon'ble Member and if found feasible efforts will be made in this direction.

SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, It has come to notice that at some centres, major faults occur frequently which causes lot of inconvenience to the people. I do not know whether you are aware of this or not? Secondly, in respect of other new stations where the reservation facility is proposed to be provided, will you make announcement one week or fifteen days in advance on trial basis that we have started reservation on experiment basis at a particular station so that the people could come to know about it. It can then be gauged as to how many people come for reservation in response to this announcement on the basis of which you

can decide whether air-conditioned reservation centres can be opened there or not? In absence of reservation facility there the passengers have to undertake their long distance journey without any reservation. Whether the hon'ble Minister will take this into account and whether such announcement will be made? If so, whether any such practice was in vogue earlier? If so, at how many places this has been done on trial basis?

SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to inform the hon'ble Member that there is no question of trial basis in it. The stations at which reservation is already being done are taken into considerations to how many reservation tickets are issued from there. There is no question of trial. As per the method we have adopted, the stations at which more than two hundred reservation tickets are issued are taken into consideration and they are gradually included in the priority list. I would also like to inform that we try to open computerised reservation centres at the places where there is no rail link for example North-Eastern States and Jammu and Kashmir. Such Centre is there in Srinagar (Kashmir) where two hundred reservation tickets are issued every day and we accord priority for such places. Therefore, the question of trial basis does not arise.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to inform this august House that we have made provision for opening of eighty new computerised reservation counters in the current year.

SHRI SHRIPRAKSH JAISWAL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to bring to the notice of the hon'ble Minister generally it has been observed that there is frequent breakdown at the computerised reservation centres at the major railway stations having only one such centre. Therefore, I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister whether it is not possible to open more computerised reservation centres at the major railway stations? I am of the view that if more such centres are opened at these stations there will be less complaints of breakdown in computers. It has been noticed that complaints of computer failure at Delhi computerised reservation centre are reported rarely in comparison to other stations where rate of computer failure is considerably higher. Therefore, I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister as to why the number of computer centres is increased?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, in response to the points raised by the hon'ble Members, I would like to say that the reservation burden is not the only reason for failure. The breakdown in computer centre also occurs due to power failure. There are several other reasons for its failure. As the hon'ble Minister of State for Railways has said just now that system failure occurred about 13 times and terminal failure occurred about 470 times. In the past, 62 computer centres have been opened

in Maharashtra and provision has been made to open eight new centers this year. In Uttar Pradesh, 69 centers have been opened and provision has been made to open 16 new centres in the current year. We take note of the faults occurring in these centres. You have suggested opening of more counters at the railway stations. In this regard, I would like to say that generally we provide two counters at the computerised reservation centres but we will consider your demand of opening of more counters at major railway stations and we will see as to how more counters can be opened. We will try to fulfill your demand.

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to bring to the notice of the hon'ble Minister that Kanpur is the largest railway station between Delhi and Howrah where there is only one computerised reservation centre and large number of people come for reservation here, due to which it breaks down frequently. Whether the number of reservation centres will be increased or new counters will be opened in order to minimise the failure and to provide reservation facility promptly to the people?

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, as I have already stated that there are several reasons for failure of the computerised reservation centres. Besides power failure, there can be several other reasons of failure of computerised reservation centres but the Ministry of Railways will consider the suggestions given by the hon'ble Member.

SHRI VIJAY GOEL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to bring to the notice of the hon'ble Minister that even today, a large number of touts are active in reservation of rail tickets. A layman is unable to get the rail ticket reserved for himself whereas the touts sell rail tickets in black market. I want to know from the hon'ble Minister of Railways as to what steps she proposes to take to check the black marketing of the rail tickets.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to bring to the notice of the hon'ble Minister of Railways that a reservation counter has been set up by the railways in the Delhi University area where thousands of students come daily to reserve the tickets. Whether she will consider the computerise the said reservation counter?

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, we try to open the computerised rail reservation centres at all the important places which includes tourists spots and aerodromes etc. The suggestion of the hon'ble Member is about computerisation of the reservation centre functioning at Delhi University and we will examine his suggestion.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, so far as the menace of touts is concerned, I would like to inform that we have taken stern action in this regard. Despite this, touts are still operating and they sell the rail tickets in black market after buying tickets well in advance.

[English]

Last year from April to Jan. 2000, 2753 persons have been apprehended and 2433 have been prosecuted.

[Translation]

During the year 1998-99 we have arrested 3074 persons and 4808 people were arrested during the last to last year i.e. 1997-98. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI SAHIB SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, whether such cases have also come to the notice of the hon'ble Minister wherein people working with some travel agency are involved. ... (Interruptions)

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : If any specific case is reported to us or if any hon'ble Member lodges any complaint or informs about any such case, we will definitely look into it.

SHRI VIJAY GOEL : What punishment you have given to them?

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : There is a system of giving punishment. GRP files the FIR and thereafter the case goes to the Court and Court gives punishment. I have already stated that 2628 persons have been arrested.

SHRI VIJAY GOEL : I want to know as to what punishment has been given to them? Whether there are some loopholes in the railway rules due to which they are acquitted?

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : Sir, I have stated.

[English]

The GRP lodge the FIR and according to that the State Government and the Courts take action.

[Translation]

SHRI GUTHA SUKENDER REDY : Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister whether arrangements are made to provide new terminals at the district headquarters where there are no computerised reservation terminals? I had submitted a proposal to the hon'ble Minister to establish a computerised reservation centre in Nalgonda district but I have not received any feedback in this regard so far.

SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, so far as the question raised by the hon'ble Member is concerned, I have already stated that we have adopted a criterion in this regard and district headquarters is not a factor in that. Priority is given to such places where more than two hundred seats are reserved every day and we set-up such centres at the places for which there is no rail link. You have suggested that district headquarters should be included in the criterion for setting up

of railway computerised reservation centres. In this connection, I would like to inform the hon'ble Member that we will take your suggestion into account and efforts will be made to implement your suggestion.

SHRI RAJO SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, so long as the people do not know that the facility of reservation is going to be introduced in their area, how will they go there to get their reservation done and how they will come to know that the reservation facility has been introduced in their area. Whether hon'ble Minister would consider to give it a wide publicity?

[English]

SHRI MOINUL HASSAN : Respected Speaker, Sir, after the introduction of computerised reservations, the reservation system scenario throughout the country has improved a lot.

My question is in two parts. Firstly, is the computer system working in our country is not up to the mark in such a manner that all trains are available in the system.

Right from the beginning, there is a computer facility. But software is not provided and so, the facility of reservation in all the trains is not available from a particular computer centre.

MR. SPEAKER : Please ask your supplementary question, otherwise, you will not get any answer from the Ministry. You have to ask a question.

SHRI MOINUL HASSAN : I would like to know what is the action taken by the Railway Ministry to improve this particular section of the computer system.

The second part of my question is this ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : You are entitled to ask only one supplementary and not two. Now, the Minister may reply.

[Translation]

SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, all the computers have been connected with each other from the end of the year 1999 and as per the information available with us we are satisfied with it. If the hon'ble Members have any specific information, we will welcome that and we will inform the hon'ble Members as to what can be done in this regard.

[English]

SHRI K. MALAISAMY : Sir, through you, I would like to know this from the hon. Minister. I welcome the Computerised Reservation facilities though there may be some lapses and some failures. I would like to know whether they have got any

perspective plan or an objective strategy or device to extend this facility to major towns, or at least, to the district headquarters. If so, may I know whether it would be extended to any centres in Tamil Nadu?

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : Earlier we have provided 524 such Computerised Reservation Centres all over the country. This time, we included 80 new Computerised Reservation Centres for the whole country. We are monitoring the system constantly. The hon. Member is suggesting a broad-based improvement of the Computerised Reservation Centre. Whatever action is to be taken to strengthen vigilance, passenger amenities and improvement in Computerised Reservation Centres, we are willing to take.

[Translation]

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI : Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, just now the hon'ble Minister had said that computerised reservation have been opened at such places where virtually there is no rail link as you have considered such places suitable for various reasons. My first point in this regard is that whether there is any prescribed norms for this?

Secondly, I have submitted a proposal regarding opening of a computerised reservation centre in Tikamgarh district of Madhya Pradesh which is a district headquarters as well as tourist centre. Will you consider that seriously and whether a centre will be set up there?

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : Twenty five reservation centres have already been allotted to Madhya Pradesh and provision has been made for opening eight more centres in this year's budget. As for the place in Madhya Pradesh which you have mentioned just now for opening of reservation centre, we will examine that proposal.

Sir, several hon'ble Members have requested for opening of reservation centres at district headquarters. I would like to say that we will lay optical fibre cable on a route measuring upto 62,800 Kms. If this arrangement is made.

[English]

All stations will be connected by Internet. By this the Railways will get more revenue and at the same time, the passengers will also get more facilities.

[Translation]

SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV : Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, I have been trying to get an opportunity to ask a question for the last so many days but I regret to say that you are allotting time to the major political parties and the smaller political parties are deprived of an opportunity to make their submission.

MR. SPEAKER : I will allow you also.

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KAHNDURI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, associating myself with the point raised by the hon'ble Member, I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister with regard to opening of new computerised reservation centres and point out that hilly areas have their own specific features. In hilly areas people have to go to distant places where this facility is available to get a seat reserved fifteen days in advance and they have to spend Rs. 300 to 400 on this. One cannot compare the situation with that of plain areas where one can get a seat easily reserved by going to a nearby reservation centre. To perform a journey, the people have to go to the station twice. Once for getting reservation and the second time to undertake the journey. Before performing the journey, one has to go fifteen days in advance for reservation which is an expensive procedure as well as an arduous task. You have made a mention of district headquarters of the Garhwal region. In this regard, I would like to say that OFC has been installed at Gopeshwar, Chamoli and Rudrapur districts of Uttarakhand. Will you kindly issue directions for opening of computerised reservation centres at these two places which I have mentioned?

SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH : Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, I have already replied to the question asked by the hon'ble Member. It is true that there is no rail link for the Garhwal or Uttarakhand region. As per the priority list, we have opened reservation counters at the places where it was possible. But in the adjoining places like Rishikesh, Dehradun, Haridwar, Mussouri, Nainital, we have already provided this facility.

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI : The people have to spend Rs. 500 to 600 hundred 15 days in advance to visit the centres to get the reservation. Several people visit the pilgrim places like Badrinath and Kedarnath located in that region.

SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH : I know people have to cover a good distance in hilly areas. That is why I am saying that Nainital and Mussouri are the major tourist centres in hilly areas of Uttranchal. The places you have mentioned are also in our priority list. We are not neglecting those places. We have tried to give as many facilities in the hilly areas as was possible.

Creation of Additional Railway Zones

[Translation]

*463. SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are going to create additional Railway zones;

(b) If so, the criteria adopted for creation of additional zones;

(c) whether the problem of resource crunch has been resolved; and

(d) If so, the details thereof?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am not satisfied with the reply given by hon'ble Minister as he has stated that even no new zones are going to be created. However, in a reply given in Rajya Sabha on 17.12.1999, he had stated that even new zones are going to be created, but in reply to my question he has stated that the Government is not going to create any additional zone.

SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I do not know about which reply the hon'ble Member is talking about six zones were already existing there and only one new zone at Bilaspur has been created on 9.9.1998. At present there is no such proposal under consideration to create a new zone.

SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY : In your reply you have stated that the

[English]

the Government had decided to set up seven new zones in North-Central Railway, East-Coast Railway, South-Western Railway and Eastern Railway.

[Translation]

My objective to raise this question is to set up a railway zone at Ahmedabad in Gujarat. For the last 30 years, Gujarat is demanding to set up a zone there as 55% railway lines through Gujarat. In Maharashtra, though only 2% of railway lines are passing through the State, even then Central Railway zone and Western Railway zones are situated in Mumbai. My question is that Gujarat Government is making this demand for the last 3 years and even the land has been provided by the State Government free of cost but the Central Government is not paying attention towards it. I request to create a railway zone at Ahmedabad as early as possible.

SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH : Railway Reforms Committee was set up in 1984. That Committee had given suggestions about four zones, i.e. Jabalpur, Ajmer, Allahabad and

Bangalore. Later on in 1994 an Advisory Committee was set up which proposed Jaipur instead of Ajmer. As per the decision taken by the Cabinet on July 12, 1996, six new zones were set up which included 4 existing zones and two new zones of Bhubaneswar and Hazipur were added. Jaipur was included instead of Ajmer. So far as the question of Gujarat and Mumbai, as raised by the hon'ble Member is concerned, a new divisional headquarter, D.R.M. office is being opened at Ahmedabad. I myself have gone there to monitor the work. Before independence, headquarters of both the zones were in Mumbai, therefore, setting up of a zone is not related with the development of a State.

SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL : It might be related with expansion. Most of the railway routes is in Gujarat.

[English]

Out of 10,000 kilometers, we have 5,000 route kilometers.

SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the answer provided by the Ministry of Railways is technically correct. But what the hon. Member has represented or what he meant, has not been properly projected. In recent years, some zones were created in our country. The hon. Member also referred to it. Some divisions were also created. They are not functioning. We have created East-Coast Railway zone with Bhubaneswar as its headquarters. We are not against it. Waltair was previously in the East-Coast Railway. For many years, Andhra Pradesh was fighting for it to be tagged on to South-Central Railway, but it has been tagged on to East-Coast Railway. I do not know why?

Similarly, the Minister has taken out Guntakal from the division. The hon. Minister has promised to create a zone at Guntur. It is there on paper. The State Government has also given them the land to lay the foundation but nothing has happened. Even Waltair is linked up with the East Coast Railways on paper but it has not been functioning. I would like to know from the hon. Minister of Railways, whether there is any proposal for its reconsideration or reallocation on administrative grounds at least though I am not of the opinion that these were created on administrative grounds.

[Translation]

SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Railway has no proposal to set up new zones.

[English]

SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY : I am not asking for the new railway zones. I am talking about the already sanctioned zone at Guntur. It has not been functioning.

[Translation]

SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH : Guntur is not a zone, it is a division.

[English]

SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY : I meant to say Guntur Division. ... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH : The zones which have been set up till now. ... (Interruptions) I come to the division. No zone is operational till now. The construction of office has been started where the divisions have been set up, O.S.Ds have been appointed there. As soon as the construction completes, full-fledge functioning will be started there. ... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : This will not go on record.

(Interruptions)*

SHRI C.P. RADHAKRISHNAN : There is a long pending request of the textile belt of Coimbatore, Erode and Salem that there should be new divisional headquarters at either of these three towns. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY : What has happened to the Guntur Division for which the Minister of Railways has laid the Foundation also?

[Translation]

SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH : Funds have been allocated for already existing divisions of Ahmedabad, Agra, Pune, Ranchi, Raipur, Guntur and Singrauli. It is not that funds have not been allocated. Accordingly, construction work is going on at every division including your State. I may agree with you on this point that the progress of the work is not taking place at expected place. However, the work is going on every where.

[English]

SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY : Sir, he is just telling the stories. You can yourself come and see what is happening there. ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : This will not go on record.

(Interruptions)*

SHRI C.P. RADHAKRISHNAN : Sir, there is a long-pending demand of the textile belt of Tamil Nadu involving

*Not recorded.

Salem, Erode and Coimbatore. The people are requesting the Railway Ministry to put up new divisional headquarters in either of these three towns. This has been pending with the Railway Ministry for quite long time. I would like to know as to when the Government is going to set up this division.

MR. SPEAKER : This has already been replied to. The Government is not going to give any additional zone.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : This is not the way to behave in the Question Hour.

SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY : In what way we are protected, Sir? ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : He has already replied it. There is no question of creation of new zones.

SHRI E. AHAMED : I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether this proposal to have new zones has been shelved due to the financial crunch or for the administrative necessities. Does the Government still feel that more zones and divisions are to be created for the efficient functioning of the Railways; if so, when the Government feels this financial crunch will be resolved in the administration of the railways? In this connection I would also like to know from the Minister of Railways whether the Government is aware of the fact that entire Kerala would like to have a separate zone. Is there such a proposal under consideration of the Government?

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : I appreciate the concern expressed by the Members. Most of the Members want that there should be a zone in every State Headquarters. The problem is, the Safety Committee has recommended Rs. 15,000 crore for safety-related matters. I may tell you that for a particular zone Rs. 120 crore are involved. The expenditure comes out to Rs. 857.70 crore. We can decide whether we wish to go in for creation of new zones or we wish to spend money on the security aspect. We have decided to set up a Monitoring Committee in every State so that the implementation of a project and other developmental work should not be kept pending. It should work in a proper manner. So, we have decided to set up a Committee comprising of both the State Government and the Central Government officials. OSD and other officials who are working in the zone will be involved so that they work for the welfare of the country.

SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL : In reply to my colleague, Shri Choudhary's question whether the problem of resource crunch has been resolved, the Minister has said that it has not been resolved. If this is the answer then what will happen to the problems faced by a State like Gujarat? In one of the Unstarred questions asked by nine Members belonging to Gujarat, it has been stated that as against the total estimated cost of Rs. 85 crore involving 13 metre-gauge to broad-gauge conversion projects, the Railways have so far spent only Rs. 1 crore.

MR. SPEAKER : The question is with regard to the creation of additional zones.

SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL : I am talking of the resource crunch. The Minister of Railways has replied that she is not able to resolve the problem of resource crunch. I would like to know as to when they are going to resolve it.

MR. SPEAKER : That is altogether a separate question.

Security Threat from Shops of Santhusthi Complex

*466. SHRI SHIVAJI MANE :

SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether some shops owned by certain high profile people in the Santhusthi Complex near Prime Minister's residence is reportedly described by the Defence Ministry as a threat to P.M.'s security;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) whether this land belongs to Defence Authorities;

(d) if so, the reasons for which the private parties have been allowed to run the shops; and

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

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) to (e) The Santhusthi Complex is a shopping complex set up on land in the possession of Indian Air Force. The lease rent from the shops was reported to be utilised for funding various schemes of welfare of Air Force personnel being undertaken by the Air Force Wives' Welfare Association. The shops in the complex have been allotted to private persons. Government have no report from the concerned security agencies about the shopping complex posing any threat to Prime Minister's security. Since use of the defence land for setting up of the shopping complex was not authorised, the management of the complex has been taken over by the Defence Estate Officer from February 1998 and action is being taken under law for removal of unauthorised occupation.

[Translation]

SHRI SHIVAJI MANE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon'ble Minister has stated in his reply that the shops in the Santhusthi complex have been allotted on lease. Through you, I would like to ask the hon'ble Minister that how much funds have been collected

by the Welfare Association as lease rent from the shops and how much of this amount has been spent on welfare activities. Are you fully aware of the matter?

[English]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : Sir, I do not have access to that information. Because the Air Force Wives' Welfare Association is a registered society, a private body. They keep their accounts. They submit them to their own audit. It is not a part of the Ministry of Defence.

[Translation]

SHRI SHIVAJI MANE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, my second question is that as you have stated in your reply that action is being taken under law for removing such shops, whether a time limit has been fixed for it or by which time these shops are likely to be removed.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : Notices have been issued to remove the shops. Five shops have already been removed by the owners. Necessary action under law is being taken on other owners.

[English]

SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the shops have been constructed and established on Defence land. That land has been unauthorisedly occupied by the 'so-called Welfare Association'. The hon. Minister says that they have no control on the huge amounts collected as rent by them. When they have unauthorisedly constructed these shops and action being taken to remove them, it is the duty of the hon. Minister to see whether Rs. 9 crore which are collected as rent, has been spent properly or not. It is very important. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether this amount of Rs. 9 crore would be taken back by the Ministry of Defence or not. I would also like to know from the Minister whether he will take appropriate action in this direction.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : Sir, I would like to first make the point that it is not a 'so called Welfare Association'. The wives of the Armed Forces - the Army, the Navy and the Air Force - have such associations who are concerned with the social work, who provide relief to ex-servicemen, and who look after the families of the Armed Forces in times of any kind of action. They are doing extremely good work in their respective areas. Therefore, it would be very unfair to call them 'so-called welfare association'.

SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI : I have not said like that.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : You said, "the so-called Welfare Association". Sir, it makes a word of difference. It is a Welfare Association and it is not a 'so-called Welfare Association'. You can say, "so called" when you question the *bona fides*, of that organisation.

SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI : I am not questioning the *bona fides*, of that organisation.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : If you have not questioned the *bona fides*, I thank you for that. But I am sorry

to say that you used those words. I have to clarify and defend people who are doing good work.

Sir, as I said earlier, these associations are registered societies. They are private bodies. The Ministry of Defence has nothing to do nor do the Armed Forces have anything to do with these associations. They are voluntary organisations. They do their work. As I said, they are doing a good and a very commendable work.

Now, insofar as the matter regarding construction of the shops etc. is concerned, it is true that some of the rules that should have been followed while constructing these shops on Defence land had not been followed. This is way back in 1985 when they began this construction, there were voices raised suggesting that what is happening is not right. Later on, there has been a Public Interest Litigation on this. That matter is before the court of law and the hearings are still on. Since the court is seised with the various aspects of setting up of this complex there, I would like to wait for the court to take a decision.

SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI : So, the Minister is saying that Rs. 9 crore have been spent properly.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : I said that I have no access to their accounts.

SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI : That is what I wanted to know. Thank you very much.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : Sir, alongwith the radical changes that had taken place with regard to Defence requirements the requirements of Defence land as they had been used in the past, say in the British days and subsequent days, some of the pieces of land have become redundant. In some places, very prestigious organisations like Indian Red Cross Society, colleges, technical institutions are situated. One such institution, namely, *Rashtraguru Surendranath Banerjee* is there at Barrackpore. They had applied to the Ministry of Defence to allow them to construct a new building. The permission was given by the Ministry but the local authorities are creating many difficulties for years together.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Rupchand Pal, you ask a specific question.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : Sir, I am asking a specific question. I would like to know whether the Government will have a re-look at the Defence requirement of the specific lands particularly where the prestigious institutions and NGOs like the Indian Red Cross Society have been operating for a very long time.

MR. SPEAKER : How does it relate to the present question?

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : Sir, the Minister is ready to give a reply. He knows the problem.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : Sir, alienation of Defence land is not encouraged. At what point in time what

land will be required, and what kind of situations will arise, these are all matters on which one cannot take a definite view. It is true that there has been alienation. But that alienation has always been on receipt of an equal amount of land from the State Government. As far as any kind of public institution whether it is an educational institution or a sports body or a Fliers' Association and so on and so forth are concerned, there are restrictions and normally land is not being given for such purposes. Now the hon. Member has mentioned a specific case. If that specific case is referred to me, I will have a look at it.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : I have written to you on this.

SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR : Sir, in my constituency, the Ichchapur Rifle Factory and Metal and Steel Factories are situated. Regarding this specific question of building up shopping complexes etc., there is a problem in Ichchapur. A controversy is continuing between the management of the factories and the shopkeepers. I would urge upon the Minister to look into it. While urging upon him, I would ask a specific question. I would like to know whether it is possible that in the course of solving the present controversy could a modern shopping complex be built up there to cater to the needs of the Defence employees.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : Sir, I do not have any paper or file before me of this particular case that the hon. Member is mentioning. If he sends me the particulars about that, I shall certainly have a look at it.

[Translation]

**Provision of Drinking Water and better Sanitation
System with Foreign Assistance**

*467. SHRI SHYAM BIHARI MISHRA : Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have been providing drinking water and better sanitation system in the rural areas with foreign assistance;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the achievements made in this regard during the last three years;

(c) whether any scheme in this regard has been formulated under a joint venture between the Governments of India and Netherlands for Uttar Pradesh; and

(d) if so, the number of villages likely to be covered under this scheme?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The details of on-going rural water supply and sanitation projects with external assistance are given in Annexure-I. The details of completed rural water supply and sanitation projects with external assistance are given in Annexure-II.

As rural drinking water supply is a State subject, the externally aided projects are implemented by the State Governments. As such, details of achievements in respect of externally assisted projects are not maintained at the Central level.

(c) and (d) The following rural drinking water supply and sanitation projects have been undertaken in Uttar Pradesh with the Netherlands assistance :

S. No.	Name of the Project	Name of the district(s) covered	Number of villages covered/likely to be covered
1	Sub Project-I - Piped Water Supply	Allahabad, Raebareli, Varanasi	724
2	Sub Project-III - Handpumps	Allahabad, Agra, Mathura, Etawah, Farrukhabad, Mainpuri/Firozabad	967
3	Sub Project-IV - Piped Water Supply	Allahabad, Bhadohi, Varanasi	264
4	Sub Project-V - Sanitation	Raebareli, Varanasi	46
5	Sub Project-VI - Handpumps	Lakhimpur, Bahraich, Gonda, Basti, Ballia, Siddharthnagar	3148
6	Sub Project-VIII - Handpumps	Aligarh, Moradabad, Badaun, Kanpur (Dehat), Unnao, Ballia	3348
Total			8497

Annexure-I*On-Going Projects with External Assistance*

S. No.	State	Name of the Project	Cost of the Project (Rs. in lakhs)
Agency : Netherlands			
1	Gujarat	Ghogha Regional Water Supply and Sanitation	4643.24
2	Karnataka	Karnataka Integrated Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Project	8851.00
3	Kerala	BA WSS to Kundra and adjoining Panchayats	1606.00
4	Kerala	Pavaratty Regional WSS	4500.00
5	Kerala	Socio-Economic unit foundation	1756.00
6	Uttar Pradesh	Sub- Project - VIII Handpumps	5367.90
7	Uttar Pradesh	Sub Project - VI Handpumps	3729.32
Agency : DANIDA (Denmark)			
8	Karnataka	Karnataka Rural Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Project with Danida assistance	5100.00
9	Tamil Nadu	Integrated Rural Sanitation and Water Supply Project - Phase II	4300.00
Agency : ODA/DFID			
10.	Maharashtra	Maharashtra Rural Water Supply and Sanitation	7430.00
Agency : KFW-Germany			
11	Rajasthan	Integrated Water Supply and Sanitation and community participation programme in 3 districts in Rajasthan - Phase I	39927.00
12	West Bengal	Rural Water Supply in West Bengal - Bopur Raghunathpur Water Supply, Sanitation and Health Education Project	14859.00
Agency : Japan			
13	Kerala	OECD aided Kerala Water Supply Project IDP-123	178745.00
Agency : World Bank (IDA)			
14	Uttar Pradesh	UP Rural Water Supply and Environmental Sanitation Project	30100.00
15	Karnataka	Karnataka Integrated Rural Water Supply and Environmental Sanitation Project	44720.00

* Exchange rate as on 29-2-2000

Annexure-II*Completed Projects with External Assistance*

S. No.	State	Name of the Project	Cost of Project (Rs. in lakhs)
1	2	3	4
Agency : The Netherlands			
1	Andhra Pradesh	AP-I - To provide water supply to 281 villages in the Districts of Prakasham, Krishna, Guntur, Nalkonda, Karimnagar and Kumool	1825.52
	-do-	AP-II - To provide water supply to 237 problem villages in Kumool, Prakasham, Medak and Mahabubnagar districts.	5310.00

1	2	3	4
3	Gujarat	Gujarat WS-II-Lathi, Lillya	728.00
4	-do-	Gujarat WS-II - Santalpur Extension RWSS	1045.00
5	-do-	Gujarat WS-II - Sami Harij	2481.00
6	Kerala	Comprehensive Water Supply Scheme (CWSS) - Nattika Firka	1875.55
7	-do-	CWSS-Mala	585.85
8	-do-	CWSS-Koipuram	148.76
9	-do-	CWSS-Trikunnapuzha	34.45
10	-do-	CWSS-Cherlanadu	133.56
11	-do-	CWSS-Vakkam, Anjengo	537.00
12	Uttar Pradesh	Sub-Project-I - Piped Water Supply	1652.77
13	-do-	Sub-Project-III - Handpumps	1273.54
14	-do-	Sub-Project-IV - Piped Water Supply	1571.17
15	-do-	Sub-Project-V - Sanitation	959.92
Agency : DANIDA			
16	Karnataka	Integrated Rural Sanitation and WS Project	1290.00
17	Orissa	Drinking WS Project Phase IIB	2030.00
18	Tamil Nadu	Integrated Rural Sanitation and WS Project	353.92
19	Kerala	Rural Drinking WS Project	1976.00
Agency : EEC			
20	Tamil Nadu	Rural WS Scheme	1500.00
Agency : KFW - Germany			
21	Madhya Pradesh	Rural Water Supply Project, Phase-I, M.P.	1907.00
Agency : World Bank			
22	Maharashtra	Rural Water Supply and Environmental Sanitation Project	61373.34

[Translation]

SHRI SHYAM BIHARI MISHRA : Hon'ble Mr. Speaker, Sir, some schemes have been initiated in Uttar Pradesh to solve the problem of shortage of drinking water in association with Netherland Government. Under this project, schemes have been initiated in at least 14 districts of Uttar Pradesh and also in my Parliamentary Constituency Kanpur Dehat but the work has not been fully accomplished. The hand pumps which were to be installed under other schemes have not been installed. It has been mentioned in the details given by hon'ble Minister that these schemes have been completed but actually the work is still pending under these schemes. I would like to

know from the hon'ble Minister about the funds allocated so far to the schemes which were initiated in Uttar Pradesh in collaboration with the Netherland Government also the amount of funds yet to be allocated.

Sir, the problem of drinking water is prevailing everywhere in the country. Is there any plan to formulate such schemes in future also to solve the drinking water problem with foreign assistance? Hon'ble Minister may please tell how these schemes will be implemented.

[English]

SHRI A. RAJA : Sir, the House is well aware that supply

of drinking water is a State subject. Moreover, when loans are received from other countries, the Central Government or any Department of the Central Government acts as a facilitator alone and not as a guarantor. So far as Uttar Pradesh is concerned, the State Government has taken up six projects with the aid of the Netherlands Government. One is Sub Project-I on Piped Water Supply which covers Allahabad, Raebareilly and Varanasi. The Sub-Project-III on Handpumps covers Allahabad, Agra, Mathura, Etawah, Farrukhabad, Mainpuri, Ferozabad. The third project is Sub-Project-IV on Piped Water Supply covers Allahabad and Varanasi. Out of these six projects, three projects have been completed. The first project has been completed at the cost of Rs. 16.52 crores, the second project at the cost of Rs. 12.74 crores and the third project at the cost of Rs. 15.71 crores. These three projects have been completed according to the statements given by the State Governments. As regards Sub Project-V and Sub Project-VI, the estimated cost is Rs. 53.68 crores and Rs. 37.29 crores. It is an on-going project. Of course, it was estimated by the State Government and the Netherlands Government. It could have been completed on 31.12.1999 but for some reasons best known to the State Government, it has been intimated by the State Government that the project period is extended up to 31.12.2000. According to the State Government, it will be completed.

[Translation]

SHRI SHYAM BIHARI MISHRA : Hon'ble Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon'ble Minister has read out the same reply which has been given to me. I have also read that. I am happy that hon'ble Prime Minister of our country Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee has given special emphasis to solve the problem of drinking water. Today, shortage of drinking water is prevailing all over the country, especially in rural areas where it requires most. The districts which have been indicated in his reply are still facing the scarcity of drinking water which has been further increased by the drought. My question was regarding the incomplete schemes initiated under Indo-Dutch Joint Venture. Handpumps have not been installed under other schemes also. It is being argued that the area is going to be covered under the schemes formulated with the assistance of Netherland. You have stated that the matter concerns the State Government but it relates to your department also. I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister whether the Government have any plan to start such schemes in rural areas as has been initiated under a joint venture between Government of India and Netherland so that the problem of drinking water could be solved in rural areas.

[English]

SHRI A. RAJA : The Department of Economic Affairs invites applications for securing loans from abroad for the State Governments and they will be facilitating the loans. The Central Government has no direct role in it. In spite of that, I would

assure the House that we would advise the State Government to complete the so-called on-going projects within the time stipulated by the State Government.

[Translation]

SHRI SHYAM BIHARI MISHRA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is not the answer of my question. I would like to know that steps are being taken by the Government to solve the drinking water problem in rural areas.

[English]

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL : Sir, because the population in India is growing, because the requirement of water for irrigation at present is increasing, because the requirement of water for industrial purpose is also growing and because the subsoil water drawn is of enormous quantity, the scarcity of drinking water is faced in many parts of the country. In view of this fact, has the Government of India formed any concrete long-term plan to face this difficulty and if yes, what is its nature?

SHRI A. RAJA : Sir, the National Agenda for Governance of the Government of India envisages provision of drinking water to all villages in the country in the next five years. For this, all the State Governments have been directed to give the Action Plan Reports within a stipulated time. Accordingly, except Orissa, Manipur, Andaman & Nicobar Islands and Chandigarh, all the States have submitted their Action Plans amounting to Rs. 12,000 crores. The hon. senior Member is well aware that due to the present economic crisis, the Government is sorting out ways to solve the problems with the help of the State Governments. Many States are under the impression that by merely submitting the provision, the Central Government will look into the matters *in toto*. Since the financial crisis is in the Central Government, we ask the State Governments to share some amounts and submit proposals to the Central Government. After receiving the proposals, we will take a concrete step and declare it in the House also.

SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB : I want to ask a specific question regarding drinking water problem in the State of Orissa. It is very acute in the coastal areas which have salinity problem. The western parts of our State have gone totally dry. It is now being contemplated to provide drinking water by trains. I want to specifically know from the hon. Minister as to what are the specific projects to be financed by foreign investment that have come from the State Government of Orissa to provide drinking water in the coastal areas of that State, specially after the super cyclone. Drinking water problem is a major problem covering around 14 districts.

Secondly, I would like to supplement to what Shri Patil has asked. After sinking tubewells to provide drinking water, the water level of wells and tubewells are going down. Is the

Central Government conducting a specific study to find out the ground water level after sinking tubewells?

MR. SPEAKER : The question is regarding foreign assistance. Please understand it.

SHRI A. RAJA : Sir, since the question pertains to foreign assistance, I will supply the reply regarding Orissa to the hon. Member later.

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : Sir, it is a serious problem. The procedures involved in this are very complicated. Every Government gives an assurance that drinking water will be their topmost priority. My suggestion is, that - If the hon. Minister agrees, and there are lot of funds in this sector - when funds are coming from foreign agencies, if you allocate some amount to the State and then get the scheme implemented, it will be much better. What is happening now is, they are sanctioning funds scheme-wise. So, it takes a few months for the scheme to come from the State Government to the Centre, it takes another few months for the Central Government to decide on it and by that time, the whole thrust of the scheme comes down. So, may I know from the hon. Minister as to whether he would amend the procedure or not? For example, if you have 100 dollars for a particular scheme, you may allot it to a State, let them prepare a scheme, implement it and inform you. This will be much better than the procedure being adopted today. Will you amend the present procedure?

SHRI A. RAJA : Even the States are planning now.

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : But the procedure is wrong. Will you amend the procedure to make it shorter and clearer so that some accountability comes from the States to the Centre?

SHRI A. RAJA : After getting the advice of senior hon. Members, we will act accordingly.

[Translation]

SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV : Mr. Speaker, Sir, only Saline water is available in Hathbant, Jasrana and Barnahal districts of my Lok Sabha constituency Mainpuri. I have been making correspondence with the Central Government as well as State Government to draw their attention. Every year people and animals die after drinking saline water. Such news often make headlines in newspapers. I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister whether a central team will be sent there to conduct an inquiry in those three blocks and the arrangements be made for the availability of pure drinking water.

[English]

SHRI A. RAJA : I put it earlier that drinking water subject is a State subject. As the hon. Member has put it, we will look into any proposal that emerges from the States to maintain the quality of water.

[Translation]

SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV : Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to know from the Government the funds received as foreign assistance to provide better facility of pure drinking water in rural areas and out of these funds how much has been spent in different States.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : It has already been replied.

[Translation]

Development of NCES

*468. SHRI SHANKAR PRASAD JAISWAL : Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) the total outlay being sanctioned in the current financial year for the development of non-conventional energy sources in various States including Uttar Pradesh;

(b) the places and the new sources likely to be developed;

(c) whether any incentives are being proposed for making the energy sources, developed in the past, easily accessible to the people; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN) : (a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) The Ministry does not allocate funds State-wise for major non-conventional energy programmes except the biogas, improved chulha and solar photovoltaic programmes. The total outlay being sanctioned during 2000-2001 for major programmes of non-conventional energy sources is given in Annexure-I enclosed. An amount of Rs. 3.00 crore and Rs. 1.5 crore respectively has been allocated for biogas and improved chulha programme during the current financial year (2000-2001) for the State of Uttar Pradesh.

(b) The Ministry is implementing a wide range of programmes for the production and development of non-conventional energy sources depending upon the technical feasibility and economic viability of available technologies throughout the country. In Uttar Pradesh, a broad potential of

20.21 lakhs biogas plants, 187.45 lakhs improved chulhas, 159.17 megawatts small hydropower (upto 3 megawatts) and 1000 megawatts bagasse based co-generation power has been estimated. While the biogas and improved chulha potential is spread throughout the State, small hydro potential is confined to the hilly areas and canal systems whereas bagasse based co-generation is confined to the sugar belt of the State.

(c) and (d) The Ministry provides various fiscal and financial incentives for development of non-conventional energy sources throughout the country including the State of Uttar Pradesh through various Government Departments / Agencies/Organisations. A brief statement of various incentives is enclosed in Annexure-II.

Annexure-I

Programme-wise outlays for NCES during 2000-01

			(Rs. in crores)
S. No.	Programme	Budget Estimates 2000-2001	
1	2	3	
1	Biogas	NPBD	54.20
		CBP/IBP/NBP	7.00
		R&D Biogas	0.30
2	Improved Chulha		18.50
3	Biomass/ Gasifier		2.90
4	IREP		8.00
5	SADP		1.50
6	Animal Energy Programme		0.00
7	SPV Demo		46.50
		SPV Home Light	
		SPV Lanterns	
		Street Lighting Systems	
		SPV Power Plants & other systems	
8	SPV Pumps		9.50
9	SPV R&D		3.00
10	ST Energy		4.50
		Solar Water Heating Sys. Domestic	
		Solar Cooker	
11	Solar Energy Center		2.00
12	Wind Pumps Hybrid Syst.		1.50
13	Wind Power		11.80
14	Small Hydro	(SHP)	22.79
		R&M	
		Water Mills	
15	Biomass Power		34.80
16	ST Power		0.25
17	SPV Power		7.75
18	U&I & NBB		20.00
19	New Technology		4.50
20	I & P		4.00

1	2	3
21	International Cooperation	1.25
22	Project Preparation Assistance	0.20
23	Rural Energy Entrepreneurship	1.00
24	Market Development & Export Promotion	0.30
25	Women and Renewable Energy Development	0.50
26	TIFAC	1.25
27	Seminars	0.25
28	NIRE	1.00
29	State Nodal Agencies-NE	0.00
30	Training	1.70
31	Regional Office	1.25
32	Technology Commercial funds	2.00
33	Secretariat Expenses	3.71
34	MUD&E	1.00
35	Equity/IREDA	27.00
36	Development of NER&S	44.00
Total DBS		351.50
37	GOI/UNDP REG Project	4.00
38	Counterpart funding for IDA	84.50
Total (EAP)		88.50
Total (GBS)		440.00
IEBR		505.24
Total Outlay		945.24

Annexure-II

Subsidies/Incentives provided by MNES on Power Generation through various programmes of Non-Conventional Energy Sources

S. No.	Programmes/Sector	Subsidy
1	2	3
1.	Wind Power	For demonstration Projects upto 60% of the equipment cost subject to certain bench marks.
2.	Biomass Gasifier	30 to 60% on certain bench marks for the projects owned by Cooperatives, Panchayats, NGOs, Central/State Agencies, individuals/entrepreneurs etc.
3.	Grid Interactive Solar PV Power	Rs. 2 crores/100 KW (Maximum)
4.	Small Hydro Power Capital Subsidy	
a.	Hilly Regions and A&N Islands (Projects upto 100 kW)	Rs. 15000 per KW or actual cost of the project whichever is lower.
b.	Projects upto 3 MW in NE States	Rs. 3.00 crores per MW or 50% on cost of the project whichever is lower.
Interest Subsidy		
a.	For projects upto 3 MW in hilly, NE region & A&N Islands	5% with maximum Rs. 1.12 crores per MW.

1	2	3
	b. For projects upto 3 MW in other regions.	2.5% with maximum Rs. 38.3 lakhs per MW.
5.	Biomass Power/ Co-generation	
	a. Minimum exportable power 45 MW (in Group of Mills through Joint Venture Mode)	Rs. 35 lakhs/MW of surplus power (max. Rs. 31.50 crores/project) to Rs. 45 lakhs/MW of surplus power (max. Rs. 40.50 crores/project)
	b. Minimum exportable power 9 MW (Single Mill through IPP Mode)	Rs. 35 lakhs/MW of surplus power (max. Rs. 6.30 crores/ project) to Rs. 45 lakhs/MW of surplus power (max. Rs. 8.10 crores/project.)
6.	Urban Municipal & Industrial Waste	
	a. Capital Subsidy	Upto 50% max. Rs. 3.00 crores per MW for demonstration projects.
	b. Interest subsidy	To reduce interest rate upto 7.5% to be paid to Financial Institutions.

[Translation]

SHRI SHANKAR PRASAD JAISWAL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, during the current financial year Rs. 3 crores and Rs. 1.5 crores have been allocated to Uttar Pradesh for Bio-gas and energy sources respectively. From population point of view U.P. would have been the Sixth largest State in the world. Hon'ble Minister has allocated only Rs. 3.00 crore and Rs. 1.5 crores for a State having so much population. I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister whether the Government will reconsider the fact and enhance this amount.

[English]

SHRI M. KANNAPPAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, funds are allocated for the States not only on the basis of population in that area but also on the basis of natural resources and renewable energy sources available. We allot funds on this basis.

[Translation]

SHRI SHANKAR PRASAD JAISWAL : Hon'ble Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon'ble Minister has not given the proper reply, anyway, I am asking another question. In reply to part (b) of the question it has been stated that several programmes are being implemented for generating and development of energy sources. Whether the hon'ble Minister will throw light on those several programmes and whether in Uttar Pradesh a broad potential of 20.21 lakhs biogas plants, 187.45 lakh improved chulhas, 159.17 megawatts small hydropower (upto 3 megawatts) and 1000 megawatts bagasse based co-generation power has been estimated? If so, are these adequate. In my view these are inadequate. I would like to ask the hon'ble Minister whether he will reconsider it to enhance the estimate.

[English]

SHRI M. KANNAPPAN : I would like to give the figures

in respect of cumulative physical achievements pertaining to the Uttar Pradesh. In respect of bio-gas, 3,28,638 bio-gas plant are there. 35.40 lakh improved *Chulhas* are there. Regarding the Small Hydro Project, the capacity is 31.39 MW; in respect of wind energy, it is 'nil' and in respect of bio-mass Power, it is 46.5 MW.

[Translation]

SHRI SHANKAR PRASAD JAISWAL : Hon'ble Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon'ble Minister is reading out the same reply which has already been provided to me. I would like to request you to direct him to come prepared to reply the questions raised in the House.

[English]

SHRI M. KANNAPPAN : This is the cumulative achievement in respect of Uttar Pradesh.

DR. V. SAROJA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, in the reply it has been stated that the allocation of funds is not made on the basis of population. But population explosion is the most acute emergency facing the country. So, will the Minister consider allocation of funds based on the population? I would also like to know whether the Minister would look into the non-conventional energy projects, which are not progressing well as on date in the State of Tamil Nadu.

MR. SPEAKER : The Minister can send the reply to the hon. Member.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Pension to Widows of Pre-1950

[Translation]

*462. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to refer to the reply

given to Unstarred Question No. 3350 dated March 16, 2000 and state :

(a) whether the widows who were getting military pensions prior to 1950 have not been given their due enhanced pensions and arrears so far;

(b) whether a number of representations have also been made by those widows whose husbands passed away in service prior to 1950;

(c) if so, the reasons for delay in granting their pensions; and

(d) the steps being taken to streamline the system for efficient redressal of such grievances?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) to (d) The Vth Central Pay Commission (CPC) recommendations, as accepted by the Government do not provide for any separate category of the pre-1950 family pensioners. The reference point as enunciated by the Vth CPC pertains to post - 1.1.1996, pre - 1.1.1996 and pre - 1.1.1986 categories of pensioners. All pre - 1.1.1986 family pensioners form a single category for the purpose of revision of family pension.

2. In pursuance of the recommendations of the Vth CPC pension of Defence pensioners revised in two stages. In the first stage, Government orders were issued on 24.11.1997 authorising Pensions Disbursing Agencies (PDA) viz. Branches of Public Sector Banks, Defence Pension Disbursing Offices and Treasuries to consolidate the family pension and pay the arrears and pension on revised rates with effect from 1.1.1996 to family pensioners directly without any authorisation from Pension Sanctioning Authorities. The family pension so revised was paid as an interim measure to provide immediate relief to pensioners. As per available information arrears pertaining to such consolidation have already been credited in favour of all pre - 1.1.1996 family pensioners. No complaint in this regard is pending with Government.

3. In the second phase, further orders were issued on 27.5.1998 for revision of pension/family pension for Commissioned Officers and on 14.7.1998 in respect of Personnel Below Officer's Rank (PBOR) pensioners, who retired/died before 1.1.1986.

4. The revised pension/family pension payment orders in respect of *Commissioned Officers* are issued by the Pension Sanctioning Authority, i.e. Principal Controller of Defence Accounts (Pensions). All pre-1950 cases relating to family pension of widows of Commissioned Officers have been settled by Principal Controller of Defence Accounts (Pensions) by issuance of corrigendum Pension Payment Order in each

case. As per available information no representation is pending in this regard.

5. The work of revision of Pension for PBOR has been entrusted to PDAs with reference to pension tables annexed with the Government orders of 14.7.1998 revising pension. With the acceptance of the concept of modified parity, family pension for PBOR has also been made table-based and PDAs have been authorised to revise the family pension of all pre-1986 family pensioners of PBOR.

6. The above approach was adopted for expeditious revision of family pension of Defence pensioners. As and when any case for non-revision/delay in revision of family pension is brought to the notice of the Government, the matter is taken up with the concerned PDA to ensure payment of revised pension to the pensioners.

7. Continuous monitoring is being done at Ministry of Defence and Controller General of Defence Accounts. Principal Controller of Defence Accounts, Allahabad and nodal officers of Pension Disbursing Agencies are required to submit weekly progress report in this regard to the Ministry.

[English]

Computerisation and Information Technology

*464. SHRI ANANT GUDHE : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have formulated any plan for computerisation and adoption of Information Technology in its operations and related services on a large scale; and

(b) if so, the investments made and projects executed/under execution in various States in general and Maharashtra in particular during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE) : (a) Yes, Sir. The Government have already computerised Passenger Reservation Services. A blueprint for computerisation of Freight Operation Services has been made and implementation of two important applications is being operationalised on Northern Railway. Pilot projects in the areas of personnel management, procurement and inventory control, workshop managements are at different stages of implementation at the Divisional and Zonal levels. Use of computer telephony integration in the passenger interface areas is being increasingly introduced.

(b) Indian Railways has spent Rs. 90 crores (approx.) during last 3 years in the area of computerisation and Information Technology. Details of investment made on Indian Railways are given in Statement-I enclosed.

Based on Information received from the Railways concerned serving the State of Maharashtra, Rs. 11.00 crore (approx.) has been invested in this State as indicated in Statement-II enclosed.

Statement-I

Details of Projects executed/under execution of Indian Railways during the last three years

S.No.	Nature of Project	No. of Projects
1	Passenger Reservation, Unreserved & Season Ticketing and other related works	382
2	Freight Operation Information System (FOIS)	1
3	Divisional and Zonal, Production Units, Headquarters Computerisation	53
4	Workshop and Store Computerisation	56
5	Management Information System	1
6	Railnet	1
7	Others	13
Total investment done		Rs. 90 Crores (approx.)

Statement-II

Details of Projects executed/under execution in the State of Maharashtra during the last three years

S.No.	Nature of Project	No. of Projects
1	Passenger Reservation, Unreserved & Season Ticketing and other related works	71
2	Divisional and Zonal, Production Units, Headquarters Computerisation	5
3	Workshop and Store Computerisation	4
4	Management Information System	1
5	Railnet	1
6	Others	3
Total investment done		Rs. 11 Crores (approx.)

Non-Traditional Sources of Railway Funds

*465. SHRI ANNASAHAB M.K. PATIL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the task force constituted to explore non-traditional sources of funds for investment in rail works has submitted its report;

(b) If so, the details thereof alongwith the recommendations made therein; and

(c) the action proposed by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. In order to plan flow of investment from non-traditional sources of revenue, a Task Force comprising of senior Railway Officers and representatives from FICCI, CII and ASSOCHAM was set up to undertake an in-depth study of various issues.

The Task Force has recommended generating revenues from non-traditional sources like commercial utilisation of land and air space, Own Your Wagon Scheme, BOLT (build Own Lease Transfer) scheme, commercial publicity and other innovative financing packages including joint ventures and information of SPVs (Special Purpose Vehicles) with private organisations.

Action has already been initiated in respect of these recommendations. Empowered Committees have been formed to expedite issue of guidelines to the Zonal Railways and these Committees have already started deliberating on these guidelines.

Tour Packages

*469. SHRI A.D.K. JAYASEELAN : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether tour packages abroad are cheaper than within India;

(b) If so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken to reduce the air fare with a view to attract more passengers?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) to (c) Tour packages are offered by tour operators based on Customer preference and market economics. Tourist packages offered in different countries are not comparable. Steps taken to promote tourism are expeditious approvals of tourist charter applications, option to operate to more airports in the country, having more international gateways, facilitating more convenient airports handling and general improvement of tourist infrastructure in the country.

Samjhauta Express Between India and Pakistan

*470. SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI :

SHRI AJAY SINGH CHAUTALA :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Pakistan threatened to discontinue the service of Samjhauta Express between India and Pakistan;

(b) If so, the reasons stated by Pakistan;

(c) the details of the agreement made between the two countries at the time of introduction of this train;

(d) the number of times Pakistan violated the agreement; and

(e) the latest position about the running of this train?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Pakistan Railways had indicated that a rake of Pakistan Railways coaches has been crossing the international borders between Attari and Wagha, a distance of 2.5 kms for quite some time and for the next six months Indian Railways should contribute a rake of Indian Railways coaches.

(c) The basic features of the original Bilateral Agreement are as under :-

(i) A daily Express train to run between Amritsar-Lahore to cater to through international traffic only.

(ii) Train service to be managed by two rakes, each country contributing one rake. No hire charges to be paid to any country and therefore, no financial adjustments required in respect of running of the train services.

(iii) Primary maintenance to be done by the owning country and the Secondary maintenance by the other country on a mutual basis.

(iv) Time Table and the composition of the trains to be decided through mutual consultation by the two railways.

(v) Trains to be worked by Pakistani Railway locomotive, crew and guards between Lahore-Attari and by Indian locomotive, crew and guards between Amritsar-Attari.

(vi) Custom, immigration and health checks to be conducted on Indian side at Attari and on Pakistani side at Lahore/Wagha.

(vii) Each country to collect fares and other charges from the passengers on its respective system upto international border except for certain nominated stations in each country for which through booking system is agreed to.

(viii) So far as the freight trains are concerned, for six months, Indian Railways locos and crew work the train upto Wagha (Pakistan) for the next six months Pakistan Railways locos and crew work the train upto Attari (India).

(d) Two times. For a short duration from 8 December, 1992 to 10 December, 1992 and from 28 September, 1994 to 10 November 1994 running of Samjhauta Express was stopped by the Pakistani Railways.

(e) Meetings between Indian Railways (IR) and Pakistani Railways (PR) officials were held on April 14, 2000 and April 26, 2000 at Wagha border. Following decisions were taken :-

1. Indian Railways will provide a rake for next six months. This rake will work between Attari and Lahore.

2. Indian Railways rake lying at Lahore will be kept guarded so that anti-social elements do not misuse it.

3. Pakistani Railways will provide the locomotive, crew and guard of this train.

With this arrangement, the Samjhauta Express service will continue uninterrupted.

Legislation for Preventing Alienation of Tribal Lands

*471. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK : Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the facts about alienation of tribal lands in various States;

(b) whether the Union Government have asked the State Governments to enact legislation for preventing alienation of the tribal lands;

(c) whether the Government have also directed the State Governments to indicate the latest position of alienation and restoration of tribal lands;

(d) if so, whether all the States have submitted their information;

(e) if not, the names of States which have not submitted the information indicating the reasons therefor; and

(f) the action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SUNDAR LAL PATWA) : (a) to (f) The State-wise information relating alienation of tribal lands is contained in the Statement enclosed.

The State Governments/UT Administrations have been advised at various fora including the Revenue Ministers' Conferences to enact legislations to prevent alienation of tribal lands and to regularly furnish Quarterly Progress Reports so as to enable the Government of India to monitor the position at the national level. So far (out of 25 States), 11 affected States, namely Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Rajasthan and Tripura have been sending Quarterly Progress Reports, in prescribed proforma, to the Government of India.

The remaining 14 States namely Arunachal Pradesh, Goa, Haryana, Jammu & Kashmir, Kerala, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Punjab, Sikkim, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal have not been sending information in this regard. Some of these States have negligible tribal population, while some others do not face acute problem of tribal land alienation.

Construction of Level Crossings

*472. SHRI ABUL HASNAT KHAN :

SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Railways have set up a separate safety fund for unmanned level crossings and construction of road over/under bridges;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Ministry has also asked the Members of Parliament to utilise their Local Area Development Funds for the purpose of construction of road over/under bridges and conversion of unmanned level crossings to manned level crossings;

(d) if so, the response of the Members in this regard; and

(e) the number of road over/under bridges and manned/unmanned level crossings proposed to be constructed out of the MPLADS Fund, location-wise?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE) : (a) and (b) although there is no separate Railway Safety Fund for financing expenditure on works related to conversion of unmanned level crossings into manned level crossings and provision of road over/under bridges, Indian Railways have accorded high priority for expediting these works. A sum of Rs. 300 crore to be received as part of railways' share from the cess on petrol and diesel will be exclusively utilised for these purposes during 2000-2001.

(c) Yes, Sir. Requests have been made only for manning of unmanned level crossings.

(d) and (e) The response of the Hon'ble Members of Parliament is encouraging. The detailed information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Indo-Vietnam Defence Agreements

*473. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA :

SHRI KAMAL NATH :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any agreement has been signed with Vietnam for institutionalising military cooperation between the two countries;

(b) if so, the salient features thereof;

(c) whether any agreement has also been made with Vietnam for training of Indian Army officers in Jungle warfare and guerilla tactics to confront insurgency movement in North-East, Kashmir and Naxal-affected areas; and

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith other agreements reached between the two countries during his recent visit to Vietnam?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FER-
NANDES) : (a) and (b) A Protocol on Defence cooperation between the Governments of India and Vietnam was signed in Hanoi on 7th September 1994. This Protocol provides for promoting bilateral defence relations, and cooperation in specific areas to be agreed upon, including contacts in military sphere through training, visits, exchange of information and personnel. Further, during my recent visit to Vietnam in March-2000, the two sides agreed to a number of measures to enhance defence cooperation between the two countries. These include cooperation in the areas of training, Coast Guard and naval activities, and the establishment of a periodical dialogue between the Ministries of Defence of the two countries.

(c) and (d) Vietnamese side has agreed to consider the possibility of training Indian Armed Forces personnel in the field of jungle warfare.

Ticketless Travel in Trains

*474. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether ticketless travel and lawlessness is on the increase in the Railways;

(b) if so, whether large mobs of people forcibly board trains without tickets and cause violence to passengers in Andhra Pradesh and Bihar;

(c) if so, whether Railway Police and Railway authorities ignore such actions; and

(d) if so, the guidelines given to Railways to monitor such situations and take preventive action to remove illegal mobs from trains?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE) : (a) to (c) Exact quantification of lawlessness and ticketless travel is difficult. However, surveys are conducted to make an estimate of the extent of the menace. State-wise figures are not maintained. This problem is kept under control by intensive ticket checking drives and concerned action by Government Railway Police and Railway

Protection Force. However, the law and order is a subject which falls within the ambit of the State Government.

(d) Following guidelines have been given to the Zonal Railways :

- (i) Collection of intelligence about any impending interference with the smooth running of trains and sharing this information with the local police.
- (ii) To conduct regular and surprise checks frequently to check ticketless/irregular travel in association with the Railway Magistrates, Railway Protection Force and Government Railway Police.

Rehabilitation of Victims of Kargil Conflict

*475. DR. V. SAROJA : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether some State Governments have not yet taken up rehabilitation measures for victims/dependents of Defence personnel killed/injured during the Kargil Conflict including allotment of land to them;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor and whether a time frame has been set to make available rehabilitation and other welfare packages to them; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) to (c) Many State Governments have announced financial and other benefits, including allotment of house sites, to the dependents of Defence personnel killed/injured in the Kargil conflict. Since the reference is to State Government schemes, it would not be possible to indicate a time-frame within which rehabilitation and welfare measures will be taken up by other States.

Monitoring Panels for Implementation of Railway Projects

*476. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY :

DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government have decided to set up Monitoring Panels in each State to look into the problems of Railways and for development and implementation of the Railway projects;

(b) if so, the stage at which the matter stands at present;

(c) whether any instructions have been issued regarding functioning of such panels;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether participation of the State Governments has been ensured for speedy implementation of railway projects; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE) : (a) to (d) To bring about closer interaction with the State Governments, it has been decided to earmark Nodal Officers of the Railways for each of the States.

This Nodal Officer would maintain close liaison with the State Governments mainly in respect of :

- (i) Facilitating better coordination between the Indian Railways and the State Governments regarding proper implementation of on-going Railway projects and for developing appropriate proposals for new projects in various States.
- (ii) Enlisting required administrative and other assistance from the State Governments with regard to expeditious completion of sanctioned projects specially in the areas of faster land acquisition.
- (iii) Ensuring participation of the State Governments and funding of rail projects.
- (iv) Developing a coordinated approach for arranging funding for ROB and RUB and manning/closure of level crossing gates. Facilitating availability of MPLAD funds for manning of level crossings.
- (v) Coordinating security related issues on the Railways with various State Governments.
- (vi) Assisting State Governments in developing and comprehensive inter-modal transport infrastructure.

(e) and (f) Yes, Sir. Various State Governments have been shown increasing involvement in expeditious implementation of Railway projects. With the objective as enlisted above, Nodal Officers Railways are being appointed and State Governments are being approached to earmark their respective Nodal Officers to interact with the designated Railway Officers for each State.

Change in Defence Policy after Visit of US President

*477. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA :

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the recent visit of the US President to India marks a tilt away from the erstwhile USSR and Russia to the other Western powers in respect of defence policy; and

(b) if so, the extent to which India's defence forces depended on Soviet arms, aircraft and other defence supplies a decade ago and at present, and how far tilt has been corrected in terms of defence supplies?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) and (b) The Government of India constantly endeavours to establish and maintain friendly ties with all countries. However, establishment or furtherance of such ties with any country, including USA, does not in any way impact on our close relationship with Russia in the field of defence and security. While our defence equipment is sourced from a large number of countries, a significant proportion of our existing stock of defence equipment continues to be of Soviet/Russian origin.

[Translation]

Introduction of International Air Services

*478. SHRI CHINMAYANAND SWAMI : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are contemplating introduction of International Air Services in various States;

(b) if so, the action-plan chalked out therefor; and

(c) the air routes selected for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) to (c) In consideration of the demand of tourist trade for more international gateways, opening up of the country and regional development, the Government have recently decided to declare the airports at Hyderabad, Bangalore, Ahmedabad, Goa, Amritsar, Guwahati and the new Cochin Airport at Nedumbassery as international airports. Foreign airlines can now seek access to these airports subject to formal exchange of traffic rights. The actual operations are, however, left to the commercial judgement of the airlines.

[English]

Revamping of P.D.S.

*479. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR :

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA :

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

(a) whether the Government propose to take series of measure ensuring improvement in the Public Distribution System at States and Territory level; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHANTA KUMAR) : (a) and (b) Government has adopted a series of measures to better targetise food subsidy and to enhance the food security of people living below poverty line (BPL) under the Public Distribution System (PDS). Allocation of foodgrains under TPDS has been doubled from 10 kg. to 20 kg. per family per month at 50% of economic cost and allocation for APL families has been maintained at economic cost w.e.f. 1.4.2000. In case any State wishes to have more supplies, the Government would meet that requirement too at economic costs.

PDS is operated under the joint responsibility of the Central and State Governments. The responsibility for distribution to the consumer through Fair Price Shops (FPSs) and administration of PDS rests with State Governments/UT Administrations. In order to efficiently reach the essential commodities under PDS to the consumers in a transparent and accountable manner an Model Citizens' Charter for Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) has been drawn up and circulated to States/UTs for adoption. Based on the belief that truly democratic institutions do better safeguard food security concerns of all than the State bureaucracy, the Government has also advised the State Governments to more substantially involve Gram Panchayats in supervision and monitoring of PDS especially at FPS level as a measure of social audit.

It has also been impressed upon the State Governments that allotments to the fair price shops should be conveyed by the district authorities before the beginning of each month and publicity regarding allotments to FPS should be given through the local media. The fair price shops should be asked to display on the notice boards the allotment they have received for the month alongwith closing balance. State Government can provide for obligations under Section 3 of Essential Commodities Act 1955 to penalise the violation of the procedure relating to display of information by the FPS owner. The fair price shop should open on all prescribed days and complaints regarding closure during the working hours should be addressed seriously. Ration cards should be issued in a time bound and transparent manner by the authorities and the administrative system should be accountable to the public bodies in this regard. All efforts should be made to weed out the bogus ration cards in the State and State Governments should devise alternative documents as instruments of identification. Ration cards under the PDS should not be used for this purpose.

For speedy monitoring of TPDS State Governments have been requested to furnish the TPDS information on time and ensure online connectivity of District NIC centres with the State NIC centres so that PDS data are updated and transmitted to the Ministry regularly. The Government of India is evolving a system whereby data relating to allotments and lifting by each fair price shop in the district will be fed into the NIC computer on a monthly basis to ensure better monitoring mechanism for the PDS.

Accommodation at Tourist Places

*480. SHRI THIRUNAVUKARASU : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a general shortage of accommodation for tourists in the country;

(b) If so, whether any assessment in this regard has been made;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken to provide sufficient accommodation facility to the tourist during the peak seasons?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) An Accommodation Assessment Survey had been commissioned by the Ministry of Tourism which has estimated a requirement of 1,25,000 rooms by the year 2005. At present there are 68,032 rooms in classified hotels. To augment the accommodation facilities, the Union Government extends fiscal incentives to prospective investors and also provides central financial assistance to State/UT Governments for construction of tourist accommodation based on the inter se priority and availability of funds.

P.D.S. in Chandigarh

5035. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a large number of people in Chandigarh who do not have a ration card and no access to the PDS; and

(b) if so, the steps taken to weed out bogus cards and to issue the same to the needy ones without hassles?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SRIRAM CHAUHAN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise. However, steps have been

taken by Chandigarh Administration to weed out bogus ration cards by conducting door to door checking in a phased manner.

Indo-French Cultural Agreement

5036. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI :

SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL :

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether an Indo-French cultural agreement has been signed recently;

(b) if so, the main features of the agreement;

(c) whether there is any proposal to set up Indian Culture Centre in Paris;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the time by which it is proposed to be set up; and

(f) the extent to which it is likely to strengthen bilateral relations?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) and (b) The 13th Session of the Joint Indo-French Commission for Cooperation in the fields of Science, Education and Culture was held on 9th and 10th March, 2000 and a programme of exchanges in these fields was signed for the year 2000-2002. The salient features of this programme include exchange of exhibitions and increasing co-operation in the fields of theatre, cinematography, heritage management, conservation, sports and teaching of languages, etc.

(c) to (f) The proposal to set up an Indian Cultural Centre in Paris is presently at the conceptual stage and a specific timeframe for its setting up cannot, therefore, be established. The proposed Cultural Centre would enhance the cultural image of India in the western world in general and in France in particular.

Probe into Sukhoi Fighters Deal

5037. SHRI M.K. SUBBA : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Sukhoi fighters deal has been subjected to probe despite various advantages it has over Mirage and MIGs;

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

(c) the various advantages it has over other fighter aircrafts alongwith its cost effectiveness as compared to others?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) The SU-30 contract has not been subjected to any specific probe.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The SU-30 is a different class of aircraft from the existing fighters in the Indian Air Force. Its long range and heavy payload provide strategic capability to the Indian Air Force. Selection of the aircraft was made after a joint DRDO-IAF team established its cost effectiveness vis-a-vis other options.

Import of Wheat

5038. SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL :

DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA :

SHRI ARUN KUMAR :

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

(a) whether the wheat has been imported on the large scale from the countries like Australia and Brazil during the last three years;

(b) if so, the quantity and rate of import, country-wise, year-wise;

(c) whether the price of the wheat imported from other countries was less than that of wheat produced in the country;

(d) if so, whether the rate of production of wheat in the said countries is less than India;

(e) if so, the reasons for higher price of wheat in India in comparison to the said countries;

(f) whether the Government propose to ban the import of wheat in the interest of Indian farmers;

(g) if so, the details thereof;

(h) whether FCI has been allowed to intervene in the market in this regard; and

(i) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI

SRIRAM CHAUHAN) : (a) and (b) The details of wheat imported on Government account during 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000 are as under :-

Year	Country	Quantity (in lakh tonnes)	Price PMP (in US\$)
1997-98	Australia	2.43	153.40 (FOB)
		7.75	152.65 (FOB)
1998-99	Australia	14.15	142.50 (FOB)
1999-2000	—	—	—

(c) and (e) It is not possible to compare the international and domestic prices of wheat as they depend on the international demand and supply position, consumer preferences and other terms of trade. However, liberalization of trade has led to increased availability of commodities to consumers, sometimes at prices that put the domestic produce at a disadvantage.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(f) to (i) There is no proposal to ban import of wheat at present. However, Government has imposed 50% duty on wheat imports w.e.f. 1.12.1999, which has checked the import of wheat on private account also.

[Translation]

Merger of Poverty Alleviation Schemes and Employment

5039. SHRI MANSINH PATEL : Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to merge poverty alleviation programmes with employment generation schemes and to increase financial allocation therefor;

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

(c) whether the Government have assessed the reasons for the failure of poverty alleviation programmes; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Government for effective implementation of poverty alleviation programmes?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SUNDAR LAL PATWA) : (a) and (b) Employment generation schemes form a part of poverty alleviation programmes.

(c) and (d) The poverty alleviation schemes have not

been a failure. The Government have initiated steps for increased involvement of Panchayati Raj Institutions in the poverty alleviation programmes in order to make the implementation of these schemes more effective.

Employment to dependents of Kargil Martyrs

5040. SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any arrangement has been made for employment of the dependents of the soldiers killed in Kargil War;

(b) if so, the total number of soldiers killed and the number of their dependents provided with employment in the Armed Forces, Defence Undertakings and other Undertakings of Public Sector; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to provide the employment opportunities in Public Sector Undertakings to the remaining dependents of the soldiers killed in Kargil War?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) to (c) There were 522 Army personnel and 5 Air Force personnel killed in the Kargil conflict. The dependents of these personnel are covered under the existing policy of the Government for providing employment on compassionate grounds and they are accorded priority in such employment. Several State Governments have announced policy to provide employment to one dependent of the family of soldiers belonging to that State, killed in Kargil conflict. Ministry of Railways have also earmarked 100 posts for providing employment to the dependents of the Kargil martyrs.

The number of dependents who have been provided employment so far is not available.

Increase in Quota of Haj Pilgrims

5041. SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have been increasing the quota of Haj Pilgrims every year;

(b) if so, the details thereof during each of the last five years; and

(c) the number of aircraft chartered by the Government for the Haj Pilgrims for the year 2000 and the number of Pilgrims likely to be accommodated therein?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Haj Pilgrims quota fixed by the Government and actual number of pilgrims transported during the last five years are as under :-

Year	Haj Pilgrims quota fixed by Government	Actual number of pilgrims transported
1996	56,000	50,347
1997	56,000	53,766
1998	66,000	63,648
1999	63,000	62,103
2000	72,000	71,924

(c) Aircrafts leased for the Haj 2000 operations and its capacity are as under :-

1B747-100 with a capacity of 470.

2B747-200 with a capacity of 470.

2L1011-100 with a capacity of 320.

1L1011-50 with a capacity of 280.

Reservation Quota at Shegaon Station

5042. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the reservation quota provided at the Shegaon railway station in Buldhana, train-wise;

(b) whether the said quota fulfil the requirement of the passengers; and

(c) If not, the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) A statement is attached.

(b) An analysis of utilisation of existing quotas has revealed that the same are adequate to cater to the present level of traffic.

(c) Does not arise.

Statement

Train-wise reservation quota at Shegaon railway station is as under :-

Train No. and Name	Quota		
	2AC	3AC	Sleeper Class
1	2	3	4
1439 Dn. Sewagram Exp.	-	-	4
1440 Up. Sewagram Exp.	-	-	2

1	2	3	4
2105 Dn. Vidharbha Exp.	-	-	2
2106 Up. Vidharbha Exp.	4	2	12
6045 Dn. Navjeevan Exp.	-	-	2
7383 Dn. Maharashtra Exp.	-	-	8
7384 Up. Maharashtra Exp.	2	-	16
8001 Dn. Howrah Mail	-	-	2
8029 Dn. Howrah Exp.	-	-	2
8030 Up. Mumbai Exp.	-	-	6

[English]

Doubling and Electrification of Delhi-Ahmedabad Rail Route

5043. SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether broad gauge railway line between Delhi-Ahmedabad-Delhi via Jaipur-Ajmer has been doubled;

(b) if not, the time by which the same is proposed to be doubled;

(c) whether there is any proposal to electrify this route; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) A survey for doubling of Delhi-Ahmedabad line is in progress. Further consideration of the project would be possible once the survey report becomes available.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Due to constraints of resources and relative priority for electrification of other high density routes, at present, there is no proposal to electrify Delhi-Ahmedabad via Jaipur-Ajmer route.

Transfer of VIP/Emergency Quota from Jamnagar to Rajkot

5044. SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the VIP and Emergency quota dealt earlier by Station Superintendent, Jamnagar on Western Railway has been withdrawn and transferred to Rajkot;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether any representation has been received against the transfer of VIP/Emergency Quota; and

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

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

(b) Emergency Quota is generally allotted at Zonal Headquarter and Divisional Headquarter Office where a Gazetted Officer is available to control and take care of important requests being received from various quarters. Earlier, emergency quota was allotted at Jamnagar Station as a special case but the same was withdrawn in the wake of complaints.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Requests have been received for restoration of emergency quota to Jamnagar. However, the request could not be acceded to and suitable replies have been sent to the parties.

Cochin Airport

5045. SHRI P.C. THOMAS : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Air India is handling Cargo and passenger at Cochin Airport (Nedumbassery);

(b) if so, whether Air India is making profit out of it;

(c) if so, the details of the income and expenditure therefrom during the past six months;

(d) whether more profit is expected after the Airport is declared International; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) Air India is handling passengers for its own flights, Indian Airlines and Jet Airways at Cochin. The cargo complex at Cochin is yet to be ready. However, Air India is handling its cargo in a temporary facility. Cargo handling for Jet Airways and Indian Airlines is provided on a limited basis due to the above reason.

(b) and (c) Before commencement of the Cochin project, estimates of revenue and expenditure were drawn up according to which Air India is supposed to make profit. However, the rates proposed by Air India have been disputed by Jet Airlines as well as Indian Airlines and till date no firm

agreement has been entered into with the above mentioned airlines. Under the circumstances, it may not be possible to work out the profitability at this stage.

(d) and (e) It is expected that more airlines will operate to Cochin after it is notified international and bilateral negotiations are held. This will provide additional revenue and profits for Air India.

Seniority of SC/ST Candidates

5046. SHRI RAMJILAL SUMAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Hon'ble Supreme court had decided in Virpal Singh Chauhan case that as per panel position those SCs/STs who are selected in earlier panel would be treated senior to those who are selected in subsequent panel;

(b) whether Railways are empowered to overlook the Hon'ble Supreme Court's decision of Virpal Singh Chauhan which has been confirmed by the Hon'ble Supreme Court on September 16, 1999 in the case of Ajit Singh Januja;

(c) whether the Government have proposed to allow the benefits of the Hon'ble Supreme Court's judgement to those SCs/STs who have denied and deprived of the benefits of the Hon'ble Supreme Court's ruling; and

(d) the circumstances under which the law laid down by the Hon'ble Supreme Court has not been followed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) to (d) The two-judge Bench judgement dated 10.10.1995 of the Hon'ble Supreme Court in Virpal Singh Chauhan's case read with their three-judge Bench judgement dated 1.3.96 in Ajit Singh Januja's case laid down the law that even if a SC/ST candidate is promoted earlier by virtue of rule of reservation than his senior General candidate and the senior General candidate is promoted later to the said higher grade, the General candidate regains his seniority over such earlier promoted SC/ST candidate.

The judgement in Ajit Singh Januja's case did not make any distinction between selection and non-selection posts in respect of regaining of seniority by senior General candidates over earlier promoted SC/ST candidates who were junior in the lower grade.

The Government through the Department of Personnel & Training, being the nodal Department responsible for framing policy in this regard, have laid down the instructions pursuant to above judgements after due consideration. The said instructions have been followed by the Railways accordingly.

The five-judge Constitution Bench of the Hon'ble Supreme Court in their judgement dated 16.9.1999 have upheld the judgements in Virpal Singh Chauhan's and Ajit Singh Januja's cases and further clarified the question of prospectivity of the judgement in question and its implementations.

As the issue of revised instructions pursuant to the judgement of the five-judge Constitution Bench of the Hon'ble Supreme Court is still under examination of the Government, the question of Hon'ble Supreme Court's judgement being overlooked does not arise.

[Translation]

Change of Names of Airports

5047. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE :

SHRI UTTAMRAO DHIKALE :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) the names of which airports of the country have been changed during the last three years;

(b) whether the Government have received any proposal to change the name of Aurangabad Airport as "Chhatrapati Sambhaji terminal"; and

(c) if so, the decision taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) Following airports have been renamed as per the details given below :

- (1) Patna Airport as Jaya Prakash Narayan airport on 22-12-1996;
- (2) Udaipur Airport as Maharana Pratap airport on 28-8-1997;
- (3) Bhubaneshwar Airport as Biju Patnaik airport on 17-04-1998;
- (4) Guwahati airport as Lokapriya Gopinath Bordoloi airport on 23-08-1998;
- (5) Ahmedabad airport as Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel International airport on 07-12-1998;
- (6) Mumbai Airport as Chhatrapati Shivaji International Airport on 31-03-1999;
- (7) At Hyderabad Airport, on 17-06-1999, the old

Terminal Building was name as "N.T. Rama Rao Terminal" and the new Terminal Building commissioned in March, 1997 as "Rajiv Gandhi Terminal"; and

- (B) Government approved on 16-03-2000 the renaming of Ranchi Airport as Birsa Munda airport.
- (b) No, Sir.
- (c) Does not arise.

Railway Projects in UP

5048. DR. BALIRAM :

SHRI MANOJ SINHA :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 68 on February 24, 2000 regarding Railway projects in U.P. and state :

(a) the reasons for slow progress of these projects and the time by which these projects are likely to be completed; and

(b) the steps taken by the Government for timely completion of the projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) and (b) Planning for the execution of Railway projects is done in an integrated and need based manner keeping a national perspective in view. Geographical boundaries of a State per se, do not form a criterion for determining Railway Investments, especially in

a scenario where many Railway projects span across more than one State. Details of present progress, including reasons for slow progress, of projects located in U.P., are given in the attached statement.

Targets are fixed on yearly basis depending upon overall availability of resources. Tentative targets have been indicated against each project wherever fixed. These projects will be processed to completion as per availability of resources in the coming years.

Main impediment in the implementation of projects is the paucity of funds and a large shelf of projects particularly under New Line and Gauge Conversion Plan-Heads, which sometimes results in a thin spread of resources over a large number of projects. Prioritisation of New Line and Gauge Conversion projects has been done in order to ensure a judicious allocation of resources. Several measures have been adopted to augment the resource base of the Railways, e.g. increased budgetary support, augmenting revenue generation through market friendly policies in regard to both freight and coaching traffic, tapping non-conventional sources of funds like leasing of Railways right of way for laying communication cables, commercial utilisation of land and air space, etc., and ensuring financial participation of State Governments, local authorities and private parties in Railway projects.

Failure of contracts, land acquisition problems, law and order problems, etc. are some of the other factors which also affect the progress of some Railway projects. Constant interaction with appropriate authorities including the State Governments and local bodies is maintained by the Railways to overcome these problems.

Statement

Ongoing Railway Projects in Uttar Pradesh

Plan-Head	Name of Project	Cost	Expenditure upto 31.3.2000	Budget Outlay for 2000-01	Throw-forward as on 1.4.2001	Status
<i>(Amount in crores of Rupees)</i>						
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Doubling	Manikpur-Cheonki PH-I Doubling of Manikpur Katayadandi	48.00	0.00	1.00	47.00	New work included in the Budget. Final location survey is being taken up.
Doubling	Mathura-Bhuteshwar	4.25	0.50	3.50	0.25	This is a new work of 1999-2000. The detailed estimate has been sanctioned. Tenders invited for earthwork. The work will be completed in 2000-2001.
Doubling	Jarwal Road-Burhwal (Patch Doubling)	23.80	0.00	1.00	22.80	New Work included in the Budget. Final location survey is being taken up.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Doubling	Gorakhpur-Sahajanva	61.51	0.01	0.10	61.40	Work has been temporarily frozen.
Doubling	Gonda-Jarwal Road	60.69	19.57	15.00	26.12	The work is in progress. 85% earthwork and 31 minor bridges out of 33 have been completed and 2 are in progress. Work on all 8 major bridges is in progress. 27 km. section Majhapur to Jarwal Road is expected to be completed in 2000-2001.
Doubling	Tundla-Yamuna Br.	35.95	23.70	7.00	5.25	The work on Tundla-Etmadpur and on the fly over is in progress. The earthwork and minor bridges have been completed. The work of Tundla-Etmadpur including flyover will be completed by Dec' 2000 subject to availability of resources.
Doubling	Muradnagar-Meerut	62.48	31.00	15.00	16.48	Earthwork and minor bridges have been completed. Major bridges are in progress. The 18 km. portion from Muradnagar to Partapur is expected to be completed in 2000-2001.
Doubling	Ghaziabad-(Hapur) Moradabad PH-I	69.66	32.35	18.00	19.31	The first block section Ghaziabad -Mehrauli (7km.) has been completed and commissioned. The work is in progress on the entire section and is expected to be completed by March, 2001.
Doubling	Amroha-Moradabad	49.00	1.00	5.00	43.00	New Work of 1999-2000. Preparation of Plans and estimates is in progress.
Doubling	Zafrabad-Utratti PH-II (Zafrabad-Shrikrishnnagar)	48.00	0.00	1.00	47.00	New work included in Budget. Final location survey is being taken up.
Doubling	Amroha-Kankather	48.00	0.00	1.00	47.00	New work included in Budget. Final location survey is being taken up.
Doubling	Utratti-Chandrauli and Sultanpur-Bandhua Kalan	47.12	5.09	10.00	32.03	Final location survey has been completed and detailed estimate prepared. Plans are under finalisation. Work is being taken up.
Doubling	Kanpur-Panki 3rd line	34.03	15.85	10.00	8.18	Earthwork is in progress. 76.2 m. girders for fly over are being manufactured at Manmad Workshop. The work is expected to be completed by Dec. 2000 subject to availability of resources.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Gauge Conversion	Kaptanganj-Thave-Sivan-Chhapra	268.00	0.00	0.10	267.90	New work of 1999-2000. The work will be taken up after necessary clearances have been obtained.
Gauge Conversion	Gonda-Gorakhpur Loop with Anand nagar Nautanwa	250.00	0.00	0.10	249.90	The work would be taken up after the requisite clearances have been obtained.
Gauge Conversion	Gonda-Bahraich-Sitapur-Lucknow PH-I	48.00	0.00	0.10	47.90	The work would be taken up after the requisite clearances have been obtained.
Gauge Conversion	Kanpur-Kasganj-Mathura	514.04	38.15	26.00	449.89	8.99 lac cum. out of 12.2 lac cum. of earthwork completed. 106 minor bridges out of 460 completed. The work will be completed in the coming years as per availability of resources.
Gauge Conversion	Kashipur-Lalkuan	51.88	41.90	9.98	0.00	The work has been completed.
Gauge Conversion	Khadda-Gorakhpur	91.30	80.98	1.00	9.32	The work has been completed.
Gauge Conversion	Mathura-Achnera	33.67	0.10	1.00	32.57	It is planned to do this work alongwith Kanpur-Kasganj-Mathura & complete in coming years.
Gauge Conversion	Indara-Phephana	35.00	33.36	0.10	1.54	The work has been completed and commissioned.
Gauge Conversion	Mau Shahganj	56.00	55.90	0.10	0.00	The work has been completed and commissioned.
Gauge Conversion	Chhapra-Aunrhar	167.79	167.69	0.10	0.00	Work completed and commissioned.
Gauge Conversion	Agra-Bandikui	169.30	4.51	9.00	155.79	The work is being progressed as per availability of resources. No TD has yet been fixed.
New Line	Guna-Etawah	337.32	246.58	25.00	65.74	Guna-Gwalior and Gwalior Nonera section have already been completed. The next phase work of Gauge Conversion between Nonera and Bhind is in progress and expected to be completed in 2000-2001. The last phase of this project from Bhind to Etawah involves construction of 3 major bridges on the rivers Chhamba, Kunwar and Yamuna. The work on Yamuna Bridge has already been taken up. The work will be completed in the coming years as per availability of resources.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
New Line	Agra-Etawah via Fatehabad and Bah	108.00	0.19	10.00	97.81	FLS for 49 km. from Bhandal end has been completed. Preparation of Plans and estimates has been taken up.
New Line	Rampur-Lalkuan-Kathgodam ROB on NH	10.77	0.04	1.00	9.73	The revised plan has been sent to MOST for approval. Railways portion of work will start as soon as State Govt. start their portion.
New Line	Katra-Faizabad	71.53	26.58	10.00	34.95	116 acres of land, out of total 142.49 acres has been acquired. Earthwork 6.64 lakh cum. has been completed out of 7.06 lakh cum. The work on the Surya bridge is progressing well and will be completed in the coming year as per availability of resources.
New Line	Bagaha-Chhitauni-MG lines	93.56	93.46	0.10	0.00	Work of GC has been completed and commissioned. Work of Rail-cum-Road Bridge across river Gandak (14 spans of 200 ft.) has been entrusted to M/s. IRCON which is in progress. The work will be completed in about 2 years time.
New Line	Etawah-Mainpuri	120.00	0.00	0.10	119.90	The work would be taken up after the requisite clearances have been obtained.
Railway Electrification	Sitarampur-Danapur-Mugalsarai	400.00	328.98	40.20	30.82	286 RKM's since energised till Mar, 99. The progress has been slow due to law and order problem and failure of contractor. Work is now targetted for completion by Dec, 2000.
Railway Electrification	Kanpur-Lucknow	47.87	32.00	10.30	5.57	Completed and commissioned.
Railway Electrification	Mugalsarai-Zafrabad	49.07	0.10	5.05	43.92	Project report is under Board's appraisal.
Railway Elec-trification	Khurja-Meerut-Saharanpur	89.21	0.00	0.00	89.21	The work has been pended for the present due to lower operational priority.
Railway Electrification	Ambala-Moradabad	152.21	83.30	15.05	53.86	The work from Ambala to Saharanpur has been completed. Section from Saharanpur to Moradabad which was frozen earlier has since been defrozen in Nov, 1998 and entire section targetted by Mar, 2003.

