Thirteenth Series, Vol. V, No. 14

Monday, March 13, 2000
Phalguna 23, 1921 (Saka)

LOK SABHA DEBATES

(English Version)

Third Session

(Thirteenth Lok Sabha)

सत्यमेव जयते

(Vol. V contains Nos. 11 to 20)

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LOK SABHA

Monday, March 13, 2000/Phalguna 23, 1921 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

OBITUARY REFERENCES

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members, I have to inform the House of the sad demise of five of our former colleagues Sarvashri Tulshidas Jadhav, Naresh Chandra Chaturvedi, Shiv Narayan Tandon, Mohendra Ngangom and Bapulal Malviya.

Shri Tulshidas Jadhav was a Member of Third and Fourth Lok Sabha representing Nanded and Baramati Parliamentary Constituencies of Maharashtra from 1962 to 1970.

Earlier, Shri Jadhav was a Member of erstwhile Bombay Legislative Assembly during 1937 to 1940 and 1946 to 1957. He also served as Member of various regional developmental bodies in his home State.

An able parliamentarian, Shri Jadhav was a Member of the Committee on Draft Third Five Year Plan.

An agriculturist by profession, Shri Jadhav had to suffer imprisonment during pre-Independence on account of actively participating in the National Movement.

An active social and political workers, Shri Jadhav worked relentlessly for the upliftment of Scheduled Castes/ Scheduled Tribes and other backward communities.

Shri Tulshidas Jadhav died on 11th September, 1999 at Mumbai at the age of 94.

Shri Naresh Chandra Chaturvedi was a Member of Eighth Lok Sabha from 1984 to 1989 representing Kanpur Parliamentary Constituency of Uttar Pradesh.

A man of letters, Shri Chaturvedi ably served as a Member of Kanpur University Executive Council and Khadi Commission Services Board. He also served as the Chairman of Recognition Committee Secondary Education Council, Uttar Pradesh.

An active social and political worker, Shri Chaturvedi was associated with various social, literary and academic institutions. A literature, he edited and published several books. He also attended the World Peace Conference in Helsinki (Finland).

Shri Naresh Chandra Chaturvedi passed away on 29th November, 1999 at the age of 72 at Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh.

Shri Shiv Narayan Tandon was a Member of First Lok Sabha from Kanpur Parliamentary Constituency of Uttar Pradesh from 8th May to 27th August, 1954.

A veteran freedom fighter, Shri Tandon had to suffer imprisonment several times. He worked relentlessly for the cause of labourers.

An active political and social worker, Shri Tandon held the office of Deputy Mayor of Kanpur Municipal Committee. He worked in association with distinguished public luminaries like Shri Vinoba Bhave and Dr. Rajendra Prasad. He also actively participated in Shri Vinoba Bhave's 'Bhoodan Movement'.

Shri Tandon Was adored by the natives of Kanpur city and was known for being soft-spoken and caring.

Shri Shiv Narayan Tandon passed away on 26th December, 1999 at the age of 96 at Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh.

Shri Mohendra Ngangom was a Member of Seventh Lok Sabha representing Inner Manipur Parliamentary Constituency of Manipur from 1980 to 1984.

An advocate by profession, Shri Ngangom was a lecturer in L.M.S. Law College in Imphal in 1969.

An an active political and social worker, Shri Ngangom had to suffer rigorous imprisonment for 21 years in the Manipur Communist Conspiracy case of 1951. He attended the World Development Conference held in Hungary in 1976.

Shri Mohendra Ngangom passed away on 20th February, 2000 at Nagamapal, Imphal at the age of 75.

Shri Bapulal Malviya was a Member of Eighth Lok Sabha representing Shajapur Parliamentary Constituency of Madhya Pradesh from 1984 to 1989.

Earlier, Shri Malviya was a Member of Madhya Pradesh Legislative Assembly from 1952 to 1966; 1970 to 1976; and 1980 to 1984. He served his State as Minister of State for Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and Forest Department during 1983-84. He also served as Chairman of the Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and as Member of the Committee on Abolition of Untouchability and Public Accounts Committee in the Madhya Pradesh Legislative Assembly.

An agriculturist by profession, Shri Malviya was an active social and political workers. He worked relentlessly for the upliftment of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

Shri Bapulal Malviya Passed away on 29th February, 2000 at the age of 71. We deeply mourn the loss of these friends and I am sure the House will join me in conveying our condolences to the bereaved families.

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

11.04 hrs.

The Members then stood in silence for a short while.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Q.No. 241. Shri Radhakrishnan.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : Raghuvanshji, not during the Question Hour.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing should go on record except what Shri Radhakrishnan says.

*(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Mulayam Singhji, I will listen to you after Question Hour, not during Question Hour.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV (Sambhal) : We want time. You please tell us.

MR. SPEAKER : Whatever you want to say, say it during Zero Hour not in Question Hour.

[English]

This is not a good precedent.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : It is not proper to discuss everything in Question Hour.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I will certainly listen to you but only during Zero Hour after the Question Hour is over.

(Interruptions)

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*Not recorded.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Mulayam Singhji I am making an appeal to you that I shall listen to you in Zero Hour, but not in Question Hour.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I am making an appeal to you. Please tell me for how many days will you disturb the House.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : Until I get justice.

MR. SPEAKER : You will get the chance to speak in Zero Hour not in Question Hour. Why are you creating disturbance.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Raghuvansh Prasad Singh, this is too much.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : It is not proper to interrupt like this during Question Hour.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Mulayam Singh, you are an elderly man and a senior leader too. I am appealing to you. This is not good.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seat. When the Chair is trying to say something, you are not allowing him to speak. This is not a good precedent.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : I was given permission by the Chair but afterwards I was not allowed to speak.

MR. SPEAKER : I will give you permission to speak during Zero Hour and not in Question Hour.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : I was given permission to speak but was not allowed to speak.

MR. SPEAKER : I am making an appeal to you that I will give you a chance to speak during Zero Hour.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I am again appealing to you. Please understand. This is not the way to run the House.

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : I was permitted by the Chair to speak but. . . .*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : There are 544 Members in this House. They are also feeling.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : I am telling you that you will be given an opportunity to speak in Zero Hour, but not in Question Hour.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Mulayam Singh, please cooperate with the Chair. You are a senior Member.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : You can speak in Zero Hour. Please understand. You will certainly be given a chance but not now.

(Interruptions)

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : Sir, I want to say that you fix the date and time and I shall have no objection. . . .*(Interruptions)* I was permitted by the Chair to speak but treasury benches did not allow me to speak. . . . *(Interruptions)*

[English]

Mr. Speaker : You please sit down.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : You have repeatedly said that I would be given a chance to speak. . . . *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Raghuvanshji, first you please sit down.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : You please sit down.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali) : The governor is not being removed. . . .*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Raghuvansh Prasad Singh, this is too much. For the last two weeks, you have been stalling the proceedings of the House. Nothing should go on record except Shri Radhakrishnan.

*(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : Remove the Governor . . .*(Interruptions)* First of all the Governor should be removed from there. . . .*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav, I am again appealing to you. Please understand. After Question Hour, I will definitely allow you. You can say whatever you want to say at that time.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : Raghuvanshji, first you please sit down.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing should go on record.

*(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : Mulayam Singhji, please sit down.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members take your seats. This is not the way.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Sir, naturally, we are also very keen that the normal business should go on. . . .*(Interruptions)* Shri Advani, This is the way your Members want us to go. . . .*(Interruptions)*

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*Not recorded.

[Translation]

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA (Delhi Sadar) : Sir, first they will give vent to their feelings and then they will make noise. . . .*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : He is assisting the Chair. He is not speaking.

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA : Sir, I am on point of order.

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : Sir, Somnathji is the leader of his party and they are not allowing him to speak. This is not the way. . . .*(Interruptions)* We want only the date and time, you only tell this much. . . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : I have called the name of Somnath Babu, you please sit down.

[English]

SHRI PRAKASH PARANJPE (Thane) : Sir, they have already wasted 20 days of the august House. They think we do not know any procedure of the august House because we are juniors. . . .*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI VINAY KATIYAR (Faizabad) : Has he given the notice, if he has given the notice then you must give him a chance. . . .*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Sir, in view of the developments that have taken place, there is a change in the situation. I was requesting, let the Question Hour continue but I am also requesting you earnestly to let us know when you will be allowing a discussion on this very vital subject. You kindly indicate this, so that we can carry on the normal business. . . .*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI VINAY KATIYAR : But in that let there be a discussion on Bihar and Bengal also.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : What is wrong in this ? The Government has to realise because of the changing situation. What has happened in Bihar ? Even after that they are showing their face. . . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Chatterjee. the notices are under my consideration and I will give my ruling also. Please allow me to continue with the Question Hour.

(Interruptions)

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

World Bank Report on Power Sector

*241. SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the World Bank in its recent report on India's power sector says that "India's Power Sector policies are environmentally harmful and financially unsustainable";

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

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF POWER AND MINISTER OF MINES AND MINERALS (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

(a) and (b) The World Bank has published a document entitled "Meeting India's future power needs", in October, 1999 which states that without significant changes in power policy, by the year 2015,

(i) India will be producing SO2, Nox particulate emissions and ash at three times the current levels.

(ii) Ash disposal facilities around power plants will require one square metre of land per person.

(iii) Carbon-di-oxide emissions will be 775 million metric tons per year as compared with 1000 million metric tons per year produced by power generation in the entire European Union.

The document further states that price for electricity is distorted and that some sections of society are provided with electricity well below the costs of production. This practice leads to waste of electricity and also impairs the finances of the State electricity boards. The poor financial condition of the State electricity boards makes it difficult to invest in new plants and maintain existing plants properly, especially environmental control equipment not essential to plant operation.

(c) The Government does not agree with the conclusions sought to be projected in the document in respect of the environmental issues. The extrapolation of the projection for the entire country on the basis of studies conducted only in the States of Bihar and Andhra Pradesh is inappropriate and unreliable. The per capita emissions of carbon dioxide in India are between one tenth and one twentieth of the per capita carbon dioxide emissions in developed countries. The Government is fully conscious of preserving the environment and has taken adequate measures to contain environmental degradation. Devel-

oped countries have already taken a disproportionate share of the carrying capacity of the atmosphere and their percapita energy consumption is ten to twenty times that of developing countries. Our energy generation and consumption has to increase for improving incomes and the basic quality of life. India has vast reserves of coal and the same have to be gainfully utilised for meeting the countries power needs. All power plants are established after obtaining full environmental clearance. The NTPC has obtained ISO 14001 certification for environmental management system for its stations at Ramagundam and Dadri and is going in for the same in other stations also. The Government is also committed to promoting efficiency and the use of most efficient generating plants and pollution control technologies is bound to reduce the level of emissions. The efforts of energy conservation including demand side management will also reduce demand. The Fly Ash Mission is doing extensive work on optimum fly ash utilisation.

The Government is seized of the problem of the financial viability of the State Electricity Boards and has consequently focussed on the issue of reforms over the last two years. The Electricity Regulatory Commissions Act, 1998 has been enacted to enable the establishment of a Central Electricity Regulatory Commission and State Electricity Regulatory Commissions, rationalisation of electricity tariff, transparent policies regarding subsidies and promotion of efficient and environmentally benign policies. The Central Electricity Regulatory Commission was set up in 1998 and State Commissions have also been set up in 14 States. Power Ministers' Conference was convened on 26.2.2000 and a text of the resolutions at this conference inaugurated by the Prime Minister is enclosed as Annexure.

ANNEXURE

Resolutions of the Chief Ministers/Power Ministers Conference held on 26.02.2000

The Power Ministers' Conference took note of the impending difficult situation facing the power supply industry in the country due to continuing decline in commercial viability of the sector as a whole. It noted the fact that :-

1. Outstanding dues of CPSUs have been increasing and have now reached Rs. 23,000 crores. This trend if maintained would adversely affect their current operations apart from inhibiting their future expansion plans.

2. Financial closure for private power projects is becoming increasingly difficult.

3. The States are unable to finance new projects on their own.

4. Increases in budgetary support from State Governments as well as central Government for this sector is not feasible due to fiscal deficits.

II. The primary factors responsible for this unsustainable financial situation are :

(i) Theft and pilferage at the macro level are estimated to be over Rs. 20,000 crores per annum.

(ii) Technical losses in transmission and distribution for the country are also too high.

(iii) Large number of the thermal stations in the State sector run at an operational efficiency of less than 40%.

(iv) The average annual operational losses of the State Power Sector for the country is over as 12,000 crores.

III. It was also recognised that the cross subsidies cannot be sustained if industrial tariffs make Industry non-competitive in the new environment of increasing globalisation with elimination of quantitative and other restrictions. It becomes necessary to ensure that Indian Industry is not handicapped by unsatisfactory power supply or by tariff which makes it non-competitive. Further, the consumer, including the farmer has a legitimate claim for uninterrupted good quality power supply. His willingness to pay reasonable costs is underestimated.

RESOLUTIONS

1. The Power Ministers' resolved after taking into account all the problems facing the power sector, that with the intention of achieving commercial viability and providing power at reasonable rate to all, reform must be undertaken with determination, vigor and a sense of urgency. Delay in reform only increases the financial cost of reforms, and the burden of liabilities only increases. Reforms must begin to show results within the next 2-3 years. The key elements of the reform strategy are :-

a. Energy Audit at all levels.

b. Time-bound programme of 100% metering of all consumers by December 2001.

c. Reduction and finally, elimination of power theft within a specified time frame.

d. Strengthening/upgradation of sub-transmission and distribution system by taking sub-station as an unit on a priority basis.

2. If the above appears unattainable in the existing set up corporatization/cooperatization/privatization of distribution, would have to be undertaken.

3. Since a large number of thermal stations within the State sector are running at a PLF below 4%, immediate Renovation and Modernisation including Life Extension would need to be undertaken on an urgent basis. Similarly, R and M/LE would require to be undertaken for old hydel power plants on priority.

4. Effective functioning of State Electricity Regulatory Commissions is essential for rationalization of tariff, and balancing the interests of the consumer and the need for commercial viability of the utilities in the environment where private sector participation in the industry is expected to gradually increase.

5. Unbundling and corporatization of State Electricity Boards/bench-marking through separate distribution profit centres/corporations/companies may facilitate the Regulatory Commissions in promoting competition within the power supply industry – competition being the key to lower prices.

6. It was noted that the power system network in country has an unmatched reach to consumers and with the installation of optic fibre cables along the existing power lines using its right of way, it has the potential of generating very large resources in the coming years by providing facilities for multipurpose communication including cable TV, IT services, Telecom services etc. Hence efforts need to be made to creatively tap this potential source of large revenue from convergence.

7. In order to promote reforms, a new draft central legislation which obviates the need for separate enactments for the States, is being considered. The draft Bill submitted by the NCAER would from the basis for a national debate and a consensus on the contents of the new Bill. The States would be sending their detailed comments on this draft Bill, to the Ministry of Power at the earliest.

MR. SPEAKER : Please sit down. Now Shri Radhakrishnan will speak.

(Interruptions)

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : Sir, even after the establishment of Central Regulatory Board and the State Board, it is seen from the report that we are losing Rs. 20,000 crore due to pilferage and theft. We are also losing Rs. 12,000 crore due to operational losses. The dues from the public sector undertakings are Rs. 23,000 crore. This is the financial position. It has also been stated that the Central and State Governments are not giving budgetary support. So, in such situation, the financial crisis is much more worse and all the Electricity Boards and State Boards are running at a loss. The Central Board is also facing financial crisis. I would say that the assessment of the World Bank is found to be true in spite of the fact that we have passed a legislation bringing privatisation in this sector in 1998. The position has not changed and because of this policy we could not even maintain the environment. Its harms are now being experienced. In comparison to other developed nations, we are not doing anything in the field of environment.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Radhakrishnan, the Minister will reply all the questions. Please ask your question.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : Now what you have to say in furtherance of this position ? Is it not a clear vindication of the position taken by the World Bank ? What have you to say ?

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM : Sir, the question is with regard to a recent report of the World Bank. Generally it is on India's environmental issues. Sir, with regard to India's power sector policy, a statement has been made which has been extracted. It says that India's power sector policies are environmentally harmful and financially unsustainable. Sir, I beg to differ with the statement and we believe it is wrong. We have given a detailed written answer and the hon. Member would notice that we have a far better track record today than our counterparts in the developed countries. Just to give a simple example of figures, today India's per capita emission of CO2 in tonnes is 0.8 while it is 19.5 for the case of United States. The ratio of difference is so large. In fact, if one looks at it, the amount of pollution both in CO2 and PPL that the developed countries have today, is somewhere in the region of 10 to 20 times of what we have. But that does not mean we run away from the issue of environmental degradation which is a major issue. We have actually made sure through the policy issued by the Ministry of Environmental that we will be using washed coal in all plants which are 1000 kilometres from the pithead. In fact, we are now preferring to use washed coal in almost all our plants as it is commercially more viable. We are also using electrostatic precipitators to reduce PPM levels. We are insisting that by June, 2000 the ash content should be reduced to 34 per cent by means of beneficiation. We are also ensuring through a fly-ash mission that we are able to utilise the fly-ash. At the moment only five to seven per cent of our fly-ash is utilised. But, we have to achieve ten to fifteen per cent in a couple of years because we are introducing fly ash in cement plants, in aggregated concrete, etc. These are the various schemes which have come in. It is not fair on the part of the hon. Member to

say that this report is correct in that sense of the term. Today the amount of pollution levels the developed countries have achieved is so high that we are the only ones who are left to control the pollution of the world we wish to live in. One thing that we wish to make clear is that coal is our fuel and that is the cheapest fuel that we have. Our coal does not have much sulphur. We have very low sulphur. We have high ash. But this ash can be utilised and we will be utilising it.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : From the answer it is seen that our thermal plants are having an operational capacity of 40 per cent only, according to the Conference which you had with the State Ministers. As the final remedy the Government had suggested that they would propose a draft central legislation and that before that legislation is put before Parliament, the matter would be discussed with the States concerned. I would like to know as to how far it has been discussed; whether the State Governments have been properly consulted; whether their opinions have been obtained; and what is the present state of the decision of bringing a central legislation to accelerate your so called reform process.

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM : Actually a draft Bill was prepared on our request by the National Council of Applied Economic Research. A copy of the draft Bill was given at the Power Ministers' Conference which was held on 26th of February this year. They have requested time to give their reactions. Initially the date was fixed for 11th. Now it has been fixed for the 16th when representatives of the State Electricity Boards and the State Governments will come. We are not pushing things. We are waiting for their consent because we believe the requirement is of consensus on this matter. There is no politics involved. It is a matter of developing consensus dealing with a very critical sector of our economy.

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : Hon'ble Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to know from the Government regarding the meeting of the Chief Ministers and the Power Ministers of States held on 26th February, 2000 under the Chairmanship of the hon'ble Prime Minister. A number of important decisions were taken in that meeting regarding State Electricity Boards, supply of electricity and especially about power theft and leakage. What steps are going to be taken by the Government in future regarding implementation of those decisions? Moreover, through various regulatory authorities, State Electricity Boards were to be divided into three parts. As a result thereof several states faced the situation of strike. What is the attitude of the Government in this regard? Hon'ble Minister, please clarify it.

[English]

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM : I have attacned a copy of the Resolutions passed at the meeting of the Power Ministers' Conference to the answer. But, I would still like to address the question.

MR. SPEAKER : This is a question relating to the World Bank report on power sector.

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the world Bank has mentioned about financial unsustainability. The financial position of the State Electricity Boards is very poor. What steps are going to be taken by the Government to remove the financial unsustainability, to eliminate the chances of power theft, to improve the power supply, to provide power at reasonable rates and to recover the entire outstanding dues?

[English]

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM : The World Bank report deals with both environmental issues as well as the financial position of the power sector. That is why we have attached the Resolutions passed in the Power Minister's Conference to the answer. But, I would like to expand and say that it was decided by the Power Ministers that by December, 2001, a hundred per cent metering of all consumers would be done. It was also decided that we would do reduction and finally eliminate power theft within a specified timeframe. Each State is drawing up its own timeframe and intimating us.

Some States are in a rather bad situation and some are not in such a bad situation on the issue of power theft. We are giving special subsidised finance as well as grant for renovation and modernisation of power plants whose PLF is in a bad situation and we need to do it in order to ensure that the PLF improves. On the overall situation in the Power Minister's Conference, there was a collective decision and consensus that we have to address revenue issues very sharply, reduce the technical losses very sharply, improve our PLF and efficiency as well as address the environmental issues. I can assure the House that the Power Ministers, irrespective of which party is in power in the State, are very conscious and all of us together are addressing these issues. We are aware of the problem and we are conscious of it.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Mr. Speaker Sir, may I know from the hon. Minister that when the Report of the World Bank on this issue came specially in relation to environment, did the Minister take it up with the Ministry of Environment and Forests to know their view in this regard? If so, what was their observation? It is because

of the high ash content in coal, wherever the power plants are located, till now they are under the control of the States or the NTPC. It is a fact that several mass memoranda were sent and I can quote at least one power plant where I have travelled many times, namely the Kolaghat Thermal Power Plant. All the ponds nearby are silted and the local inhabitants made complaints after complaints about it. Even the children feel suffocated after dark. Therefore, will the Minister inform the House as to whether the Ministry of Environment and Forest at the Centre agree with your observation on the norm prescribed in the Report that was published by the World Bank to maintain the environment level in the power plants in line with the policy of the Ministry of Environment and Forests at the Centre ? This is the only point on which I would like to know because the information that I gathered is that the Ministry of Environment and Forests is very strict in this regard while the Ministry of Power is making. . . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Now the Minister will give the information.

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM : The issue, if I may say so, is firstly this. The Report was produced by the World Bank in October, 1999. The second issue is not whether we are maintaining or not maintaining it but the issue is, the policies of the Indian power sector are environmentally harmful and financially unsustainable. It is the policy which is being targeted and not the implementation. It is the policy where we disagree. On the implementation part of it, I can say this much that there are many thermal Power Plant – it is desired – which should adopt the rules and regulations which have been laid down by the Ministry of Environment and Forests and the Pollution Control Boards both in the centre and in the States. I have brought it to the notice of the Power Ministers. They are very conscious of it and under the R and M programme, we are giving grants to ensure that modern equipments would be used for better environmental operations – if I may use those words – including reducing PPM, handling ash, disposing ash and reducing carbon dioxide. There are grants available. There are subsidised interest loans available. The State Governments and SEBs are today actively aware of the problem. It is my belief that they will start addressing the issue.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Sir, I need your protection. I asked whether the Ministry of Environment and Forests agreed with the Report of the World Bank or not. That was my question but he has not answered it.

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM : Sir, I think this will need a notice. This is a specific question on which a notice would have to be given by the hon. Member.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Sudip Bandyopadhyay,

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI : Sir, there is a Question against my name on a very similar nature. In case you allow me, I may ask a question.

MR. SPEAKER : What is the Question Number ?

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI : It is Q. No. 250 which is of a very similar nature. If you allow me, I may ask a couple of questions.

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY : Sir, though the question is sharp, the Minister's reply is broad-based. The Minister has very categorically stated that the Government does not agree with the conclusions sought to be projected in the document in respect of the issue of environment. Once the Government categorically says that Government does not agree to it, the matter ends. It is given in the very first page. Shri Dasmunsi has asked whether the Government agrees to it or not and the Minister has said that the Government does not agree to it. It is a broad reply. He has mentioned about the functioning of the State Electricity Board in a bigger way. My question is very categorical in other respects. The hon. Minister has already replied this question going out of the way saying which are the State Electricity Boards which are financially viable and which are the State Electricity Boards which are making losses. I want to know from the hon. Minister one thing. Of course, a few State Electricity Boards are making very good profit. The State Electricity Boards of Maharashtra, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and some others are doing well. But the West Bengal State Electricity Board is having an accumulated loss of more than Rs. 1000 crore so far as the functioning of the State Electricity Board is concerned. I would like to know whether the Central Government is going to take over any State Electricity Board. I would also like to know whether any assistance is being extended to the loss-making State Electricity Boards by the Central Government. That is my very categorical question.

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM : The question seems to be nearly specific. West Bengal's loss during the year 1998-99 was Rs. 553.1 crore. . . .*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Though it is not related to the main question, he has got a ready answer. Such responses should be there in future in respect of other States also. . . .*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM : I will just pass on the book to him. . . .*(Interruptions)* Actually, the senior Member is charging me. But the credit really goes to the officers who are helping me to answer this question. He

has passed on the book to me quickly. Otherwise, I was about to ask for a notice. I wish to assure the hon. Member one thing. . . .*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : He is a very obliging Minister !. . .*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRAKASH PARANJPE : Sir, it shows how the State run by the Communist Government is working. . . .*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM : Sir, senior Members are allowed to comment. But then, let them allow me to answer also.

If I may submit, the West Bengal State Electricity Board is not in that bad state as many people think it to be. In fact, the Andhra Pradesh State Electricity Board, which was considered to be a very good Board, is actually making a loss of Rs. 1011.04 crore. It is only the Maharashtra State Electricity Board which has a plus factor of Rs. 196.5 crore in 1998-99. . . .*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRAKASH PARANJPE : Very good.

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM : But in this year, I am sorry to say that the Maharashtra State Electricity Board itself may have to report not a very good balance sheet unless they improve their losses due to T and D problem. We have a programme. . . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Member Shri Paranjpe, please understand that while sitting in your seat, speaking is not good. This is too much.

SHRI PRAKASH PARANJPE : I am proud of my State. What is wrong in mentioning that ? They are spending the money in a proper way. Others are not doing it. We are doing it. . . .*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM : I think the House has not still come to settle to transact normal business. . .*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : This is one method of the Question Hour being spoiled. . . .*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRAKASH PARANJPE : We have learnt it from the senior-most and best Parliamentarians as to how to behave in the House !. . .*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY : We appreciate the Minister for giving a very perfect reply. . . .*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM : Sir, may I seek your permission to answer this question ?. . .*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRAKASH PARANJPE : Why is the hon. Member interrupting when the hon. Minister is answering ? We are listening to the hon. Minister. . . .*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM : I cannot tell him. I can tell you. That is also wrong. Now, I request you to keep quiet. . . .*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRAKASH PARANJPE : We are protecting the hon. Minister.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : He can look after himself.

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM : If I may submit, Andhra Pradesh is one of the State which has taken to reforms seriously. . . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : No cross talk is allowed. What is this ? This is too much.

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM : If they want to hear me, I will answer. If they do not want to hear, I do not have to reply.

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Minister, I am asking you to address the Chair. Do not address the Members.

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM : If I may submit, Andhra Pradesh is one of the States which has gone in for reforms seriously. In fact, one of the reasons why the accounts look so bad is because when you do reform, actually the reality comes out.

We have found this in Orissa; we have found this in Uttar Pradesh; and we have found this in Haryana that whenever reform takes place if you look at the accounts carefully the reality of the losses come up, and often, most of the accounts which got covered up come out in the open. In fact, what we call today as T and D losses are in the region of about 23 per cent nationally. When we do reform properly and do our accounting properly we may land up with 35-40 per cent ultimately. We have found so in almost all our reforming States. This is a serious issue because it looks bad as it is but when we do the proper accounting, it gets even worse and that is a serious situation. We have said that any of the States which go into reform process, not necessarily the reform model we are suggesting but any model they think proper need to look at the accounting issue and sort out the problems. We are there to standby, to become their advocate, give them what monies are available with us, and get them more money from all possible sources to see that they pull out of the bad financial situation.

SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, this particular subject pertains to the State of Bihar where

today we talk of all kinds of problems that is besetting Bihar. The main problem to which I want to draw the attention of the hon. Speaker is that, in 1989 the Congress Government had decided to give us a super-thermal power station as a package for the growth and the development of Bihar. In the process we lost a very important super thermal power station in Nabi Nagar, in Aurangabad. The hon. Minister is aware of it. I would request him, through you, Sir, that since there is a large scale unemployment and naxalite problem, this super-thermal power station was suddenly picked up from Nabi Nagar, which falls in my parliamentary constituency, and was taken away to Barh, an area which I am afraid has less water, less coal. In the case of the super-thermal power station in Nabi Nagar, Aurangabad, we had water.

MR. SPEAKER : Madam, please understand that this question relates to the World Bank report on power sector.

(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH : Yes, Sir, I am coming to that. It is concerned with the World Bank, because the World Bank could be of help to this particular project in Nabi Nagar, Aurangabad. I would request the hon. Minister to kindly pay heed to it.

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM : This project in Nabi Nagar was supposed to be an IPP. It was bid originally but no bids came because of the obvious situation in Bihar. I do not need to expend it. Therefore, both the present hon. Member of Parliament and her predecessor approached me and requested that NTPC should take it up. We had said that we are in the process of a feasibility study and we shall take it up. I assure her, through you, Sir, that we will not ignore it and let me put the record straight that Barh has much more water than Nabi Nagar. Of course, there is less coal. . . .*(Interruptions)* After all, the Ganga flows beside Barh and we have another project in North Karanpura coming up. But there is enough coal in this area to ensure that another super-thermal power plant comes up in Nabi Nagar but we need the cooperation of the State Government. I would be grateful if the hon. Member would help us there.

(Interruptions) together.

MR. SPEAKER : Q. 241 and Q. 250 are entirely different. Both cannot be taken up together

Compulsory Registration of Marriage

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

(a) whether the registration of marriage is proposed to be made mandatory;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI) : (a) to (c) Registration of marriages solemnised or contracted under the Indian Christian Marriage Act, 1872, the Parsi Marriage and Divorce Act, 1936 and the Special Marriage Act, 1954 is compulsory. Section 8 of the Hindu Marriage Act, 1955 provides that if the State Government is of opinion that it is necessary or expedient so to do, it may provide that the entering of the particulars of Hindu marriages in the Hindu marriage register shall be compulsory in the State or in any part there of, whether in all cases or in such cases as may be specified. Certain State Governments, namely, the States of Maharashtra, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh and Karnataka have State Acts providing for compulsory registration of marriages in those States. Registration of marriages solemnised otherwise than under the Special Marriage Act, 1954 is permissible under Section 16 of the said Act if such marriages fulfil certain conditions as laid down under chapter III of that Act. The question of making registration of Hindu marriages compulsory could thus be considered by the State Governments as per the local situations prevailing in those States.

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU : Mr. Speaker, Sir, registration of Hindu marriages is not compulsory under Section 8 of the Hindu Marriage act, 1955. But the National Commission on Human Rights and the National Commission for Women have recommended for compulsory registration of marriages and said that it should be registered within 30 days of the marriage. What action has the Union Government taken on this recommendation ? Now, only four States are implementing this recommendation, but the remaining States are not implementing it. So, I would like to know that action the Union Government is taking after the recommendation of the National Commission on Human Rights and also the National Commission for Women.

SHRI RAM JETHMALANI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, in prinoiple, the Government recognises that the registration of marriages is a very desirable step. It is desirable because it provides almost conclusive evidence of the existence of a marriage. It is a matter of some regret that in some litigations, the fact of marriage itself is denied. So, we are all in favour of it, but there are practical problems. One of the practical problems is that in the villages, where marriages take place, there is so much of illiteracy going around, it is impossible to enforce this

measure; for making it compulsory, you will have either to impose a sentence of fine or imprisonment or you will have to make the marriage void, if there is no registration of that marriage. It will be an extreme step, which we are unable to take at the present moment. At the present moment, practically all marriages are compulsorily registerable. But so far as Hindu and Muslim marriages are concerned, which are outside the Special Marriage Act and so on, I think, we will allow public opinion to develop for some time before we take the step of making marriages compulsorily and mandatorily registerable.

Sir, hon. Members will realise that this issue is also connected with the issue of interfering with personal law. There are some people who argue that if we impose an additional requirement of compulsory registration of marriages, it is an interference with personal law. So, it is a very sensitive issue, on which we do not wish to take any particular hasty step until and unless public opinion has ripened. If this House does recommend to us that compulsory registration of marriages should be resorted to, the Government will be very happy to resort to that legislation.

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU : Sir, exploitation of women and children are going on in various parts of the country. Now, the Hindu Marriage Act is in the Concurrent List. I would like to know as to why the Union Government is not advising the States to amend the law in the State Legislative Assemblies.

SHRI RAM JETHMALANI : Sir, I can assure the hon. Member that his views will be very respectfully considered and if we decide upon any step, we will communicate to the hon. Member as well as to the hon. House.

DR. (SHRIMATI) BEATRIX D'SOUZA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, before people emigrate, they are required to register their marriages because they have to comply with foreign laws and very often, the second marriages, the so-called second marriage, is registered and the first wife and children are deserted. If registration of marriages is made compulsory, will the Union Government make sure that the second and third wives are not registered instead of the first legal wife ?

SHRI RAM JETHMALANI : Sir, the law takes care that void marriages are not registered.

DR. (SHRIMATI) BEATRIX D'SOUZA : Sir, that is not an answer. The people are victims; the women are victims in this respect.

SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I quite agree with the hon. Minister who said that there are practical difficulties in enforcing the law. Perhaps, it may lead to chaos and difficulties. I think, the problem can be solved in this way. If the Village Officer, who is having the Census Book, the Birth Registration Book, is going to be recognised as the Registrar of Marriages, the problem will be solved to some extent. I hope the Minister will consider this aspect.

MR. SPEAKER : This is a suggestion to the Minister.

SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY : I want to know whether he will implement it or not taking this suggestion into consideration and solve the problem ? To implement the recommendations of the Human Rights Commission ?

SHRI RAM JETHMALANI : It is a suggestion. I am grateful for this advice. It will be very respectfully considered.

SHRI VAIKO : Mr. Speaker, Sir, in the State of Tamil Nadu,. self respect marriages are in practice. The great champions of social justice and radicalism, Thanthai Periyar, and his ardent disciple, late lamented Arignar Anna were there. When Arignar Anna became the Chief Minister in 1967, the self-respect marriages were given a legal sanction by the Government. A 'self-respect marriage' means exchanging the garlands and some speeches are made by leaders. Previously, it was not given the legal sanction.

Our hon. Minister also is a Minister with progressive ideas.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Vaiko, this is a small question.

SHRI VAIKO : Will the Central Government communicate to all the States to follow the State of Tamil Nadu and give legal sanction for such marriages ?

I would also like to known from the hon. Minister whether the Central Government has any idea to making marriages compulsory for all men and women ?

SHRI RAM JETHMALANI : Sir, I know that my friend comes from a very highly reformed State. To put across these reforms for acceptance by other States on the ground that they are being followed in Tamil Nadu will be counter-productive. I do not propose to adopt this suicidal course.

Complaints Received by CPCB

*244. SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) the total complaints pertaining to Industrial Pollution received by the Central Pollution Control Board during the year 1999;

(b) the action taken by the CPCB thereon;

(c) whether any guidelines have been issued to the State Pollution Control Boards to strictly adhere to the standard prescribed by the CPCB with regard to the air/water/noise pollution; and

(d) if so, the impact of steps taken for controlling Pollution ?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) received 123 complaints relating to industrial pollution during the year 1999.

(b) The action taken by the CPCB is as follows :-

(i) Complaints were referred to the concerned State Pollution Control Boards (SPCBs)/Pollution Control Committees (PCCs) for necessary action;

(ii) In cases requiring immediate action, CPCB teams have visited the sites to interact with the complainants, concerned industry and SPCBs/PCCs;

(iii) Based on site visits, the SPCBs/PCCs have been asked to take action against defaulting industries. In some cases, CPCB has given directions to the industries and SPCBs/PCCs were asked to take follow up action;

(iv) CPCB has provided technical advice to industrial units for pollution control measures; and

(v) CPCB has also taken suo-moto action against defaulting industrial units.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Steps taken have resulted in reducing the number of defaulting industrial units.

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, in replying to part B of the question, the hon'ble Minister has stated at number 1 point that State Pollution Control Boards have directed the pollution control committees for necessary action. I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister whether a time schedule has been fixed for it ? After fixing the time limit, he should tell us about the action taken on it.

My second question is whether the Government propose to constitute a commission instead of state pollution Control Boards and Pollution Control committees as it will be easier to take decisions through the Commission. Alongwith it, my third question is that you have written that the measures taken. . . .*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : You can ask it in the second supplementary, please.

SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH : Right, Sir.

SHRI T.R. BAALU : Hon. Speaker, Sir, we have received 123 complaints. Out of those 123 complaints, the Central Pollution Control Board has selected 20 defaulting industries. They have taken direct action. The other 103 complaints have been forwarded to the State Pollution Control Board. They are taking proper action.

The State Pollution Control Board has been advised to take time-bound action and assess the nature of the complaint. First of all, they will assess the nature of the complaint. Then, they will advise the defaulting industries. They will give technical advice. Further, if they are not coming up to the proper standards, they will issue a 15-day notice. . . .*(Interruptions)* Still if they are not coming forward with corrective steps, action will be taken against erring industries.

MR. SPEAKER : Apart from the Central Pollution Control Board, is the Government going to set up any Commission ?

SHRI T.R. BAALU : As such, there is no such proposal to have a Commission. We are having State Pollution Control Boards in the States and Committees in the Union Territories.

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, my question was regarding the time limit, what measures have been taken regarding timely disposal of cases ?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Is there any time limit ?

SHRI T.R. BAALU : Sir, first of all, we have to understand the nature of complaint. If the industries come forward with proper installation equipment, etc. we leave them as it is but if they are erring industries, then we have to understand what is the nature of complaint and then the things take their own course. . . .*(Interruptions)*

SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH : I am asking for the time limit.

SHRI T.R. BAALU : First of all, we have to understand the nature of complaint. The time limit varies from one month to six months.

[Translation]

SHRI DILIP KUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Under rule 377, I had raised a question regarding the pollution emitted by the Moola Sehkari Sugar Factory but till date no action has been taken on it. It is a place for pilgrimage where people have to drink polluted water even today. In the absence of the coordination between the State Governments official appointed there, even after the passing of two months, no action is being taken on it. I would like to know from the Hon'ble Minister about the action taken on it.

[English]

SHRI T.R. BAALU : I have to have notice for that.

[Translation]

SHRI BHERULAL MEENA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, my question relates to the Board. Let me complete my question. Huge funds are being spent on constituting the Pollution Control Boards. Pollution Control labels are being issued and pasted on the vehicles which cost only Rs. 5/-. But even then the vehicles emit so much smoke that it is very difficult for the rear vehicles to see the front vehicles. Is the label being pasted only 1 for five rupees or to check the pollution ?

The Forest Department spends crores of rupees on plantation to check the pollution, however, the department has failed to check the cutting of the existing trees what to talk about the planting of new trees. I would like to know that if the things will go on like this, how we would be able to control the pollution.

[English]

SHRI. T.R. BAALU : Sir, we are conscious of the complaints made by public as well as hon. Member.

As far as the vehicular emission norms are concerned, we had already taken actions in 1991, 1996 and 2000 and Euro-II Norms have been made mandatory in Delhi from 1.4.2000 to be followed by Mumbai and Kolkata. We are conscious of the complaints made by the hon. Member just now. So, definitely, we will take care of the Euro-II Norms.

[Translation]

SHRI BHERULAL MEENA : Some concrete steps should be taken.

MR. SPEAKER : This question pertains to the Central Pollution Control Board but you have asked about the State Government Pollution Control Boards.

DR. GIRIJA VYAS : Mr. Speaker, Sir, for some years pollution Control Act, 1986 was strictly implemented by States and Centre. But for the last few years it is not being implemented effectively. I would like to know whether the hon'ble Minister has details of the States which are not implementing this Act. What are the reasons that it is not being followed properly by the centre also.

[English]

SHRI T.R. BAALU : I am very sorry to differ with the hon. Member Actually, we the Central as well as the State Pollution Control Boards, are taking proper action. In fact, the Central Pollution Control Board has taken *suo-motu* action in 163 cases. At the same time, action has been taken in 434 cases against the complaints made as per the direction of the Court.

I am very sorry to differ with the hon. Member, as the Central Pollution Control Board and the State Pollution Control Board are taking conscious and proper action.

[Translation]

Target for Afforestation

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*246. SHRI BRIJLAL KHABRI :
SHRI P.R. KHUNTE :

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) The target fixed for afforestation in various States of the country for the Ninth Five Year Plan, State-wise;

(b) the amount allocated to achieve the target fixed in this regard during the Eighth Five Year Plan, State-wise;

(c) whether the target was achieved during the said plan period; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) Targets for afforestation and tree planting are fixed annually for each of the States and Union Territories. The targets for 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000 are given in Annexure-I.

(b) State-wise allocation for afforestation in the Eighth Five Year Plan is given in Annexure-II.

(c) and (d) Achievement in the Eighth Five Year Plan vis-a-vis the total target was about 92%. The shortfall in the achievement was largely because of inadequacy of funds.

Annexure-I

State-wise targets for afforestation and tree planting during first three years of Ninth Plan (1997-98 to 1999-2000)

Seedlings in lakhs
Area in ha.

Sl. No.	Name of State/UT	1997-98 Targets		1998-99 Targets		1999-2000 Targets	
		SEEDLINGS DISTRIBUTION (For planting on private lands)	AREA (Public lands including forest lands)	SEEDLINGS DISTRIBUTION (For planting on private lands)	AREA (Public lands including forest lands)	SEEDLINGS DISTRIBUTION (For planting on private lands)	AREA (Public lands including forest lands)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1100.00	50000	1100.00	55000	2000.00	150000
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	7.00	10000	7.00	10000	7.00	10000
3.	Assam	25.00	27000	25.00	27000	25.00	27000
4.	Bihar	500.00	40000	500.00	40000	500.00	40000
5.	Goa	30.00	1800	30.00	1800	10.00	600
6.	Gujarat	1900.00	65000	1900.00	70000	1900.00	70000
7.	Hayana	200.00	32000	200.00	32000	200.00	32000
8.	Himachal Pradesh	20.00	30000	20.00	30000	20.00	30000
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	60.00	24000	60.00	24000	60.00	24000
10.	Karnataka	400.00	65000	400.00	68000	500.00	90000
11.	Kerala	180.00	19000	180.00	19000	180.00	19000
12.	Madhya Pradesh	450.00	150000	450.00	150000	450.00	150000
13.	Maharashtra	1150.00	126000	1150.00	126000	1150.00	126000
14.	Manipur	25.00	12000	25.00	12000	25.00	12000
15.	Meghalaya	40.00	18000	40.00	18000	40.00	18000
16.	Mizoram	22.00	19800	22.00	19800	22.00	19800
17.	Nagaland	60.00	8000	60.00	8000	60.00	8000
18.	Orissa	300.00	79000	300.00	87000	300.00	87000
19.	Punjab	52.00	20000	52.00	20000	52.00	20000
20.	Rajasthan	400.00	83000	400.00	85000	400.00	85000
21.	Sikkim	22.00	11000	22.00	11000	22.00	11000

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
22.	Tamil Nadu	1100.00	85000	1100.00	90000	1100.00	120000
23.	Tripura	40.00	10000	40.00	10000	40.00	10000
24.	Uttar Pradesh	2200.00	110000	2200.00	110000	2200.00	110000
25.	West Bengal	825.00	44000	825.00	44000	825.00	44000
26.	A and N Islands	5.00	4500	5.00	4700	2.00	3500
27.	Chandigarh	0.10	500	0.10	500	0.10	100
28.	D and N Haveli	16.00	1000	16.00	1000	5.00	300
29.	Daman and Diu	2.00	50	2.00	50	0.25	30
30.	Delhi	25.00	1000	25.00	1000	25.00	1000
31.	Lakshadweep	5.00	75	5.00	75	5.00	75
32.	Pondicherry	5.00	75	5.00	75	5.00	75
	Total	11166.10	1146800	11166.10	1175000	12130.35	1318480
	National Area in million ha. (2000 Seedlings = 1 ha.)		1.71		1.73		1.92

Annexure-II

State-wise details of funds allocated for afforestation during the Eighth Five Year Plan

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl.No.	State/UT	Allocation
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	6046.15
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	2931.73
3.	Assam	8775.49
4.	Bihar	7640.48
5.	Goa	1212.20
6.	Gujarat	34834.35
7.	Hayana	20058.44
8.	Himachal Pradesh	16366.78
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	8810.04
10.	Karnataka	13172.68
11.	Kerala	2715.00
12.	Madhya Pradesh	24424.35
13.	Maharashtra	51808.19
14.	Manipur	1871.84
15.	Meghalaya	4934.73
16.	Mizoram	4387.69
17.	Nagaland	1107.03
18.	Orissa	10693.55
19.	Punjab	5126.82
20.	Rajasthan	72096.29
21.	Sikkim	3123.87
22.	Tamil Nadu	24793.70
23.	Tripura	1389.84
24.	Uttar Pradesh	35311.68
25.	West Bengal	18704.86
26.	A and N Islands	638.22
27.	Chandigarh	164.45
28.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	731.96
29.	Daman and Diu	78.52
30.	Delhi	1131.94
31.	Lakshadweep	16.00
32.	Pondicherry	478.14
	Total	385577.01

[Translation]

SHRI BRIJLAL KHABRI : Hon'ble Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to ask the hon'ble Minister of

Environment and Forests to apprise the House about the information received till now in regard to the targets fixed for tree planting during the 9th Five Year Plan in various States of the country. I would also like to know about the part B of the question regarding the amount of funds allocated statewise to achieve the targets fixed during the Eighth Five Year Plan.

[English]

SHRI T.R. BAALU : In the Seventh Five Year Plan, the afforestation programme has been given to 2426 schemes. In the Eighth Plan, the figure was 3686. In the Ninth Plan, it is 6300. A 100 per cent increase has been given.

As far as the target is concerned, in the Eighth Five Year Plan, an area of 86,51,457 hectares is the target. The achievement is that 79,50,061 hectares have been developed. The percentage is 91.89.

[Translation]

SHRI BRIJLAL KHABRI : Hon'ble Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to know about the part 'd' of the question whether any achievement has been made during the plan period. If not, the reasons therefor.

[English]

SHRI T.R. BAALU : In the Eighth Plan, we have achieved 91.89 per cent. For the information of the House, I am proud to announced that in the Eighth Plan, Andhra Pradesh has achieved 94.89 per cent, whereas in the Ninth Plan, it has achieved 153.12 per cent. Karnataka has achieved 97.57 per cent. In the Ninth Plan, it is 111.04 per cent. The Plan period is not yet over. Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka have achieved more than 100 per cent. Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Pondicherry, Daman and Diu, Orissa, Tripura, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Sikkim, Uttar Pradesh and Maharashtra have achieved between 70 and 100 per cent. Other States are below 70 per cent.

[Translation]

SHRI. P.R. KHUNTE : Hon'ble Mr. Speaker, Sir, my question also relates to it. As per the figures with the hon'ble Minister the Central Government has spent an amount of Rs. 3,85,577.01 lakhs on tree planting in various States of the country out of which Rs. 24,424.35 lakhs have been spent in Madhya Pradesh on tree planting programmes. Have the targets fixed for this programme been achieved after spending such a huge amount ? If not, what are the reasons therefor. Whether the statewise detail of the number of successful and unsuccessful programmes of tree planing is available with the hon'ble Minister; whether any action plan has been formulated to take action against the corruption cases from Madhya Pradesh ?

12.00 hours

[English]

SHRI T.R. BAALU : Sir, the fund allocated to Madhya Pradesh in 1992, in the Eighth Plan, was Rs. 24,424.35 lakh whereas the expenditure was Rs. 23,203.59 lakh only. The expenditure has not been fully incurred. At the same time, in the Ninth Plan, Madhya Pradesh has been given an outlay of Rs. 2,07,500 lakh. The total outlay for a particular State in respect of forests is Rs. 44,709 lakh. .

.(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Sometimes, the Ministers should look to the watch also while giving a reply. You can send the remaining reply to the hon. Member.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Poll Expenditure

*242. SHRI AVTAR SINGH BHADANA : Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the steps being taken to check the increasing expenditure on elections; and

(b) the estimated amount of expenditure being incurred at present on conducting the elections for each seat of Lok Sabha and Legislative Assembly ?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI) : (a) The Constitution has entrusted the responsibility of superintendence, direction, control and conduct of all elections to Parliament and to the Legislature of every State of the Election Commission of India. The Election Commission has taken several steps to check the expenditure on electioneering by candidates. One of the measures taken in this regard by the Commission is the appointment of expenditure observes for every constituency who keep a watch on daily account of expenditure of the candidates. The Commission takes action regarding disqualifying those candidates who do not file returns of their expenditure under the provisions of Representation of the People Act, 1951.

Further, to reduce the expenses on their election campaigning, the candidates are given free airtime on electronic media by the Commission in consultation with the Prasar Bharti. The reduction in the campaign period to 14 days and instructions of the Commission regarding

enforcement of the Model Code of Conduct have also helped in Keeping a check on poll expenditure.

(b) The entire expenditure on conduct of elections to the Legislative Assemblies of the States in met by the Government of the concerned States and Union Territories (with Legislatures) from their respective Consolidated Funds. The entire expenditure on conduct of elections to the House of the People is met by the Government of India. The expenditure on the conduct of elections is shared equally between the Government of India and the State Governments/UT Administrations (with legislatures) if the elections to the House of the People and the Legislative Assemblies of the States/UTs are held simultaneously. The figures of estimated amount of expenditure on conduct of elections for each of Lok Sabha and Legislative Assembly, as sought by the hon'ble Member are, however, neither maintained nor it is practically feasible to maintain.

Government Holding in S.C.I.

*245. SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to bring down their holding in Shipping Corporation of India (SCI) below 50 per cent; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJNATH SINGH) : (a) and (b) The Disinvestment Commission, in its 4th report, had given recommendations for disinvestment of shares in Shipping Corporation of India (SCI). The Commission had, inter-alia, recommended disinvestment of 40% of SCI's shares to the Oil Sector Companies, over and above the 20% shares already disinvested. The Oil Sector Companies have indicated that they may not be keen on buying SCI equity. The matter is under consideration.

Rural Electrification

*247. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY :
SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) the number of villages yet to be electrified in the country as on date, State-wise;

(b) whether the electrification of villages is being done only by using the LT lines;

(c) if not, the number of villages being electrified in other manner;

(d) whether this work is not being completed due to financial constraints in many States;

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

(f) whether any time bound programme has been drawn for the purpose;

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

(h) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF POWER AND MINISTER OF MINES AND MINERALS (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) State-wise details of total number of inhabited villages to be electrified in the country as per 1991 Census as on 1.2.2000 along with the number of villages electrified are at Statement-I.

(b) and (c) Generally, the villages are to be electrified by using LT lines except the villages which are located in remote and difficult areas, where the extension of grid will be costly and un-economical and where the development of load is unlikely due to thinly dispersed population. Such remotely located villages are proposed to be electrified through non-conventional sources of energy.

(d) Most of the villages which have remained unelectrified are generally remote, far-flung and tribal in nature. The major reasons for slow progress are financial constraints of SEBs, inadequate sub-distribution system facilities, disturbed conditions prevailing in some States, non-repayment of dues of Rural Electrification Corporation resulting in no cash flow, lack of demand from the consumers due to backwardness and poor economic conditions etc.

(e) to (h) Rural Electrification Corporation, during the year 1999-2000, has sanctioned loan assistance of Rs. 2586.12 crores for various rural electrification schemes sponsored by State Electricity Boards/Power Departments of State Governments. State-wise details of schemes and loan amounts sanctioned are at Statement-II.

Rural Electrification Corporation has set a target of electrification of 7000 villages and energisation of 7,40,000 pumpsets during the first three years of the Ninth Plan period. Out of the targets set, REC has already achieved electrification of 6281 villages and energisation of 6,49,000 pumpsets to the end of December, 1999.

During the Ninth Plan, the Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources proposes to support projects for deployment of 3 lakh solar lanterns, 2 lakh home lighting systems, 4,000 pumps and 2.1 MW of village power plants and other systems including street lights. This is through the photovoltaic option.

Statement-I

Statement showing Villages Electrified and Unelectrified as on 31.1.2000.

Sl. No.	States	Total inhabited villages (1991 census)	Villages electrified as on 31.1.2000	Inhabited villages yet to be electrified as on 1.2.2000	
1	2	3	4	5	
1.	Andhra Pradesh	26586	26565	Nil	Balance villages declared non-feasible for electrification
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	3649	2147	1502	
3.	Assam	24685	19019	5666	
4.	Bihar	67513	47862	19651	
5.	Goa	360	360	Nil	
6.	Gujarat	18028	17940	Nil	Balance villages declared non-feasible for electrification
7.	Haryana	6759	6759	Nil	
8.	Himachal Pradesh	16997	16823	174	
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	6477	6315	162	
10.	Karnataka	27066	26680	99	Balance 287 villages declared non-feasible for electrification
11.	Kerala	1384	1384	Nil	
12.	Madhya Pradesh	71526	68304	3222	
13.	Maharashtra	40412	40412	Nil	
14.	Manipur	2182	2001	181	
15.	Meghalaya	5484	2510	2974	
16.	Mizoram	698	691	7	
17.	Nagaland	1216	1163	53	
18.	Orissa	46989	35125	11864	
19.	Punjab	12428	12428	Nil	
20.	Rajasthan	37889	35133	2756	
21.	Sikkim	447	405	Nil	Balance 42 villages non-feasible for electrification
22.	Tamil Nadu	15822	15822	Nil	
23.	Tripura	855	810	45	

1	2	3	4	5	
24.	Uttar Pradesh	112803	89003	23800	
25.	West Bengal	37910	29558	8352	
	Total (States)	586165	505219	80508	Balance villages are non-feasible for electrification
	Total (UTs)	1093	1090	Nil	Balance villages declared non-feasible for electrification
	Total (All India)	587258	506309	80508	-do-

Statement-II

Statewise details of Schemes Sanctioned by REC during 1999-2000

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl. No.	State	Schemes sanctioned	
		No.	Loan Amount
1.	Andhra Pradesh	74	22559
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	32	2947
3.	Goa	4	229
4.	Gujarat	49	8995
5.	Haryana	67	20656
6.	Himachal Pradesh	11	4713
7.	Jammu and Kashmir	7	6230
8.	Karnataka	148	41212
9.	Kerala	139	31325
10.	Madhya Pradesh	76	6096
11.	Maharashtra	157	24915
12.	Manipur	12	3464
13.	Punjab	25	6012
14.	Rajasthan	118	26365
15.	Tamil Nadu	106	23318
16.	Tripura	11	1853
17.	Uttar Pradesh	86	27723
	Total	1122	258612

Production of L.P.G.

***248. DR. SANJAY PASWAN : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:**

(a) whether Oil Coordination Committee has instructed the refining companies to go in for the mandatory production of LPG to meet its domestic demand;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether all refineries have recently reduced their production drastically;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether there is a large difference in the prices of the petroleum products between India and the neighbouring countries; and

(f) if so, the details thereof, country-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Crude processing in the public sector refineries during the period, April 1999 to February 2000 has been more than the original estimates. However, crude processing in Mangalore Refinery and Petrochemicals Ltd. (MRPL), Mangalore and Reliance Petroleum Ltd. (RPL), Jamnagar has been lower than the original estimates.

(d) Crude processing in MRPL, Mangalore is lower than original estimates due to equipment failures and shutdown taken by the refinery to carry out certain modifications. Crude processing in RPL, Jamnagar has been lower than original estimates due to delayed commissioning and stabilisation of their units.

(e) and (f) The difference in prices of petroleum products between India and neighbouring countries varies from product to product. The price of major petroleum products, whose prices are administered in India, and that in the neighbouring countries collected from the respective market sources by the Oil Coordination Committee as on 01.03.2000 are as under :-

Country	Kerosene		Diesel		LPG		Petrol		ATF	
	(Rs/Lit)	%	(Rs/Lit)	%	(Rs/Lit)	%	(Rs/Lit)	%	(Rs/Lit)	%
India (Delhi)	2.67	100.0	14.04	100.0	10.68	100.00	25.94	100.0	14.54	100.0
Bangladesh	11.04	413.5	11.04	78.6	17.19	161.0	17.91	69.0	13.77	94.7
Sri Lanka	9.15	342.7	11.41	81.3	16.68	156.2	29.70	114.5	12.21	84.0
Pakistan	9.46	354.3	9.67	68.9	15.95	149.3	24.37	93.9	9.40	64.7

*% is indicated with Indian Price as base.

Developmental Projects Pending Clearance

*249. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK :
SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL :

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of Power, Irrigation, Industrial and other development projects pertaining to various States pending with the Government for the Environment and Forestry Clearance;

(b) the present status thereof;

(c) the steps taken by the Government to clear these projects;

(d) the time by which these projects are likely to be cleared ?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) and (b) A statement is enclosed.

(c) and (d) Continuous interaction is maintained with the project proponent/State Government to expedite sending of information/clarifications called for. Decision on proposals for Environmental and Forestry Clearance is taken normally within 90 days from the date of receipt of complete information.

Statement

A. Environmental Clearance :

S.No.	Name of the Projects	Status
1	2	3
	Power Project	
	ANDHRA PRADESH	
1.	34.56 MW DG Power Plant at Ghanapuram Village, Ghatkesar Mandal, District Rangareddy of M/s Inden Power International Ltd.	Additional information sought on 10.2.2000.
2.	2x30 MW Coal Based Power Plant at Wadapalli, Nalgonda District, of M/s Krishna Godavari Power Utilities Ltd.	Additional information sought on 09.02.2000.
	DELHI	
3.	330 MW Coal Based TPP at Narela, Delhi by M/s Appollo Energy Company Ltd.	The project proponent has changed the scope of the project.
4.	330 MW Gas based Pragati Combined Cycle Power Project at IP Estate by Delhi Vidyut Board.	Additional information sought on 10.02.2000.
	KARNATAKA	
5.	1x24 MW Co-generation Power Plant at Sameerwati, Karnataka by M/s Godavari Sugar Mills Ltd.	Additional information was sought on 10.2.2000

1	2	3
6.	1x500 MW Vijaynagar Thermal Power Project at Kuditini Village, Bellary District of M/s Karnataka Power Corporation Ltd.	Additional information was sought on 10.2.2000.
	MADHYA PRADESH	
7.	Ix500 MW Sanjay Gandhi Thermal Power Plant Stage-II at Mangather Village, Distt. Umaria (MP) by M/s MP Electricity Board.	Under process.
8.	28.25 MW Liquid Fuel Based Power Plant at MANDIDEEP Industrial Area, District Raisen (M.P.) by M/s Som Power Ltd.	Additional information was sought on 10.2.2000.
	MEGHALAYA	
9.	Myntdu (Le-Shka) H.E. Project, Stage-I (2x42 MW)	Additional information sought on 31.1.2000. Reply received recently.
	MIZORAM	
10.	Tuivai Hydroelectric Project (100 MW)	Linked to forest clearance.
	TAMIL NADU	
11.	109 MW Naphtha Based Combined Cycle Gas Turbine Power Plant at Vallur Village, Ennore, North Chennai, Tamil Nadu by M/s Aban Power Company Ltd.	Under process.
12.	Kollimalai Hydro Electric Project (1x20 MW) – Tamil Nadu Electricity Board.	Site is being visited.
Irrigation – No Irrigation Project is pending for Environmental Clearance		
	Industrial	
	ANDHRA PRADESH	
13.	Manufacturing of Aluminium Alloy wheel for Light Vehicles at VEPZ Visakhapatnam by M/s Synergies Dooray Automotive Ltd.	Under Process.
	ASSAM	
14.	Environmental Clearance for proposed ISOSIV & INSMAX unit at Guwahati Refinery of M/s. IOCL.	Additional information sought on 10.01.2000. received on 22.2.2000. Under examination.
15.	Vijayawada – Secunderabad Pipeline Extension Project by M/s HPCL.	Under Process.
	GUJARAT	
16.	Expansion of Clinkarisation plant at Mithapur, Gujarat by M/s Tata Chemicals Ltd.,	Received recently.
17.	Proposed product substitutes in Existing pesticide plant at GIDC, Industrial Area, Ankaleshwar Bharuch Gujarat by M/s FICOM.	Received recently.

1	2	3
18.	Expansion of the pesticide manufacturing unit at GIDC, Panoli, Bharuch distt. Gujarat of M/s Pesticides India Ltd.,	Additional information sought on 28.02.2000.
	MAHARASHTRA	
19.	Foundry Project at Tal-Khed, District Pune by M/s Alcast Foundry Pvt. Ltd.	Under process.
20.	Environmental Clearance for expansion of Factory to additional manufacture AC Sheets and Accessories @ 36000 MTPA capacity at Wada, Thane of Maharashtra by M/s Roofit Industries Ltd.,	Considered in the Expert Committee on 23.02.2000. Site visit to be made.
	PUNJAB	
21.	Expansion of Pesticides Manufacturing Unit at Dera Bassi, Patiala, Punjab by M/s Rallis India Ltd.,	Additional information sought on 04.01.2000.
22.	Expansion of Pesticides Manufacturing Unit at Dera Bassi, Patiala, Punjab by M/s Rallis India Ltd.,	Additional information sought on 29.02.2000.
	RAJASTHAN	
23.	45000 TPA Capacity Unit for manufacturing Asbestos Cement Products at Dhamikhurd, Sangamner, Jaipur Rajasthan by M/s Roofit Industries Ltd.,	Additional information sought on 29.02.2000.
	TAMIL NADU	
24.	6.5 MMTPA Refinery at Cuddalore of M/s Nagarjuna Oil Corporation Limited (NOCL).	Under Process.
25.	Foundry Unit at Hosur Taluk, Dharmapuri District by M/s A.R. Metallurgical Pvt. Ltd.,	Additional information was received on 09.02-.2000.
26.	Foundry Unit at Arasur village, Coimbatore District by M/s Sharp Foundry Ltd.,	Under process.
27.	Expansion of Engineering Unit at Singanallur, District Coimbatore by M/s Elgi Equipment Ltd.	Under examination.
28.	17.5 TPM Capacity Manufacturing Unit for cast iron castings at Keeranathan village, Coimbatore District. (T.N.) by M/s Abinaya Engineering Industry.	Under process.
29.	50 TPM Capacity foundry unit at Bairamangalam, Dharampuri distt. by M/s Spectro-ductile Iron Pvt. Ltd.,	Additional information received on 11.2.2000.
30.	Manufacturing Unit of Powder Paint at SIPCOT Industrial Estate, Gummidipundi, Thiruvallur District by M/s Snowcem India Ltd.	Under process.
31.	Environmental Clearance for installation of furnace of 33 MT/day and 60 MT/day capacity at Paranattamangalam Salem Taluk, Salem Distt. of Tamil Nadu. By M/s Jai Hind Wire Rod Mills Ltd.,	Additional information sought on 17.12.99

1	2	3
32.	Foundry Unit (50 TPM) at Coimbatore (north) Taluk, Coimbatore district, by M/s KGF Alloy Steel Private Limited.	Additional information sought on 22.12.99
33.	3.0 MMTPA expansion of Madras Refineries Ltd; at Manali.	Site visit was made on 04.03.2000.
34.	14400 TPA steel Ingot Project at Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu by M/s Raja Steels Private Ltd.,	Additional information has now been received on 11.02.2000
	WEST BENGAL	
35.	Proposal on Calcutta Leather Complex at Karaidanga, 24-Parganas (South) District by M/s M.S. Dalmia & Co. Ltd.	Under process.
36.	400 TPD PET Resin Project at Haldia, West Bengal by M/s South Asian Petro-chem Ltd.,	Additional information sought on 23.02.2000.
	OTHERS	
37.	Augmentation of Haldia – Barauni Crude Oil Pipeline from 4.2 MMTPA to 7.5 MMTPA capacity by M/s IOC Ltd.	Under process.
Other developmental projects :–		
	ANDHRA PRADESH	
38.	Construction of Dedicated Jetty for BBI Power Krishnapatnam 'B' (2x260 MW) Thermal Power Project in Nellore District	Under process.
39.	Nellore Bypass Project by United Infrastructure Resources Pvt. Ltd.	Additional information sought on 21.1.2000.
	ARUNACHAL PRADESH	
40.	Construction of Etalinen-Malinyne Road from Km. 0.00-Km. 47.00 (CSG Road) by Border Road Organization.	Additional information sought on 23.12.1999.
41.	Construction of Haynliang-Changlagaon Road from Km. 0.00-Km. 47.00 (CSG Road) by Border Road Organization.	Additional information sought on 23.12.1999.
	BIHAR	
42.	Four laning and strengthening of existing 2 lane section of NH 2 from km 180 (Madanpur, Aurangabad) to kms 398.75 (Barawada) by NHAI.	Additional information have been sought on 21.2.2000.
	GOA	
43.	Construction of a Hotel Project in Survey No.117/1 of Arossim Village of Mormagao Taluka by M/s. Nova Resort Pvt. Ltd.,	Clarifications sought from Govt. of Goa on 05.05.1999.
44.	Construction of a Beach Resort by Mr. Garth D'Souza in Sy. No. 109/1, Cavelossim, Village.	Clarifications sought from Govt. of Goa on 05.05.1999.
45.	Proposed Construction of a Hotel in Survey No.109/1 (pt) of Betalbatim Village, Salcete Taluka by M/s. Algoa Pvt. Ltd.	Additional information/clarifications have been sought on 13.01.2000.
46.	Proposed Construction of Dry Dock and Shed in Survey No. 209/2 of Sancoale Village, Salcete Taluka by M/s. Pinky Shipyard Pvt. Ltd.	Additional information/clarifications have been sought on 14.01.2000.

1	2	3
47.	Proposed Construction of a Hotel in Survey No. 33/1, 33/7-11, 47/1, 49/1, 50/1-26 and 51/1-31 of Utorda Village, Salcete Taluka by Shri Alfred Andrade and others	Additional information/clarifications have been sought on 20.01.2000.
	GUJARAT	
48.	Expansion of infrastructural facilities at Pipavav Port in Gujarat by M/s. Gujarat Pipavav Port Ltd.	Additional information/clarifications sought on 13.02.2000.
49.	Construction of Single Point Mooring (SPM), Crude Oil Terminal (COT) and connecting pipeline from SPM to COT at Mundra Port for Punjab Refinery Project by M/s. Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd.	Under Process.
	HIMACHAL PRADESH	
50.	Swan River Flood Management and Integrated Project, Distt. Una, Irrigation and Public health Dept. Govt. of Himachal Pradesh	Under Process.
	KARNATAKA	
51.	170 MW Barge Mounted Power Project at Mangalore, Dakshina Kannada Distt by M/s Smith Co-generation (India) Pvt. Unlimited.	Additional information/clarification have been sought on 18.1.2000.
	KERALA	
52.	Shore Crude Oil Tank Farm of M/s. Cochin Refineries Ltd.– Crude Oil receipt facilities at Ernakulam.	Additional information/clarifications have been sought on 28.2.2000.
53.	Setting up of Beach Resort at Chawara in Kottukal Village, Neyyatinkara Taluk of Thiruvananthapuram Distt. by M/s Joy's The Beach Resort.	Recently received.
	LAKSHADWEEP	
54.	Setting up of the Tinna Beach Resort at Tinnakara Island – Pykala Society for Tourism and Water Sports Management (M/s. U.B. Resorts)	Additional information/clarifications sought on 28.1.2000.
	MADHYA PRADESH	
55.	Dharmasthal OC/UG coal mine of M/s BLA Industries in District Narsinghpur	Additional information sought on 29.12.1999.
	MAHARASHTRA	
56.	Bellora-Takli OC/UG coal mine of M/s Central Collieries Co. Ltd. in District Chandrapur	Additional information sought on 29.12.1999.
57.	Adasa UG coal mine of M/s Western Coal fields Ltd. in District Nagpur.	Additional information received 18.01.2000. Under process.
58.	Kamptee UG to OC coal mine of M/s Western Coal fields Ltd. in District Nagpur	Additional information sought on 18.01.2000.

1	2	3
59.	Rehabilitation and Upgrading of Surat-Manor Road NH-8 Section III in Thane District.	Linked to forestry clearance.
60.	Construction of Mumbai-Talasari Expressway by Public Works Department	Additional information sought.
61.	Expansion of Abhishek Beach Resort in Survey No. 56-2B/1 and 56-2C at Village Ganapatipule by M/s Courtesy Hotels Pvt. Ltd.	Additional information received on 01.02.2000.
	ORISSA	
62.	Kodingamali Bauxite Mines at District Koraput of M/s Aditya Aluminium Company.	Site is to be visited.
63.	Basundhara (West) Opencast coal mines at District Sundargarh, Orissa of M/s Mahanadi Coalfields Limited.	Additional information sought on 18.01.2000.
	RAJASTHAN	
64.	Flourspar and Quartz mines of M/s Kishore Kumar Gandhi in District Sirohi	Additional information received on 28.02.2000.
65.	Upgradation of Jaipur Kishangarh Section of N.H.-8 (Kms. 273.5 to Kms. 366.2) in Jaipur and Ajmer distt. by NHAI.	A site visit is to be made.
	TAMILNADU	
66.	Opencast Graphite Mine of M/s Gem Graphite Private Limited near Arasanur, Sivagangai District, Tamil Nadu.	Additional information received on 25.02.2000.
67.	Opencast limestone mine of M/s Super Mines and Minerals in District Salem.	Additional information sought on 25.02.2000.
68.	Setting up of SBM, Jetty and other Marine Facilities adjacent to the Refinery site near Tiruchapuram Village, Cuddalore Distt. by M/s. Pennar Refineries Ltd.	Clearance accorded.
69.	Tamil Nadu Road Sector Project Phase-I (Eastern Corridor) from Cuddalore to Tuticorin by Tamil Nadu Highways and Rural Works Department.	Additional information received on 23.2.2000.
70.	Tamil Nadu Road Sector Project Phase-IA (Northern Corridor) by Tamil Nadu Highways and rural Works Department.	Additional information/clarifications have been sought on 31.12.99.
	UTTAR PRADESH	
71.	National Highway project of laning and strengthening of existing 2 lane from km 393 (Sikandara) to km 115 (Khaga) of NH-2 in UP (Package-II) by NHAI.	Information/clarifications have been sought on 21.2.2000.
	INTER-STATE	
72.	Four Laning and Strengthening of existing two lane section of NH-2 from km 317 (Varanasi) in UP to km 180 (Aurangabad) in Bihar (Package IX) by NHAI.	Recently received.

B. Projects Pending for Forestry Clearance Involving Forest Area more than 20 Hectares.

S.No.	Name	Area (hectare)	State	Status
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Allain Duhangan HEP, Kullu	58.162	HP	Site Inspection Report from Regional Office is awaited.
2.	Tuivai Hydro Electric Project	1600	Mizoram	Additional information and Site inspection report is awaited.
Irrigation :				
3.	Champamati irrigation project in Kokrajhal	48.592	Assam	Discussed in Forest Advisory Committee on 29.2.2000. Under process.
4.	Construction of Jhansinagar lift irrigation scheme in Bhandara	31.350	Maharashtra"	Additional information received from State Government in February 2000 and under process.
5.	Malsej ghat pumped storage scheme in Thane	73.949	"	Site inspection report received to be discussed in next Forest Advisory Committee.
6.	Shikarghatta minor irrigation scheme Jaipur	35.70	Rajasthan	Under submission for decision.
Mining :				
7.	Silica sand by P.C. Jain etc. in Daussa	37.454	Rajasthan	Under Process for decision.
8.	Chomite mining by Industrial Development Cor. of Orissa Ltd. In Jajpur	96.42	Orissa	Discussed in Forest Advisory Committee on 29.2.2000. Under submission.
9.	Chromite mining by Late Aoikath in Jajpur	30.25	"	Discussed in Forest Advisory Committee on 29.2.2000. Under submission.
10.	Extraction of maganese ore in Bhandara	70.67	Maharashtra	Discussed in Forest Advisory Committee. Under Process.
11.	Renewal of Dhanpuri OCP of SECL, Shahdol	870.75 7	M.P.	Site Inspection Report is awaited.
12.	Mining lease for limestone mining in favour of Madras Cement Ltd. in Krishna distt.	60.72	Andhra Pradesh	Discussed in the Committee on 29.2.2000. Site inspection to be done by members of the Committee
13.	OC Phase-I coal mining of SCCL, Khammam	236.00	"	Site Inspection Report awaited.
14.	Forest land for mining in favour of Hothur Traders	38.38	Karnataka	Clarification sought from Regional Office, Banglore on 11.1.2000.
15.	Renewal of ML to Rungta Co. Pvt. Ltd. in East Singhbhum	131.08 1	Bihar	Site to be visited by Members of Forest Advisory Committee.
16.	For limestone mining in favour of M/s Gujarat Ambuja Cement Ltd. in Solan	21.4	H.P.	Site Inspection Report awaited.

1	2	3	4	5
Thermal/Transmission Line :				
17.	Laying of 66 KV transmission line in Kinnaur distt.	73.02	Himachal Pradesh	Site Inspection Report awaited since 27.9.99.

[Translation]

Effluents from Coal based Power Plants

*250. SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have asked the coal based power plants to reduce the level of effluents emanating from them;

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

(c) whether the Government propose to issue any directions to this effect;

(d) if so, the time by which the same would be done; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefore ?

THE MINISTER OF POWER AND MINISTER OF MINES AND MINERALS (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) and (b) The emission standards in respect of coal based power plants have been notified by Rules framed under Sections 6 and 25 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 by the Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India.

The standards notified for liquid effluents and gaseous emissions are given in the Statement.

(c) to (e) The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) has taken steps for the enforcement of the environmental standards in coal based power plants. Out of 77 thermal power plants, 35 plants comply with emission standards. 3 thermal power plants are presently not in operation. The Central Pollution Control Board has issued directions to those thermal power stations which have not taken up measures to control the emissions/effluents, under Section 5 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 to upgrade their pollution control systems.

Statement

Liquid effluents and gaseous emissions standards for the thermal power plants specified in Schedules I and VI referred to in Rule 3 of the Environmental Protection Rules, 1986, as amended from time to time, notified by the Ministry of Environment and Forests, under Sections 6 and 25 of the Environment Protection Act, 1986 :

STANDARDS FOR LIQUID EFFLUENTS

Source	Parameters	Effluent Standards
1	2	3
		Maximum limiting concentration, milligramme per litre (except for PH and temperature.
Condenser cooling waters (once through cooling system)	PH	6.5 – 8.5
	Free available chlorine	0.5
Boiler blowdowns	Suspended solids	100
	Oil and grease	20
	Copper (total)	1.0
	Iron (total)	1.0
Cooling tower blowdown	Free available chlorine	0.5
	Zinc	1.0
	Chromium (total)	0.2
	Phosphate	5.0

1	2	3
	Other corrosion inhibiting material	Limit to be established on case by case basis by Central Board in case of Union Territories and State Board in case of States.
Ash Pond effluent	PH suspended solids Oil and grease	6.5 – 8.5 100 20
Temperature limit for discharge of condenser cooling water for thermal Power plants.	(i) New Thermal Power Plants commissioned after 1.6.99.	(i) New thermal power plants using water from rivers/lakes/reservoirs, shall instal cooling towers irrespective of location and capacity.
	(ii) New projects in coastal areas using sea water	(ii) The thermal power plants using sea water should adopt suitable system to reduce water temperature at the final discharge point so that the resultant rise in the temperature of receiving water does not exceed 7^{oc} over and above the ambient temperature of the receiving water bodies.
	(iii) Existing thermal Power Plants	Rise in temperature of condenser cooling water from inlet to the outlet of condenser shall not be mare than 10^{oc}.

EMISSION STANDARDS

Pollutant	Emission limit
Particulate matter (PM)	150 Mg/NM^3

(In case of thermal power plants commissioned prior to 1.1.82 and having generation capacity less than 62.5 MW, the PM emission shall be within 350 mg/NM^3).

SULPHUR DIOXIDE (SO2) :

Control of sulphur dioxide emissions are achieved through dispersion Minimum stack height limit is accordingly prescribed as below :

Power Generation capacity :	
500 MW and above	275 mtr.
200 MW/210 MW and above to less than 500 MW	220 mtr.
Less than 200 MW/210 MW	H = 14 (Q)0-3 where Q is the emission rate of SO2 in kg/h, and H is stack height in meters.

[SOURCE - Notification No.GSR 422 (E) dated 19.05.1993 and GSR 7 dated 22.12.1998]

[English]

New Projects for Shipping Sector

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

(a) whether the Government are considering new schemes for the development of shipping sector in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps taken by the Government to improve the Cargo off-take from Kerala ports; and

(d) the total quantity of products shipped from the State during the last three years and the names of the countries for which the shipments were meant ?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJNATH SINGH) : (a) and (b) In order to give a continued impetus to the growth and development of shipping sector in the country, Government has undertaken various measures which include cargo support of canalizing the cargo of public undertakings and Government Departments/agencies through Transchart arrangement development of coastal shipping creating a conducive environment for speedier acquisition of vessels and upgradation and modernization of training facilities for the mariners.

(c) and (d) Cochin Port Trust is the only major Port Trust located in Kerala. For promoting the export trade from the State, frequent trade meets are conducted in different parts of the hinterland of Cochin Port. There is also a proposal for developing a transshipment container terminal at Vallarpadam. The general cargo from Cochin Port is exported through containers, which are transshipped mainly at Colombo, Singapore and Dubai Ports. The export cargo is assigned to countries namely U.S.A., Canada and other American countries, Japan, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Gulf countries, U.K., Germany, other European countries, Australia, New Zealand and African countries. The quantity of import-export cargo handled during the last three years is as under :

(in lakhs tonnes)

	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99
Import	94.87	97.82	102.51
Export	22.55	25.42	24.30
Total	117.42	123.24	126.81

Prevention of Power Theft

*252. SHRI RAMPAL SINGH :
SHRI SHIVAJI VITHALRAO KAMBLE :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have recently reviewed the position regarding the increasing incidence of power theft all over the country;

(b) if so, the details of the losses being incurred by various states on this count;

(c) the measures being taken/proposed to be taken to check the same;

(d) whether the Government propose to introduce state-of-the-art meter system for preventing the power thefts;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the time by which the such system is likely to be introduced ?

THE MINISTER OF POWER AND MINISTER OF MINES AND MINERALS (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The percentage losses reported by SEBs/Power Utilities/Electricity Departments during the year 1997-98 is given in the enclosed Statement. However, the States which have undertaken restructuring have reported T&D losses varying from 40 to 51%. The loss can be classified under two broad categories; namely, technical loss and commercial loss. The technical losses are inherent in the system and can be reduced by better design of lines, relocation of distribution transformers and installation of capacitors. The commercial losses are due to theft of energy, use to defective meters and un-metered supply. The losses due to theft and pilferage of energy are presently camouflaged under T&D losses.

(c) The Central Electricity Authority had issued comprehensive guidelines in July, 1991 to the SEBs and Electricity Departments for reduction of T&D losses. The commercial losses including theft of energy can be effectively prevented by energy auditing at sub-station level, electronic and remote control metering and pre-paid card metering at the consumer end.

(d) and (e) Under the Accelerated Power Development Programme, it is proposed to provide funds to the State Governments for implementing specific projects for improving the sub-transmission and distribution system including installation of state-of-the-art electronic metering system.

(f) In the Conference of Power Ministers' which was held on 26.2.2000, the State/UT Governments have resolved to undertake energy auditing at all levels and to install meters for all consumers by December, 2001. With the adoption of these measures, it will be possible to substantially reduce losses arising due to power thefts.

Statement

*Percentage Transformation, Transmission and Distribution losses (Including Commercial Losses such as Pilferage etc.) in SEBs/EDs during the year 1997-98**

Region	SEBs/EDs	1997-98
1	2	3
Northern Region	1. Haryana	33.04 #

1	2	3
	2. Himachal Pradesh	19.20
	3. Jammu and Kashmir	47.48 $
	4. Punjab	17.90
	5. Rajasthan	26.46
	6. Uttar Pradesh	25.00
	7. Chandigarh	14.95
	8. DVB (Delhi)	46.86 #
Western Region	1. Gujarat	19.66
	2. Madhya Pradesh	19.08
	3. Maharashtra	17.73
	4. D and N Haveli	NA
	5. Goa	23.39
	6. Daman and Diu	11.27
Southern Region	1. Andhra Pradesh	31.76
	2. Karnataka	18.56
	3. Kerala	17.87
	4. Tamil Nadu	17.00
	5. Lakshadweep	15.83
	6. Pondicherry	13.79
Eastern Region	1. Bihar	25.41
	2. Orissa (Gridco)	NA
	3. Sikkim	20.13
	4. West Bengal	20.34
	5. A and N Isls.	20.51
North-Eastern Region	1. Assam	30.05
	2. Manipur	21.50 $
	3. Meghalaya	17.93
	4. Nagaland	29.50 $
	5. Tripura	29.75
	6. Arunachal Pradesh	30.99 $
	7. Mizoram	47.00 $
(All India-Utilities)		24.44

* Data is Tentive as Reported by SEBs/Eds.

\# Computed Figures.

$ As Reported in the Annual Plan Resources Paper Submitted to Planning Commission.

NA Information not yet Furnished by the SEBs/ED.

Delay in Delivering Judgements

*253. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI :
SHRI SAMIK LAHIRI :

Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether in a large number of cases in various High Courts, the judgements after being reserved are not delivered for a long time;

(b) whether such delays result in denial of justice; and

(c) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken to ensure that judgements are pronounced within a stipulated period ?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI) : (a) Yes, Some cases of delayed judgements have doubtless come to public notice. But delivery of judgement is part of the judicial process. The Government does not maintain information regarding the number of cases where judgements have not been delivered, nor can it effectively and directly intervene to prevent this unfortunate phenomenon.

(b) and (c) The Justice Malimath Committee (1990) had made various recommendations for the pronouncement of reserved judgements within the statutory limit. The recommendations of the said Committee were commanded to all the State Governments/UT Administrations and High Courts for necessary follow up action in December, 1990. These recommendations were reiterated in the meeting of the Chief Ministers and Chief Justices held in December, 1993.

According to information available, the High Courts of Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Orissa and the State Government of Nagaland have implemented the recommendations of the Malimath Committee relating to the delivery of reserved judgements.

Indian Road Construction Corporation

*254. SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH :
SHRI SUKDEO PASWAN :

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have decided to close down the Indian Road Construction Corporation;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the main functions of the Corporation;

(d) the total loss suffered by the Corporation by the end of March, 1999;

(e) the investment made by the Government through various sources in the said Corporation during the last five years;

(f) whether the Government have received representation(s) against the closure move;

(g) if so, the details thereof;

(h) the action taken by the Government to protect the interest of the employees of the said corporation;

(i) whether the Government would consider a revival or merger plan for the Corporation; and

(j) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJNATH SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Corporation was accumulating huge losses

(c) Indian Road Construction Corporation Ltd. was established in 1976 as a Public Sector Undertaking for functioning as a specialised commercial enterprise in the field of construction of roads, bridges, air field pavements and other related civil engineering works, in India and abroad.

(d) According to provisional profit and loss account, accumulated loss as on March, 1999 is Rs. 523 crores (approx.)

(e) Nil.

(f) Yes, Sir.

(g) In these representations, requests have been nade (i) not to close the Corporation and (ii) to consider alternative employment for the existing employees of the Corporation.

(h) Employees of the Corporation can opt for voluntary retirement failing which they will be entitled to compensation payable on closure as per the Industrial Disputes Act. 1947.

(i) No, Sir.

(j) Does not arise.

National Long Distance Telephone Service

*255. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR :
SHRI P.D. ELANGOVAN :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item captioned "DoT will face real competition once national long distance phone service are opened up" appearing in the Hindustan Times, dated January 5, 2000;

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

(c) whether the Government have taken remedial steps in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether a special group on Information Technology Convergence set up under the Group of Telecom has submitted its report;

(f) if so, whether it has recommended some steps in this connection; and

(g) if so, the details of the report and the steps suggested by the Group ?

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

(b) to (d) The news item relates to opening of the national long distance telephony to private competition, establishment of a Group on Telecom and IT Convergence and the need for changes in the TRAI Act, etc.

The factual position is that in pursuance of the objectives of New Telecom Policy 1999 to accelerate development of world class telecom infrastructure in the country, the Government has decided to open the national long distance telephony to private competition; the recommendations of TRAI are under Government's active consideration. There is no question of any fierce fighting between DoT and private operators; the Government on the other hand is keen to introduce competition in this area to augment services and improve quality.

(e) to (g) The Government is also committed to provide an effective regulatory framework with comprehensive powers and clear authority to perform its functions; there is no battle for supremacy as mentioned in the news item. Keeping in view the need for urgent resolution of subsisting problems in the telecom sector and to expeditiously implement the New Telecom Policy 1999 while taking into account the increasing convergence between telecom and Information Technology, the Government constituted a Group on Telecom and IT Convergence under the Chairmanship of Finance Minister on 13th December, 1999. One of the terms of reference of the Group was to consider and make recommendations to strengthen the TRAI through suitable legislative amendments. This Group constituted a Sub-Group under the Chairmanship of Shri Arun Jaitley, Minister of State for

Information and Broadcasting, to consider and make recommendations in this regard to the main Group. The report of the Sub-Group was considered by the Group on Telecom and IT Convergence, based on which Government decided to bring about immediate amendments to the TRAI Act, 1997. Accordingly, the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (Amendment) Ordinance 2000 was promulgated on 24th January 2000, bringing out certain structural changes in the TRAI Act, 1997, with the objectives of strengthening the regulator and giving it wider powers, and also removing the conceptual incongruity in combining both the recommendatory and adjudicatory functions in the same authority. The Ordinance, inter alia, also provides for the establishment of a separate disputes redressal body, known as the Telecom Disputes Settlement and Appellate Tribunal with wider adjudicatory powers than those earlier available to TRAI. The amendments in the TRAI Act made through the above Ordinance have been welcomed by various industrial chambers and associations such as CII, FICCI and COAI.

Cutting of Trees by MNCs

*256. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-items captioned "MNCs cutting trees for parking slots", appearing in the Pioneer, dated January 27, 2000;

(b) if so, whether several Multi National Companies and other big giants are constructing parking slots by cutting trees along the National Highways;

(c) whether the Central Pollution Control Board had conducted any inquiry in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to check such unauthorised cutting of trees by MNCs along the National Highways ?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (e) The subject matter is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments who are required to take cognizance under the provisions of Indian Forest Act, 1927 and other relevant Acts and Rules. The Government of India had accordingly requested Government of Haryana to have an enquiry made into the violations mentioned in the news item and take appropriate necessary legal action in the matter. It has now been intimated by the Forest Department, Government of Haryana, that the said parking lot is in front of a private company Gurgaon and the land belongs to Haryana State Industrial Development Corporation. In this area some parks have been created and vehicles are parked on the land lying vacant. No felling of trees was noticed here by the Forest Department of Haryana and no Multi National Company has felled any tree along the National Highway for parking of vehicles. No enquiry has been conducted by the Central Pollution Control Board as the subject matter relates to the State Government.

Refinery Gate Prices of Petroleum Products

*257. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Refinery gate prices of five controlled products are now linked to import parity;

(b) if so, the extent to which this policy is likely to move certain petroleum products away from the Administered Pricing Mechanism;

(c) whether the public sector refineries are in a position to face the vagaries of the international market; and

(d) if not, the steps being taken in this direction ?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Pursuant to the Government decision of November, 1997 to dismantle administered pricing mechanism (APM) in phases, the system of retention pricing has been abolished for all (existing and new) refineries. As per the decision, consumer prices of all petroleum products have been decontrolled except motor spirit, high speed diesel, aviation turbine fuel, kerosene (PDS) and liquified petroleum gas (domestic). The prices of high speed diesel are fixed on import parity basis upto ex-storage point level and pricing of other controlled products is to be moved towards import parity.

(c) and (d) As refineries, including public sector refineries, are being compensated on import parity based prices, they are in a position to face vagaries of international oil market.

[Translation]

Power Projects with Foreign Companies

*258. SHRI CHINMAYANAND SWAMI :
SHRI P. KUMARASAMY :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) the number of deals struck by various State Governments with the private and foreign companies to set up power projects during the last five years in the country, State-wise;

(b) whether any agreements have been signed in this regard;

(c) if so, the salient features thereof;

(d) the time period fixed for completion of these projects; and

(e) the power likely to be generated therefrom ?

THE MINISTER OF POWER AND MINISTER OF MINES AND MINERALS (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) to (e) Government of India has decided that after 18.2.1995, implementation of power projects in the private sector would be only through competitive bidding. As per available information, during the last five years, 6 private power projects, which require the techno-economic clearance of Central Electricity Authority (CEA) as per Government of India's Notification dated October 19, 1994, as amended from time to time, have been selected by the State Governments on the international competitive bidding route. Out of these Power Purchase Agreements (PPA) have been signed for 2 projects. Details of these projects are given below.

Sl. No.	Name of Project/ Promoters/State	Cap. (MW)	Date of award	Date of signing of PPA	Commissioning Schedule
1.	Kondapally CCGT, M/s Kondapally Power Corporation Ltd., Andhra Pradesh	350	24.7.96	31.3.97	June 2000
2.	Vemagiri CCGT, M/s. Ispat Power Ltd., Andhra Pradesh	492	24.7.96	31.3.97	Unit I-20, Unit II-22 and Unit III-26 months from financial closure
3.	Barsingsar TPP, M/s. Hindustan Vidyut Corporation Ltd., Rajasthan	500	23.8.96	PPA initialled on 16.12.96	Unit 1-38 and Unit II-42 months from financial closure.
4.	Jayamkondam TPP, M/s. Jayamkondam Lignite Power Corporation Ltd., Tamil Nadu	500	15.6.98	Yet to be signed	The promoters are yet to submit their complete Detailed Project Report to Central Electricity Authority for techno-economic clearance.
5.	Ennore TPP, M/s. Dakshin Bharat Energy Consortium, Tamil Nadu,	1884.64	28.12.98	Yet to be signed	The promoters are yet to submit their complete Detailed Project Report to Central Electricity Authority for techno-economic clearance.
6.	Goindwal Sahib TPP, M/s. GVK Power (Goindwal) Ltd., Punjab	500	20.5.98	Yet to be signed	The promoters are yet to submit their complete Detailed Project Report to Central Electricity Authority for techno-economic clearance.

