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Monday, April 24, 2000
Vaisakha 4, 1922 (Saka)

LOK SABHA DEBATES

(English Version)

Third Session
(Thirteenth Lok Sabha)

सत्यमेव जयते

(Vol. VI contains Nos. 21 to 30)

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
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LOK SABHA

April 24, 2000/Vaisakha 4, 1922 (Saka)

(The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock)

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Q. No. 401 — absent.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI VIJAY GOEL: Sir, it is a very important question on electricity. But the hon'ble Member who has asked this question is not present. The Government of Delhi is doing nothing. Power is cut off for eight hours at a stretch even in Delhi. Therefore, other hon'ble Members should be given permission to ask question.

MR. SPEAKER: No, it is not the procedure. Q. No. 402.

11.01½ hrs.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Postage Stamps

[English]

*402. SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU:
SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the norms followed for releasing commemorative postal stamps in memory of the distinguished Indian Personalities;

(b) the details of the commemorative postal stamps released in honour of the distinguished Indian Personalities during the last one year and till date;

(c) whether the Government have received a proposal for releasing a commemorative postal stamp in honour of Late S/Shri Basudeb Balwant Fadake and N.T. Rama Rao; and

(d) if so, the action taken in this regard?

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

The guidelines for release of commemorative postage stamps lay down that:

(i) Stamp on a personality may be issued on birth centenary or 10th/25th/50th/100th etc. death anniversary and the personality should be of national or international importance.

(ii) Not more than one stamp may be issued on the same personality.

(iii) The commemorative postage stamps issued on personalities should not exceed 25% of total number of stamps issued in the year. The details of the commemorative postal stamps released in honour of the distinguished Indian Personalities during the last one year and till date are given in Annexure.

The Department has already issued a commemorative postage stamp on Shri Basudeb Balwant Fadake on 21.02.1984. No proposal has been received in this regard recently.

The Department has, however, received a proposal for issue of a commemorative postage stamp in honour of late Shri N.T. Rama Rao. The proposal has been approved for issue of stamp and the date of issue is being finalised in consultation with the State Government.

ANNEXURE

List of Stamps on Personalities issued during 1999

	Name	Date of Issue
1.	Biju Patnaik	05/03/99
2.	Dr. K.B. Hedgewar	18/03/99
3.	Gulzari Lal Nanda	24/07/99
4.	Jijabai	07/07/99
5.	P.S. Kumaraswamy Raja	08/07/99
6.	Balai Chand Mukhopadhyay, 'Banaphool'	19/07/99
	India's Struggle for Freedom (set of 4 stamps)	15/08/99
7.	Sardar Ajit Singh	
8.	Swami Ramanand Teerth	
9.	Swami Keshawanand	
10.	Vishwambhar Dayalu Tripathi	
11.	Kalki Krishnamurthy	09/09/99
12.	Linguistic Harmony of India (set of 4 stamps)	14/09/99
12.	Kazi Nazrul Islam	
13.	Ramdhari Sing 'Dinkar'	
14.	Jhaverchand Kalidas Meghani	
15.	Rambriksh Benipuri	
16.	Arati Gupta (Saha)	29/09/999
	India's March Towards Progress and Development) (set of 4 stamps)	09/10/99
17.	Dr. T.M.A. Pai	
18.	A.D. Shroff	
19.	A.B. Walawalkar	
20.	Chhaganlal K. Parekh	
21.	Veerapandia Kattabomman	16/10/99
	Modern Masters of Indian Classical Music (set of 2 stamps)	19/10/99
22.	Ustad Allauddin Khan Saheb	
23.	Musiri Subramania Iyer	
24.	Brigadier Rajinder Singh, MVC	27/10/99
	Freedom Fighter & Social Reformers (set of 4 stamps)	09/12/99
25.	A. Vaidyanatha Iyer	
26.	Indulal Kanaiyalal Yagnik	
27.	Dr. Punjab Rao Deshmukh	
28.	P. Kakkan	

List of Stamps on Personalities Issued During 2000

1.	Mahatma Gandhi: Father of the Nation	27/01/2000
	Galantry Award Winners: 50 years of Republic (set of 5 stamps)	28/01/2000
2.	L/NK Albert Ekka, PVC	
3.	CQMH Abdul Hamid, PVC	
4.	L/NK Karam Singh, PVC, MM	
5.	Fg Offr. NJS Sekhon, PVC	
6.	Capt. M.N. Mulla, MVC	
	Personalities: Birth Centenary (set of 3 stamps)	17/02/2000
7.	Jananayak Arun Kumar Chanda	
8.	Balwantrai Mehta	
9.	Dr. Harekrushna Mehtab	
10.	Dr. Boorgula Ramakrishna Rao	13/03/2000
11.	Potti Sriramulu	16/03/2000
12.	Basawon Sinha	23/03/2000

[English]

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU: First of all, I am congratulating the hon. Minister of Communications because he has decided to agree to the proposal for issue of commemorative postage stamps in honour of late Shri N.T. Rama Rao.

I would request the Government through you to release the stamp at Hyderabad on his next birth anniversary falling on the 28th May. The Andhra Pradesh Government is proposing a *maha nadu* in a big way. So, I am requsting the Government through you to release the stamp next month, on the 28th, which is his birth anniversary.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: There is no problem in that.

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU: Then, it is all right.

The hon. Minister has categorically stated that they are releasing these stamps in honour of various personalities. I would like to know whether the Government is thinking of releasing stamps in the name of prestigious universities. There are many prestigious universities in this country that have completed a hundred years or a hundred and fifty years. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Is this your suggestion?

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU: I would like to know through you if there is any proposal in this regard.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Sir, we consider all the requests received and release the stamps. But, first let some requests come from these universities.

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, as the hon'ble Minister has stated in his reply that in different States the stamps are released in honour of many freedom fighters, social workers, dramatist and in honour of several other person who have given big programmes and have done big tasks for the country. Sir, through you I would like to ask about Mentor Kesav Sita Ramji Thakre of Maharashtra. He was a big poet, dramatist, Literator and author. In addition, he took part in freedom struggle of the country also. He is famous for his social works throughout Maharashtra. He worked with Baba Saheb Ambedkar, who was great personality of Maharashtra. Will the hon'ble Minister tell whether he has received any proposal for release of postage stamp in honour of Mentor Keshav Sita Ram Thakre ji. If so, by when they will release stamp in his honour.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, as I have said, we release postage stamps in the name of great personalities of our country whether they are from the field of culture or any other field. Philatelic Advisory Committee of our ministry consider the requests received. The Committee take the decision keeping in view the guiding principles laid down for this purpose. In addition to it, criteria is relaxed in case of special requests and the stamps are released. We want that the stamps should the released in the honour of great personalities and their works. As far as possible we adopt positive attitude in this regard.

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I asked from the hon'ble Minister if any proposal has been received by his Ministry for the release of postal stamp in the name of Mentor Keshav Sita Ram Thakre ji or not, and if not, then if we send a proposal when the stamp will be released.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Well, you may send your proposal. We would consider over it.

[English]

SHRI RAJESH PILOT: There were some guidelines, which were decided in 1991-92, regarding release of stamps. There were some officers who revolted against the British regime while in service and some of them had been shot dead in the process. One of the guidelines says that such persons would get First Day Cover or postage stamp released in their names on priority. This was continued and I do not know how far we have reached. May I know from the hon. Minister whether those guidelines are still being continued and if so, how many such cases are remaining? You may not have the details now; but you can find out as to how many such brave persons are still there, on whose names postage stamps have so far not been issued.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Sir, now I have no information about it. If there was any such guideline wherein it was stated that postal stamps should be released in the name of persons who were killed while fighting against British Government. If any such rule was prevalent, it would be continued.

[English]

SHRI RAJESH PILOT: In principle, are you agreeing with that?

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Yes.

[Translation]

We wil see that.

SHRI P.S. GADHAVI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Dullah Bhaya Kam was a very renowned poet of Gujarat. His birth centenary is falling next year. Sir, through you, I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister whether the Government of Gujarat have sent any proposal regarding release of a postal stamp on the eve of his anniversary. In case they have not sent a proposal and if I send one such proposal, then would you release a postage stamp on his birth centenary. He was a very famous poet, he worked with Gandhi whether hon'ble Minister intends to release a postage stamp or not?

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Alright, please send, we will definitely consider.

[English]

SHRI LAKSHMAN SETH: Sir, a few days back, I proposed to the hon. Prime Minister to release a commemorative postal stamp in honour of late Shri Satish Samanth who was a great legendary figure in freedom movement. He was also the founder of *Tamralipta Jatiyo*

Sarkar, a parallel Government, which lasted for about 21 months. May I know from the hon. Minister whether he is considering that proposal to release a postal stamp in honour of Shri Satish Samanth who was not only a freedom fighter, but also a Member of Parliament for 30 years?

MR. SPEAKER: It is okay. You have already replied to that.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Sir, we consider all the requests we receive. Philatelic Committee, constituted for this purpose also consider all the requests. As I have already said, it is our endeavour to adopt a positive approach for releasing postage stamp in the honour of great personalities of our country who have done great work in their own fields be it art, freedom movement or any other field and who have earned fame. These are our efforts. Hon'ble member has written to the Prime Minister we will definitely consider over it.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you I would like to know whether your Ministry intends to release a postage stamp in the honour of Bihar's proud and also great fighter of freedom struggle of 1857, octogenarian Babu Kunwar Singh? whether the Philatelic Committee under your Ministry proposes to release a stamp in his name?

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: We will find out whether a stamp has been released in the name of Veer Kunwar Singhji or not. If not, a stamp will be released.

SHRI VIJAY GOEL: Hon'ble Minister is not telling 'No' to anyone.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: The rule is such.

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you I would like to draw the attention of the hon'ble Minister and want to know whether any proposal has been received regarding the name of freedom fighter and leader of the masses Karpoori Thakurji for release of a postal stamp. If so, the time by which you are going to release the stamp?

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Perhaps a postal stamp has been released in his name.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: About the individual cases, the hon. Members can write to the hon. Minister.

SHRIMATI KRISHNA BOSE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, we are discussing the names of all the great men associated with politics and the freedom movement. I would like to know whether the Government would honour other people, like poets and writers, with postage stamps. I would also like to know whether the Government has received any proposal from Bengal for a postage stamp to be released in the name of well-known author Shri Nirad C. Choudhri.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: I am telling, if hon'ble Members desire and you give such direction, I place a list of all the personalities in whose honour the stamps have been released. If any individual, I mean in every State...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, who has to recommend these names?

[Translation]

SHRIMATI KRISHNA BOSE: Is it to be sent to the State Government?

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: There is a Committee for it. The institution request them and we consider over their proposals. As I have said that...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Who has to send the proposal? Is it the State Government or is it the individual organisation?

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: As regards the eminent personalities like Karpoori Thakur or Ravindra Nath Tagore, the commemoration postage stamps in their honour have already been released, it is all right, but as regards to those eminent personalities in memory of whom no postal stamps have been released, if the requests from certain institutions affiliated to them is received we consider it.

[English]

SHRIMATI KRISHNA BOSE: Should the State Government send the proposal?

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: It is not necessary that only the State Government should send the proposals.

[Translation]

Any institution can send it directly to us and we may consider it.

SHRI RAJO SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, at serial Nos. 13 and 15 of the List submitted by the hon. Minister the names of those persons have been shown in the commemoration of whom postal stamps have been issued. But the dates on which they were released, have not been mentioned there and we have a doubt about it. Similarly, the list also does not has the date on which the postal stamps to commemorate Shri Ramdhari Singh 'Dinkar' who besides being a parliamentarian was also known as 'Rashtra kavi' or National Poet and secondly Shri Ramvriksha Benipuri who was a literator, were issued. Hence I am apprehensive that the postal stamps in their names might not have been released despite being sanctioned. Both of them belonged to Bihar and are among the pioneers the country. Postal stamps were not issued in their cherished memory. I am of the view that you must immediately make provision for releasing postal stamps to commemorate them.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: I will tell you the dates of release of postage stamps on those eminent persons of whom postage stamsp had been released.

[English]

SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH: Sir, a number of people from North-East have been submitting petitions to the Ministry of Communications for releasing postage stamps to commemorate the exploits of the freedom fighters. One of them was U. Kiang Nongbah of Jaintia Hills. He fought against the British in 1862. Eventually he was captured by the British and was hanged to death. We are requesting the hon. Minister to kindly consider this proposal.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: The Government will definitely consider this proposal.

Hunting of Tigers

+

*403. SHRI BHIM DAHAL:
PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT:

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

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Tiger is game again for trophy-hunters" appearing in the *Times of India* dated March 11, 2000;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) the action taken or proposed to be taken against the persons involved in killings of tigers;

(d) whether hunting of tiger has been banned all over India under Project Tiger Scheme; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) to (e) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) As reported by the Madhya Pradesh State Government, the officials of the Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve investigated the case on the basis of photograph that appeared on Star TV on 8.3.2000. Preliminary investigations revealed the identity of one person named Vikram Singh who was posted as Sports Officer at Rewa. Offence was registered under Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, and the accused was arrested by Rewa Police on 28.3.2000 and produced before the Magistrate on 29.3.2000. The State Government has handed over the case to CID for further investigation.

(d) and (e) Hunting of Tiger is banned all over the country under Wildlife (Protection) Act 1972. However, hunting of tiger may be permitted by the Competent Authority under very exceptional circumstances like the animal becoming dangerous to human life and property.

[English]

SHRI BHIM DAHAL: Sir, it is disgusting to know that Sports Officers are killing the tigers. In this connection, may I know from the hon. Minister how many persons have been arrested for violation of Wild Life Act for the last three years and how many persons have been convicted?

[Translation]

SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Member has desired to know as to how many persons have arrested in different cases separately. I will produce the figures in this regard later on but 219 cases have been going on at present.

[English]

SHRI BHIM DAHAL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is a known fact that the attitude of most of the State Governments towards wild life and environment is normally lax and a little irresponsible. Does the Union Government have any plan to exhort the State Governments to see that environment and wild life is protected because this country's wild life does not belong to only those who live here but to the entire humanity?

[Translation]

SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Government of India, from time to time, alongwith the State Government and with its officials monitor to preserve the wild-life and the forests. But despite all this, I have no hesitation to admit that we have not achieved the desired success in this field.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Wild Life Preservation Act was passed in 1972 under which hunting of Tiger was banned all over the country. But even then the news is being received that the population of the tigers is reducing continuously. The poachers indulge in their illegal hunting at the places like Sariska, Ranthambor in Rajasthan, or Riva in Madhya Pradesh or Girnar in Gujarat where tigers are found. Many inhabitants of the jungles work in collusion with them and many times the skin, teeth and other body parts of the tigers are seized from them. I would like to know from the Government whether it has conducted a census for the population of tigers and what are the various factors behind the continuously decreasing their number? The U.N.O. Committee has given a adverse report in regard to the number of tigers. What the Government have to say about it?

SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, so far as the question of fall in the tiger population is concerned, I would like to say that no decrease has taken place in it. We carry out annual survey for finding out the population of the tigers in tiger Reserve areas and once in every four year for the tigers outside the Tiger Reserve Forests. According to the datas we have received on this basis, the population of tigers have increased in 1997 as compared to 1993. Hence I don't accept that the population of tigers has decreased. As regards the U.N.O. Report, we have held talks with the authorities regarding the way in which report has been written.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: Hon, Sir, let first the reply of entire question be received.

SHRI KAMAL NATH: Sir, the question relates to the photographs published in the Times of India and in reply the hon. Minister is talking about Star T.V. I did not see Star T.V. but certainly I had seen the photograph published in the Times of India. He is mentioning of some programme of Star Television while the question relates to Times of India. You can see it yourself. I am at once surprised, amazed and aggrieved to learn, if the report of Star T.V. and Times of India are considered true and similar, and as hon. Minister has himself told the House that so many tigers have been killed. About 6-7 years ago, one Subramanian Committee was constituted and it had submitted its report in this regard. Fortunately hon. Prime Minister is present in the House today. When I read the news of tigers killing in the newspapers. I had written a letter to the hon. Prime Minister and also forwarded a copy to the Minister of Environment wherein it was suggested to implement the recommendations of Subramanian Committee because I feel that we are not taking the right step in the direction of putting a check on the ever decreasing population of tigers and for preservation of forest wealth. I did not receive any reply of the Prime Minister in this regard. I hope that he might have certainly taken some step in this regard. But I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to what steps are being contemplated to be taken in view of the decreasing number of the tigers. Whether the hon. Minister would suggest to the Cabinet and the Prime Minister to incorporate sections and offences of the Wild Life Protection Act in the proposed Money Laundering Bill which is soon going to be introduced in the House because many of the offences of Money Laundering Bill belong to other Acts. One more serious thing is that our leaders of opposition from Congress has also written a letter to the Prime Minister on this subject and its seriousness...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Kamal Nath, see the atmosphere in the House.

[Translation]

It is not proper.

SHRI KAMAL NATH: I would like to ask hon'ble Minister that as to what concrete steps they are going to take in view of it's seriousness..*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI: First of all the hon'ble Member should congratulate the Government of India. The question asked by hon'ble Member is based on the news appeared in the Times of India on 11.03.2000. But the Government had already taken action in this matter.

Besides when the officials watched it on Star T.V. the Government had taken action before that also. Therefore, the Government deserve to be congratulated for the job has already been done. As far as the protection of Tigers is concerned...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI KAMAL NATH: Sir, are the Times of India and the Star T.V. the same?

[Translation]

SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI: Of course, the news is exactly the same. As far as the protection of Tigers is concerned I would like to say only this much that for the protection of Tigers which includes inter-alia to protect their place of living, to provide drinking water, to control fire in the forests, a provision of rupees 75 crores has been made during Ninth Five Year Plan. We will implement all these schemes. I can say only this much that we have enhanced the budget allocation. There was a budget allocation of rupees 46 crores during 7th Five Year Plan whereas for Eighth Five Year Plan there was an allocation of rupees 202 crores. Under Wild Life Protection Act during Ninth Five Year Plan a provision of rupees 550 crores have been made. For the year 2000-2001, there is a provision of rupees 115 crores. And we are spending this amount for their protection.

SHRI KAMAL NATH: You're talking of Budget. Mr. Speaker Sir, there should be half-an-hour discussion over this issue.

SHRIMATI JAS KAUR MEENA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you I want to ask hon'ble Minister that how many NGO's are functioning in Swai Madhopur Ranthambhor Tiger Project for Tiger protection under Tiger Project? I have the information that two main NGO's are working there. But the people's representatives are not aware of their account of income and expenditure. To my knowledge two NGO's, Ranthambhor Foundation and Tiger Save are working there. Hon'ble Minister should give the details of amount received by these two organisations and also amount spent by them during last five years on Tiger Save Project. Simultaneously, I would like to ask why the amount of rupees 38 crores sanctioned through the Government three years back for Ranthambhor and Tiger Project is being neither spent on their rehabilitation nor on Tiger Save Project. In the capacity of people's representative this information should be sent to local M.P., M.L.A. and to Deputy Commissioner also. Would you like such a provision to be made?

SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon'ble Member's suggestion is good. We would like to give him complete information separately. At present, I don't have this information, but later on I would make it available.

[English]

SHRI ADHI SANKAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether there is any action taken by the Government for conservation of areas having a large number of tigers.

[Translation]

SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, at present we have reserved 27 Tiger Projects in the country.

Cess on Diesel and Petrol for Construction of Roads

*404. SHRI NAWAL KISORE RAI:
SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the cess on diesel and petrol to mobilise funds for construction of roads during last year is still being collected;

(b) if so, the total funds collected through the cess so far;

(c) whether any formula has been worked out to spend this fund; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) The estimated collection of cess on petrol and diesel is Rs. 6257 crore upto 31st March 2000.

(c) and (d) Yes Sir. 50% of the cess of Re. 1/- per liter on HSD will be spent on development of rural roads. 15% of the cess on HSD and 30% of the cess on petrol will be used for development of State roads. The balance amount, *i.e.*, 35% of the cess on HSD and 70% of cess on petrol will be used for development of National Highways and construction of ROBs and safety works on unmanned level crossings.

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI: In reply to my question hon'ble Minister has given the details of recovery of rupees 6257 crores and formula as to how it is spent. The condition of roads in our State is not traffic worthy. It is good that rupees 6257 crores have been collected. As per the formula regarding spending this amount, a provision has been made to allocate funds to the States to repair their National Highways hence I would like to know by which time you would provide this amount and if it has been allocated, what are the State wise details thereof. I am from Bihar, where condition of National Highway No. 28 and 77 is so bad that it is not traffic worthy. By what time it will be improved and by when this amount will be spent thereon.

SHRI RAJNATH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to inform the hon'ble Member that by levying a cess of one rupee per litre on High Speed Diesel and one rupee on Petrol. Ministry of Surface Transport collected rupees 1900 crores during year 1999-2000. Out of this amount, 1032 crore rupees were allocated for completion of NHAI and NHDP projects. 547 crore rupees have been allocated under Special Repair Programme for the States here National Highways are not traffic worthy. In addition, 321 crore rupees have been allocated for the improvement of National Highway or NHDP. During the year 2000-2001, Ministry of Surface Transport realised rupee 2010 crore through this cess. The Ministry has allocated this amount for completion of Golden Quadilateral Scheme under National Highway Development Project. In addition to it, rupees 990 crores are to be distributed for construction of State highways. It could not be done so far. Therefore it is not possible to give State-wise details.

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI: Mr. Speaker Sir, I wanted to know the details about the amount spent during last financial year on development of rural roads. Hon'ble Minister has stated that it is not possible to give the details now. The condition of rural roads in Bihar especially Eastern Uttar Pradesh, the area wherefrom I and Hon'ble Minister as well belongs to, is pitiable. Therefore, I asked for State-wise details. Sir, through you, I want to know whether there is a system of monitoring by Central Government regarding the amount provided every year by Central Government for construction of rural roads and State highways. Is any enquiry carried out by a Central team from time to time so as to know that the amount allocated has been spent or not? I am asking it because the entire money is diverted in the States and the condition of roads is deteriorating day by day. I want to know whether Central Government has made any arrangement through which the Centre can enquire directly so that the money can be spent for constructing roads properly.

SHRI RAJNATH SINGH: Mr. Speaker Sir,...*(Interruptions)* Our Government is not only committed for development of National Highways and State highways but we are trying to improve the condition of village roads also. I have already informed the hon'ble Member that out of the cess levied on petrol and diesel, we spend fifty percent of the cess levied on diesel for the development of village roads and I think it's reply will be given by the Deptt. of Rural Development.

[English]

SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI: On diesel and other petroleum products cess is being collected. It is a welcome sign. But the state of highways in Andhra Pradesh is in a very bad shape. In the whole of the State of Andhra Pradesh the structure of highways accounts for less than six per cent. Some roads have already been formed. For example, two years back they said that Highway No. 214 will be formed. But no action has been taken so far for the past two years.

Two days back there was a very tragic road accident in which the former Home Minister of Andhra Pradesh died. All the modern vehicles are plying on all the roads, whereas the highways are being kept as they were before Independence. This is the state of affairs there. We are very sorry about it.

Unless, to whatever cess has been collected on diesel and other petroleum products, the Government of India also matches it up with an equal amount, the conditions of roads will not improve in a phased manner in the next four to five years. I would like to know whether the Ministry is contemplating on such lines. I would like to have a specific answer from the hon. Minister

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA: All the money is going to Andhra Pradesh.

SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI: The highway structure in Andhra Pradesh is less than six per cent. How can she say this? Hyderabad is being developed by the State funds. She can also instruct the Karnataka Government to develop their roads on the same lines. We do not bother about her State. She can also do it with their own funds.

MR. SPEAKER: The Minister is giving the reply, not Madam Margaret Alva.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJNATH SINGH: Length of National Highway in the entire country is 52010 Kms. Out of this 52010 Kms.

length the Government have decided to construct from lane-road having length of 13000 Kms. under National Highway Development Project. And we would complete this within a stipulated time frame. But hon'ble Member has drawn my attention towards a particular stretch. I will have to obtain information regarding that stretch and as soon as I get the information, I will convey to hon'ble Member. On behalf of the Government I want to assure the entire House that within next two years even an inch length of National Highways will not be left without traffic worthiness or without riding quantity...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Please give full information.

SHRI RAJNATH SINGH: Please listen-when State roads are converted into National Highways at that time the condition of these roads is such that they can't be repaired by spending small amount. This is one great problem before Ministry of Transport. Generally, the State highway we takeover, we have to spend more than Rs. One crore and fifteen lacks to upgrade just one Km length of that road. For upgrading the entire length of National Highway in India or for making it traffic worthy or emproring riding quality we will need Rs. One lac twenty five thousand crore. What so ever it may be, the Ministry has decided that if we are not in a position to improve the highways substantially, at least we would make the entire National Highways of riding quality within two years.

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the cess imposed by you on petrol and diesel is being levied in every part of India which has resulted in a burden for every citizen. I would like to know from hon'ble Minister how the shares of those districts will be distributed where there is no National Highways. Whether hon'ble Minister will evolve a policy whereby amount collected as cess on diesel or petrol from one particular district be spend on the construction of roads within that district.

SHRI RAJNATH SINGH: Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, I understand that all the Members are sitting in the House. We should not think of region or district but everyone should think of the entire nation comprehensively ...*(Interruptions)* I am coming to your point. But I want to tell hon'ble Member that my Ministry has decided that by the end of Ninth Five Years Plan not a single point in India will be left such which may be more than twenty five km away from National Highway and I think that by the end of Ninth Five Year Plan the worry of hon'ble Member will be over and other people will also get its benefit because the facility of National Highways will be available to the people of every district.

SHRI RAJESH PILOT: We all accept that it is a very good step being taken by the Department and the Government. Hon'ble Minister has just now said that fifty per cent of the cess levied on diesel will be spent for development of rural roads and it is also true that when it was decided there was no accountability in PWD. Money allocated for State Highway was not properly utilised by State PWD. We decided it in 1986-87 so that accountability can be maintained. And I congratulate the Government for this. Earlier also, rural roads were being constructed through Central Road Fund.

[English]

There was a clause that the Central Road Fund can be directly utilised through the Department for Gramin Roads.

[Translation]

My point is that if Rural Development is involved then complete thrust will be diluted. Funds to the State will be given though Rural Development Deptt. And if fifty per cent of the cess levied on diesel is allocated to the States through Central Road Fund for rural roads then there will be accountability. There will no accountability through Rural Development and the purpose will be defeated. Therefore, I want to say that if the funds to the States are allocated through Central Road Fund then there will be improvement in the condition of rural roads.

SHRI RAJNATH SINGH: Since hon'ble Pilotji was a Minister for this department, he is well experienced. I want to assure him that every department under this Govt. is fully accountable presently. Therefore, the amount transferred to the Rural Development Department will be spent with full accountability by Rural Development Department...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAJESH PILOT: I am talking about States. Funds being sent to states from Rural Development should be directed to CRF.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Send it directly to Panchayats.

SHRI RAJESH PILOT: My request is that if funds for rural roads are released from CRF, they will be accountable and roads will be constructed. But if it is provided through Rural Development there would be no accountability.

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SUNDAR LAL

PATWA): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to submit that our capacity should not be under assessed...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI RAJESH PILOT: What about the system? We have suffered for fifty years.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJNATH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon'ble Member is concerned about the development of rural roads in our country. I would like to assure him that our Government would consider his suggestion seriously.

SHRI MAHESHWAR SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is no doubt about it that roads are our life line and for the development of a State it is absolutely necessary that it should be connected with roads. But, still there are many States in India such as Himachal Pradesh, Uttranchal, Sikkim and other States of Poorvanchal where surface transport is the only means of transportation and railway is only for namesake. Because of difficult geographical conditions in these States, the construction cost of roads per km. comes five to six times more in comparison to the plain area. I want to ask hon'ble Minister whether he will pay special attention to these States while allocating the funds, which depend upon surface transport only. Simultaneously, these States should be allocated more money so that these States and their backward areas can be connected with roads and construction work of the roads can be accelerated.

SHRI RAJNATH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Hon'ble Member has expressed concern regarding hilly and North-Eastern States and he has desired that the condition of roads in these States should be improved. For the development of these States, if there is a need, we can even allocate more funds from the plan. Normally, funds are allotted according to the project submitted by the State Governments. We allocate funds keeping in view the feasibility of the project received from the State Governments.

SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Government of India has to give Rs. two hundred and fifty crore at the rate of three and a half per cent to the Government of Maharashtra. I want to know by which time this amount will be released?

SHRI RAJNATH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I could not understand the question of hon'ble Member. But we will provide funds to the Government of Maharashtra. We will give funds to all the States of country.

SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE: An amount of Rs. two hundred and fifty crore is to be allocated for the repairing of roads.

SHRI RAJNATH SINGH: Hon'ble Member should give details of that particular project about which he is talking only then I can reply him. But hon'ble Member should indicate as to about which project he wants to know, then I will give him details...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Madam, the running commentary is not at all a good thing.