[English]

Passengers Travelling to N.E. States

5049. SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) the percentage of Government servants and common people travelling to North-East by Indian Airlines;

(b) the percentage of the reduced air fare allowed on this sector;

(c) whether the Government intend to restructure this air fare by doing away with the subsidy; and

(d) if so, the Government have any plan to reduce the loss incurred on this sector?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) Indian Airlines does not have a profile of the passengers travelling to North-East. However, according to the passengers survey conducted by a Committee constituted by the Director General of Civil Aviation, in the North-East sector the percentage of Government servants travelling is 23.0%.

(b) The fares in the North-East are about 40-45% lower than the corresponding fares in the other parts of the country.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Implementation of Recommendations of Kargil Review Committee

5050. SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR :

SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH :

SHRI R.L. BHATIA :

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT :

DR. MANDA JAGANNATH :

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU :

SHRI B. VENKATESHWARLU :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) the recommendations of the Kargil Review Committee accepted and rejected by the Government, separately;

(b) whether any experts group has been constituted to implement the recommendations of the Committee;

(c) if so, the composition and terms of reference thereof; and

(d) the progress made, if any, in implementing the Report so far?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) to (d) The specific recommendations made by Kargil Review Committee (Subrahmanyam Committee) for strengthening the surveillance system by acquisition of (a) high altitude UAVs, (b) communication interception equipment, (c) satellite imagery capability of world standards, and (d) development of skills in encryption/decryption have been accepted by the Government in principle. Further, the Government has in view of the importance and sensitivity of the subject and after careful consideration of the recommendations of the Kargil Review Committee and other relevant aspects decided that the national security system in its entirety be thoroughly reviewed by a Group of Ministers headed by the Home Minister with Raksha Mantri, External Affairs Minister and Finance Minister as its members.

Survey of Banavara-Belur Rail Line

5051. SHRI KOLUR BASAVANAGOUD : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have undertaken the survey for laying of new railway line from Banavara to Belur in Hassan District, Karnataka;

(b) if so, the estimated cost thereof; and

(c) the time by which the construction work of above line is likely to be started and completed?

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

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Committee on Land Holdings

5052. SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH : Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the National Level Committee constituted on land holdings has since submitted its report;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the time by which the report is likely to be submitted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Committee which was constituted in September, 1999 was required to submit its report within a period of three months. However, the Committee in its first meeting held on 9.11.99 decided to constitute a Sub-Committee to gather first hand information on various aspects of Consolidation of Land Holdings and Computerisation of Land Records by undertaking tours to various States. The Sub-Committee has commenced its work and has been asked to submit its report within a period of three months. The preparation of Report by the National Level Committee can be taken up immediately after the sub-committee submit its report.

Royalty Paid by M/s. A.H. Wheeler & Company

5053. SHRI ASHOK KUMAR SINGH CHANDEL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state the amount paid by M/s A.H. Wheeler and Company as a royalty, to the Railways during the last three years, zone-wise/year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : The railway-wise information for the past three years in regard to royalty paid by M/s A.H. Wheelers & Co. is as under :-

Railways	1997	1998 (in Rupees)	1999
Central	2355264	2572004	2750000
Eastern	1016888	1109036	1160000
Northern	1008211	1108586	1200000
N. Eastern	360041	399488	430000
N. Frontier	275000	275740	250000
S. Central	473743	518207	540000
S. Eastern	814339	883900	900000
Western	1645808	1818383	2000000

Off Loading of Passengers from London Flight to IGIA

5054. SHRI RASHID ALVI :
SHRI R.L. BHATIA :
SHRI ABDUL HAMID :
DR. RAMESH CHAND TOMAR :
SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether about 150 passengers were off-loaded from Air India Flight to London at Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGIA) on February 28, 2000;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the place from where these passengers confirmed their booking of journey;

(d) whether there is any provision to cancel the booking through agents;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether compensation has been paid to the off-loaded passengers as penalty;

(g) if so, the details thereof; and

(h) the steps taken to improve the Air India Service?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. 185 passengers were off-loaded at IGI Airport on Air India Flight to New York via Delhi. These passengers were off-loaded due to over-bookings.

(c) Local Air India offices wherever applicable and the space control section of Air India Headquarters.

(d) and (e) Bookings are accepted by Air India through various sources including travel agents and Computerised Reservation System. Only bookings which appear to be fictitious are cancelled by Air India to enable the seats to be recycled for genuine demand. Scanning of flights to weed out fictitious bookings is done by space management section as well as by local Air India Offices.

(f) and (g) The passengers were provided lodging and boarding at Air India's cost. Provisions to make STD/ISD/Local calls were made as per the laid down procedures. Transportation was provided to passengers wishing to go to their residences.

(h) The steps taken to improve the Air India service are (i) Improvement in inflight service; (ii) Marketing initiatives to increase loads and yields; (iii) Focus on route profitability and preference to higher yield stations in allocation of passengers/cargo capacity; (iv) Implementation of more vigorous space management techniques to maximise capacity utilisation and revenues; and (v) emphasis on total schedule integrity and high on-time performance.

**Gauge Conversion of Villupuram-
Trichy Rail line**

5055. SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any priority is being accorded to the gauge conversion of Villupuram-Trichy rail line via Mayiladuturai, Kumbakonam and Thanjavur; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) and (b) The work is included in the Budget and will be taken up after obtaining requisite clearances. Action for obtaining clearances has already been initiated.

[Translation]

**Violation of Security Norms by Private
Aviation Companies**

5056. SHRI RAMSHAKAL : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) the number of cases which have come to the notice of the Government regarding violation of security norms by private aviation companies during the last two years;

(b) whether the Government have taken any action against these companies;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government propose to formulate new guidelines in this regard;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the time by which these guidelines are likely to be issued?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) During the last two years, 42 instances of violation of security norms/instructions of Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS) by private airlines have come to notice.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. The respective aviation companies have been directed by the BCAS to take necessary remedial action.

(d) There already exist guidelines on the subject which are applicable to private air operators also. No new guidelines are considered necessary.

(e) and (f) Do not arise.

[English]

Civil Aviation Projects in Maharashtra

5075. SHRI NAMDEO HARBARI DIWATHE : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have reviewed the implementation of ongoing projects in Maharashtra;

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

(c) whether the Government have decided to develop Nagpur airport as international hub handling export and international passenger traffic;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the funds provided for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) and (b) The projects undertaken in Maharashtra by Airport Authority of India (AAI) are given below :-

(1) Expansion of apron, taxiway and provision of shoulders and construction of new control tower have been taken up in Nagpur Airport;

(2) Extension of runway to 9000 ft., construction of new apron, link taxiway and new terminal building and car park area are at hand in Aurangabad airport;

(3) Work relating to extension of F Taxi track and construction of parallel taxi track; construction of Bay No. 14 and installation of aerobridges at Bay No. 17, 18 and 19 along with security hold are in progress in Mumbai airport.

(c) to (e) An integrated cargo and courier terminal at Nagpur airport has already been commissioned by AAI in November, 1997 for handling international, domestic cargo and courier bags at a cost of Rs. 2 crores.

Caribjet Wet Lease Deal

5058. DR. S. VENUGOPAL :

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item captioned "After Caribjet, A-1 MD faces another probe" published in Pioneer dated March 30, 2000;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) Yes, sir.

(b) and (c) Shri S. Narayanswamy, a retired employee of Air India had been appointed as a consultant in Air India from October, 1997, by the Managing Director, Air India on Monthly emoluments of Rs. 20000/- & transport. His appointment has been terminated on 15.04.2000. Shri Narayanswamy was one of the officers named in the report dated 21.12.96 of the Chief Vigilance Officer of Air India in Atmaram Mansion (formerly Scindia House) case for certain alleged lapses. Air India vigilance is looking into whether the appointment of consultant (s) is in consonance with Air India Service Regulations. Regarding his role in arbitration proceedings against the termination of wetlease of aircraft from M/s. Caribjet, the CBI has already registered a Preliminary Enquiry on 30.3.2000 which will inter-alia look into whether adequate efforts were made by Air India officials and their legal advisors to protect the commercial interests of Air India in arbitration proceedings.

IRDP

5059. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH :

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA :

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Gramino ki nahin, afsaron ki garibi door kar raha hai IRDP" appearing in Dainik Jagaran dated April 2, 2000;

(b) if so, the facts reported therein and the reaction of the Government thereon;

(c) the number of poor families lifted above poverty line in Bihar through IRDP during each of the last five years; and

(d) the number of cases that have come to light where funds under IRDP have been misappropriated by the officials during each of the last five years, State-wise and the action taken on each of those cases?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SUNDAR LAL PATWA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As per this news item the erstwhile Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP) has failed in helping the rural poor to cross the poverty line. The news items further mentions the following about IRDP :

- Only about 15% of assisted families have crossed the poverty line. 24% of the assets acquired are non-income generating.
- 50% of the assets acquired did not contribute to increase in income of the beneficiaries.
- Subsidy under the programme has been

responsible for corruption among the officials and bankers.

- The structure of the programme itself is deficient. It is neither effectively implemented nor does it have technical support.
- There is no provision for involvement of various agencies and integration of activities of other departments.
- In order to make the programme successful, the assistance under the programme should be used either in irrigated area or for development of basic infrastructure.
- Regular follow up and the contact between the loanees and the bankers after the disbursal of loan is essential for the success of the programme.
- As against this reporting in the news paper the latest round (vth) of Concurrent Evaluation Report of IRDP suggest the following :
 - 46.34% of assisted old families have crossed the poverty line of Rs. 11000/-.
 - 94.47% of the old beneficiaries and 87.38% of the new beneficiaries were productively using the assets. They have also reported that their quality asset was very good.
 - 81.27% case of beneficiaries reported availability of inputs and 68.21% reported marketing of output services to be adequate.

In order to make the self employment programme more effective, IRDP and its allied programmes have been restructured and a new programme namely Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY) has been launched w.e.f. 1.4.1999. SGSY has been conceived as a holistic programme of micro-enterprise development covering all aspects of self-employment like organisation of the rural poor in to self-help groups and their capacity building, planning of activity clusters, infrastructure build up, technology, credit and marketing.

(c) The number of poor families assisted under erstwhile IRDP in Bihar during last five years are given below:-

Year	Number of families assisted
1994-95	224736
1995-96	265525
1996-97	244764
1997-98	196849
1998-99	176213

(d) The matter relating to misappropriation of funds is a State subject and is dealt with at the State level. (At the Central level this information is not monitored).

Guidelines for EAS

5060. SHRI ARJUN SETHI :

SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB :

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether any workshop on the new guidelines issued under EAS were held with the different States and UTs for adopting the changes in the procedures for preparation of Annual Action Plans for Employment Assurance Scheme;

(b) If so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the new guidelines of Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS) has come into force in the year 1999-2000; and

(d) If so, the time by when the first instalment of funds under the new guidelines of the EAS were released to the DRDAs/ZPs by the Government particularly in Orissa?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SUNDAR LAL PATWA) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Though the Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS) has been restructured with effect from 1.4.1999 the revised EAS Guidelines were finalised and issued on 9th November, 1999. The proposed major changes in EAS were discussed in the Conference of State Secretaries of Rural Development Departments held on 3rd-4th June, 1999 and also in the Annual Conference of Project Directors of DRAs, held on 19-21 July, 1999 at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi. As regards Annual Action Plan, the Zilla Parishad is responsible for preparation and approval of Annual Action Plan.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The revised guidelines was in force in the year 1999-2000. First *ad hoc* instalment of funds under Employment Assurance Scheme was released in the month of May, 1999 and the balance, if any, was released in September, 1999 to all the States/UTs including Orissa.

Gauge Conversion

5061. SHRI RAMSINH RATHWA :

SHRI P.S. GADHAVI :

SHRI DINSHA PATEL :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) The details of metre/narrow gauge rail lines converted/being converted and proposed to be converted into broad gauge during the current five year plan along with the expenditure incurred and likely to be incurred thereon, State/zone-wise;

(b) whether there is any proposal to convert metre/narrow gauge lines into broad gauge through private funding; and

(c) If so, the details thereof, State/zone-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) Railways do not maintain information State-wise. However, details of metre/narrow gauge rail lines converted during the 1st 3 years of 9th Plan are as under :-

97-98 Completed Section	Length (KMS)	Zone	State
Hassan-Sakleshpur	42	Southern Railway	Karnataka
Mysore-Holenaripur	87	Southern Railway	Karnataka
Bachwara-Hazipur	71	North-Eastern Railway	Bihar
Kolar-Bangarpet NG	18	Southern Railway	Karnataka
Trichy-Thanjavur	50	Southern Railway	Tamil Nadu
Jodhpur-Marwar	103	Northern Railway	Rajasthan
Nagbhir-Chandafort NG	111	South Eastern Railway	Maharashtra
Hotgi-Bijapur	97	South Central Railway	Karnataka & Maharashtra
Jorhat-Furkating loop	67	Northeast Frontier Railway	Assam
Shimlaguri-Shivsagar	16	Northeast Frontier Railway	Assam
Dronachellam-Mehboobnagar	185	South Central Railway	Andhra Pradesh
Total	847		
98-99 Completed Section	Length (KMS)	Zone	State
Tambaram-Trichy	309	Southern Railway	Tamil Nadu
Dindigul-Trichy	89	Southern Railway	Tamil Nadu
Jorhat-Mariani	17	Northeast Frontier Railway	Assam
Sheosagar-Moranhat	38	Northeast Frontier Railway	Assam
Narkatiaganj-Gorakhpur	159	North Eastern Railway	UP/Bihar
Babupeth-Ballarshah	11	South Central Railway	Maharashtra
Sholapur-Hotgi	15	South Central Railway	Maharashtra
Indara-Phephna	52	North Eastern Railway	Uttar Pradesh
Total	690		

1999-2000 Completed Section	Length (KMS)	Zone	State
Yeshwantpur-Baiyyapanhalli	17	Southern Railway	Karnataka
Arakkonam-Chengalpattu	63	Southern Railway	Tamil Nadu

Morbi-Maliya Miyana and Dahinsara to Naulakhi	68	Western Railway	Gujarat
Kashipur-Lalkuan	58	North Eastern Railway	Uttar Pradesh
Total	206		

The details of metre/narrow gauge lines targeted to be converted during 2000-01 are as under :-

1.	Nonera-Bhind of Guna-Etawah project	50 km	Central Railway
2.	Raxual-Birganj	8 km	North Eastern Railway
3.	Makum-Dangri & Amguri-Tuli	45 km	Northeast Frontier Railway
4.	Laxmanthirtha Bridge diversion on Mysore Hassan line	1 km	Southern Railway
5.	Mudkhed-Adilabad	142 km	South Central Railway
6.	Wakaner-Morbi	48 km	Western Railway
7.	Gandhidham-Bhuj	58 km	Western Railway
8.	Darangadhara-Kuda	33 km	Western Railway

The targets for conversion of metre/narrow gauge lines for 2001-02 has not yet been decided.

Expenditure incurred on gauge conversion during the 1st 3 years of 9th Plan are as under :-

1997-98	Rs. 1245 cr.
1998-99	Rs. 774 cr.
1999-2000 :	Rs. 597 cr.

An amount of Rs. 623 cr. has been provided in 2000-01 Budget for gauge conversion work.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Mudkhed-Adilabad on South Central Railway lying in Maharashtra/Andhra Pradesh is being executed with private funding under BOLT scheme. Surendranagar-Pipavav via Botad, Dhola and Dhasa is being taken up with partial private funding through Special Purpose Vehicle in which 1/3rd funds will be provided by Railways, 1/3rd by Gujarat Pipavav Port Ltd. and 1/3rd by market borrowings.

[Translation]

Wind Energy Generation

5062. SHRI ARUN KUMAR :

SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA :

Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the target of 1000 MW wind energy generation was fixed by the Government during the Ninth Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the total amount allocated during the plan period;

(c) the total power generated in this sector till March, 2000; and

(d) the total expenditure incurred thereon during the above period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) An allocation of Rs. 63 crores has been made for the wind power programme for the Ninth Five Year Plan.

(c) A wind power capacity of 266 MW has been installed during the first three years of the Ninth Five Year Plan, taking the cumulative wind power capacity to 1167 MW, as on 31st March, 2000.

(d) An expenditure of Rs. 15.26 crores has been incurred during the first three years of the Ninth Plan. Wind power projects are mainly set up as commercial projects through private investments. Partial financial assistance is provided only for limited number of demonstration projects. Out of the capacity of 266 MW set up in the Ninth Five Year Plan, only 4 MW has come through demonstration projects.

[English]

Funds to North-Eastern States for Poverty Alleviation Programme

5063. SHRI BHIM DAHAL : Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the funds allocated to the North-Eastern States including Sikkim under the Centrally sponsored rural poverty alleviation programmes during the Ninth Plan period, State-wise;

(b) the funds actually released so far, State-wise;

(c) whether the State Government have fully utilised the funds released to them; and

(d) If not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SUNDAR LAL PATWA) : (a) State-wise allocation for poverty alleviation programmes has not been made for the Ninth-Five

Year Plan period.

(b) As per the information available with the Ministry the allocation, release and utilisation figures are given in the statement enclosed.

(c) and (d) Most of the North-Eastern States have not fully utilised the funds mainly due to low absorption capacity.

Statement

Details of Funds Allocated/Released and Utilised by North-Eastern States during the First Three Years of the Ninth Plan Period.

1997-98

(Rs. in lakhs)

Name of the State	Central Allocation	Central Release	State Release	Funds Utilised
1	2	3	4	5
Arunachal Pradesh	4121.15	5103.23	3478.65	7655.78
Assam	23831.57	23462.41	13441.45	35962.64
Manipur	2186.87	2488.34	1853.32	3926.65
Meghalaya	1745.05	1479.88	1473.78	3236.29
Mizoram	1584.77	1771.67	960.62	2498.29
Nagaland	3319.35	3472.30	1030.72	6167.48
Tripura	3088.01	3717.30	2058.71	6659.59
Sikkim	865.82	1134.16	1011.22	2615.14

1998-99

Arunachal Pradesh	6325.23	4776.12	1716.73	3315.78
Assam	35772.23	43470.30	12391.20	27064.33
Manipur	3556.71	2034.70	599.17	1288.15
Meghalaya	3735.50	3424.73	2115.95	3161.02
Mizoram	2251.02	2489.15	563.54	2439.97
Nagaland	4320.59	4290.79	836.22	3006.64
Tripura	5519.86	7513.22	3723.29	8020.88
Sikkim	1199.73	2377.00	1393.03	1312.33

1999-2000

Arunachal Pradesh	3926.98	3827.69	2877.72	5218.90
Assam	37151.61	29461.70	12230.29	27998.33
Manipur	2814.31	904.26	1024.09	1392.45
Meghalaya	3380.99	2045.34	2142.84	2830.63
Mizoram	1291.86	1734.34	707.38	1458.36

1	2	3	4	5
Nagaland	2302.84	2039.07	337.11	1191.19
Tripura	4505.28	5073.45	2620.44	4739.55
Sikkim	922.86	1699.15	1282.10	1504.86

(* Figures are provisional)

Transportation of Goods

[Translation]

5064. SHRI MANIBHAI RAMJIBHAI CHAUDHRI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Railways have transported more quantity of goods from April, 1999 to February, 2000 than the stipulated target;

(b) if so, the quantity of goods transported and the revenue earned therefrom;

(c) whether the Government have taken some measures for transportation of more quantity of goods; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) Railways have transported 411.48 million tonnes of goods traffic during the period from April, 1999 to February, 2000 and have realised an earning of Rs. 19,937.69 crores.

(c) and (d) During 2000-01, the incremental freight loading is expected to materialise mainly from movement of coal, cement, material to steel plants, finished steel and POL products. In order to create transport capacity for lifting this incremental traffic, adequate number of open, covered and flat wagons and locomotives have been planned. To tackle the problem of near saturation of the main freight corridors, induction of high horsepower diesel and electric locomotives has been provided for in the procurement plan. A special thrust is being given to strictly enforce block rake disciplines, augment capacities of terminals and capturing of piecemeal traffic through containerisation.

In order to retain its competitiveness vis-a-vis other modes, Railways refrained from any price hike despite hike in diesel prices in November, 1999. Further, although in the Budget proposals a general 5 per cent hike has been proposed, the major revenue-earners, namely, coal, steel, petroleum and cement have been given major relief in-as-much as freight of these commodities would increase only to

extent of about 2 per cent. Moreover, the concessions given earlier to imported coal has been withdrawn with effect from 1.4.2000. Simultaneously, the higher classification of washed coal, which was putting domestic washed coal at a disadvantage vis-a-vis the imported variety, has also been done away with.

[English]

Direct International Cargo Flights from Metros

5065. SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have taken any measures for Direct International Cargo flights from metro cities to different countries; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) and (b) At present an open sky policy is followed for international air cargo operation to/from India by foreign airlines. The Indian operators are also permitted to operate freighter services on a non-scheduled basis from India. The actual operations are, however, left to the commercial judgement of the airlines.

Funds for Rural Development Schemes

5066. SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN :

SHRI SUNIL KHAN :

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state the details of funds allocated and released to each State for Development Schemes during 1999-2000, Scheme-wise?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SUNDAR LAL PATWA) : Details of funds allocated and released for the Rural Development Schemes namely Jawahar Gram Samridhi Yojana (JGSY), Indra Awaas Yojana (IAY), Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY), Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS), Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP), and Central Rural Sanitation Programme (CRSP) during 1999-2000, scheme-wise and State-wise are indicated in the statement annexed.

Statement

Central allocation, Central Release under JGSY, IAY, SGSY, EAS, ARWSP and CRSP during 1999-2000

S.No.	State/UT	(Rs. in lakhs)											
		JGSY			IAY			SGSY			EAS		
		Central Allocation	Central Release	Central Allocation	Central Allocation	Central Release	Central Allocation	Central Allocation	Central Release	Central Allocation	Central Allocation	Central Release	Central Release
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
1	Andhra Pradesh	9319.52	9617.00	11036.00	11095.40	6219.55	8372.80	10288.00	10288.76	9143.26	12534.37	570.77	994.91
2	Arunachal Pradesh	204.90	143.00	754.00	841.47	136.74	92.14	226.00	719.27	2476.00	1980.80	30.00	40.48
3	Assam	5324.02	3787.00	15658.00	13820.00	3553.09	3606.83	5878.00	4701.11	4180.00	2090.00	792.82	133.22
4	Bihar	30529.68	28484.00	38598.00	29527.20	20374.56	11918.05	33705.00	25388.02	9380.00	4690.00	1585.89	729.75
5	Goa	137.12	124.00	68.00	62.26	59.78	59.78	24.00	55.00	352.92	0.00	6.48	0.00
6	Gujarat	3508.04	3508.00	3243.00	3228.33	2341.15	2903.06	3873.00	4301.49	6028.52	7442.20	250.00	484.10
7	Haryana	2063.84	2064.00	1171.00	1447.92	1377.36	1784.18	2278.00	1981.53	1883.91	2407.24	179.05	0.00
8	Himachal Pradesh	869.16	1752.00	515.00	449.39	580.06	719.74	960.00	945.06	2275.77	3075.09	70.56	42.13
9	Jammu & Kashmir	1075.71	898.00	618.00	124.01	717.90	411.69	1188.00	2755.00	6381.44	3190.72	87.86	0.00
10	Karnataka	7037.56	7038.00	5898.00	4337.38	4696.65	2348.33	7769.00	6670.05	8402.25	11409.40	461.14	997.19
11	Kerala	3157.73	3158.73	3552.00	3084.74	2107.37	2083.35	3486.00	3486.12	4307.88	3446.30	298.28	253.03
12	Madhya Pradesh	15474.69	16926.00	9183.00	9168.49	10327.33	10901.48	17084.00	17464.11	9444.68	12330.44	876.21	438.11
13	Maharashtra	13911.52	13911.00	10585.00	10436.27	9284.11	9284.11	15358.00	11002.98	13614.41	17302.37	804.89	1838.02
14	Manipur	356.92	116.00	693.00	177.45	238.19	119.00	394.00	307.87	907.00	0.00	52.98	8.96

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	Meghalaya	399.88	132.00	1057.00	651.49	266.87	131.52	441.00	220.74	974.00	779.20	57.48	0.00
16	Mizoram	92.53	92.00	280.00	297.05	61.75	58.15	102.00	402.16	696.00	696.00	14.79	1.89
17	Nagaland	274.30	224.00	653.00	773.28	183.06	102.00	303.00	276.09	724.00	579.20	39.84	0.00
18	Orissa	10659.61	15974.00	9154.00	13154.96	7113.90	7222.67	11768.00	17621.12	4847.93	4847.93	527.98	527.98
19	Punjab	1003.01	975.00	745.00	678.66	669.38	664.98	1107.00	813.98	1720.64	2320.64	155.13	0.00
20	Rajasthan	5343.85	5344.00	3233.00	2705.87	3566.34	3566.34	5900.00	6888.13	12676.22	12002.50	478.23	396.80
21	Sikkim	102.45	102.00	122.00	123.90	68.38	68.38	113.00	313.10	460.83	1045.59	14.70	25.43
22	Tamil Nadu	8240.50	9163.00	5846.00	6236.91	5499.44	7548.46	9098.00	10597.49	6534.66	8958.28	567.17	1052.49
23	Tripura	644.43	488.00	1433.00	1455.28	430.08	488.12	711.00	711.46	862.00	1662.00	92.92	0.00
24	Uttar Pradesh	33598.18	33593.00	23565.00	21682.91	22422.38	14509.84	37092.00	36155.49	14775.00	14825.12	1962.33	737.77
25	West Bengal	11846.03	10800.00	12064.00	8209.33	7905.68	3952.84	13078.00	9483.71	7008.15	5606.45	852.60	0.00
26	Andaman Islands	93.87	13.00	129.00	0.00	59.78	29.90	55.00	27.36	12.50	0.00	5.00	0.00
27	Chandigarh											5.00	0.00
28	Daman & Diu	61.96	31.00	69.00	34.50	59.78	30.00	55.00	27.36	12.50	0.00	5.00	0.00
29	Daman & Diu	30.02	0.00	27.00	0.00	59.78	30.00	2.00	0.91	12.50	0.00	5.00	0.00
30	Delhi	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	5.00	0.00
31	Lakshadweep	47.06	24.00	3.00	1.50	59.78	30.00	4.00	1.82	12.50	0.00	5.00	0.00
32	Pondicherry	91.91	46.00	67.00	33.50	59.78	29.89	69.00	34.66	5.00	0.00	5.00	2.50
Total		165500.00	168527.00	159999.00	143839.45	110500.00	93067.63	182410.00	173641.95	130112.47	135221.84	10865.10	8704.76

[Translation]

**Development of Kanha National Park
as Tourist Centre**

5067. SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

- (a) whether there is any scheme to develop Kanha National Park as a tourist centre;
- (b) If so, whether the tourist information centres have been identified which may guide the tourists;
- (c) If so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the Government propose to hand over the closed tourist hotels in Kanha to the private sector; and
- (e) If so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) to (c) Kanha National Park is a well developed and known Tourist Centre in India. For its promotion Government have produced brochures, CD-ROMs, films and posters etc. Eight Tourist Information Centres within the State of Madhya Pradesh and six outside the State of Madhya Pradesh are functioning to provide tourist information to the visitors. Besides this, Government of India Tourist Offices both in India and abroad disseminate tourist information to the potential visitors.

(d) and (e) The management, maintenance and upkeep of tourism properties are the responsibility of the State Government concerned.

[English]

Booking of Railway Tickets

5068. SHRI R.L. BHATIA :

SHRI ABDUL HAMID :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government are aware that railway tickets for reservation are not generally available to genuine passengers;
- (b) If so, whether any steps are being contemplated to regulate ticket booking and the activities of Railway Travel Service Agents; and
- (c) If so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) to (c) It is not true that the Railway tickets for reservation are not generally available to the genuine passengers. However, during the rush period, the demand outstrips the availability of accommodation. In order to bridge the gap between the demand and supply, Railways run special trains, augment the load of the existing trains etc. Moreover, in order to curb the activities of the unscrupulous elements indulging in the malpractice in reservation and also to keep a check on the activities of the Rail Travellers' Service Agents, various steps have been taken, e.g.

(i) Checks are conducted to nab touts and anti-social elements in the railway premises by Railway Protection Force, Vigilance organisation, Commercial Department and Government Railway Police.

(ii) Raids are also conducted on the premises of suspected unauthorised agents in association with the police.

(iii) CCTV cameras have also been installed at a few major reservation offices in order to keep an eye on the activities of unscrupulous elements.

(iv) Railway officials are deputed to make surprise visit at the premises of the Rail Travellers' Service Agents to verify the records and the system of working. Suitable action is taken wherever irregularities are detected.

Subsidies on Freight

5069. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

- (a) the amount of subsidies involved on account of freight on coal, iron ore and other raw materials, item-wise during the last three years; and
- (b) the manner in which the Government propose to compensate the railways on this account?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) and (b) Ministry of Railways do not provide subsidies in freight to its customers on booking of coal, iron ore and other raw materials.

Investment Promotional Scheme

5070. SHRI T. M. SELVAGANPATHI : Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

- (a) whether "Investment Promotional Scheme" was launched in 1994-95 for development of non-forest wasteland;
- (b) If so, the total number of projects taken up under this scheme as on date since its inception, State-wise; and

(c) the amount allocated and utilised under the said scheme during 1999-2000, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Upto the end of March, 2000, 16 projects have been sanctioned under the Investment Promotional Scheme (IPS). The details of these projects are compiled State-wise and are given in statement-I enclosed.

(c) Instead of allocation, subsidy including release of funds is made project-wise under the scheme. The details of subsidy sanctioned released and utilised under the projects during 1999-2000 are compiled State-wise and are given in statement-II enclosed.

Statement-I

Details of Projects Sanctioned under IPS during 1994-95 to 1999-2000 (State-wise)

S.No.	State	Projects Sanctioned
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1
2.	Maharashtra	3
3.	Tamil Nadu	12
Total		16

Statement-II

Details of Funds Sanctioned and Released under the Projects during 1999-2000 (State-wise)

(Rs. in lakhs)

S.No.	State in which the projects located	Subsidy sanctioned for the projects	Amount released for the projects	Amount utilised
1.	Andhra Pradesh	11.00	6.60	-
2.	Maharashtra	3.00	1.80	-
3.	Tamil Nadu	12.99	11.07*	3.27**
Total		26.99	19.47	3.27

* This includes part of funds released against the projects sanctioned during previous years.

** The amount utilised under projects sanctioned during previous years.

Construction of Fly Over in Trivandrum

5071. SHRI T. GOVINDAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have received any proposal from Kerala to construct fly over at level crossing near Park formed by KINFRA in Trivandrum, Kerala; and

(b) If so, the present position of the proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) No firm proposal as required under extant rules, has been received from State Govt. of Kerala.

(b) Does not arise.

Pending Railway Projects in Orissa

5072. SHRI PRABHAT SAMANTRAY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the proposal for construction of some new rail lines in Orissa are pending with the Government;

(b) If so, the details thereof and the estimate cost thereof; and

(c) the details of those lines accorded priority in the year 2000-2001?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) and (b) No such proposal is pending with the Government at present. Five New Line projects, viz., Angul-Sukinda Road, Daitari-Banspani, Lanjigarh Road-Junagarh, Khurda Road-Bolangir and Haridaspur-Paradeep are already included in the Railway Budget and work on them is in various stages. On the other hand, survey work for eight proposed New Lines, viz., Talcher-Gopalpur, Puri-Konark, Phulbani-Berhampur, Jeypore-Navarangpur, Talcher-Bimlagarh, Baragarh-Nawapara Road, Jharsuguda bye-pass line and Talcher loop line is in progress. Further consideration of these projects will be possible once the Survey Reports become available.

(c) Outlays have been increased over the previous year for the following works to expedite their construction :-

(i) Daitari-Banspani;

(ii) Khurda Road-Bolangir;

(iii) Angul-Sukinda Road.

BIS Certification for Imported Items

5073. SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Bureau of Indian Standards proposed to evaluate and certify the imported items also;

(b) if so, whether it would be mandatory to get ISI certification from BIS on imported items;

(c) if so, whether the sale of non ISI imported items would be checked and importers would be punished; and

(d) if so, the details and further reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SHREENIVASA PRASAD) : (a) BIS opened its Product Certification Scheme to overseas manufacturers and importers in September, 1999. Under the provisions of this scheme, foreign manufacturers can seek Certification from BIS for marking their product with ISI mark and Indian importers can also seek Certification for applying ISI mark on the products being imported into the country by them.

(b) It is not mandatory to get ISI Certification from BIS on imported items. However, under quality control orders issued by various Ministries/Departments of the Government of India under Essential Commodities Act, Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, etc. ISI Certification has been made mandatory for 131 items for reasons of health, safety and consumer protection. In such cases, the above Scheme facilitates ISI marking on imported products which are covered under mandatory certification.

(c) and (d) Action against the sale of non-ISI imported products will be governed by the quality control orders providing for mandatory ISI Certification.

[Translation]

Constitution of Railway Users Consultative Committees

5074. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether regional/divisional/zonal railway users consultative committees have been constituted;

(b) whether the General Manager and other officials do not give any importance to these committees and never convene meetings of said committees more than once in a year;

(c) whether ignoring the suggestions of the committees is their sole intention;

(d) if so, the need for constructing such committees; and

(e) the date on which the next meeting of the regional, divisional and zonal railway users committees is likely to be convened?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) to (e) The Zonal Railway Users' Consultative Committees and Divisional Railway Users' Consultative Committees have been reconstituted for a two year term from 1.1.2000 to 31.12.2001. As per constitution of these Committees, the Divisional Railway Users' consultative Committee is required to meet once a quarter but not less than three times a year, and the Zonal Railway Users' Consultative Committee three times in a year. Efforts are always made by the railway administrations to hold meetings as per the above stipulation. These Committees are consultative in character and suggestions made by the members are examined and action to implement the same is taken wherever justified and feasible. Zonal Railways have been asked to convene meeting of these committees as per stipulated schedule.

Deraiment of Matsaygandha Express

5075. SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Matsaygandha Express passing through Konkan Railway line was derailed recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of persons died/injured and the value of the Government property damaged therein;

(d) the amount of compensation paid to the victims;

(e) whether any investigation has been made in this regard; and

(f) if so, the outcome thereof and the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The train derailed at KM 322/2-4 between Kankavali and Sindhudurg at about 01.50 hours on 10-03-2000 on Konkan Railway.

(c) Three passengers died, seven grievously inju-

red and 12 sustained simple injuries and total amount of loss to Government property is approximately one crore rupees.

(d) Exgratia payment was made to the next of kin of the deceased victims at the rate of Rs. 15,000/- each and at the rate of Rs. 5,000/- each to grievously injured and Rs. 500/- each to the passengers who sustained simple injuries. Compensation to the eligible passengers/next of kin will be paid as per the decree of Railway Claims Tribunal/Mumbai.

(e) and (f) Yes, Sir. Commissioner for Railway Safety/Central Circle, Mumbai conducted investigation and as per his findings, accident took place due to obstruction in the track due to failure of slope caused by sudden convulsion of nature. As recommended by Commissioner for Railway Safety, an Expert Committee has been nominated to review the characteristics of rock/soil strata in all cuttings and to suggest remedial measures to arrest such failures of slope.

[English]

Retirement Age of Indian Airlines Employees

5076. KUMARI BHAVANA PUNDLIKARAO GAWALI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Indian Airlines is likely to incur crores of rupees due to lowering or retirement age of its employees from 60 to 58 years;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the number of officials likely to retire annually on account of lowering the retirement age?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. Indian Airlines is likely to save an amount of Rs. 193 crores over the period of five years commencing from the year 2000-01 on account of net saving in pay and allowances due to rolling back of retirement age from 60 to 58 years.

(c) 859 employees of Indian Airlines have already been retired by 31st March, 2000 as a result of reduction in the age of superannuation in the company. Another 562 employees will retire by 31st March, 2001.

[Translation]

Removal of Jhuggie from Railway Land

5077. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE :

SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Railway Ki Bhomi Par Basi Jhuggiyan Hatane Ka Mamla Musibat Bana" appearing in *Navbharat Times* New Delhi edition dated March 29, 2000;

(b) if so, the details of the facts reported therein;

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(d) the effective policy being adopted or proposed to be adopted by the Government to rehabilitate the jhuggi dwellers set up on the Railway land in the country particularly in the metro cities?

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

(b) There are about 1884 unauthorised jhuggies on Railway land along the Railway lines in Wazirpur Industrial area. As a result of civil writ petition filed in the High Court of Delhi, removal of unauthorised occupation over Railway land in the Wazirpur area was planned in the month of March, 2000. The case was listed on 31.3.2000 for reporting the progress made. However, the proceedings were postponed due to the intervention of certain social and political groups and for maintaining the law and order situation.

Factual position of the case has since been apprised to the Hon'ble Court.

(c) The matter is being considered by the Government, under the aegis of the Ministry of Urban Development and the modalities for vacation of Railway land in a peaceful manner are being worked out.

(d) Railway do not have any policy of providing alternative accommodation to unauthorised occupants of its land. Rehabilitation of all such persons has to be done by the concerned State Governments as per laws framed by them in this regard.

Railway Projects in Madhya Pradesh

5078. SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of railway projects received from Madhya Pradesh during each of the last three years; and

(b) the action taken on each project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) and (b) Details of the proposals received during the last 3 years and action taken thereon is as under :-

S.No.	Proposal	Action Taken
1.	Gauge conversion of Neemuch-Ratlam	Work on long lead items has been taken up. The work will be programmed and completed in the coming years as per availability of resources.
2.	Ramganj Mandi-Bhopal new line	New work included in the Budget 2000-01.
3.	Khandwa-Burwani-Dahod new line	View of Government of Madhya Pradesh is being obtained for participation in construction of this line.
4.	Godhra-Indore & Dewas-Maksi new line	This work is being executed in phases. The first phase work between Dewas & Maksi is now in progress. Work is in progress on all 8 major bridges. Work on all 49 minor bridges have been completed. The other items like earthwork and ballast supply are also in progress.
5.	Bilaspur-Jabalpur New line	Survey is in progress. Further consideration of the project would be possible once the survey report becomes available.

Railway Projects in Bihar

5079. SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Bihar has submitted some railway projects to the Union Government during 1999-2000;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of projects which have been approved; and

(d) the details of railway projects for which survey has been conducted during the said period, along with the

details of those for which the construction work has been undertaken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) and (b) Planning for, and the execution of, Railway projects is done in an integrated and need based manner keeping a national perspective in view. Geographical boundaries of a State, per se, do not form a criterion for determining Railway investments, especially in a scenario where many Railway projects span across more than one State.

However, following proposals were received from the Ministers of Bihar Government during 1999-2000 :

S.No.	Particulars of the Project	Action Taken
1.	Taking up Gauge conversion of Narkatiaganj-Bhitharwa Ashram	This will be done as a part of Gauge Conversion of Jaynagar-Darbhanga-Narkatiaganj, which now been taken up.
2.	Kiul-Nawada New Line	A line already exists between Kiul and Nawada. A new line between Kiul and Nawada is not being considered at present.

(c) Two proposals were received from the Minister's of Bihar Government during 1999-2000 as mentioned above. Of these, Gauge Conversion of Jayanagar-Darbhanga-Narkatiaganj has been taken up. Since a line already exists

between Kiul and Nawada, a new line is not being considered at present.

(d) The details of surveys which have been completed in 1999-2000 and on-going surveys are given in attached statement.

Statement

Completed Surveys in Bihar in the Year 1999-2000

Plan-Head	Rly.	Name of the Project	Commenced on	Completed on	Length (Kms.)	Cost (crores of Rs.)	R O R
New Line	NER	Madhepura to Partapganj via Singheswar ashan and Triveniganj	1.11.99	30.6.2000	60	126.12	-3.94
New Line	NER	Mothari to Sitamarhi via Shivhar	98-99	31.5.99	76.7	137.06	-6.30
New Line	NER	Koparia/Semribhakhtiyarpur-Alamnagar-Bihariganj	97-98	22.10.99	56.5	174.00	0.45

Ongoing Surveys in Bihar

S.No.	Plan-Head	Rly.	Name of the Project	Length (Kms.)
1	Doubling	ER	Gaya-Kiul	126
2	Doubling	SER	Chakdharpur - Bandamunda third line	93
3	Gauge conversion	NER	Mansi-Saharsa-Banmankhi-Katihar	67
4	Gauge conversion	NFR	Katihar to Tejnarayanpur line via Manihari with extension upto Bhaluk Rd via Amdabad	67
5	New Line	ER	Dehri-on-Sone to Barwadih	120
6	New Line	ER	Dehri-on-Sone to Jadunathpur via Banjari	99
7	New Line	ER	Hazaribagh-Garwa Rd	200
8	New Line	ER	Koderma-Tilailya	55
9	New Line	ER	Munger bridge	10
10	New Line	ER	Pipainity to MGR	20
11	New Line	NER	Badlaghat - Alamnagar-Bhawanipur-Purnea-Dalkhola	160
12	New Line	NER	Bihariganj - Chattarpur Rd. via Murliganj	85
13	New Line	NER	Deoria Sardar-Padrauna	62.7
14	New Line	NER	Hajipur-Samastipur via Mahuwa	75
15	New Line	NER	Janakpur Road - Madhubani via Benipatti	50
16	New Line	NER	Koparia-Bihariganj via Sonbarsara-Alamnagar	45
17	New Line	NER	Kursela-Manihari via Bhawanipur-Jariahi	50
18	New Line	NER	Kursela-Rupali-Saharsa	
19	New Line	NER	Nirmali-Bhaptial	39.71
20	New Line	NER	Pratapganj - Bhimnagar - Bathana	75
21	New Line	NER	Salauna (Bakhri) to Alauli	20
22	New Line	NER	Sitamarhi to Jayanagar via Sonbarsai	115
23	New Line	NER	Supaul-Araria via Triveniganj and Raniganj	100
24	New Line	SER	Barwadih-Chirmiri Restoration	202
25	New Line	SER	Lohardaga to Korba	290
26	New Line	SER	Marry Go round of NTPC	20
27	Traffic Facilities	ER	Patna optimisation of maintenance facilities	

[English]

International Airport at Hassan

5080. SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether four hundred acres of land has been acquired in Hassan, Karnataka for constructing an airport;

(b) If so, whether compensation has been given to all those who have lost their land in this process;

(c) If not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the time by which the Government propose to complete this ambitious project alongwith its tentative cost?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. For development of Hassan airport, 350 acres of additional land was acquired by the State Government for handing over to the Airports Authority of India (AAI), free of cost. However, AAI did not take over the additional land as the Hassan airport project was not economically viable. The Planning Commission was approached for budgetary support for construction of an airport at Hassan. The Planning Commission did not agree for the same and advised involvement of private participation in funding the project. Moreover, as per the Policy on Airport Infrastructure, no green field airport is allowed within an aerial distance of 150 kms. of an existing airport. Mangalore and Bangalore airports are located at a distance of 110 kms. and 150 kms respectively from Hassan.

Modernisation of ITDC Hotels

5081. SHRIAMAR ROY PRADHAN : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) the progress made in modernisation of India Tourism Development Corporation Hotels;

(b) the names of hotels taken up for modernisation and places/stations where these are located (position as on March 31, 2000);

(c) the expenditure incurred so far; and

(d) the probable date of completion?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) (a) to (d) Modernisation/ upgradation in hotel industry is an on-going process. The names of hotels taken up for modernisation alongwith their locations are given in the statement enclosed. An expenditure of Rs. 390.54 lacs (provisional) has been incurred till 31.03.2000.

Statement

S.No.	Name of the Hotel and Location
1.	Ashok Hotel, New Delhi
2.	Samrat Hotel, New Delhi
3.	Qutab Hotel, New Delhi
4.	Kanishka Hotel, New Delhi
5.	Janpath Hotel, New Delhi
6.	Hotel Indraprastha, New Delhi
7.	Hotel Ashok, Bangalore
8.	Hotel Kovalam Ashok, Kovalam
9.	Hotel Airport Ashok, Calcutta
10.	Hotel Aurangabad Ashok, Aurangabad
11.	Lalitha Mahal Palace Hotel, Mysore
12.	Hotel Khajuraho Ashok, Khajuraho
13.	Hotel Varanasi Ashok, Varanasi
14.	Hotel, Agra Ashok, Agra
15.	Hotel Jaipur Ashok, Jaipur
16.	Laxmi Vilas Palace Hotel, Udaipur
17.	Hotel Bodhgaya Ashok, Bodhgaya
18.	Hotel Hassan Ashok, Hassan
19.	Lodhi Hotel, New Delhi
20.	Hotel Manali Ashok, Manali
21.	Hotel Kalinga Ashok, Bhubaneswar
22.	Hotel Pataliputra Ashok, Patna
23.	Temple Bay Ashok Beach Resort, Mamallapuram
24.	Hotel Madurai Ashok, Madurai

[Translation]

Discontinuation of Rural Development Schemes

5082. PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the on-going Rural Development Schemes in rural areas which have been discontinued and the schemes under which these schemes have been merged by the Government as per the Budget announcements;

(b) the funds earmarked for these schemes; and

(c) the reasons for discontinuing the existing Rural Development Schemes?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SUNDAR LAL PATWA) : (a) to (c) With effect from 1.4.1999 Self-employment Programmes have been revamped by merging Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP), Development of Women and Children in Rural Areas (DW-CRA), Supply of Improved Tool-Kits to Rural Artisans (SITRA), Training of Rural Youth for Self Employment (TRYSEM), Ganga Kalyan Yojana (GKY) and Million Wells Scheme (MWS) into a holistic scheme called Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY) with the objective of establishing a large number of micro-enterprises in the rural areas and building upon the potential of the rural poor. Jawahar Rozgar Yojana (JRY) has been restructured as Jawahar Gram Samridhi Yojana (JGSY) with the primary objective of creating demand driven village infrastructure, including durable assets to enable the rural poor to increase the opportunities for sustained employment. Employment Assurance Scheme (E.A.S.) has now been made an allocation based scheme. The modified Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme aims at institutionalizing community based demand driven rural water supply programme with cost sharing instruments by Communities, gradually replacing the current supply-driven, Centrally maintained rural water supply programme to a participatory programme. The changes effected in the Central Rural Sanitation Programme (CRSP) involve a major shift from a high-subsidy to a low-subsidy regime, adoption of "Total Sanitation Campaign" approach, choice of technology according to customer preferences and greater community participation. School sanitation is an important component of this programme. Funds allocated for the rural development schemes for the current financial year is Rs. 9760.00 Crores.

[English]

Enquiry Committees on Train Accidents

5083. SHRI VIJAY GOEL :

SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of train accidents/derailments including goods trains occurred during the last six months and till date, train-wise;

(b) the number of committees constituted to inquire into the causes of accidents;

(c) the findings of the inquiry committee and action taken thereon; and

(d) the number of committees which are yet to submit their reports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) During the last six months i.e. from 1st October, 1999 to 20th April 2000, there were 274 consequential train accidents including goods train accidents, out of which 192 cases pertain to train derailment.

(b) Each and every accident case is inquired into by either a Committee of Railway Officers or Commissioner of Railway Safety. Total 274 Inquiry Committees were constituted, out of which 16 inquiries were conducted by the Commissioner of Railway Safety.

(c) The recommendation of each Inquiry Committee is scrutinised in depth and appropriate follow up action is taken.

(d) 57 Committees are yet to submit their accident inquiry reports.

Air Service from Bhubaneswar-Jeypore-Hyderabad Sector

5084. SHRI PARSURAM MAJHI : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the previous practice of Air Ferry Service on Bhubaneswar-Jeypore-Hyderabad sector is proposed to be re-introduced;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which it is likely to be re-introduced?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Stock of Wheat and Rice

5085. SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI :

SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN :

SHRI SUKDEO PASWAN :

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

(a) whether the Government have made any assessment with regard to the stock of wheat and rice taking into account the estimated quantity of new crop of wheat and rice;

(b) If so, the total quantity of wheat and rice on that basis;

(c) whether Government have made any assessment of the quantity of wheat and rice in their stock at the end of the year after taking into account the requirements of wheat and rice to be disbursed through P.D.S. to the people living above and above the poverty line;

(d) If so, the details thereof; and

(e) the estimated expenditure likely to be incurred on the maintenance of this stock throughout the year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SRIRAM CHAUHAN) : (a) to (d) The Government makes assessment of the stocks of wheat and rice in the central pool taking into account the estimated procurement during the current Kharif/Rabi Marketing Season and the likely offtake under Targeted Public Distribution System and other welfare schemes. As per estimates made as on 13.3.2000, the stocks of rice and wheat in the central pool are as under, as compared to the minimum buffer stocking norms.

(Fig. in lakh tonnes)

As on	Likely stocks		Buffer stocking norms	
	Wheat	Rice	Wheat	Rice
1.7.2000	224.46	131.37	143.00	100.00
1.10.2000	*	104.97	116.00	65.00

* Not estimated.

2. In view of recent revision in entitlement of families below the poverty line (BPL) and central issue price of foodgrains, accurate estimates of stocks at the end of the year cannot be made at this stage.

(e) Estimated expenditure to be incurred on the maintenance of stocks during 2000-2001 in carrying average buffer stocks to the tune of 119 lakh tonnes would be approximately Rs. 2127 crores.

Sky Marshal on Flights

5086. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the pilots of Indian Airlines and Air India have objected for the deployment of sky marshals on Board for security reasons;

(b) If so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) to (c) The Indian Commercial Pilots' Association had objected to deployment of Sky Marshals on the following grounds :

(i) Any scuffle between the Sky Marshals and hijackers could injure passengers.

(ii) In case of exchange of fire in mid-air, the structure of the aircraft may be damaged causing de-compression.

(iii) There has already been an incident of crash of an aircraft of foreign airline due to mid-air scuffle.

However, the matter has been settled amicably and Sky Marshals are being deployed as per plan.

[Translation]

Air Mishaps

5087. SHRI UTTAMRAO PATIL : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) the number of air mishaps took place during the last two years;

(b) the details thereof incident-wise;

(c) the number of incidents out of these took place due to the negligence on the part of pilots;

(d) the extent of loss of Government property and number of persons killed in such incidents; and

(e) the compensation paid to the dependents of the deceased?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) to (d) There have been 8 incidents to Indian Civil registered aircraft during last two years from 1st April, 1998 to 31st March, 2000. Incidents-wise details including probable causes of the accidents and number of persons killed are annexed. There is no significant loss to the Government property in these accidents.

(e) Compensation to the dependents of the deceased is paid by the concerned operator through their Insurance Company.

Statement*Accidents Occurred during the period from 1st April, 1998 to 31st March, 2000*

S.No.	Date/Place	Aircraft	Operator	Fatalities	Probable cause of mishap
1.	15.6.98 Ranchi	Cessna- 152 VT-ELZ	Tata Nagar Aviation Pvt. Ltd.	2	Unintentional manoeuvre of the aircraft by the pilot leading to abrupt and uncontrolled dive caused the accident.
2.	30.6.98 Cochin	Domier DO-228	Indian Airlines	9	Accident was caused due to partial detachment of its actuator forward bearing support fitting due non-installation of required hi-lok fasteners.
3.	1.11.98 Hyderabad	Bell 206 helicopter VT-DAK	Deccan Aviation	1	Accident occurred due to Ignorance of safety by a passenger after disembarking and walking into the danger zone of rotating tail rotor blades of the helicopter.
4.	15.3.99 Patna	Swati VT-STD	Patna Flying Club	2	Investigation Report is under examination by DGCA.
5.	29.3.99 Gund Valley	Cheetah Helicopter VT-EUI	J&K Govt.	Nil	Investigation Report is under examination.
6.	11.6.99 Gazipur	TB-20 VT-EAG	IGRUA	4	Accident is under investigation.
7.	7.6.99 Jaipur	VT-GLM	Jaipur Gliding Club	Nil	Investigation Report is under examination by DGCA.
8.	7.7.99 Kathmandu (Nepal)	Boeing-727 VT-LCI	Lufthansa Cargo India Ltd.	5	Accident is under investigation by the Nepal Aviation Authorities.

Projects Sanctioned by CAPART

5088. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY : Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the number of projects sanctioned by CAPART in Bihar during each of the last three years;

(b) the names and location of these agencies to which assistance has been provided through CAPART;

(c) the amount sanctioned to each agency along with the amount disbursed to them during the above period;

(d) whether the Government are aware of the irregularities being committed by these agencies; and

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

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SUNDAR LAL PATAWA) : (a) CAPART sanctioned 186 projects during the year 1997-98, 21 in 1998-99 and 24 in 1999-2000 in Bihar.

(b) and (c) A statement showing the names and location of the voluntary agencies, amount sanctioned and released by CAPART to them during last three years is enclosed in the statement-I.

(d) to (e) No irregularities have been reported against these agencies so far. However, four Voluntary Organisations have been kept under funding restricting due to unsatisfactory reports of the Project Evaluators. The details of these agencies is enclosed as statement-II.

Statement-I

BIHAR (1997-98)

S.No.	Name of VO	Amount Sanctioned	Amount Released
1	2	3	4
1.	Navjagran Sangh Kutub Check, Vill. Kutub Check, PO Ramjanpur, Barbigaha Sekhpura, Munger	1,44,900	72,450
2.	Mahila Kala Kendra Near Lalita Hotel, Pural Chak, Patna	3,18,000	1,59,000
3.	Janyodai Vikas Parishad Lakhibagh Buniyadganj, Gaya	2,75,625	1,24,562
4.	Bhartiya Manav Vikas Seva Sansthan Shaheed Ashram Road, Deoghar	2,13,000	Formalities not completed to make the release.
5.	PAHAL At/PO Kollwar, Bhojpur	2,27,495	Formalities not completed to make the release.
6.	Gramin Vikas Samiti At/PO Silar, Aurangabad	2,62,500	1,31,250
7.	Shri Amar Shankar Kalyan Kendra At/PO Jainmore, Bhuchung Dih Road, Bokaro	4,50,450	Formalities not completed to make the release.
8.	Dhanraj Mahila Silai Prashikshan Kendra Rashtriya Gunj, Phulwari Sharif, Patna	2,21,374	Formalities not completed to make the release.
9.	Samanvay Tirth Prabhawati Gram (Pandabigha) PO. Raniganj, Gaya	2,02,400	1,05,800
10.	Vaishali Shanti Kalyan Sansthan S.D.O. Road, Hajipur, Vaishali	1,20,175	62,819
11.	Antyodaya Sewa Sansthan Vill. Shekpura, PO. Badarwali, Via Harnaut, Nalanda	3,40,000	52,900
12.	Gitanjali Harijan Mahila Vikas Samiti G.B. Lane, Mundichock, Bhagalpur	1,10,687	Formalities not completed to make the release.
13.	Akhil Bhartiya Harijan Adiwasi Vikas Sangh Vill. Khorampur, PO Hilsa, Nalanda	1,10,687	*FAS
14.	Vasundhara Seva Sansthan Bhagwanpur Chatti Kurhani, Muzaffarpur	1,10,687	57,831
15.	Bahumukhi Vikas Seva Ashram Vill. & P.O. Saeen, P.S. Khanti, Muzaffarpur	1,10,687	Formalities not completed to make the release.
16.	Gyan Sagar Chota Bararpur Sarvodaya Nagar, Hawai Adda, Motihari	1,10,687	Formalities not completed to make the release.

1	2	3	4
17.	Sulabh Sansthan North Mondiri, Patna	1,20,174	62,818
18.	Sarvodaya Gramin Kutir Udyog Vikas Samiti Vivipur PO. Sarsi Paliganj, Patna	1,01,200	50,800
19.	Madhu Mahila Shilpkala Kendra VIII. Dkona Bazar, Nawada	1,20,174	62,818
20.	Samaj Kalyan Parishad Ganga Mahal Flat No.2, North Mandir, Patna	1,01,200	50,600
21.	Seva Manav Vikas Parishad VIII. Manua PO. Ismailpur, Valshahi	1,08,790	Formalities not completed to make the release.
22.	Masaudhi Samagra Mahila Vikas Samiti VIII. & PO. Nandnama, Lakhisarai	1,10,687	57,831
23.	Mahila Vikas Samiti VIII. Datapuri, Basantpur Patti, Muzaffarpur	1,10,687	57,671
24.	Arthik Atam Nivbharta Samajik Vikas Abhikaran Swami Sahjanand Smarak Bhavan, Vidyapeeth Marg, Patna	1,04,944	54,583
25.	Abhyuthan Samaj Kalyan Samiti At. Baur PO. Rasiyari Blak, Ghanshyampur, Darbhanga	1,20,174	Formalities not completed to make the release.
26.	Magadh Lok Kalyan Parishad Hawanpura PO. Bhandari, Nalanda	1,01,200	52,900
27.	Rajendra Seva Sansthan Sarhanchia Niwas Balughat, Muzaffarpur	1,01,200	52,900
28.	Magadh Vikas Lok At. & PO. Kasut Via. Masaurhi, Patna	2,17,580	Formalities not completed to make the release.
29.	Gyan Sarovar Evam Shishu Kalyan Kendra VIII. Madhepur PO.. Tahar, Via Runisaidpur, Sitamarhi	1,06,891	Formalities not completed to make the release.
30.	Sanjay Gandhi Panch Sutri Anath Shishu Samajik VIII. & PO. Amapur, Banka	1,20,174	Formalities not completed to make the release.
31.	Ambedkar Vikas Parishad Ravindra Path Gududeo Tala, Mokama, Patna	1,20,174	Formalities not completed to make the release.
32.	Bhumihin Kisan Majdoor Seva Sansthan Mushahari, Muzaffarpur	1,01,200	52,900
33.	Gram Niyojan Kendra VIII. Basti PO. Harnaut, Nalanda	1,01,200	52,900
34.	Kaushik Samagra Gramin Vikas Sansthan Jhunthi PO. Kaarpi, Jahanabad	1,20,174	Formalities not completed to make the release.

1	2	3	4
35.	Jan Chetna Kendra VIII Khanpur, PO. Khanpur, Saran	1,01,200	Formalities not completed to make the release.
36.	Prabhat Vikas Mandal VIII. Sonbarsa Dth PO. Sonbarsadi, Muzaffarpur	1,01,200	52,900
37.	Mithila Seva Samiti Nawtali PO. Madhubani, Madhubani	1,20,874	62,818
38.	Rural Dev. Society VIII. & PO. Amnour Sultan (Jane) Chapra, Saran	1,10,687	57,831
39.	Nav Bihar Gramin Prashikshan Sansthan VIII. Sarai Bigaha. PO. Keshopur, Nalanda	2,02,400	Formalities not completed to make the release.
40.	Sona Mahila Prashikshan Sansthan Nankipur Gorakh Fatuha, Patna	1,20,174	Formalities not completed to make the release.
41.	Ajaz Khan Muslim Education & Welfare Society, Agarwara Motihar, East Champaran	1,01,200	Formalities not completed to make the release.
42.	Gram Sabha Samiti VIII. & PO. Maiti, Nalanda	1,10,687	62,156
43.	Bihar Samajik Evam Sanskritik Sewa Kendra, VIII. & PO. Lagma Ranbhdrapur, Via Lohna Road, Darbhanga	1,10,687	57,831
44.	Nalanda Sewa Sansthan Mahalpur, Biharsharif, Nalanda	2,20,000	Formalities not completed to make the release.
45.	Samaj Kalyan Sangh At/PO Singhiaghat, Samastipur	2,20,000	1,15,000
46.	Chaturbhuji Memorial Vikas Manch At Barwa, PO Areraj, East Champaran	2,20,000	1,15,000
47.	Ganga Hemlata Mahila Samaj Kalyan Sansthan VIII Neighama, PO Srouti, Ghoghardiha, Madhubani	2,20,000	1,15,000
48.	Matadin Mahila Mandali Ram Nagar, Muzaffarpur	1,95,800	1,01,300
49.	Bal Mahila Seva Ashram At Jhikti, PO Kerma, Muzaffarpur	1,10,000	Formalities not completed to make the release.
50.	Kasturba Seva Kendra VIII Jagdiha, PO Sondiha, Banka	2,20,000	Formalities not completed to make the release.
51.	Patliputra Vikas Parishad Moharam Manzil, Chitragupt Nagar Ward No.11, Araria	2,20,000	1,15,000
52.	Bihar Hast Kargha Hast Shilpa Tatha Resham Udyogik Vikas Sansthan, Momin Manzil, Hospiral Road, Madhubani	2,20,000	1,15,000

1	2	3	4
53.	Saran Khadi Silk Udyog Society Rahimpur, Saran	1,10,000	Formalities not completed to make the release.
54.	Gautam Buddha Sikshan Samiti At/PO. Parurai, Nalanda	2,20,000	1,15,000
55.	Sarvodaya Gandhi Seva Ashram At Saida Bazar, PO. Hilsa, Nalanda	2,20,000	1,15,000
56.	Gram Kalyan Samiti Pokharaira, Gidha, Muzaffarpur	1,73,800	Formalities not completed to make the release.
57.	Jan Kalyan Vikas Parishad Vill. Dih Majhoul, PO. Majhoul, Patna	2,20,000	Formalities not completed to make the release.
58.	Lok Priya Kalyan Sansthan Vill/PO. Sare, Nalanda	2,20,000	1,10,000
59.	Shri Jagdambha Mahila Bal Niketan Bhootnath Ashram Road, Bahadurpur Housing Colony, Patna	2,20,000	Formalities not completed to make the release.
60.	Vaishali Jan Seva Sansthan At Prasidh nagar, PO. Amritpur, Block Vaishali, Vaishali	2,20,000	1,15,000
61.	Aulla Adhyatmic Anusandhan Kendra At/ PO Pauni Hasanpur, Vaishali	2,20,000	1,15,000
62.	Shri Narayan Samaj Kalyan Kendra Vill. Lokdihari, PO. Karup Indrahiyan Rohtas	2,20,000	1,15,000
63.	Asha Deep Mahila Sewa Sansthan Pampukal Road, PO. Nawada, Nawada	2,20,000	1,10,000
64.	Pichhra Varg Vikas Sansthan Vill. Sahpur Patti, PO. Sahpur, Bhojpur	2,20,000	1,10,000
65.	Dr. Ambedkar Smarak Evam Shodh Sansthan Alinagar Colony, PO Anisabad-800 002, Patna	2,20,000	1,15,000
66.	Gramin Vikas Evam Samaj Kalyan Samiti At/PO. Shahpur, Bhojpur	2,20,000	1,15,000
67.	Nalanda Zila Khadi Gramodyog Sangh At/PO. Biharsharif, Nalanda	2,20,000	Formalities not completed to make the release.
68.	Gautam Buddha Shaiksanik Vikas Sansthan Vill/PO Sirdalla, Nawada	2,20,000	1,15,000
69.	Bhangi Mukti Sansthan Road No.6 East Patel Nagar-800 023, Patna	2,20,000	1,15,000
70.	Manav Kalyan Sangh Vill. Balamichal, PO. Anisabad-800 002, Patna	2,20,000	1,10,000

1	2	3	4
71.	Gyan Deep Mahila Silal Bunai Kadal Kendra Kachahri Road, Nawada	2,20,000	1,10,000
72.	Harijan Bahumukhi Vikas Sansthan At Rewa Dih, PO. Rewa, Basantpur, Muzaffarpur	2,20,000	1,15,000
73.	Siwan Jila Vikas Parishad VIII. PO Dhanawati, Siwan	2,20,000	1,15,000
74.	Akash Ganga Gramin Vikas Sansthan VIII. Lakshimpur, PO. Guru Bazar, Kathihar	1,10,000	57,500
75.	Al-Helal Educational Trust K.M.I.T. Street, Tinkothia, Pakkisarai, Muzaffarpur	1,10,000	Formalities not completed to make the release.
76.	Bihar Muslim Alpsankhyak Harijan Vikas Parishad Malighat, Kkanhauili Dih, Sanskrit College Road, Muzaffarpur	2,20,000	Formalities not completed to make the release.
77.	Bihar Alpsankhyak Pahari Adiwasi Harijan Kalyan Parishad, At/PO. Narahia Bazar, Laukahi, Madhubani	2,20,000	Formalities not completed to make the release.
78.	Munsi Premchand Vikas Ewam Adhyan Sansthan Babu Sahib Colony, PO. Laheriasarai, Darbhanga	2,20,000	Formalities not completed to make the release.
79.	Yashoda Gramodyog Pratisthan VIII. Leba Banvaria, PO. Chandouri, Girdih	2,20,000	Formalities not completed to make the release.
80.	Harijan Mahila Evam Bal Vikas Sansthan Shahi Niketan, Pupari, Janakpur Road, Sitamarhi	4,40,000	2,20,000
81.	Zila Samagra Vikas Sansthan VIII/PO. Banuchapara, West Champaran	1,10,687	Formalities not completed to make the release.
82.	Akhil Gramin Yuva Vikas Samiti Mani Fulkhan, PO. Rakan Kanti, Muzaffarpur	2,11,887	Formalities not completed to make the release.
83.	Magadh Gram Sarvothan Sansthan VIII. Kaniyawan, PO. Bhathu Tharthani, Nalanda	1,01,200	52,900
84.	Gramodyog Khadi Vikas Sewa Sansthan VIII. Ghoswari, PO. Dhankdot, Patna	1,10,000	Formalities not completed to make the release.
85.	Adarshila Gramin Vikas Sansthan Kailashpur, Hanuman Nagar, Patna-20	1,05,600	57,300
86.	Gautam Buddha Saichik Tatha Samaj Sewa Sangh VIII. Bela PO. Ratanpurbela, Samastipur	1,10,000	57,500

1	2	3	4
87.	Dr. Bhim Rao Ambedkar Kalyan Samiti VIII. Kiratpur, PO. Bhagwanpur Vaishali	1,10,000	Formalities not completed to make the release.
88.	Bhartiya Jan manch VIII. Chakbhatandi, Via Sarai, Vaishali	1,10,000	57,500
89.	Pushpa Seva Sansthan Khirauna, PO Rachur, Nalanda	1,10,000	Formalities not completed to make the release.
90.	Vidyavati Mahila Kalyan Kendra VIII. PO. Parsagope, Sahebganj, Muzaffarpur	1,10,000	Formalities not completed to make the release.
91.	Seva Bharti Sri Awdhesh Singh Bhawan, Sanjay Gandhi Nagram Road No.2 PO Lohianagar, Patna	1,10,000	Formalities not completed to make the release.
92.	Nari Kalyan Seva Sangh Masumpur Kurtha, Fatuha, Patna	1,10,000	*1,10,000 (FAS)
93.	Rituraj Harijan Mahila Evam Bal Vikas Sansthan VIII./PO. Basantpur Patti, Muzaffarpur	1,10,000	57,500
94.	Mahila Shilp Kala Kendra VIII. PO. Sayal, Hazaribagh	1,10,000	57,500
95.	Rajendra Ashram Ward No.28, Katihar	1,10,000	Formalities not completed to make the release.
96.	21st Century Rural Development Institute, VIII.PO. Sukhet, Via Jhajharpur, Madhubani	1,10,000	57,500
97.	Laxmi Mahila Vikas Sansthan VIII. Bhagai Tola, PO. Mathurapur, Khagaria	1,10,000	57,500
98.	Antyodaya Jan Kalyan Prathisthan PO. Rajgir, MO. Ganjpur, Nalanda	1,10,000	57,500
99.	Gramin Vikas Ke Patti PO. Baragaon, West Champaran	1,10,000	57,500
100.	Swamin Dayanand Saraswati Arya Sansthan Pakhanha Bazar, West Champaran	1,10,000	Formalities not completed to make the release.
101.	Bihar Gramin Mahila Kalyan Parishad VIII. Fatepur, PO Suhadnagar, Begusarai	1,10,000	57,500
102.	Trigun Seva Sansthan VIII. PO. Kakarhat, Saran	1,10,000	55,400
103.	Nari Shilp Kala Kendra VIII. Gariyapur, PO. Chandi, Nalanda	1,10,000	55,000
104.	Lok Seva Samiti VIII. Dhamauli, PO. Bena, Nalanda	1,64,930	99,400

1	2	3	4
105.	Vishwa Manav Sewa Sansthan VIII. Jhakra Tank, PO Ratu, Ranchi	2,69,750	Formalities not completed to make the release.
106.	Gramin Bal Vanita Vikas Niketan Korilian, Via. Hilsa, Nalanda	27,500	27,500
107.	Daud Nagar Organisation for Rural Development Bdi Masjid, Old Town, Daudnagar, Aurangabad	27,500	27,500
108.	Gramin Margdarshan Kendra At/PO Jala (dadri), Munger	27,500	27,500
109.	Pribes Mukti Sangha PO. Nimdih, Via. Chandil, West Singhbhum	27,500	27,500
110.	Gautam Budh Harijan Adivasi Pichhara Varg Kalyan Samiti N-38/1, Prof's Colony, Kankarbagh, Patna	27,500	*FAS
111.	Arya Samaj Shiksha Vikas Parishad Sahugarh Niwas, Madhepura-5, Madhepura	27,500	27,500
112.	National Multipurpose Development Society Rama Niwas, Indra Path, Shukla Colony, PO. Hindoo, Ranchi	27,500	Formalities not completed to make the release.
113.	Gram Pradyogik Vikas Sansthan Pirthwipur 1st Lane, Chiraiyatar, Patna	27,500	Formalities not completed to make the release.
114.	Pramila Gramin Mahila Vikas Sansthan VIII. Karmali Chak, PO. Begampur Patna	27,500	27,500
115.	Ram Tahal Singh Jan Chetna Sultanpur Koraiya, PO. Jamul, Block Dulhan Bazar, Patna	27,500	Formalities not completed to make the release.
116.	Indian Institute of Industrial Development Patna, Rashtriya Ganj, Patna	27,500	27,500
117.	Janta Karah Kalyan Samaj Quamruddinganj, Bihar Sharif, Nalanda	27,500	27,500
118.	Vishwa Bharti Jan Uthan Kendra VIII./PO Bena, Quamruddinganj, Bihar Sharif, Nalanda	27,500	27,500
119.	Al-Qadar Educational Trust VIII. Murti, PO Pachpakri, Via Dhaka East Champaran	27,500	27,500
120.	Shaheed Bhagat Singh Club VIII. PO Kanhauli, Mahua, Vaishali	27,500	27,500
121.	Vikalp Mahila Vikas Sangh Sherpur Morh, Warisaganj, Nawada	27,500	Formalities not completed to make the release.

1	2	3	4
122.	Harjan Adivasi Kalyan Parishad Street Opposite Chutiya, Police Station, At Gosai, PO. Chutiya, Ranchi	27,500	27,500
123.	Samagra Seva Kendra At/PO Barchatti, Gaya	27,500	Formalities not completed to make the release.
124.	Gram Vikas Sangh VIII. PO. Karaiparasrai, Nalanda	27,500	27,500
125.	Gram Nirman Parishad VIII. Kharoua, PO. Sirkharla, Via Tulapatti Bazar, Madhubani	27,500	Formalities not completed to make the release.
126.	Adharshila Gramin Vikas Sansthan Punjabi Colony, Chikohra, Patna Sadar, Patna	27,500	Formalities not completed to make the release.
127.	Mithila Seva Sadan Garoyr Thakur Tole, PO. Pusa, Samastipur	27,500	27,500
128.	Raj Laxmi Rashtra Seva Sansthan Kirtan Bhavan Road, Madhubani	27,500	27,500
129.	Nalanda Vikas Sansthan Noor Sarai, HO. Noor Sarai, Nalanda.	27,500	27,500
130.	Gramin Harjan Mahila Vikas Sansthan VIII. & PO. Rampur, Bheriyahi, Muzaffarpur	27,500	27,500
131.	Nari Kalyan Niketan Tilak Nagar, Begusarai	27,500	Formalities not completed to make the release.
132.	Gramodyog Vikas Jyoti Gobindpur, Lakshman Tola, Fulwari, Sharff, Patna	27,500	Formalities not completed to make the release.
133.	Bhartiya Jan Kalan Samiti VIII. & PO. Konad, Nalanda	27,500	Formalities not completed to make the release.
134.	Shaheed Bachchan Smarak Pustakalaya Mahadewa, PO. Siwan, Siwan	27,500	Formalities not completed to make the release.
135.	Bhalbhum Krishak Unnayan Samiti Baharagora, East Singhbhum	27,500	27,500
136.	Viklang Sarvodaya Sansthan At & PO Mahuwa, Via Chiraiya, East Champaran	27,500	Formalities not completed to make the release.
137.	Bhartiya Jan Kalyan Parishad HO. Salimpur Ahra, Daldali Road, PO. Kadam, Patna	27,500	27,500
138.	Mahalaxmi Silai Bunal Katal Udyog Chouphandiper, Bihar Sharff, Nalanda	27,500	27,500
139.	Karpoori Thakur Gramin Vikas Sansthan At & PO. Patna G.P.O., 1-Desh Ratna Marg, Patna	27,500	27,500

1	2	3	4
140.	Centre for Rural Advancement VIII. & PO. Shamsheer Nagar, PS Daud Nagar, Aurangabad	27,500	27,500
141.	Lok Chetna Abhikarm Kendra At&PO. Saran, Saran	27,500	27,500
142.	Bhagalpur Viklang Sewa Kendra At&PO. Amarapur, Banka	27,500	27,500
143.	ABHIYAN Ramkrishnan Colony, Sandalpur, PO Mahendru, Patna	27,500	27,500
144.	Anjuman Urdu Hindi Sahitya Supaul Toll, Siwan	27,500	27,500
145.	Adarsh Rahnuma Vikas Sansthan At Yamuna Path, PO. Nawada, Nawada	27,500	*FAS
146.	Deen Seva Ashram VIII. Jhunathi, PO Ashari, Nawada	27,500	Formalities not completed to make the release.
147.	Mithila Prabha Jan Kalyan Seva Sansthan VIII & PO. Korthu, Via Benipur, Darbhanga	27,500	Formalities not completed to make the release.
148.	Gramoday Chetna Kendra VIII. Babhare, PO Chatra, Chatra	27,500	Formalities not completed to make the release.
149.	Sita Gramodyog Vikas Sansthan VIII. PO. Usari Bazar, Jahanabad	27,500	Formalities not completed to make the release.
150.	Jan Kalyan Sansthan Kala Manch, Patna	27,500	Formalities not completed to make the release.
151.	Samagra Gram Vikas Samiti VIII/PO. Blind, Nalanda	27,500	Formalities not completed to make the release.
152.	Swami Vivekanand Anath Suraksha Ashram VIII. & PO Pakri Barawan, Nawada	27,500	Formalities not completed to make the release.
153.	Rasthya Samaj Kalyan Paratisthan At Dharhara, PO. Paliganj, Patna	27,500	Formalities not completed to make the release.
154.	North Bihar Samaj Kalyan Sangathan VIII/PO. Paigambarpur, Via Silot, Muzaffarpur	27,500	27,500
155.	Lok Bharti Seva Ashram At/PO Kunauli, Supaul	27,500	27,500
156.	Gramin Sah Nagrik Vikas Manch Yogipur, Kankarbagh, Patna	27,500	Formalities not completed to make the release.
157.	Samagra Vikas Samiti Saryan Kail Mandir, Ward No.1, Gopalganj	27,500	Formalities not completed to make the release.
158.	Shiksha Evam Sanskriti Vikas Samiti Purani Bazar, Lakhisarai	27,500	Formalities not completed to make the release.

1	2	3	4
159.	National Instt. for Dev. of Women Rural Poor and Children, At/PO Gangeya, Via Katra, Muzaffarpur	27,500	Formalities not completed to make the release.
160.	Mahila Bal Kalyan Pratiathan Hotel Park Campur, F.V.S. Road, Behind Azad Park, Gaya	1,29,150	54,000
161.	Lok Swarajya Sangh Vill. PO. Parwalpur, Nalanda	2,81,895	1,58,351
162.	Bihar Vikas Sansthan Rajendra Nagar Road, No-11, H.No.M-16/24, Patna	1,05,000	52,500
163.	Chakraja Gramin Vikas Parishad At/PO. Gourav Nagar, via Parwalpur, Nalanda	2,67,015	Formalities not completed to make the release.
164.	Nav Jyoti Vill, Magldpur, PO Kawa, Via Hilsa, Nalanda	2,67,015	Formalities not completed to make the release.
165.	Vaishali Shanti Samaj Kalyan Sansthan S.D.O. Road, Hajipur, Vaishali	3,40,000	1,72,000
166.	Gram Swaraj Abhiyan Sansthan Karhion Bnishanpur Bheja, Vaishali	1,34,784	Formalities not completed to make the release.
167.	Bhawani Vikas Bharti Madhubani	75,000	Formalities not completed to make the release.
168.	Lok Kalyan Samiti Kurkuri Phulwari Sharff, Patna	45,000	45,000
169.	Jan Jeewan Vikas Kendra Vill. Fatehpur, PO. Sabaur, Bhagalpur	45,000	45,000
170.	Mahila Bal Yuva Kendra Vill. Korhar, Anadpur Camp, Patna	1,35,800	Formalities not completed to make the release.
171.	Indian Institute of Industrial Development, Rashtriya Ganj, Phuwari sharff, Patna	1,60,000	1,60,000
172.	Patna Educational Development Trust Road No.11, Rajendra Nagar, Patna	4,21,000	1,80,500
173.	Parvatiya Durgam Shiksha Vikas Ranchi Court, Ranchi	50,000	Formalities not completed to make the release.
174.	Bharti Seva Sadan Srinketan, Abulas Lane, Machuwa Toll, Patna	70,40,000	46,52,000
175.	Sulabh Paryawaran & Jal Sansthan Kankarbagh Colony, Patna	50,000	50,000
176.	Shri Bhasker Samaj Kalyan Kendra, Aurangabad	50,000	50,000

1	2	3	4
177.	Beshi Chikitsa Vikas Parishad, Patna	3,20,500	1,18,000
178.	Society for Rural Industrialisation, Ranchi	3,76,180	2,09,355
179.	Vanavasi Seva Kendra, Bhabua	27,90,150	17,60,000
180.	Viklang Punerwas Sewa Sansthan, Ranchi	2,34,700	2,24,075
181.	Akhil Gramin Yuva Vikas Samiti, Muzaffarpur	6,34,884	Formalities not completed to make the release.
182.	Nari Uthan Vihar, Patna	5,31,000	2,65,750
183.	Daroga Prasad Rai Mahila Prashikshan Avam Audogik Kendra, Siwan	24,16,927	8,83,360
184.	Gramin Vikas Parishad Castairs Town, B-Deoghar-814112	10,63,752	5,30,876
185.	Nirmali Prakhand Swarajya Sabha, Saharsa	5,40,705	Formalities not completed to make the release.
186.	Xavier Institute of Social Service, Ranchi	3,15,000	1,57,500
Total		3,77,05,197	1,59,23,436

* Further Assistance Stopped (FAS)

Bihar : 1998-99

(Amount in Rs.)