Ganga Action Plan

*259. SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Allahabad High Court has stayed the implementation of the Ganga Action Plan (GAP) and has ordered for a review of the whole project by group of experts; and

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

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) and (b) The Allahabad High Court had stayed the implementation of the Ganga Action Plan Phase II vide order dated 16.9.1998 and directed the Ministry of Environment and Forests to constitute a Technical Committee to examine, scrutinize and approve the project and that only after the clearance of this Committee the projects/schemes would be undertaken. This order has been contested by the Ministry of Environment and Forests in the Supreme Court. The

Supreme Court vide its orders dated 29.10.1998 and 9.11.1998 has stayed the operation of the aforesaid direction of the Allahabad High Court pending further orders.

[English]

Workshop on National Forestry Research

*260. DR. V. SAROJA : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a National Workshop on National Forestry Research Plan was held in New Delhi recently;

(b) if so, details of the recommendations made therein; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to exploit the forest reserves ?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The workshop for finalisation of National Forestry Research Plan was held on 16th February, 2000 at New Delhi and was attended by Forests Officers from the State Forest Departments, Heads of different Institutes/ Organizations and the representatives from related Universities, NGOs, Industries, Officers from Ministry of Environment and Forests and Scientists/Officers from ICFRE. The following major prioritized research problems at the national level were identified during the workshop :-

1. Eco-restoration of degraded forests.
2. Development of agroforestry/social forestry models.
3. Planting stock improvement of important species (Teak, Eucalyptus spp., Shisham, Gamhar, Bamboo, Casuarina, etc.
4. Bio-diversity conservation and utilisation.
5. Soil and water conservation (including integrated watershed management).
6. Participatory forest management.
7. Human resource management problems of forest department.
8. Sustainability of forest management/joint forest management.
9. Management of natural forest.
10. Afforestation of stress site (user land, ravine, etc.)
11. Nursery techniques of important species (Teak, Gamhar, Shisham, Bamboo, Sal, etc.)
12. Natural regeneration of important species (Sal, Teak, *Abies pindrow*, Rosewood, Gamhar, etc.)
13. Bio-diversity assessment and monitoring.
14. Protection of endangered species (Tiger, *Taxus baccata*, Orchids, *Rauvolfia* sp.)
15. Seed collection, storage and treatment (Teak, Shisham, Gamhar, Bamboo, etc.)
16. Nursery techniques of NTFP (MFP or NWFP) (*Chlorophytum tuberosum, Rauvolfia serpentina, Taxus baccata, Terminalia chebula*, etc.)
17. Protection of wildlife.
18. Management of Plantation.
19. Management of forest fires.
20. Management of grazing (including grassland management).

All the research projects aim at increasing productivity of the forests and sustainable utilisation of forests resource.

Pollution around Taj Mahal

2600. SHRI RAMCHANDRA VEERAPPA : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether an American Institute has shown interest in saving the Taj Mahal from pollution;

(b) whether any specific scheme has been formulated in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the time by which it is likely to be implemented ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI) : (a) to (d) The National Park Services, USA along with the Department of Tourism, Govt. of India had made a project report called Agra Heritage Project Report. This report had two volumes viz. Planning Synopsis 1994 and Agra Environmental Assessment 1994. The major recommendations made in the Agra Environmental Assessment 1994 are as follows :

1. To ensure supply of uninterrupted power.
2. To improve the industrial operations.

3. To construct Agra bye-pass road and ring road.

4. To ensure use of Gas/LPG in central Agra.

5. Construction of Agra Barrage to improve the water supply position.

6. To ensure effective sewage treatment and effective solid waste management.

The recommendations made in the Agra Environmental Assessment 1994 are covered under various schemes implemented by Ministries/Departments of Government of India.

The Ministry of Environment and Forests alongwith the Government of Uttar Pradesh has been implementing two schemes such as the Taj Protection Mission and the Yamuna Action Plan which cover projects relating to uninterrupted power supply, construction of Gokul barrage, construction of bye-pass roads, improvement of city roads improvement of drainage and sanitation, sewage treatment and solid waste management.

Legislation to Limit Subsidy on Power

2601.SHRI MAHBOOB ZAHEDI : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to bring an Electricity Bill to limit the subsidy by the State Governments;

(b) if so, whether it would have an adverse reflection on the farmers; and

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

THE MINISTER OF POWER AND MINISTER OF MINES AND MINERALS (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) to (c) The Ministry of Power had asked the National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER) as a consultant, to suggest legislative changes it considered necessary to accelerate the reform process in the power sector.

The NCAER has submitted for discussion a draft Electricity Bill to replace the existing three electricity laws (The Indian Electricity Act, 1910, The Electricity (Supply) Act, 1948 and The Electricity Regulatory Commissions Act, 1998).

Its copies have been circulated to all concerned for their comments, suggestions and advice to assist Government in taking a view on the proposed Bill.

[Translation]

Increase in Power Generation Capacity

2602.SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) the quantum of increase in the power generation capacity installed in each of the power stations in various States during the last three years;

(b) whether the Government propose to increase the installed capacity of existing power stations in the States; and

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

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM) : (a) A statement-I showing the new addition in the power generating installed capacity in various States during the last three years, i.e. 1996-97, 1997-98 and 1998-99 is enclosed.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. The Government proposes to increase the installed capacity of the existing power stations in the States. The state-wise details of the proposed addition in the State sector and the Central sector power stations are given in enclosed Statement-II.

Statement-I

Statement showing new addition in installed power generating capacity, State-wise, for 1996-97, 1997-98 and 1998-99.

State	Power Station	Capacity (MW)
1	2	3
1996-97		
Himachal Pradesh	Gaj	10.50
Jammu and Kashmir	Uri, NHPC	480.00
Maharashtra	Dimbhe	5.00
Andhra Pradesh	Kothagudam	250.00
	Jegurupadu	158.40
	Godavari	94.00
Kerala	Lower Periyar	60.00
Bihar	East Gandak Canal	5.00
	Tenughat	210.00
West Bengal	Mejia	210.00
Assam	Kopili Extn., NEEPCO	100.00
	Kathalguri, NEEPCO	33.50
Tripura	Rokhia	8.00

1	2	3
1997-98		
Punjab	GHTP Bhatinda	210.00
Uttar Pradesh	Tanda TPS	110.00
Gujarat	Kutch Lignite	75.00
	Gandhinagar TPS	210.00
	Hazira ST	185.00
	Peguthan	405.00
	Baroda	167.00
Maharashtra	Warna	8.00
	Chandrapur TPS	500.00
Andhra Pradesh	Kothagundam	250.00
	Jegurupadu ST	77.00
	Godavari	114.00
Karnataka	Kadra	50.00
	Bhadra RBC	6.00
Kerala	Lower Periyar	120.00
	Brahamapuram	80.00
Tamil Nadu	Lower Bhawani Dam	8.00
Bihar	East Gandak Canal	5.00
West Bengal	Teesta Canal Falls (I)	22.50
	(II)	7.50
	Budge Budge-I	250.00
	Mejia	210.00
Assam	Adam Tilla	9.00
	Bas Khandi	10.50
	Kathalguri, NEEPCO	60.00
Tripura	Rokhia	8.00
	Agartala, NEEPCO	63.00
Arunachal Pradesh	Nuranang	6.00
1998-99		
Punjab	GHTP Bhatinda	210.00
Rajasthan	Suratgarh TPS	250.00
Uttar Pradesh	Sobla	6.00
	Unchahar, NTPC	210.00
Gujarat	Kadana	60.00
	Wanakbori TPS	210.00
	Peguthan	250.00
Madhya Pradesh	Birsinghpur	210.00
	Vidhyachal STPC, NTPC	500.00
Maharashtra	Warna	8.00
	Koyana	250.00
	Dabhol	740.00
Karnataka	Kadara	100.00
	Kodasaili	80.00
	Raichur	210.00
	Torrangallu	130.00
Kerala	Peringal Kuthu	16.00
	Brahmapuram	20.00
	Kayamkulam, NTPC	230.60
Tamil Nadu	Hathnurdam	7.50
	Basin Bridge	200.00
Pondicherry	Kariakal	22.90
West Bengal	Teesta Canal Fall-II	15.00
	Budge Budge TPS	250.00
Assam	Bas Khandi	5.00
	Kathalguri, NEEPCO	30.00
Tripura	Agartala, NEEPCO	21.00

Statement-II

State-wise details of proposed addition in State Sector and Central Sector Power Stations. (CEA cleared extension projects)

Name of the Project	Capacity (MW)	Date of TEC
1	2	3
State Sector		
Suratgarh TPS St. II RSEB, Rajasthan	2x250	9.7.1999
Parli TPS Extn. St.I MSEB, Maharashtra	1x250	9.7.1999
Balimela HEP Extn. Orissa	2x75	25.10.1999
Central Sector		
Anta CCPP St. II, NTPC Rajasthan	650	19.8.1998
Auraiya CCPP St. II, NTPC, U.P.	650	30.11.1999

1	2	3
Rihand STPS St. II, NTPC, U.P.	2x500	1.10.1999
Kawas CCGT St.II, NTPC, Gujarat	650	19.8.1998
Jhanor Gandhar CCGT St.II NTPC, Gujarat	650	12.11.1998
Ramagundam STPS St.III, NTPC, Andhra Pradesh	1x500	29.4.1999
Talcher St.II STPS, NTPC Orissa	4x500	23.10.1997

Small Projects to Private Companies

2603.SHRI RAJO SINGH : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) the number of small projects like bypasses, roads and overbridges handed over to private companies in the various States and particularly in Bihar during the last three years;

(b) the criteria adopted for the same; and

(c) the total amount involved in such projects and the number of such proposals pending at present ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN) : (a) A Statement giving details is enclosed. No BOT project has been awarded in Bihar.

(b) BOT projects are awarded on the principle of least cost to the user.

(c) The total amount involved on the 20 projects which have already been awarded is about Rs. 1000 crores. No proposal is pending with the Central Government.

Statement

List of BOT Projects Awarded

S. No.	Project Name	NH No	State	Length in km	Cost in Crores	Date of signing	Likely/ actual date of completion	Agency	Current Status
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1.	*Thane-Bhiwandi Bypass	3&4	Maharashtra	24	103	12/09/95	31/12/2001	MOST	in progress
2.	**Chaltan Road Over Bridge	8	Gujarat	14 lane ROB	10	19/09/96	15/07/1998	MOST	Completed
3.	**Udaipur Bypass	8	Rajasthan	11	24	JUL-96	22/04/1998	MOST	Completed
4.	Construction of Six Bridges	5	Andhra Pradesh	6 nos. bridges	50	09/04/97	08/06/2001	MOST	in progress
5.	Coimbatore Bypass	47	Tamil Nadu	33	90	03/10/97	03/12/1999	MOST	in progress
6.	Durg Bypass	6	Madhya Pradesh	18.4	68	05/11/97	05/05/2000	NHAI	in progress
7.	Narmada Bridge	8	Gujarat	6	113	21/11/97	21/12/2000	MOST	in progress
8.	**Nardhana ROB	3	Maharashtra	13	34.21	25/11/97	22/07/1999	MOST	Completed
9.	**Patelganga Bridge and ROB	17	Maharashtra	1 No.	33.3	29/11/97	20/07/1999	MOST	Completed
10.	Hubli-Dharwar Bypass	4	Karnataka	30.35	68	05/02/98	05/11/2001	MOST	in progress

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11.	Nellore Bypass	5	Andhra Pradesh	18	73	17/02/98	OCT, 2000	NHAI	Concession agreement signed construction yet to commence
12.	Koratalaiyar Bridge	5	Tamil Nadu		30	28/10/98	NOV., 2000	MOST	In progress
13.	Kambatki Ghat Tunnel and Road	4	Maharashtra	8	37.8	16/11/98	NOV., 1999	MOST	In progress
14.	Nasirabad ROB	6	Maharashtra	30m	10.45	16/11/98	MAY, 2001	MOST	In progress
15.	Wainganga Bridge	6	Maharashtra	530m	32.6	16/11/98	JULY, 2000	MOST	In progress
16.	Mahi Bridge	8	Gujarat		42	16/11/98	25/04/2000	MOST	In progress
17.	ROB at Kishangarh Bypass	8	Rajasthan	Km	16.66	27/11/98	31/12/2009	NHAI	Concession agreement signed construction yet to commence
18.	Bridge Across River Watrak	8	Gujarat		48.2	01/03/99		MOST	In progress
19.	Moradabad Bypass	24	Uttar Pradesh	18	100			NHAI	In progress through SPV
20.	ROB at Dera Bassi	22	Punjab	ROB	36.11	08/09/99		MOST	Concession agreement signed construction yet to commence

* Original work since completed and opened to traffic. Widening to four lanes is in progress.
** Since completed and opened to traffic

[English]

Agreement with IFC for Power Projects in Andhra Pradesh

2604.SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Andhra Pradesh Government has signed an agreement with International Finance Corporation to invest upto 9 million Pounds in power projects in the State;

(b) if so, the main features thereof; and

(c) the extent to which the power expected to be generated after the completion of this project ?

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Upper Tung Project

2605.SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Upper Tung Project in Karnataka approved by the Central Water Commission is pending with the Government for clearance;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the delay in giving the clearance has greatly affected the project; and

(d) if so, the facts in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI) : (a) to (d) The Central Water Commission (CWC) has not approved the Upper Tunga Project. The CWC has sent comments/observations on the proposal received to the State Government during June 1992 to August 1999 which have not been complied with by the State Government so far. The proposal for environmental and forest clearances were received without providing complete information. Additional information in respect of the proposals sought in 1997 has not seen fully received so far.

Transfer of Judges

2606.SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN : Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the rule regarding the transfer of one third Judges of the High Court at Chennai is followed;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI) : (a) to (c) In 1983 the Government of India had decided that, as a policy, there should be a convention according to which 1/3rd of Judges in each High Court should be from other States.

Appointment/transfer of Judges and Chief Justices of the High Courts is made on the recommendations of the Chief Justice of India.

Out of 35 Judges in position in the Madras High Court, seven Judges are from other States while six Judges from the Madras High Court are currently functioning in other High Courts on transfer.

Numaligarh Refinery

2607.SHRI BHIM DAHAL : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the present status about the commissioning of Numaligarh Refinery in Assam;

(b) the total expenditure incurred so far on the project; and

(c) the time by which it is likely to be commissioned ?

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) : (a) Numaligarh Refinery is being commissioned in a phased manner. The Primary Distillation Units and Delayed Coker Unit were commissioned in April' 99 and Sept' 99 respectively. Hydrogen Unit (H2U) was commissioned in the last week of February, 2000. The remaining major secondary unit (Hydrocracker Unit) is presently under commissioning stage.

(b) NRL is implementing Numaligarh Refinery project along with the adjacent marketing terminal at a total approved cost of Rs. 2724 crores. The total expenditure along with provision as 29.2.2000 for the total project is Rs. 2568 crores.

(c) Refinery is expected to start commercial production in April, 2000.

Allocation of Power to Kerala

2608.SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have discontinued the allocation of unallocated share of power to Kerala;

(b) if so, the reasons therefore and the date on which it was done;

(c) whether Kerala Government has requested to the Union Government to restore the unallocated power to the State;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF POWER AND MINISTER OF MINES AND MINERALS (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) to (e) The allocation of power out of unallocated quota of central generating stations is reviewed from time to time keeping in view the relative power shortages in the constituent States of the region and also to meet the emergent/seasonal requirements of the States in the region. The power supply position in the Southern Region was reviewed by the Central Electricity Authority in December, 1999. Based on the CEA's review, power supply position in Kerala is expected to be comfortable during February, 2000 to June, 2000 as compared to higher shortage in the other States of the Southern Region. Accordingly, the allocation to Kerala has been reduced from 5% (22 MW) to Nil w.e.f. 17.12.1999. Government of Kerala has requested for a review of the decision.

Further review of allocation of unallocated power by CEA is likely to be done in April/May, 2000 keeping in view the then relative power shortages in the States of Southern Region.

Legislation on INTERNET and NICNET

2609.SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV : Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to put all the Central Legislations on the Internet and Nicnet;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which, it is likely to be done ?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI) : (a) The Central Government has taken steps to put all unrepealed Central Acts of All India application as contained in India Code Volumes on INTERNET and NICNET.

(b) and (c) The Central Acts contained in the India Code can be accessed on INTERNET at website address (URL) *http://caselaw.delhi.nic.in/incodis.* Legislative Department has requested other Central administrative Ministries/Departments to bring to the notice of that Department any discrepancies as may be found by them in the material available at the website.

[Translation]

National Environment Tribunal

2610.SHRI SURESH CHANDEL : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to refer to the reply given to USQ No. 3112 on December 20, 1999 regarding Environmental Tribunals and State the action taken by the Government so far for the constitution of National Environmental Tribunal under the National Environment Tribunal Act, 1995 ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI) : The Government has initiated the process of setting up the National Environment Tribunal under the National Environment Tribunal Act, 1995.

[English]

Upgradation of Petrol Quality

2611.SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Oil Corporation has taken any steps for upgrading the petrol quality in order to meet Euro V norms;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time limit for implementing the plan in this regard ?

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) : (a) to (c) At present petrol produced by Indian Oil Corporation conforms to the specification laid down by Bureau of Indian Standards. Euro V norms for petrol have not been mandated in Europe so far.

Reserves of Crude Oil and Gas in Assam

2612.SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the production of crude oil and gas in Assam has increased during the last three years;

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

(c) the actual availability of crude oil and gas in Assam compared to their Plan Projection for the Eight Five Year Plan and also from the year 1997 onwards, year-wise ?

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

Improvement of National Highway in Manipur

2613.SHRI HOLKHOMANG HAOKIP : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have formulated any plan to improve National Highways in the NER particularly in the State of Manipur; and

(b) if so, the details of the Highways proposed to be developed and amount to be spent thereon ?

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

(b) Development of National Highways is a continuing activity. An allocation of Rs. 10.00 crore has been made by the Ministry to the State Government for development of National Highway – 39 and 150 in Manipur during 1999-

2000. In addition to this Border Roads Organisation has allocated Rs. 0.45 crore for development of National Highway – 39 from Mao to Maram and Rs. 07.13 crore for development of National Highway-53.

[Translation]

Mandatory Declaration of Assets by Judges

2614. SHRI JAWAHAR LAL JAISWAL :
SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL :

Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Chief Justices of High Courts have adopted a resolution, making it mandatory for every judge to declare all the assets owned by him to make judiciary more accountable;

(b) if so, the steps being taken by the judiciary in this regard; and

(c) the extent to which the judges have declared their assets ?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI) : (a) to (c) The Conference of Chief Justices of the High Courts held on 3rd and 4th December, 1999, unanimously resolved that every judge should make a declaration of all his/her assets in the form of real estate or investments (held by him/her in his/her own name or in the name of his/her spouse or any person dependent on him/her) within a reasonable time of assuming office and, in the case of sitting Judges within a reasonable time of adoption of the Resolution. The Resolution further provides that thereafter, whenever any acquisition of a substantial nature is made, it shall be disclosed within a reasonable time. The declaration would be made to the Chief Justice of the Court. The Chief Justice should make a similar declaration for the purpose of record. The declaration made by the Judges or the Chief Justice, as the case may be, shall be confidential.

[English]

Fixation of Standard License Fee

2615. SHRI RAJAIAH MALYALA : Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to refer to the reply given on December 20, 1999 to the Unstarred Question No. 2944 and state :

(a) the reasons for not fixing the standard license fee so far;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI) : (a) The Government of India had constituted a Committee to fix license fee for the existing as well as the proposed new chambers for the lawyers of the Supreme Court of India. The recommendations of the Committee are under Consideration. Therefore, the standard fee for the chambers has not been fixed as yet.

(b) It is not possible to calculate the loss of revenue to the exchequer on this count until the license fee is firmed up.

(c) Does not arise at this stage.

[Translation]

Pipeline Job to Private Companies

2616. SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have awarded contract of laying the pipelines to private companies and ignored the public sector oil companies;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the approximate loss of revenue likely to be incurred by public sector companies on this count ?

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) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

LPG Agencies/Petrol Pumps in Dahod, Gujarat

2617. SHRI BABUBHAI K. KATARA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Petrol pumps and LPG agencies functioning in Dahod District of Gujarat as on date;

(b) the number of new LPG agencies and petrol pumps opened during 1998 and 1999;

(c) the number of applications received by the Government for the allotment of LPG agencies and Petrol pumps in the district during the last three years;

(d) the time by which these LPG agencies and petrol pumps are likely to be allotted; and

(e) the number of new LPG agencies and petrol pumps proposed to be opened in the said district during 2000 and 2001 ?

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) : (a) There are 15 retail outlets and 4 LPG distributorships in operation in District Dahod, Gujarat.

(b) No, retail outlet dealership or LPG distributorship has been opened in the District Dahod, Gujarat in 1998 and 1999.

(c) to (e) During the last three years Oil Companies have advertised 4 LPG distributorships in Distt. Dahod, Gujarat. During this period no retail outlet dealership have been advertised. Dealer Selection Boards have recently been dissolved. It generally takes about 6-12 months for commissioning of dealership/distributorships from the date of interview.

[English]

SC Orders on Noise Pollution

2618.SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Supreme Court has directed the Union Government to file a copy of the order banning the use of loudspeaker and high volume systems;

(b) if so, whether the Government have acted upon the directions of the Supreme Court;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken to check other sources of noise pollution in Delhi and other metropolitan cities ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI) : (a) to (c) No, Sir. However, a notification has been issued on 14th February, 2000 for regulation and control of noise producing and generating sources.

(d) The steps taken by the Government to check noise pollution in Delhi and other metropolitan cities include the following :-

(i) Noise pollution has been included in the amended Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1987. Ambient standards in respect of noise for different categories of areas (residential), commercial, industrial and silence zones) have been notified under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.

(ii) Noise limits have also been prescribed for automobiles, domestic appliances and construction equipment at the manufacturing stage.

(iii) Standards and guidelines for control of noise pollution from stationary diesel generator sets have been evolved and notified in January, 1999.

(iv) A notification has also been issued to specify the standards for fire crackers in October, 1999.

(v) A Code of practice has been evolved by the Central Pollution Control Board for control of noise and is being used as guidelines to control noise pollution.

Opening of Post Offices in Bellary

2619.SHRI KOLUR BASAVANAGOUD : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of post offices including sub-post offices at present functioning in the Bellary region;

(b) the number of new post offices opened during 1999-2000 in the said region; and

(c) the number of new post offices proposed to be opened in 2000-2001 in the region ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) 456 post offices including sub-post offices are functioning at present in Bellary region.

(b) No new post office has been opened during 1999-2000 in the said region.

(c) The targets for opening of new post offices in the region during 2000-2001 are yet to be finalised.

Navinagar Super Thermal Power Station

2620.SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 44 dated November 29, 1999 and state :

(a) whether the Union Government propose to take up the construction of Navinagar Super Thermal Power Station in Bihar;

(b) if so, whether survey for its feasibility has since been conducted; and

(c) if so, the time frame fixed for its implementation ?

THE MINISTER OF POWER AND MINISTER OF MINES AND MINERALS (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) to (c) Keeping in view the need to increase the capacity addition programme in Central Sector during 10th and 11th Plan, Navinagar Thermal Power Project in Bihar has been viewed as one of the potential projects for development by National Thermal Power Corporation. NTPC has been advised to initiate preliminary works of the project after assessing its feasibility and market ability of power to be generated from the project.

Thalassery – Mahe By-Pass

2621. SHRI A.P. ABDULLAKUTTY : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the land acquisition for the By-pass road Kannur – Thalassery – Mahe has been completed;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the two bridges viz. the Moidu and Darmadam Bridges in Kannur – Thalassery route are in dangerous position;

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

(e) the remedial steps being taken in the wake of this; and

(f) the time by which this project is likely to be completed ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN) : (a) and (b) Land acquisition for Phase-I of Thalassery – Mahe By-pass has been completed. Land acquisition work for Phase-II of the Bypass has started.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) to (f) Do not arise.

Winding up of I.R.C.C.

2622. SHRI SALKHAN MURMU :
SARDAR BUTA SINGH :

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether it has been decided to wind up IRCC;

(b) if so, the details of the benefits likely to be given to its employees;

(c) the alternative service arrangements being made by Ministry for the employees; and

(d) the reserved vacancies/posts available in N.H.A.I., Inland Waterways Authority and other Corporations under the Ministry ?

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

(b) Employees of the Corporation can opt for voluntary retirement failing which they will be entitled to compensation payable on closure as per the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947.

(c) Nil.

(d) Reserved posts for SC/ST in NHAI are as follows :–

		SC	ST
(a)	Personal Assistants	2	1
(b)	Steno Grade 'D'	5	5
(c)	Accountant	4	2

Reserved vacancies of Group 'C' and 'D' posts in Inland Waterways Authority of India at Regional office, Patna, are as follows :–

SC	ST
2(promotion quota)	2(promotion quota)
7(direct recruitment)	5(direct recruitment)

Poor Bidding Response to NTPC Power Projects

2623. SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether two major power projects of National Thermal Power Corporation received poor bidding response from the Multinational Power Companies;

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

(c) the manner in which the Government propose to remove the obstacle coming in the way ?

THE MINISTER OF POWER AND MINISTER OF MINES AND MINERALS (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) to (c) National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) received two bids, one from M/s Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) and the other from M/s Asia Brown Boveri (ABB) for Kawas-II and Gandhar-II Combine Cycle Power Projects. NTPC received only one bid, from M/s BHEL, for Anta-II and Auraiya-II Combined Cycle Power Projects.

Considering the vital national importance of these projects and with a view to avoid any further loss of time, NTPC was advised by the Ministry in the public interest to finalise the bids by negotiating with the bidders on the basis of a legal opinion taken from the Additional Solicitor General. However, NTPC, taking into account certain major deviations on various specifications and requirements treated both the bids as non-responsive and decided to go for rebidding after reviewing the bidding conditions and providing adequate time to the bidders for better competition and response.

Development of Rest Areas

2624. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH :
SHRI GANTA SREENIVASA RAO :

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether any land has been acquired by the National Highways Authority of India for the development of rest areas anywhere in the country;

(b) if so, the State where the National Highways Authority of India propose to develop rest areas;

(c) the pending proposals with National Highways Authority of India for developing modern road-side rest areas; and

(d) the time by which such proposals would be implemented by the National Highways Authority of India in order to ensure free and safe flow of traffic on the National Highway sections ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN) : (a) to (d) National Highways Authority of India has not yet acquired any land for development of rest areas in the country. Development of rest areas and other users facilities would be on intergral part of the National Highways Development Project entrusted to NHAI comprising Golden Quadrilateral linking major cities of Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, Calcutta and North-South, East-West Corridors. The detailed engineering and project preparation taken up for these National Highways would identify the possible locations of rest areas and users facilities. The land at these locations is intended to be acquired as part of the development process and thereafter the proposals [on the basis of competitive bidding] be invited from interested private entrepreneurs for developing and operating them as per modern international practices. These rest areas and other users facilities for the safety and convenience of the traffic are intended to be implemented along with the completion of the upgrading of these NHs sections.

Expansion of Petrol and Diesel Outlets in Visakhapatnam

2625. SHRI GANTA SREENIVASA RAO : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of proposals of public sector oil companies to expand their petrol and diesel outlets in Vasakhapatnam district in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) whether the number of outlets between Anakapalle and Visakhapatnam has not kept pace with the increase in the demand; and

(c) if so, the steps proposed to meet this demand in the year 2000-2001 ?

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) : (a) to (c) To meet the increased fuel requirement 8 more retail outlet dealerships are included in the various Marketing plans for district Visakhapatnam in Andhra Pradesh. As per the existing policy locations found economically viable are included in the Marketing Plan and are advertised by the Oil Company from time to time for selection of dealers/ distributors under the normal selection procedure of advertisement of the locations and selection through the Dealer Selection Boards. It generally takes about 6-12 months for commissioning of the dealerships/distributorships from the date of interview.

Presently these are 11 retail outlets between Anakapalle and Visakhapatnam meeting the fuel requirement of the area.

Supply of Surplus Power to States

2626. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether various regions in the country have installed capacity to generate more power then their requirement;

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

(c) whether any arrangements have been made by the Government to supply the surplus power to the deficit States; and

(d) if so, the details thereof, State-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF POWER AND MINISTER OF MINES AND MINERALS (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) and (b) The Eastern Region in the country has

generating capability more than its own requirement. The region is estimated to have surplus of about 1500 MW during peak hours and 3000 MW during off-peak hours. The actual growth in demand in the region has been below what was anticipated. Besides, non-availability of adequate transmission and distribution system in the region has resulted in suppressed demand. The other regions in the country do not have surplus generating capability. However, Western Region has also got seasonal surplus power during off-peak hours.

(c) and (d) Surplus power of the Eastern Region is being exported to neighbouring deficit regions over the existing inter connections between Eastern and other regions. At present about 1100 MW surplus power from Eastern Region is being exported to neighbouring States as under :-

Uttar Pradesh	60-70 MW
Madhya Pradesh	315 MW
Gujarat	55 MW
Andhra Pradesh	340 MW (including 170 MW under bilateral agreement with GRIDCO)
Karnataka	105 MW
Tamil Nadu	125 MW
Assam	100 MW

Besides, surplus power of Western Region is also evacuated from time to time to the deficit neighbouring States like Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Rajasthan.

The construction of 500 MW HVDC back-to-back station at Sasaram inter-linking Eastern and Northern Regions is being undertaken.

Installation of Optical Fibre Cables

2627.SHRI RAGHUVIR SINGH KAUSHAL : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the names of the cities and towns of Kota, Bundi, Jhalavad and Banka districts in Rajasthan proposed to be connected by Optical Fibre Cables during the next three years;

(b) the estimated amount to be spent thereon;

(c) whether the targets fixed in this regard during the last three years could not be achieved;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the extent to which the capacity of telephone exchanges in the Kota City is likely to be increased during the next two years and the time by which the waiting list for telephone connections is likely to be cleared ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) The District wise details are given in enclosed Statement-I and II. The information is furnished for Baran district as there is no district named Banka in Rajasthan. The connectivity planned is subject to availability of resources.

(b) Rs. 38 cr. approx.

(c) and (d) The target could not be fully achieved due to non-availability of equipment on time.

(e) Capacity of Kota city Exchange is proposed to be expanded as under :

Year 2000-01	=	5000 lines.
Year 2001-02	=	5000 lines.

Waiting list as on 29.2.2000 is likely to be cleared by March 2000.

Statement-I

District-wise list of Existing Exchanges Planned on OFC in next three years

Name of Existing Exchanges	
DISTRICT : BARAN	Barodia
Badwa	Bara Khera
Bhanwargarh	Barundan
Chhipabarod	Dabi
Devri	Dablana
Kelwara	Dahikhera
Koyala (TT APPD)	Dehit
Nahergarh	Dei
Samrania	Gothra
Sarthal	Gudanathawat
Shahbad	Jaithal
Siswali	Jajawar
DISTRICT : BUNDI	Jhaliji Ka Barana
Alfanagar	Karwar
Alod	Kesho Rai Patan
Arnetha	Kapren
Bada Khera	Katkar
Badanayagaon	Labana
Bansi	Mantunda

DISTRICT : BUNDI (Contd.)	Pagaria	Garda	DISTRICT : BUNDI
Nainwa	Pipliya	Jalwara	Jarkhoda
Namana	Ratlai	Kunjed	Jawaharsagar
Namanaroad	Richhwa	Lakheri	Mayaja
Pechklbawri	Sarola Kalan	Laxmipura	DISTRICT : JHALAWAR
Ranipura	Sailgarh	Mamoni	Dublia
Sumerganjmandi – (Indergarh)	Sunel	Mothpur	Samrai
Suwasa	Titri	Pachelkalan	Sarada
Talwas	DISTRICT : KOTA	Parania	Sirpoi
Thana	Alania	Rajpura	Taraj
DISTRICT : JHALAWAR	Anwa	Ramoliamataji	DISTRICT : KOTA
Aklera	Bapawar	Relawan	Bambori
Bakani	Bhandehera	Sakatpur	Dhulet
Bhalta	Bhesroadgarh	Vijaypur	Kherarudha
Bhawani Mandi	Borkhandi		
Binda	Chechat		
Chaumahla (Gangdhar)	Deolimazi		
Dag	Dhulet		
Dahl Khera	Digod		
Gangdhar	Genta		
Ghatoli	Kethun		
Guradiya Joga	Jagpura		
Harigarh	Kanwas (TT APPd.)		
Harnawada Shahji	Khatoly		
Hemara	Kundanpui		
Jawar	Mandana		
Jhalar Patan	Nimoda		
Jolpa	Pipalda		
Khuri	Rangpur		
Khanpur	Sangod		
Mandawar	Simliya		
Manohar Thana	Thather		
Misroli	Udwa		

Statement-II

List of the 10th Party Cases for Opening New Exchanges

Names of Village	
DISTRICT : BARAN	Bambori
Badora	Batawara
Baigna	Bohat
Baldara	Foonsra

Urban Green Belt Programme

2628. SHRI JITENDRA PRASADA : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated an "urban green belt programme" to reduce the environmental problems; and

(b) if so, the salient feature of this programme and the manner in which Government intend to achieve the same ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government have initiated an urban green belt programme in selected cities/ towns. The salient feature of the programme is to reduce environmental pollution and improve the environment. The programme is implemented through State Pollution Control Boards in collaboration with Forest Departments, local bodies, Public Health Departments, Water and Sewerage Boards. The approach for implementation of the programme is through awareness building and involvement of people in planting and protecting the trees to achieve the desired goal.

1000 MW Mangalore Power Project in Karanataka

2629. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR :
SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether China Light Power Company (CLP) have requested to the Government to execute 1000 MW

thermal power project near Mangalore in Joint Venture with an Indian Partner;

(b) if so, whether the work on the project would commence during March, 2000; and

(c) if so, the facts and details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF POWER AND MINISTER OF MINES AND MINERALS (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) M/s. China Light and Power International have addressed a letter dated 2.2.2000 to the Government of Karnataka stating that they are committed to implement the project by choosing an Indian partner, who would hold at least 30% of equity in Mangalore Power Company and in any case, M/s. China Light and Power International will retain at least 50% share holding.

(b) The project will not be able to achieve financial closure by March, 2000 and hence construction work on the project is not likely to commence during this period.

(c) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Generation and Consumption of Power in Capital

2630. SHRI VIJAY GOEL : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether his Ministry propose to make some contribution in the direction of minimising the difference between power generation and consumption in Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF POWER AND MINISTER OF MINES AND MINERALS (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) to (c) The power demand of National Capital Territory of Delhi is met from its own thermal generating stations, Badarpur Thermal Power Station and its share from Central Sector Generating Stations. The actual power supply position in Delhi during April, 1999 to February, 2000 is given below :-

	April, 1999 – Feb, 2000	
	Energy (MU)	Peak (MW)
Requirement	16360	2850
Availability	15873	2498
Shortage (%)	487 (3.0%)	352 (12.4%)

In order to minimise the gap between requirement of power and availability in Delhi, following steps are proposed :-

(i) Additional allocation from the unallocated quota of the central sector stations in the Northern Region to supplement the power availability during summer months.

(ii) Upkeep and maintenance of central sector power stations namely Badarpur Thermal Power Station (BTPS) and Dadri NCTPS in which DVB has a major share before the commencement of Summer to maintain high level of performance of these stations.

(iii) Arrange supply of Naphtha to Auraiya GPS and HSD to Dadri GPS to utilise full capacity of these gas stations and supply of washed coal to BTPS to ensure high level of performance.

(iv) Close monitoring for expeditious installation of shunt capacitors in Delhi system to improve voltage profile.

(v) Addition of new generating capacity in the Northern region in which DVB will have it's share.

(vi) Purchase of surplus power from Himachal Pradesh during the summer months under bilateral agreement.

[English]

PCO/STD/ISD Franchises

2631. SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR :
SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have recently liberalised franchises for the Public Telephone booths including PCO/STD/ISD;

(b) if so, the details thereof relating to the minimum distance with respect to the geographic spread of booths in urban and rural areas without access to or with inadequate access to Public Telephone booths;

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to associate elected Members of the Legislatures with the Advisory Committees dealing with the telephones and selection of Public Telephone franchises;

(d) whether the Government propose to increase the commission a amount to the said booth owners from 20% to 50% particularly handicapped persons; and

(e) if so, the details thereof including the exact percentage of commission ?

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

(b) The present policy of the department is to allot STD PCOs to educated unemployed persons. Recently the policy has been reviewed in order to allot those liberally to the educated unemployed persons who volunteer. The PCOs can be located at any place which is easily accessible to the public. The distance restriction between PCOs has not been prescribed keeping in view the following aspects.

To provide more number of PCOs for the benefit of the public at large.

To make available option.

Easy access to Telecom facilities.

Reduce waiting time at STD booth.

Reduce long waiting list of prospective STD franchisees.

To provide job opportunity to more unemployed persons.

(c) There is already a provision for nomination of MLAs/MLCs under the category of "State Legislature" in each and every Telephone Advisory Committee. As regards, allotment of PCOs, those are made on first come first served basis as per registration. Certain category of applicant such as war-widows, SC-ST, handicapped persons and exservicemen are given preference in the matter of allotment of STD PCOs. With the allotment of PCOs being made on first come first served basis, there is no need for any committee to decide the allotment of PCOs.

(d) Recently it is has been decided to increase the rate of commission of STD PCO franchisees in Urban areas. According to the new rates commission @ 0.20 paise shall be payable for each unit call. In the Circles where competition from private Operators has started, CGMs have powers to allow commission upto 0.30 paise per unit call. Presently there is no need to review the rates of commission.

(e) Does not arise in view of reply to part (d)

Clearance to Road Projects in Maharashtra

2632.SHRI MOHAN RAWALE :
SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE :

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of proposals received from Government of Maharashtra for getting the environment clearance for various road projects during the last three years;

(b) the numbers out of them cleared; and

(c) the time by which the remaining proposals are likely to be cleared ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI) : (a) to (c) Six proposals for various road projects were received from Government of Maharashtra for environmental clearance during the last three years. Out of these, one project was accorded environmental clearance. The files relating to the remaining projects were closed due to incomplete information. After receipt of further information/clarifications, the file in respect of one of the projects has been reopened in January, 2000 for further processing. Decision on the proposals is taken within 90 days from the date of receipt of complete information.

Telecom Migration Package

2633.COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Telecom migration package comes under audit fire" appearing in the Times of India dated February 5,2000;

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

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) Sir, a Draft Audit Para titled "Package of concessions to existing Cellular and Basic Telephone Service Operators" was received from Director General of Audit, Post and Telecommunications. On the subject, a news item titled "Telecom migration package comes under audit fire" appeared in "Times of India" dated 5.2.2000.

(b) and (c) The Government have not accepted the observations made in the Draft Audit Para. A reply was sent to Audit indicating the Government's view, inter-alia, that migration of the existing licensees to the New Telecom Policy-1999 regime of revenue sharing arrangement was a result of informed and institutionalized decision in best public interest making pragmatic adjustments warranted by ground realities in relation to the Telecom Industry.

LPG Agencies and Petrol Pumps in Hilly Areas of U.P.

2634.SHRI A. NARENDRA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up more LPG agencies and petrol pumps in hilly areas of Uttar Pradesh other than operated by the Garhwal Mandal Vikas Nigam;

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

(c) if so, the locations where the survey has been conducted and the time by which the agencies and petrol pumps at these placed are likely to start functioning ?

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) : (a) to (c) Oil Companies periodically conduct surveys in different parts of the country including in hilly areas of Uttar Pradesh for identifying economically viable locations for setting up retail outlet dealerships and LPG distributorships as per Oil Industry's economic feasibility norms. Locations found feasible are included in the Marketing Plans. Selection of dealers/distributors for the locations included in the Marketing Plan is made as per the prescribed procedure of advisement of the locations and selection by the Dealer Selection Boards. Accordingly, 23 retail outlet dealerships and 49 LPG distributorships have been found feasible and included in the Marketing Plan for hilly areas of Uttar Pradesh. It generally takes about 6-12 months for commissioning of dealerships/distributorships from the date of interview. The Dealer Selection Boards have recently been dissolved.

[Translation]

Power Projects in Bihar

2635.SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Hon'ble Prime Minister has laid the foundation stone of two major power projects in Bihar;

(b) if so, the time by which these projects are likely to be completed and the present position thereof; and

(c) the quantum of power expected to be generated therefrom ?

THE MINISTER OF POWER AND MINISTER OF MINES AND MINERALS (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) Yes, Sir. The foundation stones for two Super Thermal Power Projects one at Barh in Patna district and the other at North Karanpura in Chatra district, Bihar were laid by Prime Minister in March, 1999.

(b) and (c) The projects with a capacity of 2000 MW each have been identified as mega power projects to be implemented by National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC). NTPC has taken up various site specific studies for these projects for preparation of Feasibility Report at each location. These projects are envisaged to be commissioned during 10th and 11th Five Year Plans subject to timely availability of various linkages/clearances and financial tie-ups.

[English]

Ganga Action Cell

2636.DR. RAMESH CHAND TOMAR : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have decided to set up a 'Ganga Action Cell' to save the river from contamination and meeting the same fate as that of the Yamuna;

(b) if so. the composition of members of the proposed Ganga Action Cell;

(c) whether the Government have taken any decision to connect some rivers with Ganga in view of apprehensions in regard to its drying; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. There is a National River Conservation Directorate (which was earlier known as Ganga Project Directorate) functioning in the Ministry of Environment and Forests. This Directorate supervises the implementation of the National River Conservation Plan (which include the Ganga Action Plan) with an approved outlay of Rs. 2013.39 crore. There are two regional offices of the Directorate at Calcutta and Allahabad.

(c) and (d) There is a "Himalayan Rivers Development Plan" under the "National Perspective Plan" for optimum development of water resources of the country. The Himalayan Rivers Development Plan envisages construction of storage reservoirs on the principal tributaries of the Ganga and the Brahmaputra in India and Nepal, alongwith interlinking canal system to transfer surplus flows of the eastern tributaries of the Ganga to the west, apart from linking of the main Brahmaputra and its tributaries with the Ganga and Ganga with Mahanadi. The Himalayan

Rivers Development Plan has not been approved by Government.

Self-Sufficiency in Power Sector

2637.SHRIMATI RANEE NARAH : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether experts have suggested that India needed an energy revolution on the lines of green revolution to make India self-sufficient in the field of power;

(b) if so, whether the Government are considering any concrete measures in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to make the country self-sufficient in the power sector ?

THE MINISTER OF POWER AND MINISTER OF MINES AND MINERALS (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) to (d) The Government is not aware of an energy revolution suggested by any expert. However, according to the perspective planning studies carried out by Central Electricity Authority, an installed capacity of 2,40,000 MW would be required by the end of 11th Plan (2011-12) to meet the demand of 1,76,647 MW as forecast by 15th Electric Power Survey (EPS) Report.

In order to increase the installed capacity, the Government opened the power sector for private sector participation by amending the Electricity (Supply) Act, 1948 in 1991. Thereafter, a series of measures have been taken to encourage inflow of private capital in the power sector. They include :-

(i) streamlining of procedures.

(ii) raising the limit of foreign equity of 100% provided it is less than Rs. 1500 crores.

(iii) introduction of the Electricity Laws (Amendment) Act, 1998 recognising transmission as a distinct activity and paving the way for private sector investment on transmission.

(iv) providing counter guarantees to seven out of eight initial fast track projects.

(v) delegation of powers to the states in order to reduce gestation time of projects.

The Government has also introduced a Hydel policy in August, 1998 and a revised mega policy in November, 1998.

The current focus of the Government is on reforms and restructuring. While the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission was set up in 1998, fourteen such State Commissions have also been set up in as many States. The primary task of the Commissions would be to decide generation and transmission tariffs which, would improve the financial health of the State Electricity Boards. The Other thrust areas of the Government are Renovation and Modernisation and strengthening of the transmission and distribution systems. Both these measures would improve power availability in the country.

[Translation]

Development of National Parks/ Sanctuaries

2638.DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a proposal for Central Assistance for the development of National Parks/Sanctuaries has been sent by the Government of Madhya Pradesh for approval and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI) : (a) and (b) Proposals seeking central assistance of Rs. 904.86 lakhs and Rs. 1400.21 lakhs under the schemes 'Project Tiger' and 'Development of National Parks and Sanctuaries', respectively, were received from Government of Madhya Pradesh. Against the total allocation of Rs. 17 crores and Rs. 12.98 crores, respectively, under these schemes, for the year 1999-2000 Union Government released Rs. 278.785 lakhs under the scheme 'Project Tiger' and Rs. 151.75 lakhs under the scheme 'Development of National Parks and Sanctuaries'

Ban on Plastic Utensils

2639.KUNWAR SARV RAJ SINGH : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether many scientists of the country are demanding ban on the plastic utensils;

(b) if so, whether the Government are contemplating to take any decision in view of the advice of the scientists; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI) : (a) to (c) The Government is not aware of the demand made by scientists of ban plastic utensils.

However, the Ministry of Environment and Forests have notified on 2.9.1999 the "Recycled Plastics Manufacture and Usage Rules, 1999". These Rules prohibit use of carry bags or containers made of recycled plastics by vendors for storing, carying, dispensing or packaging of foodstuffs. Also, these Rules make it obligatory that carry bags and containers made of virgin plastic shall be in natural shade or white.

PCO/STD/ISD Booths in Orissa

2640.SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of PCO/ STD/ ISD booths installed in Orissa during the last three years, district-wise;

(b) the number of applications lying pending for the sanction of such booths in the State, district-wise; and

(c) the time by which these applications are likely to be cleared ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) and (b) The information regarding the number of PCOs installed in Orissa during the last three years and the number of applications pending for allotment of PCOs booths is given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) All the pending applications are to be cleared by the end of March, 2000 subject to technical feasibility and the Applicants fulfilling other conditions.

Statement

Name of the Telecom District	No. of PCOs installed during			No. of applications pending (As on 31.12.99)
	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99	
1	2	3	4	5
Balasore	133	44	82	18
Baripada	46	7	59	30
Berhampur	116	88	99	49
Bhubaneswar	118	79	60	1589
Bolangir	101	37	37	127
Bhawanipatna	0	0	36	66
Cuttack	220	109	84	11
Dhenkanal	63	5	2	219
Koraput	16	42	1	29
Rourkela	140	85	66	85
Sambalpur	139	76	71	207

Bids by NTPC for Equipment Suppliers

2641.SHRI G.J. JAVIYA :
SHRI SHIVAJI MANE :
SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI :
SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE :
SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "NTPC, Ministry rift widens over Kawas, Gandhar bids" appearing in the Hindustan Times, dated February 17, 2000;

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

(c) whether the bids of both ABB, Alstom Power and BHEL – Siemens AG of Germany are unresponsive and both have deviated in a big way ;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor and reaction of the Government thereto ; and

(e) the reasons for insisting National Thermal Power Corporation to go ahead for negotiation with ABB, Alstom Power instead of opting fresh snap bids to select equipment suppliers ?

THE MINISTER OF POWER AND MINISTER OF MINES AND MINERALS (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (e) National Thermal Power Corporation Ltd. had drawn up an expansion plan for four gas based projects, viz. Kawas CCPP-II, Jhanor-Gandhar CCPP-II, Anta CCPP-II and Auraiya CCPP-II of a capacity of 650 MW each aggregating to 2600 MW targeted for commissioning within the 9th Plan period. The bidding process for these projects have initiated by NTPC during 1998 and till date the bids could not be finalised due to various technical reasons. As the projects are of vital national importance, the Government is anxious that no further time in implementing these projects is lost due to various operational reasons.

NTPC was accordingly advised by the Ministry in the public interest to finalise the bids by negotiating with the

bidders on the basis of a legal opinion taken from the Additional Solicitor General. However, NTPC, taking into account certain major deviations on various specifications and requirements, treated both the bids non-responsive and decided to rebid. A review of bidding conditions has been undertaken by NTPC and rebidding is being done by providing adequate time to the bidders for better competition and response. There is no rift between the Government and NTPC.

LPG Agencies Lying Closed

2642.DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of LPG agencies of various oil companies lying closed at present, company-wise and State-wise;

(b) the reasons therefore, State-wise;

(c) whether the Government propose to revive these agencies; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

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

[Translation]

Telephone Connections in Gujarat

2643.SHRI RAMSINH RATHWA :
SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VERMA :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of persons on the waiting list for telephone connections at present in Gujarat particularly in Baroda district Bhavnagar and Ahmedabad districts, district-wise;

(b) the number of telephone connections provided in the State during the last three years and till date, district-wise;

(c) the steps taken by the Government to clear the waiting lists;

(d) whether telephone exchanges in Gujarat particularly in Baroda district are functioning properly;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor;

(f) the steps taken by the Government to make them function properly; and

(g) the amount spent for setting up telephone exchanges in the State during the last three years ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) The information is given below :

Sl. No.	Area	Waiting list as on 29.02.2000
1.	Gujarat State	259471
2.	Vadodara district	18989
3.	Bhavnagar district	14620
4.	Ahmedabad district	41353

(b) The information is given in Statement.

(c) It was envisaged in 9th Plan objectives as well as New Telecom Policy 1999 to make available telephone on demand by and of 9th Plan with private sector supplementing the effort of Government. As there has been delay in provision of telephones by private sector due to various reasons, the target of provision of new telephone connections by the Govt. is being increased every year in order to meet the demand of telephones in the country as well as we may be in a position to meet the objectives of making available telephone on demand through out the country by end of 9th.Plan.

(d) to (f) All the exchanges in Gujarat Telecom. Circle including Baroda district are electronic and working satisfactorily. However, in the exchanges having openwire media, problem about STD connectivity are observed. There is a proposal to provide reliable transmission media in a phased manner to all exchanges working on overhead media.

(g) The amount spent for setting up telephone exchanges in Gujarat Telecom Circle is given below :-

Year	Amount spent for Telephone Exchanges (in Crores of Rs.)
1996-97	Rs. 416.88
1997-98	Rs. 515.32
1998-99	Rs. 512.37

Statement

Number of Telephone connections provided during last three years and upto 29.2.2000

Sl. No.	Name of the Telecom District	Revenue Districts Covered	New telephone connections providing during			
			1996-97	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000 upto 29.2.2000
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Ahemdabad	Ahemdabad Gandhinagar	32216	39200	36627	62326
2.	Amreli	Amreli	2791	5167	7289	8108
3.	Bharuch	Bharuch and Narmada	9320	9439	10006	9062
4.	Bhavnagar	Bhavnagar	3674	14512	11059	7252
5.	Bhuj	Kutchh	7679	11755	12630	3275
6.	Godhara	Panch Mahal Dahod	4725	4650	4502	4077
7.	Jamnagar	Jamnagar	4507	3664	9807	7775
8.	Mehsana	Mehsand Patan	10534	12270	15852	14962
9.	Junagadh	Junagadh Porbandar	8444	9557	15632	18331
10.	Nadiad	Kheda Anand	8215	11095	14011	11247
11.	Palanpur	Banaskantha	3863	6640	9160	8361
12.	Rajkot	Rajkot	15006	18337	26868	20509
13.	Surat	Surat	21467	23111	26463	26598
14.	Surendranagar	Surend ra Nagar	4116	4728	5809	5154
15.	Himatnagar	Savarkantha	3406	4966	6301	11177
16.	Vadodara	Vadodara	15087	16874	24853	20616
17.	Valsad	Valsad Navsari Dang	6837	11869	15664	13185

[English]

Privatisation of Power Sector PSUs

2644.SHRIMATI KAILASHO DEVI : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have come across hurdles in the privatisation of power Public Sector Undertakings including National Hydro Power Corporation and National Thermal Power Corporation;

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

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the time frame fixed by the Government for privatisation in power sector public Sector Undertakings ?

THE MINISTER OF POWER AND MINISTER OF MINES AND MINERALS (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) to (c) In order to enable the Government to implement an accelerated power development programme, the Government is considering various options for mobilizing resources to supplement the funds likely to be provided in the plan and to leverage the strengths of different central public sector undertakings under the Ministry of Power. A decision on the modality of leveraging the financial strength of different CPSUs covering various aspects like disinvestment, privatization will be taken in consultation with Planning Commission and concerned Ministries.

(d) In view of above, does not arise.

Fund for Kollam By-Pass of NH-47

2645.SHRI P. RAJENDRAN : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether amount has been provided in the Central Budget for the third and fourth phase of the construction work of the Kollam by-pass of National Highway-47;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken for expediting the second phase of the construction work of the aforesaid by-pass ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN) : (a) No, Sir. Balance work is proposed to be taken up as a B.O.T. (Build, Operate and Transfer) project.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Construction of Phase II of Kollam By-pass is in advanced stage of progress and is targetted to be completed by June, 2000.

Abolition of Death Penalty

2646.SHRI DANVE RAOSAHEB PATIL : Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to abolish death penalty;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which it is likely to be implemented ?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI) : (a) There is no such proposal under the Government's consideration.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Establishment of Rating Training Institute

2647.SHRI K. MURALEEDHARAN : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal for the establishment of Rating Training Institute on the Western Coast;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government would accept the report of the expert team in this regard and take steps to establish the Institute at Kakodi; and

(d) if so, the reason for the delay in establishing the same ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) No, Sir. However, a proposal for setting up of a rating training establishment in Kerala was initiated in 1990 with the understanding that the land would be provided free of cost by the Government of Kerala. As the Government of Kerala could nct provide land free of cost, the proposal could not materialise.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) The Government had accepted the recommendations of the expert team and the efforts were made towards the setting up of the proposed establishment at Kakodi. However, since the Government of Kerala did not agree to provide the required land for setting up of the institute the proposal could not materialise;

Following the change in the policy of Government enunciated in 1997, procedure for approval of training institutes to be set up in the private sector have been laid down. The Government ensure maintenance of laid down standards.

At present there are five rating training institutes on the Western Coast viz. T.S. Rehman, Mumbai; BPT-FOSMA Training Centre, Mumbai; NUSI Academy, Goa; Indian Institute of Maritime Technology, Cochin and Euro Tech, Cochin.

Calcutta Port

2648.DR. NITISH SENGUPTA : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention has been drawn to a newspaper report that the Government proposes to close down the Calcutta port in order to cut down its mounting losses;

(b) whether it is also proposed to shift all the facilities from Calcutta to Haldia;

(c) whether there is any simultaneous proposal to commercially exploit the vast real estates under the ownership of the Calcutta Port Trust; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

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

(b) and (c) There are no such proposals under consideration of the Government.

(d) Does not arise.

Joint Venture Company for Transmission Linkages

2649.SHRI SUBODH MOHITE : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Power Grid Corporation of India has floated a Joint Venture Company for the transmission linkages;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the projects proposed to be undertaken by this joint venture company ?

THE MINISTER OF POWER AND MINISTER OF MINES AND MINERALS (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) to (c) No, Sir. However, Power Grid Corporation has proposed the execution of the transmission system for evacuation of power from the Tala Hydro Electric Project in Bhutan (1020 MW) through Joint Venture arrangements.

[Translation]

Construction of By-Pass on Agra-Mumbai National Highway

2650.SHRI JAIBHAN SINGH PAWAIYA : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to construct a by-pass in Gwalior on Agra-Mumbai National Highway;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which it is likely to be completed ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN) : (a) to (c) An estimate for Land Acquisition for Gwalior by-pass was sanctioned in February 1999 by the Ministry for Rs. 389.90 lacs. Process for LA is in progress and is expected to be completed by March, 2001. Construction of by-pass will be considered after land acquisition. It is too early to indicate any date for completion of bypass.

[English]

Coastal Zone Management Plan for Maharashtra

2651.SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a coastal zone management plan for the State of Maharashtra has been under consideration of Government since March, 1995;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the estimated cost and the stage at which it stands at present also indicating the progress made in clearance thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI) : (a) and (b) The Government of Maharashtra had submitted the Coastal Zone Management Plan of Maharashtra on 22nd November, 1995, which was approved by this Ministry on 27th September, 1996 with certain general and specific conditions. The Government of Maharashtra was requested to submit the revised Coastal Zone Management Plan of Maharashtra within a period of two months. The revised Coastal Zone Management Plans (CZMPs) for Greater Mumbai and Navi Mumbai, Maharashtra, were received in November, 1998.

(c) The Coastal Zone Management Plan does not include financial details. This Ministry has approved the revised Coastal Zone Management Plan of Greater Mumbai with certain conditions on 20th January, 2000. In respect of Navi Mumbai, additional information sought from Government of Maharashtra is still awaited.

[Translation]

LPG Agencies in Madhya Pradesh and Bihar

2652.SHRI RAJESH RANJAN PAPPU YADAV :
SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE :
SHRI RAJO SINGH :

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

(a) whether Government have received proposals for the allotment of LPG agencies at Bilaspur District in Madhya Pradesh and Pakudh, Shekhpura and Lakhisarai districts of Bihar;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the number of LPG agencies is not proportionate to the demand and the population in the Danapuri and Patna districts of Bihar;

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

(e) whether the advertisement for the opening of additional LPG agencies was earlier published and later on withdrawn;

(f) if so, the reasons therefor;

(g) the measures proposed to be taken by the Government to open additional LPG agencies there; and

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

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) : (a) and (b) At present there are 16 proposals for setting up LPG distributorships in district Bilaspur of Madhya Pradesh and one each at Pakur, Shekhpura and Lakhisarai districts of Bihar.

(c) to (h) To meet the current requirement of the LPG, there are 40 LPG distributorships in Patna district of Bihar including one at Danapur which is also a part of Patna district. Further oil companies have advertised 14 more LPG distributorships in district Patna to meet the increased demand of LPG. Locations advertised earlier were subsequently readvertised to give another opportunity to the eligible persons who could not avail the earlier opportunity. Dealer Selection Boards have recently been dissolved. It generally takes about 6-12 months for commissioning of dealerships/distributorships from the date of interview.

[English]

Staff Working in NTPC Units

2653.DR. (SHRIMATI) C. SUGUNA KUMARI : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) the number of people working in different NTPC Units during the last three years, State-wise and year-wise;

(b) the number of SCs/STs and ladies out of them, Unit-wise and year-wise;

(c) the number of appointments temporary or otherwise given in each NTPC unit during the last three years, Unit-wise and year-wise; and

(d) the number of SCs and STs out of them, Unit-wise and year-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF POWER AND MINISTER OF MINES AND MINERALS (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) and (b) The number of people working in different National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) units during the last three years i.e. 1998, 1997 and 1996 and number of Scheduled Castes (SCs)/Scheduled Tribes (STs) and ladies amongst them unit-wise and year-wise are given in enclosed statement-I

(c) and (d) The number of appointments given in each NTPC units and the number of SCs and STs out of them during the last three years i.e. 1998, 1997 and 1996 unit-wise and year-wise are given in enclosed statement-II.

Statement-I

No. of People working in different Units State-wise and Year-wise : For the year 1998.

S. No.	State	Project/Unit	Total No. of Employees	Total No. of		Women
				SCs	STs	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Delhi	Corporate Centre	2014	157	15	283
2.	Delhi	Badarpur TPS	2374	385	21	57
3.	U.P.	NCR – HQ	86	7	0	1
4.	U.P.	NCPS	1324	186	6	37
5.	U.P.	Auraiya GPP	273	48	1	2
6.	U.P.	FGUPP	1237	125	2	38
7.	U.P.	Singruali STPS	2099	382	27	78
8.	U.P.	Rihand STPP	990	218	20	25
9.	U.P.	NR – HQ.	61	2	0	3
10.	Haryana	Faridabad GPP	65	4	0	3
11.	Rajasthan	Anta	232	42	20	8
12.	Bihar	ER – HQ.	139	7	3	10
13.	Bihar	Kahalgaon STPP	1222	150	71	0

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
14.	Orissa	Talcher STPP	757	86	58	47
15.	Orissa	Talcher TPS	1637	143	28	3
16.	Gujarat	Kawas GPP	280	36	30	16
17.	Gujarat	Gandhar GPP	189	25	11	10
18.	Maharashtra	WR – HQ	96	12	0	6
19.	M.P.	VSTPP	1891	261	148	48
20.	M.P.	Korba STPP	2140	264	475	82
21.	M.P.	BCPP	459	62	96	0
22.	M.P.	Sipat	15	0	0	0
23.	A.P.	SR – HQ.	168	8	1	17
24.	A.P.	RSTPS	1891	260	35	68
25.	A.P.	SMSTPP	99	3	0	0
26.	W.B.	FSTPP	1851	318	98	74
27.	Kerala	KYSTPP	143	4	0	9
	Total		23768	3195	1166	937

Abbreviations :

U.P. : Uttar Pradesh, M.P. : Madhya Pradesh, A.P. : Andhra Pradesh, W.B. : West Bengal, NCR : National Capital Region Headquarters, NCPS : National Capital Power Station, AUGPP : Auraiya Gas Power Project, FGUPP : Firoze Gandhi Unchahar Power Project, NRHQ : Northern Region Headquarter, ERHQ : Eastern Region Headquarter, WRHQ : Western Region Headquarter, VSTPP : Vindhyachal Super Thermal Power Project, BCPP : Balco Captive Power Project, SRHQ: Southern Region Headquarter, RSTPS : Ramagundam Super Thermal Power Station, SMSTPP : Simhadri Super Thermal Power Project, FSTPP : Farakka Super Thermal Power Project, KYSTPP : Kayamkulam Super Thermal Power Project, STPS : Super Thermal Power Station, STPP : Super Thermal Power Project, GPP : Gas Power Project.

No. of People working in different Units State-wise and Year-wise : For the year 1997.

S. No.	State	Project/Unit	Total No. of Employees	Total No. of	
				SCs	STs
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Delhi	Corporate Centre	1960	162	14
2.	Delhi	Badarpur TPS	2415	479	23
3.	U.P.	NCR – HQ	74	7	0
4.	U.P.	NCPS	1340	180	7
5.	U.P.	Auraiya GPP	274	48	3
6.	U.P.	FGUPP	1234	123	2
7.	U.P.	Singruali STPS	2160	393	29
8.	U.P.	Rihand STPP	994	216	22
9.	U.P.	NR – HQ.	63	2	0
10.	Haryana	Faridabad GPP	36	3	0

1	2	3	4	5	6
11.	Rajasthan	Anta	235	43	20
12.	Bihar	ER – HQ.	59	2	1
13.	Bihar	Kahalgaon STPP	1253	150	71
14.	Orissa	Talcher STPP	749	85	58
15.	Orissa	Talcher TPS	1685	135	23
16.	Gujarat	Kawas GPP	282	36	30
17.	Gujarat	Gandhar GPP	195	20	6
18.	Maharashtra	WR – HQ	101	13	0
19.	M.P.	VSTPP	1845	243	144
20.	M.P.	Korba STPP	2197	263	479
21.	M.P.	BCPP	482	64	94
22.	M.P.	Sipat	0	0	0
23.	A.P.	SR – HQ.	133	8	1
24.	A.P.	RSTPS	1867	260	35
25.	A.P.	SMSTPP	25	1	0
26.	W.B.	FSTPP	1874	326	97
27.	Kerala	KYSTPP	81	1	0
	Total		23613	3263	1159

*Presently details in respect of women are not available.

Abbreviations :

U.P. : Uttar Pradesh, M.P. : Madhya Pradesh, A.P. : Andhra Pradesh, W.B. : West Bengal, NCR : National Capital Region Headquarters, NCPS : National Capital Power Station, AUGPP : Auraiya Gas Power Project, FGUPP : Firoze Gandhi Unchahar Power Project, NRHQ : Northern Region Headquarter, ERHQ : Eastern Region Headquarter, WRHQ : Western Region Headquarter, VSTPP : Vindhyachal Super Thermal Power Project, BCPP : Balco Captive Power Project, SRHQ: Southern Region Headquarter, RSTPS : Ramagundam Super Thermal Power Station, SMSTPP : Simhadri Super Thermal Power Project, FSTPP : Farakka Super Thermal Power Project, KYSTPP : Kayamkulam Super Thermal Power Project, STPS : Super Thermal Power Station, GPP : Gas Power Project.

No. of People working in different Units State-wise and Year-wise : For the year 1996.

S. No.	State	Project/Unit	Total No. of Employees	Total No. of	
				SCs	STs
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Delhi	Corporate Centre	1991	151	14
2.	Delhi	Badarpur TPS	2476	461	20
3.	U.P.	NCR – HQ	78	7	0
4.	U.P.	NCPS	1352	179	7
5.	U.P.	Auraiya GPP	285	31	3
6.	U.P.	FGUPP	1241	127	2
7.	U.P.	Singruali STPS	2184	400	29

1	2	3	4	5	6
8.	U.P.	Rihand STPP	1013	215	23
9.	U.P.	NR – HQ.	59	0	0
10.	Haryana	Faridabad GPP	0	0	0
11.	Rajasthan	Anta	245	42	19
12.	Bihar	ER – HQ.	60	2	0
13.	Bihar	Kahalgaon STPP	1257	147	71
14.	Orissa	Talcher STPP	764	84	59
15.	Orissa	Talcher TPS	1939	305	15
16.	Gujarat	Kawas GPP	294	40	28
17.	Gujarat	Gandhar GPP	185	21	6
18.	Maharashtra	WR – HQ	103	13	1
19.	M.P.	VSTPP	1839	246	144
20.	M.P.	Korba STP	2211	263	480
21.	M.P.	BCPP	486	64	95
22.	M.P.	Sipat	0	0	0
23.	A.P.	SR – HQ.	144	8	1
24.	A.P.	RSTPS	1957	265	36
25.	A.P.	SMSTPP	0	0	0
26.	W.B.	FSTPP	1892	331	93
27.	Kerala	KYSTPP	68	1	0
	Total		24123	3403	1146

*Presently details in respect of women are not available.

Abbreviations :

U.P. : Uttar Pradesh, M.P. : Madhya Pradesh, A.P. : Andhra Pradesh, W.B. : West Bengal, NCR : National Capital Region Headquarters, NCPS : National Capital Power Station, AUGPP : Auraiya Gas Power Project, FGUPP : Firoze Gandhi Unchahar Power Project, NRHQ : Northern Region Headquarter, ERHQ : Eastern Region Headquarter, WRHQ : Western Region Headquarter, VSTPP : Vindhyachal Super Thermal Power Project, BCPP : Balco Captive Power Project, SRHQ: Southern Region Headquarter, RSTPS : Ramagundam Super Thermal Power Station, SMSTPP : Simhadri Super Thermal Power Project, FSTPP : Farakka Super Thermal Power Project, KYSTPP : Kayamkulam Super Thermal Power Project, STPS : Super Thermal Power Station, GPP : Gas Power Project.

Statement-II

No. of Appointments Unit-Wise for the year 1998, 1997 and 1996

S. No.	Project/Unit	No. of Appointments			No. of Candidates			Appointed		
		1998	1997	1996	1998	1997	1996	1998	1997	1996
					(Scheduled Castes)			(Scheduled Tribes)		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
1.	Corporate Centre	110	75	145	8	10	25	0	0	2
2.	NCPS	0	4	1	0	0	1	0	0	0

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
3.	AUGPP	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
4.	FGUPP	1	3	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
5.	Singrauli STPS	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
6.	Rihand STPP	5	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0
7.	FBGPP	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
8.	Kahalgaon STPP	0	1	51	0	0	4	0	0	3
9.	Talcher STPP	20	3	28	1	0	2	1	0	0
10.	Kawas GPP	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
11.	Gandhar GPP	3	4	2	0	0	1	0	0	1
12.	VSTPP	1	0	3	0	0	1	0	0	1
13.	Korba STPP	0	0	5	0	0	1	0	0	0
14.	Ramagundam STPS	5	7	0	1	5	0	0	0	0
15.	Farakka STPP	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
16.	Kayamkulam STPP	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Total	151	98	240	12	16	35	1	0	7

Note : The information pertaining to Badarpur Thermal Power Station, National Capital Region HQ., Northern Region HQ., Anta, Eastern Region HQ., Talcher Thermal Power Station, Western Region HQ., Balco Captive Power Project, Sipat, Southern Region HQ., and Simhadri Super Thermal Power Project may be treated as NIL.

Abbreviations :

NCPS : National Capital Power Station
AUGPP : Auraiya Gas Power Project
FGUPP : Firoze Gandhi Unchahar Power Project
STPS : Super Thermal Power Station
STPP : Super Thermal Power Project
FBGPP : Faridabad Gas Power Project
GPP : Gas Power Project
VSTPP : Vindhyachal Super Thermal Power Project

Setting up of Gas based Power Project in Managalore

2654. SHRI R.L. JALAPPA : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government has asked Karnataka Government to revise the Power Purchase Agreement with Cogentrix;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Karnataka Government has put forth the proposal to set up a gas based 2000 MW Power Project in Mangalore to supply power to southern states;

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

(e) the share of southern states and National Thermal Power Corporation therein ?

THE MINISTER OF POWER AND MINISTER OF MINES AND MINERALS (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) While conveying the decision to issue Government of India (GOI) counter-guarantee to the 1012.3 MW Mangalore Power Project of M/s Mangalore Power Company in which M/s Cogentrix Energy Inc., were one of the main promoters, the Government of Karnataka have been informed that the Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) for this project would have to be amended, wherever necessary, to conform to the conditions attached with the GOI counter-guarantee.

(b) As per the conditions for issue of counter-guarantee, certain provisions of the PPA might have to be amended as mentioned below :-

(i) The provisions relating to fuel price to be finalised after the State Government ensures that

competitive bidding procedures are adopted in the finalised fuel supply agreement.

(ii) The PPA would have to adopt the following measures :

(a) Not allowing income tax on incentives to be passed through in tariffs.

(b) To ensure that the reimbursement of fuel expenses does not become a source of profit, for the purpose of calculating the tariffs, the heat rate, auxiliary consumption and secondary fuel oil consumption would be determined on the basis of actuals or norms, whichever is lower.

(iii) PPA would have to conform to the decisions taken by GOI on the Income Tax Liability on Foreign Exchange Variations on Debt Repayment, Reserve Requirements and Tax Holiday.

(Iv) In case the Karnataka Electricity Regulatory Commission (KERC) becomes functional before finalisation of the PPA, the PPA would be subject to orders of the KERC.

(v) Consequential changes, if any, as a result of any review of the contract for Engineering, Procurement and Construction.

(c) to (e) In the Memorandum of Agreement between the Ministry of Power and the Government of Karnataka for supporting their reform programme a request has been made for NTPC to set up an LNG based 2000 MW generating station in Karnataka. Government of India will consider the feasibility of doing so.

[Translation]

Shortage of Post Masters, Sub Post Masters

2655.SHRI RAMJIVAN SINGH : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a shortage of Post Masters/Sub Post Masters in the Post Offices of the country;

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

(c) if not, the recruitment made in the Department of Posts in these categories during the last three years, State-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) In view of the reply to (a), does not arise.

(c) No recruitment is made specifically for these posts. Post of Postmasters and Sub-Postmasters are manned by official of Postal Assistants' cadre fulfilling the required eligibility conditions.

Supply of LPG in Betiah District of Bihar

2656.DR. M.P. JAISWAL : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of Panchayats in the Betiah district of Bihar where LPG is supplied;

(b) the number of such villages which are situated at a distance of 500 to 100 yards from the main road or the motorable road in these village so far;

(c) whether the Government propose to arrange for the home delivery and inspection of cylinders in these villages through the agency; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

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) : (a) to (d) At prosent, 3 LPG distributors of PSU Marketing Companies are operating at Betiah. Supply of LPG refill is made within the prescribed area of the respective distributor.

Cases disposed of by Lok Adalats

2657.SHRI BRAJ MOHAN RAM : Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Lok Adalats organised in Bihar during 1998-99, 1999-2000; and

(b) the number of cases disposed of by them during the said period in Bihar ?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI) : (a) and (b) Information is being collected from Bihar State Legal Services Authority and will be laid on the Table of the House on its receipt.

Endangered Species of Plants

2658.SHRI KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) the species of flower plants in the country;

(b) whether the National Botanical Garden has prepared any list for preservation of the endangered species of plants;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the details of the species preserved so far ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI) : (a) As per the survey conducted so far, it is estimated that there are about 17,500 species of flower plants in the country.

(b) No institution called "National Botanical Garden" functions under the control of this Ministry. However, Indian Botanic Garden at Howrah is under the control of the Botanical Survey of India. The Indian Botanic Garden has not prepared any list for the preservation of the endangered species of plants.

(c) and (d) Does not arise.

[English]

Construction of Post Offices Buildings

2659. SHRI P.C. THOMAS :
SHRI RAMANAND SINGH :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Postal Department has purchased land in various towns for constructing the Departmental buildings for Post Offices in Kerala;

(b) if so, the details of towns in Ernakulam, Kottayam and Pampakuda and other districts in the State where such lands are available, district-wise;

(c) the details of plan for construction of buildings in each of them and the building of the main Post and Telegraph offices in Satna city of Madhya Pradesh;

(d) the time by which the aforesaid work is likely to be completed;

(e) the amount paid by the Government as rent in these towns in Kerela during the last one year;

(f) whether the connivance of some officials with land lords of the Post Office buildings is alleged as a reasons for not constructing buildings as envisaged on these lands; and

(g) if so, the details in this regard and action taken against officials found guilty in this regard ?

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

(b) Details are given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) and (d) Out of the vacant Plots mentioned at (b) above, construction of the buildings is going on at three places in Trivandrum district namely Chalai, Pattom Palace and Vizhinjam. In addition, construction of departmental buildings at three places-Kayamkulam HO in Alleppey district, Chalakudy HO in Trichur district and Calicut civil station HO in Calicut district has also been approved. In respect of the remaining plots, construction is likely to be taken up as per plan projections and subject to availability of funds. Construction of departmental building at Satna in Madhya Pradesh Circle has been approved and the construction work is likely to commence after completion of pre-construction formalities.

Department of Telecom.

Telegraph Office at Satna is already working in the departmental building. There is no plan for any further construction of Telegraph office in Satna, Madhya Pradesh.

(e) The Government has paid Rs. 20,88,144/- as rent in these towns in Kerala during the last one year.

(f) No, Sir.

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

Statement

Details of Towns in Ernakulam, Kottayam and Pampakuda and other Districts in the State where Lands are available District wise

Sl. No.	Name of District	Name of Town
1	2	3
1.	Trivandrum	(1) Chalai
		(2) Pangode
		(3) Kulathoor
		(4) Pattom Palace
		(5) T.E. College
		(6) Karamana
		(7) Sasthamangalam
		(8) Vizhinjan
2.	Kollam	(1) Kottiyam
		(2) Puthur

1	2	3
3.	Alappuzha	Kayamkulam
4.	Idukki	Nedumkandam
5.	Ernakulam	(1) Ernakulam South
		(2) Panangad
		(3) Palluruthy
		(4) Mulamthuruthy
		(5) Panampally Nagar
		(6) Muvattupuzha (Market)
		(7) Perumbavoor (South)
		(8) Pampakuda
6.	Trichur	(1) Chalakkudy town
		(2) Chalakkudy (HO)
		(3) Perinjanam
		(4) Pattikad
		(5) Kunnamkulam (HO)
7.	Palghat	(1) Cherpalcheri
		(2) Panamarnna
		(3) Kalpathi
		(4) Parli
8.	Kozhikode	(1) Calicut civil station
		(2) Calicut RE College
		(3) Nadapuram
9.	Wynad	(1) Sulthan's bettery
		(2) Kalpetta (HO)
10.	Kannur	(1) Cherakkara
		(2) Mattannur
		(3) Chokli
		(4) Tiruvangad
		(5) Payangadi
		(6) Cherupuzha
		(7) Valapattanam
		(8) Cherukunnu
11.	Malappuram	(1) Tenhipalam
		(2) Chungathara
		(3) Downhill
		(4) Angadipuram
		(5) Manjeri
		(6) Vengara
		(7) Kuttipuram
		(8) Ponnani (Nagaram)
		(9) Thirunavaya
		(10) Tirur (HO)
12.	Kasargode	Manjeswar

[Translation]

Employees of Loktak Project

2660.SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned 'Loktak Pariyojna Ko Ugarwad Ke Karan Khatra' appearing in the Jansatta dated January 18, 2000;

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

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(d) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to complete the Loktak Project in the scheduled time ?

THE MINISTER OF POWER AND MINISTER OF MINES AND MINERALS (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Chief Engineer of the Loktak Hydro-electric Project was killed by a group of militants at his residence on January 12, 2000.

(c) The Government has been taking up periodically with the Government of Manipur, to provide adequate security cover to the project and staff posted at the project. Following the assassination of the Chief Engineer, additional security personnel have been deployed at the project. The State Government has provided five companies of Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) which are presently deployed for protection of Loktak Project. They have also assured adequate security during construction of Loktak Downstream Project.

(d) Loktak H.E. Project is an Operation and Maintenance Project. NHPC has taken up the work of Loktak Downstream H.E. Project, which has recently been sanctioned.

Telephone Facilities through INTERNET

2661.SHRI THAWAR CHAND GAHLOT : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) Whether the Government propose to provide telephone facilities with STD and ISD through internet; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) In view of above, question does not arise.

Telephone Connections In M.P.

2662.SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of persons on the waiting list for telephone connections at present in Madhya Pradesh, district-wise;

(b) the number of telephone connections provided during the last one year and till date, district-wise; and

(c) the time by which the waiting list is likely to be cleared in the State ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) and (b) The information is given in enclosed Statement.

(c) The present waiting list is likely to be cleared by 31st March, 2001.

Statement

Sl. No.	District	Waiting List as on 29.2.00	No. of Telephones provided during 98-99	No. of Telephones provided from 1.4.99 to 29.2.2000
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Bhopal	3065	18423	11986
2.	Sehore	1228	2003	1652
3.	Raisen	56	1007	880
4.	Durg	3574	5741	6816
5.	Rajnandgaon	476	870	1359
6.	Kawardha	5	–	136
7.	Gwalior	1573	9955	7507
8.	Datia	365	708	1169
9.	Bhind	795	292	1083
10.	Morena	2725	1318	1842
11.	Sheopurkala	288	–	174
12.	Indore	3997	13867	7185
13.	Ujjain	2698	4859	3339
14.	Dhar	1527	2294	1845
15.	Dewas	844	2441	1630
16.	Jabalpur	5670	5400	2773
17.	Katni	1145	–	480
18.	Raipur	2814	7888	4321
19.	Dhamtari	423	–	97
20.	Mahasamund	446	–	466
21.	Chhatarpur	1081	1000	1807
22.	Tikamgarh	1432	538	577
23.	Damoh	260	468	1327
24.	Rajgarh	80	974	1046
25.	Shajapur	308	1415	669
26.	Shivpuri	929	3242	1711
27.	Jhabua	597	803	718
28.	Betul	559	2111	1580
29.	Vidisha	969	1437	1844
30.	Balaghat	237	1222	1539
31.	Mandla	360	495	168
32.	Dindori	96	–	168
33.	Narsinghpur	789	1510	1126
34.	Seoni	246	1080	1040
35.	Guna	892	1522	1872
36.	Sagar	2303	2502	1215
37.	Hoshangabad	1610	3002	914
38.	Harda	646	–	890
39.	Khargone	174	3304	1210
40.	Barwani	298	–	630
41.	Khandwa	1253	3038	672
42.	Mandsaur	1512	4011	2088
43.	Neemuch	1413	–	1209
44.	Ratlam	2369	3124	2597
45.	Bilaspur	2097	5805	2722
46.	Janjgir Champa	140	–	721
47.	Korba	1070	–	2344

1	2	3	4	5
48.	Chhindwara	745	2314	1888
49.	Bastar	183	2500	1526
50.	Dantewada	131	–	530
51.	Kanker	267	–	495
52.	Raigarh	526	3508	1279
53.	Jashpur Nagar	101	–	469
54.	Rewa	3057	2955	1458
55.	Sidhi	1555	1214	452
56.	Panna	207	401	392
57.	Satna	1333	3143	1773
58.	Sarguja	876	1123	612
59.	Koria	477	–	543
60.	Shahdol	516	3210	1495
61.	Umaria	301	–	503

Note : Some districts have been created during 97-98 and 98-99, hence number of telephones provided during 98-99 are shown as combined figure in front of mother district.

[English]

Poll related Violence

2663.DR. ASHOK PATEL : Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of people killed and injured in the violence during the recently held Assembly elections;

(b) the State which accounted for the maximum number of violent incidents; and

(c) the number of persons arrested in this connection and the action taken against them ?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI) : (a) to (c) The requisite information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Water Transport from Gateway of India to Mumbai

2664.SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Maharashtra has asked permission to start water transport from the Gateway of India to Mumbai;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the said proposal is lying pending with the Bombay Port Trust for the past two years; and

(d) if so, the time by which the proposal is likely to be cleared ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN) : (a) to (d) A proposal made in 1997 by City and Industrial Development Corporation of Government of Maharashtra for developing passenger water transport service from Gateway of India to Mumbai, needs detailed study to consider and identify the suitable site for passenger transport terminal by taking into account navigational safety, traffic congestion, environmental clearance etc. Mumbai Port Trust has since appointed a Consultant for this purpose. No definite time schedule could be stipulated at this stage for clearance of this proposal.

[Translation]

Setting up of LPG Agencies/Petrol Pumps in Uttar Pradesh

2665.DR. BALIRAM : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of LPG agencies and petrol/diesel retail outlets allotted to the educated unemployed, scheduled castes and scheduled tribes during last three years in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) the number of distributorships proposed to be allotted in the current year;

(c) the names of the districts in the State where such allotments are likely to be made;

(d) whether the Government propose to open LPG agencies at Lalganj, Thekama, Bardah, Muhammadpur, Mehnagar, Kharihani and Bindra Bazar of Azamgarh district in the State;

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

(f) if not, the reasons therefor ?

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) : (a) During the period 1996-97, 1997-98 and 1998-99 Oil Companies have allotted 6 retail outlet dealerships and 2 LPG distributorships under SC category in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) to (f) In addition to the locations pending from the previous Marketing plans 190 retail outlet dealerships and 440 LPG distributorships have been included in the current Marketing Plan 1996-98 for Uttar Pradesh. Location Lalganj known as "Katghar Lalganj" has already been advertised for setting up LPG distributorship. Locations Thekama, Muhammadpur and Mehnagar have been found viable for setting up LPG distributorships and are due for inclusion in the next Marketing Plan. Locations Bardah, Kharihani and Bindra Bazar have not been found viable for setting up LPG distributorship. As per the existing policy locations found viable are included in the Marketing Plan and are advertised by the Oil Company from time to time for selection of dealers/distributors under the normal selection procedure of advertisement of the locations and selection through the Dealer Selection Boards. It generally takes about 6-12 months for commissioning of the dealerships/distributorships from the date of interview.

[English]

ITI Unit, Palghat

2666. SHRI K. KARUNAKARAN : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the ITI Palghat is assembling equipments like EIOB and OCB-283 to meet the demand of Department of Telecommunications;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of the price difference and amount of foreign exchange spent for purchase of these equipments during the last three years ?

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

ITI has been meeting part requirement of DOT.

(b) (i) ITI, Palghat is manufacturing OCB-283 Switching System of ALCATEL (France Technology. OCB-283 system is a Universal Switching system for use as local trunk and transit switches.

(ii) ITI, Palghat was manufacturing DTAX equipment of E-10B design, production of which has since been phased out.

(c) Equipments are purchased from different suppliers at the same rate without any price difference. No foreign exchange has been spent of DOT for purchase of these equipments during the last three years.

[Translation]

Appointment of Women Prosecutors and Judges

2667. SHRI RAMSHAKAL :
SHRIMATI RANEE NARAH :

Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Law Commission has recommended that more women public prosecutors and judges may be appointed to deal with the cases involving women;

(b) if so, the details of the recommendations made in this regard and the action taken/proposed to be taken thereon;

(c) whether at present the women public prosecutors and judges are much less in the country;

(d) if so, the details in this regard; and

(e) the number of women judges and public prosecutors appointed in the country so far, State-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI) : (a) and (b) the Law Commission of India has in its 154th Report on the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973, inter alia, recommended that the Government, while appointing Public Prosecutors and Assistant Public Prosecutors under sections 24 and 25 Cr.P.C. shall, as far as practicable, appoint sufficient number of women Public Prosecutors and Assistant Public Prosecutors so that they can effectively deal with cases involving women who are under 18 years of age and in respect of whom offences under sections 354, 376, 376A, 376B, 376C, 376D and 509 of the Indian Penal Code, 1860, have been committed. The Law Commission also recommended that an offence under section 376 of the Indian Penal Code shall be tried as far as practicable by a court presided over by a women. Since the Criminal Procedure Code is on the Concurrent List of the Constitution and Criminal Laws are administered by the State Governments, the Report of the Law Commission was referred to State Governments for their views. Further, since some of the recommendations of the Commission do not require any amendment of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973, State Governments were requested to implement them. These included, inter alia, appointment of women public prosecutors.

(c) to (e) Appointment of Judges of the Supreme Court and High Courts is made under Articles 124 and 217 of the Constitution which do not provide for reservation for

any caste or class of persons. The Government have, however, from time to time addressed letters to the Chief Minister of the States and the Chief Justices of the High Courts requesting them to locate suitable persons from the Bar belonging to Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, other Backward Classes, Minorities and Women for appointment as High Courts Judges. As on 1st March, 2000, there is one women Judge in the Supreme Court of India and 16 women Judges in the High Courts.

Scheme for By-Pass

2668. SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are considering any scheme for the construction of a by-pass in Kalka Nagar situated between Haryana and Himachal Pradesh; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

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

(b) The proposal is in initial stages and it is to early to give any details.

[English]

Satellite Money Order Facility in Tamil Nadu

2669. SHRI VAIKO : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the names of cities/towns in Tamil Nadu having satellite money order facility;

(b) whether the facility is proposed to be extended to more post offices in the State during 2000-2001;

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

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) There are 4 Very Small Aperture Terminal (VSAT) centres namely, Anna Road HO, Coimbatore HO, Madurai HO and Trichy HO and 54 Extended Satellite Money Order (ESMO) system connected to these 4 VSATs. The details of the ESMO sites are furnished in the enclosed Statement.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) Details have not been worked out.

Statement

The list of existing VSAT and ESMOs in Tamil Nadu Circle

No. of VSATs : 4 No. of ESMOs : 54

ESMOs under Anna Road VSAT		ESMOs under Madurai VSAT		ESMOs under Trichy VSAT		ESMOs under Coimbatore VSAT	
Sl. No.	Name of the ESMO	Sl. No.	Name of the ESMO	Sl. No.	Name of the ESMO	Sl. No.	Name of the ESMO
1.	Mylapore	1.	Tirunelveli	1.	Thanjavur	1.	Nosur
2.	T. Nagar	2.	Nagercoil	2.	Kumbakonam	2.	Erode
3.	Chennai GPO	3.	Dindigal	3.	Karur	3.	Tirupur
4.	Tambaram	4.	Tuticorin	4.	Pudukkottai	4.	Salem
5.	Pondicherry	5.	Virudhunagar	5.	Pattukkottai	5.	Wellington
6.	Cuddalore	6.	Ramananthapuram	6.	Tiruvarur	6.	Dharmapuri
7.	Chidambaram	7.	Theni	7.	Mayiladuthurai	7.	Krishnagiri
8.	Vadapalani	8.	Kodaikanal	8.	Teppakulam	8.	Bhavani
9.	Park Town	9.	Tenkasi	9.	Perambalur	9.	Namakkal
10.	Chengalpattu	10.	Rajapalyam			10.	Tiruchengodu
11.	Kanchipuram	11.	Sivakasi			11.	Ooty
12.	Triuvallur	12.	Palani			12.	Pollachi
13.	Tiruvannamalai	13.	Kovilpatti			13.	Udumalpet
14.	Vellore	14.	Palayamkottai			14.	Atur(S)
15.	Villupuram	15.	Sivaganga			15.	Dharapuram

Hydel Power Projects

2670. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have reviewed major hydel power projects in the country;

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

(c) whether any new hydel power projects are proposed to be set up during the Ninth Five Year Plan in the country;

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

(e) the details of existing hydel power projects in the States with their installed capacity ?

THE MINISTER OF POWER AND MINISTER OF MINES AND MINERALS (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) and (b) In addition to the regular monitoring of all the ongoing projects in the country by the Central Electricity Authority, the progress of important projects in the State and the Central Sector is reviewed by the Government and all measures taken so that there is no slippage in their schedule for completion. The State-wise list of the hydro-electric schemes under execution is given in enclosed Statement-I

(c) and (d) State-wise details of hydro-electric projects programmed for commissioning during 9th Plan are given in enclosed Statement-II.

(e) The details of existing hydro electric projects in the States are given in enclosed Statement-III.