Conversion of State Highway

*405. SHRI CHANDRA VIJAY SINGH: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any proposal to connect Nainital with Agra in view of the tourist traffic and strategic importance of Agra and Kumaon hills and to declare this highway as National Highway during the year 2000-2001;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the estimated cost to be involved in converting this route into National Highway; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJNATH SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[English]

SHRI CHANDRA VIJAY SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to inform the hon. Minister that Agra is our main tourist destination. The nation is trying to project the hills of India as an alternate destination. It is imperative that, in the interest of tourism, Agra is joined with the hills by a direct access route. The tourists who come to India at the moment have to come back to Delhi and then find their way up to the hills. Besides the tourist potential, the hills also have important Army Cantonments like Ranikhet, Pithoragarh etc. which should also have an alternate route of access to the plains. In addition to that, there are many important towns between Agra and the hills. There is an Atomic Power Station at Narora, there are places like Moradabad, Bilari, Chandausi etc. which fall on this route. So, I would request the hon. Minister, through you, to kindly reconsider this in the interest of the nation.

MR. SPEAKER: You can ask a question to the Minister and not make a request to him during the Question Hour.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJNATH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the road referred to in original question by hon'ble Member is a State Highway, *i.e.* a State road. In addition, the road referred to by you in supplementary question also is a State road. I would like to tell the hon'ble Member through you that he may send a written letter to me in this connection. I will seriously consider his proposal...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Jha ji, you may please take your seat now. We will give you an opportunity also.

SHRI CHANDRA VIJAY SINGH: A written letter will reach you. It will be better if you do the welfare to all these cities, including Aligarh...*(Interruptions)* Aligarh also comes under this area.

SHRI RAJNATH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, as the hon'ble Member has said, I have requested him to give in writing. And if he does so, I would definitely consider it seriously.

[English]

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, to provide less expensive and good transport facility, it was agreed to have a long-term national integrated transport plan. The plan could take into account integrated development of roadways, railways, airways, waterways, cartways, ropeways etc. Has anything substantial been done in this respect by the Government? If the reply is 'no', I would like to know when it proposes to take concrete steps to see that the plan is made and integrated development of roadways, railways, airways, waterways, cartways, ropeways etc. takes place. I would also like to know as to how the State Highways are going to be turned into National Highways so that proper facilities are provided to the citizens.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJNATH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon'ble Member has drawn Government's attention towards a very important question. It is right that a committee was constituted for a comprehensive and integerated thinking over item related to infrastructure whether it is road or rail or any other. Shri K.C. Pant, Deputy Chairman of Planning Commission is its Chairman and Minister of Surface Transport, Minister of Water Resources and one or two other Ministers and Secretaries are Members. Our Government desires that the Committee headed by Dy. Chairman of Planning Commission should give a comprehensive and integrated thinking on the issue of infrastructure development.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: Sir, Hon'ble Minister has told the hon'ble Member that if he gives in writing then they would consider it. Since my Lok Sabha Constituency also comes in that area, I am also interested in it. We will be grateful to you, if road link is provided from Narora to Sambhal via Gannaur. I will also write a letter to you, you must consider that one...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAJNATH SINGH: Sir, Mulayam Singhji has been Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh and I know that he has detailed information about Uttar Pradesh. Therefore, the road suggested by him would be definitely most suitable. I fully assure you that, that will be considered seriously, from the bottom of the heart.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: A Member who raises problem of his constituency, I consider him the greatest parliamentarian.

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Sir, from Mujaffarpur and Sitamarhi in Bihar State, where mother Janki was born and, to Janakpur in Nepal, NH-77 has been sanctioned. This road has been dilapidated twice because of floods. It is not traffic worthy. Lacs of people come to Sitamarhi to see Janakpur. And because of poor condition of this National Highway they abuse us. We want to ask hon'ble Member whether this road will be made traffic worthy at least before this rainy season.

SHRI RAJNATH SINGH: An information will be required separately in this regard.

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to ask a question related to this question. Earlier also I raised a question. But I did not get reply to my question because normally hon'ble Minister is not available. This question is related to construction of a National Highway. As you are aware-for construction of National Highway in our country an orginasation was set up, namely Indian Roads Construction Corporation. This organisation constructed roads successfully in India and abroad for many years. But now this Government has decided to wind up this corporation and the services of those people, who have worked therein for 25-30 years, is at stake. If we induct the experts in the National Highway Committee Constituted by the Government then with the help of their expertise we will be able to construct better National Highways. But the Government has decided to close it down. I want to urge upon the Government to change

their decision and integrate these people in National Highway Authority and utilise their services for construction of highway.

SHRI RAJNATH SINGH: Sir, it is true that our Government have decided to wind up Indian Roads Construction Corporation. But hon'ble Member has expressed concern regarding the employees working in that corporation. Generally, when the PSU's are closed down, there is no provision of accommodating or adjusting the officers and employees of such PSU. Since our Government is sensitive and hon'ble Member has expressed concern, I will see that the interests of officers and employees working therein do not get hurt...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL: My question is relating to conversion of Highways into National Highways...*(Interruptions)* It is regarding naxalite infected area of Madhya Pradesh...*(Interruptions)* Sir, I want to talk about Madhya Pradesh. I want to know from Hon'ble Minister whether the State Government itself has suggested that no agency other than Border Roads Organisation can undertake construction work in Naxalite prone areas of Madhya Pradesh, be it Highway or National Highway. In such a situation, one problem arises, that the funds allocated by Central Government are not utilised fully and are returned. After all, the agency belongs to State. That agency has determined that they can't construct and it will be constructed by the staff of Border Roads Organisation. I want to know whether the Central Government will try to get the roads constructed by its own agency be it Highway or National Highway.

SHRI RAJNATH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I will have to see whether the road desired by Madhy Pradesh Government should be constructed by Border Road Organisation or not and also whether funds have been made available or not. I will have to collect the information in this regard.

[English]

SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH: Hon. Speaker, Sir, we are talking on a very grave subject, like the development of road transport in Bihar. I would like to focus the attention of the Minister on a very basic issue. Non-developmental programmes in Bihar are entirely due to the bad conditions of the roads, especially in Central Bihar where the Naxalite activities are on in full swing and seven Parliamentary constituencies are affected by the bad condition of roads. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shrimati Singh, this question pertains to the conversion of State Highways into National Highways. Please understand the question.

SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH: I would like to know would the hon. Minister take care of this.

Sir, National Highway No. 1 passes through seven Parliamentary constituencies of Bihar. I would be grateful if the hon. Minister took rather urgent steps on this particular aspect of that stretch. Thank you.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJNATH SINGH: The concern expressed by hon'ble Member is quite genuine and I fully support it. But the problem with Bihar is that the State Government of Bihar has not, for the last many years, utilised the funds earmarked for the construction and maintenance of National Highway and that money is surrendered every year.

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI: Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, during Kargil war we have learnt a lesson wheel had emerged very significantly before all of us. Srinagar-Leh National Highway which passes from very close to our line of control was threatened during war as had been observed by us and a comprehensive debate was held over the issue of constructing an alternative road for Leh. A National Highway from Manali to Leh via Kelog was constructed. That road is not being used due to the presence of two passes—Rohtang and Kunjam passes enroute. It would be better of this National Highway is completed by constructing a tunnel. Whether the Government propose to construct it on priority basis in view of the strategic importance of this road? If so, the time by when it will be completed and what provisions are being made to realise the goal?

SHRI RAJNATH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon'ble Member would be informed after collecting information in this regard.

SHRI SHANKAR PRASAD JAISWAL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon'ble Minister had visited Varanasi. Through you, I would like to know as to whether he has prepared a plan for constructing the roads of Varanasi?

SHRI RAJNATH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the plan is under consideration.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know that...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Prabhunath Singh ji, please resume your seat...*(Interruptions)*

Ship Acquisition Programme by SCI

[English]

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*407. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR:
SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Shipping Corporation of India has decided to slash its Ship Acquisition Programme during the Ninth Plan period;

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

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto;

(d) whether the Company has also decided to shift its focus to new areas; and

(e) if so, the areas identified by the company so far?

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJNATH SINGH): (a) to (e) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Shipping Corporation of India (SCI)'s Tonnage Acquisition Programme in the beginning of 9th Plan envisaged acquisition of 53 vessels aggregating 23.84 lakhs DWT. However, SCI has been able to acquire only 4 vessels aggregating 1.29 lakhs DWT till 31.3.2000. SCI in March, 2000 have revised their acquisition programme and plan to acquire 21 vessels aggregating 16.85 lakhs DWT during the remaining period of 9th Plan period. The main reasons for non-achievement of target are as under:

(i) Continued recession in the international freight market.

(ii) Change in the trade pattern while the projects were in the pipeline.

(iii) Difficulties in raising large amounts of ECB (External Commercial Borrowings).

(iv) Non-availability of appropriate second-hand vessels as per SCI's requirement.

(v) Procedural issues which affected approval of projects.

(vi) Limited financial powers of SCI Board.

(c) Government granted in February, 2000 'Mini Ratna' status to SCI as a consequence of which SCI will be able to exercise enhanced financial powers, improve its performance and acquire more vessels during the balance period of 9th Plan, based on the anticipated business opportunities as well as SCI's immediate requirements.

(d) and (e) No, Sir. However, SCI has diversified its activities to include Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) Transportation and has already embarked on a joint venture with Mitsui OSK, Japan and Enron for LNG Transportation for Dabhol Power Project. This is a new activity with lot of potential for SCI.

SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR: The Government had envisaged acquisition of 53 vessels in the beginning of 9th Five Year Plan. But after three years, it has revised its acquisitions programme and plans to aquire 21 vessels only. At present, only four vrssels have been aquired and remaining seventeen vessels are to be bought in the next two years.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Thakur, Not much time is left.

SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR: Firstly the number of vessels to be aquired has been reduced, secondly the capacity has also been reduced. Is it the fallout of the privatisation which has taken place after Shipping Corporation of India has entered into a joint venture with a private Shipping Company. If, so, whether the Shipping Corporation of India has launched a joint venture with a foreign Company to start operating Cargo Vessels for an American Company. If so, to what extent it has proved successful?

SHRI RAJNATH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the time is limited, I would like to assure the hon. Member that private investment has not changed anything. There are after seasons for not achieving the target during the Ninth Five Year Plan. Mr. Speaker, Sir, if you permit me, I can mention those reasons but we have revived and reconsidered our scheme and have taken this decision that instead of purchasing 53 vessels, we have decided to purchase 21 vessles by the end of Ninth Five Year Plan.

MR. SPEAKER: Now, Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

New System for Sharing of Power

*401. SHRI R.S. PATIL:
SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to introduce a modified system for sharing of power generated by the Central Government's projects in various States to bring it in tune with the realities of modern times;

(b) if so, whether the new system is different from the earlier one;

(c) if so, the details of the other aspects of the new system; and

(d) the extent to which the new system is likely to help those States which are suffering from power shortage?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (d) It has been decided to treat the existing "Gadgil formula" for allocation of power to the States/UTs from Central sector power stations as "guidelines". There will be no change to the contents of the formula and it will not disturb the allocation already made under the formula. Under the "guidelines" power from the new central sector power stations will be made in accordance with power purchase agreements (PPA) to be signed between the central sector power utility and the State/UT or any of their authorised agency or Board. First offer for purchase of power shall be made by the central sector power utility to the constituent states of the region as per their entitlement. In case any constituent of the region does not buy its share or part thereof, the central sector power utility shall have the right to sell that power to any other State/UT in accordance with the PPA to be entered into by them. However, such offer by the central sector power utility shall be made first to the State(s)/UT(s) within the region (where power station is located) before diverting the power to State(s)/UT(s) outside the region. Where there are more than one claimants to the surplus power, so offered, weightage in allocation shall be given to the power sector reforming State(s)/UTs. The reforming States/UTs will also get weightage in allocation of power from 15% unallocated power available at the disposal of centre keeping in view their urgent/seasonal requirements.

Telephone Connections

*406. 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 different categories in the country;

(b) whether any special efforts are being made to clear the backlog;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the time by which the telephone connections are proposed to be provided to all the wait listed persons in the country;

(d) the total number of waitlisted persons in Imphal as on March 31, 2000; and

(e) the time by which the backlog is likely to be cleared in the city?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) The number of persons on the waiting list for telephone connections in different categories in the country as on 31st March, 2000 are as follows:

OYT	7839
N-OYT	3672876
Total:	3680715

(b) and (c) Yes Sir. Steps are being taken to clear the backlog and make telephone available on demand by March, 2002. 49.18 lakh new telephone connections were provided against target 45.50 lakh during 1999-2000 and annual target for the current year has been increased to 55.80 lakh. For this purpose, new telephone exchanges are being opened and existing exchanges are being expanded.

(d) and (e) The total number of waitlisted persons in Imphal as on March 31, 2000 is 2487 and these persons are likely to be provided telephone connections progressively during current financial year.

Budget Allocation to Public Sector Undertakings

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

(a) whether the budget support given to Public Sector Undertakings in the power sector has gone down;

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

(c) whether the Public Sector Undertakings under his Ministry are likely to be adversely affected; and

(d) if so, the steps the Government propose to take to overcome the financial crunch in the Public Sector Undertakings?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Question do not arise.

Power Generation in States

*409. SHRI MANOJ SINHA:
DR. M.P. JAISWAL:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state·

(a) the status of the existing installed power generation capacity in the Country, State-wise and Union Territory-wise;

(b) the average plant load factor of the power plants in each State;

(c) the expected additional power generation capacity after the approval of new pending projects alongwith the estimated requirement of electricity in each State; and

(d) the per capita availability of power in each State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) A Statement-I showing the status (as on 31.3.2000) of the existing installed power generation capacity in the country, State-wise and Union Territory-wise is enclosed.

(b) A Statement-II showing the average Plant Load Factor (PLF) of power plants in each State for 1999-2000 is given enclosed Statement-II.

(c) The likely capacity addition in respect of pending projects including schemes approved/under construction, State-wise, is given in enclosed Statement-III. The estimated requirement of electricity in each State for 2000-2001 is given in enclosed Statement-IV.

(d) The per capita availability of power, State-wise for 1999-2000 (provisional) is given in enclosed Statement-V.