S.No.	Name of VO & Address	Amount Sanctioned	Amount Released
1	2	3	4
1.	Akhil Bhartiya Gramobhimukh Antodaya Sansthan Village Rupouilly, Haloatola, PO. Shilanath Rupouilly, Purnea.	27,500	27,500
2.	Prabhu Parwati Gramin Vikas Sansthan Village & PO. Barharwa Lakhan, East Champaran.	45,000	Formalities not completed to make the release.
3.	Nalanda Kalyan Pratisthan, Village & PO. Brandi, Nalanda.	2,20,200	1,47,100
4.	Nav Bharat Jagriti Kendra, Village Bahera, PO. Brindavan Chouiparan, Hazaribagh.	1,00,000	79,750
5.	Consultancy-cum-Guidance Centre (CGC), Vaishali, AT & PO. Bania, Vaishali-844 128, Vaishali.	1,00,000	82,700

1	2	3	4
6.	Radhika Sewa Sansthan Village Partapur, PO Mehsim, East Champaran,	2,54,100	1,27,050
7.	Nalanda Gramothan Pratisthan Itora, Itora, Sarbahadi, Manpur, Nalanda.	1,32,000	66,000
8.	Tata Steel Rural Development Society, E.Road, Jamshedpur, Pin-831 001, Jamshedpur.	5,00,000	2,50,000
9.	Lohia Jai Prakash Khadi Gramodyog Manav Vikas Sanstha. AT & PO. Baghra-848 506, Samastipur	27,500	27,500
10.	Kasfarca, Kamtoulia, PO Balukaram, Vaishali	3,08,000	1,61,000
11.	Bhagalpur Ambedkar Seva Kendra, Vill. & PO. Amarpur, Banka	2,20,000	Formalities not completed to make the release.
12.	Smagra Lok Sewa Sansthan, PO Mohiuddinpur, Via Fatuha, Distt. Patna.	2,20,000	Formalities not completed to make the release.
13.	Patna Educational Development Trust, Road No. 11, Rajendra Nagar-800 0716, Patna.	2,79,950	2,79,950
14.	Society for Rural Industrialisation, Rupcon Division, Bariatu, Distt. Ranchi, Bihar.	20,00,000	Formalities not completed to make the release.
15.	Gram Bharti Sarvodaya Ashram At & PO. Simultala, Distt. Jumui (Munger).	2,00,000	1,00,000
16.	Gram Vikas Kendra, K-3, 57, Hans Telco Town, Jamshedpur, Bihar.	1,00,000	Formalities not completed to make the release.
17.	Choanagpur Vikas Kendra, Barkatha, Hazaribagh, Bihar.	2,00,000	Formalities not completed to make the release.
18.	Nav Bharati Jagriti Kendra Behra, Vrindavan, Chouparan, Hazaribagh, Bihar	45,00,000	9,00,000
19.	Propkar Lok Vikas Sanstha, Nawada, Bihar	66,64,000	50,000
20.	Samajik Kalyan Sansthan. Bekar Bandh, Dhanbad, Bihar.	1,00,000	1,00,000
21.	Sulabh Bal & Nari Gramothan Sansthan Distt. Patna, Bihar	1,00,000	Formalities not completed to make the release.
Total		1,62,98,250	23,98,550

Bihar : 1999-2000

1.	Avidya Vimukti Sansthan, Mastipur, PO. Bodhgaya, Zilla Gaya, Bihar.	50,000	50,000
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1	2	3	4
2.	Bihar Institute of Economic Studies, 113/70-B, Lal Bahadur Shastri Nagar, Distt. Patna, Bihar.	1,00,000	1,00,000
3.	Bihar Nav Jeevan Jyoti Pratisthan C/o Raj Agro World, Lakhi Sarai Road, Distt. Jamui, Bihar	1,00,000	1,00,000
4.	Gram Nirman Mandal. Sarvodaya Ashram, PO. Sokhodeora, Distt. Nawada, Bihar	3,00,000	1,00,000
5.	Gramodaya East Boring Canal Road, Beside Lalita Hotel, Punaichak, Distt. Patna, Bihar.	1,00,000	Formalities not completed to make the release.
6.	Jan Vikas Kendra, Village & PO. Singariawan, via Karai Parsurai, Distt. Patna	1,34,000	1,06,000
7.	Lohia Jai Prakash Khadi Gramodyog Manav Vikas Sanstha At & PO Baghra, Block Mohanpur, Distt. Samastipur, Bihar.	50,000	50,000
8.	Nav Bhart Jagriti Kendra Vill. Bahera, PO Brindavan, Via Chouparan, Distt. Hazaribagh, Bihar.	2,49,000	Formalities not completed to make the release.
9.	SHUBHAM Fardogola, Rewa Road, Bhagwanpur, Muzaffarpur, Bihar.	50,000	50,000
10.	Bharat Nav Nirman Chetna Vikas Sansthan, Bhakthiyarpur, Patna	2,37,428	1,18,725
11.	Consultancy-Cum-Guidance Centre, Baniya Vaishali, Vaishali	3,50,000	3,50,000
12.	Society for Rural Industrialisation Bariatu, Ranchi.	1,00,000	1,00,000
13.	Shikhiri Mahila Vikas Sansthan, Basantpur, Siwan.	1,00,000	1,00,000
14.	Sarvodaya Ashram, Mahavir Kuti, Purnia.	1,00,000	Formalities not completed to make the release.
15.	Gramya, Deepraj Complex. AK Road, Machhua Toli, Patna.	1,00,000	Formalities not completed to make the release.
16.	Tata Steel Rural Development Society, E-Road, Jamshedpur, East Singhbhum.	6,41,000	6,41,000
17.	Bhartiya Jan Kalyan Sewa Samiti, At Modhal Kuan, Bihar Sharif, Sousarai, Nalanda.	18,300	18,300

1	2	3	4
18.	Centre for Development of India, Post Office Ball, Kankarbagh, Patna.	16,690	16,690
19.	Bibipur Area Small Farmers & Resourceless Community, AT & PO Bibipur, Vaishali, Bihar.	22,850	22,850
20.	Bihar Gramin Vikash Sansthan, Vill/PO Fatuha, Patna.	5,23,565	Formalities not completed to make the release.
21.	Bapu Bai Mahila Vikas Kendra East Boring Canal Road, Patna	3,46,512	Formalities not completed to make the release.
22.	Mahila Raksha Vikas Mandali, Vill. Akbarpur, PO. Rajghat, Nawada, Bihar.	57,200	Formalities not completed to make the release.
23.	Lok Chetna Vikas Kendra Kunj Kutter, Gola Road, Nawada, Bihar	57,200	Formalities not completed to make the release.
24.	Banvasi Vikas Ashram AT & PO. Ragodha, Near Block Hospital, Dirdih, Giridih	66,000	Formalities not completed to make the release.
Total		38,69,745	19,23,565

Statement-II

(b) Does not arise.

Statement showing the details of VOs kept under funding restrictions

1. Adarsh Rahnuman Vikas Sangh, AT Yamuna Path, PO. Nawada, Distt. Nawada.
2. Akhil Bhartiya Harijan Adivasi Vikas Sangh, Village Korampur, Post Hilsa, Distt. Nawada.
3. Gautam Budh Harijan Adivasi Pichada Warg Kalyan Samiti, Prof. Colony, Chitragupt Nagar, Kankarbagh, Patna.
4. Nari Kalyan Seva Sangh, Village Masampur, Kurtha, Patna.

(c) Doubling of single line sections is taken up when their carrying capacity is saturated. The traffic on Kajra-Kiul, Jamalpur-Ratanpur and Bhagalpur-Barharwa sections has not yet reached the level to justify doubling. Doubling will be considered once the traffic warrants the same, subject to availability of resources.

However, a survey for doubling of Barharwa-Tinpahar-Rajmahal section is presently in progress. Further consideration of the project would be possible once the results of the survey become available.

[English]

Stock of Wheat

5090. DR. C. KRISHNAN : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) the quantum of wheat lying in FCI godowns in the country at present;

(b) the quantum of wheat which is of more than two years old alongwith grade-wise quality;

(c) whether the FCI is forcing flour millers to accept low grade wheat;

(d) whether the millers are mixing low grade wheat and high grade wheat before crushing into flour; and

Doubling of Bhagalpur-Sahebganj-Barharwa Rail Line

5089. SHRI SUBODH ROY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the doubling work of Bhagalpur-Sahebganj-Barharwa loop line is being neglected;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) if not, the time by which the work on Kajra to Kiul, Jamalpur to Ratanpur and Bhagalpur to Barharwa section would be completed?

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

(e) If so, the remedial steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN) : (a) The stock position of wheat in the Central Pool (with the FCI & State Agencies) as on 1st March, 2000 was as under :

(Figures in lakh tonnes)

FCI	State Agencies	Total
74.20	70.91	145.11

(b) Wheat is produced for the Central Pool as per single grade uniform specification. As on 1st March, 2000, FCI was having a quantity of 2.78 lakh tonnes of wheat more than two years old.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) No such matter has been brought to the notice of the Government.

Setting up of Maritime Museum at Dwarka

5091. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI :

SHRI B. VENKATESHWARLU :

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to set up a maritime Museum at Dwarka to promote the sensity of Dwarka as a tourist place;

(b) if so, the reasons thereof; and

(c) the time by which the Maritime Museum is likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) to (c) Development of tourism is primarily undertaken by the State Govts./UT Administrations. Ministry of Tourism provides financial assistance for tourism projects prioritised in consultation with the State Govt. concerned.

No proposal to set up Maritime Museum at Dwarka has been prioritised for Central financial assistance.

Public Information Campaign on Railway Safety

5092. SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the railways have launched an intensive public information campaign on safety;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the other steps being considered by the Government for safety measures; and

(d) the extent to which these measures will help in reducing the rail accidents?

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

(b) Launching of Public Information Campaign on issues related to 'Railway Safety' is a continuous exercise being undertaken by Indian Railways. Special emphasis is laid on safety, seeking public cooperation to prevent mishaps at manned and unmanned level crossing, not to carry inflammables during travelling by train. Newspapers, radio, television and allied media are used to publicise themes related to safety and security.

(c) Efforts are also made to prevent accidents by progressively implementing other safety measures are listed in the statement enclosed depending upon the availability of resources.

(d) Effectiveness of these measures may be evident from the reduction of accidents which have come down from 1130 in 1981-82 to 397 in 1998-99.

Statement

Brief steps taken to prevent accidents

1. The work of track circuiting has been accelerated on trunk routes and other important main lines.
2. Modification of the signalling circuitry is being carried out to minimize chances of human errors in causing accidents.
3. Auxiliary Warning System for giving advance warning about 'Signal at danger' to the driver of the running train has been commissioned on Mumbai suburban sections.
4. Railway Board has cleared a pilot project of AWS for Tughlaqabad-Mathura section of Central Railway on a trial basis.
5. Walkie-talkie sets have been supplied to drivers and guards of all passenger carrying trains. The same is presently being supplied to drivers and guards of goods trains also.

6. There has been a progressive increase in use of Tie Tamping and ballast cleaning machines for track maintenance.
7. For monitoring track geometry and running characteristics of the track, sophisticated track recording cars, oscillograph cars and portable accelerometer are being progressively used.
8. For detecting rail fractures and weld failures 96 more double rail Ultra Sonic Flaw Detectors are being procured.
9. Maintenance facilities for coaches and wagons have been modernised and upgraded at many depots.
10. To prevent cases of cold breakage of axles, ROH Depots have been equipped with ultrasonic testing equipment for deduction of flaws in the axles.
11. Whistle boards/speed breakers and road signs have been provided at unmanned level crossings and visibility for drivers has been improved.
12. Steps have been taken to prevent inflammable and explosive materials from being carried in passenger trains.
13. Periodic Safety Audit of different divisions by inter-disciplinary teams from Zonal Headquarters has been introduced.
14. Training facilities of drivers, guards and staff connected with train operation have been modernised including use of simulators for training of drivers.
15. Refresher courses are regularly organised at specified intervals.
16. Performance of the staff connected with train operation is being constantly monitored and those found deficient are sent for crash training.
17. Periodical safety drives are connected to inculcate safety consciousness among the staff.

[Translation]

Missing of Cows from Military Farm, Merrut

5093. SHRIMATI REENA CHOUDHARY :

SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of or have received complaints from some Members of Parliament regarding missing of cows from the Military Farm Meerut; and

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

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) :

Statement

(a) and (b) Government is aware of complaints missing of Cows from the Military Farm, Meerut. The matter has been investigated.

2. During visit of Director, Military Farms and Frieswal Project to Military Farm, Meerut on 22 October, 1999, a total of 15 animals were to be inspected for culling. Out of these 10 animals were tied in shed No.5 of cattle yard No.1 and remaining 5 animals were admitted in sickline for treatment.

3. The inspecting officer visited cattle yard No.1 and examined 10 animals to endorse his remarks on their history sheets. The Officer was told that 5 animals of cattle yard No.1 have to be seen in sickline. However, these animals were not seen by the Inspecting Officer, as they were sick and could not stand and walk.

4. The 5 animals which were admitted in sickline, being in poor state of health died subsequent to 22 October, 1999, of natural causes.

5. The documentation regarding death, post-mortem findings, identification of animals and realisation of money on account of hide and skin has been properly maintained at the farm.

6. The complaint has also been investigated by Headquarters, Meerut Sub Area.

Air India Pilots

5094. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item under caption "Air India Pilots just love to Blackmail" appearing in the 'Indian Express' dated March 30, 2000;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the measures being taken by the Government to tackle this situation in future?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Flight No AI 700 flying between Dubai and Cochin on February 14, 2000 made an unscheduled

landing at Mumbai due to medical emergency of one of the passenger. In view of the aeroplane having landed at Mumbai which is Air India's base, the first officer refused to operate the flight to Cochin by taking recourse to clause 4.2 of DGCA circular No. A/c. 28 of 1992 on Flight and Duty Time Limitation for flying crew which states that "The Air Carrier shall give each flight crew upon return the base from any flight or series of flight, a rest period that is atleast twice the total number of hours of his flight time while he was away from the base".

Air India flight No. AI 129 was cancelled on account of Commanders who were scheduled for flight, falling sick at last minute and due to shortage of captains for replacement at short notice.

(c) The management has had a constructive dialogue with the Pilots.

[English]

Flights from Lilabari Airport

5095. SHRI RANEE NARAH : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that there is no air service to Lilabari Airport for the last two years; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the steps taken to restore the air service?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) and (b) Due to low passenger demand and shortage of aircraft capacity, Indian Airline discontinued operation to/from Lilabari in September, 1998. At present no scheduled operator is operating any air service to/from Lilabari. Airlines are free to operate to any place in their commercial judgement subject to compliance with Route Dispersal

Guidelines which stipulate certain minimum operations on specified category of routes.

Development of Cannanore Airport

5096. SHRI K. MURALEEDHARAN : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the latest position of the proposed Cannanore Airport;

(b) whether it has been cleared by the Cabinet; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) to (c) The present Policy on Airport Infrastructure does not permit the construction of a green field airport within 150 kms. radius of an existing airport. Kannur is only 60 kms. from Calicut. Another airport so close to Calicut is unlikely to be commercially viable and would adversely affect the economics of other airports in the region.

Surrendering of Funds

5097. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Railways have been surrendering funds with regard to renewal of tracks, bridges and wagons as brought out by Union Government Appropriation Account - Railways (1996-97); and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) The figure of total allotment and actual expenditure under Track Renewals, Bridge Works and Rolling Stock, are as under :-

(Rs. in crore)

Plan-head	Original Allotment	Supplementary Allotment	Total Allotment	Actual Expenditure	Net Variation
Track Renewals	1438.17	16.00	1454.17	1596.12	141.95
Bridge Works	83.95	0	83.95	81.44	-2.51
Rolling Stock	1670.56	181.73	1852.29	1948.51	96.22

The figures under Rolling Stock include Locomotives, Coaches, Wagons and Components and the same are appearing as a whole in the Appropriation Accounts - 1996-97. However, total expenditure under acquisition of wagons was also in excess of original allotment, by Rs. 67.96 crore.

It may be seen that small amount was surrendered only under the plan head "Bridge Works."

(b) The surrender of Rs. 2.51 crore under "Bridge Works", constituting a minor percentage of only 2.99% of the total allotment of Rs. 83.95 crore is due to slow progress of works of road over/under bridges which involve both Railway and State authorities, besides other reasons such as delay in finalisation of plans and estimates, tenders, poor availability of materials etc.

Stock of Wheat

5098. SHRI KISHAN SINGH SANGWAN : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have excess stocks of wheat amounting to 88 lakhs tonnes as per report appearing in the 'Indian Express' dated November 25, 1999;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the position of stock during the last year and the quantum of foodgrains actually imported during that period; and

(c) the quantum of excess stock required to meet the emergent circumstances?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Against the prescribed buffer level of wheat 116 lakh tonnes, the wheat stock as on 1st October, 1999 was 205 lakh tonnes resulting to an excess stock of wheat 90 lakh tonnes (approximately). The position of stock in central pool during 1999 is as under :-

(In lakh tonnes)

As on	Rice	Wheat
1.1.99	116.83	126.96
1.2.99	121.28	116.24
1.3.99	119.76	107.68
1.4.99	117.39	99.21
1.5.99	116.58	197.57
1.6.99	111.39	222.09
1.7.99	107.35	216.35
1.8.99	96.75	210.62
1.9.99	85.55	213.46
1.10.99	88.18	205.32
1.11.99	127.79	194.66
1.12.99	132.51	184.80

During 1998-99, 14.15 lakh tonnes of wheat was imported on Government account. However, no import of wheat took place on Government account during 1999-2000.

(c) The minimum level of stock prescribed for central pool for the Ninth Plan Period to meet the emergent circumstances is as under :-

(In lakh tonnes)

As on	Rice	Wheat	Total
1st April	118.00	40.00	158.00
1st July	100.00	143.00	243.00
1st October	65.00	116.00	181.00
1st January	84.00	84.00	168.00

Exploration of NCES in Assam

5099. SHRI A.F. GOLAM OSMANI : Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) the initiatives taken by the Government to explore Non-conventional Energy Sources in Assam;

(b) whether any funds provided to any authority during the last three years in the State;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNA-PPAN) : (a) The Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources has been implementing various programmes such as National Project on Biogas Development, National Programme on Improved Chulha, Integrated Rural Energy Programme, Special Area Demonstration Programme, Small Hydro Power, Solar Photovoltaic & Solar Thermal Programmes, Biogas and Wind Power in the State of Assam. To provide a special thrust, the Ministry is allocating 10% of the Annual Plan Budget under various programmes for the North-East.

(b) to (d) A total amount of Rs. 303.71 lakhs has been allocated/released to the State of Assam during the last three years. The details of funds allocated/released are given in the statement enclosed.

Statement

Details of funds allocated/released under various programmes/schemes of Non-Conventional Energy Sources during the last three years to the State of Assam.

S.No.	Programme/Scheme	Funds Allocated/Released (Rs. in Lakhs)		
		1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000
1.	Biogas	27.15	14.79	13.25
2.	Improved Chulhas	44.00	11.25	7.00
3.	Integrated Rural Energy Programme	13.96	15.32	11.50
4.	Special Area Demonstration Programme (Energy Parks)	1.10	6.88	3.96
5.	Biomass Gasifiers	1.00	1.00	7.00
6.	Solar Photovoltaic Programme	21.60	70.42	22.88
7.	Wind Power	Nil	1.00	Nil
8.	Biomass Power	Nil	Nil	5.40
9.	Solar Thermal Energy Programme (Aditya Solar Shop)	Nil	1.68	1.57
Total		108.81	122.34	72.56

[Translation]

Subsidy on Foodgrains

5100. SHRI SHANKARSINH VAGHELA :

SHRI NAVAL KISHORE RAI :

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

(a) whether the Government have taken any measures other than increasing the consumer sale price to reduce the amount of subsidy;

(b) If so, the details thereof; and

(c) the estimated savings following these measures?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The details of measures taken by the Government to reduce the amount of subsidy are as follows :

1. Open sale of wheat under OMSS(D) at prices above the Central Issue Prices for TPDS in respect of BPL population;

2. Decentralised procurement and distribution of wheat and rice through States willing to participate in the scheme; and

3. Reducing handling cost of FCI through (i) achieving the average capacity utilisation of 75% to reduce the storage cost even though procurement of grain is seasonal; (ii) ensuring strict quality control measures during procurement/storage; (iii) issuing of old stocks, disposing off C&D category; and (iv) controlling the administrative cost by following minimum recruitment of resultant entry level posts irrespective of the increased volume of operations.

(c) (i) The estimated savings in food subsidy on account of open sale of wheat under OMSS(D) will depend upon off-take of wheat during the year.

(ii) Scheme of decentralised procurement and distribution of rice has been commenced in West Bengal from the Kharif Marketing Season 1997-98. For wheat, the States of Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh commenced this scheme from the Rabi Marketing Season 1999-2000. The amount of savings in food subsidy, in this regard is given below :-

RICE

				Rs./quintal
State	Year	Economic cost of FCI (Actual)	Economic cost of State Govt.	Subsidy Saving (per quintal)
West Bengal	1997-98	939.33	824.35	114.98
	1998-99	974.86	868.40	106.46
	1999-2000	1075.45	946.30	129.15

WHEAT

				Rs./quintal
State	Year	Economic cost of FCI (Actual) 50 Kgs. Bag	Economic cost of State Govt. 50 Kgs. bag	Subsidy Saving
Uttar Pradesh	1999-2000	820.00	779.01	40.99
Madhya Pradesh	1999-2000	820.00	751.91	68.09

Loans from Banks

5101. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have given permission to the railways to take loans directly from the banks and financial institutions for the funding of permanent asset projects, like new railway lines and gauge conversion under the BOLT Schemes;

(b) If so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of utilisation of funds by the Indian railway finance corporation?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Funds raised by Indian Railway Finance Corporation Limited are utilised to finance the acquisition of Railway Rolling Stock such as Locomotives, Coaches and Wagons which are leased to the Railways. The cumulative value of assets leased by this Corporation to the Railways till the end of 1998-99 is Rs. 16,036 crore.

[English]

Employment on Compassionate Grounds in AHQ

5102. SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of cases of appointments on com-

passionate grounds for Group-D posts pending in Army Headquarters Engineering-in-Chief Branch (MES) as on date;

(b) the reasons for the pendency;

(c) the measures being taken by the Government to clear these cases expeditiously; and

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

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) There were 2532 cases pending for appointment on compassionate grounds for Group 'D' posts in the MES as on 29.3.2000.

(b) As per extant instructions, compassionate appointment can be made upto a maximum of 5% of vacancies falling under direct recruitment quota in any Group 'C' or 'D' posts only, as the case may be. As compared to the number of vacancies available for such appointments, the number of applicants are much higher in number. Hence, the pendency of cases.

(c) and (d) It would not be possible to expedite these cases and indicate a time frame for their disposal as the number of vacancies are limited.

Free Card Passes to M/s A.H. Wheeler and Company

5103. SHRI BHAN SINGH BHAURA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to refer to the reply to part (a) of Unstarred Question No. 6417 on September 10, 1991 and state :

(a) whether free 29 1st and 29 IInd Class Card

passes have been issued to M/s A.H. Wheeler & Co. for travel on Indian Railways against the payment of 3% royalty;

(b) If not, whether there is any amount being recovered from them in lieu of the above noted free journey and passes; and

(c) If so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. M/s. A.H. Wheeler & Co. has been allowed free passes to supervise the working of their bookstalls on Indian Railways as per the agreement entered with them. The Company pays to the Railways a certain percentage on their sales turnover as royalty, which is fixed by the Railway Ministry from time to time. At present M/s A.H. Wheeler & Co. is paying royalty at the rate of 4% of their sales turnover.

[Translation]

Construction of Yatri Niwas in Gujrat

5104. SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY :

SHRI MANSINH PATEL :

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the proposals received from the Gujrat Government for construction of 'Yatri Niwas' in the State during the last two years; and

(b) the action taken by the Union Government thereon, and the amount provided for this purpose during the above period?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) and (b) Development of tourism is primarily undertaken by the State Govts./UT Administrations. Ministry of Tourism provides financial assistance for tourism projects prioritised in consultation with the State Govt. concerned.

No proposal for construction of Yatri Niwas in Gujrat has been prioritised during the last two years.

[English]

Snapping of Electric Wires

5105. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a concrete sleeper keeping on the roof of a special train caused snapping on electric wires of the track of Delhi-Sonepat route during the month of February, 2000;

(b) If so, whether due to this, rail traffic was disrupted;

(c) If so, whether the Government have got any inquiry conducted in this regard; and

(d) If so, the outcome thereof and the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. There was an incident of falling of concrete sleeper from Departmental Material Train between Sonipat - Sandal Kalan section at 10.50 hr. on 27.2.2000, resulting in breakage of insulator of overhead electrical wires, leading to disruption of rail traffic. However, there was no snapping of electric wires.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. It is suspected that when the train was stabled at Patel Nagar Railway Station, some miscreant had disturbed the placement of sleepers in an attempt to steal wooden scantling, which resulted in shifting of sleeper during the transit and consequent falling off from the train. Staff has been counselled to be extra cautious and more watchful during movement of trains.

Railway Policy

5106. SHRI SAHIB SINGH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any Railway Policy in the country like Agriculture policy etc;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, whether there is any programme to make a comprehensive National Railway Policy dealing with passenger facilities, freight policy, use of unutilised railway lands and development of backward areas; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) :

Statement

(a) and (b) Railway policy is shaped by the Railways Corporate Plan that spells out the mission of the Railways to be a modern railway system with sufficient capacity to meet the needs of, both passenger and freight traffic, based on an optimal inter-modal mix, and to provide this transportation at least cost to the society while maintaining the financial viability of the system.

The main objectives are to generate additional capacity with minimum capital investment and after making adequate

provision for depreciation, maintain a reasonable surplus to cover the dividend liability and developmental expenditure, to improve quality and reliability of both passenger and freight services and reduce incidence of train accidents.

Within the above broad frame work, the Railways have developed specific policies for passenger and freight traffic and related areas.

- (c) No, Sir.
- (d) Does not arise.

Aditya Solar Shops

5107. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV : Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to open special sales outlets under the name "Aditya Solar Shops" in major cities to make renewable energy devices easily available;

(b) if so, the details of the scheme; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to open such shops in the major cities of Maharashtra especially in Marathwada Region?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANAPPAN) : (a) and (b) The Government of India has been promoting the establishment of Aditya Solar Shops (show-room-cum-sales and service centres) in major cities of the country since 1995-96. These shops are expected to carry out the following functions :-

- (i) Sales of different renewable energy and energy efficient devices;
- (ii) Servicing and repair of these devices;
- (iii) Dissemination of information on various renewable energy devices and systems.

The shops can be established by the State renewable energy agencies, manufacturers' association or reputed NGOs in easily accessible parts of the cities and are expected to be run on normal business lines. Details of the financial support provided by the Government for establishment of these shops are given in the statement. So far 21 Aditya Solar Shops have been established in various parts of the country.

(c) The scheme on Aditya Solar Shop has been circulated to all the States including Maharashtra for formulating proposals as per the guidelines of the Government of

India. After examining the proposals received from Maharashtra, one shop was sanctioned for Aurangabad during 1999-2000. The shop is nearing completion.

Statement

Details of the financial support provided by the Government for establishment of Aditya Solar Shops

A. Non-Recurring Grant :

The quantum of financial assistance which is provided by the Ministry of non-recurring grant for setting up a solar shop may be up to :

- (i) Rs. 5 lakhs - for constructing/purchase and furnishing of the building and providing infra-structural facilities in case it is to be constructed/acquired mainly by Government organisations on government land.
- (ii) Rs. 3 lakhs for renovation/alteration of the building, its furnishing and provision of infra-structural facilities in case the shop is established in an already constructed building.
- (iii) Rs. 3 lakhs including rent for one year, in case the showroom is established in rented premises.

B. Recurring Grant :

In addition to the above one time grant, a recurring grant of Rs. 50,000 per year for the first two years is also provided to each solar shop. This grant may be given for a third year also if the shop is in a rented premises and is being run well.

C. Publicity Support :

The Government directly releases advertisements regarding the establishment and operation of various Aditya Solar Shops. In addition, a publicity grant up to Rs. 1.0 lakh per year is provided to those solar shops whose performance is considered satisfactory. A separate grant may be provided for publicity connected with the opening of a shop.

Conversion of Goods Services into Passenger Services

5108. SHRI RAMSHEETH THAKUR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether goods services is operating from Panvel to Uran and Thal in Maharashtra;

(b) whether there is a demand to convert these lines from Goods services to Passenger services;

(c) If so, since when the demand is pending with the Government and the reasons therefor; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) There has been a demand since 1993. Panvel-Uran section is used for the traffic of Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust and a LPG Depot at Uran Pen-Thal section, which is a siding line, is used for the traffic of Rashtriya Chemicals and Fertiliser Factory at Thal. Running of passenger services will affect the existing and projected traffic on these and adjoining sections. Therefore, a Techno Economic study to assess the feasibility and works required for running of Diesel Multiple Units/Electrical Multiple Units from Panvel to Nhava Sheva/Thal/Uran has been sanctioned.

(d) Decision will be taken after the study is completed.

[Translation]

Rural Development with World Bank Assistance

5109. SHRI RAJO SINGH : Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether any financial assistance has been provided by the World Bank/ADB during the last three years for the development of rural areas in the country, State-wise; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SUNDAR LAL PATWA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The details are given in the attached Statement.

Statement

World Bank Projects in Rural Water Supply Sector

State	Name of Project	Cost of the Project (Rs. in lakhs)	Donor Contribution (Assumed as 85% of total cost) (Rs. in lakhs)	Year of Commencement	Year of closing	Remarks
Completed Projects						
1. Maharashtra	Rural Water Supply and Environmental Sanitation Project	61373.34	47938.38	1991	1998	
Ongoing Projects						
1. Uttar Pradesh	UP Rural Water Supply and Environmental Sanitation Project	30100.00	25997.52 (US\$ 59.6 m.)	August, 1996	May, 2002	
2. Karnataka	Karnataka Integrated Rural Water Supply and Environmental Sanitation Project	44720.00	34900.00	1993-94	31.12.1999	Project extended upto 30th September, 2000

Benefits of TPDS to People Below Poverty Line

5110. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether people below the poverty line are getting the benefit of Targeted Public Distribution System;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the steps taken to meet their requirement particularly rice, wheat and kerosene?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Under the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) foodgrains are provided to the States/UTs for issue to the people living below poverty line (BPL) @ 20

kg. per family per month w.e.f. 1.4.2000 at 50% of the economic cost.

The information relating to number of BPL households and number of BPL ration card holders (State-wise) is placed in the statement-I enclosed. State-wise monthly allocations of wheat and rice fixed under TPDS w.e.f. April, 2000 is given in the statement-II enclosed.

In so far as kerosene is concerned it is outside the purview of TPDS. However, its allocations made to the States/UTs under PDS are based on the following factors :-

- historical basis, i.e. past year's supplies plus additional allocations out of increase given at national level. Increase is made taking into account per capita availability in the State/UT so as to reduce inter-state disparity.
- constraints of product availability, foreign exchange and heavy subsidy.

The onus of supply of the allocated quantity, district wise allocation, fixation of per head/card quota etc. rests with the States/UTs. The State Governments have been asked to identify the ration card holders having LPG connection and to discontinue the supply of kerosene to them under PDS.

Statement-I

*Statement indicating State-wise No. of Households BPL Households,
Fair Price Shops and Ration Cards*

As on 30.3.2000

State/UT	Population (1999 in lakh)	% BPL as expert group	No. of house holds 1999 (in lakhs)	No. of households 1995 (in lakhs)	Fair Price Shops Ration Cards (In lakhs)						No. of Card per FPS	Reported as on
					Rural	Urban	Total	BPL	APL	Total		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Andhra Pradesh	746.17	25.68	156.43	37.78	32813	7040	39853	113.25	51.53	164.78	413	Oct 99
Arunachal Pradesh	11.56	40.86	2.34	0.77	842	103	945	0.82	2.43	3.25	344	Oct 99
Assam	258.78	40.86	44.39	19.06	28687	3660	32347	18.81	23.69	42.50	131	Jan 2000
Bihar	981.22	54.96	159.29	85.90	47293	10242	57535	84.26	88.74	173.00	301	Nov 97
Goa	15.47	14.92	3.10	0.38	429	161	590	0.07	2.99	3.06	519	Jan 2000
Gujarat	475.51	24.21	86.30	19.95	10358	3766	14124	33.85	71.37	105.22	745	Jan 2000
Haryana	195.46	25.05	31.03	7.33	5309	2672	7981	5.84	37.40	43.04	539	Feb 2000
Himachal Pradesh	65.45	40.86	12.26	4.26	3590	280	3870	2.86	8.93	11.79	305	Nov 99
Jammu & Kashmir	97.09	40.86	18.42	6.17	2237	689	2926	3.36	10.12	13.48	461	Sept 97

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Karnataka	514.36	33.16	93.18	28.75	14540	5353	19893	64.74	46.91	111.65	561	Jan 2000
Kerala	319.82	25.43	60.57	15.35	12279	1982	14261	20.58	41.06	61.64	432	Jan 2000
Madhya Pradesh	783.46	42.52	138.67	53.34	20489	3652	24141	43.65	90.13	133.78	554	Jan 2000
Maharashtra	901.22	36.86	175.33	60.45	35005	10802	45807	58.29	135.82	194.11	424	Oct 99
Manipur	24.41	40.86	4.70	1.30	1753	175	1928	0.67	1.13	1.80	93	June 97
Meghalaya	23.59	40.86	4.35	1.44	3257	572	3829	0.97	0.98	1.95	51	Mar 97
Mizoram	9.22	40.86	1.62	0.53	886	195	1081	N.A.	1.73	1.73	160	June 99
Nagaland	16.29	40.86	2.92	0.96	138	213	351	0.96	1.05	2.01	573	Mar 99
Orissa	355.35	48.56	67.30	31.82	20824	3841	24665	41.13	40.03	81.16	329	Nov 99
Punjab	332.76	11.77	39.32	4.30	9557	3896	13453	4.89	47.96	52.85	393	Jan 2000
Rajasthan	526.39	27.41	87.15	21.66	14041	4551	18592	21.15	76.92	98.07	527	Jan 99
Sikkim	5.41	41.43	1.02	0.34	519	359	378	N.A.	N.A.	0.66	75	Oct 97
Tamil Nadu	612.55	35.03	137.65	45.79	20296	6246	28542	64.88	91.08	155.96	588	Mar 2000
Tripura	36.65	40.86	6.99	2.31	1185	174	1359	2.31	4.55	6.86	505	Nov 99
Uttar Pradesh	1663.64	40.85	267.47	95.48	64393	12326	76719	95.48	159.96	255.44	333	July 98
West Bengal	779.72	35.66	143.33	46.59	15673	4842	20515	46.11	109.13	155.24	757	Oct 98
Andaman & Nicobar	3.74	34.47	0.79	0.22	286	118	404	0.12	0.73	0.85	210	Nov 99
Chandigarh	8.60	11.35	1.96	0.18	47	183	230	0.00	2.09	2.09	909	Jan 2000
D & N Haveli	1.84	50.84	0.35	0.14	78	N.A.	78	0.16	0.16	0.32	410	Jan 2000
Daman & Diu	1.35	15.80	0.25	0.03	7	6	13	0.02	0.27	0.29	2231	Nov 99
Delhi	134.18	14.69	26.73	2.96	428	2739	3167	N.A.	35.71	35.71	1128	Jan 2000
Lakshadweep	0.69	25.04	0.11	0.02	21	14	35	N.A.	0.12	0.12	343	Dec 99
Pondicherry	10.76	37.40	2.16	0.85	163	233	396	0.90	1.64	2.54	641	Feb 2000
Total	9812.70		1777.48	596.20	367423	91085	458508	729.93	1186.36	1916.95	418	

Statement-II

Statement showing State-wise Present Monthly APL & BPL Allocation of Foodgrains and Revised Allocation under BPL & APL

Sl No.	States/UTs	Quantity in '000' tonnes															
		Existing Monthly BPL Alloc.				Revised Monthly BPL Alloc.				Existing Monthly APL Alloc.				Revised Monthly APL Alloc.			
		Rice	Wheat	Total		Rice	Wheat	Total		Rice	Wheat	Total		Rice	Wheat	Total	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	
1.	Andhra Pradesh	37.780	0.000	37.780	75.56	0.00	75.56	153.920	9.000	161.920	153.92	8.00	161.92	229.480	8.000	237.48	
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0.700	0.070	0.770	1.40	0.14	1.54	5.860	0.530	6.390	5.86	0.53	6.39	7.260	0.670	7.93	
3.	Assam	19.060	0.000	19.060	38.12	0.00	38.12	25.940	10.300	36.240	25.94	10.30	36.24	64.060	10.300	74.36	
4.	Bihar	34.360	51.540	85.900	68.72	103.08	171.80	7.920	11.880	19.800	7.92	11.88	19.80	76.640	114.960	191.60	
5.	Delhi	0.720	2.240	2.960	1.44	4.48	5.92	12.170	38.160	50.330	12.17	38.16	50.33	13.610	42.640	56.25	
6.	Goa	0.260	0.120	0.380	0.52	0.24	0.76	3.570	1.690	5.260	3.57	1.69	5.26	4.090	1.930	6.02	
7.	Gujarat	8.000	12.000	20.000	16.00	24.00	40.00	18.000	29.500	47.500	18.00	29.50	47.50	34.000	53.500	87.50	
8.	Haryana	0.000	7.330	7.330	0.00	14.66	14.66	0.000	0.720	0.720	0.00	0.72	0.72	0.000	15.380	15.38	
9.	Himachal Pradesh	0.000	4.260	4.260	0.00	8.52	8.52	5.230	3.200	8.430	5.23	3.20	8.43	5.230	11.720	16.95	
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	4.701	1.479	6.180	9.40	2.96	12.36	12.510	7.360	19.870	12.51	7.36	19.87	21.912	10.318	32.23	
11.	Karnataka	23.000	5.750	28.750	46.00	11.50	57.50	37.000	9.250	46.250	37.00	9.25	46.25	83.000	20.750	103.75	
12.	Kerala	15.350	0.000	15.350	30.70	0.00	30.70	109.970	22.720	132.690	109.97	22.72	132.69	140.670	22.720	163.39	
13.	Madhya Pradesh	24.000	29.340	53.340	48.00	58.68	106.68	10.350	12.650	23.000	10.35	12.65	23.00	58.350	71.330	129.68	
14.	Maharashtra	21.160	39.300	60.460	42.32	78.60	120.92	22.380	41.380	63.760	22.38	41.38	63.76	64.700	119.980	184.68	

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
15.	Manipur	1.300	0.000	1.300	2.60	0.00	2.60	2.860	1.710	4.570	2.86	1.71	4.57	5.460	1.710	7.17
16.	Meghalaya	1.430	0.000	1.430	2.86	0.00	2.86	9.530	1.000	10.530	9.53	1.00	10.53	12.390	1.000	13.39
17.	Mizoram	0.530	0.000	0.530	1.06	0.00	1.06	6.810	1.010	7.820	6.81	1.01	7.82	7.870	1.010	8.88
18.	Nagaland	0.770	0.190	0.960	1.54	0.38	1.92	8.630	1.540	10.170	8.63	1.54	10.17	10.170	1.920	12.09
19.	Orissa	31.820	0.000	31.820	63.64	0.00	63.64	3.720	0.000	3.720	3.72	0.00	3.72	67.360	0.30	67.36
20.	Punjab	0.680	3.620	4.300	1.36	7.24	8.60	0.280	1.510	1.790	0.28	1.51	1.79	1.640	8.750	10.39
21.	Rajasthan	0.250	21.450	21.700	0.50	42.90	43.40	0.780	32.680	33.460	0.78	32.68	33.46	1.280	75.580	76.86
22.	Sikkim	0.340	0.000	0.340	0.68	0.00	0.68	2.970	0.100	3.070	2.97	0.10	3.07	3.650	0.100	3.75
23.	Tamil Nadu	45.790	0.000	45.790	91.58	0.00	91.58	38.440	0.000	38.440	38.44	0.00	38.44	130.020	0.000	130.02
24.	Tripura	2.310	0.000	2.310	4.62	0.00	4.62	9.120	1.280	10.400	9.12	1.28	10.40	13.740	1.280	15.02
25.	Uttar Pradesh	31.500	64.000	95.500	63.00	128.00	191.00	11.200	22.170	33.370	11.20	22.17	33.37	74.200	150.170	224.37
26.	West Bengal	22.070	23.650	45.720	44.14	47.30	91.44	10.730	64.700	75.430	10.73	64.70	75.48	54.870	112.000	166.87
27.	Andaman & Nicobar	0.150	0.070	0.220	0.30	0.14	0.44	2.350	0.680	3.030	2.35	0.68	3.03	2.650	0.820	3.47
28.	Chandigarh	0.020	0.160	0.180	0.04	0.32	0.36	0.170	0.970	1.140	0.17	0.97	1.14	0.210	1.290	1.50
29.	D & N Haveli	0.120	0.030	0.150	0.24	0.06	0.30	0.180	0.050	0.230	0.18	0.05	0.23	0.420	0.110	0.53
30.	Daman & Diu	0.020	0.010	0.030	0.04	0.02	0.06	0.110	0.040	0.150	0.11	0.04	0.15	0.150	0.060	0.21
31.	Lakshadweep	0.020	0.000	0.020	0.04	0.00	0.04	0.505	0.042	0.547	0.51	0.04	0.55	0.545	0.042	0.59
32.	Pondicherry	0.650	0.000	0.650	1.30	0.00	1.30	0.290	0.020	0.310	0.29	0.02	0.31	1.590	0.020	1.61
Total		328.861	266.609	595.470	657.72	533.22	1190.94	533.495	326.842	860.337	533.50	326.84	860.34	1191.22	860.060	2051.28

Courses Under NIRD

5111. SHRI RAJIAH MALYALA : Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the National Institute of Rural Development, Hyderabad offer any academic course/programme leading to a Diploma/degree etc. of any Indian University;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether N.I.R.D. offer any assistance in the form of scholarships/fellowships etc. to Research Scholars for pursuing their studies;
- (d) if so, the details for the last three years; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SUNDAR LAL PATWA) : (a) No, Sir.

- (b) Does not arise.
- (c) No, Sir. There is no scheme in the N.I.R.D. for offering scholarships/fellowships to Research Scholars to pursue their studies.
- (d) and (e) Do not arise.

Induction of Missiles in Armed Forces

5112. SHRI JITENDRA PRASADA : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the surface-to-surface and anti-sea skimmer missile is in the final stages of evaluation with user participation;
- (b) whether this missile is being developed for the Army, Navy and the Air Force separately; and
- (c) the time by which it is likely to be inducted in the above three services?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) The state-of-the-art surface-to-air and anti-sea skimmer missile Trishul is in final stages of evaluation with users' participation.

- (b) Yes, Sir.
- (c) After the on-going trials for the Army and the Navy, the missile system is planned to be inducted into the Navy and the Army by 2001 followed by induction in the Air Force.

Beautification Plans

5113. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Mamta's beautification plan begin, end in her home State" appearing in the 'Indian Express' dated March 25, 2000;
- (b) if so, the facts of the matter reported therein;
- (c) whether the Government propose to use same attitude towards the railway projects of other States also; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

- (b) No statue of mural is proposed to be installed at any station. A photogallery of Netaji Subash Chandra Bose at Netaji Bhavan Station of Metro Railway has, however, been provided. A commemorative bust of Netaji is already installed at Gomoh. Railways are taking action to maintain this bust in a manner befitting the status of a national leader.

A proposal for revival of a Toy Train at Rabindra Sarovar is under examination. Also in October '96, it was decided to gift one Toy Train each to the States of Manipur and Meghalaya. So far, this Ministry has not received any proposal for supply of Toy Train to Shimla and Rajasthan. Further, the cost of one Toy Train is only about 18 lakhs and not Rs. 1 Crore as mentioned in the newspaper report.

- (c) Yes, Sir. Govt. has same attitude towards all States.
- (d) Does not arise.

Road Communication Network in Border Areas of Western Rajasthan

5114. COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government have finalised any scheme to develop road communication network in Western Rajasthan especially in Barmer and Jaisalmer districts bordering Pakistan for swift movement of vehicles in case of emergency in view of Pakistan's anti-India stance and frequent misadventures along the LOC; and
- (b) if so, the date by which such a road communication network is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FER-

NANDES) : (a) and (b) Keeping in view the operational requirements and threats, road communications are planned and periodically reviewed to decide upon the upgradation/new construction of roads. The road communication network in Western Rajasthan including Barmer and Jaisalmer districts is for operational purposes.

Piracy Attacks in Bay of Bengal

5115. SHRI ANNASAHEB M.K. PATIL : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether International Maritime Bureau's Piracy Reporting centre has indicated that Bay of Bengal is becoming major centre of piracy attack;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps proposed by the Government to curb the activities of pirates?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) and (b) The International Maritime Bureau's (IMB) Piracy Reporting Centre has not stated that the Bay of Bengal is becoming a major centre of piracy attack. It has, however, reported that piracy is likely to be on the increase in the waters off East and West Coasts of India owing to a shift in the centre of piracy operations from China/Hongkong to India and Iran.

(c) The Indian Navy and the Coast Guards are individually and jointly maintaining regular vigil in the Indian Exclusive Economic Zone to prevent piracy, arms smuggling and such other undesirable activities.

Development of Anti-Hijack Programme

5116. SHRI ABDUL HAMID : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are proposing to take technical know-how from other countries and particularly from Israel to develop a comprehensive anti-hijack programme; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

X-Ray Machines at Airports

5117. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether only one X-Ray machine is operational at many departure points at India Airports to screen baggage;

(b) if so, the reasons for not making other lying machine operational;

(c) whether any efforts have been made to develop an efficient and fast security clearance at the airports;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether there is only one X-Ray machine at Hyderabad Airport leading to delay in clearances; and

(f) if so, the steps being taken to provide one more X-Ray machine there?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The number of X-Ray Baggage Inspection System (X-BIS) machines installed and kept operational at various airports is determined by the number of flights operating through an airport at a particular time. X-BIS machines for hand baggage check are exclusively provided by the Airports Authority of India (AAI), while X-BIS for registered baggage is provided by AAI and/or airline concerned. XBIS are not provided at smaller aerodromes where only small type of aircraft operate and baggage check is done manually.

(c) and (d) To develop an efficient and fast security clearance at airports, wherever necessary the old X-Ray machines are replaced and new colour X-Ray machines are being installed so as to ensure that at least 2 X-Ray machines are available at every point.

(e) and (f) No, Sir. There are seven X-Ray machines (3 for hand baggage and 4 for registered baggage) available at Hyderabad and orders have been issued for procurement of 4 machines.

Removal of Jhuggies from Railway Land

5118. SHRI SHIVAJI MANE :

SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI :

SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE :

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the P.M. has directed the Railway Ministry to work out an action plan for timely removal of jhuggies from the safety zone of the railway track and compensate the jhuggies owners;

- (b) If so, the details in this regard;
- (c) the number of jhuggies dwellers proposed to be removed from the railway track which fell inside the safety zone; and
- (d) the time by which the final decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

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

- (b) Does not arise.
- (c) There are about 1,62,150 jhuggies constructed unauthorisedly on railway land. As per a survey conducted about 4 years back, there are over 23,000 jhuggies in Railway Safety Zone in the four Metropolitan cities.
- (d) Removal of encroachments from railway land is a continuous process. Action is taken to remove the same under extant rules with the help of the concerned State Government.

[Translation]

Places connected with Air Service

5119. SHRIMATI JAS KAUR MEENA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

- (a) the number of places connected by air service during the last three years;
- (b) the profit earned therefrom during the above period;
- (c) whether the Government propose to connect other places by air services; and
- (d) If so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) During the period April 1997 to March 2000, the following places have been airlinked by Scheduled services :-

	State	Place
1.	Rajasthan	Jaisalmer
2.	Himachal Pradesh	Kullu, Dharamsala
3.	Madhya Pradesh	Jabalpur
4.	Gujarat	Keshod, Porbandar
5.	Uttar Pradesh	Dehradun
6.	Lakshdweep	Agatti

- (b) Indian Airlines is not making profits on the services to the new places connected by it. Information with regard to private airlines is not available.

(c) and (d) Operators are free to operate to any place in their commercial judgement subject to compliance with the Route Dispersal Guidelines which stipulate minimum operations on certain categories of routes.

Expansion of Varanasi Cantt. Railway Station

5120. SHRI SHANKAR PRASAD JAISWAL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether a scheme is under consideration of the Government for expansion of railway station and opening of Railway Claim Offices and Claim Tribunal at Varanasi Cantt.;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the time by which the above scheme is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) to (c) Works relating to provision of washable aprons on platforms costing Rs. 112.51 lakh, improvements to coach filling arrangements costing Rs. 49.93 lakh and over-head water tank costing Rs. 14.74 lakhs have already been taken up at Varanasi Junction railway station also locally known as Varanasi Cantt. Considering its importance, this station has also been selected to be developed as Model Station.

A subsidiary Railway Claims Office is already functioning at Varanasi.

[English]

Transportation of Fodder

5121. DR. A.D.K. JAYASEELAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether it is proposed to transport fodder free of cost to Gujarat;
- (b) whether there is any proposal to transport any item to any State where the item is scarce free of cost; and
- (c) If so, the details thereof?

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

- (b) No, Sir.
- (c) Does not arise.

Demolition of Slums in Mumbai

5122. SHRI DILIP KUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI:

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA :

SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL :

KUMARI BHAVANA PUNDLIKRAO GAWALI :

SHRI BHIM DAHAL :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the World Bank has objected to the demolition of the slums on the railways' land in Mumbai;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the World Bank has been funding the rehabilitation of slum dwellers on railways' land in Mumbai under certain conditions;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government have also issued directions to stay the demolition for the time being;

(f) if so, the reasons for demolishing the pre 1995 slums;

(g) whether any enquiry has been conducted in this regard;

(h) if so, the outcome thereof and steps taken against the guilty officials; and

(i) the steps taken by the Government to expedite the implementation of rehabilitation plan of the slum dwellers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) to (d) The World Bank is considering funding of the projects falling in the Mumbai Urban Transport Project Scheme which are proposed to be undertaken jointly by the Government of Maharashtra and Ministry of Railways. Rehabilitation of the people affected by these projects would also be a part of this scheme and would accordingly be considered for funding by the World Bank. This also includes rehabilitation of people living on railway land unauthorisedly, in terms of the policy formulated by Government of Maharashtra in this regard.

(e) and (f) Railway in consultation with Government of Maharashtra had started a drive on Mankhurd-Kurla-Vadala Section for eviction of post 1.1.95 encroachers. After complaints that some pre-1995 encroachers had also been remo-

ved, the drive was temporarily stopped by the Government of Maharashtra. The Government of Maharashtra have now decided to associate a Non-Governmental Organisation in identification of the pre-1.1.95 encroachers to rehabilitate them in the tenements constructed by the Mumbai Housing and Development Authority as per their Policy and simultaneously remove post 1.1.95 encroachers.

(g) No, Sir.

(h) Does not arise.

(i) Encroachments on railway land are treated as unauthorised occupation of the railway property and are treated in accordance with the provisions of law. Railway have no policy for undertaking rehabilitation of unauthorised occupants of its land which is the prime responsibility of the State Government. However, in the case of MUDP projects, in view of the funding of these projects by the World Bank whose policy requires rehabilitation of all project affected persons, and also as the cost of the project is being shared with the GOM on a 50:50 basis; Railways have agreed as a one time exception, to share the cost of rehabilitation of Project Affected People of the MUDP with the Government of Maharashtra.

Protection of Dhulian and Farakka Stations

5123. SHRI ABUL HASNAT KHAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Railway track between Dhulian and Farakka stations is under serious threat of eaten away by the erosion of Ganga at Sankopara point; and

(b) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to protect the above track on urgent basis?

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

(b) Does not arise.

Cancellation of Flights

5124. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) the number of flights of Indian Airlines on Delhi-Nagpur-Raipur sector cancelled and delayed during the last one year, till date;

(b) the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government have taken any measures to maintain the time schedule and also to introduce one more flight in the morning on this sector; and

- (d) If so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) and (b) The number of delays and cancellations on Alliance Air's flight CD 7469 operating from Delhi to Nagpur and Raipur during the period April, 1999 to March, 2000 was 200 and 3 respectively, of which 11 delays were due to reasons under the purview of Indian Airlines, and the remaining 189 delays and 3 cancellations due to adverse weather, airport restrictions, miscellaneous and consequential reasons.

(c) and (d) The departure time of the flight ex-Delhi has been revised with effect from 8th April, 2000 which has resulted in better on time performance. Capacity constraint and lack of sufficient traffic do not permit operation of two flights in a day on this route.

Passenger Amenities

5125. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Airports Authority of India has not improved passengers' amenities at various airports in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) If so, whether the passenger amenities proposal with regard to telecom catering, resting and other facilities at Hyderabad Airport; and

(c) if so, the time by which it is likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) to (c) Improvement of passenger amenities at various airports is a continuous process and is taken up regularly by the Airports Authority of India (AAI). AAI has provided all passenger amenities like telecom, catering, rest rooms and other facilities in both domestic and international terminals i.e. N.T. Ramarao Domestic Terminal and Rajiv Gandhi International Terminal at Hyderabad airport.

Sports Centre in Chennai

5126. DR. V. SAROJA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is proposed to set up a centre for excellence in sports in Chennai;

(b) If so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Indian Railways contribute towards promotion of sports in the Country by recruiting sportspersons and giving them congenial environment for practice and participation in various National and International events. Indian Railways are able to meet their sports requirements within the existing facilities.

[Translation]

Encroachment of Railway Land

5127. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE :

SHRI UTTAMRAO DHIKALE :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Railway employees and other people have encroached upon the railway land for agriculture purposes between and near the railway line from Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus to Kalyan and Churchgate to Borivali in Mumbai;

(b) If so, the area of land encroached upon thereby;

(c) If so, the steps being taken to get the railway land vacated; and

(d) the time by which the land would be got freed from the encroachers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) No land has been encroached upon by any person for agriculture purposes.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Security at Airports

5128. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA :

SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH :

DR. RAMESH CHAND TOMAR :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item captioned "Airport Security fails self-test" as reported in the Statesman dated February 2, 2000;

(b) If so, the details thereof;

(c) the reaction of the Government thereon;

(d) whether surprise checks would be conducted at all the airports to test check the security there;

(e) If so, whether all the airports have been provided with modern equipment to check bags and baggages; and

(f) If not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The news-item refers to certain Security lapses at Ranchi airport.

(c) Matter has been taken up with the State Government of Bihar for beefing up security at the airport. Besides, meanwhile CISF has been deployed in place of State Police, for security duties at Ranchi airport in addition to certain other airports. The other measures taken to beef up security at the airports are as under :

i) Deployment of Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) in place of State Police for security duties at the operational airports in a phased manner. The CISF has already taken over the security duties at Patna, Jaipur, Guwahati, Vadodara, Port Blair, Rajkot, Ranchi, Agartala, Bhopal, Hyderabad and Ahmedabad.

ii) Frisking of passengers and hand baggage at the time of entry into sterile area has been tightened. Ladder point secondary frisking has been introduced.

iii) Strict control on access to the airports is being ensured by comprehensive review of Photo Identity Cards to restrict the number of pass-holders.

iv) Deployment of Sky Marshals on flights at random basis as an added safety precaution.

v) Raising of the perimeter wall to the prescribed height at all the operational airports.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) and (f) New coloured X-Ray Baggage Inspection Machines are being installed in place of old machines at the airports. Modernisation and upgradation of security related equipment at the airports is being done in a phased manner.

[Translation]

Amount Spent by ITDC in Uttar Pradesh

5129. DR. BALIRAM : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) the amount spent by the I.T.D.C. on its establishments in Uttar Pradesh during the last three years till date, location-wise;

(b) the profits earned from these establishments during the above said period;

(c) whether the India Tourism Development Corporation propose to implement any scheme for development of its units in Uttar Pradesh; and

(d) If so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) ITDC incurred plan expenditure of Rs. 42.66 lakhs during the last three years including provisional figures (Rs. 15.05 lakhs) for the year 1999-2000. Establishment-wise break-up is given below :-

S.No.	Name of Establishment	(Rs. in Lakhs)
		Plan Expenditure 1997-98 to 1999-2000 (Prov.)
i)	Hotel Varanasi Ashok, Varanasi	22.07
ii)	Hotel Agra Ashok, Agra	19.80
iii)	Kosi Restaurant, Kosi	0.79
Total		42.66

(b) ITDC units in Uttar Pradesh incurred a net loss of Rs. 777.82 lakhs during the last three years including provisional loss of Rs. 321.37 lakhs for the year 1999-2000.

(c) and (d) ITDC's Annual Plan 2000-2001 includes plan provision for renovation/upgradation of units which prove to be commercially viable.

[English]

Flights of Air France

5130. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Air France has sought the permission of the Government to increase its flights to Mumbai and Delhi;

(b) whether Air France has also asked for increase some frequencies to Bangalore; and

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

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Do not arise.

Security Lapses at Hyderabad Airport

5131. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE :

SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ :

SHRI SHIVAJI MANE :

SHRI G.J. JAVIYA :

SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI :

SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE :

SHRI R.S. PATIL :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the newsitem captioned "Airport Security clears daggers, detonators, grenade on flights" appearing in the Indian Express dated March 19, 2000;

(b) If so, the details thereof;

(c) the action taken by the Government against the Officers responsible in each case; and

(d) the remedial measures taken to strengthen the security at airports?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The news item in question refers to security lapses at Hyderabad and Ranchi airports.

(c) Matter has been taken up with the respective State Governments for beefing up of security arrangements. Meanwhile CISF has been deployed, in place of State Police, for security duties at Hyderabad and Ranchi in addition to certain other airports.

(d) The following measures have been taken to further strengthen security at airports :

i) Deployment of CISF in place of State Police for security duties at the operational airports in a phased manner. The CISF has already taken over the security duties at Patna, Jaipur, Guwahati, Vadodara, Port Blair, Rajkot, Ranchi, Agartala, Bhopal, Hyderabad and Ahmedabad.

ii) Frisking of passengers and hand baggage at the time of entry into sterile area has been tightened. Ladder point secondary frisking has been introduced.

iii) Strict control on access to the airports is being ensured by comprehensive review of Photo Identity Cards to restrict the number of pass-holders.

iv) Deployment of Sky Marshals on flights at random basis as an added safety precaution.

v) Replacement of old X-Ray machines and installation of new colour X-Ray machines wherever necessary

so as to ensure that atleast two X-Ray machines are available at every point.

vi) Modernisation and upgradation of security related technological set up at the airports is being done in a phased manner.

Freight Transk Facility with Bangladesh

5132. SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Bangladesh have agreed to extend railway freight transit facilities for India from West Bengal to Tripura;

(b) If so, the details thereof; and

(c) If not, the steps being taken by the Government in this regard?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Government of India have been proposing, since long, to the Government of Bangladesh for granting of rail transit facilities to the North-Eastern States from West Bengal but the same is awaiting acceptance from Bangladesh Government.

Crane Deal

5133. SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY :

SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL :

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Railways on the basis of report of the Comptroller and Auditor General has forwarded the case of the Railways crane deal to the CBI;

(b) If so, the details thereof;

(c) the time by which the CBI is likely to submit its report;

(d) the main points observed by the CAG in its report;

(e) whether all the suggestions made have fully been implemented; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) CBI has been entrusted with the detailed investigation into the entire case of procurement of 140T cranes which was initiated in 1995-96.

(c) No time frame for submission of report is available from CBI.

(d) As per the CAG report No.9 of 1999 tabled in the Parliament, the CAG has contended that the import of 140T crane was restored to by Railways without exploring indigenous sources transfer of technology along with supply contracts were not in any way adding to the capabilities of Indian Railways to manufacture cranes, rejection of cheaper offer resulted in higher expenditure and delay in absorption of technology imported in 1988 led the Railways to keep away from the recent crane technology, etc.

(e) All the issues raised by CAG in their report have been replied as per the laid down procedure. No specific suggestions were indicated in the report.

(f) Does not arise.

International Airport in Goa

5134. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have approved to set up an International Airport at Mopa in Goa;

(b) If so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the airport is likely to be built by private sector;

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

(e) the cost likely to be incurred in setting up of the said International airport?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) to (e) The Government has given its 'in principle approval' for setting up a new airport of international standards at Mopa in Goa. State Government will take further action to select joint venture partners through global tenders. Cost estimates are being worked out.

Reservation Quota for Nagpur Station

5135. SHRI NAMDEO HARBAJI DIWATHE : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the reservation quota allotted at Nagpur Station-train-wise/category-wise;

(b) whether the Government have received any representations from various organisations and people representatives to increase the quota of reservation in various trains from Nagpur;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) The reservation quota available at Nagpur Station in various trains is as under :

Train Number	Quotas				
	1st ACC	AC 2-tier	1 Class	AC 3-tier	Sleeper Class
1	2	3	4	5	6
1440 Nagpur-Dadar Sewagram Express	-	46	-	-	576
1451 Nagpur-Gaya Diksha Bhoomi Express	-	-	-	64	432
2106 Nagpur-Mumbai Vidharba Express	10	66	-	62	648
2409 Bilaspur-Nizamuddin Gondwana Express	-	4	-	8	78
2430 Nizamuddin-Bangalore Rajdhani Express	-	2	-	20	-
2434 Nizamuddin-Chennai Rajdhani Express	2	2	-	4	-
2615 Chennai-New Delhi GT Express	-	4	-	-	50

1	2	3	4	5	6
2616 New Delhi-Chennai GT Express	2	6	-	6	54
2621 Chennai-New Delhi Tamil Nadu Express	1	4	-	2	62
2622 New Delhi-Chennai Tamil Nadu Express	-	4	-	6	37
2625 Trivandrum-New Delhi Kerala Express	-	-	-	4	14
2626 New Delhi-Trivandrum Kerala Express	-	4	-	4	84
2723 Secunderabad-New Delhi A.P. Express	-	5	-	-	100
2724 New-Delhi- Secunderabad A.P. Express	-	4	-	4	72
2859 Mumbai-Howrah Gitanjali Express	-	12	-	4	87
2860 Howrah-Mumbai Gitanjali Express	-	12	-	8	37
322 Passenger	-	-	-	-	72
328 Passenger	-	-	-	-	72
5011 Cochin-Gorakhpur Rapti Sagar Express	-	2	-	-	6
6044 Patna-Chennai Express	-	-	-	-	8
6093 Chennai-Lucknow Express	-	-	-	-	34
6688 Jammu-Mangalore Navyug Express	-	2	-	-	8
7022 Nizamuddin-Hyderabad Dakshin Express	-	12	-	-	67
7058 Bilaspur-Cochin Express	-	2	-	-	24
7092 Varanasi-Hyderabad Express	-	2	-	-	4
7384 Gondia-Kolhapur Maharashtra Express	-	46	-	-	504
8001 Mumbai-Howrah Mail	-	14	-	16	73
8002 Howrah-Mumbai Mail	6	8	-	4	58
8029 Mumbai-Howrah Express	-	4	-	-	94
8030 Howrah-Mumbai Express	-	-	-	-	188
8034 Howrah-Ahmedabad Express	-	5	-	-	161
8226 Bhopal-Bilaspur Mahanadi Express	-	8	-	-	70
8237 Bilaspur-Amritsar Chattisgarh Express	-	-	-	-	20
8404 Ahmedabad-Puri Express	-	6	-	-	72
9767 Chennai-Jaipur Express	-	2	-	-	16
9768 Jaipur-Chennai Express	-	-	-	4	21
1029 Pune-Howrah Azad Hind Express	-	6	-	10	71

1	2	3	4	5	6
2104 Nagpur-Mumbai Samarasata Express	18	135	-	-	320
2433 Chennai-Nizamuddin Rajdhani Express	-	4	-	6	-
2804 Nizamuddin-Vishakhapatnam Swarnajayanti Express	-	4	-	-	20
6039 Chennai-Varanasi Ganga Kaveri Express	-	2	2	-	20
6317 Kanyakumari-Jammu Himsagar Express	-	-	-	-	10
8403 Puri-Ahmedabad Express	-	4	-	6	14
8543 Visakhapatnam-Nizamuddin Samta Express	-	-	-	-	14
1030 Howrah-Pune Azad Hind Express	-	-	-	-	72
2101 Mumbai-Howrah Jnanesvari Express	2	14	-	-	24
2102 Howrah-Mumbai Jnanesvari Express	2	8	-	-	10
2429 Bangalore-Nizamuddin Rajdhani Express	-	3	-	-	20
2803 Vishakhapatnam-Nizamuddin Swarnajayanti Exp.	-	2	-	-	20
5221 Cochin-Barauni Express	-	2	-	-	6
6031 Chennai-Jammu Tawi Andaman Express	-	-	-	-	12
7089 Cochin-Varanasi Express	-	-	-	-	12
8225 Bilaspur-Bhopal Mahanadi Express	-	4	-	-	40
2407 Nagpur-Nizamuddin Gondwana Express	-	46	-	64	499
6040 Varanasi-Chennai Ganga Kaveri Express	-	2	2	-	81
6094 Lucknow-Chennai Express	-	-	-	-	18
7081 Cochin-Indore Ahliyanagari Express	-	-	-	-	35
7091 Secunderabad-Varanasi Express	-	-	-	-	6
9776 Jaipur-Bangalore Express	-	-	-	-	48
6043 Chennai-Patna Express	-	2	2	-	4
6687 Mangalore-Jammu Navyug Express	-	2	2	-	8
7090 Varanasi Cochin Express	-	2	-	-	14
8405 Puri-Ahmedabad Express	-	4	-	-	14
2644 Nizamuddin-Trivandrum Express	-	2	-	-	8
8406 Ahmedabad-Puri Express	-	6	-	-	72

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) A representation was received from Bhartiya Yatri Kendra on 17.02.1999 regarding allotment of station quota and emergency quota at Nagpur by certain trains.

(d) Periodical review of reservation quota at various stations is done by the Railways. Consequently, during the year 1999-2000 at Nagpur additional quota of 532 berths was provided.

Deployment of IAF in UN Peace Keeping Force in West African Country

5136. DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Indian Air Force has joined the United National Peace Keeping Force in the strife-torn West African country;

(b) If so, the details thereof; and

(c) the number of contingent and personnel deployed in the said force?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) Yes, Sir. IAF has sent a contingent to Sierra Leone in West African to form part of United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL).

(b) and (c) The contingent comprises of :-

(i) four Mi-8 helicopters,

(ii) four Chetak helicopters,

(iii) 149 personnel, and

(iv) associated administrative and operational infrastructure.

Provision of Ceremonial Bodyguard for Chief of Army Staff

5137. DR. S. VENUGOPAL : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item appearing in *Asian Age* dated March 31, 2000 captioned "Gen. Malik wants own Ceremonial bodyguard";

(b) If so, the facts thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FER-

NANDES) : (a) to (c) Government have seen the media report. Personnel drawn from the Corps of Military Police have been assigned the duty of security of Chief of Army Staff since 1996. Government have not sanctioned any special allowance for such personnel.

Community Irrigation Projects

5138. SHRI ARJUN SETHI : Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of Community Irrigation Projects (CIPs) and Water Harvesting Structures (WHS) constructed in the districts of Bhadrak and Balasore of Orissa;

(b) the total number of Creek Irrigation Projects sanctioned/constructed and funds made available during the last three years;

(c) the total areas in hectares brought under irrigation and the total number of people below the poverty line benefited therefrom by each scheme, category-wise; and

(d) the steps taken to preserve these projects so as to get benefits in future?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SUNDAR LAL PATWA) : (a) to (d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Transit Accommodations Facilities at Airports

5139. SHRI THIRUNAVUKARASU : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) the details of airports where tele-check in and transit accommodation facilities are available at present; and

(b) the details of airports where the above facilities are proposed to be provided in the near future?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) and (b) Retiring rooms are available as transit accommodation for passengers having confirmed air tickets for owned air travel within 24 hours of their arrival by any flight at the airport. This facility is available at all the five international airports and is provided to passengers on first-cum-first serve basis on payment. There is no proposal to provide this facility at other airports at present. At present, tele-check in facilities are available in Mumbai, Delhi, Chennai, Calcutta, Hyderabad and Bangalore.

Foreign Visits of Service Chiefs

5140. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Chief of Army visited a number of countries recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the purpose of the visit alongwith the achievements derived therefrom;

(c) whether the Chiefs of Army, Navy and Air Force have decided to undertake a series of goodwill visits to various countries; and

(d) If so, the action plan formulated therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) to (d) The Chief of the Army staff visited the following countries in the recent past :

(i)	USA & Honolulu	8 to 17 November 1999
(ii)	France	6 to 10 December 1999
(iii)	Myanmar	6 & 7 January 2000
(iv)	U.K.	6 to 11 March 2000

2. Visits of Service Chiefs to foreign countries at the invitation of their counterparts are undertaken primarily to generate goodwill with friendly foreign countries in the context of our overall national defence policy. Accordingly, Chiefs of Army, Navy and Air Force will be visiting different foreign countries in the future also after clearance is received from MEA and after mutual consultation with the Armed Forces of the countries to be visited.

Privatisation of Airports Authority of India

5141. SHRI CHINTAMAN WANAGA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have decided to privatise Airports Authority of India Limited;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have identified the operative areas of privatisation;

(d) if so, the time schedule drawn up to implement the decision;

(e) whether some indigenous companies of country are likely to take active part in it; and

(f) If so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) to (c) No, Sir. It has however been decided to restructure the airports of Airports Authority of India (AAI) as

and when found suitable through long term lease. At present, the existing airports at Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai and Calcutta are being taken up for this exercise. The long term lease would exclude functions such as air traffic/air space management, customs, immigration, security, public health and plant and animal quarantine.

(d) AAI has entered into a contract for financial consultancy services to advise on the process of privatisation. Legal consultants are also being appointed.

(e) and (f) It is only after the report of the consultants is received and the bids are submitted by the prospective lessees that the position of participating companies will be known.

Suggestions for Improvement in Railway Services

5142. SHRI AJAY SINGH CHAUTALA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item captioned "Railways think-tank suggests ways to improve services" appearing in *The Indian Express* dated April 2, 2000;

(b) if so, the facts of the matter reported therein and the reaction of the Government in regard thereto;

(c) whether the Government propose to implement the suggestions given by the expert committee to improve railway services; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. Indian Railways have a regular machinery for identifying areas requiring improvements in railway functioning and implement new schemes when the feasibility is established. Improvement of overall functioning of the Railway system is a continuous process. Suggestions received from various quarters as in case of Surya Foundation are always considered and necessary changes are effected as and when required. In fact, many of the recommendations now suggested by Surya Foundation have already been independently considered and acted upon. Also, a Railway Expert Group headed by Dr. Rakesh Mohan, Director General, National Council of Applied Economic Research is focussing many of these issues in depth. The Terms of Reference for the Expert Group are as under :

(a) To estimate the financing requirements of an expansion and upgrading programme for Indian Railways that would optimise the use of the rail transport mode and support a rate of traffic growth commensurate to the growth rate of the economy; and

- (b) To identify the sources of funding of the estimated investments over a fifteen year period, the fiscal and policy measures needed for accessing the fund sources and priorities in investments;
- (c) To study models of structure and ownership of rail transport facilities devised and functioning in developed countries and the recommend on their relevance to Indian Railways' requirements so as to facilitate the objectives mentioned above; and
- (d) To recommend on suitable regulatory arrangements that would facilitate orderly expansion of the system, promote the desired degree of competition and protect the users' right to quality service.

Rush of Passengers in Trains

5143. SHRI R.L. BHATIA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government are aware of the heavy rush of passengers in almost all the trains and passengers travel in standing through out their journey;
- (b) whether Government are also aware that most of the passengers prefer to travel by bus where they are provided comfortable seats; and
- (c) If so, the steps taken by the Government to reduce overcrowding and make rail journey comfortable?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) The number of passengers increases on certain sectors and in certain trains during peak seasons, festival days and holidays.

- (b) Bus journey is preferred for short distances while the long journeys are preferred by rail.
- (c) To cater to the extra demand during the peak season such as vacations and festival holidays, special trains are run and capacity of the existing trains is increased by augmenting with additional coaches to the possible extent. The wait list for all the trains is monitored.

Cell for Library Services

5144. SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO :

SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB :

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Fifth Central Pay Commission had recommended for creation of a cell to look after all the matters related to libraries and the proposed Central Library Service under his Department;

- (b) if so, the present status thereof;

(c) whether the cell has submitted any report/action plan so far; and

- (d) If not, the time by which it will submit the report?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) Yes, Sir. The Vth Central Pay Commission has in para 55.160 of their report recommended the creation of a Cell to look after all the matters relating to various Govt. Libraries and also the matter relating to Central Library Services.

(b) An ad-hoc Cell has been created by Deptt. of Culture on 13.1.99. The posts required for proper functioning of the Cell will be created in consultation with Deptt. of Expenditure. The matter has already been referred to the Deptt. of Expenditure.

(c) The ad-hoc Cell has processed the various recommendations of the Pay Commission and prepared a draft report which is in the process of finalization.

(d) Staffing of various Govt. libraries follow different patterns. Before a Central Library Service is constituted, discussion with various Deptts./Ministries will be required so that a uniform structure is evolved. The final decision on the constitution of a Central Library Service can be taken within this financial year. The background work for the constitution of Central Library Service has already been done in the ad-hoc Library Cell.

Flights between Germany and India

5145. SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether due to inadequate air links between India and Germany, tourists from Germany to India has been decreased; and

- (b) if so, the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) and (b) Although an increase in tourist arrival from Germany has been registered till 1997, followed by a drop only during 1998, the existing air seat capacity on Germany-India sector is adequate to take care of direct traffic requirements.

[Translation]

Camera to keep a Watch over Corrupt Officers

5146. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government propose to install cameras at Mumbai and other airports of the country to keep a check on the corrupt officers; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) and (b) There is a proposal to instal surveillance camera system at an estimated cost of Rs. 6 crores fully covering all domestic and international terminals of the Indira Gandhi International Airports at Delhi, Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport at Mumbai, Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose International Airport at Calcutta, Chennai International airport and Trivandrum International airport. The work is likely to be completed by December, 2000.

Delegation of Powers to Panchayats

5147. SHRI RAJESH RANJAN PAPPU YADAV : Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether any legislation was enacted to delegate administrative and financial powers to the Panchayats two years ago;

(b) if so, the extent to which the said legislation has been implemented, State-wise; and

(c) the names of the States wherein the Finance Commissions have been set up and the number of such Commissions which have submitted their reports?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SUNDAR LAL PATWA) : (a) and (b) No such legislation was enacted by the Government of India.

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

Statement

Status of SFC Reports

S.No.	States/UTs	Report of SFC	Acceptance of Report
1	2	3	4
1	Andhra Pradesh	Received	Major recommendations accepted.
2	Arunachal Pradesh	—	—
3	Assam	Received	Partially accepted
4	Bihar	Report awaited	—
5	Goa	Report awaited	—
6	Gujarat	Received	Not placed before Legislature
7	Haryana	Received	Cabinet Sub-Committee is examining it.
8	Himachal Pradesh	Received	Accepted
9	J & K	Not applicable	—
10	Karnataka	Received	Major recommendations accepted.
11	Kerala	Received	Accepted
12	Madhya Pradesh	Received	Accepted
13	Maharashtra	Received	Major recommendations accepted.
14	Manipur	Received	Accepted
15	Meghalaya	Not applicable	—
16	Mizoram	Not applicable	—

1	2	3	4
18	Orissa	Receive	Accepted
19	Punjab	Received	Accepted
20	Rajasthan	Received	Accepted
21	Sikkim	Report awaited	—
22	Tamil Nadu	Received	Accepted
23	Tripura	Received	Accepted
24	Uttar Pradesh	Received	Major recommendations accepted.
25	West Bengal	Received	Accepted
26	A&N Islands	Received	Under consideration.
27	Chandigarh	Received	—
28	D&N Haveli	Received	Under consideration.
29	Daman & Diu	Received	Under consideration.
30	NCT Delhi	Not applicable	—
31	Lakshadweep	Received	Under consideration.
32	Pondicherry	Report awaited	—

[English]

Losses incurred by Domestic Airports

5148. SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) the total losses incurred by each domestic airports in the country during the last three years; year-wise;

(b) the reasons for the losses; and

(c) the steps the Government propose to take to cut the losses?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) and (b) Airports Authority of India is consistently making profit amounting to Rs. 316.18 crores, 335.78 crores and 338.87 crores during the years 1997-1998, 1998-1999 and 1999-2000 respectively. However the losses incurred at the Domestic airports during the above period amount to Rs. 81.97 crores, Rs. 132.02 crores and Rs. 149.57 crores respectively. The main reasons for losses are :-

(i) Airports are capital intensive and involve high cost of maintenance and basic services like fire ground equipments and installation etc. have to be maintained even if there are no flights; and

(ii) Lack of adequate number of flights result in drop of both traffic as well as non-traffic revenues.

(c) Airports Authority of India has decided to hand over non-operational small airports in the country to State Governments on mutually agreed terms and conditions for development and use for civil aviation purposes.

Development of Shimla Airport

5149. COL. (RETD.) DR. DHANIRAM SHANDIL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is proposed to upgrade Shimla airport with a view to operating more flights to different destinations;

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

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Upgradation of Shimla Airport is not possible due to topographical conditions as the airport exists at a table

top. However, the existing runway is being extended by 300 ft. and runway surface is planned to be strengthened to facilitate operation of an ATR type of aircraft at an estimated cost of Rs. 1.83 crores.

Survey for Extension of Railway Line upto Umuri

5150. SHRI PARSURAM MAJHI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any survey had been conducted for extension of narrow gauge railway line from Raipur to Umuri (Orissa) via Likma (M.P.);

(b) If so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is any proposal to convert above line to broad gauge; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) A survey conducted for the Conversion of the existing Raipur-Dhamtari Narrow Gauge line into Broad Gauge had revealed the cost of the project as Rs. 68.77 crore at 1997-98 prices with a negative Rate of Return (ROR). In view of the unremunerative nature of the line as well as acute resource constraints, it has not been found possible to consider taking up this Conversion work for the present.

Design of Railway Coaches

5151. DR. C. KRISHNAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to improve the present design of the railway coaches;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of coaches presently being attached to Superfast trains which have outlived its life and are in a bad shape; and

(d) the steps taken to replace these coaches?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) and (b) The present design of coaches was adopted in early 1950s. Since then, a number of design improvements have been continuously incorporated over the years, to make the coaches more comfortable, reliable and safe. Some of the recent improvements made and under implementation now are given below:

- (i) Introduction of Bogle mounted Air Brakes.
- (ii) UIC vestibules.
- (iii) Introduction of Roof mounted Air-conditioning units
- (iv) Change over from 24 volts to 110 volts train lighting system.
- (v) Polyvinyl flooring & Stainless steel toilet inlays.
- (vi) Use of Non-wood materials for coach construction.
- (vii) Introduction of Fire retardant curtains and furnishings, etc.

However, the present coach technology, which has been stretched to its limits, is unable to cope up with the ever increasing coach utilisation and customer aspirations. In order to make a quantum jump, Indian Railways have entered into a transfer of technology contract with M/s. ALSTOM LHB of Germany for manufacturing in the Railway's Production Units modern, light weight, stainless steel new generation coaches of latest technology with improved safety and riding comfort.

(c) Nil.

(d) Does not arise.

Issue Price of Foodgrains to West Bengal

5152. SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) the issue price of sugar, wheat and rice to West Bengal in 1998, 1999 and upto March, 2000;

(b) whether the Government have received any complaint that in the Statutory rationing area and modified rationing area of West Bengal, poor quality of wheat at an exorbitantly high price than the issue price plus transport cost is offered to the consumer causing hardship on them; and

(c) If so, the details thereof and steps taken to prevent it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN) : (a) The Central Issue Prices (CIPs) of wheat and rice during the last three years have been as under:-

1. **Wheat :** (Rs. per quintal)

Period	BPL	APL
1.6.1997 to 28.1.1999	250	450
29.1.1999 to 31.3.1999	250	650
1.4.1999 to 31.3.2000	250	682

2. **Rice :**

Period	Common		Grade 'A'	
	BPL	APL	BPL	APL
1.12.97 to 28.1.99	350	—	350	650
29.1.99 to 1.3.2000	350	—	350	905

3. **Sugar :**

The retail issue price of sugar is uniform in the country. The Retail Issue Price of sugar has been as under :

	(Rs. per Kg.)
With effect from 1.10.1997	11.40
With effect from 15.2.1999	12.00
With effect from 1.3.2000	13.00

(b) No, Sir. However, under the Open Market Sale Scheme of wheat, the issue prices for the East Zone were fixed at Rs. 725 per quintal, which was reduced to Rs. 697 per quintal from 3rd December, 1999. The issue prices under this Scheme have since been increased to Rs. 900 per quintal with effect from 1st April, 2000 for all zones.

(c) Does not arise.

Production and Requirement of Edible Oils

5153. SHRI ANANT GUDHE :

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE :

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

(a) the production and requirement of edible oils in the country during the last three years and current year, year-wise;

(b) whether there is any shortage of edible oil in the country;

(c) if so, the details thereof during the last three years, year-wise;

(d) whether the Government have formulated any scheme to increase the production of edible oils; and

(e) If so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD) : (a) to (c) There is a gap between demand and supply of edible oils in the country. The gap is being met by import of edible oils. Net availability of edible oils from domestic sources, import and actual consumption during last three years have been as under :-

Year	Net availability of edible oils from domestic sources	Imports	Actual consump.
1996-97	70.89	17.50	88.83
1997-98	62	20.83	82.83
1998-99	72.60	43.93	116.53
1999-2000	64.78 (E)	36 (E)	100.78 (E)

E-Estimated.

(d) and (e) Edible Oils are produced from oilseeds. A Centrally Sponsored Oilseeds Production Programme (OPP) is being implemented by the Agriculture Ministry from the date of inception of the Technology Mission i.e. 1986-87. During the year 1999-2000, the scheme is in implementation in 25 States covering 395 selected districts and is being funded on 75:25 share basis between Central Government and the State Governments. Under the Scheme, financial assistance is provided for the critical inputs like production and distribution of seeds, distribution of seed minikits, sprinkler sets, improved farm implements, gypsum/pyrites, micro-nutrients, rhizobium culture etc. to the farmers through State Governments. In addition to this, frontline and general demonstrations are also organised on the farmer's fields to disseminate the improved production and protection technologies.

[Translation]

Manufacturing of Passenger Aircraft

5154. SHRI MANIBHAI RAMJIBHAI CHAUDHRI : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have signed any agreement for manufacturing and development of passenger aircraft in collaboration with some other country; and

(b) If so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) No, Sir.

- (b) Does not arise.

[English]

**Deploying of Class IV Employees at
Railway Officers' Bungalow**

5155. SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether illegal practice of deploying Class IV staff for domestic work in bungalow of Railway Officers have been made a regular feature which puts railways into a loss of crores of rupees;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to conduct secret raids to nip this evil in the bud; and

(c) If not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) There are no instructions for deployment of Group 'D' (Class-IV) staff for domestic work at Bungalows of Railway Officers'. In case such instances come to the notice of the administration, suitable action is taken.