Statement-I

Sanctioned/Ongoing Hydroelectric Schemes

Sl. No.	Name of Project	State	Capacity (No. x MW)	Capacity (MW)	Commissioning Schedule
1	2	3	4	5	6
Central Sector					
1.	Nathpa Jhakri (NJPC)	H.P.	6x250	1500	2001-02
2.	Dulhasti (NHPC)	J&K	3x130	390	2001-02
3.	Chamera St-II (NHPC)	H.P.	3x100	300	2004-05
4.	Tehri St.-I (THDC)	U.P.	4x250	1000	2001-03
5.	Dhauliganga (NHPC)	U.P.	4x70	280	2004-05
6.	Koel Karo (NHPC)	Bihar	4x172.5+1x20	710	8 Yrs from the date of sanction
7.	Doyang (NEEPCO)	Nagaland	3x25	75	1999-2000
8.	Ranganadi (NEEPCO)	Ar. Pr.	3x135	405	2000-02
9.	Tuirial (NEEPCO)	Mizoram	2x30	60	2005-07
10.	Kopili St-II (NEEPCO)	Assam	1x25	25	2003-04
11.	Loktak D/3 (NHPC)	Manipur	3x30	90	2006-07
12.	Teesta St-V (NHPC)	Sikkim	3x170	510	2006-07
	Total (Central)			5345	
State Sector Northern Region					
13.	Dadupur	Haryana	4x1.5	6	Beyond 9th Plan
14.	Ghanvi	H.P.	2x11.25	23	2000-01

1	2	3	4	5	6
15.	Larji	H.P.	3x42	126	Beyond 9th Plan
16.	Uhl-III	H.P.	2x50	100	10th Plan
17a.	Upper Singh-II	J&K	2x35	70	1999-01
17b.	Upper Singh-II Extn.	J&K	1x35	35	2000-01
18.	Kishanganga	J&K	3x110	330	Beyond 9th Plan
19.	Sewa St-III	J&K	3x3	9	2000-01
20.	Chenani St-III	J&K	3x2.5	8	1999-01
21.	Ranjit Sagar	Punjab	4x150	600	2000-01
22.	Shahpur Kandi	Punjab	2x40+2x40+1x8	168	Beyond 9th Plan
23.	Lakhwar Vyasi	U.P.	3x100+2x60	420	Beyond 9th Plan
24.	Maneri Bhali-II	U.P.	4x76	304	2003-04
25.	Katapathar	U.P.	2x9.5	19	2005-06
26.	Jakham	Rajasthan	2x2.5	5	10th Plan
	Total (Northern Region)			2222	
Western Region					
27.	Sardar Sarovar	Guj/Mp/Mah.	6x200+5x50	1450	2001-04
28.	Bansgar Tons PH-II & III	M.P.	2x15+3x20	90	2001-02
29.	Bansgar Tons PH-IV	M.P.	2x10	20	2001-02
30.	Indira Sagar	M.P.	8x125	1000	10th Plan
31.	Koyna St-IV	Mah.	4x250	1000	1998-2000
32.	Ghatghar PSS	Mah.	2x125	250	2003-04
33.	Bhivpuri PSS	Mah.	1x90	90	Beyond 9th Plan
	Total (Western Region)			3900	
Southern Region					
34.	Srisailam LBPH	A.P.	6x150	900	2000-02
35.	Singur	A.P.	2x7.5	15	1999-2000
36.	Brindavan	Ktk.	2x6	12	2001-02
37.	Sarpadi	Ktk.	3x30	90	2002-03
38.	Sharavathi Tail Race	Ktk.	4x60	240	2001-02
39.	Malankara	Kerala	2x3.5	10.50	2002-03
40.	Kutiyadi Tail Race	Kerala	3x1.25	3.75	10th Plan
41.	Kutiyadi Extn.	Kerala	1x50	50	2001-02
42.	Parson's Valley	T.N.	1x30	30	1999-2000

1	2	3	4	5	6
43.	Pykara Ultimate	T.N.	3x50	150	10th Plan
44.	Kalpong	A&N	5.2	5.20	2001-02
	Total (Southern Region)			1506.45	
Eastern Region					
45.	Chandil	Bihar	2x4	8	2001-02
46.	North Koel	Bihar	2x12	24	2001-02
47.	Upper Indravati	Orissa	4x150	600	1999-2001
48.	Potteru	Orissa	1x3+1x3	6	2001-02
49.	Balimela Extn.	Orissa	2x75	150	2004-05
50.	Balimela Dam Toe PH	Orissa	2x30	60	10th Plan
51.	Rammam St-I	W.B.	3x12	36	10th Plan
52.	Purulia PSS	W.B.	4x225	900	2004-06
53.	Rolep-I	Sikkim	2x4.5	9	2003-04
	Total (Eastern Region)			1793.00	
North-Eastern Region					
54.	Karbi Langpi (Lower Borpani)	Assam	2x50	100	2003-04
55.	Dhansiri	Assam	5x3x1.33	20	2002-03
56.	Likim-Ro	Nagaland	3x8	24	2001-02
	Total (North Eastern Region)			144	
	Total (State Sector)			9565.45	
Private Sector					
57.	Baspa St-II	H.P.	3x100	300	2001-02
58.	Malana	H.P.	2x43	86	Beyond 9th Plan
59.	Vishnu Prayag	U.P	4x100	400	Beyond 9th Plan
60.	Srinagar	U.P	5x66	330	Beyond 9th Plan
61.	Maheshwar	M.P	10x40	400	2003-04
62.	Boothathankettu	Kerala	16	16	2001-02
	Total (Private Sector)			1532	
	Total (All India)			16442.45	
Hydro Capacity already spun/commissioned				1092.50	
Net Hydro Capacity under execution				15349.95	

Statement-II

IX Plan Hydro Projects

(as on 01.03.2000)

Sl.No.	Name of Project	State	Capacity	Benefit during 9th Plan	Actual/Likely date of commissioning
1	2	3	4	5	6
A.	**Central**				
1.	Nathpa Jhakri (NJPC)	H.P.	6x250	1500	2001-02
2.	Dulhasti (NHPC)	J&K	3x130	390	2001-02
3.	Tehri St-I (THDC) (250*)	U.P.	4x250	500 (Critical)	2001-02
4.	Rangit-III (NHPC)	Sikkim	3x20	60	1999-2000
5.	Doyang (NEEPCO)	Nagaland	3x25	75	1999-2000
6.	Ranganadi (NEEPCO)	Ar. Pradesh	3x135	405*	2001-02
7.	Kopili St-II (NEEPCO)	Assam	1x25	25	2001-02 (Critical)
	Total Central Sector			2955	MW
B.	**State Sector Northern Region**				
8.	Ghanvi	H.P.	2x11.25	22.5	2000-01
9.	Upper Sindh-II	J&K	2x35	70	1999-01
10.	Upper Sindh Extn.	J&K	1x35	35	2000-01
11.	Sewa St-III	J&K	3x3	9	2000-01
12.	Chenani St-III	J&K	3x2.5	7.5	1999-01
13.	Pahalgam	J&K	2x1.5	3	2000-01
14.	Ranjit Sagar	Pun.	4x150	600	2000-01
15.	Sobla	U.P.	2x3	6	1998-99
Western Region					
16.	Sardar Sarovar	Guj/M.P. Mah.	6x200+5x50	650 (Critical)	1994-96 2001-02 9th Plan 650 MW 10th Plan 800 MW.
17.	Bansagar Tons II & III	M.P.	2x15+3x20	90*	2001-02
18.	Bansagar Tons PH-IV	M.P.	2x10	20 (Critical)	2001-02
19.	Rajghat	M.P.	3x15	45	1999-2000
20.	Koyna St-IV	Mah.	4x250	1000	1998-2000
21.	Dudhganga	Mah.	2x12	24	1999-2000

1	2	3	4	5	6
22.	Kadana P-33 Extn.	Guj.	2x60	60	1998-99
23.	Warna	Mah.	2x8	16	1997-99
Southern Region					
24.	Srisailam LBPH (300 MW Critical)	A.P.	6x150	900	2000-02
25.	Singur	A.P.	2x7.5	15	1999-2000
26.	Kalinadi St-II	Ktk.	3x40+3x50	270	1997-2000
27.	Brindavan	Ktk.	2x6	12	2001-02 (Critical)
28.	Sharavathi T.R.	Ktk.	4x60	240	2000-02
29.	Bhadra	Ktk.	1x6	6	1997-98
30.	Kakkad	Kerala	2x25	50	1999-2000
31.	Lower Periyar	Kerala	3x60	120	1997-98
32.	Poringalkuthu LB Extn.	Kerala	1x16	16	1998-99
33.	Kuttiyadi Extn.	Kerala	1x50	50	2001-02
34.	Lower Bhawani	T.N.	2x4	8	1997-98
35.	Sathanur Dam	T.N.	1x7.5	7.5	1998-99
36.	Person's Valley (Kundan-V Extn.)	T.N.	1x30	30	1999-2000
37.	Kalpong	A&N Island	3x1.75	5.2	2001-02 (Critical)
Eastern Region					
38.	Chandil LBC	Bihar	2x4	8	2001-02
39.	North Koel	Bihar	2x12	24*	2001-02
40.	Eastern Gandak	Bihar	3x5	5	1997-98
41.	Upper Indravati	Orissa	4x150	600	1999-01
42.	Potteru (PH-I&II)	Orissa	1x3+1x3	6*	2001-02
43.	Teesta Falls I-III	W.B.	3x3x7.5	67.5	1997-2000
North Eastern Region					
44.	Nuranang	Ar. Pr.	3x2	6	1997-98
45.	Likim Ro	Nagaland	3x8	24*	2001-02
	Total State Sector :			5128.2 MW	
C.	**Private Sector**				
46.	Baspa St-II	H.P.	3x100	300*	2001-02 2001-02 (Critical)
47.	Boothathakettu	Kerala	16	16*	2000-01
	Total Private Sector :			316 MW	
	Total All India			8399.2 MW	

* Capacity addition of these projects aggregating to 3005 MW can be achieved with special efforts.

Note : Hydro capacity addition of 1859.5 MW has been achieved upto 01.03.2000.

Statement-III

Hydro Schemes in Operation (Installed Capacity above 3 MW)

Sl. No.	All India Region/ Sector	Capacity (MW)
1	2	3
	Northern Region	
	BBMB	
1.	Bhakra Complex	
	(i) Bhakra (L)	540
	(ii) Bhakra (R)	660
	(iii) Ganguwal	77.25
	(iv) Kolta	77.25
	Sub Total	1354.5
2.	Dehar	990
3.	Pong	360
	Sub Total	1350
	Total BBMB	2704.5
	NHPC (NR)	
1.	Baira Siul	180
2.	Salal-I	345
3.	Salal-II	345
4.	Tanakpur	120
5.	Chamera St-I	540
6.	Uri	480
	Total NHPC (NR)	2010
	Total Central (NR)	4714.5
	Haryana	
1.	Western Yamuna Canal A	16
2.	Western Yamuna Canal B	16
3.	Western Yamuna Canal C	16
	Total Haryana	48
	Himachal Pradesh	
1.	Giri Bata	60
2.	Bassi	60
3.	Sanjay	120
4.	Andhra	16.95
5.	Binwa	6
6.	Thirot	4.5
7.	Baner	12
8.	Gaj	10.5
	Total Himachal Pradesh	289.95
	Jammu and Kashmir	
1.	Lower Jhelum	105
2.	Upper Sindh	22
3.	Chenani	23
4.	Mohara	9
5.	Gandharbal	15
6.	Stakna	4
7.	Kargil	3.75
8.	Upper Sindh-II	35
	Total J&K	216.75
	Punjab	
1.	Shanan	110
2.	U.B.D.C. St-I P.H.1	15
3.	U.B.D.C. St-I P.H.2	15
4.	U.B.D.C. St-I P.H.3	15
5.	U.B.D.C. St-II P.H.1	15
6.	U.B.D.C. St-II P.H.2	15
7.	U.B.D.C. St-II P.H.3	15
8.	Mukerian St-I	45
9.	Mukerian St II	45
10.	Mukerian St-III	58.5
11.	Mukerian St-IV	58.5
12.	A.P. Sahib St-I	67
13.	A.P. Sahib St-II	67
	Total Punjab	541
	Rajasthan	
1.	R.P. Sagar	172
2.	J. Sagar	99
3.	Mahibajaj-I	50
4.	Mahibajaj-II	90

1	2	3
5.	Anoopgarh-I	4.5
6.	Anoopgarh-II	4.5
7.	RMC Mangrol	6
8.	Surat Garh	4
	Total Rajasthan	430
	Uttar Pradesh	
1.	Rihand	300
2.	Obra	99
3.	Dhakrani (Y. St-I)	33.75
4.	Dhalipur (Y. St-II)	51
5.	Kulhal (Y. St-IV)	30
6.	Chibro (Y. St.-II)	240
7.	Khodri (Y. St-II)	120
8.	Ramganga	198
9.	Chilla	144
10.	Matatilla	30
11.	Manerbhali St-I	90
12.	Kl.atima	41.4
13.	Pathari	20.4
14.	Mohamadpur	9.3
15.	Nirgajani	5
16.	Khara	72
17.	Sobla	6
	Total U.P.	1489.85
	Total Northern	7730.05
	Western Region	
	Gujarat	
1.	Ukai	300
2.	Kadana	240
3.	Ukai LBC	5
	Total Gujarat	545
	Madhya Pradesh	
1.	Gandhi Sagar	115
2.	Bargi	90
3.	Pench	160
4.	Ban Sagar Tons	315
5.	Birsinghpur	20
6.	Hasdeo Bango	120
7.	Rajghat	45
	Sub Total M.P.	865
	Private (M.P.)	
1.	Tawa	13.5
	Total Madhya Pradesh	878.5
	Maharashtra	
	M.S.E.B.	
1.	Koyna I & II	560
2.	Koyna III	320
3.	Koyna DPH	40
4.	Vaitarna	60
5.	Eldari	22.5
6.	Bhatgarh	16
7.	Bhira Tail Race	80
8.	Tillari	60
9.	Paithon	12
10.	Bandhardhara-I	10
11.	Pawana	10
12.	Khadakwasla-I	8
13.	Khadakwasla-II	8
14.	Bhatsa	15
15.	Vir	9
16.	Radhanagari	4.8
17.	Kanher	4
18.	Ujjaini	12
19.	Manikdoh	6
20.	Surya	6
21.	Bhandardara II	34
22.	Dimwe	5
23.	Warna	16
24.	Dudhganga	24
25.	Koyana St-IV	500
	Sub Total Maharashtra	1842.3
	Tata (Private)	

1	2	3
1.	Bhira	132
2.	Bhivpuri	72
3.	Khopoli	72
4.	Bhira PSS	150
	Sub Total	426
	Total Maharashtra	2268.3
	Total Western Region	3691.8
	Southern Region	
	Andhra Pradesh	
1.	Machkund	114.75
2.	Upper Sileru-I	120
3.	Upper Sileru St-II	120
4.	Lower Sileru	460
5.	T.B. Dam	36
6.	Hampi	36
7.	N.J. Sagar	810
8.	Srisailam	770
9.	N.J. Sagar RBC	60
10.	N.J. Sagar RBC Ext.	30
11.	N.J. Sagar LBC	60
12.	Donkarayi	25
13.	Pochampad	27
14.	Niazam Sagar	10
15.	Penna Ahobilam	20
16.	Singur	7.5
	Sub Total Andhra Pradesh	2706.25
	Private (A.P.)	
1.	Guntur	3.75
	Total Andhra Pradesh	2710
	Karnataka	
1.	Sharavathy	891
2.	Lingnamakki	55
3.	Bhadra (L)	26
4.	Bhadra (R)	7.2
5.	Bhadra (RBC)	6
6.	Kalinadi	810
7.	Supa DPH	100
8.	Varahi	230
9.	Ghatprabha	32
10.	Mani DPH	9
11.	Mallapur	9
12.	Kalinadi St-II (Kadra)	150
13.	Kalinadi St-II (Kodasil)	120
	Total (KPCL)	2445.2
	Karnataka (KEB)	
1.	Jog	120
2.	Sivasamudram	42
3.	Shimsapura	17.2
4.	Munirabad	27
	Total (KEB)	206.2
	Karnataka (Private)	
1.	Shivpur	18
	Total Private	18
	Total Karnataka	2669.4
	Kerala	
1.	Idukki	780
2.	Sabaragiri	300
3.	Kuttiyadi	75
4.	Sholayar	54
5.	Sengulam	48
6.	Nariamangalam	45
7.	Pallivasal	37.5
8.	Poringalkuttu	32
9.	Panniar	30
10.	Idamalayar	75
11.	Kallada	15
12.	Lower Periyar	180
13.	Poringalkuthu	16
14.	Kakkad	50
	Sub Total Kerala	1737.5

1	2	3
	Kerala (Private)	
1.	Maniyar	12
	Total Kerala	1749.5
	Tamil Nadu	
1.	Kundah I	60
2.	Kundah II	175
3.	Kundah III	180
4.	Kundah IV	100
5.	Kundah V	40
6.	Mettur Dam	40
7.	Mettur Tunnel	200
8.	Periyar	140
9.	Kodayar-I	60
10.	Kodayar-II	40
11.	Sholayar-I	70
12.	Sholayar-II	25
13.	Pykara	69.95
14.	Aliyar	60
15.	Sarakarpathy	30
16.	Papanasam	28
17.	Moyar	36
18.	Suruliyar	35
19.	Servalar	20
20.	Lower Mettur PH-1	30
21.	Lower Mettur PH-2	30
22.	Lower Mettur PH-3	30
23.	Lower Mettur PH-4	30
24.	Kadamparai	400
25.	Vaigai Dam	6
26.	Lower Bhawani	8
27.	Sathanur Dam	7.5
	Total Tamil Nadu	1950.45
	Total Southern Region	9079.35
	Eastern Region	
	Bihar	
1.	Kosi	20
2.	Subernerkha-1	65
3.	Subernerkha-2	65
4.	Sone Western Canal	6.6
5.	Eastern Gandak	15
6.	Sone Eastern	3.3
	Total Bihar	174.9
	D.V.C.	
1.	Maithon	60
2.	Panchet & Exnt.	80
3.	Tilayia	4
	Total D.V.C.	144
	Orissa	
1.	Hirakud-I	235.5
2.	Hirakud-II	72
3.	Balimela	360
4.	Rengali	250
5.	Upper Kolab	320
6.	Upper Indravati	300
	Total Orissa	1537.5
	Sikkim	
1.	Lower Lagyap	12
2.	Upper Rognichu	8
3.	Moyangonu	4
	Total Sikkim	24
	West Bengal	
1.	Jaldhaka-I	27
2.	Jaldhaka-II	8
3.	Massanjore	4
4.	Rammam II	50
5.	Teesta Falls	67.5
	Total West Bengal	156.5
	NHPC	
1.	Rangit-III	60
	Total Eastern Region	2096.9

1	2	3
	North-Eastern	
	Arunachal Pradesh	
1.	Tago	4.5
2.	Nuranang	6
	Total Arunachal Pradesh	10.5
	Meghalaya	
1.	Kyrdemkulai	60
2.	Umiam St-I	36
3.	Umiam St-II	18
4.	Umtru	11.2
5.	Umiam-Umtru St-IV	60
	Total Meghalaya	185.2
	Tripura	
1.	Gumti	15
	Total Tripura	15
	NEEPCO	
1.	Khandong	50
2.	Kopili	100
3.	Kopili Extn.	100
	Total NEEPCO	250
	NHPC	
1.	Loktak	105
	Total NHPC	10.5
	Total Central	355
	Total North Eastern Region	565.7
	Total All India	23163.8

Acquisition Norms for Vessels

2671. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have eased acquisition norms for the vessels;

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

(c) the extent to which it likely to help in procuring more orders and improve their order book position ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. Government has, however, relaxed age norms for acquisition of second hand vessels, which inter-alia, stipulate that the second hand vessels should have a minimum of 5 years of economic life at the time of acquisition. The economic life prescribed for the various categories of vessels is as under :

(i)	Bulk carriers and liner vessels	– 25 years
(ii)	Crude tankers, product carriers and easy chemical Carriers with or without conventional tank coatings	– 20 years
(iii)	Chemical and Acid carriers	
	(a) with stainless steel tanks	– 25 years
	(b) with special tank	– 20 years
(iv)	Liquefied Gas carriers	– 30 years
(v)	Offshore Supply and Support Vessels	– 20 years
(vi)	Coastal service ships of all categories	– 30 years
(vii)	Drill ships	– 25 years

(c) Although, it would facilitate shipping companies in their tonnage acquisitions, yet it does not help Indian Shipyards to procure shipbuilding orders for improving their order book position. Nevertheless, shipbuilding subsidy scheme has already been introduced to provide level playing field to Indian Public Sector Shipyards so as to improve their competitiveness in international market and to procure new shipbuilding orders.

Dues Outstanding against Foreign Airlines

2672. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the foreign airlines owe crores of rupees to public sector oil companies;

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

(c) whether any steps have been taken to resolve the issue; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

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) : (a) to (d) The foreign airlines owe Rs. 419.50 crores to India's public sector oil companies as on 31.1.2000. These outstanding dues have accrued from 1994 onwards due to levy of sales tax on Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF) supplied to international airlines/Air India, Indian Airlines on foreign run. Efforts are on to recover the pending dues.

Out of Order Public Telephones in Rural Areas

2673. SHRI KRISHNAMRAJU :
SHRI JITENDRA PRASADA :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of public telephones out of order in the rural areas of the country particularly in Rohru district of Simla as on date, State-wise;

(b) the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to make them functional ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) The number of Village Public Telephones out of order in the rural areas of the country are as below :

(1)	Andman & Nicobar	24
(2)	Andhra Pradesh	411
(3)	Assam	667
(4)	Bihar	8238
(5)	Gujarat	333
(6)	Haryana	738
(7)	Himachal Pradesh	569
	In Rohru Sub-Division in Shimla District 6 VPTs out of 241 VPTs are faulty.	
(8)	Jammu & Kashmir	597
(9)	Karnataka	760
(10)	Kerala	Nil
(11)	Madhya Pradesh	11828
(12)	Maharashtra	1026
(13)	Arunachal Pradesh	197
(14)	Manipur	360
(15)	Meghalya	276
(16)	Mizoram	163
(17)	Nagaland	114
(18)	Tripura	187
(19)	Orissa	11125
(20)	Punjab	237
(21)	Rajasthan	3659
(22)	Tamilnadu	1231
(23)	Uttar Pradesh	9999
(24)	West Bengal	1895
(25)	Sikkim	30

(b) The reasons are as below :-

The reliability of MARR technology has not been proved satisfactory. The incidence of high fault rate is also due to :-

- frequent and prolonged power failure in rural areas.
- inacessibility of remote villages leads to delay in repair and transportation of stand by equipments.
- misuse of batteries and equipments by VPT holders.
- inadequate care by VPT holders.
- too many type of equipments.
- breakdown in physical lines being long distance from parent exchange.
- terrorist activities in some part of Andhra Pradesh, North-East and Jammu and Kashmir Telecom Circles.
- lightening prone areas of North-East States and Assam State.
- low voltage main power supply

(c) The steps taken by the Government to make them functional are as below :

(i) Revised guidelines have been issued to monitor the performance of Village Public Telephones as well as reporting mechanism have been strengthened for effective functioning of VSTs.

(ii) Action was taken for regular and periodic inspection of VPTs by senior officers.

(iii) Maintenance free batteries with solar panel are being provided to all VPTs working on Multi Access Rural Radio systems.

(iv) Maintenance staffs for MARR systems are being trained for the new technology.

(v) Repair Centres are being opened to strategic location at all telecom circles.

(vi) Annual Maintenance Contract with the suppliers of MARR systems are being entered into by Chief General Managers, Telecom. Circles.

(vii) Installation and commissioning procedures have been standardised/strengthened.

(viii) Action is being taken to educate VPT holders for effective maintenance of VPTs.

(ix) Village Public Telephones are tested regularly from the concerned exchange by dialling and any VPT not responding on two consecutive days is treated as faulty and is reported to Secondary treated as faulty and is reported to Secondary Switching Area Incharge for immediate action.

(x) VPT holder has been asked to book their fault at Telephone Exchange/Junior Telecom Officer Incharge.

(xi) Sufficient spare units wherever not available are being procured.

(xii) Different inspection schedules have been designed.

(xiii) Monthly/weekly performance reports (suggested by National Productivity Council) have been implemented.

(xiv) SSA Heads are holding meetings with villagers to sort out the grievances.

(xv) Flying squads have been constituted at Circle/ Telecom Headquarter level.

[Translation]

Clearance to Proposal for Laying of a Pipeline

2674. SHRI RAMANAND SINGH : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received a proposal for the Environment and Forestry clearance for laying of a pipeline for a crude oil refinery in Madhya Pradesh by the Bharat-Oman Refinery Limited;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government have already accorded approval for laying the pipeline in Gujarat area; and

(d) if so, the reasons for not according the said approval for laying the pipeline in Madhya Pradesh area ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The proposal for forest clearance for diversion of 15.117 ha forestland for laying underground pipe line within Madhya Pradesh from Jhabua district to Bina was received on 6.10.97 and the proposal for environmental clearance for this project was received on 8.8.95.

(c) and (d) Environmental clearance has been accorded for the project covering the segment in Gujarat as well as Madhya Pradesh area. Forestry clearance for the segment in MP has been linked with the clearance of the project in originating state i.e. Gujarat. Proposal for forestry clearance for the Madhya Pradesh segment was not processed as the final approval for setting of jetty and other off shore facilities in Gujarat was not given. Since this proposal has been approved now the proposal for MP segment is being processed.

National Highways and Bridges

2675. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA :
SHRI ASHOK KUMAR SINGH CHANDEL :
SHRI RAM PRASAD SINGH :
SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH :
DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH :

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) the details of National Highways in the country including length thereof, State-wise;

(b) the details of work done for the repair, construction of bridges on each of the National Highways during 1997-98, 1998-99, 1999-2000 so far;

(c) the allocation made for the purpose, State-wise; and

(d) the action plan for construction of bridges and repair for the year 2000-2001, State-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN) : (a) A Statement-I giving details is enclosed.

(b) Repairs and construction of bridges is a continuous process and individual works for repairs and construction of bridges spill over a number of years. Hence it is not possible to give details.

(c) The funds are allocated State-wise and not work-wise. However, a Statement-II and III giving State-wise allocation of funds for Development and Maintenance and Repairs of National Highways for the years 1997-98, 1998-99, 1999-2000 enclosed.

(d) Attempts are made to maintain all bridges in traffic worthy conditions. Annual Plan for the year 2000-2001 is under preparation and therefore no further details can be given at present.

Statement-I

List of State-wise National Highways in the Country

Sl.No.	Name of State	National Highway No.	Total Length (in Kms.)
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	4,5,7,9,16,18,43,63,202,205 and 214	3910
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	52 and 52A	352
3.	Assam	31,31B,31C,36,37,37A,38,39,44,51,52,52A,52B,53,54, 61,62,151 and 152	2706
4.	Bihar	2,6,19,23,28,28A,30,30A,31,31,33,57,77,78,80,81,82, 83,84,85 and 85	3539
5.	Chandigarh	21	24
6.	Delhi	1,2,8,10 and 24	72
7.	Goa	4A,17,17A and 17B	269
8.	Gujarat	NE-1, 6-Extn.,8,8A,8B,8C and 8D,14,15 and 59	2241
9.	Haryana	1,2,8,10,21A,22,65,71,71A,72 and 73	1361
10.	Himachal Pradesh	1A,20,21,21A,22,70,72 and 88	1188
11.	Jammu & Kashmir	1A,1B, and 1C	738
12.	Karnataka	4,4A,7,9,13,48,63,206,207,209 and 212	3394
13.	Kerala	17,47,47A,49,208,212 and 213	1230
14.	Madhya Pradesh	3,6,7,12,16,25,26,27,43,59,69,75,76,78,79,86 and 200	5174
15.	Maharashtra	3,4,4B,6,7,8,9,13,16,17,50,59,204 and 211	3626
16.	Manipur	39,53 and 150	954
17.	Meghalaya	40,44,51 and 62	717
18.	Mizoram	44A,54,54A,54B and 150	857
19.	Nagaland	36,39,61 and 150	369
20.	Orissa	5,5A,6,23,42,43,60,200,201,203 and 215	2863
21.	Pondicherry	45A and 66	53
22.	Punjab	1,1A,10,15,20,21,22,64,70 and 71	1328
23.	Rajasthan	3,8,11,11A,12,14,15,65,76,79 and 89	4381
24.	Sikkim	31A	62
25.	Tamil Nadu	4,5,7,7A,45,45A,45B,46,47,49,66,67,68,205,207,208, 209 and 210	3681

1	2	3	4
26.	Tripura	44 and 44A	400
27.	Uttar Pradesh	2,3,7,11,19,24,24A,25,25A,26,27,28,29,56,56A,56B, 58,72,73,74,75,76,86 and 87	4570
28.	West Bengal	2,6,31,31A,31C,32,34,35,41,55,60,80,81	1951
		Total	52010

Statement-II

Allocation of Funds for Development of National Highways (Rs. in Lakhs) in various States during the Last three Years

Sl. No	Name of State/ UT	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	2949.83	4500.00	5045.00
2.	Assam	1821.00	2600.00	2186.83
3.	Bihar	1900.00	3405.31	6000.00
4.	Chandigarh	30.00	82.00	100.00
5.	Delhi	800.00	1400.00	1200.00
6.	Goa	900.00	1100.00	1500.02
7.	Gujarat	3675.00	5346.96	10451.43
8.	Haryana	1100.00	2613.50	4500.00
9.	Himachal Pradesh	1700.00	2500.00	4500.00
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	150.00	100.00	135.00
11.	Karnataka	2900.00	3500.00	4600.08
12.	Kerala	3600.00	6744.46	10468.12
13.	Madhya Pradesh	1700.00	2200.00	3226.75
14.	Maharashtra	2900.00	4811.631	10354.31
15.	Manipur	700.00	700.00	1010.75
16.	Meghalaya	920.00	1000.00	1730.28
17.	Mizoram	0.00	0.00	300.00
18.	Nagaland	100.00	200.00	750.00
19.	Orissa	2600.00	4000.00	4350.00
20.	Pondicherry	70.00	100.81	319.46
21.	Punjab	1300.00	2500.65	2000.00
22.	Rajasthan	2550.00	3450.00	5778.17
23.	Tamil Nadu	2500.00	3624.75	6500.00
24.	Tripura	0.00	0.00	50.00
25.	Uttar Pradesh	4608.00	7078.14	11005.35
26.	West Bengal	5375.00	7150.94	5738.02
27.	Joggigappa Bridge	1244.00	0.00	0.00
28.	Ministry	0.17	3.86	100.00
29.	BRDB	7031.00	8500.00	11230.00
	Total	55124.0	79213.01	115129.57

Statement-III

Allocation of Funds for Maintenance and Repairs (Rs. in Lakhs) in various States during the Last three Years

Sl. No	Name of State/ UT	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	1999-2000 (SRP)
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	3898.00	4568.40	3440.260	3657.00
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0.00	0.00	0.000	0.00
3.	Assam	1162.55	2815.51	3199.440	2500.00
4.	Bihar	3410.77	3336.97	5367.640	6100.00

1	2	3	4	5	6
5.	Chandigarh	71.00	48.04	66.000	50.00
6.	Delhi	330.20	210.00	139.840	160.00
7.	Goa	450.39	617.08	627.690	700.00
8.	Gujarat	3758.96	3296.94	2103.170	2068.00
9.	Haryana	772.34	1239.42	1611.700	400.00
10.	Himachal Pradesh	2034.32	2256.01	1692.250	664.00
11.	Jammu and Kashmir	87.40	129.65	290.000	100.00
12.	Karnataka	3002.90	3111.75	34110.900	4850.00
13.	Kerala	2268.11	2090.63	1984.000	1500.00
14.	Madhya Pradesh	3313.78	3945.04	5254.493	3000.00
15.	Maharashtra	5157.68	4957.67	3844.630	4000.00
16.	Manipur	277.03	365.59	826.080	0.00
17.	Meghalaya	584.54	625.80	805.890	400.00
18.	Mizoram	0.00	0.00	355.000	500.00
19.	Nagaland	37.11	382.90	426.630	423.00
20.	Orissa	2522.00	2761.15	2922.240	2516.00
21.	Pondicherry	29.96	64.18	87.000	164.00
22.	Punjab	1357.75	1538.81	1883.860	400.00
23.	Rajasthan	3841.71	3718.19	3520.000	4967.00
24.	Sikkim	0.00	0.00	0.000	0.00
25.	Tamil Nadu	2981.37	3740.00	4179.660	8000.00
26.	Trupura	0.00	0.00	185.000	0.00
27.	Uttar Pradesh	4949.19	6128.44	5575.490	4793.62
28.	West Bengal	3264.94	2757.83	3000.000	1530.00
29.	NHAI	375.00	274.00	0.000	0.00
30.	BRDB	0.00	0.00	0.000	93.72
31.	Other Institutions	13.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Total	49750.00	54980.00	56798.863	53536.34

[English]

High Court Benches

2676. SHRI V.S. SIVAKUMAR : Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of States where the High Court bench or benches other than the principal seat of the High Court has been established;

(b) the names of the State Capitals where the principal seat of the High Court has not been established as yet; and

(c) the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI) : (a) The permanent Benches of High Courts, away from their principal seats,

have been established in eleven States, viz., Bihar, Goa, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Rajasthan, Tripura and Uttar Pradesh.

(b) and (c) Bhopal, Bhubaneshwar, Gandhinagar, Itanagar and Thiruvananthapuram are the State capitals in the country where, at present, there is no High Court or its Bench. It has been decided that a Bench of the Gauhati High Court should be set up at Itanagar after necessary infrastructural facilities are provided by the Government of Arunachal Pradesh.

It is not necessary that the capital of every State should have a High Court or its Bench. In any case, no complete proposal has been received from the remaining State Governments, in consultation with the Chief Justices of the respective High Courts, for establishing Benches of High Courts in the capitals of the States.

Gap between Demand and Production of Petroleum Products

2677. SHRI C. SREENIVASAN :
SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT :

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

(a) the gap in the demand and production of petrol and other petroleum products in the country during the last three years;

(b) the quantum of production, consumption and import of these products during the corresponding period and foreign exchange spent thereon; and

(c) the steps taken to bride the demand and supply gap during the Ninth Five Year Plan ?

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) : (a) and (b) A statement is enclosed.

(c) With the commissioning of new refineries and expansion of the capacity of some of the existing refineries, India has become near self sufficient in refining capacity and production of petroleum products. The gap in demand of crude oil and supply of indigenous crude has, however, increased. In order to bridge the demand-supply gap during the Ninth Five Year Plan, steps are being taken to increase crude oil production in the country through application of improved technologies, better understanding of reservoir, development of new fields, additional development of existing fields and by inviting foreign and private capital in the upstream sector.

Statement

Production, Consumption and Import of Petroleum Products

(Quantity: '000' Tonnes, Value: Rs. Crores)

Products	1996-97				1997-98				1998-99*			
	Production	Consumption@	Import@@ Quantity	Import@@ Value	Production	Consumption@	Import@@ Quantity	Import@@ Value	Production	Consumption@	Import@@ Quantity	Import@@ Value
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
LPG	3378	4184	1035	1116.89	3454	4581	1087	902.57	3568	5027	1525	1130.35
Petrol	4704	4955	449	365.29	4849	5182	331	254.98	5573	5511	251	188.25
Kerosene	6236	9646	4279	3538.86	6701	9878	3812	2528.77	5341	10583	5823	3244.11
ATF	2119	2158	150	119.69	2147	2108	55	34.23	2289	2097	0	0.00
HSD	22202	35019	13608	10087.21	23354	36071	14075	8586.97	26716	36887	10485	4959.80
Fumace Oil	5980	6534	694	277.38	6671	6651	141	55.31	6407	6482	514	182.85
Others	16166	14728	50	128.20	15820	15367	29	69.09	16494	16979	182	131.16
Total	60785	77224	20265	15633.49	63096	79838	19530	12431.92	66388	83566	18780	9836.52

@ : Excludes consumption through private imports.
@@ : Excludes import by private parties.
*Provisional

[Translation]

Installation of P.C.Os in J & K

2678.SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of PCOs functioning at present in Jammu and Kashmir particularly in Baramulla region, district-wise;

(b) the number of applications lying pending for the installation of said booths in the State and the region during the last three years and till date, district-wise; and

(c) the time by which all these applications are likely to be cleared ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) At present 3615 PCOs are functioning in Jammu and Kashmir. The District-wise information in respect of Baramulla region is as under :

Name of the District	No. of STD PCOs functioning
Baramulla	174
Budgam	42
Kupwara	34

(b) 7776 applications are pending for installation of PCOs in J and K State. The applications pending in Baramulla region, district-wise, are as given below :

Name of the District	No. of STD PCOs functioning
Baramulla	390
Budgam	41
Kupwara	151

(c) All the applications are to be cleared by March, 2001 subject to technical feasibility and the applicants fulfilling other conditions.

[English]

VRS Plan for Hindustan Shipyard Ltd.

2679.SHRI ANNASAHEB M.K. PATIL : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have finalised VRS plan for Hindustan Shipyard Ltd.

(b) if so, the details thereof and the financial implications thereof;

(c) the present status of the proposal; and

(d) the details of structural and financial reforms proposed in Hindustan Shipyard Limited and present status thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN) : (a) to (c) Hindustan Shipyard Limited has been implementing Voluntary Retirement Scheme since 1990-91, for which grant-in-aid is provided from National Renewal Fund (NRF). So far, it has utilised a sum of Rs. 48.40 crore for the purpose.

(b) Capital Restructuring of HSI was approved by the Government in August 1997. *Inter-alia*, it envisaged writing off of Government loans and interest to the tune of Rs. 470.93 crore and conversion of such loans into equity to the tune of Rs. 120.20 crore. The outstanding cash credit and interest thereon of State Bank of India, as on 31.3.1995, was also converted into term loan payable over a period of 10 years with a moratorium of 3 years. This loan is secured against Government guarantee and carries a rate of interest of 10% per annum.

Construction of Over-Bridges/Fly-Overs on National Highways

2680.CH. TEJVEER SINGH :
DR. NITISH SENGUPTA :

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) the names of National Highways on which widening work is going at present alongwith the funds earmarked for the purpose during the last three years also for the year 2000-2001, State-wise;

(b) the number of over-bridges/fly-overs on the rivers constructed with this financial assistance, State-wise;

(c) the number of such over-bridges proposed to be constructed during the current financial year;

(d) the number and places where these are being constructed on the National Highways, State-wise;

(e) the details of the National Highways on which the State Governments have sent proposals for the construction of over-bridges/fly-overs;

(f) the action taken by the Government in the respect of these proposals;

(g) whether fly-over on the National Highway No.24 at Rampur Tirah near Muradabad is pending for clearance with the Government since long;

(h) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(i) the steps being taken by the Government to construct a fly-over at the said place ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN) : (a) Prior to 1999-2000 funds were allocated State-wise and were not earmarked workwise. Funds earmarked during 1999-2000 and those proposed in 2000-2001 are indicated in enclosed Statement-I.

(b) and (c) No over bridges/fly overs has been constructed as part of widening work.

(d) Number of over bridges/fly overs being constructed on the National Highways state-wise is indicated in the enclosed Statement-II.

(e) State Governments of Kerala, Madhya Pradesh and West Bengal have sent proposals for construction of ROB's on National Highways Nos. 17, 7 and 34 respectively.

(f) The State Governments are being advised to take these ROB's on BOT (Build-Operate and Transfer) basis.

(g) No, Sir.

(h) and (i) Does not arise.

Statement-I

Position relating to Widening of National Highways

Sl. No	Name of State	NH No.	No. of Works	Requirement of Funds	
				1999-2000 Funds Earmarked	2000-2001 Funds Proposed
				Rs. in lakhs	
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	9,16,18,43	10	1939.88	963.11
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	–	–	–	–
3.	Assam	31B, 37	5	382.16	686.35
4.	Bihar	23	7	339.30	448.85
5.	Chandigarh	–	–	–	–
6.	Delhi	–	–	–	–
7.	Goa, Daman and Diu				
8.	Gujarat	8,8A,8B	14	2690.41	2015.06
9.	Haryana	–	–	–	–
10.	Himachal Pradesh	–	–	–	–
11.	Jammu and Kashmir	–	–	–	–
12.	Karnataka	4A,9,13,17,48,63	20	821.65	1117.94
13.	Kerala	17,47,49	6	989.10	1130.45
14.	Madhya Pradesh	7,22,25,26	8	290.92	1048.61
15.	Maharashtra	3,4,6,7,8,9,17,50	25	626.86	373.24
16.	Manipur	–	–	–	–
17.	Meghalaya	–	–	–	–
18.	Mizoram	–	–	–	–
19.	Nagaland	36,61	2	281.87	100.00

1	2	3	4	5	6
20.	Orissa	5,5A,6,19,23,42,43	19	2272.74	3192.20
21.	Pondicherry	–	–	–	–
22.	Punjab	10	1	41.47	0.00
23.	Rajasthan	8,11,12,14,15	16	734.98	890.60
24.	Sikkim	–	–	–	–
25.	Tamil Nadu	49,66	10	635.62	1614.02
26.	Trupura	–	–	–	–
27.	Uttar Pradesh	19	5	963.31	997.67
28.	West Bengal	32,55	6	256.82	610.78
	Total		154	13327.08	15688.88

Statement-II

Number of Bridges, Over Bridges Flyovers and on the Rivers

S. No.	Name of State	NH No.	No. of works
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	7	1
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	–	–
3	Assam	–	–
4.	Bihar	32	1
5.	Chandigarh	–	–
6.	Delhi	–	–
7.	Goa, Daman and Diu	–	–
8.	Gujarat	–	–
9.	Haryana	–	–
10.	Himachal Pradesh	–	–
11.	J and K	–	–
12.	Karnataka	–	–
13.	Kerala	–	–
14.	Madhya Pradesh	6	1
15.	Maharashtra	8	1
16.	Manipur	–	–
17.	Meghalaya	–	–
18.	Mizoram	–	–
19.	Nagaland	–	–
20.	Orissa	–	–
21.	Pondicheery	–	–
22.	Punjab	–	–
23.	Rajasthan	11	12
24.	Sikkim	–	–
25.	Tamil Nadu	–	–
26.	Tripura	–	–
27.	Uttar Pradesh	–	–
28.	West Bengal	2,34	2
	Total		7

[Translation]

Prices of Diesel and Petroleum Products

2681. SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI :
SHRI ARUN KUMAR :

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

(a) whether the Government propose to reduce the rates of taxes fixed by the Government so as to decrease the prices of diesel and other petroleum products;

(b) if so, the levels at which the tax is recovered in the petroleum sector alongwith the type of tax and the rate thereof;

(c) whether the rates proposed for tax assessment in this sector were also sent by the Government to tax assessing authorities; and

(d) if so, the details of rates thereof and the extent to which the rates of petrol and diesel in the country are likely to be decreased on the basis of proposed tax rates ?

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) : (a) to (d) In the Union Budget presented in Parliament on 29.2.2000 the basic customs duty has been revised as under :

1.	Crude Oil	20% to 15%
2.	Motor Spirit, High Speed Diesel, Aviation Turbine Fuel, Light Diesel Oil, Furnace Oil, Bitumen, Low Sulpher Heavy Stock,	30% to 25%
3.	Kerosene (Parallel Marketing Scheme)	30% to 35%

The current excise duty rate on petrol is 32%, on diesel and aviation fuel – 16% and on kerosene oil and liquified petroleum gas 8%. Additionally, an amount of Rs.1000/KL is levied on petrol and diesel as additional excise duty.

In addition, State Governments levy recoverable sales tax/irrecoverable taxes, the rates of which vary from State to State and any change therein is within the powers of the State Governments.

No decision has been taken as yet on revision in prices of petrol and diesel after the presentation of budget.

[English]

Separate High Court at Agartala

2682. SHRI SAMAR CHOUDHURY : Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any demand has been made for the establishment of a separate High Court at Agartala in Tripura;

(b) if so, whether Tripura Legislative Assembly has also passed a resolution to this effect; and

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

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

(b) and (c) The Tripura Legislative Assembly has passed a resolution for the establishment of a separate High Court for Tripura. A proposal in connection with this matter was also received from the Chief Minister of Tripura in 1998. Considering the workload, it was conveyed to the Chief Minister of Tripura that the existing permanent Bench of the High Court at Agartala was sufficient for the present.

LPG Facilities in Assam

2683. SHRI ABDUL HAMID : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of people are on the waiting list for LPG connections at Dhubri and Goalpara Districts of Assam;

(b) if so, the details of LPG agencies operating in the said districts and the number of persons on waiting list with them; and

(c) the time by which waiting lists for LPG connections are likely to be cleared ?

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) : (a) to (c) The total number of waiting list registered with the distributors of PSU Oil Companies in the Goalpara District is 600 and in Dhubri District is nil. There are 6 distributors in the both the districts. New connections are released in a phased manner throughout the country depending on the LPG availability, waiting list, slack available with the distributors and their viability. However, the Govt. has a plan to release one crore LPG connections during the year 2000 to clear all waiting list registered with the distributors of PSU Oil Companies as on 1.12.1999.

[Translation]

Power Generation

2684. DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA :
SHRI ARUN KUMAR :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have estimated the power generation capacity available with the Union Government, State Government and private sector, separately;

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

(c) the quantum of average annual power generation capacity utilised and actual power generated in the three sectors, separately ?

THE MINISTER OF POWER AND MINISTER OF MINES AND MINERALS (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM):

(a) and (b) The Sector-wise installed generation capacity of utilities (Provisional) as on 29.02.2000 is given as under:

	Hydro	Thermal	Nuclear	Wind	Total
State Sector	20503.50	38184.04	0.00	52.59	58740.13
Central Sector	2569.01	24752.50	2460.00	0.00	29781.51
Private Sector	456.00	6999.62	0.00	971.41	8427.03

(c) The sector-wise average generation capacity utilisation and the actual power generation is given as under :

Sector	Category	Generation (MU) (April-February, 2000)			PLF (%)
		Target	Actual	% of target	
All India	Thermal	341102	350711	102.8	66.7
	Nuclear	9932	11866	119.5	
	Hydro	74890	74484	99.5	
	Total	425924	437061	102.6	
Central Sector	Thermal	116980	132385	113.2	73.1
	Nuclear	9932	11866	119.5	
	Hydro	20263	20491	101.1	
	Total	147175	164742	111.9	
State Sector	Thermal	184132	184504	100.2	63.2
	Hydro	53212	52415	98.5	
	Total	237344	236919	99.8	
Private Sector	Thermal	39990	33822	84.6	67.6
	Hydro	1415	1578	111.5	
	Total	41405	35400	85.6	

[English]

SVS Rajhavan Committee

2685.SHRI NAMDEO HARBAJI DIWATHE : Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether SVS Rajhavan Committee on the Competition policy has submitted its report to the Government;

(b) if so, the recommendations made therein; and

(c) the action taken/proposed to be taken thereon ?

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

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Sanjay Gandhi Extension Project

2686.SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Madhya Pradesh Government has sent a proposal seeking the environmental clearance to the Sanjay Gandhi Extension Unit No.5 (500 megawatts) project;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which it is likely to be given clearance ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. It is proposed to generate 500 MW of power in Stage-II. Since essential information

required for environmental assessment, such as Ambient Air Quality Data, Fly Ash Utilization Plan and proposal for development of greenbelt, was not provided, the project authorities were requested to submit the same. A decision on the project will be taken within 90 days from the date of receipt of complete information.

[English]

Decline in Production of Oil and Natural Gas

2687.SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) the production of Crude Oil and Natural Gas during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) whether there is a sharp decline in the production in the oilfields managed by Oil and Natural Gas Commission;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken to increase the production of these products in the next few years ?

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) : (a) The production of crude oil and natural gas during the last three years is as under :-

Year	Crude Oil (MMT)	Gas (MMSCM)
1996-97	32.90	23255
1997-98	33.85	26402
1998-99	32.72	27428

MMT : Million Metric Tonnes.
MMSCM : Million Standard cubic Metres.

(b) and (c) There has been a marginal decline in production of crude oil by Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC). The main reasons for marginal decline in crude oil production are as under :-

(i) The major oil fields including Bombay High, are entering the natural declining phase with age.

(ii) No significant or major oil field has been found for the last several years.

(iii) Continued environment problems in ERBC and its cascading effect has resulted in less base potential due to subdued drilling and work over activities.

(iv) Erratic power supply from State Electricity Board in WRBC (Gujarat) and ERBC (Assam) affects the artificial lift systems.

(d) Steps taken to increase production of crude oil are :-

(i) Optimizing production from existing fields through better reservoir management, 3-D seismic surveys, infill drilling, pressure maintenance, installation/optimisation of artificial lift system and use of advanced and cost effective technologies and improvement in recovery factor.

(ii) Faster development of newly discovered oilfields.

(iii) Finding new hydrocarbon reserves through intensified exploration activities such as :-

- Exploration at greater depths in existing fields.
- Extending exploration activities to deep waters and frontier areas.
- Increased private participation in exploration activities through implementation of New Exploration Licensing Policy.

[Translation]

Petrol and Gas Reserves in Haryana and Rajasthan

2688.SHRI AJAY SINGH CHAUTALA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have conducted any survey particularly in the deserts of Rajasthan and the adjoining desert area of Haryana to find out the new sources and reserves of petrol and gas during the last three years; and

(b) if so, the results thereof and the location where oil and gas has been found alongwith the estimated quantum thereof ?

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) : (a) and (b) In Rajasthan, during the last three years, Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC) has acquired 1589 Ground Line Kilometre of 2D seismic data. In the same period private and joint venture companies have carried out 3016 Line

Kilometre of 2D seismic survey, 14 Square Kilometre of 3D survey and 3385 kilometre of gravity survey in Rajasthan. As a result of exploratory drilling, an estimated gas inplace of about 0.56 Billion Standard Cubic Metre has been discovered by ONGC and Oil India Ltd. during the last three years in Jaisalmer basin of Rajasthan. Further, crude oil has been discovered in Bikner district by a private company with an estimated oil in-place of 1.3 Million Standard Stock Tank Barrel.

No exploration has been done in Haryana, in this period.

[English]

Increase in Power Tariff

2689.SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Power tariff may go up three times" appearing in the Indian Express dated November 11,1999.

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

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF POWER AND MINISTER OF MINES AND MINERALS (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Electricity Regulatory Commission constituted in Orissa has been entrusted with the responsibility of fixing electricity tariff. In the latest tariff order dated 30.12.1999 issued by the OERC, the tariff increase has been modest.

[Translation]

Telecom Facilities

2690.SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT :
SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have taken any steps to increase the capacity of telephone exchanges and provide modern communication facilities in the Ranchi district of Bihar and Nandurbar district of Maharashtra;

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

(c) the number of persons on the waiting list for telephone connections in Nandurbar district as on date exchange-wise;

(d) the number of telephone connections provided during the last three years and till date;

(e) the steps taken by the Government to clear the waiting list in the said district;

(f) the number of officers of telecommunications and postal department found involved in corruption in Ranchi district during the last one year and till date; and

(g) the action taken by the Government against the guilty persons ?

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

(b) The details of increase in the capacity of telephone exchanges in Ranchi district of Bihar and Nandurbar of Maharashtra during the year 1999-2000 upto February 2000, is given in Statement-I. The steps taken with respect to modern facilities are as under

(i) Internet facility is available in Ranchi and Nandurbar districts on local call basis.

(ii) ISDN services are available in Ranchi.

(iii) In services are planned to be provided in Ranchi during the year 2000-2001.

(c) Waiting list for telephone connections in Nandurbar district is 2363, as on 29.2.2000. Exchange-wise details are given in enclosed Statement-II

(d) The number of telephone connections provided in Nandurbar district during the last 3 years and till date is given below :-

Sl.No.	Year	No. of lines given
1.	1997-98	1847
2.	1998-99	2419
3.	1999-2000 (upto 6.3.2000)	1458

(e) The steps taken are as under :

(i) A 512 P C-DoT exchange, at Phakasha, is under installation.

(ii) 3500 and 1000 lines (expansion) exchange equipment has been ordered for Shahada and

Nandurbar respectively and will be installed during 2000-2001.

(iii) Remaining exchanges, wherever there is waiting list, are also planned to be expanded during 2000-2001 to clear the waiting list.

(f) No officer of Department of Telecommunication Services and Department of Posts has been found involved in corruption in Ranchi district during the last one year and till date.

(g) Does not arise in view of (f) above.

Statement-I

Increase in capacity of Telephone Exchanges during 1999-2000 upto February 2000

Sl. No.	Name of district	Name of Exchange	Capacity increased
1.	Ranchi	Ranchi Main	1000
2.	Ranchi	Ashok Nagar*	4000
3.	Ranchi	Bariatu	1000
4.	Ranchi	Ashok Nagar	1000
5.	Ranchi	Mandar*	328
6.	Ranchi	Tatisilwai*	500
7.	Ranchi	Zonaha*	152
8.	Ranchi	Angara*	152
9.	Ranchi	Topkara*	152
		Total	8284
1.	Nandurbar	Malobi	72
2.	Nandurbar	Gogapur	64
3.	Nandurbar	Katol	72
4.	Nandurbar	Kudavat	56
5.	Nandurbar	Dhadgaon	40
6.	Nandurbar	Mhasawad	88
7.	Nandurbar	Navapur	184
8.	Nandurbar	Khanbara	16
9.	Nandurbar	Khondamali	72
10.	Nandurbar	Lonkheda	72
11.	Nandurbar	Bhaler*	80
12.	Nandurbar	Kolda*	152
		Total	968

*New Telephone Exchanges.

Statement-II

Details of waiting list in Nandurbar district as on 29.2.2000

Sl.No.	Name of Exchange	Waiting list
1	2	3
1.	Dhadgaon	0
2.	Ashte	16
3.	Bhaler	12
4.	Dhandra	8
5.	Khondamali	44
6.	Kolda	0
7.	Koparli	31
8.	Lonkheda	22
9.	Nandurbar	753
10.	Pachorabari	0
11.	Ranala	32
12.	Chinchpada	20
13.	Karnaibk	2
14.	Khandbara	50
15.	Khokda	2
16.	Navagaon	5
17.	Navapur	84
18.	Vadkalambi	3
19.	Visarwadi	9
20.	Brahmanpuri	10
21.	Dawarkheda	0
22.	Dogapur	3
23.	Kahatul	2
24.	Kheddigar	1
25.	Kudawad	0
26.	Vandane	3
27.	Mhasawad	5
28.	Padalde	2
29.	Prakasha	5
30.	Sarangkheda	0
31.	Shahada	925

1	2	3
32.	Shelti	0
33.	Jarnadi	0
34.	Torkheda	0
35.	Vadali	61
36.	Akkalkuwa	65
37.	Borad	2
38.	Khapar	49
39.	Mod	7
40.	Moolgi	0
41.	Taloda	130
	Total	2363

[English]

National Tiger Project in Rajasthan

2691.SHRIMATI JAS KAUR MEENA : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the land of farmers was acquired for the National Tiger Project in Rajasthan;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether a decision was taken before the acquisition of land to accommodate the farmers whose land has been taken for the project;

(d) if so, the number of farmers accommodated in the project; and

(e) the reasons for not accommodating the remaining families in the project ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI) : (a) Land of 11 villages were acquired for the two Tiger Reserves in Rajasthan.

(b) The details are given in enclosed Statement.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. A decision was taken in a meeting dated 27.12.1975 by District Forest Enquiry Committee that in addition to 5 bighas of land, each family will be allotted land equal to its land holding. Compensation for houses and wells etc. was also paid to 167 families from 11 villages.

(e) Relocation of 285 families in 4 villages is in progress.

Statement

Details of Land Acquired

S.No.	Villages	Khatedari land held by farmers	
		Bigha	Biswa
1.	Ananthpura	147	8
2.	Chiroli	164	1
3.	Lakarda	37	15
4.	Berda	20	–
5.	Hanotia	85	2
6.	Chhindali	65	–
7.	Lahpur	26	7
8.	Nagdi Rahmanpur	17	16
9.	Guda	15	18
10.	Ranthambhore	17	19
11.	Prempur	58	4
	Total	655	10

Storage of Depot of IOC

2692.SHRI CHANDRA VIJAY SINGH : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that an Indian Oil Corporation's Storage depot at Moradabad in U.P. exists within a congested town;

(b) if so, whether the continued existence of such a big storage depot poses a hazard to life and property in the even of a mishap;

(c) if so, whether there is a proposal to shift the said depot from town; and

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

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) : (a) to (d) Indian Oil Corporation has a depot at Moradabad which has already been resited and commissioned at Najibabad in May, 1997. However, at present some stock of black oil is stored in Moradabad depot and this is likely to be consumed shortly.

[Translation]

Transmission and Distribution Losses

2693. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the transmission and distribution losses of power in India is higher than other countries; and

(b) if so, the comparative figures in this regard and the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF POWER AND MINISTER OF MINES AND MINERALS (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) The All India percentage transmission and distribution losses based on figures reported by SEBs/Power utilities/ Electricity Departments during 1997-98 is 24.44%. However, the States which have undertaken restructuring have reported T and D losses varying from 40 to 51%. The T&D losses in developing countries during the year 1994 vary from 5.51% in Republic of Korea to 38.80% in Dominican Republic.

(b) Statements indicating T and D losses in India and developing countries are given in enclosed Statement-I and II.

The reasons for high T and D losses are :

(i) Weak and inadequate sub-transmission and distribution system due to low priority being given to these works.

(ii) Large scale Rural Electrification programme undertaken in the country resulting in long lines and extension of distribution network without strengthening the back-up transmission sub-transmission and distribution system.

(iii) Too many transformation stages resulting in higher component of transformation losses.

(iv) Improper load management resulting in over-loading of system.

(v) Low power factor due to pumping load in rural areas; and air conditioners, coolers and industrial loads in urban areas and inadequate reactive compensation at the load points.

(vi) Low quantity of construction and inadequate maintenance of equipment.

(vii) Unmetered supply to agricultural pumps and small domestic connections to weaker sections of the society in some States.

(viii) Pilferage and theft of energy.

Statement-I

Percentage Transmission and Distribution Losses in Developed Countries

Country	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993
Austria	7.19	7.34	7.44	7.15	7.59
Belgium	5.64	5.82	5.59	5.51	5.60
Canada	9.45	8.44	8.74	8.46	8.25
Czechoslovakia	7.91	7.86	–	8.50	10.34
Denmark	5.65	5.20	6.92	6.70	6.93
Finland	5.64	5.10	5.04	5.48	5.01
France	8.25	8.19	8.28	7.64	8.02
Germany	–	5.45	5.17	4.87	5.08
Greece	8.12	9.05	8.88	7.92	8.66
Hungary	11.11	11.09	11.06	9.43	13.66
Iceland	8.58	8.88	8.74	7.65	6.72
Ireland	9.70	9.78	10.00	9.71	9.61
Isreal	5.06	5.22	5.43	5.06	4.65
Italy	8.54	7.83	8.15	7.84	8.31
Netherland	4.53	4.58	4.52	4.59	4.94
Norway	8.53	7.49	7.40	7.51	8.13
Poland	10.58	9.15	12.43	13.85	15.19
Portugal	12.31	12.31	12.27	12.32	12.46
Romania	6.16	8.96	10.16	10.85	11.25
Spain	9.10	9.85	10.01	10.05	10.10
Sweden	7.20	6.98	6.57	7.25	7.72
Switzerland	8.03	7.97	7.97	8.03	7.98
U.S.S.R.	9.45	9.32	–	–	–
Russian Fed.	–	8.84	8.98	9.53	9.26
Ukraine	–	9.03	9.53	10.21	10.85
Ukraineian – SSR	8.50	–	–	–	–
U.K.	8.53	8.39	8.80	7.49	7.85
U.S.A.	5.70	9.93	7.93	8.40	8.66
Uzbekistan	–	10.40	9.43	10.09	9.72
Yugoslavia	9.89	–	10.25	–	–
India@	23.28	22.89	22.83	21.80	21.41

Note/Source :

1. From Annual Bulletin of Electric Energy Statistics for Europe, U.N. Publication.
2. General Review Published by CEA
3. '–'/N.A. – Data not available/not applicable

@ For Financial Years.

Statement-II

Percentage Transmission and Distribution Losses in Developing Countries (Public Utilities)

Country	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Algeria	18.51	15.07	16.32	13.31	17.10	17.50
Bangladesh	30.10	35.57	38.95	39.10	33.98	33.30
Barbados	9.73	9.55	7.86	7.27	8.56	8.24
Belize	11.11	9.80	9.80	9.35	9.35	9.35
Bolivia	14.83	16.71	15.91	15.91	14.00	13.67
Brazil	13.70	13.62	14.67	14.13	14.43	15.26
Bulgaria	11.79	11.41	15.78	15.67	15.47	15.31
Chile	15.41	12.38	12.87	11.93	–	–
China	7.54	7.44	7.68	7.75	7.16	6.44
Colombia	24.25	23.70	22.94	20.48	22.74	23.29
Costarica	11.03	14.33	11.45	11.46	11.04	8.00
Cuba	18.05	18.44	16.82	15.99	16.10	16.10
Dominican Rep.	34.01	41.04	42.87	42.48	38.81	38.80
EL – Salvador	18.05	19.02	16.10	16.42	13.75	13.75
Fiji	9.76	9.88	12.32	13.58	14.63	14.94
French Guiana	12.37	12.17	11.87	12.41	12.67	14.98
Guatemala	16.08	16.67	15.65	15.36	18.01	16.43
Honduras	24.83	25.48	26.53	27.56	28.25	28.14
Indonesia	21.93	22.47	20.95	17.97	17.18	16.75
Jamaica	19.35	17.90	18.71	20.66	25.17	24.28
Jordan	10.99	10.07	10.51	11.00	10.43	9.94
Kenya	15.46	15.45	15.41	15.07	15.73	15.01
Rep. of Korea	5.93	5.49	5.50	5.66	5.48	5.51
Kuwait (Inc. Part of Neutral Zone)	9.02	8.40	NA	NA	NA	N.A
Malaysia	11.05	8.71	12.13	7.89	–	9.55
Myanmar	35.20	–	37.39	38.44	37.71	36.13
Nepal	28.39	28.28	28.38	24.66	24.94	25.83
Nicaragua	21.62	19.38	24.06	24.04	25.88	25.22
Pakistan	20.64	21.35	20.55	22.94	22.89	23.60
Peru	–	–	2.75	2.58	3.25	5.81
Phillipines	16.10	13.79	13.54	17.23	17.70	17.29
Sri Lanka	17.26	16.78	18.25	16.89	17.28	17.82
Thailand	10.20	10.85	11.08	10.67	8.41	9.90

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Trininad and Tobago	11.77	9.09	13.43	9.55	8.87	9.31
Tunisia	13.40	12.77	12.40	11.76	11.32	11.26
Uruguay	19.12	21.64	19.96	22.37	19.80	20.44
Venezuela	17.80	21.73	17.70	17.10	NA	NA
Zimbabwe	6.76	9.74	12.81	9.87	14.57	15.49
India@	23.28	22.89	22.83	21.80	21.41	21.13

Note/Source :

1. Energy balance and Electricity Profiles-un Publication,
2. General Review Published by CEA, 3. '–'/N.A. – Data not available/not applicable and 4.@ for Financial Years

[English]

Underground Transportation of Petroleum Products

2694.DR. C. KRISHNAN : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there are any plans for the underground transportation of petroleum products from Chennai-Coimbatore and Tuticorin-Madurai-Trichy, considering the heavy traffic on the national and State highways causing much delay in transport thereof;

(b) if so, whether the scheme has been finalised in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) to (d) No, Sir. However, Petronet CCK Limited, a joint venture company between Petronet India Ltd., and Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited is implementing a project for laying a cross country pipeline from Cochin to Karur via Coimbatore for transportation of petroleum products at an estimated cost of Rs. 535 crore. Further, Petronet CTM Limited, a joint venture company co-promoted by Petronet India Limited and Indian Oil Corporation Limited is also laying a pipeline from Channai to Madurai via Trichy at an estimated cost of Rs. 538.7 crore.

[Translation]

LPG Dealers in Gurgaon

2695.SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of LPG distributors in Gurgaon district of Haryana State;

(b) the details of the LPG cylinders supplied to the LPG distributors during the last three years;

(c) whether the Government are aware that LPG agencies in the district are taking number of days in supplying refills after the booking of LPG and also supplying less quantity of gas in cylinders; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government to check such irregularities of LPG dealers in the district ?

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

Electronic Telephone Exchanges

2696.SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the names of places where electronic exchanges with their capacity proposed to be set up in Ahmedabad and Bhavnagar districts of Gujarat during 1999-2000; and

(b) the time by which these exchanges are likely to be set up ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) the names of places where electronic exchanges with their capacity proposed to be set up in Ahmedabad and Bhavnagar district of Gujarat during 1999-2000 are as follows :–

S.No.	Exchanges	Type	Net Capacity
	Ahmedabad SSA		
1.	Gulbhai Tekra	EWSD	6000
2.	Narol	E-10B	3000
3.	Kalyangadh	C-DOT	256
4.	Ribdi	C-DOT	256
	Bhavnagar SSA		
1.	Pithwadi	C-DOT	256
2.	Tansa	C-DOT	256

(b) These exchanges have already been commissioned during this year.

[English]

Better Telephone Services

2697.SHRI ANANTA NAYAK :
SHRI BHERULAL MEENA :
SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is need to provide better services to the telephone subscribers all over the country;

(b) if so, whether the Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) has not been able to provide satisfactory service to its subscribers in as much as it relates to the redressal of complaints even after its corporatisation;

(c) if so, the number of cases in which penalty has been imposed and punishment awarded to MTNL by Consumer Forum and other Courts during the last three years till date;

(d) the number of such cases noticed in various telecom circles in the country during the said period;

(e) whether the Government have reviewed telephone network and any monitoring agency is proposed to be set up for the purpose;

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

(g) the action taken/to be taken by the Government for the redressal of pending complaints ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) Department of Telecom Services is providing quite satisfactory service to the telephone subscribers. However, there is always scope for improvement.

(b) The subscribers complaints in general are redressed quickly in MTNL. Service provided to telephone subscribers has been steadily improving over the past few years.

(c) No. of cases in which penalty has been imposed and punishment awarded to MTNL by various Courts are as under :

Delhi	Mumbai
570	58

(d) The number of cases noticed in all telecom circles is 4813.

(e) and (f) Government continually reviews performance and growth of telephone network to improve services to its subscribers. Monitoring agency for the redressal of public grievances already exists in the fields units as well as in the Telecom Headquarter.

(g) The Public Grievance Redressal Machinery is active at all levels and redresses pending complaints promptly. Further public interacts with departmental officers for their grievances at two forums viz. Telephone Adalat and Open House Session which are advertised through lending newspapers. Besides, field officers are available for public atleast 2 hours on all working days.

[Translation]

Production of Sea Creatures

2698.SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a large number of sea creatures such as "Coral-Mengruz" died as a result of leakage of crude oil pipe line of Indian Oil Corporation;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the losses suffered thereby;

(c) the persons found responsible in this regard and action taken against them so far; and

(d) the measures taken or proposed to be taken to avoid such incidents and save the environment and sea creatures in future ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. Two dolphins and one sea turtle are reported to have died due to oil spillage.

(c) Two officials of the Under Water Services, the contractor engaged by the Indian Oil Corporation were arrested and a case field in appropriate Court of Law.

(d) The Coast Guards have been requested by the Government of Gujarat to prepare a plan for oil spill management and submit by 31-3-2000.

[English]

Exemption of Projects from Techno Economic Clearance

2699.SHRI ANANT GUDHE : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to exempt projects upto Rs. 5000 crores from the techno-economic clearance in a bid to further decentralise and expedite investment decisions;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of power projects held up due to bureaucratic delays or differences between the Central Electricity Authority and independent private power producers; and

(d) the action plan formulated for the current year for ensuring completion of ongoing projects particularly in Maharashtra ?

THE MINISTER OF POWER AND MINISTER OF MINES AND MINERALS (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) and (b) Government, in exercise of the powers conferred by sub-section (i) of Section 29 of the Electricity (Supply) Act, 1948 (54 of 1948), has exempted inter-alia, schemes for thermal generating stations prepared by a Generating Company Selected through a process of competitive bidding having an estimated capital expenditure of upto Rs.5000 crores and conforming to the factors notified in the amendment dated 23.5.1997 to the tariff notification dated 30.3.1992, from having to obtain concurrence of the Central Electricity Authority (CEA). The capital cost limits beyond which various schemes are required to obtain the concurrence of CEA have been raised from time to time in line with the policy of liberalisation and delegation of powers and due to other reasons viz., competitive bidding having been made mandatory for award of power generation projects to private sector and for Speedy development of projects by doing away with multilevel scrutiny, etc.

(c) None of the private sector power projects is held up in CEA on account of bureaucratic delays etc. The projects are considered for accord of techno-economic clearance as soon as the essential inputs/clearances are tied up by the concerned project developers.

(d) A total capacity of around 4245 MW, both from thermal as well as hydel generation, was programmed to be commissioned during the current financial year out of which a capacity of around 2907 MW (as on 31.1.2000) has already been commissioned. Apart from this, an additional capacity of 48 MW has also been commissioned, which had not been included in the programmed capacity addition. There are no ongoing thermal power projects in the State of Maharashtra to be commissioned during the financial year 1999-2000. In Maharashtra, it was programmed to commission two units of 12 MW each at Dudhganga Hydro-electric Project and two units of 250 MW each at Koyna Stage-IV HE Project during the period in question. All these 4 units have already been rolled/ commissioned. Efforts are being made to advance commissioning of one unit of 250 MW at Koyna Stage-IV HE Project in the current financial year, which was originally scheduled for commissioning during the next year i.e. 2000-01.

Postal Facilities

2700.SHRI PRABHAT SAMANTRAY : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to set up a separate Postal Division for the Kendrapara district in Orissa;

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

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) the number of Panchayat Headquarters in the said district not having the Post Offices;

(e) the number of representations from the said district for opening of branch Post Offices pending with the Government; and

(f) the steps taken by the Government to provide Post Offices in all the Panchayat Headquarters of the district ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) In view of reply to (a) above, question does not arise.

(c) The proposal for creation of a separate postal division at Kendrapara was examined and not found feasible as per administrative parameters.

(d) The number of Panchayat Headquarters in Kendrapara district not having post office is 60 (sixty).

(e) The number of representations from Kendrapara district for opening of Branch Post Offices pending with the Government is 14 (Fourteen).

(f) Post Offices are opened subject to availability of resources and fulfilment of departmental norms, based on population, distance from existing post office and estimated income.

Applications for Dealerships in Kashmir Valley

2701.SHRI AVTAR SINGH BHADANA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Indian Oil Corporation had invited applications for new dealerships in the Kashmir Valley way back in 1998 with an avowed preference to the unemployed youth;

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

(c) whether the IOC has shelved these applications for over two years;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the corporation propose to handover new dealerships to existing dealers in disregard of the applications already invited for the purpose; and

(f) if so, the fate of the applications already pending with the corporation for the allotment of these dealerships ?

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) : (a) to (d) Indian Oil Corporation has advertised 2 retail outlet dealerships in district Srinagar and one each in districts Badgaom, Pulwama and Anantnag in Kashmir Valley in 1998. Selection process including interviews of the locations advertised has been stayed from July, 1999 on account of announcement of General Elections and Model Code of Conduct coming into force. The Dealer Selection Boards have recently been dissolved. Therefore, selection process for the locations advertised by the oil companies could not be completed.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) The pending applications will be considered by the new Dealer Selection Boards on their constitution.

Merger of Major Institutes

2702.SHRI MAHBOOB ZAHEDI : Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to merge the major Institutes like the Institute of Cost and Works Accountants of India, the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India and the Institute of Company Secretaries of India; and

(b) if so, the details thereof including the time-frame laid down for the purpose ?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI) : (a) No, Sir. The Government has no proposal to merge the Institute of Cost and Works Accountants of India, the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India and the Institute of Company Secretaries of India.

(b) Does not arise.

Kerosene Testing Labs

2703.SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Maharashtra Government has urged the Union Minister to clear the request for setting up two laboratories at Ramdeobaba Engineering College and the Laxminarayan Institute of Technology, Nagpur for testing the quality of kerosene; and

(b) if so, the time by which clearance is likely to be accorded ?

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) : (a) and (b) Government of Maharastra has requested the Central Government for inclusion of laboratories at Ramdeobaba Engineering College and the Laxminarayan Institute of Technology, Nagpur as authorised labs under Motor Spirit and High Speed Diesel (Regulation of Supply and Distribution and Prevention of Malpractices) Order, 1998. The State Govt. has been advised to obtained the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) certification for the above labs before further action is taken.

[Translation]

Shortage of Cables in Bihar

2704.SHRI RAJO SINGH : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is shortage of cables and other basic materials in the telephone exchanges of Bihar particularly in Shekpura, Lakhisarai, Begusarai and Jamui districts;

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

(c) the steps taken by the Government to ensure adequate supply of cable etc. and release essential funds for the purpose ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) No, Sir.

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

(c) About 11 LCKM cable has already been procured and additional 2 LCKM is being purchased to meet demands of all exchanges during current financial year. Funds have been provided as per the requirement.

[English]

Udulkorehalla Project

2705.SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Karnataka Government has send a proposal for the clearance of Udulkorehalla Project;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government have not cleared the proposal so far;

(d) if so, the main reasons therefor; and

(e) the time by which it is likely to be given clearance ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. The Government of Karnataka has not submitted any proposal for the clearance of Udulkorehalla Project. However, a proposal for diversion of 183.60 hectare forest land for construction of Uduthorehall Reservoir Project at Ajjapura, Kollegal taluk, District Mysore was received from the Government of Karnataka in December 1994.

(c) to (e) On scrutiny, the proposal was found incomplete as regards to Cost-Benefit analysis, detailed Catchment Area Treatment plan and details of violation of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 done by the project authorities. The State Government was requested to provide these lacking and essential details in respect of the proposal in January 1995. The complete information was provided by the State Government only in August 1999.

The proposal was discussed by the Forest Advisory Committee, which is a statutory body constituted under Section-3 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, on 28.9.1999. the Committee was of the view that some provisions of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 appeared to have been violated and the issue was not clearly brought out by the State Government. The Committee recommended that a report should be sought on this issue from the Regional Office of the Ministry located at Bangalore, before a decision on the proposal is taken.

The Regional Office, Bangalore has submitted their report on 29.2.2000. The proposal is likely to be discussed in the meeting of the Forest Advisory Committee shortly for taking a final view on the proposal.

Safety Standards for Port Workers

2706.SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware about the inadequate safety measures undertaken in the ports for the workers;

(b) if so, whether there is a need to adopt safety standards for the port workers who are handling hazardous cargo;

(c) if so, the steps proposed to be taken in this direction; and

(d) the safety measures adopted in the Visakhapatnam Port ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN) : (a) to (c) Adequate safety measures are undertaken for safety of workers in the Major Ports as per the provisions of Dock Workers (Safety, Health and Welfare) Act, 1986 and the regulations framed thereunder. Due care and safety precautions are taken while handling hazardous cargo and whenever any shortcoming is noticed, corrective steps are taken.

(d) Safety measures adopted by the Visakhapatnam Port Trust to ensure safety for the Port Workers include supply of personal protective equipment as per Bureau of Indian Standards, provision of adequate illumination at all points in dock area, restrictions imposed on the speed of vehicles in the dock area, monitoring of ship gear by Assistant Director (Safety), training to workers on first aid, fire-fighting and testing of the condition of the port's cargo handling equipment as per Dock Workers (Safety, Health and Welfare) Regulations, 1990 etc.

Privatisation of Marine College

2707.SHRI SAMIK LAHIRI : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to privatise MERI, Calcutta alongwith other Government/Government sponsored Marine Colleges;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN) (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[Translation]

World Bank Aided Power Projects

2708.SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) the details and names of World Bank aided Power Projects functioning at present in the country, State-wise;

(b) the expenditure likely to be incurred thereon; and

(c) the time by which these projects are likely to be completed ?

THE MINISTER OF POWER AND MINISTER OF MINES AND MINERALS (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) and (b) Details of ongoing World Bank aided power projects in the country alongwith the corresponding loan amount are as follows :-

Sl. No.	Name of Project	Executing Agency/ State	Amount of loan sanctioned (in US $ Million)
1	2	3	4
State			
1.	Orissa Power Restructuring Project	Orissa	350
2.	Haryana Power Restructuring Project (APL)	Haryana	60
3.	Andhra Pradesh Power Restructuring Project (APL)	Andhra Pradesh	210
*4.	Maharashtra Power Project (Koyna)	Maharashtra	337.3
	*Loan closed		
Centre (Multi State Projects)			
4.	Northern India Transmission System	Powergrid	415
5.	PSDP – I	Powergrid	275
6.	Nathpa Jhakri HEP	NJPC	485

(c) The State sector projects, are likely to be completed in successive trenches in about six to ten years from the signing of loan agreements. For Central Sector projects, at Sl.No. 4, 5 and 6 in (b) above the likely dates of commission is March, 2002 for all the three projects.

[English]

Forest Protection Awareness Amongst Tribals

2709.PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have taken any steps to increase awareness amongst tribals and forest dwellers on the importance of forest protection;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have spent very little resources on this issue; and

(d) if so, the reasons for ignoring such important facets of forest protection work ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI) : (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. As per the provisions of National Forest Policy, 1998, Government of India had issued guidelines to the State Governments on June 1, 1990 regarding involvement of communities including tribals and forest dwellers in the protection and regeneration of degraded forests under Joint Forest Management (JFM) Programme. The Government, after a review of the programme has issued fresh guidelines to the State Government on February 21, 2000 for further strengthening the Joint Forest Management Programme. Under this programme 36,075 JFM committees are protecting 10.24 million ha. of forest in twenty two States of the country. A Centrally Sponsored Scheme on "Association of Scheduled Tribes and Rural Poor in Regeneration of Degradad Forests on Usufruct Sharing basis" for rehabilitation of degraded forest land with the association of scheduled tribes and rural poor is under implementation in fourteen States of the country.

Petrol Outlets in Bellary

2710.SHRI KOLUR BASAVANAGOUD : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state the total number of retail petrol outlets in Bellary district of Karnataka at present and the number of them proposed to be opened there during 2000-2001 ?

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) : At present there are 38 retail outlet dealerships in operation in Bellary District in Karnataka. Two more retail outlet dealerships have been included in the current Marketing Plan 1996-98 for District Bellary.

Supply of Coal to Badarpur Thermal Power Station

2711.SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether poor quality of coal being supplied to Badarpur Thermal Power Station is resulting into interruption in the power generation and high pollution; and

(b) if so, the corrective measures proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard and ensure only good quality of coal supply to Badarpur Thermal Power Plant ?

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

(b) Does not arise.

Complaints against Escorts Finance Limited

2712.SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY : Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received complaints against the Escorts Finance Limited, Faridabad/ New Delhi for the non-payment of interest on deposits received from public and the non-refund of the Principal amounts of deposits;

(b) if so, the number of complaints received in this regard during the last three years; and

(c) the action taken against the company ?

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

In the last three years no complaint against M/s Escorts Finance Limited has been received in the Company Law Board.

Setting up of Petrol and Diesel Outlets in Andhra Pradesh

2713.SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of new petrol and diesel outlets are proposed to be opened in Krishna district in Andhra Pradesh during 2000-2001;

(b) whether any survey has been done in this regard; and

(c) if so, the steps proposed in this direction ?

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) : (a) to (c) Oil Companies periodically conducts surveys for identifying economically viable locations for setting up retail outlet dealerships as per Oil Industry's Volume Distance Norms. In addition to the locations pending from previous Marketing Plants, 2 retail outlet dealerships have been included in the current Marketing Plan 1996-98 for Krishna District (Andhra Pradesh). It generally takes about 6-12 months for commissioning of dealerships/distributorships from the date of interview.

Neglect of LPG Consumers in Andhra Pradesh

2714.SHRI GANTA SREENIVASA RAO : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether public sector oil companies have ignored the LPG consumers in Visakhapatnam district of Andhra Pradesh;

(b) the extent to which the oil companies have made an effort to implement the model consumer camp of Hindustan Petroleum Corporation in the State;

(c) whether the Government would give direction to all the oil companies to adopt the system being followed

by the Hindustan Petroleum Corporation for the redressal of consumers grievances;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps proposed to be taken to improve LPG service especially in the Visakhapatnam ?

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) : (a) to (e) The consumers needs are regularly attended by the officials of PSU Oil Companies Each Oil Marketing Company has its programmes/strategies to facilitate smooth interaction with consumers. The sale officers of the concerned oil company visit the distributors, complaints received during such visit are attended to and the grievances are generally redressed instantly.

Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) has embarked upon a system of interacting with LPG consumers along with LPG distributors, consumer organisations and concerned law regulating authorities of respective State Governments. The Company has conducted such programmes in the Visakha Region of Andhra Pradesh.

Cancellation of Cellular Service Provision Licences

2715.SHRI NARESH PUGLIA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Department of Telecommunications has taken a decision to cancel cellular service provision licences for certain cellular circles;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) to (c) Most of the cellular licensees had not been paying the license fee dues and had requested for several relief measures like moratorium on license fee payments, extension of period of license etc. on several grounds, inter-alia, non viability of their projects, poor cash flows and alleged delays in Governmental clearances. The Government as a pro-tem measure, asked the licensees on 25.1.99 to pay at least 20% of the accumulated license fees dues by 28.2.99, in order to establish their bonafides. In spite of this, some licensees failed to pay 20% of their outstanding dues and six licenses as below were terminated :

(i) Bihar, Orissa and U.P. (West) circle licences of M/s Koshika Telecom; all the three licences were terminated on 22.5.1999.

(ii) Haryana and Rajasthan Circle licences of M/s Aircel Digilink; both the licences were terminated on 22.5.1999.

(iii) Punjab Circle licence of M/s J.T. Mobiles; the licence was terminated on 15.7.1999.

Pollution Norms for Vehicles

2716.SHRI SHIVAJI VITHALRAO KAMBLE : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether inspite of legal provision and High Court rulings in several States, new set of pollution norms for transport vehicles have not come into force as yet in major cities, metropolies of the country;

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

(c) the reaction of the transporters to the new set of new pollution norms; and

(d) the details of the initiatives proposed to be taken to deal with the problems realistically ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No such representations have been received in this Ministry.

(d) Government have already taken following steps in order to curb vehicular pollution :-

(i) Emission standards for different categories of vehicles including transport vehicles were introduced in the year 1990 and subsequently modified with stringent standards effective from 1992, 1996 and 2000. Emission norms (Bharat Stage II – akin to Euro II norms) for four wheeled vehicles having gross vehicle weight upto 3.5 tonnes to be effective from 1.4.2000 in the National Capital Region, Delhi have also been notified vide GSR No. 77(E) dated 31.1.2000.

(ii) Fitment of Catalytic Converter is mandatory for all four wheeled petrol driven vehicles for registration in four Metro cities and other 45 cities of the country. Exhaust emission of such vehicles are 50% less than that of vehicles not fitted with Catalytic converter.

(iii) Separate set of emission standards for vehicles fitted with Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) have been notified vide GSR No. 99 (E) dated 9.2.2000.

(iv) Emission standards for agriculture tractors have also been notified vide GSR No.627 (E) dated 8.9.99.

Financial Autonomy to TRAI

2717.SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India has sought financial autonomy;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) No, Sir. There is no such request pending at present.

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

Telecom Facilities

2718.SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of telephone exchanges, STD/ISD/PCOs booths and telephone connections provided in rural areas of the country during 1998-999 and till date, State-wise;

(b) the number of applications lying pending for the installation of telephones as well as STD/ISD/PCOs booths as on date;

(c) the time by which the said applications are likely to be declared; and

(d) the number of said exchanges, booths and telephone connections proposed to be provided in the country during 1999-2000, State-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) During 1998-99, 1337 rural exchanges were provided. During 1999-2000, upto 29.2.2000, 1011 rural telephone exchanges and 8.2 lakh telephones have been provided. State-wise data is given in the enclosed Statement-I. Information for telephones provided in 1998-99 is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Separate data is not maintained for STD/ISD/PCO booths in rural areas. However, in whole of the country, 92740 STD/ISD/PCO booths were provided during 1998-99 and 92391 during 1999-2000 upto 31.1.2000. State-wise information is given in enclosed Statement-II.

(b) In rural areas in the country, the total waiting list for telephones is 17.6 lakhs as on 1.3.2000. A total of about 1.75 lakh applications are pending for STD/ISD/PCO booths in the country.

(c) Provision of telephones and STD/ISD/PCO booths is a continuous process. The Government plans are to provide telephones on demand by the year 2002.

(d) The target is to provide 1902 new telephone exchanges in the rural areas and 82,135 STD/ISD/PCO booths in rural and urban areas during 1999-2000. Circle-wise details are enclosed in Statement-III. There are no separate targets for telephone connections in rural areas. However, about 10 lakh telephone connections are likely to be provided in rural areas during 1999-2000.

Statement-I

State-wise number of Rural telephone exchanges provided during 1998-99 and till date (upto 29.02.2000) and telephone connections provided during 1999-2000 (upto 29.02.2000)

S. No.	Circle/State	1999-98 Rural Telephone Exchanges	1999-2000 (upto 29.02.20000)	
			Rural Telephone Exchanges	Telephone connection
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	59	145	153608
2.	Andaman and Nicobar	3	1	21461
3.	Assam	48	28	43832
4.	Bihar	32	19	15896
5.	Gujarat	72	66	54069
6.	Haryana	63	23	27047
7.	Himachal Pradesh	34	39	26508
8.	Jammu and Kashmir	6	4	2339
9.	Karnataka	61	48	100273
10.	Kerala	33	35	127368
11.	Madhya Pradesh	39	25	7659
12.	Maharashtra	208	195	62000
13.	Goa	3	3	900
14.	Arunachal Pradesh	13	2	2742
15.	Manipur	2	1	637
16.	Meghalaya	9	0	1537
17.	Mizoram	3	1	556

1	2	3	4	5
18.	Nagaland	1	0	599
19.	Tripura	5	1	938
20.	Orissa	26	11	12875
21.	Punjab	93	15	31833
22.	Rajasthan	138	76	33246
23.	Tamilnadu	50	42	12058
24.	UP (East)	174	119	25469
25.	UP (West)	61	75	56000
26.	West Bengal	93	35	56400
27.	Sikkim	8	2	3200
	Total	1337	1011	820910

Statement-II

Number of STD/ISD/PCO booths provided during 1998-99 and upto 31.1.2000 during 1999-2000

S. No.	Circle/State	1998-99	1999-2000 (upto 31.1.2000)
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	10048	12775
2.	Andaman and Nicobar	76	54
3.	Assam	980	1204
4.	Bihar	2329	3132
5.	Gujarat	6008	7910
6.	Haryana	1241	2467
7.	Himachal Pradesh	454	580
8.	Jammu and Kashmir	408	701
9.	Karnataka	5259	5100
10.	Kerala	2433	3021
11.	Madhya Pradesh	4758	2769
12.	Maharashtra	10282	7733
13.	North East	830	449
14.	Orissa	888	844
15.	Punjab	3162	2081
16.	Rajasthan	4887	2172
17.	Tamil Nadu	3199	2172
18.	UP (West)	2276	3412
19.	UP (East)	8096	6239
20.	West Bengal	2357	2695
21.	Calcutta	5013	4299
22.	Chennai	2946	6785
23.	MTNL Delhi	4121	1442
24.	MTNL Mumbai	10689	12360
	Total	92740	92391

Statement-III

Targets for Rural Telephone Exchanges and STD/ ISD/PCOs Booths (Rural + Urban) for the year 1999-2000

S. No.	Circle	Rural Exchanges	STD/ISD/PCOs Booths
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	270	8500
2.	Andaman and Nicobar	6	50
3.	Assam	40	1100
4.	Bihar	56	4000
5.	Gujarat	100	4500
6.	Haryana	60	1300
7.	Himachal Pradesh	48	300
8.	Jammu and Kashmir	24	450
9.	Karnataka	83	4600
10.	Kerala	57	1900
11.	Madhya Pradesh	50	5100
12.	Maharashtra	331	6300
13.	Goa	4	–
14.	Arunachal Pradesh	5	80
15.	Manipur	5	100
16.	Meghalaya	9	160
17.	Mizoram	5	80
18.	Nagaland	5	105
19.	Tripura	7	210
20.	Orissa	21	700
21.	Punjab	100	2300

1	2	3	4
22.	Rajasthan	100	4400
23.	Tamilnadu	40	4000
24.	UP (East)	327	8700
25.	UP (West)	75	2700
26.	West Bengal	68	1700
27.	Sikkim	6	–
28.	Calcutta	–	4000
29.	Chennai	–	3000
30.	MTNL, Delhi	–	3500
31.	MTNL, Mumbai	–	8800
	Total	1902	82135

[Translation]

Setting up of PCOs in U.P.

2719. SHRI BRIJLAL KHABRI :
YOGI ADITYA NATH :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of PCOs functioning in Uttar Pradesh as on date;

(b) whether any target fixed for installation of PCOs in the State by the Government during 1999-2000; and

(c) if so, the details thereof including the achievement made vis-a-vis the target as on date, district-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) 56197 PCOs are functioning in Uttar Pradesh as on 29.2.2000.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The information regarding the targets fixed and the achievements made in Uttar Pradesh during 1999-2000, telecom district-wise, is given in the enclosed Statement.

Statement

S. No.	Name of the Telecom District	Target for 1999-2000	Achievements during 1999-2000
1	2	3	4
1.	Agra	400	1470
2.	Aligarh	150	19
3.	Almora	50	2
4.	Bareilly	100	122
5.	Bijnore	200	247
6.	Dehradun	100	132
7.	Etah	25	27
8.	Ghazibad	600	2296
9.	Meerut	325	462
10.	Moradabad	100	110
11.	Muzaffarnagar	200	235
12.	Mathura	75	86
13.	Nainital	25	34
14.	Srinagar Gwl.	25	15
15.	Rampur	50	63
16.	Saharanpur	200	252
17.	Badaun	25	18
18.	Uttarkashi (New Tehri)	25	32
19.	Pilibhit	25	5
20.	Kanpur	800	853
21.	Lucknow	600	431
22.	Varanasi	500	347
23.	Allahabad	700	678
24.	Gorakhpur	300	231
25.	Jhansi	250	206
26.	Mau	400	261
27.	Sitapur	150	457
28.	Barabanki	250	144
29.	Faizabad	200	287
30.	Etawah	300	154
31.	Farrukhabad	250	279
32.	Mirzapur	300	128
33.	Basti	300	213
34.	Lakhimpur	150	151
35.	Gonda	200	182
36.	Shahjahanpur	100	56

1	2	3	4
37.	Unnao	250	151
38.	Mainpuri	150	107
39.	Azamgarh	400	360
40.	Jaunpur	200	250
41.	Sultanpur	300	268
42.	Bahraich	200	151
43.	Rai Bareilly	150	107
44.	EA Varanasi	900	285
45.	Kanpur SA	400	397
	Total	11400	12761

Post of Additional Postman

2720.SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the rules for creating a new post of additional postman in any sub post office;

(b) whether any cases of violation of these rules have come to the notice of the Government in the country;

(c) if so, the details thereof during the last one year and till date; and

(d) the reaction of the Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) The justification of a new post of an additional Postman in a Sub Post Office is determined on the basis of increase in workload assessed by application of standards laid down by this Department which include norms for delivery of various articles of mail with suitable weightage for delivery in multistorey buildings, payment of money orders and distance traversed on foot or on bicycle. A justified post may be created with the approval of the Ministry of Finance.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) In view of the reply to part (b), the question does not arise.