Statement-I

Power Generation in States

Installed Generating Capacity (Utilities) (Provisional) as on 31.3.2000

State/UTs.	Capacity (MW)
1	2
1. Haryana	1780.32
2. Himachal Pradesh	299.50
3. Jammu & Kashmir	409.13
4. Punjab	3928.94
5. Rajasthan	2486.58
6. Uttar Pradesh	6052.75
7. Chandigarh	2.00
8. Delhi	617.00
9. Gujarat	7230.39
10. Madhya Pradesh	4353.00
11. Maharashtra	12391.50
12. Goa	48.16
13. D&N Haveli	0.00
14. Daman & Diu	0.00
15. Andhra Pradesh	6254.88
16. Karnataka	4367.69
17. Kerala	2117.53
18. Tamil Nadu	6051.64
19. Pondicherry	32.50
20. A&N Islands	28.33
21. Lakshadweep	6.92
22. Bihar	1988.40
23. Orissa	1993.02
24. West Bengal	4372.89
25. Sikkim	37.89
26. Assam	621.69
27. Manipur	12.01
28. Meghalaya	188.76
29. Nagaland	5.50

1	2
30. Tripura	85.36
31. Arunachal Pradesh	45.43
32. Mizoram	25.67
CENTRAL SECTOR	
Northern Region	10708.00
Western Region	6512.00
Southern Region	5210.00
Eastern Region	6841.50
North Eastern Region	730.01

Statement-II

Average Plant Load Factor (PLF) (%) of Power Plants in the States during 1999-2000 including Central Utilities Located in the States

	1999-2000 (April-March) %
1. Delhi	69.8
2. Haryana	53.1
3. Rajasthan	
Thermal	82.8
Nuclear	83.8
4. Punjab	74.8
5. Uttar Pradesh	
Thermal	70.4
Nuclear	81.1
6. Gujarat	
Thermal	65.8
Nuclear	87.1
7. Maharashtra	
Thermal	71.0
Nuclear	77.2
8. Madhya Pradesh	78.2
9. Andhra Pradesh	86.1
10. Karnataka	82.0
11. Tamil Nadu	
Thermal	72.7
Nuclear	74.8
12. Bihar	34.2
13. Orissa	63.9
14. West Bengal	49.5
15. D.V.C.	35.8
16. Assam	17.9

Statement-III

Power Generation in States

Details of schemes approved/under construction and new power projects pending for clearance.

(MW)

	Approved/ under construction	Pending for clearance
	1	2
1. Delhi	330	0
2. Haryana	216	0
3. Himachal Pradesh	634.50	170
4. Jammu & Kashmir	451.50	0
5. Punjab	768	500
6. Uttar Pradesh	1443	800
7. Rajasthan	2580.70	71
8. Gujarat	2425	256
9. Maharashtra	3983	400
10. Madhya Pradesh	6450	703.48
11. Andhra Pradesh	4702.70	520
12. Karnataka	3066.70	800.1
13. Kerala	1445.50	128

	1	2
14. Tamil Nadu	6342.20	357.88
15. A&N Islands	10.20	0
16. Bihar	1402.00	0
17. Orissa	1816.00	150
18. West Bengal	2636.00	0
19. Assam	480	0
20. Nagaland	24	0
21. Manipur	36	0
CENTRAL SECTOR		
(Thermal+ Hydel)	16274.00	1320
Nuclear	440.00	
Total	57957.00	6176.5

Statement-IV

Power Generation in States

All India Energy Requirement and Peak Load at Power Station Busbars (2000-01) (Public Utilities)

S.No.	State	2000-01 (Estimated) Energy requirement in Mkwh	Peak Load in MW
1	2	3	4
1.	Haryana	22644	4259
2.	Himachal Pradesh	3517	750
3.	Jammu & Kashmir	6463	1476
4.	Punjab	30233	5515
5.	Rajasthan	29655	5218
6.	Uttar Pradesh	56440	10442
7.	Chandigarh	850	170
8.	Delhi	19352	3253
9.	Goa	1373	278
10.	Gujarat	46049	7618
11.	Madhya Pradesh	39931	6606
12.	Maharashtra	78586	12460
13.	D&N Haveli	876	139
14.	Daman & Diu	560	92
15.	Andhra Pradesh	42710	7064
16.	Karnataka	29543	5141
17.	Kerala	14632	2983
18.	Tamil Nadu	38447	6270
19.	Pondicherry	1908	325
20.	Bihar	19894	3739
21.	Orissa	17859	2912
22.	Sikkim	124	43
23.	West Bengal	26481	5030
24.	Arunachal Pradesh	307	84
25.	Assam	4710	937
26.	Manipur	629	174
27.	Meghalaya	600	132
28.	Mizoram	449	130
29.	Nagaland	251	64
30.	Tripura	642	169
31.	A&N Islands	163	37
32.	Lakshadweep	25.3	7.1
All India		535903	90093

Statement-V

Power Generation in States

Annual Per Capita Availability of Power During the Year 1999-2000 State-wise

Name of State/UTs.	Availability (KWH)
1	2
1. Chandigarh	1172.73
2. Delhi	1247.53
3. Haryana	789.96
4. Himachal Pradesh	469.13

1		2
5.	Jammu & Kashmir	497.77
6.	Punjab	1116.69
7.	Rajasthan	451.83
8.	Uttar Pradesh	230.14
9.	Gujarat	979.86
10.	Madhya Pradesh	436.31
11.	Maharashtra	760.77
12.	Goa	900.64
13.	Andhra Pradesh	570.26
14.	Karnataka	498.86
15.	Kerala	370.50
16.	Tamil Nadu	581.50
17.	Bihar	84.17
18.	Orissa	311.95
19.	West Bengal	232.89
20.	Arunachal Pradesh	102.99
21.	Assam	111.99
22.	Manipur	181.20
23.	Meghalaya	225.33
24.	Mizoram	238.19
25.	Nagaland	125.18
26.	Tripura	158.20
	All India:	454.96

Scheme for New Look to Ports

[Translation]

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

(a) whether a scheme to give a new look to the Major ports has been formulated;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJNATH SINGH): (a) No specific scheme ("to give new look to the major ports") has been formulated.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

However, the expansion of development of the major ports (which is a continuous process) being undertaken presently lay emphasis on the following aspects aiming at enhancing standards of the Indian major ports and their productivity.

- Construction and Equipping New Berths.
- Acquisition of state-of-the-art Equipment to Match the Emerging Cargo Mix
- Establishment of Electronic Data Interchange (EDI)
- Setting up Vessel Traffic Management System (VTMS)
- Labour Training & Welfare
- Increased Role of Private Sector
- Corporatisation of Major Ports

Energy Conservation Bill

[English]

*411. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government's proposal to enact "Energy Conservation Bill, 2000" that seeks to make electricity reforms mandatory for State Governments have been rejected by most of the State Governments;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the details of the new steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to implement the new power reforms in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (c) The Energy Conservation Bill, 2000 was introduced in the Lok Sabha on 24.2.2000. It addresses the issue of efficient use of energy and its conservation. The Bill seeks to provide for statutory measures to establish statutory authority by the name of Bureau of Energy Efficiency (Bureau) and confer upon the Central Government, State Government and the Bureau certain powers to enforce the said measures for efficient use of energy and its conservation. The Bill has been referred to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Energy.

The Ministry of Power had asked the NCAER as a Consultant, to suggest legislative changes it considered necessary to accelerate the reform process. The NCAER has submitted 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).

The draft Electricity Bill, 2000 as submitted by the NCAER has been circulated to all concerned including the State Governments for their comments. Detailed discussions have been held with States, State Electricity Boards, Regulatory Commissions, Experts, Chambers of Commerce and Private Utilities. The NCAER has since revised the draft in the light of the discussions and comments. The revised draft is now being discussed with concerned stake-holders.

Government of India has taken a proactive role in reforming State Electricity Boards so that they function on commercial lines. Power Ministers' Conference held on 26.2.2000 resolved that reform must be undertaken with determination, vigor and a sense of urgency. The key elements of the Reforms Strategy are:

(i) Energy audit at all levels;

(ii) Time bound programme of 100% metering of all consumers by December, 2001;

(iii) Reduction and finally, elimination of power theft within a specified time frame.

(iv) Strengthening/upgradation of sub-transmission and distribution system by taking sub-station as a limit on a priority basis.

Power Projects by Private and Foreign Companies

*412. SHRI T. GOVINDAN: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of private/foreign companies which had shown interest to set up Power Projects in the country and later withdrawn due to delay in finalising the approval during the last three years; and

(b) the steps being taken to simplify the procedures to attract more companies in the power sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) As per the information available in the Ministry of Power, during the last three years only one private foreign company, *viz.* M/s. Cogentrix Energy Inc., who were one of the main promoters of the Mangalore Power Company (MPC), have informed that with effect from February 11, 2000, the Company have withdrawn from and transferred their interests in the 1000 MW Mangalore Power Project and the MPC to China Light (Mauritius Ltd.), who are equity partners in the MPC. M/s. Cogentrix have stated that they have no further interest in the project or in the company. No reasons for such decision have been conveyed by the company.

(b) Some of the steps taken by the Government for simplifying and decentralising the procedure for clearance of private power projects and to attract more companies in the power sector, inter-alia, include:

— minimising the number of clearances required to be obtained for the purpose of appraisal of the private power projects by Central Electricity Authority (CEA);

— minimising the role of the Foreign Investment Promotion Board by providing for automatic approval for foreign equity in selected categories and enlarging the provisions for automatic approval for such projects. Accordingly, projects for electric genertion, transmission and distribution will be permitted foreign equity participation upto 100% on the automatic approval route provided the foreign equity in any such project does not exceed Rs. 1500 crore;

— delegating more powers for environmental clearance to State Governments;

— raising the limits for power projects which require the clearance from CEA;

— preparation of a shelf of projects to facilitate early execution and reduction of time required for preparation;

— close monitoring at various levels to expedite clearances, remove bottlenecks and to resolve the 'last mile' problems in achieving financial closure;

— the Electricity Regulatory Commission Act, 1998 has been enacted which enabled setting up of the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission and the State Electricity Regulatory Commissions. Eleven States have set up Regulatory Commissions and three States have notified the Commissions.

Exploration and Production of Crude Oil

*413. SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the policy of liberalization has caused a set-back to the exploration and production of crude oil in the country;

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

(c) the quantum of crude oil being imported every year; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to reduce import of crude oil and increase its production at optimum level?

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) Does not arise.

(c) Crude oil imports during last 3 years and the annual growth rate are as under:

Year	Crude oil imports Million Metric Tonnes (MMT)	%age growth over previous year
1997-98	34.49	—
1998-99	39.81	15.42
1999-2000*	44.99	13.01

*Provisional

(d) Government is taking following steps to increase the indigenous production of crude oil which would help to reduce imports:

(i) Optimizing production from existing field through better reservoir management and use of advanced and cost effective technologies.

(ii) Faster development of new discoveries.

(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 various rounds of bidding for exploration blocks and New Exploration Licensing Policy under which 22 Production Sharing Contracts were signed on 12th April, 2000.

Observation of CJI on Pendency of Cases

*414. SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH:
SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV:

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

(a) whether the Chief Justice of India has recently held the executive solely responsible for huge pendency of cases in the various courts in the country;

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

(c) the details of the pendency of cases in various courts in the country;

(d) the number of posts of judges lying vacant in these courts and the steps taken to fill up the same; and

(e) the measures taken to clear the backlog of cases?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI): (a) The Chief Justice of India in his Law Day Address delivered at the Supreme Court Bar Association function held on November, 26, 1999 observed:

> "..... Recommendations for creation of about 5,000 more courts at different levels in various States in the country are pending with the State Governments and the Union Government and no action has been taken so far.....".

According to information available with the Government, the CJI has not held the executive solely responsible for the huge pendency of cases.

(b) and (c) The Government is aware of the need for creation of more courts as well as filling up of the existing vacancies at different levels in various States and High Courts.

According to the provisions of articles 233 and 235 of the Constitution of India, matters relating to the District Courts and Courts subordinate thereto of a State are the concern of the respective State Government and High Court. However, the Central Government has requested all the State Governments to fill up the vacant posts of the judicial officers expeditiously.

The pendency of cases in the Supreme Court of India as on 1.02.2000 is 20,260.

The pendency of cases in various High Courts, as per available information, is given in enclosed Statement-I.

The State-wise pendency of cases in the District/ Subordinate Courts, as per available information, is enclosed as Statement-II.

(d) As on 18.4.2000, there are 136 vacancies in the High Courts. The Government have been requesting the Chief Justices of High Courts from time to time to expedite their recommendations for filling up vacancies. In pursuance of the Prime Minister's directions, the Chief Justices of High Courts have been requested on January 19, 2000 to make recommendation for appointment of Judges.

For filling up the posts of High Court Judges, the Chief Justices of the High Courts have to initiate proposals. The Government has received several recommendations for appointment of Judges. These are at various stages of consideration. The filling up of vacancies in 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 on arising on account of retirement, resignation or elevation of Judges.

During January 1, 1999 - April 15, 2000, 110 Judges have been appointed in various High Courts.

As on 31.12.1998, as per available information, there were 1602 vacancies in the Subordinate Courts.

(e) Various steps have been taken by the Government for the speedy disposal of both civil and criminal cases. These include amendment of the Civil Procedure Code and the Code of Criminal Procedure, increase in the number of posts of Judges/Judicial Officers, establishment of Special Courts/tribunals, improvement in the standards of Legal education, appointment of Special Judicial/Metropolitan Magistrates and adoption of alternative modes of dispute resolution, such as, arbitration and conciliation Lok Adalats have been given a statutory base as supplementary forum for resolution of disputes. Efforts are also being made to secure more funds for setting up more courts.

Statement-I

Civil and Criminal cases pending in the High Courts

Sl. No.	Name of the High Court	Civil	Criminal	As on
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Allahabad	690666	125366	9/99
2.	Andhra Pradesh	127047	8518	12/99
3.	Bombay	260105	24098	12/99
4.	Calcutta	268342	37356	9/99
5.	Delhi	152308	18593	6/99
6.	Gauhati	33034	5003	12/98
7.	Gujarat	105403	16129	12/98
8.	Himachal Pradesh	9345	2583	12/99
9.	J&K	69917	2034	9/99

1	2	3	4	5
10.	Karnataka	79361	5125	12/99
11.	Kerala	87015	9888	12/99
12.	Madhya Pradesh	63121	40699	12/99
13.	Madras	323712	33383	9/99
14.	Orissa	105242	9306	9/99
15.	Patna	66962	15950	9/99
16.	Punjab & Haryana	148837	29160	9/99
17.	Rajasthan	97720	21778	9/99
18.	Sikkim	170	33	9/99
	Total:	26,88,307	4,05,002	

Statement-II

No. of Cases Pending in the District/Subordinate Courts

Sl. No.	Name of States/ UTs	As on	Civil	Criminal	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	06/99	569806	431400	1001206
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	06/99	331	1469	1800
3.	Assam	12/98	55039	131760	186799
4.	Bihar	06/99	251501	982602	1234103
5.	Goa	12/99	27542	12041	39583
6.	Gujarat	06/99	641671	2413050	3054721
7.	Haryana	12/98	201656	293145	494801
8.	Himachal Pradesh	12/99	71297	67826	139123
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	12/98	46529	75386	121915
10.	Karnataka	06/99	673006	484920	1157926
11.	Kerala	06/99	215744	370419	586163
12.	Madhya Pradesh	06/99	391032	1048308	1439340
13.	Maharashtra	06/99	952885	2046551	2999436
14.	Manipur	06/99	4521	3596	8117
15.	Meghalaya	12/97	261	1968	2229
16.	Mizoram	06/99	2670	1184	3854

1	2	3	4	5	6
17.	Nagaland	—	—	—Not available—	
18.	Orissa	06/99	129757	528780	658537
19.	Punjab	12/98	201118	174094	375212
20.	Rajasthan	06/99	280893	573999	854892
21.	Sikkim	12/98	467	1352	1819
22.	Tamil Nadu	06/99	536988	304442	841430
23.	Tripura	06/99	5593	13: 9	18912
24.	Uttar Pradesh	06/99	1008471	2298622	3307093
25.	West Bengal	12/98	457254	854264	1311518
26.	Andaman & Nikobar	06/99	552	56	608
27.	Chandigarh	12/98	12961	32206	45167
28.	Dadra & N. Haveli	12/99	273	1035	1308
29.	Daman & Diu	06/99	601	623	1224
30.	Delhi	12/99	157531	305542	463073
31.	Lakshadweep	12/99	83	110	193
32.	Pondicherry	06/99	5583	5122	10705
	Total:		6903616	13459191	20362807

Cellular Sector

*415. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the cellular sector has grown faster than ever anticipated in the country;

(b) if so, whether revenues for the cellular companies have exceeded all the original estimates made by the Government;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether many initial licensees have now gone out of business and the industry is getting slowly concentrated in the hands of only few companies;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether the Government propose to prevent the development of emerging monopolies in this sector;

(g) if so, the details thereof; and

(h) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to avoid such concentration of power in a public utility?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) The subscriber base for the cellular service has generally exceeded the projections of the operators in Metro cities but has been generally less than that anticipated by the operators in Telecom Circles.