(b) and (c) The Railway Vigilance organisation investigate whenever such complaints are received and necessary action is taken thereon.

Inter Rail Links in NCR

5156. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a proposal of Northern Railway to connect the towns and cities falling in NCR to tackle the growing traffic;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the project would be finalised?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) to (c) No, Sir. However, on the request of National Capital Region Planning Board, Northern Railway had sponsored a survey, through RITES, for identification of Rail projects for commuter Traffic in National Capital Region and Delhi. On receipt of the RITES' report, the National Capital Region Planning Board has written to the State Governments of Delhi, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh to agree to partial funding of the projects proposed in the survey report. This survey presumes that the Delhi Mass Rapid Transit System (Delhi Metro) - Phase I will be executed as sanctioned by the Government. But, the Delhi Metro Rail Corporation Ltd. (DMRC), which has been assigned the task

of implementing the project, is contemplating major changes in alignment and gauge. These changes, if eventually approved by Government, will render the aforesaid survey infructuous, and a fresh survey will then have to be undertaken.

Accident Claims

5157. SHRI A.F. GOLAM OSMANI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the amount of compensation paid to the victims of rail accidents during the last three years;

(b) the number of cases of compensation have been pending for the last three years;

(c) whether the Government have received any complaint regarding corruption in settlement of claims; and

(d) if so, the action taken by the Government against the guilty officials and the steps taken for speedy settlement of claims?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) In the last three years, compensation amounting to Rs. 19.27 crores has been paid to the victims of train accidents.

(b) The year-wise pendency of accident claims cases is as under :-

Year	Number of cases pending
1997-98	117
1998-99	436
1999-2000	815

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

**Guidelines for appointment of Agents
for Outdoor Booking**

5158. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) the guidelines fixed for appointment of outdoor air booking agents under the liberalisation scheme;

(b) whether the Government contemplate to appoint outdoor booking agents at Buldhana district where the world known pilgrimage centre 'Shegaon' is located; and

(c) if so, the time by which the Government propose to appoint such agents?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) Air India does not appoint outdoor air booking agents, Indian Airlines have a set of guidelines in this regard, effective 1st July, 1999 which, inter alia, stipulate that the applicant must be a citizen of India, an income-tax assessee and should have a minimum space of 150 sq. feet for this purpose with a minimum of one full time staff and telephone/fax facilities etc.

(b) At present no application for outdoor air booking Agency from this area is pending with Indian Airlines.

(c) Does not arise.

Curbing of Expenditure

5159. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Railways save Rs. 850 crores" appearing in 'The Hindustan Times' dated March, 10, 2000 at page no. 12;

(b) If so, the factual position in this regard;

(c) whether her Ministry has taken additional steps to curb more expenditure in Railways;

(d) If so, the details thereof and short terms and long terms strategy chalked out by the Railways in this regard;

(e) whether any target has been fixed for current year; and

(f) If so, the details thereof?

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

(b) and (c) The post-budgetary developments of levy of cess and hike in price of diesel oil, retrospective revision of tariff by some of the State Electricity Boards, higher rates of incentive bonus to workshop staff, revision of family planning allowance, damage caused by Orissa cyclone etc. had put an additional burden of around Rs. 900 cr. on the Ordinary Working Expenses of the Railways during 1999-2000. The Railways have been able to absorb the impact of these post-budgetary increases within the existing provisions for Ordinary Working Expenses through implementation of an Action Plan aimed at reducing the expenditure through economy and austerity measures.

(d) Reduction of expenditure as compared to the budget estimates has been taken into account in staff costs, cost of materials and other miscellaneous items, in respect of

fuel the increase on account of revision of duty and prices has been partially compensated by reduction in consumption.

The long term strategy of the Railways is based upon better man-power management for improving per capita productivity, improving specific fuel consumption and asset utilisation, better inventory control and austerity in areas of hospitality, publicity, advertisements, etc. Further, expenditure management by regular monitoring against monthly targets based upon spending limits and by regulation of cash outgo is being followed to enforce budgetary control.

(e) and (f) The Railways will continue to implement economy and austerity measures in the current year too. The Zonal Railways' budget allotment for 2000-01 under Ordinary Working Expenses has tentatively been reduced by 5%. A strict control over expenditure will be maintained.

Passengers Facilities at Airports

5160. SHRI SAHIB SINGH : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether any survey has been conducted to assess the physical, social, economical, ecological infrastructure and facilities available to passengers at national/International airports in India and the extent to which these facilities are actually available to the passengers;

(b) whether any perspective plan has been drawn to provide the best available facilities, comparable to "International standards" at airports in India; and

(c) If so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) to (c) Airports Authority of India (AAI) gets conducted periodical surveys on the facilities provided at the airports through an independent agency commissioned by AAI to check the levels of customer satisfaction. Moreover, upgradation and improvement of various passenger facilities at airports is a continuous process. It is the constant endeavour of the Government to provide the best facilities at its airports conforming to International Civil Aviation Organisation guidelines and standards.

Off Loading of Passengers from AI Flights

5161. SHRI JITENDRA PRASADA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Air India is initiating steps to put in place a new space management programme to minimise the recurring problem of off loading the over booked passengers and guaranteed yields through revenue passengers instead of losing it by default;

(b) If so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the services of some well known international agencies are proposed to be taken who could provide expertise on passenger reservation and streamline the system; and

(d) If so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Air India plans to shortly introduce an Automated Space Revenue Management System. The new system will be fed with historical data, which will result in minimising off loadings and overbookings and will also help in enhancing revenues.

(c) and (d) Passenger Reservations are handled by the Unisys Reservation System. Modifications are carried out as and when required to improve the efficiency and streamline the system.

Persons killed by Army in Anantnag

5162. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that innocent persons have recently been killed by the Army in the name of militants in Anantnag;

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

(c) whether any inquiry has been conducted into the matter; and

(d) if so, the outcome thereof and the follow-up action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) to (d) A specific search operation, based on information provided by J & K Police, was launched jointly by Rashtriya Rifles and J & K Police in Anantnag District on 25.3.2000 in which five terrorists were killed. Five Assault Rifles, twelve magazines, six detonators (two with timed devices), two grenade launcher attachments, two hand grenades and some ammunition were recovered.

An inquiry into the incident has been ordered by the State Government.

Subsidy under SGSY

5163. COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY : Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the amount of subsidy under the Swamjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana has been increased from Rs. 6000/- to Rs. 10,000/-; and

(b) if so, the time by which the Government are likely to release additional funds to the tune of Rs. 80 to 85 crores to Rajasthan as special Central Assistance to implement the aforesaid orders?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SUNDAR LAL PATWA) : (a) Under SGSY, subsidy has been kept uniform at 30% of the project cost, subject to a maximum of Rs. 7,500/-. In respect of SC/STs, however, these are 50% and Rs. 10,000 respectively. For group of Swarozgaris i.e. Self Help Groups (SHGs), the subsidy is at 50% of the cost of the scheme, subject to a ceiling of Rs. 1.25 lakh. There is no monetary limit on subsidy for irrigation projects.

(b) During 1999-2000, the entire Central Allocation of Rs. 3566.32 lakhs was released to the Government of Rajasthan.

Import of Edible Oil

5164. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have any proposal to develop a "quantitative forecasting model" to determine the quantity of edible oil to be imported on a periodic basis to avoid a glut situation;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the time by which it is likely to become operational;

(c) whether the statistics collected by State Governments will find a place in this model;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) If not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

(e) Ministry of Agriculture makes projection of estimated oilseed production in the country on year to year basis. In view of the continuing gap between demand and supply of edible oils, import of edible oils has been placed on OGL. Government reviews the price and quantity of imports of edible oils from time to time and adjusts the import tariff in order to prevent over-import and depression of prices for the domestic farmers and industry.

Unpleasant Flight to India

5165. SHRI SHIVAJI MANE :

SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI :

SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE :

SHRI G.J. JAVIYA :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "An unpleasant flight to India" appeared in the 'Hindu' dated April 1, 2000;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have made any inquiry in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action taken or proposed to be taken by the Government against the guilty officials so that such type of incident not occur in future?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) to (e) Yes, Sir. Due to oversight, Two passengers (staff of Iberia Airline) holding tickets for Paris/Delhi (staff on leave - non-revenue ticket) on AI 140/25th March, 2000 were booked to Mumbai and their baggage tagged to Mumbai. This was detected by the passengers on Board. However, due to security reasons, the passengers as well as their baggages were deplaned at Mumbai. The passengers then bought tickets for Bombay/Delhi sector to travel to their ultimate destination. The mistake committed could have been detected at the check-in-point either by the check-in-staff or by the passengers themselves on verifying their boarding cards. Since Air France is Air India's handling agents at Paris, the matter has been taken up with them to ensure such incidents do not recur.

Demands of Airhostesses

5166. DR. A.D.K. JAYASEELAN : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether there has been persistent demand to increase the retirement age of Air Hostesses in the national carriers to 58 as in the case of male crew members;

(b) if so, the reasons for not acceding to the demand; and

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

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) The retirement age of Air Hostesses in the national carriers is 58 years which is at par with male crew members.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Retirement Age

5167. SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Indian Airlines is likely to incur crores of rupees consequent upon the lowering of retirement age to 58 years;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the number of officials likely to retire as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. Indian Airlines is likely to save an amount of Rs. 193 crores over the period of five years commencing from the year 2000-01 on account of net saving in pay and allowances due to rolling back of retirement age from 60 to 58 years.

(c) 859 employees of Indian Airlines have already been retired by 31.3.2000 as a result of reduction in the age of superannuation in the company.

Information Through Internet

5168. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA :

SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH :

SHRI KRISHNAMRAJU :

DR. ASHOK PATEL :

SHRI RAMPAL SINGH :

SHRI C. KUPPUSAMI :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Railways propose to link various railway stations through internet to speed up exchange of information;

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

(c) the time by which this work is likely to be completed; and

(d) the amount likely to be incurred thereon?

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

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Basic Amenities in Rural Areas

5169. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK :

SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL :

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the plan for providing basic amenities in rural areas of the country; and

(b) the amount allocated/sanctioned for its implementation during each of the last three years, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SUNDAR LAL PATWA) : (a) and (b) Basic amenities in rural areas of the country are provided under the Basic Minimum Services (BMS) Programmes launched in the year 1996. The objective of these programme is to provide minimum basic services to all the people in the country living below poverty line both in urban and rural areas in a time bound manner. The seven basic services identified for priority attention were Provision of Safe Drinking Water, Primary Health facilities, Universal Primary Education, Shelter for the poor, Connectivity to all unconnected villages and habitations, Nutrition and Streamlining Public Distribution System. The amount of Additional Central Assistance (ACA) given to the States and UTs in the years 1997-98 to 1999-2000 is indicated in Statement-I enclosed.

In addition, Ministry of Rural Development is implementing the following schemes viz. Jawahar Gram Samridhi Yojana (JGSY), Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS), Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY), Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP) and Central Rural Sanitation Programme (CRSP), which also provide basic amenities in rural areas of the country. The total amount allocated for these programmes during 1997-98 to 1999-2000, State-wise is indicated in the Statement-II enclosed.

The Government have decided to introduce a new scheme Pradhan Mantri Gramodaya Yojana (PMGY) from 1st April, 2000, in order to achieve the objective of sustainable human development at the village level. PMGY would have two components, namely, Rural Roads and other Programmes of PMGY, which include primary Health, Primary Education, Rural Shelter, Rural Drinking Water and Nutrition.

Statement-I

Allocation of Additional Central Assistance for the Basic Minimum Services Programme to the States/UTs for the year 1997-98, 98-99, 99-2000

(Rs. in Crore)

Sl.	State/UT	Additional Central Assistance		
		1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000
1	Andhra Pradesh	170.59	179.61	196.34
2	Arunachal Pradesh	62.18	90.47	71.57
3	Assam	163.80	172.46	188.53
4	Bihar	364.07	383.32	419.04
5	Goa	1.55	3.63	3.63
6	Gujarat	72.58	76.42	113.54
7	Haryana	19.08	40.09	26.96
8	Himachal Pradesh	64.41	113.45	109.14
9	Jammu & Kashmir	156.52	164.80	180.15
10	Karnataka	99.42	104.68	114.43
11	Kerala	78.69	102.85	110.57
12	Madhya Pradesh	210.00	236.10	265.34
13	Maharashtra	132.23	159.22	152.19
14	Manipur	44.30	64.30	72.64
15	Meghalaya	37.03	38.99	63.62
16	Mizoram	36.87	49.96	51.43
17	Nagaland	37.53	49.51	67.19
18	Orissa	147.45	164.25	190.31
19	Punjab	35.59	36.94	40.37
20	Rajasthan	132.98	140.01	153.05
21	Sikkim	25.65	47.25	49.76
22	Tamil Nadu	119.80	141.13	137.88
23	Tripura	46.37	55.37	59.92
24	Uttar Pradesh	456.84	500.99	575.81
25	West Bengal	203.57	214.33	234.30
26	A&N Islands	13.19	17.17	15.19
27	Chandigarh	5.87	6.18	6.76
28	D&N Haveli	1.71	1.80	1.97
29	Daman & Diu	1.36	1.43	1.57
30	Delhi	14.20	14.95	16.34
31	Lakshadweep	2.27	2.39	2.62
32	Pondicherry	6.13	7.45	7.06
Total		2963.83	3381.50	3699.22

Statement-II

Total amount Central allocation for JGSY, IAY, EAS, ARWSP and CRSP during 1997-98 to 1999-2000 State-wise

(Rs. in lakh)

S.No.	Name of State/UT	JGSY			IAY			EAS			ARWSP			CRSP		
		1997-98*	1998-99	1999-2000	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
1	Andhra Pradesh	15528.39	11703.04	9318.52	8970.34	8370.41	11036.00	16740.00	16740.00	10289.00	7964.00	9981.36	9143.26	842.00	842.12	570.77
2	Arunchal Pradesh	159.37	257.32	204.90	80.71	184.03	754.00	1890.00	2140.00	228.00	1444.00	3623.00	2476.00	15.00	45.00	30.00
3	Assam	5111.22	6686.18	5324.02	2952.83	4781.82	15659.00	8592.00	11018.00	5678.00	2438.00	6120.00	4180.00	243.00	559.00	792.82
4	Bihar	30458.80	38340.77	30528.68	17597.09	27420.52	39598.00	18234.00	18598.00	33705.00	9380.00	11788.50	9380.00	1129.00	564.42	1586.89
5	Goa	172.20	172.20	137.12	67.83	19.20	68.00	140.00	180.00	24.00	227.00	283.75	352.92	9.00	9.36	6.48
6	Gujarat	5689.44	4405.58	3508.04	3282.97	3150.78	3243.00	4320.00	4410.00	3673.00	4672.00	5680.51	8028.52	290.00	200.00	250.00
7	Haryana	1389.22	2591.86	2063.84	790.96	1853.66	1171.00	2670.00	1690.00	2278.00	1746.00	2180.91	1883.91	105.00	104.84	179.05
8	Himachal Pradesh	547.18	1091.54	868.16	276.72	780.64	515.00	2550.00	2050.00	960.00	1568.00	1967.07	2275.77	101.00	101.08	70.56
9	Jammu & Kashmir	1111.89	1350.93	1075.71	562.86	966.16	618.00	4760.00	4760.00	1186.00	4395.00	5514.58	5381.44	140.00	140.40	87.86
10	Karnataka	10427.12	8638.13	7037.56	6024.43	6320.85	5898.00	10600.00	10350.00	7769.00	7325.00	9177.40	8402.25	520.00	520.43	461.14
11	Kerala	3793.66	3685.84	3157.73	2191.85	2836.20	3552.00	3689.00	3961.00	3466.00	3724.00	4673.49	4307.86	401.00	400.82	298.28
12	Madhya Pradesh	19677.78	19433.93	15474.89	11368.58	13698.74	9183.00	21507.85	22033.00	17084.00	8817.00	11063.07	9444.68	751.00	750.89	876.21
13	Maharashtra	16927.42	17470.82	13911.52	9779.75	12494.77	10585.00	11334.51	8167.17	15358.00	10802.00	13301.46	13614.41	822.00	821.83	804.89
14	Manipur	204.27	448.24	356.92	103.77	320.57	693.00	810.00	890.00	394.00	529.00	1330.00	907.00	30.00	65.00	52.98
15	Meghalaya	238.02	502.19	399.88	121.07	359.16	1057.00	220.00	610.00	441.00	568.00	1425.00	974.00	32.00	70.00	57.48
16	Mizoram	100.69	116.21	92.53	50.73	83.11	260.00	800.00	800.00	102.00	406.00	1018.00	896.00	9.00	30.00	14.79

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
17 Nagaland	256.21	344.48	274.30	128.14	246.36	653.00	2100.00	2100.00	2100.00	2100.00	303.00	422.00	1058.00	724.00	19.00	48.00	36.84
18 Orissa	12997.20	13396.90	10659.61	7277.74	9574.03	9154.00	14721.58	12752.00	11768.00	4173.00	5236.47	4847.93	451.00	451.17	527.98		
19 Punjab	973.75	1259.63	1003.01	582.65	900.86	745.00	1840.00	2720.00	1107.00	1330.00	1668.62	1720.64	107.00	108.71	155.13		
20 Rajasthan	8175.55	6711.00	5343.85	4723.84	4799.63	3233.00	9265.00	8635.00	5900.00	8732.00	10954.54	12676.22	398.00	397.52	476.23		
21 Sikkim	80.28	126.66	102.45	47.27	92.02	122.00	220.00	320.00	113.00	372.00	434.00	460.83	9.00	40.00	14.70		
22 Tamil Nadu	14037.96	10349.85	8240.50	8110.20	7401.30	5946.00	18720.00	18720.00	9098.00	6314.00	7922.54	6534.66	680.00	679.56	667.17		
23 Tripura	265.32	809.31	644.43	134.90	578.80	1433.00	1440.00	1440.00	711.00	503.00	1262.00	862.00	49.00	120.00	82.92		
24 Uttar Pradesh	37841.25	42194.35	33598.18	21863.19	30176.52	23565.00	31448.06	35153.65	37092.00	14775.00	18537.93	14775.00	1595.00	1594.99	1982.33		
25 West Bengal	13916.74	14878.87	11846.03	8038.87	10639.62	12064.00	7760.00	8270.00	13078.00	5704.00	7169.63	7008.15	608.00	304.21	852.80		
26 And Islands	94.31	117.89	93.87	47.27	44.40	129.00	80.00	40.00	55.00	12.50	12.50	12.50	5.00	5.00	5.00		
27 Chandigarh	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	5.00	5.00		
28 Daman & Diu	30.16	37.70	30.02	14.99	1.82	27.00	0.00	0.00	2.00	12.50	12.50	12.50	5.00	5.00	5.00		
30 Delhi	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00		
31 Lakshadweep	47.28	59.10	47.06	24.21	3.85	3.00	0.00	100.00	4.00	12.50	12.50	12.50	5.00	5.00	5.00		
32 Pondicherry	82.34	115.42	91.91	47.27	56.57	67.00	60.00	0.00	66.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00		
Total	200000.00	207643.56	165500.00	115300.00	148400.00	159299.00	196672.00	196645.62	182410.00	108190.00	143611.83	130112.47	9160.00	6791.98	10985.10		

* Refers to Jawahar Rozgar Yojana (JRY)

Acquisition of Anti-tank Guided Missiles by China

5170. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA :

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the press report appeared in the 'Hindustan Times' dated March 19, 2000, that China has covertly tried to buy one of US Army's most effective weapons, the Hell Fire anti-tank guided missile from Egypt;

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

(c) the steps taken by the Government to raise matching defence force to ensure peace and security in the region?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) to (c) Government are aware of the news-item in The Hindustan Times of 19th March, 2000 relating to the reported Chinese attempt to buy Hell Fire anti-tank guided missile of the U.S. Army from Egypt.

2. All developments having a bearing on our national security are regularly assessed and monitored. Necessary measures are taken to maintain appropriate defence preparedness.

Payment of Rents for Properties taken over by Army

5171. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to pay rent for private properties taken over by the Army for its counter-insurgency duties in Jammu and Kashmir;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed for early payment of already delayed rent to the property owners?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. It has been decided to pay rentals for the private land and buildings being used by the Army and Rashtriya Rifles, in connection with counter-insurgency operations in Jammu Kashmir. Orders have been issued to the concerned authorities to complete the necessary formalities so that rentals are paid to the property owners early.

Development of Smart Weapons in Collaboration with Russia

5172. SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether India and Russia have decided to start joint development of smart weapons system to enable India to meet its emerging requirement;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any agreement in this regard has been signed; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the extent to which India's requirement are likely to be met therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) There is no programme of joint development of smart weapon system with Russia.

(b) to (d) Does not arise in view of reply of Part (a) of the Question.

Flushing out of Terrorists from Jammu and Kashmir

5173. DR. S. VENUGOPAL : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Army has recently utilised the services of Mi-17 helicopters to flush out the terrorists from Jammu and Kashmir;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the extent of achievement achieved therefrom;

(d) whether the aforesaid device has ever been used in the past; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) to (e) Mi-17 helicopters have been in use in J&K for troop deployment and logistic support roles. Recently there has been an increase in the requirement for Mi-17 flights for carrying troops to enhance their mobility.

NABARD

5174. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR : Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) sanctioned further loan of Rs. 519.15 crore for creation of rural infrastructure in 16 States;

(b) if so, the share of each State;

(c) the programmes on which this amount is likely to be spent;

(d) whether the earlier loans sanctioned by the NABARD has fully been utilised by the States; and

(e) if so, the extent to which the earlier schemes were implemented?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SUNDAR LAL PATWA) : (a) A Project Sanctioning Committee (PSC), a sub-committee of the Board of National Board for Agriculture & Rural Development (NABARD) has so far sanctioned an amount of Rs. 13885.46 crores under various branches (RIDF I-V) to 25 States for creation of Rural Infrastructure.

(b) State-wise share of sanctions under RIDF is given in the statement.

(c) The sanctions under RIDF have been utilised under irrigation sector, roads & bridges, water shed development, flood protection, market yards/godowns and primary school buildings etc.

(d) No Sir, the sanctions are phased over 2 to 3 years time and the sanctions can be utilised accordingly.

(e) The total number of projects sanctioned from RIDF I to III were 26751 out of which 10900 projects have been completed constituting around 41% of the projects sanctioned.

Statement

(Rs. in crores)

S.No.	Name of the State	Total amount sanctioned
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1524.69
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	25.10
3.	Assam	340.22
4.	Bihar	303.93
5.	Goa	15.78
6.	Gujarat	822.31
7.	Haryana	364.23
8.	Himachal Pradesh	315.29

1	2	3
9.	J&K	266.90
10.	Karnataka	873.83
11.	Kerala	468.58
12.	Madhya Pradesh	1172.33
13.	Maharashtra	1311.97
14.	Manipur	1.75
15.	Meghalaya	56.07
16.	Mizoram	56.55
17.	Nagaland	18.61
18.	Orissa	743.32
19.	Punjab	433.99
20.	Rajasthan	787.22
21.	Tamil Nadu	897.70
22.	Tripura	66.71
23.	U.P.	2111.99
24.	West Bengal	876.38
25.	Sikkim	30.01
Total		13885.46

Air Bus Services

5175. SHRI CHINTAMAN WANAGA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) the names of cities in the country connected with Air Bus services alongwith the timings of operation in each case;

(b) whether the Government also propose to connect more cities of country with such services during the current and next year;

(c) whether the Government propose to resort such Air Bus services which have been discontinued; and

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

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) The Airbus aircraft in the fleet of Indian Airlines are operating to various stations at different hours of the day between 0545-2230 hours. A list of cities in the country connected with Airbus services is attached statement.

(b) to (d) Aircraft capacity constraints/commercial considerations do not permit Indian Airlines to restore the discontinued services or to introduce air bus services to any new city.

Statement

Cities connected with Airbus Aircraft on domestic services

Name of City	Connected with
1	2
Agartala	A320
Ahmedabad	A320
Aurangabad	A320
Bagdogra	A320
Bangalore	A320/ A300
Bhavnagar	A320
Bhubaneswar	A320
Calcutta	A320/ A300
Chennai	A320/ A300
Cochin	A320
Coimbatore	A320
Delhi	A320/ A300
Dibrugarh	A320
Goa	A320/ A300
Guwahati	A320/ A300
Hyderabad	A320/ A300
Imphal	A320
Jammu	A320
Kozhikode	A320
Lucknow	A320
Madurai	A320
Mumbai	A320/ A300
Patna	A320
Pune	A320

1	2
Raipur	A320
Ranchi	A320
Srinagar	A320
Tirupati	A320
Thiruvananthapuram	A320
Vadodara	A320
Varanasi	A320

Dezoning Plan of Maharashtra Government

5176. SHRI AJAY SINGH CHAUTALA : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news captioned "Maharashtra dezoning Plan irks NDA" appeared in 'The Indian Express' dated April 2, 2000;

(b) whether there is a move to convert large area of hills near the academy at Khadakwasla from no-development-zone to fully developed residential zone;

(c) whether it is likely to affect the security of the NDA;

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

(e) the reaction of the Union Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) to (e) The Government of Maharashtra had notified in various newspapers their intention to alter the status of the 'No Development Zone, Hill Top and Hill Slope Area Zone' to that of a Residential Zone, and had invited objections, if any, from the general public within 60 days of the issuance of the notification. The local army authorities have formally taken up the matter with the Govt. of Maharashtra on behalf of NDA in the recently held Civil-Military Conference highlighting, inter-alia, the possibility of anti-national elements taking advantage of the proposed changes in the zoning plan.

Construction of an Airport at Kargil

5177. SHRI R.L. BHATIA :

SHRI G. GANGA REDDY :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the amount spent in the construction of Kargil airport has gone waste due to shelling by the Pakistan last year;

(b) If so, the details thereof alongwith the amount spent thereon so far;

(c) whether efforts are being made to reconstruct the airport; and

(d) If so, the cost involved therein?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. Minor damage like a crater of size of 120 cm in diameter and 30 cm in depth was caused to the runway surface due to the shelling. The cost involved in the repair was nominal as the runway surface work was going on. The work remained suspended till the restoration of normalcy and the working seasons during 1998 and 1999 were lost.

(c) and (d) Construction work resumed after hostility in the region was over. 65% of work relating to terminal building and 79% that of runway surface are over. The entire project is estimated at Rs. 38 crores.

[Translation]

Formulation of Centralised Purchasing Policy

5178. SHRI RAJO SINGH :

SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN SHARAN SINGH :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Railways have formulated the centralised purchasing policy;

(b) If so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the official of the Railways have violated this policy for their vested interests and to harm the Railways;

(d) If so, the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(e) the action taken by the Government against such guilty officials?

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

(b) Some identified high value items are procured centrally by Railway Board. Similarly, procurement of some diesel locomotive spares is centralised at Diesel Locomotive

Works, Varanasi & Diesel Component Works, Patiala and procurement of some electric locomotives spares is centralised at Chittaranjan Locomotive Works. For centralised purchase items, direct procurement by Railways is permitted only in case of urgency for maintenance or completion of works.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

Compensation for Land Acquired by Army

5179. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the press report appeared in Delhi edition of 'Jansatta' dated January 11, 2000 captioned "Machhliyon se mila punarwas";

(b) If so, the area of land acquired for the proof range made for military exercise and for ordnance factory along with the names of villages, especially the tribal villages in Hoshangabad district of Madhya Pradesh;

(c) the number of tribal families rehabilitated so far and the expenditure incurred thereon alongwith the number of tribal families yet to be rehabilitated and the action-plan formulated therefor; and

(d) the time by which all the families are proposed to be rehabilitated?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI HARIN PATHAK) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Details of land acquired for proof range and ordnance factory are as under :-

(I) Proof Range made for military exercise :-

(i) Protected Forest Land 4675.2 Acres

(ii) Reserve Forest Land 5442.8 Acres

(iii) Revenue Land 3179.95 Acres

(iv) Private Land 12745.79 Acres

(II) Ordnance Factory :

Total land acquired : 6630 Acres, out of which 2671 acres was private land. Villages where land has been acquired from Distt. Hoshangabad and Distt. Betul are as follows :-

Distt. Hoshangabad (36 villages) : Itrasl, Dehri,

Bordha, Barkheda, Kasdakhurd, Dhalamau, Neemanpura, Belwara, Boudha, Chartakra, Chirpakhera, Dornia, Palania, Saheli, Taku, Khoda, Jhout, Kedl, Chandkiye, Dherl, Jamdha, Sadhpura, Sula, Chandon, Dhob, Jhirmou, Manamou, Kandaikala, Nandher, Pandri, Nagpur Kala, Pandukherl, Chhipi Khapa, Khapa, Gurra, Kandal Khurd and

Distt. Betul (4 villages) : Biharpura, Kalapani, Sirghat, Japdi.

(c) and (d) The responsibility of the Govt. of India was for payment of compensation for land acquired. Responsibility for rehabilitation and resettlement was that of the State Government.

{English}

Cargo Traffic

5180. SHRI ANNASHEB M.K. PATIL : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news report under the caption "Air cargo grounded, 2000 tonnes caught in traffic jam" as appearing in 'The Economic Times' dated April 2, 2000;

(b) If so, the reaction of the Government thereon; and

(c) the immediate and long term steps taken/proposed to be taken to ease the position and provide adequate space to tackle the current cargo and projected growth of cargo in future?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. To tide over the back-log of cargo of approximately 1800 MT at Delhi and 250 MT at Chennai airports, following steps have been undertaken :-

(1) All operating airlines have been asked to operate extra sectional flights;

(2) The exporters have also been requested to indicate realistic projections of capacity demand; and

(3) To mitigate the hardships to exporters, free storage period for export cargo at cargo terminals was advanced from five to seven calendar days from 8th to 30th April, 2000.

Introduction of New Freight Policy

5181. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Railways have introduced a new freight policy; and

(b) If so, the salient features thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir. A new freight policy has been developed.

(b) The salient features of the new freight policy will include :

(1) No steep hike, for some time, in freight rates to ensure alignment with traffic structure of other modes.

(2) Freight rate structure will be based on factors like cost service and value of service and "what the traffic can bear".

(3) Strict enforcement of block rake movement disciplines.

(4) Use the multi-modal route through CONCOR, to ensure high growth in non-bulk but high revenue yielding door-to-door piecemeal traffic.

(5) Reduce expenditure, both capital and revenue through increased focus on productivity and efficiency.

(6) Utmost priority to development of terminals.

(7) Strengthen connectivity with ports.

(8) Development of a multi-modal transport system to arrest the burgeoning social and environmental costs.

(9) Railways to act as a "facilitator" for country's economic growth.

Cancelled/Delayed Flights

5182. SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ :

SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI :

SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the flights which have been cancelled and delayed during the last two years;

(b) the reasons therefor;

(c) the loss suffered as a result thereof; and

(d) the steps taken to deal with the situation?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) During the years 1997-98 and 1998-99, out of

43161 flights, 309 flights of Air India were cancelled and 3717 flights were delayed. For the same period, out of 173581 flights, 3660 flights of Indian Airlines were cancelled and 55860 flights were delayed.

(b) The flights are cancelled/delayed mostly due to adverse weather, airport restrictions, technical snags, miscellaneous and consequential reasons.

(c) During the years 1997-98 and 1998-99, Air India had incurred an expense of Rs. 1120.47 lakhs and Rs. 1187.09 lakhs respectively on delayed/cancelled flights. Indian Airlines has incurred an expense of Rs. 15.10 crores and Rs. 16.16 crores respectively.

(d) As and when the flights are cancelled, the sales & space management and the reservations, ensure that alternate arrangements are made to book the passengers of these cancelled flights on first available flights. All delays are investigated to pinpoint the cause and remedial action is taken wherever necessary.

Revision of Pensions

5183. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether consequent upon the Implementation of the recommendations of Fifth Pay Commission, pensions of Railway employees and the family pensions who retired before January 1, 1996 has not been revised.

(b) If so, the reasons therefor and the steps taken to grant the revised pensions to all of them;

(c) whether there are some cases in which pensions have not at all been sanctioned to the families of deceased railway employees;

(d) If so, the number thereof alongwith reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps taken to sanction pensions to all immediately?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) to (e) The pension and the family pension of most of the pre-1.1.96 retirees have already been revised. However in a few cases it is held up due to court cases, departmental disciplinary cases, rival claims of succession, legal injunctions, non-submission of guardianship certificate, non-filling up of application forms for revision etc. No centralised record is maintained in the Ministry of Railways in respect of such held up cases of family pension as pension settlement is decentralised.

A series of steps have been taken for expeditious finalisation of remaining cases also which include setting up of a monitoring mechanism for watching the receipt and disposal of applications for pension revision, sub-moto revision of pension cases wherever possible, and overall review on a continuous basis.

Pak Activities on LoC

5184. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Pakistani forces have crossed the LoC on February 27, 2000 and attacked Indian troops at West of Naushera in Jammu and Kashmir;

(b) if so, the number of Indian soldiers killed/injured;

(c) whether the Indian Government have taken any action in this regard; and

(d) If so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Seven personnel were killed and one JCO is missing.

(c) and (d) Our troops have been alerted and a constant vigil is maintained.

Privatisation of Routes of Indian Airlines

5185. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have a proposal to privatise some of the routes of Indian Airlines;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the privatisation will lead to the retrenchment of some staffs of Indian Airlines; and

(d) if so, the steps taken for their suitable compensation?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Customer Service Centres at Airports

5186. COL. (RETD.) DR. DHANI RAM SHANDIL :

SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have mooted any plans to conduct surprise checks at important airports to examine the efficacy of customer services and providing adequate facilities;

(b) if so, the details of surprise checks conducted during the last few months at airports and details of discrepancies found there;

(c) whether customer grievances cell is likely to be set up at all the important airports to look into the complaints of the customers; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) and (b) Airports Authority of India (AAI) carry out regular inspection of airports through Airport Directors and Senior Officers to look into customer complaints and to take remedial action.

(c) and (d) A Grievance Cell already exists at all airports where passengers and visitors can lodge complaints with respect to airport facilities. Follow up action is taken depending upon the nature of complaint.

Opening of Railway Recruitment Boards

5187. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the criteria adopted for opening of Railway Recruitment Boards;

(b) the details of railway recruitment boards working at present, location-wise;

(c) whether the Government propose to open more recruitment boards in each State and Territory to explore local recruitment calibre; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) The Railway Recruitment Boards are set up based on territorial jurisdiction of the Zonal Railways and their recruitment requirements.

(b) Details are given in the statement enclosed.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise. There are already 19 Railways Recruitment Boards (RRBs) situated all over the country. These RRBs are able to meet adequately the needs of recruitment for all Indian Railways.

Statement

List of Railway Recruitment Boards with their Jurisdiction

S.No.	Location of RRB	Jurisdiction	
		Railway/P.U.	Divisions/Units
1	2	3	4
1.	Ahmedabad	Western	Vadodara, Rajkot, Bhavnagar Divisions.
2.	Ajmer	Western	Ratlam, Kota, Jaipur and Ajmer Divisions.
		Northern	Jodhpur & Bikaner Divisions.
3.	Allahabad	D.L.W.	—
		Northern	Allahabad, Lucknow & Moradabad Divisions.
4.	Bangalore	Southern	Bangalore and Mysore Divisions.
		South Central	Hubli Division.
		W&AP	—
5.	Bhopal	Central	Bhopal, Jabalpur and Jhansi Divisions.
		South Eastern	Bilaspur and Nagpur Divisions.
6.	Bhubaneswar	South Eastern	Khurda Road, Waltair and Chakradharpur Divisions.
7.	Calcutta	Eastern	HQrs. Office and Howrah, Asansol and Sealdah Divisions.
		South Eastern	HQrs. Office and Adra and Kharagpur Divisions.
		Metro Railway	—

1	2	3	4
		C.L.W.	—
8.	Chandigarh	Northern	HQrs. Office & Delhi and Ambala Divisions.
		R.C.F.	—
		D.C.W. (Only for Ex-Servicemen)	—
9.	Chennai	Southern	HQrs. Office & Chennai, Madurai and Tiruchirapalli Divisions.
		I.C.F.	—
10.	Gorakhpur	North Eastern	HQrs. Office and Varanasi, Lucknow and Izatnagar Divisions.
11.	Guwahati	Northeast Frontier	HQrs. Office and Alipurduar, Lumding & Tinsukia Divisions.
12.	Jammu & Kashmir	Northern	Ferozpur Division.
		D.C.W.	—
		R.C.F.	—
13.	Malda	Eastern	Malda Division.
		Northeast Frontier	Katihar Division. (D.H. Railway Section only)
14.	Mumbai	Central	HQrs. Office and Bombay, Bhusawal, Nagpur and Sholapur Divisions.
		Western	Hqrs. Office and Bombay Division.
15.	Muzaffarpur	North Eastern	Samastipur & Sonapur Divisions.
16.	Patna	Eastern	Mughalsarai, Dhanbad and Danapur Divisions.
		M. Frontier	Katihar Division (Except D.H. Railway Section).
17.	Ranchi (for ST quota vacancies only)	Eastern	Dhanbad, Danapur & Mughalsarai Divisions.
		South Eastern	Chakradharpur Division.
		Northeast Frontier	Katihar Division
18.	Secunderabad	South Central	HQrs. Office & Secunderabad, Hyderabad, Vijayawada, Guntakal Divisions.
		South Eastern	Waltair Division.
19.	Thiruvananthapuram	Southern	Palaghat and Trivandrum Divisions.

Wind Power

5188. SHRI SAHIB SINGH : Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) the States which are rich in generating wind power;

(b) the installed capacity in Public and Private Sector, State-wise;

(c) whether wind power is comparable in terms of

cost of production, transmission, distribution with other types of power; and

(d) the position of wind power in comparison with Hydro, Thermal and Nuclear power?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN) : (a) On the basis of wind resource assessment studies, carried out so far, the States of Tamil Nadu, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, and Madhya Pradesh have emerged as potential States for wind power generation.

(b) State-wise installed capacity in Public and Private sector is given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) Yes, Sir. The levelised cost of wind power generation is quite comparable with conventional power, taking into account various fiscal and promotional incentives available for wind power projects.

(d) A wind power capacity of 1167 MW has been installed as against 23816 MW, 70186 MW and 2680 MW of Hydro, Thermal and Nuclear capacity respectively.

Statement

State-wise Wind power Installed Capacity (As on 31.03.2000)

State	Demonstration Projects (Public Sector)	Private Sector Projects	Total Capacity (MW)
Andhra Pradesh	3.0	85.0	88.0
Gujarat	17.5	150.0	167.5
Karnataka	2.5	31.0	33.5
Madhya Pradesh	1.0	22.0	23.0
Maharashtra	6.0	73.0	79.0
Tamil Nadu	19.0	751.0	770.0
Others	6.0	—	6.0
Total	55.0	1112.0	1167.0

Notice to FCI

5189. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Director General of Investigation and Registration has issued notice to FCI under MRTP Act for irregularities regarding sale of upgrade rice through traders;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether FCI officials are not furnishing requisite information since February, 1999 when the first notice under MRTP was issued; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In response to FCI Regional Office Lucknow's tender notice in the newspaper published on 27-5-97 regarding sale of 46,094.30 MT of upgradeable rice lying in various depots of FCI under U.P. Region the Senior Regional Manager, FCI accepted offer of 8864.40 MT of rice. M/s. Gopal Rai Shri Ram, Delhi had also quoted rates for 3 lots of raw rice amounting to a quantity of 402 MTs and M/s. Charbhuj Trading Co., who had quoted for a substantial quantity of common as well as fine varieties of rice, offered to purchase the entire quantity provided his rates were accepted. SRM, U.P. accepted this offer in the overall interest of FCI. But meanwhile the cut off price of upgradeable rice was revised upwards and the tenders were scrapped. Against this decision of scrapping of tenders M/s. Charbhuj Trading Co., filed a writ petition in the Hon'ble High Court of Allahabad (Lucknow Bench) who passed orders for keeping the sale of these stocks of rice in abeyance. Hence the quantities quoted by M/s Charbhuj Trading Co., as well as M/s Gopal Rai Shri Ram have not been disposed of. Against the decision of the SRM, U.P. to consider the offer of M/s. Charbhuj Trading Co., and not giving acceptance of offer to M/s. Gopal Rai Shri Ram, Delhi who had quoted rates for three lots, the party, M/s Gopal Rai Shri Ram, Delhi filed a complaint with Director General of Investigation & Registration (DGI&R) under Section 11(2) of MRTP Act, 1969.

(c) and (d) The reply of DGI&R could not be submitted for want of certain clarifications from SRM Lucknow, which have now been received. In the meantime, some additional information has been sought for by DGI&R which is being collected from FCI, Regional Office Lucknow and the reply alongwith additional information as well as documents will be sent to DGI&R.

Non Payment of Pension to Old Age Persons

5190. SHRI JITENDRA PRASADA : Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn towards the non-payment of pension to the beneficiaries of old age pension under NSAP for more than two and a half years;

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

(c) if so, the outcome thereof State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) No, Sir. No such matter of non-payment of pension to the beneficiaries of National Old Age Pension Scheme (NOAPS) under National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP) for more than two and half years has come to the notice of the Government in relation

to any State/UT which have been lifting their yearly Central Allocations under the Scheme.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Renewal of Railway Tracks

5191. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether certain sections of railway tracks in South Central Railway have been identified for renewal;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether renewal work has been started on such sections; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) 1054 km. has already been sanctioned for renewal and 304 km. has been targeted during 2000-2001 on the following sections :-

Section	Kms targeted during 2000-2001
Balharshah - Kazipet	29.85
Secunderabad - Kazipet	20
Vijayawada - Kazipet	28
Vikarabad - Parli	5
Vijayawada - Gudur	24.55
Visakhapatnam - Vijayawada	58
Guntur - Krishna Canal	10.75
Bhimavaram - Nidadavolu	10
Guntur - Nadikude	3.3
Guntakal - Renigunta	40
Guntakal - Wadi	16.55
Giddalur - Markapur	5
Guntakal - Hospet	3
Pune - Miraj	20
Meter Gauge Lines	10
Yard Lines	20
Total	304

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. During 1999-2000, 263 km track has been renewed on South Central Railway. In 2000-2001, 304 kms track has been targeted for replacement on certain segments of which work has just started..

Induction of State of the Art Rail Coaches

5192. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK :

DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Indian Railways inducted any state of the art rail coaches;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the names of the collaborating companies for manufacture of such modern passenger coaches;

(d) the facilities provided in such coaches; and

(e) the time by which these coaches are likely to be produced indigenously?

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

(b) Indian Railways have entered into a contract for supply of 24 state-of-the-art light weight high speed coaches alongwith Transfer of Technology for manufacture of these new design coaches at RCF/Kapurthala in October 1995. Three coaches have already been received for trials.

(c) Indian Railways have placed the above contracts on M/s. ALSTOM LHB, Germany. The coaches are fitted with bogies manufactured by M/s. FIAT SIG, Switzerland.

(d) These coaches have the following special features :

- i) Environment freindly coach interior and toilets;
- ii) Improved ride comfort;
- iii) potential for high speed;
- iv) Improved safety features;
- v) higher passenger carrying capacity;
- vi) reduced tare weight;
- vii) anti-corrosive materials; and

viii) Longer intervals between schedule maintenance.

(e) The first lot of coaches to the new design are likely to be produced in RCF/Kapurthala in 2001-02.

Sukhoi Deal with Russia

5193. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Rs. 7313 crore Sukhoi deal runs into turbulence" appeared in the *Hindustan Times* dated March 31, 2000;

(b) If so, whether due to delay by DRDO in developing indigenous technology for Sukhoi fighters, the Government are losing several crores of rupees;

(c) If so, the facts thereof; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to develop indigenous technology for fighter planes?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Indigenous programme to develop Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) has been going on since 1983.

Indo-US Defence Tie

5194. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA :

SHRI MANIBHAI RAMJIBHAI CHAUDHRI :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a meeting of the National Security Advisors of the USA and India was recently held for fostering closer service to service cooperation and relations between Indian and US armed forces; and

(b) If so, the details thereof and the outcome thereof alongwith the course of action charted out therein?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) and (b) The US National Security Advisor Mr. Sandy Berger had a meeting with Shri Brajesh Mishra, Principal Secretary to PM and National Security Advisor of India on the forenoon of March 21, 2000, to discuss bilateral

and regional issues of common interest, in preparation to the meeting between the Prime Minister of India and President Clinton, later the same day. There was no specific discussion of defence related issues during the meeting.

Memorandum of Understanding with SEC and NREL of U.S.

5195. SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY : Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether a Memorandum of Understanding of renewable energy was signed between Solar Energy Centre of the Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources and the National Renewable Energy Laboratory of the US Department of Energy on March 24, 2000;

(b) If so, the main points of the agreement reached;

(c) the steps being taken to implement them; and

(d) the extent to which the US Department of Energy has agreed to provide assistance to India in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN) : (a) Yes, Sir. A Memorandum of Understanding was signed between Solar Energy Centre of the Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources and the National Renewable Energy Laboratory of the US Department of Energy on 23rd March, 2000.

(b) The main objectives of the Memorandum of Understanding are to promote scientific and technological co-operation in the field of renewable energy development and utilisation for mutual benefit including strengthening capacity for energy technology innovation, promoting technologies to increase energy conservation and promoting technology for clean energy supply. The scope of the memorandum includes exchange of technical information and experience and technical and managerial personnel, joint testing and holding of conferences and seminars.

(c) Steps have been initiated to identify specific projects/activities for co-operation between the two institutions. A team of two scientists from National Renewable Energy Laboratory, USA visited SEC recently to discuss possibilities of co-operation in the area of solar radiation data collection, analysis and dissemination which has been identified as one of the co-operative activities under the Memorandum.

(d) The co-operation is mainly of technical nature and as of now no financial commitments have been made under the Memorandum.

Pakistan Massing Troops near Kutch

5196. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Pakistan has been reinforcing in the Rann of Kutch area in Gujarat to target India's shore based industry more effectively;

(b) If so, whether Pakistan also inducted its latest Ukrainian T-80UD tanks in the zone replacing the older Chinese T-85;

(c) whether Pakistan has also decided to push its Muzahiddin in the zone and around 150 militants have already been sent; and

(d) If so, the steps being taken to check the activities of Pakistan massing troops near Rann of Kutch?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FER-NANDES) : (a) Although Pakistan has upgraded its surveillance and air defence system in the Creek and Rann of Kutch area, there are no reports to suggest that these are aimed at targetting India's shore based industry.

(b) The T-85 tanks are also new and both versions of tanks are issued to the formations opposite Gujarat and Rajasthan.

(c) Inputs indicate presence of some militants in the area of Ketl Bandar, Shah Bandar, Musafirkhana, Nagar Parkar and Mithi. No reports have yet been received about such militants having been inducted into Gujarat.

(d) Constant vigil is maintained on the border and all appropriate measures have been taken to thwart any attempt of misadventure by Pakistan.

Domestic Airports

5197. SHRI CHINTAMAN WANAGA :

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether any provision of financial assistance has been made for the development of non-operative airports in the country, particularly Gaya and Muzaffarpur airports of Bihar during the year 1999-2000 and 2000-2001; and

(b) If so, the details thereof airport-wise?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. A general provision of Rs. 3.50

crore has been made in the Ninth Five Year Plan to activate the non-operational airports. A sum of Rs. 1 crore for the year 2000-2001 and Rs. 2.52 crores for the year 2001-2002 have been earmarked for the development of Gaya Airport, where the non-scheduled flights are operating at present. However, no provision has been made for development of Muzaffarpur airport, which is a non-operational airport at present.

[Translation]

Agreement with HUDCO

5198. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the names of the cities where the Railway land is proposed to be developed for construction of commercial complexes as per the agreement with HUDCO;

(b) the time by which the above work is likely to be started; and

(c) the share of the people belonging to the scheduled castes, scheduled tribes and OBCs in the allotment of these commercial complexes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) To begin with, Howrah and New Delhi Railway Stations have been identified to be taken up in collaboration with HUDCO, for modernisation and commercial development.

(b) Property development schemes normally have a long gestation period due to detailed planning, market studies and approvals needed from several agencies before actual implementation. As such, it is difficult to indicate actual implementation time.

(c) As the identified schemes would be executed in a commercial manner, no such reservation is contemplated.

[English]

Water Shed Projects

5199. SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA : Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the number of watershed projects sanctioned in the country during the last three years on March 31, 2000, State-wise;

(b) the details of projects out of them completed during the year 1998 and 1999;

(c) the details of cost of each project; and

(d) the reasons of escalation in the cost of the project, if any?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) 165 Integrated Wastelands Development Projects on the Guidelines for Watershed Development have been sanctioned during the last three years. State-wise number of projects are given in statement-I enclosed.

(b) Project implementation period is for four to five years. None of the sanctioned project out of the above has been completed during the year 1998 and 1999.

(c) Details of cost of each project sanctioned during the last three years are given in statement-II enclosed.

(d) There is no cost escalation. Projects have been sanctioned @ Rs. 4000/- per ha.

Statement-I

S.No.	Name of State	No. of Projects sanctioned from 1997-98 to 31.3.2000
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	15
2.	Assam	4
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	1
4.	Bihar	1
5.	Gujarat	13
6.	Himachal Pradesh	9
7.	Haryana	1
8.	Jammu & Kashmir	3
9.	Karnataka	14
10.	Maharashtra	9
11.	Meghalaya	2
12.	Manipur	7
13.	Madhya Pradesh	18
14.	Nagaland	5
15.	Orissa	13
16.	Rajasthan	11
17.	Sikkim	5

1	2	3
18.	Tamil Nadu	10
19.	Uttar Pradesh	24
Total		165

Statement-II

(Rs. in lakhs)

S.No.	Name of the District/Project	Total Project Cost
1	2	3
Andhra Pradesh		
1.	Chittoor-IV	450.00
2.	Medak	496.48
3.	Nizamabad-II	500.00
4.	Srikakulam	500.00
5.	Cuddapah-II	500.00
6.	Nellore-III	500.00
7.	Khammam-I	500.00
8.	Medak-II	500.00
9.	Khammam-II	500.00
10.	Nellore-IV	500.00
11.	East Godavari	500.00
12.	Warangal-I	500.00
13.	Ranga Reddy-II	500.00
14.	Vizianagaram-II	480.00
15.	Nalgonda-II	500.00
Arunachal Pradesh		
1.	West Kameng	60.00
Assam		
1.	Karbi Anglong	245.20
2.	Nagaon	500.00
3.	Hailakandi-I	265.96
4.	Lakhimpur	360.00

1	2	3
Biher		
1.	Ranchi	250.00
Gujarat		
1.	Junagarh	480.00
2.	Vadodara	451.00
3.	Bhav Nagar	440.00
4.	Sabarkantha	480.00
5.	Junagadh-II	493.00
6.	Panchmahal-II	488.00
7.	Kheda-II	459.00
8.	Jamnagar-II	500.00
9.	Sabarkantha-II	400.00
10.	Mehsana-II	480.00
11.	Junagarh-III	500.00
12.	Kutch-III	380.00
13.	Kutch-IV	200.00
Haryana		
1.	Panipat	478.88
Himachal Pradesh		
1.	Solan-II	499.52
2.	Sirmour	499.00
3.	Chamba-II	499.00
4.	Mandi	499.00
5.	Chamba-III	494.00
6.	Kangra-II	354.56
7.	Shimla	295.44
8.	Hamirpur-II	500.00
9.	Kinnaur	350.80
Jammu & Kashmir		
1.	Udhampur-II	500.00

1	2	3
2.	Jammu	230.00
3.	Kathua	346.00
Karnataka		
1.	Mandya-II	500.00
2.	Gulbarga	474.00
3.	Chitradurga	500.00
4.	Bellary	485.80
5.	Belgaum	499.24
6.	Bellary-II	490.00
7.	Kolar	489.56
8.	Tumkur-III	496.48
9.	Bidar	499.40
10.	Belgaum-II	485.04
11.	Gulbarga-II	479.96
12.	Bangalore Rural	500.00
13.	Kolar-II	480.00
14.	Raichur	495.00
Maharashtra		
1.	Parbhani	381.80
2.	Sindhudurg	452.80
3.	Amaravati	456.96
4.	Prabhani-II	455.78
5.	Ratnagiri	452.80
6.	Sindhudurg-II	471.00
7.	Raigad	486.00
8.	Kolhapur	499.87
9.	Thane	409.84
Meghalaya		
1.	West Garo Hills	200.60
2.	W. Khasi Hills-II	239.84

1	2	3
Manipur		
1.	Imphal (West)	267.00
2.	Senapati	55.72
3.	Senapati-II	400.00
4.	Tamenglong	500.00
5.	Imphal (West) II	440.00
6.	Ukhrul	496.00
7.	Thoubal	500.00
Madhya Pradesh		
1.	Guna	243.60
2.	Seoni	280.00
3.	Narsingpur	280.00
4.	Mandsaur	280.00
5.	Guna-II	337.96
6.	Sehore	427.18
7.	Shadhol	422.22
8.	Guna-III	235.00
9.	Gwalior-I	187.30
10.	Shadhol-II	366.00
11.	Gwalior-II	204.84
12.	Jhabua-III	230.32
13.	Tikamgarh-II	312.00
14.	Chhindwara-II	414.28
15.	Mandia-II	467.40
16.	Shivpuri	491.32
17.	Sidhi	392.88
18.	Vidisha	448.00
Nagaland		
1.	Mokokchung	480.00
2.	Tunesang	500.00

1	2	3
3.	Mon	500.00
4.	Dimapur	500.00
5.	Zunhobuto-II	480.00
Orissa		
1.	Jharsuguda	288.64
2.	Kalahandi-III	493.48
3.	Balangir-II	496.00
4.	Koraput-IV	481.80
5.	Mayurbhanj	496.00
6.	Dhenkanal-III	244.64
7.	Keonjhar-I	205.74
8.	Angul	241.50
9.	Jaipur	325.10
10.	Keonjhar-II	208.00
11.	Sambalpur	41.00
12.	Nayagarh-I	400.00
13.	Angul-II	284.17
Rajasthan		
1.	Jhunjhunu	168.00
2.	Jhalawar-II	394.24
3.	Tonk-II	441.88
4.	Rajsamand-I	478.28
5.	Rajsamand-II	416.00
6.	Bhilwara-II	239.16
7.	Jaipur-IV	240.00
8.	Jaipur-VI	225.00
9.	Udaipur-II	294.40
10.	Jaipur-V	200.00
11.	Ajmer-III	494.00

1	2	3
Sikkim		
1.	East Sikkim-III	222.76
2.	North Sikkim-II	480.00
3.	East Sikkim-IV	476.00
4.	South Sikkim-V	448.00
5.	West Sikkim-II	362.40
Tamil Nadu		
1.	Dindigul	200.00
2.	Coimbatore-II	362.32
3.	Salem	200.00
4.	Namakkal	204.20
5.	Theni	206.24
6.	Karur	464.24
7.	Cuddalore-II	223.20
8.	Virudhunagar	212.00
9.	Ramanathapuram	202.40
10.	Thirunelveli	400.00
Uttar Pradesh		
1.	Unnao	481.64
2.	Tehri Garhwal	484.76
3.	Sonbhadra	404.26
4.	Raibareilly-II	484.00
5.	Unnao-II	482.16
6.	Sultanpur	481.56
7.	Jhansi-II	495.00
8.	Jhansi-III	400.00
9.	Sitapur	482.32
10.	Chandauli	444.00
11.	Lakhimpur	489.60
12.	Kanpur Dehat	481.56

1	2	3
13.	Gonda	486.28
14.	Mirzapur	499.12
15.	Aligarh	499.20
16.	Pratapgarh	483.40
17.	Lakhimpur Kheri-II	484.16
18.	Sonebhadra-II	500.00
19.	Agra-II	274.80
20.	Faizabad-II	484.30
21.	St. Ravidas Ngr.	380.00
22.	Varanasi-II	498.00
23.	Mirzapur-II	499.00
24.	Lucknow-II	444.52

Hike in Roll-on-Roll-off Services by Konkan Railway

5200. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Konkan Railway initiates move to hike in the roll-on-roll-off services offered along Panvel-Mangalore corridor;

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

(c) the impact of such hike on truck operators; and

(d) the benefits likely to be achieved by Konkan Railway as a result thereof?

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

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Requirement of Wagons at Banspani and Bolani Railway Sites

5201. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the requirement of Wagons per month at Banspani and Bolani Railway sites in Orissa;

(b) whether the Government are able to provide adequate number of wagons/rakes at these sites for transporting minerals;

- (c) If not, the reasons therefor; and
 (d) the steps taken to fulfil the requirement?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) The monthly average programme of rakes at Banspani and Bolani are 104.4 and 70.0 respectively.

(b) Yes, Sir. The average supply at Banspani is 95% of the programme and at Bolani, it is 99.4% of the demand. The wagon requirement has been met almost fully.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) A close liaison is maintained by the Division and coordination meeting is conducted from time to time for reviewing of traffic to be offered by the party as per commitment. Secondly, the rakes for Sponge Iron Plan were loaded only on one line at Banspani and that too only during day-light hours, thereby having a capacity of loading one rake per day only. As the demand by this sector is more, another line at Banspani has been commissioned for loading such rakes with effect from 23.3.2000 on experimental basis.

Deployment of Subs Near West Coast of Gujarat by Pak

5202. SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Pakistan is reported to have deployed its subs near the West coast of Gujarat during the months of February and March 2000;

(b) If so, the main reasons behind such deployment;

(c) whether Pakistan has already deployed 10,000 Infantry troops with a large number of tanks and F-16 bombers near the border and intensified their positioning in the area; and

(d) If so, the steps taken to meet the threat posed by Pakistan in this sector?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) and (b) The Government have not received any such information.

(c) As per information available, Pakistan has deployed additional personnel from its forces in the vicinity of Rann of Kutch. There are no reports to suggest any fresh deployment of tanks and F-16 aircraft in the area.

(d) The Indian Armed Forces and Para military forces continue to maintain strict vigil and surveillance in the

Western sector. Precautionary measures to deal with any contingency have been taken.

CBI Enquiry into Caribjet Wet Lease Deal

5203. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH :

SHRI SHEESH RAM SINGH RAVI :

SHRI SUBODH ROY :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item entitled "CBI to probe how A-I lost Rs. 103 cr. in deal" appearing in Indian Express dated February 12, 2000;

(b) If so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government identified the officers that are responsible for the irregularities committed by Air India in the Caribjet wet-lease deal signed in 1995;

(d) If so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action proposed to be taken against them?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (e) At the request of the Ministry of Civil Aviation, the CBI has registered a Preliminary Enquiry in this regard against the officials of Air India associated with the Wet-lease deal including the then Managing Directors of Air India and the Managing Director of M/s Caribjet. The main allegations being enquired into are :-

- Terms offered to M/s Caribjet by Air India were more favourable than those offered in 1994.
- Non-inclusion of termination clause.
- Whether the termination was warranted.
- Circumstances leading to termination.
- Whether adequate efforts were made to protect the commercial interests of Air India, while terminating the agreement.
- Whether adequate efforts were made to protect commercial interests of Air India in the arbitration proceedings.
- Any other related issue that may crop up during investigations.

It may not be possible to lay down a specific time frame for completion of investigations at this stage.

Transport of Bulk Cargo

5204. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether average leads for the transport of bulk cargo has been declined for the past few years;

(b) If so, the falling trend of leads for the last five years along with the reasons therefor;

(c) whether due to decline in the leads the Indian Railways have been losing dry bulk cargo to the road sector and coastal shipping; and

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

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

(b) Trends in lead (average distance of haul) during the last 5 years has been as under :-

	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99
Average Lead (in Km)	684	692	679	662	669

The decline in leads have been due to several factors which, inter alia, include (i) reduction of the spatial gap between the centre of production and consumption (ii) self-sufficiency in foodgrain production in areas which were earlier deficient (iii) increase in imports (iv) development of coastal shipping and pipelines.

(c) and (d) Decline in lead does not indicate loss of originating traffic to other modes. It is a derived figure arrived at by dividing the transport output measured in terms of Net Tonne Kilometers by originating tonnage. Decline in lead of traffic is an inescapable phenomenon, as and when economy of any country develops, consequent to which alternative means of bulk transport such as pipelines and coastal shipping also proliferate. While deciding about modal choice, the factor of least cost to the economy is kept in view.

Withdrawal of Flights from International Routes by Air India

5205. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Air India has withdrawn its services from some International routes;

(b) If so, the details thereof;

(c) the specific reasons for it, sector-wise;

(d) whether the Indian Airlines also carried out a feasibility study to operate its flights on those routes;

(e) If so, the details of the study carried out; and

(f) the flights proposed to be operated on those International destinations?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) and (b) Air India has withdrawn its services from Frankfurt, Rome and Manchester effective from 1st May, 1999.

(c) The above services were withdrawn as a part of Air India's turn strategy which envisaged withdrawal of aircraft capacity from loss making/less profitable routes for deployment on more profitable routes.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) and (f) Do not arise.

Loss suffered by Suburban trains

5206. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESHWARLU : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Railways had lost approximately Rs. 360 crores in 1997-98 on the provision of suburban train services;

(b) If so, the details thereof, suburban train services-wise;

(c) whether the Railways have made any efforts to reduce such losses; and

(d) If so, the extent to which such losses have been reduced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) Yes Sir, the losses incurred on suburban train services during the year 1997-98 were Rs. 359.57 crores.

(b) Details are as under :

Metro/area	Profit (+)/Loss (-) (Amount in crores of Rs.)
Mumbai	+ 79.50
Calcutta	-369.02
Chennai	-70.05

(c) Railways have taken following measures to reduce the losses in suburban services :

- i) Periodic adjustments in tariff,
- ii) Intensive ticket checking,
- iii) Issue of weekly tickets,
- iv) Installation of coupon validating machines in suburban section of Mumbai,
- v) A Rs. 15 Monthly Season Ticket for weaker sections to discourage travelling without tickets.

(d) Only Mumbai area has shown improvement with a profit of Rs. 115.97 crores in 1998-99 whereas the suburban services in Chennai and Calcutta areas continue to incur losses.

Appointment of Public Relation Agency

5207. SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

- (a) whether his Ministry considering appointing the Public Relation Agency to help, create a positive image of India as a major tourists destination;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the time by which a final decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Ministry of Tourism has released an advertisement for appointment of a Public Relations Agency in order to project a positive image of India as a major tourist destination. The agency will be appointed expeditiously after following proper procedures.

Additional Air Routes to some Airports

5208. SHRI CHINTAMAN WANGA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government propose to allot additional Air routes to some of the Airports of the country to enable them to function as a full-fledged airports;
- (b) if so, the name of such airports, State-wise;
- (c) whether some of such propo have since been approved;

(d) If so, the details thereof with time limit fixed to implement these proposals?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) to (d) in the recent past permission has been granted to the designated airlines of the following countries to operate to the following points of call —

Uzbekistan - Amritsar (Punjab) and Trivandrum (Kerala);

Turkmenistan - Amritsar (Punjab);

Sri Lanka - Calcutta (West Bengal) and Varanasi (U.P.); and

Mauritius - Chennai (Tamilnadu).

Indian carriers are free to operate to/from any airport in the country depending upon their commercial judgement.

[Translation]

Assistance to Sugar Mills for Power Generation

5209. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government are contemplating to extend financial incentives to sugar mills for generation of power from bagasse and molasse; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise and Mill-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN) : (a) and (b) Under the National Programme for promotion of optimum surplus power generation through bagasse co-generation in sugar mills, capital subsidy is provided for a limited number of demonstration projects and interest subsidy for commercial projects. Capital subsidy has been provided for five demonstration projects in cooperative/public sector sugar mills aggregating to 42 MW of surplus power. These comprise two projects in Karnataka; two projects in Maharashtra; and one project in Punjab. Interest subsidy has been provided for 12 commercial projects aggregating to 94 MW of surplus power. These comprise two projects in Andhra Pradesh; six projects in Karnataka; two projects in Tamil Nadu; and two projects in Uttar Pradesh.

The Central and State Governments also provide other fiscal and financial incentives, including relief from taxes and duties, accelerated depreciation, etc.

*[English]***Missing Baggages of Haj Pilgrims**

5210. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI :

SHRI C. KUPPUSAMI :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Haj Pilgrims found their baggages missing" appearing in 'The Hindustan Times' dated March 23, 2000 and "Al leaves Haj Pilgrims stranded in Jeddah" as appearing in 'The Hindustan Times' dated March 27, 2000;

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

(c) the steps taken or being taken by the Government to find missing baggages of Haj Pilgrims?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. There were some initial glitches but flights were operated on schedule. The problem of missing baggages basically arises because haj pilgrims have considerably excess baggage. Every aircraft can fly only with pre-determined load which includes passengers, baggage and cargo. The excess baggage left behind by the pilgrims were cleared by Air India on its scheduled flights.

Selling of Property by Air India

5211. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Air India has sold its property in Navi Mumbai;

(b) If so, the amount of money realized as a result thereof; and

(c) the manner in which this money is proposed to be profitably invested?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Misuse of Authority by Railway Officials

5212. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK :

SHRI RAMSAGAR RAWAT :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the News-Item captioned "Two officials take a train for themselves" appearing in the 'Indian Express' dated April 7, 2000;

(b) whether the officials cost the Railways nearly Rs. 1 lakh for the seven hour journey at a time when the Government are trying to enforce strict austerity measures;

(c) If so, whether the Government have conducted any enquiry in this regard; and

(d) If so, the outcome thereof and the action taken against these officials?

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

(b) Engine No. 20412 based at Ghaziabad, was required to go "light only" (without train) to the Electric Loco-shed, Ghaziabad. As the Engine was anyway going towards Ghaziabad for necessary repairs and schedule maintenance, this opportunity was utilised by senior officials to reach Delhi to attend an important meeting with the General Manager at New Delhi on 3.4.2000. Since the loco movement was essentially made for operational reasons, no significant extra expenditure was involved.

(c) The facts were ascertained about the news item. No enquiry was considered necessary. However, instructions have been issued to avoid recurrence of such situations as far as possible especially in view of on going austerity drive.

(d) Does not arise.

Debarring of Income Tax Payees from PDS

5213. SHRI JITENDRA PRASADA :

SHRI K. MURALEEDHARAN :

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT :

DR. ASHOK PATEL :

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE :

SHRI RAMPAL SINGH :

PROF. DUKHA BHAGAT :

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

(a) whether the Government have excluded the Income Tax Payers and creamy layer from the purview of the Public Distribution System;

(b) If so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps being taken to ensure that benefits of PDS reaches the poor people; and

(d) the other changes being contemplated to re-vamp the P.D.S.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN) : (a) and (b) The Government have not excluded the Income Tax Payers and creamy layer from the purview of the Public Distribution System for supply of foodgrains, edible oil and kerosene. However, the State Governments have been asked to identify the Ration card holders having LPG connection and to discontinue the supply of kerosene to them under PDS. With effect from 1.7.2000 income tax assessee and their family members will not be eligible to draw sugar from the Public Distribution System.

(c) The Public Distribution System is implemented under the joint responsibility of Central and State Governments. Identification of BPL families and issue of special cards to them is done by the State Governments. Detailed guidelines in this respect have already been issued to State Governments. State Governments have also been requested that all complaints received regarding non-inclusion of eligible BPL beneficiaries and inclusion of ineligible consumers in the list of BPL population may be examined and corrective measures taken so that the ineligible families are not deprived of the benefits of TPDS. Further the State Governments have been requested to closely monitor PDS at Fair Price Shop level and make arrangements for distribution of PDS commodities in a transparent and accountable manner by involvement of Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs). Detailed guidelines for greater involvement of PRIs in the functioning of TPDS have been issued which include identification of BPL families, display of BPL beneficiaries at Fair Price Shops and Office of Gram Panchayats for public scrutiny. The Gram Panchayats have been made responsible for checking of Ration Cards occasionally for its genuineness.

(d) Government has adopted measures to better targetise food subsidy and to enhance food security of the people living Below Poverty Line (BPL). Allocation of foodgrains under TPDS has been doubled from 10 kg. to 20 kg. per family per month for BPL at 50% of economic cost and allocation for APL has been maintained at the level being currently given to States at economic cost w.e.f. 1.4.2000. In order to efficiently reach the essential commodities in PDS to the consumers in a transparent and accountable manner a

Modal Citizens' Charter for Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) has also been drawn up and circulated to States/UTs for adoption. Based on the belief that truly democratic institutions do better safeguard food security concerns of all than the State bureaucracy, the Government have also advised the State Governments to more substantially involve Gram Panchayats in supervision and monitoring of PDS especially at FPS level as a measure of social audit.

Explore India Millennium Year

5214. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government had observed the year 1999-2000 as "Explore India Millennium Year";

(b) If so, whether the Ministry had sought involvement/participation of all the organisations/agencies connecting with Tourism;

(c) if so, whether various packages of different segments such as foreign individual tourists, families, NRIs and youths and brochures entitled "experience thousand delights" were promoted through overseas tourists offices of Government of India;

(d) If so, whether inspite of various arrangements there was no improvement in the tourists traffic during the Indian Millennium Year; and

(e) If so, the reasons for failure to attract substantial tourists?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Yes, Sir. The following packages were brought out during the Millennium Year for promoting Explore India Millennium Year through overseas Tourist Offices and other agencies :

(i) Millennium packages 1999-2000 for NRIs and Youth by ITDC

(ii) "Experience thousands delights" by ITDC

(iii) Super Summer Saver Packages by Air India

(iv) Heritage Hotels Packages by Heritage Hotels Association of India

(d) and (e) No, Sir. The tourist traffic registered a positive growth of 5.2% during 1999 over 1998 as against the negative growth of 0.7% in 1998 over 1997. In the first three months of

the year 2000, tourist traffic growth of 4.1% has also been registered as against 1999.

Priority of Local People in Recruitment in Army

5215. SHRI JITENDRA PARASADA : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether during Kargil Vijay Operation local people played important supportive role to our jawans in carrying machine and material at high altitude;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to give priority to local people of border areas in future recruitment in the Army to check militancy in J&K and N.E. States as these people are well versed with the terrain and acclimatised with the climate of the area; and

(c) if so, the time by which a decision in this regard is expected to be taken to prevent local people from falling prey into hands of terrorists?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) to (c) Six porters companies were raised by recruitment of 2727 porters from the State of J&K in June, 1999 'OP VIJAY' for a period of six months, out of which 1181 porters were recruited from Kargil and Leh Sectors alone. These companies have since been disbanded.

2. Recruitment is carried out in Army, based on the Recruitable Male Population (RMP) of each State, so as to give equitable opportunity and representation to all eligible citizens, strictly on merits. Vacancies are distributed to States as follows :-

(a) Fixed Class	Based on class composition of the States
(b) All India All Class	Based on the RMP of the State

3. So far as J&K State is concerned, Government sanction to raise four companies of Ladakh Scouts consisting of 638 personnel were issued during the year 1999. This was also intended to increase employment opportunities for the youth of Ladakh region who are better acclimatized to the difficult terrains of the region, apart from such employment serving as a bulwark against anti-social and anti-national elements.

4. North Eastern States were allotted 600 additional vacancies in recruitment year 1998-99. These vacancies were further sub allotted to the States of North East based, on their Recruitable Male Population. Meanwhile, Government have approved in March, 2000 a proposal by Ministry of Home

Affairs for raising 12 Battalions of Central Para Military Forces for five years and 5 India Reserve Battalions. Of these, 5 Battalions will be that of Assam Rifles and 1 IR Battalion will be of Tripura.

5. Recruitment rallies as part of the on-going recruitment process were conducted in Kargil, Akhnoor, Rajouri & Jammu region for enrolment of candidates of these areas. Special screening was done of candidates in the recruitment process who had been employed in porter coys now disbanded in Kargil. Out of these, till date disengaged porters have been enrolled on their own merits.

[Translation]

Assistance to Families of Kargil Martyrs in Rajasthan

5216. SHRIMATI JAS KAUR MEENA : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of financial assistance provided to the dependents of the martyrs of Kargil War;

(b) whether any financial assistance has been provided to the dependents of the Kargil martyrs of village Kemari, Tehsil Nadoti, district Karauli in Rajasthan;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the time by which the dependents of Martyr Late Shri Om Prakash Gujar who sacrificed his life in the Kargil War are likely to be given the financial assistance?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) Liberalised family pension and gratuity as per the rules have been granted to the next of kin of soldiers killed in Kargil Operation. Besides, a comprehensive package has been worked out and implemented for the next of kin of all casualties of Kargil Operation. Details of the package are as follows :

Ex-gratia grant : The widows/next of kin of soldiers killed during Kargil Operation are given ex-gratia amount @ Rs. 10 lakhs. Further, an ex-gratia @Rs. 30,000 is paid to such persons from the Army Central Welfare Fund.

Assistance from National Defence Fund

Education Allowance : Rs. 1 lakh per child/Rs. 2 lakhs per family.

Financial Assistance to Parents : Dependent parents of the deceased soldiers are to be paid monthly interest accruing from a fixed deposit of Rs. 1.20 lakhs.

Housing Grant : A sum of Rs. 5 lakhs is given to all the war widows / NoK (in case the deceased Defence personnel was a bachelor) and to those Defence personnel invalidated out of service due to war injuries for construction/acquisition of a dwelling unit or for renovation, modification/addition of the existing dwelling unit on the land provided by the State Government or on his/her own land.

Families of all Kargil martyrs have been given financial and other benefits they are entitled to, on completion of necessary formalities.

(b) to (d) The next of kin of Kargil martyr Hav. Net Ram of Village Kemari, Tehsil Nadoti, Dist. Karauli, Rajasthan has been paid following financial benefits :

- (i) Ex-Gratia - Rs. 10,00,000/-
- (ii) Death Cum Retirement Benefit (DCRB) - Rs. 1,29,465/-
- (iii) Family Pension - Rs. 4200/- p.m.
- (iv) Army Group Insurance (AGI) - Rs. 3,75,000/-
- (v) AGI Maturity - Rs. 45,805/-
- (vi) Army Central Welfare Fund (ACWF) - Rs. 30,000/-

Apart from the above, orders have also been issued for release of assistance from the National Defence Fund as under :

- (i) Assistance for dwelling unit - Rs. 5,00,000/-
- (ii) Rs. 1,00,000/- per child subject to a maximum of Rs. 2,00,000/- for education of children.
- (iii) Rs. 1,20,000/- for dependent parents.

(e) The name of late Om Prakash Gujar does not figure in the list of personnel killed in Kargil Operations.

[English]

Construction of Khurda Road-Bolangir Rail Line

5217. SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the date on which the Khurda Road-Bolangir railway route was first surveyed;

(b) the number of times the above route was surveyed before the latest decision taken for construction;

(c) the original estimated cost and the latest anticipated cost of the project;

(d) the present position of the project alongwith expenditure incurred thereon so far; and

(e) the time by which the above project is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) The Preliminary Engineering-Cum-Traffic Survey (PETS) for Khurda Road-Bolangir line was conducted in 1985-86.

(b) The decision to construct the line was taken based on this original PETS only, after updating the costs. After the work was sanctioned, the Final Location Survey has been taken up.

(c) The original estimated cost was Rs. 353.38 crore. The latest anticipated cost is Rs. 700 crore.

(d) The Final Location Survey is in progress. Land acquisition papers have been submitted and money has been deposited with the State Government for 8 km length from Khurda Road end. Tenders have been finalised for earthwork and minor bridges for the first 2.5 km length. Expenditure incurred on the project till 31.03.2000 is Rs. 7.57 crore.

(e) The target date for completion of the project has not yet been fixed.

Modernisation of Air Combat System

5218. SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether India's plan to modernise and replenish its depleting air combat strength has been jeopardised due to certain lapses alleged to have been committed by his Ministry;

(b) whether despite having spent Rs. 2432 crore on the purchase, the Air Force is likely to live with a depleted combat strength for at least two years;

(c) if so, the details in this regard; and

(d) the steps being taken to meet the situation?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FER-
NANDES) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) The IAF has a modernisation plan to enhance its combat aircraft strength both in terms of quality and quantity. Plans are in hand to augment squadron force levels.

Passenger Traffic on Kuria-Mahul Rail Line

5219. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received any representation to start a passenger traffic on the existing railway line from Kuria to Mahul under the Central Railway, Mumbai;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) to (c) A request was received from the Chembur Passenger Association for starting passenger services from Kuria to Mahul. The area served by the Kuria-Trombay Single Line is well catered to by the BEST bus services with a frequency of less than 7 minutes. Also, buses in the area provide connectivity not only to Kuria but also to places like Ghatkopar. Therefore, using Kuria-Mahul goods line for passenger services is not being considered by the Railways at present.

Compensation to Victims of Hijacked Aircraft

5220. SHRI AVTAR SINGH BHADANA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has paid any compensation to the relatives of Rupen Katyal, who was killed by terrorists aboard the hijacked Indian Airlines aircraft;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has also considered to pay compensation to other injured who sustained injuries during the course of hijacking and was subsequently released; and

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

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SARAD YADAV) : (a) and (b) As admissible under the Carriage By Air Act, 1972 a compensation of Rs. 8.70 lacs has been paid by Indian Airlines to the next of the kin of the deceased passenger, Shri Rupen Katyal.

(c) and (d) Indian Airlines has borne full medical expenses of the two injured/sick passengers as indicated below :

- I) Shri Satnam Singh - Rs. 7,379/-
- II) Shri Anil Khurana - Rs. 65,148/-

Railway Financial Policy

5221. SHRI SAHIB SINGH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any Railway Financial Policy;

(b) if so, the details of its components;

(c) the amount proposed to be spent on expansion and renovation of railway stations, passenger facilities, safety and security measures during the remaining period of Ninth Five Year Plan; and

(d) the losses incurred during each of the last three years?

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

(b) Indian Railways endeavours to be a financially viable organisation which is able to meet its operating and maintenance expenses, discharge its dividend liability to General Revenues and also generate sufficient resources to not only meet replacement and renewal requirements but also adequately fund its capacity augmentation and development needs. The broad aspects of this policy are briefly as under :-

i) The Traffic Policy of the Railways is based on the principle of cost of service, value of service and is also determined by "what the traffic can bear".

ii) The investment policy aims at certain minimum rate of return on capital invested. This however, does not apply to investments in areas of safety, strategic lines, developmental projects in backward areas, staff welfare, passenger amenities, etc.

iii) The expenditure policy, inter-alia, includes cost control, budgetary control, of expenditure and laid down norms and guidelines for sanction of expenditure in accordance with canons of financial propriety;

c) The amounts proposed to be spent in 2000-01 on passenger amenities which include expansion and renovation of railway stations, safety related works and security are as under :

(Rs. in crore)

- I) Passenger Amenities including expansion and renovation of railway stations 197

- ii) Safety related works which include track renewals, signal & Telecommunication, bridge works, road safety works-level crossings and road over/under bridges 3383
- iii) Security - (both revenue and plan) 784

As regards the terminal year of the Ninth Five Year Plan viz., 2001-02, the position with regard to the above investments will be known only on finalisation of the Annual Plan for that year.

(d) Railway did not incur any loss during the last three years. The revenues generated were sufficient to meet their operating and maintenance expenses and discharge their dividend liability. However, draw-down from Railways' Fund Balances had to be made in 1998-99 and 1999-2000 to supplement the internal resources.

[Translation]

Electricity By Solar Energy

5222. SHRI RAMANAND SINGH : Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state :

- (a) the names of villages which are being given electricity by solar energy in Satna district of Madhya Pradesh;
- (b) whether this scheme has failed completely in the above district; and
- (c) if so, the steps being taken by the Government to make this scheme successful?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN) : (a) and (b) At present, no village is being provided electricity through solar energy devices in Satna district of Madhya Pradesh. Earlier, stand alone solar street lighting systems were installed by Madhya Pradesh Electricity Board (MPEB) in 15 villages in this district with support from the Ministry (then Department) of Non-Conventional Energy Sources and the Rural Electrification Corporation. But these systems could not be maintained properly by MPEB or the respective Gram Panchayats, as these systems were installed in remote locations.

(c) Following the experience in Madhya Pradesh and some other States, the Ministry has discontinued the practice of installing solar street lights by Electricity Boards by way of rural electrification. The emphasis in the programme now is on installation of home lighting systems and small power plants in villages, which are better maintained. In November 1999, the Planning Commission constituted a Working Group

on 'Options for Rural Electrification in Remote and Difficult Areas'. Schemes for electrification of remote villages/hamlets through solar energy devices in future would be based on the recommendations of the Working Group and the guidelines of the Planning Commission.

[English]

Survey for Dahanu Road-Nasik Rail Line

5223. SHRI CHINTAMAN WANAGA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether a survey has been carried out by the Government for the construction of a new railway line between Dahanu Road and Nasik in Maharashtra;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the time by which the construction of above railway line is likely to commence?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) to (c) Survey for construction of a new line for Dahanu Road-Nasik Road has been taken up. Further consideration of the project would be possible once the survey report becomes available.

Packages by Air India

5224. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

- (a) whether Air India has introduced certain new promotional packages for corporate and business travellers;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the revenue likely to be increased due to these new packages?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Air India has launched a special scheme to promote business and corporate travel effective April 01, 2000. These special packages are for First and Executive class passengers only. First and Executive class passengers who travel on Air India to USA/UK/Europe/South East Asia/Far East have been offered packages in lieu of the number of tickets purchased by them. These packages include holidays in India and abroad on Air India's network for specific duration. These promotional packages have been launched to effectively market/promote their First and Executive class carriage. Since these packages have just been introduced the actual revenue that will be generated cannot be quantified at this stage.