Indo-British Power Project Development Forum

2721.DR. SANJAY PASWAN : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to constitute Indo-British Power Project Development Forum to set up new power projects in the country;

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

(c) the time by which the work is likely to commence on the said projects and the estimated cost likely to be incurred thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF POWER AND MINISTER OF MINES AND MINERALS (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) and (b) The British Government have proposed constitution of an Indo-British Power Project Development Forum for cooperation in the Power Sector between the two countries. The proposal is being examined in the Government.

(c) Does not arise.

[English]

Counter Guarantee to Power Projects

2722.SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK :
SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have extended the lapsed counter guarantee for certain power projects in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating the power projects;

(c) whether the promoters have failed to fulfill the conditions prescribed for the purpose;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF POWER AND MINISTER OF MINES AND MINERALS (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) and (b) Government of India have extended the Validity of the counter-guarantee by another six months beyond 14.2.2000 for the Visakhapatnam Thermal Power Project (1040 MW) of M/s Hinduja National Power Company Limited (HNPCL) in Andhra Pradesh. Recommendations of the Government of Maharashtra are awaited on the request for extension of the validity of the counter guarantee by the counter guarantee by six months beyond

January 31, 2000 received from M/s Central India Power Company (CIPCO), the promoters of the Bhadravati Thermal Power Projects (1082 MW) in Maharashtra.

(c) to (e) As per the counter guarantee of the Government of India extended to the above two projects respectively on August 1 and August 19, 1998, the promoters and the State Governments of Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra are required to fulfil the various conditions as laid down in clause (9) (relating to 'Conditions Precedent') of the counter-guarantee. The promoters and State Governments are taking steps to fulfil the conditions stipulated in the counter guarantee whereafter the counter guarantee will come into effect.

[Translation]

Allotment of LPG Agencies

2723.SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the various oil companies had invited applications from Ex-servicemen for the allotment of LPG agencies in the past few years;

(b) if so, whether no application was received in respect of some proposed LPG agencies;

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

(d) whether the Government propose to de-reserve such allotment of L.P.G. agencies in view of no response received from Ex-servicemen, and

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

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) : (a) to (e) As per the existing policy, under the normal Selection procedure of advertisement of the locations and selection through the Dealer Selection Boards, 8% dealerships/distributor-ships are reserved for 'Defence' Category. There is no separate reservation for Ex-Servicemen. Applications are invited from time to time under this category. If response against the initial advertisement under Defence Category is not adequate, such locations are readvertised under the same category. If the response is again not adequate the location can be decategorised with the concurrence of Directorate General of Resettlement, Ministry of Defence.

Purchase of Pollution Control Devices

2724.SHRI P.R. KHUNTE :
SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE :

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Madhya Pradesh Government have asked for financial assistance to purchase the pollution control devices; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Under a World Bank Scheme, monitoring equipment is being provided to the Madhya Pradesh Pollution Control Board.

[English]

Afforestation Programme

2725.SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of afforestation programmes currently under progress in various States and the funds allocated for each of the programmes during the last three years, State-wise;

(b) the details of the funds utilised; and

(c) the foreign agencies/organisation involved in the forest development programmes in the country ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI) : (a) and (b) Details of Central Assistance (CA) provided to States for afforestation under the major centrally sponsored schemes of the Ministry of Environment and Forests during the last three years, and their utilisation, are given in enclosed Statement.

(c) External agencies that are currently supporting forest development programmes in the country are : Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA), Department for International Development, U.K. (DFID), European Economic Community (EEC), German Funding Agency (GTZ), THE World Bank, Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC), and Australian Aid (AUSAID).

Statement

CA provided to States for afforestation under the major centrally sponsored schemes of the Ministry of Environment and Forests during the last three years, and their utilisation.

(Rs. in lakhs)

State	Funds provided and Utilised during 1996-97 to 1998-99 (scheme-wise)							
	IAEPS		AOFFPS		NTFP		ASTRP	
	Provided	Utilised	Provided	Utilised	Provided	Utilised	Provided	Utilised
Andhra Pradesh	381.61	376.06	357.41	299.87	142.25	169.09	16.53	16.53
Arunachal Pradesh	158.12	171.90	18.23	15.79	30.84	15.43		
Assam	164.94	120.25	274.61	250.72	42.50	35.23		
Bihar	179.41	65.84	129.58	285.90	28.00	0.00	63.52	117.16
Goa	0.36	0.00	14.61	14.16	27.54	28.38		
Gujarat	67.66	51.80	415.81	460.03	227.47	257.49	21.85	17.17
Haryana	328.08	325.93	711.11	760.88	114.50	100.25		
Himachal Pradesh	149.70	116.01	390.28	414.70	75.71	88.48		
Jammu and Kashmir	759.36	693.76	234.65	168.62	398.26	416.50	12.16	12.16
Karnataka	438.19	408.08	515.15	519.57	126.87	124.78	35.83	35.83
Kerala	367.45	330.36	297.43	243.69	34.51	40.53		
Madhya Pradesh	793.02	708.79	1193.50	972.88	195.05	134.56	170.92	94.59
Maharashtra	202.77	60.33	181.58	176.75	107.17	52.66	50.32	50.32
Manipur	645.70	619.98	375.57	364.24	136.60	138.00	9.36	9.36
Meghalaya	21.79	13.79	74.46	23.74	12.00	13.54		
Mizoram	255.57	314.97	731.03	741.21	51.40	45.85	6.55	6.55
Nagaland	1.22	0.00	14.23	15.00	15.00	10.00	6.00	0.00
Orissa	229.99	73.31	298.55	297.61	229.48	346.16	0.00	90.35
Punjab	205.30	200.72	240.12	220.64	113.50	158.84		
Rajasthan	796.62	830.59	824.58	790.97	236.31	212.80	17.31	17.31
Sikkim	485.79	435.81	211.17	211.17	206.81	205.30		
Tamil Nadu	34.34	37.51	350.64	341.48	48.00	30.27		
Tripura	154.78	120.06	182.68	166.78	24.50	27.41	4.55	4.55
Uttar Pradesh	1777.41	1797.06	778.53	797.39	53.00	0.00		
West Bengal	297.35	268.38	455.31	454.53	142.82	142.95	0.00	2.85
Total	8896.53	8141.29	9270.82	9008.32	2820.09	2794.50	414.90	474.73

Note : CA utilised includes unspent balance of previous year(s).

*Schemes :

IAEPS : Integrated Afforestation and Eco-Development Project Scheme

AOFFPS : Area Oriented Fuelwood and Fodder Projects Scheme

NTFP : Conservation and Development of Non-Timber Forest Produce including Medicinal Plants Scheme

ASTRP : Association of Scheduled Tribes and Rural Poor in Regeneration of Degraded Forests on Usufruct sharing Basis.

[Translation]

Setting up of LPG Agencies in M.P.

2726. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA :
SHRI ASHOK ARGAL :
SHRI VIJAY KUMAR KHANDELWAL :

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

(a) whether the Government had taken a decision earlier that L.P.G. agencies would be opened at the Municipality or Nagar Panchayat levels;

(b) if so, the names of the places in Madhya Pradesh where the decision to open L.P.G. agencies was taken; and

(c) the time by which the L.P.G. agencies are likely to be opened there ?

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) : (a) to (c) As per the existing policy, the following criteria are adopted for setting up economically viable LPG distributorships in different parts of the country including Madhya Pradesh;

(i) All urban locations with a population of 10,000 and above by including potential of adjoining villages falling within the radius of 15 Kms.

(ii) Urban locations having population of 5,000 and above taking into account the potential of adjoining villages falling within 15 Kms radius.

(iii) Cluster of villages within 15 Kms radius of nucleus villages having a population of 10,000 and above.

(iv) Villages within 15 Kms radius around towns having population of 1 lakh and above.

Accordingly, in the current Marketing Plan 1996-98, 287 LPG distributorships have been included for Madhya Pradesh.

[English]

Proposal for Controlling Elephants

2727. SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA :
SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ :

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Karnataka Government has forwarded a proposal to the Government for controlling the elephant havoc;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which it is likely to be approved ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI) (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Details of the proposal for controlling the Elephant havoc in Karnataka State is given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) Total budget provision for the year 1999-2000 under Project Elephant is Rs. 5.98 crores. The activities suggested in the scheme needed prioritisation, and accordingly a net amount of Rs. 85.00 lakhs has been released to the State Government of Karnataka.

Statement

Sl. No.	Details of Works	Physical	Financial (Rs. in lakhs)
1.	Elephant Proof Tench	520 Kms	880.80
2.	Construction of rubber wall	57.80 Kms	503.25
3.	Construction of culverts across halla for EPT	235 nos.	130.00
4.	Maintenance of existing Elephant Proof Trench	163 Kms	96.40
5.	Solar Fencing	20 Kms	16.00
6.	Habitat Improvement	L.S.	347.85
7.	Scaring of elephant including purchase of crackers and allied equipments	L.S.	25.70
	Total		2000.00

[Translation]

Express Highway between Ahmedabad to Baroda

2728. SHRI RAMSINH RATHWA : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the construction work of National Express Highway between Ahmedabad to Baroda has started;

(b) if so, the details of amount spent thereon so far; and

(c) the time by which the construction of National Express Highway is likely to be completed ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN) : (a) The road work has been at standstill since 1994, while the bridge works are continuing.

(b) Rs. 198.35 crores for Road/Bridge works till January, 2000 including the work executed before 1994.

(c) March, 2004.

[English]

LPG Through Pipeline in Andhra Pradesh

2729. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to invite foreign companies to implement a programme or arranging LPG gas for the domestic consumers in Andhra Pradesh through pipeline;

(b) if so, whether any action plan has been worked out in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

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) : (a) to (c) Any Private party including Foreign Company can import and sell LPG in the country under the Parallel Marketing Scheme at the market determined prices with their own distribution net work under the extant rules.

Subramaniam Committee Report

2730. SHRI DANVE RAOSAHEB PATIL : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) the salient feature of the report submitted by Subramaniam Committee which examined the issues relating to the illegal trade in the Wildlife and Wildlife production; and

(b) the action taken by the Government thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI) : (a) and (b) The salient features of the report submitted by the Subramaniam Committee, which examined the issues relating to illegal trade in wildlife and wildlife products and action taken by the Government are as follows :

S.No.	Recommendations of the Subramaniam Committee	Action taken by the Government
1	2	3
1.	Special measures to be taken by the Ministry of Home Affairs to clear sensitive and disturbed areas like Manas, Kaziranga and Dudhwa from the presence of militant elements.	The Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India has permitted the State Governments to utilise the central forces for providing security in the protected areas.
2.	Enlisting support and co-operation of the local people in wildlife protection and to adopt special measures to remove the feeling of alienation.	Support and co-operation of local people in wildlife protection is enlisted through the Ecodevelopment Project and Centrally Sponsored Ecodevelopment Scheme.
3.	Introduce dynamic management of Protect Areas to reduce crop damage and cattle killing by wild animals.	Funds are being provided under various schemes for habitat improvement and to reduce crop damage. Compensation is provided by various State Governments for cattle killed by wild animals.
4.	Use buffer zone to meet local needs through Joint Forest Management and Ecodevelopment programmes.	More than 35,000 Joint Forest Management Committees have been formed in different states in the country. Ecodevelopment programmes is also being implemented in and around National Parks and Sanctuaries for meeting the needs of the local people.
5.	To consider the socio-ethnic needs of the tribal and other communities during re-settlement process.	The socio-economic and ethnic requirement of tribal and other communities during voluntary relocation is taken into consideration.

1	2	3
6.	Create special team of armed personnel for effective patrolling in the protected areas to meet the threats from criminals.	Provision has been made for the deployment of armed squads in the disturbed and sensitive tiger reserves.
7.	Communication and transport facilities for wildlife personnel.	Funds are being provided to the State Governments, for wireless equipments and vehicles.
8.	Providing arms to wildlife officials for personal protection.	Funds are allotted to the State Government for providing arms to wildlife official for personal protection.
9.	Organise surprise checks with the assistance of the State Administration to detect transport and movement of illegal wildlife products.	Surprise checks are organised by Regional Offices with the assistance of State Administration.
10.	Launch massive campaign to give wide publicity against illegal possession of wildlife products.	Publicity material is distributed to the masses. Translites are installed at major airports and meetings are organised to give wide publicity against illegal possession of wildlife and its products.
11.	Establish system to impart comprehensive training to customs staff.	Special training courses in wildlife protection, law and forensic science are organised by the Wildlife Institute of India for Customs Officials.
12.	Set up Wildlife Forensic Science Unit in Wildlife Institute of India.	A Wildlife Forensic Lab has been set up in the Wildlife Institute of India.
13.	Enlist co-operation of Non-Governmental Organisation for wildlife conservation and preservation.	Co-operation of eminent NGOs with proven track record is enlisted for wildlife conservation.
14.	Ensure better co-ordination between various enforcement agencies for curbing illegal trade in wildlife and its products.	(i) A Special Co-ordination and Enforcement Committee has been set up in the Ministry of Environment and Forests for curbing illegal trade in wildlife and its products. (ii) Special training workshop to control illegal wildlife trade is organised by Wildlife Institute of India for various enforcement agencies like Customs, CBI and para-military forces.
15.	Establish a Central Task Force for prevention of crime against wildlife.	Action has been initiated to establish Special Enforcement Mechanism to deal with the poaching and illegal trade in wildlife and its products.
16.	Establish a Central Wildlife Crime Data Bank to collect, collate and analyse data on wildlife.	Central Wildlife Crime Data Bank is an integral component of Wildlife Trade Prevention and Control Bureau mentioned at serial number 15.

Organisation of National Canal Project

2731.SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to organise a national canal project as a cargo carry transport system; and

(b) if so, details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Setting up of Special Courts

2732.SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV : Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Delhi High Court has directed the Government to set up special courts to try petty cases dealing with the crimes like assault, trespass, adultery etc.;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the number of special courts set up/likely to be set up for the purpose ?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI) : (a) and (b) Pursuant to the directions of the Supreme Court of India, in the case of Kadra Pahadiva and Others Vs. State of Bihar (WP (Crl.) No. 5943 of 1980), the Delhi High Court, on a request made by the Govt. of NCT of Delhi, decided to set up courts of Special Metropolitan Magistrates to deal with petty/traffic cases, as envisaged under section 18 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973.

(c) At present 17 Courts of Special Metropolitan Magistrates are functioning in Delhi.

[Translation]

Multi-Pronged Scheme for Development of National Highways

2733.SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL :
DR. ASHOK PATEL :
SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR :

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have prepared a multi-pronged scheme for the development of National Highways;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the National Highways have been selected for this purpose;

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

(e) whether a multi-pronged plan to raise money for National Highways Development Project has been prepared.

(f) if so, the details thereof;

(g) whether the Government propose to issue infrastructure bond and take credit from Asian Development Bank for this purpose; and

(h) if so, the details thereof ?

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

(b) The National Highways falling on the alignment of the Golden Quadrilateral connecting the four metropolitan cities of Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai and Calcutta and North-South and East-West corridors from Srinagar to Kanyakumari and Silcher to Saurashtra respectively and also the Salem-Cochin section of NH-47 will be upgraded to 4/6 lane facility under the National Highways Development Project (NHDP). The NHDP is estimated to cost Rs. 54,000 crores (at current prices) and is targeted to be completed by 2009.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The National Highway falling on NHDP are as under :–

(i) Golden Quadrilateral
NHs No. 2,4,5,6,8,46

(ii) North-South Corridor
NHs No. 1,1A,3,7,26

(iii) East-West Corridor
NHs No. 8A,8B,14,15,25,28,31,31C,36,54,57,76

(iv) Spur on Salem-Cochin Section on NH-47

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) The finances for implementation of NHDP will be made available from cess account, external aid i.e. loans from World Bank, Asian Development Bank etc., market borrowings and private investments.

(g) Yes, Sir.

(h) Details are in formulation stage.

[English]

Widening, Expansion and Repair of National Highways in Gujarat

2734.SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) the National Highways in Gujarat State on which widening, expansion and repair work has been undertaken from February, 1997 till date;

(b) the time by which this work would be undertaken on the remaining Highways passing through Gujarat; and

(c) the estimated cost involved therein alongwith the actual expenditure incurred thereon so far ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN) : (a) Repairs work have been undertaken on all National Highways and widening works have been undertaken on NH8, 8A, 8B, 8C and 14 in Gujarat State.

(b) The improvement/development of National Highways is a continuous process and works are undertaken in a phased manner depending upon inter-se-priority and availability of funds.

(c) Against the estimated cost of Rs. 520.00 crores, an expenditure to the tune of Rs. 320.00 crores has been incurred since April, 1997.

Transit Facilities for Goods by Bangladesh

2735.SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Bangladesh have extended transit facilities for the goods carried by surface water transport from West Bengal to Assam;

(b) if so, the extent to which such transit facilities are being availed of; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to exploit this facility to obtain optimum advantage for the country ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Cargo vessels of Central Inland Water Transport Corporation Calcutta, Government of Assam, and Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Corporation avail themselves of transit and trade facilities, under the Inland Water Transit and Trade Protocol, renewed recently by India and Bangladesh.

(c) In order to have the optimum advantages of both the countries, the process of mutual dialogue is resorted to.

Waiting List of LPG Connections in Karnataka

2736.SHRI R.L. JALAPPA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of persons on the waiting list for LPG connections in Karnataka State;

(b) the number of LPG connections released during 1999-2000 upto January, 2000 in the State;

(c) whether Karnataka Government has urged the Union Government to clear all the pending applications for LPG connections; and

(d) if so, the action taken to clear the waiting list for LPG connections in the State ?

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) : (a) The total number of persons on the waiting list registered with PSU oil companies for LPG connections in the State of Karnataka as on 1.1.2000 was 2.78 lakhs.

(b) The total number of connections released by the PSU Oil Companies during the period April, 1999 to January, 2000 in the State is 3,80,653.

(c) and (d) New connections are released in a phased manner throughout the country depending on the LPG availability, waiting list, slack available with the distributors and their viability. However, the Govt. has a plan to release one crore LPG connections during the year 2000 to clear all waiting list registered with the distributors of PSU Oil Companies as on 1.12.1999.

[Translation]

Setting up of Petro-Chemical Units

2737.SHRI RAMJIVAN SINGH : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Petrol-chemical units planned to be set up in various refineries during the Ninth Five Year Plan in the country; and

(b) the details of various schemes and the manner in which the amount has been allocated for the upgradation of refineries ?

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) : (a) Four Petrochemical units have been planned to be set up in the refineries of Indian Oil Corporation Ltd. during the Ninth Five Year Plan period.

(b) During the ninth plan period, the refineries have undertaken a number of measures to upgrade their functioning. The major schemes implemented/under implementation, inter alia, include diesel hydrosulphurisation projects, capacity expansion, fluidized

catalytic cracking unit, hydro cracking unit, delayed cooking unit, solvent de-waxing unit etc. The total expenditure involved towards implementation of these projects is estimated to be about Rs. 8641 crores.

Telephone Exchanges in Maharashtra

2738. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of telephone exchanges functioning at present in Maharashtra, district-wise;

(b) whether the Government propose to set up some more telephone exchanges in the State during 2000-2001; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) The information is given in enclosed Statement.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. There is a proposal to set up 8 exchanges by MTNL, Mumbai at following locations :-

1. Cooperage
2. Fountain
3. Mazgaon
4. Wadala
5. Versova
6. Chembur
7. Jogeshwari
8. Nerul.

In addition, Maharashtra Telecom Circle has planned to set up 345 exchanges in rural areas during 2000-2001.

Statement

No. of Electronic Exchanges Functioning in Maharashtra State

Sl.No.	Name of District	Total
1	2	3
1.	Ahmednagar	241
2.	Akola	67
3.	Washim	37
4.	Amravati	97
5.	Aurangabad	97
6.	Beed	71
7.	Bhandara	41
8.	Gondia	40
9.	Buldhana	87
10.	Chandrapur	66
11.	Dhule	72
12.	Nandurbar	41
13.	Gadchiroli	26
14.	Jalgaon	167
15.	Jalna	57
16.	Kalyan	88
17.	Kolhapur	179
18.	Latur	84
19.	Nagpur	107
20.	Nanded	95
21.	Nasik	193
22.	Osmanabad	62
23.	Parbhani	38
24.	Hingoli	35
25.	Pune	191
26.	Raigad	127
27.	Ratnagiri	104
28.	Sangli	187
29.	Satara	149
30.	Sindhudurg	65
31.	Solapur	143
32.	Wardha	57
33.	Yeotamal	60
34.	Mumbai	114
35.	Thane	24

Irregularities in Allotment of P.C.Os

2739. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received any complaints regarding irregularities and corruption in the allotment of Public Call Offices (PCOs) in the rural areas of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof during the last three years and till date; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) Yes, Sir. Some complaints have been received.

(b) and (c) These complaints were regarding non-observance of priority, unauthorised allotment/installation and sanctioning PCOs without observing prescribed formalities. All these complaints were duly investigated and necessary disciplinary/administrative action was taken against the guilty officials wherever warranted. Further, it is stated that as per the latest guidelines, the allotment procedure has been liberalised.

Scheme for Hydel Power Generation

2740. SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN :
SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM :
SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA :
SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY :
DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH :
SHRI DINSHA PATEL :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have formulated any long term scheme for generation of hydel power in the country;

(b) if so, the salient features thereof;

(c) the names of States selected under this scheme;

(d) whether the Government propose to encourage Private parties and joint venture projects for the development in hydel power;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the target fixed for generation of hydel power fixed under the scheme ?

THE MINISTER OF POWER AND MINISTER OF MINES AND MINERALS (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Government of India has announced a policy on Hydro Power Development in August, 1998 in order to accelerate the pace of hydro power development, which is applicable to all the States/Union Territories in India. The salient features of the Policy are :

(i) Providing adequate funds in the Central/ State Government budget and organising supplementary funding through Power Finance Corporation.

(ii) Entrusting basin-wise development to Central Hydel Public Sector Corporations.

(iii) Funding support for Survey and Investigations.

(iv) Utilising the joint venture frame work for promoting hydel projects.

(v) Simplification of procedures relating to transfer of clearances from State Government to Central Public Sector Undertakings and State Government to private sector.

(d) and (e) The Policy on Hydro Power Development seeks to encourage greater participation by way of joint ventures between the PSUs/SEBs and the domestic and foreign private enterprises.

(f) No specific target has been fixed for generation of hydel power in the Policy. However, a conscious effort is being made to achieve the capacity addition of 9,817 MW from hydel projects during the 9th Plan (1997-2002).

Telephone Directories

2741. DR. M.P. JAISWAL : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the latest telephone directories have been printed and distributed to the consumers in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating the date upto which these have been amended, State-wise; and

(c) the time by which the next telephone directories are likely to be published ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) Sir, Printing of telephone directory is a regular process. While at some places directories were printed and distributed in time, the same has been delayed at some places.

(b) and (c) The details of printing of telephone directories and the time by which the next directories are to be published, State-wise, has been indicated in the enclosed Statement.

Statement

Status of Telephone Directories

Name of Circle : Andaman and Nicobar

S. No.	Name of SSA	Year of Print of current Directory	Corrected upto	Likely date of next Directory
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andaman and Nicober	1998	Dec, 1997	Mar, 2000
Name of Circle : Gujarat				
1.	Ahmedabad	1997	May, 1997	Not finalised
2.	Baroda	1998	Mar, 1998	Mar, 2000
3.	Rajkot	1998	Setp, 1997	Mar, 2000
4.	Mehsana	1997	Dec, 1996	Mar, 2000
5.	Nadiad	1999	Jul, 1999	Jun, 2000
6.	Surat	1994	Sept, 1994	Tender finalised
7.	Bhavnagar	1997	Jun, 1996	Mar, 2000
8.	Bharuch	1997	Jun, 1996	Mar, 2000
9.	Bhuj	1998	Nov, 1997	Mar, 2000
10.	Jamnagar	1999	Mar, 1999	Mar, 2000
11.	Junagadh	1999	Mar, 1999	Not finalised
12.	Himatnagar	1999	Aug, 1998	Mar, 2000
13.	Godhra	1996	Mar, 1996	May, 2000
14.	Amreli	1999	Nov, 1998	Mar, 2000
15.	Palanpur	1999	Jun, 1999	Sep, 2000
16.	Surendernagar	1997	Dec, 1996	Mar, 2000
17.	Valsad	1996	Sep, 1995	Mar, 2000
Name of Circle : Jammu and Kashmir				
1.	Jammu	1999	Aug, 1999	Aug, 2001
2.	Srinagar	1994	Mar, 1994	Mar, 2000
3.	Udhampur	1999	Aug, 1999	Aug, 2001
4.	Rajouri	1999	Aug, 1999	Aug, 2001
5.	Leh	1999	Aug, 1999	Aug, 2001
Name of Circle : Himachal Pradesh				
1.	Shimla	1998	Dec, 1997	Mar, 2000
2.	Solan	1998	Dec, 1997	Mar, 2000
3.	Mandi	1997	Sept, 1997	Mar, 2000

1	2	3	4	5
4.	Hamirpur	1998	Sept, 1997	Mar, 2000
5.	Dharamshala	1998	Sept, 1997	Mar, 2000
6.	Kullu	1997	Sept, 1997	Mar, 2000
Name of Circle : Madhya Pradesh				
1.	Chhindwara	1998	Mar, 1998	Dec, 2000
2.	Sagar	1998	Jan, 1998	Dec, 2000
3.	Betul	1998	Nov, 1997	Aug, 2000
4.	Balaghat	1999	Jun, 1998	Dec, 2000
5.	Raigarh	1996	Aug, 1995	Dec, 2000
6.	Shahdol	1998	Mar, 1998	Dec, 2000
7.	Rewa	1996	Aug, 1995	Jun, 2000
8.	Satna	1998	Mar, 1998	Dec, 2000
9.	Jagdalpur (Jabhua)	1997	Dec, 1996	Jul, 2000
10.	Rajgarh	1996	Dec, 1995	Jun, 2000
11.	Vidisha	1999	Jan, 1999	Dec, 2000
12.	Dewas	1997	Aug, 1997	Dec, 2000
13.	Dhar	1998	Jul, 1997	Dec, 2000
14.	Ujjain	1996	Dec, 1995	Dec, 2000
15.	Durg	1998	Jan, 1998	May, 2000
16.	Shajapur	1998	Dec, 1997	Mar, 2000
17.	Guna	1999	Aug, 1999	Mar, 2000
18.	Shivpuri	1999	Jan, 1999	Dec, 2000
19.	Indore	1999	Dec, 1998	Apr, 2000
20.	Bhopal	1998	Oct, 1997	Dec, 2000
21.	Gwalior	1997	Apr, 1997	Dec, 2000
22.	Jabalpur	1997	Aug, 1996	Jun, 2000
23.	Khargone	1997	Jun, 1996	Dec, 2000
24.	Morena	1999	Jan, 1999	Mar, 2000
25.	Mandsaur	1996	Jan, 1996	Mar, 2000
26.	Hoshangabad	1998	Dec, 1997	Jul, 2000
27.	Ratlam	1997	Dec, 1996	Apr, 2000
28.	Khandwa	1998	Mar, 1997	Apr, 2000
29.	Bilaspur	1999	Dec, 1998	Dec, 2000
30.	Chhatarpur	1996	Mar, 1996	Apr, 2000
31.	Narsinghpur	1998	Aug, 1998	Dec, 2000

1	2	3	4	5
32.	Raipur	1998	Nov, 1997	Dec, 2000
33.	Bastar	1999	Nov, 1998	Dec, 2000
34.	Damoh	1996	Mar, 1996	May, 2000
35.	Mandla	1999	Jun, 1998	Apr, 2000
36.	Panna	1998	Mar, 1998	Mar, 2000
37.	Raisen	1999	Jan, 1999	Dec, 2000
38.	Sarguja	1998	Mar, 1998	Mar, 2000
39.	Seoni	1998	Aug, 1998	Dec, 2000
40.	Sidhi	1996	Aug, 1995	Mar, 2000
41.	Itarsi	1998	Dec, 1997	May, 2000
Name of Circle : Haryana				
1.	Karnal	1999	Sep, 1999	2001
2.	Rewari	1996	Mar, 1996	Oct, 2000
3.	Rohtak	1995	Jan, 1995	Oct, 2000
4.	Sonepat	1995	Jan, 1995	Jun, 2000
5.	Jind	1996	May, 1996	Oct, 2000
6.	Ambala	1998	Dec, 1997	Oct, 2000
7.	Hissar	1993	Jun, 1993	Jun, 2000
8.	Faridabad	1998	Mar, 1997	Oct, 2000
Name of Circle : Orissa				
1.	Berhampur	1995	Jun, 1995	Aug, 2000
2.	Sambalpur	1997	Dec, 1996	Aug, 2000
3.	Balasore	1997	Feb, 1997	Aug, 2000
4.	Bhubaneswar	1998	Feb, 1997	Aug, 2000
5.	Cuttack	1998	Mar, 1998	Aug, 2000
6.	Baripada	1998	Jan, 1998	Aug, 2000
7.	Bolangir	1998	Jan, 1998	Aug, 2000
8.	Dhenkanal	1998	Jun, 1998	Aug, 2000
9.	Koraput	1998	Aug, 1998	Aug, 2000
10.	Rourkela	1999	Mar, 1999	Aug, 2000
11.	Bhawanipatna	1998	Jan, 1998	Aug, 2000
Name of Circle : Andhra Pradesh				
1.	Srikakulam	1997	Mar, 1997	Mar, 2000
2.	Vizianagaram	1999	Mar, 1999	2000

1	2	3	4	5
3.	Visakhapatnam	1998	Apl, 1998	Not finalised
4.	Rajahmundry	1996	Jan, 1996	Mar, 2000
5.	Eluru	1997	Apl, 1996	Mar, 2000
6.	Vijayawada	1998	Jan, 1998	Mar, 2000
7.	Guntur	1999	Apl, 1999	May, 2000
8.	Ongole	1997	Feb, 1997	Mar, 2000
9.	Nellore	1997	Nov, 1996	Mar, 2000
10.	Tirupatri	1997	Mar, 1997	Mar, 2000
11.	Cuddapah	1998	Jun, 1998	Mar, 2000
12.	Anantapur	1996	Mar, 1996	Mar, 2000
13.	Kurnool	1999	Nov, 1998	Mar, 2000
14.	Mahaboobnagar	1999	Jul, 1999	2000
15.	Sangareddy	1996	Jul, 1996	Mar, 2000
16.	Nizamabad	1999	Oct, 1999	2000
17.	Adilabad	1998	Dec, 1997	Mar, 2000
18.	Karimnagar	1996	Oct, 1996	Mar, 2000
19.	Warangal	1999	Aug, 1999	Mar, 2000
20.	Khammam	1999	Jun, 1999	–
21.	Nalgonda	1999	Oct, 1999	2000
22.	Hyderabad* and Ranga Reddy	1996	Jun, 1998	May, 2000
Name of Circle : West Bengal				
1.	Siliguri	1997	Mar, 1997	Mar, 2000
2.	Jalpaiguri and Cochehar	1997	Nov, 1997	Apl, 2000
3.	Calcutta	1997	Mar, 1997	Mar, 2000
4.	Berhampore	1999	Mar, 1999	Dec, 2000
5.	Malda and Raiganj	1999	Apl, 1999	Apl, 2000
6.	Gangtok	1999	Jul, 1999	Jul, 2000
7.	Asansol	1997	Mar, 1997	Mar, 2000
8.	Bankura and Purulia	1997	Jun, 1997	Apl, 2000
9.	Krishnagar	1997	Mar, 1997	Apl, 2000
10.	Kharagpur	1997	Jul, 1997	Aug, 2000
11.	Suri	1998	Jul, 1998	Jul, 2000
Name of Circle : U.P. (East)				
1.	Kanpur	1999	Oct, 1998	Jun, 2000
2.	Lucknow	1997	Dec, 1996	Jun, 2000

1	2	3	4	5
3.	Varanasi	1999	Sep, 1993	Oct, 2000
4.	Allahabad	1999	Nov, 1998	Mar, 2000
5.	Gorakhpur	1998	Jan, 1998	Mar, 2000
6.	Jhansi	1998	Jun, 1998	Mar, 2000
7.	Mau	1998	Jun, 1995	Mar, 2000
8.	Sitapur	1998	Oct, 1996	Mar, 2000
9.	Barabanki	1999	Aug, 1996	Sep, 2000
10.	Faizabad	1998	Aug, 1998	Mar, 2000
11.	Etawah	1999	Jun, 1997	Aug, 2000
12.	Farrukhabad	1998	Jun, 1998	Jun, 2000
13.	Mirzapur	1999	Dec, 1995	Sep, 2000
14.	Basti	1998	Jun, 1998	Mar, 2000
15.	Lakhimpur	1999	Oct, 1998	Mar, 2000
16.	Gonda	1998	Jul, 1998	Mar, 2000
17.	Shahjahanpur	1998	Oct, 1998	Mar, 2000
18.	Unnao	1997	Oct, 1997	Mar, 2000
19.	Banda	1998	Aug, 1998	Mar, 2000
20.	Hamirpur	1997	Oct, 1997	Mar, 2000
21.	Raibareli	1998	Jun, 1998	Jun, 2000
22.	Mainpuri	1997	Oct, 1997	Mar, 2000
23.	Orai	1997	Oct, 1997	Mar, 2000
24.	Ballia	1998	Sep, 1998	Mar, 2000
25.	Ghazipur	1999	Nov, 1999	Mar, 2001
26.	Azamgarh	1998	Aug, 1998	Mar, 2000
27.	Jaunpur	1998	Aug, 1998	Mar, 2000
28.	Sultanpur	1999	Nov, 1999	Mar, 2001
29.	Pratapgarh	1999	Jul, 1999	Jan, 2001
30.	Bahraich	1999	Dec, 1998	Mar, 2000
31.	Hardoi	1998	Jul, 1998	Mar, 2000
32.	Fatehpur	1998	Mar, 1998	Mar, 2000
Name of Circle : Tamilnadu				
1.	Coimbatore	1999	Jan, 1999	Jun, 2000
2.	Madurai	1997	Mar, 1997	Not finalised
3.	Trichy	1997	Nov, 1996	Not finalised

1	2	3	4	5
4.	Salem	1998	Mar, 1998	Not finalised
5.	Erode	1996	Sep, 1995	Sep, 2000
6.	Thanjavur	1996	Nov, 1995	Sep, 2000
7.	Vellore	1999	Sep, 1998	Apl, 2000
8.	Cuddalore	1996	Mar, 1996	Sep, 2000
9.	Pondicherry	1999	Jul, 1998	Apl, 2000
10.	Tirunelveli	1996	May, 1996	2000
11.	Dharmapuri	1995	Jun, 1995	Not finalised
12.	Nagercoil	1996	Mar, 1996	Mar, 2000
13.	Tuticorin	1996	Oct, 1996	Mar, 2000
14.	Nilgiri	1997	Mar, 1997	Not finalised
15.	Virudhanagar	1997	Jan, 1997	Not finalised
16.	Karaikudi	1996	Jul, 1995	Not finalised
17.	Chengalpattu	1996	Oct, 1995	Not finalised
18.	Kumbakonam	New – SSA		Not finalised
Name of Circle : North East Circle				
1.	Arunachal Pradesh	1998	Jun, 1998	Not finalised
2.	Manipur	1998	Sept, 1997	Mar, 2000
3.	Meghalaya	1994	Jun, 1996	Mar, 2000
4.	Mizoram	1999	Mar, 1999	Not finalised
5.	Nagaland	1999	Jul, 1999	Not finalised
6.	Tripura	1999	Jun, 1998	Not finalised
Name of Circle : Kerala				
1.	Trivandrum	1999	Mar, 1998	Not finalised
2.	Kollam	1997	Sep, 1996	Mar, 2000
3.	Pathanamthitta	1999	Aug, 1999	Jan, 2001
4.	Alappuzha	1999	Oct, 1998	Jun, 2000
5.	Kottayam	1999	Aug, 1999	Jan, 2001
6.	Ernakulam	1999	Sep, 1998	Mar, 2000
7.	Thrichur	1999	Nov, 1998	Not finalised
8.	Palakkad	1998	Jun, 1998	Mar, 2000
9.	Kannur	1999	Feb, 1999	Jul, 2000
10.	Calicut	1997	Mar, 1997	Mar, 2000

2	3	4	5
Name of Circle : Karnataka Circle			
1. Chickmagalur	1998	Nov, 97	Mar, 2000
2. Belgaum	1999	Apl, 99	Nov, 2000
3. Shimoga	1997	Aug, 97	Mar, 2000
4. Kolar	1998	Nov, 97	Mar, 2000
5. Bidar	1997	Dec, 97	Mar, 2000
6. Bellary	1998	Sep, 97	Mar, 2000
7. Mandya	1997	Dec, 97	Mar, 2000
8. Kodagu (Mercare)	1997	Nov, 97	Mar, 2000
9. Gulbarga	1997	Oct, 97	Mar, 2000
10. Karwar (Uttara Kannada)	1998	Mar, 98	Mar, 2000
11. Mangalore	1998	Mar, 98	Mar, 2000
12. Hessan	1997	Dec, 97	Mar, 2000
13. Bijapur	1997	Dec, 97	Mar, 2000
14. Hubli/Dharwad	1999	Mar, 99	Sep, 2000
15. Raichur	1998	Sep, 97	Mar, 2000
16. Chitradurga (Davangere)	1999	May, 99	Nov, 2000
17. Tumkur	1997	Dec, 97	Mar, 2000
18. Mysore	1999	Mar, 99	Nov, 2000
19 Bangalore	1999	Jun, 99	Oct, 2000
Name of Circle : Bihar			
1. Arrah	1997	Aug, 1997	Sep, 2000
2. Bhagalpur	1996	Oct, 1996	Sep, 2000
3. Chapra	1997	Aug, 1996	Sep, 2000
4. Dhanbad	1997	Aug, 1997	Sep, 2000
5. Darbhanga	1997	Mar, 1997	Sep, 2000
6. Dumka	1997	Aug, 1996	Sep, 2000
7. Gaya	1997	Aug, 1997	Sep, 2000
8. Hazaribagh	1997	Aug, 1997	Sep, 2000
9. Jamshedpur	1997	Aug, 1997	Sep, 2000
10. Katihar	1997	Oct, 1996	Sep, 2000
11. Motihari	1997	Aug, 1997	Sep, 2000
12. Muzaffarpur	1994	Dec, 1993	Sep, 2000

1	2	3	4	5
13.	Munger	1996	Oct, 1996	Sep, 2000
14.	Patna	1996	Nov, 1996	Apr, 2000
15.	Ranchi	1997	Dec, 1996	Sep, 2000
16.	Sasaram	1997	Aug, 1997	Sep, 2000
17.	Saharsa	1997	Oct, 1996	Sep, 2000
18.	Daltanganj	1997	Aug, 1997	Sep, 2000
Name of Circle : Punjab				
1.	Amritsar	1998	Oct, 1997	Jun, 2000
2.	Bathinda	1996	May, 1997	Jun, 2000
3.	Chandigarh	1998	Mar, 1998	Jun, 2000
4.	Ferozepur	1996	May, 1998	Jun, 2000
5.	Hoshiarpur	1997	Feb, 1997	Jun, 2000
6.	Jalandhar	1999	Aug, 1998	Jun, 2000
7.	Ludhiana	1998	Feb, 1999	Jun, 2000
8.	Patiala	1998	Dec, 1997	Jun, 2000
9.	Pathankot	1997	Mar, 1997	Jun, 2000
10.	Ropar	1994	Mar, 1994	Jun, 2000
11.	Sangrur	1997	Oct, 1996	Jun, 2000
Name of Circle : Assam Circle				
1.	Guwahati	1999	Oct, 1998	Jun, 2000
2.	Silchar	1996	Mar, 1995	Mar, 2000
3.	Tezpur	1996	Mar, 1995	Jun, 2001
4.	Bongaigaon	1996	Mar, 1995	May, 2000
5.	Jorhat	1998	Nov, 1997	Mar, 2000
6.	Dibrugarh	1998	Nov, 1997	Mar, 2000
7.	Nagaon	1998	May, 1997	May, 2000
Name of Circle : Rajasthan				
1.	Ajmer	1998	Mary, 1997	Mar, 2001
2.	Alwar	1999	Sept, 1998	Mar, 2001
3.	Bharatpur	1999	Sept, 1998	Mar, 2001
4.	Bhilwara	1999	Jan, 1999	Mar, 2001
5.	Pali Marwar	1998	Oct, 1997	Mar, 2001
6.	Sirohi	1999	Nov, 1998	Mar, 2001
7.	Jodhpur	1998	Sept, 1997	Mar, 2001

1	2	3	4	5
8.	Jaipur	1999	Mar, 1999	Mar, 2001
9.	Udaipur	1999	Sept, 1998	Mar, 2001
10.	Bikaner	1998	Feb, 1998	Mar, 2001
11.	Sri Ganganagar	1997	Sept, 1996	Mar, 2001
12.	Jhunjhunu	1999	Dec, 1997	Mar, 2001
13.	Kota	1999	Jan, 1999	Mar, 2001
14.	Barmer	1997	Jul, 1996	Mar, 2001
15.	Chittorgarh	1998	Mar, 1998	Mar, 2001
16	Tonk	1999	Oct, 1998	Mar, 2001
17.	Bundi	1999	Aug, 1998	Mar, 2001
18.	Churu	1997	Sept, 1995	Mar, 2002
19.	Banswara	1998	Jan, 1998	Mar, 2001
20.	Sikar	1998	Jul, 1998	Mar, 2001
21.	Sawai Madhopur	1998	Jun, 1998	Mar, 2001
22.	Jhalawar	1997	Mar, 1997	Mar, 2001
23.	Jaisalmer	1997	Jul, 1996	Mar, 2001
24.	Nagaur	1999	Mar, 1999	Mar, 2001
Name of Circle : U.P. (West) Circle				
1.	Agra	1998	Mar, 1998	Mar, 2000
2.	Aligarh	1999	Mar, 1999	Mar, 2000
3.	Almora	1999	Dec, 1998	Mar, 2000
4.	Barilly	1998	May, 1998	Sep, 2000
5.	Bijnore	1999	Mar, 1999	Jun, 2000
6.	Dehradun	1998	Mar, 1998	May, 2000
7.	Etah	1994	Mar, 1994	Mar, 2000
8.	Ghaziabad	1996	Dec, 1995	Dec, 2000
9.	Meerut	1999	Jun, 1998	Dec, 2000
10.	Moradabad	1999	Jan, 1999	Apr, 2000
11.	Muzaffarnagar	1997	Sep, 1997	Mar, 2000
12.	Mathura	1999	Mar, 1999	Apr, 2000
13.	Nainital	1997	Mar, 1997	Mar, 2000
14.	Srinagar Gwl.	1999	Feb, 1999	Mar, 2000
15.	Rampur	1999	Mar, 1999	Mar, 2000
16.	Saharanpur	1998	Dec, 1997	Mar, 2000

1	2	3	4	5
17.	Badaun	1995	1995	Jun, 2000
18.	Uttarkashi	1998	Jul, 1998	May, 2000
19.	Pilibhit	1999	Aug, 1999	Aug, 2000
Name of Circle : Maharashtra Circle				
1.	Satara	1999	Mar, 1999	Aug, 2000
2.	Goa	1999	Jan, 1999	Mar, 2000
3.	Nagpur	2000	Jun, 1999	Jan, 2001
4.	Sangli	1998	May, 1998	Jun, 2000
5.	Ahmednagar	1999	Aug, 1999	Apr, 2000
6.	Pune	1999	May, 1999	Oct, 2000
7.	Kalyan	1998	Jan, 1998	Mar, 2000
8.	Aurangabad	1999	Jun, 1999	Nov, 2000
9.	Raigad	1999	Dec, 1998	Aug, 2000
10.	Solapur	2000	Sept, 1999	Jan, 2000
11.	Jalgaon	1998	Sept, 1998	May, 2000
12.	M/A Nanded	1999	Jun, 1999	May, 2000
13.	Kolhapur	1999	Nov, 1998	Mar, 2000
14.	Nasik	1998	Jun, 1998	Mar, 2000
15.	Dhule	1999	Apr, 1999	Jun, 2000
16.	Sindhudurg	1998	Oct, 1997	Mar, 2000
17.	Ratnagiri	1998	Dec, 1997	Mar, 2000
18.	Latur	1997	Apr, 1997	Mar, 2000
19.	Osmanabad	1999	Nov, 1998	Mar, 2000
20.	Jalna	1997	Mar, 1997	Mar, 2000
21.	Parbhani	1998	Mar, 1998	Mar, 2000
22.	Beed	1999	May, 1999	Oct, 2000
23.	Akola	1999	May, 1999	Nov, 2000
24.	Amravati	1999	Mar, 1999	Oct, 2000
25.	Bhandara	1999	Jun, 1999	Oct, 2000
26.	Buldhana	1999	Mar, 1999	Aug, 2000
27.	Chandrapur and Gadchiroli	1999	Apr, 1999	Mar, 2000
28.	Wardha	1999	Mar, 1999	Oct, 2000
29.	Yeotmal	1999	Jun, 1999	Oct, 2000

Name of Metro District : Mumbai

S. No	Name of SSA	Year of Print of Current Directory	Corrected upto	Likely date of next Directory
1.	Mumbai	1999	Aug, 1999	Mar, 2000

Name of Metro District : Delhi

S. No	Name of SSA	Year of Print of Current Directory	Corrected upto	Likely date of next Directory
1.	Delhi	1999	Oct, 1998	Mar, 2000

Name of Metro District : Chennai

S. No.	Name of SSA	Year of Print of Current Directory	Corrected upto	Likely date of next Directory
1.	Chennai	Sept, 1999	Mar, 1999	Aug, 2000

Name of Metro District : Calcutta

S. No.	Name of SSA	Year of Print of Current Directory	Corrected upto	Likely date of next Directory
1.	Calcutta	1998	Mar, 1998	Mar, 2000

[English]

Setting up of CNG Outlets in Delhi

2742.SHRI BHIM DAHAL : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) dispensing retail outlets operating in Delhi at present;

(b) whether there is any proposal to set up more CNG outlets in city in the near future; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

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) : (a) As on date there are 12 CNG dispensing stations operating in Delhi.

(b) and (c) Government has formed the Indraprastha Gas Ltd., a joint venture company of GAIL, BPCL and Government of NCT of Delhi to, *inter-alia*, augment the number of CNG outlets to 80 by 31.3.2000.

Ports Running in Losses

2743.SHRI A. NARENDRA : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have identified the ports running into losses;

(b) if so, the details in this regard and the time from which they are incurring losses; and

(c) the steps taken to improve the performance of these ports ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN) : (a) No, Sir. All the Major Port Trusts are earning operating surpluses.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Works on National Highway-24

2744.DR. BALIRAM : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the work being undertaken on the National Highway-24 in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) the financial allocation made for these works;

(c) whether the Government propose to increase existing financial allocation in order to complete these works at the earliest; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

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

(a) The following important works each costing Rs. 5.00 crores and above are in different stages of progress :-

S. No.	Name of Work	Sanctioned Cost (Rs. in Crores)	Target date of completion	Remarks
1.	From lanning Ghaziabad-Hapur Section including construction of Four lane Hapur Bypass	98.89	April 2002	Being executed by NHAI under loan assistance from JBIC (OECF)
2.	Construction of Moradabad Bypass	104.02	October, 2001	BOT project being executed by NHAI through special purpose company.
3.	Construction of Shaharanpur Bypass	17.47	March, 2001	Bypass completed. Guide bunds are in progress.
4.	Strengthening weak two lane pavement in K.M. 343-360	5.42	June, 2000	-
5.	Strengthening weak two lane pavement in K.M. 461 to 471 and 474 to 481	8.70	March, 2001	-

(b) Allocation for the development of NHs are make to the State as a whole and not National Highway wise.

(c) and (d) The works are targeted to be completed as per dates indicated in (a) above subject to the availability of funds. There is no proposal to increase the financial allocation to expedite the completion ahead of schedule.

Changing in present Management Structure of Major Ports

2745. SHRI SUKDEO PASWAN :
SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI :

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have decided to change the present management structure of the major ports in the country;

(b) if so, the salient features of the proposed management structure;

(c) whether the Government have stipulated any time limit to implement the said decision;

(d) if so, the time by which the management structure of all the ports of the country is likely to be replaced by the new one; and

(e) the benefits likely to be accrued as a result thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN) : (a) to (e) Yes, Sir. A decision has been taken to corporatise the Major Ports in a phased manner. Corporatisation of ports involves converting them into companies which will have the independence of authority and decision making. It aims at granting operational freedom and flexibility to management in taking commercial and investment decisions. No time frame has been fixed for completion of the process.

[English]

Project Tiger

2746. SHRI RAMSHAKAL :
SHRI AKBOR ALI KHANDOKER :

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the the Tiger Project has failed in achieving its goal;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the number of Tigers in the country, State-wise

(c) whether their number is declining considerably;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the action taken by the Government for the conservation of areas having large Tiger population ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI) : (a) to (e) No, Sir. In fact Project Tiger is considered a successful tiger conservation programme because ever since it was launched in 1973 there has been a steady increase in country's tiger population till 1989. However, a decline in tiger population was recorded during 1993 which was mainly attributed to man-animal conflict in fragmented tiger habitats outside the protected areas and poaching of tigers to meet the demand of tiger parts in international markets. The State-wise tiger population as per the past successive estimations are given in enclosed Statement-I. The Government has taken several measures to protect and conserve the tiger and its habitats which are given in enclosed Statement-II

Statement-I

Population of Tigers in the Country as Reported by the States

S.No.	Name of the State	1972	1979	1984	1989	1993	1997
1.	Tamil Nadu	33	65	97	95	97	62
2.	Maharashtra	160	174	301	417	276	257
3.	West Bengal	73	296	352	353	335	361
4.	Haryana	102	156	202	257	305	350
5.	Bihar	85	110	138	157	137	103
6.	Assam	147	300	376	376	325	458
7.	Rajasthan	74	79	96	99	64	58
8.	Madhya Pradesh	457	529	786	985	912	927
9.	Uttar Pradesh	262	487	698	735	465	475
10.	Andhra Pradesh	35	148	164	235	197	171
11.	Mizoram	–	65	33	18	28	12
12.	Gujarat	8	7	9	9	5	1
13.	Goa Daman and Diu	–	–	–	2	3	6
14.	Orissa	142	173	202	243	226	194
	Total	1578	2589	3454	3981	3375	3435
15.	Kerala	60	134	89	45	57	N.R.
16.	Meghalya	32	35	125	34	53	N.R.
17.	Manipur	1	10	6	31	–	N.R.
18.	Tripura	7	6	5	–	–	N.R.
19.	Nagaland	80	102	104	104	83	N.R.
20.	Arunachal Pradesh	69	139	219	135	180	N.R.
21.	Sikkim	–	–	2	4	2	N.R.
22.	Haryana	–	–	1	–	–	N.R.
	Total	249	426	551	353	375	N.R.

N.R. – Not reported by States

Statement-II

Steps taken by the Government of India

NATIONAL LEVEL

1. Setting up of a National Coordination Committee to control poaching and illegal trade in wildlife with enforcement agencies like customs, Revenue Intelligence, Indo-Tibetan Border Police, Border Security Force, Central Reserve Police Force, Coast Guards, State Police, Deputy director, Wildlife Preservation and Scientific Organization like Zoological and Botanical Survey of India.

2. Training Programms and Workshops have been organized to sensitize the above departments to be proactive in control of trade and smuggling of wildlife products.

3. A special co-ordination committee with Secretary (E and F), Special Secretary (Home), Director, CBI And representative of the Chairman, Central Board of Excise and Customs has been created to ensure better co-ordination in the efforts to curb smuggling of wildlife products.

4. Central assistance is being provided to 'State Governments to strengthen the protection infrastructure Including armed squads, vehicles, communication network and co-ordination between the Park managers.

5. Schemes for awards and rewards for outstanding performance and acts of valour has been introduced to encourage detection and reporting.

6. The State Government have been advised to strengthen vigilance and intensify patrolling.

7. Launching of public awareness programme to involve Non-Governmental Organizations and others for supporting the Government in its efforts towards wildlife conservation.

8. Supporting programmers of Institutions and NGOs in exploring tiger-trade routes and developing a forensic identification reference Manual for tiger parts and products.

9. Funds are being provided to the State Governments for the eco-development of the areas to reduce the biotic pressure thereon.

10. Site specific special force in Project Tiger Areas.

11. Special Strike Force all over the Country to control Trade.

12. Creation of wildlife trade control bureau.

INTERNATIONAL LEVEL

1. Initiated creation of a Forum of Tiger Range Countries, i.e. Global Forum for addressing international issues related to tiger conservation.

2. To control transboundary trade and effect mutual cooperation in tiger conservation :-

   (i) A protocol has been signed with People's Republic of China.

   (ii) An MOU with his Majesty's Government of Nepal has been signed.

   (iii) Dialogue with Bangladesh has been initiated.

3. Several resolutions at CITES to check illegal trade in tiger parts and products have been adopted at India's initiative.

4. The Millennium Tiger Conference was held in March, 1999. The conference declaration suggested several action points for conservation of tiger both at national and international level.

Upgradation of Power Projects

2747.SHRI P.D. ELANGOVAN : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of India and Russia propose to take up Power Projects for renovation and modernisation in India;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of power projects supported by the Soviet Union in the country so far;

(d) the details in this regard, Project-wise;

(e) whether India has approached the World Bank for the execution of power projects in the country; and

(f) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF POWER AND MINISTER OF MINES AND MINERALS (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) to (d) In the Sixth Indo-Russian Working Group Meeting on Power held in November, 1999, the Russians have shown interest for undertaking renovation and modernisation of power stations set up using Russian technology. The Government of India have suggested that Russian companies should actively pursue the matter with the respective State Electricity Boards and may make bids as an when renovation and modernisation work is taken up in these power stations. The names of the thermal/hydro

power stations where erstwhile USSR supplied equipments were installed and where R and M works could be taken up are as under :

Thermal Power Station and total capacity (including USSR make Generation Unit).

1. Patratu T.P.S. (4x50 MW+2x100 MW+4x110 MW)
2. Obra T.P.S. (5x50 MW+3x100 MW+5x200 MW)
3. Harduaganj 'B' T.P.S. (2x50 MW+2x60 MW)
4. Korba (E) II T.P.S. (4x50 MW)

Hydro Power Station and total capacity (including USSR make Generation Unit)

1. Mettur tunnel HEPS (4x50 MW)
2. Balimela HEPS (6x60 MW)
3. Lower Sileru HEPS (4x115 MW)
4. Bhakra Right Bank HEPS (5x132 MW)
5. Lingannaki HEPS (2x27.5 MW)
6. Hirakud-II HEPS (3x24 MW)

In addition to above, the following power projects have also been supported by the Soviet Union.

(i) Life Extension works on Neyveli Thermal Power Station.

(ii) Tehri Stage-I – Hydro Electric Power

(iii) Kahalgaon Thermal Power Project (4x210 MW)

(iv) Vindhyachal Stage-I (6x210 MW)

(e) and (f) The details of Power Projects being executed in the country with World Bank loan are as under:

S. No.	Name of the Project	Capacity (MW)
1	2	3
1.	Nathpa Jhakri Hydro Electric Project	6x250
2.	Koyna Stage-IV Hydro Electric Power Project	4x250
3.	Orissa Power Sector Restructuring Project	–
4.	Haryana Power Sector Restructuring Project	–
5.	Andhra Pradesh Power Sector Restructuring Project	–
6.	Krishanpur-Moga DC Transmission Line	800 KV
7.	Northern Region Load Despatch and Communication Project	–
8.	Southern Region Load Despatch and Communication Project	–

In addition to above power projects, the following power project proposals have been posed to the World Bank for support in the next 3 years :

S. No.	Name of the Project	Amount (Million Dollars)
1.	UP Power Restructuring (APL-I)	150
2.	Power Grid-II	Reserve
3.	A.P. Power APL-II	100
4.	Haryana Power APL-II	200
5.	Rajasthan Power APL-I	65 (Reserve)
6.	Orissa Power II	100
7.	Delhi Power	260

[Translation]

Construction of Over Bridge

2784.SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to construct an over bridge between Chandigarh and Panchkula (Haryana); and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN) : (a) Yes, Sir. There is a proposal to construct a Fly-over at junction No. 43 (Transport Chowk) at the Intersection of Madhya Marg and Purv Marg (Madhya Marg constitutes link between Chandigarh-Panchkula).

(b) The proposed Fly over shall have 6-lanes.

[English]

Legal Reforms

2749.SHRI C. SREENIVASAN :
SHRI ANANT GUDHE :

Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have taken fresh initiatives to revamp the Central/State statutes, administrative laws, rules and procedures for efficient decision making process in the wake of globalisation of trade and liberalisation of industry;

(b) if so, the details of action taken/proposed to be taken to identify obsolete laws and update or scrap them in tune with the changing time and situation;

(c) the details of roadmap planned for the time-bound legal reforms; and

(d) the role of State Governments envisaged in the reform process ?

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

(b) Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances requested the Legislative Department of the Ministry of Law, Justice and Company Affairs to coordinate with the administrative Ministries/Departments of the Central Government and the State Governments in processing the repeal of about 1382 Central Acts identified either as obsolete or dysfunctional or needing modification. These enactments have been broadly classified as under :–

1. 166 Central Acts (including 11 Pre-Nationalisation Acts and 20 Validation Acts).
2. 315 Amendment Acts.
3. 11 British Statutes.
4. 17 War-time permanent Ordinances.
5. 114 Central Acts relating to State List (List II) of the Seventh schedule to the Constitution.
6. 700 (approximately) Appropriation Acts.
7. 35 Reorganisation Acts.
8. 12 Laws applicable to High Courts and
9. 12 Personal Laws.

The concerned administrative Ministries are in the process of examining the proposals with a view to implement the same.

(c) The process will involve deep and careful study and wide-range consultations by the concerned administrative Ministries/Departments and in view of the complexity of the matter, it is difficult to lay down any rigid time frame in bringing in the legal reforms.

(d) Besides undertaking necessary steps for reforms in the field of State laws, the State Governments are required to consider the question of repeal of about 114 Central Acts which now are relatable to the State List in the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India. The State Governments are also required to offer their views/comments as and when consulted by the Central Administrative Ministries/Departments. They are also at liberty to suggest measures required for smooth Centre-State interface in fine tuning of the laws.

LPG Agencies in Baramullaha Jammu and Kashmir

2750.SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of LPG connections provided to the agencies located in Baramullaha district of J and K during each of the last three years;

(b) the number of persons registered with these agencies for new connections during the same period; and

(c) the details of additional connections released and the number of persons on the waiting list in these districts, agency-wise ?

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) : (a) At present, there are 4 LPG distributors operating in the Baramullaha district of Jammu and Kashmir and the number of connection released by these distributors during the last three years is as under :–

1996-97	13072
1997-98	5547
1998-99	3720

(b) and (c) Now connections are being released on demand in Baramullaha district in the State of Jammu and Kashmir, and no person is kept on waiting list.

[Translation]

Koyal Karo Scheme

2751.SHRI JAGADAMBI PRASAD YADAV : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) the present status of Koyal-Karo scheme for Chotta Nagpur in Bihar;

(b) the hurdles coming in the way of coming into effect this scheme; and

(c) the time by which the scheme is likely to be completed ?

THE MINISTER OF POWER AND MINISTER OF MINES AND MINERALS (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) to (c) Koel Karo HE Project (710 MW) in Bihar was originally approved in June, 1981 at an estimated cost of Rs. 444.67 crores at March, 1980 price level. However, no major work could be started due to resistance from the local people to the acquisition of land. In August, 1984 a writ petition was filed in the Supreme Court of India demanding inter alia the scheme for rehabilitation of the displaced persons. On submission of the R and R package, the stay was vacated on 6.2.89, and the Court directed that the rehabilitation plan must be implemented and the compensation must be paid. Government of India, approved the revised cost estimate for the project amounting of Rs. 1338.81 crores in November, 1991.

In a meeting of the Central Empowered Committee (CEC) constituted by the Government for reviewing Central Sector projects making slow progress, held on 26.2.97, it was decided to freeze further expenditure on the project thereby putting a stop to work on the project.

Based on the request of the Hon'ble Members of Parliament from Bihar Ministry of Power took steps to revive the project. Koel Karo HE Project in Bihar is one of the projects identified as a Mega Power Project under the Mega Power Project Policy approved by the Government on 8.10.1998. The mega projects are entitled for concessions which would make the tariff from the project more attractive.

Thereafter, Ministry of Power has requested the Government of Bihar for conducting fresh survey of Project Affected Persons (PAPs) in order to enable NHPC to formulate the Environmental Management Plan (EMP) in accordance with the guidelines of the Supreme Court. It is necessary to have firm commitment from buyers for the power from Central Sector Power Projects before execution. Orissa and West Bengal have declined to purchase power from the project since the tentative tariff amount to Rs. 7.13 per unit is considered too expensive by them. Bihar has committed to purchase power from the project to the extent it will require to draw power at the prevalent tariff rate.

[English]

More Power to National Highways Authority of India

2752. SHRI ANNASAHEB M.K. PATIL : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to provide more powers to the National Highways Authority of India to extend its jurisdiction over the entire National Highway Network, Directorate of Roads and the State PWDs;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the funds allocated to National Highways Authority of India during last financial year and utilisation thereof, sector-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) An amount of Rs. 264.17 crores was allocated to the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) for investment and Externally Aided Projects during the last financial year. Utilisation of funds during last year, sectorwise, is as under :-

(i)	Externally Aided Projects	– Rs.246.65 crores
(ii)	Build Operate and Transfer Schemes	– Rs. 1.39 crores
(iii)	Moradabad Toll Road Company	– Rs. 22.50 crores
(iv)	Other Works	– Rs. 65.00 crores
	Total	– Rs.335.54 crores

Shortage of Power in the Country

2753. SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission has expressed concern over the power shortage and growing trend of dieselisation in the consumer sections;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether there is power shortage in the country through out the year;

(d) if so, the reasons therefore and the estimated power shortage during Ninth Plan.

(e) whether there is slow progress in implementing the power projects; and

(f) if so, the facts in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF POWER AND MINISTER OF MINES AND MINERALS (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) and (b) The Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission has expressed concern over power shortage and stressed the need for investment in distribution of electricity. Enhancing the quantum of investment in transmission and distribution will improve the power supply position.

(c) and (d) The actual power supply position between April, 1999 to February, 2000 indicates that the country has a peak deficit of 9364 MW (13.2%) and an energy deficit of 26587 MU (6.1%). The present shortage is mainly on account of greater increase in actual demand compared to availability and also due to low voltage conditions in the grid because of inadequate addition of shunt capacitors. While the Ninth Plan is still going on, the deficits in 1997-98 and 1998-99 were as follows :-

	Peak deficit	Energy deficit
1997-98	11.3%	8.1%
1998-99	13.9%	5.9%

(e) and (f) The progress in implementation of power projects in the country has been slow due to various reasons like funds constraints including tie up of funds in case of State Sector projects and financial closure in case of private sector projects, resettlement and rehabilitation problems, law and order problems, contractual problems, delay in forest and environment clearance, slow progress of contractors, geological surprises, inter-state disputes, flood and other natural calamities etc.

[Translation]

Parvati Hydro-Electric Power Project

2754.SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI :
SHRI ARUN KUMAR :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to construct a Parvati Hydro-Electric Power Project of 2051 megawatt capacity in Himachal State;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time by which the construction work of the project is likely to be completed; and

(d) the total amount estimated to be incurred thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF POWER AND MINISTER OF MINES AND MINERALS (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The National Hydro-electric Power Corporation (NHPC) Government has taken up the development of Parvati basin (2051 MW) by in a phased manner. In phase-I Parbati Hydro-electric Project Stage-II (800 MW) has been identified for construction. Later Parbati Stage-III (501 MW) and Parbati Stage-I (750 MW) will be taken up respectively.

(c) and (d) The Parbati H.E. Project Stage-II has been techno-economically cleared by Central Electricity Authority (CEA) in 1995 at an estimated cost of Rs. 2151.78 crores at June, 1994 price level. NHPC has started additional investigation and preparation of Detailed Project Report (DPR) alongwith development of infrastructure works. This work is scheduled to be completed in a period of 2 years, at a cost of Rs. 77.62 crores.

For Parbati Stage-III and Stage-I, the field investigations have just been started and it is expected that the DPRs in respect of these projects will be completed within three years.

[English]

Cess to Oil Industry Development Board

2755.DR. RAMESH CHAND TOMAR : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Oil and Natural Gas Corporation propose to pay more than 2000 crores as cess during the current financial year to the Oil Industry Development Board;

(b) if so, the total amount of cess paid by Oil and Natural Gas Corporation to Oil Industry Development Board during the past three years;

(c) the purpose for which Oil Industry Development Board utilised the said cess amount; and

(d) the extent to which the board has succeeded in achieving its target ?

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) : (a) to (d) The proceeds of cess, levied under the provision of the Oil Industry (Development) Act, 1974, are first credited to the Consolidated Fund of India and the Central Government may, if Parliament by appropriation made by law in this behalf, so provides, pay to the Oil Industry Development Board (OIDB), from time to time, from out of such proceeds, after deducting the expenses of collection, such sums of money as it may think fit for being utilised exclusively for the purposes of the Act.

The amount of cess paid by Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC), including ONGC's share in Joint Ventures, to the Central Government during the years 1996-97 to 1998-1999 has been around Rs. 6940 crore and the same, likely to be paid by then during the current year i.e. 1999-2000, will be around Rs. 2085 crore.

During the period mentioned above, no appropriation has been made by the Central Government to OIDB out of the cess proceeds. From the funds available, OIDB continued to extend financial assistance to the oil industry in terms of Section 6(1) of the Oil Industry (Development) Act, 1974 during the period in question.

[Translation]

Restructuring of Power Management System

2756. DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA :
SHRI ARUN KUMAR :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to restructure the existing power management system in the country to bring about improvement in the power sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if so, the names of states to which this proposal has been referred so far; and

(d) the reaction of the State Governments thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF POWER AND MINISTER OF MINES AND MINERALS (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. The Government of India purposes to restructure the existing power management system in the country to bring about improvement in the Power Sector. In order to address the various issues related to reforms, a Power Minister Conference was held on 26.2.2000. A copy of the Resolution adopted in the Conference is enclosed.

Resolutions of the Chief Ministers/Power Ministers Conference held on 26.02.2000

The Power Ministers' Conference took note of the impending difficult situation facing the power supply industry in the country due to continuing decline in commercial viability of the sector as a whole. It noted the fact that :-

1. Outstanding dues of CPSUs have been increasing and have now reached Rs. 23,000 crores. This trend if maintained would adversely affect their current operations apart from inhibiting their current operations apart from inhibiting their future expansion plans.

2. Financial closure for private power projects is becoming increasingly difficult.

3. The States are unable to finance new projects on their own.

4. Increases in budgetary support form State Governments as well as central Government for this sector is not feasible due to fiscal deficits.

II. The primary factors responsible for this unsustainable financial situation are :

(i) Theft and pilferage at the macro level are estimated to be over Rs. 20,000 crores per annum.

(ii) Technical losses in transmission and distribution for the country are also too high.

(iii) Large number of the thermal stations in the State Sector run at an operational efficiency of less than 40%

(iv) The average annual operational losses of the State Power Sector for the country is over as 12,000 crores.

III. It was also recognised that the cross subsidies cannot be sustained if industrial tariffs make Industry non-competitive in the new environment of increasing globalisation with elimination of quantitative and other restrictions. It becomes necessary to ensure that Indian Industry is not handicapped by unsatisfactory power supply or by tariff which makes it non-competitive. Further, the consumer, including the farmer has a legitimate claim for uninterrupted good quality power supply. His willingness to pay reasonable costs is underestimated.

Resolutions

1. The Power Ministers' resolved after taking into account all the problems facing the power sector, that with the intention of achieving commercial viability and providing power at reasonable rate to all, reform must be undertaken with determination, vigor and a sense of urgency. Delay in reform only increases the financial cost of reforms, and the burden of liabilities only increases. Reforms must begin to show results within the next 2-3 years. The key elements of the reform strategy are :-

a. Energy Audit at all levels.

b. Time-bound programme of 100% metering of all consumers by December 2001.

c. Reduction and finally, elimination of power theft within a specified time frame.

d. Strengthening/upgradation of sub-transmission and distribution system by taking sub-station as an unit on a priority basis.

2. If the above appears unattainable in the existing set up corporatization/cooperatization/privatization of distribution, would have to be undertaken.

3. Since a large number of thermal stations within the State sector are running at a PLF below 40%, immediate Renovation and Modernisation including Life Extension would need to be undertaken on an urgent basis. Similarly, R and M/LE would require to be undertaken for old hydel power plants on priority.

4. Effective functioning of State Electricity Regulatory Commissions is essential for rationalisation of tariff, and balancing the interests of the consumer and the need for commercial viability of the utilities in the environment where private sector participation in the industry is expected to gradually increase.

5. Unbundling and corporatization of State Electricity Boards/bench-marking through separate distribution profit centres/corporations/companies may facilitate the Regulatory Commissions in promoting competition within the power supply industry – competition being the key to lower prices.

6. It was noted that the power system network in country has an unmatched reach to consumers and with the installation of optic fibre cables along the existing power lines using its right of way, it has the potential of generating very large resources in the coming years by providing facilities for multipurpose communication including cable TV, IT services, Telecom services. etc. Hence efforts need to be made to creatively tap this potential source of large revenue from convergence.

7. In order to promote reforms, a new draft central legislation which obviates the need for separate enactments for the States, is being considered. The draft Bill submitted by the NCAER would form the basis for a national debate and a consensus on the contents of the new Bill. The States would be sending their detailed comments on this draft Bill, to the Ministry of Power at the earliest.

[English]

Review of Wild Life (Protection) and Environment (Protection) Acts

2757.SHRI NAMDEO HARBAJI DIWATHE : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have reviewed the implementation of Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 and Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 as implemented in the States;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the shortcomings noticed in this regard, State-wise;

(d) whether the Government propose to carry any comprehensive amendments to the said Acts to ensure effective check on poaching to lend the required protection to Wild Life;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) if not, the reasons therefore; and

(g) the measures worked out to remove the shortcomings noticed in implementation of these Acts ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI) : (a) to (c) The Central Government has monitored the implementation of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 as amended in 1982, 1986 and 1991. The main shortcomings of the implementation are as follows :-

(i) Inadequate infrastructure for enforcement.

(ii) Non-registration of firearms around protected areas.

(iii) Inadequate resources for immunization of livestock against communicable diseases.

(iv) Degradation of wildlife habitat due to excessive biotic pressure.

(v) Inadequate compliance of declaration to be made under Section 40 of the Wild Life (Protection) Act.

The Central Government has commissioned a study for identifying the areas which Environment Protection Act, 1986 needs to strengthened.

(d) and (e) The existing provisions of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 are adequate for effective checking of poaching of wildlife. However, it is proposed to make a new provision in the Act so that no bail shall be granted to any person accused to an offence relating to animals specified in Schedule I Part II of Schedule II of the Act, hunting in or altering the boundary of a sanctuary or a national park without giving due opportunity to the public prosecutor to oppose the application against the bail. A provision is also proposed for taking action against the persons found guilty of financing illicit traffic in wildlife and wildlife articles including harboring of offenders.

(f) Does not arise.

(g) Measures worked out to ensure removal of shortcomings in the implementation of Act include :

(i) Setting up of a Special Coordination and Enforcement Committee under the Chairmanship of Secretary (Environment and Forests), Govern-

ment of India, Similar Committees have been established at State level and district level in various States.

(ii) Providing assistance to State Governments for strengthening the infrastructure through involvement of Armed Squads and Strike Forces drawn out of paramilitary forces and State armed constabulary.

(iii) Strengthening the infrastructure under the Central Government and to ensure its presence in all sensitive areas.

(iv) Authorise Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) to apprehend offenders and launch prosecution in wildlife offences.

(v) Periodic meetings with State Governments for effective monitoring of protection measures undertaken.

Shortage of Staff

2758.COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is acute shortage of staff in TDM Office, Barmer;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) No, Sir. There is no acute shortage of staff in the office of TDM, Barmer.

(b) and (c) Doe not arise.

[Translation]

LPG Connections in Nandurbar, Maharashtra

2759.SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of persons on the waiting list for LPG connections with various LPG dealers in the Nandurbar district of Maharashtra till date;

(b) whether the Government are contemplating to increase the quota of the LPG dealers to clear the waiting lists; and

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

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) : (a) As of 1.2.2000, the waiting list registered with LPG distributors of PSU Oil Companies, is 9852.

(b) and (c) New connections are released in a phased manner throughout the country depending on the LPG availability, waiting list, slack available with the distributors and their viability. However, the Govt. has a plan to release one crore LPG connections during the year 2000 to clear all waiting list registered with the distributors of PSU Oil Companies as on 1.12.1999.

[English]

Losses Suffered by Refineries

2760.SHRI CHANDRA KANT KHAIRE :
DR. V. SAROJA :

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

(a) whether Public Sector Oil Refineries have started increasing huge losses due to steep hike in the price of crude oil;

(b) if so, whether all refineries have intentionally decreased their outfit by 15 present;

(c) if so, whether the Government have taken any steps to reduce the customs duty on the crude oil in order to correct the mis-match between the price of crude oil and the fixed selling price of the refined petroleum products;

(d) if not, whether the production is going to be further reduced by oil refineries to reduce losses; and

(e) if so, the steps proposed to be taken by the Government in this direction ?

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) : (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) The customs duty on import of crude oil has been reduced from 20% to 15% in the union budget presented in Parliament on 29.2.2000.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Do not arise.

Computerised Telephone Exchanges in Manipur

2761. SHRI HOLKHOMANG HAOKIP : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of computerised telephone exchanges functioning at present in Manipur, district-wise;

(b) the number of such telephone exchanges proposed to be started in the State during 1999-2000, district-wise; and

(c) the number of telephone exchanges expanded during the last one year and till date and proposed to be expanded during 2000-2001, district-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) At present 34 digital telephone exchanges (computerised) are functioning in Manipur. District-wise details are given in enclosed Statement.

(b) 7 telephone exchanges are proposed to be set up in Manipur during 1999-2000. District-wise details are given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) 14 telephone exchanges have been expanded during the last one year and till date and 15 are proposed to be expanded during 2000-2001. District-wise details are given in Statement.

Statement

Sl.No.	Name of District	No. of exchanges functioning	Exchanges proposed to be set up during 1999-2000	No. of exchanges expanded during the last one year, and till date	No. of exchanges proposed to be expanded during 2000-2001
1.	Bishenpur	7	–	5	4
2.	Churachandanpur	1	–	1	–
3.	Chandel	2	–	–	–
4.	Imphal (East)	3	–	2	1
5.	Imphal (West)	9	2	3	3
6.	Senapati	5	3	–	4
7.	Thoubal	5	2	3	1
8.	Tamenglong	1	–	–	1
9.	Ukhrul	1	–	–	1
	Total	34	7	14	15

Gail Lakwa Recovery Project

2762. SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) the year in which the GAIL Lakwa L.P.G. Recovery Project was approved and completed;

(b) the projected gas availability from ONGC's Lakwa region at the time of approving LPG Project;

(c) the actual availability of gas for the plant as on date;

(d) the reasons for the gas shortfall; and

(e) the financial impact on the plant due to shortfall in the gas availability ?

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) : (a) Government approved GAIL's LPG Recovery Project at Lakwa on October 01, 1992. The project was commissioned by GAIL on October 19, 1998.

(b) The projected gas availability from ONGC at the time of approval of the Lakwa LPG Recovery Project was 2.0 million standard cubic metre per day (MMSCMD).

(c) The actual availability of gas at the Lakwa Plant during 1999-2000 (upto February 29, 2000) was at an average of 0.68 MMSCMD.

(d) Ageing fields, non-accretion of new reserves and continued effect of environmental problems on drilling activities have resulted in the gas short-fall.

(e) During 1999-2000 (upto February 29, 2000) the GAIL's Lakwa LPG Recovery Plant has incurred an estimated financial loss of Rs. 10 crore.

Violation of no Construction Zone

2763.SHRI NITISH SENGUPTA : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of continuing violation of the no construction zone limit of 500 metre;

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

(c) whether any proposal for modification of this 500 metre limit is under consideration of the Government; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Several cases of violation with regard to Coastal Regulation Zone Notification, 1991 including illegal construction within no development zone have been brought to the notice of this Ministry. Such violations are referred to the concerned State/Union Territory Coastal Zone Management Authorities which have been set up by the Central Government and empowered under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 to deal with the violations pertaining to Coastal Regulation Zone Notification, 1991. Karnataka and Kerala Coastal Zone Management Authorities have identified and initiated action against violators.

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

[Translation]

Election Petitions

2764.SHRI JAWAHAR LAL JAISWAL :
SHRI RAGHURAJ SINGH SHAKYA :

Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of petitions regarding the Lok Sabha elections filed in the various High Courts and Supreme Court during the last three years;

(b) whether the election petitions are disposed of within the stipulated period;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken to ensure expeditious disposal of such petitions ?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI) : (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Allotment of LPG Agencies and Petrol Pumps to Kargil Widows

2765.SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VERMA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have approved a proposal to allot LPG agencies and Petrol Pumps to all Kargil Widows/families of the victims;

(b) if so, the number of applications for the purpose pending presently;

(c) the number of LPG agencies and Petrol Pumps sanctioned to them so far;

(d) whether adequate marketing territories are not being allotted for the LPG agencies and Petrol Pumps to Kargil Widows/families of the victims;

(e) if so, the steps proposed to be taken to review the matter; and

(f) the time by which all the Kargil Widows/families are likely to be allotted Petrol Pumps/LPG Agencies ?

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) : (a) to (f) The Government have formulated a Special Scheme for allotment of 500 retail outlets (ROs) dealerships/LPG distributorships to the widows/NOKs of Defence personnel killed in action. Allotments are to be made on the recommendation of the Ministry of Defence. The Directorate General of Resettlement, Ministry of Defence had sent the details of 347 proposed beneficiaries for allotment of RO dealerships/LPG distributorships under this Scheme. On the basis of economic feasibility surveys already conducted by Oil Companies the Government have approved the allotment of LPG distributorships/RO dealerships to 116 persons in different States. Ministry of Defence has scheduled a function on 17th March, 2000 to distribute letter of intent to the first batch of beneficiaries under this Scheme.

[English]

Telephone Exchanges in Orissa

2766.SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of telephone exchanges proposed to be set up in Orissa, especially in Cuttack Telecom district during 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 district-wise; and

(b) the number of telephone exchanges already set up so far in the State, district-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) Thirty four new telephone exchanges are proposed to be set up during 1999-2000 in Orissa, out of which four telephone exchanges will be opened in Cuttack Telecom. District. District-wise details are given in the Annexure. District-wise commissioning programme for the year 2000-2001 is not finalized. However, 75000. DELs are proposed to be provided in Orissa during 2000-2001.

(b) During the year 1999-2000, twenty three telephone exchanges have already been set up upto February' 2000. The district-wise details are given in enclosed Statement.

Statement

Telephone Exchanges Proposed to be set up in Orissa during 1999-2000

Sl. No.	Name of District	No. of Exchanges planned to be setup during 1999-2000	Number of exchanges already set-up upto February 29, 2000
1	2	3	4
1.	Balasore	4	4
2.	Mayurbhanj	2	1
3.	Ganjam	3	2
4.	Boudh	1	–
5.	Sonepur	1	1
6.	Bolangir	1	–
7.	Kalahandi	1	–
8.	Nuspada	1	–
9.	Keonjhar	1	–
10.	Rayagada	1	1
11.	Cuttack	4	2
12.	Sundargarh	5	5
13.	Sambalpur	1	–
14.	Khurda	4	3
15.	Puri	1	1
16.	Bhadrak	1	1
17.	Angul	2	2
	Total	34	23

Clearance to Thiruvananthapuram Water Supply Scheme

2767.SHRI V.S. SIVAKUMAR : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a proposal submitted by Government of Kerala for afforestation of 534 hectares of land for Thiruvananthapuram Water Supply Scheme is pending before the Chief Conservator of Forests (Central);

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which it is likely to be given clearance ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI) : (a) and (b) The State Govt. of Kerala submitted a proposal vide letter No. 20201/C2/91/F & WLD dated 22.6.1998 to Chief Conservator of Forests (Central), Bangalore for diversion of 267 ha forestland for Peppara dam (II stage) in Thiruvananthapuram district. In the proposal it was mentioned that Kerala Water Authority was prepared to bear the cost afforestation on double forest area (=534 ha) to be utilized for the proposed project. The C.C.F.(C), Bangalore, vide letter No. F(CA/11.4/1/KER) dated 27.7.1998 returned the proposal to the State Government with advice to submit the proposal directly to the Ministry of Environment and Forests, New Delhi as per mandatory guidelines. However the proposal has not been received so far in this Ministry.

(c) Question does not arise.

Kerosene to Orissa

2768.SHRI ANANTA NAYAK : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Orissa has sought additional quota of kerosene to meet the requirement of cyclone victims;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the quantum of kerosene supplied to the State during the last one year ?

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) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Central Government has allocated an additional 58280 KL of kerosene to meet the demand due to cyclone in addition to the annual allocation for the year 1999-2000.

Electoral Reforms

2769. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE :
SHRI R.L. BHATIA :

Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have lately been considering introducing electoral reforms in respect of elections to Legislatures and Panchayats, especially the procedures and practices in regard to indirect elections such as to Legislative Councils etc.;

(b) if so, the main changes and the modifications contemplated in this context; and

(c) the progress achieved so far in this regard and the time by which a decision is likely to be taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Government is committed to bring necessary reforms in electoral laws pertaining to elections to Parliament and Legislatures of the States. In this regard, inter-alia, the strengthening of the provisions for checking entry of corrupt and criminal elements in the electoral politics by making the provisions more stringent is being contemplated. Among the modifications proposed in section 8 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951, which contains provisions for disqualifying a person on conviction for certain offences, are bringing uniformity in respect of period of disqualification in all cases and also further increasing this period, reducing the minimum period of imprisonment for incurring disqualification so as to cover most of the serious criminal offences, etc. No changes are, however, being proposed in respect of procedures and practices in regard to indirect elections.

Elections to Panchayats is a State Subject.

(c) Amendment in electoral laws is a serious and contentious subject and, therefore, considerable time and attention are being given to it. It is, therefore, not possible to give any commitment in respect of progress and time for completion of the process.

Raichur Thermal Power Station

2770. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the sixth unit of the Raichur Thermal Power Station (RTPS) has been shut down;

(b) if so, since when and the reasons therefor;

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to rectify the snag; and

(d) the time by which the snag is likely to be rectified and the unit would be made fully operational ?

THE MINISTER OF POWER AND MINISTER OF MINES AND MINERALS (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) to (d) Unit 6 of Raichur Thermal Power Station was synchronized with the grid on 22.7.1999, but due to high vibrations, the Unit was shut down by Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd. for rectification. The Unit has since been re-assembled on 7.2.2000 and is fully operational meeting the grid requirement.

Outstanding dues of NTPC and Power Utilities to States

2771. SHRI ANANT GUDHE : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) the status of outstanding dues of National Thermal Power Corporation and other power utilities in the power sector to the State Governments as on February 29, 2000, State-wise;

(b) the details of steps taken in the past to deal with the problem and outcome thereof; and

(c) the details of fresh initiatives taken/proposed to be taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF POWER AND MINISTER OF MINES AND MINERALS (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM) : (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

Availability of Sulphur Free Petrol/Diesel

2772. SHRI AJAY SINGH CHAUTALA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to provide sulphur free petrol and diesel for use in the vehicles so as to minimize the loss suffered to the human life due to vehicles emission in the cities like Delhi.

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

(c) whether price of petrol is likely to affected as a result thereof;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time by which the said scheme is likely to be implemented ?

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) : (a) and (b) As a continuous effort to meet the stringent emission norms, the sulphur content has been brought down to 0.15% max. by weight in petrol and 0.25% max. by weight in diesel, as against 0.2% and 1.0% respectively which existed last year.

(c) to (e) No decision has been taken so far.

[English]

Amendment in TRAI Act, 1997

2773.SHRI ANIL BASU : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have diluted Section 11(1) (i) of original TRAI Act, 1997;

(b) if not the reasons for changing the sentence "protect the interest of the consumers of telecommunication services" of the original Act to quality of service restricting interest of consumers only to quality of service in the Section 11(1) (b) (v) of TRAI ordinance, 2000;

(c) the details of shortcomings noticed in Section 11(1) (i) of original TRAI Act, 1997;

(d) whether international norms and standard are followed in this regard; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (e) Prior to its amendment, section 11(1) of the principal TRAI Act 1997 had empowered TRAI to discharge recommendatory, regulatory and dispute settlement functions. To bring in clarity, section 11(1) has, under the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (Amendment) Ordinance 2000, been amended and re-drafted to bring about a clear distinction between the recommendatory functions of TRAI, and its regulatory functions, now contained in section 11(1) (a) and in section 11(1) (b), respectively.

The unamended section 11(1) (i) of the principal TRAI Act, dealing with its regulatory function in the area of protection of consumer interests, has now, keeping in view the prevalent position in India, been widened in scope and kept as section 11(1) (b) (v).

The amendments made enlarge the scope of TRAI in the area of protecting the interests of consumers of telecommunication service, in as much as TRAI would not only now lay down the standards of quality of service to be provided by the service providers and ensure the quality of service, which was hitherto not provided in the unamended principal Act, but would also conduct periodical survey of such service provided by the service providers, so as to protect interests of the consumers of telecommunication service.

800 MW Kol Dam Power Project

2774.PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether National Thermal Power Corporation has recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Himachal Pradesh Government to jointly execute work on the 800 MW Kol Dam Power Project;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether National Thermal Power Corporation has also signed similar Memorandum of Understandings with other States for generation of hydro power; and

(d) if so, the details of such Memorandum of Understandings signed by National Thermal Power Corporation during the last three years especially with Andhra Pradesh ?

THE MINISTER OF POWER AND MINISTER OF MINES AND MINERALS (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) and (b) National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) has signed an agreement on 26th February, 2000 with the Government of Himachal Pradesh and Himachal Pradesh State Electricity Board for implementation and operation of Kol Dam Hydro Electric Power Project of 800 MW capacity in Himachal Pradesh on ownership basis by NTPC.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise in view of (c) above.

Telephone Facility in Bellary

2775.SHRI KOLUR BASAVANAGOUD : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of villages in Bellary region not covered by telephone facilities; and

(b) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to cover all the villages of said region by this facility ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) and (b) All the 591 villages have been provided with telephone facility in Bellary region.

Private Power Projects

2776. SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY :
SHRI NARESH PUGLIA :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the proposals received from the private promoters for setting up of power projects, till date;

(b) the total installed capacity of power generation from these projects together with the amount proposed to be invested by them;

(c) the present status of the proposals; and

(d) the steps being taken by the Government to clear these projects ?

THE MINISTER OF POWER AND MINISTER OF MINES AND MINERALS (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) to (d) Government of India is monitoring 95 proposals for setting up of power projects in the private sector. These include 71 proposals on the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)/Letter of Intent (LoI), etc. route costing above Rs. 100 crores having an aggregate capacity of 39083.94 MW involving an estimated cost of Rs. 162343 crores and 24 proposals on the competitive bidding route costing more than 1000 crores having an aggregate capacity of 15884.65 MW involving an estimated cost of Rs. 57492 crores. As on date, Central Electricity Authority (CEA) has accorded techno-economic clearance to 57 projects having an aggregate capacity of 29362.3 MW involving an estimated cost of Rs. 122008.61 crores for which complete Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) had been received. The remaining projects can be taken up for techno-economic appraisal of CEA only after the pending inputs/clearances are tied up by the project promoters. The Government has been monitoring the progress of these projects from time to time and providing necessary assistance to them in obtaining necessary inputs/clearances.

Nidhi Companies

2777. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI : Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of proposals for setting up of Nidhi Companies (non-baking financial companies) approved by the Government so far, State-wise;

(b) the number of such proposals still pending with the Government, State-wise;

(c) the time by which these proposals are likely to be approved;

(d) whether the Government propose to modify the guidelines for approval of such companies;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI) : (a) The Government had so far approved 192 companies as Nidhi companies as detailed below :-

Tamilnadu		136
U.P.		17
Andhra Pradesh		14
Karnataka		10
Kerala		9
Maharashtra		1
Delhi		3
Pondicherry	:	2
Total	=	192

out of these 192 companies, 2 companies which were working in the State of U.P. were denotified in the year 1999.

(b) As on 31.01.2000, 89 applications were pending for want of report from Reserve Bank of India and auditors' certificate. In February Reserve Bank of India had been reminded.