(b) and (c) Government had not made independent estimates of revenue likely to be earned by licensees of Cellular Mobile Telephone Service. However, the actual revenues have not exceeded the anticipated revenues based on the projections of the bidders.

(d) to (h) Six licenses of cellular service were terminated due to non-payment of license fee dues. Five out of these have now been offered revival of their licenses along with package for simultaneous migration

to New Telecom Policy - 99 regime. Decision in principle to offer migration package on revival of the remaining sixth license has also been taken.

The licenses are not transferable. However, the existing promoters/partners of the licensee companies are permitted to transfer their equity after a specified lock-in period. While permitting equity changes in the licensee companies at present, the Government is putting a condition that the same company/legal person will not hold equity in two licensee companies for the service in the same service area.

Cleaning of Yamuna

*416. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR:
DR. RAMESH CHAND TOMAR:

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

(a) whether the Yamuna is a highly polluted river;

(b) if so, whether the Government have taken any steps to clean this river;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the likely time by which the quality of the water in the river would improve and the entire cleaning process be over?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) Yes, Sir. Yamuna is a polluted river along Delhi and down-stream.

(b) and (c) A scheme of pollution abatement of Yamuna which is known as Yamuna Action Plan was approved by the Government in April 1993. The present approved cost of the Yamuna Action Plan is Rs. 509.45 crore. Under this Plan, pollution abatement works have been taken up in 12 towns of Haryana and 8 towns of Uttar Pradesh besides Delhi. The works include construction of sewage treatment plants, intercepting sewers, crematoria, low cost toilets, bathing ghats, plantation and public participation. so far, an expenditure of Rs. 418 crore has been incurred on the action plan. In addition to two sewage treatment plants constructed under the Yamuna Action Plan in Delhi, the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi has taken up a Plan to construct another 14 sewage treatment Plants out of their own plan budget to increase the sewage treatment capacity from the present 1200 million litres per day to 2300 million litres per day. Out of these, 6 have already been completed and 7 are in advanced stages of completion and will be completed by March, 2001. Tenders for the remaining one sewage treatment plant have been invited. The Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi have also decided to undertake complete rehabilitation of the sewerage system so that all the surface drains presently discharging waste water into the river are intercepted and diverted for treatment to the sewage treatment plants. A minimum flow of 10 cubic metres per second of fresh water is desired in the river for which all the riparian states except Delhi have started releasing their share. As a measure to tackle industrial pollution, the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi has decided to construct 15 common effluent treatment plants in 21 industrial estates of Delhi which are under implementation. The Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi has also issued closure orders to 2616 identified water polluting units. In Haryana, out of 21 identified grossly polluting units along Yamuna, 12 units are complying with discharge standards, five units are closed and four units are defaulters facing action under the environmental law. Similarly, in Uttar Pradesh, out of 11 grossly polluting units discharging waste water into river Yamuna, six units are complying with discharge standards, four units are closed and one unit is defaulter facing action under the environmental law.

(d) The quality of river water would improve after completion of the sewage treatment plants under construction, rehabilitation of sewerage system and construction of effluent tretment plants in Delhi. This is likely to take about four years.

Levy Cess for National Highway Development Project

*417. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to levy cess for creating a fund to finance the National Highway Development Projects;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have appointed consultants for fourlaning of 'Golden Quadrilateral' connecting the four metros;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether any task force has been set up for this purpose; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJNATH SINGH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A cess of Re 1 per litre each is being levied on petrol & high speed diesel (HSD). Part of the accruals from this cess @ 70% of Re. 1/- per litre of cess on petrol and 35% of Re. 1 per litre cess on HSD will be used for financing the National Highway Development Project (NHDP) and safety works at unmanned railway level crossings.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has been mandated to implement NHDP. Consultants are appointed for project preparation and supervision etc. wherever works are undertaken by NHAI. The details are given in enclosed Statement.

(e) and (f) Yes, Sir. A Task Force has been set up for the purpose under the Chairmanship of Dy. Chairman, Planning Commission.

Statement

Levy Cess for Development of National Highway Project

List of Supervision Consultants for the Projects under Implementation (NHDP)

Status: Dec. 99

Stretch, NH and State	Length in Km.	Prime Contractor	Supervision Consultant
1	2	3	4
Gurgaon-Kotputli on NH-8 Haryana/Rajasthan	126	BSC-RBM-PATI (Joint Venture) C-13, Old DLF Colony near Sector 14, Gurgaon Haryana (Site) Tel: 91-333320/303271 Fax: 91-333320	SMEC Plot No. 20, Sector-32 Guragon, Haryana (Site) Tel: 91-381881 Fax: 91-381814
Raniganj-Panagarh on NH-2 West Bengal	42	BSC-RBM-PATI (Joint Venture R-C/8, Sallytride Path, Bidhan Nagar Durgapur-713212, (Site) Tel: 0341-444982/444977 Fax: 0341-444980	Symonds Travers Morgan Ltd. EN-54, Grisson Street, Bidhan Nagar Durgapur-713212, (Site) Tel: 0343-537107 Fax: 0343-535438
Barwa Adda-Barkar on NH-2 Bihar	43	BSC-RBM-PATI (Joint Venture) Gahira, GT Road Km. 411/600, PO Juuglepur PS Govindpur Dhanbad (Site) Bihar Tel: 06540-62500/62502/ 62503 Fax: 06540-62501	SRE, STM, NHAI Complex Kandra IB (Km. 404 of NH-2) PO Vitia, PS Govindpur Dhanbad (Site), Bihar-828109 Tel: 06540-62530/62529 Fax: 06540-62529
Vijayawada-Eluru on NH-5 Andhra Pradesh	74	Madhucon Binapuri [JV] Vijayawada-Eluru Site, 1st Floor [HQ] Muttavarapu Complex Opp. Maris Stella College Vijayawada-520008, Andhra Pradesh Tel: 0866-480947/480949 Fax: 0866-480002	Kampsax International Ltd. House No. 40-15/2-19/10 Brindavan Colony Opposite Khandari Hotel M.G. Road (Bandar Road) Vijawada-520010, Andhra Pradesh Tel: 0866-475727/480716 Fax: 0866-484919

1	2	3	4
Chilakaluripet-Vijaywada on NH-5 Andhra Pradesh	83	IJM-GAYATRI 6-3, 1090/C/1/A, Lovely Mansion, IInd Floor, Rajbhavan Road, Somajiguda, Hyderabad-500082 [HQ] Tel: 040-3310330, 3393311, Fax: 040-3398435	U.P. Stte Bridge Corporation Ltd. Setu Bhawan, 16, Madan Mohan Malviya Marg, Lucknow-226001 [HQ] Tel: 0522-282817
Jaipur Bypass (Phase-I) on NH-8 Rajasthan	14	Ircon International Ltd. Sector 2/225, Vidyadhar Nagar Jaipur-12 [Site] Tel.: 0141-338817, Fax: 0141-338122	RITES Arunachal, (6th Floor), 19, Barakhamba Road, New Delhi-110001 (HQ) Tel: 3350760, 3316071 Fax: 3350989
Jagatpur-Chandikhole on NH-5 Orissa	33	M/s. KMC Constructions Ltd. MCH No. 555, Arora Colony Road No. 3, Banzara Hills Hyderabad [HQ] Tel: 040-3541385/86	SPAN Consultants (P) Ltd. E-3-5, 2nd Floor, L.S.C., J-Block, Saket, New Delhi-17 [HQ] Tel: 6565838/6861825 Fax: 6866768
Westerly Diversion outside Pune city on NH-4 Maharashtra	34	M/s. Ashoka Buildcon (2) M/s. Birla GTM Entrepose (JV)	M/s. Rites, New Delhi

National Highways Authority of India

List of Supervision Consultants for the Projects

Stretch, NH and State	Length in Km.	Consultant
1	2	3
Agra-Sikandra on NH-2 Uttar Pradesh	200.34	Louis Berger International Ltd. 517, Siddharth Apartments Near Civil Lines, Agra-282002 Uttar Pradesh [Site]
Sikandra-Khaga on NH-2 Uttar Pradesh	198	Sverdrup Civil Inc. 2-A/220, Azad Nagar Uttar Pradesh [Site]
Khaga-Varanasi on NH-2 Uttar Pradesh	202	SNC, Lavalin Intl. 42-A, Sardar Patel Marg Civil Lines III, Allahabad Uttar Pradesh-211001
Varanasi-Aurangabad on NH-2 Uttar Pradesh	190.8	COWI-SPAN (JV) 72, Rohit Nagar (Gandhi Nagar) Naria, Varanasi-221005 Uttar Pradesh

1	2	3
Aurangabad-Barwa-Adda on NH-2 Uttar Pradesh	218.75	Dorsch Consultant C/o Nund & Samont Co. Pvt. Ltd. PO & Dist. Koderama Bihar
Neelamangala-Tumkur (Km 30-75) on NH-4 Karnataka	45	CES (I) Ltd. (Technical) 57, Manjusha (5th Floor), Nehru Place, New Delhi-110019 [HQ] IDFC (Financial) Ramon House 169, Backbay Reclamation Mumbai-400020
Tumkur-Harihar (Km 75-282) on NH-4 Karnataka	201	Frederic R. Harris Inc. 41, Zamrudpur Community Centre Kailash Colony New Delhi-110048
Harihar-Haveri (Km 282-340) on NH-4 Karnataka	58	L.R. Kadiyali & Associates S-487, IInd Floor, Greater Kailash-I New Delhi-110046 [HQ]
Haveri-Hubli Belgaum-Maharashtra Border	202	Engineering & Management Associates 316, Kalkaji Extn. New Delhi-110019 [HQ]
Belgaum bypass (Km 495-515) on NH-4	20	L.R. Kadiyali & Associates S-487, IInd Floor, Greater Kailash-I New Delhi-110046 [HQ]
Pune-Satara-Mah./Kar. Border on NH-4	240	CES (I) Ltd. 57, Manjusha (5th Floor), Nehru Place, New Delhi-110019 [HQ] Tel: 6467691, 6415284
Ahmedabad-Vadodara Expressway on NH-8 Gujarat	93	CES (I) Ltd. 57, Manjusha (5th Floor), Nehru Place, New Delhi-110019 [HQ]
Surat-Manor on NH-8 (Km. 263.0-381.6) Gujarat	176	CES (I) Ltd. 57, Manjusha (5th Floor), Nehru Place, New Delhi-110019 [HQ]

1	2	3
Hosur- Krishnagiri on NH-7 Tamil Nadu	46	Shehladia Associates Inc. Ahmedabad
Krishnagiri- Ranipet- Chennai on NH-46 and NH-4 Tamil Nadu	255	RITES Arunachal, (6th Floor), 19, Barakhamba Road, New Delhi-110001 [HQ]
Delhi-Gurgaon on NH-8 (Km. 0.00 to 36.60) Delhi/Haryana	36.6	1. RITES Arunachal, (6th Foor), 19, Barakhamba Road, New Delhi-110001 [HQ] 2. L.R. Kadiyali & Associates S-487, IInd Floor, Greater Kailash-I New Delhi-110046 [HQ] Financial: SBI Capital
Jaipur bypass Phase-II on NH-8 Rajasthan	38	RITES Arunachal, (6th Floor), 19, Barakhamba Road, New Delhi-110001 [HQ]
Jaipur- Kishangarh on NH-8 (Km. 273-366.2) Rajasthan	93	Lea Associates for pre- feasibility, project to be done on BOT.
Krishangarh- Udaipur on NH-8 Rajasthan	294	Sverdrup Civil Inc. U.S.A.
Udaipur- Ratanpur- Gandhinagar on NH-8 Rajasthan	247.6	CES (I) Ltd. 57, Manjusha (5th Floor), Nehru Place, New Delhi-110019 [HQ]
Panagarh-Palsit on NH-2 West Bengal	66	Winter Associates Ltd. NHAI Complex, Sector-2A Bidhan Nagar, Durgapur West Bengal-713212
Palsit-Dankuni on NH-2 West Bengal	65	Scetauroute International- CES (JV) 12/2, Block DD, Sector-I Salt Lake, Calcutta-700064

1	2	3
Dankuni-Jharpokharia (Km 210-17.4) on NH-5 West Bengal/ Orissa	193	ICT Pvt. Ltd. Kadambari, Railway Shed Road Rangamati Midnapore-721101, West Bengal
Jharpokharia-Chandikhole (Km. 280.80-61) on NH-5	248	Shehladia Associates Inc. N-2/30, IRC Village Bhubaneswar, Orissa
Bhubnaeswar-Khurda (Km. 418-388) on NH-5 Orissa	30	Shehladia Associates Inc. N-2/30, IRC Village Bhubaneswar, Orissa
Khurda Town-Andhra/Orissa Border (Km. 388-233)	142	DHV BV Consultants BV, Laan 1914, nr. 35 P.O. Box 1399 3800 BJ Amersfoort
Andhra/Orissa Border-Vishakapatnam on NH-5 Andhra Pradesh	230.13	The Corradino Group-RITES/(JV) P8, 10th Cross West Extn. Thillai Nagar, Trichy-620018
Ankapalli-Yellamanchalli-Tuni (Km. 359.2-300) on NH-5 Andhra Pradesh	59.2	CES, 42, 1st Floor Bhavani Apartment New Saroda Bridge Ankapalli, Andhra Pradesh
Tuni-Rajahmundry (Km. 300-200) on NH-5 Andhra Pradesh	100	1. Winter Associates Ltd., Canada 2. CES (I) Ltd., New Delhi
Rajahmundry (Km. 200) to (near Eluru) Km. 80 (Km. 200-80) on NH-5 Andhra Pradesh	120	SNC Lavalin and Aarvee Associates 8-3-1116/1 Srinagar Colony Hyderabad-73