[Translation]

**Modernisation of Diesel Locomotive
Workshop, Varanasi**

5225. SHRI RAJO SINGH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

- (a) the manufacturing capacity of Diesel Locomotive Workshop at Varanasi;
- (b) whether the Government have received the report regarding modernisation of above workshop;
- (c) if so, the details of recommendations; and
- (d) the action taken for modernisation of the workshop?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) The manufacturing capacity of Diesel Locomotive Works (DLW) is 150 diesel locomotives per annum.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Indian Railways have entered into a Transfer of Technology contract with M/s. General Motors/USA for manufacture of high horse power state-of-the-art diesel locomotives at DLW. DLW had sent an investment proposal for setting up of the facilities for manufacture of 4000 HP/3000 HP GM diesel locomotives.

(d) The investment proposal for setting up of the facilities for manufacture of GM design locomotives at DLW for an amount of Rs. 193 crores has already been sanctioned and the work on the above project has started.

[English]

Performance of Bharat Electronics Limited

5226. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

- (a) the performance of Bharat Electronics Limited in physical and financial terms during each of the last three years;
- (b) whether the Government have reviewed its performance; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the period covered under the review?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI HARIN PATHAK) : (a) to (c) Bharat Electronics

Limited (BEL) manufactures a vast range of products ranging from small Semi-conductor devices and components to large radar and communication equipment.

The financial performance of the company during the last three years has been as under :-

Parameters	1997-98	1998-99	(Rs. in crore)
			1999-2000 (Provisional)
Value of Production	1255.58	1217.00	1540.59
Sales & Services	1260.30	1199.16	1496.04
Profit Before Tax	102.34	70.21	152.04
Profit After Tax	53.40	53.63	101.52

The performance of BEL is reviewed by the Secretary, Department of Defence Production and Supplies periodically. Government's review of performance is also done whilst laying the Annual Reports and Statement of Accounts before Parliament. This has been done for the year 1997-98, 1998-99 and Government was in agreement with the indicated performance parameters.

Bharat Electronics Ltd. has been graded 'Very Good' in the MOU ratings for the years 1997-98 and 'Excellent' for the year 1998-99.

Import by Railways

5227. SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

- (a) total imports made by Railways and expenditure incurred thereon during 1996-97, 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000 item/country-wise;
- (b) whether these imports could have been avoided;
- (c) whether any delegation of negotiation of imports had gone to Germany, France and other countries during the above period at the behest of Railway Board; and
- (d) if so, the names of the Heads of delegations in respective countries and the areas of negotiations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) The imports during 1996-97, 1997-98 and 1998-99 were Rs. 338.39 crores, Rs. 291.23 crores and Rs. 552.05 crores respectively as per statement enclosed as Appendix. The data for the year 1999-2000 is not yet compiled. The imports have been mainly from

U.S.A, Germany, Japan, Kurline, Russia, Romania, China, U.K., Switzerland, Italy, Austria, Singapore, Mexico, Netherlands, Denmark, Sweden, Australia, Brazil, France, Canada and Poland.

- (b) No, Sir.
(c) No, Sir.
(d) Does not arise.

Statement

Statement of Imports

		(Rs. in crore)		
S.No.	Item (s)	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99
1.	Steam Loco parts and fittings	0.41	0.23	-
2.	Diesel Loco parts and fittings	113.64	75.21	114.44
3.	Electric Loco parts and fittings	35.03	68.64	4.54
4.	Carriage, Wagon and EMU parts and fittings	3.27	10.56	211.48*
5.	Electrical Stores	2.45	3.72	3.53
6.	Engineering Stores	15.20	10.48	32.25
7.	Ball and roller bearings	2.32	1.66	3.96
8.	General stores covering acids, chemicals, drugs etc.	9.74	12.57	9.64
9.	Metal ferrous	9.76	11.96	7.97
10.	Other Items (including complete units of rolling stocks i.e. bogies, wheelsets, couplers etc.)	146.57	96.20	164.24
		336.39	291.23	552.05

* Rs. 207 crore is for procurement of high technology ABB Electric Loco components.

[Translation]

Survey of Churu-Taranagar-Hanumangarh Rail Line

5228. SHRI RAM SINGH KASWAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any survey in regard to laying of Churu-Taranagar-Hanumangarh rail line under Bikaner Division has been conducted;

(b) If so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the survey report has been received; and

(d) If not, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) and (b) A survey for new broad gauge line from Churu to Tatanagar has been taken up, which is in progress.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

[English]

Training Programme under NIRD

5229. SHRI RAJAJIAH MALYALA : Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the training programmes that have been conducted by the National Institute of Rural Development, Hyderabad for the benefit of Non-Governmental Organisations during each of the last three years;

(b) the number of NGO's attended these training programmes and number of participation in each programme/course; and

(c) the result achieved?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SUNDAR LAL PATWA) : (a) and (b) The National Institute of Rural Development (NIRD), Hyderabad has been organising a number of training programmes exclusively for Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs). Besides, NGOs are participating in various other training programmes conducted throughout the year. The programme-wise details including the number of NGOs participated and the number of participants in each of these programmes during the last three years are indicated in the statement enclosed.

(c) The feedback received from the participants shows that these programmes were effective.

Statement*List of Training Programmes exclusively conducted for NGOs during 1997-98*

S.No.	Title of the Programme	No. of Participants
1	2	3
1.	Development Programme for the SCs	13
2.	Capacity Building for NGOs in RD	17
3.	Human Resource Development for NGOs	21
4.	Appraisal of Rural Industry Projects	25
5.	Managament of RD Programmes for NGOs	20
6.	Technology Transfer in Rural Industrialisation	14
7.	Workshop on right to information	19
8.	Workshop on Strengthening the professional capabilities of voluantary organisations	33
9.	Training-cum-Workshop on Marketing of Handloom projects	60
10.	Identification and Formulation of RD projects for NGOs	30
11.	Identification and Formulation of RD projects for NGOS	20
12.	Planning and Managament of Watershed Development for project Personnel (NGOs)	18
13.	Planning and Management of Watershed development for VO Personnel	17
14.	Workshop Rural Technology by CAPART NEZ	78
Sub-total (A)		385

List of other Trg. Programmes where NGOs have sent their participants

1.	Business House initiated Employment and income generation schemes	10
2.	Management of DWCRA	2
3.	Management of Participatory Extension in Animal Husbandry	2
4.	Original Behaviour	8
5.	TOT on Decentralised Admn. For Panchayati Raj Functionaries	10
6.	Project Implementation, Monitoring and Evolution of Rural Development programmes	1
7.	Planning for sustainable R.D. projects	4
8.	Role of Panchayati Raj in Implementation of basic services	2
9.	Management of Training Institutions	12
10.	Management of EAS and JRY Schemes	6
11.	Social Development Strategies and Programmes	1

1	2	3
12.	Leadership for organisational development	6
13.	Social security in the unorganised sector	7
14.	Planning and Management of Agri-business	5
15.	Management of Library and Information Resources in RD	3
16.	Empowerment of Women	6
17.	Management of Development programme for STs, SCs and BCs	1
18.	Empowerment of Women through Self-help Groups	1
19.	Management of TRYSEM for Rural Dev.	5
20.	Strategies for Securing People's participation in RD	3
21.	Training Methods and communication skills for HRD	6
22.	Planning for convergence of basic services	2
23.	Stress Management	3
24.	Training for trainers for PR functionaries	10
25.	Participatory planning for RD programmes	1
26.	TOT on Women for PR Trainers	2
27.	Management of post harvest technology in horticulture	4
28.	Training methods and communication skills for human resource development	8
29.	Statistical methods for evaluation of development projects	3
30.	Women in Plan Process	2
31.	Management of primary health care in Rural areas	1
32.	Gender Sensitization of RD functionaries	3
33.	Community participation for sustainable development	2
34.	PRA and Interface for PR functionaries	5
35.	Research methodology	2
36.	Social analysis of development projects in rural areas	2
37.	National consultation on Action Plan for training of PR functionaries	4
38.	Workshop on management of Wastelands development	2
39.	Workshop of Export on D.P.C. & M.P.C.	2
40.	Workshop on Rural credit and self-help groups	8

1	2	3
41.	Workshop on information services in gender and development (collaborative programme with CWDS)	4
42.	Workshop on basic minimum services	6
43.	Workshop on new economic reforms and development of SCs and STs	4
44.	Seminar on role of local institutions in tribal areas of north-east	5
Sub-total (B)		186
Total No. of NGOs participated during 1997-98 Total (A+B)		571

List of Training Programmes either exclusively for NGOs or where NGOs constitute higher participation for the year 1998-99

S.No.	Title of the Programme	No. of Participants
1.	Development of Weaker Sections : Strategies and Programmes	15
2.	Empowerment of Women Through Panchayati Raj Institutions	22
3.	Technology Transfer in Rural Industrialisation	18
4.	Management of Development Programmes for Focus Groups - with special reference to Fishermen Community	13
5.	Empowerment of Rural Women Use of PRA Techniques	21
6.	Seminar on Interface between PRIs and NGOs	19
7.	Workshop on Learning without Frontiers-Women in PRIs	38
8.	Workshop on Impact of the Economic Liberalisation and Globalisation and Rural Workers and Rural Workers orgns.	24
Sub Total (A)		170

List of Trg. Programmes where NGOs have sent their participants

S.No.	Title of the Programme	No. of Participants
1	2	3
1.	Elimination of Child Labour	1
2.	Management of Primary Health Care Programme	4
3.	Human Relations in the Management of Organisations	1
4.	Planning & Management of Development Programme for Women	5
5.	Planning and Implementation of Sustainable Rural Development	7
6.	Management of Drinking Water and Sanitation Programmes	3
7.	People Participation in Rural Development	4
8.	Credit Management for Rural Poor	1

1	2	3
9.	Training Need Assessment : Tools and Techniques	5
10.	Management Information System for RD Programmes	3
11.	Social Analysis of Development Programmes	9
12.	Course on Stress Management of Development programmes for focus Groups	2
13.	Planning and Management of Agribusiness	1
14.	Empowerment of Rural Women Planning and Development of the Social Sector	3
15.	Convergence of Basic Community Services-Role of PRIs	2
16.	Extension Management for Sericulture Development	3
17.	Credit Management for Rural Poor	1
18.	Capacity Building of Grass-root Level Organisations	3
19.	Preparation of People's Action Plan	11
20.	Management of Rural Wage Employment Programmes	3
21.	Appraisal of Rural Micro Enterprises	9
22.	Planning and Management of Development programmes for women	5
23.	Financial Management for Panchayats	2
24.	Social Security in Unorganised Sector	14
25.	TOT for Panchayat Raj Functionaries	4
26.	Workshop on Science and Technology Application	2
27.	Workshop on Decentralised Rural Development	4
28.	Workshop on Decentralised Rural Development	4
29.	ILO-IPEC Workshop on Policy Changes for Elimination of Child Labour in Rural Areas	3
30.	National Workshop on Rural Libraries and Information Centres under PRIs	4
31.	Expert Consultation on Field Manual on Watershed Projects	11
32.	First Advisory Committee on Field Manual on Watershed Projects	9
33.	NIRD Foundation Day Workshop on Basic Rural Infrastructure and Services for Improved Quality of life	4
34.	Mid - Term Workshop on Economic Impact of Peripheral Infrastructure For Rural Poor	2
35.	Workshop on Direct Funding Practice to village Communities under Watershed Development	18
36.	Workshop on Rural Housing Development	4
37.	Workshop on DPAP and DDP	3

1	2	3
38.	Workshop on Participatory Decentralised Planning	2
39.	Planning and Management of Watershed Development	26
Sub-total (B)		210
Total No. of NGOs participated during 1998-99		Total (A+B) 380

List of Training Programmes Exclusively conducted for NGOs for the Year 1999-2000

S.No.	Title of the Programme	No. of Participants
1.	Interface between NGOs and PRIs	9
2.	Gender Sensitization for Rural Development Functionaries	10
3.	Empowerment Weaker Sections through Panchayati Raj	12
4.	National Conference on Gram Sabha	10
5.	HRD Interventions in Management of Drinking Water and Sanitation	10
6.	Training for Action Research Project Teams of 7 States	13
7.	Prevention of Alienation of Tribal Lands	14
8.	Food Processing Technology for NGOs	13
9.	Women Development : Role of NGOs	8
10.	Capacity Building of Grass Root Level Organisations in RD	8
11.	Social Development of Weaker Sections	10
12.	Interface between NGOs and PRIs	14
13.	Human Resource Development for NGOs	22
14.	Community based Pro-poor initiatives in NE States (sponsored by MORAE & UNDP)	10
15.	Management of Watershed Development	10
16.	Refresher Course on RD Projects for NGOs	27
17.	Elimination of Child Labour Policy Perspectives and Implementation Strategies	16
Total		218

List of Other Training Programmes where NGOs have sent their participants

S.No.	Title of the Programme	No. of Participants
1	2	3
1.	Seminar on Science and Technology for Rural Development	1
2.	Workshop on Functional and Financial Development on PRIs	2
3.	Round Table Conference on Agriculture and Rural Development IX Plan	1
4.	Workshop on Development Programme Convergence Model	8

1	2	3
5.	Research Methodology for Rural Development Professionals	3
6.	Workshop on Monitoring and Evaluation of Watershed Development Projects	5
7.	Seminar on Role of Information Technology in Rural Dev.	1
8.	Stress Management	1
9.	Social Analysis of Development Projects In Rural Areas	5
10.	Training Programme on SGSY	3
11.	Meeting of Committee for Training on Watershed	3
12.	Orientation for Elected Reps. of Uttar Pradesh	1
13.	NIRD Foundation Day Seminar on Agriculture & Rural Development	7
14.	Participatory Rural Appraisal for Rural Development	7
15.	Women in Panchayati Raj	6
16.	Participatory Planning and Management of Watershed Projects	4
17.	Forests and Tribal Economy	4
18.	Strategies for Strengthening PRIs in Karnataka (Ford Foundation)	2
19.	Strategies for Beneficiary Motivation	2
20.	Integration of NGOs and CBOs with PRIs	6
21.	Field Study-cum-Regional Seminar on Poverty Alleviation Among Rural Disable Persons (ESCAP)	7
22.	Development of SCs : Approach, Strategies and Programmes	4
23.	Income Generating Programmes for the Scheduled Castes	5
24.	Planning and implementation of Sustainable Rural Development Projects	6
25.	Workshop on Management of Micro Credit for Farm and Non-Farm Sector	6
26.	Training Need Assessment for Natural Resources Management (SIRD, Bhubaneshwar)	1
27.	Management of Rural Development Programmes through Dec. Governance	3
28.	Participatory Monitoring and Evaluation of RD Programmes	8
29.	Planning & Management of Development Projects for Weaker Sections	1
30.	Economic Empowerment of Women through SHG	2
31.	Expert Committee meeting on Watershed	2
32.	Capacity Building for Market Development	4
33.	Post Literacy and continuing Education -Some Insights	5
34.	Women in Rural Development	4
35.	Effective Communication for RD	2
Total		127

Total No. of NGOs attended during 1999-2000

5230. COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the spare parts of mechanical equipments worth crores of rupees are accumulated in Eastern and Western Store Division of Border Roads Organisation;

(b) If so, the details of such spare parts, their value and origin;

(c) the approximate cost of these spares and cost derived from their auction/sale; and

(d) the steps taken to ensure that stock of spares is consumed/exhausted before placing fresh demand therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) to (c) Spares worth Rs. 66 lacs have accumulated in Eastern and Western Stores Division of Border Roads Organisation, pertaining to obsolete equipments, which are no longer in use in BRO. These were procured from the original equipment manufacturers, including Foreign Suppliers. These spares have been put to auction many times. They have not been disposed of so far, due to absence of response from the bidders to buy them at the fixed minimum reserve price plus the handling charges.

(d) The provisioning of spares is being done in the BRO in a scientific manner making use of ABC Analysis. The past consumption pattern and the stocks already held as assets are invariably taken into consideration before placing the orders.

Flying Training Institute in West Bengal

5231. SHRI SUNIL KHAN : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Aviation Department of Panagarh air base in West Bengal, has taken an initiative role for the setting up of training institute of flying for the new generation;

(b) If so, the time by which the institute is proposed to be opened;

(c) whether the Chief Minister of West Bengal had launched a programme last year at Panagarh seeking permission from the Centre for providing training facilities for the younger generation; and

(d) If so, the reaction of the Union Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) to (d) A proposal has been received from

Government of West Bengal for transfer of 60 acres of Defence land, along with buildings, at Panagarh airfield of the Indian Air Force in West Bengal, on lease basis, for setting up of an Aviation Training Institute in the joint sector. The Chief Minister of West Bengal had also taken up the matter with the Government. The proposal is under consideration.

Upgradation of MIGs'

5232. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Indo-Russian programme to upgrade the Indian Force's MIG-21 BIS fighters is running behind schedule by 18 months;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the time schedule of the programme, framed initially;

(d) the total MIG-21 that are being upgraded;

(e) the total cost of expenditure involved in upgradation of each of the MIG-21; and

(f) the time by which the upgraded MIG-21 is likely to be tested?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) to (f) There has been a delay in the programme of upgrade of MIG-21 BIS fighters mainly because of the complex task involved of integration of systems of Western, Indian and Russian origin in the aircraft. Delays have occurred in the programme in the design and development phase in Russia, due to customs related problems in Russia, problems relating to development and supply of Indian systems and integration of some Western systems, and also due to problems relating to development of some of the Russian systems. As per the original schedule, the design and development phase of the programme was to be completed in August, 1998 and serial production of the upgraded aircraft at HAL in India, was to start in the year 2002. The present position of the programme is that the final phase of flight testing of upgraded aircraft is in progress in Russia. All flight tests and other related tasks are likely to be completed by September, 2000.

2. A total of 125 MIG-21 BIS aircraft are planned to be upgraded under this programme at a total estimated cost of US \$ 626 million.

Study Facilities for Defence Personnel

5233. SHRI P.D. ELANGOVAR : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have any plans to start, separate colleges for imparting technical and non-technical education to Defence personnel exclusively;

(b) If so, the details thereof;

(c) If not, the steps taken or facilities provided for the Defence persons to study and get graduation while in service and also to do any Technical Education like Engineering or diploma's of ITI Certificates or post graduate diplomas; and

(d) the details of such educational institutions and the teaching staff strength alongwith the enrolment system, existing, if any as on date, State-wise and location-wise?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FER-
NANDES) : (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) All officers are graduates on being commi-
ssioned into the Services. In addition all officers attending
courses of instruction at Category 'A'. Establishments are
awarded a wide variety of Degrees and Post Graduate
Degrees both technical and non-technical by affiliated
Universities. A large number of officers also take study leave
to enhance their knowledge and obtain additional higher
Degrees both technical and non-technical.

(d) The details of institutions where both technical
and non-technical degrees are awarded along with the details
of the teaching staff and the States in which they are located
are given in statement-I and II.

Statement-I

(a) National Defence Academy (NDA), Khadakvasla (Maharashtra)

(i)	Degree	-	B.Sc., B.Sc. (Computers) & B.A.
(ii)	Teaching Staff	-	175 Officers, 308 JCOs/NCOs from three Services and 113 professors/lecturers.
(iii)	Cadets	-	1800

(b) Defence Services Staff College (DSSC), Wellington (Tamil Nadu)

(i)	Degree	-	M.Sc. (Defence Studies), Chennai University.
(ii)	Teaching Staff	-	69 Officers from three Services
(iii)	Officers from three Services	-	425

(c) College of Defence Management (CDM), Secunderabad (Andhra Pradesh)

(i)	Degree	-	Master of Management Services (MMM), Osmania University
(ii)	Teaching Faculty	-	24 Officers
(iii)	Officers strength from three services	-	72

(d) College of Military Engineering (CME), Pune (Maharashtra)

(i)	Degree	-	B.Tech., Jawahar Lal Nehru University
(ii)	Teaching Staff	-	45 Officers, 30 JCOs and 40 NCOs
(iii)	Students	-	250 Officers, 40 JCOs and 150 NCOs

(e) Military College of Electrical and Mechanical Engineering (MCME), Secunderabad (Andhra Pradesh)

(i)	Degree	-	B. Tech, Jawahar Lal Nehru University
(ii)	Teaching Staff	-	38 Officers, 45 JCOs and 65 NCOs

- (iii) Students - 310 Officers, 70 JCOs and 210 NCOs
- (f) Military College of Telecommunication Engineering (MCTE), Mhow (Madhya Pradesh)
- (i) Degree - B. Tech, Jawahar Lal Nehru University
- (ii) Teaching Staff - 35 Officers, 38 JCOs and 49 NCOs
- (iii) Students - 120 Officers, 80 JCOs and 190 NCOs
- (g) College of Combat, Mhow (Madhya Pradesh)
- (i) Degree - M. Phil, Indore University
- (ii) Teaching Staff - 72 Officers
- (iii) Students - 565 Officers
- (h) Sponsored Post Graduate Courses at Indian Institute of Technology (IITs)
- 102 Officers attend M.Tech courses at IIT and reputed Engineering Colleges every year.
- (i) AEC Training College & Centre, Pachmarhi (Madhya Pradesh)
- (i) Degree - B.A., B.Ed., Barkatullah University, M.P.
- (ii) Teaching Staff - 33 Officers, 67 JCOs, 160 NCOs and 12 CGOs
- (iii) Students - 1800 (Designed capacity)
- (j) IGNOU Graduation Degree through Army Education Projects (IAEP) w.e.f. May 1999
- 246 candidates have already been enrolled for B.A. degree under the programme.

Statement-II***Degree/Diploma awarded for courses at Training Establishments—Indian Navy***

Courses	Degree/Diploma	No of Trainees Passing out/per year
1	2	3
A. INS Shivaji (Lonavla), Maharashtra		
3 Yr. B. Tech programme for ex-NDA cadets at Naval College of Engineering	B. Tech Degree awarded by JNU	30
4 yr. B. Tech programme at Naval College of Engineering	B. Tech Degree awarded by JNU	68
4 yr Apprentice Programme at Apprentice School	Diploma in Mechanical Engg. awarded by AICTE	150
Mechanician Course at Apprentice School	Diploma in Mech. Engg. Awarded by AICTE	70
Teaching Staff - 70 Officers, 105 Sailor Instructors and 50 Civilian lecturers		
B. INS Valsura (Jamnagar), Gujarat		
4 yr. Apprentice Programme at Electrical Training School	Diploma in Electrical Engg. awarded by AICTE	140

1	2	3
Mechanician Course (Power/Radio) at Electrical Training School	Diploma in Electrical Engg. awarded by AICTE	40
Teaching Staff - 40 Officers, 90 Sailor Instructors and 35 civilian lecturers		
C. INS Mandovi (Goa)		
3 yr. Graduation Programme (abinitio training)	B.Sc. Degree by Goa University	40
Teaching Staff - 21 Officers, 25 Sailor Instructors		
D. National Hydrography School (Goa)		
Long Hydrography Course	M.Sc. (Hydrography) Awarded by Goa University	4
E. Shipwright School (Visakhapatnam), A.P.		
4 yr. App Programme at SWS	Diploma in Naval Architecture by AICTE	20
Teaching Staff - 5 Officers, 15 Sailor Instructors and 5 Civilian lecturers		
F. NIAT (Kochi), Kerala		
4 yr. App. Programme for Apprentices	Diploma in Aeronautical Engg. by AICTE	40
Teaching Staff - 15 Officers, 70 Sailor Instructors and 10 Civilian Instructors		
G. INS Venduruthy, Kochi, Kerala		
4 yr. B. Tech Programme at Cochin University Science & Technology (CUSAT)	B. Tech Degree in Naval Architecture by Cochin University	8

Pathankot Airport for Tourism*[Translation]*

5234. COL. (RETD.) DR. DHANI RAM SHANDIL : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Himachal Pradesh has requested the Government to throw open Pathankot Airport for development of tourism in Himachal Pradesh;

(b) if so, the time by which the airport will be opened for tourists; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Pathankot Airport belongs to Indian Air Force. There is no Civil Enclave at this airport to facilitate civil operations. The development of Pathankot airport for civil operations is dependent upon the availability of resources, traffic potential, and also on willingness on the part of airlines to start services, subject to availability of aircraft and commercial viability. The proposal is at preliminary stage.

Development of Archives, Public Libraries and Museums

5235. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR KHANDELWAL : Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have received any request from the Madhya Pradesh Government for financial assistance for the development of archives, public libraries and museums in the State;

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

(c) whether a provision has been made to use Hindi in the said the archives, public libraries and museums; and

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

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Proposals for development of archives, public libraries and museums in the State of Madhya Pradesh were received for financial assistance as detailed below :-

(I) Archives :

During 1999-2000, National Archives of India received proposal from Madhya Pradesh State Archives, Swaraj Bhawan Library, Rabindra Bhawan Parisar, Bhopal and the Grenadier Archives Museum, Jabalpur Cantonment of Ministry of Defence to the tune of Rs. 8.35 lakhs, Rs. 23.50 lakhs and Rs. 25.00 lakhs respectively. Rupees 2.00 lakhs grant has been sanctioned only to the Grenadier Archives, Jabalpur Cantonment. The proposal of Swaraj Bhawan was not recommended by the Grants Committee due to inadequate information and the proposal of Madhya Pradesh State Archives which was received late would be placed before the Grants Committee for consideration during the current financial year in its meeting to be held in July/August, 2000.

(II) Public Libraries :

Vanya Prakashan, a State Autonomous body under Tribal Welfare Department of Govt. of Madhya Pradesh and Education Department of Govt. of Madhya Pradesh have requested for financial assistance for development of 2000 Swaraswati Sangams and Public Libraries under their respective control. Vanya Prakashan have forwarded a list of selected books for purchase and distribution to 2000 Swaraswati Sangams, but they have not forwarded matching contribution for 1999-2000 as required under the Scheme.

(III) Museums :

During the year 1999-2000 an application of Birla Museum, Bhopal was received from Govt. of Madhya Pradesh for financial assistance. A grant of Rs. 1.50 lakhs was recommended and sanction of Rs. 37,500/- as first instalment of the grant has been issued.

(c) and (d) State of Madhya Pradesh falls under Region "A" of the Official Language Act where 100% of official work is to be done in Hindi. The above mentioned institutions are under the control of State Government and it is for the State Government to enforce the provisions of Official Language Act in the offices under their control.

[English]

Military Operation in Assam

5236. SHRI ABDUL HAMID : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that during the military operations like "Rhino" and "Cobra" against the extremist activities in Assam since 1992 to 1999, a huge amount of decomposed money was recovered from the ULFA extremists;

(b) If so, the total amount recovered from them so far;

(c) whether the amount has been deposited to the State Exchequer or invested for any other social cause; and

(d) If so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. In Operation "Rhino" which was conducted in Assam during the period 1992-99, a total sum of Rs. 94,50,467/- was recovered from the ULFA. No operation by the codename "Cobra" was launched by the Army during this period. The money recovered has been deposited with the State Police and receipts for the same obtained and reflected in the FIRs filed on the subject.

Construction of Houses under IAY

5237. SHRI M. CHINNASAMY : Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that the construction of houses under Indira Awaas Yojana in Tamil Nadu have been stopped;

(b) If so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to restart the construction of houses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA) : (a) As per information received from Government of Tamil Nadu, Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY) is being implemented in the State without any break since its inception and construction of houses under IAY is being continued during 2000-2001 also.

(b) and (c) In view of (a) above, question does not arise.

Zonal Cultural Centres

5238. SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR : Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a Committee under the Chairmanship of Shri U.R. Ananthamurthy had submitted a report on the Zonal Cultural Centres;

(b) If so, the details of the recommendations made therein;

(c) the recommendations of the Committee which have been accepted; and

(d) the steps being taken to bring the programme of work in line with the original objectives of the Zonal Cultural

Centres as set out in the testimony annexed to the report?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) Yes, Sir. The Committee has submitted its report in January 1997.

(b) The major recommendations of the Committee pertained to :

(1) Changing the focus of the programme activities of the ZCCs so as to give more emphasis to folk and tribal art forms, documentation, identification of young practitioners of the arts and networking with the various Akademies;

(2) Restructuring the various governing bodies and creation of a common Apex Body for all the ZCCs.

(c) After discussion with the Chairpersons of the ZCCs most of the recommendations relating to programme activities were accepted. It was however decided to continue with the present administrative structure.

(d) Efforts have been made to increase networking and collaborative ventures between the ZCCs, State Governments and the Akademies, exchange of artists between the Zones under the National Culture Exchange Programme and providing additional grants for increasing documentation activities. These efforts are reflected in a shift of the programme activities of the ZCCs on the lines recommended by the Ananthamurthy Committee.

[Translation]

Misbehaviour with V.I.Ps in Trains

5239. SHRIMATI SUSHILA SAROJ : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of complaints received about indecent behaviour of the railway employees with the V.I.Ps during train journey, during the last two years, till date;

(b) whether a lady Member of Parliament in the Shatabdi Express running between Lucknow and Delhi was treated indecently by railway employees;

(c) If so, the details thereof; and

(d) the action taken against the guilty employees?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) to (d) No separate statistics are maintained regarding complaints about indecent behaviour of railway employees with the V.I.Ps. In a recent case, Hon'ble Member of Parliament Shrimati Sushila Saroj had booked tickets for herself, her spouse and companion for journey by Shatabdi Express leaving Lucknow on 10.12.99 to

New Delhi and was allotted confirmed reservation. Subsequently, one representative of the Hon'ble MP requested for cancellation of reservation and the same was done. However, the Hon'ble MP along with her spouse and 5 other passengers, who did not possess any tickets, boarded the train at Lucknow on 10.12.99. Efforts were made to accommodate the Hon'ble MP and her spouse who were allotted seats which were vacant. Five other passengers, which included a companion, were charged fare and penalty though the companion should not have been charged. The concerned staff has been taken up under suitable disciplinary action and a refund for one person, who was charged wrongly, has also been granted.

[English]

Electrification through Non-Conventional Energy Sources

5240. SHRI SUNIL KHAN : Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have any plans for electrification through Non-Conventional Energy Sources basically in SC and ST areas where there is no electrification; and

(b) if so, the details of the areas of West Bengal which have been taken on priority basis?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN) : (a) The Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources is supporting the installation of solar photovoltaic systems, biomass gasifiers for power generation and small hydro power plants in unelectrified regions of the country. Although the schemes are not restricted to SC and ST areas, most of the projects benefit scheduled castes or scheduled tribes. Among the regions covered by these programmes are the North Eastern States, the hill areas of Uttar Pradesh and Himachal Pradesh and the tribal areas of Madhya Pradesh, Orissa and Bihar.

(b) The Sundarban region of West Bengal, which was a sizeable SC and ST population has been classified as a High focus Area for the solar photovoltaic programme of the Ministry. Photovoltaic power plants have been installed in five villages in Sagar Island and three more plants are under installation in the same area. Another photovoltaic power plant has been sanctioned recently for Mausani Island in Sundarbans. Biomass based power plants, solar home lighting systems and street lights have been provided in the Gosaba Block of Sundarbans. Among other areas of West Bengal, solar home lighting systems are being installed in three ST villages of Bankura District.

Expenditure by C.S.D. on Renovation

5241. SHRI JAI PRAKASH : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) the quantum of funds incurred by the Managing Committee of the Army Headquarters C.S.D., New Delhi, during the last three years in renovating and constructing the new building (after demolishing the old structure) on the Government land;

(b) the source from where the funds were generated to meet the cost of the above work;

(c) whether the Managing Committee had sought approval for the on-going construction plans and prior permission from authorities concerned for undertaking such construction;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether any irregularity in this regard has been noticed; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government on this score?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) to (f) Army HQ Canteen located at 'Q' Block, Rajaji Marg, New Delhi has a clientele of about 25000 customers. There was a longstanding demand of the customers to provide equal facilities to all the customers. Keeping in view the persistent demand of the customers, the renovation of the canteen was undertaken whereby 'self-help' facility was planned for all. Earlier this facility was available only for officers. This is for the first time that this canteen has been modernised to improve its functioning for customers' satisfaction. This work has been appreciated by all the customers. There was no demolition involved in the renovation/modernisation of the canteen.

An amount of Rs. 41.75 lakhs has been expended on the renovations from private funds (non-public) and the formal approval of the Governing Body of Army HQ Canteen was taken for expending the money. It is also the policy of the management to invest a part of the profits accruing to the canteen to improve the facilities provided to the customers.

The modification/renovation has been carried out under Rule 6.4.1 of Delhi building Bye-Laws wherein no permission is required for the type of work undertaken. However, NDMC was apprised of the renovation and their representative visited the canteen premises to ascertain the same.

No irregularities in this regard has been noticed.

Facilities to Railway Porters

5242. SHRI P.C. THOMAS : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the plight of railway porters, such as lack of welfare schemes, welfare funds, insurance, pension, job security, medical and travel facilities;

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

(c) whether railway porters are permitted to avail of the facility of rest rooms in certain stations;

(d) if so, whether Government would like to extend such facility to other stations also; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) to (e) The Government have taken a number of welfare measures for the licensed porters. They are entitled for outdoor medical facilities in railway hospitals. They are also granted facility of railway passes and PTOs at periodical intervals and their children are permitted to be admitted to railway schools subject to availability of seats. The licensed porters have been provided with rest rooms at various important stations where their number is substantial. The need for providing facility at additional stations is assessed from time to time and such facilities are provided at stations wherever they are found justified. As licensed porters are not railway employees, they cannot be granted pension and job security. However, their badges can be transferred to their near relatives as per rules in case the licensed porter become old, infirm or in the event of his demise.

Housing Scheme for Defence Personnel

5243. SHRI CHANDRA VIJAY SINGH : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a clear national housing policy for defence personnel and/or their dependents;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, whether the Government propose to formulate a clear national housing policy in this regard; and

(d) if so, the time by which it is likely to be done?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) to (d) The Defence personnel are provided residential accommodation as per their entitlement and in

accordance with the rules framed in this regard. There is no policy for providing houses to dependents of Defence personnel. There is no proposal to formulate a policy in this regard.

Quantitative Discount to C.S.D. Canteens

5244. SHRI JAI PRAKASH : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Canteen Stores Department (CSD) has been giving some amount as Quantitative Discount (QD) to various Defence Unit Run Canteens (URCs);

(b) if so, the criteria followed and the purpose of paying such amount;

(c) the amount of Quantitative Discount paid to the AHQ(CSD) Canteen, New Delhi during the last three years;

(d) whether the CSD has received any complaint against Managing Committee of the AHQ Canteen regarding misuse of funds earmarked for certain purpose; and

(e) if so, the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FER-NANDES) : (a) to (e) Presently, Unit Run Canteen (URCs) are given 'Quantitative Discount' by Canteen Stores Department (C.S.D.) at the rate of 3.5% of the value of specified stores purchased by them during the year. Quantitative Discount is allowed as a part of terms of trade, primarily to cover certain trade losses suffered by URCs and secondly to provide some funds for their betterment and also for welfare activities of the units. It also encourages units to purchase goods from the Canteen Stores Department and not from outside agencies. This discount is given in the form of stores and not in cash.

The amount of Quantitative Discount paid to the Army Headquarters (AHQ) C.S.D. Canteen, New Delhi during the last three years is as under :-

(In Rupees)		
(i)	1996-97	43,57,245.00
(ii)	1997-98	52,63,751.00
(iii)	1998-99	47,07,100.00

No complaints against Managing Committee of the AHQ Canteen regarding misuse of funds, earmarked for certain purposes has been received.

Purchase Made by ITDC Hotels

5245. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether ITDC hotels are making purchases of towels, bedsheets and other items from the Government approved agencies like Kendriya Bhandar;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to enforce the order issued by the Department of personnel and Training in 1981 in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) to (c) ITDC hotels are commercial units which purchases of towels, bed sheets and other items from the reputed manufacturers of all private/public agencies as per annual rate contract finalised inviting public tenders through press advertisement wherein all public and private producers/agencies get equal opportunity for getting contracts on competitiveness. As per Government guidelines, purchase preference is given to Government enterprises/agencies subject to other things being equal. The guidelines issued by the Government in 1981 relate to local purchase of official requirements mainly of stationery, sanitary, electrical and other items.

[Translation]

Train Facilities

5246. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received any representations regarding introduction of new trains extension of trains and to provide more railway facilities in Dhanbad, Bokaro and Giridih district under Eastern and South Eastern Railways;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken so far thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) to (c) Some representations including from Shri Ravindra Kumar Pandey, MP, Prof. Rita Verma, Minister of State for Mines and Minerals have been received in this regard. The matters have been examined but introduction of additional trains etc. was not found operationally feasible.

[English]

Service Conditions in Indian Airlines and Alliance Air

5247. SHRI SURESH CHANDEL : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the pilots and the crew members of

the Alliance Air are engaged on contract basis and they are paid lesser than that of the Indian Airlines pilots;

(b) if so, the reasons for the discrimination;

(c) whether Indian Airlines and the Alliance Air are having old, outdated and improperly maintained fleet as compared to the private airlines;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps that are taken to induct updated aircraft in the fleets of both the Airlines?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) and (b) Whereas the Pilots of Alliance Air are engaged both on contract basis and on deputation from Indian Airlines, the crew members are on contract basis only. The pilots and the crew members of Indian Airlines and Alliance Air are governed by different sets of rules and terms and conditions. A comparison would, therefore, be not appropriate.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) A Techno Economic evaluation study, to replace the ageing fleet of B-737 and A-309 aircraft and also to augment fleet capacity of Indian Airlines, is currently underway.

[Translation]

Import/Export of Defence Equipments

5248. SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADODA MANDLIK : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of imports and exports of the defence equipments made by India during each of the last three years, country-wise and cost-wise; and

(b) the measures taken/proposed to be taken to promote the export of defence equipments?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FER-NANDES) : (a) and (b) The year-wise and cost-wise details of imports and exports of Defence equipment during the last three years is as under :-

Year	Imports	Exports
1997-98	Rs. 6,728 crores	Rs. 53.86 crores
1998-99	Rs. 6,507 crores	Rs. 29.39 crores
1999-2000 (upto February 2000)	Rs. 7,864 crores	Rs. 24.99 crores

2. The details of imports includes elements such as debt repayments, stage payments against contracts spanning several years, off-the-shelf purchases, technology commitments and advance payments under contractual obligations. It is not in public interest to give details of country-wise break up as this involves sensitive geo-political considerations.

3. The measures taken by the Ministry of Defence to promote the export of Defence equipment include policy and procedural liberalisation, seeking greater involvement of our missions abroad, intensification of interaction with foreign delegations and undertaking publicity measures. As a part of export promotion efforts, Ordnance Factory Boards/Defence Public Undertakings have been participating in selected Defence Exhibitions abroad independently and under composite India Pavilion. These Defence Industries are also major participants in international Defence Exhibitions organised in India by the Ministry of Defence such as Defence Expo and Aero India.

[English]

CVC Observation on Service Chiefs

5249. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item captioned "CVC leaves service Chiefs fuming" appearing in The Hindustan Times dated March 3, 2000;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether a final decision has been taken by his Ministry in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether this move of CVC is likely to affect the morale of Armed Forces and their inquiry procedure; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FER-NANDES) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (f) Government have received a reference from the Central Vigilance Commission regarding the position of the Armed Forces personnel in the Central Government in the context of the scope of the Commission's jurisdiction over such personnel. The matter is under examination.

Commercial Wing of Air India

5250. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to refer to reply given to Unstarred Question No. 618 dated December 2, 1999, and state :

- (a) whether the working of the Commercial Wing has since been examined;
- (b) if so, the findings thereof; and
- (c) the follow up action taken against the officials found involved therein?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) to (c) The complaints received with regard to the working of the Commercial Wing of Air India have been examined. The cases of block bookings, especially on the Gulf route during the peak seasons, have come to notice. This problem is being faced by most carriers operating on the Gulf routes. As and when block bookings are detected, they are cancelled by Air India, the seats are recycled and, therefore, there is no loss involved. A special monitoring unit has been set up to scan flights especially during the peak period and weed out block bookings.

Aerospace Park in Bangalore

5251. SHRI KOLUR BASAVANAGOUD : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government have decided to build a one-stop Aerospace Park in Bangalore;
- (b) if so, the amount proposed to be spent during 2000-2001 for it; and
- (c) the details of the advantages for having an Aerospace Park in Bangalore?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) No, Sir.

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

12.00 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

[English]

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table —

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Institute of Hotel

Management, Catering Technology and Applied Nutrition, Ahmedabad, for the year 1998-99, alongwith the Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Institute of Hotel Management, Catering Technology and Applied Nutrition, Ahmedabad, for the year 1998-99.

- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in the Library. See No. LT-1721/2000]

- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Allahabad Museum Society, Allahabad, 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 Allahabad Museum Society, Allahabad, for the year 1997-98.

- (4) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay laying the papers mentioned at (3) above.

[Placed in the Library. See No. LT-1722/2000]

- (5) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Rampur Raza Library, Rampur, for the year 1997-98, alongwith the Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Rampur Raza Library, Rampur, 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 the Library. See No. LT-1723/2000]

- (7) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Museum, Calcutta, for the year 1996-97, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indian Museum, Calcutta, 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 the Library. See No. LT-1724/2000]

- (9) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Museum, Calcutta, 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 Museum, Calcutta, 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 the Library. See No. LT-1725/2000]

- (11) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Khuda Baksh Oriental Public Library, Patna, 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 Khuda Baksh Oriental Public Library, Patna, for the year 1997-98.

- (12) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (11) above.

[Placed in the Library. See No. LT-1726/2000]

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Memorandum of Understanding (Hindi and English versions) between the Bharat Earth Movers Limited and the Ministry of Defence, Department of Defence Production and Supplies for the year 2000-01.

[Placed in the Library. See No. LT-1727/2000]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : Sir, on behalf of Shri Sundar Lal Patwa, I beg to lay on the Table —

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Council for Advancement of People's Action and Rural

Technology, for the year 1995-96, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Council for Advancement of People's Action and Rural Technology for the year 1996-97, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (iii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Council for Advancement of People's Action and Rural Technology for the year 1995-96 and 1996-97.

- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in the Library. See No. LT-1728/2000]

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table —

- (1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of Section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956 :-

- (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Indian Airlines Limited and its subsidiary Airline Allied Service Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1998-99.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Indian Airlines Limited and its subsidiary Airline Allied Services Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1998-99, alongwith the Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.
- (iii) Review by the Government on the comments of the Auditors and Comptroller and Auditor General on the Accounts of the Indian Airlines Limited and its subsidiary Airline Allied Services Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1998-99 and managements, replies thereto.

- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in the Library. See No. LT-1729/2000]

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF

CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table —

- (1) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (5) of section 45 of the Food Corporations Act, 1964 :-
 - (i) Notification No. EP 30(3)/92-Vol. II published in Gazette of India dated the 28th February, 2000 striking down the 30th and 43rd Amendments to FCI (Staff) Regulation, 1971.
 - (ii) The Food Corporation of India (Staff) (1st Amendment) Regulations, 2000 published in Notification No. EP. 30(7)/98 in Gazette of India dated the 22nd March, 2000.

[Placed in the Library. See No. LT-1730/2000]

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Bureau of Indian Standards (Amendment) Rules, 2000 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R.226 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 7th March, 2000 under Section 39 of the Bureau of Indian Standards Act, 1986.

[Placed in the Library. See No. LT-1731/2000]

[English]

12.03 hrs.

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

Fifth and Sixth Reports

SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI (NAINITAL) : Sir, I beg to present the following Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Public Accounts Committee (Thirteenth Lok Sabha) :

- (1) Fifth Report on Design and Development of Main Battle Tank-Arjun.
- (2) Sixth Report on Excesses Over Voted Grants and Charged Appropriations (1997-98).

12.03½ hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE

Forty-first, Forty-second, Forty-third, Forty-fourth and Forty-fifth Reports

[English]

SHRI Y.V. RAO (GUNTUR) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table

a copy each of the following Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Commerce :

- (1) 41st Report on Demands for Grants 2000-2001. Department of Supply (Ministry of Commerce and Industry);
- (2) 42nd Report on Demands for Grants 2000-2001. Department of Commerce (Ministry of Commerce and Industry);
- (3) 43rd Report on Demands for Grants 2000-2001. Ministry of Textiles;
- (4) 44th Report on Demands for Grants 2000-2001. Department of Industrial Development (Ministry of Commerce and Industry); and
- (5) 45th Report on Demands for Grants 2000-2001. Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion (Ministry of Commerce and Industry).

12.04 hrs.

BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Seventh Report

[English]

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL (CHANDIGARH) : Sir, I beg to move the following :-

"That this House do agree with the Seventh Report of the Business Advisory Committee presented to the House on the 26th April, 2000."

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That this House do agree with the Seventh Report of the Business Advisory Committee presented to the House on the 26th April, 2000."

The motion was adopted.

[Translation]

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE (RATNAGIRI) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Shiv Sainiks are continuously being murdered in Mumbai. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE (MUMBAI SOUTH CENTRAL) : Sir, Shiv Sainiks are regularly killed in Mumbai. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record.

(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Today, I have received 38 notices for making submission during the Zero Hour. I will call all the names. Please cooperate with the Chair.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE : Sir, three activists of Shiv Sena have been murdered in eight days in Mumbai. ... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I will call your name also. Please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please understand that we strictly go by the list. The first name in the list is Shri Ramji Lal Suman. I have to call his name first.

Then only, you can get the chance.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAJESH PILOT (DAUSA) : Some importance should be given. ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Definitely; senior Members always get an importance in the House.

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : Sir, an ex-serviceman has died. The Government should say something on this issue.

MR. SPEAKER : You can speak after he finishes.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (FIROZABAD) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, there are 57 lakh workers in Khadi and other village industries, who are on verge of being unemployed. 40 lakh workers are engaged in village industries and 17 lakh in khadi sector. Khadi institutions are having billions of rupees of dues against the State Governments. State Governments have not been releasing the money which the khadi institutions used to get as rebate or concession. It amounts to billions of rupees. State Government have not paid this money to khadi and village industries institutions. Khadi institutions do not have working capital. Khadi and village Industries Commission was

*Not Recorded.

set up in 1956. It is an autonomous body and operates through the budgetary support of Government of India. To make this institution more effective, a high powered committee was set up in 1993 when Shri Narsimharao was the Prime Minister. Thereafter a working group was constituted under the Chairmanship of Shri Pranab Mukherji. ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Suman, this is not a debate. You will get only two minutes.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, that working group had recommended for proving employment to two million workers in three years. If the recommendations of the High Powered Committee are not accepted and the khadi and total budgetary support is not given to village Industries Commission, the crisis will only aggravate.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, Hon'ble President in his address and Bhartiya Janata Party in its Manifesto have committed that jobs would be provided to one crore people every year. This Government is forgetting everything such as the thoughts of Gandhiji, principles of Gandhiji, policies of Gandhiji, the creative works of Gandhiji and our slogan of swadeshi and self reliance during our freedom struggle. Broadly speaking the principles of Gandhiji are not followed.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you I would request this House and the Government that something should be done to protect the livelihood of 57 lakh workers.

[English]

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : Sir, we discuss Defence Forces. Every day, we are talking about the welfare of ex-servicemen. A retired Col. Saave was taken into police custody during midnight in Police Station Umargaon. He died after the police custody. His family was not informed. Last day, I had been told that he was in so-and-so hospital. We have asked for a judicial inquiry. This Government must take a note of such things. It is going to affect the Defence Forces directly or indirectly. Somebody should rise from here. Are they aware of this incident or not? ... (Interruptions) He was agitating on some issue. He was picked up from his home in the midnight. No family member was with him. I had visited that family. His wife told me about the complete incident. Now, please look into it and find out how it has happened. And if need be, order a judicial inquiry so that the truth could be brought out before the nation. Will there be an assurance from the Government?

COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY (BARMER) : All the assurances go to the dustbin. ... (Interruptions) An urgent action should be taken in the matter.

MR. SPEAKER : The Minister can note down and inform the Home Minister.

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : I have noted down the concerns expressed by our senior parliamentarian. ...*(Interruptions)* I will give all the details to the hon. Minister of Home Affairs.

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : Will the Government make some statement on this issue?

MR. SPEAKER : Now, Shri Anant Gangaram Geete. Shri Geete, I am giving you a chance. But it is entirely a State subject. The law and order is a State subject.

[Translation]

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Shiv Sainiks are continuously being murdered in Mumbai. Three murders have taken place in the last 8 days. Yesterday, the 'Shakha Pramukh' of Navi Mumbai, Shri Vikas Patil was murdered in his own house. I would submit that Shiv Sainiks are regularly being murdered and all these are political murders. Maharashtra Government is doing nothing in this regard. At the time of the governance of Shiv Sena and BJP there, Strict action was taken against the gangsters. many gangster encounters took place. Now we are becoming the target of their revenge. Maharashtra Government is taking no action in this regard. No action is being taken against any gangster. Shiv Sainiks are regularly being murdered there. Maharashtra Government is conspiring with those gangsters. Such situation prevails throughout Mumbai.

Now, there is no such thing as law and order in the whole Mumbai. Shiv Sainiks are being murdered selectively. I submit that a conspiracy is being hatched to finish off the Shiv Sainiks. Unfortunately Maharashtra Government is a co-conspirator in it. The situation is like this. Therefore, I would submit, that if the State Government is unable to maintain law and order there, it is the duty of the Central Government to protect the life of every citizen of India. The Central Government should direct the Maharashtra Government to ensure that no political activist is murdered for political reasons. Now, Shiv Sainiks are being murdered in political revenge. That is why, I submit that hon'ble Home Minister should give a statement in this regard. Maharashtra Government needs to be given instructions. If this is allowed to continue, the whole fabric of law and order in Maharashtra would be destroyed. ...*(Interruptions)* There will be riots in Maharashtra. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Gangsters of Mumbai have challenged that they would wipe out the Shiv Sainiks. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I have called Shri T. Govindan.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Government should react over it. ...*(Interruptions)* Law and order has failed there. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA (MUMBAI NORTH EAST) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Shiv Sainiks are being killed in large number. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record except Shri Govindan's submission.

SHRI T. GOVINDAN (KASARGOD) : Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Textile Minister towards the handloom workers' Parliament March, which is scheduled to observe today. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Geete, what is this? You have raised your issue. Please take your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Is there any response from the Government?

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : You are asking a reply from the Government and you are not allowing the hon. Minister to speak.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon'ble Minister would only say that he will convey their feelings to the hon'ble Home Minister. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR : Sir, the concern expressed by the hon. Members from Shiv Sena Party is a very grave one. I will convey it to the hon. Home Minister. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Govindan, please continue.

SHRI T. GOVINDAN : Sir, over two lakh workers are engaged in handloom industry in Kerala and majority of them are women. All of them are living below poverty line. ...*(Interruptions)* The handloom industry is facing serious crisis as a part of general crisis in the national industry sector. With the new economic policy the Government of India is thinking to cancel the Market Development Assistance (MDA) System.

The decision may be withdrawn and financial assistance for the Spinning Mills for modernisation which are producing yarn required in handloom may be given. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record except Shri T. Govindan's submission.

SHRI T. GOVINDAN : I would also request the Government to allot hank yarn and dyes and chemicals required for the handloom at subsidised rates; modernise handloom industry to enable it to produce improved varieties of handloom products to compete in the market; establish a training institute for weaving masters and dyeing masters; and sanction assured capital contribution and NCDC assistance to primary cooperatives and Kerala State Handloom Weavers Cooperative Society (HANTEX)....*(Interruptions)*

Sir, I would request the hon. Minister of Textiles to look into these serious problems faced by the handloom industry and take immediate measures to solve the problem. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRAKASH PARANJPE (THANE) : Sir, we demand the resignation of Shri Chhagan Bhujbal, the Home Minister of Maharashtra. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, we want answers. Hon'ble Home Minister should give a statement here. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seats.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE : How may more murders they want to happen? ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRAKASH PARANJPE (THANE) : They are doing it deliberately. ...*(Interruptions)* There is no such thing as law and order in Maharashtra.

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record.

*(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER : The House stands adjourned to meet again at 2 p.m.

12.15 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Fourteen of the Clock.

14.04 hrs.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled at Four minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.

*Not Recorded.

(SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA in the Chair)

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, Matters under Rule 377.

(I) **Need to develop 'Perupalem' in West Godavari district of Andhra Pradesh as a tourist spot**

SHRI KRISHNAMRAJU (NARSAPUR) : Madam Chairman, our hon. Minister of Tourism has stated that he wanted to increase the number of foreign tourists from 175 million to 200 million. We are having very good tourist spots. One of those ...*(Interruptions)*

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI (GARHWAL) : You have to read only the text. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : You must stick to the text supplied to you.

SHRI KRISHNAMRAJU : Perupalem which is one of the coastal areas in West Godavari district of Andhra Pradesh is a beautiful scenic place and tourist spot on the beach of Bay of Bengal. It is on the main National Highway, Tada-Ichapuram, which has been sanctioned and is under implementation. The Beach itself is quite lengthy and the place is centrally located and easily connected with all the points.

A proposal was sent to the then Minister of Tourism to develop this place, 'Perupalem', as a tourist spot to attract tourists and to develop tourism infrastructure.

I would, therefore, request the hon. Minister of Tourism to expedite the proposal to develop this area and to take necessary action including sending a team to make on the spot study and for sanction of funds for this project.

(II) **Need to set up Akashvani Kendras in Mandasaur and Neemuch districts of Madhya Pradesh**

[Translation]

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA (MANDSAUR) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, Akashvani and Doordarshan Services have been widely expanding all over the country but Madhya Pradesh, especially far flung areas of Madhya Pradesh like Mandasaur, Neemuch and Ratlam districts are very backward from the point of view of these services. A repeated demand has been raised for a long time to set up Akashvani Kendras at these places. At present the existing Akashvani Relay Kendra is not able to cover and fulfil the needs of the whole area.

Therefore, I request the Minister for Information and

Broadcasting to set up full-fledge Akashvani Kendras at Mandsaur and Neemuch districts of Madhya Pradesh and the existing relay Kendras which are not having F.M. Band facility should be provided with the same to facilitate the people of these areas.

(iii) Need to set up an Indian Institute of Information Technology and Management in Nagpur

[English]

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR (NAGPUR) : Sir, a proposal to set up an Indian Institute of Information Technology and Management in Nagpur on the similar lines as that of Indian Institute of Information Technology and Management, Gwalior, an apex autonomous Institute set up by the Ministry of Human Resource Developing aiming to synergise Information and Technology.

This Institute is fully funded by the Central Government (Budget of Rs. 61 crores for the first five years).

In view of importance of this Institute, the Government of India was approached and requested to set up an Indian Institute of Information Technology and Management in Nagpur also. Nagpur is the centrally located and most suitable place which is a geographical capital of the country, second capital of Maharashtra and second greenest city. Nagpur covers 214 sq. Kms. of area and has reasonably good urban infrastructure, housing, medical, education and recreation facilities and the Government of Maharashtra has recently decided to develop Nagpur City as a 'Infotech City'.

The Government of Maharashtra is going to provide all necessary infrastructure to create required atmosphere for the Information and Technology. The Government of Maharashtra has taken the initiative to make Nagpur Airport as an International Airport and develop it as Multi Model Logistic Hub. Nagpur is having natural, ideal, central location, good climate, ample and cheap space, peaceful and secured atmosphere, good ancillary infrastructure, road and rail connections and good atmosphere for many education institutions.

I, therefore, urge the Government to examine the proposal at the earliest and take a favourable decision in this regard.

(iv) Need to provide financial assistance to State Government of Andhra Pradesh for providing relief to the coconut farmers affected by severe cyclone in Srikakulam district

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU (SRIKAKULAM) : Madam Chairman, I would like to bring to the notice of the Union Government the losses caused due to a severe cyclone on

17th/18th October, 1999 in my parliamentary constituency, Srikakulam district, Andhra Pradesh. The main damage was caused to coconut plantations in six Revenue Mandals. An extent of 11,477 hectares of coconut plantations was damaged. The particulars of other damages were already submitted by the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh to the Prime Minister on 21.10.1999.

The individual farmer-wise damage to coconut plantations were assessed. As per the assessment, 4.83 lakh coconut plants were fully damaged and 1.74 lakh coconut plants were partially damaged. A proposal was submitted to Chairman, Coconut Development Board for sanction of Rs. 10.53 crore to Andhra Pradesh for providing relief to the farmers. I, therefore, request the Government to kindly advise the Coconut Development Board for releasing an amount of Rs. 10.53 crore immediately.

In this connection, I also request the Government, through you, Madam, Chairman, to advise the Coconut Development Board for sanctioning assistance for taking up fresh coconut plantations in an area of 6,000 hectares in Srikakulam district.

I shall be grateful for an early action in this matter as the farmers are waiting for assistance for the past six months.

(v) Need to Convert Gonda-Gorakhpur via Balrampur Metre-Gauge Railway Line into Broad-Gauge

[Translation]

SHRI RIZWAN ZAHIR (BALRAMPUR) : Madam, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards the metre-gauge line of Gonda-Gorakhpur via Balrampur. Several requests have been made by many Members of Parliament to convert it into broad-gauge. A survey had also been conducted by the Government long ago to convert it into broad gauge but due to some reasons the work was stopped abruptly. About 7 Parliamentary Constituencies are conducted by this railway line and for the development of the area it is essential to convert it into broad gauge.

Therefore, I request the Government to make arrangements for early conversion of metregauge line of Gonda-Gorakhpur via Balrampur into broad-gauge.

[English]

(vi) Need to settle boundary dispute between Maharashtra and Karnataka

SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK (KOLHAPUR) : Madam, Maharashtra-Karnataka border dispute has been pending for a very long time, that is, since 1956.

Maharashtra Legislature also passed a unanimous resolution that the Central Government should intervene in the matter and resolve the long pending issue. The demand of Maharashtra State is that boundaries between the two States should be re-adjusted on a rational basis and all Marathi-speaking areas, that is Belgaum, Nipani, Karwar, etc. should be included in Maharashtra. The wishes of the Marathi-speaking people in these areas are reflected by the fact that people of border areas staged *dharma* and the aggrieved people sat on hunger strike before the Parliament. During the period of 45 years, many people even sacrificed their lives. However, the problem of the Marathi population is still where it was. It is not at all a fight between the two States of Maharashtra and Karnataka. It is a simple demand of the people who are Marathi and are keenly interested to remain in their own State.

During the visit of the hon. Prime Minister to Mumbai on 1.5.1998, an all-party delegation met and discussed with him the issue. The Prime Minister assured that he would discuss the dispute with the Chief Minister of Karnataka and Maharashtra separately and then hold a joint meeting of both the Chief Ministers. But it has not yet materialised.

Considering the repeated requests from the State Government to the Government of India for intervening in the matter and convening a meeting for the long pending border dispute, the matter needs urgent attention of the Central Government.

(vii) Need to provide better telephone services in Muzaffarpur, Vaishali and Sitamarhi districts of Bihar

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (VAISHALI) : Madam, applications for the telephone connections in Muzaffarpur, Vaishali and Sitamarhi districts to Bihar are pending since 1993, 1994 and 1995 respectively. It is difficult to talk on telephone from Sahabganj and Deoria areas of Muzaffarpur district. The telephone exchange at Sariaya Barka village is not functioning. No telephone exchange has been set up at Fulwaria, Marvan villages so far.

With a view to remove all the above problems, I would request that telephone connections should be provided in all villages of these districts and the existing exchanges which are out of order should also be got repaired.

14.15 hrs.

DISCUSSION UNDER RULE 193

Re : Rise in Price of Essential Commodities

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now the House will take up the Discussion under Rule 193 regarding rise in prices of essential

commodities. Shri Basu Deb Acharia to speak now.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (BANKURA) : Madam, the vicious attack on the livelihood of the people of our country by the B.J.P.-led Government continues unabated. After the harsh measures announced by the hon. Minister of Finance in his budget for the year 2000-2001, the Government has launched series of attacks on the people through administered increase of prices of essential commodities.

When this Government came to power, even before taking charge of the Government, the Government increased the price of diesel to the extent of 40 per cent. For umpteenth time we were told that the people of our country would have to face hard days and hard decisions are to be taken. : want to ask : for whom are these hard decisions? They are not for the affluent sections of the people but for the poorer sections of our people.

As a result of this, the hon. Minister of Finance announced the increase in the issue price of rice and wheat both for the people living below the poverty line (BPL) and above the poverty line (APL). For the people living below the poverty line, the price of wheat, which was Rs. 2.50 per kilogram, was first increased in the Budget to Rs. 4.20 per kilogram and then subsequently it was again increased to Rs. 4.50 per kilogram. The price of rice for those below the poverty line, which was Rs. 3.50 per kilogram was first announced in the Budget to Rs. 5.85 per kilogram and then subsequently, within one month, it was again increase to Rs. 5.90 per kilogram.

For the people living above the poverty line, the price of wheat, which was Rs. 6.82 per kilogram was in the first instance increased to Rs. 8.40 per kilogram and then within one month, it was again increased to Rs. 9.00 per kilogram. In case of rice for the people above the poverty line, the price which was Rs. 9.05 per kilogram was first increased to Rs. 11.70 per kilogram and then again, it was increased to Rs. 11.80 per kilogram.

The price of kerosene, which was sold at two rupees per litre, was increased to more than double, to Rs. 4.50 per litre. That is the issue price. But, actually, the price of kerosene has been increased much more than the issue price.

Madam, I was in Gujarat yesterday. I visited four or five drought-affected villages. I tried to know from the people of that area as to what was the price of kerosene per litre. I was told that in each village in Gujarat, kerosene was being sold at Rs. 15 per litre.

In Delhi also, it is not less than Rs. 10 per litre. Madam, if the kerosene is sold at Rs. 15 per litre, how can the poor people of our country, the people who are living below the

[Shri Basu Deb Acharia]

poverty line, purchase kerosene for their use? The price of sugar was also increased by one rupee per kilogram. Although the Government announced a hike of Rs. 30 per cylinder of LPG, the actual increase is much more than that. In Delhi, it is Rs. 45 per cylinder and in other States, it is more than Rs. 50 per cylinder. The price of milk was also doubled.

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV (SAMBHAL) : Please do not say this because milkmen generally poor. Milk should be costlier. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : Government should provide subsidy on it. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRAKASHMANI TRIPATHI (DEORIA) : What is the objection to sale the kerosene at the rate of Rs. 6/- from Rs. 3/- at ration shops when in the open market, it is being sold at Rs. 15/- per litre? ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please let him speak. Why are you disturbing?

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Madam, the argument of the Government is that the Government wants to reduce the subsidy which is being provided. To keep price of foodgrains within the purchasing power of the people of our country, the targeted PDS was started by the United Front Government when Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav was also a Minister. Our demand at that point of time was that 20 kilograms of foodgrains should be provided to the people living below the poverty line at half the price, that is, 50 per cent of the price, but the United Front Government took the decision to provide 10 kilograms of foodgrains at 50 per cent price. It was stated at that time that to start with, it was proposed to issue 10 kilograms of foodgrains per family per month at specially subsidised price for all families living below the poverty line, as per the estimates of 1993-94 arrived at by the Planning Commission using the methodology of the expert group under Prof. Lakarawala. It was also decided at that point of time that as recommended by the Conference of the Chief Ministers, the average lifting of foodgrains, for the last 10 years, by the States was to be continued for the benefit of the population living above the poverty line.

At present, the line followed is that the quantity of foodgrains out of average lifting under PDS, which is in excess of requirement of population below the poverty line, is proposed to be allocated to the States as transitory allocation at the Central Issue Prices. It was never mentioned at that point of time, when this targeted PDS was adopted, that the

price of the foodgrains to be provided to the people living the poverty line be half of the economic cost.

It was never mentioned there. The argument of the Government is that they have doubled the quantity of food grains. But the quantity of 20 kilograms is overdue. It was our demand that 20 kilograms of food grains should be issued. Reviewing the quantity to 20 kilograms is not sufficient for a family of five members. It means a mere four kilograms per persons in a month. It is only 30 per cent of a person's requirement, as per Indian Council of Medical Research. The quantity has been increased and the price has been doubled. So, the purpose of increasing the quantity of food grains has been defeated. While taking a decision to increase the price to 50 per cent of the economic cost, the Government did not take into consideration the purchasing power of the people of our country.

I enquired from the people from the drought-affected areas as to how much they were getting for the relief work done by them. I was told that in all villages people were getting Rs. 20, although the minimum wage is Rs. 44 there. If the wage is Rs. 20, it is much less even as per Economic Survey. Therefore, when the Government considered the decision to increase the price and reduce the subsidy, this fact was not taken into consideration. The argument of the Government is that it is a burden on the Government and that this burden is increasing. The subsidy on food is more than Rs. 8,000 crore now. It was Rs. 9,600 crore last year and it has been reduced this year by increasing the price of food grains under the Public Distribution System. Is such subsidy provided only in our country? Is the quantum of subsidy or percentage of subsidy as a percentage of GDP more in our country than in others? The answer is 'no'. Food subsidies as a share of GDP have not changed very much over the last 20 years. In other words, the burden of food subsidy has not increased. The argument of the Government that the burden of subsidy on food has increased substantially, is not correct. The food subsidy bill in India is not very high. It is not very high even when compared to expenditure in other developing countries.

In Sri Lanka, even after introduction of tested food stamps, even after a steep reduction in food subsidies, the total subsidy still accounted for 1.3 per cent of the GDP. That is roughly twice the figure of India. In Mexico, in 1984, when general food subsidies had been eliminated, the food subsidy was 0.63 per cent of GDP.

In Tunisia, food subsidies were around 4 per cent of the GDP in 1984 and subsequently they were reduced to around 2 per cent, whereas, in India, over a period of 31 years from 1966 to 1997, food subsidy average is 0.31 per cent of GDP. The Food Corporation of India came into being in 1967. If we see the percentage of expenditure of food subsidy on our total expenditure, it is only 2.35 per cent of the Central Government expenditure.

Is the subsidy too much? Why is the Government attacking poorer sections of people? In the PDS, we have divided the population into below the poverty line and above the poverty line. I would like to know whether all the under-nourished people and the people vulnerable to malnutrition are covered by the people below the poverty line.

I can give you one example. Dharavi in Mumbai which is the biggest slum in Asia having a population of 5 lakhs, how many below poverty line card holders are there? There are only 151 BPL card-holders. There is a large section of population who are under-nourished because of below poverty line criterion and their condition is not good. Fifty per cent of our population are either under-nourished or are vulnerable to malnutrition and this section of people are excluded from PDS. After the announcement made by the Finance Minister, the middle-class people are excluded from PDS and now the Government of India wants to demolish the PDS clandestinely, through a backdoor method. Why was the PDS introduced in India? At what time the rationing system was introduced? In 1967, the Food Corporation of India came into being. This PDS is in our country to provide foodgrains at a subsidised rate.

A larger section of people will be excluded if the price for the people above the poverty line is more than the market price. It is more than the market price. It is said that the price will be within the economic cost. 'Economic cost' means the operations of the FCI, the handling charges, the shortages of about five per cent to six per cent, and the transport charges. They are all included within the economic cost. As a result of this, the price for the people above the poverty line, which has been fixed at an increased rate, is more than the price for which the commodities are available in the market. So, how will the people go to the public distribution system? As a result of this increase in the prices of basic foodgrains, the real income of millions of consumers will reduce substantially. It will reduce the real income of millions of consumers because they will have to pay more for the same quantity of foodgrains.

The criterion or the principle adopted in 1997 when the United Front Government was there, was that the people below the poverty line were not in a position to purchase the foodgrains at the prices they were available in the market and so the price should be reduced by 50 per cent for them. Now, by increasing the price for the people below the poverty line, the real income of millions of people will be reduced to a great extent and the purpose for increasing the quantity of foodgrains will be defeated. Nobody will be able to purchase the entire quantity of foodgrains at these prices as they have been doubled.

This new policy has introduced an in-built mechanism for further rise in prices whenever the economic cost increases. The price will increase whenever there is rise in the wages of

the employees of the Food Corporation of India or in the handling charges. Still in most of the godowns the foodgrains are handled by the contractors. Although my friend Shri Devendra Prasad Yadav, when he was the Minister, wanted to departmentalise the handling of foodgrains he could not do so because of a reshuffle in the Cabinet. He was dropped. He was a very efficient and good Food Minister in the United Front Government. So, whenever the handling charges are increased or there is an increase in the wages of the employees, it will have an impact on the prices also.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please conclude now.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : I am initiating. I should get more time. I have spoken for only 15 minutes. I have many more points.

MR. CHAIRMAN : There are many more hon. Members to speak. How much time are you going to take?

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : About forty minutes.

This measure, in effect, removes the families above the poverty line from the Public Distribution System.

It is because the economic cost is half the market price. As I have already said, large sections of our people are under-nourished and vulnerable to malnutrition. Fifty-four per cent of our population is in this category because we have the maximum number of poor people in our country. They will be excluded from the Public Distribution System.

For the BPL families, allocation has been doubled; however, prices have also been raised. Those families will have to spend more now for acquiring the same quantity of foodgrains. Quantity has been doubled and at the same time, prices have also been increased; it is almost doubled. If a BPL family wants to purchase the entire quantity of foodgrains at a time, that family would not be able to purchase them at that price.

After the Government's announcement about the increase in the issue price of foodgrains for people below poverty line, there was one report, which says that there will be less consumption of at least 35 per cent of cereals. As a result of this, there will be less intake of calorie to the extent of 300. Thus, it will have an impact on the nutrition and nourishment of the people below poverty line.

When a large section of the people is being excluded from the public distribution system, this will lead to under-nourishment or the people will be at the risk of under-nourishment. At the same time, the condition of the people above poverty line is also not good. They will also suffer from under-nutrition.

We have a buffer stock of about 31 million tonnes of

[Shri Basu Deb Acharia]

foodgrains. if we allocate the foodgrains to the States as per the existing increased quantity, then for the BPL families, the off-take will be 14 million tonnes because previously it was seven million tonnes. It will now be doubled. If we accept and agree that the entire quantity will be lifted and all the families below poverty line will purchase 20 kg. of foodgrains, then the off-take will be 14 million tonnes out of 31 million tonnes. What will the Government do with the rest of the stock of foodgrains? For that also, the Government will have to spend on subsidies. The Government wants to reduce subsidies, which were being provided to the poor people of our country. Actually, here subsidy will not be reduced; rather, it will be increased.

It is because a larger section of the people are being excluded from the PDS. The people who are above the poverty line will not purchase foodgrains from the PDS at a higher price. Instead they will purchase foodgrains from the open market. And the people who are below the poverty line will not be able to purchase the entire quantity of foodgrains because their purchasing power is not so high. So, the buffer stock will increase and the foodgrains will rot. As a result the Government will have to spend much more for the storage of foodgrains. ...*(Interruptions)*

Madam, the prices of not only foodgrains, like wheat and rice, have been increased but also that of kerosene has been increased. Who are using kerosene? Still, thirty per cent of the villages in our country have not been electrified. Recently, I visited Gujarat. I asked the people there at what price they are purchasing kerosene. They told me that they are getting it at the rate of Rs. 15. ...*(Interruptions)* Electricity has not reached thirty per cent of our villages. If a village has even one pole and one bulb, it is declared as electrified. That is the criterion of rural electrification. We have suggested that this criterion should be changed. Even if the village is electrified, the people who are below the poverty line cannot deposit Rs. 1,000 for meter connection. So, they use only kerosene. The price of kerosene which was Rs. 2 per litre has been increased to more than double, that too when the international price of crude oil is decreasing. When the price of crude oil is decreasing, the Government is increasing the prices of kerosene and LPG. For the first time, since Independence, the price of kerosene has been increased by 151 per cent. The price of LPG cylinder has also been increased by Rs. 51. It was never done. Never the people of this country was attacked in such a savage manner. The price of urea has also been increased by 15 per cent, when the foodgrains production is coming down.

All the urea producing units are closed, starting from Gorakhpur to Ramagundam. Only Namrup and Sindri are producing urea. Food grains production has come down by 55 lakh tonnes. Per capita availability of foodgrains has come down from 502 grams to 486 grams. Availability of pulses is

coming down from 64 grams to 48 grams. Why is the food production coming down? Why is it less than our growth in population? This is related with our food security. What will happen to the food security of our country? We will have to depend on import of foodgrains from the foreign countries. The America wants that we should depend on import of foodgrains. We will have to not only import wheat but also rice. Rice is now coming from Malaysia. We have opened our doors. We have adopted a liberalised economy. We want to dismantle our Public Distribution System. Our industries are being closed down and we are depending on import from foreign countries. I would like to know whether the cost of production in agriculture will increase substantially or not as this will have an impact on the production of foodgrains in our country. The production has already come down by 55 lakh tonnes. This has never happened. The growth in the agricultural sector was always commensurate with the growth in population. For the first time, the growth in agricultural production is less than the growth in population. We will have to face scarcity in food. People will be mal-nourished. More and more people will be under-nourished.

Madam, India is a country where nutritional deprivation exists on a larger scale. In fact India leads the world in the number of malnourished, food-insecured and poor people. Under the BJP led Government the attack on PDS, which began in early nineties, with revamped Public Distribution System, has turned into a demolition job. The changes announced in the Budget in 2000-2001, would end the PDS in India and worsen food and nutrition security for the mass of the people. This Government has declared a war against the poor people of our country by increasing the prices of all the essential commodities. All the allies including, Trinamool Congress, Telgu Desam, DMK, Shiv Sena and Janta Dal yesterday led delegation.

[Translation]

SHRI SHANKAR PRASAD JAISWAL (VARANASI) : Shri Basu Deb, first you please ask their opinion regarding the milk prices.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : They have stated that milkmen should be provided adequate prices of milk. I have stated that the Government should provide subsidy on it. You also want to provide milk to the people on cheaper rates also to provide remunerative prices of milk to milkmen.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : You please address the Chair.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Madam, all the allies met yesterday. They have decided to raise this issue and put pressure on the Government both inside and outside this

House. Madam, the prices of the foodgrains and other things which are sold under Public Distribution System have been increased. The prices of kerosene, LPG, sugar, fertiliser, rice and wheat have been raised. The Government's argument is that it wants to reduce subsidy. Madam, I have the percentage figures of the off-take of foodgrains in different States where the Public Distribution System is running successfully.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please conclude now. You have taken more than 45 minutes.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Madam, in Andhra Pradesh, the off-take is 11.5 per cent, in Tamil Nadu, it is 8.2 per cent, in Kerala, it is 11.5 per cent, in West Bengal, it is 6.8 per cent, Karnataka 6.5 per cent and in Maharashtra, it is 9.3 per cent. These are the States where the Public Distribution System is working successfully.

Last week, all the political parties under the leadership of the Chief Minister of Kerala staged a *dharna* in front of Parliament House. Their demand was that the price of sugarcane should not be increased. What will happen now? On the one hand, they are arguing that they want to reduce subsidy. On the other hand, the State Governments have already announced that they will not increase the prices of foodgrains. Then, what will happen? The State Governments will have to spend about Rs. 300 crore to Rs. 400 crore more. The Central Government wants to reduce subsidy and it wants to put burden on the State Government.

There are some States like Kerala which are producing cash crops. The Government of India is earning foreign exchange worth Rs. 100 crore. On the other hand, they are putting burden on the State Governments. I demand that the prices of wheat, rice, kerosene oil, LPG, fertiliser, and sugar should be rolled back.

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY (CALCUTTA NORTH WEST) : Madam, I rise to speak with a heavy heart on the discussion on rise in prices of essential commodities. We are not in Opposition, we are with the Government and we are solidly behind the Government. We want to be with the Government. There is no doubt about that.

15.00 hrs.

We want to assure the Government our support at every stage. We want to see that this Government continues for the full five years. But, what has shocked us is this decision, in spite of Shri Shanta Kumar's article published in the *The Financial Express* in his own name - "New PDS - poor have got more relief than before."

What I want to ask the hon. Minister is whether the poor people have become happy with the rise in prices of essential commodities. If it is a decision by which, according to the hon. Minister, the poor have got more relief than before, I do not

find any poor person in the country who is extending his support to this decision taken by the Government. In his article he has written that :

"To explain the reality in detail, a poor family on an average needs 60 kgs. of foodgrains per month out of which if it purchases 10 kgs. of rice from the ration shop at Rs. 3.50 kg. spending a total of Rs. 35, the balance requirement of 50 kgs. of foodgrains is purchased from the market at Rs. 12 per kgs. spending another Rs. 600 per month. Thus, a poor family spends Rs. 635/- per month to meet its requirement of foodgrains under the old scheme. Under the new dispensation, the poor families will purchase 20 kgs. of foodgrains from the ration shop at a higher rate of Rs. 5.90 per kg. spending a sum of Rs. 118 per month. To meet the balance requirement of 40 kgs. of foodgrains, the family will spend Rs. 480, incurring a total expenditure of Rs. 598 only and this clearly shows that the monthly foodgrains bill of the poor family has been reduced to Rs. 598 from the earlier Rs. 635 resulting in a net relief of Rs. 37 per month."

But, I would rather say that a person below the poverty line cannot afford to purchase 10 kgs. of foodgrains at a time. So, by increasing it from 10 kgs. to 20 kgs. if you have made claims in the electronic and print media that you are providing Rs. 2200 crore of subsidy which will be beneficial to the people below poverty line, I would like to ask whether it is responded by the people or by any State Government of the country.

I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister to the reply given by the Government to Question No. 389 in Lok Sabha on 20th April. It was said in the reply that :

"While doubling of foodgrains for BPL has been welcomed by almost all the States, increase in prices has been criticised."

That means, according to the reply given by the Government, all the State Governments of our country have criticised this decision, including the States ruled by the BJP. This is his own reply, not mine.

What makes us feel guilty that when we go to the people during elections, do we actually ever write in our election manifestoes that when we come to power we will increase the prices of rice, wheat, kerosene, fertilizer, consumer goods, gas, etc.? Never. The manifesto of any political party should be more transparent. This is what is expected from the Government, now that we are on this side.

Before giving any commitment by the party before the elections, if people start feeling that the Government headed by Shri Atal Behari Vajpayee will be a pro-people Government, and then one fine morning, they come to know that prices of several essential commodities have gone up all of a sudden,

[Shri Sudip Bandyopadhyay]

then what will be the sentiments of the people? I would earnestly request the hon. Minister to consider this view. We are not in favour of increasing the prices of wheat and rice falling under BPL categories. We are not in favour of increase in prices of domestic gas and kerosene. We are not in favour of increasing the prices of urea and fertilisers. It is not that we are saying it only here. As one of the allied parties, we have met the hon. Prime Minister and the hon. Finance Minister, and submitted a memorandum requesting them that such decisions should be reconsidered. Sir, it is a matter of great regret that when we met the hon. Prime Minister, in the Parliamentary Party meeting of the BJP itself, to submit our memorandum, many Members expressed their annoyance and grievances saying that this is not a pro-poor decision and that they have to face their own people in their constituencies. This is the proper reflection of the sentiments of the common people. This has been discussed in detail in the BJP Parliamentary Party meeting itself. So, why is this stand taken by the Government when the discussions are going on?

The Finance Bill is due to be discussed on the floor of the House on the 3rd and 4th of May. The Finance Minister has been constantly announcing that he will not bow his head so far as the decisions which have already been announced. When the Parliament is in Session, there is enough scope for interactions, we have enough scope to know each other's attitude, and other opinions may also be reflected. In that case, we never support any decision taken unilaterally by the Finance Minister. We are not requesting the Government with a slogan to roll back the prices. But we are certainly saying to reconsider the decisions, and give some relief to the people. I have been telling them that though they may not roll back, they may take a proper pro-people decision, so far as this Government is concerned. ...*(Interruptions)*

Madam, I would rather add that if you are really interested to give relief to the people, then they should instruct the State Governments to go for dehoarding operations, book the blackmarketeers who take advantage of the situation. If any decisions are taken by the Central Government in the meetings with the State Departments, then the Minister-in-charge of the concerned Department should categorically guide and direct the State Departments concerned to implement those decisions. Then, we firmly believe that people can get relief certainly.

I have my experience. When I was the President of the State Youth Congress of West Bengal, I made a massive dehoarding operation in our State. On behalf of the political party, we gave slogans : "Where are the hoardings? Where are the blackmarketeers hiding their goods?" Within a gap of one month or 45 days, the prices came down in a fantastic manner. It was done without causing hardships to any business house. No business house was disturbed. My friend is telling that others have also done it in a few other States.

We know that the Government have their own financial constraints. They are really facing difficulties and they are in a mood to mobilise resources. I was going through a report submitted by Shri Devendra Prasad Yadav who has very nicely prepared a report. In a meeting of ours, he was explaining before us how the Government are not telling the truth to the people. So far as the food subsidy report is concerned, I am carrying a paper with me. It is about the food subsidy since 1991-92. In the Budget estimate of 1999-2000, the food subsidy was to the tune of Rs. 8,200 crore. In 2000-2001, the budgetary estimate is Rs. 8,100 crore. It is less by Rs. 100 crore. So, it is easily understandable that whatever reports or projections or state-ments the Government are making, there are differences and contradictions amongst themselves. So, what we believe is that reform means involvement of the people. Any decision which may tarnish the image of the Government should not be taken. The Government should not feel shy of reconsidering the decision. The allies parties have discussed amongst ourselves on different occasions. We have also said that if any Cut Motion is moved, if any attempt to topple the Government is made, the allies parties will certainly take a firm stand to remain behind the Government but with a heavy heart. The Government should take into consideration our feelings. We will attach importance to it. On the day the Finance Bill is discussed, the Government should certainly take some decisions by which the allies parties, including the people of our country, become satisfied. They can have confidence, faith and belief in the Government headed by Shri Atal Bihar Vajpayee.

With these words, I conclude.

SHRI RAJESH PILOT (DAUSA) : You say either you want withdrawal or revival of the subsidy. You tell them that you insist on a review and then the message is clear. But you say that you will consider it and you will not allow the Government to fall. This is not correct.

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV (SAMBHAL) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am thankful to you for giving me a chance to speak. I am especially thankful to hon. Girija Vyas ji who gave me her own chance to speak first and agreed to speak later. If there comes any chance in future, I will provide her twice the time she has provided to me.