Tamil Nadu		78
Andhra Pradesh		4
Kerala		2
Uttar Pradesh	:	2
Karnataka	:	1
Punjab	:	1
Pondicherry	:	1
Total	=	89

(c) to (f) The applications received under Section 620A of the Act are to be processed in the light of guidelines issued from time to time. The Department of Company Affairs has framed new guidelines in consultation with Reserve Bank of India to improve the working of Nidhi companies and a Notification was issued in this regard on 01.11.1999. Before declaration as Nidhis these companies

were non-banking financial companies and had to comply with the directions of Reserve Bank of India. Most of these companies have violated the directions of Reserve Bank of India in respect of acceptance of deposits and liquidity ratio. The Reserve Bank of India is conducting inspection of all these companies individually to find out the eligibility of these companies for Nidhi Status. On receipt of Reserve Bank of India's report in respect of each case, the applications of these companies would be processed. The modified guidelines notified on 01.11.1999, inter alia, empowers the Government to appoint Special Officer to monitor the affairs of a company in case of default in making refund of deposits to more than ten depositors, to conduct special audit by the auditors appointed by the Government, to ensure that a Nidhi company maintains a contingent fund by transferring half per cent of each deposit to such fund and to keep the entire amount in the contingent fund in any nationalised bank, and prohibits a person to hold a post of director in a Nidhi for a continuous period of more than 10 years provided that such director shall be eligible for reappointment after a period of two years of ceasing to hold the post of director, etc.

Loans to Power Corporation of India

2778.SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether financial institutions have agreed to extend heavy term loan to the Power Corporation of India; and

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

THE MINISTER OF POWER AND MINISTER OF MINES AND MINERALS (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) There is no Corporation under the Administrative control of Ministry of Power by the name 'Power Corporation of India'. However, if the reference is to the Power Finance Corporation, the position is that Financial Institutions have not agreed to extend heavy term loans to Power Finance Corporation Ltd.

(b) Does not arise.

Allocation of Kerosene to LPG Connection Holders

2779.SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have asked the State Governments to discontinue the allocation of kerosene to those who have double LPG cylinder connections;

(b) if so, whether his Ministry have also asked the States to review the scale of distribution of Public Distribution System kerosene to card holders who have access to the alternative fuels;

(c) if so, whether the Government have also urged the State Governments to make it mandatory for the town planning agencies to consult oil companies before drawing up master plans to identify the sites for setting up of new retail outlets/LPG distributorships; and

(d) if so, the response of the State-Governments, if any, in this regard ?

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) : (a) and (b) Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas has been impressing upon the State Governments to discontinue allocation of PDS Kerosene for the users with double cylinder connection. State Governments have also been advised to review the scale of distribution of PDS kerosene both in urban and rural areas keeping in view the factors such as availability of alternatives fuels.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. State Governments have in principle agreed to consider the proposal.

STD Facility in Village Public Telephones

2780.SHRI AVTAR SINGH BHADANA :
SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN :
SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN :
SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM :
SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY :
SHRI RAJO SINGH :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the demands for providing STD facilities in the rural areas of the country particularly in Bihar, Andhra Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh are pending with the Government;

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

(c) the number of STD booths provided in rural areas of Andhra Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Bihar during the last one year, district-wise;

(d) whether the Department of Telecommunications has decided to provided STD facility in all the Tehsil headquarters of rural and tribal areas of the country;

(e) if so, whether all the rural exchanges are being upgraded for meeting this requirement.

(f) whether the internal committee set up by the Department has recommended induction of wireless in the local loop to increase the telecom penetration in rural areas and Satellite terminals to reach out to remote areas; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) and (b) There are a number of demands for provision of STD facility in the rural areas. Out of 20382 rural exchanges in the country STD facility has been provided to 16636 rural exchanges. In Bihar, Andhra Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh 14, 86 and 552 exchanges respectively are yet to be provided with STD facility.

The State-wise details of number of exchanges in the rural areas which are yet to be provided with STD facility are available in enclosed Statement-I.

(c) The Number of STD Booths provided in rural areas of Andhra Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Bihar are available in enclosed Statement-II

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. The remaining exchanges are planned to be provided with STD facility progressively by March, 2002 subject to availability of resources.

(f) and (g) Yes, Sir. The internal committee headed by MOS(C) has recommended Wireless in Local Loop (WLL) for rural areas and satellite terminals for remote and far-flung areas.

Recommendations of the committee have been accepted by the Government and action for procurement of WLL systems and Satellite based terminals has been initiated.

Statement-I

Number of Telephone Exchanges Pending State-wise for Provision of STD facility in Rural Areas as on 29.2.2000

Sl.No.	States	No. of Exchanges
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh*	86
2.	Assam	0
3.	Bihar	14
4.	Gujarat	103
5.	Haryana	253
6.	Himachal Pradesh	54
7.	Jammu and Kashmir	86
8.	Karnataka	10
9.	Kerala	0
10.	Maharashtra	1184
11.	Goa	6
12.	Madhya Pradesh	640
13.	Arunachal Pradesh	33
14.	Manipur	7
15.	Meghalaya	4
16.	Mizoram	17
17.	Nagaland	12
18.	Tripura	5
19.	Orissa	1
20.	Punjab	67
21.	Rajasthan	493
22.	Tamil Nadu	0
23.	Uttar Pradesh	552
24.	West Bengal	28
25.	Sikkim	3
	Total	3658

* In Andhra Pradesh there were additional 88 rural exchanges which were burnt or temporarily closed due to extremist problem.

Statement-II

Details of the Number of STD Booths Provided in Rural Areas of Andhra Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Bihar during the last one year district-wise.

Name of the District	STD Booths Provided in Rural Areas during 1999-2000 (as on 29.2.2000
1	2
ANDHRA PRADESH	
1. Adilabad	50
2. Ananthapur	34
3. Chittoor	146
4. Cuddapah	62

1	2
ANDHRA PRADESH	
5. East Godavari	152
6. Guntur	260
7. Hyderabad	0
8. Rangareddy	35
9. Karimnagar	45
10. Khammam	12
11. Krishna	115
12. Kurnool	81
13. Mahabubnagar	67
14. Medak	32
15. Nalgonda	77
16. Nellore	78
17. Nizamabad	57
18. Prakasham	78
19. Srikakulam	37
20. Visakhapatnam	14
21. Vizianagaram	64
22. Warangal	35
23. West Godavari	94
UTTAR PRADESH	
1. Agra	216
2. Ferozabad	02
3. Aligarh	0
4. Hathras	0
5. Almora	44
6. Bageshwar	0
7. Champawat	01
8. Pithoragarh	04
9. Badaun	0
10. Bijnore	53
11. Bareilly	43
12. Dehradun	12
13. Etah	05
14. Ghaziabad	09
15. Bulandshahar	118
16. G.B. Nagar	19

1	2
UTTAR PRADESH	
17. Moradabad	0
18. Amroha	0
19. Meerut	139
20. Bagpat	52
21. Muzaffarnagar	50
22. Mathura	0
23. Nainital	0
24. Udham Singh Nagar	0
25. Rampur	04
26. Haridwar	12
27. Saharanpur	30
28. Chamoli	17
29. Pauri	52
30. Rudraprayag	11
31. Uttarkashi	04
32. Tehri (Gwl)	22
33. Pilibhit	02
34. Allahabad	05
35. Kaushambi	02
36. Baharich	06
37. Shrawasti	02
38. Banda	02
39. Chitrakot	01
40. Basti	70
41. Sidharthnagar	30
42. Sant Kabir Nagar	25
43. Etawah	02
44. Auraiya	01
45. Faizabad	25
46. Ambedkar Nagar	20
47. Farrukhabad	11
48. Kannauj	05
49. Gonda	50
50. Balrampur	20
51. Gorakhpur	05
52. Mahrajganj	02

1	2
UTTAR PRADESH	
53. Hamirpur	0
54. Mahoba	0
55. Kanpur	20
56. Kanpur Dehat	02
57. Mirzapur	20
58. Sonebhadra	10
59. Bhadohi	04
60. Chandauli	03
61. Varanasi	08
62. Jhansi	01
63. Lalitpur	0
64. Deoria	07
65. Mau	25
66. Kushinagar	08
67. Azamgarh	95
68. Ballia	0
69. Barabanki	0
70. Fatehpur	05
71. Gazipur	01
72. Hardoi	0
73. Jaunpur	75
74. Lakhimpur	02
75. Lucknow	0
76. Mainpuri	01
77. Orai	0
78. Pratapgarh	55
79. Raebareli	20
80. Shahjahanpur	01
81. Sitapur	02
82. Sultanpur	60
83. Unnao	15
BIHAR	
1. Arrah (Bhojpur)	39
2. Buxar	07
3. Bhagalpur	52
4. Banka	12

1	2
BIHAR	
5. Chapra	70
6. Siwan	50
7. Gopalganj	39
8. Darbhanga	234
9. Sawastipur	160
10. Lecusarai	63
11. Madhubani	246
12. Khagaria	64
13. Palamu	35
14. Garhwa	22
15. Dumka	03
16. Deoghar	03
17. Godda	02
18. Sahebganj	02
19. Pakur	01
20. Dhanbad	32
21. Bokaro	18
22. Gaya	89
23. Nawada	11
24. Jhanabad	14
25. Aurangabad	57
26. Hazaribagh	15
27. Giridih	13
28. Chatra	02
29. Kodarma	07
30. East Singhbhum	03
31. West Singhbhum	03
32. Katihar	60
33. Purnea	59
34. Araria	31
35. Kishanganj	44
36. East Champaran	40
37. West Champaran	30
38. Munger	09
39. Lakhisarai	16
40. Sheikhpura	14

1	2
BIHAR	
41. Jamui	03
42. Muzaffarpur	04
43. Vaishali	03
44. Sitamarhi	02
45. Sheohar	02
46. Patna	46
47. Nalanda	06
48. Ranchi	89
49. Lohardaga	05
50. Gumla	03
51. Saharsa	24
52. Supaul	32
53. Madhepura	38
54. Rohtas	31
55. Kaimur (Bhabhua)	51

Study on Power Deficit

2781. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK :
SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have conducted any study recently in regard to the power deficit in the country;

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

(c) whether the Government have considered the recommendations of the study report; and

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

THE MINISTER OF POWER AND MINISTER OF MINES AND MINERALS (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) to (d) The Central Electricity Authority has carried out perspective planning studies to assess the installed capacity requirement by end of 11th Plan, i.e. 2011-12, to meet in full the demand projected by the 15th Electric Power Survey report and brought out a report "Power on Demand by 2012". The results of the studies have indicated an installed capacity requirement of 2,40,000 MW to make electricity available to all on demand by 2012.

The Government is aware of the recommendations made and is making efforts to contain the demand supply gap through augmentation of installed capacity and also through demand side management measures. Other measures which would improve power availability like reforms in the electricity sector, mandatory metering, renovation and modernisation of old plants, strengthening of transmission and distribution network are being given a thrust.

[Translation]

Indira Sagar Project

2782. SHRI P.R. KHUNTE : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any proposal has been submitted by the Madhya Pradesh Government relating to Indira Sagar Project for approval;

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

(c) the time by which the proposal is likely to be approved ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI) : (a) Yes Sir. A proposal for diversion of 42.199 hectare forest land for construction of Indira Sagar Pariyojana Canal, District Khandwa related to Indira Sagar (Narmada Sagar) Project was received from the Government of Madhya Pradesh in January 1995.

(b) and (c) On scrutiny, the proposal was found incomplete as regards to the land identified for compensatory afforestation and details of existing vegetation. The State Government was requested to provide these lacking and essential details in respect of the proposal on 23.2.1995 and reminded on 2.9.1999. In absence of furnishing of these details by the State Government, the Ministry is unable to proceed further for considering approval to the proposal.

[English]

Forest Protection in Karnataka

2783. SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Karnataka has submitted a project for the improvement of forest boundaries and forest protection in Karnataka;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the total cost involved therein; and

(c) the time by which it is likely to be approved ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Government of Karnataka

have submitted a five year project for forest protection in Karnataka State with a total outlay of Rs 103.860 crores. The project was forwarded to the Planning Commission which has informed that it would not be possible to allocate funds for this project and it has been communicated to the Government of Karnataka.

Matrimonial Courts

2784. SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN : Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of matrimonial courts functioning, State-wise;

(b) the number of cases pending in them, State-wise;

(c) the number of posts of Judges lying vacant in these courts; and

(d) the time by which the vacant posts are likely to be filled up, State-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI) : (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Development Work In Telecommunications and Postal Sectors

2785. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL :
SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR :
SHRI NAMDEO HARBAJI DIWATHE :
SHRIMATI JAS KAUR MEENA :
SHRI BRAHMA NAND MANDAL :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of development works executed in the Telecommunications and Postal Sectors in rural, tribal and urban areas of the country particularly in Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka, Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan during the last three years;

(b) the revenue collected from these States and the amount spent for the development works during the said period, State-wise;

(c) whether the development works have been completed as per the targets in these States;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government have discontinued some of the on going projects started during 1996-97 and 1997-98 in the country particularly in these States in the year 1998;

(f) if so, the details thereof including Vidarbha and Chimur;

(g) whether the Government propose to restart these projects;

(h) if not, the reasons therefor; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) The details of development works executed in the Telecommunications and Postal Sectors are given in the enclosed Statement I and II respectively.

(b) The details of revenue collected and the amount spent for the development works in telecom and postal sectors are given in enclosed Statement-III.

(c) and (d) In postal sector, development targets were achieved. In telecom sector, targets were achieved except in respect of VPTs. The information is given in Annexure-I.

(e) to (i) No project has been discontinued.

Statement-I

Developmental works in Telecom Sector during last three years

Item		Karnataka		Madhya Pradesh		Rajasthan		Uttar Pradesh		All India	
		Target	Achiev.	Target	Achiev.	Target	Achiev.	Target	Achiev.	Target	Achiev.
1996-97	VPTs	3000	4120	7350	7355	6500	5051	15300	9702	75000	56719
	SW. Cap	163600	216909	55500	101558	151800	111738	190750	308608	296000	3114628
	DELs	133000	189608	45000	75541	123000	113518	155000	216912	2450000	2564256
1997-98	VPTs	3000	3389	5500	3878	5000	3269	220000	10815	83000	42855
	SW. Cap	245000	278530	88000	107601	184000	153788	242000	414646	3600000	3518738
	DELs	195000	254378	70000	102692	147000	147362	194000	313918	2900000	3259045
1998-99	VPTs	2500	2521	4000	3707	2540	2585	13000	11156	45000	37058
	SW. Cap	266000	286338	156000	227704	235500	255731	381000	453785	4930000	4789902
	DELs	200000	237002	110000	140352	163000	171445	272000	341602	3550000	3791990

Statement-II

Developments Works of Department of Posts during last three years

Developmental works	All India			Madhya Pradesh			Karnataka			Uttar Pradesh			Rajasthan		
	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
1. Opening of Post Offices	364	454	648	26	43	55	27	29	16	47	63	85	18	34	31
urban	80	33	28	18	–	3	9	2	1	3	1	2	3	1	1
rural	224	304	417	8	28	32	12	8	4	40	60	61	11	12	15
tribal	48	85	138	–	15	20	3	6	6	4	–	10	4	11	–
hilly	12	32	65	–	–	–	3	13	5	–	2	12	–	–	15
2. Installation of Multi Purpose Counter Machines	360	918	1429	18	80	34	69	102	39	–	80	59	–	75	53
3. Modernisation of Post Offices	432	308	98	21	9	17	22	9	3	44	58	8	14	9	3
4. Installation of Extended Satellite Money Order Station	–	318	–	3	10	–	–	10	–	9	30	–	–	10	–
5. Supply of Electronic Franking Machines	–	250	150	–	18	5	–	20	–	–	20	9	–	10	–
6. Supply of Stamp Cancelling Machines	–	20	20	–	8	3	1	–	–	–	2	–	–	–	–
7. Computerisation of Transit mail offices	–	6	6	–	1	–	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
8. Modernisation of mail offices	–	20	43	–	2	5	–	–	6	3	2	2	2	1	–
9. Computerisation of Registration Sorting	–	13	22	–	1	1	1	1	–	–	–	4	–	1	–
10. Construction of Operative Office Building	55	54	25							5 post office buildings in urban areas were constructed durig the last three years			2 post office buildings in rural areas, 1 in tribal and 1 in urban area were constructed during the last three years		

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
11. Construction of Administrative Office Buildings	2	4	2	6 Post Office buildings were constructed in urban areas and 2 in tribal areas during the last three years.						–	–	–	1 Administrative office building was constructed in urban area during the last three years.		
12 Construction of Staff Quarters	142	275	196	28 Staff quarters were constructed in urban area during last three years.			9 building projects in rural and urban areas were constructed in the last three years.			56 staff quarters were constructed in urban areas during the last three years.			5 staff quarters were constructed in rural area during the last three years.		
13. Computerisation of Postal Life Insurance work							upgradation of system			upgradation of system					
14. Rural Postal Life Insurance Work	2	19	11	Computerisation done			Computerisation done			Computerisation done and work decentralised			Computerisation done		

Statement-III

Telecommunications Sector

Revenue Collected (in Rs. Crores)

Name of the State	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99
Karnataka	960	1164	1403
Madhya Pradesh	460	566	656
Rajasthan	421	527	639
Uttar Pradesh	768	957	1167

Amount Spent on Development Works (Rs. Cr.)

Name of the State	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99
Karnataka	480	655	714
Madhya Pradesh	308	330	391
Rajasthan	337	385	375
Uttar Pradesh	667	1017	1014

Postal Sector :

Revenue Collected (in Rs. Thousands)

Name of the State	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99
Karnataka	773521	973216	1142812
Madhya Pradesh	379291	511683	566230
Rajasthan	374409	481829	524373
Uttar Pradesh	876094	1131014	1216063

Amount Spent on Development Works (in Rs. Thousands)

Name of the State	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99
Karnataka	34213	36779	33314
Madhya Pradesh	13838	12772	21280
Rajasthan	16802	9359	1453
Uttar Pradesh	31278	36046	43304

Bids Invited by Petronet LNG Limited

2786.SHRI NARESH PUGLIA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Petronet LNG Limited has invited global bids for the transportation of Liquified Natural Gas into India from U.A.E.;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the bids floated have imposed tough conditions thereby making it impossible for any Indian Shipping Company to enter the LNG transportation trade;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether his Ministry have received some protest notes from the Ministry of Surface Transport against the criteria fixed for the LNG transportation in the bids;

(f) if so, the details thereof;

(g) whether some amendments have since been made in the bids so that the Indian shipping companies could also enter the LNG transportation trade;

(h) if so, the details thereof; and

(i) if not, the reasons therefor ?

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) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, Petronet LNG Ltd. has invited global bids for pre-qualification of ship owners and ship operators for transportation of 7.5 million tonnes per annum of Liquified Natural gas (LNG) from Qatar. The global bids for pre-qualification were called for through advertisement in leading newspapers. The pre-qualification document has been issued to the concerned parties.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) and (f) The Ministry of Surface Transport have requested that Indian Shipping Companies be allowed to bid for pre-qualification either on their own or on the basis of tie-up with experienced LNG ship owners or operators.

(g) No, Sir.

(h) Does not arise.

(i) The terms of the pre-qualification document have already made it mandatory for the bidder to bid along with an Indian Shipping Company thereby ensuring the association of an Indian Shipping Company in the LNG shipping arrangement of Petronet LNG Ltd.

[Translation]

Export of Foodgrains from Indian Ports

2787.SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) the quantum of foodgrains exported from Indian Ports during the last two years;

(b) whether delay is caused in the export of foodgrains to foreign countries; and

(c) if so, the efforts made by the Government to ensure timely export of foodgrains from these ports ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN) : (a) The quantum of foodgrains exported from Indian Ports during the last two years (1997-98 and 1998-99) is as under :–

1997-98	14.00 Lakh Tonnes
1998-99	20.27 Lakh Tonnes

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

[English]

Bandra-Worli Sea Link Project

2788.SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) the present status of Bandra-Worli Sea Link Project in Maharashtra; and

(b) the time by which it is likely to be completed ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN) : (a) and (b) The project in question is a State Project and the Government of Maharashtra is primarily concerned for its construction. As such, its construction does not come within the purview of this Ministry.

Time Frame Fixed to Achieve Financial Closure

2789.SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK :
SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether his Ministry had set January 31, 1999 as deadline for achieving the financial closure for the projects developers;

(b) if so, the details of such Indian Power Producers;

(c) whether none of these IPPs have achieved the financial closure by due date for want of many clearances;

(d) if so, whether Karnataka Government has requested to grant extension of time for achieving the financial closure; and

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

THE MINISTER OF POWER AND MINISTER OF MINES AND MINERALS (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) The time schedule prescribed for liquid fuel based power projects to achieve financial closure had been earlier extended upto 31.10.1998. On the basis of requests received from various developers of the projects as well as State Governments, this was extended upto 31.1.1999.

(b) and (c) Around 145 projects (including captive as well as Independent Power Projects) located in thirteen States and one Union territory based on liquid fuel were proposed to be developed. Requests were again received seeking further extension as most of the projects, for one reason or the other, had still not achieved financial closure. The matter was reviewed by Government in the light of progress made by these projects after which it was decided to allow further extension to 37 power projects based on naphtha in 8 of the states. In the case of projects based on liquid fuels other than naphtha, it was decided that the financial closure deadline would no longer be applicable since in their case, free import would be allowed. During the review, it was also reported that 15 power projects based on naphtha, had achieved financial closure/started construction/commissioned.

(d) Yes, Sir. Government of Karnataka (GOK) had made a request for extension of the deadline beyond 31.1.1999 in respect of some of the naphtha based power projects coming up in that State.

(e) After considering the recommendations of GOK, it was decided to allow extension upto 31.12.1999 in respect of 8 naphtha based power project in that State.

Ongoing Projects on National Highways

2790.SHRI A. NARENDRA : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) the details of ongoing projects on National Highways like construction of by-pass, doubling, construction of Express Highways etc., State-wise;

(b) the details of the projects lying incomplete from more than three years, State-wise;

(c) the action taken by the Government in this regard;

(d) whether any amount sanctioned under these projects have been used/shifted for other places;

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

(f) the action taken in this regard ?

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

(i) Details of on-going projects on National Highways (Bypasses) are indicated in enclosed Statement-I.

(ii) List of widening of National Highways is indicated in Statement-II.

(iii) Ahmdabad-Vadodara Expressway is under construction in the State of Gujarat.

(b) Details of projects lying incomplete for more than three years is indicated in Statement-III.

(c) Review meetings are held thrice a year in Ministry to expedite and over come the difficulties to complete the work.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) and (f) Not applicable.

Statement-I

The Statement showing position of on-going Projects on National Highways relating to Bypass.

S. No.	Name of State	NH No.	Name of Job	Sanction Amount (Rs. in lakhs)
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Goa, Daman and Diu	4A, 17	(i) Construction of Varna Bypass of NH-17	313.34
			(ii) Construction of Ponds Bypass on NH-4A	514.47
2.	Himachal Pradesh	21	Construction of Kulu Bypass	1931.58
3.	Karnataka	48	Construction of Hassan Bypass	1000.00
4.	Kerala	47,17	(i) Alleppy Bypass	347.00
			(ii) Construction of combined Bypass Trivandrum – Nayattinkara Ch.0-5600 m	455.85
			(iii) Construction of Calicut Bypass	135.96
			(iv) Construction of combined Bypass for Tirvandrum – Nayattinkara Ch. 5600-5750 and Ch. 6119-10617m	1200.00
			(v) Construction Kallan Bypass phase II Ch. 8350 to 9875	434.60
			(vi) Combined Bypass for Thiruvananthapuram and Keyanthinkara Phase II	438.95
5.	Madhya Pradesh	7	(i) Construction of Bypass around Jabalpur Ch. 0-7767 (Package I)	461.70
			(ii) Construction of Bypass around Jabalpur Ch. 7768 to 16600 (Package II)	669.19
6.	Maharashtra	6	Construction of Paldhi Bypass	250.42
7.	Pondicherry	45A	Construction of Villitanur Bypass	154.47
8.	Punjab	15	Construction of Gurdaspur Bypass	777.65
9.	Uttar Pradesh	24,26,28	(i) Construction of Lalit Pur Bypass on NH-26	329.49
			(ii) Construction of Faizabad – Ayodhya Bypass on NH-28	1819.00

1	2	3	4	5
			(iii) Construction of Shahjahanpur Bypass on NH-24	1747.00
			(iv) Construction of Basti Bypass on NH-28	1047.10
10.	West Bengal	34	Construction of Shantipur Bypass	274.47
			Total	15054.84

Statement-II

The Statement showing position relating to widening of National Highways and Bridges

(Rs. in lakhs)

S. No.	Name of State	NH No.	No. of Works	Requirement of Funds	
				1999-2000 Funds Earmarked	2000-20001 Funds Proposed
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	9,16,18,43	10	1939.88	963.11
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	–	–	–	–
3.	Assam	31B,37	5	382.16	686.35
4.	Bihar	23	7	339.30	448.85
5.	Chandigarh	–	–	–	–
6.	Delhi	–	–	–	–
7.	Goa, Daman and Diu				
8.	Gujarat	8,8A,8B	14	2690.41	2015.06
9.	Haryana	–	–	–	–
10.	Himachal Pradesh	–	–	–	–
11.	Jammu and Kashmir	–	–	–	–
12.	Karnataka	4A,9,13,17,48,63	20	821.65	1117.94
13.	Kerala	17,47,49	6	989.10	1130.45
14.	Madhya Pradesh	7,22,25,26	8	290.92	1048.61
15.	Maharashtra	3,4,6,7,8,9,17,50	25	626.86	873.24
16.	Manipur	–	–	–	–
17.	Meghalaya	–	–	–	–
18.	Mizoram	–	–	–	–
19.	Nagaland	36,61	2	281.87	100.00
20.	Orissa	5,5A,6,19,23,42,43	19	2272.74	3192.20
21.	Pondicherry	–	–	–	–
22.	Punjab	10	1	41.47	0.00
23.	Rajasthan	8,11,12,14,15	16	734.98	890.60
24.	Sikkim	–	–	–	–

1	2	3	4	5	6
25.	Tamil Nadu	49,66	10	635.62	1614.02
26.	Tripura	–	–	–	–
27.	Uttar Pradesh	19	5	963.31	997.67
28.	West Bengal	32,55	6	256.82	610.78
	Total		154	13327.08	15688.88

Statement-III

The Statement showing position of on-going Roads and Bridge Projects lying incomplete for more than three years (Sanctioned before 1.4.97)

S. No.	Name of State	No. of works	Sanction Amount (Rs. in lakhs)
1.	Andhra Pradesh	17	3630
2.	Assam	63	4245
3.	Bihar	34	4791
4.	Chandigarh	5	118
5.	Delhi	3	892
6.	Goa Damn and Diu	8	2331
7.	Gujarat	7	2214
8.	Haryana	7	3510
9.	Himachal Pradesh	28	5663
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	4	329
11.	Karnataka	21	7449
12.	Kerala	23	14000
13.	Madhya Pradesh	28	4970
14.	Maharashtra	26	2241
15.	Manipur	10	1318
16.	Meghalaya	6	1205
17.	Nagaland	1	12
18.	Orissa	12	1726
19.	Pondicherry	5	347
20.	Punjab	13	289
21.	Rajasthan	10	2744
22.	Tamil Nadu	18	1282
23.	Uttar Pradesh	18	7455
24.	West Bengal	31	5620
		398	78381

[Translation]

Pinto Committee Report

2791. SHRI RAMSHAKAL : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Pinto Committee have presented its Report in regard to the new shipping policy;

(b) if so, the details of main recommendations made therein;

(c) the detail of recommendations approved, implemented, under implementation and down sized due to various reasons;

(d) whether the Government have considered the draft shipping policy;

(e) if so, the details of its main characteristics; and

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

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

(b) and (c) The committee made 31 recommendations. Empowered Committee set up by the Government, had considered and recommend for acceptance of 26 recommendations. Of them 15 recommendations have already been accepted by the Government and action has since been initiated to examine the remaining 11 recommendations.

(d) to (f) Other than the recommendation made by the Pinto Committee, there is no draft Shipping Policy under consideration in the Government.

[English]

Introduction of ATM Switches

2792. SHRI P.D. ELANGOVAN : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to introduce ATM switches in the major cities of the country during 2000-2001;

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

(c) the number of electro mechanical telephone exchanges set up by replacing electronic exchanges in the country during 1999-2000, State-wise;

(d) the number of licences issued so far under New Internet Service Providers (ISPs), city/town-wise and Catagory-wise;

(e) the total revenue to be collected through these ISPs; and

(f) the number of individual internet connections proposed to be provided during 2000-2001.

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

(b) ATM switches are planned to be installed at Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, Calcutta and Bangalore.

(c) No electro mechanical telephone exchange is installed replacing electronic exchange. However, forty-eight electro-mechanical exchanges are planned to be replaced by electronic telephone exchanges during 1999-2000. Out of these, forty-seven electro-mechanical exchanges have already been replaced till February 2000. State-wise details are given in enclosed Statement-I.

(d) The ISP licenses are issued for a particular service area, viz. 'All India', 'Telecom Circle/Metro District/ Major District' and 'Secondary Switching Area (SSA)' and not town-wise/city-wise. Under three categories, total 239 licenses have been issued till February 2000. The catagory-wise details are given in enclosed Statement-II.

(e) No revenue is to be collected, since no license fees has been levied on ISPs upto October 2003.

(f) Total five lakh internet connections are likely to be provided during 2000-2001 by Department of Telecom Services, MTNL and VSNL.

Statement-I

State-wise details of electro-mechanical telephone exchanges replaced by Electronic telephone exchanges during 1999-2000 (upto February 2000)

Sl. No.	State	Number of Electro-mechanical Telephone Exchanges replaced
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	4
2.	Gujarat	11
3.	Haryana	3
4.	Karnataka	7
5.	Kerala	4
6.	Madhya Pradesh	2
7.	Maharashtra	11
8.	Tamil Nadu	3
9.	Uttar Pradesh	1
10.	Punjab	1
	Total	47

Statement-II

Category-wise list of ISP licenses issued till February 2000

S. No.	Category of ISP	No. of licenses issued	Service Area
1	A	37	All India
2	B	88	Telecom Circles/Metro District/Major District
3	C	114	Secondary Switching Area

Multinationals in Telecom Sector

2793. SHRI ANNASAHEB M.K. PATIL :
SHRI C.P. RADHAKRISHNAN :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to give priority to the multinational companies in some areas in the Telecommunications Sector;

(b) if so, the details of the areas identified for the purpose including the percentage of ratio envisaged for multinationals therein;

(c) whether the Government have prepared a master plan envisaged creation of bandwidth on demand up to every Taluka level in planned manner; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) No, Sir.

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

(c) Government have prepared a master plan for provision of bandwidth on demand up to District

Headquater level by March, 2001. Thereafter, the provision is proposed to be extended to the Sub-Divisional and Tehsil/Taluk Headquarter level in phased manner. This plan is subject to availability of resources.

(d) As part of Sanchar Sagar Phase-I Programme, total 10 numbers of Synchronous Transport Module (STM)-16 (2.5 Giga bits per second, (Gbps) rings covering 17,000 Route Kilometers (RKM) have been planned out of which 06 rings covering 10,000 Route Kilometres (RKM) have been commissioned. As part of Sanchar Sagar Phase-II, another 32 numbers of STM-16 (2.5 Gbps) rings alongwith associated STM-4 and STM-1 systems have been planned to be commissioned by March, 2001 subject to availability of resources.

Amendments of Hindu Succession Act

2794. SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY :
SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK :
KUMARI BHAVANA PUNDLIKRAO GAWALI :

Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have asked all the States to carry out suitable amendments in the Hindu Succession Act, 1956 with a view to confer property rights on women in a joint family;

(b) if so, whether the State Governments have been asked to give a status report on the action taken to amend Section-6 of the Act; and

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

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI) : (a) to (c) Department of Women and Child Development has requested the various State Governments/Union territory Administrations to draw up necessary legislative proposal to amend Section 6 of the Hindu Succession Act, 1956 to give daughters their due share of coparcenary rights as has been done in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu.

Department of Women and Child Development has reported that the Government of Orissa, Sikkim, Nagaland and Kerala have furnished their Action Taken Report/ Comments on the aforesaid reference. The Government of Orissa has stated that the matter was under examination of the Law Department and a decision would be taken soon. The Hindu Succession Act has not so far been extended to the State of Sikkim. The State of Nagaland enjoys special provisions relating to the customary laws under article 371A of the Constitution and hence the provisions of Hindu Succession Act, 1956 are not relevant to that State. Government of Kerala has replied that in view of the Kerala Joint Hindu Family System (Abolition) Act, 1975, section 6 of the Hindu Succession Act, 1956, in effect, does not operate in Kerala.

Shortage of Telephone Exchanges in Western Rajasthan

2795. COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of C-DoT and MILT telephone exchanges functioning in Rajasthan particularly in Barmer and Jaisalmer district during the last three years and till date, district-wise; and

(b) the number of telephone exchanges proposed to be set up during 2000-2001, district-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) District-wise details of telephone exchanges functioning in Rajasthan during the last three years and till date are given in enclosed Statement-I.

(b) 100 telephone exchanges are proposed to be set up during 2000-2001. District-wise details are given in enclosed Statement-II.

Statement-I

District-wise Details of Telephone Exchanges (C-DOT and MILT) Working in Rajasthan

Sl. No.	Revenue District	As on 31.3.97		As on 31.3.98		As on 31.3.99		As on 31.1.2000	
		C-DOT	MILT	C-DOT	MILT	C-DOT	MILT	C-DOT	MILT
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1.	Ajmer	39	20	56	9	62	8	64	9
2.	Alwar	64	17	71	15	81	11	89	6

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
3.	Banswara	21	8	28	3	31	1	31	0
4.	Baran	13	0	14	1	16	2	19	0
5.	Barmer	29	15	34	14	45	10	45	11
6.	Bharatpur	25	5	32	5	40	3	41	3
7.	Bhilwara	33	7	48	8	55	8	57	7
8.	Bikaner	30	12	36	8	46	2	48	4
9.	Bundi	22	5	24	5	29	5	29	5
10.	Chittorgarh	27	10	34	10	43	6	49	5
11.	Churu	28	14	35	12	46	12	56	14
12.	Dausa	21	12	35	5	36	4	38	2
13.	Dholpur	10	2	12	0	13	0	13	0
14.	Dungarpur	14	8	21	3	30	1	31	0
15.	Hanumangarh	22	8	34	6	39	6	44	6
16.	Jaipur	66	20	87	6	101	1	105	1
17.	Jaisalmer	10	3	11	3	16	4	16	4
18.	Jalore	30	11	37	9	46	5	53	1
19.	Jhalawar	21	0	22	2	27	1	31	0
20.	Jhunjhunu	52	4	60	2	61	1	62	0
21.	Jodhpur	43	16	56	7	58	9	61	12
22.	Karauli*			21	1	22	1	23	0
23.	Kota	21	2	28	1	31	1	35	1
24.	Nagaur	65	7	76	1	83	0	89	0
25.	Pali	66	32	84	21	100	12	109	10
26.	Rajsamand	24	14	30	14	43	4	43	4
27.	Sawaimadhopur	44	2	28	1	29	2	32	0
28.	Sikar	59	5	70	2	77	2	79	0
29.	Sirohi	24	9	29	8	35	7	48	1
30.	Sriganganagar	46	11	63	5	81	4	84	4
31.	Tonk	23	6	28	9	40	0	41	0
32.	Udaipur	48	8	53	8	65	0	66	0
	Total	1040	293	1297	204	1527	133	1631	110

*District Not created and information included in Sawaimadhopur.

Statement-II

District-wise list of telephone exchanges proposed to be set up during 2000-2001

Sl.No.	Name of District	No. of Exchanges
1.	Ajmer	1
2.	Alwar	2
3.	Banswara	1
4.	Baran	3
5.	Barmer	4
6.	Bharatpur	1
7.	Bhilwara	5
8.	Bikaner	5
9.	Bundi	1
10.	Chittorgarh	5
11.	Churu	10
12.	Dausa	2
13.	Dholpur	1
14.	Dungarpur	1
15.	Hanumangarh	5
16.	Jaipur	4
17.	Jaisalmer	2
18.	Jalore	4
19.	Jhalawar	1
20.	Jhunjhunu	1
21.	Jodhpur	8
22.	Karauli	1
23.	Kota	3
24.	Nagaur	7
25.	Pali	5
26.	Rajsamand	2
27.	Sawaimadhopur	1
28.	Sikar	4
29.	Sirohi	1
30.	Sriganganagar	5
31.	Tonk	2
32.	Udaipur	2
	Total	100

[Translation]

Post Offices in Maharashtra

2796. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to upgrade Branch Post Offices and open some more post offices in Maharashtra particularly in Aurangabad region;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) Yes, Deptt. of Posts has opened post offices in Maharashtra including Aurangabad region of the State.

(b) The district-wise details are given in enclosed Statement.

(c) Under annual Plan 1999-2000, the target for opening of 50 new Branch Post Offices and 2 Sub Post Offices has been fixed for Maharashtra Postal Circle. Out of this target, 49 Branch Post Offices (including 16 for Aurangabad Region) and 2 Sub Post Offices, have been sanctioned so far during the current financial year.

Statement

Details of Post Offices Sanctioned during 1999-2000

Sl. No.	District	Name of EDBO	Date of Opening
1	2	3	4
1.	Beed	1. Kotan	29.6.99
		2. Doulgaon Ghat	27.10.99
2.	Nanded	1. Sawaleshwar	20.7.99
		2. Kasarkheda	15.7.99
		3. Bijegaon	14.7.99
		4. Raipur Tanda	19.8.99
		5. Vartala	29.10.99
3.	Nandurbar	1. Kansai	1.7.99
		2. Pachorabari	1.7.99
		3. Chirkhan	27.12.99
4.	Parbhani	1. Sawargaon	19.8.99
5.	Jalna	1. Hatadi	29.8.99
6.	Aurangabad	1. Liba	29.10.99

1	2	3	4
7.	Jalgaon	1. Nimdya	5.1.2000
		2. Mohadi	28.12.99
8.	Nashik	1. Dhondbar	26.12.99
9.	Ahmednagar	1. Alhanwadi	14.6.99
		2. Shingnapur	13.11.99
10.	Pune	1. Zargadwadi	14.6.99
11.	Satara	1. Narayanwadi	19.11.99
12.	Buldana	1. Narkhad	5.5.99
13.	Amravati	1. Talegaon	6.5.99
		2. Bhomdi	4.5.99
14.	Yavatmal	1. Pimpri	6.5.99
15.	Chandrapur	1. Charurkhati	7.5.99
		2. Umri Petdar	7.5.99
16.	Nagpur	1. Tamaswadi	4.5.99
		2. Narsala	6.5.99
		3. Borda	5.5.99
		4. Vihirgaon	To be opened
17.	Thane	1. Dungo	31.5.99
		2. Yahele	28.5.99
		3. Gegaon	28.5.99
		4. Nandara	To be opened
18.	Raigad	1. Adai	1.4.99
		2. Padghe	1.4.99
19.	Ratnagiri	1. Bapase	21.5.99
		2. Veral	25.5.99
		3. Kondaar	31.12.99
		4. Soliwade	2.3.2000
		5. Majal	To be opened
20.	Sindhudurg	1. Chafakhol	25.5.99
		2. Satase	25.5.99
		3. Pandhari	15.11.99
21.	Sangli	1. Dhulgaon	1.3.2000
22.	South Goa	1. CNGC Complex	16.4.99
23.	North Goa	1. Mankurem	23.6.99
		2. Tamberam	1.1.2000
		3. Velgue	To be opened
		DSOs	
1.	Mumbai	1. Hirandandini Complex	Yet to be opened
2.	Pune	1. MIDC Ranjangaon Ganpati	Yet to be opened
		Upgradation	
1.	Javali BO	Distt. Lattur	Under examination
2.	Dhanora BO	Distt. Nandurbar	
3.	HUDCO BO	Distt. Aurangabad	

Against the target of 50 BOs and 2 DSOs for 1999-2000, 49 BOs and 2DSOs are sanctioned till date.

[English]

Telephone Connections in Imphal

2797. SHRI HOLKHOMANG HAOKIP : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of persons on the waiting list for telephone connections in Imphal, exchange-wise;

(b) the number of telephone connections provided in the State during the last three years, exchange-wise; and

(c) the time by which the waiting lists are likely to be cleared in the State ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) the number of persons on the waiting list for telephone connections in Imphal is given below :

Sl.No.	Exchange	Waiting list as on 29.02.2000
1.	Imphal Main	1746
2.	Lamphel RSU	340
3.	Khumanlanpak	304
4.	Lilong RSU	98
	Total	**2488**

(b) the number of telephone connections provided in the State of Manipur during the last three years Exchange-wise is given below :-

Exchange	Number of Telephone connections provided		
	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99
Bishenpur	21	12	26
Chandel	3	1	20
Churachandpur	187	163	104
Hyangtham	21	32	47
Imphal	1926	1212	77
Jiribam	8	0	49
Kakching	0	0	70
Kanglatombi	29	5	-14
Kangpokpi	1	2	4
Khongampat	0	0	-19
Khumanlanpak	0	0	857
Khumbong	0	12	40
Kumbi	0	0	10
Lamphelpat	772	662	477
Langdum	0	18	21
Leisamgthem	0	12	31
Lilong	2	32	31
Loktak	24	40	47
Mao	0	0	36
Mayang-Imphal	3	0	20
Moirang	17	39	62
Moreh	1	83	23
Nambol	7	22	119
Oinam	4	12	52
Paomata	0	0	2
Phayeng	1	31	13
Senapati	78	22	8
Swambung	-41	16	27
Tamenglong	39	6	59
Thoubal	42	51	86
Ukhrul	0	5	147
Wangoi	3	0	0
Yaripok	0	16	1
Total	3154	2506	2533

(c) the total number of waiting list in Manipur State as on 29.02.2000 is 4612 and is likely to be cleared by March, 2001.

BRPL's Refinery Expansion Project

2798.SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) the date on which Bongaigaon Refinery and Petrochemicals Limited Expansion project approved and completed;

(b) the projected crude oil availability in Assam at the time of approving Bongaigaon Refinery and Petro-Chemicals Limited Expansion project;

(c) the actual capacity utilization of Bongaigaon Refinery since the completion of its expansion projects, year-wise;

(d) the reasons for the shortfall in the crude availability; and

(e) the financial impact on Bongaigaon Refinery and Petro-Chemicals Limited due to shortfall in the crude oil availability ?

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) : (a) The project was approved on 30.12.1991. Crude Distillation Unit (CDU-II) was commissioned on 9.5.1995 and Delayed Cooking Unit (DCU-Ii) on 6.3.1996.

(b) At the time of approving Bongaigaon Refinery and Petro-Chemicals Ltd. expansion project, the crude oil production in North East region was projected to increase to 8.76 MMTPA in 1994-95 and further to 11.78 MMTPA in 1999-2000.

(c) The actual capacity utilization of Bongaigaon Refinery and Petrochemicals Ltd. as a percent of crude throughput is given below :

Year	% capacity utilization
1996-97	65.6
1997-98	73.1
1998-99	70.4
1999-2000 (anticipated)	80.9

(d) Reasons for shortfall in crude oil availability are as follows :

(i) Continuous bandhs/barricades and other environmental problems resulted in subdued activities of land acquisition, drilling well and field maintenance, construction, production and exploratory work.

(ii) Blow out in wells.

(iii) Adverse behavior of few reservoirs.

(iv) Inability to drill the targeted exploratory and development wells.

(e) Due to non-availability of crude oil as per requirement, refinery has not been able to run full capacity which has affected the overall financial performance of the Company.

Welfare Trust Formed by ONGC

2799.SHRI JAWAHAR LAL JAISWAL :
SHRI A. NARENDRA.

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

(a) whether Oil and Natural Gas Corporation formed a Welfare Trust;

(b) if so, the salient features thereof;

(c) the extent to which this trust propose to improve and social economic balance of the country;

(d) whether any concrete proposal has been worked out in this regard; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

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) : (a) to (e) Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. has not formed any Welfare Trust. However, ONGC has been undertaking various measures for the socio-economic development of the areas in and around its area of operation, such as organising medical camps, conducting adult literacy programmes, providing infrastructural facility in rural areas, organising relief measures in times of natural calamities and assisting State and District Administration in such social welfare measures.

Selection Process for Allotting LPG Distributorship

2800.SHRI SUKDEO PASWAN : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether selection process to allot 'Distributorship' of various Oil Companies in various areas of U.P. (West) has been lingering-on since years-together;

(b) if so, the details of the places where such 'Distributorship' are to be allotted; and

(c) the time by which all the selection formalities are likely to be completed ?

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) : (a) to (c) Dealer Selection Boards in Uttar Pradesh along with all other Dealer Selection Boards have since been dissolved, earlier their working was kept in abeyance. Therefore, selection process in most of the locations already advertised in Uttar Pradesh including in its Western part could not be completed. In addition to the locations pending from previous Marketing Plans, 190 RO dealerships and 440 LPG distributorships have been included in the current Marketing Plans for Uttar Pradesh including its Western part. It generally takes 6-12 months for commissioning of the dealerships/distributorships from the date of interview.

Funds for Plantation Programme for Orissa

2801.SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) the quantum of funds allocated by the Government for the plantation programme during last three years for Orissa;

(b) whether any special provision has been made in 1999-2000, for the massive plantation programme; after the destruction caused by Super-Cyclone;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI) : (a) Funds allocated by the Central Government for plantation programme in Orissa during the last three years is given below :

(Rs. in Lakhs)

Year	Funds Allocated
1996-97	387.30
1997-98	234.97
1998-99	476.65
	1098.92

(b) and (c) Seven projects have been sanctioned for plantation in the Districts of Orissa badly hit by the recent Super-Cyclone at a total cost of Rs. 10.62 crores under Integrated Afforestation and Eco-Development Project Scheme to treat 17300 Ha. of degraded forest lands during 1999-2000 to 2001-02.

(d) Does not arise.

Increase in Prices of LPG and Kerosene

2802. SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether several organisations have criticised the Government for increasing the prices of L.P.G. and Kerosene;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to re-consider their decision to increase the prices of said items; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

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) : (a) to (d) The ex-storage point prices of kerosene (PDS) and LPG (domestic) have not been revised in the recent past. These were last revised on 25.7.1991 for kerosene (PDS) and on 28.2.1999 for LPG (domestic). The Government had decided in November, 1997 that subsidy on LPG (domestic) and Kerosene (PDS) will be reduced in phases to reach the level of 15% and 33.33% of the import parity price by 2000-2001 and 2001-2002 respectively. The subsidy will be transferred to the fiscal budget from the year 2002 onwards.

Crime against Wildlife

2803. SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have decided to set up a Directorate of Prevention of Crime Against Wildlife in the country;

(b) if so, whether the crime against wildlife have increased manifold in the country and even the Non-Government organisations are pressing the Government to take an effective steps in this regard;

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

(d) whether Subraminiam Committee in the year 1994 also recommended to set up the Directorate to check crime against wildlife; and

(e) if so, the time by which the Directorate would be set up and start functioning ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Reports of wildlife related crimes from inside and outside the protected areas come to the notice of this Ministry. Effective strategies are adopted for preventing such crimes with the support of renowned NGO's with proven track record.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) A proposal regarding setting up of a Directorate of Prevention of Crime against Wildlife is under active consideration in the Ministry. Since it involves detailed deliberations and co-ordination with other Ministries/ Departments, it is not possible to fix a specific time frame.

Hydel Power Project in Sikkim

2804. SHRI BHIM DAHAL : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to set up a hydel power project in Sikkim in the near future to exploit the vast potential in the Teesa Valley;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the share of Sikkim from the said project and the criteria adopted for evacuation of power generated ?

THE MINISTER OF POWER AND MINISTER OF MINES AND MINERALS (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) Yes, Sir. The Government has sanctioned the Teesta HE project Stage-V (510 MW) for execution under Central Sector through National Hydro-electric Power Corporation (NHPC).

(b) It is a run of river scheme and will generate 2573 Million Units (MU) of energy in a 90% dependable year. The estimated cost of the project at April, 99 price level is Rs. 2198.04 crores. The project is scheduled to be completed in a period of 84 months.

(c) Sikkim being the Home Stage, will be entitled to 12% free power generated from Teesta HE project Stage-V in addition to the share to be allocated by Ministry of Power as per sharing formula applicable to all Central Sector hydro projects. The Power generated from Teesta HE project will be evacuated by 2x400 KV lines from

project the site to Sikkim, which will be constructed by Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd. (PGCIL).

Adulteration of Automobile Fuel

2805.SHRI NAMDEO HARBAJI DIWATHE : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the quality of fuel supplied to automobile through the network of Petrol pumps in the country is far below the standards prescribed by the Society of Automotive Engineers (SAE) which is contributing to enhanced level of vehicular pollution;

(b) if so, whether the Government have taken any steps in this regard during the recent past; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

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) : (a) to (c) Petroleum products are supplied to automobiles through network of retail outlets in the country as per specifications prescribed by the Bureau of Indian Standards.

LPG Agencies/Petrol Outlets in Kerala

2806.SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of LPG agencies and Petrol pumps at present in Kerala and the number of them propose to be opened in the State in the next few years; and

(b) the steps taken by the Government to provide LPG agencies as well as Petrol Pumps to SC/STs in Kerala ?

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) : (a) and (b) As on 1.10.1999 there were 758 retail outlet dealerships and 213 LPG distributorships in operation in Kerala.

In addition to the locations pending from the previous Marketing Plans 14 retail outlet dealerships and 105 LPG distributorships have been included in the current Marketing Plans 1996-98 for Kerala.

As per the existing policy under the normal selection procedure of advertisement of the location and selection through the Dealer Selection Board 25% dealerships/ distributorships are reserved for SC/ST category.

[Translation]

Power Generation during the Ninth Five Year Plan

2807.SHRI RAJO SINGH : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) the power generation in megawatts targetted to be achieved during the Ninth Five Year Plan in the country, state-wise;

(b) whether adequate allocation has been made to achieve the said target;

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

(d) whether the Government has sought foreign assistance in this regard; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF POWER AND MINISTER OF MINES AND MINERALS (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) According to the Ninth Five Year Plan, the target for capacity addition during the plan period was 40245.2 MW. This includes 6000 MW of liquid fuel projects for which no State-wise allocation was made. The State-wise details of the remaining capacity are given in enclosed Statement-I.

(b) The approval outlay for the Ninth Plan is Rs. 124526.41 crore comprising of Rs. 53,299.41 crore for the central sector and Rs. 71,227.00 crore for the State sector. While a major portion of the installed capacity is expected to come up in the private sector, all ongoing public sector projects have been fully provided for.

(c) The State-wise power sector outlay for the Ninth Plan is given in enclosed Statement-II.

(d) and (e) The Government has sought foreign assistance in the case of some projects. The list of projects where foreign assistance has been sought since 1.1.1997 is given in enclosed Statement-III and IV. They include generation projects, transmission projects, and also projects on reforms and restructuring.

Statement-I

State	(In Megawatts)	
	State sector/Private sector Projects	Central Sector Projects
1	2	3
Haryana	232	400
H.P.	492.5	1500

1	2	3
Punjab	1020.0	–
U.P.	157.5	2070
Rajasthan	505.0	1090
J & K	120.0	390
Gujarat	1868.7	650
M.P.	2003.0	1000
Maharashtra	5052.5	–
A.P.	2396.3	1650
Karnataka	2298.0	440
Kerala	466.0	350
Tamil Nadu	1906.0	420
Pondicherry	22.5	–
Bihar	667.0	710
Orissa	1155.0	500
Sikkim	19.0	60
W.B.	1697.5	–
Assam	167.5	115
Ar. Pr.	6.0	405
Meghalaya	18.0	–
Nagaland	24.0	75
Mizoram	9.0	–
Tripura	8.0	84
A & N Islands	25.2	–

Statement-II

Statewise Power Sector Outlay for the Ninth Plan (1997-2002)

		(Rs. in crore)
1.	Andhra Pradesh	5749.37
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	451.00
3.	Assam	850.00
4.	Bihar	2300.00
5.	Delhi	2985.00
6.	Goa	128.97
7.	Gujarat	4000.00
8.	Haryana	2648.53
9.	Himachal Pradesh	1019.65
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	2387.00
11.	Karnataka	3650.00
12.	Kerala	2531.00
13.	Madhya Pradesh	3463.81
14.	Maharashtra	5579.82
15.	Manipur	333.00
16.	Meghalaya	312.00
17.	Mizoram	221.59
18.	Nagaland	115.00
19.	Orissa	4622.79
20.	Punjab	2927.27
21.	Rajasthan	4488.89
22.	Sikkim	341.00
23.	Tamil Nadu	6000.00
24.	Tripura	171.79
25.	Uttar Pradesh	7468.15
26.	West Bengal	5631.98
27.	A & N Islands	140.00
28.	Chandigarh	85.90
29.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	48.46
30.	Daman and Diu	29.72
31.	Lakshadweep	15.00
32.	Pondicherry	224.00

Statement-III

List of Power Projects which have received external assistance since 1.1.1997

S.No.	Name of the Project	Assistance Sought	Amount
1	2	3	4
1.	Transfer of Environment technology to India for revamping polluting aging coal fired boilers – GOWB	CIDA, Canada	C$ 2,500,000

1	2	3	4
2.	Bakreshwar Thermal Project Unit 3 – IInd tranche – WBPDCEL	OECF, Japan	JY 11537 million
3.	Andhra Pradesh Power Restructuring Project APL-I, – GOAP	World Bank	US $ 210 million
4.	Andhra Pradesh Power Restructuring Project	Canada	C$ 4 million
5.	Andhra Pradesh Power Restructuring Project	DFID, UK	Pound 28 million
6.	Haryana Power Restructuring Project, APL I,	World Bank	US$ 60 million
7.	Haryana Power Restructuring Project	DFID, UK	Pound 15 million
8.	Tuirial HEP, Mizoram	OECF, Japan	JY 11695 million

Statement-IV

List of Projects shortlisted but not yet sanctioned by donors since 1.1.1997

S. No.	Name of the Project	Assistance Sought
1.	Bakreshwar Thermal Project Units 1 & 2 – IIIrd tranche, WBPDCL	OECF, Japan
2.	Faridabad Gas Based Project – IInd tranche, NTPC	OECF, Japan
3.	Simhadri Thermal Project – IInd tranche, NTPC	OECF, Japan
4.	Western Yamuna Hydro-Electric Project, HSEB	OECF, Japan
5.	Haryana Transmission Line Project	OECF, Japan
6.	Talchar II Transmission Line Project, POWERGRID	OECF, Japan
7.	Talchar Thermal Power Project, St. II, NTPC	World Bank

Exploration of New Wells in Gujarat

2808.SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VERMA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there has been exploration of new wells of gas and natural gas in Gujarat;

(b) if so, the number of such wells;

(c) the places where the exploration work is being undertaken and the time by which the gas is likely to be extracted from them; and

(d) the approximate number of gallons of crude oil and gas likely to be extracted therefrom ?

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) : (a) and (b) A total of eight exploratory wells has been drilled by Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC) in new prospects in Cambay basin (onland) of Gujarat from 1.4.97 to 1.1.2000.

(c) and (d) Exploration work is being carried out or planned by ONGC in the following onland areas during 1999-2000 :

Types of input	Areas
2D Survey	North of Allora, Sadra-Halisa, Rajpardi, Ranakpur-Sachin, Navsari
3D Survey	South Kadi-Nandasan-Linch-North Kadi-Jotana, Nandej-Wasna, Gandhar
Exploratory drilling	Hansalpur, Wadasma, Sobhasan, Linch, Santhal, Nandasan, Mehsana Horst, Jotana, North Kadi, Wasna, Vatrak, Asmali, South Kadi, Kalol, Limbodra, Ahemdabad, Sajali, Nawagam, Gamij, Sanand, Jantran, Jambusar, Elao, Akholjuni, Pakhajan, Gajera, Gandhar, Kosamba, Kathana, Pariya

Results of the above exploratory work including exploratory drilling will decide the further course of action. In case of success, delineation will be carried out. Based on the results of delineation of hydrocarbon bearing areas. including its potential, the quantum of extraction of crude oil and natural gas will be decided upon.

[English]

Telecom Districts

2809.SHRI ANANTA NAYAK : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any new Telecom Districts are proposed to be created in the country particularly in Orissa during 2000-2001; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) At present there is no proposal to create any new Telecom District in the country including Orissa.

(b) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Telecom Facilities in Noida

2810.SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of persons on the waiting list for telephone connections in Noida;

(b) the number of telephone connections provided there during the last three years and till date;

(c) whether the latest telephone directory for Noida has been printed and circulated;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) the time by which the said connections and directory are likely to be provided;

(f) whether the Government have received large number of complaints against the employees of the Noida telephone exchange;

(g) if so, the nature of complaints received during the last one year and till date; and

(h) the steps taken by the Government against the officials found guilty of indulging in malpractices ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) The number of persons on the waiting list for new telephone connections in Noida as on 29.2.2000 was 1305.

(b) The number of telephone connections provided in Noida during the last three years and till date is given below :

Year	No. of new telephone connections provided
1996-97	8232
1997-98	5001
1998-99	11742
1999-2000 (upto 29.2.2000)	12466

(c) to (e) No, Sir. The telephone directory for Noida has not been printed due to Court case and stay order. The Telephone Directory is likely to be issued to the subscribers within 9 months after vacation of the stay order of the Court. The waiting list of 1305 for new telephone connections in Noida as on 29.2.2000 is likely to be cleared by 31.3.2000 as the work is in progress.

(f) to (h) Information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House.

[English]

Telephone Exchanges

2811.PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of telephone exchanges set up and modernised in the country as on date, State-wise;

(b) the number of new telephone exchanges proposed to be set up and modernised in the country during 2000-2001, State-wise; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government for the improvement of telecom services and adopt new technology ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) and (b) Sir, The information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House.

(c) Following steps are being taken to improve the telecom Services.

(i) To provide reliable transmission media in a phased manner to the exchanges working on overhead media.

(ii) To induct modern technology like Wireless in local loop, High Bit Rate Digital Subscriber line in the access network.

(iii) Introduction of new and value added services.

(iv) Introduction of modern tools and testing aids in the network.

(v) Computerisation of fault repair services.

(vi) Introduction of digital loop carrier on optical fiber cable in the out door network.

(vii) Opening of more and more remote line units reducing the area to be served by each exchange with the corresponding reduction in the size of the underground cables feeding to the customers.

Poll Malpractices

2812.SHRI AVTAR SINGH BHADANA : Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Election Commission have received any reports on poll malpractices in the recently concluded bye-elections and certain State Legislative Assembly elections;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to prevent the recurrence of such malpractices in future ?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI) : (a) to (c) The Election Commission has informed that during the elections, the Commission and the officers incharge of managing the elections, like the Chief Electoral Officers, Observers, District Election Officers, Returning Officers and Assistant Returning Officers etc. receive a large number of complaints from political parties, contesting candidates and other alleging unfair practices being committed by one or the other parties or candidates. Some of these complaints are in writing and some are made over the telephone. The Commission has stated that it is, therefore, not possible for it to catalogue all the complaints received at different levels and from various sources. However, all complaints are looked into and the Commission endeavours to take corrective action wherever allegations of unfair practice appears to have some basis in facts.

Telecom Facilities in Andhra Pradesh

2813.SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of telephones installed under the Multi Access Rural Radio (MARR) system in Andhra Pradesh during the last three years, district-wise;

(b) the number of rural telephone exchanges functioning in the State during the said period, district- wise;

(c) whether the said telephone exchanges are functioning properly;

(d) if not, the steps taken by the Government to make them proper functional; and

(e) the funds allocated for efficient functioning of said exchanges in the State during the said period ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) In Andhra Pradesh 4294 Public Telephones were provided in the villages on MARR during the last 3 years. District-wise information is given in the enclosed Statement-I.

(b) to (d) District-wise information about number of rural telephone exchanges at the end of each of last three financial years and as on 1.2.2000 in the current financial year is in the enclosed Statement-II. All these exchanges are functioning satisfactorily except some exchanges which have been closed temporarily for security reasons in certain parts of the State.

(e) There is no separate Account Head for monitor -ing of maintenance expanditure exclusively for rural exchanges.

Statement-I

MARR Village Public Telephones Installed in Andhra Pradesh during last three years

S. No.	Name of the District	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Adilabad	102	228	14	344
2.	Ananthapur	69	60	22	151
3.	Chittoor	141	70	24	235
4.	Cuddapah	114	117	45	276
5.	East Godavari	56	22	0	78
6.	Karimnagar	191	77	34	302
7.	Khammam	139	148	46	333
8.	Krishna	26	0	0	26
9.	Guntur	0	0	0	0
10.	Kurnool	54	12	6	72
11.	Mahbubnagar	195	69	63	327
12.	Medak	85	48	11	144
13.	Nalgonda	118	74	12	204
14.	Nellore	175	85	15	275
15.	Nizamabad	122	44	17	183
16.	Prakasam	90	49	39	178

1	2	3	4	5	6
17.	Rangareddy	71	15	3	89
18.	Srikakulam	292	145	43	480
19.	Visakhapatnam	33	78	56	167
20.	Vizianagaram	217	95	55	367
21.	Warangal	0	0	0	0
22.	West Godavari	59	4	0	63
	Total	2349	1440	505	4294

Statement-II

Rural Exchanges Functioning in the State during the last three years

Sl. No.	Name of the District	No. of Rural Exchanges Functioning as on			
		31.3.97	31.3.98	31.3.99	1.2.2000
1	Adilabad	42	48	49	58
2.	Ananthapur	120	118	118	124
3.	Chittoor	120	121	127	136
4.	Cuddapah	78	79	80	82
5	East Godavari	93	95	95	101
6.	Guntur	99	100	106	117
7.	Karimnagar	92	96	98	105
8	Khammam	71	73	78	84
9.	Krishna	92	95	96	99
10.	Kurnool	105	109	110	122
11.	Mahbubnagar	90	92	96	101
12.	Medak	77	78	84	85
13.	Nalgonda	69	75	83	95
14.	Nellore	82	84	87	91
15.	Nizamabad	70	73	77	78
16.	Prakasam	68	68	68	75
17.	Rangareddy	64	65	65	67
18.	Srikakulam	40	41	43	47
19.	Visakhapatnam	49	49	49	51
20.	Vizianagaram	41	44	45	50
21.	Warangal	68	69	69	71
22.	West Godavari	123	125	130	130
	Total	1753	1797	1853	1969

Investment by US Company

2814. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR :
SHRIMATI RANEE NARAH :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether telecom ventures and US based company with an investment portfolio of 2.5 billion dollars plans to invest between 25-50 million dollars in internet startups in India offering education and connectivity solutions;

(b) whether they have also expressed that if opportunities are good they can increase the investment to even 100 million dollars;

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

(d) the efforts being made by the Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) and (b) There is no specific proposal from telecom ventures for making investment in internet startups in India offering education and connectivity solutions.

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

MRTPC Enquiry against Maruti Udyog Limited

2815. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA : Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Commission has ordered an enquiry against Maruti Udyog Limited and its 110 authorised dealers across the country for allegedly indulging in the restrictive trade practices; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

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

(b) Under Section 10(a) (iii) of the MRTP Act, 1969, Restrictive Trade Practice (RTP) Enquiry No. 107/99 has been instituted by the Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Commission against Maruti Udyog Limited and its 110 dealers in terms of Notice of Enquiry dated 27.01.2000. The said enquiry was last heard by the Commission on 21.02.2000 and is now posted for settlement of issues on 31.05.2000.

[Translation]

Vacant Posts of Judges

2816. SHRI RAMSHAKAL :
SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA :
SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE :

Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of posts of Judges lying vacant in various High Courts, their benches and Supreme Court till date;

(b) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to fill up these posts; and

(c) the time by which the vacant posts are likely to be filled up ?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI) : (a) As on 1.3.2000, the vacancy position in respect of judges in the Supreme Court of India and in the High Courts and their Benches was as follows :

Supreme Court of India	–	3
High Courts	–	159

(b) and (c) The filling up of vacancies in the Supreme Court of India and the High Courts is a consultative process among the Constitutional authorities. While every effort is made to fill up the existing vacancies expeditiously, vacancies do keep as arising on account of retirement, resignation or elevation of Judges. It is not possible to indicate the exact time by which the vacant posts are likely to be filled up.

[English]

Media Compaign for an Energy Conservation Drive

2817. SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether his Ministry have directed all their public sector enterprises to find out a media campaign for an energy conservation drive;

(b) if so, the details of the action plan worked out in this regard; and

(c) the extent to which these measures would help in conserving the power ?

THE MINISTER OF POWER AND MINISTER OF MINES AND MINERALS (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) to (c) Energy Conservation is the cheapest mode of producing energy. The Ministry of Power and Public Sector Undertakings under its administrative control have therefore agreed to jointly undertake National Energy Conservation Awareness Campaign in print and electronic media during the financial year 1999-2000 to propagate and popularise the theme of energy conservation among the industries and general public at large. An amount of Rs. 6.00 crores has been earmarked for the campaign on energy conservation, reforms and restructuring of power sector during the current financial year. Awareness creation about energy conservation and energy efficiency is one of the first steps towards achieving the goal of energy conservation. Meanwhile the Ministry of power has introduced the Energy conservation Bill 2000 in the Lok Sabha on 24.2.2000. The Bill has been referred to the Standing Committee on Energy. The salient features of the Energy Conservation Bill 2000 are enclosed as Statement.

Statement

The salient features of the Energy Conservation Bill 2000 are as under :

(i) The Central Government in Consultation with the BEE will lay down energy conservation standards for any equipment or appliance consuming, generating, energy transmitting or supplying energy.

(ii) The Central Government will enforce a scheme for compulsory affixing of labels on notified equipment and appliances to indicate in a clear, and readable manner, the rate of energy consumption of such equipment and appliances, at the stages of manufacture, import, supply, distribution, sale or dealership.

(iii) The Central Government in consultation with BEE will notify industries, establishments and any user or class of users of energy, building complex as designated consumers having regard to intensity or quantity of use of energy. Designated Consumers will comply with energy consumption standards and norms.

(iv) As and when notified by the designating agency being the Central Government, energy audit by an accredited auditor shall be mandatory for all designated consumers in the industries and establishments. Such consumers would be required to furnish returns on energy consumed and actions taken on the recommendations of the accredited energy auditor in the prescribed period and manner. The periodicity of the audit would be as notified by BEE. Energy managers

with prescribed qualifications may be required to be appointed by designated consumer. Such designated consumer would be required to submit a report on the status of energy conservation to the BEE/ State on an annual basis.

(v) Every designated consumer may be required to comply with the prescribed energy conservation norms. Different standards and norms could be prescribed for different designated consumers keeping in view distinguishing factors such as technology/process adopted, age of the plant/ building, form of energy used, raw material used etc.

(vi) The designated consumer shall prepare a scheme(s) for energy conservation in the manner prescribed by the Central Government and implement such scheme as may be prescribed by the Central Government.

(vii) The Bureau of Energy Efficiency would prepare guidelines for Building Codes relating to energy conservation and State Government shall notify the same. The codes could be notified to suit local climate conditions or other compelling factors.

(viii) A State Government shall designate any agency to coordinate, enforce and regulate matters relating to implementation of the legislation within the State. The State Government shall designate SERC to perform adjudicating function. Wherever the SERC is not in position, the State Government shall appoint the Law Secretary or his nominee having legal background in that State/UT as an adjudicating officer and such officer shall cease to be adjudicating officer immediately on establishment of SERC in the State.

(ix) The Central and State Governments shall promote mass awareness for energy conservation, consumer education and consumer guidance and shall also take steps to encourage referential treatment for energy efficient equipment/devices and appliances.

(x) For the purpose of the legislation, energy shall be defined as any form of energy derived from fossil fuels, hydro-electricity, including electrical energy drawn from the grid. This will also include electricity produced by renewable sources of energy including bio-mass when connected to the grid. However, renewable sources of energy when used in isolation from the grid shall not be covered in the definition of energy for the purpose of the proposed legislation.

Performance of Pollution Control Boards

2818.SHRI ANNASAHEB M.K. PATIL : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received recently the performance of State and Central Pollution Control Boards;

(b) if so, the details thereof as per standard norms of assessment State-wise and also for the Central Pollution Control Board;

(c) the details of the cases of violation of pollution and environmental provisions of law registered during each of the last three years, State-wise and cases disposed of out of them; and

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to strengthen and upgrade the State Pollution Control Boards ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

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

(d) Regarding strengthening of SPCBs, the Ministry of Environment and Forests has taken up the matter with the State Governments. The steps taken/initiated for strengthening of SPCBs include the following :-

1. Increasing cess rates for augmenting the resources of the State Boards.
2. Strengthening of State Boards in terms of laboratory facilities.
3. Providing training to the officials on different aspects relating to prevention and control of Pollution.
4. Strengthening of State Boards under various bilateral programmes .
5. Financial assistance on specific programmes for abatement of pollution.
6. The State Pollution Control Boards viz. Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu.

Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Karnataka are being strengthened under World Bank aided project.

Helicopters for Oil and Natural Gas Corporation

2819.SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the ONGC has suffered a great deal in drilling operations due to absence of the helicopters; and

(b) if so, the steps being taken to ensure that the drilling operations do not suffer due to non-availability of helicopters ?

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) : (a) Prolonged non-availability of helicopter services does have an adverse impact on ONGC's drilling operation. Helicopter services have not affected ONGC drilling operations during the fiscal year 1999-2000, so far.

(b) ONGC has already taken following measures :–

- Vendor base has been widened.
- Alternative modes of transportation have also been used to supplement air transport service in critical times.
- Skid-mounted helicopters have been inducted for better service.

Undertrials

2820.SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY : Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Supreme Court recently ordered the quick disposal of all undertrial cases in various courts;

(b) if so, whether the Government have identified the number of undertrial cases in various courts;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the undertrials in various courts are suffering from the mental diseases; and

(e) if so, the likely time by which all the undertrial cases are likely to be disposed of ?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI) : (a) Some directions have been issued by the Supreme Court of India in this connection recently in the case – R.D. Upadhyay Vs. State of Andhra Pradesh and Others.

(b) and (c) The exact number of undertrial cases in various courts is not readily available. Available information, however, indicates that undertrials constitute nearly 73% of the total jail population in the country.

(d) No such information is available with the Government.

(e) It is not possible to fix a timeframe in this regard. However, some High Courts, namely, Bombay, Calcutta, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Punjab and Haryana and Sikkim have issued instructions to take up cases of undertrial prisoners involved in petty cases on priority basis.

[Translation]

Museum of Natural History

2821.SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to open a regional museum of Natural History to create awareness about the environmental conservation and dissemination of informal environmental education in the State of Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) While considering the proposal for setting up the Regional Museum for the Eastern Region during the Ninth Plan period, Standing Finance Committee of Ministry of Environment and Forests recommended that the Ministry should evolve an appropriate package of technical assistance and funding pattern so as to promote the establishment of Museum of Natural History by the State Governments themselves. Presently the emphasis is to consolidate the Regional Museums already set up at Mysore, Bhopal and Bhubaneshwar, before any new Regional Museums are considered.

[English]

NHRC Directive to Chief Justice of High Courts

2822.SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINHA :
SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY :

Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the NHRC recently asked all the Chief Justices of High Courts to tackle overcrowding in jails and long pendency.

(b) if so, whether in view of overcrowding in jails, the Government propose to extend assistance to High Courts for the disposal of pending cases; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

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

(b) and (c) Both Government and Judiciary are concerned with overcrowding in jails which is primarily due to the presence of a large number of undertrial prisoners. The Supreme Court of India has recently issued some directions in the case – R.D. Upadhyay Vs. State of Andhra Pradesh and Others regarding speedy disposal of cases involving undertrial prisoners.

The High Courts of Bombay, Calcutta, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Punjab and Haryana and Sikkim have informed that necessary steps are being taken to speed up the disposal of undertrial cases.

The High Court of Delhi, vide its Judgement dated 25.11.1999 in Crl. Writ 681/99, Essang Nyong and Others Vs State of New Delhi, has directed the State Legal Services Authority to explore the possibilities of holding Lok Adalats for taking up the cases of prisoners involved in petty crimes.

In pursuance of the directions of the Supreme Court of India, the Central Governments has also written to all the State Governments and UT Administrations to take urgent necessary steps for expeditious disposal of cases of undertrials who are languishing in various jails in the country.

Setting up LPG Bottling Plants in North-Eastern States

2823.SHRI BHIM DAHAL : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there has been any proposal to set up LPG Bottling Plants in the North-Eastern States, including Sikkim;

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

(c) the total amount required for setting up these plants; and

(d) the time schedule for setting up of each of such plants ?

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) (a) to (c) LPG bottling plants are set up on the basis of Techno-Economic Feasibility after taking into consideration the demand potential of packed LPG in the nearby consumption zones.

The location wise details of the proposed bottling plants in the North-Eastern States including State of Sikkim is given in the enclosed Statement.

(d) Approximate time schedule for setting up of a bottling plant is 36 months from the date of approval.

Statement

Name of the State (Location) of Bottling Plant	Capacity (TMTPA)	Amount Required (in lakhs)
Arunachal Pradesh (KIMIN)	5	995
Assam (Guwahati)	6	1000
Assam (Numaligarh)	6	1000
Meghalaya (Umran)	5	1031
Manipur (Sekmai)	10	2716
Mizoram (Manikhang)	5	1013
Nagaland (Dimapur)	5	1055

LPG Agencies to SCs/STs in Andhra Pradesh

2824.SHRI A. NARENDRA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) the percentage of LPG agencies allotted to SCs/STs out of the total agencies allotted in Andhra Pradesh during the past three years;

(b) whether the Government propose to allocate LPG agencies to the SCs/STs in the State in the near future;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) to (d) As per the existing policy 25% dealerships/distributorships are reserved for SC/ST category. During the years 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000 (April January), a total of 27 retail outlets were allotted in Andhra Pradesh 8 out of the above were allotted to SC/ST category.

Further in addition to the locations pending from the previous Marketing Plan 31 more retail outlet dealerships have been earmarked in favour of SC/ST category in Andhra Pradesh in the Marketing Plan 1996-98

Loan Repayment of Oil and Natural Gas Corporation

2825.SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Oil and Natural Gas Corporation has decided to refund its 4 billion yen loan to reduce the interest burden;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the amount of interest burden likely to be slashed as a result thereof; and

(d) the time by which the said loan is likely to be refunded ?

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) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) has decided to refinance outstanding amount aggregating Yen 4218.593 million raised from the Exim Bank of Japan carrying interest rate of 3.04% per annum and backed with a Government of India guarantee, by drawing a fresh loan.

(c) and (d) The estimated savings in financing as a result of such refinance, which is likely to be effected in March, 2000 is around Rs. 14 crores over the estimated life of the loan.

Subsidy for Export of Telecom Equipment

2826.SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government provide subsidy for the export promotion activities relating to the telecom equipment;

(b) if so, the total subsidy provided during the last three years, year-wise and company-wise;

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to increase the export of telecom equipment;

(d) whether the Government propose to give more subsidy to the exporters of telecom equipment; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) For providing exposure in the international market, Department of Telecommunications has provided subsidy to Indian companies in Telecom sector in meeting part expenditure towards their participation in the international exhibitions.

(b) The information is given in enclosed Statement.

(c) For the Export of Telecom equipment, the Government provides a number of incentives under Export Import Policy which include Advance Licenses, Special Imprest License, Duty Entitlement Pass-Book scheme and Export Promotion Capital Goods scheme for import of inputs required for manufacture and export of such equipment. The Government also promotes export through other schemes by allowing setting up of manufacturing units as Export Oriented Units, units in Export Processing Zones and Electroni Hardware Technology Park, all of which enjoy duty free import of all types of goods including capital goods.

(d) There is no proposal to give more subsidy to the exporters of telecom equipment, under the consideration of the Government.

(e) No specific proposal has been received from the exporters of telecom equipment.

Statement-I

Subsidy provided during last three years, year-wise and company-wise

Year	Company	Subsidy provided (in Rs.)
1997-98	Telecommunications Consultants India Ltd.	3,55,045
	Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Ltd.	5,09,300
	Videsh Sanchar Nigam Ltd.	10,18,600
	ITI Ltd.	14,47,110
	HTL Ltd.	3,81,975
	Hindustan Cables Ltd.	2,29,185
	Shyam Telecom Ltd.	9,16,740
	Amarraja Batteries Ltd.	3,05,580
	Center for Development of Telematics (C-DoT)	4,58,370
	Surana Telecom Ltd.	3,56,510
	Aksh India Ltd.	3,29,185
	Bharti Telecom Ltd.	1,00,395
	Himachal Futuristic Communications Ltd.	1,00,395
1998-99	Telecommunications Consultants India Ltd.	4,15,205
	Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Ltd.	12,26,757
	Videsh Sanchar Nigam Ltd.	20,38,620
	ITI Ltd.	19,72,303
	HTL Ltd.	4,81,211
	Center for Development of Telematices (C-DoT)	15,66,527
	Tata Telecom Ltd. (Tata Fone Division)	3,39,770
1999-2000	Telecommunications Consultants India Ltd	5,63,290
	Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Ltd.	7,80,569
	Videsh Sanchar Nigam Ltd.	8,91,242
	ITI Ltd.	11,83,960
	HTL Ltd.	3,53,875
	Center for Development of Telematics (C-DoT)	8,64,451
	Bharti Telecom.	78,350
	Himanchal Futuristic Communications Ltd.	9,43,668
	Tata Telecom Ltd. (Tata Fone Division)	2,65,538
	Surana Telecom	2,35,927
	Electronics and Computer Software Export Promotion Council	2,46,402
	HCL Perot	2,65,538
	Shyam Telecom Ltd.	3,66,982

[Translation]

Rehabilitation of Families affected by Road Projects

2827.SHRI RAMSHAKAL : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to formulate a National Policy for the rehabilitation of road projects affected families;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the World Bank has made the rehabilitation of projects affected people mandatory for financing the basic projects in the road sector;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the details of road projects under construction financed by the World Bank and the number of persons displaced as a result thereof; and

(f) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government for the rehabilitation of the persons displaced due to such projects ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN) : (a) No, Sir. No such proposal is under consideration of this Ministry.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The World Bank has made this condition mandatory for future road projects. However, this condition is not mandatory for on-going projects.

(e) In two road projects financed by World Bank, viz. Cuttack-Bhubaneswar-Jagatpur Section of NH-5 in Orissa and Barakar-Raniganj Section of NH-2 in West Bengal, 688 and 49 persons respectively have been affected.

(f) For Orissa Project, resettlement and rehabilitation survey has been undertaken. In West Bengal Project, a supermarket has been constructed for displaced shopkeepers.

[English]

Refining and Exploration by IOC and ONGC

2828.SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have directed the Indian Oil Corporation Limited and Oil and Natural Gas Corporation to stick to their core competence of refining and exploration and not to diversify into unrelated areas;

(b) if so, whether his Ministry feel that in the current context of boosting domestic crude output ONGC should concentrate on exploration and production job; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by the Government to stop the ONGC and OIC diversifying into the unrelated areas ?

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) : (a) to (c) Exploration and production of hydrocarbons continues to be Oil and Natural Gas Corporation's core Operational areas. The alliance between IOC and Oil and Natural Gas Corporation and diversification in such areas would help to pool the vast resources of both the companies to meet the increased demand of oil and to enhance long term national energy security, better equip the two companies to face the emerging competition in the future deregulated scenario in the oil sector.

Deregulation of Petroleum Sector

2829.SHRI ANNASAHEB M.K. PATIL :
SHRI SHIVAJI MANE :

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

(a) whether the Government has prepared the time schedule for the complete deregulation of the petroleum sector by 2001-2002;

(b) if so, whether all the formalities in this regard have been completed;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Government proposes to set up Hydrocarbon Regulatory Authority; and

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

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) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) In November, 1997, Government decided the detailed phased programme of dismantling of Administered Pricing Mechanism vide Government Resolution No. 224 dated 21st November, 1997. The phased programme of reforms has been initiated with effect from April, 1998. The major actions taken in this direction, interalia, include the following :-

(i) The system of retention pricing for all the refineries has been abolished. Refinery gate prices of controlled products are being fixed on principles on import parity.

(ii) Consumer prices of only MS, HSD, SKO (PDS), ATF and LPG (Domestic) are being administered by the Government. Prices of other products have been decontrolled.

(iii) Private and Joint Sector refineries have been permitted to import crude oil freely without import license for actual use in their own refineries.

(iv) Customs duty on crude oil and petroleum products have been reduced through annual budgets.

(v) 33% of subsidy on LPG (Domestic) has been withdrawn w.e.f. 1.2.1999.

(vi) Freight under recoveries on HSD to the extent of 20% has been passed on in the selling prices effective January 9, 1999.

(vii) Cost plus formula for shipping of crude oil has been withdrawn.

(viii) The payment to crude oil producers is now at predetermined percentage of weighted average FOB price of actual import with a minimum floor price of Rs.1991/MT.

(d) and (e) The resolution issued by the Government in November, 1997 has indicated establishment of a regulatory framework to oversee the functioning of and enforcing a competitive framework in the hydrocarbon sector.

12.00 hours.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

[English]

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 Ananth Kumar, I beg to lay on the Table :–

(1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National School of Drama, New Delhi, for the year 1997-98 alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National School of Drama, New Delhi, for the year 1997-98

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 1480/2000]

(2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

(3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Lalit Kala Akademi, New Delhi, for the year 1997-98 alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Lalit Kala Akademi, New Delhi, for the year 1997-98.

(4) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (3) above.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 1481/2000]

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Environment and Forests for the year 2000-01.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 1482/2000]

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Labour for the year 2000-01.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 1483/2000]

[English]

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table– a copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Law, Justice and company Affairs for the year 2000-2001.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 1484/2000]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : Sir, on behalf of Shri P.R. Kumaramangalam, I beg to lay on the Table– a copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Power for the year 2000-2001.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 1485/2000]

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 Jual Oram, I beg to lay on the Table– a copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs for the year 2000-01.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 1486/2000]

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table– a copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Textiles for the year 2000-01.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 1487/2000]

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHANTA KUMAR) : Sir I beg to lay on the Table– a copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution for the year 2000-2001.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 1488/2000]

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table :–

(1) A copy each of the following Reports (Hindi and English versions) under article 338(2) of the Constitution :–

(a) (i) Third Report of the National Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Volume I) for the years 1994-95 and 1995-96.

(ii) Action Taken Memorandum on the Third Report of the National Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes for the years 1994-95 and 1995-96.

(b) (i) Fourth Report of the National Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Volume I) for the years 1996-97 and 1997-98.

(ii) Action Taken Memorandum on the Fourth Report of the National Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes for the years 1996-97 and 1997-98.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 1489/2000]

(2) A copy each of the following Repots (Hindi and English versions) under section 12 of the National Commission for Safai Karamcharis Act, 1993 :–

(a) (i) First Report of the National Commission for Safai Karamcharis for the year 1994-95.

(ii) Action Taken Memorandum on the First Report of the National Commission for Safai Karamcharis for the year 1994-95.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 1490/2000]

(b) (i) Second Report of the National Commission for safai Karamcharis for the year 1995-96.

(ii) Action Taken Memorandum on the Second Report of the National Commission for Safai Karamcharis for the year 1995-96.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 1490-A/2000]

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI) : Sir I beg to lay on the Table :–

(1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun, for the year 1998-99 alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun, 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 Library, *See* No. LT 1491/2000]

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table– a copy of the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (Appointment of Consultants) Regulations, 1999 (Hindi and English versions) Published in Notification No. F. No.1/18(28)/99-CERC in Gazette of India dated the 31st December, 1999 under section 56 of the Electricity Regulatory Commissions Act, 1998.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 1492/2000]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table :-

(1) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (4) of section 124 of the Major Port Trusts Act, 1963 :-

(i) G.S.R. 471(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 19th August, 1997 approving the New Mangalore Port Trust Employees (Recruitment, Seniority and Promotion) Amendment Regulations, 1997.

(ii) G.S.R. 724(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 27th October, 1999 appr ving the Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust Employees (Pay and Allowances–Ist Amendment Regulations, 1999.

(iii) G.S.R. 738 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 1st November, 1999 approving the New Mangalore Port Trust Employees (Recruitment, Seniority and Promotion) Amendment Regulations, 1999.

(iv) G.S.R. 739(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 1st November, 1999 approving the New Mangalore Port Trust Employees (Recruitment, Seniority and Promotion) Amendment Regulations, 1999.

(v) G.S.R. 757(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 5th November, 1999 approving the Cochin Port Trust Employees (Recruitment, Seniority and Promotion) Amendment Regulations, 1999.

(vi) G.S.R. 2(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 1st January, 2000 approving the Madras Port Trust Employees (Medical Attendance in the Trust's Hospital and reimbursement of Hospital Charges) Amendment Regulations, 1999.

(vii) G.S.R. 3(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 1st January, 2000 approving the Madras Port Trust (Leave) Amendment Regulations, 1999.

(viii) G.S.R. 4(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 1st January, 2000 approving the New Mangalore Port Trust Employees (Recruitment, Seniority and Promotion) Amendment Regulations, 1999.

(ix) G.S.R. 5(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 1st January, 2000 approving the Cochin Port Trust Employees (Recruitment, Seniority and Promotion) Amendment Regulations, 1999.

(x) G.S.R. 6(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 1st January, 2000 approving the Mormugao Port Employees (Supplementary Leave) Amendment Regulations, 1999.

(xi) G.S.R. 10(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 1st January, 2000 approving the New Mangalore Port Trust Employees (Recruitment, Seniority and Promotion) Amendment Regulations, 1999.

(xii) G.S.R. 11(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 1st January, 2000 approving the Mumbai Port Trust (Recruitment of Heads of Department) Amendment Regulations, 1999.

(xiii) G S.R. 51(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 17th January, 2000 approving the Madras Port Trust (General Provident Fund) Amendment Regulations, 2000.

(xiv) G.S.R. 71(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 27th January, 2000 approving the Mormugao Port Employees (Recruitment, Seniority and Promotion) Amendment Regulations, 2000.

(2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (i) of item (1) above.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 1493/2000]

(3) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (2) of Section 103 of the Major Port Trusts Act, 1963 :-

(a) (i) Annual Accounts of the Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust for the year 1998-99, together with Audit report thereon.

(ii) Review by the Government on the Audited Accounts of the Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust for the year 1998-99

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 1494/2000]

(b) (i) Annual Accounts of the Mumbai Port Trust for the year 1998-99, together with Audit Report thereon.

[Dr. Debendra Pradhan]

(ii) Review by the Government on the Audited Accounts of the Mumbai Port Trust for the year 1998-99.

(4) Two statements (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (3) above.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 1495/2000]

(5) (i) A copy of the Annual Administration Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Cochin Port Trust, Cochin, for the year 1998-99, alongwith Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Cochin Port Trust, Cochin, for the year 1998-99

(6) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (5) above.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 1496/2000]

(7) 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 Central Inland Water Transport Corporation Limited, Calcutta, for the year 1997-98.

(ii) Annual Report of the Central Inland Water Transport Corporation Limited, Calcutta, for the year, 1997-98, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

(8) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (7) above.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 1497/2000]

(9) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Inland Waterways Authority of India, Noida 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 Inland Waterways Authority of India, Noida, for the year 1997-98

(10) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (9) above.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 1498/2000]

(11) A copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Surface Transport for the year 2000-2001.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 1499/2000]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table – a copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Department of Atomic Energy for the year 2000-2001.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 1500/2000]

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) Sir, I beg to lay on the Table–

(1) A copy of the detailed demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Communications for the year 2000-2001.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 1501/2000]

(2) A copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Department of Posts for the year 2000-2001.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 1502/2000]

12.05 hrs.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE OF MEMBERS FROM THE SITTINGS OF THE HOUSE

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : The Committee on Absence of Members from the sittings of the House in their First Report presented to the House on 10th March, 2000, have recommended that leave of absence from the sittings of the House be granted to the following Members of the period mentioned against each :–

1.	Shri Sunil Dutt	29.11.1999 to 23.12.1999 and 23.2.2000 to 16.3.20002.
2.	Shri Rajesh Ranjan alias Pappu Yadav	29.11.1999 to 23.12.1999
3.	Shrimati Nisha A. Choudhary	29.11.1999 to 23.12.1999 and 23.2.2000 to 16.3.2000
4.	Shri Bhaskar Rao Patil Khatgaonkar	03.12.1999 to 17.12.1999
5.	Shri Prabhat Samantaray	09.12.1999 to 23.12.1999

It is the pleasure of the House that leave as recommended by the Committee be granted ?

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS : Yes, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER : The leave is granted. The Members will be informed accordingly.

MR. SPEAKER : Now, the Statement by Shri Jaswant Singh.

12.06 hrs.

*STATEMENT BY MINISTER

Hijacking of Indian Airlines Aircraft IC-814

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA) : Sir, on behalf of Shri Jaswant Singh, I take this opportunity to place before the House all relevant aspects of the hijacking incident of 24 December, 1999.

Indian Airlines Flight IC-814, Kathmandu-Delhi, of December 24th, was hijacked at around 1653 hours Indian Standard Time. . . .*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA (Guna) : Sir, this is a major issue. Shri Jaswant Singh must have the courtesy of coming here and making the statement himself. . . .*(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN) : He is the Leader of the other House. He has got urgent business there. . . .*(Interruptions)*

*Also placed in the library, *See* No. LT 1503/2000

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : Let him do it tomorrow, Sir. . . .*(Interruptions)*

SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA : Sir, everyday Shri Jaswant Singh has been coming to the House for making the statement. . . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Jaswant Singh came to the House a number of times to make the statement.

(Interruptions)

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : Sir, it is not showing courtesy to the House. . . *(Interruptions)*

SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA : Sir for several days, Shri Jaswant Singh has been coming to the House to make the statement and all the times they have been forcing the House to adjourn. . . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Madhavrao Scindia, he is making the statement because it is already listed in the Business.