1	2	3
Vijaywada-Rajahmundry (Km. 75-80 near Eluru) on NH-5, A.P.	5	ICT Pvt. Ltd. A-11, Green Park, New Delhi-16 [HQ]
Nellore-Chennai (Km. 165-11) on NH-5 Andhra Pradesh/ Orissa	155	Scott Wilson Kirkpatric & Co. Ltd. Zackria House, F-2/2 2nd Main Road, Anna Nagar East Chennai-600102
Chilkaluripet-Nellore (Km. 354.77-180) on NH-5 Andhra Pradesh	175	KM International, Sweden

World Bank Aided Forestry Projects

*418. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the States where World Bank forestry projects are being implemented;

(b) the amount of World Bank aid obtained for each of those projects and the impact of those projects;

(c) whether any such World Bank aided forestry project is being implemented in Orissa; 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) World Bank assisted Forestry Projects are currently under implementation in Uttar Pradesh and Kerala, with the World Bank Credit of US Dollars 52 million and 39 million, respectively. The main aims of these projects are to ensure environmental stability and maintain ecological balance, conserve the national biological heritage, increase substantially the forest and tree cover in forest and farm lands, increase productivity of forest, involve people in the management of forests and trees and to improve the management process through improved human resource development packages. The Uttar Pradesh Project envisages covering an area of 160000 hectares while the Kerala Project an area of 54600 hectares during a period of four years.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Telecom Facilities

*419. SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to lay optical fibre cables in place of existing cables to modernise the telephone industry in the country during 2000-2001;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the funds allocated for the purpose during the said period;

(d) the details of the work on laying optical fibre cables in Madhya Pradesh during 2000-2001;

(e) whether there is any proposal to expand the installed capacity of existing telephone exchanges and set up the electronic telephones exchanges in the State particularly in Rewa, Chhatarpur and Khajuraho during 2000-2001; and

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

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) and (b) There is no proposal to replace existing copper cables by optical fibre cables to

modernise the telecom network in the country. However, the optical fibre cables are being laid to interconnect different towns for long distance transmission and also to connect different exchanges in the same city. In some cases optical fibre is also being laid in access network for digital loop carrier systems.

(c) The demands for Grant for Department of Telecom services for the year 2000-2001 are yet to be approved by the Parliament. However, the proposed allocation under Optical Fibre Cable System for the whole country for the year 2000-2001 is Rs. 2000 crores.

(d) M.P. Telecom circle has planned to lay 7530 Kms. of 12 fibre cable, 910 Kms. of 6 fibre cable and 250 Kms. of 24 fibre cable during the year 2000-2001.

(e) and (f) The existing telephone exchanges shall be expanded and new telephone exchanges shall be installed in M.P. Telecom Circle during 2000-2001 wherever the demand arises. The proposal for expansion of existing telephone exchanges and installation of new exchanges at Rewa and Chhatarpur districts during 2000-2001 are given below. At Khajuraho there is no plan for expansion of the existing exchange as already surplus capacity is available for providing new telephone connections.

Sl. No.	Name of Place	Existing Capacity	Proposed Expansion	Proposed New Exchanges
1.	Rewa District	20,632 Lines	3,616	Khaira, Sathni, Naikin, Patehra, Akouri, Tiwani
2.	Chhatarpur District	15,564 Lines	4,020	Dhamora, Kishangarh, Putaria

Telephone Facility in Gram Panchayats

*420. SHRI RAMCHANDER BAINDA:
SHRI MANIBHAI RAMJIBHAI CHAUDHRI:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any scheme has been formulated by the Government to provide one telephone connection in every Gram Panchayat of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of Gram Panchayats having telephone facility in the country particularly in Bihar at present, State-wise;

(d) the number of Gram Panchayats proposed to be provided with such facility during 2000-2001, State-wise;

(e) the time by which the said facility is likely to be provided in the remaining Gram Panchayats; and

(f) the steps taken by the Government to provide better telephone facility to the Gram Panchayats of the country?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) to (f) Scheme has been formulated to provide public telephone facility in each village including Gram Panchayat village in the country. By 31.3.2000, 1,96,162 Gram Panchayat villages have been provided with telecom facility including 6497 Gram Panchayat villages in Bihar. During 2000-2001, 14,427 Gram Panchayat villages are likely to be provided with telecom facility. Telephone facility in remaining Gram Panchayat villages is expected to be provided by March 2002. The State-wise information is given below:

State	Total No. of Gram Panchayats	No. of Gram Panchayats with telephone facility	Gram Panchayats to be provided telephone facility during 2000-2001
1	2	3	4
Andaman & Nicobar	67	67	0
Andhra Pradesh	19533	18256	0

1	2	3	4
Assam	2486	2094	200
Bihar	11792	6497	2000
Gujarat	13488	12396	0
Haryana	5946	5946	0
Himachal Pradesh	2922	2584	150
Jammu & Kashmir	1461	874	102
Karnataka	5692	5419	273
Kerala	982	982	0
Madhya Pradesh	31158	24089	1200
Maharashtra	24752	22732	0
Goa	185	185	0
Arunachal Pradesh	944	386	139
Manipur	429	359	17
Meghalaya	450	405	45
Mizoram	613	429	46
Nagaland	1001	406	148
Tripura	910	547	91
Orissa	5261	5010	100
Punjab	12477	11975	0
Rajasthan	9181	8619	0
Tamil Nadu	13115	13099	16
Uttar Pradesh (East)	51262	34194	9000
Uttar Pradesh (West)	19674	14610	770
West Bengal	3793	3699	94
Sikkim	148	112	36
Delhi	191	191	0
Total:	239913	196162	14427

VPTs in remaining Gram Panchayats of Punjab, Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Rajasthan and some parts of Madhya Pradesh will be provided by Fixed Service Provider.

Telephone facility in Gram Panchayat villages has been extended from modern electronic exchanges. Most of these exchanges have STD facility. Reliable transmission media on Optical Fibre, Microwave, Satellite or Under Ground cable has also been provided in large number of rural exchanges. Remaining exchanges are also being connected by reliable transmission media progressively. New technologies *i.e.*, WLL, Satellite and C-DoT/PMP are being introduced in the local network to further improve operational performance.

Seizure of Timber

4349. SHRI B. VENKATESHWARLU: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Timber Seizure: NE govts. in the dock over slow inquiry" appearing in the 'Indian Express' dated February 24, 2000;

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

(c) the action proposed to be taken against the officials held responsible?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) On receipt of information, about 200 wagons containing timber transported from North Eastern States have been detained for physical verification. During physical verification, it has been found that most of the wagons contained substantial quantity of timber not supported by valid legal documents. A Special Investigation Team has been constituted by the Ministry for detailed investigation.

Sethu Samudram Project

4350. SHRI P. MOHAN: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the feasibility Study and Environment Impact Assessment study for the Sethu Samudram Ship Canal Project has been prepared by the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons for neglecting such a long demand of the people of Tamil Nadu; and

(d) the time by which the said project is likely to be given clearance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) to (d) The Government has decided to prepare Detailed Feasibility Study and Environment Impact Assessment Study for Sethusamudram Ship Canal Project at an estimated cost of Rs. 4.20 crores. These studies will take a period of about two years.

[Translation]

Pending Road Projects in Bihar

4351. SHRI RAJO SINGH: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal of the Bihar Government has been pending with the Government for clearance pertaining to road projects;

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

(c) the time by which the above proposal is likely to be given clearance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) No proposal from Bihar Government pertaining to National Highway projects is pending.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[English]

Sanctuaries in M.P.

4352. SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of wildlife sanctuaries at present in Madhya Pradesh;

(b) the amount provided to them during the last three years, year-wise;

(c) whether the expenditure of the said amount is reviewed; 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) There are 35 wildlife sanctuaries in Madhya Pradesh and the Central assistance provided to these sanctuaries during the last three years, under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme, "Development of National Parks and Sanctuaries" is as follows:

Year	Rs. in lakhs
1997-98	101.04
1998-99	32.13
1999-2000	133.51

(c) and (d) Expenditure upto 31st March 1999 has been reviewed. State Government have utilised 62.495 lakhs out of Rs. 133.17 lakhs released during 1997-98 and 1998-99.

Telecom Facilities

4353. SHRI C. KUPPUSAMI:
DR. S. JAGATHRAKSHAKAN:
SHRI KRISHNAMRAJU:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any special scheme has been formulated for expansion/development of telephone services/telephone exchanges in Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof separately;

(c) whether the Government have received any complaints of irregularities while providing telephone connections especially in these States; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) and (b) Development plans are being drawn up every year based on requirements of each State. The same is being done for the year 2000-2001 including Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. However, certain complaints are being received with regard to delay in provision of telephone connections in non-feasible areas.

Cellular Telephones

4354. SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the date by which the Cellular Scheme was introduced/functioning in the country;

(b) the number of Cellular subscribers registered during each of the last three years; and

(c) the details regarding the incentives being provided to these subscribers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) Sir, the Cellular Mobile Telephone Service was started by a private Indian licensee company for the first time in the metro city of Calcutta in August, 1995.

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

[Translation]

Shifting of Office

4355. SHRI BAL KRISHNA CHAUHAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the norms laid down to set-up the offices of the General Manager;

(b) whether there is any proposal to set up an office of the General Manager, in Azamgarh (U.P.) in place of the office of the District Manager, telecom at Mau (U.P.); and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) As per norms, a Telecom District of a Telecom Circle is upgraded from Telecom District Manager (T.D.M.) to General Manager Telecom District (G.M.T.D.) level when its workload reaches 34,500 DELs (Direct Exchange Lines).

(b) and (c) No, Sir.

Pagers to Linemen

4356. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the field staff have been provided pagers in Delhi to attend out of order telephones immediately;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to provide pagers to the field staff in Maharashtra as well for the said purpose;

(d) if so, the time by which this facility is likely to be made available in the said State; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) 3400 number of pagers have been provided to Line Staff in Delhi.

(c) to (e) Presently a decision has been taken to provide Pagers to Line Staff in State capitals and a few major cities only. Accordingly, Line Staff in Mumbai and Pune in Maharashtra have already been provided with pagers.

[English]

Requirement of Mumbai High Gas to Mumbai Refinery

4357. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the requirement of Mumbai High gas to Mumbai Refinery;

(b) the actual allocation of Mumbai High gas being made to the refinery;

(c) the reasons for not allocating the required gas to refinery;

(d) whether the Government of Maharashtra has requested to the Union Government to allocate adequate supply of gas to Mumbai Refinery as per their requirement; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the response of the Union Government thereto?

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 against their present requirement of natural gas of 0.5 million standard cubic metres per day (MMSCMD), the allocation made to the refinery of Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited, Mumbai is 0.05 MMSCMD.

(c) The availability of natural gas ex-Uran is far lower than the existing allocations to various consumers in the region.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Environment Projects in Jammu and Kashmir

4358. SHRI ABUDL RASHID SHAHEEN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of centrally sponsored environment projects launched in Jammu and Kashmir during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) the details of the achievements made as on date alongwith the amount of assistance made available under each of the projects; and

(c) the details of the such proposed projects to be launched in the near future in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) and (b) The number of centrally sponsored environmental projects launched in Jammu and Kashmir during the last three years and the details of the achievements made alongwith the amount of assistance made available are given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) The centrally sponsored environment projects being implemented in Jammu and Kashmir are likely to continue in the near future.

Statement

Sl. No.	Name of the Schemes	Amount Released (Rs. in lakhs)			Achievements		
		1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Integrated Afforestation and Eco-development Project	169.66	278.37	299.87	975 ha. area covered	2536 ha. area covered	2270 ha. area covered

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
2.	Area Oriented Fuelwood & Fodder Project	120.33	42.31	0.00	1469 ha. area covered	1410 ha. area covered	—
3.	Non Timber Forest Produce	97.05	151.35	187.85	-	1445 ha. area covered	824 ha. area covered
4.	Tree Pasture & Seed Development	45.55	0.00	13.42	—	—	—
5.	Eco Development Scheme	0.00	0.00	13.70	2 National Park/Sanctuary covered		
6.	Development of National Parks & Sanctuaries	124.70	7.00	5.55	14 National Park/Sanctuary covered		
7.	Conservation and Management of Wetlands	0.00	45.86	0.00	3 Wetlands covered		

[English]

Resitement Policy of IOC

4359. SHRI AVTAR SINGH BHADANA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Oil Corporation has a resitement policy and norms in respect of retail outlets to be resited to a new location;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the resitement rules provides that there shall be no partial resitement in a manner so as to allow simultaneous operation of the resited outlet as well as the old outlet at the same time without decommissioning the old site;

(d) if so, the details of resitements allowed in the Kashmir Valley during the last three years;

(e) whether IOC has allowed partial resitement of certain outlets in the Kashmir Valley in gross violation of the rules;

(f) if so, the number of violations and the name of violators of this resitement policy; and

(g) the action contemplated against the errant officials and violators?

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 have delegated powers to the Oil Companies for resitement of retail outlet dealerships and LPG distributorships subject to certain norms which inter alia include sales volume going below economic viability level due to closure of road, shifting of octrol post, coming in of a new road/bye-pass or closure of a particular traffic to the area, etc.

(c) Under the resitement guidelines partial resitement of retail outlets is not permitted.

(d) to (g) Indian Oil Corporation Limited has reported to have carried out resitement of 2 retail outlet dealerships in Kashmir Valley during the last three years as per the guidelines.

New Forest Research Institutions

4360. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has constituted any committee to examine the issue relating to opening of new Forest Research Institutions in Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether research needs of forestry centres to these States is being met from the institutions outside the States; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by Government to open new research centres/institutions in these States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) On behalf of the Indian Council of Forestry Research & Education the Research needs of Tamil Nadu are met by Institute of Forest Genetics and Tree Breeding Coimbatore, and of Karnataka & Andhra Pradesh by Institute of Wood Science & Technology, Bangalore. Recently, to cater the specific needs of Andhra Pradesh, a Center at Hyderabad under IWST, Bangalore has been opened.

LPG Agencies

4361. SHRI MOINUL HASSAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state the ratio of Liquid Petroleum Gas agencies per one lakh population, State-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): As per 1991 Census report, there was a population of 84.63 crores in the country. As on 1.1.2000, there are 6001 LPG distributorships in the country. The ratio of LPG agencies for 1 lakh population is 0.71. The Statewise details are given in the enclosed Statement.