You people know only to take, so you learn something from her. ...*(Interruptions)*

Mr. Chairman, Sir, whatever figures were quoted by the Government, Shri Basu Deb Acharia ji has replied well to those figures. So I do not want to say anything in detail about this. I

would like to point out only two-three main things. The Government has increased the price of many commodities like LPG, kerosene, fertiliser etc. I would like to know as to how many people will be affected by this. You said that it will affect 54% people. I would like to tell that it has not affected only 54% people, increase in price of Urea alone has affected 76% farmers. There are 74% farmers who have big land holdings and small land holdings and four per cent are agricultural labourers. You can imagine to what extent this price is going to affect them.

This Government is being entrapped in the conspiracy of rich nations. Our country is the main target of rich nations. They know that our farmers have immense potential for cultivation and there are large areas of fallow and barren land in the country. If farmers are provided with facilities then they can produce two and half time more foodgrains. This potential is nowhere seen except in India. Today, the main aim of the rich nations is how to destroy Indian agriculture. If the farmers of this country becomes rich and prosperous, then India will be the strongest nation of the world. So this is the biggest conspiracy that subsidy should be withdrawn.

They cite example that price rise is a world phenomena. You are copying the price rise at international level but are you copying other things? The rich nations are pressurising you and you are increasing the price of fertiliser under these pressure. It is due to this that the agricultural production of our country has started diminishing. Slump in agriculture production will lead to disastrous consequences. After sometime foreign companies will spread their tentacles. Presently its impact will not be apparent but over a period of time its impact will be immense and harmful. It will be the same in India as has happened in Malaysia. The farmers of our country will be compelled to sell their produce to foreign companies in order to protect their agriculture. Today we are self sufficient in respect of foodgrains due to the labour of our farmers but in future we will be compelled to consume foreign foodgrains.

LPG and kerosene too have become costly. Those who do not have electricity manage with kerosene lamps. Poor students who cannot bear the cost of education try to study by taking loan, doing labour or working in the field. Today they do not have electricity. You have put burden on those students who study in the light of kerosene lamps. On the other hand who is going to be benefited by this price increase? Fertilizer and tractors are costly and cars are cheaper. Mobile phone is cheaper. I want to ask as to who are having cellular phones and cars?

15.19 hrs.

(SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV in the Chair)

It is very much like the old song that is 'kahin pe nighahen

aur kahin pe nishana-' that means they talk about poor people and benefit the rich. This Government is acting only to provide benefit to rich people. Sometimes I feel distressed to see that a person like hon. Ram Naik too is in the Cabinet. It is true because I do not praise BJP people much. But he is an experienced and practical leader.

I am aware of his entire political career but how did he agree to increase the price of LPG. He should leave this Cabinet and should not be a part of this conspiracy, whether it is DMK, Trinmool Congress or hon. Prabhunath ji, none should be a part of this game. We in the opposition understand everything. You will do both the roles, you will run the Government and on television you will play the role of opposition. You want to do both the roles, but you cannot do both the things. On the one hand, they increase the price and on the other hand, on television they demand roll back of prices. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (MAHARAJGANJ, BIHAR): We talk about the roll back prices and you talk about politics and here lies the difference.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : It is not politics. You should have left the Government the day prices increase was announced affecting the farmers. You are a farmer and you also talk about farmers and you also support them. Today this act is for the destruction of entire nation. Selected few use cellular phones, why cellular phones have been made cheaper, which company is being benefited? I was going through the Insurance Bill. The Government have to pay Rs. 500 crores as interest alone and despite that more loan is being provided. Interest has not been paid yet. This Government is working under the pressure of some companies, foreign powers and rich countries. Therefore, I warn you not to spend money like this otherwise you will be in a tight corner. Have you made arrangements to provide medicines to the poor? Have you made arrangements for providing education to all? Have you taken care to provide employment to the unemployed youths? You have increase the prices. You did not raise your voice against all these things when you were with us. Hon. Shri Sharad Yadavji you have been elected to the Lok Sabha and have also become a Minister but remember that Ministership is not a big thing as this position is not everlasting. If you disassociate yourself on the issue of price rise it will be appreciated a lot amongst the people. It will be welcomed. There have been several ministers in the past but none is remembered. You have passed proposal in the Cabinet to hike the price of Urea which is much needed input for the farmers. It is your deliberate move. Later on you will yourself tell the people to oppose this move. The Congress Party, Samajwadi Party, Left Parties and AIDMK are opposing it and in case of roll back of the hiked prices you will say that it has not been rolled back due to your opposition, we have done it of our own. Therefore, it is being publicised through the

[Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav]

electronic media as it is under your control. It is a conspiracy. This cleverness will not work as you know up to what extent we the socialist people can go. We have no lust for power. There have been several instances of power coming to socialist but we have never compromised with our principles for the sake of power. Hon. Chairman, Sir, today you are holding this post but once you had to quit your post but that did not affect your prestige. Several people could not with the elections for the Lok Sabha and several people could not get the ministerial berth, did it lower their prestige? No it is not so. I am telling the truth from the core of my heart. I was not allowed to become Prime Minister. But my prestige has not been lowered due to that. Therefore, I want that this should be withdrawn immediately. I have got every right to make my point in the House. Whom should I tell it if not you. You please take your seat. This thing is being said quite often. ...*(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : Like you we have also got the right to speak.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Are you yielding? Hon. Minister is on his legs. Please sit down, Shri Mulayam Singh is not yielding.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : All right, you may give him ample time to speak later on. You can speak at length on it we will listen to you patiently, but we are not ready to listen to him at this moment. We do not want to listen to him because we can make our point to you and you know as to why we can make our point to you. We feel sorry for you because you have actually fought for the cause of the farmers and the poor. You have suffered a lot on this count. We are aware that neither there was any place for you to stay nor there was any arrangement of meal. I am saying this today because you have supported them. We know as to what these people will do next. These people are here, what else they can do. You are not a bonded labour. We appeal to the Government even now that it should not crush the farmers, the poor and labourers by hiking the prices under the pressure of foreign companies and rich countries particularly America.

So far as milk is concerned, Shri Raghuvansh Prasadji has left the House. I would like to tell that we are not against the hike in price of milk but I would like to know whether the benefit of price rise will be passed on to the farmers? It is affecting adversely the salaried class, the farmers and poor in villages. If the price of milk is on the higher side, the Government should give subsidy on milk. The farmers should also get the increased price of milk and the Government should give subsidy on milk to the salaried class and the poor people. You can give subsidy on milk as you have control over the treasury. Therefore, I would like to say that the Government should withdraw the price increase. In case you do not withdraw the price hike, you are at the liberty to do whatever you want to do in the House but when you will go to the people

I have a feeling that day is coming soon. You will come to know about the verdict of the people, you will lose several seats.

15.26 hrs.

MESSAGES FROM RAJYA SABHA

[English]

SECRETARY-GENERAL : Sir, I have to report the following messages received from the Secretary-General of Rajya Sabha :-

- (i) 'I am directed to inform the Lok Sabha that the Rajya Sabha at its sitting held on Monday, the 13th March, 2000 adopted the following motion in regard to the Committee on Public Accounts :-

"That this House concurs in the recommendation of the Lok Sabha that the Rajya Sabha do agree to nominate seven Members from Rajya Sabha to associate with the Committee on Public Accounts of the Lok Sabha for the term beginning on the 1st May, 2000 and ending on the 30th April, 2001 and do proceed to elect in such manner as the Chairman may direct, seven Members from among the Members of the House to serve on the said Committee."

I am further to inform the Lok Sabha that in pursuance of the above motion, the following Members of the Rajya Sabha have been duly elected to the said Committee :-

Shri P.N. Silva

Dr. Y. Radhakrishna Murty

Shri K. Rahman Khan

Shri Vayalar Ravi

Prof. Ram Gopal Yadav

Shri Anantray Devshanker Dave

Shri S.R. Bommali

- (ii) I am directed to inform the Lok Sabha that the Rajya Sabha at its sitting held on Monday, the 13th March, 2000 adopted the following motion in regard to the Committee on Public Undertakings :-

"That this House concurs in the recommendation of the Lok Sabha that the Rajya Sabha do agree to nominate seven Members from Rajya Sabha to associate with the Committee on Public Undertakings of the Lok Sabha

for the term beginning on the 1st May, 2000 and ending on the 30th April, 2001 and do proceed to elect in such manner as the Chairman may direct, seven Members from among the Members of the House to serve on the said Committee."

I am further to inform the Lok Sabha that in pursuance of the above motion, the following Members of the Rajya Sabha have been duly elected to the said Committee :-

Shri Jibon Roy

Shrimati Ambika Soni

Shri Suresh Kalmadi

Shri Ranjan Prasad Yadav

Shri K. Kalavenkata Rao

Shri B.P. Singhal

Shri Satishchandra Sitaram Pradhan

- (ii) I am directed to inform the Lok Sabha that the Rajya Sabha at its sitting held on Monday, the 13th March, 2000 adopted the following motion in regard to the Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes :-

"That this House resolves that the Rajya Sabha do join the Committee on both the Houses on the welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes for the term beginning on the 1st May, 2000 and ending on the 30th April, 2001 and do proceed to elect, in accordance with the system of promotional representation by means of single transferable vote, ten Members from among the Members of the House to serve on the said Committee."

I am further to inform the Lok Sabha that in pursuance of the above motion, the following Members of the Rajya Sabha have been duly elected to the said Committee :-

Dr. Faguni Ram

Shri Raju Parmar

Dr. Alladi P. Rajkumar

Shri N. Thalavai Sundaram

Chaudhary Chunni Lal

Shri Sangh Priya Gautam

Shri Sukhdev Singh Libra

Shri Kanshi Ram

Shri K.G. Bhutia

Shri Nagendra Nath Ojha.'

15.28 hrs.

DISCUSSION UNDER RULE 193

Re : Rise in Prices of Essential Commodities - contd.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : Mulayam Singh ji has now resumed his seat, he has talked about a few facts. I would like to tell you that we are not manipulative, we do not have something in our heart and the other thing on our tongue. Today, he is saying that he was going to become the Prime Minister, but we did not let him become so. You have made a lot of propaganda about this. Today, we are sitting here and I would like to tell you that at that time, yourself, myself and Laloo ji were sitting there and at no point of time, there was any question of opposing you candidature for Prime Ministership. I want to say that please let the truth prevail. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV (SAMBHAL) : You at least have admitted it.

DR. GIRIJA VYAS (UDAIPUR) : Hon. Mr. Chairman Sir, I rise to express the pain and agony of women. I had, therefore, wished that if Margaret Alva ji had been on the Chair at this time, she would have heard the sorrow and pains of women living all over India. It has been observed that there is a difference between what the Government preaches and what it actually does. And if we notice otherwise also, we would find nothing more than paradoxes and ironies in their tenure. I remember that we have been hearing to such paradoxes and ironies right from the President's Address to the Budget itself. The President had said that from information technology to other technologies and from reform to industrialisation this country is advancing towards a new direction in the 21st century. But in what light will those countless people of this country take this progress whose share of bread has been snatched away from them, this is really a big question. A poet has rightly said :

Jab jab mein paisa hota hai, jab pet mein roti hoti hai,
Us waqt yeh zarra heera hai, yeh shabnam moti hai.

And if poverty is there, then everything is useless, whether it be advancement in technology, or other developments. Our Congress President and Leader of the Opposition Shrimati Sonia Gandhi had stated in the House that at the time of Congress Government growth rate was 8 per cent and today it is becoming difficult for the present Government to maintain it even at six per cent. I would like to bring all these facts into light.

[English]

She said : It is the alarming weakening of the Govern-

[Smt. Girija Vyas]

ment policies in regard to poor, which is, for us, the real issue. Our main aim is to alleviate poverty.

[Translation]

Our main stress has been on poverty alleviation.

Indiraji had given this slogan with a purpose.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (MAHARAJGANJ, BIHAR):
You main stress has been on alleviation of poverty.

DR. GIRIJA VYAS : You are right, this Government cannot remove poverty, rather it can only remove the poor and you are supporting them. ...*(Interruptions)* Day before yesterday Sonia ji had said that the aftermaths of reforms should not lead to unwanted burden on the poor and a new push up trend should be introduced in the economy of our country. The Congress party had visualised united march forward of all while thinking the developments in the 21st century. Rajiv ji while talking about the 21st century had said that we would give equal share to the poor while moving towards the path of development and we could not let anybody snatch away their share of bread. We would also bring about the cultural awakening alongwith scientific development. But it is no more a secret as to what is happening in this country today. Poverty can never be removed without specific poverty alleviation programmes. So, if there is fiscal deficit, then we shall have to adopt some other preventive measures for this.

Sonia ji had clearly said that the Government shall have to show commitment and interest for running the programmes especially Jawahar Rozgar Yojana, Assured Employment Scheme, Swarnajayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana, Scheme under WDP, DAPD programmes and Rajiv Gandhi mission for water. It is really unfortunate that the names of these programmes are changed, but the Government never thinks about the use of funds given to the State Governments by the Central Government and monitoring of these schemes. It is right that the Government has adopted the course of 'remove the poor' instead of 'remove poverty'. I would like to tell you that it was only due to the poverty alleviation programmes of Indira ji that the ratio of poverty had reduced to half in 1975 and one more thing to recall is that this ratio continued to decrease during the consecutive tenures of Congress Governments. But the present Government has virtually destroyed the food security system and has snatched away the PDS system which was the only support of the poor people.

The concept of PDS was introduced by the Congress Government at a time when huge stocks of foodgrain were available in the country. Hon'ble Manishankar ji has figures with him and he may correct me where it is required. At that time we had about 31 million tonnes surplus foodgrains, so it was given to all. But intention behind the concept of PDS was

to provide foodgrains to poorer at subsidised rates. Poor States were included under this scheme. It was provided that every one should get these commodities at cheaper rates but the people living below poverty line should get them at nominal rates. Our Government reiterated the objective behind this scheme during the period from 1990-1995. When our party came to power again, it decided to revamp PDS. But this Government has raised the prices of commodities which are sold through PDS. While presenting the budget for 2000-2001, an announcement was made regarding increase in the prices of essential commodities, sold through Fair Price Shops, which further aggravated the problems of poor. FCI supplies foodgrains to States through PDS and prices will increase further if expenditure incurred by FCI is also added to it. The Government has stated that BPL people will get foodgrains at 50 per cent of the economic cost APL people will be supplied foodgrain at economic cost, which include procurement price, cost of distribution etc. Now by calculating all these things, you will find that BPL families have to pay more for it. Now APL families are getting wheat at the rate of Rs. 8.40 per kg. which was Rs. 6.82 earlier, rice is being provided at Rs. 11.70 per kg. which was earlier 9.05 per kg. Increase in prices of essential commodities is 68 per cent for BPL families. Now they will get wheat at Rs. 4.20 per kg. which was earlier Rs. 2.50 per kg. Now rice will be given at Rs. 5.85 per kg. whereas it was being given at Rs. 3.50 per kg. earlier. Now while comparing the prices for BPL and APL, one may be reminded of paradox as this increase in prices of essential commodities for BPL families is 68 per cent as compared to 33 per cent for APL families.

Just now, an hon. Member speaking earlier stated that now neither the people Below Poverty Line nor the people Above Poverty Line would be able to purchase it from PDS because foodgrains are available in the open market at cheaper rates than the PDS. BPL families will not purchase it from PDS as they do not have required money as quantity of foodgrains has been doubled from 10 kg. to 20 kg. You are a sensitive person and we did not expect it from you. You just imagine that. I do not know as to how many persons belonging to Tribals live in your constituency. You also come from the tribal area. Tribals are just hand to mouth, how they will afford to purchase foodgrains from Fair Price Shops at increased rates. There is no question of APL. In 1992 in 'Harijan' newspaper Gandhiji had stated that independence and democracy would be meaningless if the first and last person in the queue was not given equal rights and treated equally. You have tried to bring this equality. The Government has not been successful in improving the situation rather it has worsened it further. The BPL people have not been uplifted so as to be included in APL but due to price rise the position of APL people has been lowered to the category of BPL. I would like to thank you for it.

Sir, though the quantity of foodgrain has been doubled to 20 kgs. but from where will they get money to purchase it. Neither the Government has launched any poverty alleviation programme or any other programme, nor it has the will power to implement such programmes effectively. Now I would like to say something about agriculture. It is a fact that agriculture production has declined. The reason for it is the continuous famine and non-availability of modern techniques to farmers. I would like to say again that the Government should consider these points. There is no proper monitoring system for these programmes, and hence, poor people are not getting any benefit there from. You should know as to whether these programmes are on paper only or not. This is the reason for decline in production. In such a situation the amount of subsidy given on fertilisers has also been curtailed. It has further aggravated the problem.

DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV (ALWAR) : At what rate, farmers are getting electricity in Rajasthan. Your party is in power there.

DR. GIRIJA VYAS : This question will be replied to in the Legislative Assembly. At present I am raising the matter pertaining to the Centre. You have brought the farmers below poverty line by raising the prices of fertilisers. It is also a known fact that production of wheat, rice and pulses have also declined. Agriculture is the backbone of prosperity of India. Decline in agricultural production is an alarm for the Government. Attention should be paid towards it. Previous speaker, Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav made a mention that subsidy on fertiliser has been reduced by 15 per cent and 7 per cent. But actual increase in the prices of fertilisers is 41 per cent and 57 per cent.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, now I would like to talk about kerosene and LPG. It is true that kerosene is used by common man. He uses kerosene to light lamp in his home, he uses it for cooking purpose. The people who belongs to villages might be aware that in case of injury, it is also used as antiseptic lotion. You have suddenly increased the price of kerosene, which is being used as medicine. I think this sin has been committed by the Department of hon'ble Minister and he too is involved in it. I would like to say that this should not have happened. I do not want to repeat the point about the way the LPG prices have increased because already much has been said about it. Still you are saying that subsidy of only Rs. 30 has been withdrawn from LPG and that you are still giving subsidy of Rs. 182 on LPG and Rs. 7.83 on kerosene. Even today, the poor do not have means to light lamps at their home. You may take it as curse, but till the people get enough fuel or electric supply, the rate of these items should be kept low.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the hon'ble Minister has given statement in the Parliament which is paradoxical. You have stated that in past also, the Government's of Shri Narasimha

Rao and Shri Gujral had tried to like its price and while praising your Government, you said that they did not dare to do so whereas you have dared. Now, whether the poor people of India should thank you or condemn you for your daring deed, I leave this to you.

You have said in statement that as far as the question of distributing kerosene under PDS is concerned, in 1975, the difference in the rate of kerosene and diesel was of one paise. In 1980, it was 66 paise, in 1985, it was 1.19, in 1990, it was Rs. 2.09 and in 1995 it was Rs. 3.72. Now you are saying that at present, the difference in rate of kerosene and diesel is Rs. 11.37, then what could have been done? Whether you have ever analysed, why so much difference has occurred. I am not accusing any Government for not providing electricity and fuel, but our Government displayed courage by not increasing the prices. You have done it. Due to this reason, due to this difference and due to price-hike. I can call his statement paradoxical. You have also said that as the prices have been increased in neighbouring countries hence we too hiked the price in our country. I would like to ask him to kindly keep in view their economic condition. We should not take lessons from the economic condition of the neighbouring countries. We should ensure that the economy of our country is progressive. You said that you have done this because of rise in international prices but you cannot quote the example of rich countries who had made progress by exploiting the poor and that too in a developing country, which is trying to become self-reliant by bridging the gap between rich and poor. You said that you will try that LPG should reach every home. Our best wishes are with you, but if a poor man who is having Rs. 5 and he spends Rs. 2 to buy kerosene, then how can he buy the Gas cylinder, Seeing all this, I am reminded of a tale from Bible. When Abubakar was serving the people by making shoes, an angel appeared. The Angel said, Abubakar I am writing the names of those people who are loved by God. While contributing his work, Abubakar asked the angel, whether you are also writing the names of those people who serve the poor and provide food to them. The angel went back. Next day, he appeared and showed him the list in which Abubakar's name was also included. Therefore, Poverty Alleviation programme should be run with sensitivity. Through you, I would like to tell the Government to take two measure in regard to fiscal deficit, particularly about essential commodities. First try to reduce FCI expenditure and secondly try to save the rotting grains. If these two things are done, then you would not have to increase the prices.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the development in the sectors of Tourism and Mines and Minerals has not been mentioned either in President's Address or in the Budget, which can further increase the fiscal deficit. Therefore, I would like to make an appeal and demand from the Government to withdraw the proposed price hike.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Kharabela Swain.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I have to leave, therefore, please give me an opportunity to speak for two minutes.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I have called the name of a member therefore hon'ble Member should sit down. You can speak later on. Shri Swain, I have called your name, would you like to speak?

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (BALASORE) : Sir, if Shri Prabhunath Singhji wants to speak, I do not have any objection. He can speak. I will speak after him.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Then you will not get time to speak.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN : All right, Sir, then I am speaking.

[English]

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN : Mr. Chairman, Sir, while we discuss about the price rise, we will have to take an overview of the macro economic situation of this country. Of course, I will not comment on hon. Member Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav's opinion with regard to.

[Translation]

We were invited to form the Government, but we did not.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Speak on the issue.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN : The subject on which everybody has spoken.

[English]

That he was very annoyed with hon. Minister Shri Sharad Yadav that he did not allow him to become the Prime Minister - I will not comment on this. But I will certainly. ... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : The hon'ble Minister Shri Sharad Yadav has clarified the position. Now you continue your speech.

[English]

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN : Sir, I will certainly say and I will comment on hon. Member Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav's comment that price of milk should be increased.

[Translation]

The price of milk should be increased and common man should get milk at lower price and Government should bear the subsidy.

[English]

I will positively, in due course of my speech, make comments on that.

First of all, let us talk about the fiscal deficit of this country. It is Rs. 1.11 lakh crore this year. The total expenditure of the Government is Rs. 3.38 lakh crore. Out of it, Rs. 1.02 lakh crore are only interest payments and Rs. 1.20 lakh crore are for instalment payments. This is against the revenue receipt of only two lakh crore rupees. Ultimately, it comes to a deficit of Rs. 1.11 lakh crore. Out of it, Rs. 58,000 crore are only capital expenditure - both Plan and non-Plan.

Only one-sixth of the total expenditure is productive expenditure and the rest of the expenditure on salaries, subsidies etc. are non-productive. There is a reduction of only 0.5 per cent in the fiscal deficit over the figure of the last year whereas the other Asian countries have been able to reduce their fiscal deficits in a very substantial way.

When hon. Member Shri Basu Deb Acharia was speaking he mentioned that subsidy was only 1.8 per cent, but this year, we are providing subsidy for almost everything like wheat, kerosene, PDS rice, LPG etc. There are certain hidden subsidies also. It comes to around 2.2 per cent of the total fiscal deficit. It is not sustainable because this year, the defence expenditure has gone up by Rs. 13,000 crore and the State Governments have also been paid an interim award of Rs. 11,000 crore. The increase in Plan expenditure over the last year is also Rs. 11,000 crore. This year, the additional interest burden is of Rs. 11,000 crore. Ultimately, the total increase of all these items comes to Rs. 46,000 crore over and above the last year's figure. The Non-Plan revenue expenditure is going up by 1.8 per cent. So, what do we do? When Dr. Girija Vyas was speaking, she told that when the Congress Government was there, they could not dare to tackle it. Also, other senior Members - I am a pretty new Member to this House, comparatively - who were also Ministers said that the poor should be provided with subsidised food. I do agree that the poor should be provided with subsidised food. But what about this fiscal deficit? How do we tackle this fiscal deficit? What is the meaning of this fiscal deficit? It is the burden of the loan that we are bringing from foreign countries. It is either internal loan or external loan. I remember that when I became a Member of this House for the first time in 1998, the interest payment was to the tune of only Rs. 75,000 crore, but it has gone to Rs. 1,02,000 crore this year. How do we pay it?

Slowly and gradually, India is going towards the debt trap. What will happen to your children? What will happen to the future of this country if we do not stop it and go on borrowing year after year? It is needless to mention here that Philippines happened to fall into a debt trap and their girls had to pay

back loans taken from the foreign countries by restoring to prostitution. This did happen there. Nobody wants that India should fall into a debt trap like this. Actually, that is why, the Government has taken a very bold decision by reducing the subsidy to some extent. A medicine is better to taste, but it is good for the health of the future.

I need not go into figures because these have already been discussed several times in this House. The hon. Minister, Shri Shanta Kumar has already explained, and everybody knows, that by increasing the quota of 10 kilograms to 20 kilograms, in ultimate terms, we are providing the benefit of around Rs. 37 per family every month.

It is not that the subsidy has been reduced. Somebody may say, "Then, why did you increase the quota from 10 kilograms to 20 kilograms? There was a Working Group on National Policy on Public Distribution System set up by the Planning Commission in June, 1996. The Working Group earmarked about 80 per cent of the annual allocation for distribution to the States on the basis of BPL and APL population. This worked out to an availability of 20 kilograms per month per BPL household.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please conclude your speech.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN : Sir, I am very surprised to hear this. If you say like this, then you must know that the first Member spoke for 45 minutes. If you say that I should conclude, then I will sit down.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You can take two more minutes.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN : I cannot complete my speech within two minutes because I had just begun, and from my Party, I have been fielded to speak on this issue.

SHRI MANISHANKAR AIYAR (MAYILADUTURA) : Sir, let us hear what the Treasury Benches had to say. let us continue this debate beyond 6 p.m. This is such an important subject that I do not think we should be curtailing it like this. Shri Swain is making good points. If there is anything to be refuted, then we will refute them. He is speaking on the subject and making good points. So, let us hear him.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN : Thank you, Shri Mani Shankar Aiyarji.

Sir, actually it is the Working Group which increased it from 10 kilograms to 20 kilograms. The Working Group also recommended two more things. It recommended that the allocation of foodgrains from the Central Pool to the States should have two sets of prices - one set of prices should be highly subsidised, which is meant for the very poor, and near open market price for the non-poor. The Working Group made these two sets of recommendations.

There was criticism from many quarters saying as to why the Central Government is giving only 10 kilograms of rice. Hon. Member Shri Basu Deb Acharya has also mentioned this. They wanted that the quota should be increased to 20 kilograms. This is the reason why the Government has taken a very strong decision, which other Governments could not take. They increased the quota from 10 kilograms to 20 kilograms. How can it be that there has to be an increase in the quantity, but there shall be no increase in the cost? How can it be possible? We are paying almost Rs. 20,000 crore as subsidy every year, which includes the subsidy on kerosene, gas cylinder, food and everything. When it comes to Rs. 20,000 crore, how can you go on increasing it further?

Let us take the PDS. Why do we have this PDS? The Government purchases the foodgrains from the open market, from the farmer, and it sells it through the Food Corporation of India at a subsidised price. One very important thing is that the minimum support price that is given to the farmers is decided by the PDS. The Government fixes the minimum support price. What the farmer does is that he sells it to the Food Corporation of India. Therefore, the Food Corporation of India, that is, the Government of India, purchases it at a high rate.

16.00 hrs.

The Government bears the transportation cost and preservation cost. It fights against rodent, rains and destruction caused by strikes organised by trade unions. The Government has to encounter all these difficulties. While encountering all these problems, the Government has to store foodgrains for a long time and at the end sell them at a very low price. If India has to become a superpower it will have to have a sustainable growth of seven to eight per cent every year. How can we allow the fiscal deficit, in which subsidy is a significant part, to grow unchecked? If we buy commodities at a high price and sell them at a low price, and if we keep obtaining loans from foreign countries, we would keep on paying interest that bludgeons every year.

Everybody is saying that the poor is being harassed. Is it really so? Everybody knows that 35 per cent of the PDS rice is pilfered away. You can go to any PDS rice dealer in Orissa and purchase any type of rice for any specific occasion. When approached, the rice dealer would ask you, "What type of rice would you like - BPL, APL, or Mid-Day Meal?" In Orissa and in several other States, mid-day meal is provided to school children. The cost of providing mid-day meal is Rs. 1.10 per day per child.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : How much time will you take? Time allotted for your party is limited and there is a long list of hon'ble members from your party. So there will be no time for them.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN : Please give me 10 minutes.

[English]

Actually what sort of food would one get for Rs. 1.10? One would not get food anywhere for that amount except in the Parliament House canteen meant for Members of Parliament. In coastal Orissa, nobody eats the mid-day meal food. All that rice is sold in blackmarket. There is a meeting of villagers held every month not to know as to why the children are not provided food but to know as to what happened to the black money. Discussions are held as to who swindled that money. The Government says that there is leakage of only 35 per cent of PDS rice. If the food subsidy is taken as Rs. 10,000 crore, this 35 per cent comes to Rs. 3,500 crore. This amount of Rs. 3,500 crore is going into the hands of blackmarketeers. This is happening everywhere in India. Some people have a vested interest in seeing that subsidised rice is providing through Public Distribution System. As long as that continues, one can sell rice in the blackmarket.

Let us take the example of kerosene. If you travel on a highway in Orissa, you will find bottles of diesel and petrol being sold in the pan-shops by the road. These bottles contain only fifty per cent of petrol or diesel and the rest of it is kerosene. Kerosene is available in plenty and it is very cheap. It has been said that the price of diesel is more than Rs. 11 a litre. So, if one takes some kerosene and mixes it with an equal amount of diesel or petrol, one can earn huge profits. I dare say that 50 per cent of the PDS kerosene is going to the blackmarket.

So, do you mean to say that the poor is actually going to be benefited? It is not so. We say that the gas cylinder should go to the poor. Who buys the gas cylinder in our country? I am a Member of this Parliament for the last two years and every three months, I am giving 50 coupons to the people. I can say that not a single poor man has come to me for a gas coupon. It is only the middle-class who can afford to pay for the gas cylinder. The same middle-class, the *babus* did not hesitate to take the Fifth Pay Commission salary. The Government says that they have committed a mistake and that they should not have given it. Which Government servant is poor now? Nobody is poor nowadays. Nobody is getting less than Rs. 10,000/-. So, to say that the middle-class people are also poor and that they should get subsidised sugar, kerosene and rice, is not correct and the Government should not take that burden on its head by providing all these things to these middle-class people, the rich people, who can actually afford to pay but they do not pay because they take advantage of the blackmarket.

I fully agree that for the poor, these should be subsidised.

But there should be some other way. How do you target it? I have come from the grassroots. So, I know that in a village if you want to get the *Indira Awas Yojana* house, your name should be included in the BPL list. If you want IRDP loan, your name should be there. Everybody wants that his name should somehow by hook or by crook, be included in the BPL list. If you see the BPL list, you will find that most of them are actually not poor. India is not that poor it is projected to be. So, more than 50 per cent of the subsidy is not going to the targeted people. It is going to the rich and middle-class people who can afford to pay. For that reason, we have to find out some other way.

Hon. Shivraj V. Patil, the Chairman of the Standing Committee on Finance has given very good suggestions. He said positively that there is cost over-run and time over-run with regard to mega projects and major projects. If you can stop it, then we will save a lot of money. But how do we do it? You will positively say, if we stop the pilferage of electricity, we can also earn a lot of money. In the village, you provide electricity. Everybody will put a hook on the wire and he will use the electricity. He is very happy. We are Members of Parliament. We will not say them anything because he will be unhappy and he will not give vote during the time of elections. So, we are happy that he is enjoying it free of cost. Then who will bear the cost? Everybody will get free water, free electricity, but everybody will say that this is a country where there is no road after 52 years. There is no electricity to villages after 52 years and there is no school building after 52 years. Where do the Government get the money to construct a road and house and to provide electricity?

Finally I say that there should be a national consensus on subsidy as on foreign policy. On the policy of economy of this country also, there should be a consensus on subsidy because tomorrow some party may come to power. It is not that all the time BJP will be in power.

*SHRI S. AJAYAKUMAR (OTTAPPALAM) : The argument that the subsidy cut on foodgrains was done for the good of the poor people, sounds like a joke. How can a Government claim to be common man friendly while snatching away their privileges and imposing heavy burden on them? How can it claim to be reaching out to the people with a helping hand?

16.12 hrs.

(MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER in the Chair)

The real impact of the subsidy cut is to the tune of 68% increase in the prices of foodgrains, as far as the families below the poverty line are concerned. Let me quote some figures, Sir, to substantiate my point. Before the Budget presentation, rice was priced at Rs. 3.50 per kg. but after that it was increased to Rs. 5.90 per kg. Even though the new

*Translation of speech originally delivered in Malayalam.

price was set at Rs. 5.90; when it reaches States like Kerala, the price becomes Rs. 7.00 to Rs. 8.00 per kg., i.e., the hike, in effect, is, 100%.

The rules, which draw the poverty line, consider those families poor, which have an income of only Rs. 300 per month in the rural areas and Rs. 400 per month in the urban areas. It is a fact that in the present state of affairs, with the increased prices, such families will have to spend their entire earnings on buying foodgrains. Moreover, the size of the families in rural areas will be big and a minimum of five to six members will be there in every household. So when you increase the quota by 10 kgs, the effective gain by a member in a month is a mere 4 kgs. I do fail to understand how a member of a BPL family will sustain himself in the new arrangement. A study paper presented by the Indian Council of Medical Research states that this quantity contributes only to 35% of the actual need of a person. Moreover, the rules, which govern the identification of BPL families themselves, are fallacious. A News report which appeared in 'Businessman', stated that among the 5 lakh odd residents of Dharavi in Bombay, which is considered to be the biggest slum in Asia, only 151 were identified as BPL households and issued cards accordingly. Doesn't it look odd? Doesn't it show the lacunae in the rules?

Another major argument in effecting this cut in subsidies is that it is a major step towards bridging the fiscal deficit. They also doubt the basic need for rationing foodgrains to a family which is above the poverty line. But I must say that I don't cater to the idea of considering a family rich if a person in that family happens to be an income tax payer. Perhaps he could be the only wage earner in a family of 5 to 6 members. Will you call it a rich family? I have my own doubts Sir.

Another argument of this Government is that an effective subsidy of 2217 crores of rupees has been given to the poor. All this is based on the assumption that with the hike in quota from 10 kgs to 20 kgs, States will procure foodgrains to the tune of 1440 lakh tonnes. But Sir, I fear, with the shot up prices, foodgrains are going to pile up in FCI godowns without any takers.

In a study conducted by Prof. M.H. Suryanarayana, the rise in prices has reduced the buying and consumption of cereals by about 35%. If you go by this finding, how can you expect poor people to buy foodgrains like rice and wheat whose effective price hike is about 68%? So the ultimate fall out will be the piling up of undistributed foodgrains in our FCI godowns. It is a fact that 45% of the subsidy given to foodgrains goes to the preservation and stocking of them in our godowns.

With the PDS prices going up, both the BPL and APL families are grabbed under financial crunch which will prevent them from buying foodgrains distributed through PDS outlets and the unused stockpile will finally go to hoarders and

blackmarketers. So who is this Government going to help - the poor or the rich; the downtrodden or the upwardly mobile?

See, what you have done to the common man's fuel - 'kerosene'. The hike was more than 100%, i.e., from Rs. 2.00 to Rs. 4.50. The same is the scenario with respect to cooking gas. The increase was about Rs. 50. But in Kerala you are supplied a cylinder for Rs. 211 only. Facts and figures shows that the Government is spending only Rs. 93 on a cylinder. Doesn't it look odd that the poor people of this country are made to pay Rs. 211 for the same? Doesn't it sound strange when I say that instead of getting a subsidy from the Government, the subscriber is giving a subsidy to the Government by paying Rs. 211 for something which really costs only Rs. 93? These are the oddities of the game this Government is playing.

Let me now touch upon the 15% price hike on urea. The prices of other fertilisers have also gone up. What will be the consequence? We are going to face drastic slowdown in agriculture production due to the unmanageable production costs. How can you expect a poor farmer to buy costly manure to ensure good harvest? If the harvest is not good, if the production is not upto the mark, severe shortage of foodgrains will ensue, which in effect will result in price rise again. The poor will be pushed to starvation and death. This country itself will have a steep fall to abject poverty. Even with the subsidy programmes, which were on for the last 52 years, we have not reached a stage where poverty is totally abolished. On the contrary, it has been observed that the poverty deaths are on the rise. If this is the present situation in the country with all our social security measures, what would be the future without any such network offering even subsidy to foodgrains? No doubt, this country is going to witness large scale poverty deaths and this Government can never wash its hands off the crime of dragging its own people to poverty deaths. This Government will have its name engraved in black letters in the history of this country for such a heinous crime.

Let me highlight the situation in my State - Kerala. She will be one among those States, who will suffer under the pressure of these acts of the Central Government. The socio-economic and cultural progress of my State owes a lot to the land reforms as well as the well-knit net of public distribution system. Now, this Central Government is upto dismantle the PDS network we have - a system which proved 100% successful and fruitful. The BPL, APL distinctions are blurred in Kerala. The entire population of Kerala is dependent on PDS. We have statutory rationing system in the State. We turned out to be a consumer State not because of our choice but because of a general understanding with the Central Government. Long back, in 1964, the then Prime Minister, Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru had asked us to amass wealth to the exchequers of this country by concentrating in cash crop production as it suited the soil and climate conditions of Kerala.

[Shri S. Ajaya Kumar]

The Central Government had promised the supply of foodgrains and other things through statutory rationing system to the State. That understanding is broken today. 85% of the population of my State who were totally dependent on PDS are going to face abject poverty. Moreover, those things - say, cash crops, seafoods, etc., which we were asked to produce - are being imported to the country, shattering the very economy of the State. The 3.5 crores of people of Kerala view this as a planned revenge on the part of this Government for not strengthening its hands by voting to victory its colour. The Chief Minister of Kerala and other State Ministers had to stage a *dhama* in front of this Parliament House. But this Government had not shown a sign of sympathy towards the problems of my State. It was really unfortunate that this Government did not pay heed to the request of our Chief Minister.

On the one hand you cut subsidies and subject poor to utter disgrace, in the name of overcoming financial deficits, but on the other hand you give huge concessions to luxury electronic goods and multinational companies. It is obvious that this Government does not know the ground realities of this country and cater only to the rich and the 'blue blooded'. Poor man is nowhere in their agenda. It is a pity that this Government managed the mandate to rule the people.

Before concluding, let me request the Central Government not to put the burden of its 'so called reforms' on the shoulders of the common man and to continue with the subsidies and the statutory rationing system so that the poor in my State and in various parts of this country can live with dignity.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAM NAIK) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to intervene in the discussion regarding the price hike.

SHRI RAJO SINGH (BEGUSARAI) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Hon'ble Minister should certainly speak about increase in coupons. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Rajo Singh ji hon'ble Minister is intervening. How does the issue of coupon figure in it?

SHRI RAJO SINGH : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the price of coupons has increased.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : It does not cover coupon

SHRI RAM NAIK : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, as I am intervening in discussion that in our department, petroleum. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Does 'hastkshep' mean intervening?

SHRI RAM NAIK : Yes, Sir

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I think there is some other word.

SHRI RAM NAIK : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, whatever Hindi I know is influenced by the way it is spoken in Mumbai. I was saying that the Petroleum Ministry has reduced subsidy on kerosene ranging from Rs. 2.50 per litre to Rs. 7.83 per litre, similarly, earlier there was a subsidy of Rs. 162 on LPG cylinder which has been reduced by Rs. 30 but even after that, the customers have to pay Rs. 50-55 extra including excise, salestax and octroi. It is true that this hike will certainly cause hardship for the common man. Presently the population of this country has reached 100 crore. There is no such family or household which does not have kerosene or LPG and which will then have no other alternative except the forest wood. When this decision was taken, it was kept in mind that sometimes harsh decisions have to be taken and we have reduced subsidy accordingly. It means that the price had to be hiked. Shri Acharia has just now mentioned the Dharavi slum which is the biggest slum of Asia. My estimate is that fifty lakh people are living there though you say that the area has five lakh people and the same has been stated by Shri A. Ajaya Kumar. I am from Mumbai. I do not know how much do you know about the Dharavi slum. But I am familiar with every nook and corner of the slum and know many people there. You might have read in Newspaper as to why only 151 people are below poverty line and on the basis of that you have mentioned it. I also asked you as to what is your definition of 'below poverty line' because people define it in their own way. In response to you said that a person is considered to be below poverty line if his income is six thousand rupees per year i.e. Rs. 500 per month. Even now if you visit Dharavi, you will find a leper settlement there. I am telling you on the basis of my personal experience. Lepers also work there. They collect plastic, paper and grabag scattered here and there in Mumbai and they earn Rs. 25 to 30 daily by selling it. I am helping the cooperative society of such persons. I am telling this because those who reside in Dharavi in Mumbai do not get good accommodation but they earn well and whosoever intends to earn after coming to Mumbai, he certainly earns something. That is why, even lepers also earn Rs. 25 to 30 daily, then who are these 151 people. There might not be any such family in Mumbai which does not work but I thought that I should inform you.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it has been stated that we have started war against the people. Still it is better that the hon'ble Member did not use stronger words as he speaks quite rarely. He also asked if the Government decreases the price when the prices drop at international level. Though I would not mention the name of each member individually but I would certainly take up all the issues that have come up during discussion. Before discussion, I would like to thank Mulayam

Singh ji for having praised me. If one gets such feedback from the opposition Members, then it is quite natural to assume that everything is working well. If they feel like this, then I would like to express my gratefulness to Shri Mulayam Singh ji that he has appreciated my work and I wish that he may have good opinion about me in future and I may keep on working like this in future also.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, why did the Government increase price or why did it curtail subsidy is an important issue of the discussion. I am of the view that there should be consensus on it and we are making efforts for it. First thing in this regard is that during the tenure of the Congress Government and Shri Narsimha Rao ji as the Prime Minister, on 31st October, 1995 a decision was taken to constitute a committee to consider the ways to abolish the subsidy and the administered price mechanism in petroleum sector. Thereafter terms were decided and its need was being felt even at that time as Gulf War had taken place around that time, as a result of which price of petroleum had already shot up. That is why they had decided to constitute a committee to consider the abolition of administered price mechanism i.e. to reduce subsidy. Thereafter United Front Government came into power. Shri Mulayam Singh ji was Minister in that government. Basu Deb ji you yourself were not there but your party was supporting them from outside. When you extend support, you do it after proper consideration. CPM has history of its own that they take every action considerable pondering. That is why, your government also pondered over it and when Shri Deve Gowda ji was the Prime Minister, terms of reference of the committee were decided. The report of the committee was submitted. But when the report was submitted, Deve Gowda ji could not take it into consideration. You removed him from the post in which Shri Mulayam Singh ji played a vital role but that is a different matter. My point is that after this, when Shri Gujral became Prime Minister, he considered the report of this committee.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we have started implementing two important decisions that were taken after the consideration of that report. I would like to tell you about the decision that were taken regarding the PLG and kerosene.

[English]

That subsidy on kerosene for Public Distribution System would brought down to 33.33 per cent of the import parity price by the year 2001-2002.

[Translation]

That means now one year is left. It was their decision to reduce subsidy to that extent, during the period.

Second decision is :

[English]

that subsidy on domestic LPG would brought down to 15 per cent by the year 2000-2001.

[Translation]

That means during the year, that there should be 15% subsidy on LPG. When you took these decisions and I feel that those decisions were taken keeping in view the interest of the nation, then we have decided to implement those decisions. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (BANKURA) : When you are discussing everything, then why are you not discussing the appreciable decisions taken by the then government. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM NAIK : Was this decision wrong? If this decision was wrong, then you should have opposed it at that time. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : We had opposed at that time. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please do not give a running commentary.

SHRI RAM NAIK : In the national interest, you took decision that the subsidy should be withdrawn in phased manner and according to that only one year i.e. 2001-2002 is left. Keeping in view that thing, we have taken this decision.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we had increased the price of Diesel in October as we know that it will cause hardship for farmers and transporters. Though we could have increased the price by two more rupees but we did not make any increase after that. I know that LPG is used by the family. Thus family is affected but the burden of Diesel affects the entire economy of the country. It was due to this that we did not increase the price of Diesel. Now we have started implementing your decisions that were taken in national interest, then how does the question of foreign pressure arise? We have taken this decision after much deliberation. These are your decisions and you say that it is due to the external pressure. I assure you that no external pressure can exerted on Vajpayee Government. What happened in Kargil, you should think about it. No external pressure has been exerted upon us.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Girija ji is not present here. She asked how did we dare to increase the price. There is no question of daring.

We did what was necessary and I did not understand what was so daring about it. My friends from Andhra Pradesh are sitting here. They prepared a scheme to provide cooking

[Shri Ram Naik]

gas at low price to the women living below poverty line. The Central Government is lending its support in this regard. I would say that every state should formulate such scheme. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH (RAJGARH) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas had risen to intervene in the debate, but from his speech it seems that he is replying to the entire debate. Through you, I would like to tell him that several Members of our party want to speak. Shri Ramesh Chennithala and other Members of the Congress party are waiting for their turn. Have their names been struck off? I would like to submit that all Members have not yet expressed their views in the House.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Price rise is concerned with many ministers. That is why hon'ble Minister is replying.

SHRI RAM NAIK : You should accept that scheme which is accepted by your State. I want that provision of electricity and drinking water to poor women and several such work should be taken up under the M.P. local Area Development Scheme. It should be discussed in the House and permission may be given in this regard. It can be discussed because poor women do not have money and it is not appropriate if they do not get LPG.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please be brief.

SHRI RAM NAIK : I will finish in four five minute.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Other Ministers will also be replying. I am asking him to be brief.

[Translation]

SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH : Will the Minister reply to the issues raised by other members?

SHRI RAM NAIK : I have supplied the figures of our neighbouring countries like Pakistan, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka. We all admit that they are poorer and under developed. Before increase in price, in India, we were supplying kerosene at the rate of Rs. 2.67 per litre whereas in Bangladesh it was being sold at a rate of Rs. 11.04 per litre, in Sri Lanka at Rs. 9.15 per litre and in Pakistan at Rs. 9.46 per litre. I am giving these figures because after all we should think over it that should we ignore the increase of price in international market. If the price in international market keeps on increasing and we do not take any measure then through deficit financing burden is passed on to common man, but we do not want to do it. That is why we have taken this decision.

One more thing has come up that on 28 March, OPEC

countries have decided to produce more. If they produce more, then the price will to some extent fall down and prices have started falling too.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (RAIGANJ) : How much is the indigenous crude capacity production of Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh in comparison to India.

SHRI RAM NAIK : So far as the crude refinery capacity of India is concerned, our country is self sufficient. Whatever crude oil is imported from foreign countries, can be refined here. Those countries do not have such capacity. We have the capacity to refine but what about the price of crude oil in international Market. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Please do not try to give a casual reference to those countries.

[Translation]

Sri Lanka has exceeded its production and we are lagging behind.

[English]

SHRI RAM NAIK : You are not trying to understand the issue.

[Translation]

The thing is that the price has somewhat decreased. But in spite of fall in price, even now there is more than Rs. 6000 crore of deficit in pool account, which we have to reduce. Second thing is that, I am reproducing the decision of OPEC as it is. It is not very long, it is in four lines only.

[English]

"If crude production does not rise enough to meet an anticipated increase in the refinery consumption as the summer gasoline season approaches, the price band could be tested on the high side as well. OPEC meets again on June 21st to determine whether to maintain their output agreements as well, so that the band may not have time to be tested before."

[Translation]

It means that OPEC countries are going to review its decision on 21st June. That is why we have to reduce deficit in our pool account.

[English]

70 per cent of our petroleum products are imported.

[Translation]

70% import is made from OPEC countries where price has increased by more than 146%

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Why can you not increase your indigenous production?

SHRI RAM NAIK : You have rightly asked an important question. That is my last point also.

[Translation]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : You have yourself stated it on the television and what you are not telling here is that the reason for the increase in price of kerosene was that the State Government failed to check the mixing of kerosene in diesel. So you thought it logical to increase its price. You have said this on television. Will the poor people have to pay for the inefficiency of the State Government in checking any wrong practice?

[Translation]

Was it your logic? You had said to yourself on the television but now you are not saying so in the House.

SHRI RAM NAIK : I think that you have not seen the full programme on television.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : I saw it in full. Whenever you speak I see it in full. I even see the recorded version. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI RAM NAIK : I said that of the several factors of adulteration, one is the huge gap in the prices of kerosene and diesel. I said it about the causes of adulteration. It is true, as in Bangladesh there is no problem of adulteration because prices of the two commodities there are equal. It is a problem of adulteration.

We produce 30 per cent of own crude oil requirement in our country and import the remaining 70 per cent. In the last 6-7 years, adequate efforts were not made to increase the indigenous production which resulted in the stagnation in production. Our consumption of petroleum products is increasing by 10% every year. To increase the indigenous production we had invited offers for 25 major blocks including N.E.L.P. contract in January, the decision on which was made on 12th April. We have signed all the contracts and it is a big move. I would like to inform the House that the dignitaries from Britain said that earlier you used to spend as much as one and a half year for signing the contract but this time you have completed all the formalities by the month of April itself.

[English]

Now we are in a problem. We require to advance our financial arrangements.

[Translation]

I am of the view that we are making sincere efforts to increase the indigenous production. We have arrived at this decision because in our opinion it may be a good solution to the question of increasing indigenous production. We have consensus on it and that should not be drawn into political controversy. With this call, I conclude my speech.

[English]

SHRI RAJESH PILOT (DAUSA) : What about urea? You must say something about fertilisers and urea.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Some other Ministers will intervene regarding them.

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : But, Sir, he will speaking on food. Whereas fertilizers comes under him (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAM NAIK : The old portfolio has changed. Right now, I am in charge of Petroleum Ministry which deals with natural gas. There is a separate Ministry for fertiliser and chemicals. It is so.

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : What other changes are you going to make? Do you know about them or not.

SHRI RAM NAIK : We have not done it, it was your doing. Only you make such changes.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Do not talk about adulteration now.

[English]

Shri B.B. Ramaiah may speak now.

DR. B.B. RAMAIAH (ELURU) : Sir, it is a grave concern of the whole country that the prices of essential commodities have increased and subsidies have been decreased. What are the methods by which subsidies have been reduced? Even if it has to be done, we should see to it that the burden should not be passed on to the poor people. Today, even the prices of items under PDS has been increased. For wheat, it was Rs. 6.82 and the burden is passed on to the poor by increasing it to Rs. 8.40. In the case of rice, from Rs. 9 per kilogram, it has gone up to Rs. 11.70. If you take the item for Below Poverty Line people, in the case of wheat, it has gone up to Rs. 4.25 from 2.50 and in the case of rice, it has been raised to Rs. 5.80 from Rs. 3.50. It means that the prices of food articles have gone up by more than 68 per cent. The price hike is

[Dr. B.B. Ramaiah]

steep. I am sure that all hon. Members of the House will agree with me that much burden should not be passed on to the poor people. In the case of APL, the burden is more than 29 per cent. At the APL level also, there are a lot of medium-income group people. That is why, I feel that the steep hike in prices is undesirable and the Government should reconsider the matter. The increase in the price of milk as also kerosene is 100 per cent. In the case of food items, it is 68 per cent and for urea, it is 15 per cent. The railway fare has gone up by five per cent. The excise duty on goods used by common man has been increased from 8 per cent to 16 per cent. So, if you look at all these aspects, you may realise that the burden has been at different stages where it is difficult for the common people to bear. I would like to say that the PDS should also be improved by different methods. Let us look at the solace given.

The World Bank report says that 16 per cent of the people of this country are having an income of Rs. 1045 and 18.5 per cent people of this country are having an income of Rs. 2026! This is a very alarming figure. It is the latest figure which has been issued recently. It is not only that. If you look at the other parts of it, you will come to know that it is not thirty-five per cent of the people alone are below the poverty line. Fifty per cent of the people are suffering from malnutrition and fifty-six per cent of the people are not having enough energy requirements. Seventy-four per cent of the people of this country are not having enough protein. There are various figures that have been collected. I would request the Government that this matter should be considered very seriously. We should consider how we can help them at different levels.

Regarding the question of fertiliser, I would like to say that the price increase is causing an alarming situation because as long as we do not want to pass on the benefit of increase in the fertiliser price to the farmers, it is a different thing. If you can see that this is absorbed at the industry level or various levels, then the prices of agricultural products will not go up. Otherwise, it reflects on the common man because you are passing on this burden to the farmer and also to the common man. I also feel that this burden should not go to the farmer. It should be absorbed by the other people at different levels. I would request the hon. Minister to consider this aspect.

In the case of food prices, we also realise that the FCI is procuring a substantial amount of foodgrains. But there also we can see that the benefit is not going to the farmers. It is going to the middlemen. There are the transportation costs, the warehousing cost, wastage and different types of pilferages. If only we concentrate on these things, we can definitely improve and reduce the losses, and the common man need not be burdened with this sort of an increase in prices.

There is another important item. The Public Distribution System should also take care of one thing. What is happening in Andhra Pradesh? There is the ryots' bazar where the ryots directly come to the market and sell the products instead of the middlemen who are handling the situation and increasing the prices. When the middlemen sell the items to the consumers, the price is increased. If the ryots sell it directly to the consumers, the consumers will benefit. The ryots can also store the important essential items in the warehouses if this facility is available. By doing this, all the important essential commodities required for the common man like onions, chillies, red-gram and tamarind can be stored and supplied at reasonable rates. The Government should encourage construction of more and more cold-storage facilities. They can keep the products in the cold-storage facility. When the prices go up, they will be able to distribute these things and release the products in the markets. They will also see to it that these products are given to the common man at a reasonable price. These are the items of which the Central Government should take care. They should try to help all the States by giving more support either by way of taxation benefits or by giving bank loans to build more and more warehouses and cold storage facilities. This sort of a distribution system should be encouraged and the common man should not be burdened so much.

Sir, the Government of India has increased the price of PDS items. Because of this, Andhra Pradesh alone has to bear a burden of more than Rs. 400 crore. This is a huge burden. I know some of the States are also distributing the PDS items very efficiently and effectively. The important point is that the poor people are suffering due to the increase in prices of these items. The Lakarawala formula is also affecting those people who are really helping the poor people. The State Governments are supporting and helping the poor people and they are the most affected ones. The Government should see as to how they compensate those people by adopting various methods at various levels. I also feel that the NABARD and NAFED should also be brought into the picture because this is a general item.

The hon. Minister has just now mentioned about the increase in the prices of both kerosene and LPG. He has mentioned that as the international price of crude oil has gone up, the Government has increased the prices of LPG and kerosene. But now the price has come down in the international market. So, the Government should be able to see whether the refineries can absorb it, whether they can improve the efficiency and also improve the economy at various levels so that the burden need not be passed on to the common people. There is an increase of Rs. 50 per cylinder in respect of LPG and in the case of kerosene, the price of one litre of kerosene has gone up by Rs. 2.80.

As stated by all the Members who have participated in this debate, the common people of this country do not have electricity connection in their houses, except in a few places and they have to depend mainly on kerosene for lighting a small lamp in their houses. So, I would request the Government that they should see to it that the burden of price increase should somehow be passed on to other sections, but not on the common people.

Sir, there are different methods by which the Government can earn money. They can do that through taxation measures, improving the efficiency of the distribution system and storage facilities. The price of rice has gone up by Rs. 6 per kilogram. This means that the common man would require spending an additional amount of Rs. 60 to buy 10 kgs. of rice, which he cannot afford. That is the reason why the consumption has come down. Even though you give 20 kgs per family, I do not think that the common would be able to buy 20 kgs of foodstuff by spending more money. Due to this reason only, as one of our hon. Members has said, a huge quantity of these commodities is going into the black market. Since the poor people do not have the purchasing capacity due to rise in prices, these commodities are going in different directions. I hope that the hon. Minister would be able to look into all these aspects and see that these commodities are distributed through genuine methods, avoid wastage and also see that the burden is not fully passed on to the common people.

Coming to the aspect of deficit financing and other related issues of the economy, as some of our hon. Members have said, there are various methods through which the Government can save more money. On the Non-Plan side, various projects are getting delayed for so long that they result in time overrun and cost overrun. If the Government is able to have a strict control over the implementation of various projects, they can save the same amount of money, which they are now trying to get by reducing the subsidy on these essential commodities. So, the reduction in subsidy is hitting the common people very much. Therefore, on behalf of all the Members of the House, I, once again, request the Government to go back on the decision of reducing the subsidy on these articles and reduce the burden on the common people.

[Translation]

KUMARI MAYAWATI (AKBARPUR) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Shri Basu Deb Acharia ji has given detailed information about the price rise in essential commodities along with figures. I don't want to repeat those figures, but I would like to put forth some important things on behalf of my party. With the price rise in essential commodities effected by the Government, I can see that not only the opposition parties are distressed but even the coalition partners of the BJP led NDA Government are distressed. Do you remember what happened in the past. They had to suffer huge reverses due

to price rise in the elections of Delhi, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan assemblies. Your party was in power in Delhi and Rajasthan. On this important issue your party had to lose power. Because of it, the supporting parties of the BJP are concerned about their future. They are repeatedly asking the Government to roll back the prices. All parties in the legislative assembly there are also concerned about it.

16.56 hrs.

(SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN in the Chair)

The coalition partners of the BJP were the most concerned about it. They are concerned about their future. The price rise of essential commodities appears to be a well thought out, conspiracy of Bhartiya Janata Party. Bhartiya Janata Party is referred to as a party of the business-class in getting support of other parties in forming the Government. It is for the benefit of these people that the prices of essential commodities have been raised. Everybody in the country is aware of it. I know that you wish to get the support of your coalition partners even in the future. Keeping that in mind you will have to roll back the price-rise sooner or later. But when? When business classes have got their pound of flesh. They have indulged in hoarding of essential commodities and to benefit them you have increased the prices of essential commodities.

Unless the hoarders sell out their stocks, you will keep on confronting with your allied parties and will keep on assuring the opposition that we are talking to the Prime Minister, the Finance Minister and the concerned Minister and discussion in this regard is going on.

17.00 hrs.

When the business class takes full advantage of the situation and when their entire hoarded stocks are sent to the market, only after that this Government will withdraw the price hike. I am of the view that increase in the prices of food-stuff, LPG gas cylinder and kerosene has not affected the business class instead, it has adversely affected the poor and middle class people, labour class and other petty officials - whether they belong to Private Sector or Government sector. On one hand you have effected an increase in the prices of all the commodities but on the other hand no attention has been paid towards those poor people whose income is meagre, including the labourers who get less remuneration. Can they earn the bread for their entire family with such a meagre amount? You have given no thought to them. If you were hard pressed to increase the prices, at least you should have taken the condition of these people under your consideration. You should have increased the wages of the labourers, the salary of the staff in private and Government sector besides giving concession to the farmers for making available various facilities

[Kumari Mayawati]

to them. You gave no concession to them. You should have paid them remunerative prices for the crops on their arrival in the market. I can understand your problem but you should have also paid attention towards these people.

As I said in the beginning, I find a deep rooted conspiracy behind this price increase. Hence, I submit before all the concerned Minister, as has been submitted by other hon. Members also regarding the withdrawal of price-increase, that should give some respite to the people belonging to labour, poor and middle class and Government staff otherwise they would come on to the roads and launch an agitation in protest against this price-increase.

With these words, I would once again request to withdraw the price hike.

SHRI RAMJIVAN SINGH (BALIA, BIHAR) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the discussion on the price-increase of essential commodities effected by this Government is going on in the House. Just now, Shri Basu Deb Acharia was expressing his concern over it. I associate myself with the concern he has expressed. When the price increases, it naturally affects the consumers and this in turn causes a concern in the minds of those who are connected in any way, with the consumers. But now Kumari Mayawati was saying that the politics was being played behind the price increase. If Mayawati looks back at the regimes of previous Government, she will find that from time to time, every Government has increased the prices and if she feels that politics is involved in this step by this Government then there is not a single Government or party which has not played politics. If the increase in price is tantamount to playing politics then no party is aloof to it and no Government is lagging behind in the matter of price-hike.

KUMARI MAYAWATI : Is it in the interest of the country?

SHRI RAMJIVAN SINGH : Now, is the Government or for that matter the opposition in the interest of the country, it is a separate issue.

KUMARI MAYAWATI : It is a separate issue. Whether the steps taken by the previous Government are in the interest of the country or to ignore the poor class on the cost of benefiting the people belonging to richer section of society is in the interest of the country.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (MAHARAJGANJ, BIHAR) : First, you form your Government then you can do these things.

KUMARI MAYAWATI : If not today, we will form our Government tomorrow, why are you bothered?

SHRI RAMJIVAN SINGH : Mayawati, I don't want to be drawn into controversy. You also have served as the Chief

Minister in the State Government. I have also an experience of 30-35 years as a parliamentarian. I have also got the opportunity to be in the Government for a long time. But when I observe that our stand keeps on changing as per the situation, i.e. while in the Government we speak in different tone then what we do while sitting on treasury benches - in such a scenerio we are compelled to think over this tendency. Today it is the need of the hour that we understand the truth irrespective of whether we are in the Government or in the opposition. There are many ways for gaining cheap popularity and votes but that cannot change the system.

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI (KHAJURAHO) : You are right, they speak something here and something else while on treasury benches.

SHRI RAMJIVAN SINGH : I and you, all do the same though it is a vice in the politics ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : No cross-talk please.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJIVAN SINGH : Mr. Chairman, Sir, if you look at the figures you will find that in Delhi the price of one litre of kerosene was Rs. 1.77 in 1982 but on 1st March, 1983, the price was increased to Rs. 3.10 per litre. There might have been some compulsions before the then Government due to which it was forced to increase the price by more than double. However, the fact is that when pressure was applied, the Government withdrew the price-hike. But if you look at the figures afterwards, then you will find that the price became Rs. 2.18 after being increased. I am talking about Delhi city. Similarly the price of LPG cylinder was Rs. 45.47 per cylinder on 1 June, 1984 but it was increase to Rs. 51.35 in 1985, Rs. 82.57 on 1 April, 1993 Rs. 119.95 on 1.4.1999 and Rs. 136 on 1.9.1997. In this way, the price of LPG kept on increasing regularly. I am of the view that there must have been some compulsions before the Governments who had effected these price hikes.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, similarly we can take the case of prices of fertilisers. The price of urea was Rs. 2350 per tonne in 1986 which was hiked to Rs. 3300 per tonne in 1991 i.e. its price had to be increased. Though the Governments had some compulsion at the time when it increased the prices. But I don't call it politics.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, all of us know this thing and the hon. Minister has also stated this in his reply. Hence I don't find it necessary to repeat that. We should understand this truth that 70 per cent of kerosene and petroleum products being used in the country, is imported and it is quite natural that the prices of an imported commodity like petroleum depends on the oil

producing nations. When those countries increase the prices of oil, the oil importing countries are compelled to buy at the increased prices and they too are compelled to increase its price in their domestic market and again, when the prices in the international market go down, their price in respective importing countries also come down and our country is no exception to it.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, we must also understand one thing that today the battle being fought in the entire world is not for the sake of any principle or marxism but to capture the market. Today the war is not being fought for marxism but for marketism. Basu Deb Acharia Ji is not present here. I would like to tell him that marketism has taken the place of marxism and as you are aware marketism is based on the principle of earning maximum profit and when the profit is earned, the exploitation of someone, at some place or the other is bound to occur.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, today the science has made so much progress that the world has shrunk and the distance between two countries has been reduced a great deal. Today, the entire world is affected due to an incident which takes place in one part of a country. The Gulf War affected our economy. When the economy in South-East Asia crumbles, it affects our market also. It is owing to the progress made by the Science that a slight depression in the American market causes ripples in our share-market and sends the sensenosediving.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, just now, whatever was said by my friend was said very well and I don't want to repeat it. He has rightly pointed out that while on one hand, we have to take up developmental works, on the other hand we also want that subsidy should not be eliminated. On one hand we have to take the country on the path of development, on the other it is also very necessary to check the growing fiscal deficit of the Government which certainly is not a healthy trend. Today the situation is such that on the one hand we expect the Government to undertake the developmental work but on the other hand we also expect that no price hike should take place. How is it possible? Till date no Government has been able to avoid the route of deficit financing and if deficit financing is to be done then definitely loans have to be taken, currency notes have to be printed and when the new notes are printed, the prices in the market definitely increases.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, when the recommendations of Fifth Central Pay Commission were implemented the Central Government alone have to bear the additional burden of 18 thousand crore rupees in that particular year and since an additional annual burden to the tune of Rs. 14 thousand crore is being felt by it. The salaries may go on increase and the prices may remain stagnant, then where the money will come from? Government don't have any magic treasure at its disposal wherein you keep on with draining as much money

as you want without putting anything in it. The Government meets its expenses from the money collected through taxes and revenue. Hence Government have some compulsion before it. Hence I don't want to repeat the clarification given by hon. Minister in regard to the cut in subsidy and I support it.

The decision taken by the Gujral Government to reduce the burden of subsidy piled up due to the increase in the prices of oil in the world market and the stringent step taken by this Government to implement this decision might have caused some problem but it is a reality and is the need of the hour and there is no political or foreign pressure behind it. One Government or the other will have to take some hard measures to bring the country's economy right on the track.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, N.T. Rama Rao Sahib is no more now but I had the opportunity of working with him. He had made provision for providing rice and wheat at the rate of Rs. 2 per kilogram to the poor people in his State and due to this decision taken by him, the State Government had to bear an additional annual burden of approximately 2600 crore. After him, Shri Chandra Babu Naidu became the Chief Minister. He enhanced the price to certain extent and reduced the deficit from 2600 crore to Rs. 1900 crore. He encouraged the opening of more and more liquor shops in his State to earn additional revenue. On the one hand we reduce the prices to gain cheap popularity.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Kindly conclude now.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJIVAN SINGH : On the other hand the Government have to take such steps to earn more revenue. I was a member of the Parliament in 1977. When the Morarji Bhai took the decision to completely ban the sale of liquor. At that time, a meeting of the State Chief Ministers was held in which almost all Chief Ministers had stated that this step will cause a revenue loss to the tune of approximately Rs. 1000 crore. At this, Morarji Bhai reacted by saying that you can indulge in pick-pocketing to abridge the revenue deficit and fill the revenue treasure. He further asked whether you want to earn revenue by turning the people drunkards. But the Governments have to do all these things out of compulsion. I think that the step taken by the Government out of compulsion has affected public and the consumer. But I support the step taken by the Government. The Government was bound to take such step sooner or later. I would like to submit to the Government to take more firm steps.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Kindly conclude, otherwise I shall call the next speaker.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJIVAN SINGH : On one hand you take such steps which adversely affect the poor people, on the other hand, the non plan expenditure is increasing and it should be checked. Today parallel economy is running in the market through black money. Shri Chidambaram had taken a step to control the growth of black money. When VDIs were introduced during his tenure, only 9000 crore rupees were collected through it. You should find out some solution to check the flow of black money floating presently in the markets and also make provision to flush out black money from the market, though you have to give a little bit of thought before taking such steps.

Similarly we have to think over the problem of increasing expenditure on the unproductive things. As we reduce subsidy on fertilizers as was done in case of phosphate and potassium fertilizers in 1991, their consumption was reduced by 17 per cent and the NKP ratio was badly affected. I don't agree with the view of those who say that shortfall in fertilizer production will not affect our agricultural production. I have also been Minister of Agriculture for long. I am a farmer also and it is my personal experience that more we reduce our dependence on the use of fertilizers, better it would be for us, or else the fertility of our soil will go on decreasing. Today the per hectare average consumption of fertilizers in Punjab is 165 kg. and due to it, the production has been gradually decreasing there. The stagnation in production has begun to take place there. Similarly the people in Australia and Canada have greatly reduced the use of fertilizers and pesticides. Hence I would say that if the prices of fertilizers have increased, its use will decrease. Fifty year ago, the fertilizers were not being used. I would have talked in more detail, had there been enough time with me. I will do so if I get a chance to do so. With these things in mind, I would submit before you ... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Kindly conclude, otherwise, I shall call the next speaker.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJIVAN SINGH : I am concluding in two minutes. I am trying to say that you must strengthen the public distribution system. The things and the material you purchase and send for the people under PDS are not upto the work. Blackmarketing and hoarding take place and the consumers do not get the quality material.

One more thing I would like to say is that you have sharply increased the prices of wheat. You have increased the support price of foodgrains from the very beginning. I would like to cite my Bihar experience before you, that even though

you have fixed the support price of wheat at Rs. 550 per quintile, the farmer is compelled to sell it below Rs. 500 because there is no purchasing centre where he can sell his produce and thus he is not getting any benefit of support price.

If production increases and there is no corresponding improvement in storage and distribution facilities, it will benefit none.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Kindly take your seat now, otherwise I shall order you to take your seat.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJIVAN SINGH : Finally, I request you to formulate a price policy. Unfortunately, no price policy has been formulated so far. As long as there is no balance between farm product and factory product, no advantage can be gained from increase in farm production. The prices of farm products are increasing at a rate far lower than the prices of factory products. Our farmers are suffering because of it. Therefore a price policy should be formulated according to which the prices of industrial goods should not be more than one and a half times that of their cost and a minimum balance is maintained between the two.

With these words, I conclude.

SHRI SHANKER SINH VAGHELA (KAPADVANJ) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, hon'ble Minister has requested that the politics should not be dragged in the issue. I would remind him of their politics of two year back when they were not in power and of their politics when they came to power. It is the same parliament when the prices of diesel was raised what were the words of reaction of our present Prime Minister then. The Government of Shri Devegowda ji had announced the increase late in night and the move had been strongly criticised. You had also increased the price of diesel. When you had formed the new Government and the Parliament was about to meet. This price rise of LPG and kerosene was made when there was a vacation in the session of Parliament. You could have waited for a few days. Why do you do the things about which you criticise others. Just refer to the speeches delivered by your party leaders two years back be that of your Prime Minister or of an M.P. You will become aware of the double standards you maintain - one when you are in power and the other when you are in the opposition. Please don't make fool of the public. Maintain power, if you must, but it would have been better if you had waited for 15 days for the Parliament to meet.

One that begins bad is destined to end bad. The Government began on a bad note. Your first millennium budget failed miserably. For the poor and the PDS the Government

has two things in its hand from the view point of budget - deficit financing and administered pricing. Through you, I want to ask the cabinet or the entire Government - had you not opposed deficit financing had you opposed administered prices? Is there anybody to ask about the administered price. You are exceeding the targets for deficit financing by two times and yet you say the inflation is under control. Price rise and inflation control both can't go together. It is contradictory. There is a concept called continuity of the Government. In July, 1996 meeting of the Chief Ministers of States following decision was taken about the PDS.

[English]

"On the basis of the recommendation of the Chief Ministers' conference held in July, 1996 an effort was made to streamline the PDS system; as a result the TPDS was adopted from June, 1997. The system follows a two-tier subsidy pricing structure for families below the poverty line and those above the poverty line, the former representing the poorest of the poor."

[Translation]

60 crore population of the country is covered under the BPL and APL. Do you have any concern about this 60 crore population? Mayawati was correct that there is so much privatisation, so many refineries are coming up. The public sector refineries produce LPG and kerosene - the same as private refineries produce. In this competition, there is a pressure of rise in prices of products in Government refineries while those of the private sector refineries are maintained at a low level. Leave aside petroleum products. Does the PDS consumer, the poor not eat, do they not wear clothes? Suggestions were given at that time.

[English]

The Government has been receiving inputs that the current TPDS suffers from several inadequacies a few of which are as under :

[Translation]

Through you I want to ask the Government, what suggestions have you implemented regarding the PDS.

[English]

The quantity of foodgrains supplied is insufficient.

[Translation]

May be you made it 20 kg. from 10 kg. but who will buy it because people have no purchasing power. Three persons starved to death in Gujarat. The State is reeling under drought.

You are providing grains but people have no money to buy them. If nobody is able to buy it, it makes little difference whether you are providing 20 kg. or 30 kg. You have increased prices so much. Between BPL and APL if the income of a person increases from Rs. 10 to 11 the category of the person changes but the monetary condition of the person remains unchanged. Your second suggestion was.

[English]

The quality of foodgrains is also sometimes poorer.

[Translation]

What are you doing to improve the quality?

[English]

It says :

Although the objective of TPDS is focused on poor, the quantities of foodgrains supplied to the population below poverty line is the same as to the population above poverty line.

What have you done in this regard? It further says :

"A better package in favour of poor should be evolved by the Government under TPDS to make it socially more relevant and economically more attractive."

What have you done? It also says :

"The subsidy burden under the TPDS should be reduced by evolving a more positive price policy in favour of poor, with more supplies to non-poor and ensuring, at the same time, the division of the commodities under the TPDS."

[Translation]

It is a cruel joke with the poor. What was the intention behind the concept of merit and non-merit subsidy. If the intention is correct then the implementation machinery - be that of State Government or of Central Government - is an unmitigated failure. Is the monitoring system - be that of Government of India or of State Government is not responsible for that? What are your intentions behind subsidy cut and how do you define merit and non-merit subsidy. I would ask Shri Ram Naik ji, is there no other way out? Is it not a fact that you have got more than Rs. 10000 crore invested in IOC and other public sector undertakings. For many years many projects have not been working at their full capacity. Who will take up their cause? First we should try to dispose of what we produce - import should be restored to in the very end. The borders of Rajasthan and Pakistan are common. Please get the border surveyed because Pakistan is extracting crude oil

[Shri Shakersinh Vaghela]
and gas from there. You won't do what ought to be done, but you do withdraw subsidy from administered prices.

[English]

That is only monopoly.

[Translation]

Your tanks have advanced huge loans to the big houses. The amount involved is much more than what you are paying in subsidy. Tatas, Reliance, Birlas or the Essars all the big houses have taken huge loans. It has put a question mark on your banking institutions. Is the Government not responsible for that? More than Rs. 80,000 crore are stuck. If you are able to redeem that money you won't need to cut subsidies.

[English]

Timely supplies need to be ensured by better organisation of the delivery system.

[Translation]

I am not able to understand which type of delivery system you propose to build. If possible, please answer that.

[English]

Delivery system and issue of ration card should be transparent and subjected to social audit. What will happen, will the State Governments do it?

[Translation]

So many bogus ration cards are in circulation these days. By the way ration cards are useless these days. The price of sugar, wheat or rice at ration shops is not less than the market price. You talk about transparency.

[English]

The menace of bogus ration cards should be eliminated.

[Translation]

Please tell us as to how will you do it?

The so called champions of nationalism and swadeshi are my old friends. Has Vaipayee Government not come under pressure in respect of Swadeshi? The party which had opposed Paris Convention Act and which did not bow to American pressure is now oppressing the farmers of the country and is withdrawing subsidy under the influence of external pressure. The Government is oppressing the farmers under the pressure of WTO. You have forgotten the 'Swadeshi'. The entire nation is being mortgaged to America. You have

forgotten the politics of nationalism and Swadeshi power. You are importing phone, milk, pickle and wafers. How many items you have allowed to be imported? What is the position of market economy? The Multi-national companies are affecting market economy. In market economy those who earn will survive. I would like to ask you, do you think it justified that only the earner survives and those who are not earning do not. Then how will children, old people and our sisters will survive? Whatever you have done to the market economy is not justified and it is oppressing for the farmers.

Sir, yesterday my Keralite friends including members of Parliament from all political parties remarked that nobody is purchasing 'copra' and the farmers are being robbed. Do you think that the minimum support price is basically a minimum support price or you consider it a promoting price. Nobody is there to purchase the produce of farmers even at minimum price. Please name any Government institution which is purchasing the produce of farmers. There is no Government agency which is active in purchasing any of the produce like cotton, copra and wheat. It is a cruel joke with the farmers.

[English]

The Government is very much inactive, and it is doing nothing.

[Translation]

The party which advocated the promotional price has come down to talking about the minimum price and then there is no agency to purchase the produce at even minimum support price. All our friends from Kerala cutting across the party lines united on this issue that nobody is there to purchase copra. No buyer is there in any market all over the country. Neither the CCI nor any other agency is active for this. Farmers are being affected. You are responsible for it because it is due to your policy.

22-24 allied parties who are supporting N.D.A. have asked for rolling back this price rise. The Finance Minister said that he would not roll back the price. Ram Naik ji said that nothing would be done and you will also say that there will be no roll back. If you can not roll back then at least you leave the Government. Our hypocrite friends whether it is Vaiko Saheb or any other person, they are totally hypocrites. You have become so helpless. On one hand, you have to support the Government and on the other hand, you have to get withdrawn the price rise. I appeal to you that if you have genuine concern for the poor people, then except BJP, all of you, whether it is TDP, or Trinamul Congress or Samta Party, should not maintain double standard. Please do not mislead the voters. You may simply withdraw your support. I know BJP you can pressurise the Government by threatening to withdraw your support in case price hike is not withdrawn. If the price

rise is withdrawn, then your support will not be withdrawn...
(Interruptions) Vaiko ji when were you getting power...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI VAIKO (SIVAKASI) : When you express some views, which may not go in accordance with the official line of your party, do you mean to say that you are also having double standard? That is not correct.

SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA : Then do not say on TV that you want the withdrawal of the hike in prices. You should not only support the Government, but also the price rise. Do you only want the fruits or the flowers?

[Translation]

You do not want to face criticism. If you are supporting the Government, then whatever will be the consequence of price rise will certainly have impact on you, but you need not make a speech now, you may withdraw your support.

[English]

SHRI VAIKO : You should know that it shows the real democratic functioning of the NDA. The problem is that you have never experienced democracy inside your Party.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please take your seat.

SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA : I have experience in two major parties, and I know whether there is democracy or not. You are supporting that Party which you were opposing like anything. Some of you were Socialists, some of you were secular; even Shri Sharad Yadav never sat with BJP people.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI C.P. RADHAKRISHNAN (COIMBATORE) : All along your life you fought against the Congress Party, and you are a Congressman now. How can you talk about BJP?

SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA : That is why I know them better than you. I know BJP since 30 years, your people are new.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (AJMER) : Sir, the Member should address the Chair.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Vaghela ji, please express your views, do not indulge in cross talking.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN : Vaghela ji, at least you should not talk about double standard.

SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA : This issue is concerned with poor people. LPG is used by our sisters. When you are invited to any household, you might be facing such queries as to why did you increase the price. You have increased the price of the PDS items and the kerosene used by the poor people. Will you give some relief to the poor people after having such a long discussion on it. With this, I conclude and hope that you will do something in this direction.

[English]

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN (TIRUNELVELI) : Mr. Chairman, thank you very much for giving me this opportunity to express my views over rise in prices of essential commodities. I heard the views of Members of the Opposition and I associate myself with them. I also agree with my friends in BJP who expressed the inability of the Government to roll back the prices.

We all know that Item No. 34 in the Concurrent List is 'price control'. It is a joint constitutional responsibility of the Central and State Governments to maintain prices and to keep them in line with the BPL standards. It is that failure of the Central and State Governments that has necessitated this discussion under Rule 193.

It has been pointed out by my colleague in the BJP that it was a unilateral announcement made by the Finance Minister about the price rise. So, there is no collective constitutional responsibility in this House on the part of the Cabinet. The Constitution says that the Council of Ministers shall be collectively responsible to the House of the people. However, each Minister of this Government is individually expressing his views. Each Minister speaks as if he is individually responsible to this House. There is no collective responsibility in this NDA Government.

I saw a number of vernacular newspapers as well as national dailies like *The Times of India*, *The Hindustan Times*, etc., wherein the members of the NDA Government have expressed their unhappiness with the announcement of rise in the prices of LPG, kerosene, fertilizers and other essential commodities. Their unhappiness is expressed outside but they are not able to express it inside the House. The only exception is Trinamool Congress. My friend from Trinamool Congress said that the Government should not have raised the prices of essential commodities. So, under the constitutional position, their action inside the House is different from that of outside.

During the last elections, there was more politics than economics. Now the BJP and its partners in NDA are thinking a little about economics here. During elections they did not quote the statistics which they have quoted now. They did not talk about this inability then. They did not say then that if they had come to power they might have to rise prices. Had they said that before the electorate, they would not have come to power at all....(Interruptions)

[Shri P.H. Pandiyan]

We are taking advantage of the ignorant attitude of the BPL people. They thought that if this Government is changed, they will prosper in their life. But they continued to be below poverty line. ...*(Interruptions)* There is one other line to the below poverty line. That is, 'above property line'. The propertied classes are not bothered about this price rise. They can afford to pay the price. But the common man cannot afford to pay this high price. In the Standing Committee report, I said :

"The failure on the part of the State Governments necessitated the price."

On page 37 of the Standing Committee report, the information available to the Ministry regarding bogus ration cards has been listed out State-wise :

"Andhra Pradesh	19,17,330
Goa	54
Pondicherry	17
Tamil Nadu	3 lakhs
Andaman & Nicobar	8,460"

Karnataka and other States are listed here.

If the State Government does not weed out these bogus ration cards, the Central Government will not be able to monitor the PDS because the Centre is giving subsidy.

SHRI VAIKO : Pondicherry gave some particulars. There is the DMK-led Government. In Tamil Nadu, the bogus ration cards were given by the previous Government headed by AIADMK.

SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM (THANJAVUR) : It should be pointed out to the Central Government that these statistics were given to them by the State Governments. We find these 3 lakh bogus ration cards were given by your Government. We will find them out and we will seize them.

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN : I am not making any charge against anybody. This is the report.

SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM : That is why, I state the facts before the House.

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN : Because of these 3 lakh bogus ration cards, 450 tonnes of PDS rice was transported last month from my Constituency in 17 wagons from Tuticorin to Bangalore. Where is that rice?

SHRI VAIKO : The Government is taking all steps to check bogus ration cards.

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN : I am not pleading for anybody. I am only in the interests of the people.

SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM : The old cards were issued previously before 1996. After 1996, we found out these bogus cards. Now we are issuing new cards. We gave the statistics for pre-1996.

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN : I am not making any charge against anybody. I say that 450 tonnes of rice were transported. I asked for a CBI inquiry in this House. Did you support it? Why did you not support it? Even when the railway demand was made, I asked for a CBI inquiry. ...*(Interruptions)*

This is a fact. You should accept the fact.

Why do you divert me unnecessarily? ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Pandiyan, please address the Chair.

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN : It is a fact. It is not my rice. It is not from my garden. It is from the people's pool. What did the Central Government do for the last three months? It was brought before this House.