(Interruptions)

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : Please do it tomorrow, Sir. .*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Rajesh Pilot, only after laying the papers, the Zero Hour can start. Now he is making the statement. It is already listed in the Business.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV (Sambhal) Mr Speaker, Sir, You had said that you will give us time after the Question Hour. . . .*(Interruptions)* Now we are not being given time to speak. . . .*(Interruptions)* Please listen to my point also.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : He is making the statement. Please cooperate.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : It is an important statement, Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav. The House wants to know the details.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : This is injustice . . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : This is not injustice. The Business of the House is going on.

(Interruptions)

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : Mr. Speaker, Sir, you are compelling Members like us. . . .*(Interruptions)* We do not want. No, no this is wrong. . . .*(Interruptions)* It is not correct that you are not caring for us. The Government is working arbitrarily and if you also work in an arbitrarily manner then it is not good. . . .*(Interruptions)* This is wrong that we are not being allowed to speak even after the permission. . . . *(Interruptions)* What is this. . . .*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing should go on record except the Minister's statement.

*(Interruptions)**

12.08 hrs.

(At this stage Shri Ram Prakesh Verma and some other hon'ble Members came and stood on the floor near the Table)

MR. SPEAKER : It is Papers laying on the Table. Please understand that is.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : You should know that Zero Hour has not started yet. This is papers laid on the Table.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : You do not know the procedure. It is your duty to come to the well. First you understand the procedure. Now you please sit down. First you understand the procedure.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Zero Hour has not started yet. What are you saying ? This is papers laid on the Table, what are you speaking ? You please sit down.

(Interruptions)

[English]

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

(Interruptions)

*Not recorded.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : What are you doing ? This is not Zero Hour. You don't know the procedure.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : This is not the procedure. There will be Zero Hour after this. You please sit down. You do not know. Afterwards, there will be Zero Hour.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing should go on record except the hon. Minister's statement.

*(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : First you understand the procedure and then you speak. The Zero Hour has not started yet.

[English]

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I am appealing to you.

(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA) : I take this opportunity to place before the House all relevant aspects of the hijacking incident of 24 December, 1999.

Indian Airlines Flight IC-814, Kathmandu-Delhi, of December 24th, was hijacked at around 1653 hours Indian Standard Time. The air Traffic Control, (ATC), Delhi, received the first information of this hijacking at 1656 hours. When it was also intimated that the hijackers were demanding that the plane to taken to Lahore. Upon refusal of permission to Land at Lahore, the plane finally landed at Amritsar at 1900 hours. The hijackers demanded immediate refuelling. The plane was, however, forced [by the hijackers] to take off from Amritsar, without being refuelled, at 1949 hours; this was also without ATC Amritsar's permission. It landed at Lahore at 2007 hours. Permission to land was given only when the pilot informed ATC Lahore that he would be forced to crash-land the aircraft as fuel had got exhausted. The aircraft was refuelled at Lahore. At 2232 hours, it took off for Kabul. Upon being informed, by Kabul, that there were no night landing facilities there, it headed for Dubai, landing at an air force base there at 0132 hrs, on 25 December 1999.

*Not recorded.

Our Ambassador, who had constantly been in touch with UAE authorities, was present alongwith CG, Dubai, though not on the airfield. Following discussions between the UAE authorities and the hijackers, release of 27 passengers, including women and children, was secured here. The dead body of one passenger, Shri Rupin Katyal, who had been stabbed by the hijackers earlier, was also off-loaded here. They were then escorted back to India by the Minister of Civil Aviation in a special flight on 25th December. The aircraft then took off at 0620 hours and landed at Kandahar airport at 0833 hours on 25 December 1999. Thereafter, it stayed at Kandahar until the hijacking was terminated, on the evening of 31 December, 1999. Passengers and crew who had been held hostage for the period reached Delhi that very evening in two special flights. The hijacked aircraft itself was able to return to New Delhi only 1 January 2000, at 1222 hours.

On the occurrence of the hijacking institutional mechanisms to deal with the situation were immediately put into action. The Crisis Management Group and the Central Committee met to address the evolving situation. The NSG Task Force was also placed on full alert and readied for employment. The CMG received instructions and directions from the Cabinet and the Cabinet and the Cabinet Committee on Security, which met that very evening, and thereafter regularly will the termination of the hijacking.

In handling the situation arising from the hijacking, the Government set for itself clear priorities. These were : (a) the earliest termination of the hijacking; (b) the safe return of the passengers, crew and aircraft; and (c) safeguarding national security. The manner in which the termination of the hijacking was secured met the priorities that the Government had set out.

Soon after the aircraft reached Kandahar, an exercise to inform the international community about the incident was launched. Earlier, the Foreign Minister of Pakistan had been contacted for cooperation. Authorities in the UAE, as already informed, had also been asked for assistance in the matter. On 25th December, itself, I personally contacted several of my counterparts including those in the neighbouring countries, member countries of the UN Security Council and countries with nationals aboard the hijacked aircraft. The Foreign Secretary also spoke to some of his counterparts and heads of diplomatic missions in New Delhi. From all these countries pledges of support and cooperation were received. After the arrival of the hijacked aircraft at Kandahar, upon our suggestion, the UN Humanitarian Coordinator for Afghanistan and Representatives of countries whose nationals were abroad the aircraft sent special emissaries to Kandahar.

International support for India, and condemnation of the hijacking, was thereafter, further elaborated in official statements issued by several foreign Governments. These left no room for doubt that the hijacking of IC-814 represented an unacceptable act of international terrorism and that any action undertaken by the Indian Government would receive full support.

As Indian Airlines flight IC-814 had originated in Kathmandu and the plane had landed at Lahore and Dubai before reaching Kandahar, it would be appropriate to make a reference to the approaches of Nepal, Pakistan and the UAE towards this incident. The Government of Nepal, soon after the incident, appointed a committee to investigate the Nepalese end of the hijacking. While the Committee's report has not been made public, action has already been initiated, including a departmental inquiry, against some officials of the Tribhuvan Airport. The Government of Nepal have also conveyed to the Government of India that they are taking all necessary additional measures to enhance security at the Tribhuvan International Airport, on a priority basis.

The UAE authorities, after initial reluctance, responded positively to our request about permitting IC-814 to land at an UAE airport. Senior authorities of the UAE were present throughout the period the plan was in the UAE. Their intercession with the hijackers led to the release of 27 passengers and the body of the deceased passenger.

The Pakistani authorities allowed the plane to land in Lahore after earlier refusing permission. To my request for assistance, the Honourable Foreign Minister of Pakistan, inter-alia, conveyed that they would act in accordance with law and 'transparently'. To facilitate the rapid move of our High Commissioner from Islamabad to Lahore, upon my request, a helicopter was made available. Before, however, it could take off, the plane was allowed to leave Lahore, at 2232 hrs. At Lahore, upon the suggestion of the Captain, the hijackers offered to offload some women, children and injured persons. ATC Lahore declined. Uptill then, there had occurred no deaths, though who of the passengers had been grievously stabbed. Shri Rupin Katyal succumbed to his injuries en-route Lahore – Dubai.

The hijacked Indian Airlines Flight IC-814 reached Kandahar at 0833 hrs. on 25th December. The aircraft thereupon came within the control of the Taliban authorities, whom we do not recognise and with whom we have no official contact. This, however, was not permitted to stand in the way of our dealing with them. Immediate contacts were established on the ATC channel, and between the Indian High Commission in Islamabad and the Taliban Mission in that city.

[Shri Ajit Kumar Panja]

In view of the ideological orientation of the Taliban, their close linkage with Pakistan, their publicly expressed attitude towards Jammu and Kashmir, and their support to fundamentalist organisations, it was essential that an assessment regarding their approach towards the hijacking, the hijackers and the assistance that could be expected of them in its termination be first established. It was important that there be no misjudgement in this regard, at the critical juncture.

After assessment, and as a first step, an official from our High Commission in Islamabad was sent to Kandahar on the morning of December 27. Strengthened by his report from the spot, a team of officials, including doctors and a relief crew, reached Kandahar, from Delhi on 27th evening itself. Concerned officials in this group met with Representatives of the countries present in Kandahar, UN officials as also Taliban authorities, including Foreign Minister Wakil Ahmed Muttawakil. Our team update itself, in detail, on the condition of the aircraft, the state of health of the passengers, as also details of what had transpired between the Taliban and the hijackers uptill then.

Direct discussions between the hijackers and our officials took place between the evening of 27 December and the 31st. The hijackers initially demanded the release of Masood Azhar in return for 10 Indians, 5 foreigners and some other passengers of their choice. This piecemeal approach was rejected outright by the Government. Both the Taliban and the hijackers were informed that until there was a formal, full and unambiguous detailing of demands, there could be no talks. It is significant that the Taliban then advised the hijackers to give their full demands. This was done. These were (a) release of 36 terrorists in Indian custody including Masood Azhar; (b) the coffin of Sajad Afghani; and (c) payment of US $ 200 million. After these demands had been made public by me, the Taliban advised the hijackers that their demands for money and the coffin of Sajad Afghani were un-Islamic. These were, therefore, dropped by the hijackers. Our urging thereafter that a demand for release of terrorists was also un-Islamic was not pressed by the Taliban with the hijackers.

Thereupon the hijackers insisted that Masood Azhar be released in exchange for 15 hostages and such other as the hijackers may chose to release. This was again rejected by the Government. Finally, a full package was worked out for the release of all the hostages. Government released three terrorists i.e. Masood Azhar, Mushtaq Zargar and Omar Sheikh.

The Taliban had been told by us that as they exercised jurisdiction in Kandahar, the released terrorists would be brought to the Kandahar Airport, whereafter, they would be under Taliban control but not that of the hijackers. It was also explicitly conveyed to the Taliban that we expected that both the hijackers and the released terrorists, would be treated as criminals in conformity with law. The decision taken by the Taliban to allow the hijackers and the released terrorists ten hours to leave Afghanistan was theirs alone.

The Taliban authorities while adopting an attitude of correct facilitators, consistently and clearly had their sympathies with the hijackers and their other supporters, and acted accordingly.

There are two aspects connected with hijacking that have since been raised in public and I wish to deal with them squarely. The first relates to events in Amritsar, the second, is regarding my travel to Kandahar.

Hon'ble Members would appreciate that it was not initially known that the aircraft will land at Amritsar. Information all along had been that the hijackers wanted to go to Lahore. When the aircraft did land at Amritsar, concrete and specific information in respect of the numbers, nationality, weaponry, professionalism and commitment of the hijackers was still scanty and speculative. On the other hand, messages being received from the hijacked aircraft were becoming increasingly tense and demanding. The pilot had by then conveyed that the hijackers had told him that four passengers had already been killed, also that the hijackers had "pistols, grenades, everything" Information was also received that some passengers had been brought forward to the 'J' Class section, their arms tied and that they were to be executed next. While we were conscious that these messages could have been conveyed under duress, at that time, there was no way of definitively establishing relevant facts. Precipitate action, in the absence of even basic information was, therefore, judged as being fraught with unacceptable levels of risk. At this stage no negotiations were possible because the hijackers had, uptill then, communicated no demands except for fuel. Even before the plane had landed at Amritsar the authorities had readied the NSG in Delhi and had instructed local authorities to delay refuelling to the maximum extent possible. A bowser was sent with the objective, among other, to stop the aircraft, but it took off whilst the bowser was still some 300 yards away. It is also noteworthy that except momentarily, the aircraft's engines were running throughout the time that it was at Amritsar and the craft kept changing its position.

I decided to go to Kandahar so as to ensure that the termination of the hijacking, the smooth release and safe return of passengers and crew took place without any last minute hitch, also that should a need arise, prompt decisions could be taken on the spot. I believe that my

presence in Kandahar, and on board the aircraft on which the hostages returned home, provided solace to the released passengers, who had been held captive for over a week. My travel on the same aircraft as the three terrorists was entirely on account of logistical compulsions, brought about by the limited infrastructural facilities at Kandahar airport, and its incapacity to handle any more aircraft simultaneously.

The hijacking incident has once again highlighted the complicity of Pakistan and of organisations patronised and supported by it in terrorists acts against India. Hon'ble Members would note that following upon investigations by Indian authorities, the police have arrested four operatives of the Inter Services Intelligence Agency of Pakistan in Mumbai. All the four, two of whom are Pakistani nationals, belong to the Harkat ul Mujahideen. Their interrogation has established that the hijacking was masterminded by Pakistan's ISI with the assistance of the Harkat. It was further revealed that all the five hijackers were also Pakistanis. The hijackers are now believed to be in Pakistan. The Home Ministry has ordered a CBI enquiry, who have been entrusted with the investigations of the hijacking case.

Government have brought to the attention of the international community the role played by Pakistan in the hijacking. Government have raised the matter with the Government of Pakistan, and have provided evidence to them of the involvement of their nationals in the hijacking. Government have reminded the Government of Pakistan that as a signatory to several International Conventions against Terrorism, also the Simla Agreement of 1972, and the Lahore Declaration, it has an international obligation to take the hijackers into custody and to extradite them to India. The Government of Pakistan, in its response, has reiterated its general position that it would undertake to apprehend and prosecute any person or persons found on its territory or the territory of Pakistan-Occupied Kashmir who may be suspected of having committed offences related to hijacking. As they have at the same time rejected our demarche, Pakistan's general commitment has to be assessed accordingly.

Government have also raised the matter with the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) with the view to bring to the attention of the member countries the need to adopt appropriate measures to apprehend and extradite the hijackers to India.

The hijacking of IC-814 has made stronger our resolve to combat the menace of terrorism. Let no one doubt our firm determination. It has also emphasised the need of strengthening our security, *inter alia*, at airports. Necessary action in this regard has already been initiated.

Hon'ble members would permit me to add that the hijacking of IC-814 was an exceptionally professional and complex operation; Kandahar; possibly the most adverse location for us from where to address the situation; and the triangular coordination of the incident by the hijackers, the Taliban, HUM and ISI operatives a most demanding challenge.

The termination of the hijacking in the manner that it was achieved, was the best possible solution in a basket of worse alternatives.

12.13 hrs.

MOTION RE : FIFTH REPORT OF BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

[English]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN) : Sir, I beg to move :

"That this House do agree with the Fifth Report of the Business Advisory Committee presented to the House on the 10th March, 2000."

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That this House do agree with the Fifth Report of the Business Advisory Committee presented to the House on the 10th March, 2000."

The motion was adopted.

12.14 hrs.

DEMANDS FOR SUPPLEMENTARY GRANTS – GENERAL

[English]

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : Sir, I beg to present a statement (Hindi and English versions) showing the supplementary Demands for Grants in respect of Budget (General) for 1999-2000.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 1504/2000]

MR. SPEAKER : Now we will take up the zero hour. Shri Haribhau Shankar Mahale to speak.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : You please sit down. We will give you opportunity. You please go back to your seat. Now the zero Hour is starting. You please sit down.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : You please sit down. We will give you opportunity.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : You please go to your seats. You cannot raise the matters from the well of the House. Please go to your seats.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing should go on record.

*(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : Please switch off the T.V.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : First you please sit down. You cannot speak from here, you please speak from your seat.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Now, I am calling the names. Please go to your seats. I will call you.

12.16 hrs.

(At this stage, Shri Ravi Prakash Verma and some other hon. Members went back to their seats.)

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please understand that for the last two weeks, you did not have Zero Hour. Today also, 14 Members have given notices.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : We will call every Member.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Please cooperate with the Chair.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : You cannot compel the Chair to give you permission to speak. Please understand.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE (Ratnagiri) : Sir, I would like to speak about the security of Shri Thackrey ji and his family. He has biggest threat to his life. *(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : No, I will call you. Please take your seat. I will allow you.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I will allow you.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE Maharashtra Government have deliberately reduced the security of Shri Thackrey and his family due to its revengeful attitude. Their lives are in danger. . . .*(Interruptions)* The Minister of Home Affairs had said in the House that proper security arrangement will be provided to them. . . .*(Interruptions)* There is threat perception to them from ISI and international terrorists. . . .*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Please hear me. I am telling you that I will allow you. Please understand. What is this ? Without the permission of the Chair, how can you speak ?

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I am telling you that I will give you permission to speak. Without the permission of the Chair, how can you speak ?

[Translation]

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE : You give permission.

MR. SPEAKER : We will give you permission afterwards.

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*Not recorded.

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE : You please give permission to me also.

MR. SPEAKER : We will give you permission.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am thankful that you have given me an opportunity to speak. I only request that the activities of RSS should be discussed. It does not look good if, even after 52 years of independence, we discuss today as to how communal forces could be checked, but today the country is in a state of helplessness. When constitution was framed at that time the framers of our constitution had pledged that sovereign, socialist and secular, democratic republic will be established. Today, direct attack is being made on that only and it is being done through RSS. Today, in Bihar also. . .*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA (Delhi Sadar) : Sir, I am on point of Order.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I have allowed him.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I have allowed him.

[Translation]

Khuranaji, you can speak afterwards.

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA : They say whatever they wants to say but when other Members stand to speak, they do not listen to him. This is what happening for the past 15 days. He makes all his points but he does not listen to other Member's view. On that day also I had said that he should give guarantee that he will listen to us also. . . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Khuranaji, I have allowed Shri Mulayam Singhji to speak, you can speak after him.

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA : Sir, whether he will listen to us after speaking.

MR. SPEAKER : You can speak after him.

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA : Sir, I am on point of order. For how many days the issue of RSS will be discussed in the House. . . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Khuranaji, during Zero Hour there is no point of order. After him, you can also speak.

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA : Zero Hour is going on since 23rd . . .*(Interruptions)* Sir, I would like to say that three main subjects are first discussed during budget session i.e. President's Address, Railway Budget and general budget. . . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seat.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA : So many days have passed, but none of these subjects has been discussed. .*(Interruptions)* Sir, please call a meeting of Business Advisory Committee to decide upon the matters to be taken up for discussion. . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Khuranaji, you can make your submission after Shri Mulayam Singh has made his point.

(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI VAIKO (Sivakasi) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to make a humble submission. I seek your protection, Mr. Speaker, Sir. I want to make a humble submission.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Vaiko, please take your seat.

SHRI VAIKO : Sir, please give me only one minute.

SHRI SPEAKER : Shri Vaiko, you are well aware of the procedures. When the Chair allowed Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav, how can you interrupt ?

SHRI VAIKO : I am not objecting to the speech of Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav. I want to make a humble submission. I am not objecting to his speech. We are ready to listen to him. We take pains, Sir, to give notice in order to raise issues during the 'Zero Hour'.

MR. SPEAKER : After him, you can submit whatever you want to submit.

SHRI VAIKO : For the past 15 days, we have given notices continuously to raise issues during the 'Zero Hour', but we have not been permitted.

MR. SPEAKER : I will allow you after him.

SHRI VAIKO : We are deprived of our basic right in this House.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : Mulayam Singh ji, please direct your party Members on behalf of the Chair that it is not appropriate to rush to the well of the House time and again.

SHRI VINAY KATIYAR (Faizabad) : Sir, has he submitted any notice to speak on his issue. If the notice has not been submitted, he should not be allowed to speak. . . .*(Interruptions)* He has been the Minister of Defence. . . .*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Member, please take your seat.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE (Mumbai South Central) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, can a Member of Parliament make a submission in this manner without having given a notice ?

SHRI VINAY KATIYAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, we want to know whether a Member can raise an issue without having given a notice.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : This is too much, Shri Swain; Shri Katiyar, this is too much, please take your seat. This is not your business, please take your seat.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : This is not your business, please take your seat. This is not your business.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Katiyar, this is too much; this is not your business, please take your seat.

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the objective of Rashtriya Swayam Sevak Sangh is to declare our nation a Hindu nation. . . .*(Interruptions)* Just now the issue of population was being discussed. There is no provision of toilets for the poor. The issues regarding the poor, the farmers and the labourers should be raised. We want the entire constitution to be scrapped and redrafted. . . .*(Interruptions)* This Constitution denotes British mentality. Did Mahatama Gandhi, Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru, Dr. Rajendra Prasad have British mentality ? It was the R.S.S. which opposed Gandhiji during freedom struggle. The Minister of Home Affairs is present in the House, however Hon'ble Prime Minister is not here. . . .*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SAHIB SINGH (Outer Delhi) : He is levelling allegations on RSS whereas he himself wants to spread communalism in the country. . . .*(Interruptions)*

[English]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN) : Sir, is he going to discuss the whole subject here. . . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Sahib Singhji, please cooperate with the Chair.

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : I want to ask whether it is a sin if Muslim boys and girls decide to marry each other ? . . .*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing should go on record.

*(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : Mulayam Singhji, you have already made the point for which you had given a notice. That notice has become infructuous now. How can you repeat your point ?

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I wish to complete my point. You are not allowing me to complete my submission.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : If you want to discuss this issue, then you have to give a fresh notice because this notice has become infructuous.

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am about to conclude but they are not allowing me to speak. A discussion should be held on this issue and facts should come out before the people. This has become their style of functioning. After Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh is going to follow suit. A legislation regarding religious places is proposed to be enacted there. The conduct of the Governor of Bihar is also improper. . .*(Interruptions)* We shall have to consider if the people associated with RSS should have a right to occupy high offices and whether the Governor should be chosen from the 'Sangh Parivar' ? These people are associated with 'Sangh Parivar'. Hence the Governor of Bihar took such a step which was unconstitutional. Such a Governor should be removed. . . .*(Interruptions)* Mr. Speaker, Sir, such is the mentality and it is a tough task to fight this mentality. Hence I want. . . .*(Interruptions)*

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*Not recorded.

MR. SPEAKER : Mulayam Singhji, a separate and a substantive notice should be submitted to discuss the conduct of the Governor. You cannot raise this issue without having submitted a notice.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : It is pending with you.

MR. SPEAKER : There is no such notice.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Whatever notice you have given that has become infructuous. Please understand that.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : A false case was made out over this issue and it was stated that ISI was involved. Later on, an enquiry was also held by a court. . . .*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI VAIKO : Sir, you should follow minimum procedure. . . .*(Interruptions)* You cannot give. . . . *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing should go on record except what Shri Khurana is speaking.

*(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : I demand that a date and time should be fixed to hold discussion on this matter. . . .*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, we have been watching since 23rd as to what is going on in the House. . . .*(Interruptions)* All I want to say is that you may hold discussion on any matter. We have no objection to that. . .*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI VAIKO : If we have to shout to get an opportunity, then we can also shout in this House. . . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing should go on record except what Shri Khurana is speaking.

*(Interruptions)**

*Not recorded.

[Translation]

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, as I mentioned the other day that these Members make their points in five-ten minutes and when the time comes to give a reply, they do not listen to us and get the House adjourned. . .*(Interruptions)* I am reminded of my childhood when we used to play cricket in school. A bully would come and demand that he should be allowed to play first or he would not let anyone else play either. We would ask him to do fielding first and take a turn at batting later on. When we refused to comply with his demands, he would take away the bails and would not let us play. Same is the situation in their case also. They also want the House to function as per their whims or they won't allow the House to function. This is what has been happening for the last few days. As per the Constitution and the Parliamentary conventions, three main subjects are taken up during the budget session viz. President's Address, Rail Budget and General Budget. The session commenced on 23rd.

[Translation]

The House is in session for the last so many days and we could not start debate on any of the three topics. Only four days are left. . . .*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I have allowed Shri Khurana.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing should go on record except what Shri Khurana is speaking.

[Translation]

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA : If the hon'ble Members want to take up the problems before the nation, they can raise them during the course of discussion in the House. These people have only two issues one is R.S.S. and other is Bihar. We are not scared of holding discussion on these issues. You can call a meeting in your chamber and get these issues discussed. You have allowed discussion on it under the Rule 193 but they are insisting to have a discussion on it under the rule 184. The Prime Minister said that we are ready to have a discussion on it under the rule 184. Why they backed out.

Now these people are saying that this should be discussed under rule 184. This will not do. Therefore, I request you to please call these people in your chamber to know as to what they want be it the issue related to RSS or any other issue and if you want to allow them then it is all right. It is your prerogative. Through you

[Shri Madan Lal Khurana]

Sir, I request these people please let the House function now because only four days are left. It is obligatory. Let the House function. . . .*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record except Shri Geete.

[Translation]

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE : Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, the Maharashtra Government have provided security to the Shiv Sena Supremo Shri Bala Saheb Thackrey. Today if at all there is threat perception to the life of anyone in the country he is the Shiv Sena Supremo Shri Bala Saheb Thackrey and his family. There is threat perception for him from terrorists and from the ISI. . . .*(Interruptions)* Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, there is threat perception for him and his family from the international terrorism. In this House we have demanded that the security provided to the Shiv Sena Supremo Shri Bala Saheb Thackrey and is family should not be curtailed. Our Home Minister made a statement in the House that he has been informed by the Maharashtra Government that no curtailment has been made in the security provided to Shri Bala Saheb Thackrey and his family but hon'ble Speaker, Sir, the statement given in the House on the basis of the report of the Maharashtra government is not correct. Contrary to it the truth is that the Government of Maharashtra have curtailed the security cover of Shri Bala Saheb Thackrey and his family considerably. We have told the hon'ble Home Minister and the hon'ble Prime Minister that the matter of providing security to the Shiv Sena Supremo Shri Bala Saheb Thackrey and his family is not related to the State Government only. It is the responsibility of the Union Government to make foolproof security arrangements for him. Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, the hon'ble Home Minister is sitting here and we have demanded from him. . . . *(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : The Chair cannot compel the Government to give a reply. The Government would respond, if they want to.

[Translation]

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE : Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, the threat perception to anyone is not reduced with the change of the Government. Shri Bala Saheb is receiving threats. . . .*(Interruptions)* Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, the President of Mumbai Branch of Samajwadi Party had said in a really.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Would the Government like to say something.

[Translation]

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE : Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, it has been said that Shri Bala Saheb Thackery will be held by his collar at his home. Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, this sort of statement has been given.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Geete, you have asked the Government to respond. When the Minister is ready to respond, you are not letting him do it.

[Translation]

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE : Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, the person who gives such sort of Statement in the public rally in that context the hon'ble Home Minister. . . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : You please sit down.

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE : Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, the hon'ble Home Minister should respond to the statement made by those people who say that they will do whatever they like even if the country disintegrate. . . .*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Please sit down. Shri Rawale, This is too much. When the Minister is on legs, why don't you let him speak ?

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, he is standing again and again.

MR. SPEAKER : If he is standing then why are you standing ?

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE : I am talking about the threat perception to his life.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : The Minister is on his legs. Please understand things. What is this ?

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI) : Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, the Shiv Sena Member of the Parliament call on me regarding security of the Shiv

Sena Supremo Shri Bala Saheb Thackrey and they told me that security of Shri Bala Saheb Thackrey has been curtailed. Thereafter, I sought information from the Government of Maharashtra. I have been informed by the State Government that Z+ security was provided to Shri Bala Saheb Thackrey and it is still being continued for him. I enquired about the category of security which was being provided to him earlier and the category of security being provided to him at present and whether his security has been curtailed, the facts in this regard have not been sent to me so far. I have asked the state Government to furnish details in this regard. Till now I have been told that he was enjoying Z+ security and it is still continued. They are yet to sent the latest details to me. . . .*(Interruptions)*

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record except what Shri Madhavrao Scindia says.

*(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

SHRI L.K. ADVANI : Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, necessary steps will be taken in this regard and the Government of Maharashtra has been asked to do adequate security arrangements for him. . . .*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Madhavrao Scindia.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Mohan Rawale, what is this ? The hon. Home Minister has already replied to it. Please take your seat now.

(Interruptions)

SHRI VAIKO : Sir, should we be the victims ? . . . *(Interruptions)* You have given the permission to raise the issues pertaining to 'Zero Hour'. . . .*(Interruptions)* Unless we shout here, we cannot get the opportunity. . . . *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Vaiko, I will also allow you. Please take your seat.

SHRI VAIKO : Sir, I would like to make a submission. . . .*(Interruptions)* Should we be deprived of our basic rights ? . . .*(Interruptions)* Every time they are speaking. Will they enjoy the monopoly over other Members. . *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Vaiko, please understand.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Nowadays, no Member is following the procedure in the House.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI VIJAY GOEL (Chandni Chowak) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have given a notice for privilege motion. What happened to that. . . .*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI VAIKO : All are equal, Sir. . . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Ramdas Athawale, you also please take you seat. I have not called your name. This is too much.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Ramdas Athawale, I am appealing to you to please take your seat. Without the permission of the Chair how can you go on speaking ?

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I have called Shri Madhavrao Scindia.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI VIJAY GOEL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, as per the rules of Parliament, the notice regarding the Privilege Motion should be taken up first. . . .*(Interruptions)* You just give me some assurance. . . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : You all also give assurance to the Chair.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Hon Members, do not waste the time of the House.

(Interruptions)

SHRI VAIKO : Every time they are disturbing. . . . *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Now, you are also doing the same.

*Not recorded.

SHRI VAIKO : No, Sir, I am not doing so. I have not done that. . . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : When I have called Shri Madhavrao Scindia, please allow him to speak.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI VIJAY GOEL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have given notice of Privilege Motion. . . .*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL (Kanpur) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, what is this ? You have called Deputy leader of our Party to speak but Members are interrupting from that side. . . .*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Vijay Goel Please. Let me verify because I have not seen your Privilege Motion.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI MADHAV RAO SCINDIA : Hon'ble Mr. Speaker, Sir, the incidents took place during the last few days in the Parliament had some basic reasons. Just now, Shri Madan Lal Khurana has presented his views. All the opposition parties were unanimous on the issues which were raised because ruling party was trying to take such an action which would be determental to our democratic and Parliamentary system and also affect our constitution. It was our opinion, and it has some basis. . . .*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : What is this ? Let us have patience.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Should we run the House this way ?

[Translation]

SHRI MADHAV RAO SCINDIA : We have raised this issue. We give assurance that we will not behave in an irresponsible manner until there is an important issue to raise. I would like to remind Khurana ji that when they were in opposition they did not let the House to run for about 20 days on the issue of Maruti.

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA : That was an issue.

SHRI MADHAV RAO SCINDIA : We have listened to you very patiently, now you please let me speak. You did not let the House to run for 20 days on the issue of Maruti which was not a matter of democratic or constitutional importance. On Bofors issue you did not let the House to function for 18 days. For 14 days on the issue of J.P. Movement and for 12 days on other issues, you did not let the House to function. On Sukhram issue also you disturbed the proceedings of the House. Later on you supported him only to grab the power. I am only reminding you and I would like to assure you that we will not behave irresponsibly until there is an important issue. . . .*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA (Gopalganj) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, ask Scindia ji as to what happened in Bihar. .*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Raghunath Jha, please take your seat.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI MADHAV RAO SCINDIA : I only want to remind them and I assure you that Members of my party will not behave in a irresponsible manner until there is a matter of utmost importance and Khuranaji. . . .*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL : They raise hue and cry whenever they are exposed. . . .*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Raghunath Jha, please sit down. I have not allowed you. I have allowed Shri Madhavrao Scindia.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA : You are not allowing us, then for what we have come here. . . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Please sit down.

[English]

I have not allowed you. This will not go on record.

*(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

SHRI MADHAV RAO SCINDIA : I want to tell Shri Khurana that we don't have any such habits as you have mentioned just now. We do not believe in high handedness and threat.

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*Not recorded.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to raise two issues. Sir, very humbly I would like to present before you the statement delivered regarding highjack. It was an issue which affected the whole of our country. It even attracted the attention of foreign countries also. We are of the view and it is a national opinion also that it was mishandled. There should be some discussion on this issue. Please spare some time to discuss this issue and it is a sorry state of affairs that Shri Jaswant Singh has not given any statement in this regard. However, we are not raising any big objection to it but it reflects the respect and courtesy towards the dignity of Parliament and the opposition.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN) : For seven days Shri Jaswant Singh was present in the House.

[English]

That was only to respect you. Today he is in the Rajya Sabha. . . .*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI MADHAV RAO SCINDIA : That was a different matter. I have repeatedly said, that it is not proper for the Minister of Parliament Affairs to behave like this. . . .*(Interruptions)* It is very unfortunate. You have to set an example before the nation. . . .*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : For seven days, this was postponed. . . .(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : Sir, he is speaking in English. . . .*(Interruptions)*

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI (Garhwal) : As a Deputy Leader, how you have behaved during last few days. . . .*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MADHAV RAO SCINDIA : I have requested you that we are ready to hear the statement tomorrow, even day after tomorrow as the matter is going on for the last 7 days but you did not agree. It is regrettable what Government has done. Therefore, Sir, we should spare sometime to discuss the issue. Sir, I and my friends in the opposition benches are of the view that it is a constitutional matter, I am not talking about Governor, I am talking about the incidents which took place in Bihar and caused resentment throughout the country. Each and every newspaper in its editorial has criticized it. Intelligencia as well as common people have also criticised it. Therefore, time should be allotted to discuss it.

Sir, the last point which I would like to make is that the price rise of wheat, rice and sugar in public Distribution system has put burden on the common man. Therefore, Congress party has decided not to accept it and to oppose the burden put on the poor people living below the poverty line. We will strongly oppose it. Therefore, my request is to hold discussion on it also. . *(Interruptions)*

[English]

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi) : Sir, I also want to speak on this. . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER I have called Shri Somnath Chatterjee.

(Interruptions)

SHRI VAIKO : You may kindly permit me also.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : Your name is also there.

[English]

SHRI VAIKO : It is in the list.

MR. SPEAKER : I will call you later.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur) : Sir, if we listen to each other, probably, we can transact business better. . . .*(Interruptions)*

We do not know whether really my friends on the other side want the House to continue or not. They are not able to control their Members. . . .*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI PRAKASH PARANJPE (Thane) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, is it our crime that we are elected to the Parliament. We have seen loss of crores of rupees. He has received award best Parliamentarian. . . .*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : No. Please take your seat.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : I have not conferred any award on myself. It is the wisdom of some sections of the House to have decided it. It is not my crime. All the time, this hon. Member refers to that. Have I said that ? . . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : This is too much; it is unfortunate.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Do I have to take the permission of every hon. Member to speak ?

MR. SPEAKER : It is unfortunate. You should not raise such things.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : All the time, such comments are being made. How was it possible for me to do that ? . . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : You are not permitted to raise such things. Please understand that.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : In the morning, I suggested that the Question Hour should continue.

SHRI PRAKASH PARANJPE : Thank you very much.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Again, these types of comments are made. . . .*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI PRAKASH PARANJPE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I thanked the hon'ble Member I praised him. What is wrong on it. . . .*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER This is too much, Mr. Paranjpe.

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR (Ballia, U.P.) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the young and enthusiastic hon. Member should know that it is not his prerogative to thank the Members. Hon. Speaker can only thank or condemn anybody. He should know the basic rule of the Parliament.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, so many criticisms are being made about the Opposition for what had happened last week or till a few days back. But today suddenly I find that the hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs has become very impatient and if I may say so, arrogant. This is not the way to treat the Members. I think, Shri Madhavrao Scindia was justified. We also heard the pontification of Shri Madan Lal Khurana.

Two issues agitated us and on both the issues, the entire Opposition was working unitedly, despite the differences of opinion amongst us on many issues. One was about the circular of the Gujarat Government on the RSS activities and the other was what had happened in Bihar. On both the issues, the stand of the Opposition has been justified. . . .*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (Maharajganj, Bihar) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, please hold discussion on situation in Bihar. . . .*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : The circular about RSS activities was withdrawn; and the Governor of Bihar had admitted – now Shri Sharad Yadav has also admitted – that something wrong was done in Bihar. Therefore, it cannot be said that we had taken up wrong issues. But there was no accommodation on the part of the Government. For seven or eight days, we did not see the face of the Leader of the House. It was commanded upon also. The hon. Speaker had been trying every day to sort out the matter so that the House could function. But there was no response from the Government . We found out from the papers, which was corroborated by the hon. Speaker, that he tried to have a discussion with the hon. Leader of the House.

Now, to blame the Opposition for all this, is not fair, Shri Khurana. I do not like to remind you that your own leader, the present Prime Minister sat in *dharna* and for 12 days, you did not permit this House to function, when President's rule was imposed in U.P. Therefore, please do not look at that way.

Issues relating to Shri Sukh Ram and others have been mentioned; I donot want to do that. Fortunately, in this country, I find myself in the best position because I had never been in power at the Centre! You have – both of you – finished this country. . . .*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA : Members of CPI have also left you due to your behaviour. . . .*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Why are you so much worried about us ? . . .*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY (Calcutta North West) : He has only finished West Bengal and not this country !

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : It is very good, Sir. According to Shri Sudip Bandyopadhyay, I have finished West Bengal and he has finished this whole country.

But the point is that there are still very important issues.

Let my friends say whatever they want to say, but the RSS issue cannot be put under the carpet. This is a vital issue affecting the country. The people are worried about it. We found even the Prime Minister is under pressure as to what has happened in Nagpur two days back. We are highly concerned about this issue. We shall go on raising this issue till a proper discussion is allowed. . .*(Interruptions)*

DR. NITISH SENGUPTA (Contai) : That discussion should also cover the West Bengal Government permitting its employees to join declared CPM front organisations, like the Coordination Committee or Non-gazetted Police *Karamchari* Association. . . .*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Dr. Nitish Sengupta, did you join my party there? You were a bureaucrat in West Bengal. Then, why are you talking? *(Interruptions)* Why should you interrupt me? *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seats.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Dr. Nitish Sengupta was an officer working in West Bengal. Today, he is an M.P. from Trinamool Congress. . . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing should go on record except Shri Somnath Chatterjee's speech.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : He was a bureaucrat in West Bengal. He has not been influenced by us. He has joined Trinamool Congress, although he wanted nomination from us. . . .*(Interruptions)* Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am requesting you most humbly to allow a proper discussion on this issue and also on what has happened in Bihar. Inviting a minority leader for the purpose of holding the Government for a week is a deliberate attack on the Constitution. It has a serious impact here. This is happening not once, but again and again. Therefore, these important issues should be discussed. I request you that sooner you take a decision the better it is so that the House can continue with other subjects. . . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : I allowed Shri Raghuvansh Prasad Singh.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Raghuvansh Prasad Singh has given a notice under Rule 184.

(Interruptions)

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA (Ponnani) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, please give me an opportunity to speak. . . . *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : I will allow you to speak only if you sit now.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, now it has been proved before the world that Governor of Bihar has violated the statutory provisions and established conventions. Therefore, he should be removed from his office. Otherwise it will be construed that the Governor of Bihar has acted wrongly on instruction and under pressure from the Prime Minister and the Minister of Home Affairs. If it is not so, then we demand from the hon'ble Prime Minister and Minister of Home Affairs to seek resignation of the Governor.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, as per the rules our motion regarding holding discussion on the conduct of Governor should be admitted under Rule 184. We demand that debate should be held on it. We have also given notice for Adjournment Motion which is also under consideration. . . .*(Interruptions)* It has been proved in Bihar. . . .*(Interruptions)* They left the field even during election of the Speaker. . . . *(Interruptions)* We have doubt in this matter. . . . *(Interruptions)* The Minister in Government of India Shri Ram Vilas Paswan has offered to conduct CBI inquiry in it. . . .*(Interruptions)* I have apprehension in my mind that Union Government is responsible for this high handedness and murdering democracy. . . .*(Interruptions)* Bihar will not tolerate it. . . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seat.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : It is not a debate. We are listening to him because he has given a notice.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : It is not a discussion. We are listening to him because he has given notice for it.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing should go on record except Dr. Vijay Kumar Malhotra's speech.

[Translation]

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA : Just now Shri Somnath Chatterjee, Shri Mdhavrao Scindia and Mulayam Singhji have raised several topics and have tried to take up some issues before the House.

I would like to make a submission that discussion should be held on all these issues. Right now, one sided picture is being presented on these issues. They have tried to raise the issue relating to Bihar. The issue

[Dr. Vijay Kumar Malhotra]

pertaining to Bihar is being debated in Rajya Sabha today. The issue regarding conduct of the Governor is being debated. The issue of RSS was also discussed in Rajya Sabha. . . .*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI G.M BANATWALLA (Ponnani) : Sir, we have been totally ignored. Please do not force me to come to the well of the House. I do not do that. . . .*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA : They do not want to give us a chance to speak. They have demanded resignation of the Governor of Bihar. Shri Mulayam Singh has also presented his viewpoint here. Complete debate should be held on it. The present governor of Bihar was cabinet Minister in the Government led by Shri Mulayam Singhji and a strong supporter of Shri V.P. Singh. At that time he was a good man but now he has become a representative of the RSS. His credentials have changed totally. . . .*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : He was not cabinet Minister but cabinet secretary.

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA : Yes, he was. Mulayam Singh ji was the Minister at that time. . . . *(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Please address to the Chair and not to the Member

[Translation]

DR VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to say that full fledged debate should be held on this issue. The issue of RSS is being raised here and not the issue of ISI. Pakistan attacked our country and we want to raise that issue. Seven persons belonging to scheduled castes have been murdered in Karnataka and we want to raise that issue. There are several such issues but those are not being taken up. ISI is responsible for killing 24,000 persons. 5000 soldiers have been killed in terrorist activities instigated by Pakistan. But they are silent on these issues and do not allow anyone to raise these issues. They want to discuss the issue pertaining to RSS. Time should be allotted for holding open debate on it. . . .*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : Sir, the same thing is being repeated and other important issues are getting neglected. . . .*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA : It is not proper on the part of Shri Somnathji to express one sided view here and then leave the House. What is happening in West Bengal. I would like to tell how marxist historians have eliminated all the isms, but we are not given a chance to discuss these issues. Debate on such issues should be held for 3-4 hours so that we can get a chance to reply to these questions but we are not allowed to say anything on such issues.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : What is your submission, Shri Banatwalla ?

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : I will take only a couple of minutes, Sir. There are widespread. . . .*(Interruptions)*

12.56 hrs.

OBSERVATION BY THE SPEAKER

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members, I had received notices of Motion under Rule 184 from Shri Raghuvansh Prasad Singh and six other Members on 7th and 8th March, 2000. regarding violation of democratic norms by the Governor of Bihar in inviting the leader of a minority group in Bihar to from the Government. While the notices were under my consideration. the political situation has materially changed in Bihar. Shri Raghuvansh Prasad Singh has again given a notice today under Rule 184. for disapproval of the decision of the Governor of Bihar. I have admitted the notice. A decision regarding the date on which the House may discuss the Motion will be taken in the Business Advisory Committee meeting. There will be no more submission on it

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MR. SPEAKER : Yes, Shri Vaiko.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, you have called me to make a submission and now I am being passed over. . . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : You have given a notice on a separate issue.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : Sir, you called me to make a submission. . . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seat. You can speak after Shri Vaiko.

SHRI VAIKO : Shri Banatwalla, kindly permit me to speak.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : You have always got a chance. You should look to us also.

SHRI VAIKO : I was never given a chance. This is the first opportunity which I have got.

MR. SPEAKER : Juniors should get a chance to speak. Please cooperate with the Chair.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : I have always done so.

MR. SPEAKER : Juniors should get a chance to speak. Shri Vaiko is junior to you.

SHRI VAIKO : I am extremely thankful to you and also to other Members for permitting me to raise a serious issue. Through this House, I would like to draw the attention of the Government.

13.00 hrs.

Sir, 19 fisherman from the deep South District of Kanyakumari, Tamil Nadu were on contract employment with Saudi Arabian company. But by mistake they entered the Iranian waters and the Naval authorities of Iran arrested them on 16th February 1999. Then the matter was raised with the Iranian Government. The Iranian Government realised the mistake and promised that these fishermen will be sent back to India. But Sir, their misfortune set in and they were taken to Pakistani territory and were released in Pakistan. Subsequently, they were arrested by the Pakistan Police and were lodged in Quetta Jail from 5th June till 5th December '999. Then they were shifted to Karachi Jail on 5th December, 1999. Many months have passed. When the Hon. Prime Minister visited the capital town of Kanyakumari he addressed a mammoth gathering. The Prime Minister was kind enough to give an assurance that the tears of those families will be erased and the Government will take immediate steps to release them from Pakistan. Sir, all the political parties including BJP and the Communist Party (Marxist) in Kanyakumari District have decided to go for a Bandh in the first week of April. It is because the Members of those families are getting letter from them that they are being harassed and tortured in the Pakistan Jail. This matter has already been taken up with the Government of India. I have personally represented to the hon. Prime Minister as also the Minister of External Affairs, Shri Jaswant Singh. The External Affairs Minister has taken steps to get them back. They have been communicating with the Pakistan Government. What is happening in Pakistan is that the Government there has become a totalitarian dictatorship and those fishermen are being tortured and their lives are in great peril and danger. Sir, it is the high time that the Government take up the issue very seriously with the Pakistan Government and these fishermen are released. Othewise, I am afraid their lives will be in jeopardy and danger. This is a very serious issue. All the people of this country are very much concerned about it. A life of an Indian Citizen is a paramount importance. Nineteen lives are in danger there seek the protection from the Government to take immediate steps to get their release from Pakistan.

THE HOME MINISTER (SHRI L.K. ADVANI) Sir, I share the concern expressed by the hon. Member, Shri Vaiko. I can only say that I will communicate to the Minister of External Affairs the anguish expressed by the hon. Member and request him to apprise the House of the steps taken till now.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur) We all support this.

MR. SPEAKER : Everybody is supporting each other but you are not supporting the Chair in conducting the House.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA Sir, I am supporting you and making the submission because you have very kindly called upon me now.

Sir, widespread agitation, resentment and discontent is there throughout the country against the Uttar Pradesh Regulation of Regligious Buildings and Places Bill, 2000. The Bill has been referred by the Governor to the President for his assent. But the Bill is a total onslaught on the Constitution of India, on the secular polity and on religious freedom.

[Translation]

SHRI VINAY KATIYAR (Faizabad) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, we may also be allowed to speak over this matter. *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : You please sit down.

(Interruptions)

SHRI VINAY KATIYAR : We may also be given an opportunity to speak over this. *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : You have not given any notice so you please sit down.

(Interruptions)

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : You have only given a comment, Khurana Saheb had not allowed me to speak for two days. *(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : Sir, in the context in which the Bill has been passed by the State Legislature, there are justified apprehensions among the minorities especially, the Muslims with respect to their Mosques and also their Madarsas.

These masjids, these mosques, these places of worship are today in a state of perpetual insecurity. The District Magistrate has been given sweeping powers under the Bill and the orders cannot be challenged in a court of law. The jurisdiction of the court has also been barred.

[Translation]

SHRI VINAY KATIYAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, not only the Masjid, we cannot construct there the temple also. This law is prevalent in Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan also since Congress regime. . . .*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : The Central policy which is there in legislations like the Wakf Act and the Religious Endowment Act are also being violated. . . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing should go on record except the speech of Shri Banatwalla.

*(Interruptions)**

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA (Ponnani) : The U.P. Bill is intolerant on religious freedom enshrined in the Cosntitution. There is a demand that the Government must advise the President not to give his assent and to withhold his assent to the Bill.

[Translation]

SHRI RASHID ALVI (Amroha) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Please give an opportunity to me also.

MR. SPEAKER : I will call you also. I will give chance to all those who have given notice.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Please understand that this is not a discussion.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : To highlight the demand that the President should withhold his assent to the UP Bill, a widespread agitation is going on now. The Government is silent and is not making any statement with respect to this. I appeal to the Government not only to advise the President to with hold his assent to the UP Bill, this obnoxious Bill, but also to take steps to restore the confidence of the minorities. . . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : The Government is there, the Minister is there to give the reply.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : Let this Government break its silence and make a statement here.

MR. SPEAKER : Is there any reply from the Government ?

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing should go on record except what Shri Sharad Yadav says.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I was in the other House. Here our hon'ble and Senior Member Shri Somnathji has said this. . . .*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : The Minister is on his legs. The Minister is replying.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : First of all, please hear what the Minister is saying.

[Translation]

SHRI SHARAD YADAV : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Somnath Dada is our colleague. He has said this in the House that in a section of Press, in some newspaper it is published that I have said that the Governor of Bihar has made some mistake. If you see the contents, you will find that there is no truth in this. Here, I would like to say that I have not given any such statement in any section of Press or in any newspaper. I had not called any Press Conference also. The Governor has taken such a step keeping in view the then prevailing situation as the Congress Party had not given the letter of support. . . .*(Interruptions)* If you want, this issue can be debated. . . .*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : I said it only on the basis of the newspaper report. . . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing should go on record except what Shri Kirit Somaiya says.

*(Interruptions)**

*Not recorded.

*Not recorded.

[Translation]

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA (Mumbai North East) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, yesterday seven dalits were brutally murdered and burnt alive in Kolar district of Karnataka. . . . *(Interruptions)*

Mr. Speaker, Sir, yesterday seven dalits were murdered in Kolar district of Karnataka. . . .*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : Sir, I would like to have the response of the Government. . . .*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA : After burning them alive. . . .*(Interruptions)* Seven Dalits were burnt alive. Shri Ram Avtar and his family members were burnt alive due to which the atmosphere of fear is prevailing among the Dalits and tribals of Karnataka. It is beyond understanding as to what is the law and order situation there. . . .*(Interruptions)* In the broad day light, at 7 o'clock in the evening some people from outside went to a village and set three houses a fire and the police did not respond for hours. After that the Chief Minister of that State goes there and shed crocodile tears over it. An environment of total distrust is prevailing among Dalit people towards the Congress Government. The Dalit community is in the grip of concern as to how they maintain their existence whichh is being threatened by the present circumstances. I would like to know from the Union Government as to who will retrieve the dalits from their sufferings. . . . *(Interruptions)* My request is that some officers should be sent there for holding an enquiry in such a way as an atmosphere of trust may be created among Dalits. . . . *(Interruptions)* I would like to make this kind of request to the Hon'ble Minister of Home Affairs. . . .*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH (Adoor) : Sir, he is trying to politicise the issue. . . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Kirit Somaiya, you have raised the issue. That is all right. But you cannot discuss the entire State matters and the law and order situation in the House.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please understand that you cannot discuss the entire law and order situation in the House. Please take your seat.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Rashid Alvi.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing should go on record except what Shri Rashid Alvi says.

*(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Kirit Somaiya, I have allowed you to speak and you have raised the matter. Why are you raising it again ?

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RASHID ALVI (Amroha) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, today a Bill regarding religious places has been brought in Uttar Pradesh and this is such a dangerous step that if Central Government do not pay attention towards this the entire country would be adversely affected by communalism. The U.P. Government has enacted a law regarding Mosques and as for the burial of the dead in the grave yard. . . .*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Rashid Alvi, you have given notice on lawyers strike but you are speaking on some other matter. You have to give a separate notice for this.

(Interruptions)

SHRI RASHID ALVI : I agree with you, Sir, but this is a serious matter.

MR. SPEAKER : If you could stick to the matter given in your notice, you may speak. I will not allow you to raise other matters.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : First you please sit down.

(Interruptions)

SHRI RASHID ALVI : I will conclude my point in two minutes.

MR. SPEAKER : If you can speak on the issue of lawyers then you can.

(Interruptions)

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*Not recorded.

SHRI RASHID ALVI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am coming to that About this I would only like to say the Government that President of India should not sign this. . . *(Interruptions)*

Sir, I have given a notice in this regard. I would like to know whether the Government is aware that in Delhi lawyers are on strike for the last 15 days. No work is being done in District Court and High Court. The Government had committed excesses on lawyers. Is the Government aware that two lawyers have lost their eyesight ? The Police had committed excesses on lawyers. Two lawyers have lost their eyesight during lathi charge. The women lawyer were dragged and beaten. The police had done not only this but also pocketed their rings. The Government is watching all these like silent spectator for the last 15 days and taking no action against the police personnel and police officers. In Delhi, nearly I lakh people go to Tis Hazari and 50,000 People go to other courts in connection with their cases. In this way, 1.5 lakh people are going to courts but the Government is watching all these like silent spectator. I would like to say that the Government should take immediate action against the police officers and should have talks with lawyers. The Minister of Law, Shri Ram Jethmalani is present in the House. He had said this in the House that we have compromised with lawyers but so far no compromise has been made. He had told me that everything has been decided with Prime Minister but actually nothing has been decided. Therefore, I would like to say in strongest term that the Minister of Home Affairs should immediately suspend that DCP and have a talk with lawyers.

Alongwith this, I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards one issue. I would like to say that on New Delhi Railway station. . . .*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER Shri Ramesh Chennithala to speak

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : You are not allowed to speak further. This will not go on record.

*(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Akhilesh, please take you seat. I have allowed Shri Ramesh Chennithala to speak.

(Interruptions)

*Not recorded.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Rashid Alvi, please take your seat now. You have submitted whatever you wanted to. Other hon. Members have to be given a chance.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Bansal, you are not allowing your Member to speak. I have called Shri Ramesh Chennithala to speak.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL (Chandigarh) : Sir, I have got to say only a few words. Do allow the hon. Members to associate themselves with this issue. This is a matter of grave concern. It really concerns every citizen of this country because lawyers are forced to go on strike not only here but all over the country. In a democracy, people should be called for discussions. . . .*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA (Mavelikara) : Sir, from 1964 onwards, the statutory rationing is available in the State of Kerala. Unfortunately, by the recent pronouncement of the Central Government, 75 per cent of the people of the State are now outside the purview of the Public Distribution system. The State Government has already urged upon the Central Government to withdraw this decision regarding the Public Distribution System. Kerala is one State in which you can see that the PDS is running properly. Effective Public Distribution System can be seen in our State. According to the calculation of the Central Government and the Planning Commission, only 26 per cent of the people are declared to be below the poverty line. But really by the record of the State Government 42 per cent of the people are now below the poverty line. 17 per cent of the people out of the total population of the State have been deprived of this benefit. . . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Ramesh Chennithala, you are going to discuss the Budget also. At that time, you can raise this matter.

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA : The State Government is subsidising this So, I urge upon the Central Government to take this matter very seriously. The Ration Retail Holders Association had also demonstrated in Delhi and given a memorandum to the hon. Minister.

The general public also is agitated. . . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan and Shri P.C. Thomas also gave notices on the same subject. Let them also associate with Shri Ramesh Chennithala.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Kodikunnil Suresh, you cannot associate with him without giving a notice Since they have given notice I told them that they can associate with him.

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA : I urge upon the hon. Minister, Shri Shanta Kumar to reconsider the decision and help the people of Kerala.

SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH : We all associate with Shri Ramesh Chennithala.

MR. SPEAKER : All right. You can also associate with him.

Shri Lakshman Seth.

(Interruptions)

SHRI P.C. THOMAS (Muvattupuzha) : This is a very serious matter. The whole of Kerala is starving. . . . *(Interruptions)*

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil) : I may be permitted to speak. . . . *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan, please take your seat. You have given a notice. I already told you that you can associate with Shri Ramesh Chennithala.

Hon. Members, you would be discussing the Budget. You can raise these issues at that time also.

Shri Lakshman Seth.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan, I have allowed Lakshman Seth.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members, is this the way to run the House ? What is this ? I cannot compel the hon. Minister to reply in the Zero Hour. Please understand.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing should go on record.

*(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Lakshman Seth.

SHRI LAKSHMAN SETH (Tamluk) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to draw your kind attention to a very important issue. The issue relates to the decision of the Indian Council of Historical Research (ICHR). . . .*(Interruptions)*

*Not recorded.

MR. SPEAKER : Please understand that the entire country is watching the proceedings.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Except the speech of Shri Lakshman Seth, nothing should go on record.

*(Interruptions)**

SHRI LAKSHMAN SETH : The ICHR recently have suspended the publication of volumes of "Towards Freedom", edited by Prof. K. Panikker and Prof. Sumit Sarkar. The decision taken by the ICHR and the stand taken by the ICHR are highly objectionable because it is nothing but the intervention and infringement of the rights of the intellectuals and historians. Sir, the Chairman of the ICHR, under the influence of RSS, has withdrawn these volumes. This attempt is nothing but to saffronise education, culture and history of our country. You know, everyone knows that during the freedom movement, the role of the RSS was very much and highly negative and anti-national. . . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Seth, please understand. For the last 15 days you have been raising the RSS and Gujarat issues. No other business is being transacted. What is this going on ?

[Translation]

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY (Calcutta North West): They have said that this is not freedom in the real sense. . . .*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI LAKSHMAN SETH : If you go into the details of the volumes which have been withdrawn, you would see and find that the history of the freedom movement has been written and edited very correctly. . . . *(Interruptions)* This is the attempt on the part of the Government to saffronise history, education etc. So, I would request for the publication of the volumes edited by Prof. K. Panikker and Prof. Sumit Sarkar so that the nation can know real history of freedom fighter. This is my submission . . .*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI VIJAY GOEL (Chandni Chowk) : Sir, i had given a privilege notice, what happened to that ?

MR. SPEAKER : Goel ji, I have not received your notice so far.

(Interruptions)

*Not recorded.

SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE (Malegaon) : Major schemes have been formulated in Maharashtra. The complaints are also being made about sharp rise in prices. The Central Government has issued a circular that the poor will be required to contribute 10% of the money under the scheme of providing drinking water for the poor and the tribals in Nasik in Maharashtra. I demand from the Central Government to withdraw that circular. . . . *(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Thomas, please take your seat.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (Pandharpur) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Government has taken a decision to review the constitution. . . .*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Thomas, I have already called Shri Ramdas Athawale. Please take your seat.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, my submission is that there are 395 articles in the Constitution of India. The Government does not have any legal authority under any article to constitute a commission to review the Constitution. Hence the Government should be directed to disband this Commission. There is no need to review the constitution drafted by Babu Saheb. . . .*(Interruptions)* When a provision has already been made in the Constitution of India to make amendments therein, there is no need to set up a Commission to review the constitution. If the Government wishes to set up a Committee, it may do so. Hence you should direct the Government to disband this Commission. The followers of Baba Saheb Ambedkar are displeased over the setting up of a Commission. . . .*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : This will not go on record.

*(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Ramdas Athawale, this is too much. Please take your seat. Is there any reply from the Government on the issue of Public Distribution System ?

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHANTA KUMAR) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Hon'ble Members of Opposition have discussed the position regarding Public Distribution system and foodgrains. I would like to submit that a lot is required to be said on your part as well as on our part regarding the provisions made in the budget in this regard, but allow the discussion to take place on the budget first. This issue does not pertain to any particular state, rather it relates to the entire system and food distribution channel. The decisions taken by the Government are appropriate and are pro-poor. Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is the first time such a step has been taken. Can anyone cite any instance of any year's budget when additional assistance of 2200 crore rupees might have been provided to 33 crore poor people of our country. Such an assistance has been given for the very first time in this year's budget. Please start full fledged discussion on the budget. I have a lot to say and I will make my point clear to you. . . .*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record except what the Minister says.

*(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER : Now, Shri Punnu Lal Mohale.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing should go on record except hon. Member's speech.

*(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Mohale, please raise your matter.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : You can raise all these things at the time of discussion of the Budget.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : What is this sort of attitude ? You are not allowing other Members to speak.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record except the hon. Member's speech.

*(Interruptions)**

*Not recorded.

*Not recorded.

[Translation]

SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE (BILASPUR) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, 1500 labourers were on strike in dolomite mines in Hiri Mine area at District Bilaspur in Madhya Pradesh three years ago but due to police firing, three labourers were killed. That mine is lying closed now, due to which the labourers have become unemployed. Those labourers are still unemployed and work is at a standstill in the mine. I request that compensation should be paid to the family members of the deceased, an enquiry should be held into the incident of firing, the work should be resumed in the mine and the labourers should be provided employment at the earliest.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : The House stands adjourned to meet again at 2.30 p.m.

13.32 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned for Lunch till thirty minutes past two of the Clock.

14.34 hrs.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch at thirty-four minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.

[SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA *in the Chair*]

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

(i) Need to convert the connecting road between Chhapra and Muzaffarpur into national highway in Bihar

[English]

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY (Chhapra) : The district of Saran in Bihar has a very poor network of roads and has barely any road in the name of National Highway worth its name. There is an urgent need to convert the connecting road between Chhapra via Garkha, Maker, Rewa Ghat and Muzaffarpur to National Highway. The primary reason is that it will connect the Buddhist Circuit of Vaishali and the famous *Shanti Stupa*. Secondly, it will reduce the distance between two existing National Highways and promote economic activity of the region. It also fulfils the guidelines for criteria for National Highway.

(ii) Need to Provide/Central Grant to State Governments for Boring of five Tube Wells and Installation of Five Electric Poles in each Village in the Country

[Translation]

SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE (Bilaspur) : Sir, the rabi and kharif crops are damaged due to drought as a result of inadequate irrigation facilities and poor financial position of the farmers in all the states including the State of Madhya Pradesh. The standing crops of gram, wheat, 'Teewra', linseed, 'Pasur', 'karayat', 'dhatiya', coriander, sugarcane millets, paddy and 'Kusum' are destroyed due to inadequate availability of water for irrigation. The financial condition of farmers is deteriorating day by day. They are heavily indebted. Boring of five tubewells and installation of five electric poles should be undertaken in each village free of cost in order to provide irrigation facilities for two crops cycles.

The Union Government should sanction cent per-cent grant for provision of the facility of tubewell and power.

(iii) Need to take steps to protect the interest of Investors in Kuber Group of Industries throughout the Country

SHRI PADAM SEN CHOUDHRY (Bahraich) : Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards lakhs of small and big investors who have invested their hard earned money in various schemes floated by Kuber Group. The branches of Kuber Group were functioning in all the prominent cities throughout the country. The Group has been unable to make payment to any investor for more than a year now. It is said that the group has sufficient assets out of which the payment can be made to the investors. The investors from many districts have met me and recounted their tale of woes. Many of these persons are retired Government Servants who have invested their lifetime earnings with this group in the lure of slightly attractive interest rate and now they are getting neither the monthly interest nor the principal amount as all the offices of the group have been closed and have become non-existent.

I urge upon the Government to take appropriate steps in this regard and take immediate action to get the money of lakhs of investors refunded from the Kuber Group at the earliest so as to provide relief to the investors.

(iv) Need to Prepare a Master Plan to Protect Siddarthnagar District in Uttar Pradesh from Recurring Floods

SHRI RAMPAL SINGH (Domariaganj) : Sir, the Janpada Siddarthnagar, U.P. in my parliamentary constituency is adjoining Nepal border. As the Janapada is contiguous to Nepal, the rivers originating in Nepal also flow through our Janapada. Due to it the rivers Tapti, Banganga, Budiarati etc. also get affected with flood water and every year the entire Janapada is devastated by the fury of floods. I had also raised this issue in the meeting with the Minister of Human Resource Development and a Master Plan should be prepared by holding discussion with Nepal government so that Janapada could be relieved of the devastating effects of the perennial floods. The Janapada is among the most backwards Janapadas of the country.

Hence, I demand from the Union Government to prepare a Master Plan to provide relief to my constituency from the succour of floods.

(v) Need to clear the proposal of Karnataka Government for establishment of Mini Tool Rooms project at Hubli and Harihar in Karnataka

[English]

SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ (Tumkur) : Under the guidelines of Government of India in respect of the Centrally sponsored scheme of 'Mini Tool Rooms' projects costing up to Rs. 17 crore each would be considered by the Government of India in the Ministry of Industry, Department of SSI, by way of financing 90 percent of the cost of plant, machinery and equipment for the projects. The State Government is required to bear the expenditure towards cost of land and building and 10 percent cost of the plant, machinery and equipment.

Under this scheme, the Karnataka Government's proposal for approval of the above two 'Mini Tool Rooms' at Hubli and Harihar, Karnataka had been submitted to the Development Commissioner (SSI), Department of SSI, Agro and Rural Industries, Ministry of Industry, New Delhi in June, 1998.

A revised project which was submitted to the Government of India vide letter, dated 22-7-1999 is still pending with them.

I, therefore, urge upon the Central Government to kindly approve the project at the earliest so that work on these projects could be started by the Government of Karnataka without further loss of time.

(vi) Need to accord the status of special category State to Super Cyclone hit Orissa

SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO (Dhenkanal) : Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Government of India to the need to accord Special Category State Status to Orissa. The super cyclone that swept the State of Orissa has caused extensive damage to one third of the State. 1.5 crore people have been affected. The agriculture, industry, trade and commerce, and infrastructure have been totally destroyed. The educational and health facilities are badly affected and the houses and shelter totally wiped out. Fifteen lakh families have become shelterless and a lakh children have been orphaned.

Relief, rehabilitation, restoration and reconstruction would require resources of astronomical proportion, may be to the tune of Rs. 50,000 crore. Such a vast amount is beyond the financial capacity of an unprivileged State Government with a population comprising 58 percent below the poverty line, 22 percent S.T. and 19 percent S.C. This is beyond the normal funding pattern of the Central Government, Planning Commission and Finance Commission. Orissa is not a schedule VII State nor the Himalayan Hilly State. Thus, there is a need to evolve a mechanism to provide accelerated and added financial assistance and to accord Special Status Category to Orissa which has been prone to natural calamities like drought, famine, floods and cyclone continuously for the last three and half decades thereby narrowing and shrinking the State's resource mobilisation ability and capability further accentuating the regional imbalances in comparison to other States and the national average.

As such, I demand that the State of Orissa be declared a Special Category State.

(vii) Need to relax guidelines issued by R.B.I. for Non-Banking Financial Institutions particularly in Karnataka with a view to safeguard the interests of depositors

SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR (Mysore) : Sir, the depositors in the Non-banking Financial Institutions (NBFC) in Karnataka are in great danger following the bad management of these financial institutions. There are as many as 50 non-baking financial institutions operating in that State. Besides there are 400 NBFCs involved in small operations in some of the towns and cities. Now, barring a few, almost every non-banking financial institution is on the verge of closure. Most of these NBFCs have asked the depositors to wait for a staggered schedule of repayment while some have refused to repay the depositors since they have poor liquidity or have even become bankrupt. The NBFCs offered high interest rate to its depositors particularly the salaried class who opted to deposit

their precious savings with the NBFCs rather than Commercial Banks. The NBFCs have not observed the RBI guidelines in the past.

Keeping in view the growing sickness of NBFCs and the need to protect the interest of depositors it is necessary that the RBI relaxes its guidelines. Unless RBI comes to their rescue, the NBFCs revival will not be possible.

As such, I urge the Union Government to direct the RBI to relax its guidelines for NBFCs. All possible efforts may be made to protect the depositors.

(viii) Need to write off Rs. 3,491 crore outstanding loans of Andhra Pradesh Government spent on tackling Naxalite problem in the State

SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI (Visakhapatnam) : Andhra Pradesh has been facing Naxalite problem for more than two decades. A number of civilians and police personnel have been killed. The compensation paid to the families of the civilians and the police personnel killed by the Naxalites, the amount spent on the rehabilitation of surrendered Naxalites and the value of property destroyed, for which the Government has paid compensation, comes to Rs. 598.64 crore during the last five years.

The loss of tax resources under commercial taxes and registration is about nine per cent from the six Naxalite-affected districts. If these districts contributed the same *per capita tax* revenue as the other districts of the State, the State Government could have realised additional revenue of Rs. 2,892 crore during the last five years.

When the Punjab Government had faced similar problem, the Tenth Finance Commission recommended writing off of Rs. 490.60 crore for the period 1995-2000. In addition to this, the then Prime Minister had announced that the entire special loans of about Rs. 5,000 crore given to the Punjab Government should be written off.

Sir, the Andhra Pradesh Government deserves similar treatment. I, therefore, request the union Government to write off an amount of Rs. 3,491 crore from the total outstanding loans due from the State Government to the Government of India.

(ix) Need to Connect Vaishali in Bihar by Rail

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali) : Madam Chairperson, the foundation stone for constituting the historical place Vaishali in Bihar with rail line was laid on 17th February, 1997, after conducting a survey. The survey was carried upto Hajipur, Lalganj, Vaishali, Suraiya, Sahebganj, Kesaria, Areraj and Sugouli. The survey was completed, but the proposal of connecting Vaishali by Rail has not been included in Rail budget despite the repeated announcement by the government to connect vaishali by Rail and complete the Budhist circuit. Due to it there is a widespread resentment in the public of Vaishali. Hence I insist to include it in the Rail budget for connecting Hajipur, Vaishali, Sugouli by rail line.

(x) Need to provide special grant to Government of Uttar Pradesh for providing better civil amenities in Moradabad

[English]

SHRI CHANDRA VIJAY SINGH (Moradabad): Moradabad is among the highest foreign exchange earning towns in the country, visited everyday by hundreds of prospective businessmen. The fifth and dirt and lack of drainage are enough to put off the prospective businessmen and make life for its citizens a living hell. Drainage is non-existent or choked. The town sits on a tinderbox filth that may, at any time, spark off an epidemic like the one that happened in Surat. It is imperative that the Central Government considers a special fund for cleaning Moradabad.

The U.P. Government has been approached by me. Promises have been made over the years but nothing has come out in this regard. The citizens are very anguished.

I request the Central Government to provide special aid to the U.P. Government for better civic amenities in Moradabad, both to attract foreign capital and investment as well as for the health of its citizens who earn valuable foreign exchange which is the largest in quantum in Uttar Pradesh.

(xi) Need to Provide Financial Assistance to State Government of Uttar Pradesh for Development of Primary Education, Particularly in Kheri District

[Translation]

SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA (Kheri) : Madam Chairperson, till now the Government of India have received crores of rupees as financial assistance and loan from foreign institutions which is used for expansion of primary education but the quality of primary education is deteriorating day by day. Such is the condition of primary education in the Janapada Kheri of Uttar Pradesh that not even one-tenth of the teachers retiring every year, are being appointed. There are a total of 3000 teachers in the Janapada which is 50 per cent of the total requirement. Hundred of schools are lying closed for want of teachers and hundreds of school having only single teacher are

[Shri Ravi Prakash Verma]

being run. A large number of children are being deprived of their right of primary education.

Hence I submit before the union Government to order a high level problem in this regard and to effectively resolve the problem by granting financial assistance to the State Government.

14.50 hrs.

STATUTORY RESOLUTION RE: DISAPPROVAL OF THE TELECOM REGULATORY AUTHORITY OF INDIA (AMENDMENT) ORDINANCE

AND

TELECOM REGULATORY AUTHORITY OF INDIA (AMENDMENT) BILL

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : We will now take up the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (Amendment) Bill and the Statutory Resolution together. Shri Basudeb Acharia to speak.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (Hoogly) : Madam, I have a point of order. I had given some amendments today before 10 a.m. But I am told that they have not been admitted and they relate to a very very vital, sensitive issue of national concern. I would just refer to what happened in the past on similar occasions.

Madam, as you know, in the last week there had been a situation in which we could not take up Government business or Government Bills and also many other issues which are agitating the minds of the hon. Members.

Madam, I draw your attention to page 505 of the Practice and Procedure in Parliament by Kaul and Shakdhar. It says :

> "Period of notice of the amendments : A notice of an amendment is required to be given at least one day before the day on which the Bill is to be considered in the Lok Sabha."

It then says :

> " In the case of Bills taken up for consideration at short notice the period of notice of amendments has been waived by the Speaker on several occasions in the past."

Madam, as you know, on Friday itself a decision was taken that on Monday the Telecom Regulatory Authority Bill would be taken up, on Tuesday the Railway Budget on Wednesday the General Budget, on Friday the Motion of Thanks to the President for his Address would be taken up. I am not referring to what happened in the B.A.C. meeting but what came through the hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs.

A notice was given between 3.15 p.m. on Friday and 10.00 a.m. today. There have been occasions several times in the past that in such situations permission had been given for acceptance of such amendments.

This is my point of order. I seek your protection as also your direction.

MR. CHAIRMAN : This Bill has not been listed only today. It has been on the business right since Parliament Session started.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : No, No.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please listen. It has been listed. It has come on the business list even earlier that it is going to be discussed today.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : No. It came only today.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL (Chandigarh) Madam, that was only for introduction.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please let me finish.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : Madam, the Bill was listed for introduction and not for consideration.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please listen to me. You knew the Bill was coming up in this Session. All I am saying is that it was not suddenly introduced today. The point is that hon. Speaker has made it very clear that there is no time for circulation today and he has disallowed the amendment. He has already informed you that he has disallowed the amendment. I cannot now change the hon. Speaker's decision which has already been communicated. Please cooperate.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : Madam, that is not the point. The point is that we go by the Rule Book. We go by precedents and conventions.

MR. CHAIRMAN : It is the discretion of the hon. Speaker.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : We go by the recommendations of the experts on the functioning of Indian Parliament.

MR. CHAIRMAN : All that has been said is that the hon. Speakers in their discretion admitted at several times.

I agree to that. But, today he has not admitted. So, what can I do ?

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR (Mayiladuturai) : Madam, I think you should appeal to him. It is the right of the Members to move amendments. It is the most fundamental right.

MR. CHAIRMAN : But, Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar, it should be 24 hours in advance.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR : But, there are precedents.

MR. CHAIRMAN : There have been precedents. In special cases the Speakers have allowed.

(Interruptions)

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : Madam, I will give the instances. It was done in 1955, 1957, 1962, 1968, 1972 and 1974. So sit was done on several occasions.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : There were two holidays, namely Saturday and Sunday.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : Madam, yesterday was Sunday and the day before was Saturday. This consideration thing came up only today. . . .*(Interruptions)*

Madam, I seek your protection. This is a very vital amendment. Otherwise, the right of a Member is being taken away on such an occasion.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The amendment has not been circulated. I cannot possibly take up something which has not been circulated. The Members should know what is your amendment.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : About circulation, it is specifically mentioned that not every amendment will have to be circulated. To facilitate other Members, there is a custom and a practice of circulation. It is not that something which is not possible to be circulated will not be allowed to be moved by a Member.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The Bill was introduced on the 9th of March. You had, in any case, the idea that the Bill was coming up as it was introduced in the House and amendments could have been given.

(Interruptions)

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR : How could he know ? . . .*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : Madam, how could we know ? So many things had come. The Motion of Thanks on the President's Address was listed so many times. . . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : You have a rule that it must come one day in advance. In exceptional circumstances, the Speaker may allow. Today, he has said that he is not allowing any amendment because there is no time. So, please cooperate and sit down. Let us start discussion.

(Interruptions)

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR : Madam, it is not fair because if there is a provision to move an amendment without circulation and if the amendment has come in respect of a Bill which we did not even know at the end of the last week that it was going to be taken up today, then, I think, I would appeal through you to the hon. Speaker that this matter be reconsidered and we be allowed, at least during the course of the discussion, to move the amendment. . . .*(Interruptions)*

SHRI S. BANGARAPPA (Shimoga) : Madam, I would like to submit that there are two stages as far as introduction of the Bill or getting it passed are concerned. Madam, what you said about introduction just now is right. But here is a case where the Bill has reached a stage of getting passed, going through the process of consideration and passing. He has given an amendment also.

MR. CHAIRMAN : He has given it this morning.

SHRI S. BANGARAPPA : Yes, he has given it this morning because yesterday was a holiday, day before yesterday was also a holiday, and there was no occasion for him to give it before that. The Bill, for the first time, has come up for consideration and passing today only, as per the list of the agenda. Therefore, Madam, the hon. Member is very much well within his rights to move an amendment and the hon. Speaker or his office should not have rejected the amendment submitted by the hon. Member. I think, the Member is well within his rights to agitate for the acceptance of the amendment given by him.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Does anyone else want to say anything ?

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR : Madam, the hon. Speaker could have refused to circulate the amendment because it was submitted too late, but to reject the amendment is, I think, a little excessive and especially given that there are precedents. If the Government, the Treasury Benches would kindly agree, at least, during the course of the discussion, at an appropriate stage, he may move the amendment. To reject it altogether does not seem to be fair.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore) : Madam, I am on a point of order.

MR. CHAIRMAN : What is your point of order.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil) : Madam, I am on a a point of order.

MR. CHAIRMAN : He has already raised a point of order. I will give you a chance later. . . .*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN : Madam, I am going through rule 79 clause (1). It says :

> "If notice of an amendment to a clause or a schedule of Bill has not been given one day before that day on which the Bill is to be considered any Member may object to the moving of the amendment,. . . "

Madam, I am objecting to the bringing of that amendment.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR : How can he object to what is not before the House ? We are asking for an opportunity to move it.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You cannot object because it has not been allowed to be moved.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN : Madam, this is the rule. I am objecting to the amendment. . . .*(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN) : Madam, I will beg with the hon. Member, Shri Rupchand Pal that he has raised an issue that the Bill was introduced on 9th of March. As far as consideration of the Bill is concerned, I do not have to tell such a senior Member that there is no notice of consideration and it always comes suddenly. So, it cannot come on days together.

15.00 hrs.

SHRI S. BANGARAPPA (Shimoga) : It has come today for the first time.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Shri Bangarappa, it will always come for the first time. . . .*(Interruptions)* If you want to say something, then I will sit down. Frankly, this was the decision of the hon. Speaker, and I am not answering on his behalf. I am just begging all of you that we have already lost time. Hon. Speaker is not in the Chair; in his discretion, he has disallowed it. We may be happy or unhappy about it, but even if we have one hour debate on this, at this juncture, we will not solve the problem, and we will be taking away the time meant for the discussion. So, my request is, let us use this time for discussion. I am not commenting on anything because it is the discretion of the hon. Speaker.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : There were instances wherein the Speaker concerned has allowed even oral amendments. So, even oral amendments are admissible. Here is a case wherein the agenda was circulated on a holiday, that is, on Saturday. Introduction of the Bill and consideration of the Bill are two different stages. There were Bills introduced in the last Session but were not taken up for consideration, and that is quite possible. So, consideration and introduction are entirely two different aspects. The simple fact that the Bill has been introduced will not deprive the rights of the Members to move amendments. A Member has a right to move amendments, and that opportunity should be given to him. Here, in the instant case, no such opportunity was given because the agenda was circulated only on Saturday. Then, how will we move amendments ? Therefore, it is only just and proper that all those Members who want to move amendments should be allowed to move the same. Otherwise, it will be a negation of the fundamental right of a Member to move an amendment on a very important legislation. This may kindly be considered.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : May I make a submission ? I agree with the hon. Minister for Parliamentary Affairs that this is a replacement of an Ordinance, and we are not against it. Since it was a weekend, amendments could not be given. I am requesting for proper accommodation of this matter.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Whatever is the Chair's decision, I have no objection to it.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : What I am submitting is that the hon. Minister on that side should make a request to the hon. Speaker to consider it. Let us not stand on formalities because there are instances. It is a question of knowing what the amendment is all about. We know, it is likely to be defeated, but we want to make our position clear on the record. Therefore, I am asking the hon. Ministers – I am sure, for the sake of opposition, they are not objecting – as to why do they not make a request to the hon. Speaker.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : I have not objected to anything.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : I know that you are trying to expedite things. Therefore, I am saying that it can be expedited with satisfaction. Please do it that way.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : It is the Speaker's discretion to allow or not. Let the Chair consider it. We have no role in this.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Therefore, I am requesting the Chair. Madam, they have no objection. I understand your personal difficulty because the decision has been taken by the hon. Speaker. Therefore, I am saying that a communication be sent to him that this is the sense of the House so that these amendments could be considered. I am sure, there will be no difficulty, and the hon. Speaker will accede to this.

SHRI S. BANGARAPPA : The Government has no objection to it.

MR. CHAIRMAN : We will communicate that to the Speaker. But at the moment, I must make it very clear that the Bill was introduced on the 9th of March. Members were informed through a para published in the Bulletin that notices of amendments could be given after the introduction. Members had enough opportunity to give notices, which has not been availed of.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : It was a weekend, and hence cannot be considered as enough.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Hon. Speaker has already disallowed the notices. I, therefore, cannot accept the point of order.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : But it is my respectful request to the Chair. . .

MR. CHAIRMAN : Let me complete please. If the Speaker, in his discretion, would like to allow oral amendments to be moved, then it is up to the Speaker to allow them.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : They are not oral but written amendments.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now, you can move them in the course of the debate because they have been disallowed in the morning. So, we will find out what is to be done, but in the meantime, let us start the discussion.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : My request is to bring it to his notice.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Basu Deb Acharia to initiate the discussion.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Otherwise, there would be non-cooperation. I am threatening that openly.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Whom are you threatening ? I am already trembling before you!

MR. CHAIRMAN : Are you threatening him or the Chair ?

Now, Shri Basudeb Acharia please.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Madam, I beg to move

"That this House disapproves of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (Amendment) Ordinance, 2000 (No. 2 of 2000) promulgated by the President on 24 January, 2000."

Madam, Chairperson, this Ordinance was promulgated on 24th of January, 2000. The Budget Session of Parliament was conveyed just after one month of the Ordinance being promulgated. We cannot find any reason for the urgency of the Government for promulgating this Ordinance. What was the urgency of the Government to promulgate an Ordinance just on the eve of the Parliament Session ?

Madam, Chairperson, a Committee was constituted, as was pointed out by the hon. President in his address to the Members of Parliament from both the Houses assembled together, to strengthen and give more powers to the Telecom Regulatory Authority. That Committee made certain recommendations. The main purpose behind promulgation of this Ordinance and consequent enactment of this Bill is to free the Telecom Regulatory Authority from the jurisdiction of the High Court and the C&AG.

Madam, Chairperson, through the promulgation of this Ordinance, Government has created two bodies instead of the existing one. Its purpose is to re-constitute the Authority in terms of numbers and remove the Telecom Regulatory Authority from the jurisdiction of the High Court and the CA&G. This is the only body that is being exempted from compulsory auditing by CA&G. The decision to remove the Telecom Regulatory Authority from the jurisdiction of the High Court is an equally sensitive matter.

Madam, Chairperson, what would happen by this is that a consumer, anywhere in the country affected by the Telecom Regulatory Authority cannot appeal to the High Court. He would have to come to Delhi and make an appeal to an Appellate Body. If the consumer is dissatisfied with the decision of the Appellate Body, then he can only appeal to the Supreme Court of India. This provision is being incorporated in this Bill.

Now, the question is, what was the hurry on the part of the Government to promulgate this Ordinance ? This Act is already in existence for the last three years. If this Act was to be amended, then it could have been done by Parliament without promulgation of any Ordinance.

Why was this Ordinance promulgated ? Why are we opposing the promulgation of this Ordinance as well as enactment or amendment to the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India Act ? Private operators wanted first to

[Shri Basu Deb Acharia]

get rid of their commitment to pay licence fee to the Government. They had been arguing for a zero licence fee. Just before the elections, the Government agreed to waive the fixed licence fee and agreed to the revenue-sharing arrangement.

The Department of Telecommunications generate an annual surplus of Rs. 10,000 crore. It is this surplus that some private telecom operators are eyeing. TRAI are sympathetic to private operators. They had apportioned the revenue between private operators and the Department of Telecommunications in a way which is adverse to the Department. The 'calling party pay' regime in which the subscriber pays local call charges to DoT, as well as air time charges if he calls a cellular phone, was an attempt to pass on a part of DoT's revenue to the cellular operators.

Why did the Government want to remove TRAI from the jurisdiction of the High Court ? It is because the High Court intervened in the cases of change in licence fee and striking down of CPP regime, which had set the alarm bells ringing. The private operators and the industry-friendly Government wanted the High Court's power of reviewing TRAI's decisions to be removed. The C&AG questioned the basis of tariff fixation by the TRAI and had directed that the process of tariff fixation be made known as it felt that TRAI unduly favoured private operators. Because of that, they demanded that the TRAI's decisions be made beyond the jurisdiction of the C&AG. This was a demand made by the private operators. In order to satisfy the private operators, in order to help and assist the private operators, Government had promulgated this Ordinance. There was no urgency whatsoever for promulgation of this Ordinance. The Government could have waited for the Session which was summoned just after one week.

But the Government could not wait for one week to bring the amending Bill to the Parliament in order to amend the existing Telecom Regulatory Authority of India Act. Thus by promulgation of Ordinance, the Government has favoured the private operators.

Madam, there is a standing instruction that whenever a new Bill is introduced, it should be referred to the Standing Committee. So, I demand that as this is a new Bill, this should be referred to the Standing Committee and got scrutinised by the Committee. Then only, this could be brought for consideration of the House. I demand that before scrutiny by the Standing Committee it should not be brought for the consideration of the House.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATION (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) Madam Chairperson, I submit to introduce a legislation seeking amendment in the telecom Regulatory Authority of India Bill, 1987 for consideration of the House. I would like to give some information to the House regarding the facts for the disapproval of the said legislation put forward by our colleague Shri Basu Deb Acharia. He has said a few things. Firstly, he has asked as to why the ordinance was promulgated in such a haste when the parliamentary session was about to start. Second thing has been said about licence fee and migration package. The third issue which has been raised is as to why such a provision to free the TRAI from the jurisdiction of High Court and consequently to take it directly under the jurisdiction of the Supreme Court has been made in this amendment Bill. Why was High Court bypassed ? Fourthly he has accused the government of being sympathetic towards the private operators which is not right.

First of all, I would like to inform the hon. Member that this new ordinance Telecom Authority of India (Amendment) Ordinance, 2000 which we have tried to bring in the form of Bill is being brought in place of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (Amendment) Bill, 1997. Achariaji has rightly pointed out that the ordinance was promulgated on 24th January, 2000. As all of you are aware TRAI was constituted through passing a legislation in the House. At that time the powers given to TRAI were

[English]

to discharge recommendatory, regulatory, dispute settlement function and tariff.

[Translation]

Besides it was also vested with the power to issue directions to service providers under section 13. In some cases, it was also delegated some executive powers but these were very limited. There was some controversy over the issues of licencees-licencers and service providers TRAI always held that it has a right to settle this dispute while, on the other hand, it was kept on being challenged.

Consequently, this case was being dragged in the Courts for a long time and development of the Telecom sector came to a standstill. You have aptly remarked that no government could do without adopting the policy of privatisation. The House is aware that no one could remain unaffected with the wave of economic revolution which started in the country after framing up the policy of liberalisation in 1991. . . *(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : At that time you had opposed it, now you are supporting it.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : When the gate is opened, how can you remain your windows closed. You tell me as to whether you are opposing it in Bengal ?

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : We are not allowing anything to enter in Bengal which is not required.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : Similarly, we are also opposing which is not required while implementing that which is required. In some developed countries 67 persons out of every 100 persons are having telephone while the world average is 16 for per 100 persons. But the average is 2.5 persons for every 100 persons in our country. To provide telephone facility to the remaining persons will involve the expenditure of thousands of billions of dollars which is beyond the capacity of the government. Had it been in the reach of the government this plan would have been completed by now. Even today we claim to provide telephone facility to every village by the year 2002. This target was fixed even in 1994 but it could not be achieved as the government was lacking in resources and the people of private sector were not very much willing to enter into this field. The biggest reason behind it was that this sector was completely dominated by DOT, which is a government body. Due to this the investors whether foreigner or domestic, were not willing to believe that the government is going to shun its jurisdiction. Hence it was repeatedly demanded to form an independent and powerful regulator. It is a step in that direction only. In consistent with the policy of the government reflected through the President's Address of 25th October, we announced to make TRAI more powerful and strong.

A Committee was formed under the Chairmanship of hon. Minister of Finance after it, a sub committee under the Chairmanship of Shri Arun Jaitley was also constituted. Both these committees submitted their reports which was accepted by the Government and this new Bill which has been introduced now and earlier existed in form of the ordinance is containing most of the recommendations made in these reports. We want that this Bill should be enacted at the earliest, We do not want any kind of delay. Hence when the ordinance was promulgated, it was not done with the intention of saving private sector. As far as your accusations regarding licence fee and revenue sharing regime is concerned, it is a separate issue. It was discussed in Rajya Sabha and if the Members desire, we do not have any hesitation to hold a discussion over it is this House too. There is nothing to hide. We are prepared to discuss as to how much revenue was expected and how much was being received and also how much revenue was generated after introducing new revenue sharing policy and the extent to which litigation was avoided. This is an entirely different chapter which is not related to this issue. I would like to draw the attention of the House towards the major amendment proposed in this bill as well as the earlier bill. Earlier TRAI had recommendatory and regulatory powers regarding tariff and dispute settlement under Section 11. Besides, TRAI had the power to issue directions to the service providers under section 13.

The role of TRAI has been clarified in the new bill introduced in the House. TRAI has been granted recommendatory power under 11 (1)(a), regulatory power under 11(1)(b) and powers regarding tariff under 11(2). The function of dispute settlement which was earlier one of the functions of TRAI has been segregated and provision has been made for establishment of a separate panel to handle this work. TRAI was empowered to issue directions to service providers under section 13 as a part of its regulatory functions. Earlier it was not mandatory for the Government to seek recommendation of TRAI in case of obtaining licences. Bansal ji has moved several amendments in this regard. We shall discuss them later on, however, for the time being, it has been made mandatory. TRAI will have to submit its recommendations within 60 days from the day recommendations are sought by the Government. If recommendations are not forwarded within 60 days or in case the Government and TRAI fail to arrive at a mutual decision, the Government is empowered to take a decision. If TRAI requires clarification regarding a certain point, it may ask the Government to clarify that point. The Government will have to forward clarification within seven days. After the receipt of the recommendations of TRAI, if the recommendations are not acceptable to the Government, it shall return the same to TRAI for reconsideration. TRAI will have to send its recommendation after re-consideration within 15 days. Thereafter, the Government will take a final decision in this regard. This procedure has been laid down in case of those two points on which the recommendations of the Government are mandatory and these pertain firstly to the timing and the number of service providers required and secondly the terms and conditions on which licence is to be granted to service providers. It is mandatory to seek recommendations on both these issues.

Besides additional functions have been assigned to TRAI under Section 11(1)(a) and 11(1)(b) which include handling the issue of interconnectivity between the service providers;

[English]

to lay down the extent of the quality of service and to ensure the quality of service

[Shri Ram Vilas Paswan]

[Translation]

which means that the criteria of quality has also been included, Thirdly, its function is

[English]

to make recommendations on the technical improvement in the services and to make recommendations on the efficient management.