Statement

L.P.G. Agencies

States	Population as per 1991 Census (in lakhs)	No. of LPG Distributorships As on 1.1.2000	Ratio of LPG Agencies Per 1 Lakh of population
1	2	3	4
Andhra Pradesh	665.08	515	0.77
Arunachal Pradesh	8.65	19	2.20
Assam	224.14	151	0.67
Bihar	863.74	220	0.25
Delhi	94.21	304	3.23
Goa	11.70	35	2.99
Gujarat	413.10	425	1.03
Haryana	164.64	183	1.11
Himachal Pradesh	51.71	76	1.47
Jammu & Kashmir	77.19	104	1.35
Karnataka	449.77	350	0.78
Kerala	290.99	225	0.77

1	2	3	4
Madhya Pradesh	661.81	379	0.57
Maharashtra	789.37	736	0.93
Manipur	18.37	18	0.98
Meghalaya	17.75	19	1.07
Mizoram	6.90	14	2.03
Nagaland	12.10	19	1.57
Orissa	316.60	110	0.35
Punjab	202.82	286	1.41
Rajasthan	440.06	253	0.57
Sikkim	4.06	3	0.74
Tamil Nadu	558.59	442	0.79
Tripura	27.57	17	0.62
Uttar Pradesh	1391.12	727	0.52
West Bengal	680.78	325	0.48
Union Territories			
Andaman & Nicobar	2.81	1	0.36
Chandigarh	6.42	29	4.52
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	1.38	1	0.72
Daman & Diu	1.02	2	1.97
Lakshadweep	0.52	1	1.93
Pondicherry	8.08	12	1.49
All India	8463.03	6001	0.71

International Fibre Optical Network by VSNL

4362. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK:
SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Videsh Sanchar Nigam Limited has any proposal for International fibre optical netwprk;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the present status;

(c) whether the said network will go across Mumbai and Bangalore;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the extent to which the network is beneficial to the people of Mumbai and Bangalore cities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) Yes Sir. VSNL received a proposal 'Project Oxygen' in 1998 from a company called M/s. CTR Group Limited of USA.

(b) VSNL had signed a non-binding MOU with M/s. CTR Group Limited for participating in the Project. Business plan of the proposal is yet to be examined.

(c) The 'Project' envisages an initial landing point at Mumbai only. The possibility of further expansion in the future to other cities cannot be ruled out at this stage.

(d) Commercial viability of the business plan, the cost implications and the design details including the landing points are yet to be firmed up.

(e) Since business plan is yet to be formed up, the benefits accruing to the people of Mumbai & Bangalore from the Project cannot be quantified.

[Translation]

Setting up of LPG Agency at Sitapur (U.P.)

4363. SHRIMATI SUSHILA SAROJ: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up a Sighauli, Sitapur in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the time by which a gas agency is likely to be set up at Sighauli; and

(c) 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 (c) An LPG distributorship is to be set up at Sighauli in district Sitapur, Uttar Pradesh. The location was advertised by Indian Oil Corporation in December, 1997 and again in May, 1998. Selection of distributor is made on merit by the Dealer Selection Board on the basis of interview. It generally takes 6-12 months for commissioning of dealerships/distributorships from the date of interview. Dealer Selection Boards have recently been dissolved.

Post Offices in Rajasthan

4364. PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any representations for opening of new post offices and sub post offices in Rajasthan;

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

(c) whether the Government propose to open new post offices, sub post offices, and up grade the existing post offices in the State during 2000-2001;

(d) if so, the details thereof, district-wise;

(e) the amount provided for maintenance and construction of new building for the post offices in the State during 1999-2000 and 2000-2001;

(f) whether there is any proposal to construct the building of P.M.G. headquarters Eastern region in Ajmer, Rajasthan; and

(g) if so, the time by which the said work is likely to be started and completed?

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

(b) 12 representations for opening of Sub Post Offices and 52 for opening of Branch Post Offices were received in Rajasthan Circle. Against these representations, 1 Sub Post Office and 8 Branch Post Offices were opened. The remaining representations were examined and the opening of post offices was not found justified on existing departmental norms for opening of new post offices.

(c) and (d) The targets for opening of new post offices, Sub Post Offices and upgrading the existing post offices are yet to be finalized for the year 2000-2001.

(e) During 1999-2000, Rs. 1.10 crore was allotted for maintenance of buildings. Rs. 5 lakhs was allotted during 1999-2000 for construction of buildings. For 2000-2001, no allotment has been made so far as demand for grants is yet to be passed by the Parliament.

(f) Yes, Sir. There is a proposal to construct the building of PMG headquarters Eastern Region in Ajmer, Rajasthan.

(g) The requisite pre-construction formalities of the said work are under process. The starting of the project depends upon the completion of these formalities, availability of funds and operational priorities of the department.

[English]

Construction of Port Near Vizag Steel Plant

4365. SHRI SUNIL KHAN: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any proposal for construction of a port near Vizag steel plant;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the said port is likely to be taken up for construction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) to (c) The State Government of Andhra Pradesh have proposed development of a Minor Port namely, Gangavaram Port near Vizag Steel Plant through private route to cater to the requirements of the industrial corridor between Visakhapatnam and Kakinada in Andhra Pradesh. As per the Indian Ports Act, 1908, the responsibility for development of Minor Ports lies entirely with the State Government/UT concerned, which have administrative control on such ports. Gangavaram, being a Minor Port is the concern of the State Government of Andhra Pradesh.

Project for Improvement of Forest Boundaries

4366. SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Karnataka Government has forwarded a proposal costing Rs. 103.60 crore for improvement and communication system of Forest Boundaries in the State;

(b) if so, whether the Union Government have considered the proposal;

(c) if not, the main reasons for delay; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. Government of Karnataka has 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 as ninth five year plan period has already passed midway. This has been communicated to the State Government of Karnataka and it has been advised for inclusion of this project in the State plan budget.

[Translation]

Women Courts in Delhi

4367. SHRI RAJESH RANJAN *alias* PAPPU YADAV: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether women courts were set up in Delhi two year ago for disposal of cases relating to crime against women;

(b) if so, the details of such courts alongwith the locations thereof;

(c) whether a large number of cases are still pending in these courts;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to dispose of these cases expeditiously?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI): (a) and (b) According to information available, four Women courts are functioning in Delhi with effect from 1.9.94. These include-one court of Additional Sessions Judge at Tis Hazari and three courts of Metropolitan Magistrates, one court each at Tis Hazari, New Delhi and Karkardooma (Shahdara).

(c) and (d) As on 31.12.1999, the pendency of cases in the Mahila Sessions Court set up at Tis Hazari was 673 and at the three Mahila Magisterial Courts was 2014.

(e) Every possible step is being taken for the early disposal of these cases.

[English]

Appointment of SCs/STs as Central Government Advocates

4368. SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether 'Forum of SC/ST Parliamentarians' has submitted any representation to the Prime Minister on February 17, 1996, September 1, 1997 and July 23, 1998 and demanded for posting of persons belonging to the SCs/STs in important assignments in the higher judicial administration;

(b) if so, the total number of Senior Central Government Standing Counsels and Central Government Standing Counsels in the Supreme Court and various High Courts as on January 1, 1996 and January 1, 2000 and the number of persons out of them belonging to the SCs/STs communities alongwith their percentage as compared to the total number of such persons;

(c) whether any action has been taken by the Government so far in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI): (a) to (f) Information is being collected and the same will be laid on the Table of the House.

Expansion of Telephone Exchanges

4369. SHRI SHAMSHER SINGH DULLO: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the proposal for the expansion of telephone exchanges in Punjab particularly in Roper district is lying pending with the Union Government;

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

(c) the time by which the expansion work of the said exchanges is likely to be started and completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) to (c) No, Sir. The targets fixed for expansion of telephone exchanges in Punjab Telecom Circle for the year 1999-2000 have been duly achieved. As a matter of fact, 367444 lines were commissioned against planned target of 332500 lines. However, the installation of 7000 lines main telephone exchange at Ropar is in advantage of installation and likely to be commissioned by May, 2000.

[Translation]

Central Telecom Committee

4370. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have constituted Central Telecom Committee;

(b) if so, the details and composition thereof; and

(c) the details of the criteria laid down for the appointment of the members of the above Committee?

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

"National Telephone Advisory Committee" (NTAC) and "National Telephone Services Committee" (NTSC) have been constituted.

Probably, Hon'ble Member, means only these Committees-when he refers to "Central Telecom Committees".

(b) The details and composition thereof are given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) Criteria laid down for the appointment of the members of these Committees are:

(i) Consumer representatives from various walks of life.

(ii) Representatives from Telephone Advisory Committees of Telecom Circles.

(iii) Social Workers.

(iv) Eminent persons from different walks of life.

(v) It is also proposed to include representatives from Chambers of Commerce and Industries, Association of Software Service Companies and Department of Information Technology, as "permanent invitees".

Statement

Copy of Order No. 6-1/99-PHP dated February 23, 2000

Subject:— Constitution of National Telephone Advisory Committee and National Telephone Services Committee for the Ministry of Communications.

The matter regarding constitution of National TAC and National Telephone Services Committee was under consideration of this Department for quite some time. As there is an imperative need to improve the tele-services so as to make them of comparable international standards, it has now been decided to constitute the National Telephone Advisory Committee and National Telephone Services Committee with the following stipulations. In order to meet this objective association of consumers representatives from different walks of life is necessary so as to get feed back from different parts of the country which would help improve the services further.

A. National Telephone Advisory Committee

2. A National Telephone Advisory Committee shall be consituted on the same pattern as that of existing

TACs at Circle and SSA levels. There shall be 100 (Hundred) members in the NTAC with the provision that the number can be increased in exceptional circumstances. One member each can be elected by the TACs at Circle level and others will be nominated by the Hon'ble Minister in charge of Communication after obtaining recommendations from different quarters. The Chairman of National TAC shall be Hon'ble Minister in charge of Communication. Hon'ble MOS (C) shall be the Vice-Chairman of the NTAC, Sr. DDG (NW) will be member Secretary of the National TAC.

Functions: The Committee will deliberate upon the following issues and submit their suggestions/ recommendations on the same:

(a) Accessibility of telecom services in rural/ backward areas tourist places, public utility places and the areas, which could result in making the country prosperous.

(b) Reducing present imbalances and disparities in the availability of telecom services in different regions of the country.

(c) To give suggestions so that the DTS could meet the rising expectations of public and to reduce the gap between the demand and supply of telephone services in any part of the country.

(d) To give suggestions for extension of new telecom technologies to under developed, hilly, tribal and backward areas.

(e) Issues related to the socio-economic impact as a result of growth of telecom network, specially generation of emloyment and upliftment of weaker sections of society.

(f) Feedback so as to watch the social obligations are not lost sight of but are fulfilled during the process of liberalisation particularly with reference to telecom sector.

(g) Enhancing staff quarter ratio, education facilities for wards of staff members and extension of other amenities to them, which can result into job satisfaction and hence efficiency of the department.

The terms of reference of National Telecom Advisory Committee will mainly concern about National policy matters and, however, will not cover areas within the purview of the SSA/Circle level TACs, and as such, NTAC members shall communicate with Sr. DDG (NW) for necessary information and any query.

Entitlement

3. The TA/DA of the non-official members for attending the meeting shall be governed by the relevant orders of Ministry of Finance, Government of India issued from time to time for the Committees/Commissions of similar level as enumerated in SR 190 (Appendix-II) clause B (ii), (iii) of the FR/SR Part-II compiled by Muthuswamy (14th edition-1999). The TA/DA of the official members shall be governed by the relevant rules as applicable to them from time to time. Each member shall be provided with one out of turn temporary residential service telephone connection with STD facility at the desired place. This telephone shall be free of rentals and installation charges with free call as admissible for an RSTC (presently, 1150 free calls bimonthly) for the tenure of his/her appointment. Members elected from Circle TACs will, however, have no additional telephone or extra free calls.

Tenure and meetings of National TAC

4. The tenure of National TAC shall normally be two years. The tenure can be reduced at the discretion of the Hon'ble Minister of Communications and re-constituted accordingly. The headquarters of of National TAC shall be at Delhi and the meeting of the National TAC shall be held at least twice a year, preferably once in a quarter but not during the sessions of Parliament. The meeting of the National TAC shall be held at Delhi as decided by the Chairman.

B. National Telephone Services Committee

5. It has further, been decided that a National Telephone Services Committee shall be constituted with 11 (Eleven) members including one Chairman. All the members shall be appointed by the Hon'ble Minister of Communications from a panel of names of eminent persons and social workers. It has also been decided that this Committee will be extended secretariat support by the Department.

Functions: The Committee will deliberate upon the following issues and submit their suggestions/ recommendations on the same:—

(a) Improvement of telecom services in places of public utility especially in rural/backward and hilly areas, hospitals, highways, pilgrimage and tourist centres places of national importance.

(b) Public telephone concept.

(c) Fault clearance, requests for new telephone connections and for shifting of telephones.

(d) Billing practice specially pertaining to disconnection/restoration of telephone for non payment so as to improve the overall telephone billing systems in the country.

(e) Extension of amenities to subscriber, when they visit telecom premises.

(f) Courtesy to customers, when they call/contact the telephone personnel.

(g) Simplification of procedures to make them customer friendly.

(h) Accelerating the efficacy/revamping of grievances redressal machinery at all levels.

(i) Improvement of special services e.g. 197, 198 and 199 etc.

(j) Creating mass awareness about telecom services by way of dissemination of information.

Seat of National TAC and NTSC

6. The headquarters of NTSC will be at Delhi. Necessary provision of office accommodation and other house keeping arrangement shall be made by the general administration DOT/DTS in New Delhi.

General provisions for NTSC

7. The Chairman of the National TSC shall be nominated by the Hon'ble Minister in charge of Communication. Sr. DDG(NW) will be the member Secretary of the Committee. The Chairman of NTSC shall be paid a fixed Honorarium of Rs. 6,000/- per month and the members Rs. 4,000/- per month.

(i) The members of the NTSC shall generally communicate directly with the Chairman of the Committee and the Chairman would communicate with the Hon'ble Minister of Communications. For administrative matters and obtaining required information they shall communicate with the Secretary, DTS.

(ii) The meetings of the NTSC shall be conducted at a place as desired by the Committee.

(iii) The suggestions of the NTSC shall be recommendatory in nature. The task of coordinating the follow up action on the recommendations of NTSC shall be performed by NW Cell of the Telecom Commission.

(iv) The requisite Secretarial assistance to the NTSC and NW Cell will be provided by Joint Secretary (Admn.)

8. The tenure, other entitlement, meetings etc. of the National Telephone Service Committee (NTSC) shall be the same as prescribed for the National TAC.

sd/-
(P.K. Ray)
Assistant Director General (PHP)

To

All the Chief General Managers,
Telecom Circles/Telephone Districts,
The Chief General Managers, MTNL, Delhi/Mumbai
CMD, MTNL, New Delhi.