The State Government has not taken any action. They have instituted an inquiry by the Crime Branch of the Criminal Investigation Department. They will charge one or two persons but who is the kingpin? When 450 tonnes of rice is being transported from Tuticorin to Bangalore, it should have the backing of a high constitutional functionary. A *tehsildar* or a Revenue Inspector cannot transport it illicitly. To elicit that fact, I appeal once again. I did not have the mind to talk today but now you have provoked me to talk like this. The House may take note of this fact. It is the property of the House. Four hundred and fifty tonnes of rice has been transported. They should institute a CBI inquiry. ...*(Interruptions)* You should institute a CBI inquiry and whoever it might be - a Minister or the Chief Minister or somebody else - should be taken to task.

SHRI VAIKO : What about the ex-Chief Minister? If he has referred to the Chief Minister, he might also refer to the ex-Chief Minister. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN : If this sort of intervention is allowed, I will not be able to speak. ...*(Interruptions)* I am not blaming anybody.

SHRI VAIKO : I am also not talking the name of anybody.

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN : Why do you hold a brief for others?

SHRI VAIKO : I hold a brief for all the right people.

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN : In 1998, you held a brief for the AIADMK and now you are holding a different brief. ...*(Interruptions)* You came to this House through the AIADMK.

SHRI VAIKO : No, that was an alliance under the leadership of Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee.

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN : Earlier, you were only nominated to the Rajya Sabha. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI VAIKO : The people voted only for Shri Vajpayee and not for anybody else.

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN : It was only through Ms. Jayalalitha that you came here.

SHRI VAIKO : The people voted for Shri Vajpayee. They did not vote for anybody else. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please come to the point.

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN : Yes, I am coming to the point. I wanted to say something more but he has dragged me. I do not want to talk like this at all. ...*(Interruptions)* If you provoke me, I have to say something else also.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please address the Chair.

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN : I will address the Chair now.

The Targeted Public Distribution System was mainly targeted by highly placed kingpins. It is not going to reach the people. The three lakh bogus ration cards that we see is only a little bit of it. If a CBI inquiry is ordered today, we will get to see 25 lakh bogus ration cards in Tamil Nadu. ...*(Interruptions)*

They have diverted me.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Pandiyan, please do not address them.

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN : The people should have the purchasing power to purchase 20 kilograms. Do they have the money? Where is the money? They are not getting the money. They are not getting employment. The Constitution guarantees right to life. Now, it is enlarged and interpreted by the Supreme Court as 'right to live and eat'. The Government has to give food and shelter. This is the latest interpretation of the Supreme Court. The Central Government without the consensus of its allied parties inside the House, has raised the prices.

I thought, the Minister, in his reply, would say that he is going to roll back the prices. I was waiting to hear so. But he has not said that. I thought that he was going to withdraw the

hike in price because there was stiff resistance. But the Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas was not able to come out with the actual position.

Can the NDA constituents announce on the floor of this House that the price hike is inevitable and that the price hike should not be withdrawn? If they announce like that, they cannot face the people tomorrow. ...*(Interruptions)* There is a little economics now. During elections, there will be more politics than economics because people do not understand the grammar of economics. The BPL people have been cheated by the NDA and its constituents at the time of elections. Electoral promises are not enforceable by law. You can give any sort of promise to any section of the people during elections saying that if you come to power, you will do this and you will do that. But promises cannot be enforced by law anywhere. Even in Parliament we are not able to enforce. The Committee on Assurance is not able to pull up the Ministers. There are so much of assurances given on the floor of this House. For the last six months, every day I have been seeing that, but there is no compulsion to act on such assurances.

I would say that the NDA Government should either roll back the prices or fulfil the promises given to the people at the time of elections. At the time of elections, they said that they would fulfil the aspirations and expectations of the people.

SHRI VAIKO : It is being done.

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN : He says that it is being done; let it be recorded. ...*(Interruptions)*

[[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Hon'ble Member Shri Vaiko's speech will not go on record.

....*(Interruptions)**

[English]

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN : It is fulfilled by increasing the prices of petroleum, diesel, fertilizer, etc.! The expectations of the people are being fulfilled this way. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Vaiko ji, what you are saying is not going on record.

....*(Interruptions)**

[English]

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN : The common man, who is hungry, is not bothered about that. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI VAIKO : But facts are facts. ...*(Interruptions)*

*Not recorded.

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN : False statements are false only.
...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : This is too much, Shri Vaiko.
...(Interruptions)

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN : You came to this House a year ago, but I have come just now, with the same ticket!
...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : You may address the Chair, Shri Pandiyan.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN : Either the NDA Government should roll back the prices or honestly quit the Office. People say that the Prime Minister is known for his honesty and integrity. I have not tested him so far; I do not know him personally because I was not in this House or in this arena earlier. If he is honest, he must either fulfil the promises made to the people at the time of elections or he must quit. I do not bother about the NDA and its constituents. Their expectations is different.

SHRI VAIKO : Can you yield for a minute because you have made a reference about the Prime Minister? Nobody on Earth could question the honesty of the Prime Minister. He is above board. Even my friends from that side would agree with that. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN : Why are you holding brief for anybody? He is my Prime Minister also because I am an Indian citizen. You cannot have an extra leverage. I have the same respect and affection for him. ... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Nothing will go on record. ... (Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN : You are holding brief for that side.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Except hon'ble Member Shri Pandiyan's speech nothing will go on record.

...(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Only the speech of hon'ble Member Shri P.H. Pandiyan is being recorded. The speech of any other hon'ble Member is not being recorded. So I request you not to interrupt. Please be seated.

*Not recorded.

[English]

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN : He is the Prime Minister of India and not the Prime Minister only for Shri Vaiko. ... (Interruptions) Day before yesterday there was a reference here to the happenings in the telecom sector. Who is responsible? Shri Vaiko, why did you not get up? ... (Interruptions) Shri Vaiko did not get up at that time. Day before yesterday, grave allegation was made and all the Members from the Opposition walked out. That is on the record. ... (Interruptions) Prime Minister's is the collective responsibility. Even if the individual Minister is corrupt, Prime Minister is collectively responsible for that. He cannot say that he is a Minister and I am not responsible for his acts. Day before yesterday, a grave allegation was made and it was not answered by that section.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please come to the point.

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN : That is the subject now. Corruption is the subject. I have been seeing that everyday an allegation is made against the Government. What is happening to the public sector? ... (Interruptions) What about the privatisation? It is all on the records. I am only reminding them. That is all. ... (Interruptions)

The Prime Minister will take a right decision if he is honest; and the Prime Minister will take collective decision if he is a man of integrity. The Prime Minister should take a decision to remove the corrupt from the Ministry; to remove the anti-people Ministers; and to remove the Ministers who have taken the public money.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please come to the point.

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN : My flow of thoughts have been arrested because of the interruptions. The House is going to see the honesty and integrity of the Prime Minister and his colleagues next week. We are going to see that. You may prevent me here. If a PIL is filed against any Minister in the Delhi High Court, what will you do? Yesterday, I thought of it when I was given only five minutes to speak. I need not talk here. I can go to the High Court and file a PIL. ... (Interruptions) I condemn the NDA Government for having betrayed the people of India; and I condemn the NDA constituents who are hypocrites and power brokers, I repeat they are power brokers, who are holding heavy brief for this Government. So, in the interest of the people of this country, I oppose this hike in prices of essential commodities. We will wait for fifteen days and then act.

18.00 hrs.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (RAIGANJ) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, as you know, normally, the time fixed for discussion under Rule 193 is two hours. This discussion started at about 1400 hours. It was decided in the BAC that today we will devote all the time to the discussion on Price

Rise. An urgency was felt when the Leader of the Opposition, Shrimati Sonia Gandhi moved an Adjournment Motion. But it was turned down. The Speaker was kind enough to unanimously decide in the BAC, discussing this issue today suspending all other business. I, therefore, request that this discussion should continue as long as all the speakers have made their contributions and the Minister may reply to the discussion tonight at 2230 hours. The Minister can reply tomorrow also at 1430 hours because there is no important business tomorrow except the Private Members' Business. This will help not only the Members to give their views but the Minister can also fully think and reply to the discussion.

SHRI VAIKO : It was decided in the BAC, as Shri Dasmuni has told, that all the Members who wish to speak should be given an opportunity to speak. I fully appreciate it. At the same time, it was also decided that the Minister should reply to the discussion on the same day.

[Translation]

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI (GARHWAL) : I agree that all the hon'ble Members may be given an opportunity to speak. I also request that it would be convenient for everyone if you speak keeping the time limit in mind.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : My suggestion is merely this that we would have no problem if the discussion gets completed by tonight. I wish to say that after the speeches of all the members, if the hon'ble Minister feels that he needs time to give reply to their points, then he can submit his reply tomorrow. Our Private Members' bill is listed for tomorrow at 3.30 p.m. We cannot cancel it, but he can reply at around 2.00-2.30 p.m. before that.

[English]

SHRI VAIKO : At times, it may affect the timings of the Private Members' Business. We have to take into consideration that also.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : I have said that the Private Members's Business should not be interfered.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Tomorrow, there is no important business except the Private Members' Business. So, we can have reply tomorrow at 1430 hours.

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI : No, it becomes difficult. We should try and conclude the discussion today itself.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Business Advisory Committee has members from all Parties. It was decided therein that on this subject, a four hour discussion would take place under Rule 193.

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : I am sorry, Sir. I would like to correct it. There was no decision as to how much time we should devote. It was only decided that it would come as discussion under Rule 193. It was decided that the whole day should be devoted to the discussion on Price Rise and that is why in the List of Business for today, you will see no other business except this.

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (VAISHALI) : This discussion would be finished only in two hours, if he agrees to our request but he is not agreeing to it, so we won't drop this point until and unless he agrees to it. ... (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Let us increase two hours more on this. Please finish your speech by 8.30 p.m.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : We are fed up with the statements made against the poor.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : I wish to say that everyone should be given a chance to speak in this discussion. We have no objection even if the hon'ble Minister gives his reply at 10.00 or 10.30 p.m.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The time for this discussion is extended till all the hon'ble Members on the list have made their point. After this we would try that the Government may submit its reply at 8.30 p.m.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : This would not be completed by 8.30 p.m. Please don't stop anyone from speaking. Let every Member speak. ... (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI AJAY CHAKRABORTY (BASIRHAT) : If today it is not possible, the Minister can give his reply tomorrow at 1430 hours. ... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, let the House sit for as much time as required but this decision should be completed today itself. If you ask my personal opinion, then I would say that there are certain limitations of every discussion. During the last few days, it has become a convention in our House that discussion on a particular subject does not come to an end till the speech of the last Member. In my opinion, some people may speak on this subject and others may speak on some other subject. There are some persons who can sit

[Shri Pramod Mahajan]

till late hours and that is why they speak on every subject. I feel that we would not be able to run the House in such a manner. The discussion does not get completed until the speech of the last Members infact no Parliament can perform its functions in such a way. It is understandable if you increase the number of Members from two to four or four to five, but if you say that even the last person would speak on this, then I feel Sir, that you are not setting a good convention. Moreover when Members from every party, speak, they present their viewpoint. I, therefore, feel that we should finish with this after holding discussion for another hour or one and a half hour and the reply thereof.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : I utterly object to it. Just two three days back discussion took place on Demand for grants and the most important thing in this was that the discussion did not exceed the time limit i.e. five hours or six hours earmarked by B.A.C. for this purpose. But after 4 hours, when the clock strikes 10, then everyone feels tired. It is not like that. We have not exceeded any limits, nor we have violated the time limit. It would not have mattered if it had been decided that entire discussion would be completed in two hours as no other business was on agenda today and that is why nobody pointed this out. I have given this suggestion because this issue is very important.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Till what time you want this discussion to continue?

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : I wish to say that I am not talking about the last speaker. Please study the progress. If it is finished by 9.00 p.m. or by 8.00 p.m., let it be finished by that time, but if anyone has given his name to speak, be it two persons or three persons then it should be continued.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Please determine the time. Now he is saying that let it continue till eight, or nine or ten, and someone else would say that it should be continued till 11.00! Please ascertain a particular time for this. If you decide that it would be completed by 9.00 o'clock, then it would be extended till 9.00 itself.(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : The time-limit is extended till 8.30 p.m. Now the discussion has to be completed by 8.30 p.m.

.....(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Raghuvansh Babu, I have already called out the name. Adsulji, please start with your speech.

SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL (BULDANA) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, our Shiv Sena Party is a constituent of the ruling party under the leadership of respected Atal ji and would remain its constituent in future also.(Interruptions) Alliance will rule for full five years and will again come to power. You should not oppose simply for the sake of opposition.(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : It will be difficult with so much interruptions. Express your views within your allotted time.

SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL : It is our duty to place the actual situation before the Government. Second point is that we all are sitting here as people's representatives, therefore, it is our foremost duty to take care of the feelings of pleasure and pain of those people. I have come from a reserved constituency, Buldana, which is a backward area of Vidharbha in Maharashtra. An area, where majority of the people live below poverty line, is called backward area. In that area there is no facility for drinking water or water for agriculture. There are no roads. First our Government should arrange for the basic needs, such as foodgrains for the poor people living in that area. You have increased prices and the Minister of Finance has said that we have cut subsidy. But we have doubled the ration-quota being provided under PDS. Only 68% prices have been increased through PDS. The second thing, we should keep in mind is the purchasing power. We should consider whether the people living below the poverty line would be able to purchase the foodgrains or not. It is also to be considered as to how much remuneration is given to the people employed under EGS by the Government. As per the figures available with me, it is 38 Rupees, i.e. 992 Rupees per month. If we look at the prices of foodgrains which we supply wheat is sold at Rupees 5 per kg. and rice at Rupees 6.40 per kg. On the basis of family planning let us assume five members in one family. Government has said that the quota has been doubled, whereas in fact it is not so. Ration for two members comes to 30 kgs. If we look at EGS or EAS, on an average per person gets Rupees 40, but we can't provide him work for all 30 days. We hardly provide him job for 20 days. In this way, he would get a total of Rupees 800 in a month. Considering five members in his family, 400 Rupees will be spent for purchasing ration only, then how can he afford other things. It is to be seen practically.

On the one hand we have increased the prices of foodgrains by reducing subsidy whereas on the other hand we are giving subsidy on other things. I don't want to hurt anyone's sentiments. But the Government gives subsidy for Haj pilgrimage. Therefore, I urge you to reduce subsidy on every front. I feel that my suggestion is not out of place.

We talk of employment generation. But in fact how many people are provided employment. In my area, work is available only for three-four months in fields. There is no industry over there. There are many unemployed people over there who want to work, but work is not available. How those people will survive as they have no income. We make tall promises and say that we will prepare development plans by considering the poor as a focal point, that we will construct roads, provide water, and will do this and that. But this poor man will survive only if he gets something to eat, and if he survives then only he can avail of the benefits of your developmental schemes.

You have reduced the subsidy on the articles being given to the poor people. This subsidy cut should be withdrawn to give them relief. Besides, old price of foodgrains should be restored in PDS.

SHRI SUKDEO PASWAN (ARARIA) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, we are discussing price rise in the House. In fact right from independence till today, no other Government had increased the prices to the extent to which the NDA Government has hiked. The price rise has put the people living below the poverty line in great difficulty.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Earlier the prices were controlled by market forces, this time the Government has effected the increase.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Only one person should speak at a time, please.

SHRI SUKDEO PASWAN : People living below poverty line are who are living in huts in villages, who work as labourer whose income is quite meagre and who get Rupees 40-45 as daily wages, feel the pinch of price-rise when they purchase articles of daily need. In case of ration-oil also, price rise has been quite sharp. Prabhunath Babu ji, you too know that even your village is not fully electrified. Since you are rich people, you may have generator. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : No interruptions please.

SHRI SUKDEO PASWAN : We are the people living in villages and 95% village population uses ration oil. So far, majority of Governments that come to power at the Centre did not touch the price of ration oil. But NDA Government has reduced the subsidy and increased its price. Ration oil is available at Rupees 16-20 in villages. Children read with its help and others cook food and make their living. Poor people light Dhlbri (lamp) in villages whereas in big cities it is not used. But Dhlbri and lantern are the only source for reading for school going children in villages. Even allied partners in the NDA Government have opposed price rise. I request you that from within the party we are opposing it, but you are supporting the Government openly. And if you give a threat of withdrawing the support, the Government may withdraw the price rise. Likewise people are in difficulty due to the price rise in case of wheat, rice and sugar under PDS. In addition to sugar, take the case of cloths, urea and DAP fertilizers. Most of the Governments used to give subsidy to farmers in case of DAP and urea. But this Government is anti-farmer. Subsidy on urea has been lifted and the farmers are facing difficulties because of this. 75% of the Members of Parliament have been elected from rural areas. Whether they are from BJP, RJD, Congress or Shiv Sena or from Janata Dal or any other party, 75% of them are from rural areas. Whenever you may be visiting your constituency, the people of that area may

be complaining regarding price-rise and may be telling that it is an attack on farmers, you must withdraw it. Therefore, I urge the Government to withdraw the price-rise. Same is the case of insecticides and DAP. We were allowed LPG quota. There is a scarcity of fuel even in villages and whenever we visit them even a labour requests us for a gas connection. Now the cylinder is priced at Rupees 200 each. What the Government is thinking. You increase the prices of articles which are used by billionaires and big capitalist of the country. When you give subsidy on car, when you give subsidy for setting up big industries, you should also give subsidy to farmers and also to the people living below poverty line.

Sir, whether it is Bengal, North Bihar or Orissa, farmers cultivate jute crop but they do not get remunerative price for their crops. They do not even get back their investment and the cost of the labour or hard work done by him. We eat sunflower oil, which is quite costly in the market. On the other hand when a farmer cultivates sunflower crop, we sell him the seed at Rupees 600-700 per kg. But when we buy the seed from him we pay him only Rupees 100-150 per kg. And when it comes to the market, it hardly fetches Rupees 60 per kg. If your Government does not look after the farmers then who will look after them. If the farmer, who grows foodgrains and oil seed stops growing them, Sir you know it well then what shall be the fate of our country which has one hundred crore of population and which depends upon agriculture.

Even big industrialists in the country eat sugar, wheat, roti, rice etc. The poor fellow who lives below poverty line purchases these items at the same price at what the top most industrialist of this country purchases, but how do you assess both of them at par? Sir, how can you consider the man living below poverty line and the richest person in equal footing.

Sir, I can say with challenge that it is not true that complete survey has been conducted regarding the people living below poverty line in all States and districts. When we meet a person from U.P., Bengal or Bihar, he says that his name does not appear in the list of people living below poverty line. The Central Government allocates Rupees 20,000 under Indira Awas Yojana. Prices of cement, iron and bricks have gone up then how a house can be built up in such a small amount. Therefore, you are requested to withdraw the price rise. ...*(Interruptions)* Thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak.

SHRI SHANKAR PRASAD JAISWAL (VARANASI) Hon'ble Chairman, Sir, I am grateful to you for giving me an opportunity to speak. Today, our country is passing through an economic-crisis. When in this hour of economic crisis, our country is at cross roads, cutting across party lines, all the political parties should come together and should think over as to how the country can be pulled out of this crisis.

[Shri Shankar Prasad Jaiswal]

Hon'ble Chairman, Sir, even after 50 years of independence, 33 crore people of our country are living below poverty line. There are 25 lakh children in the country who had to lose their eye sight because of mal-nutrition. 50 per cent children in our country do not get nutritious diet.

Respected Sir, when we look at our budget, we find that our net income is Rupees two lakh crores. People who are sitting on that side and who were ruling this country earlier, took so much loan to run the country that we have to repay Rupees one lakh one thousand crore as interest only. Repayment instalment of old loans is Rupees one lakh twenty four thousand crore. It is necessary to repay both. If we take both sums together, it comes to Rupees two lakh and twenty five thousand crore. This amount is payable against loan and the interest thereon. Even to repay this loan and interest amount we have to take loan from foreign countries.

Today when the country is projecting valour, and saying it with challenge that we are ready to compromise on equal terms. Meanwhile if the country faces economic crises then the whole nation and this House should think over as to how the country can be taken out of this crisis. So that we do not come under anyone's economic pressure. You would not like it, even the public would not like it. This Government has moved further on the steps taken by you. Previous Government had increased the prices of petroleum products. My intention is not to blame anybody. Today it has become necessary to adopt and implement the politics of consensus. I agree that it is the responsibility of the people in the Government to adopt the politics of consensus in place of taking hard measures. They should rise above party politics, have talks with everyone and proceed further to accomplish the task you have decided to take up.

Very humbly, I would like to state that today it is the need of the hour that the entire society should give up the habit of being dependent on the subsidy. Only the poor should be given the benefits of subsidy and the rich and prosperous people should be asked to live on their own. I would like to appeal to the hon. Members that we should take inspiration from the example of Japan. Japan also has witnessed 50 years of her independence. Can we decide to handle the issue of subsidy firmly? When we talk about subsidy one thing comes to my mind that the parliamentarians go to the first floor to have their meals. Subsidy on the food items available in the canteen also should be withdrawn. No M.P. is below poverty line. The meals are provided at a subsidised rate of Rs. four and a half in that canteen. As per my information a subsidy of Rs. two crore is given for it. It should be done away with. We started to talk in political terms both inside and outside the House after a slight increase in prices. I have a feeling of great reverence for hon. Basu Deb Acharia. He is a very senior Member. His name Acharia also reflects his status worthy of

reverence. If Basu Deb ji says something, I won't react to it. Has Shri Vaghela left the House? There is a similarity in one part of his name and my name. If Vaghelaji says that our allied party is power hungry, he does not have any right to say so. He is not present here. What can I say? Hence I won't press this point further. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please speak on the Essential Commodities. Don't take the name of Shri Vaghelaji.

AN HON. MEMBER : He has withdrawn his words.

SHRI SHANKAR PRASAD JAISWAL : I have not withdrawn it. During the last 18 years, the inflation rate has been reduced to the maximum level of 2 per cent. This is one of the achievements of this Government. I would surely like to say that the strictness with which this Government is dealing with hoarders and blackmarketers is absolutely essential. It is true that 35 per cent of the food grains supplied for the people living below the poverty line in villages goes in black market and it never reaches the poor. It is also true that this Government took a firm step to strengthen the Public Distribution System and brought it under the Panchayat. It has helped a great deal in putting a check on the corruption. This step by the Government has also been lauded in the newspapers. Rashtriya Sahara has written that the decision by the Government will strengthen the democracy as well as the Public Distribution System. The appreciable decision which this Government has taken this way. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : Is it fair to increase the prices?

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mr. Athawaleji, please resume your seat. Let the hon. Member speak. Whatever you speak will not go on record.

*(Interruptions)**

SHRI SHANKAR PRASAD JAISWAL : MR. Chairman, Sir, through you, I would like to state that when the prices of crude oil rose to double in other countries of the world, our Department of Petroleum increased the price of diesel by 40 per cent. Today the consumer is getting kerosene at Rs. 5.46 per litre on which a subsidy of Rs. 5.08 is being given. Despite an increase of Rs. 98 on a LPG cylinder, the Government have to give a subsidy on it. My submission to the hon. Member of this House is that there is a need to cut across party lines to improve the economy of the country. Subsidy can be given to the poor and not to the rich.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am happy to say that the decision of providing 10 kg. of foodgrains to the poor under PDS taken under your regime has been revised to 20 kg. per month by the Government.

*Not recorded.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS : And that too, by increasing the price.

SHRI SHANKAR PRASAD JAISWAL : Mr. Chairman, Sir, prices have been increased a little bit but the quantity of foodgrains has been doubled to benefit the poor. The provision of providing 20 kg. foodgrains as compared to the previous year's quantity of 10 kg is more beneficial to the poor. Due to the present policy each family is benefited by Rs. 37 every month. When the issue of subsidy is taken up in the House, it is said that the interests of the farmers are being neglected. When Basu Deb Acharia brought forward the proposal of price hike then an hon. Member sitting besides him said that the price of milk should be increased, once he heard the word milk from Shri Basu Deb Acharia. I am of the view that the production of milk will increase if the milk producers are provided the proper price of milk. Similarly when a farmer gets proper remunerative price for wheat and rice, he will take more interest in farming and a young farmer will always be ready to work hard in his fields. The Government has fixed the prices of foodgrains. It has encouraged the farmers and the interests of the poor man also been taken care of in it.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank you for giving me time to speak.

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (RAIGANJ) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to take part in this debate opposing very strongly the hike in prices of the essential commodities, including the petroleum products.

It is amazing, in the House, that whenever any debate begins the NDA suffers because of its own inner contradictions. They start with accusing Congress for its fifty years' rule and at the same time, indirectly, unconsciously the truth comes out from their mouth, including the mouth of hon. Prime Minister, about the achievements of the Congress for the past fifty years.

When you go to Lahore, you think of Simla Treaty by Shrimati Gandhi; when you think of India in the eyes of the world, you think of Mahatma Gandhi; When you think of planning, you talk of Nehru; when you think of a strong nation, you talk of Sardar Patel; when you think of Pakistan Wars of 1965 and 1971, you think of Lal Bahadur Shastri and Indira Gandhi; and when you think of criticising, you carry on the whole chariot of fifty years of Congress Rule.

Only yesterday, the Prime Minister said : "Whatever achievement is there in this country, in terms of Defence and everything, I do add that it has not been for the last two years but it is a systematic growth of last fifty years".

They think that it is a political election meeting and not a Parliament. They go on addressing the people to get their

votes by abusing and accusing Congress. You do it. It is your own desire. I do not like to question your *bona fide*. Today, India is the tenth economic nation in surpassing the record of South Korea. It is not because of the efforts of the last two years. The foundation has been made strong for the last fifty years in a systematic process.

When we were in power, we did increase the prices. I just give you one figure. In this country, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru used to say, 'In a poverty-stricken nation like India, when you think of giving a burden to the people, you think first how much load they can carry, do not give a load with which they break their spine.' This was not my speech. This was the speech of Pandit Nehru. In 1975, the price of diesel was increased by one paisa. After ten years, in 1985, the price of diesel was increased by one rupee and nineteen paise. After 15 years, the diesel price of diesel has jumped by Rs. 11.37. It is not a question of fighting individually. Please try to understand the impact. I do not like you to go and read your speeches that you had made when the price of diesel was increased by one paisa. I do not like to go and read your speeches that you had made when the price of diesel was increased by Rs. 1.19. I only submit to you that in your NDA Manifesto, it is said : 'Our all-time effort should be to lessen the burden of the poorest of the poor.' Therefore, you have promised certain things in your Manifesto. Kindly read the paragraph, 'Our Vision'. In the same tone, your Members are defending with high sounding words : 'This is a just thing. This is a correct thing. We will go and educate people.' Who is preventing you from doing that? You go to your constituency. Please do not forget to carry your speech that you made here and tell the people : 'We asked as to why you had increased the price of diesel when it was increased by one paisa. We asked as to why you had increased the price of diesel when it was increased by Rs. 1.19. Now, we feel that this one time jump of Rs. 11 in the price of diesel is justified.' Also tell the people that what you had said on that day was wrong.

Please try to have a rational thinking. I just tell you about the philosophy of this Government. My attack is not against you. You simply increased the price. I know, to run a Government, you have to maintain your fiscal discipline. I know, to run a Government, you have to take care many things. I do not say that the Government should not do it and it can sit quietly without increasing the prices or taxes. We know our responsibility. But I want to address your philosophy. There is a total contradiction among the Members who are speaking from the Ruling Party and the approach that has been made by the Government. The philosophy of the Government should be studied first.

I thank the then Prime Minister, Shri Deve Gowda that during those critical days, during his short tenure with the support of Congress and Left from outside, he did one good thing in this country and due to that, there is no class struggle

[Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi]

now between the haves and the have-nots. He did draw a line, BPL and APL. And that process provided a new strength and confidence to the poorest of the poor, who had otherwise supported various development programmes.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, at that time, you were also the Minister and when BPL was drawn, there was an enormous enthusiasm among the poorest of the poor throughout the country, cutting across the party-line, caste-line and religion-line, they felt that something positive was coming to their door.

In your NDA Manifesto, you have said that your first commitment is to the poorest of the poor. Kindly see the quantum jump in the matter of increasing the price of diesel. Just before I started my speech, the Member who spoke has said :

[Translation]

We have to ensure that its benefits reach the poor and not the rich.

[English]

I will give you one example. What is the quantum of jump with regard to BPL? It is 68 per cent in regard to the price of wheat and 55 per cent in regard to the price of rice.

What is the jump in APL? It is twenty-three per cent in rice and 29 per cent in wheat. This is your philosophy. It is your philosophy that you want to protect the poor. The quantum jump on the one hand is 68 per cent and 55 per cent to the BPL and quantum jump to the APL category is 26 per cent and 23 per cent. In what manner can you defend this logic? I think the allies - with whom we have differences - at least understood. I am not scoring any point here. They have understood the feelings. This includes Shiv Sena in the city of Mumbai where they have sufficient strength and what the people are talking.

[Translation]

People want reply to the question that why their burden has been reduced by increasing their own burden?

[English]

We have to take the country to the new millennium. Is it the answer? This is their economic mechanism. It is just to please Shri Yashwant Sinha because he cannot afford to lose Rs. 4,000 crore; just to please Shri Yashwant Sinha's economics which is being monitored by CII in this industry. You will do everything; you will defend everything. How will you answer this rise in APL and BPL? Who is BPL? Are they salaried people?

[Translation]

A person goes to the forest with a spade. He will get food only when he gets something there.

[English]

Who is BPL? He goes to the fishery, catches fish and gets something. Who is BPL? He goes to the agricultural field, if there is a job, he gets a work. Wherefrom can he get something? He can get it from the ration shop. I give you the position as to how did they work.

[Translation]

Please tell me, from where will the fisherman get work, in the village? From where will the labourer get work, in the village? That village should have been given funds under the Employment Assurance Scheme, but it was not given. You are saying that the quota has been increased to 20 kg.

[English]

Hon. Minister Shri Shanta Kumar ji, it is your policy. It is very categorical.

[Translation]

This is 20 kg. is only for the sake of telling, but what is the real condition - the real condition is like this -

[English]

The condition is very interesting. It was not done by Shri Shanta Kumar; it was done earlier also by the Chief Minister's conference. The policy is very interesting. The policy is 'take it or leave it basis'.

[Translation]

Shri Shanta Kumar ji, you ought to understand yourself and also try to make hon'ble Finance Minister along with the hon'ble Prime Minister see that on the one hand you have curtailed Rs. 200 crore from the Jawahar Samridhi Yojana, reduced the money for social security welfare, you also reduced the last a year programme, which was at Rs. 2095 crore to Rs. 1600 crore and finally it was pegged at Rs. 1400 crore. Thus you also cut Rs. 400 crore from it. You reduced the funds for their welfare by Rs. 1400 crore.

[English]

That basis is still maintained. If you pay the price, take it. If you do not have the price, then it will be stored here. We will take care as to how we do it. This is still the policy. I am talking about the policy. Now, how that poor man will get the money? He will get the money by doing something in the rural areas. What is the approach of the Finance Minister's Budget?

[Translation]

On the contrary they are being told that 20 kg. have been given to them. It will cost more money, about double. If you have money in your pocket, come and get it, if not, go back.

[English]

This is the policy of addressing things. Will you think it very carefully about what I am talking? I am talking from your own records and the facts. If Shri Atal Bihar Vajpayee's Government would have said, 'look we are in a difficult situation, we cannot manage. But we are pouring more money to these schemes'; from where the poor man will get the money? In Bihar and in some parts of West Bengal, the poorest of the poor only cries for his work that he does in the whole 24 hours.

[Translation]

He spends on food, whatever he gets as his wage. Go to the railway station, labourers wait there since 9.00 in the morning. They will get food only if they find work. Go to a village, you will see that people queue up in front of the Panchayat Office. They will be able to eat only if they get work. They won't be able to eat if they fail to find work. Panchayat tells them that they can't provide work because they do not have money.

[English]

I come from rural area. Everyday I interact with my Panchayat and with my rural constituency people. They say, they cannot afford to give them any more work because their budget is cut, their allotment is cut.

[Translation]

Their money is being reduced. Ration shop says that they can get 20 kg. grains. If you do not have money, go back.

[English]

This is the point I am talking about. It is not prestige issue whether roll back will satisfy the allies or whether the roll back will satisfy us, it is the question of the plight of the poorest of the poor. Therefore, my request to you, Mr. Minister, is, please try to understand that in our country, there is no distinct definition of APL. APL means above Rs. 6,000 up to Rahul Bajaj. Mr. Minister, you can bring revolutionary change. You think about it in your Cabinet whether you can re-define a restricted group within APL. Do not abandon it throughout the country. Do drink that in the name of APL, every body will take the advantage. I do agree with your suggestion. The time has come when the richest, the affluent should not get special privilege in terms of subsidy. I do agree. But think of the poorest.

The other day, Shri Rangarajan Kumaramangalam was telling us that

[Translation]

the electrification of the villages of Bihar would take 771

years while the same process in Bengal would take 71 years. We asked why? He replied that the working of the SEBs is unsatisfactory. They have to be removed and their place would be taken over by the private companies. We have to change the law for that.

[English]

So, I say if 771 years are required from the present standard to get light in Bihar, then at least for these ten years, can you ensure for the poorest, till the multinational chums in the global economy respond to your call of electricity, at least to get kerosene at the end of the day at reasonable price?

[Translation]

We cannot give. What are your plans?

[English]

Adult education in the night.

[Translation]

What the adult education in the night would need – kerosene. You have plans that the women of villages would be educated every week about the family planning. But what they need is the kerosene.

[English]

And what is the price? More than double. And what is the answer.

[Translation]

What reply hon'ble Minister gave? He replied that Bangladesh, Pakistan and Sri Lanka are at the same level. What is the per capita income of Pakistan? Hon'ble Minister should have been better prepared. A Minister ought to be acquainted with economics as well as history and geography. What is the per capita income of Sri Lanka. What is its GDP? What is the per capita income of Bangladesh?

[English]

Bangladesh's own resource mobilisation capacity is 0.5 per cent.

[Translation]

Rest of brought in as loans. India has the resource mobilisation capacity of 80 per cent. You are comparing Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Pakistan with our resource mobilisation capacity. Hon'ble Minister provides his replies with apparent pride. This is how your Government is working.

[Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi]

[English]

Is this your philosophy? And you are justifying your point. Therefore, I request you to reconsider it. I do not say that subsidy should not be withdrawn step by step. Try to understand the words of Jawahar Lal Nehru.

[Translation]

What burden they can bear step by step. If you say that we are narrowing APL category and its benefits are now being given to the BPL category, it is proper. You say that this facility for a certain group is being withdrawn.

[English]

You ensure a scheme whereby the income tax payers above a particular income should not get this thing.

[Translation]

You should determine the manner of identification. We will not oppose but support it. But your step to save the suppressed people is all wrong. There is huge difference in what you said in your manifesto and what you are doing. That is why I request you to

[English]

rethink it, revise it, reconsider it and come back to the House. It is not a question of Congress and yourself, it is a question of unanimity.

[Translation]

You said that there should be consensus on it. Shri Ram Naik ji spoke about it a few moments ago. Shiv Sena is asking for its reconsideration TDP is asking for its reconsideration. Trinamool is asking for the reconsideration. JD (U) is asking for its reconsideration. I have heard that a few BJP Members of Parliament have met hon'ble Prime Minister and requested for its reconsideration because they are facing problems in their constituencies. We are also requesting for its reconsideration. It means there is consensus over it. Even then you would continue to insist that whatever you are saying is correct. The miracle of making Lord Ganesha drink milk can happen for one day but our task is to feed our poor people throughout the year. Miracle of Lord Ganesha is not for them. My request to the Government is that try to understand that they do not get food. Please spell out your policy, your approach, don't keep double standards. Shri Vajpayee ji would say to the masses that vote for us because we would look after you, we would take care of you. And after forming the Government he would look of the rate of kerosene in Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Pakistan and would try to keep the rates at the same level. Are we equals? We have more resources, poors would get better opportunity. Of course, we have debt, as some of the Members tell us, why there is debt?

The pride you and the whole country is professing for Kargil, has also been professed by us in 1965 and 1971. We had to increase our defence budget because of the defence of our boundaries. Be it Pakistan or be it China. Our unemployed youth are still restless about it, and it is not the issue as to which Government is responsible for that. The thing is that we had to face the international reaction over it. There should not be any party politics about the tears-whether they come in the eyes of Nehru ji or Vajpayeeji. But we are proud of the fact that the country has come amongst the top ten countries of the world, beating South Korea in doing so. And after all this, hon'ble Minister says that APL would get more and BPL get less. And then we show concern for the poor. Now it is upto you to know what you are doing and what you are telling.

[English]

SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM (THANJAVUR) : Sir, on behalf of my Party, the D.M.K. I participate in this discussion regarding the price rise of the essential commodities. I want to say....(Interruptions) Please listen to me. I will be on the same side. But you listen and wait for some time.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please address the Chair.

(Interruptions)

SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM : Why do you not have patience for some time? Please wait upto the end. ... (Interruptions) Sir, I want to say that our N.D.A. Government should be very particular about the welfare of the poorest of the poor. Whenever the prices of the essential commodities rise, it immediately affects the poor people only. The poorest of the poor people need a safety net from the Government. Then only we can save them from this type of price rise. We must improve the purchasing power of the poor. This purchasing power cannot be improved overnight. PDS is the only source of supply of foodgrains to the poor. The recent price hike in the PDS items has come as a surprise to the poor people living below the poverty line.

We understand about the fiscal deficit of the Government and of the nation. The Government must take steps to check the fiscal deficits but not at the cost of the poor people living below the poverty line. When we talk of economic reforms, we should consider the welfare of the poor people living below the poverty line. I should not affect the poor people who are below the poverty line. The Government has cut the subsidies on PDS foodgrains and increased the prices immediately. The poor were twice burdened. How can the poor people increase their income twice, within such a short time? This burden of price rise should not immediately be transferred to the shoulders of the poor people.

Our State Government, headed by Dr. Kalaingar, bears the effect of the price rise at the Government level. ... (Interruptions) What is the next alternative? Immediately the State Governments approached the Centre for the financial assistance. There is no doubt that some essential commodities

are misused by some illegal people, particularly things like kerosene and other commodities.

Our hon. Member from Tamil Nadu, who spoke just now, stated that three lakh bogus cards have been detected by the State Government.

19.00 hrs.

Yes, it was a period from 1991 to 1996. There were *dadas* in the ration shops and they were running the Government and not the officials. All the lower level politicians were issuing the ration cards with the help of the officials. In cities like Chennai, they were forming a lobby and were never allowing the ration shop workers, by giving *mamool*, to work. They used to collect the foodgrains which were meant for the poor and took them away. They had a lion share. That is why, our Government, after 1996, after the guidance given by our Chief Minister, Dr. Kalaignar, made a scrutiny in the matter of bogus ration cards and we came to know that more than three lakh ration cards were misused. Then, the State Government seized those bogus ration cards and stopped the poor people's foodgrains from going to those people. Now, it is restored for the poor people. It should be monitored by a proper mechanism. The pilferage must be checked.

To cut the subsidy is not a proper way to regularise foodgrains and essential commodities meant for the PDS. I would request the Government to reconsider the hike in prices of rice, kerosene and other essential commodities in order to help the poor, and to save the poor.

SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY (BASIRHAT) : Sir, I rise to speak with a strong reservation about the exorbitant price hike of foodgrains and other essential commodities. The new Millennium Budget of the Union Government has tremendously and brutally assaulted the livelihood of the common people of our country. The steep price hike of foodgrains, rice, wheat etc. takes the level of price of the items under the PDS to the level of price in the open market and in certain cases, more than the price in the open market. They claim to double to supply of the foodgrains, through the PDS, to the people Below Poverty Line, but this will not bring relief to the common people because of the exorbitant price hike of rice and wheat.

Sir, the price of wheat for families Below Poverty Line has gone up from Rs. 2.50 per kilogram to Rs. 4.20 per kilogram and the price of rice has increased from Rs. 3.50 to Rs. 5.85 per kilogram.

States like Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, West Bengal, Maharashtra, Karnataka and others are efficiently running the PDS. In Andhra Pradesh and Kerala, PDS covers nearer to 80 per cent of the people. Now, the people of those States have to bear the entire burden. The social objective of the

PDS is to maintain price stability and to ensure food security for the common people of our country. The present Government is actually planning to get rid of this very system.

The cost of urea has increased by 15 per cent. It has an adverse effect on the agriculture sector as well as on the farming community. The increase in the cost of urea due to cutting down of the subsidy has adversely affected the small, marginal and middle farmers. The Government has also taken a decision to cut down the subsidies on kerosene and LPG. Who is using kerosene? Are the rich and the higher middle class people using it? It is the people in the villages, who have no facility of electricity or who have no capacity to install electricity connections, who are using kerosene. The poor people in the villages, who have no capacity to purchase LPG, are using kerosene for cooking purposes. That is why, this decision has affected not only the poor people in the villages, but also the people living in slum areas in urban cities and towns, who have no capacity to purchase LPG or have electricity connections. They have been adversely affected by cutting down of the subsidy on kerosene oil and the increase in the price of kerosene oil. Similar is the case with LPG also. The lower middle class and the middle class people have been adversely affected by this decision.

Some of the constituents of the NDA have expressed serious concern over this, and they are not endorsing or approving the anti-people policy of the Government. I appeal to Shri Prabhunath Singh, Shri Yerrannaidu, Shri Ramaiah and other friends in the DMK to come forward openly, and to join hands with us. For the sake of the poor people, I would request you to raise your voice, and stop or debar your Government from implementing the anti-people policy, which is adversely affecting the common people, the poor people.

As Chairman of the Standing Committee on Food, Civil Supplies and Public Distribution, you, Mr. Chairman, have strongly recommended a roll-back in the prices of foodgrains and other essential commodities, and I thank you and the Committee Members for that recommendation.

I hope the Government will fully appreciate the significance of the recommendations made by the Standing Committee. I hope the Government will note the feelings of the Members of Parliament and of the general public. People all over the country have come to the streets agitating against the anti-people policies of the Government.

I urge upon the Government to withdraw this decision for the sake of the poor people in the country. I request the Government to roll back its decision to increase the prices of essential commodities, for the benefit of the poor people in the country.

[Translation]

DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV (ALWAR) : Sir, all my colleagues are showing concern for the poor, but it is unfortunate that those who ruled for 50 years, did nothing in such a long period. Even today, 33 crore people are living below the poverty line. They should be asked that the poor for which they are showing so much concern now—were they not visible for the last fifty years. It was never their intention to think about the poor. If they had done something about it, there would not have remained even the issue of BPL. Everybody, including myself, is aware that the country would be able to progress and meet the challenge of other countries only when the country is strong and its economic condition is strong. It is really unfortunate that the villages of the country still lack basic facilities. Neither there is hospital, nor the children are getting proper nutrition they are not getting any of the facilities. How did they forget all about the villages for 50 years. Where was poverty at that time. Where had the BPL persons gone. Now everybody is expressing concern about the BPL.

Sir, the NDA Government has taken a courageous step to improve the economic condition of the country and to face the challenge of the world. They did not allow themselves to be swayed by the vote politics, they have showed concern for the country. Now that the country is secure, everything is secure. Today we are repeatedly hearing about the increase in prices of kerosene. In their minds they all are aware about the poor economic condition of the country in which the NDA Government started its reign. The real aspect behind the increase in the prices of kerosene is known to all. Earlier it was sold in black market and was also adulterated in diesel. The people who talk about the farmers do not know that ultimately the farmers have benefited from the subsidy reduction. Almost all the farmers have pumping sets and tractors. They had to use adulterated diesel and nobody is caring about their expenses in the boring of pumping sets every year and in repairing of tractor engine every year as a result of using adulterated diesel. Nobody is feeling the need of thinking about it. I do not know about the people who owned them. But certainly the farmers had to suffer losses. Moreover the prices have not been increased for the first time. The talk of subsidy reduction was first put forward by Shri Manmohan Singh ji when he was the Finance Minister. He had said that if we have to face the challenges of the world, if we have to strengthen our economic condition, then there is definite need for reducing the subsidies.

Why are Congress colleagues did not oppose it at that time? It is clear that Congress men were thinking in terms of reducing subsidy at that time. Now if the Congress party is bent upon opposing everything then this is not going to help the country.

They do show their concern for the BPL people and for rise in prices but as regard the people who live below the

poverty line, they think that providing two square meals is sufficient for them. They should not think beyond that. But this is not going to help in the development of the country. There are many of our colleagues who think in these terms. Though they are concerned about dalits, muslims etc. but they have ever visited Jama-Masjid area to find out which community most of the beggars belong to. They are our Muslim brothers. The reason for this has been that the Congress party wanted them to remain poor to do begging and not to progress. These people never cared for their education and family planning. When price of everything was on the rise, they did not even bother to advise them for adopting family planning measures. They did not want to do so because it would affected their vote bank.

Christians are also a minority community but none of them is seen to be engaged in begging. No sikh can be found begging because they paid attention towards education, they did family planning. Though they show concern for dalits and minorities but they never paid attention to uplift them. They never thought about their development.

One of the hon. Members was saying and I agree with him that when a person belonging to BPL goes to the bank for loan, bank officials ask for guarantee. When he is not having land, property house, shop etc. then only he comes under the BPL category, therefore from where can he arrange for a guarantee. We should fight for their cause so that they could get work, employment, which in turn can lead to their prosperity. We should not do politics of vote by offering them two square meals.

What wrong Hon'ble Shri Shanta Kumar has committed by increasing quota of foodgrains from 10 kgs. to 20 kgs. in PDS. One CPI Member was saying that this was their demand. Don't you want to see your demand being fulfilled. If NDA Government has done this you should have thanked Shri Shanta Kumar, instead of criticising him. But the only task before the opposition is criticism. Today a poor man has certainly been benefited in this budget. The same is the position with regard to urea and other commodities. Farmer is not in trouble. When the price of tractor was Rs. 10 thousand farmer used to buy them. Today tractor costs rupee two and half lakh to three lakh but no one, not even once raised the issue of reduction of price of tractor here. If the farmer is to be benefited, the whole House should unanimously decide about the minimum price of his produce. Let the increased price remain as they are. You should increase the minimum support price for the farmer. This will sound good. It will be good if increase in prices of farmers' crops is effected. ... (Interruptions) It is misfortune of the country that whenever someone tried to improve the economic condition of the country, party politics came in the way. This entire economic condition is a victim of party politics. All have to think about the country. We have to realise the difficult conditions in which NDA Government is running the

country. Strong steps will have to be taken to provide work, bread and decent life to all citizens of the country. I request all the Members that when the question of the country comes, they should not play politics of votes. Lakhs of people had sacrificed their lives for the country. Can't you shun politics of votes for the sake of the country? Country is being ruined in the name of politics of votes. ...*(Interruptions)* Had we been doing so, we would not have taken such bold steps and withdrawn subsidy. You are doing politics about BPL people, so that they may get piece of bread but they should not get power to think beyond that unmindful of what happens to the country. The thinking that poor should remain poor and rich should remain rich must be changed. You will have to ponder over this. If you are well wisher of farmers then you should demand minimum support price for their produce. Then we will say that you are supporter of farmers. With only a slight increase in the prices of farmers inputs you have started raising hue and cry. When price of wheat was raised, you raised hue and cry. What do you want? ...*(Interruptions)* Have you ever demanded increase in the support prices? Bold steps taken by this Government should be viewed by rising above party politics and by shunning vote politics. We should think about the country. We all should take decision to take the country forward on the path of development and should cooperate with the NDA Government in this endeavour.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (VAISHALI) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I start my speech with the famous poem of Gopal Singh Nepali. Which says :-

"Din Gaye Baras Gaye, Yatna Gayi Nahin,

Rotiyan Garib ki, Prarthna Bani Rahi,

Shyam ki Bansi Baji, Ram ka Dhanush Chadha,

Budda ka Bhi Gyan Badha, Nirdhanta Gayi Nahin."

MR. CHAIRMAN : You are a professor of Mathematics, but you are also very good at poetry.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : When you were Minister, you had implemented the T.P.D.S. Now you are the Chairman of Standing Committee. The Committee has recommended that present price may be reduced and previous prices may be restored. The Government is not paying heed to it even after the Committee's recommendations.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Entire Committee has recommended it.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : We thank you as you are the Chairman of this Committee. You have initiated some steps for the welfare of poor, and they are going to make it failure. We charge the Government that going against the recommendations of the Committee would mean that the Government is going against the Panch system itself, as such

a Committee has a status equal to our esteemed panch system. Such a committee has a status equal to the esteemed punch system. The members from all the parties are involved in it. The Committee recommended that poor should not bear any burden for this. The members from the other side are repeatedly making the same points. All great economists like Amartya Sen, Marshal and Adam Smith are on that side. Three points have been mentioned in the discussion. They said that economy of the country is ruined due to subsidy given to the poor. They are trying to improve it by spending money on the poor. Then they say that they want to scrap the P.D.S. as black marketing is taking place due to this. Members from that side are giving two arguments. But Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am raising the basic principle that in this country, there are crores of untouchables dalits, and OBCS, for whom provision of reservation was made by the Constitution makers. Out of these 16 crore people, 6 crore families were below the poverty line. Now it has been estimated that 34 crore people are below poverty line. Provision for subsidy has been made in view of such a mis-management. If the Government spends 4-8 thousand crores of rupees on these poor people then will the economic system of the country be crippled. This is wrong. An increase of 5-8 per cent is made in the Central Issue Price everytime, but this time an unprecedented increase of hundred per cent has taken place, which has never occurred in any country of the world in the history and no economist would have ever made a recommendation to increase the prices by 100%. The Government, neither in the past nor in the present, has done anything for the poor. Now that the BJP Government has come, so they are saying that they are spending on the poor, but Sir, this is not acceptable to me. 68 per cent increase has been made in the price of kerosene and wheat. Price of rice was also increased in the same manner. Rate of wheat for BPL in villages is Rs. 6.00. Government has determined Rs. 5.85 per this. For APL, a rate of Rs. 9.00 has been determined. I wonder whether this Government is profiteering. Is there anyone who would prove that this Government is providing wheat at the rate of Rs. 9.00 whereas the market price is Rs. 6.00. In this way, the Government is encouraging profiteering, which would lead to hike in prices. Traders feel that when the Government has determined the rate of Rs. 9.00 their why should not they also sell it at high rates. The farmer is selling it at the rate of Rs. 5.50 or 6.00, at the places where there are no purchasing centres in the market. I now ask the Government as to why did the Government work in such a haphazard manner. Infact, the Government did so because at that time, prescribed formula for determining the price was that the price for BPL would be half of the Central Issue Price. Hence the Government fixed it at Rs. 9.00. Then the Government realised that there would be saving in subsidy if the rate for APL is 50% more and the country would prosper and the economy would improve. Now we are unable to endure those who are anti-poor. They are putting unnecessary burden on the

[Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh]

shoulders of the poor. The Public Distribution System was evolved only for those poor people, who are living below the poverty line, and they are going to scrap it. It is only because of the pressure of W.T.O. and International Community that these people are not saying any thing. It is being maintained that the economic system would improve with the reduction in subsidy. The Government have not tackled the problem of black money. Presently out of 58 thousand crore rupees of the country, 30 thousand crore rupees are with the affluent. You took no steps to channelise the money with the affluent, but on the contrary, you have increased the price of wheat, kerosene and rice to two to three times. Rates of domestic gas have been increased, which would further lead to increase in expenditure of the poor, but no decision has been taken against the rich, they say that the economy of India would be strengthened by burdening the poor. What do you provide for the poor. Neither water, nor power, nor employment, nor house, nor road. You are unable to digest the fact that some amount of money is given to the families of poor people. This Government is therefore, against the people as it is not accepting the recommendations of the committees, as also the public opinion. Even their associates are saying that high prices should be withdrawn and internal discussion is going on within the B.J.P. that these rates should be reduced. It is a lapse on the part of Government and therefore it should be checked. So, I would like to say to the Government that it may reduce the price of commodities, keeping in view the public opinion. The Government is anti-people and anti-farmer as it has hiked the prices. Subsidy is required to be provided for the farmers as the number of marginal farmers in this country is quite large. 28 per cent people in the country are marginal farmers. Provision for subsidy has been made for poor farmers, who have 1 acre or 2 acres of land so that there may be an increase in their agricultural produce. Some increase in produce has even taken place. But they say that the subsidy given to the farmers, and the poor should be stopped. The subsidy as also the facilities for the industrialists, millionaires, should be increased, but do you think that the position in the country would improve with such a policy? Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am unable to understand this. I have been noticing that the allied parties have also been stressing for the just thing. Although they are supporting the Government, so I would like to thank them. We altogether, shall have to launch a movement against this act of the Government. Dr. Lohia had said – "There should be increase and decrease in the price of foodgrains upto the level of a few annas only and price of goods manufactured in factories may be one and a half times more of its actual cost."

Besides this, there is the poem of Tulsidas ji, which indicates the great principle of economics, prevalent at that time it says – Increase the price of jewels, used by the rich, and reduce the price of those commodities which are used by the poor. Only after such a step, the Government would be

called a pro-poor Government. You are against the conventional practices even. You are against economics of the present times. During your tenure, around 6 crore families were calculated to be below the poverty line, but if the right calculation is done, then today eight crore families are actually below poverty line. This was as per the census of 1991. We all visit villages. Shri C.P. Thakur must also be going to the villages. Hundreds of villagers say that they have not received the red card. In IRDP, the influential persons, who were interested in taking loans, have got their names registered, but the actual poor people have been left out. A survey should be conducted and amendment should be made in the list of people below poverty line in each State. Presently eight crore families are below poverty line, out of which two crore families have been left out. We, therefore, demand that number of families below poverty line may be increased from six crore to eight crore and the old price, for which standing committee has given recommendations, and which is very important, should be accepted and opinion of allied parties should also be considered. We are concerned that these people have adopted the wrong path, which may lead to complications. This is the reason that we are trying to make them understand, otherwise we wish that these people may go. We will launch a massive movement against price hike and the slogan would be – "Mahangal Roko, Baandho Daam, Nahin to hoga Chakka Jam." We all shall have to struggle against this. With these words, I warn the Government not to unnecessarily burden the poor people. Please do not increase the prices of foodgrains arranged for the poor. A poor man does not have purchasing capacity, he would not be able to purchase foodgrain and thus would not be able to combat with poverty. With these words, I extend my thanks to you.

[English]

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA (MAVELIKARA) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to oppose very strongly the anti-people policies of this Government. It is unfortunate that this Central Government is pursuing anti-people for the last two years. If we look at the policies of this Government very closely, like the EXIM Policy, it is very clear that they are anti-people. This Government imported wheat from Australia and sold it at a cheaper rate when our farmers were suffering; this Government allowed sugar import when the sugar-cane growers in Uttar Pradesh and other parts of the country were suffering; and this Government is unscrupulously importing edible oil at the cost of poor farmers of this country.

The situation has led to the accumulation of foodgrains. As a result, the poor people in our country are suffering. As rightly pointed out by my other colleagues, this Government is pursuing an anti-people, anti-farmer policy. So, I rise to strongly oppose the policy being adopted by the Government. As you are well aware, from 1990 onwards we are following the policy of economic liberalisation. But economic libera-

lisation does not mean economic slavery. In the name of globalisation, we have opened up our economy. It does not mean that we should impose more and more burden on the shoulders of the poor and the toiling masses of our country.

19.36 hrs.

(DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH *in the Chair*)

The success of a Government is measured or evaluated on the basis of the number of facilities being offered by it to the poor people to reduce their burden. The poor people of a country look to the Government to redress their grievances. The point is, whether the popular Government of this country is ready to redress their grievances? The Government should try to reduce the burden of the toiling masses of this country. A section of economy is administered by the Government. It is the duty of the Government to protect the poor, to give more facilities to the poor and to reduce their burden. The entire system should stand for the poor, otherwise, the Government will be blamed. Today, the Government headed by Shri Vajpayee is being blamed by the people because it has not tried to lessen the burden of the poor, the toiling masses of our country who are living below the poverty line. In food articles, the inflation was 2.7 per cent. The annual rate of inflation comes to 35 per cent. The inflationary trend has led to an unprecedented rise in the prices of foodgrains. This is definitely going to affect the poor people living below the poverty line. Earlier, one kilo of rice used to cost them Rs. 3.5. It now cost them Rs. 5.85. How can the Government say that this measure adopted by the Government is for the poor? Can the Government say that this is not going to affect the poor? Similarly, one kilo of wheat used to cost Rs. 2.50 and now they have to pay Rs. 4.20. Can any democratic Government justify it? For the people living above poverty line, the cost of rice was Rs. 9.05. It has now gone up to Rs. 11.70. Similarly the cost of one kilo of wheat has gone up from Rs. 6.82 to Rs. 8.40.

The overall increase is 68 percent. Sir, it is a very exorbitant rate and the poor people of our country are suffering by this.

Sir, the hon. Minister of Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution, Shri Shanta Kumar is here. We, the MPs from Kerala, represented to him the matters concerning our State. He is well aware of the facts. Sir, you are also aware about this. Shri D.P. Yadav was also the Minister for Food and Civil Supplies. He also knows our problems. When Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru was the Prime Minister he started the statutory rationing for the State of Kerala in 1964. This statutory rationing is continuing in Kerala for the last 50 years. but now this system has been dismantled and our State is in total agony and misery. The Government of Kerala has represented this matter to the Central Government.

The other day our Chief Minister alongwith many leaders of various political parties staged a *dharna* in front of Parliament House. This is the first time that the Chief Minister, the Ministers and leaders of Opposition Parties have come together. They are demanding restoring of statutory rationing. This facility was enjoyed only by the State of Kerala. Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru in his wisdom started statutory rationing in Kerala. It is helping the poor.

Sir, our Public Distribution System was continuing very effectively. More than 5000 Fair Price Shops were running. It was running very effectively and there was no complaints. It is a well streamlined system and a well concerned system. All the villages were getting benefit of this. But unfortunately, due to this decision our State is suffering. So, the statutory rationing has to be re-implemented. That is our demand.

Sir, earlier our off-take of foodgrains was around 80 per cent. But now it has come down to 50 per cent. The hon. Minister is well aware of the fact that the quality of the foodgrains which we are getting is very low. That is why, our off-take is coming down. To maintain that off-take, we have to be supplied good quality wheat, rice and other food articles.

Another problem which is now coming up is regarding Fair Price Shops. The persons who are working in these shops are now going to be unemployed. So, this has to be viewed in a separate manner. The Minister is aware of this fact. Therefore, the people of Kerala expect something from him when he replies.

Sir, as regards APL and BPL, it was introduced when Shri Yadav was the Minister of Food and Civil Supplies. Now, we have a complaint regarding the assessment of the APL and BPL. The Kerala Government is saying that they have 56 per cent people who live below the poverty line but according to the Central Statistical Organisation, it is only 26 per cent. The allotment from the Central Government is made on the basis of the figures given by the CSO. So, we are deprived of more quantity of rice, wheat and other food articles. There are a lot of anomalies as to how to assess the people living Below Poverty Line and Above Poverty Line. There is no standard system. Therefore, I would request the hon. Minister to adopt a scientific approach to assess and determine as to who is Below Poverty Line and who is Above Poverty Line. A lot of confusion is prevailing about this as the State Government is saying something and the Central Government is saying something else. Therefore, this should be streamlined so that this confusion can be avoided.

Sir, recently in Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh, we witnessed incidents of suicides by farmers. Our leader Shrimati Sonia Gandhi visited that place. In all nine persons committed suicide as they were not in a position to repay the loans taken from the banks.

[Shri Ramesh Chennithala]

The plight of the poor people has to be sympathetically considered. Farmers are in a grave condition. Shri Janardhana Reddy is sitting here. He knows that the largest number of suicidal deaths committed by farmers was in Warangal and other districts of Andhra Pradesh. It is still continuing and spreading to Karnataka also. We are not able to support them and redress their grievances. The policies adopted by this Government are going to impoverish the poor.

FCI is not able to lift larger quantity of wheat from Punjab and Haryana. Who is going to be affected by this? The poor farmers who are trying to increase the food production in the country are badly affected by this decision. Today our country is self-sufficient in foodgrains because of the farmers who are trying to increase the food production in the country. We have to salute them for this. We have to support them in all possible ways.

The off-take is coming down. Nodody will take food articles from the fair price shops. People below poverty line have no purchasing power to buy from the ration shops. You may have increased the quantity of foodgrains supplied through PDS, but they are not in a position to purchase the same. People above poverty line go to the open market. Why should they go to the fair price shops? What is the need for them to go to the fair price shops? Open market is there for them. As a result, the off-take is going to be less and our FCI godowns will be flooded with food articles. Food articles will be accumulated in FCI godowns and the Central Government has to incur more expenditure on this account. The subsidy cut which you have effected will not be workable. This new system is going to be a failure.

I do not want to politicise the issue. But, as rightly pointed out by other hon. Members, particularly by the allies of the NDA Government, we demand a roll-back of these prices. We cannot compare India and Bangladesh. We cannot also compare India's prosperity with that of Pakistan. Today the need is to roll-back the prices for the betterment of the poor, to lessen the burden of the poor and the toiling masses in the rural areas.

The hon. Petroleum Minister is not here now. But, Shri Ram Naik has given a wrong pitcute of the whole situation. The increase in the prices of petroleum products is not for the betterment of our economy. I can give you any number of examples. The increase in the price of kerosene is going to adversely affect the fishermen and the poor in our country who have no electricity in there homes. They are using kerosene even for fishing purposes.

I would, therefore, request the hon. Minister to reconsider their decision about the cut in subsidies on foodgrains and hike in the prices of petroleum products even at this stage.

[Translation]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (RAIGANJ) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to make a suggestion. Whenever the proceedings of the House continue beyond 8 o' clock, staff of Lok Sabha Secretariat, security personnels and other staff who work hard to enable smooth functioning of the Parliament, go without dinner. They are facing this problem daily. The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs should make arrangements for their food. Yesterday also, I saw that and it was brought to our notice. Staff Members cannot complain in this regard, but we should pay attention towards it. You should give your ruling on it....(Interruptions) Alongwith Members of Parliament, arrangements for food should be made for all the staff members right from stenographers to security personnels and other personnels on duty who sit for longer hours. Earlier, there used to be arrangement for them also but now a days there is no such arrangements for them. ...(Interruptions) You should give your ruling on it. It is not proper. The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs is responsible for it, he should take care of it.

MR. CHAIRMAN : All right, you have made your point. The Government has taken note of it.

DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA (SIRSA) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank you for allowing me to speak on the issue of price rise. My party, Indian National Lok Dal is an allied party of the Government. It is not necessary for us not to oppose the wrong decision taken by the Government. We feel that it is our duty to lead the Government on the right path. I would like to say that mounting expenditure of the Government compel it to impose taxes which results in price rise. If we look at figures pertaining to previous year, we will find that in comparison to Government revenue, expenditure was more. Last year we faced Kargil war. I congratulate the Government for exemplary victory in Kargil war. Our expenditure increased due to it. Natural calamities also hit the country sometimes back. Orissa was hit by super cyclone which caused huge loss of lives and property, and expenditure of the Government mounted due to it. The Government was compelled to enhance tax in wake of expenditure incurred for implementation of recommendations of the Fifth Pay Commission. All this caused price rise. Thus the Government was compelled to take hard decisions during the year, 2000. There are no two opinions about it that Government will have to impose taxes with its mounting expenditure. But the Government should be precaution as to how and where tax can be imposed. Along- with it, the Government should also be careful about spending the revenue collected through tax.

The poor people of India pay taxes so that Democratic Government elected by them could solve their basic problems, help them in distress and provide requisite facilities to them. I would like to say that the Government has deviated from its

path. During the last Session Hon'ble Minister of Finance had stated that wasteful expenditure of the Government will be curtailed but in reality, Government expenditure has increased. For example 80,000 have been added to the Government administration which has increased the burden of the Government. There was a proposal to downsize the Government which could not be done. Around Rs. 8000 crore have been spent on payment of increased salaries of Government employees. Government expenditure could not be curtailed. This is wasteful expenditure. I would like to give another example. At present, there are 26 aeroplanes in Air India and 17386 employees are working in this organisation. It means that there are around 686 officials per plane. This reveals the extent of wasteful expenditure? Poor people are facing problems and wasteful expenditure is being encouraged, it should be stopped and that money should be used for welfare of the poor. Whenever the Government is compelled to impose tax, whether it is in the case of foodgrain, petrol, diesel or kerosene, the Government should see that to what extent, it is going to affect common man, poor and backwards living in villages. Price hike in respect of these items directly affects the poor and farmers. India is predominantly an agricultural country and most of us are directly or indirectly related to agricultural sector. Labourers, employees and traders depend on field of agriculture for their earning. Factory owners will be unable to run the factory without raw materials produced by farmers. The Government has increased the price of petrol, kerosene and diesel as a result of it, transportation will become costly. Thus, fruit, vegetables and foodgrains transported from one place to another will cost more and it will affect common man.

I would like to cite an example. A spokesman of Flour Mill Association of Southern India had given a statement that the wheat produced in our own country costs more than the wheat imported from Australia and Brazil. Transportation of wheat from Australia to Chennai port costs 20 or 22 dollars per tonne whereas transportation of wheat by train from FCI godowns of northern part of India to Chennai costs Rs. 1200 per tonne and by truck it costs Rs. 2000 per tonne. In this way, Indian wheat costs Rs. 7.60 or Rs. 7.80 per kg. but the wheat imported from Australia and Brazil costs Rs. 7.10 or Rs. 7.20 per kg. In our present system of production, we are unable to pass on profit to farmers of our country where as others earn profit from the imports made by us. Such a practice should be stopped. You were present here when I raised this issue earlier but I haste I forgot some points. In democracy it is the responsibility of the Government. We would like to draw the attention of the Government that manner in which prices of fertilizers have been raised, has burdened the farmers. The country will suffer heavy losses if farmers are affected by it. Subsidy on fertilizers, wheat and rice has been withdrawn.

20.00 hrs.

Sky-rocketing prices of these goods have proved

backbreaking for common man. Everyone knows about responsibility of Government in democratic system. Poor people prayed with folded hands and voted for formation of this Government. Poor people stood in long queues to cast their votes, reposed their faith in Prime Minister Vajpayeeji and hoped that under this Government poor people will prosper and will be relieved of their sufferings. People who live in air-conditioned houses do not cast their votes. You can understand the feelings of poor people who voted for this Government when they came to know that the Government had withdrawn the subsidy on PDS and hiked the price of milk. Farmers get Rs. 5.80 for wheat and cost of wheat increases upto Rs. 12 when this wheat is stored in FCI godowns. It means that Government is doing business on foodgrain produced by farmers. Farmers, who are backbone of our economy do not get remunerative price for their produce. I would like to submit that cost of maintenance comes to Rs. 7000 crore whereas the amount of subsidy given for it comes to seven-eight thousand rupees.

Sir, the issue of DMS can be taken as example of it. Now, sale of DMS milk has decreased by 50 per cent. Whereas expenditure has remained the same. Although a Commission has been set up for its maintenance, the expenditure remains the same. The sale of four lakh litres of milk has dwindled to two lakh litre. Income of DMS has decreased but other expenditure remained same. From where this deficit will be met. The Government has not given a thought to it. Hon'ble Minister is present here. I watched it on T.V. Hon'ble Minister says that the quantity of foodgrain has been increased to 20 kg but what is the use of increasing quota even upto 50 kg. for people who do not have purchasing power. Earlier it cost Rs. 25 to purchase, 10 kg. of foodgrains and remaining 20 kg was purchased from open market for Rs. 90. Earlier 30 kg. of foodgrain cost Rs. 175 but now on increased rates, the cost comes to Rs. 210. In my submission, I have written that it is an unnecessary burden for poor. Increase in prices of fertilizer has burdened farmers. Farmers do not get much earning from their produce and as a result of it farmers are indebted and alongwith farmers the agricultural labourers are also facing hardships.

Sir, in the name of providing facilities, prices of essential commodities like foodgrain and kerosene have been raised upto 60-70 per cent. I would like to know whether prices of goods used by affluent class have also been increased to 60-70 per cent. I think there is no such instance in which the prices have been hiked to 60-70 per cent.

I request the hon'ble Prime Minister and the hon'ble Minister to curtail expenditure. I have given example as to how Government expenditure can be cut and the deficit met by our own resources. But should we meet the deficit by hitting the poor hard and making their lives miserable? Is it not, as if we are against this Government but it is also our duty to draw

[Dr. Sushil Kumar Indora]

the attention of Government towards sufferings of poor. Therefore, I request the Government to reconsider it and pay attention towards the upliftment of poor because it is the vote of poor and not the rich which decides formation of any Government. The Government should reconsider it and try to facilitate the 70 per cent population of the country which takes active part in formation of Government.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (MAHARAJGANJ, BIHAR):

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the House is discussing price-rise. Entire House is concerned due to price rise and they ought to be. This concern should not be limited to statements in newspapers or on television but it should actually be felt by those sympathise with the poor. During Zero Hour discussions opposition parties often clamour that prices have sharply increased. We often see Priyaranjan Dasmunsi ji and Smt. Sonia ji on television but we have not seen Sonia ji in the House today when we are discussing such an important issue. Nor have we seen Shri Indrajit Gupta or even Shri Somnath Chatterjee. ... (Interruptions)

MR. SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI (KHAJURAHO) : For that matter, we have not seen either hon'ble Prime Minister or Finance Minister during the discussion. Only two persons are present from the Congress and they claim to be most concerned with the price rise. In fact, the coalition partners of the Government are most concerned about the price rise and they have asked for reconsideration of the price rise in their meeting with the hon'ble Prime Minister. Coalition constituents have also tried to express their views in the House.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, financial burden on the country is increasing and such burdens do not come in a couple of days. This Government is only carrying the basket of sins which were committed by the previous Governments. That is why, Government had to take hard decisions. Government has received the mandate for hard decisions and nobody need make noise about it. Prior to elections, hon'ble Prime Minister had said that after the elections, the new Government might have to take hard decisions, for which public cooperation was needed. New Government was formed with the public support. But hard decisions should be accompanied by hard thinking. Prices of many articles have increased. During discussions in the House, I express my disagreement on many issues. In their speeches, some Members of the House protect the interests of traders on the pretext of doing so for poor and farmers. Issue of price hike of LPG cylinder is raised in the House. I would like to know what percentage of population uses gas fuel? what is their number. Not more than 2.5 to 3% people out of 100 crores prepared their food on gas. The sweat shop in Bengali market consumes more gas. Do they need subsidy? It needs to be given to the rural folk who produce woods on their farm and use it as fuel. They make charcoal, why are not they given subsidy? They want subsidy on factory goods. Do these people not need subsidy who manufacture

goods by their toil? Subsidy is required by those who use fuelwood and coal. I would like to tell those who believe that there is a need for giving subsidy to such people that we don't need to subsidise gas cylinders.

NDA Government showed its concern for the poor and the farmers. It said that poor would be given more facilities. Two types of cards were made in rural areas. Hon'ble Minister is sitting here. He has been the Chief Minister of his State also. There were lot of irregularities in the making of cards. All works cannot be the responsibility of the Central Government. I say with conviction that many names of the poor have been left out of the list of poor which ought to be there.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : You are right. We support you.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Yes, I am telling the fact. The State Government should be told about the irregularities committed there. There should be a survey in this regard and the names of the real poor people should be included in that list and they should get all benefits of that. If there is 10% profit in a trade, then it is accepted that the percentage is not on the lower side. If the Government of a democratic country wants to lessen the burden on the poor, then the percentage of the profits should be reined in. The support price provided to the farmers is quite low keeping in view of the increase in prices of the foodgrains. The support price for the farmers should be fixed. The prices of articles of farmer's consumption have been increased so that after selling them through the PDS the Government makes a profit of 50%. Even if 20% of that is deducted as it is not ethical for the Government to get 30% profit from its own people. It should be reconsidered. Today, the farmers of the country are in distress. Farmers do not depend on the Government for their livelihood. They live by their labour. Government fails to give them facilities. They try to sell their produce at the rate fixed by the Government but in the market the traders get their produce at a much lower price. Farmer sells his produce in those places only because he is in distress. Procurement centres do not exist at many places. Open them if you can. If you can't, give instructions to the State Governments for it. Open the centres at the block level where farmers could take their produce. Ensure that they get the price you fix for them. It should facilitate the farmers. The price increase of fertilizers has hit the farmers hard. It has affected not only the 70% farmers but the whole country. Since the burden on farmers will increase, the price of crop production will also increase. The Government does not even give production cost to the farmers who produce their crop by toiling, invest in fertilizer, water and electricity and meet the challenges of drought, flood and occasional water logging. If all these points are properly taken account of, I think that the prices you fix are not even enough to recover the cost. Therefore the support prices should be increased. In a democratic country the Government cannot be run on commercial lines,

therefore, I would say that the 6% increase in the prices of fertilizers should be rolled back. The farmers of the country still recall former Prime Minister Shri Deve Gowda ji because he had reduced the prices of fertilizers. People have long memory of their Prime Ministers. Therefore, I would like to say to our Government that there are other ways to increase its income. Huge amounts of public money has been misappropriated, why action is not taken to recover them? With that money, huge buildings have been constructed in Delhi and in Mumbai. Why the Government is not doing anything to recover that? We demand strict action against them. The prices of fertilizers should be reduced.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, Shri Dasmunsiji has just said that the price of kerosene has been increased. we are not dissatisfied with it. We will be satisfied with an increase of Rs. one or two. You are dissatisfied because West Bengal has politics of votes which is not the case in Bihar. The fact of the matter is that people for whom the goods are meant do not get anything and all the articles are sold in the blackmarket. Villagers have to buy kerosene at Rs. 20-22 per litre. I wish to say that if the Government has the will, they should increase the price by Rs. two and sell it in free market. It need not be sold through PDS. People are thankful for decontrolling sale of sugar. It won't make such difference for the Government if the price of kerosene is increased by Rs. two and is sold in the free market. People will only support it. Government should insist on increasing the fertilizer prices. We have been informed that hon'ble Finance Minister has put his foot down. I agree that he is right in his own place, because he has nothing to do with farmers. He is not aware of the conditions in which the farmers live. Fortunately, he was born in a good family and became a collector. With the grace of Shri Chandrasekhar ji he became the Finance Minister. Now with the blessings of Shri Vajpayee ji he has again become the Finance Minister. There are no farmers in his constituency. Hazaribagh is a stony area. Now you tell me, is the hon'ble Minister a farmer. Coal mines are there, miners are there and they steal and sell the coal. If they have to buy something expensive, they can do that, it won't make much difference to them. He cannot feel the pain of the farmers because no farmer lives in his constituency. But there are many Ministers in the Government, who can understand the problems of the farmers. Therefore, we would request Shri Shanta Kumar ji to convey our sentiments to the hon'ble Prime Minister. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Also convey the sentiments of bringing about change in the attitude of hon'ble Finance Minister.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Convey our request, convey our submissions, please do. We are with you sincerely and with all our courage and will continue to be so. May your Government run strongly. These people are playing politics with all these points. It that was not so, Shrimati Sonia Gandhi

would have been present here. ...*(Interruptions)* If they were not playing politics, Somnath Babu would have been here, Mulayam Singh ji would have been here. The Congress benches would not have been empty. Please don't play politics with it. If you have even a small trace of compassion for the people, participate in the discussions on essential commodities. With these words, I would also like to add that it may happen. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the fine description he has given of the hon'ble Finance Minister, has been unparalleled. For it, I am congratulating him. Why should he be angry with it?

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : I feel that the position we are in is such that when the hon'ble Minister may be giving his reply there will be no one to hear him but you. ...*(Interruptions)* With these words, I thank you and repeat my request to the Government.

SHRI JOACHIM BAXLA (ALIPURDUARS) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak. I rise on behalf of my party RSP to oppose the Government's decision to increase the prices of essential commodities. From the speeches of the Member I gathered that the arrangement we have in our country for the distribution of essential commodities through the PDS and to provide grains to the people below poverty line at reasonable rates through it is the duty of the Government but this Government wants to run away from its duty. Therefore the increase in prices of the articles which are provided to the poor through the PDS such as wheat, rice, cooking gas and kerosene is anti-poor, anti people policy of the Government. I am not alone in saying so, we share the sentiments of the hon. Members which has been reflected not only by the opposition but also the coalition partners of the Government who have expressed their opinion against it. Our hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee always talks about consensus. The present position in the House and the way hon'ble Members have expressed their experience and sentiments of common man, it proves that even the coalition partners of the NDA Government are ready to oppose the Government's decision. This Government has failed to win the sanction of its own partners in Government.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, their opinion, their cooperation, their advice was not taken and for that reason now they are opposing the price rise. The foodgrains which should reach the people through the PDS are not reaching them. Concerned hon'ble Minister just said that the decision to increase the price will benefit the poor. I do not agree with his decision.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the purchasing power of the people who get foodgrains through the Public Distribution System

[Shri Joachim Baxla]

has not been considered. At the time of increasing the prices, the concerned Ministry should have kept in mind the purchasing power of the people below poverty line and the prices should have been raised accordingly. They could barely buy the 10 kg. foodgrains through the system earlier and now they are being told that they would get 20 kg. in place of 10 kg. for which they have no purchasing power. Earlier they could barely buy 10 kg. of foodgrains, now where they would now buy 20 kgs.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, similarly I also oppose the decision to increase the prices of kerosene because those who use kerosene are very poor and they cannot use LPG cylinder for fuel. They can barely purchase kerosene. Now how they will buy kerosene at increase prices. Is it not an act of injustice to the poor that the prices of kerosene and foodgrains have been increased? I request all the concerned Ministers to reconsider the decision of price increase.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am aware that the process of roll back has begun and may this issue crops up there too. Through you, I request the Government to roll back the increase in prices of foodgrains. Government should withdraw the price increase. Keeping in view the condition of the poor. This decision is not in the interest of the poor. You will learn it when you go to the people for votes.

You talk big when you win the elections and come to power and there you start ignoring the sentiments of the people. It is not proper. You will understand only when you get the response of the people. You should withdraw the price increase if you respect the feelings of the poor. If you don't do so, you don't have any right to continue in power. With these words, I oppose the decision of the Government to increase the prices.

[English]

SHRI ARJUN SETHI (BHADRAK) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, thank you very much for giving me this opportunity to speak on behalf of the Biju Janata Dal.

As has been mentioned by my hon. friends present here from different parties, it is really a matter of regret that the common man below poverty line is being targeted by the Government.

We do appreciate the problems of the Government in managing the finances as well as carrying on with the developmental activities in the country. There is no doubt that there are constraints. Constraints are not new to this Government. In the past also, constraint of funds was there before the Government.

We do not appreciate the recent rise in prices of urea, PDS items of rice, wheat and kerosene and LPG. The Biju

Janata Dal, being in the Government, being a partner in the Government, requests the hon. Prime Minister as well as the hon. Minister present here that they should re-consider the proposal, specially in the State of Orissa where we are facing a very severe crisis and near-drought conditions.

The hon. Minister of Food and Consumer Affairs has visited Orissa State and has seen on the spot the problems being faced by the people there. The whole economy of the State has been broken and the backbone of the people, specially the poor and downtrodden has been broken. They are completely in disarray. We have a very peculiar problem there. Previously the State Government, specially in the scheduled areas and 118 ITDA blocks, was supplying subsidised rice on a payment of Rs. 2 per kilogram. It was provided in the ITDA areas. But since the supercyclone that affected the State's economy, the Government exchequer has been badly affected and the State Government is not in a position to subsidise the rice being sold in the ITDA blocks. It was earlier sold at Rs. 2 per kilogram. After the recent reduction of subsidy, now the rice is being sold in those ITDA blocks at Rs. 6.50 per kilogram. You can imagine the effect of more than 300 per cent increase that has taken place in those areas.

In these ITDA blocks the tribal people live. We all know about their conditions of living. They have no purchasing power. They have no houses to live in. They have no source of income so that they can maintain their livelihood. That is why the Government of Orissa had earlier taken a position to provide rice at Rs. 2 per kilogram. But after the supercyclone, the State exchequer is now completely empty. The hon. Minister is well aware of this fact.

I would request the hon. Minister present here as well as the Government at the Centre and the hon. Prime Minister that unless this subsidy is provided from the Centre, the condition of the people living there will become very precarious and they may not get enough rice to eat.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please conclude.

SHRI ARJUN SETHI : Sir, I am sorry to point out that I have been waiting here for the past six-and-a-half hours and I have not even started my speech that you are ringing the bell and asking me to conclude. ... (Interruptions)

I will say in brief that the economy of our State is in complete mess. It is not the fault of the Government or anybody else. The Central Government has sanctioned many schemes and funds for the rehabilitation and restoration works after the super-cyclone, but unless these ITDA blocks are looked after and subsidised foodgrains are provided to the people, they may not survive or may not be able to purchase rice at Rs. 6.50 per kilogram. So, I would request the hon. Minister to reconsider the increase in prices of urea, kerosene, LPG

etc. because the people of Orissa are not in a position to bear this burden imposed by the Central Government. So, I would join our allies supporting the Government at the Centre to demand that the Central Government should reconsider this increase. I would also request the Government to see to it that in the ITDA blocks, subsidised rice is provided and that subsidy should be borne by the Centre because the State Government is not in a position to bear it as they have no funds even to make payment of salaries to its employees.

*SHRI P. MOHAN (MADURAI) : Hon'ble Chairman, Sir, I thank you for the opportunity you have given me to participate in the discussion on rise in prices of essential commodities. The prices of rice, wheat, kerosene and cooking gas have been increased causing great hardship to the poor and the middle class. Both the Standing Committees on Petroleum and Food & Civil Supplies have stoutly opposed the move of the Government. I urge upon the Government to take note of the feelings and sentiments of the people in this regard. It is to be noted that even the alliance partners of this NDA Government have criticised the Government for the price increase. Hence it becomes all the more important for the Government to seriously reconsider its decision to hike the prices.