[Translation]

So far as qualification is concerned, there are no two opinions about it. You are right that earlier there was only one body which was in charge. This body discharged the function of making recommendation as well as that of passing judgement. It has been bifurcated. It does not seem appropriate if judgement is given by the same person who argues the case. Hence it has been split into two separate bodies, namely TRAI and Appellate Dispute Tribunal. The qualifications regarding TRAI have been fixed. Earlier the Chairperson used to be a sitting or retired judge. Now this stipulation has been dispensed with. The same stipulation has been made applicable in the case of adjudication now. The stipulation would apply in the case of Chairperson of the tribunal. So far as TRAI is concerned, this stipulation has been withdrawn and its Chairman and Member can be appointed from amongst the persons who have special knowledge of telecommunication, industry, finance, accountancy, law, management or consumer affairs. The term of office of the Chairman was five years earlier and the Member could also hold office for a term of five years or until he attained the age of 65 years. Thus the Chairperson could be 80 years old or even older but now the term of office is upto three years which means that one can hold office upto three years or until he attains the age of 65 years. The term of office has been fixed at three years and word 'upto' has been added.

There is a sensitive issue pertaining to C.A.G. or audit. As per Section 23(1)

[English]

The authorities shall maintain proper accounts and other relevant records.

[Translation]

Under 23(2), it has been stated that

[English]

accounts shall be audited by the C&AG,

[Translation]

Now an explanation has been added to it. Apprehensions have been put to rest by adding that explanation. It is declared thereunder that whatever discussions are taken by TRAI in the course of discharging its functions under Section 11, pertaining to the issue of regulatory functions and tariff and section 13 pertaining to the issue of directing the service providers and under the clauses of section 1 and major section 2, are subject to appeal in Tribunal. There will be no intervention of C.A.G. Infect there will be no interference of any kind in respect of functions related to regulation, fixing tariff and issuing directions. The main reason behind making such a provision in respect of three above mentioned areas of functioning is that those who have been given assurance are satisfied. As the Government intends to attract private sector to take up the work of providing services, the private parties should not get such an impression that the Government intends to keep an upper hand and does not wish to give a free hand to private parties. Hence there will be no interference in the administrative work and accounting. In the case of difference of opinion, they will reserve the right to approach the Tribunal, however, this provision has been made with a view to create such a feeling amongst people that this step has been taken to keep TRAI independent,

I believe that as regards the telecommunication Disputes Tribunal, the adjudicative powers have been given to TRAI under Section 14 and these provisions are covered under Section 14 to Section 20. The Tribunal has been fully empowered under these sections. As regards the issue of its composition, there will be a Chairman and two Members. The qualifications are the same as had been specified in the case of Chairman of TRAI earlier i.e. the Chairman has to be a sitting or former Supreme Court Judge or Chief Justice or retired Chief Justice of a High Court. The Members must have held the post of Secretary to Government of India or should have served the State Government for a period of two years and they should be well versed in the field of industry, telecommunication, commerce or administration. These are the major qualifications.

I am pleased to note that all the sections have welcomed it. C.I.I., F.I.C.C.I., Cellular Operators of India, Association of Basic Telecom have welcomed this bill and I feel that all the Members from the Congress Party and the Left Front Members, who have been our associate would support it and I am aware of their sentiments but I feel that the way. . . .*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : We have struggled collectively.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : Yes, we have indeed struggled together. Times are changing at a fast pace and we are witnessing a big revolution in the field of communication all over the world. The entire world is thrilled by the magic of internet today. We can have an access to information from anywhere. Earlier information used to be out of reach during night but now all the news are accessible in foreign countries at 12 in the night through internet. We can't keep our country oblivious of these developments. I have no hesitation in saying that Government does not have the kind of resources to approach telecom or global universal access. Talking about the universal services, we may get services but the objective of complete access may not be achieved.

Hence the Government has formulated this policy after due consideration that at least TRAI should be made independent and powerful. I feel that no one should oppose the development of a particular industry. Just as all sections of the people have welcomed this bill, the House should also welcome it. I hope that all the Members will pass it unanimously.

I beg to move* :

> "That the bill to amend the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India Act, 1997 be taken into consideration."

[English]

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR (Mayiladuturai) : Madam, Chairman, I rise to support this Resolution moved by my friend Shri Basu Deb Acharia and to record my strong objections to the attempt being made by the Treasury Benches to convert their unwarranted Ordinance into a legitimate Act of the Government of India.

Madam, my basic objection is that I simply do not trust this Government with regard to the telecom sector. That is the most fundamental objection. Although I distrust this Government in every sector, my distrust of them is the greatest in the telecom sector because in this sector, we have seen them assuming one set of colours when they were sitting here, another set of colours when they were supporting those in power themselves. When one sees such lack of conviction and such a relentless pursuit of convenience on their part, I think, it is very important that before we get to the specifics of this Bill, we look into the intentions that had made the Government in passing this Ordinance.

Madam, you would recall, on the question of licensing in basic services, in December of 1995, this Parliament was brought to a standstill for virtually two weeks. In fact, a very distinguished Minister of Parliamentary Affairs who, I regret, is not here made his name in the other House on the basis of what he claimed is a major scandal with regard to licensing as a system of promoting private sector entry into the basic services sector. The charge fundamentally was that the then Congress Minister of Communication had started a licensing system in terms of which the Indian party which was in collaboration with two Third World parties-a Thai company and an Israeli company-was being illegitimately given the licence despite having the biggest bid because it would not be able to pay its fee. The basic charge was that there was a small company called Himachal Futuristic Limited, the Communications Minister also came from Himachal, therefore, there must be some *ghapla* inside and that this company would not be able to pay its licence fee and yet Shri Sukh Ram was giving them this licence. That means there is something shoddy going on.

Now we enter the year 1999. There is a major war going on in the Kargil sector and thousands of crores of rupees are unanticipatedly being spent by the Government of India for which we had to pass the Supplementary Grants. While the country is suffering this invasion and thousands of crores of rupees of the poor are being spent on defending the country. . . .*(Interruptions)* In a sense it is wasted because if we had taken the appropriate steps at the start to stop this incursion, maybe that war would not have been necessary. But let Shri Ram Naik not distract me from the main issue. It is because all I am saying is what he said. I used to sit on those Benches. I listened with added interest to what Shri Ram Naik had to say. I am only reminding him of what he himself said. He said that the licensing fee should only be taken from those who are capable of paying and Himachal Futuristic cannot pay. Now in the middle of a war where our soldiers are shedding their blood in Kargil, this Government – which has ignored all kinds of things which are of interest to the poor – rushes to convert the licensing system into a revenue sharing system thereby causing a loss of thousands upon thousands of crores of rupees of the Government of India. I can understand that there may be problems and we need to discuss in Parliament and we come to some kind of conclusion. But a Government which had lost the mandate to rule this country, a Government which is simply holding the fort while waiting for a General Election to take place, accords such a high priority to saving the interest of the richest multinationals in the world in partnership with the richest business houses in India that they converted the complete system and changed over from a licence system to a revenue sharing system.

Till today, as the Minister of Communications just reminded us, Parliament has not even discussed it. That

*Moved with the recommendation of the President.

[Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar]

is why, I do not trust them. They say one thing here, they say another thing when they are sitting in the middle and they say the third thing, when they come on to the Treasury Benches. Either the licensing system was wrong during Shri Sukh Ram's time and therefore, they should not have adopted the licensing system subsequently for the cellular operators or having adopted this system for the cellular operators, they should not, at a time when the country is bleeding both in blood and money, forgive the richest multinational corporations of the world-they are the richest business partners in India-from following a system which they entered into by way of a free contract and the same Mr. Sukh Ram whom they excoriated, is today adopted by them as one of their own. Why should I trust anything what this Government says with regard to the telecom sector? I trust them in nothing and I trust them least of all when it comes to the telecom sector and therefore, I think it is extremely important that we look into this matter now in very great detail but before I do so, I would draw the attention of the hon. Minister of Communications in his present capacity as well as previous capacity as a Leader of the Opposition who used to sit at exactly the point where I am just now standing. In recent weeks, the shares of telecom company whose prices have risen fastest in the Mumbai Stock Exchange is the same Himachal Futuristic whom you so abused four years ago. Four years ago, you said that they were incapable of paying and today, the most successful telecom company in the country, according to the Mumbai Stock Exchange, is exactly that same company. I, therefore, want to know why we should not examine this Amendment Bill, line by line and word by word to discover what really is in their minds when they have brought this Bill before us. I used to greatly admire Shri Ram Vilas Paswan when he was a socialist, when he was a messiah of the poor, when he was the prophet of the depressed classes. But when I now see him as an advocate for the multinationals, I feel very very sorry that a good man has lost his ethics just in order to continue to sit in some Ministerial Chair. The fundamental problem with this Bill indeed of the approach of the telecom sector is that they are so enamoured of *videshi* examples that they have completely forgotten the *swadeshi* reality. He wants us to reach the advanced stage where everyone is wandering around with a telephone in his hand. But we are in a country where people in millions do not even have access to drinking water. It is in terms of the social and economic realities of this land and not of those countries that Shri Paswan has now started visiting that we ought to determine what our telecom policy should be.

There is a National Telecom Policy of 1999 before us. I had my differences or nuances with it. But overall, it is a policy that contains a large number of excellent objectives for the nation. Shri Paswan mentioned some of them in passing, although he does not seem to realise that he has in no way related those objectives with the Bill that he has brought before us. In the NTP, 1999, there is a promise that we will work towards universal access and he mentioned it. Where is it in the Bill ? It is nowhere in the Bill. We want to work towards universal access as a Governmental commitment.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : This is only for TRAI. This is not revenue sharing package or any other thing. This is only an amendment for TRAI.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR : I think the remark that has just been made by the Minister of Communications shows how far he has removed from his own policy for he thinks that TRAI has nothing to do with the National Telecom Policy. It is his Policy. And I want to see the link between that Policy and this Bill.

I am just pointing out to him one thing if he has an open mind on it. After all I am only urging his own objectives. I am just drawing his attention to the fact that between the objectives set out in the National Telecom Policy, 1999 and the TRAI (Amendment) Bill, there does not seem to be the nexus, which I regard is essential for us to have a Bill of which we can be proud of. This Bill must be put into the context of the National Telecom Policy, 1999, which has not been so put. The proof of this lies in two areas. Firstly, I refer to Section 2 of this Bill and secondly, I refer to the Statement of Objects and Reasons that has been annexed to the end of the Bill.

With regard to Section 2 which is the Long Title, the old Act of 1997 said : "This Telecom Regulatory Authority of India is to regulate telecom services" and ended there. Now, they have expanded their own Long Title from being a single line into being a verse of poetry. Now, I know that Shri Paswan needs to get that poet Prime Minister to bless him, but I see no reason why when he is moving from a single Long Title of one line to a Long Title of five lines– five lines are there in the Long Title–and in writing these five lines, they forgot their own National Telecom Policy. There is no reference in the new Long Title of the Bill to universal access; there is no reference to universal services; and there is no reference to the Universal Service Fund. What are they up to ? Do you want to know what they are up to, as I do ?

I would request you, Madam, to turn your attention to the Statement of Objects and Reasons. In the Statement of Objects and Reasons, in paragraph (1), they quote the President, whose piece, they themselves wrote, as having said that :–

"the purpose of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India now will be to increase investor confidence."

That is my first consideration. Their first consideration is not universal access; their first consideration is not universal services; their first concern is not the Universal Service Fund; their first concern is not the rural areas of India; their first concern is not those areas which are regarded as uneconomical in telecom areas; their first concern is not even to strengthen the public sector company in the telecom area but their first concern is investor confidence. They will bend at their knees before any investor so that he can bring in the money which they do not bring in. I think this is a shame because the public sector in India under great socialist leaders like Shrimati Indira Gandhi, Shri Rajiv Gandhi and Shri Narasimha Rao has given as much as five-sevenths of the total investment in the telecom sector from their own internal resources. Instead of recognising that self-reliance lies in our being able to stand on our own feet, and accept the cooperation of others only on the basis of self-respect, this Government is willing to do anything including amending the very same Act which Shri Ram Vilas Paswan's Government brought when he was in another shape in order to beg and plead with the multinationals to come in by saying anything you want, we will do for you, all we want is, since we do not have the money to make phone calls from Patna to the Raj Bhavan. Therefore, please come in and enable us to access this. I think, this is a disgrace that their first consideration is increasing investor policy. What confidence ?

These investors from abroad have already submitted their proposals with regard to basic services as well as cellular services. What trust can we have in them when one investor says that it will cost him in metropolitan areas Rs. 15,000 per line as the investment, and another says that it will cost him Rs. 1,00,000 ? That is the difference. These companies operating in India today-some of them are claiming-claim that it cost them only Rs. 15,000 in a city like Delhi to lay a line and somebody else says, no, it costs them Rs. 1,00,000.

The picture is even more absurd when it comes to the rural circles. I find there that some operators say that it would cost them Rs. 2.30 lakh to lay a line and other operators are saying that it would cost them Rs. 12 lakh for laying a line. How can one trust those people whose sums are so wrong and who make contracts with us with the intention of breaking them and who then find complaint Ministers like Shri Ram Vilas Paswan and Shri Pramod Mahajan who will bend down on their knees to give them whatever they want, instead of demanding as a country with self-respect, that contracts freely entered into must be obeyed and if they do not, they will have to pay a heavy penalty for breaking that contract.

Madam, I see no reason why the primary objective of any Bill before this Government should be to increase investor confidence. The primary objective of any Bill before us in the telecom sector must be universal access, must be universal services, must be the universal service fund, must be the rural areas and must be the uneconomic areas. Shri Ram Vilas Paswan forgets all these things, but he wants to bend down on his knees before these multinationals.

Madam, I will take lot more time. So, please keep raising your eyebrows. I have plenty to say on this Bill.

MR. CHAIPMAN : Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar, there is a time limit and so, please try to conclude as fast as possible, because there are many more speakers.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR : Madam, I will try to conclude as fast as I can, but this is really an important subject.

The second objective that Shri Ram Vilas Paswan has placed before us, in his own Statement of Objects and Reasons, is that he wants to create a level playing field between public and private operators. I want to know why he wants a level playing field between public and private operators. After all, it is our public operators who go to a constituency like mine. I have the public operator who is providing telephones by the tens of thousands in my constituency, Mayiladuturai, where even private Indian cellular operators are not willing to go because people are too poor. Why do we have to become such slaves of these foreigners who say that until you give us a level playing field we are not going to come in at all ? I can understand that, as a subsidiary to increasing investor confidence, your saying that we would operate on a level playing field in those areas where you are operating. But to make this level playing field a higher objective than the provision of telecommunication services to the poor of India, to the poor regions of India, to the rural areas of India, is, I think, a grave policy mistake.

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer) : Madam, he is commenting upon the role of the foreigners. If so, the role of foreigners should be condemned in every field. He would agree to that.

[English]

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR : Madam, I do not wish to respond to such a childish, native remark.

[Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar]

Madam, it is further stated in the Statement of Objects and Reasons that the Government proposes to strengthen the authority through suitable amendments. But what they are doing is weakening the authority through suitable amendments. These amendments would not have been required if the TRAI has not shown itself to be a very strong body. Why is he misleading us ? The purpose of this Bill is not to strengthen the TRAI, but to strengthen the Government's control over it. If these people have said honestly that the TRAI has been acting in an irresponsible manner and, therefore, we need to increase our control over the TRAI and then through us, the control of Parliament over the TRAI, I would have understood that. But instead of saying any of these things, what the Communications Minister has said-and I regard this as misleading this House–is that this Bill is strengthening the TRAI, when its whole purpose is to weaken the TRAI. It is against this background that it becomes absolutely necessary for me to go into clause-by-clause examination of this Bill.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar, the total time allotted for this Bill by the Business Advisory Committee is two hours. I cannot give the entire time to one party. The others have also to speak. So, how much more time do you want ?

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR : Madam, I am quite willing to sit down at this point, provided you will allow me to go into a clause-by-clause examination when we come to the clause-by-clause consideration of the Bill.

MR. CHAIRMAN : No; please try to conclude in another five minutes.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR (Mayiladuturai) : Madam, I will try to go as fast as I can.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Nobody challenges your capacity to speak unlimited. But there is a time limit.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR : Madam, in section 2, I request that we make the following amendments. I am not drafting the amendments. I am suggesting what amendments could be made. We need to bring into this section 2 not only the concept of orderly growth in the telecom sector but we also need to bring in there, the concepts of universal access, universal service and universal service fund as stated in the National Telecom Policy of 1990 Act.

Furthermore, we need to bring in the concept of improving the quality of telecom services which is referred to in the Statement of Objects and Reason but has not been included in this expanded Long Title. I also think that it is very important that we bring into this long, long, long Title now the concept of affordable services. After all, you take telephone rental. Since Shri Paswan is now becoming an expert in developed countries after having spent his life in Hajipur, I now wish to draw his attention to the fact that the rental of a telephone today in India is 15 per cent of our per capita income whereas in the United States of America, whose friend he is now aspiring to become, the rental costs only 0.5 per cent of their per capita income. So, an affordable service is a key requirement. He has forgotten to put it into his lengthened Long Title of what he is up to.

I, then, move to section 4 of the Bill. In section 4 of the Bill, they had changed the system of one Chairperson and two Members which can be expanded up to six Members into a system of a Chairperson with no more than two Members. Now, I think, a Chairperson with six Members, that is, the total Regulatory Authority of seven persons, is perhaps too large. But I ask : "Is a Chairperson with just two Members not too small ?" Are we moving from one end of the pendulum to the other ? I think, this requires reflection in the Standing Committee as Shri Basu Deb Acharia has already proposed.

Then, I turn to section 5 of the Bill before us. They have one proviso. I suggest that we have a second. We must have a proviso that the Members of this Telecom Regulatory Authority will observe a code of conduct. I have no idea whether this is true or not. But we have heard that Members of the Telecom Regulatory Authority, including its Chairman, have been visited repeatedly by service-providers and their representatives. There is no record kept of who has come to call on them. There is no record kept of what they discussed. There is a continuous effort being made by the service-providers to influence the Members of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India. Therefore, I believe that we must put in a proviso relating to a code of conduct for these Members which would deal with questions of whom do they visit, who are those who visit them, whose hospitality do they accept, what is the record of all those visits that take place and record of all the conversations that take place with these people. Only then, can we be sure that the multinationals are not using illegitimate means of influencing the opinion of the TRAI.

Then, I come to a matter of very small detail but significant detail. This is section 9. I have got only two sections to go through. In section 9 of the Bill, I draw your attention to the very last line on page 3 where it says :

> "type of equipment to be used by the service-providers after inspection of equipment used in the network;"

This is an exact reversal of what was there as in 1997. In 1997, it was said that the TRAI would inspect the equipment and make recommendations regarding the new equipment to be brought. Here, why has Shri Paswan reversed the order? Why is it that the type of equipment is to be decided and then only comes the clause of 'afterwards the inspection having been done'? I am asking this because there was the word 'monitoring' in the Act of 1997 which they have dropped in the Act of 2000. Why? What is the logic of not referring to 'monitoring'? What is the logic of reversing the order of inspection and the type of equipment in the new language that has been brought before us?

16.00 hrs.

I go further now to page 4, to sub-clause B; after that to sub-clause B1, really. There it is a small matter of English, but since this is a law, I think, our English needs to be accurate. It says, "compliance of terms and conditions". As far as I know, the language should be "compliance with terms and conditions" and where the word 'compliance' appeared in the 1997 Act, it is followed by the word 'with'. It is not followed by the word 'of'. I would request the hon. Minister to kindly make this correction because our Hindi version needs to be exactly as accurate as the English version and we should not have a problem arising later because of wrong English.

Then, I come to sub-clause 5 under the same B. There is a reference in the third line to 'periodical survey'. The point in English is, it should be periodical surveys–in plural. Otherwise, there is a danger that when you go before a court, they will say, one survey has taken place, you are not entitled to a second survey. Since, we are talking about periodical surveys, the word 'survey' should be made in plural into 'surveys'. It is here in the same number 5 that we need to bring in the concept of universal access, rural areas and uneconomic areas, for we require to lay down standards of quality, not only in respect of big businessmen calling each other from Mumbai to Delhi but also for my poor farmers in Mayiladuturai also getting quality service. So, please bring in the rural areas universal access.

Then, with regard to sub-clause 9, there once again the word 'compliance' is used before the word 'of'. If the hon. Minister puts in 'with', it will correct it.

Then, I feel that the proviso saying, 'recommendations of the Authority shall not be binding upon the Central Government. . .' It is completely superfluous. No recommendation, by definition, can be binding. This clause has been brought in or rather this proviso has been brought in only to keep the multinationals satisfied. How can a recommendation be binding on a Government? Why does he need to stretch it over here? He needs to stretch it over here only because the multinationals have told the hon. Minister to make it very very clear that recommendations are not binding on him. I think, this is superfluous and a superfluous proviso is introduced into a clause. It brings the whole of that clause into disrepute.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please complete now.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR : Can you literally give me two minutes, Madam?

I think, the next proviso, '60 days', is simply not enough. '60 days' has been brought in in order to prevent the Authority from considering the issues in detail, from calling opinions from general public, from consulting experts, etc. This '60 days' proviso is there only in order for the Government to pressurise an independent regulatory authority. I do not think, we should accept such a short period, especially, as you subsequently say in the two provisos later that 'or within such period as may be mutually agreed upon'. What happens if there is no agreement between the Government and the Authority as to how many days may be agreed upon? I think, this amounts to pressure and I think, it is important that we must not also bring in Section 10 of this Bill because it is redundant.

Section 10 of this Bill says that 'no deduction except matters specified in clause B can be issued by the Authority. . .' But in small clause B of the previous Section. that is Section 9, it is stated that 'they can perform any other function as are necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act.' So, he has to give a direction to carry out some other provisions of this Act. He will be prevented by the new section 10 from doing so.

Finally, I see that we are under considerable pressure, I have some other recommendations to make regarding amendment. I will not make them now. All I will say is that we need conciliation and arbitration in addition to adjudication, as far as the Tribunal is concerned. Therefore, since the whole Bill is filled with infirmities, since there are so many more amendments that need to be brought into this amendment Bill, since the objectives of this Bill itself are not consistent with the National Telecom Policy 1999 adopted by this Parliament, it is very important that instead of rushing to convert Shri Paswan's ordinance into an Act, this Parliament be afforded the opportunity in the Standing Committee on Telecommunications to examine line by line, word for word, comma by comma, the extremely nefarious intentions of the Government in bringing this Bill before this House.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY (Chhapra) : Madam, Hon'ble Mani Shankar ji has made an impressive speech but the way he started analysing the bill denoted his intention to mislead the House at some point. He has gone through each point in great detail and has tried to reverse the sentence. However, Shri Ram Vilas Paswan who has introduced the bill in the House has a good hold over the subject. We are grateful to Hon'ble Minister, his Ministry and entire Cabinet for introducing such good amendments after due consideration.

We talk about globalisation and opening of economy, but there is no need to hold special discussion over how it all began.

16.06 hrs.

[SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN *in the Chair*]

The participation of Private Sector in the field of telecom is limited to mere four percent in our country whereas 96% is under the control of public sector. On one hand, it is said that more and more telecom services should be provided to the common man and under such circumstances, if the Government itself issues licences, looks after the interests of its public sector companies after issuing licences and at the same time directs the private operators to operate in the market and any dispute in this regard is also settled by the Government, it goes against the basic fundamental issues. The fundamentals on which the provisions of TRAI rested were slightly defective and that is why several cases were filled in High Court regarding various provisions of TRAI during the last three years since 1997 which have been considered seriously by the Government. You might recollect that during this period, the case of calling party was heard in Delhi High Court and the position regarding regulations specified by telecom had led to expression of strong resentment at that time and it was noticed that the provision leaned in favour of private operators. When a call was made from land line to cellular phone, major share would go to cellular phone operators and lesser share would go to MTNL. High Court struck it down after this controversy. The Government is trying to analyse all such provisions of TRAI. A Committee was constituted under the chairmanship of Finance Minister in this regard. The conversions Team considered all these issues and came out with these amendments.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, Shri Mani Shankar ji laid emphasis on this point he has an objection to the provision of fair play field. The system of issuing licences has been continued by the Government during the last fifty years till now and irregularities were committed in the country through licence regime and when our Government and especially the N.D.A. Government wishes to do away with the licence regime and widen the scope of services, the Members from the other side are raising objection to abolition of licence regime. I think that when Shri Mani Shankar ji was speaking, he did not have that phase in mind when Sam Pitroda had made drastic changes in the field of telecom. If his present speeches were to be read in that context, his point about interconnectivity goes totally against the earlier policy of his party. His points and his analysis is politically motivated otherwise he is in agreement with the step taken by the Government and if one reads in between the lines, he is appreciating the step taken by the Government. As Hon'ble Minister has stated in respect of field of telecom that as regards the issue of interconnectivity in context of advisory rules and regulatory functions, a great difficulty was faced in determining the mode of sharing revenue in case the matter regarding interconnectivity was referred to TRAI.

As this issue was controversial, hence a separate Appellate body has been set up to put an end to the controversy surrounding it and also to bring transparency in the revenue sharing exercise. Hence an effort has been made to make this act more effective in normal usage by making slight amendments in its provision.

Sir, when there is a boost in the confidence of private investors, we definitely hope that we shall be able to provide facility of communication in remote areas which are inaccessible from the point of view of power and water supply. We can communicate with anyone in any part of the country through telecommunication. Hence its need is being felt acutely and we want to extend the facility of telecommunication in rural areas after generating resources. Thus we can implement the policy of the Government effectively in remote areas.

There is a need to widen the ambit of IT field and VSNL network throughout the country and provide the facility of communication in remote areas. Hence we should consider this issue seriously and pass the amendment proposed in the provisions of TRAI unanimously after due consideration. Mani Shankar Aiyar ji has made certain points and his style of speech reflects the voice of opposition, however his points should also be taken into consideration and this bill should be passed unanimously after making required amendments. This is my request to the House.

[English]

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (Hoogly) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to oppose the Bill. . . *(Interruptions)* Yes, everybody knows it and the people of the country know it.

My first objection is what is the hurry to come out with an Ordinance towards the end of January? The hon. Minister owes an explanation to this House because as far as we know, the Chairman and not the Members has taken up the charges of the reconstituted body. But this was done in a hurry in January. Why is this haste? Is it to get rid of some old Members or is it to avoid the recommendations of the Standing Committee? I think, the hon. Minister, when he replies, will cover all these points.

Sir, what goes by the name of reform process, liberalisation and deregulation? There is a thinking that there must be someone to regulate. It cannot be *laissez faire*.

In the Indian situation, since 1991, both the Congress and subsequently the present ruling alliance have been opening up the Indian market in several areas. They have suggested to set up some regulatory bodies. How much effective these regulatory bodies can be and what may be the shortcomings? I have mentioned about the authority of some such regulatory body like SEBI and others on different occasions.

Now, we find that an Authority is proposed to be set up by bringing about changes in the existing Authority. Why?

I am starting from the most major change that is being proposed in this piece of legislation. The TRAI is sought to be taken out of the purview of the audit of the Comptroller and Auditor General. Why? Has not the Comptroller and Auditor General been functioning as an instrument of Parliamentary control over Government expenses from the Consolidated Fund of India or, for that matter, any Government expense? I am just making a small reference and I think the Minister will reply to this. He has been saying so many things that this is being done in the United States or that is being done in the United Kingdom. Can he say that a single Federal dollar can be spent without reference to their audit authority? The Minister, I believe, will reply as to whether a single Federal dollar can be spent by any authority of this type without the scrutiny of their Comptroller and Auditor General. Why TRAI is being sought to be taken out of the purview of the C & AG, I am coming to that. The C & AG had made some very drastic observations on the functioning of TRAI. I am taking only two. One is about the foreign travel of the Members of TRAI. They have observed that TRAI in its meeting held on 17th June 1997 fixed the entitlement of *per diem* halting allowance for foreign tours in respect of the Chairperson, the Members and other officers and staff as under : In the United States, the per diem halting allowance has been raised to US $ 500! Not even the United Nations' highest officials are given such allowance. TRAI cannot self-regulate itself and it is being given the authority to regulate others! It is $ 500 per day.

SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI (Visakhapatnam) : Business Executives get $ 500 per day.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : That is why amendment is needed.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : No. I shall come to your amendment, Mr. Minister. Sir, I am asking from the Minister whether they are entitled to this or not, whether they have been asked to repay or not, and if asked to repay, how much they have repaid.

The other drastic comment that the C & AG has made is on the revenue sharing. Who decided this revenue sharing, the Group of Ministers or the Cabinet? If the Cabinet decided this, then on whose recommendation they decided this? It was on the basis of the recommendation made on the advice of the Attorney-General. In a country like India, we do have the best professionals in so many areas of Telecom. In this age of information technology revolution digital revolution, internet, etc., our own people are dominating the world, be it in the Silicon Valley or, for that matter, any important city of the developed countries of the world. Our own people, the richest people, the Indian people, because of their knowledge of software, knowledge of Telecom, knowledge of C-Dot, are dominating the best institutions of the world, not only the capital market. But that has been gradually weakened and dismantled.

Our own people have been taken away to serve the multinationals only. This Government and their Government also have been silent onlookers. They have facilitated it. This Government also did it. They have rightly said that when immediately after the reforms process had started, Shri L.K. Advani had gone to United States and said : 'This reforms process, liberation is our agenda. Congress had hijacked the reforms agenda of the B.J.P.' Now they are following recklessly and desperately that liberalisation process. I am now coming to that.

You have not discussed about the revenue sharing process. The hon. Minister was saying that it has nothing to do with universal access. Then, why do you mention it in the beginning? You see Section 2 and the Long Title. It says : 'To protect the interest of the service providers first'. The first task is to protect the interests of the service providers. Who are they? It is the DoT. Our DoT has been challaned to remove DoT, to weaken DoT and to deprive of their own revenues to the tune of Rs. 2,000 crore. The second one is about consumers. Will they strive to protect the consumers' interest? I am coming to that. The third one is to ensure orderly growth of the telecom sector. On

[Shri Rupchand Pal]

the basis of what ? On whose recommendation ? Will it be on the Attorney General's advice ? On the basis of which Committee and which Study ? Is it ICICI ? The Government must explain this.

We did not have any opportunity to discuss the migration formula or the migration policy or revenue sharing. Now this TRAI Bill is not isolated from the migration process. Till now they have not paid. On the basis of wrong, false, inadequate half-truths as inputs, studies have been prepared to say that those companies had suddenly become very weak and they do not have enough business and so poor that they are unable to pay even their licence fees which are their dues. The Government is waiting till now, till the 15th of March. I do not know what they will do about even those who have not paid. They said that, they will be waiting till 15th of March. Let us see what will happen.

I had serious objections to this Bill. It is said that there should be some transparency. There is a mention about transparency. Will it be transparency without the scrutiny of C. & A.G ? Transparency itself calls for examination by an independent authority. Excluding the jurisdiction of C. & A.G. which constitutionally is so empowered to examine records, is highly questionable.

Mr. Minister, something is rotten in the state of Indian telecom. The Sukh Ram syndrome has infected not only your Ministry but the P.M.O. – very important areas of the P.M.O. I can substantiate that. It is not that all of a sudden, from the heaven, this TRAI Bill has come. You look at the composition of the reconstituted body. The Chairman is the former Chairman of the State Bank of India. He knows telecom! He knows digital technology! He knows Internet! He knows how to augment, how to spread the telecom services to the people of India!

Telecommunication in today's world is an essential infrastructure for building up any economy, any development worth the name and that will be done by regular orderly growth. By whom it is to be done ? Is it by the one who has come out with his famous or infamous report on banking ?

Who is the person ? I am sorry to mention the name. It is the Chairman of the Central Board of Direct Taxes. . . .*(Interruptions)* Why ? Is he a technologist ? I would have been happy if the scientist who has come out of Madras IIT with wireless and local loop technology could have been there. I would have been happy. . .

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR : Shri Sam Pitroda.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : Of course, Sam Pitroda.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You have taken 15 minutes. You have to conclude now.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : I have tried to start. I have made very valid and relevant points. Then, there are Shri Prasad and Shri Seshagiri. There was no one in the country whose services are requisitioned by the foreign country also. The financial importance of the TRAI is more important than the technological importance. . . *(Interruptions)* I am coming to the chief of the *Bharatiya Mazdoor Sangh*. The TRAI is related to technology. Is it not ?. . .*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR : You have messed it up. . . .*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : I have to say so many things. Now, I am coming to RSS. . . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : You were allotted seven minutes. I have given 10 minutes more to you.

(Interruptions)

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : RSS gears up because orderly growth. . . .*(interruptions)*

SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR : We are discussing about TRAI. We are not discussing the Telecom Policy entirely. . . .*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : I think, I have hit the right corner. . . .*(Interruptions)*

SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR : We know what you have done in West Bengal. . . .*(Interruptions)* You do not hit the right corner with political words. You do not instigate us. . . .*(Interruptions)* We can also pay back in the same way. . . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : There cannot be a direct exchange between this side and that side.

(Interruptions)

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (Hoogly) : I have something more to share. . . .*(Interruptions)* RSS gears up to oppose *Sankhavahini* venture and they have come out with a booklet. The Chief of the *Bharatiya Mazdoor Sangh* has said here that this Government has come out to sell *swadeshi* interest. Not only that. . . .*(Interruptions)*

SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR : *Sankhavahini* venture has been invented by an Indian scientist, Shri Raja Reddy. That is the most upgraded technology. So, we are trying to change it. . . .*(interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Whatever you want to say, you tell your Minister. He will reply from your side.

(Interruptions)

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : I do not know why they are so agitated. . . .*(interruptions)*

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR : May I ask one question to the Minister ? What is the business of a socio-cultural organisation to tell us about telecom policy ? . . .*(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : Then, why are you quoting RSS ? Do you support them ? . . .*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

Why are you quoting R.S.S. . . .*(interruptions)*

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR : We know that R.S.S. is totally political. . . .*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : THE Members and the Minister cannot have direct dialogue in the House.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Members should address the Chair alone.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRIMATI BHAVNABEN DEVRAJBHAI CHIKHALIA (Junagarh) : This means that Shri Rupchand Pal ji is supporting it.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR : He will also support it but first tell us as to why this socio-cultural organisation is issuing statements on such topics.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Rupchand Pal, please conclude.

(Interruptions)

SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR : It is their matter. You ask them. . . .*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : *RSS* says that what is the guarantee that the three IUNET nominees in the Board of Directors will not be CIA agents and that the facility for *Sankhvahini* in the DoT complexes will not be used for interception of India's trade and strategic secrets.

This is not the only one. It involves the security of this country in a larger and greater way. The Pentagon recently admitted that "Under the top secret project called "Acylon", the U.S. National Security Agency have been tapping telephones, fax, e-mail communications all over the world. The vast spy network has been jointly operated by the USA, the UK and Canada". And you are allowing some of them in the name of. . . .*(interruptions)*

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : Where from are you reading ?

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (Hoogly) : This is *The Tribune*.

SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR : Sir, if you allow him to speak so much on RSS, then why is it that the RSS is being harassed in Gujarat ?

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : It has come out in a U.K. newspaper.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Pal, please conclude. You have taken more than 20 minutes.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : I am concluding. I will make only relevant and valid points.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Only seven minutes' time has been allotted for you, but I have given you thirteen minutes more.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : Sir, the Ministers have taken my time.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I appeal to the Ministers that they should allow him to complete his speech and then they can answer his queries.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : I am concluding. This Government, through these amendments, is giving our national interests on a platter to the foreign multinational companies, who are out to loot the Indian market. The Government, through the revenue-sharing process, will lose not less than Rs. 2,000 crore, which could have contributed towards the development of telecom infrastructure.

TRAI has proved that they cannot regulate themselves. So, they want to keep themselves out of the purview of the C & AG. This will lead to more scandals and scams. By the constitution of new TRAI, this Government is determined to serve, it seems, certain particular interests- the interests that are working overtime for this Ordinance, and I charge that it is being done by a section in PMO. The reconstituted TRAI will serve the interests of the foreign and Indian monopolies and not our national interests.

[Shri Rupchand Pal]

Though I have a lot of material, I have no time. This Bill should be referred to the Standing Committee where it can be scrutinised properly, and the nation's interest can be protected. . Thank you.

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali) : Hon'ble Chairman, Sir, I rise to support the statutory resolution moved by the hon'ble Member Shri Basu Deb Acharia and I strongly oppose the Bill moved in the House.

It is true that it is the age of telecommunications and this field should be developed. The hon'ble Minister used to say that telephone facility will be made available in all the villages of the country but the telephones already installed are not working properly and the employees at the telephone exchanges are not available in the exchange during night hour due to which we cannot contact any one on phone during night hours. Credibility of any service is lost when tall claims are made about it and the service remains poor. Shri Sukh Ram was once holding the post of the Minister of Communications which the hon. Minister is now holding and bungling on large scale took place in the Ministry during Shri Sukh Ram's tenure which was committed by the multinational companies. The Government intends to enact law in this regard but there is a need to analyse it.

It has been stated that this authority will consist of one Chairman, not more than two full time Members and not more than two part time Members. They say that not more than two Members will be there. Zero is also not more than two and one is also not more than two. Such a situation can arise under this rule that only the Chairman will remain there in the authority and two full time and two part time members will not be there in the authority, despite all this there will be no obligations for the Government under this rule. What sort of TRAI you are going to constitute. The claim of the Government that they are going to make the TRAI an independent and capable body is not correct. What do you mean by two Members. Not more than two means zero as that is also not more than two. You will not appoint one Member and say that it is not more than two or in case there is only one Member you will say that it is not more than two. Similarly same word has been used in respect of part time Members that there will not be more than two part time Members which is also not more than two. They will not appoint one Member and then say that sub rule 3 of the rule 4 is being followed. Therefore, the intention of the Government is doubtful. Through this amendment the Government is saying that it wants to make TRAI capable and powerful body and we do not want to interfere in its working but only the Chairman will remain in the TRAI. Not more than two also means that there will not be a single Member in it because zero is also not exceeding two and one is also not exceeding two and as such neither the full time Members nor the part Members will be there in TRAI and, therefore, they will say that the rule in this regard is being followed. I proceed further.

Hon'ble Chairman, Sir, the Government says that the Chairman and other Member of the Authority will be selected by the Union Government from amongst the people who are having specialised knowledge and experience in the field of Telecommunications Industry, Finance, Accounts Law, Management or Consumer Affairs. Thereafter it has been stated that the persons who is in Government service or who has been in Government service will not be appointed as Member until he has served as Secretary or Additional Secretary to the government of India for not less than three years or on equivalent post in the State Government for the same period. However the condition so prescribed in the present Bill is applicable in the case of Member only. For the post of the Chairman the Government have prescribed that the person should have experience in the field of Telecommunications, Law, Accounts Management and Consumer Affairs. They will appoint any person as Chairman whether or not he had worked for three years as Secretary or Additional Secretary. From the clause four of the rule five it appears that qualification for the post of the Chairman is only experience whether or not such person had worked as secretary or Additional Secretary to the Government of India for three years. This is not compulsory for the post of the Chairman. But for the post of Member the Government have prescribed that the persons should have experience of three years as Secretary or Additional Secretary or equivalent post. Hon'ble Chairman, Sir, there cannot be any rule more ambiguous than this. Only experience has been prescribed as qualification for the post of the Chairman and this has been done to appoint the person of their choice on the post of Chairman whether or not such person have three years experience as Secretary or Additional Secretary to the Government of India but for the appointment to the post of Member the condition of three years service and Secretary or Addition Secretary to the Government of India has been prescribed. The Government should make it clear. Why this ambiguous provision has been made. The Government are claiming that due importance has been given to authority and it will enjoy full independence and autonomy. But practically only the Chairperson will be appointed and the person will be of the linking of the Government. No binding provision has been made in this regard. As regard the appointment of Members either they will not be there or if at all, they will be there, certain restrictions will be there. Rule four

and five may be referred to. How can we support such ambiguous law. There is wide gulf between the action and intention of the Government. Hon'ble Members Shri Aiyar and Shri Rup Chand Pal have raised some questions regarding auditing by the Comptroller and Auditor General which is a constitutional provision. The constitutional provision is that the institution receiving grant from the Government will be under the purview of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India.

Hon'ble Chairman, Sir, provision has been made to keep this authority out of the purview of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India. What sort of law the Government wants to enact and as such who will audit the accounts of this authority ? The Comptroller and Auditor General would have audited its accounts and would have submitted report to the President and would have brought irregularities, if any, to the notice of the President and there after the said report would have been placed in the House. But instead of that, this authority has been left unbridled in financial matters and it has been kept out of the purview of the comptroller and the Auditor General. How will it be effective ?

Hon'ble Chairman, Sir, it has been stated in clause 11(1), 11(2) and 11(3) of this Bill that auditing of accounts of this authority will be out of the purview of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India. 'TRAI' is being constituted under the department which was once held by a person like Shri Sukh Ram and that has been kept out of the purview of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India. As such there is ample scope for much bigger scam than the one that took place during the tenure of Shri Sukh Ram.

Hon'ble Chairman, Sir, I have apprehensions in my mind that unbridled powers are being given to 'TRAI' and auditing of its accounts has been kept out of the purview of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India. This provision goes against the provision of the Constitution of the country. According to our constitutional provision, it is mandatory to get the accounts of an institution which is getting funds from the Government audited by the Comptroller and Auditor General of India. But the most important provision of auditing by the Comptroller and Auditor General of India has been kept out of its purview. As such I have my doubts that the Government is playing in the hands of the multinational companies and our country is going to be a play ground for the multinational companies.

Hon'ble Chairman, Sir, all the hon'ble Members of this August House are aware that the multinational companies have committed irregularities wherever they went and they have indulged in big scams. Due to enactment of this law there will be no check on their entry into our country and they will indulge in similar irregularities and scams in our country also and we will have no control over them. The hopes and aspirations of our people that telephones will be installed in their villages at comparatively less cost will be dashed to the ground because the Government are going to make telephones costly by constituting this authority.

Hon'ble Chairman, Sir, you also know that villages are ignored in the matter of telephone facility even today. We cannot make a phone call from villages even after waiting for hours together thus the purpose of a telephone itself is defeated. I have been told by the people of Sahebganj and Deoria that we cannot make phone call even after waiting for as long as two hours. We cannot hope that improvement will come in telephone service even after constitution of this authority. The proposed deceptive law cannot be in the interest of the country.

Hon'ble Chairman, Sir, I strongly oppose the Telecommunications Regulatory Authority of India (Amendment) Bill 2000 and demand that it should not be passed in the House rather it should be referred to the Parliamentary Standing Committee so that technical loopholes in the Bill could be removed. With these words I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak.

[English]

SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI (Visakhapatnam) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, there is unanimity on the view that infrastructure is essential to build up our economy. There are no two opinions about it. At the same time, the right path has to be followed in presenting the Bill and also making it into an Act.

This Bill of TRAI is very essential in today's conditions because our country is lagging behind already when compared to many of the developed countries. Once we have agreed to liberalise our policy, it is essential to extend telecommunication services to the nook and corner of the country. We have already delayed things in several processes. This Ordinance that the Government had issued on the 24th of January, 2000 was perhaps to cut short the delays. On the point of bypassing the High Courts, it is not that the decisions of TRAI are not to be contested in any court of law.

Still it could be tested in the court of law, the Supreme Court.

As far as the obligations are concerned, that have been considered. It is only to hasten the process that this Bill is being introduced. It is also a fact that the telecommunication facilities are very much needed today

[Shri M.V.V.S. Murthi]

in the country to deveiop our Information Technology facilities. With the Information Technology facilities, our country is boosting up further improving our exports and other things to other developed countries.

The main link for the development of Information Technology is to develop telecommunication facilities. Telecommunication facilities are not available within the Government controls. It is limited to only a few people. At one time it was thought that 'to own a telephone itself is a luxury'. At one time there was a rule that those who are owing a telephone must also pay the income tax. If such is the case, how conservative policies we have adopted in the past.

SHRI A.C. JOS (Trichur) : Today also they are paying the income tax. . . .*(Interruptions)*

SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI (Visakhapatnam) : Today, we want everybody to pay income tax because we want everybody to develop and improve his economy and pay income tax. This is a different rule today. But the telephone facility has to be extended to every nook and corner. At one stage, we are telling that telephone facilities should not cost more but on the other hand my friends say that 'we are sacrificing revenues to the Government. I would say that it is not the revenue to the Government but it is a facility. So, it should be treated as facilities. Telecommunication facility is a facility which should be extended to each and every nook and corner and every village. By having very high tariff, can we extend this facility to everybody ? So, we should look into that angle instead of telling that 'the Government is sacrificing so much of revenue or the Government would have got so much of revenue.'

If you want to tax the people, you can have revenue. If you want to extend this facility, this has to be done. I am very sure that the surplus revenue sharing is not a bad proposition. I think, it should be acceptable to each and everybody. Then only, the common man will be benefited. But you build up the transparency level, and see after expenses, how to share the surplus revenue in the process. Instead of doing that if we are not together in this process of hastening the telecommunication facilities improvement and attracting the private investment, nothing could be achieved. The Government cannot invest there because it has no money for the social sector itself. So, how can you extend the facility only by doing the Government sector alone in this process of telecommunications ? That is why, we must attract the capital from outside, from private parties. We should not distinguish today whether the public sector is investing the money or the private sector is investing the money. But we should think in the policy of creating this facility at a cheaper cost to the common man. We should have that angle while doing that.

Sir, perhaps, these amendments are aimed at reaching the telecommunication facilities to the common man of the country. If such is the case we should not dilly-dally in passing such a Bill.

So, I feel that we should pass this Bill without processing any amendment because this is towards the development of the country's telecommunication facilities which, in turn, will improve the Information Technology facilities which will bring a lot of money to this country. With these few words, I support this Bill.

[Translation]

SHRI C.N. SINGH (Muchhlishahar) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to speak in support of the statutory Resolution Telecom Regulatory Authority of India, 2000 moved by Shri Basu Deb Acharia. I am of the view and I have myself observed that this Bill is a fraud and a bundle of untruth. In view of the prevalent corruption in Telecom Department, it can be said that the Department of telecommunication is the most corrupt department in the country where the officers from the lowest level to the highest level are engaged in corruption.

A attempt is being made to cover up this corruption. Attention is being drawn towards otherside in order to conceal it. If this Bill is not amended and reconsidered thoroughly and in its entirely, it will amount to deceiving the country.

Cellular phones are in use on a large scale. The Government is being deprived of a lot of revenue. The consumers are using the cellular phones out of compulsion. Only 10 percent calls are properly metered and rest 90 percent calls are being siphoned off. Under this system, licences which Shri Sukh Ram has provided. . . .**(Interruptions)* The present Bharatiya Janata Party Government is following his footsteps. . . .**(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : With due respect to you, I take objection to this. . . .*(Interruptions)*

SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR : Sir, is this Parliamentary ? . . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Hon. Member, please confine yourself to the Bill.

(Interruptions)

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*Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : I have been in public life since 1969. I become an M.L.A. in 1969 and since 1977 I have been elected as an M.P. Corruption may take place in that clan only to which he belongs. The moment you raise an accusing finger towards Ram Vilas Paswan, I will retire from politics. You must be joking. . . . *(Interruptions)*

SHRI C.N. SINGH : I have said for development. Through you I want to move an amendment in it. . . .*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please confine yourself to the Bill. Do not travel beyond the Bill.

(Interruptions)

SHRI ALI MOHD. NAIK (Anantnag) : Sir, I am on a point of order. . .*(Interruptions)* The hon. Member who is speaking may please resume his seat. The hon. Member has made an allegation against an hon. Minister.

SHRI A.C. JOS (Trichur) : There has been no allegation.

SHRI ALI MOHD. NAIK (Anantnag) : Sir, he has made an allegation.

MR. CHAIRMAN : There is no point of order.

SHRI ALI MOHD. NAIK (Anantnag) : Sir, please listen to my submission.

MR. CHAIRMAN : There is no point of order in this.

SHRI ALI MOHD. NAIK (Anantnag) : Sir, if anything goes against the rules of the House, a point of order is to be raised. He has made an allegation against a Minister. Before making an allegation, he must submit the allegation to the hon. Speaker.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I will expunge that portion. I am expunging that portion.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj) : Is 'Sukh Ram' unparliamentary ?

MR. CHAIRMAN : It is not unparliamentary. But the accusation against the Minister is unparliamentary.

SHRI A.C. JOS : There has been no accusation. He said that Shri Sukh Ram had started the development and the present Minister is expanding on the development, surpassing the development. It is not that he has made any allegation.

MR. CHAIRMAN : If that is the case, if there is any allegation, I will look into it.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL (Chandigarh) : Sir, you may please look into it.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I will examine it. If there is any allegation against the Minister, I will look into it.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : If the 'development' is in good taste, I will not expunge it, if it is in a bad taste, I will expunge it.

SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR : Sir, this is not correct. He alleged Shri Sukh Ram of corruption. Then, he has mentioned the same thing about Shri Paswan.

MR. CHAIRMAN : That is why I tell you that I will examine it. If there is any accusation against the Minister, I will expunge it.

[Translation]

SHRI C N. SINGH : I did not level any allegation against the hon. Minister. I had just asked for the comparison. Those sitting on treasury benches, always take 'comparison' in wrong sense. It should be understood in its proper perspective. Definitely I have accused the Department telecommunication of being corrupt and I can say with challenge that today even an officer of J.E. level is earning crores of rupees. No provision has been made in this Bill to put a check corruption, instead it seeks to enhance it. It has been stated in the Bill as to who will appoint the Chairman. If the Ministry does so then it will not remain as a judicial body. If it is to be turned into a judicial body it should be brought under the jurisdiction of the Supreme Court, the right of appointing the Chairperson should be vested in the Supreme Court. The right to appoint the Chairman will not rest with the executive, hence it should be maintained as an independent body. If it is not made an independent body then the Department of Telecommunication will appoint a capitalist of their choice as the chairperson who will serve their interests. Hence appointing such a person as chairperson is a big conspiracy to cover up corruption. I would like. . . .*(Interruptions)* I am concluding in a minute.

If this Bill is passed in its present form, millions and billions of rupees of the country will continue to be wasted through the use of mobile and cellular phones. Today the telephones are not being made available to those who actually need them. The people are using cellular phones out of compulsion. If the expenditure on a conventional telephone is Rs. 200 than if it Rs. 1000 for cellular phone, automatically an inflated bill is received. The DoT do not

[Shri C.N. Singh]

exercise any control over it. A common man like me who is using cellular phone, is suffering so much loss and the Government is also suffering the same. I do believe that his intention is good and he is good Minister though he has crossed over to that side for becoming a Minister but he is a good Minister. Though he has joined the ruling party but he has also been our leader and we have a feeling of respect towards him. I am not accusing him but if this Bill is passed in its present form then it will tantamount to the repetition of the same step which Sukh Ramji had taken. This Bill should be consigned to the waste paper basket. This Bill is of no use and there is no plea in defence of this Bill. This Bill is being brought to give advantage to the multinational companies and the capitalist class. This Bill should be referred to the Standing Committee and should be considered from all its aspects otherwise it should be thrown into the dustbin. I would like to suggest to the hon. Minister to withdraw this Bill and bring another Bill which could put a check on the prevailing corruption.

The level of corruption in this department is so high that only a feet deep digging takes place for laying the cable. I have myself seen it, half baked bricks are being used for construction. There is no other department in India which is as corrupt as this. Hence such a bill is not being introduced which may put a check on this corruption, instead the one which will cover up corruption is being brought here. Through you, I would like to submit to the hon. Minister that this Bill should not be passed until a proper discussion takes place on it and the necessary amendments are made in it. If you also think good of the country then let this Bill be thrown into dustbin, or else you would be dubbed as the supporter of Sukh Ramji.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer) : Hon. Mr. Chairman, Sir, I strongly support the Telecommunication Regulatory Authority (Amendment) Bill, 2000 introduced by the hon. Minister of Communication and through you would like to submit before the entire House that they should hold the national interest as supreme. If they want that the basic telephone facilities reach every village, we should posses abundant resources, the target of 'telephone on demand' should be realised and also if the telephones from the M.P's quota could be installed the intended places, they should support this Bill for achieving these targets, the Government needs resources. This bill has been brought for meeting all these demands, strengthening TRAI, increasing the investment and removing the hurdles which were coming in the way of TRAI. This Bill should be passed unanimously and without any delay and without any debate over it, as it is so useful a bill and is in the national interest.

I am very sorry to say and I feel pity over those people who are opposing this Bill in the name of corruption, the idiom 'sinning all the days of the week and going to church on Sunday' is most apt in their case. Those who are talking in terms of opposing corruption, can they reply as with whom Sukh Ramji was allied initially and with whose 'Sanskaraas' he was motivated.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR : With whom is he allied now a days ?

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : The hon. Members are saying about the multinational companies and foreign money.

17.00 hrs.

I would like to say that the policy of liberalisation was introduced during the reign of Narasimha Rao's Government. The Congress had repeatedly talked about globalisation and liberalisation and drafted the National telecommunication policy but the real job of implementing and justifying this policy fell on our shoulders. Our Government is fully committed to the cause of implementing it by taking the entire country in confidence. As the hon. President had also said in his Address that we would try to build the infrastructure for the basic facility of telecommunication and remove whatever hurdles which might come in its way in order to strengthen TRAI so that private sector investment could also be attracted. Though it has been provided that the private companies could also make investment but TRAI has been constituted for keeping a vigil on this process so that any kind of misconduct and irregularity may not take place. Also the provision for setting up a tribunal for disposing the controversial matters has been made under this Bill. Therefore, while earnestly supporting this Bill, I would like to submit to the Government that till now, it has been our experience that whatever private companies have entered this field after liberalization, all of them want to reap the maximum benefits only and intend to leave the non-profitable operations for the Department of Telecommunication. Due tc this only, the target of giving 10 percent of the telephone connections to the village panchayats and other village bodies has not been fulfilled so far and the expansion of telephone services has remained confined to the cities and towns only. I would like to make a special submission to the hon. Minister that whenever further provisions of TRAI are made in future, while framing the policy he should direct the private parties to provide necessary telephone connections to the villages and it should be made mandatory to do so., otherwise the rural areas would remain bereft of these facilities, because earlier too, during congress regime, telephone poles were erected but the machinery (batteries) went out of order and

now the job of installing new batteries is being handled by the Government. One more thing that I would like to suggest in this regard is that the latest technology should be used in rural areas so that the telecommunication service may become effective.

One of my colleague from Bihar was saying Jaaki Raho Bhavna Jaisi, So Prabhu Murat Dekhi Taisi'. For him the idiom everything looks pale to a jaundiced eye is apt as so many scandals and rampant corruption is order of the day in Bihar I would like to submit before the opposition that they should not oppose just for the sake of opposition but should try to earnestly support and co-operate for a good cause. There is no need to refer this Bill to the Standing Committee. It is an amendment only in the laws of telecom Authority which was set up in 1997. The provision for promoting proper investment in the light of two or three loopholes which had come to our notice in the last 2-3 years, improving the quality, fixing inter connection between telecommunication service providers and improving their quality have been made in this Bill. Provision for TRAI to recommend in terms of management and also to vest in it recommendatory, advisory and regulatory powers have also been made under this new Amendment Bill. I am of the view that after these provisions and after setting up the tribunal and doing away with the restrictions by C.A.G., private investment for the expansion of telecommunication services will increase a lot as the cellular and pagers are the need of the modern society. This is a fact which no one can deny. Those friends of mine who are opposing it, try to contact through cellular phones during election days. The entire world has witnessed the revolution in the field of telecommunication, hence India too cannot lag behind in this sphere. India has to progress with rest of the world and if India is to progress in tune with the present era, she has to, as per the need of the modern times, keep her doors open for investment by the foreign companies so that the resources could be mobilised. We can provide maximum facilities to the people by expanding our services and resolving their problems.

With these words, I support this Bill.

[English]

SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY (Basirhat) : I rise to oppose this Amendment Bill and to support the Statutory Resolution moved by hon. Member, Shri Basu Deb Acharia.

My first accusation is against the Government. Why was the Government in such a hurry to promulgate the Ordinance by-passing and disobeying the Parliament? This Ordinance was promulgated on 24th January, 2000. Within a month's time, the Parliament Session was to be convened. What was the hurry for the Government to promulgate the Ordinance by-passing and defying the Parliament? In fact, I would say that this Government is in the habit of setting bad precedents one-after-another by promulgating Ordinances by-passing or defying the Parliament. Both, Shri Mani Shanker Aiyyar and Shri Rup Chand Pal have elaborately discussed and thrashed out a number of points with regard to the demerits of this `Bill. So, my duty is cut short. I will conclude my speech within a few minutes.

This Bill is nothing but one step forward for the privatisation of the Telecom Sector of our country. This Bill invites the foreign multinational companies, foreign investors and operators, to operate in the field of telecommunication of our country. The hon. Members now sitting on the Treasury Benches, including Prof. Rasa Singh Rawat, when they used to sit on the Opposition Benches they used to plead for *swadeshi* in insurance and other sectors. I think, their *Swadeshi Jagran Manch* has now been converted into *Videshi Jagran Manch.*

This Bill proposes to remove the power of the C&AG. As referred to by Shri Rup Chand Pal in this speech, if any expenditure is made, there is no scope of interference or examination by the C&AG. The powers of the hon. High Court have been curtailed. The recent judgement passed by the High Court of Delhi shows that. This Bill proposes the curtailment of the power of the High Court.

An Appellate Tribunal was set up to settle the disputes of the consumers and the providers. Suppose a group of consumers or a consumers living in the remote corner of Kerala or Andaman and Nicobar Islands or Lakshadweep is aggrieved, is it possible on his part to rush to the hon. Supreme Court at Delhi ?

So, this condition should be removed. The curtailment of the power of the High Court cannot be justified and cannot be accepted. The object of the Bill is to promote and develop telecommunication services of our country. The hon. Minister of Communication and the hon. Minister of State for Communication every day appear in the television or their photographs appear in the newspaper. Every day, they are inaugurating something and saying that they are setting up telecom system in the farthest and the remotest corner of our country and that they have set up telecommunication system in the village area. What is the condition of the telecommunication system in the villages ? The telephone instrument is only an article lying in the drawing room. It is nothing more than that. This is the condition in the urban areas also. It is deaf and dumb now. Telephones are not operating. They are not functioning. But those ghost bills are coming. Our telecommunication system is totally corrupt. You can say

[Shri Ajoy Chakraborty]

anything and everything before the media. I think, we should accept that our telecommunication system has totally collapsed and destroyed. So, I urge upon this House that we are not opposing this Bill for the sake of opposition. We are opposing this Bill for the greater interest of the country and for better telecommunication system of our country. The clause 2 of the Bill says :

> "Telecom Regulatory Authority of India and the Telecom Disputes Settlement and Appellate Tribunal to regulate the telecommunication services, adjudicate disputes, dispose of appeals and to protect the interests of service providers and consumers of the telecom sector, to promote and ensure orderly growth of the telecom sector."

How would you promote the telecom system ? How do you provide better services to the consumer ? This Bill will not serve the purpose. So, I strongly oppose this Bill. This Bill should be referred to the Standing Committee so that this Bill can be examined properly. After examination by the Standing Committee, a comprehensive, pro-people, and a better Bill may be introduced in Parliament for the betterment and development of telecommunication system which can be enjoyed by our countrymen.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL (Chandigarh) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the state of telecommunication is a veritable barometer of nation's progress and the action taken to develop this sector is the right indicator of the Government's desire or commitment to take the country on the path of progress. Sir, it was this commitment that motivated late Shri Rajiv Gandhi to take up with determination, the development of information and communication technology in the country.

He was then scoffed at by leaders who today occupy important positions in the Union Cabinet. I say this not to express any grievance over the matter, but to salute that visionary whose foresight, though and work equipped us to march confidently on the path of progress and achieve substantial progress in different fields of nation's activity, including telecommunications. It was the result of his commitment that led us to the policy of 1994 and the subsequent enactment of law relating to the Telecom Regulatory Authority.

Today we have before us this Ordinance to amend that Act. Such a thing is quite normal because no law can be static if we really want to progress. But what really makes me to oppose this Bill today is the way this Ordinance was promulgated. I would very briefly refer to the Statement of Aims and Objects where I would try not to repeat whatever was very eloquently and brilliantly put forward by Shri Mani Shanker Aiyar, but only try to make my points. It is mentioned there that it was on 25th October 1999 that in his first Address to the Thirteenth Lok Sabha along with Rajya Sabha, the President of India had expressed the Government's resolve to strengthen the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India. The Winter Session came to an end on 23rd of December 1999. The current Session was to begin on 23rd of February 2000 and the summons were issued twenty days before that. Just a week before the issuance of the summons, we had this Ordinance.

If I am not mistaken in reiterating a widely and universally accepted norm regarding promulgation of Ordinances, an Ordinance is promulgated when something of an emergent nature arises for which the Government is called upon to legislate immediately and the Parliament or the Legislative Assembly is not in Session to bring about that legislation. In those circumstances, an Ordinance is issued. Here, it was in October 1999 that the Government made known its desire to bring about an amendment to the Act. They were certainly working on it then. Finally, just before the House was to be summoned, we have this Ordinance before us with no cogent reason to substantiate or to support their case for bringing about the Ordinance.

It is my charge against the Government that it was done primarily to dispense with the services of the incumbents of the Telecom Regulatory Authority who were not convenient to the Government. This is the approach of the Government. I do accept that it is the prerogative of the Government to choose the tool with which it has to work. But if a statutory body is there that you do not approve of or you do not like the working of a particular incumbent, is this the way of doing away with his services or doing away with the Regulatory Authority itself ?

I further have a grievance here. The Parliament is being taken for granted. One could understand if some immediate steps were taken to ward off a particular situation which could have otherwise landed us in some problem. But, here it was to appoint some new officers, some new members of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India. For what purpose are you bringing the Bill before the Parliament ? Could you just not wait for two months ?

The hon. Minister has lamented the piling up of cases in the courts. Is he not aware about thousands and lakhs of cases which are pending in the courts only because of the attitude of the Government about litigation ? If that is the position, what really was the basic reason for bringing about his Ordinance excepting the ones which have been referred to by the hon. Speakers before me ?

Sir, it is for this reason that I join the other hon. Members in supporting the Statutory Resolution moved by Shri Basudeb Acharia and express my disgust and opposition to the way the Government is working.

Sir, having said that, I would only refer very briefly to some of the provisions of the Bill. Though it may be a little repetitive, yet only for the sake of emphasis, I shall be referring to them. The Government talks of the new Telecom Policy of 1999 with all the pride as if it is a great achievement made by it. Rightly, there is emphasis on universal service and in fact, that is the primary objective, but as it was pointed out, there is no mention of it in the Statement of Objects and Reasons. Our friends on the other side today take every word that comes from the US as *mool mantra.* But I would like to remind the hon. Minister here that the Communications Act of 1934 was passed by the US which set up a Federation Communications Commission, and the Telecommunications Act of 1984 of the UK had set up the Office of Telecommunications. In those Acts there is a specific mention about the mission before a regulatory authority, that is, to provide universal service. Sir the National Telecom Policy of 1999 stipulates a universal access levy to raise resources for subsidising capital expenditure, for handing over the same ot the service providers in case of each telephone to cover the rural areas which have not been covered so far. And I think this was one function which should have been assigned to the Telecom Regulatory of India and has not been done.

Sir, there is another important matter which calls of consideration. It is the revenue aspect which presently works against the universal service objective and it could be called as the cream skimming or discriminatory provision of services which favours only high user customers and neglects the residential users and the rural customers. That ought to be without discrimination. There ought to be some realisation or levy according to the norms to be laid or prescribed by the Telecom Regulatory Authority to cross-subsidise this important sector. This aspect is totally missing from the present Bill. We were appalled when we saw the hon. Minister rising to interrupt the hon. Member, Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar who initiated the discussion on the subject when he talked about the need to have a sort of a levy for attaining universal access.

Sir, I know that you have warned me about the time but I only want to submit certain points about my amendments since I have formally moved certain amendments and I have got those amendments circulated. Instead of taking the time of the House again, I would just refer to those and conclude my speech.

Sir, one of the major objectives of the Government in enacting legislation like this has to be in a way to strike a proper balance between the interests of the consumers, the operators and the interests of the State, which acts as a catalyst and a facilitator for balanced and speedy growth of telecom sector.

Sir, here in the name of providing a level playing field, it is the Department of Telecommunication Services and the MTNL which are sought to be burdened as they have been burdened in the recent past. Sir, if a development like this is permitted to be perpetuated, it would mean a major loss to the development of telecom services in our country. Sir the present Bill seeks to bifurcate the functions of regulatory authorities from those of the judicial ones. I have no problem with that. But what I find, Sir, is that in case of the Appellate Tribunal, there is a provision, for, besides the Chairman, two regular Members and two part-time Members. Sir, if you really mean business, an authority of this nature, of this importance should not have any part-time Member. The provision relating to part-time Members, I feel is again incorporated only to subserve the interests of those people who are pressurising the Government to pass such legislation. I would not dwell on that point further but only come to my amendment that I have moved.

The Bill as it stands now provides for not more than two whole-time Members and at the same time it talks of Benches of the Appellate Tribunal which could be set up at many places besides Delhi and a Bench has necessarily got to be composed of one or two Members because in case of difference of opinion between the Members in deciding a particular case, there is a provision that the Chairman could withdraw the case and submit the same to somebody else. I suppose there is some contradiction in these provision. If you want to have Benches, you have certainly got to have more than two members and precisely for that reason I have submitted an amendment saying that this world "two" should be substituted by word "six". It is not necessary that once you have an enabling provision like this that you have necessarily got to have six Members. You do not have to. But when you think or experience that there is a heavy load of work which the Appellate Tribunal cannot cope up with that, then there is need to set up Benches and you have got to have more number. With the present provision, you cannot have more than two Members.

MR. CHAIRMAN (SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN) : Please conclude.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL (Chandigarh) : Do I talk of my amendment subsequently ? I have no objection in doing so.

MR. CHAIRMAN : We have already exceeded two hours.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL (Chandigarh) : I know, Sir. I have cut down my speech and I will straightaway come to the amendments.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Your party has taken more than the time allotted.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL (Chandigarh) : If you say so, I will talk of my amendments when we come to the *amendments*. I will sit down now.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Certain Members are allotted only two minutes but I gave them ten minutes.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL (Chandigarh) : You may kindly give me time to speak when I take up those amendments.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (Pandharpur) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank you for giving me opportunity to speak on this bill. Shri Ram Vilas ji, you have to remove the corruption prevailing in the Department of Telecommunication. If you want to run the department efficiently, you have to accept our demands.

The bill you have presented reflects your good intention. The setting up of such an authority through this bill will help in improving the tele-communication services. But I think that such type of experiments have been done earlier also. The age fixed for the Chairman of the authority is 70 years. But I do not find it appropriate. We need a much younger person to chair this authority. If we want to bring improvement in telephone service, the Chairman should be of 65 years of age and Members should be of 50-60 years of age. Earlier, Shri Sukhram had tried to accomplish a good task but the officers did not work to the desired level. Officers tried to malilgn his reputation. Howsoever, honest the Minister may be, officers go to the Minister and obtain his signature on the file and then create problems for him. Hon'ble Shri Ram Vilas Paswan has been one of my good friends. Today he belongs to the other party but he is a generous person. He is a good Minister also. He has been in the Ministry for many years. He has done a good job as an M.P. As a Minister also he is doing good work. However, this bill needs some more amendments. I, on behalf of my party oppose this bill. To improve this bill, it should be referred to the Standing Committee for amendments.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Hon. Members, Shri Rupchand Pal gave notice of amendments to the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (Amendment) Bill, 2000 today at 1000 hours.

As per provision of Rule 79, notice of amendment to a Bill has to be given one day before the day on which the Bill is to be considered by the House.

Copies of the Bill were circulated to Members on 24th February, 2000. The Bill was introduced in the House on 9th March, 2000. Members were informed *vide* a paragraph in Bulletin Part-II dated 21st February, 2000 that Members may give notices of amendments to a Bill after its introduction in the House.

As may be seen in this case, Shri Rupchand Pal had ample opportunity to study the provisions of the Bill and give notice of amendments thereto.

However, in view of the Member's request to allow him to move his amendments and the fact that, by and large, the House has no objection to allow him to move his amendments, I have decided to permit him, as a special case, to move the amendments.

This may, however, not be treated as a precedent.

I may emphasise that it is in the interest of Members to give notices of amendments after introduction of the Bill without waiting for its being listed on the List of Business.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to congratulate and I am thankful also to the Members who participated in this important debate. Shri Basu Deb Acharia invited the attention of the House by opposing this ordinance with a view to keep a check on the Government so that it may not deviate from its path. Your judgement is based on your past-experience. However, I would like to assure you that it is Parliamentary democracy.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, in a Parliamentary Democracy, people cast their vote in favour of a party, Members elect the Prime Minister and the Prime Minister forms his cabinet. If the Prime Minister is an honest person, the cabinet will also be honest, and if cabinet is honest, officials will be honest. If Prime Minister's intergrity is doubtful, honest persons can not remain in the Cabinet for long. Shri Manishankar Aiyar perhaps has not had such an opportunity. The way you have discussed this bill in depth is appreciable. I am not appreciating it just because I am speaking from Treasury Benches but I also appreciated you when I was in opposition. It is a different thing whether I agree with you or not on this issue but

the way you go in depth of every aspect is appreciable and I appreciate that.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, first of all, I would like to ask Shri Manishankar Aiyar that it is not right for the Members of Congress Party to criticise the telecommunication policy and to level charges that we are intending to sell this country to foreigners or private companies. I can expect this comment from left parties as it has been their policy to always criticise, but this policy was formulated during Congress regime and now when it has started showing its results, why are they criticising it. It is not our creation, it is your baby.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, neither the United Front Government nor the Government of National Democratic Alliance was in power during 1984. At that time Congress was in power and the then Minister of Telecommunications had announced that a policy will be formulated. Under that policy manufacturing work in telephone sector was opened to private sector. MTNL was set up in 1986 and in the same year VSNL came into existence. The department of posts and Telegraph was bifercated into two separate departments in 1985. Initially National policy on telecommunications was being placed under Ministry of Information and Broadcasting but later on the Ministry was reconstituted and in 1989 Telecom Commission was set up. In 1991, the new Government at the Centre, brought a new economic policy (N.E.P.) with the aim to promote liberalisation, private investment and foreign investment. I am saying all this because the policy was formulated in 1991 with three objectives – (i) Liberalisation (ii) Private investment (iii) Foreign investment. Then cellular and pager services were introduced in telephone sector. In 1994 National Telecom policy was announced. Basic telephone services were opened to private parties. Therefore, I would like to tell Shri Manishankar Aiyar ji that by levelling such charges that we are promoting foreign or private companies, you are not doing injustice to late Prime Minister Shri Rajiv Gandhi.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to tell Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar that if there is any mistake or corruption Charges, you have the every right to criticise it and in such a case I shall welcome criticism from you. There are no two opinion that there should be transparency in Parliament. But when a policy is criticised and charges are levelled that it is a policy to lure the foreigners and to mortgage the country, it is not proper as it all began with the Congress Government. As I have stated in the beginning that we are not of conservative minds, we have a liberal attitude.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, we should work according to our needs. I would like to thank Shri Murli ji for this. Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh, Shri Chandra Babu Naidu has set an example by using new information technology, new infrastructure, new communication network in an effective manner which would help in the progress of the State. It is a good use of new information technology network. I think that every State Government and Chief Minister of every State and other Departments of Union Government should use it. I am talking about Karnataka also. I want to say that Southern States are doing better than the northern States. Therefore, I have set a target to provide telephone facility to each and every village of all the States except Southern States by the year 2002.

We have fixed 2001 as the target for the South. Shri Raghuvansh Prasad has just mentioned that telephone is out of order. Is there anything in Bihar which is in a proper shape ? When everything is out of order then telephone cannot be an exception to it. You have rightly pointed out that nobody remain there to attend phonecall after 6'0 clock. Who will stay there ? Somebody takes away the telephone Battery and if it is diesel set it is also taken away. Even a person can be kidnapped ?

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali) : Do not blame the State Government for your lapses. . . . *(Interruptions)* What is the role of State Government in regard to telephone ? . . .*(Interruptions)* All irregularities are being committed in your State ? . . .*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : Raghuvanshji, I have not mentioned the name of State Government. . . . *(Interruptions)*

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : You have said that there is disorder in Bihar, I cannot tolerate this. . . .*(Interruptions)* How can you declare it a disturbed State. . . .*(Interruptions)* You belong to Bihar so it is not proper to blame your own State.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : I have said so because all these things exist there. Firstly, he has said this and secondly he has said that all the things have not been included in the long title. The most notable thing is universal services and universal accesses. Shri Mani Shankar Aiyarji, you know that the seven chapters of Ramayana are not included in the long title. The title of the epic will be Ramayana. Sunderkand, Lankakand, Uttarkand, Balkand, Ayodhakand, Kishkandakand etc. will not be mentioned in the title. If you have gone through it then you will find in the amendment made by the Government at Page No.4 in sub-para 9 it is mentioned that :–

[English]

> **'Ensure effective compliance of universal service obligations'**

[Shri Ram Vilas Paswan]

[Translation]

So long as universal service obligation is not ensured and taxes are not imposed on rich people telephone facilities cannot be provided in villages. Why telephone facility and railway services are not provided in villages because these are not profitable. However, when we will ask for revenue sharing, we do not want to call it universal obligation. We will call it Rural Area Development Fund. If anyone provides these facilities as service provider or private sector, tax should be imposed on both of them and the losses caused in villages will be met through these tax. Hence the Government have said that it will set up 'communication stall' in every village. At present cellular telephone is an universal access because it is an individual property. Common people are not being benefited from that. Common people can be benefited only when the facility of telephone, internet, computer etc. is made available in every Panchayat. That is why I have said that it is the question of long title and it is not included in the long title. But if you see the amendment which is mentioned at page 4, you will find that everything is included in that. It is there in Sub-para 5 :

[English]

'(v) lay-down the standards of quality of service to be provided by the service providers and ensure the quality of service and conduct the periodical survey of such service provided by the service providers so as to protect interest of the consumers of telecommunication service; . . . '

[Translation]

These provisions are there. After assuming my charge as Minister, I have constituted three committees and I have written letters to all Members of Parliament. I have said that monitoring of rural area is never done. A monitoring Committee has been set up for rural areas under the chairmanship of a Senior D.G. The function of this Committee would be to achieve the target. Earlier, when I was Minister of Railways we used to invite every hon'ble Member of Parliament. We will invite them here also and we will try to solve their difficulties. We will also visit State headquarters. The target we have fixed is a matter of national interest and it is not a matter of any party or Government. So, I would like to mention three things. First thing is the development of our rural areas and I have got figures to back up my Statement.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj) : You are not aware that when someone writes a letter to rural sector and T.D.M.O. he does not get its reply for two months. But he gets your reply within a month.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : You give me the name of such officer and I will definitely take action against him.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : They do not give reply. They get your reply and Tapanji's too but they do not receive any reply from District Officer.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : You do not ask questions directly. You should only address the Chair.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : I would like to say that Hon'ble Members of Parliament, Whether they belong to ruling bench or opposition bench, Parliament is Supreme. Any officer whether he is holding a lower or higher post or any Minister has no right to disregard and neglect any hon'ble Member. If any officer behave like this then you give us in writing and we will take stringent action against him.

[English]

You please do not go into the details.

SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH (Adoor) : I can give so many examples.

SHRI VAIKO : Let him speak.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : Whereas on the one hand we have said that we will place it in private sector and on the other hand we have also said that we will bring the best technology that is available in the world in the cities. You have said that telephone line is out of order. I accept that most of the lines are out of order. Though the Department claims that only a small number of telephone lines is out-of-order but my personal experience is that the tower which has been erected is 30% defective. The number is less in the South but over all 30-40% lines are out-of-order. We have evolved a separate mechanism for that. Testing of the wireless on loop lines is being conducted and it is likely to be over by the next month. It is the latest equipment. Once the testing is done and it is installed at a site, there will be no need to lay cables under or above the ground in a radius of 25 kms. The equipment can be installed anywhere, be it desert area, flood area or hilly area. We have used that technology. We have fixed the target of work to be achieved by each officer and we have also fixed the criteria of target achievement for transfer of the officers. We would not listen to any plea of the officer who does not achieve his target. We will also appreciate those officers who do their job honestly keeping the target

in mind. There is no two opinion that telephone lines remain out of order. There was time when the issue of telephone was raised in Parliament then almost every Member used to make hue and cry in the House about the non-working of telephones. I often receive complaints about billing. But as far as the working of telephone is concerned, I can say that there has been quite an improvement in the services of telephones. Recently, I have written letters to hon'ble Members. We have appointed Dr. Lal Singh as incharge of Grievances Cell of our Ministry. We have given you special number. You can make a call at that number. As far as case of excess billing is concerned there we face some difficulty. In that situation we always try to hold an inquiry again. As a Minister we have no power to waive the bill. Our top priority is not only to provide world class services but also to bring latest technology. By the year 2002 every rural area will be provided not only with a telephone but also with internet. No district headquarters will remain uncovered by June, 2000. We will connect district headquarters with internet. We have made an announcement in this regard and we are monitoring it. We will meet in July and if any Member inform us that it has not been installed in his district then we will take action against the concerned officer.

One more point was mentioned that an attempt is being made weaken TRAI. I would like to mention this point in a different manner. We have set up two bodies, one is the TRAI and the other is tribunal.

The power of dispute settlement of TRAI have been given to the Tribunal but one thing is certain that the TRAI do not become weaker by that. You have asked that who will appoint the Judge or Chairman of the Tribunal. The Chairman of the Tribunal will be a sitting or former Judge of the Supreme Court or a sitting Chief Justice of or former Chief Justice of a High Court. His appointment will be made in consultation with the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court. It is a powerful body and the Government have no right to cover it. Secondly, the TRAI about which I have said that it possesses regulatory power, recommendatory power and tariff power. Whenever there is a controversy in the TRAI, the Tribunal will be approached and to avoid wastage of time in the process, the case can go to supreme court directly without passing through High Court.

Shri Raghuvanshji has said that you have written that TRAI should consist of two Members. Just now, hon'ble Member Shri Bansalji has made an amendment in this that there should not be any part time Members. TRAI will look after two kind of functions. The TRAI comprise five Members, two part-time, two regular and one Chairman. Only selected cases will come to Appellate Tribunal and the number of such cases will be very few and far between. It is a small body which consists of three Members only.

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : When he has so much respect for MPs, then why can he not refer it to the Standing Committee ? The Members of the Standing Committee can go through it. . . *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : Do you want to delay this.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : No, I don't want to delay, all Members have suggested that it should be referred to Standing Committee.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : I would like to thank Shri Rajiv Pratap Rudy because he has stated the factual position by raising above the party line. Shri Rupchand Pal has raised the question of C & AG and I have also stated in my speech as to what is the role of C&AG. Everything is not kept out of the purview of C&AG. As regards regulatory function, if there is threat how a person can function properly. In case of Tariff you will find that always charges are levelled against department that it increases rent and the charges of call whenever it likes. This charge is always there. Hence regulatory has been set up. The regulator will take care of public interest, the interests of the consumers.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : If a case regarding Income Tax is referred to Tribunal, will it not be forwarded to C&AG for scrutiny ?

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : According to Somnathji, I am not an economic expert, but if you see Section 23, you will find that it is regarding Audit.

[English]

Section 23 reads as follows :

> "The Authority shall maintain proper accounts and other relevant papers and prepare an annual statement of account in such a form as may be prescribed by the Central Government in consultation with the Comptroller and Auditor General of India."

[Translation]

You read section 23 as everything has been mentioned there. I have mentioned only those points which are not included there. Everyone has the right to have an access on administrative matters. But what would happen if an independent body is constituted. . . .*(interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : The hon. Minister has no time even to read my letters. I have been writing to him on very important issues. He is now free from Bihar. Please read them .*(interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : I would like to say this because there is no question of insulting or ignoring the institution of the C & AG. We will not do justice if on the one hand we continue to say that we will strengthen TRAI and make it an independent body and on the other hand we make several provision to curtain its independence. I can certainly say that after the setting up of TRAI, there has been a great deal of improvement, though not much, in the rentals of telephones and we will keep up this trend. . . .*(interruptions)*

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : You have mentioned transparency but if it is sent to C & AG then there will be no transparency.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : All matters will be sent to C&AG.

[English]

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY (Chhapra) : Sir, are you permitting this type of cross-talk ?

MR. CHAIRMAN : I have not permitted them. It will not go on record.

*(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : I would again like to say that as far as the question of expenditure is concerned, the C & AG has full right to audit the expenditure. The regulatory power, tariff right and the right of settlement are not diluted hence anybody could go to Appellate Court in order to protect his rights in this regard.

And I feel that the whole House will support us in this matter and transparency will be maintained. C & AG has stated that all the employees are corrupt. I do not accept that all the employees are corrupt.

[English]

Black sheeps are everywhere.

[Translation]

Good and bad people are found in every walk of life and it is not proper to rule all the men with the same rod. It is not proper to say that all officials and employees are corrupt, politicians are honest and persons working in Government as well as private sector are corrupt. It is not an appropriate criteria. I have also been incharge of a Ministry and it all depends on political will of the Government. I, therefore, repeatedly say that policy, leadership and intentions are the important factors. Officials have to work according to the direction of the Government. Our friends are making a mention of Standing Committee. I do not find it appropriate as Parliament is in session and if you want to make any haste. . . .*(interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Sir, the whole concept of the formation of the Standing Committee is to examine and scrutinise the critical policy mattress of the Government also. Therefore, the Standing Committee is quite competent to go through it. Why is the Minister saying Standing Committee, Standing Committee ?

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : As we were in haste we brought this ordinance. In the context of the Standing Committee, I would like to say that we are ready to improve the system if there is any shortcoming in maintaining transparency. We cannot delay it in the name of Standing Committee as TRAI has been reorganised and at present no such body is functioning. Several important decisions are yet to be taken and the new committee is in formation stage. . .*(interruptions)* then for last 1 or 1½ month. . . .*(interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, there are two or three much less important Bills than this Telecom Regulatory Authority Bill, which have been referred to the Standing Committee. Why is the Minister saying Standing Committee, Standing Committee ?

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Dasmunsi, you have already made your submission.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : My submission is that development should take place in the country and in this context hon'ble Prime Minister has stated that all other Ministries deal with our today but Communication Ministry deals with our future. The revolution in telecommunication sector cannot be handled by Government alone. Mani Shankarji you should be thankful to your leaders for initiating this policy due to which out of 2 crore 50 lakh

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*Not recorded.

connections given during the last three years, under the policy of economic liberlisation 1 crore 30 lakh connections were given in rural areas.

18.00 hrs.

AN HON'BLE MEMBER : In cities.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : It was spent in cities but throughout the country. What I have stated earlier that it was 0.6 per cent is wrong. It is 0.6 per cent for rural areas and 4.5 per cent for the whole country.

[English]

I should be corrected otherwise.

[Translation]

I have no other intention about it. I would like to again request you that it is our effort and when it will be considered. . . .*(interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Sir, he has supported late Shri Rajiv Gandhi's policy. I should thank him for it. . . .*(interruptions)* I only want to congratulate.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Dasmunsi, everybody is taking advantage.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : The issues of licensing policy and revenue sharing will be discussed in detail and all the facts will be brought before the House. The objectives of TRAI and NTP, 99 have been presented here. I request Munshiji, Manishankar Aiyarji Palji and Govindacharyaji that. . .*(interruptions)* Earlier also I used to call Shri Basu Deb Achariaji by this name. Not only today but earlier also I used to address him.

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Sir, may I ask one question ?. . .*(interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now, the time is 6 p.m. With the leave of the House can I take up the other Bill ? One more Bill is here. I seek the approval of the House for the extension of time.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS : Yes.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Yes, We can take it up.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Sir, I do not want to give the impression throughout the country, as the Chairman of the Standing Committee on Communications. I feel that we must go through it. I would have expected the hon. Minister to say that the Ordinance will lapse and hence he is seeking the passing of the Bill. . . . *(Interruptions)* Do not try to say that the Standing Committee should not go into this. You say that the Ordinance will lapse and, therefore, in this case you are requesting the Standing Committee to allow it. You give that explanation. Do not give a lecture on the Standing Committee and their functioning, the whole House etc. In that case the Standing Committee system will have to be abolished. Therefore, you say that because the Ordinance is lapsing, you are requesting. Actually, a request should have gone to the hon. Speaker because all the Bills are sent to the Committees.

There are so many Chairman of the Committees here. Shri Vaiko will not appreciate it. Dr. Laxminarayan Pandeya is here. Therefore, I am suggesting a way out for them to say it.

I give notice that in the Standing Committee we will go through this TRAI law. . . .*(interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : I am grateful to my esteemed colleague and thank him. If I had not any respect for him, I would not have sent my colleague Minister to him. There are so many points. You are my elder. You have rightly said that several consequences would have arisen after lapsing of this ordinance. I fully agree with you. This bill should be passed unanimously in this house after recommendations.

[English]

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA (Delhi Sadar) : 'Basu Dev' and 'Govindacharya' are the same. . . .*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Sir, I have asked the hon'ble Minister as to what was the urgency of promulgating this ordinance TRAI and tribunals have yet to start functioning. There are several shortcomings in this ordinance. Therefore, there is no need to make haste. Session of the Parliament was to be convened after one month.

Hon'ble Speaker has also given his opinion against such ordinance in this House. It is not appropriate to promulgate such ordinance before the start of the session of Parliament.

The Hon'ble Minister has not given any reason for urgency of promulgating of this Bill. Thus we are not withdrawing it.

[Shri Basu Deb Acharia]

I would again request the hon'ble Minister to withdraw this Bill. It is not in the interest of the country. It is the opinion of opposition that it should be discussed comprehensively in Standing Committee before bringing it in this House. Therefore, we are not withdrawing it.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That this House disapproves of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (Amendment) Ordinance, 2000 (No. 2 of 2000) promulgated by the President on 24 January, 2000."

The motion was negatived.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That the Bill to amend the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India Act, 1997, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The House will now take up clause-by-clause consideration of the Bill.

The question is :

"That clause 2 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 2 was added to the Bill.

Clause 3 – (Amendment of Section 2)

MR. CHAIRMAN : There is an amendment to clause 3 to be moved by Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal. Shri Bansal, are you moving your amendment ?

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL (Chandigarh) : Yes.

Sir, I beg to move :

"Page 2,-

omit lines 10 to 12" (1)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now, I shall put amendment no. 1 to the vote of the House.

"Page 2,-

omit lines 10 to 12" (1)

The amendment No.1 was put and negatived.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That clause 3 stand part of the Bill"

The motion was adopted.

Clause 3 was added to the Bill.

Clause 4–(Amendment of section 3)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Bansal, are you moving amendment No. 2 ?

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : Sir, I beg to move :

Page 2, line 16–

omit "and not more than two part-time Members," (2)

MR. CHAIRMAN : I shall now put amendment No.2, moved by Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal, to the vote of the House.

Page 2, line 16–

omit "and not more than two Part-time Members" (2)

The amendment No.2 was put and negatived.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That clause 4 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 4 was added to the Bill.

Clause 5 was added to the Bill.

Clause 6 (Amendment of Section 5)

[Translation]

AMENDMENT MADE : Clause 6 (Amendment of Section 5) Page 2 after line 40 the following shall be inserted :

(a) "(a) subsection (4)

(i) For the words "his selection as a Member" the words 'his selection as Chairman or full time Member' shall be substituted.

(ii) For the words 'assuming office as a Member" the words "assuming office as Chairman or full time Member as the case may be "shall be substituted" (13)

(SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Bansal, are you moving your amendment Nos. 3 and 4 ?

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : Sir, I beg to move :

Page 2,–

omit lines 43 and 44. (3)

Page 3,–

omit lines 1 to 3. (4)

MR. CHAIRMAN : I shall now put amendment Nos. 3 and 4, moved by Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal, to the vote of the House.

Page 2,–

omit lines 43 and 44 (3)

Page 3,–

omit lines 1 to 3 (4)

The amendments No. 3 and 4 were put and negatived.

AMENDMENT MADE : Page 3 for the lines 9 and 10 following be substituted :-

(i) For the words 'Other Member' in initial part the words 'full time Member' shall be substituted;

(ii) In clause (b), for the words 'Two years' the words 'One year' shall be substituted (14)

(SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That clause 6, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 6, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clauses 7 and 8 were added to the Bill.

Clause 9-(Amendment of Section 11)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Bansal, are moving amendment No. 5 ?

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : Sir, I beg to move :

Page 3, line 40,–

for "so as"

substitute "and" (5)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Rupchand Pal, are you moving your amendment No. 15 ?

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : Sir, I beg to move :

Page 4, *after line* 32, *insert*–

(e) all the functions including tariff fixation and accounts will be subject to the scrutiny of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India :

(f) the decisions of the Appellate Tribunal in respect of financing matters will be subject to audit by the Comptroller and Auditor General of India." (15)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Bansal, are you moving your amendment Nos. 6, 7 and 8 ?

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : Sir, I beg to move:

Page 4, line 39,–

for "sixty"

substitute "ninety" (6)

Page 4,–

omit lines 41 to 45. (7)

Page 5,–

for lines 9 to 11,–

substitute

"(b) for sub-section (3), the following shall be substituted :–

'(3) while discharging its functions under sub-section (1) or sub-section (2), the Authority shall ensure that the interest of the sovereignty and integrity of India, the security of the State, friendly relations with foreign States, public order, decency or morality are not compromised or endangered.'." (8)

(Interruptions)

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : Sir, please give a minute.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You have already spoken about these amendments.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : Sir, when I spoke, I sat down cutting short my speech only with a request that you would permit me to speak on these amendments subsequently.