I would like to appreciate the parties in the ruling NDA who have vehemently opposed the Government. Particularly DMK, the dominant partner from Tamil Nadu has impressed upon the Government to reconsider it. Its leader in the House pointed out that he would not use the word 'roll back' but would rather use the word 'reconsider'. Both of them would mean the same. It must be withdrawn, that is it. I would like to appreciate them. Not only that. But the leader of their party who is the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu who is also an important leader in the NDA has supported the Union Government's move to hike the prices. At the same time my colleagues in this House the members of DMK have stated that this price rise is 'avoidable'. At a time when their leader had been stated that the price hike was 'inevitable', their own partymen call it 'avoidable'. I would like to appreciate some of the alliance partners in the NDA who have truly represented the feelings and sentiments of the common people who are the worst hit. I would like to point out that this Budget in the millennium year presented by the Government that includes both the BJP and the DMK is a Budget that would adversely affect the poor and the people in the lower strata of the society. The price of these essential commodities has been increased twice. Both before and after the Budget presentation the prices have been hiked. This is unprecedented. Sugar prices have been increased. Not only that. It would also be denied to the middle class, as they are income tax assesseees. Those who pay income tax cannot get sugar from fair price shops. Instead, they would get a raw deal.

Some of the Hon. Members from the ruling alliance have stated that the quantity of rice and wheat distributed through

PDS has been enhanced. It was announced that rice and wheat distributed to the poor would be doubled. It was announced that it would be 20 kgs. from now on instead of 10 kgs. so far given. While reading about that in newspapers we felt happy. It was heartening. But we were equally disheartened when we read that the price for those commodities have also been doubled. The very purpose of providing more of quantity has been defeated by the move to double the prices in PDS. Those who could not buy even 10 kgs at a lesser rate will definitely find it difficult to buy the doubled quantity at double the price. At a rate of Rs. 5.85 per kg. such people may not be able to buy even 5 kgs of wheat. You have defeated the very purpose you want to cite as your defence argument.

The middle class people most of them working in Central and State Government offices and public sector undertakings constitute a good chunk of income tax payers. Such of them would now be penalised for paying regularly income tax. They would be denied sugar in PDS. Their only sin is that they have been paying income tax diligently. Middle class section of the society would now find it difficult to make both ends meet.

The price of urea and fertilisers have been increased by 15%. Already the prices of agricultural inputs have increased. The subsidy withdrawal on fertilizers and urea price hike is further blow. Agriculturists have been demanding reasonable remunerative prices for their produce. Sugarcane growers demand Rs. 1000/- per quintal. They have also been demanding supportive procurement price for rice and wheat. The Government must give a thought to it.

At the same time we must think of the plight of the agricultural labourers. Government must ensure that they are paid minimum wages. Suitable legislation has not been restored to as yet. Both agriculturists and agricultural labourers are at the receiving end, receiving blows in the form of harsh measures and they are neglected. This august House has not found the ways and means to provide at least a cent of land to the landless agricultural labourers. In such a scenario where everyone in the agricultural sector is clamouring for relief, the retail price of urea has been enhanced by 15%. This is nothing but a serious blow to the farming community.

I was amazed to listen to the BJP members from Balasore. He raised a question as to whether Government servants are poor. He tried to say that they are well off of which fact is to the contrary. I do not know whom do they consider to be poor and who is their view are not poor. I think they have changed the yard sticks to identify those who live below poverty line.

The price of petrol, kerosene and LPG were increased on March 22. That was the day when the US President Mr. Bill Clinton addressed a function at the Central Hall of our

*Translation of the speech originally delivered in Tamil.

[Shri P. Mohan]

Parliament. On that day several Standing Committees convened their meetings. The very same day the Standing Committee on Petroleum met at 1 o'clock in the afternoon. Neither its Chairman nor its members had any inkling about such a move to hike the prices of petroleum products including kerosene and LPG. During the midnight the price increase came into effect. Bill Clinton came. Petrol prices were increased. LPG prices were enhanced and poor man's fuel kerosene too faced hike in price. American President came to India and price increase was the prize given to the Indian Public.

Even the Standing Committee was bypassed. No one attached to the Committee were informed of the price increase proposal. This is highly condemnable an act. Even the Parliamentary Standing Committee is relegated to be a non-entity. It is ignored to remain there for name sake. Agriculture Committee has also criticised the Government's move. Hence I urge upon the Government to take into consideration the feelings expressed by all concerned in this regard.

20.44 hrs.

(MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*)

Many of the hon. Members have pointed out the withdrawal of subsidy. Even the member from Bihar Shri Prabhunath Singh who is part of the ruling alliance condemned it and demanded the continuation of subsidies. All the Ministers including the Hon. Railway Minister claim that they have resource crunch. We also agree. How to mobilise resources? There is a way out. As was pointed out by the Hon. Member from Bihar the money is there but it is elsewhere. When Mrs. Gandhi was the Prime Minister, Justice Wanchoo Committee was set up to study the effect of black money. Even at that point of time it was estimated that the black money in circulation was about Rs. 50,000 crores. This was 20 years ago. Now it could be one lakh to one and a half lakh crores. Likewise, we have crores of rupees of pending arrears from those who have borrowed from nationalised banks. Instead of taking effective steps to mobilise funds from the defaulters and illegal operators, the Government crushes the poor who are already crushed. It is anti-people a move to withdraw subsidies aimed at benefitting the poor. During elections you promise people's Government and once you come to power you distance yourself from the people especially the poor.

I would like to point out that this Government is hitting hard the very same elite and educated middle class people and office goers without whose support base this Government would not have come to power. With the very same power they were provided with, they hit hard those who helped them to occupy power.

Already there is a long pending demand from the salaried

class and middle class to increase the income tax ceiling. They were ignored on that count. Not only that, they have also been taken off from the list of PDS beneficiaries just because they pay income tax.

Some members pointed out there were many Governments that ignored the plea of these Government employees and salaried class in the last 5 decades. It could be true. It is also a fact that such Governments were changed by the people for their omissions. Then why do this Government would want to commit the same mistake. It is not justified to claim that you too will follow suit.

With all these I would like to impress upon the Government that it would be better you rescind the decision to increase the prices of the essential commodities. I also would like to urge upon the members of the NDA that they too, if they feel sincerely, must make the Government yield to their demand to consider their suggestions and withdraw the move to hike the prices.

With this I conclude.

SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO (PURULIA) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I associate myself with the views expressed by my colleagues in the Opposition, some NDA alliance partners like TDP, Trinamool Congress, BJD, JDU, and even some of the BJP friends who did not dare to speak in the Parliament but did speak outside the Parliament against price rise.

While presenting the Budget in the Lok Sabha on 29th February, the Finance Minister announced the increase in the prices of rice and wheat supplied through fair price shops. In effect, wheat is now available at the rate of Rs. 9 a kilogram against Rs. 6.82 a kilogram and rice is available at Rs. 11.80 a kilogram against Rs. 9 a kilogram for APL families. The BPL families would be charged Rs. 4.20 a kilogram against Rs. 2.50 a kilogram of wheat and Rs. 5.90 a kilogram against Rs. 3.50 a kilogram of rice.

Several State Governments, including Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, and West Bengal, protested against the price rise. For BPL families the increase in the price of wheat has been about 65 per cent. For APL families increase in the price of wheat has been 23 per cent and that of rice is 26 per cent. Therefore, increase in the price will reduce substantially the real income of the millions of consumers. Increase in allocation to BPL households from 10 kilogram to 20 kilograms per family per month at 50 per cent economic price was overdue.

But the cheap food will not reach the poor people because they would not have the money and the capacity to buy it.

Reduction of subsidy on kerosene by 33.3 per cent and LPG by 15 per cent would greatly affect the poor people.

Increase in the price of fertilizer will have a cascading effect in the long term production and productivity and growth of agriculture.

Therefore, I would request the Government to call a meeting of the representatives of all the political parties and discuss the matter. The Government should finally see how far they could roll back the prices of essential commodities.

[Translation]

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am aware of the time limit and will try to conclude my speech within the given time. I will try not to reiterate the points raised by the earlier speakers. When this Government was constituted the common man felt that at last this Government will take care of those who are at the grass root level. I do not want to go into the argument whether what they felt was correct or not. But this Government after coming to power took two initiatives. Firstly they made it quite clear by some of their decisions that they have nothing to do with the coalition culture. They do not understand that culture. Though they are in power and their alliance partners obviously expect that. ... (Interruptions)

Sir, it is obviously expected of coalition Government that it will consult all the alliance partners before taking any decision which has far reaching effect. They should be taken into confidence. This Government has taken twice or thrice such decisions which they had to withdraw later on, because they had not taken other partners of the coalition into confidence. Similarly, our Finance Minister issued a 'Tughalqi Farman' regarding withdrawal of subsidy and who has been affected the most as a result thereof? It is the poor, the weaker section that has been affected the most, whereas all the previous Governments endeavoured to help and protect this class.

Sir, this Government has punished millions of poor of this country by its incompetence inefficiency and incapability. The prices of kerosene, sugar, chemical fertilizers, LPG gas and diesel etc., have been increased and who are the consumers? Do the elite class millionnaires, billionnaires, traders, affluent service class consume these items. May be some of the items such as diesel or kerosene are useful for them but all other items are being used by that section of the society which has to strive hard to make its both ends meet and slight increase in the prices of commodities hit it worst. The burden has been imposed on this class but have a look at that section of the society which has not been burdened. The price of mobile telephones, colour T.Vs and cars and computers have not been increased. Even in the matter of import-export who are the ones who enjoy all exemptions. The affluent class of the country. Whose income and purchasing power has increased are enjoying the benefits and the poor are being trapped and the two reasons that are being given for imposing burden

on them are, one increase in prices of petroleum products in international market and second is the deficit Budget of Government which has to be controlled.

Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, I am surprised to note that Government has not taken any such measures so as to check this deficit in an effective manner. I will cite some examples. Bank loans worth fifty eight thousand crore rupees remain unpaid. Out of this entire loan 90 per cent is to be paid by big mill-owners and traders. Had this amount of loan been recovered from them then there would have been no need to put strain on the poor to cover the Budget deficit of 8 to 10 thousand crore rupees. ... (Interruptions) You deserve to be congratulated if you are following our footsteps but, if you feel that we were wrong then set the things right.

In a reply to the question asked by me during this term of Lok Sabha regarding arrears of income tax to be recovered from first hundred industrial and business houses it was stated that as on date about 52 thousand crores of arrears of income tax are lying against them. Had you brought any provision to recover that amount we would have congratulated you and extended full cooperation to you and would have asked you to go ahead, but no measures were adopted to recover that 52 thousand crores of rupees. You are lagging behind the target of revenue collection set for the year 1999-2000 by Rs. 4000 crore. This is your inefficiency and weakness. You could not achieve the target and you want to put burden on the poor.

More than 90 per cent of the loan advanced by RBI goes to traders and big industrialists. One of our NDA colleague has just stated that BPL is being advanced loan even less than one per cent by the banks. Besides rate of interest on loan is being reduced by one per cent and who are the people who will be benefited by it and what would be its implications? It is involvement of hundreds of crores of rupees for the banks. Keep giving generously everything to the affluent class. Do not recover the amount keep waiting and when burden increases, deficit grows, just enlarge the size of the Government. You have set the record in Uttar Pradesh. This will be a part of the history. Keep on increasing the size of Cabinet to 100-105 and pass on the burden to the poor as is being done now. The recovery is being made from the poor.

21.00 hrs.

I have gone through the report of P.A.C which is the most important Committee of this House. The report is lying with them. The administration was asked to recover an amount of rupees 39 crores. They have expressed their unhappiness over it. They have so far neither made any effort to recover that money nor to fix the responsibility and accountability. If I calculate it comes to one lakh 53 thousand crores of rupees

[Shri Satyavrat Chaturvedi]

which is lying unrecovered due to your inefficiency. You could have recovered the amount if you wanted and if you had the will power. Had you recovered this amount there would have been no need to increase the prices of foodgrains, kerosene, gas and fertilizers. You would have saved one lakh 53 thousand crores of rupees. Instead of eight thousand crores rupees which you want to save. You had the opportunity. But it could not materialise due to your policies. Only two reasons can be attributed. Either you admit that it is your incompetence and you lack the will power or you are in collusion with the group, which gives money for election. Your Government represents the traders the big capitalists and the affluent class, hence you want to squeeze the poor and exploit them to the maximum.

There are many people here who talk about farmers. I would like to know whether cost price of inputs is ever taken into account before fixing the support price. There has been substantial increase in the rates of inputs such as wages, chemical fertilizers, electricity etc. Which have registered an increase from one and half time to three times at some places. Prices of pesticides and insecticides are increasing unabated. There is no control over them. There is no control on the prices of tractor and irrigation pumps. You have no control over the prices of chicken feed and fodder. The factory owners keep raising the prices arbitrarily. No measures have been taken to put a check on it. On the one hand cost of production is going up and on the other hand, there is no balance between the support price and the cost price and as a result thereof the rural sector which is the foundation of this country is gradually becoming weak. Its purchasing power is going down. If village remain weak I don't think that any Government can ever dream of having a strong nation. If you want to display any such strength that strength is hollow. Therefore, I would like to caution you. Hunger is just hunger only. It knows no politics. It does not have any colour. It does not discriminate the people on the lines of different political ideologies. Be it of BJP's, Congress's or Communist's. The person who has voted you to power, will be affected the most by increase in the prices of kerosene and other things which are used by him. We should remain away from hypocrisy. I would like to forewarn particularly those who are in NDA. Who on the one hand believe that prices should be reduced and on the other hand extend support to this Government. Just be on one side. You do not want to be a party to the sin, being committed but you also do not want to lose chance of remaining in power. As far as price rise is concerned the alliance partners have their individual stand and they say they are not in favour of price rise and they want the prices should be 'rolled back' but they also want this Government not to fall and thus they extend it their support.

This is hypocrisy, this is not democracy. People will not tolerate it for long. Lastly I would like to add, there is no other

option left for you. If you will not pay heed to the voice of the poor and farmers on time, and if you do not roll back prices a mass movement will take place in villages and then nothing will be left, neither the power nor the crown.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak.

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH (MAHARAJGANJ, U.P.) :

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am thankful to you for having given permission to me for participating in the discussion on price hike.

Since for the second time, this Government has come into power, it has done only one work and that is increased the prices of essential commodities. It is surprising that the Government had not even taken the oath of office and prices of diesel were heavily increased thereby bewildering the people of the country. And since then this trend in the increase of prices, be it diesel, or petrol, or domestic gas, or fertilizer, or sugar, or be it a matter of subsidy on foodgrains, is continuing unabatedly. I wonder as to when the people who are in power, would realise the fury of common masses. I can assert this fact that if the people, whether the ruling party members or opposition members, introspect themselves in this regard, then 95 per cent of them would not justify this act of hike in prices. Government of hon'ble Minister of food has determined the supporting price of wheat at Rs. 580/- per quintal and when this wheat would be sold amongst the common people, its price would be Rs. 900/-. Peasant are feeling the pinch of price hike of diesel and kerosene oil. Recently supporting members supporting the treasury benches were justifying increase in price of kerosene which, I don't think, is fair. The poor people are totally dependent upon kerosene. Today, when we are not able to provide electricity in villages, we should atleast keep in mind that kerosene oil is the only source through which the poor people enlighten their huts. At the time of floods, when powerline is cut due to certain reasons, these people only with some light provided by kerosene, protect their families from poisonous insects. It is very right that the poor people get kerosene at a high rate, but we political people, with our influence enable a lot of poor people to get their oil at appropriate rates. Today huge quantity of kerosene is sold in black. So, it is not right to increase the price of kerosene. It is more expensive in the present times to cook food on fire wood then on the LPG. And that is why increase in prices of LPG is also not right. Wood is not available at all, whether in towns or in villages. Danger to environment is looming large. Subsidy in the agriculture sector is also getting decreased. You are under economic pressure, that is why you are doing away with subsidy, but in my opinion subsidy for agricultural sector is being curtailed due to the pressure of IMF and World Bank, which are influenced and thus operated by America. It is really ironical that you are decreasing subsidy

to the farmers on direction of such a country i.e. America, which has given 250 per cent of subsidy to its own farmers in the agricultural sector. Today you say that the country is facing economic crisis. We want to say that please go through the previous writings of Minister of Planning and Programme Implementation of this Government, Shri Arun Shourie and ask him, then he would tell you about the extravagancy of this Government as also other governments. E.g. presently the Government officers which are having fleet of cars at their disposal which is definitely extravagancy under the administrative head. If this extravagancy is controlled even upon 50 per cent, then 10 thousand crores of rupees of this country can be saved. Extraction of money in construction works should also be checked. With this we would get an amount of more than rupees 10 thousand crores. So, if you really want to save money, then prevent extravagancy. If you want to strengthen the economic system of our country by smashing the interests of the common man, then its your misconception. You are under illusion. We, very humbly, wish to request you that please liberate yourself from this bureaucracy and think for the welfare of the common people and try to run the country from the common man's view point. If you would try to run this country from bureaucratic angle, then I think that you would not remain in power for long. We agree that today you have a majority in this House. But when due to your wrong policies, public would come on the road and resort to revolt, then neither your MPs, nor we people would be seen anywhere. Please don't let the confidence of common people in the Parliamentary democracy, break down. And do not let the price-hike reach over to that saturation point which may give way to revolt by common man. If a situation of revolt occurs in the country, people would loose their confidence in the Parliamentary democracy. I, therefore, very humbly request that in the interest of poor people, please withdraw this increase in prices. With these words, I conclude my speech.

SHRI KISHAN SINGH SANGWAN (SONEPAT) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, thank you very much. Sir, the entire House has been discussing on the price hike of essential commodities, which has also become the most important issue in the whole country. It is very natural that whenever Government levies any tax or increases the price of any item with regard to any particular class of people, then reaction from that class is inevitable. On the other hand opposition parties try to take political mileage out of it and thus criticise it. This is not for the first time that price of commodities has been increased, but infact during the tenure of every government such increase has taken place. But why it is being widely criticised now. The reason is that earlier price hike was done on only one item at a time, that too was done at an interval of two-four or six months. Now, it is a co-incidence that price hike has been done at an interval of two, four or six month. Now, it is a co-incidence that price hike has been done on many commodities together. And that is why the reaction is comparatively severe.

If a patient is injected with a wrong medicine made for human beings, he withstands its reaction but if he is injected with a drug meant for animals then, he is virtually unable to withstand the reaction of such a drug. In the same way, increase in price has been made on many items, together, so the reaction is comparatively more.

There is absolutely no doubt in the fact that presently the economy of our country has become miserable and all this is due to the policies of Congress Party. Today, the Congress party people are shouting about price hike, but they forget that it is the Congress party which is responsible for dilapidating the entire economic system. They have ruled this country for 50 long years. All the debt due on our country is because of Congress Party. Funds have been mis-utilised. Today the indebtedness of our country is at such a state that every child in our country is born with a debt of 8000 rupees. Who is responsible for this? On the one hand when we go to the common people, we find the farmers cursing themselves as also the poor people crying out of troubles and on the other hand, when we see our own country, its economic system etc. we really feel bad for the country. When we compare both the problems, we come to the conclusion that the country is of foremost importance for us, if the country is protected, then only we would be saved. Otherwise everything would be ruined. We, therefore, praise the efforts made for improving the economic system, but this is also a fact that condition especially of farmers and poor people is really miserable. Farmers have been committing suicide under such frustrations for many years. They are heavily indebted. There is a debt of Rs. 1750/- per acre on each farmer. Whenever any price is increased or tax is levied or subsidy on anything is curtailed, it is only the farmer who is main sufferer. He suffers whenever there is flood, he suffers whenever there is famine. His condition has deteriorated more due to curtailment in subsidy on fertilisers.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, day before yesterday when the hon'ble Prime Minister was giving his reply on the discussion on the Address of hon'ble President, he had submitted that the subsidy on fertiliser is actually going to the capitalists and farmers are not getting any benefit out of it. It is true that the industrialists are taking the advantage of subsidy in the name of farmers. The subsidy should, therefore, be stopped. As per the recommendations of cost and pricing Committee 100 per cent subsidy is given to the industry which generates 90 per cent production, but in our country the industries are already producing 120 per cent instead of 100 per cent. In this way they are taking the benefit of more subsidy by producing 30 per cent extra. So the industrialists are reaping the benefit in the name of farmers.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, last year during the 12th Lok Sabha when a discussion had taken place on this subject, even at that time, I had said that subsidy on fertilizer should be curtailed because it is given in the name of farmers and farmers do not

[Shri Kishan Singh Sangwan]

get the benefit of this subsidy, but the industrialists benefit out of it. I had also suggested that if half amount of the subsidy is given to the farmers in cash, then it would be in their interest. Today there is no difference between the price of fertilizer being imported and fertilizer being produced in the country. Now you can yourself assume that how the industrialists are quoting an increased cost of production in their industries. Imported fertiliser is sold on the same price even after the transportation cost. The only example of this is that you can compare the cost of production of fertiliser manufactured by IFFCO and KRIBHCO in the co-operative sector and the cost of production of Private fertiliser industries. It is amply clear that the industrialists are grabbing more subsidy by showing more cost of production. All this is happening due to policies evolved by the Congress Party. I, therefore, request that subsidy may be stopped and fifty per cent of the subsidy may be given to the farmers in cash, so in this way, the farmers would be directly benefited by this.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Government on one more fact viz, that the price of foodgrain of the farmer is determined only after it is brought to the market after harvesting. This policy is not good. I feel that the price of the foodgrain should be announced at the time of sowing, so that the farmer may sow the foodgrain according to its price. For the last many years the Congress people have been taking advantage of the weakness of peasants. I would like to cite an example for this. You can peruse the history of last few years. During the tenure of Congress government the price of agricultural produce of the farmer was increased merely by Re. 1.00 or Rs. 2.00 or Rs. 5.00 but last year Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee's Government increased the price of wheat by Rs. 90/- per quintal and this year also the Government has increased it by Rs. 25/- per quintal. So it is very clear from this fact that only this Government would safeguard the interests of farmers and it is its duty to do so. In fact no government can continue without safeguarding the interests of farmers as our country is an agriculture dominant country and there are 80 per cent of farmers here. If the farmer is saved, then only the country is saved and if the farmer is ruined, the country can also not be saved.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon'ble Minister Shri Shanta Kumar ji is sitting here. Prices of wheat and rice have been increased, although he has provided for a profit of Rs. 2200 crore, but adverse statements in this regard are being publicised. Public is being misguided with adverse statements that prices have been increased. He would clarify this fact in his speech and once the public comes to know about the fact the criticism would definitely come to an end.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would request the Government to review the condition which is making an adverse effect on the farmers due to increase in the prices of essential commodities and appeal that they may be given some relief.

With these words I conclude my speech and extend my thanks to you.

SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV (PARBHANI) : Sir, please give two minutes to each member. We should get a chance to speak. Only one M.P. of our party has spoken. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members, time allotted for the discussion on this subject was two hours. You have already taken seven hours and 30 Members have already spoken.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR (MAYILADUTURAI) : Sir, it is a very important subject.

MR. SPEAKER : That is why, so much time has been given.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (PANDHARPUR) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the discussion is taking place everyday on the subject of increase in prices. Government says that we have increased dearness to save the country. The Government should think about the poor people, on whose votes, the Government has come to power, but it is really very serious that the Government is not thinking about them after coming to power. What I wish to say is that it would have been O.K. if you had increased five to ten per cent prices but you have immensely increased the price of wheat. Earlier the price of wheat was Rs. 5.82 per kg, but now it has been increased to Rs. 9.50 per kg. Similarly the price of rice was Rs. 7.55 but now it has been increased to Rs. 12.30 thus, the present Government has increased Rs. 4.85 in one go.

21.21 hrs.

(HON'BLE DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*)

Government in this way, has aggravated the poverty of a poor man.

"Garibon ki Garibi Hatana tumhara Kam Nahin Hai,

Amiron ki Amiree Badhana Hi Tumhara kam Hai.

Sarkar zyada Din Chalana Bhi Tumhara kam Nahin Hai,

Mehangai ko Badhana Hi Tumhara kam Hai."

I want to say that you have increased the prices. You are blaming Congress Party for doing wrong things in the last 50 years, but it is actually your government, which in these two years, have increased price rise to such an extent that it had not been increased in the preceding 50 years even. You have increased the prices very abruptly. If while protecting the country you would ruin its people, then I feel that the people

of this country would definitely dethrone you in the next election.

Shri Shanta Kumar ji is a very calm Minister and is definitely a very good Minister, but merely being a good person is not going to solve the problems. He is required to take decision. Shri Pramod Mahajan, from Maharashtra is also of same attitude. He has a very vast experience as well. I mean to say that he may kindly pacify Shri Shanta Kumar ji, he may help Shri Shanta Kumar ji in making decisions to this effect. What I want to say is that the Government must think over the matter of lessening price rise and you have to make some positive announcement in this regard. All your allies are also opposing this step of increasing price rise. But this is also a fact that if they do not object to this step of the Government, they are aware that they would not be elected as a member again.

That is why he is opposing the price-rise in the House and is saying that though he is supporting the government.
...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please give some suggestions to bring down the price rise.

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : When we come to power then we will give suggestions to bring down the price rise. A woman named Sudha Bharti resides in R.K. Puram. She says that the BJP Government lost the elections of Delhi Legislative Assembly because of increase in price of onion. Similarly, if this government does not check the price rise, then the Central Government will be removed like the Delhi Government. My submission is that there is much resentment among people regarding this. You might be of the view that you are doing this to improve the economy of the country, but more than 85 per cent of the people who have voted for you, are annoyed with you. So the Government should take steps to check the price rise.

You have increased the price of petrol by 13 paise and price of Diesel by 52 paise. You have also increased the price of LPG. Earlier, the price of cooking gas in Delhi was Rs. 151.60 but now it is Rs. 196.35 which means that an increase of Rs. 44.75 has been made per gas cylinder in Delhi. In Calcutta, earlier its price was Rs. 170.20 but you have increased it to Rs. 222.45, that means Rs. 51.25 have been increased. In Mumbai its price was Rs. 153.20 which you have increased to Rs. 198.80 which means that you have increased it by Rs. 45.60. In Chennai, the price of one cylinder was Rs. 155.35 which you have increased to Rs. 202.25 that means you have made an increase of Rs. 46.90 in its price. Apart from this, the price of kerosene in Delhi was Rs. 2.67 per litre which you have increased to Rs. 5.46 per litre, that means you have increased its price by Rs. 2.79. Thus there has been 50% increased in its price. In Calcutta, the price was Rs. 3 per litre

which has been hiked to Rs. 5.87 per litre. That means there has been an increase of Rs. 2.87 in the price which is more than 49 per cent. In Mumbai earlier kerosene was available for a price of Rs. 2.75 which you have increased to Rs. 5.57, thus an increase of Rs. 2.82 i.e. more than 50% has been made. In Chennai it was Rs. 2.80 litre which you have increased to Rs. 5.64, that means there is an increase of Rs. 2.84 which is more than 50 per cent. This Government has abruptly increased the prices. I would like to warn the Government that if it wants to remain in power for five years, then it should check the price rise as soon as possible, otherwise there may be a mid-term poll. But there should not be a mid-term poll because the problem of price rise is being faced already and a lot of money will be required to hold elections, hence there should not be a mid-term election. But I would like to bring this to your notice and also warn that it is not in the interest of the allied parties to continue lending support to the Government as there will be further price rise. Hence you should also ponder over it. You should withdraw your support from the Government. This Government has abruptly increased the price by fifty per cent. I would also like to tell TDP that your Government in State is good but the Government in Centre is not that good. So it is essential that you should ponder over it: Though I do not want to make any political comment but you should seriously think about it. Pramod Mahajan ji should ask the Minister about checking the price rise. All of you should tell him otherwise he is not going to do anything. We should collectively pressurise the Government. Unless we tell them and exert pressure on the Government, the Cabinet is not going to take any decision. So all of us collectively would like to tell the Government that if we want to save the country, we will have to protect the people of the country. If you want to save the country at the cost of the people, then we will not save you and nor will the people of this country. Hence, price rise should be checked. Please give such orders. I request you to make an announcement in this regard today itself.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Ramdas ji, please conclude now.

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : I will conclude but I will not stop speaking unless price rise is checked. If the Minister makes an assurance to check the price rise, then I will conclude my speech.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Parliamentary Affairs Minister has to make such a promise.

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : Hon'ble Minister, please speak. My request is that you should take a decision as soon as possible. You should also order them, you should also tell them. I conclude my speech but you should not prevent me from speaking, rather you should prevent price rise. My only request is that you should check price rise.

[English]

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU (SRIKAKULAM) : Hon. Deputy-Speaker Sir, I am fully endorsing the views expressed by my friends from the DMK, JD(U), Samata Party, the Trinamool Congress and others.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR : And us also. We are on the same side as you are.

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU : But your aspirations are different and our aspirations are different.

Sir, at this juncture, subsidy is the need of the hour.

That is our Party's policy. In our country, thirty-five crore people live below the poverty line. Professor Lakarawala categorically said that an average thirty-five per cent people live below the poverty line. After fifty-two years of Independence, we have not removed the poverty level. Under the Constitution of India, it is the responsibility of the State to provide food, shelter and clothing, which are the basic minimum needs, to the common man.

Sir, the Government of India has taken a decision to reduce the food subsidy, the fertilizer subsidy and it has increased the prices of kerosene and cooking gas. Kerosene is an essential commodity for the poor man. I was a Minister in the United Front Government. Even the United Front Government and the Congress Government had not taken any decision in this matter. There was no increase in the price of kerosene. This time, the increase is 125 per cent. But the Government has categorically said that it is the need of the hour because there is a large gap between the actual price and the price at which we are giving these things to the common man. It has given examples of other countries. To some extent, it is all right. But how can the poor man accept the hike of 125 per cent at a stretch? So, my Chief Minister has already written a letter particularly on kerosene and cooking gas saying that it should reduce the price to a reasonable level. We are not asking for a complete roll-back on kerosene and cooking gas. We are asking for reconsideration of the price hike in respect of the items sold through the TPDS.

In this country, there is no protection available to farmers. Everywhere we are witnessing suicide deaths. Now the country is witnessing the drought. The magnitude of drought is increasing day by day. The Government has taken a decision to supply 20 kgs. of foodgrains instead of 10 kgs. I am putting a straight question to the Government. Without increasing the purchasing power of the common man, how can he buy 20 kgs. rice? Take the States like Rajasthan, Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh, a part of Madhya Pradesh and so many areas in this country which are facing a severe drought. People are migrating. So, without work, where is the money to purchase?

All the rice supplied through the TPDS ultimately goes to the blackmarket. The middlemen will benefit. So, the poor man is not responsible for this. My point is that the subsidy should reach the common man. It is the duty of the Government to create infrastructure.

In Andhra Pradesh, we have established a fool-proof system. In the year 1982, we introduced the card system to the common man. We have removed 19 lakh bogus cards. Still, some more bogus cards are there. We cannot achieve hundred per cent results. So, in this country, subsidies are required. In the name of establishing fertilizer plants, they are getting the money. But that is the failure of the Government in not controlling the situation. Whatever subsidy we are giving should reach the farmer. We should evolve a mechanism. The benefit should reach the targeted people.

In Andhra Pradesh, recently, we carried out a household survey. We have taken the General Information System. As I said earlier, whatever subsidy we are giving to the poor man should reach him without the involvement of any middlemen. It should not go to the APL people also. That is why, I humbly request the Government not to stand on prestige. We are living in a democratic world. In the recent elections, people voted for us. Thirty-five per cent of the people are living in this country without any basic minimum facility. There are a lot of tribal areas. Just now, the hon. Member from the Biju Janata Dal spoke that previously they supplied rice at Rs. 2 per kg. in the tribal areas. We are now supplying it at Rs. 6.45 per kg. There are so many tribal areas.

In this country, there is a coastal line for 9,600 kms. from West Bengal to Gujarat and there are a lot of fishermen. They are living in miserable conditions, without proper food and education facilities. It is the duty of the Government to provide them the basic minimum needs.

If the Government wants to reduce the fiscal deficit, it should call an all-party meeting and take the opinion of all the political parties. They should discuss with all the parties as to what are the available areas where they can impose fresh taxes to raise more revenue. There is a lot of black money in this country. The Government should think of bringing some legislation to unearth the black money and get some more revenue to the Exchequer. The Government should think on these lines to reduce the fiscal deficit. It is not proper to put more burden on the common people of this country.

In the State of Andhra Pradesh, our Government has decided to give 10 lakh gas connections. The Government of India has extended a lot of help in this regard. Recently, we have given 7 lakh gas connections to the poorest of the poor, particularly to the women folk, in the rural areas. But after the increase in the price of gas cylinder, they are not able to purchase the cylinders even at the old price.

So, these are the problems faced by the common people of this country. So, it is not only the demand of the allied parties to reconsider the decision on the increase in prices of essential commodities, but it is also the demand of even the Members of Parliament belonging to the Bharatiya Janata Party. We are all talking about in the Lobby. The Government can see the indications, which are appearing through the media. Therefore, I, once again, request the Government to coolly think over it and reconsider the decision on the increase in prices of essential commodities.

[Translation]

SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE (MALEGAON) :

Sir, I am thankful to you that you gave me chance to speak on this subject. The Government has made a mistake. Their mistake is that they have started burdening the poor instead of making the rich share the burden and when the poor are burdened, it will give rise to agitations. Late Morarji Bhai set scu an example. It is always said —

"Wah re Sarkar tera khel, Sasta daru mahanga tel"

They increased the price of sugar and God knows how many other things. Sir, the case with Morarji Bhai was opposite.

"Wah re sarkar tera khel, mahanga daru sasta tel.

He was the first Prime Minister who did it. The second Prime Minister was Deve Gowda ji. The then Finance Minister had abolished subsidy. He had formed government with the help of Congress Party. His government was a coalition government like our present government. At that time Deve Gowda ji did not agree. He started subsidy and reduced the price of fertiliser. It was Deve Gowda ji who did it. Provision for distribution of ten kgs of foodgrain was made by him. It was his deed to provide 20 kgs of foodgrains. This programme was efficiently run by the government and for this I would like to thank the government. The name of Manmohan Singh Sahab is mentioned in the discussion quite often. He increased the price of fertiliser and discontinued subsidy and you have also done the same thing. It is not good. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, jhuggi-jhopari dwellers and rural people comprise 80 per cent of the total population. Service class comes under the general class. I would like to cite an example that Kirloskar was the friend of Morarji Bhai. When he went to his (Kirloskar's) House, his wife said that Morarji Bhai was their enemy. Ever since they had come to power, they had made the rich people bankrupt. It has been done by Morarji Bhai. The government should do this. The government should generate money from the rich people and should meet the deficit by it. This is my suggestion. I thank you for having given me time to speak.

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV (JHANJIHARPUR):

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, our friends Yerrannaidu ji, Sudeep ji and many other hon'ble Members of the allied parties as well as other parties have expressed their views on the price rise which is being discussed today. We are the backbone of NDA, so I am confident that the Government will take our opinion seriously and it should be taken seriously. That is why, Yerrannaidu Sahab and other Members of the constituent parties keep in touch with each other and yesterday too we had met. Mr. Minister, we do not hold meetings to disturb you, rather we meet you to involve you and to make you realise the pain and misery of 33 crore people who are below poverty line. It was the resolution of the NDA government and it was the national agenda to give priority to alleviate hunger. The NDA government certainly might have some priority. Is the basic need not a priority? Food, clothing and shelter continued to be a popular slogan in this country. But, even after 52 years of independence, we all know what is the situation in terms of food, clothing and shelter. But the food is the first priority of any government. It is the prime responsibility of any welfare state that no person should die of starvation. Though this is happening in Rajasthan, Orissa or any other place but nobody should be left to die of hunger. We should ensure that food security is our prime responsibility.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to speak about the talisman of Gandhiji. Talisman has been referred to in the House. I would like to quote two three lines here. Gandhiji had given a perfect talisman especially for those in charge of governance of the country. The Talisman was that whenever one is in doubt or when selfishness starts surfacing try the following. Recall the face of the poorest and the weakest man whom you may have seen and ask yourself if the step you are contemplating, is going to be of any use to him. Will he gain anything by it? Will it help him gain a control over his own life and destiny? In other words, will it lead to swaraj for the starving millions? Then you will find your doubts and your selfishness dissipating.

The main objective of TPDS was to uplift the people living below poverty line by providing them commodities at special subsidised rate. The food security should be ensured for them. This was the objective of that scheme. I am not questioning the noble intention of the hon'ble Minister but now the TPDS Scheme is deviating from its main objective. That is why I am distressed. It is a question of food for poor people. The people who were below poverty line before independence are still below poverty line even after 52 years of independence. They have intelligence but they have no say in any matter. Those who are articulative rob the country and make all the laws for their convenience. On 20, October, 1998, a circular was issued to take austerity measures. Hon'ble Minister may please inspect any Department and see to what extent they have controlled the expenditure. The government expenditure has not been controlled at all. You do not have any control on

[Shri Devendra Prasad Yadav]

the luxury items or the mobile phones. As long as economic disparity is prevalent in the country, the government should not withdraw subsidy meant for the poor people. It is prime responsibility of the government. Today what is the scale of economic disparity? Economic disparity between rich and poor will have to be eliminated. Nearly 1.5 per cent people are enjoying the luxuries of life. We are also enjoying the luxuries life due to the facilities provided to us for being member of Lok Sabha. In old days, the gap between rich and poor was not the remarkable. Since I belong to the village, so I would like to present the position in the villages. Earlier, the gap between the rich and the poor was not that wide but now it is quite glaring. In this situation, how violence will be checked? Our Defence Minister delivered a speech. He is the leader of our Party. As long as AK-47 is in use, violence will not be checked and there will be riot for food. Whatever may be the compulsions, but if the food security is not ensured, then atleast the subsidy on food should be continued. We know the hon'ble Minister. I have also been incharge of this Department. We also faced several compulsions. It took us seven months to evolve TPDS. The name of Deve Gowda ji was mentioned here. The then Finance Minister is not presently the member of the House and he can not reply so I do not consider it appropriate to mention his name here. It is not appropriate to refer to those hon'ble Members who are presently not the Members of the House and who can not defend themselves. A number of arguments were given. They were giving the argument of fiscal deficit. Even today the arguments of budget deficit are being given. It is argued that economy is to be improved and economic reforms are to be made. One should think about the poor people. You can impose tax on luxury items. If you want to impose tax, you may impose tax and you can take austerity measures by curtailing the government expenditure. Hon'ble Minister is sitting here. Can he not take any decision?

[English]

APL people and affluent class should be excluded from the PDS system.

[Translation]

Hon'ble Minister keep on giving such statements in Newspapers that this decision was taken by the government in 1996-97 and 2-3 years have lapsed, then why is it not implemented? It should have been implemented in a phased manner. A conference of Chief Ministers was held. The Food Ministers had also participated in it. The conference was about the basic services of food. This argument was given in that conference also. It is a democratic country where decisions are taken through democratic measures. It is the responsibility of the government to implement this decision. I am making a logical argument. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, please understand my sentiments. I do not doubt the sentiments and intentions

of the Hon'ble Minister. The mistake of one person cannot affect the nation. But if the planning is faulty then it will harm the country. The planning must not be faulty. Under the JRY and Assured Employment Scheme, I have discussed the plight of landless labourers, weavers who reside in huts. TPDS is meant for those who are B.P.L. I am amazed to see the calculations you have arrived at. You will be surprised to see it too. If 10 kg. is provided per family, then it is provided at a rate of Rs. 5 per kg. for B.P.L. 10 kgs. are provided and if he takes 55 kgs from outside then expenditure comes to Rs. 627.50. It has been said that there will be a saving of Rs. 58. How excellent is this argument? Thereafter it has been stated that the expenditure incase of rice comes to Rs. 751. 10 kg of foodgrain is available on subsidised rate. 2700 calories are required for one person. When I enquired as to which doctor has said this, then it was told that the information has been given by the Health Department. I was surprised to find that it was merely a guess because the people below poverty line do not survive for 52 years whereas the normal life span is 80-90 years. His health is deteriorating and he dies in 50 years. That is why my submission is whether the argument has any ground? It was the decision of the cabinet. Today I am leaving this question to you. If any labourer works under Assured Employment Scheme or J.R.Y. he will get one kg. of food grain at subsidised rate. If he works for 10 days, then he gets 10 kgs. of foodgrain and if he works for 20 days then he gets 20 kgs. Thus it comes to 30 kgs. I feel that it has not been taken into consideration. Earlier, the poor people were being taken care of and the Government had taken such a decision.

Therefore, the Government should pay attention towards this. I think that has been set aside. A decision was taken under the J.R.Y. and Assured Employment Scheme that coupon will be issued to any person working under these schemes on daily basis and foodgrain will be issued to him on that coupon and there will be no need for him to take foodgrain from anywhere else. But I don't know as to what is the fate of that scheme. The scheme of providing employment in rural areas has been set aside. What happened to the decision taken by the Ministry of Food.

Therefore, I would like the hon'ble Minister to kindly say a few words about it during the course of his speech on this as to whether this scheme has been scrapped or what happened to that? Therefore, the affluent class, Income Tax Payers, creamy layer should certainly be excluded from the ambit of PDS.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, another argument is given in this regard. My colleague Shri Prabhunath Singh ji has said that price of urea has been increased by six per cent.

SHRI RAJESH PILOT (DAUSA) : It is fifteen per cent.

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV : Shri Prabhunath

Singhji has said that it is about six per cent. Don't ask about the price. Price of wheat has been increased by 67.5 per cent and subsidy on food has been reduced by 12.5 per cent. Similarly it is 15 per cent in the case of fertiliser which is due to cut in subsidy. An hon'ble Member had rightly said that subsidy for the farmers in America is 250 per cent. Therefore, I would like to say specifically that foodgrain should be given at a special concessional rate to the farmers and the people living below the poverty line so that food security could be ensured for them after fifty two years of independence. It is the responsibility of the government to provide them foodgrain at cheaper rate until economic disparity is done away and their purchasing power is increased. My last point is that the poor are not getting foodgrain at all. Perhaps you have got conducted a survey earlier through the Tata Consultancy according to which 35 per cent of foodgrain is not reaching the poor.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Yadavji, please conclude now.

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV : Hon'ble Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am on my last point. The foodgrain is not reaching the fair price shops, rather it is being directed somewhere else. Who is responsible for it? What is the problem in enforcing the E.C. Act. This blackmarketing can be checked by passing an executive order to nab the hoarders and the blackmarketeers all over the country by setting up a complaint cell in coordination with the State Governments which should be monitored by the Union Government itself. The foodgrain meant for this scheme goes to the black market, so this scheme should be discontinued and similarly Indira Awaas Yojana and Accelerated Water Supply scheme should also be scrapped as water will not be made available under this scheme. The argument that all the centrally sponsored schemes should be scrapped as several incidents of pilferage are taking place in the States, that is why I am of the view that there should be cut in subsidy. But it is said that there should be equal distribution of wealth and land but their own interest should not be affected in this process. However, it would not be appropriate if the cut does not affect the rich people and relief is given in case of the government expenditure and luxurious goods. It is not fair to mount burden on poor. Therefore, I would like to request the hon'ble Minister that. ...*(Interruptions)* He is asking me to say something about the fertilizers. You have spoken on fertilizers. The foodgrain producing community does not involve in evasion, fulfills its target and provides foodgrain for the entire country. Money can be earned, it can be looted but ultimately it is foodgrain which can be eaten. The community producing foodgrains. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Yadavji, please conclude now. You need not recommend it, I know.

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, arguemnt is being advanced in this regard, I do not want to mention name. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : Sir, it is a good point. The government should take note of it. It is a good suggestion.

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to say something about the farmers. I respect the hon'ble Prime Minister. I do not know from where he has got this feed back. It is amazing that factory owners are availing subsidy. Perhaps the hon'ble Minister of food may know about it, F.C.I. is an agency of government. F.C.I. will also have to be wind up as it is getting subsidy of Rs. 1.38 and factory is close. Fertilizer plants are being benefited due to subsidy on fertilizers. The subsidy given on food for the people below the poverty line goes to the Food Corporation of India. Subsidy of Rs. 1.38 per kilogram is given. Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, therefore, a balanced view should have to be adopted in respect of both these cases. If you are reducing the subsidy meant for the farmers, then the subsidy for FCI also should be reduced. Balance can be maintained only when carrying cost, handling cost or operational cost of it is reduced. Therefore, a balanced view should be taken. Therefore, I urge upon the government that it should reconsider its decision seriously whether it is in the interest of the poor or not.

Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, there was a debate on General Budget on March 16th and 17th. In his budget speech the hon'ble Minister of Finance had said categorically in the House and it can be seen in the proceedings of the House that we honour the sentiments of our allies.

22.00 hrs.

Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, we should see as to what we can do. We have been watching this for more than one month and ten days. The Finance Minister made his budget speech on 16th of March and today it is 27th of April, but till now he has not paid any attention towards this. We will continuously raise this point in the House as well as outside. We are the allies of the government and until the views of the allies are heard, we will keep on raising our points in the House and outside as well and we will try that the Government accede to them.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, with these words, I conclude and thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak.

SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV (PARBHANI) : MR. Deputy Speaker Sir, I am a member of the Parliament and belongs to Shiv Sena which is an allied party of the NDA. I have risen to oppose the price hike of essential commodities made by the Union Government recently. We are the allies of the NDA and are supporting the Vaipayee Government and

[Shri Suresh Ramrao Jadhav]
we will continue to support it but we oppose the price rise made by the Government. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (MAHARAJGANJ, BIHAR):
If the Government are adamant on its stand, then what will you do?

SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV : As such we will oppose it outside.

Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, Telgudesham Party, Trinamool Congress and Shiv Sena are the allies of the NDA. All these parties are of the view that price rise of essential commodities consumed by the common man is not fair and that should be withdrawn. The hike in prices of sugar, milk, wheat, rice, kerosene, petrol, diesel, fertilizers and gas should be withdrawn as price rise in respect of these items directly affects the people.

Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, we attained freedom fifty two years ago but the fact is that the gap between the rich and poor has widened further. The rich has become more rich and the poor has become more poor. It is the responsibility of the Government to ensure food, clothes, shelter, healthcare and education for every citizen which is our commitment too but we have not been able to ensure all these things so far.

Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, our country is the country of villages. About 80 per cent population of our country lives in villages and is dependent on agriculture. But we all know as to what portion of our population has access to food, clothing, shelter, healthcare and education facility. Today there is no facility of potable water, roads, healthcare and education in villages. These facilities should be available to the common man as these are the basic minimum needs of life and we have not been able to make these available in the countryside so far.

Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, the price rise made will affect the 80 per cent population living in countryside. Besides it will affect the labour class, small farmers and class two and class three employees. Sir, in this regard I would like to say if we want to bring down the budget deficit, then the loan outstanding against the affluent class and industrialists should be recovered. If it is done honestly, I am sure there will be no scarcity of anything in the country. If the government could take such initiative I am sure the budget deficit can be bridged. There are other ways also to bring down the budget deficit and one of the ways is to curtail the government expenditure.

An announcement was made to downsize the Cabinet but it has not been translated into action. I will conclude after narrating an incident. Once I went to the house of a labourer and I saw a container of sugar on which a slip was pasted and on the slip was written Rs. 16 per kilogram, the gift of the

NDA Government. Similarly, on the polypack of milk was written Rs. 14 per litre, Kerosene Rs. 9 per litre. Same is the case with diesel and petrol. Same is the story about wheat. In a village I saw the rate of Rs. 9.50 printed on a one kilogram bag of wheat and Rs. 12 per kilogram on a bag of rice. On a bag of Urea, it was written that it was the gift of the NDA Government that subsidy on urea was withdrawn. ...*(Interruptions)* I am a son of the farmer and I am aware of the sufferings and agony of the farmers. You don't know about the difficulties being faced by the farmers in the countryside. We will definitely support this Government for the full term of five years but will support it for the good cause. I went to the house of a clerk and the position there was also the same. I went to the bungalow of Shri Shanta Kumar ji and there also the position was the same.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You had said that you will wind up after narrating an incident.

SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV : I am narrating that very incident. Same prices of sugar, milk, wheat, kerosene, rice, diesel, petrol, etc. were written there. On enquiring about it from his wife, she replied that it is the gift of the NDA Government. Every member of the family spoke about it. If the family members of Shri Shanta Kumar ji are not convinced with price rise, then how can we and the people of the country accept it. I would like to submit that this issue is related with the common people. 80 per cent population of this country lives in villages and is earning its livelihood.

Sir, through you, I would request the Government to kindly reconsider this price rise and withdraw it.

[English]

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR (MAYILADUTURAI) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the *Economic Survey* tells us that the burgeoning fiscal deficit is the major concern of this Government and the food subsidy contributes to that burgeoning deficit. The hon. Minister of Finance has told us at paragraph 68 of his speech that the major subsidies on food and fertiliser constitute a significant proportion of our non-Plan expenditure.

My first question of the Government is this : Is this the truth? Why are you not telling the truth in this regard? For if we look at the real impact of the food subsidy on the fiscal deficit, the first point for us to note is that the total non-plan expenditure as stated in this Budget is Rs. 2.5 lakh crore. That is the total non-Plan expenditure. The food subsidy is Rs. 8,000 crore. If you take Rs. 8,000 crore as a proportion of Rs. 2.5 lakh crore, the percentage of the food subsidy in total non-Plan expenditure is just three per cent.

Ninety seven per cent of the non-Plan expenditure is on matters other than the food subsidy and yet this three per cent is what they describe as ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

DR. M.P. JAISWAL (BETTI AH) : An opportunity for making a speech is being given to those hon'ble Members who have just arrived in the House. We have been present in the House since morning.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : If you also want to make a speech, then you can make a speech.

DR. M.P. JAISWAL : I do not want to make a speech but there should be an end to this.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : It will come to an end, have some patience. He is making good points.

DR. M.P. JAISWAL : All the Members are making good points. They arrive here at 10 o' clock and have started making their speeches, and prior to this they were not present in the House.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : If you have to submit something, then please rise to make it.

DR. M.P. JAISWAL : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, my submission is that I am sitting here since morning. It is 10 o' clock now. A time limit was fixed for this. Hon'ble Minister of Parliamentary Affairs had said that it should be fixed if it will be finished at 9 p.m. or 10 p.m. There are several hon'ble Members who were in their respective offices through out the day and have arrived here just now after having their dinner and they have been permitted to make speech, whereas we are sitting here since morning.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR : Who has come after having dinner? ... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please do not interrupt now. ... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : All of us have remained here throughout discussion on price rise started at two o'clock. You have seen how much time has been taken in making the speeches. Several Members did not get opportunity to speak. Please have some patience. After the speech of the hon'ble Member, we will hear the speech of the hon'ble Minister. You should have some patience.

[English]

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR : I was saying, when I was interrupted, that out of a total Non-Plan expenditure of Rs. 2,50,000 crore given in the Budget, the food subsidy amounts to only Rs. 8,000 crore and it takes very little mathematics to find that this means that the food subsidy constitutes a mere 3 per cent of the total Non-Plan expenditure

and yet the Finance Minister describes this as a major significant proportion of the total Non-Plan expenditure.

Sir, if you look at the other way round, what is the fiscal deficit given in this Budget? At para 1.72 of the Finance Minister's speech, it is stated that the total fiscal deficit is Rs. 1,11,275 crore. What is the contribution of the food subsidy? It is Rs. 8,000 crore out of Rs. 1,11,275 crore, which little mathematics shows is equal to about 7 per cent. Ninety three per cent of the fiscal deficit has not been contributed by the food subsidy but by other things. So, 97 per cent of Non - Plan expenditure comes from non-food subsidy items, 98 per cent of the total Government expenditure comes from items other than the food subsidy and 93 per cent of the fiscal deficit is contributed by items other than the food subsidy, and yet in order to protect their fiscal deficit, they are targeting the food subsidy. Is this fair? Is this just? Is this sensible?

Sir, we are faced with a really grave economic situation. The growth rate of the GDP is widely fluctuating. It went up. It went down to 4 per cent in the last year of the last Government. It went up to 6.8 per cent in their first year and it has now fallen to 5.9 per cent. We have an aggravating poverty ratio. I was able to show all statistics last time to indicate that whereas there has been a steep decline in the poverty ratio between early seventies and late eighties, after that, the poverty ratio has been stagnating.

There is a decline in the agriculture growth rate. The total foodgrain increase last year was 0.8 per cent according to themselves Sir, 22 per cent of the Budget of the Agriculture Ministry of 1999-2000 was not spent by this Government. They reduced the Budget of the Agriculture Ministry by 22 per cent between the Budget Estimate and the Revised Estimate. There is a total disaster taking place on food availability because in the course of the nineties, the food availability *per capita* has declined by four per cent whereas the population has grown by 14 per cent.

I have had the occasion in this House in the last two or three days to point out how the entire social security net for the poor, put in place by friends like Shri K. Yerrannaidu, is being reduced to tatters as a result of mal-administration in the course of the last year.

Against this background of the poor suffering on account of several different factors, they choose this time of all times to reduce the food subsidy. Yet, what according to them is the role of the food subsidy? They say at paragraph 5.21 of the Economic Survey, "One of the main constituents of the Government's strategy for poverty alleviation is the Public Distribution System." So, they accept that one of the main components of their scheme of poverty alleviation is the food subsidy. Then they go and attack the food subsidy in this way. Is this the method of promoting poverty alleviation? Who is

[Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar]

responsible for the way in which the entire mismatch between the Minimum Support Price (MSP) and the Central Issue Price (CIP) is being handled? Once again, I am obliged to turn to Table 5.10 of this Economic Survey. It shows that whereas the consumer subsidy per kilogram was reduced in our time for wheat from Rs. 225 to Rs. 172, that is, by Rs. 58 or 21 per cent, and rice was maintained virtually steady. What we have had between 1996 and 1999 is that the wheat subsidy has shot up by Rs. 250 a quintal and the rice subsidy by Rs. 260 a quintal. It is their own inability to maintain the proper balance between the MSP and the CIP that is responsible for a growing food subsidy, which they then say that since we have mismanaged the match between the MSP and the CIP, now the poor must pay the price for this. This is completely unacceptable.

Sir, we have had from Shri Devendra Prasad Yadav, I think, the most eloquent description of the consequences of what they have done for the people who live below the poverty line. But I would urge that since the poverty line is somewhat arbitrarily determined, we look at the National Sample Survey, which has shown that out of the 12 income categories that exist, eight of those categories have an income of under Rs.300 per capita per month; and the poverty line is described as Rs. 226. If you take all these categories together, 80 per cent of the consumers of India are those who have an income which is so low that they have to go to the Public Distribution System. When they go there, if the price of wheat and rice is raised exponentially at one go by these enormous percentages, the consequence is that millions upon millions of Indians whom, with great difficulty, we pulled above poverty line will sink below the poverty line. Therefore, it is not only what has happened to the BPL prices, as explained by Shri Devendra Prasad Yadav, that we need to look at very, very carefully, but there is a large number of poor people who are above the poverty line, whose interests will also have to be looked at. For them, the impact of the increase in PDS prices is so enormous that crore upon crores of Indians who have come above the poverty line are going to be pushed below the poverty line during the course of this year.

The other thing which I must draw attention to is, the more effective your Public Distribution System, the bigger its impact on the open market prices. If your PDS prices are not properly controlled, then your open market prices cannot be properly controlled. As Shri Devendra Prasad Yadav so effectively explained, such a large proportion of BPL purchases have to be from the open market, and APL purchase, of course, also have to be from the open market. If you do not have a proper Public Distribution System, the open market prices are going to spin out of control; it has already begun to happen. So, in two ways, the poor get hit. One, the PDS prices go up; and second, the open market prices go up. Is this the way to reduce the poverty ratio?

Finally, Sir, — and I am saying finally only because you will not give me more time — it is not for me but for the House to take account of the report of the Standing Committee on Food that has just come before us. This is a report not of any one Party but all the Parties of this House represented in the Standing Committee. They have come to this conclusion unanimously. They have said :

"By hiking TPDS prices for the BPL, the Government has actually reduced subsidy, causing further hardships to the poor. The purpose of increasing ration from 10 kg to 20 kg for BPL has been badly defeated due to the exorbitant hike in the price of foodgrains. This is totally beyond their low purchasing power. The aim of the TPDS is defeated when the Government is unable to provide wheat and rice at affordable rates to the poorest of the poor in this country"

Therefore, in the light of the fact that every section of this House; every Party of the Opposition; all Parties of the NDA other than the BJP; and a majority of the BJP, do not believe in the myth that is being spread that the new system is more beneficial to the poor than the old system was, I would appeal to the Government to listen to the voice of the people. The voice of the people is that the prices must be rolled back. We are not prepared to temporise and compromise like some members of the NDA are. We are not prepared to say that in order to remain in power we are willing to allow some increase to take place. Our demand is a total roll back of all the increase in administered prices that had been enforced in the course of the last few weeks.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : Sir, I have risen to speak for two minutes over the plight of farmers. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT (SHAJAPUR) : Sir, I have a point of order under Rule 291 and 292. The time fixed by the Business Advisory Committee has been exhausted much earlier and even the Chair has no such right as to extend the time allotted beyond one hour without the permission of the House. You cannot arbitrarily extend the time beyond one hour without the permission of the House. You should observe the rules, laws and the procedure as the time allotted for all the political parties has been exhausted. Till what time will you make us sit by giving more time to speak to many more Members. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You, please sit down. I am dealing with his point of order. I am reading out rule 291 in which it is mentioned.

[English]

"At the appointed hour, in accordance with the Allocation of Time Order for the completion of a particular stage of a Bill or other business, the Speaker shall forthwith put

every question necessary to dispose of all the outstanding matters in connection with that stage of the Bill or other business."

....(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT : I have mentioned both 291 and 292.(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : See, we have been sitting for so long, now he has said that he will put one question regarding urea. After that, hon. Minister will reply —

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Mr. Minister, how much time will you take?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHANTA KUMAR) : Sir, it will take at least half an hour to reply to the queries of so many Members.(Interruptions)

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT : Sir, my point is valid even under rule 291.(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I gave him permission for two minutes to ask the question related to Urea. A lot of time will be wasted in explaining the procedure. I thought that he has to ask only one question and gave him permission. When you were on a point of order, I read out the rule regarding it. All right, you people are sitting here, we sit in our Chamber and will go through it thoroughly.

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT : It is not that we don't want to listen to his views. But you should run the House by observing the rules and procedure of the House. You should seek the permission of the House to extend the sitting of the House by one hour, I don't have any objection to it. Now the time fixed by the Business Advisory Committee is over. You cannot extend the time of the sitting of the House without taking permission of the House.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You listen, I had taken the permission till the matter is disposed off.

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT : No, you did not.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I will call the hon. Minister. After his speech, you seek clarification.

....(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I am telling if for your

knowledge since you were not present in the House at that time.

[English]

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI (GARHWAL) : The Hon. Speaker has said that Shri Ramdas Athawale is the last speaker.

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You are not aware. When I occupied the Chair so many names were mentioned in the list after Shri Ramdas Athawale.

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : If you are tired, I don't have any objections, I may speak on some other occasion. I don't have any objection over hon. Minister giving reply.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The hon. Minister can give his reply now.

SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM (THANJAVUR) : We want to know Rule 292 for academic interest.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Let me see that. It is stated :

"No variation in the Allocation of Time Order shall be made except on a motion made."

The time was extended till the disposal of this matter. No other matter is taken up. That is ruling. It is already there.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJESH PILOT (DAUSA) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg pardon of my friends for the delay which might have occurred due to my submission. I have come to express my sentiments on two points. Though the meeting of our working committee was to take place, I still managed to reach the House to express my sentiment in this debate taking place over prices of urea. I would like to say that hue and cry being raised in the country over the subsidy that is being given to the farmers is misplaced. In fact, subsidy is not being given to the farmers. Earlier, a scheme was formulated to achieve self-reliance in production of urea. A scheme of incentive was launched which was called gold plating scheme. According to the provisions of this scheme, any factory producing the urea fertilizer to its capacity will get standard rate and it will get upto one and half times to two times rate for the production beyond its capacity. Many plants took advantage of this provision, their capacity was 100 tonnes and on paper it was shown that only 80 tonnes of fertilizer is being produced while

[Shri Rajesh Pilot]

the actual production continued to be 130 tonnes. Thus they continued to get double rate for 50 tonnes. This way thousands of crores of rupees given did not reach the farmers. In fact this money went to the fertilizer plant owners. I would like to know as to whether the Government has made an inquiry into it. I had read a debate in which the hon. Prime Minister had said that the benefits of subsidy are being reaped by the factory owners. As has been said by Shri Devendraji, the burden has increased on farmers and the hon. Minister should admit it. Earlier, the growth rate of our agriculture used to be equal or even higher than the growth rate of our population. Today it is declining. As Aiyar ji has pointed out, a day might come when we will be totally dependent upon foreign countries for fertilizers. Will the hon. Minister give any assurance in this regard? Hanuman Thappa Committee also has made its recommendations in this regard. An inquiry should be conducted into this matter and it should be thoroughly investigated. The farmers are being given a bad name by saying that the subsidy is being given to them. While its true benefit is being taken by 4-5 owners of fertilizer plant.

The price rise of urea has affected common farmers. This feeling is not for the farmer of a particular category but the farmer of all categories have been affected due to it. It will directly affect the crop production. I appeal to you to look into it. We are generally interested in sorting it out. All the Members have been sitting here hungry while it is half past ten in the night and they sincerely want that the prices should be rolled back.

There is also the issue of MSP and CIP. MSP of wheat has been announced at Rs. 580. The wheat is being procured from the farmer at the rate of Rs. 580 per quintal and it is being sold at Rs. 900 per quintal at the same place. Where that difference of Rs. 320 is going? I can accept the difference of 1 rupee and 20 paise which is to be given to the FCI but the difference of Rs. 320 is before the farmers. It is injustice on the part of Government to give Rs. 580 as MSP while to charge Rs. 900 as CIP. You should certainly look into it and revive the MSP formula. We are not in favour of subsidy but it should be better if the farmer gets reasonable price for his produce. You should certainly review this price rise and roll it back after conveying our sentiments to the government.

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHANTA KUMAR) : Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, a lengthy debate has been held over the subject. I thank all the Members who participated in this discussion for giving their suggestions as well as criticising the government in this regard. All the criticism was done on the plea that the government had put a lot of burden on the poor by reducing the subsidy being given to them. It is not correct to assume so. The new arrangement is as constructive in its approach as your criticism is against us. It needs to be comprehended.

Three main things had happened. Firstly the quantity of foodgrains being provided to 33 crore people living below poverty line was doubled from 10 kg. to 20 kg. Secondly the cost of foodgrains was fixed at 50 per cent of the economic cost. Thirdly it was decided not to provide the subsidy to the persons living APL. These decisions have been taken on the basis of the economic deliberations going on for the last three to four years. Though the decision was taken by us, the deliberations were going as for the past three to four years.

Very serious deliberations were held about the issues like PDS and food security during the preparation and finalisation of the document of the Ninth Five Year Plan. The document of Five Year Plan neither belongs to a particular party nor to any government. It is always prepared after a general consensus and is approved by the National Development Council. It should be considered as document of National Consensus. All these issues were discussed in preparing the document. I would like to quote some of these issues. It was mentioned in it that the universal system of PDS did not benefit the poor. It should be converted to targetted PDS and the issue price should be fixed at fifty percent of the economic cost. Deliberations have already taken place over it some years back. I would like to quote two lines of this document :

[English]

"The challenge, however, is to contain the total food subsidy to the minimum necessary by devising a system of targeting so that the subsidies benefit only those sections whom the State wants to protect."

[Translation]

After that I would like to quote :

[English]

"The key to sustainability lies in adhering to the principle of the targeted subsidy system, in particular, the need for confining the subsidy to the BPL families or reducing them and eventually, eliminating them for the APL families."

[Translation]

What we did was to eliminate subsidy on A.P.L. We are being criticised but the entire nation is in favour of it. Thereafter one more thing has been said in that document :

[English]

"The most persistent complaint against the current TPDS is the very low scale of allocation at the rate of 10 kgs. of food grain per BPL family per month; the scale needs to be raised to 20 kgs."

[Translation]

I am telling that we have done it. There is economic thinking behind all these things. Thereafter it has been said :

[English]

"As per the principle enunciated, the BPL families will have to be issued food grains at half the normal price ..."

[Translation]

Please pay attention to it, further it has been defined :

[English]

"...Which should be defined as equal to economic cost of food grains."

[Translation]

I would like to tell that I welcome the criticism levelled against us, but whatever we have done has been done on the basis of the document prepared by the intelligent and learned people who were in the Government at that time. They prepared this document and got it approved. All the three things that we have done are contained in it. If it was wrong then why did you not oppose it at that time? Now you are opposing it whereas the document pertains to Ninth Five Year Plan.

*(Interruptions)**[English]*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Basu Deb Acharia, please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN) : You hear him patiently. You may not agree with him; but that is different. But he has heard you for seven hours. Now do not interrupt him. *...(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI SHANTA KUMAR : I am listening to your continuously for seven hours, you should listen to me too. I would like to tell you as to what is the basis of those three things that we had done. The basis of that was economic thinking and the Five Year Plan. The reasonable economic spirit of that Five Year Plan has been implemented. Now some of our friends have criticised it. It is a fact that when T.P.D.S. was started, the decision at that time was taken by the United Government. Hon'ble Minister of that Government is sitting here. All the hon. Members who were supporting that Government are also sitting before me and I have heard their criticism. The decisions that were taken at that time were that there was a need to streamline this programme and there was a need to change P.D.S. to T.P.D.S. It was a very good decision. At that time, one thing was pointed out in the decision.

[English]

"Access to the PDS will be barred for the affluent section of the society."

[Translation]

Now, if the subsidy for APL has been abolished and sugar will not be supplied to the income tax payees *...(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : You are not able to tolerate one sentence. He tolerated 40 minutes of your speech! *...(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI SHANTA KUMAR : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is really amazing that they do not want to listen to me. My request is that you should listen to me patiently. *...(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Let him complete. Do not interrupt. Let him say what he wants to say. Do not give any running commentary.

[Translation]

SHRI SHANTA KUMAR : I have patiently listened to you for eight hours. I will finish my speech in half an hour and then you may go to your homes. If my points are unpalatable to you, then it is none of my fault. In 1986 the first decision of the then Government was to exclude affluent class from it. We have made a start in this. We have decided not to give subsidy to APL. It was the decision of the then Government. The hon'ble Prime Minister of the then Government had delivered a speech on the 15th August. I would like to quote four lines of that speech.

[English]

"We have now decided to expand in a phased manner the Public Distribution System and to provide up to 10 kgs. of rice and wheat every month to the poor families at half the normal price."

[Translation]

It was the decision which you could not implement. But your decision was that the BPL would be provided foodgrains at half the economic cost. *...(Interruptions)* Now I will not yield at all.

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV : That was half of the normal price.

SHRI SHANTA KUMAR : Hon'ble Prime Minister had told in his speech that 10 kgs. of foodgrains will be provided to the people living below poverty line at half the normal price. I admit that there may be difference of opinion about the normal price. Now let us move ahead, and see one more decision of the same Government.

[English]

"The issue price for the below the poverty line population will be 50 per cent of the economic cost and for the above poverty line population 90 per cent of the economic cost."

[Translation]

Now this 50 per cent of economic cost is BPL rate. This decision was of the then Government which was running with your support and one Minister of that Government is sitting here. ...*(Interruptions)* I am really amazed to find that we are being opposed in this supreme House of the largest democracy of the world simply because ...*(Interruptions)* Thus, my submission is that those three decisions which are accredited to us and for which you criticised us for eight hours, are in fact your decisions and of the then Government which was running with your support. There is not even a single decision that we have taken on our own. So there is no basis for the criticism. We have not done it, you have done it and that Government was running with your support. ...*(Interruptions)*

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (VAISHALI) : 90 per cent of the economic cost was for APL. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHANTA KUMAR : I said that we have increased 10 per cent in 90 per cent for APL and I admit that. But it is fifty per cent for BPL and your main criticism is for BPL. The decision of 50 per cent of the economic cost for BPL is your decision. It is not our decision.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR (MAYILADUTURAI) : Why did you not do it in two years?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN) : Mani Shankar ji it is your good logic. ...*(Interruptions)*

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (VAISHALI) : The rate for APL is six rupees which you have increased to nine rupees. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You are Senior Member of the pannel of Chairmen....*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Hon. Members can ask for clarification after the hon. Minister finishes his speech.

[Translation]

SHRI SHANTA KUMAR : It is my request to the Hon. Members and I feel that. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please give all the details addressing the Chair.

SHRI SHANTA KUMAR : I feel that all the decisions were logical, good and based on economic thinking. Our friends had taken ingenious economic decisions but they had no guts to implement those decisions. It would have been appropriate on their part to appreciate us for implementing those decisions and take credit for the decisions that were taken by them because we have only implemented them. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : This is not the way. You have taken vote against those decisions. Now, you are saying that they are bad. This is very surprising.

[Translation]

SHRI SHANTA KUMAR : I was telling that you had taken logical decisions on the basis of economic thinking and we dared to implement them. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Sir, when we had the mandate and decided for the constitutional review, they told us not to do so. Why did not they remember at that time that we had the mandate. It was in our manifesto. Why did not they recall that we had the mandate. It is strange. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

When we are implementing our manifesto, on which we got vote, you should say it happily. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR : We have always opposed it, we opposed it earlier and now also we are opposing, we had supported the valid points at that time and now also we are on the same stand. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : What is this? Why are you people cross talking?

....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHANTA KUMAR : You never opposed the decision which we have implemented.(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I request the Members, please do not interrupt the Minister.

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU (SRIKAKULAM) : You should leave about the Congress people. You should think about our requests. You should leave the old document and consider the requests made by your allies.

[Translation]

SHRI SHANTA KUMAR : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, in the beginning itself, I have stated that an allegation has been levelled against us that we have reduced the subsidy for the poor people but it is not true. Last year the subsidy was Rs. 5400 crore but this year it has been increased to Rs. 7600 crore. The subsidy given to the people living below the poverty line has not been reduced, rather it has been increased by Rs. 2270 crore. It has been refocused actually. An attempt has been made to divert the subsidy towards poor people. Therefore, there is no truth in the allegation that we have reduced the subsidy. It is being criticised that we have increased the prices but we have increased the quantity also which is not being appreciated. We have made 100% increase in the quantity.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, now it is being stated that poor people have no purchasing power. Among 33% poor people, some are very poor, some are living in the places like Kalahandi etc. If their purchasing power is abysmally low then is it because of us or if it is reduced during the two years, is it because of our regime or has it increased because of us in two years? It is not so.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to mention how the new system is beneficial. A family may require 40 to 50 kgs. of foodgrains, we can assume the minimum requirement of a family of 4 to 5 members as 20 kgs., the quantity less than that would be too less. If a family purchases 20 kgs. of foodgrains in a month, then according to the previous system he has to purchase 10 kgs. of foodgrains at the rate of Rs. 3.50 per kg. at a total cost of Rs. 35/- from fair price shop and the rest of the 10 kgs. he purchases from open market for Rs. 120/- thereby spending a total of Rs. 155/- for 20 kgs. of foodgrains. Now in the present system instead of 10 kg., 20 kgs. of foodgrains will be provided at ration shops but at a higher rate as compared to the earlier rate. It will be provided at the rate of Rs. 5.90/- per kg. and the total cost of 20 kgs. of foodgrains will be Rs. 118/-. That means earlier the amount spent was Rs. 155/- per month but now only Rs. 118/- will be spent to meet the minimum requirement of 20 kgs. Hence in

comparison to the earlier situation, now the family will spend Rs. 37/- less per month. That means every poor family has been provided a relief of at least Rs. 37/- per month. Please appreciate, this gesture on my part. You are also aware that the quantity less than 20 kgs. of foodgrains is not sufficient for a family. Earlier a family was spending Rs. 155/- for 20 kgs. of foodgrains but now it will meet its requirement in Rs. 118/- hence it will get the benefit of Rs. 37/- every month. Foodgrains will be provided on ration cards through Fair Price Shops. This new system has provided a relief of Rs. 37/- per month to every poor family. In this manner a subsidy of Rs. 2270 crore has been given to such poor families, should that subsidy be withdrawn? Under this new system 74 lakh tonnes of foodgrains will be provided to poor families in villages through PDS at cheaper rates. It will provide a benefit of Rs. 2270 crore. Thus a poor family will get a relief of Rs. 37/- per month. I do not understand what our friends want me to withdraw? I request you to appreciate this spirit. In the new system subsidy has not been curtailed, rather it has been refocused. An attempt has been made to provide 74 lakh tonnes of foodgrains to poor people and to give them a monthly relief of Rs. 37/-(Interruptions) Let me complete.(Interruptions) Now it is going to be 11 o'clock.

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, there has been a convention to raise point of information in the House.(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Yadav, you are a senior member.

[English]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV : Sir, I am on point of information.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : If you want to have any clarification, ask it after his completion.

....(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SHANTA KUMAR : It is eleven o'clock, so I want to conclude first.(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : When you were speaking, you had taken 20 minutes.

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV : Sir, I want to have a point of information.(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : If he yields, then only you can speak.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SHANTA KUMAR : Next, I want to say that minimum support price and central issue price should be definitely linked to each other. It is logical and the then Government had taken this decision. Minimum support price has been increased seven times in the last ten years. Minimum support price of wheat has increased by 158 per cent, that of rice by 110 per cent. But issue price did not increase at all. After all how long it will keep on going. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR : Why it has not increased.

SHRI SHANTA KUMAR : Why it did not increase, it is a separate issue that why the Government at that time did not increase it. But it is true that the price was not increased. The rate at which we buy anything ...(Interruptions) There should be some logical relation between the purchase price and which we supply. The farmer should get more money. Every year minimum support price is increased, and it should be increased. But from where all this money will come? It should have some relation at least. Based on this, it is stated in Five Year Plan document that economic cost should be 50 per cent since minimum support price is included in the economic cost. That time it was rightly perceived in Five Year Plan document that it should be 50 per cent of the economic cost. Government took a right decision in 1996 that economic cost should be 50 per cent. I mean to say that there should be some logical relation between minimum support price and the issue price. That time it was a right decision but it was not implemented. We implemented it. We have tried to make it logical.

Charges are being levelled against us that we have put extra burden on the people living above poverty line. The first thing is that a decision was taken at that time, that who are self-dependent don't need subsidy any more. I feel that the class of society which is self-dependent should not try to depend on the mercy of the Government. Our Public Distribution System, which is a food management system, is not meant for all. It can't be for 100 crores people. No Government can fulfil the food related needs of all. It is supplementary to the need of foodgrains and not an alternative. It's supplementary. Even otherwise, we procure only 18 per cent. 82 per cent foodgrain remains with private traders. We can't fulfil all needs. People, who are above poverty line are blaming us that we have snatched something from them and harmed them so much. How much we have harmed them can be judged by the fact that the subsidy we used to provide to 10.50 crore families living above poverty line has been stopped. Thereby, one person loses three rupees in a month. It means, a person living above poverty line can easily bear our new system if he avoids merely one cup of tea

in a month. Even then, there is a hue and cry. We have given 2270 crore rupees to 33 crore of people living below the poverty line. We've given them a relief of rupees 37 a month. We have supplied 74 lac tons of foodgrains to them. We have asked the people living above poverty line, see you are self-dependent, so kindly forget the relief of rupees three per month being provided to you by us. This is what we have done.

That our communist friends are sitting there. Earlier, they used to say take from the rich and give to the poor. Kindly appreciate us because we have done somewhat in this direction. One more thing has been said that we purchase at rupees 580 and sell at rupees 900. Some of the friends said that FCI's economic cost is more. Even, I accept that the economic cost appears to be more. But we are trying to find out. We are conducting a study for taking expert opinion. But if the economic cost is more it does not mean that it has increased after we have come to power. Even, earlier it was more. It was more while your Government was in power. I am not depending it. I accept your suggestion that the economic cost of FCI should be reduced. I accept it, but one thing. ...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Raghuvansh ji, please give complete reply, then you may enquire.

SHRI SHANTA KUMAR : Government is trying as to how to reduce economic cost. In fact, major portion of it consists of taxes levied in market. The reason is that private traders procure directly from the farmers and they don't pay all the taxes. I myself have tried to look into each aspect and I understand that we procure at rupees 580 and after taking into consideration other expenses it comes to rupees 900. It looks too much. We are looking into it. We are conducting studies and obtaining expert opinion to find out as to how much it can be reduced. We will see to it and would try to reduce it. Other issue being raised is that market prices are likely to be increased because of increase in prices for BPL under PDS. There is no truth in it. One reason is that we are minor player in this field and we procure only 18 per cent, 82 per cent stock stays outside. Its prices have increased twice w.e.f. 1st April. Market prices have not increased but on the contrary these are decreasing. I assure you about this apprehension.

I want to make one more request. Our friends in the Congress criticised us so much over price rise. They spoke in favour of BPL and poverty line and said a lot. Sir, I was going through the records that when the Congress Government left office, at what price the people living below poverty line were sold foodgrains. You were selling at rupees 402. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR (MAYILADUTURAI) : Not for RPDS blocks. 1175 RPDS blocks had been given Rs. 50 a quintal less. This is the way the Finance Minister tried to mislead us in the debate on the General Budget. So, I have checked it up. Please check up what happened with the RPDS blocks.

[Translation]

SHRI SHANTAKUMAR : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, there was no below poverty line at that time. That time what you were giving to all ...*(Interruptions)* You, please listen. The rate prevailing before introduction of below poverty line was the price prevailing at ration shop. 33 crore people used to come to ration shop and buy wheat at rupees 4.02 a kg. Today there is hue and cry when the price is fixed at 4.50 rupees. Six years ago, you were selling at 4.02 rupees a kg. I would like to tell you one more thing that rice was sold at rupees 290 in 1990 and you increased it to rupees 537 in 1994. When the Congress left office, rice had sold at rupees 537. Within four years you increased the price from rupees 290 to 537. You raised the price of rice for poor by rupees 247 within four years.

23.00 hrs.

Then the poor people were not affected. The wheat which was sold at rupees 280 in 1990, you raised it to rupees 402 in 1994. Like wise, you raised the price of wheat by rupees 122 for the poor. Whether poor people were not affected at that time. We have increased only rupees 53 on rice and rupees 48 on wheat, and you are criticising us. There was so much price rise during your tenure, and the price kept on increasing whereas today you are criticising us.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of this House towards one more important issue. An important point was made in Ninth Five Year Plan. We have tried to improve upon under new arrangement. It was stated in that document.

[English]

"Another fall out of the universal PDS has been that the States with the highest incidence of poverty, viz. Orissa, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh are the ones whose *per capita* PDS off-take has been the lowest. It thus became clear that the PDS, which existed till recently, did not serve the poor well, especially in the poorer States. In view of the mounting food subsidy in recent years, coupled with the fact that the PDS did not reach the poor, a view has emerged that the universal coverage of the PDS is neither sustainable nor desirable."

[Translation]

I would like to give one more example. What was the condition in three States under Old System. In Bihar, population of APL is 7.56 per cent of country's total APL. Whereas only 1.38 per cent subsidy was given. That old system was much more harmful to the State which had maximum number of poor people. Similarly, in Uttar Pradesh APL population was 14.9 per cent but 5.70 per cent subsidy was paid. In case of M.P., APL was 7.09 per cent whereas only 1.65 per cent subsidy was paid. In the same way in Orissa, APL was 9.26 per cent whereas only 3 per cent subsidy was paid. We abolished that and by giving double ration ultimately we have given more subsidy to the poor. So try to understand our sentiments. Under BPL some States used to take 80-90% of allotted ration. But under APL many poor States did not take. Therefore, old system was harmful for poor States. If we calculate the poor States suffered a loss worth crores of rupees.

Under new system we have doubled the quantity. Where poor population is more, those States will get double ration. Earlier, it was contradictory in case of poor States where BPL population was more. We have tried to abolish that under new system.

Many things have been mentioned here and I feel that I should not explain them separately since I have taken time. I have spoken on main items. Hence, if I reply every point it will take much time. We have talked about price rise. Mr friend in the Congress party have talked about price-rise. Today the price index is lowest at 2.9 per cent in the last ten years. I want to remind my friends in the Congress party that it was 10.3 per cent in 1990-91. At that time you did not think of the poor. The price index was 13.7 per cent in 1991, and 10.1 per cent in 1992-93. Then price-rise was so much. Today it is minimum at 2.9 per cent. ...*(Interruptions)* You would argue that food items are not included in it. The inflation in case of foodstuff, which casually remains at 10-11 per cent is minimum 6 percent. Therefore, there is no truth in the hue and cry which is being made in the name of price-rise.

Sir, now I want to tell only one thing that we have given an additional subsidy of rupees 2270 crores to 33 crores people. We have given them 74 lacs tons of foodgrains and per family we also gave a relief of rupees 37. For APL category we had given a relief of rupees three per month. Hence, taking everything into consideration, the new decision is logical, right and also based on economic consideration. I would request my friends, who have demanded it's withdrawal, that they should withdraw their illogical criticism. ...*(Interruptions)* This decision is in public interest and logical also. With these words I thank you.

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIYA (BANKURA) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Minister has not agreed to our proposal to roll back the increase in the prices of foodgrains, fertilisers and other essential commodities. So, we are walking out.

23.06 hrs.

At this stage, Shri Basu Deb Acharia and some other hon. Members left the House.

SHRI RAJESH PILOT (DAUSA) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Government has not agreed to review or reconsider

the decision to increase the prices of foodgrains, fertilisers and other essential commodities. So, we are walking out in protest.

23.07 hrs.

At this stage, Shri Rajesh Pilot and some other hon. Members left the House.

23.07 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Friday, April 28, 2000/Vaisakha 8, 1922 (Saka)

Corrigenda to Lok Sabha Debates
(English Version)

Thursday, April 27, 2000/Vaisakha 7, 1922 (Saka)

...

<u>Col./line</u>	<u>For</u>	<u>Read</u>
70/3	5075	5057
151/11 Arunachal Pradesh	11.56	11.55
258/10 Sales ..& Services	1260.30	1261.30

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