MR. CHAIRMAN : If you want, I can cite the ruling. You have already spoken. Once a Member has spoken, he will not get a second chance on the same Bill.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : While I was speaking, the moment you asked me to sit down, I sat down cutting short my speech. I make this specific request because of that.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You cannot reopen that again.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : I will not touch any other point.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You know the ruling, please cooperate.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : I know that, but we should not bound by any technicalities. I cooperated with you, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN : It will be a bad precedent.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : Please give me a minute.

MR. CHAIRMAN : There is no precedent at all till date. Why should we establish a new precedent ? There is no precedent.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : A Member who has already participated in a debate cannot open the debate again. There is no precedent till date.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : We should not be bound by technicalities.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : There are precedents, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I was also a former Speaker.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : Sir, I seek your protection. . . .*(Interruptions)* The examination of the records regarding tariff is very important. . . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : I shall now put the Amendments nos. 5, 6, 7 and 8 moved by Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal and Amendment No. 15 moved by Shri Rupchand Pal to clause 9 to vote.

The amendments Nos 5, 6, 7, 8 and 15 were put and negatived.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That clause 9 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 9 was added to the Bill.

SHRI RUP CHAND PAL : Sir, we are walking out against, not your decision, the decision of the Government because they are doing the greatest harm to the country by depriving the C&AG. . . .*(Interruptions)*

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, TRAI has been excluded on jurisdication of CAG, so we are staging a walk out.

18.16 hrs.

(At this stage, Shri Rupchand Pal, Dr. Raghuvans Prasad Singh and some other hon. Members left the House.)

Clause 10 – (Amendment of section 13)

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL (Chandigarh) : Sir, I am moving my amendment. I have only tried to correct some mistakes in the law. It is because the way it has been drafted and this has been done because of some pressure from the Government on the drafting group to work in haste I beg to move :

Page 5,–

For lines 12 to 15,–

Substitute "10. For section 13 of the Principal Act, the following shall be substituted :–

"The Authority may, for the proper functioning by service providers or for the discharge of its functions, issue from time to time such directions to the service providers on matters specified in clause (b) of sub-section (1) of section 11, as it may consider necessary." (9)

MR. CHAIRMAN : I shall now put amendment no. 9 moved by Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal to Clause 10 to vote.

The amendment No. 9 was put and negatived.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That clause 10 stand part of the Bill".

The motion was adopted

Clause 10 was added to the Bill.

Clause 11-(Composition of Appellate Tribunal)

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL (Chandigarh) : Sir, I beg to move :

Page 6, line 27,–

for "two" *substitute* "six" (10)

Page 7, line 5,–

after "who" *insert*–

"is or has been or is eligible to be a Judge of the High Court or" (11)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now, I shall put amendments nos. 10 and 11 moved by Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal to Clause 11 to vote.

The amendments No. 10 and 11 were put and negatived.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That clause 11 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 11 was added to the Bill.

Clause 12 was added to the Bill.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj) : Sir, all the lawyers have been excluded. . . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : We are at the voting stage now.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR (Mayiladuturai) : They are all anti lawyers. . . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : You have been given a chance. This is not the way.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL (Chandigarh) : There is a tendency to exclude lawyers. . . .*(Interruptions)*

Clause 13 (Amendment of section 35)

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL (Chandigarh) : Sir, I beg to move :

Page 10,–

omit lines 24 to 26. (12)

MR. CHAIRMAN : I shall now put amendment no. 12 moved by Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal to Clause 13 to vote.

The amendment No. 12 was put and negatived.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That clause 13 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 13 was added to the Bill.

Clauses 14 and 15 were added to the Bill.

Clause 1, Enacting Formula and the long Title were added to the Bill.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL (Chandigarh) : Sir, I would like to say a few words.

MR. CHAIRMAN (SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN) : The Minister may now move that the Bill, as amended, be passed.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL (Chandigarh) : What are you doing, Sir ? At the third reading stage, permission is granted. It is unfortunate that you are not allowing a Member to speak at the third reading stage.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : Sir, I beg to move :

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed."

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : You have been talking of precedents and you are doing like this. . . .*

It is never happened that a Member is not permitted to speak at the third reading stage. Without even knowing what I wanted to say, you have not permitted me to speak. This has never happened.

MR. CHAIRMAN (SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN) : The House shall now take up Items No. 24 and 25 together. Shri Vilas Muttemwar – not present.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Mr. Chairman, I was given to understand that on the Railway Budget and the General Budget, we shall sit till late evening to discuss this most important Government business. I do not know whether this business will go on today.

MR. CHAIRMAN : This is a Bill. I think it was agreed to in the Business Advisory Committee.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN) : The hon. Member may please recall what was agreed to. It is agreed to that we are left with only four days and that today these are the two Ordinances have to be passed and sent to the other House. Tomorrow we will be spending the entire day and night on the Railway Budget. Day after tomorrow we will spend the entire day for the General Budget and on the last day we will start the Motion of Thanks on President's Address.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : How long will we sit tonight ?

MR. CHAIRMAN : We will sit till this Bill is passed.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : If we have more time we can go in for 184 also.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan.

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*Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

18.22 hrs.

STATUTORY RESOLUTION RE : DISAPPROVAL OF RECOVERY OF DEBTS DUE TO BANKS AND FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS (AMENDMENT) ORDINANCE

AND

RECOVERY OF DEBTS DUE TO BANKS AND FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS (AMENDMENT) BILL

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil) : Sir, I beg to move :

> "That this House disapproves of the Recovery of Debts Due to Banks and Financial Institutions (Amendment) Ordinance, 2000 (No. 1 of 2000) promulgated by the President on 17 January, 2000."

I do not oppose the Bill in principle, but I do oppose the manner in which it is being brought.

The parent Act which was passed in 1993 was held to be *ultra vires* by the Delhi High Court. So, the legal position regarding the status of the Bill is existing for over five years. Now, at the time when the original Bill was passed, there were apprehensions in the House that the Bill is defective in many ways. But the Government did not take note of it. The Bill was finally passed and the matter had gone to the High Court in a writ petition. The Delhi High Court declared that the Bill is *ultra vires* in many ways. Now, this issue is pending before the Government for over five years. The Central Government moved an appeal before the Supreme Court. Now the tribunals are functioning under the strength of a stay order issued by the Supreme Court. That too is functioning for over 15 months. Nothing has been done by the Central Government to get the law finally passed. The defects pointed out by the High Court were not taken into consideration. No amendment was moved before this House for the last five years. Now, even in the last Session also the Government could have moved a Bill and got it passed. They did not do that. They have taken that the House is more or less like a rubber stamp and at any time they can come with an Ordinance and get it passed. This is not a healthy precedent. This is not a good parliamentary practice as well. Sir, you remember, even the Supreme Court had, in unequivocal terms, deprecated the tendency of issuing Ordinances. An Ordinance, as you know, Sir, is a matter of committed legislation.

Even the Members do not express their free and frank views on a particular issue if there is already an Ordinance. Even the Members of the ruling party will find it difficult to express their views. So, we always do not agree with the principle of issuing Ordinance. This Government, the Central Government even after getting many chances or opportunities did not avail the earliest opportunity of getting an Act passed. That is the present position.

Now, in the matter of recovery of debts, I have to say that the policy is also anti-people. Suppose a poor man has taken a loan from a nationalised bank. If a poor man gets a small loan from a nationalised bank and becomes a defaulter, he will be penalised. But now, I have come to know through certain Press reports that the Government had appointed a Commission to enter into the working of the nationalised banks. The Members of the Commission were the biggest defaulters. They submitted a report to the Government that the nationalised banks are running at a loss, the simple reason being they are the biggest defaulters. This is the position.

As a matter of principle, I would suggest the experience of the UCO bank. Its top executive is the biggest defaulter and he has recommended that the UCO bank be privatised. So, this is the way the recommendation on privatisation is made to the Government.

Similarly, the policy of recovery is to help the highest bureaucrat, the rich people who are flourishing and at the same time giving no loans to the poor man. The poor farmers do not get loan. Even if they are able to get it, and if by chance they become defaulters – as I said earlier – they will be put to difficulties; their properties will be attached; and they will be sent to the Court before they are declared paupers. Sir, this is the position.

My learned friend, the hon. Finance Minister may laugh because he has no such experience but we have our own experience. So, the present debt recovery policy of the Government is an offshoot of this tendency. Otherwise, if the Government was serious, if the Government was earnest in the matter of debt recovery, they ought to have brought out a good legislation even at an earlier date. But that has not been done. So, due to these reasons, I oppose the Ordinance and I move that the disapproval may be kindly accepted. Thank you.

*THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : Sir, I beg to move :

> "That the Bill further to amend the Recovery of Debts Due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993, be taken into consideration."

Mr. Chairman, Sir, as has been pointed out by the hon. Member, Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan, the Recovery of Debts due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act was

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*Moved with the recommendation of the President.

enacted on 27th August, 1993 to provide for establishment of tribunals for expeditious adjudication and recovery of debts due to banks and financial institutions and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

In July, 1994, the Delhi High Court Bar Association had filed a Writ Petition in the High Court of Delhi challenging the validity of the D.R.T Act. The Supreme Court, in its judgement dated 10.3.1995, had declared the Act as unconstitutional and void. The Government filed a Special Leave Petition in the High Court and the order of the Delhi High Court was stayed. During the hearing of the case before the Supreme Court, certain observations which *inter alia* included maintainability of counter claims set off and re-constitution of the Selection Committee was made, which was considered by the Government.

18.29 hrs.

[SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU *in the Chair*]

Based on observations of the hon. Supreme Court and suggestions of the Working Group set up by the RBI and the Rajya Sabha Committee on Subordinate Legislation, the Act has been amended suitably through an Ordinance dated 17.1.2000.

I would like to mention here that the Supreme Court had given us a time of eight weeks on the 3rd of November, 1998. In pursuance thereto, I had introduced an amending legislation in the Lok Sabha in March, 1999 which lapsed because of the fact that Lok Sabha itself was dissolved. We are now talking the first opportunity to come before the House. In the meanwhile, in order to honour the verdict of the Supreme Court, we decided to promulgate this Ordinance.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil) What about the previous Session ?

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : You know how crowded the previous Session was and how hard we were working day after day. Unfortunately, there was no time to consider this legislation in the previous Session. That is what happened in the previous Session. It is not at all right to say that the Government has been lax or casual about bringing this legislation before the House. We are taking the earliest opportunity and that is why we had to go through the Ordinance route.

The suggestions of the High Court and the Supreme Court had to be taken into account. We have done through an Ordinance, which was Promulgated in January. Now, we are before the House with this Bill, which seeks to replace the Ordinance of the 17th January, 2000.

It is not right to say that the committee which recommended the closure of the three banks was a committee appoi :ed by the Government. It is public knowledge that there is an asscciation called the CII which had appointed that committee. They have submitted a report. In my Budget speech, I have said very clearly that the Government does not intend to close any bank. Therefore, the apprehension of the hon. Member is absolutely misplaced and therefore I suggest that this Bill be taken up for consideration and be passed by this House.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Motions moved :

"That this House disapproves of the Recovery of Debts Due to Banks and Financial Institutions (Amendment) Ordinance, 2000 (No. 1 of 2000) promulgated by the President on 17 January, 2000."

"That the Bill further to amend the Recovery of Debts Due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993, be taken into consideration."

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, while I appreciate the hon. Minister's argument for bringing this Ordinance on the 17th January and to get it passed today for the urgency that we have to send it to the Rajya Sabha, I am thankful to the hon. Minister of Finance for his Budget speech comment that no public sector bank will be privatised.

He may recall that I wrote a letter to the hon. Minister of Finance during the last Session when he made some public speeches, possibly on the CII platform, giving a hint of the privatisation of banks. I instantly drew his attention. Possibly, the hon. Minister did not think of replying to it because he would clarify it during the Budget speech. So, I did not get the reply.

Now, Shri Radhakrishnan has made a very important point to which the hon. Minister of Finance could not possibly reply at this stage. He may reply to it at the concluding point.

Who destabilised the banking structure ? In 1971, when Shrimati Indira Gandhi led a new journey nationalising the banks that were in private hands, she brought me and many others, who were students, a hope that the poorest of the poor will get justice, that the unemployed will get an opportunity for self-reliance. It was rightly so. If I recall here her speech on bank nationalisation in this Parliament, we will find that she genuinely desired to see a new era usher in.

I can refer to three banks, whose activities I know very intimately as I come from Calcutta – the Allahabad

[Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi]

Banks, the UCO Bank and the UBI. How did they function ? There was no accountability at the behest of the Board on any transaction, be it in the engineering industry, be it in the jute industry, or be it in the tea industry. There are a number of instances of default for years together. The same management, in a different name, comes to the Board and gets the same kind of support, thereby making the banks sick. I do not like to name them today. It is not proper now to name them. But is it not a fact that we lack the vision to run the banking industry ? Is it that we consider the banks also as units like the Railways, the Ministry of Finance or the Ministry of Agriculture ?

We consider banking sector as a unit, like the Railways, the Home Ministry, the Agriculture Ministry, etc. Some officers will come and sit in the Board as the Chairman, somebody will be appointed as the Executive Director and run the show. We never think that banking sector and financial institutions are key to the economy of our country. Professional management at the level of the Chairman, at the level of the Executive Director, and at the level of the GM is required.

The whole concept of professional management has been lacking. I am not trying to score any political point here. Right from our days, it is like that. Even when the Congress was in power, the whole concept of professional management in the banking sector was lacking. They never try to see beyond today or what will happen tomorrow. They never try to articulate the market situation in the country prevailing at that time, be it in tea, cotton, sugar or jute. They never try to evaluate in which way the share market is moving. They never try to understand whether the output monitoring capacity – for the money that is invested or for the loan that is taken – is in-built into that system or not. They simply think that they have to repay it in terms of the loan conditions or whatever it is.

Today, when we ask the big people in the CII as to who are they, they say that they are looking after this or that unit. When we ask some other person in the CII, they say that they are looking after something else. All these persons never say that their own investment, in their own enterprise, is less than 40 per cent or 30 per cent or 20 per cent. It is people's money. So, the public sector banks and the financial institutions manage the entire show, be it the expansion of employment-which they do not do – or whatever it is. They never try to plough back the profit to further expand the industry. They go with a new proposal to the bank with a different name and get the same kind of treatment. They never try to do with a professional outlook.

I know of a unit, as I said, doing this kind of a thing in Calcutta. He himself told me that he got so much money from the Allahabad Bank in the name of jute industry; when the Allahabad Bank gave a notice, he went with a new proposal in the name of tea industry with his son's name and again got the money. He further said that when he siphoned off that also, then he went there with some transport business and again got it. I am sorry to say that I even found some of the officials after retirement, ultimately functioning as consultants of the same bank. So, it is with their connivance they are doing; it is a total betrayal by a group of people in the bank.

Shri Yashwant Sinha, I sincerely wish that, you being the Finance Minister – as arduous and as a sincere person in the Finance Ministry – you can do it by your own vision and create a situation to find out who are the persons who did it in the respective banks. If you can bring them to book, you will do a great service to the nation and for the future banking management of the country.

Day in and day out, this is happening. What happens in the UCO Bank ? I do not like to say much, after the Harshad Mehta's incident. You know better, Mr. Finance Minister, as to what happens to other cases. You are in the knowledge of everything. What is my proposal today for all this ?

I support the Ordinance and my proposal is very simple. One cannot ignore and avoid the existing banking industry. They will have to come back and compete with foreign banks, with growing private financial institutions. That is the global situation now. You may technically and theoretically debate it, that is a different thing. But that challenge cannot be met by the existing banking management, who only are on the look out for a day, if somebody becomes the Chairman. From that day, the ED would start lobbying, catch hold of somebody here and he would become the Chairman. His job would be nothing, except this.

This is not professional management; this is not accountability; and this is not helping the institution to grow. I am sorry to say this immediately. Before elections – if I am wrong, the hon. Finance Minister may correct me and I will tender apology-the electronic media company, the JAIN Television got a substantial support for a public financial institution. Everybody knew that the JAIN TV did not have equity at that time. How it was done as a favour and bad investment ?

But they were given. Tomorrow, if JAIN Television is closed, what will you do ? Who will be answerable ? You take the data of last ten or twenty years of these financial institutions, like IDBI, ICICI, IRBI etc., and see which are the bad investments, which are the investments which

smell rat and how those were operated. At the end of the day, it is the nation and the entire banking system which suffer. Do not blame the employees. I thank the hon. Minister for having said that he would not de-nationalise the banks. Mr. Chairman, Sir, he did make a commitment. But there is a catchy word which worries me. He has also said that he is thinking of restructuring. This English word 'restructuring' is dangerous. It may hit the management or it may hit the employees. I only wish that his target is not the employees. Of course, the employees should also be professionals in handling the debts because ultimately things come to them. The key is the management sector. These things go to Central Manager (Advance) of the respective programmes, General Manager (Recovery), Divisional Manager of separate groups etc.

I can give you an example of the tea industry. In our country, most of the tea is produced in Assam and Duars of Bengal. Forty or fifty years back, the tea industry was flourishing. They were made sick deliberately as they were monitored. The banks are informing the big persons over the phone, 'Look, I am not going to give second crop advance to this unit; it will be further sick; so, you get ready. After two years, I am going to be with you'. One after the other, so many managements have been transferred in the entire Duars of Bengal.

Dr. Nitish Sengupta is a distinguished Member of Parliament with his wide knowledge about the revenue sector. He hails from West Bengal. Can he deny this fact? In the entire Jalpaiguri and Duars, one after the other, managements have been changed to a bigger person. Suppose, I need an advance during the time of the crop, what they would do is, they would make me sick without giving the advance at appropriate time by talking to big people and companies. 'Look, in this crop if he fails, his final interest will go up to more than Rs. 12 crore and he will be compelled to surrender to the bank. So, you come here, settle that with me and I will dispose it of in your favour.

There are umpteen number of instances. Some instances have drawn the attention of the hon. Ministers in the past. The remedy to this disease is lying in the banks' Board itself. Mr. Minister, only we politicians, whether this side or that side, have become an item or a commodity to be accused and abused everyday that we are dishonest, manipulative, *hawalawallas*, and tax evaders. All the blame will come to us for sitting in this Parliament. But those who quietly retire go back to join their families in the US or those who are still working in the bank, look after their children well by educating their children in London or in the US. They siphon off the public money in connivance with the private operators and they go scot free in this country. They are never exposed before the public for what they have done. Sometimes it happens that if a Member of Parliament goes to a bank to present a genuine case, the moment the leaves the bank, the bank people would say. . . .This is the kind of thing happening in this country. There are genuine cases. The recovery of money is a must and a Tribunal is a must. The public money which has been invested should not be robbed off and it should be taken back. The Government has to handle it with an iron hand. There, we are one with the Government. There is no question about that and there are no two opinions about that. You should also revitalise the system. For Example, I can say that Chairman, Dena Bank, sitting in some place, without attending to any other business, requests the ED of other bank that since he is retiring, the ED should ensure that he himself comes to his place so that his clients' pending cases, whether it is Ambani, Goenka or Singhania, All are cleared and that he should not create trouble for them. This is how the system is functioning. Therefore, I personally feel that you kindly motivate them for a new concept of professional management in the banking, industry especially in the public sector and make them accountable for each project and programme.

What Shri Radhakrishnan has said is very correct, whether you may or may not like, that the CII guys are giving us sermons and mandates as to which bank should be closed. ASIF It is you (CII) who can make the entry or close it. You (CII) people took the highest advantage of this country. The Finance Minister after Finance Ministers have been blamed by the people that they have imposed tax or they have done this or that but they (CII) took the highest advantage of this country and did nothing. What is their contribution to the social infrastructure? They took hundred and hundreds of crore to build their own empire and if they gave the guarantee to create 1000 employment opportunities. But at the end of the day they could create only 200 employment opportunities. They did not contribute anything for the social infrastructure out of their profit.

Only two days back, the Dunlop Company was opened after a great struggle by the workers. What is its management? Do you not know what is its management? They took back money from every industry they could and poured it in different bad transactions. They did not pay the bank. They tortured the workers and at the end of the day, they came and said that they saved us. These people should be brought to book. Therefore, this Tribunal is a must. The Minister has done a right thing. I thank Shri Narasimha Rao Government for having first thought of bringing this legislation in August 1993. At the time it was struck down by the Delhi High Court. The Finance Minister has tried to implement it on Supreme Court's

[Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi]

direction. I thank the Minister for this noble job. Time has come to take care of it.

According to this provision, if a small scale industry takes a loan of Rs. 10 lakh and fails to pay it, in six months twenty notices go to him. How many notices have you served to the big lords of the country? The Banking Boards dare to even talk to them, forget about giving notices. They are to remind them. This was their own comment. Their empire is the empire of the people and not private. It is the people money, be it Rahul Bajaj, Goenka, Ratan Tata, Dhirubhai Ambani, Mukesh Ambani, Singhania. Whatever their empire is, it is because of the contributions of the public financial institutions and the bank. They are the toiling masses who pay everything. A *rickshaw walla* will not be spared by the United Bank of India if he is not able to pay his second instalment. I know of an *autorickshaw walla in Calcutta.* He was crying to me saying that he could not operate for two months as first his mother was sick and then he was sick. He told me that he would pay the second instalment to the bank by mortgaging his sister's ornaments who was going to marry next week and if he did not do that, his *autorickshaw* will be taken over. I have seen such tears and I have also seen the loveliest guys of CII who dictate their terms to the bank and enjoy life as they like. You have to be tough with them. That is why I would like to support this Ordinance.

Radhakrishnan ji has raised a point as to why did you not bring it on an earlier occasion as this was an urgent thing which was required to be done. Mr. Chairman, Sir, while concluding, through you I would like to know from the Minister the actual dues as on 31st December, 1999 accrued by the public financial institutions. . . *(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRAKASH PARANJPE (Thane) : He should give the details with names.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj) : I can give the names. They are, Reliance Group, Kirloskars, Birlas, Goenkas, Rahul Bajaj, Tata Group, Modi Group, etc. What is their total accumulated loan to the PFI and the public sector banks. I would also like to know whether the banking industry remind them; if so, in how many cases the reminder has gone and what was their response? The whole nation would like to know. We always see them on television giving sermons to do this or that. Let the nation also know how did they respond and honour their own commitment to the public sector banks and the public financial institutions. Mr. Finance Minister, it is you who can expose them. It is you who can keep them under control, who can send the message.

Finally, Sir, if you could consider it, if not in this Session may be later on, it is good. The small scale industry have been complaining to me that the time and the period of paying interest by the medium or heavy industries may not be equated with the small scale industry.

If I own a small industry, you do not charge interest till my product comes in the market. At least, you show me this favour. The youngsters of this country have to run from pillar to post – from the corporation to the civic body, to the land owner – for getting a licence. Only then he will be able to start the production. It takes him six months and sometimes even one year. So, you cannot equate him with those who have readymade infrastructure.

With these words, I request the hon. Finance Minister to re-look into the whole system.

DR. B.B. RAMAIAH (Eluru) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Debt Recovery Act was passed on 27th August, 1993. As Shri Dasmunsi has put it, the banking system is operating in different methods. It is a continuous process and different Governments have looked into it in different phases. He has put it very clearly that the Directors who are operating in the banks, the officers who are appointed on behalf of the Government, and also the officers from the public are equally responsible for the performance of the banking sector. As he said, the High Court has struck it down in 1994, due to which, they have to go to the Supreme court and the Supreme Court had given proper guidelines under which this present Bill has come to the House for approval. Why are the defaults going on in the banks? If you go back, on some of the items, it is said that the non-performance of these assets is increasing year after year. If you want to know more about nonperformance of these banks, you have to go deep into the working of these banks. There are some items on which various stages have been given from 1993 onwards it has happened. Some of the reasons on which we have to see are the slackness of the release of funds at the appropriate time and the efficiency or the deficiency and the technological changes. We also have to see the pattern of the Government policy which is causing this. You can also say definitely that the policy of the Government is responsible for the non-performance of these banks. Unless you study these things and see how we could improve them, it is not going to help. It is the joint responsibility of the banking sector and the Government. The Reserve Bank is also making more frequent inspections and is trying to see how non-performance of the banking sector can be stopped. What happens in other countries like Japan? Due to the mounting NPA under long term credit, the Government of Japan was forced to nationalise it. The reason why it happens is that, as I said

earlier, there is a lot of fluctuation in these things and frequent decision have to be taken by the banks and the financial institutions. Today, we have BIFR which is not even handling five per cent of the cases that it requires to look into. We need more and more such institutions so that they could be assessed frequently. The moment a unit starts showing weakness, productwise, marketwise, quality-wise, the concerned officials or the experts who are financing these units should be able to trace it and see that they are immediately rectified. They can go for amalgamation or merger. It is a continuous process and this process requires to be improved. I can tell you a number of cases. The tribunals that we are appointing for debt recovery are going to help you only to some extent. The frequent inspections by the Reserve Bank are very important. As Shri Dasmunsi has said, the Directors also require improvement, performance-wise and efficiency-wise. Unless these things are there, it is not possible to improve their performance.

We have some social obligations in agricultural sector and in small scale sectors. Unless we are able to treat them properly, they will all become sick. I know various sectors where we have not put experts. Simply we start a financial institution or a bank and leave them to be managed without proper expertise, without proper control, and without proper technological evaluation. That is the reason why the hon. Finance Minister has come up with this measure today and we all have to approve it. Somewhere or the other if we do not put a brake, this problem will become more acute.

There is public money in various financial institutions and banks. The Government has given a guarantee that they will not allow any banks to close down. That is one guarantee the Finance Minister has given which is very valuable. We need to study it more carefully and try to assess everything in order to see that the banking sector is able to give a better performance. Unless we do it, we will not be able to make the generation of financial strength, productivity and the progress of this country more advantageous. We need this at all levels today.

See, what happens in the case of software ? When you look at the software sector, we find that the assets and liabilities do not match. We do not have much assets. That is why banks have to change their whole pattern. It depends on the type of requirement, on the type of restrictions and on the type of progress that it is making. Because they have made some changes in the assets and liabilities and also the advance, they are able to make a substantial amount of progress. The progress that they have made is remarkable. They are able to utilise the talent of these people. In the field of software technology in the world, India will be in a commanding position very soon. In the next five or ten years India will be able to command more than 50 per cent of the software technology in the world. We have the talent. We have to strengthen the sectors in which we have strong abilities and advantages. That is why we should identify various sectors which we should concentrate. We have to try and strengthen the banking sector to give them more assets. I am sure, the hon. Finance Minister stands guarantee for this and the Reserve Bank of India also has to give its own performance. We will definitely see that we will be able to make improvement in this field.

I am quite happy that this Bill has come before the House and we will be able to see that some sort of quality restrictions will be put and we will be able to bring down the NPA as for as possible.

I thank you very much.

SHRI MOINUL HASSAN (Murshidabad) : Mr. Chairman Sir, I suppose the Recovery of Debts Due to Banks and Financial Institutions (Amendment) Bill, 2000 is an important legislation that is before this august House. Earlier in the 1993 Act which was enacted by the Parliament, there was a great lacuna in many spheres and in the rules that were framed later. I have seen in the Objects and Reasons this time that to plug those legal anomalies and strengthen the Recovery Tribunal, this new Amendment Bill has come up. I feel that even this Bill is also inadequate for the reasons cited by my esteemed friend Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunshi a few minutes back.

I will come to the provisions of the Bill a little later. Before that, I would like to take this opportunity to put before this august House through you the entire debt scenario of our country.

19.00 hrs.

Perhaps, you know that according to the RBI report, the gross non-performing assets of the private sector banks is nearly Rs. 51,000 crore in 1998-99. If we classify the debt, we may find that 43 per cent of this debt is going to the priority sector, 53 per cent is going to the non-priority sector, and 4 per cent to the Government sector. When 53 per cent of it goes to the non-priority sector, what does it mean ? It is mostly the corporate sector. So far as the priority sector is concerned, time and again, it is relaxed or changed. Today, in rural areas, infrastructural development, export-oriented agriculture come under priority sector. In this way, rural big peasants and kulaks are the big borrowers from the private sector banks also. Why is there a big outstanding in the banks ? It is mainly due to two reasons. One reason is partly mentioned by my friend, Shri Dasmunsi. I would like to categorically say that there is connivance of the top people

[Shri Moinul Hassan]

in the banks and the financial institutions with the big borrowers. Secondly, the country's legal system is being more favoured to the big borrowers which is being used up to the hilt by the unscrupulous defaulters. In the prospective, I would again like to discuss about the DRT which is one of the most important tribunals for recovery. According to the *Economic Survey* of 2000-2001 that has been placed in this House, upto 31st March, 1999, the total number of cases transferred to the DRTs is 21,781 and the amount involved was Rs. 17,921 crore. The number of cases which is decided so far is only 3774, that is, only 17.3 per cent. Ten per cent of the locked-up money is recovered. What a dismal and gloomy picture throughout the country after the Act of 1993! I firmly believe that the Debt Recovery Tribunal is nothing. It is only a showpiece. DRT was only the protector of the big borrowers. We are talking about the recovery now.

Shri Dasmunsi has told another thing, that is, who destabilised our banking sector? Shri Radhakrishnan, while moving his Statutory Resolution, also told this point. Now, how to recover the money? Big industrialists and businessmen are involved in such a manner that it is a difficult job to recover the nation's wealth, if there is no commitment. I suppose we have only enacted laws without any commitment. I firmly believe that there was no commitment to recover the public money from big houses.

Sir, I have a list of 204 giants which has been supplied by the RBI. I have got a big paper with me which is extracted from the CD supplied by the RBI. I have told you the source of information. So, please allow me to mention the names of two or three companies. The outstanding dues of the Indian Steamship Company from the SBI come to Rs. 51.71 crore.

Who is the main Director? Shri K.K. Birla. M/s. Mangalore Fertilizers and Chemicals Limited has an outstanding of nearly Rs. 300 crore to several banks and financial institutions. Who is the main Director? Shri Vijay Mallya. M/s. J.K. Synthetics Limited has an outstanding of Rs. 250 crore to SBI and IFCIs. Who is the main Director? Shri Singhania. M/s. B.S.T. Mfg. has an outstanding of Rs. 91 crore to PNB. M/s. Mafatlal Engineering has an outstanding of Rs. 74.61 crore to PNB. These are the big industrial houses. There are several names. They are looting the nation's wealth, poor people's money, and small depositors who have deposited their money in the private sector banks and other financial institutions in this way.

Before this august House, I would like to quote two-three sentences from the Report of the Estimates Committee (1998-1999) of the 12th Lok Sabha. The Chairman of the Committee was our hon. Friend, Shri Madhukar Sirpotdar. I quote :

> "the committee is distressed to find that the dubious role of the Chief Executives of the banks whether it is of Bank of Maharashtra, Vijaya Bank or Indian Bank in granting advances in utter disregard of laid down systems and procedures has been the major contributing factor for turning these huge advances into bad loans. In the opinion of the committee such things could be possible only with a motive of corruption and complexity in siphoning off of banks' funds. . . The committee also desired that the cases against the ex-CMD of the Indian Bank and other top executives should be pursued vigorously for meting out severe punishment to the guilty"

In this way, people's money are siphoned off right from our national institutions, that is, public sector banks and other financial institutions.

I would like to mention here another point regarding loan outstanding. In 1998, up to 31st March debt unrecovered in nationalised banks and other financial institutions was Rs. 45,653 crore. After one year, it was Rs. 51,710 crore. If we include non-governmental financial institutions, it was Rs. 58,554 crore. I do not know who will be happy to know that out of this Rs. 58,554 crore, Rs. 30,000 crore are in the hands of big industrialists. Out of this Rs. 30,000 crore, Rs. 25,000 crore are with the member of the CII. these CII people are self-appointed guardians of our country. They are looting the national wealth from the public sector banks and other financial institutions. They are now advising the Government and others to close down three banks in which they are the main defaulters.

I would request the hon. Finance Minister to please say something regarding this.

So far as the Bill is concerned, I would like to say as to what do we want. We want stringent recovery measures; we want proper punishment to those who have stolen common people's deposit money. No discrepancy should be allowed.

I would like to complete my speech with a request to incorporate the following sentence at a proper place in the Bill. I would like to move this oral amendment.

> "If a member/unit of a group company defaults in repaying Bank/Financial Institution, the whole group should be debarred from further access to Bank loans."

This sentence should be incorporated in this Bill. Again, I would request the Finance Minister that he should

take stringent measures for the sake of our nation's wealth and take further action to build up our nation through this important piece of legislation.

With these few words, I conclude.

[Translation]

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA (Mumbai North East) : Sir, I rise to support the bill which has been introduced here.

[English]

Recovery of Debts Due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993 was introduced and it was said to provide for speedy recovery of debts due to banks and financial institutions and for matters connected therewith.

[Translation]

Today, the opportunity has been provided to hold discussion on the bill which has been introduced due to directions of Supreme Court. While speaking on this subject, the hon'ble Member Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi has described this system very well. I fully support his sentiments. The hon'ble Member has presented some figures in this regard. The core group of Reserve Bank has conducted a study and have introduced a paper about the functioning of Debt Recovery Tribunal. They conducted the study of 15 banks and found that during the period of 1993 to 2000, there were many companies which had taken loans of more than Rs. one crore from banks and financial institutions, but did not repay it. Out of those cases, the case of only one company has been decided so far. Actually ! am unable to understand why this Act was enacted in 1993 ? The legislation was enacted because earlier the concerned institution had to go to Supreme Court or High Court or different type of benches for recovery of debt which was the cause of delay. The new system was evolved to remove this. But what form this new system has taken, I would like to tell the hon'ble Minister of Finance that he is taking temporary measures because of the directions of Supreme Court and and High Court. The Hon'ble Minister of Finance is carrying out many new experiments, but I would like to request that he should think about it. There is a need to conduct discussion on this issue in more organised way in the House. We have formulated a new system, but for whom.

[English]

to accommodate a few officers and retired persons.

[Translation]

If this system could not settle even a single case in seven years, then what is the need of such a system. There is need to think about it. The hon'ble Member has just now said that as on 13 June, 1997, the tribunal had 1;400 cases pending with it.

[English]

The total amount involved was Rs. 8866 crore. Out of 11,700 only. 1045 cases were decided and the amount recovered was Rs. 178 crore.

[Translation]

We have formulated this system. There was only one case in which the outstanding amount was more than Rs one crore. My information was not be accurate, it may be 11 in place of one. If not now, the hon'ble Minister will move the amendment later on ? The major amount given to big industry or industrial sector was approximately Rs. 29 thousand crore out of which

[English]

total non-performing Assets were of the order of Rs. 51,000 crore.

[Translation]

It was given to sector to make fast recovery. Thousands of cases were of non-payment of amount of one lakh, five lakh, ten lakh, as said by Shri Priya Ranjan ji, keep aside the rickshaw pullers and small scale industry owners.

[English]

Let us concentrate on big industries, big borrowers and big defaulters.

[Translation]

Will the hon'ble Minister introduce such bill ? It has got provision for those who have not repaid the loan of Rs. ten lakh and above.

[English]

Let us concentrate on 'one crore' and above. The tribunal should concentrate on those against whom over dues, doubtful debts, bank debts of more than Rs. one crore are outstanding. I cannot introduce such official amendment but hon'ble Minister can definitely do this on behalf of the Government and it is required because you make thousands of cases by contradicting cases of 10 lakh, 8 lakh, 2 lakh, 15 lakh and 14 lakh and above. You should fix a time table for it. A time table should be fixed for the persons against whom an amount of Rs. one crore and above is outstanding and those cases should be decided.

[Shri Kirit Somaiya]

[English]

Why should there not be a probe or accountability.

[Translation]

Whether this accountability is only for other people, not for tribunal. The tribunal was set up with a view to make fast recovery. The circumstances took such shape here, can you introduce such amendment? NPA was Rs. 43 thousand crore on 31st March 1997, it become Rs. 40 thousand crore in 1998 and Rs. 51 thousand crore in 1999. Out of it Rs. 29 thousand 193 crore were of big industry.

The discussion was held with Reserve Bank. Some people asked them why the name of big defaulters were not published.

[English]

They said, "There is a provision in the Act about secrecy."

[Translation]

Why there is a talk about secrecy? Even if ABCL company becomes defaulter by not repaying loan.

[English]

then also, it becomes a star.

[Translation]

Even if big Industrial Houses and companies falls in defaulter's list then also how could the banks and financial institutions sanction loans to their sister concerns?

[English]

Can we move an amendment?

[Translation]

If any company is defaulter, neither the Director could be appointed in its sister concern, nor any family member could become become its director. The financial institutions and banks can take over such companies. Can we bring such radical changes. We will pass an ordinary amendment? After 2-4 years somebody else will say then

[English]

Once again the Minister or the Government would come.

[Translation]

It is not the question of BJP or Congress. For the past 10 years, it is going on and NPA is continuously increasing.

[English]

Now, we have entered into liberalisation and privatisation.

[Translation]

The new private and foreign banks are coming here. They are taking creamy business share. The nationalised banks are suffering losses. Due to it loss is increasing I would like to suggest another amendment in this regard. If there are many defaulter companies, alongwith the announcement of names of its Directors, criminal provision can also be made? Various figures are quoted here. I have got report of 'Standard and Poor' which is a big rating agency.

[English]

They said that if we go into the depth, the gross NPA of certain institutions may amount to 70 per cent.

[Translation]

What is the future of the company having gross NPA of 70%

The security scam took place. It is not known it was of how many thousand crore rupees? NBFC scam took place. CR Bhansali fled away with the money. After that one after the other many cases have taken place. How much money has recovered? After suffering a set back in capital market, the financial institutions and Banks gave huge amounts to share brokers, operators and company promoters. I would like to cite a small example. Six months ago, the shares whose rate was Rs. 200 in four months, due to rigging, it was raised to Rs. 1200. Banks are giving loan of 80-90 percent against the share price of Rs. 1200. What will happen to it?

I have got figures of dipository agency published at the time of securities pledge in June 1999, the loan of 3 thousand crore was given. On 28 February, the loan amount which was pledged before Depository, increased from Rs. 3 thousand crore to Rs. 15 thousand crore. 90 percent loan is being given on new public issues, and after sometime the Company will be nownere and the persons like Harshad Mehta, C.R. Bhansali will come to picture and new scams will take place. Therefore, I would like to request that when such are discussed, they should be discussed fully. I have not added the Mutual Funds money of 'nationalised banks. If that amount is added then Canara Bank, LIC and Indian Bank have incurred losses of Rs. 16 thousand crore in Mutual Funds. Therefore, I would like to request that the proper consideration should be given to NPA. With this request while supporting this Bill, I conclude my speech.

[English]

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN (Tirunelveli) : Mr. Chairman Sir, I rise to make a few submissions on the recovery of debts due to the banks through this legislation. The heavy borrowers are going to be at an advantageous position. Till date the DRT, the Debt Recovery Tribunal, directly attaches the properties of the loanees. They impound the property, they take custody of all the properties and they give time to the heavy borrowers to repay the loan till date; till this legislation is passed. But from tomorrow, after it is passed, they will protract the proceedings for years. The heavy borrowers, the parasites, the leeches, the octopuses of the society are going to take advantage of this legislation and they will not repay. We are now going to see that date.

I was actually appearing for some banks in the DRT. I will cite one case as I appeared on behalf of the Indian Bank. A businessman obtained a loan of Rs. 230 crore from the Indian Bank and has not paid a single pie till date. It is pending in the DRT. Taking advantage of the Delhi High Court's Judgement, he obtained a Stay in the Madras High Court saying that the Presiding Officer was not duly qualified.

It was actually handled by a friend of mine first. The Chairman of the Bank told me to go and approach the Chief Justice of the Court before the elections. I appeared before the Chief Justice of the High Court on behalf of the Bank. I told him that he was getting salary and I was getting a little fee. He must write the judgement with aggression as I was arguing this case with aggression. There is a fellow who has obtained a loan of Rs. 230 crore and is yet to pay a single pie either towards principal or interest.

I have said this to show it as an example. Then, there are industrial houses. Even at the time of taking the loan, they obtain the loan with an intention to cheat, and not to repay the loan. My friend, Shri Dasmunsi said about the heavy borrowers and the loanees. They are not loanees. They are not heavy borrowers. They are cheats. They are criminals. If they had the intention to repay the loans, then they are loanees. If they had the honest intention to pay back the money, if they had the source at the time of taking the loan, then they are borrowers. They cannot be classified as borrowers or loanees. They are criminals. That is why, I said they are leeches, octopuses and parasites on public. So, this piece of legislation is based on the Supreme Court's direction and not judgement. It is based on the commitment given by the Government to the Supreme Court's direction.

I have perused a number of legislations just like CVC and also this piece of legislation. I would say if Parliament, at all times, is being dictated by the Supreme Court, you are not exercising your wisdom. Where is the intention of Parliament? Where is the Parliament's wisdom? The wisdom of Parliament, if at all, should be to recover the money from the heavy borrowers. Why do you submit yourself to the jurisdiction of the High Court and the Supreme Court on all these matters? This is the legislative domain. There are a number of judgements of the Supreme Court where they have said that the Supreme Court or the High Courts cannot dictate Parliament as to how they should legislate. But your Law Department does not peruse those judgements because they may be afraid of the Supreme Court or they may be opting for some other future employment. There are wheels within wheels in all these matters. We have the Legislature, the Executive and the Judiciary. That is separate. But in the Telecom Authority Bill, you have said and the Bill says that only a Judge can be appointed. Is there anywhere, any Minister or any parliamentarian in any other law? Nobody is accepted in any forum. So, it is just like that. There, you wanted to rehabilitate a retired Judge of the Supreme Court or a Chief Justice of the High Court. Here, till date, the DRT was functioning well. From tomorrow, it cannot function. It would not be allowed to function because of paragraph 4 of the Objects and Reasons clause 1 'set off and counter-claims'. Till date, there is no set off petition. Till date, there is no counter-claim. Shri Baalu knows it. Till date, you cannot file counter-claim. The borrower has to submit himself to the jurisdiction of DRT. He has to produce all the documents. He has to give his property. He cannot challenge. From today, they are going to challenge. They will ask for four weeks' time for counter-claim. Then they will ask for further four weeks' time, then further time, and after one year, it will be said, 'finally', then the case will be taken up. So, this legislation, though it is legally, constitutionally correct, it is under the diktat of the Supreme Court. I would say the supremacy of Parliament is mortgaged. The supremacy of Parliament has been given a go-by. The sovereignty of Parliament has been given up. If you want to follow the Supreme Court and the High Court, why should there be Parliament? They can legislate. They are not our advisors. They can pass a judgement. They will say this is unconstitutional. That is all. If we are not following it, they cannot haul us up for any contempt. It is not an order. The Supreme Court Bench has said last week that the Government is not aiding them for disclosing the names of heavy loanees, the criminals. They are not borrowers. The Supreme Court has said in the open court that the Government is not helping them. We are not able to disclose the names of heavy borrowers of the nationalised banks. I appeal to the Finance Minister to disclose the names of heavy borrowers in this House.

[Shri P.H. Pandiyan

Just like Shri Dasmunsi said, let those persons' name be known to public. They go in Benz car, they live in palatial houses and they talk on T.V. . . .*(Interruptions)*

DR. NITISH SENGUPTA (Contai) : None of these are owned by any of the individuals. . . .*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN : They live like big people. They should be brought to book. NSA should be invoked in those cases. TADA should be invoked in those cases. They should be detained under TADA. They are economic offenders.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj) : They are economic terrorists. . . .*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN : They are economic terrorists. They are cheats. They are spoiling the whole economy. In some cases of loans, they select candidates. In fact, I want those fellows to be hanged in public.

As Shri Dasmunsi said, we, Members of Parliament, are in a different angle. A person who is in arrears in a cooperative society cannot stand for an election to the cooperative society. But there is no bar for any other constitutional office. Let all the constitutional functionaries, whether it is the High Court Judge or the Supreme Court Judge or any Union Minister, should declare that he is not in arrears in respect of loan to any nationalised bank. If he is in arrears of the nationalised banks and he is holding a high constitutional office, it is incorrect. I know a judge who borrowed a heavy sum from a nationalised bank. He has not repaid it.

I know of two Ministers of your Cabinet who are in arrears. They have admitted also. You talked about Jain TV. . . .*(Interruptions)* I know some T.V. channel. What was their equity share capital about seven years back? Sun TV is in arrears . . .*(Expunged as ordered by the Chair). (Interruptions)* They are in arrears. . . .*(Interruptions)*

SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM (Thanjavur) : This is not relevant to the main speech. . . . *(Interruptions)*

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN : It is not my grandfather's money. If you want, you take it. . . . *(Interruptions)* It is not my grandfather's money. . . . *(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please sit down. I am allowing one person. Please sit down. Your leader is on his legs.

(Interruptions)

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN : Now, he has admitted. . . . *(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Pandiyan, please sit down. I will allow you later.

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN : It is whether A or B. . . .*(Interruptions)*

SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM : He is mentioning about a person who is not present in this House. . . .*(Interruptions)* They are capable. . . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : I will expunge it from the records.

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN : In that case, we can talk about 544 Members, not the 60 million people. We can talk about only among ourselves, not the 60 million people. I want to put an analogy.

I saw yesterday, a former Chief Minister, I think, Shri Laloo Prasad Yadav, was charged for having accumulated wealth to the tune of Rs. 45 lakh. He would have obtained a loan. He would have escaped the clutches of the provisions of the Anti-Corruption Act. It is very easy. He would have obtained a loan and said that it was his loan. If you accumulate property to the tune of Rs. 45 lakh, is it corruption? So, in that way, I analyse these batch of people, A.B.C, of this party or that party, I am not bothered whoever is a Member, whoever is the Minister, they should not be in arrears, if they want to continue in Parliament. In Pakistan, only MPs were arrested who are in arrears. Their properties were confiscated on that day itself and just like that the DRT was doing till yesterday. From tomorrow, Mr. Minister, when this Bill becomes an Act, it will be advantageous to the leeches, parasites and the octopuses in this poor man's society.

You talk about *rickshaw-wala*. *Rickshaw-wala* is an honest payer. He will repay. A fellow who obtained a loan of Rs. 1,000 will repay. If it is Rs. 10,000, he may repay. If it is Rs. 1 lakh, he will not repay. If it is Rs. 1 crore, he will not repay. I have been handling thousands of crores of rupees worth of cases in banks till date. That is why I know. So, I appeal to the Finance Minister to tell the Prime Minister that the matter has become public. It is the property of the House. Please tell him that in future your name. . . *(Interruptions)* I am not charging Mr. Baalu. He had admitted on that day. . . *(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : You cannot charge me. . . . *(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Baalu is here. He can reply. Why are you standing unnecessarily?

(Interruptions)

SHRI T.R. BAALU : You cannot charge me. You have got no *locus standi* at all. . . .*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN (Tirunelveli) : Now I am charging you. . . .*(Interruptions)**

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mr. Pandiyan, please address the Chair.

(Interruptions) (Not recorded.)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : This will not go into the record. Please cooperate with the Chair.

(Interruptions)

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN (Tirunelveli) : Now I am charging the Minister. The Finance Minister should recover the money from him. . . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Pandiyan, you should come to the subject.

(Interruptions)

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN (Tirunelveli) : . . .*(Interruptions)**

19.37 hrs.

(At this stage, Shri S.S. Palanimanickam and some other hon. Members came and stood on the floor near the Table.)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please go to your seats first.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : This is not proper.

(Interruptions)

19.37 hrs.

At this stage, Shri S.S. Palanimanickam and some other hon. Members went back to their seats.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Pandiyan, please confine to the subject.

(Interruptions)

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN : This is not the way, Sir. I have freedom of speech. Under article 105, I have freedom of speech. . . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please take your seats.

(Interruptions)

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*Not recorded.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : I am on a point of order, Sir. . . *(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : The hon. Finance Minister is on his legs. Please take your seats.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : Sir, there are well-established rules of the House regarding an hon. Member of the House making an allegation against another Member of the House.

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN : He is not a Member, he is a Minister.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please hear him first.

(Interruptions)

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : I am sorry to be saying this. The hon. Member, Shri Pandiyan is a former Speaker. More than anybody else, he knows the rules of the game. It is extremely unfortunate that he has chosen this forum to level an allegation which is entirely uncalled for. I would, therefore, suggest that this should be completely expunged from the record of this House. I do not want this debate to degenerate to this level. . . .*(Interruptions)*

SHRI T.R. BAALU : Sir, I must be allowed to answer. . . .*(Interruptions)*

19.38 hrs.

At this stage, Shri P.H. Pandiyan came and stood on the floor near the Table

MR. CHAIRMAN : This is not the proper way. Please go to your seats first.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : This is not the way to level allegations. If you want to make any allegation, first you give notice to the concerned Minister.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Pandiyan, please go to your seat first.

19.38½ hrs.

At this stage, Shri P.H. Pandiyan went back to his seat.

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN : Sir, this is not an allegation, this is a fact. . . *(Interruptions)*

SHRI T.R. BAALU : I challenge him, Sir. Let it go on record. . . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Why are you worried? I am not allowing anything. Shri Pandiyan, if you want to make any allegation, you should give notice to the hon. Member or the Minister concerned with proper documents.

(Interruptions)

SHRI T.R. BAALU : No, I will answer, Sir. . . . *(Interruptions)*

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN : Sir, I will answer to the point. . . .*(Interruptions)* The case is pending in the Debt Recovery Tribunal. If it is heard, let him come and say tomorrow. . . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Pandiyan, please take your seat.

(Interruptions)

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN (Tirunelveli) : It is not an allegation. It is a fact. . . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : I will look into it.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : He was the Speaker of the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly.

(Interruptions)

SHRI T.R. BAALU : Sir, I challenge what he has said. . . .*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ADHI SANKAR (Cuddalore) : Sir, they are COFEPOSA accused people. . . *(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Why are you worried? I am not allowing anything.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Pandiyan, if you are making any allegation you should give notice to the hon. Member.

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN : Yes Sir. I will do it. . . . *(Interruptions)* If it is false, let him come out. The case is pending in the D.R.T. . . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : He was the Speaker of the Tamil Nadu Assembly.

(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj) : Mr. Chairman, in the Eighth Lok Sabha during the course of a debate, there were challenges and counter challenges. . . .*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN : We should talk among ourselves. Why should we not? . . .*(Interruptions)*

SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM : Sir, he is not on the main subject. . . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Palanimanickam, you first go to your seat.

(Interruptions)

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN : Sir, the hon. Minister of Finance should look into this. . . *(Interruptions)*

*(Interruptions)**

MR. CHAIRMAN : Nothing will go on record.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please sit down. I allowed Shri Dasmunsi. I am requesting all the hon. Members to please sit down.

(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Mr. Chairman, Sir. . . .*(Interruptions)*

SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPAHTI (Salem) : You ask Justice Sakaria. He would know who was corrupt. . . *(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Radhakrishnan, why are you standing? Please sit down.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am on a point of order.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Dhananjaya Kumar, I will allow you later.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Pandiyan, please conclude now.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Palanimanickam, you please go to your seat.

(Interruptions)

SHRI T.R. BAALU : You have been convicted by the Special Court. How can you talk here? . . .*(Interruptions)* Sir, I challenge what they are saying. You permit me to reply. . . .*(Interruptions)*

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*Not recorded.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Pandiyan, please address the Chair.

SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR : Sir, I am on a point of order. I must be heard. . . *(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : I will allow you.

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN : Do you want to protect the borrowers ? What is this ? . . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : You please sit down.

SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR : Sir, you please see rule 352 of the Rules of Procedure. . . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : You please sit down. I have given a chance to him.

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN : It is a controversial thing.

SHRI T.R. BAALU : I will challenge the order.

SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR : Sir, Shri Pandiyan who has been a former Speaker of the Tamil Nadu Assembly must at least respect the Chair. . . *(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Baalu, he has raised a point of order. I have given a chance to him. Let us listen him.

(Interruptions)

SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR : Shri Pandiyan, you will have to respect the rule of the House. Sir, Rule 352 says :

"A member while speaking shall not-

(i) refer to any matter of fact on which a judicial decision is pending;

(ii) make personal reference by way of making an allegation imputing a motive to. . . "

The second one is important. . . .*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN : It is corruption. . . . . *(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Selvaganapathy, please sit down.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Pandiyan, you are a former Speaker. I have allowed Shri Dhananjaya Kumar to raise a point of order. Let us give a chance to him to raise a point of order.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Pandiyan, is this your behaviour ? Shri Dhananjaya Kumar, you please address the Chair. Why do you create unnecessary issue ?

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN (SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU) : Why are you shouting ?

(Interruptions)

SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR : Rule 352 (2) says :

"make personal reference by way of making an allegation imputing a motive to or questioning the *bona fides* of any other Member of the House unless it be imperatively necessary for the purpose of the debate being itself a matter in issue or relevant thereto:"

Sir, a Member cannot make any such allegations imputing motives unless the matter itself is an issue. The rule is very clear. . . .*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN : This matter itself is an issue. The Debts Recovery Tribunal. . . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Pandiyan, please sit down.

(Interruptions)

SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR : Sir, for the moment. . . .*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN : He need not teach me. I know he is a Minister and not a Member. I cannot accuse a Member. I cannot accuse Shri Dasmunsi, but I can accuse a Minister. I am charging the Government. . . .*(Interruptions)*

SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR : For the moment, we are not discussing. . . .*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN : I am charging the Government. . . . .*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ADHI SANKAR : The verdict of the court is there. . . *(Interruptions)*

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN : They have inducted heavy borrowers in the Cabinet who have not repaid the money. The proceedings are pending in the DRT. . . .*(Interruptions)*

SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR : For the moment, the House is not discussing about who is owing how much to which financial institution or bank. We are discussing about the amendment to the Bill. . . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Selvaganpathi, why are you unnecessarily interrupting the House. . . .*(Interruptions)*

SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR : We are not discussing the list of defaulters. . . .*(Interruptions)*. No name can come in this discussion because that is not the matter at issue. The matter at issue is how banks can be strengthened. . . .*(Interruptions)*

SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI (Salem) : How will they recover the debt. . . .

*(Interruptions)**

SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR : Sir, under the circumstances, the allegations made by the Member must be expunged. . . .*(Interruptions)* That does not lie in his mouth. He cannot make an allegation. . . .*(Interruptions)*

*(Interruptions)**

He is coming to the House and answering the questions. . . .*(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : Sir, I will explain. Please allow me. . . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Baalu, I will give you a chance.

(Interruptions)

SHRI T.R. BAALU : The Member himself has been convicted by the Special Court and he is talking now. It does not suit him to talk like this. . . .*(Interruptions)*

SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI : We all know about your leader. . . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Nothing will go on record.

Shri P.R. Dasmunsi.

*(Interruptions)**

MR. CHAIRMAN : Nothing will go on record. No allegation against any Minister or any Member, without any substantial evidence, will go on record.

*(Interruptions)**

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN : I will substantiate now. . . . *(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Sir, in this important matter of debate, the hon. Finance Minister has every right to intervene and he has intervened also. With all respect to him, I will only remind you of an incident, which happened in this House during 8th Lok Sabha, of a similar nature. When I was in the Treasury Benches as a Minister of State for Commerce, Shri K.P. Unnikrishnan was in the Opposition benches. There occurred a similar kind of controversy on the matter relating to Bachan Brothers in the Free Trade Zone in Kandla. When the charges were made, the matter was referred to the Privileges Committee as it was a matter of serious nature, as ruled by the Chair. I only remind you – I am not talking of allegations – that if any responsible Member, with all his authority, make any complaint, you simply cannot rule it out; you should send it to the Privileges Committee so that it becomes a property of the Privileges Committee and the Committee looks into the matter. That was the decision.

MR. CHAIRMAN : For this, there is a procedure and it has to be done according to the rules. So, without giving notice to the Member or to the Minister and even to the Speaker.

(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : During the course of the debate, it was ruled that if the Member requests so and the Minister says so, let them take the responsibility of proving it in the Privileges Committee. . . .*(Interruptions)*

SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR : Sir, I have referred to rules 352 and 353, and I want your ruling on it.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I heard your point of order. I will give my ruling later. Shri Pandiyan, please do not make provocative speeches, and please confine yourself to the subject.

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN : We are 544 Members here. We cannot talk about any outsiders here. Then, how did you allow the names of Bajaj and Goenka ? I can talk about him, he can talk about me. . . .*(Interruptions)*

SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI : Let the Minister refer the matter to the Privileges Committee.

SHRI. T.R. BAALU : Sir, he has been convicted by the Special Court. Is it true or not ? . . .*(Interruptions)*

SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI : Yes, they dubbed you as a scientifically corrupted person.

SHRI T.R. BAALU : You have got on *locus standi* . . . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Pandiyan, please do not provoke, and please confine yourself to the subject.

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN : Sir, I have been elected by the people of Tirunelveli Constituency. There are one hundred branches of the Indian Bank. . . .*(Interruptions)*

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*Not recorded

SHRI ADHI SANKAR : . . .*

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN : I am not bothered about this side or that side.

SHRI T.R. BAALU : Sir, if he is not speaking the truth, then I can catch him only in Parliament. He is talking something irrelevant. . . .*(Expunged as ordered by the Chair)*

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN : I should make my submission. I am not making an allegation. It is a fact. The case is pending in the Debt Recovery Tribunal, Madras, involving an amount of Rs. 11 crore. He has admitted it in his statement to the Press. . . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : When one Member is speaking, this is not the proper way to behave. Please sit down.

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN : On the last occasion, when I raised the point, it was accepted. . . .*(Interruptions)*

SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR : How can he go on speaking as he likes ?. . .*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN : Yesterday, I saw a newspaper in which it was stated that Shri Laloo acquired wealth to the tune of Rs. 45 lakh. This is what has provoked me inside here. Shri Laloo was charged with only Rs. 45 lakh, whereas here, the amount involved is Rs. 1,000 crore. It is claimed that it is even more. . . .*(Interruptions)*

SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR : He cannot be allowed to speak as he likes.

SHRI ADHI SANKAR : He is not talking. . . . *(Interruptions)*

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN : It is a fact. . . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Sankar, you are exceeding your limits in your behaviour. Please go to your seat first. Unnecessarily, you are coming to the Well of the House every time. Shri Pandiyan, please hear me first. Your Party has been allotted two minutes' time on this Bill. There is no more time left, please conclude by confining yourself to the subject.

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN : When I was in the Chair, I gave 15 minutes to each Member. . . .*(Interruptions)* It has come to this level because. . . .*(Interruptions)*

SHRI T.R. BAALU : Which level ?

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN : Since you are a borrower, you are talking like that. You are a public man. . . *

SHRI T.R. BAALU : I thought, you will take it jovially.

*Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN : Mr. Finance Minister, if I am wrong on these two issues, you can hang me in front of Parliament. . . .*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ADHI SANKAR : . . . *

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN : I am not bothered about that. If I am wrong on these two issues, I may be hanged in front of Parliament. . . .*(Interruptions)*

SHRI T.R. BAALU : Shri Selvaganpathi, you have no *locus standi*. Please sit down. You have got no face at all. . . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Let there be no cross-talk please. Please do not provoke Shri Pandiyan.

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN : Mr. Finance Minister, he talked of Jain TV, and that provoked me.

Sir, I raised this question of Sun TV. Sun TV is getting Government advertisement worth Rs. one crore every-day. They are getting advertisements from the State Government, the Central Government and also from the private companies worth rupees one crore. He is your Minister. He is earning one crore and I am earning only Rs. 400/- per day. . . .*(Interruptions)* Daily allowance. . . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please address to the Chair. Do not provoke him.

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN : I do not bother. If they are really public men, then they should be ready to face charges. . . .*(Interruptions)* I told the hon. Finance Minister on that day that two of your Ministers are not honest. . . .*(Interruptions)* They have arrears in banks. . . . *(Interruptions)* The next day, Shri T.R. Baalu, had held a Press Conference in Chennai. . . .*(Interruptions)* not in the Parliament. . . .*(Interruptions)* He said. . . .*(Interruptions)*

SHRI T.R. BAALU : Sir, he has given me a chance to speak. . . .*(Interruptions)*. . .* Please be seated. . . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mr. Minister, I would give you chance to speak later.

(Interruptions)

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN : Sir, my view is this much. . . .*(Interruptions)* I would like to tell you frankly that Indian Bank's property is not my grandfather's property. I am not going to get anything even if I am able to recover some Rs. 230 crore for that Bank. . . .*(Interruptions)*

*Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

SHRI ADHI SANKAR : We are getting loans and.*

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN : . . . *

MR. CHAIRMAN : This is not the way.

(Interruptions)

19.57 hrs.

At this stage, Shri Adhi Shankar and some other hon. Members came and stood on the floor near the Table.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Hon. Members, please go to your seats.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : I am requesting all the hon. Members to please go back to their seats.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : I will go through the records and if there is any unparliamentary word, I will expunge those words from the records. Please take your seats.

(Interruptions)

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN : Sir, I will finish my submissions in one minute. . . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Hon. Members, I am repeating, I will go through the records and if there is anything unparliamentary, I would expunge those words.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please cooperate with the Chair.

(Interruptions)

19.58 hrs.

At this stage, Shri Adhi Shankar and some other hon. Members went back to their seats.

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN : Sir I support this Bill. *(Interruptions)* It is because it is. . . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Hon. Members, if there is anything unparliamentary, I would expunge it from the records.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Pandiyan, I am suggesting you to please withdraw those words.

(Interruptions)

*Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM (Thanjavur) : No, Sir. There should be an apology. . . .*(Interruptions)* Otherwise, you please refer it to the Privileges Committee. . . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Pandiyan, you have used some unparliamentary word, please withdraw that word.

(Interruptions)

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN : What did I say ? I do not know. . . .*(Interruptions)*

19.59 hrs.

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members, please resume your seats.

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN : Sir, I would conclude my speech in just one minute. . . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Pandiyan, I had been watching your speech while sitting in my Chamber.

(Interruptions)

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN : Sir, if I am wrong, let me be hanged in Parliament. . . .*(Interruptions)* That is all I can say. . . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : What is this ?

(Interruptions)

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN (Tirunelveli) : I have not committed any wrong. . . .*(Interruptions)* I have apprised the House of the facts. . . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : What are you saying ? You had been yourself a Speaker of a Legislative Assembly; you are one of the Members in the panel of Chairman in Lok Sabha. Please take your seat now.

SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM : That is a grave mistake.

MR. SPEAKER : Please resume your seat.

(Interruptions)

20.00 hrs.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Pandiyan, I have been watching your speech. This is too much.

(Interruptions)

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN : How is it, Sir ? Have I said anything wrong ?. . . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : I have been watching your speech. This is too much. Please conclude within one minute.

(Interruptions)

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN : Sir, I have not done anything. . . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : This House does not belong to only two political parties. Please understand.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : If this is the attitude of the Members, I will take action against the particular individual Members also.

(Interruptions)

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN : They cannot prevent the Members from speaking.

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seat.

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN : If I have no privilege to speak, if I have no freedom of speech, I do not need to attend the House. . . .*(Interruptions)* Why should I come here, if I have no privilege to speak. . . .*(Interruptions)* It is my privilege to speak. . . .*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE (Ratnagiri) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, what is going on here ?. . .*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN : Sir, I am concluding within one minute.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Pandiyan, I am telling you once again that your behaviour in the House is not proper.

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN : What behaviour, Sir ?

MR. SPEAKER : Please conclude your speech.

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN : I have not obtained loans from the Indian Bank. . . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Pandiyan, if this is your attitude, I will take action against you.

(Interruptions)

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN : . . . * I have not received loans. . . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Please conclude your speech.

(Interruptions)

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, this Bill is advantageous to the heavy borrowers.

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*Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN) : Sir, the Member should apologise for the words he used. . . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Pandiyan, please take your seat.

(Interruptions)

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN : Sir, I am concluding.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Pandiyan, please take your seat.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Sir, it is not a question of concluding the speech or continuing the speech for the next half an hour. The words which are used, if you go through the record you will find, are not just unparliamentary. That is a very small expression for this type of words. Sir, unless the hon. Member who has made such remarks apologises to the house for those remarks, what is the use of sitting here ?. . .*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN : What is the remark I used ? Please say that. . . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Pandiyan, please take your seat. What is this ?

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Sir, we from the Government side are very keen that unless he apologises, we cannot run the House in this way. There is a limit to saying things. . . .*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN : What apology ?. . .*(Interruptions)* They have obtained Rs. 11 crore as loans. . . .*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : The hon. Member can make allegations. But nobody uses the words he has used, even in the streets. . . .*(Interruptions)*

SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI (Salem) : Sir, I strongly object to the words the Minister is using. . . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : All the derogatory and unparliamentary words used will be removed from the record.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Pandiyan, please conclude your speech.

(Interruptions)

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN : Am I not entitled to one minute ?

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Pandiyan, I advise you not to use such kind of words.

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN : What words did I use ? I do not know. Let them say what are the words that I used. . . .*(Interruptions)* They are not able to say what those words are. . . .*(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : Sir, he must apologise for the words he has used. . . .*(Interruptions)* He is a lawyer. . . . *(Interruptions)* He should know how to behave in the House. . . . *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Pandiyan, you should not use such kind of words in future also.

(Interruptions)

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN : I have not uttered any word. . . .*(Interruptions)* Let them say, what is the word. . . .*(Interruptions)*

SHRI T.R. BAALU : We cannot repeat those words like him. . . . *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seats.

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN : I will finish in one minute, Sir. . . .*(Interruptions)*

SHRI T.R. BAALU : Sir, he should not be allowed to speak.

MR. SPEAKER : We have already removed those remarks.

(Interruptions)

SHRI T.R. BAALU : If he is a true parliamentarian, he has to withdraw his remarks. . . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : We have already removed them from the record. Please take your seats. Advise your Members also to take their seats.

SHRI T.R. BAALU : He spoke in an indecent way. He used filthy language. . . *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Minister, please take your seat and advise your Members also to do the same.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please resume your seats.

(Interruptions)

SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM : Sir, we should get an apology for the words he has used. . . .*(Interruptions)*

SHRI T.R. BAALU : Sir, he has used a very filthy language. . . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Minister, they have already been removed from the proceedings.

(Interruptions)

SHRI T.R. BAALU : What is your ruling, Sir ? He should apologise. . . .*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Sir, with due respect, we will obey all your orders. But 'removing from the records' is not enough for using such words. The Member must express regret. What is the problem there ? If I make a mistake, I will express regret for that. . . .*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN : Sir, I will finish now. On set off and counter claims, appointment of receivers, commissioner by the Tribunal is advantageous to the heavy borrowers. . . .*(Interruptions)*

20.06 hrs.

At this stage, Shri S.S. Palanimanickam and some other hon. Members came and stood on the floor near the Table

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

(Interruptions)

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN : Sir, I am not able to support the Finance Minister fully though it is constitutionally correct. . . .*(Interruptions)*

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

(Interruptions)

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN : Sir, it was drafted on the mandate of the Supreme Court. The Supreme Court on a number of occasions have said. . . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Shri S.S. Palanimanickam, and other hon. Member please go to your seats.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members, I am requesting you to please go to your seats.

(Interruptions)

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN : Sir, this Bill was aimed at protecting the interests of heavy borrowers. That is why I

am opposing it. In 1969, Banks nationalisation case was heard by a Bench of 9 judges of the Supreme Court and the Supreme Court upheld that it was in the national interest. What was the national interest in 1969 ?. . . *(Interruptions)*

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

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members, please resume your seats first and then submit your point.

(Interruptions)

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN : Sir, what was 'national interest' in 1969 by the Supreme Court cannot be 'anti-national' in 2000. That 9-judge Bench judgement of the Supreme Court has to be upheld by the Government. . . . *(Interruptions)* They are not following the Supreme Court judgement. . . *.(Interruptions)*

SHRI T.R. BAALU : Sir, he has made a wild allegation. He should apologise. . . .*(Interruptions)* He has used unparliamentary language. . . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing should go on record except what Shri P.H. Pandiyan says.

*(Interruptions)**

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

*(Interruptions)**

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN : Sir, I will conclude by saying that without offending anybody I made my speech thoughtfully. I am speaking from my conscience. If there is anything wrong, show it to me; I am ready to withdraw. . . *.(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members, first of all, please go to your seats. Whatever you want to submit, you may submit but after going to your seats.

(Interruptions)

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN : Sir, if there is anything wrong, I am ready to withdraw. But it is not an allegation, it is a fact. . . .*(Interruptions)*

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

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*Not recorded

20.08 hrs.

At this stage, Shri S.S. Palanimanickam and some other hon. Members went back to their seats

s SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN : Sir, this Bill is aimed at protecting the interests of the heavy loanees. I cited two instances. Shri P.R. Das Munsi has mentioned that the Jain TV is in arrears. I also reiterated that.

I support this Bill because it is constitutionally correct. The Minister has said that it is constitutionally correct while introducing the Bill but I am not able to support it fully because it is going to support the heavy borrowers. They are not going to repay from tomorrow. . . .*(Interruptions)*. . . It will be published in papers also. . . .*(Interruptions)*

SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI : The Government is also protecting them. . . . *(Interruptions)*

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN : Yes, the Government is also protecting the heavy borrowers. So, the heavy borrowers will protract the proceedings taking adjournment after adjournment, taking time for counter and reply. . . . *(Interruptions)*

With these words, I am thankful to you, Sir, for giving me the opportunity. By heart, I talked. But if there is anything wrong, even now I say. . . .*(Interruptions)*

SHRI T.R. BAALU : Everything is wrong. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN : If there is anything wrong, even now I say that I may be hanged in Parliament. That is what I can say. Thank you. . . .*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRAKASH PARANJPE (Thane) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am standing in support of this Bill. . . .*(Interruptions)*

A number of hon. Members have expressed their views about this Bill. When I was speaking with the high officers of the banks, one officer said, 'Shri Paranjpe' when you take a loan of Rs. 1 lakh, you are afraid of the bank but if you take a loan of Rs. 1 crore, the bank is afraid of you.' This is the situation which is also reflected by the figures. Loans are outstanding to the tune of Rs. 59 crore. People are asking for declaring their names and making some changes in the rules for recovery.

I am a very small person. I would like to narrate a simple example. A Corporation, for the recovery of water charges, can cut the water connection. The MTNL, for the recovery of arrears of their bills, can disconnect your telephone. The MSEB, for not paying your bills, can cut the power supply. But for the recovery of loans of thousands of crores of rupees we are discussing making

[Shri Prakash Paranjpe]

some changes of ifs, buts and ors and so on. Can the officers concerned and the intellectuals of this august House make a single amendment giving powers to the banks ? It is an agreement between the borrower and the bank. For breach of agreement, can we cut the power, water or telephone connection, where they stay ? It is not possible for the Government to bring in a simple amendment for the recovery of the loans ? But we are only discussing and criticising and asking the big names to be declared.

In this amendment, there is not a single clause where the officer concerned, the Director or the Board of Directors will be punished for not recovering the loans, rather for not doing their job. When they sanction the loan, the officer concerned enters into an agreement. He retires after three years and the responsibility goes to the next person. I would request the hon. Minister of Finance to come up with some rules in this legislation about who will be responsible for the loans sanctioned. Even if they retire, they should not be given their pension and provident fund unless and until the loans that were sanctioned in their tenure are recovered.

I am very much thankful to Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi. He gave a very nice suggestion that the small-scale industries should not be charged any interest till they start production. I will now give a very simple example. The son of one of my friends wanted to open a factory. He wanted to import the machinery which was under OGL in 1998. He was about to complete the formalities. But in 1999, the item was removed from OGL and so he applied for the licence. It took nine months for him to get it. The licensing process for that machinery took nine months and he opened an LC on the 28th or 29th of February. But in this Budget, again, that machinery has been brought under OGL. Is there any consistency in this policy ? As and when somebody wants a change, we are changing it.

Last year, in the Budget debate, I had said that our country needs a long-term industrial policy and a long-term taxation policy.

You declare it now itself in what phases you are going to increase the interest rates and in what phases you are going to reduce the customs duty. You are changing it every year and ultimately, it is the people who suffer. In 1998, the machine was under OGL; in 1999, it came under Licencing Committee; again in 2000, it has been brought under OGL. Ultimately, that person had to spend Rs. 2,70,000 for surrendering his licence. Whose loss is that ? Since you are changing the policy, the poor industrialist had to incur a loss of Rs. 2,70,000. There are a number of suggestions that we can make. The officers themselves have suggested that there should be an amendment in the Banking Regulation Act for recovering the money. Unless we give the power to the banks to sell the mortgaged properties, no recovery is possible. We have to give them clear-cut powers to the banks. The moment we send the notice, people go to the arbiters. I am not able to understand that. The banks give the loan, but for recovering the loan, the banks have to go to the Tribunal. I am not able to understand this logic. Immediate action should be taken for breach of contract. So many intellectuals are there in the banking and financial sector. It is a very simple thing. When there is a breach of contract, how can we allow them to go to court ? They should not be permitted to go to the courts. Small people are penalised. If the rickshaw puller does not repay the amount, immediately his rickshaw is impounded. Big people are taking loans worth crores of rupees, but they are not penalised. They openly say that this bank is in my left packet and that bank is in my back packet. The Government do not take any action for years together. The banks should be given powers to cut off their electricity connection, water connection and telephone connection. They should make these people's lives miserable. It is because they are not only cheating the bankers but also the common men who deposit small amounts like Rs. 100 or Rs. 150. The money which belongs to the common men is given to the big people as loan. I would request the hon. Minister of Finance to accept the suggestion made by Shri Dasmunsi that no interest should be charged for the small scale industries till they start manufacturing. Please make a suitable amendment to make the officers concerned responsible for sanctioning the loan and for not recovering the loan. It is because the officers themselves suggest ways and means to these people as to how to delay the payment.

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon'ble Minister has brought 'Recovery of Debts Due to Banks and Financial Institutions (Amendment) Bill, 2000'. I cannot understand what are recoverable dues (Shodhya). It is mere translation of a English work. Yashwantji knows why 'Shodhya' is written. By writing this, they have made this bill horrible. The hon'ble Minister has claimed that a legislation was made for the recovery of debts, but the High Court had repealed this bill. Then Supreme Court had issued guidelines for this. This bill has been brought for its implementation. If a loan is given by any bank, then it should be recovered strictly. The bank will become insolvent in case of non-recovery of dues. When hon'ble Members Dasmunsiji and Hasanji were speaking on this subject. I also made up my mind to speak on this subject. Earlier, I did not wish to speak on this subject. It has been said that dues worth Rs. 58

thousand crore of banks are outstanding. Out of it Rs 25 thousand crore are outstanding against CII. Earlier we used to think that CII look after the interests of poor. The Hon'ble Minister of Finance had frequently attended the CII confederation, but now their intentions have become clear to us. The poor people face great difficulties in getting loans from the banks. The condition of poor man become miserable in the process of obtaining loan. He has to pay several visits to get his loan sanctioned. He do not get loan without greasing palms of bank officials. And if he is unable to repay the loan he is either sent to jail or action is taken against him. The prominent people who pose as economists who give these type of suggestions to the Government are themselves responsible for the huge losses which the banks are incurring. For us this situation is frightening. Why you have brought this legislation. You said, High Court had repealed it and they have brought it on the directions of Supreme Court. This is not true. Government is not implementing it but is introducing this legislation just to show that they are taking stringent measures to recover dues. According to the data presented by Shri Dasmunsi and Moinul Hassan out of Rs. 58 thousand crore, CII owe Rs. 25 thousand crore and how will you recover it ? The people say, the hon'ble Minister of Finance has close links with CII, but what type of legislation is this and how it will be strictly implemented ? The banks will become insolvent because we want that the law should be equal for everybody whether the person is poor or rich. There is no use of enacting such legislation by which thousands of crores of rupees of banks become bad debt because of non-payment of loan by rich and influential people, Whereas the poor are scared of Police in case of non-payment of loans and his property is attached. We want that legislation should be implemented in a uniform manner. It should not be such that it is strict for the poor and soft for the rich. If you will go by the advice of these rich people or so called economists, what will happen to this country, it can be understood from the fact that the poor will become more poor and this dreadful situation will be created because of the rich. The Minister should give specific reply in this regard that the influential and rich people are responsible for bad debt by not repaying loans to banks and crores of people of this country are suffering due to their deeds. How those people be benefitted ? As told by Shri Dasmunsi 204 Industrial Houses owe Rs. 25 thousand crore. I am concerned and worried about the future of this country, the handful of people will make all the money of banks into bad debt.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : I am grateful to the hon. Members for having lent support to this legislation that I have brought before the House today. Cutting across party lines, while they have raised issues of general concern, they have all felt that this is a piece of legislation which should have been brought before the House. Sir, I have already explained the reasons as to why we had to get it enacted through an Ordinance. I will not take the time of the House in describing it further.

Sir, the financial sector is a very critical sector of the economy. Those of us who have studied the East-Asian crisis, are aware of the fact that the origin of the crisis was in the weakness of the financial sector. Therefore, the financial sector of the country has not only to be strengthened but has to be brought at par with the most stringent international prudential norms. This is exactly what we are seeking to attempt.

Let me remind, Sir, the House, through you, that prior to 1992 we were not even maintaining the account of the NPAs. There was no account in the banks. It was only when the process of liberalisation started in 1992 and that for the first time norms were laid down for asset classification and income recognition. It was after that the banks started preparing the accounts of the Non-Performing Assets. I would like to point out here, Sir, that ever since 1993, and especially after the DRT Act was promulgated, the gross NPA as well as the net NPA have been consistently coming down as a percentage.

When we look at the absolute number, it might appear as if they are going up. But in terms of the percentage of the total advances of the banks, it has come down. I have figures here. In 1993, the gross NPA of the banks and financial institutions was 24.8 per cent; and on 31 March, 1999 it had come down to 15.89 per cent. The net NPA is down to 8.7 per cent on 31 March, 1999. So, as a percentage it has been coming down. I can mention here that during this six-year period, the growth in bank advances (gross) has been to the extent of 92 per cent whereas growth in gross NPA has been restricted to only 31.7 per cent. Why am I quoting this figure ? I am quoting this figure to make the point that while we have to be concerned at the NPA and we have to do everything that is necessary to bring down the level of NPA to a level which is sustainable, – around 4 four cent or 3 per cent – and which is not something which should lead to alarm. There is no reason for us to panic at the level of NPA. We are talking of non-performing assets. But the figures that I have given you, the way we maintain these figures are actually non-performing loans. If you judge them against the assets, then the figures are much lower. But as I said, we want to maintain the highest prudential norms which are internationally acceptable. That is why, we are

[Shri Yashwant Sinha]

not happy with this level of NPAs that is there in our system.

Now, it has been pointed out here that the DRT have not functioned as well as they should have functioned which is a fact in the sense that the Act which was passed in 1993 and which was struck down in 1995 and certain infirmities. Between 1995 and today, the DRTs have been functioning on the basis of a stay order that we succeeded in securing from the Supreme Court. Once this Bill is passed by Parliament and becomes a law, then the DRTs are actually going to be strengthened. There are many ways in which we are strengthening the DRTs as a result of these amendments.

Sir, let me assure you that there are two things. Firstly, there is a healthy tradition in the Ministry of Finance that we do not interfere in the day-to-day functioning of the banks. I have all the determination at my command to continue with that healthy tradition. Whatever may be the provocation, I cannot sit in my chair in the North Block and decide what the banks should do, – who they should advance to and who they should not advance to. This is not the function of the Government. AT the same time, let me state it without any ambiguity on my part that we shall come down heavily on those who are wilful defaulters and this piece of legislation is going to help us to do that. It is also not our intention to spare those who had colluded with any of their clients to cheat the bank, defraud the banks to deprive them of any sums of money which are held in trust by them because these are the moneys of the people of India. So, about these two aspects, let there be absolutely no doubt. My intention in bringing this legislation before the House is to ensure exactly that. We should be able to bring the culprits and the wilful defaulters to book.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (Hoogly) : If you could yield, I want to say that of late, the Central Vigilance Commissioner has been putting the names of corrupt officials in the website. He has requested that the banking secrecy clause should be changed. It is the persistent demand..It is because of the secrecy clause, the names of the wilful defaulters cannot be published.

This is the request not from the Opposition, but from Shri N Vittal, the Central Vigilance Commissioner, and the Reserve Bank of India has partially agreed to it. May I know one point just for clarification ? I had asked in a different capacity from high officials whether the secrecy clause on wilful defaulter is applicable in the case of depositors or borrowers. What is the international standard ?

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : I was coming to this point if Shri Rupchand Pal had held his patience. I would have certainly touched this point in the course of my reply. We do not have the definition for wilful defaulter. This is a fact.

Let me also make it clear that let not an impression go that all these Rs. 51,710 crore which are NPAs today, have accumulated during the last 24 months. It is not so. They have been coming from earlier times. It is a problem which has afflicted our banking system unfortunately for a long time. We have become aware of it, we have become conscious of it and we are trying to reduce the NPA.

What is the definition in the banking industry ? The banking industry proceeds on the basis of non-performing assets. The non-performing assets are; substandard assets, doubtful assets and loss assets. I have looked at the figures. I can tell you as to why I am saying not to be alarmed and not to be panicky. It is because a substandard asset is a default of less than two years after a loan becomes past due, which is another one month. If somebody has dafaulted in the payment of a certain instalment or of interest for a period of less than 24 months, then it becomes a substandard asset. A majority of the NPA falls in that category. A small minority of small quantum is the loss asset which is the real loss of the bank against which we have the provisioning norms. Let me assure that almost 50 per cent of the total NPA are covered by the provisioning made by the banks. Therefore, the situation is not alarming.

As I said, our standard norms of NPA compare very favourably with the best in the world. Now the point is there are two impressions. One is that we are really clawing the small man, we are going after him, and we are taking him to jail; whereas the big fellows – as Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh would say that because I am in league with them – are escaping. I have been the Finance Minister for the last 24 months. What were the previous Finance Ministers doing ? They were also in league with them; otherwise these NPA would not have been there and I would not have landed with 51,710 crore NPAs. Let me tell Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh that the first meeting of the CII that I attended as a Member of Parliament was in the company of his leader Shri Laloo Prasad Yadav. Therefore, let us not go into that. Everyone who is occupying an office has to deal with all kinds of people, including the kind of people that we have in the CII or in the FICCI or in the ASSOCHAM or anywhere else.

The point I am making is about wilful default. First of all, let me be clear that this Act which was passed in 1993 is still valid. It precludes outstanding loans which are less than Rs. 10 lakhs. Nobody can be taken to the DRT if the

outstanding loan against that person is less than Rs. 10 lakhs. So, one thing is that one has to have an outstanding loan of more than Rs. 10 lakhs if one is to be dragged before the DRT. The small borrower is not really covered by this process. This process is meant only for the bigger fellows, the bigger loanees.

In reply to what Shri Rupchand Pal has said just now, he is aware of the fact that whenever a wilful default takes place, whenever an asset becomes substandard, or a bank comes to the conclusion that they should initiate measures to recover their dues and they do so, then every year by the 31st March for that year the RBI prepares a list of such defaulters who have been dragged to a court of law through the DRT. A list of people who have an outstanding loan of Rs. 1 crore and above is placed in the Library of Parliament.

So, there is no secrecy. Where is the secrecy ? The secrecy is only in regard to the accounts which have not yet been proceeded against and let me take the House into confidence on one point. While it is not our intention to protect anyone, it should also not be our intention that anyone who has borrowed money from the banks should be exposed. That is not the norm. The international norm is one of confidentiality. It is a contract between the bank as a lender and the person or the firm who is borrowing as a borrower. This is a contract between the two of them. Unless the contract goes back, there is no reason why every transaction should be made public. And I stand by this that we should make every attempt to realise our dues, especially those dues which have become overdue and where there is evidence that the money is being siphoned off, that the money is diverted and that he is not deliberately paying it. The Reserve Bank of India has come out with the definition of wilful defaulter recently. The RBI has also issued instructions in the month of October, 1999 saying that now the bank should enter into an agreement and prescribe a condition that the borrower will not hold the loans against the bank in case the loan amount and the account goes into default. Now, we have taken the power to be able to do this but at the same time, it will serve no propose, certainly not the purpose of the economy of this country, if we were to say that no advances will be made by the banks and that every advance that will be made by the banks will be made public. It is upto the Parliament to decide but if you ask my opinion, I would say that this is not a practical system and it will not work. So, let us be reasonable, let us be practicable, let us catch hold of those who must be caught hold of, let us bring them to book, let us punish them but at the same time, let us also not start punishing those who are not guilty of any default. Eighty-two per cent of the total advances by the banks today are standard advances. They are not in default. And that is what gives me hope that the way we are proceeding, it will be possible for us to bring these defaults to the level of assets which is internationally recognised, which is sustainable and therefore, we have come out with this Bill, Sir.

Unfortunately, I do not and I am not in a position to agree with the hon. Member, Shri Pandiyan when he says that we are acting at the behest of the Supreme Court. The division of constitutional responsibility is very clearly defined in our Constitution. It was under that division of responsibility, under the powers given to the judiciary, that the Delhi High Court struck down this piece of legislation. And we went to the Supreme Court, it is still pending with the Supreme Court and I am sure that we would adopt these improvements which we are not doing necessarily at the behest of the Supreme Court. We have studied it in the Reserve Bank of India. Two Committees have gone into this and I mentioned right in the beginning that the Committee of Subordinate Legislation of the Rajya Sabha has also gone into it. It is the expertise available with the Reserve Bank of India, it is the wisdom available in the other House on the basis of which we have brought this legislation. So, let there be no doubt in the mind of any hon. Member that we are acting under pressure or that we are surrendering the sovereignty of the Parliament. Parliament is supreme and Parliament has got the legislative power and we are acting under that legislative power.

So, I would say that there are some very important amendments in this Bill. This debate is only about the DRTs which are strengthening the recovery procedure. It is not about all the other points which have been raised in the course of this debate. These points will be taken care of when we discuss the Budget of this year in this House. There are a number of issues which have been raised but I would not like to take the time of the House at this late hour in trying to meet those points. I would only suggest that this is a well thought-out and well-considered piece of legislation brought after a great deal of deliberation. I would suggest that this House should not only consider it but also pass it.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj) : What about your concern about the professional management in the banking from our own experience and from the experience in the international norms that are there ?

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : I am grateful that Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi has not only raised that issue but has also once again reminded us of this. It is one of the steps that we are taking to professionalise the management so that the credit appraisal norms are applied more fruitfully in a much better fashion. One of the weaknesses that we have noticed in the absence of proper

[SHRI YASHWANT SINHA]

credit appraisal norms. You would agree to give a loan of Rs. 230 crore or whatever that amount may be on the basis of inadequate appraisal then it becomes a bad debt. Now, it is our continuous effort to upgrade the professional level of the bank employees, of the bank management and make sure that they continuously go through training programmes. Banking has become extremely complex and new financial instruments are coming into the market. Therefore, there is no escape from the professionalism of this particular sector. It will be our definite endeavour in the years to come to impart greater professionalism to the bank managers.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil) : My purpose was to focus the attention of the House in regard to the inherent defects in the recovery of loans due to banks and financial institutions. I am satisfied that there was a due discussion. In that context, I do not press further my Resolution.

MR. SPEAKER : Is it the pleasure of the House that the Resolution moved by Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan be withdrawn ?

The Resolution was, by leave, withdrawn.

MR. SPEAKER : I shall now put the motion for consideration of the Bill to the vote of the House.

The question is :

"That this Bill further to amend the Recovery of Debts Due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

MR. SPEAKER : The House will now take up clause-by-clause consideration of the Bill.

The question is :

"That clauses 2 to 8 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 2 to 8 were added to the Bill.

Clause 9 (Substitution of new Section for Section 19)

MR. SPEAKER : There is an amendment to clause 9 moved by Shri A.F. Golam Osmani.

Shri A.F. Golam Osmani, are you moving the amendment to clause 9 ?

SHRI A.F. GOLAM OSMANI (Barpeta) : My intention was to bring to the notice of the hon. Finance Minister that aspect which was discussed by some hon. Members, especially Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi about those people who have taken loan to run small scale industry. They are to be treated apart from other loanees.

MR. SPEAKER : Are you moving or withdrawing the amendment ?

SHRI A.F. GOLAM OSMANI : I am moving my amendment.

I beg to move :

"Page 5, -

after line 31, *insert-*

"20 (A) The Tribunal may, after giving the a[illegible] the defendant an opportunity of being heard, pass [illegible] final order exempting full interest for payment by the defendant for realization of the principal amount by the applicant in case of the defendant established his business in the North Eastern States.

20 (B) North Eastern States means the States of Assam, Meghalaya, Manipur, Mizoram, Nag[illegible]nd, Arunachal Pradesh and Tripura." (1)

MR. SPEAKER : I shall now put the a[illegible]t No.1, moved by Shri A.F. Golam Osmani to the [illegible] the House.

The amendment No. 1 was put and n[illegible]

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That clause 9 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 9 was added to the Bill.

Clauses 10 to 18 were added to the Bill.

Clause 1, the Enacting formula and the long Title were added to the Bill.

MR. SPEAKER : The Minister may now move the motion to pass the Bill.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : I beg to move :

"That the Bill be passed."

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That the Bill be passed."

The motion was adopted.

20.45 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Tuesday, March 14, 2000/ Phalguna 24, 1921 (Saka).

Corrigenda to Lok Sabha Debates
(English Version)

Monday, March 13, 2000/Phalguna 23, 1921 (Saka)

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Col./line	For	Read
1[illegible]/2 (from below)	SHRI THAWAR CHAND GAHLOT	SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT
206/20 (Below 1999-2000)	(Upto 29.02.20000)	(Upto 29.02.2000)
260/18	Q.No.2784	2748
448/15	Shri C.N.Singh (Muchhlishahar)	Shri C.N.Singh (Machhlishahar)
511/6	Shri Adi Shankar	Shri Adi Sankar