[English]

Sale of Rice by FCI

4371. SHRI C.N. SINGH: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Food Corporation of India had invited tenders for the sale of the rice in July, 1997;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have received any complaints regarding denial of allocation of rice to the highest bidders by altering the terms of the tender and selling the rice to lowest bidders;

(d) if so, the action taken by MRTPC for 'unfair trade practice';

(e) whether such practice is common in other institutions; and

(f) if so, the steps proposed to be taken to make the tender system in these organisations more transparent?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI): (a) to (f) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Telephone Bills

4372. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the telephone bills used to be despatched by MTNL through post have been discontinued and are being distributed through private courier agencies;

(b) if so, the reasons for appointing courier agencies by MTNL for distribution of bills;

(c) whether some of the courier agencies have been blacklisted by the MTNL due to the said system failed;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the details of the system proposed to be followed by the MTNL in the despatch of bills in Delhi?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) No, Sir.

(i) In MTNL Mumbai, excepting Navi Mumbai, bills are being sent only through the post. In Navi Mumbai, the fortnightly bills for STD PCOs and the bills of high-calling subscribers are being sent through couriers. Here too, the bills for other subscribers are being delivered through post offices.

(ii) On an experimental basis, in MTNL Delhi, for the South-1, South-2, Trans-Yamuna and West-2 Areas, bills are being reached to subscribers through couriers. For other Areas, bills continue to be sent through the post.

(b) In cases of dispute alleging non-receipt of bills, since there was no proof of delivery of bills in the existing system, alternative methods, such as their despatch through couriers, was tried experimentally. Proof of delivery is insisted upon from all couriers.

(c) In the 14 years of MTNL's existence, only the services of four couriers in Mumbai were terminated.

(d) The reasons for termination of their services were non-delivery or the delayed delivery of bills.

(e) Due to some complaints received about the non-delivery of bills even by existing couriers, MTNL Delhi is considering despatching bills either through courier agencies of a higher standard or a specialized mailing agency of the Department of Posts which can furnish proof of delivery. A proposal in the matter has been sent to the Department of Posts.

[Translation]

Telephone Facility in Haryana

4373. SHRI AJAY SINGH CHAUTALA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of villages in Haryana where telephone facility has not yet been provided so far, district-wise; and

(b) the number of villages where the said facility is proposed to be provided in the State during 2000-2001, location-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) and (b) There are only 4 populated villages left in Panchkula district of Haryana where telecom facility has not yet been provided. All these 4 villages, namely, Tuhan, Ganderan, Gharon and Benula will be provided with telecom facility during 2000-2001.

[English]

Right to Vote

4374. SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE:
SHRI ABDUL HAMID:

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

(a) whether the Right to Vote was denied to a large number of citizens under some directives of the Government during Lok Sabha and Assembly elections held in 1998, 1999 and February, 2000;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the details of such persons who were denied to use their franchise, State and Union Territory-wise;

(d) whether the Government have received any representation for restoration of Right to Vote to such persons;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether the Government have organised any meeting with leaders of all political parties for electroal reform particularly on this issue;

(g) if so, the details thereof;

(h) whether the Government propose to amend the Representation of People Act, 1951;

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

(j) if not, the action taken by the Government to restore the Right to Vote to such persons?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI): (a) to (c) No, Sir. Right to vote at an election is governed by the provisions of section 62 of the Representation of the People Act,

1951 and only such of the electors whose names are borne on the electoral roll for the time being in force are eligible to vote at an election, subject to the exceptions made in section 16 of the Representation of the People Act, 1950 (43 of 1950). According to the information made available by the Election Commission of India, during the intensive revision of electoral rolls in Assam with reference to 1st January, 1997 as the qualifying date, about three lakh citizens had been detected as "D" Voters: meaning "Doubtful/Disputed" under the Illegal Migrants (Determination by Tribunals) Act, 1983 and Foreigners Act, 1946. These voters were not allowed to vote during General Elections to Lok Sabha in 1998 and 1999.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

(f) No, Sir.

(g) Does not arise.

(h) to (j) No, Sir. No action is called for on the part of the Government.

[Translation]

Use of Electronic Voting Machine

4375. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether arrangements were made for hundred percent electronic voting during the Assembly election held in February, 2000 in Haryana;

(b) if so, the reaction of the people particularly in rural areas in this regard; and

(c) the extent to which incidents of booth capturing decreased as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI): (a) The Election Commission was able to use Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) during the General Elections to the Haryana Legislative Assembly held in February, 2000, in only 45 Assembly constituencies out of 90 constituencies due to some practical difficulties. The EVMs were used in all the 18 Assembly constituencies comprising Karnal and Rohtak Parliamentary constituencies. Besides, one constituency in each district was selected for the use of EVMs.

(b) The people and the political parties have generally appreciated the use of EVMs and therefore, it can be stated that the response was very positive.

(c) During the General Elections to the Haryana Legislative Assembly held in February 2000, repoll was held in 23 polling stations in 7 Assembly constituencies. In 13 polling stations in 4 Assembly constituencies, where EVMs were used, voters were prevented from casting their votes and the booths were captured.

[English]

Right of Voting to NRIs

4376. SHRI A.P. JITHENDER REDDY: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any proposal to provide right of voting to the NRIs;

(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) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Owing to practical and administrative difficulties it has not been considered feasible to grant voting rights to NRIs.

Losses Due to Cyclone in Kandla

4377. SHRI G.J. JAVIYA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have set up any Inquiry Commission for in-depth study arising out of huge loss of life and property due to cyclone over Kandla Port and other districts of Gujarat;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the said Commission has submitted its report;

(d) if so, the details of the action taken by the Government on the report; and

(e) if not, the time by which the said report likely to be submitted by the Inquiry Commission?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) The Ministry of Surface Transport has not set up any Inquiry Commission.

(b) to (e) Does not arise.

Restructuring of IFS

4378. SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government received any proposal to restructure the service conditions of the Indian Forest Service; and

(b) if so, the action taken by the Government on the above proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) and (b) The Fifth Central Pay Commission had recommended parity between the Indian Forest Service and the Indian Police Service. Additionally, the Pay Commission had recommended upgradation/creation/ re-designation of some posts. The Central Government has initiated steps to comply with these recommendations.

Sankhya Vahini Project

4379. SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to review the Sankhya Vahini Project;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) if not, the present status of the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) and (b) There is no proposal at present to review the project.

(c) The draft Joint Venture Agreement is being finalised after taking into consideration all relevant aspects of the project.

Funds to Set up Power Projects in Karnataka

4380. SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Karnataka Government has requested for funds to set up power projects in the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (c) There has been no request for additional funds from the Government of Karnataka over and above their regular Annual Plan outlays.

For the year 1999-2000, the Government of Karnataka, as part of their Annual Plan exercise, had sought plan funds for Raichur TPS (2x210 MW) (on-going scheme) and also for Bidadi CCPP (200 MW), Vijayanagar (Hospet) TP (500 MW) and Raichur TPS extension (210 MW) (new schemes).

The approved Power Sector outlays for the Annual Plans for the State of Karnataka for the previous three years were as follows:

	(Rs. in crores)
1997-98	608.09
1998-99	866.19
1999-2000	988.99

[Translation]

Breakage of Shaft Before Average Life

4381. KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that a shaft worth lacs of rupees for power generation in the Bairasiul Hydro Electric Power Project, Himachal Pradesh has broken down much earlier than its average life in 1999;

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

(c) the total losses incurred so far as a result thereof;

(d) whether the Government have enquired into the matter and taken action against those found guilty in this regard;

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

(f) the steps taken by the Government to make the above project operational?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) and (b) The shafts of turbine of generating Units No. 3 & 1 of Baira Siul HE Project, developed cracks on February 06, 1999 and March 20, 1999 respectively. These Units were commissioned on May 18, 1980 and September 13, 1981 respectively. The cracks were hairline to deep at the location of the turbine guide bearing journal. The Units were supplied by BHEL. BHEL contended that the cracks cannot be repaired and the machines cannot be operated with the cracks and advised replacement of these shafts. BHEL supplied new shafts (2 Nos.) at a cost of Rs. 210 lacs (ex-work, Haridwar) and the Units were re-commissioned on September 07, 1999 and December 11, 1999.

(c) The loss of generation on this account would amount 220 Million Units (MUs) compared to corresponding period in the previous year/spilling of water limited to design energy. The revenue loss would be Rs. 804 lacs.

(d) and (e) An expert committee comprising of Shri A.N. Singh, Ex-Chairman, CEA and two other experts from hydro field was constituted on February 23, 1999 and the preliminary report of the committee has attributed the cause of cracks to be on account of excessive abrasive silt in water and erosion of underwater parts such as labyrinth rings. The Committee has in its preliminary report considered the excessive vibration and increased thrust due to larger labyrinths clearances to be possible reasons for crack formation. The final report of the committee is expected shortly. No specific cause of failure was mentioned in the interim report and the phenomenon has been termed as technical. Fixing of responsibilities and action as may be required would be considered after receipt of the final report.

(f) Both the Units 3 & 1 have already been re-commissioned on September 07, 1999 and December 11, 1999 respectively and their performances so far is satisfactory.

Telephone Facility in Satna

4382. SHRI RAMANAND SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of villages in Satna district of Madhya Pradesh having telephone facility, block-wise;

(b) whether the Government have received any representations in March 2000 for providing telephone facilities in some villages of the district;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the time by which the telephone facilities are likely to be provided in the said villages?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) The block-wise no. of villages in Satna district of Madhya Pradesh having telephone facility, is as under:

Sl.No.	Name of Block	No. of VPTs
1.	Amarpaton	104
2.	Maihar	114
3.	Nagod	136
4.	Majhagwan	144
5.	Sohawal	189
6.	Rampur Baghelan	102
7.	Unchehara	60
8.	New Ramnagar	1
	Total	850

Names of the villages are given in the enclosed Statement.

(b) to (d) A letter dated 31-1-2000 was received from Hon'ble M.P. Shri Ramanand Singh for providing telephone facilities in ten villages of Satna district. Telephone facilities in all these 10 villages have already been provided. Details are as under:

Sl.No.	Village	Telephone No.	Exchange
1.	Kari Gohi	77330	Birsinghpur
2.	Barhana	77341	Birsinghpur
3.	Pratappur	77343	Birsinghpur
4.	Khutaha	74334	Jaitwara
5.	Kitaha	74253	Jaitwara
6.	Pindra	63238	Majhgawan
7.	Nayagaon	74245	Jaitwara
8.	Nakaila	63291	Majhgawan
9.	Barondha	63292	Majhgawan
10.	Khohi	65392	Chitrakoot

Statement

Telephone Facility in Satna

VPT/GPT List of Satna Telecom District

UNCHE RA BLOCK

Sl.	VPT/GPT	Parented to
1	2	3
1.	Madhi	Unchehra
2.	Gobrao Kalan	Unchehra
3.	Piprikala	Unchehra
4.	Bihta	Unchehra
5.	Dhaneh	Unchehra
6.	Gudhwa	Unchehra
7.	Matari Patora	Unchehra
8.	Sahijana	Unchehra
9.	Parasmania	Unchehra
10.	Bharhut	Unchehra
11.	Manikpur	Unchehra
12.	Narahti	Unchehra
13.	Patharahta	Unchehra
14.	Rampurwa	Unchehra
15.	Pondi Garda	Unchehra
16.	Mahrajpur	Unchehra
17.	Karhikhurd	Unchehra
18.	Karhikala	Unchehra
1.	Itaman N. Teer	Bhatanwara
2.	Gauhari	Bhatanwara
3.	Barhata	Bhatanwara
4.	Dewar	Bhatanwara
5.	Amiliya	Bhatanwara
6.	Semaridubay	Bhatanwara
7.	Badkhera	Bhatanwara
8.	Atarhar	Bhatanwara
9.	Bharhata	Bhatanwara
10.	Sonversa	Bhatanwara
11.	Tighra	Bhatanwara
12.	Baraha	Bhatanwara
13.	Chakadahi	Bhatanwara
14.	Lakhaha	Bhatanwara
15.	Sarain	Bhatanwara
16.	Bari	Bhatanwara
17.	Matari	Bhatanwara
18.	Majhiyarkala	Bhatanwara
19.	Umari	Bhatanwara
20.	Mahadai	Bhatanwara
1.	Pangari	Atara
2.	Beerpur	Atara
3.	Kulgadhi	Atara
4.	Nardaha	Atara
5.	Pataura	Atara
6.	Pithorabad	Atara
7.	Pondi	Atara
8.	Atara Ex.	Atara
9.	Lalpur	Atara
10.	Semriha	Atara
11.	Dudaha	Atara
12.	Turri	Atara
13.	Atarbindiya	Atara
14.	Amiliya	Atara
15.	Itamakala	Atara
16.	Darhiya	Atara
17.	Piprokhar	Atara
18.	Koluha	Atara
19.	Majhgawan	Atara
1.	Hardua	Lohraura
2.	Bandhi	Lohraura
3.	Girjapur	Lohraura

1	2	3
	NAGOD BLOCK	
1.	Karhiya Khurd	Nagod
2.	Barkachi	Nagod
3.	Khajrua	Nagod
4.	Viraduli	Nagod
5.	Tikus	Nagod
6.	Barkoniya	Nagod
7.	Bhulno	Nagod
8.	Karhiya Khurd	Nagod
9.	Bela	Nagod
10.	Byouhari	Nagod
11.	Babupur	Nagod
12.	Lalchadha	Nagod
13.	Khakhraudha	Nagod
14.	Hadhha	Nagod
15.	Lohadar	Nagod
16.	Kemri Badhi	Nagod
17.	Rajha	Nagod
18.	Katkon Kala	Nagod
19.	Kodar	Nagod
20.	Mahphona	Nagod
21.	Pakar	Nagod
22.	Itori Kalla	Nagod
23.	Satna Raghuna	Nagod
24.	Amiliya	Nagod
25.	Sijahati	Nagod
26.	Rajapur	Nagod
27.	Khamrohi	Nagod
28.	Dhaurahara	Nagod
29.	Ujnehi	Nagod
30.	Gagwaria	Nagod
31.	Shayam Nagar	Nagod
32.	Madai	Nagod
33.	Basudha	Nagod
34.	Kachanar	Nagod
35.	Semarwara	Nagod
36.	Hilaundha	Nagod
37.	Katkonkhurd	Nagod
38.	Sadwa	Nagod
39.	Khairai	Nagod
40.	Umarahati	Nagod
41.	Rahikwara	Nagod
42.	Stachidipat	Nagod
43.	Barapatthar	Nagod
44.	Ginjara	Nagod
45.	Barethiya	Nagod
46.	Rerua	Nagod
47.	Rajarwara	Nagod
48.	Reruakhurd	Nagod
49.	Nauwasta	Nagod
50.	Harduwakalan	Nagod
51.	Kalpa	Nagod
52.	Raound	Nagod
53.	Salaia	Nagod
54.	Hardua	Nagod
1.	Chandrakuniya	Rahikwara
2.	Dubahiya	Rahikwara
3.	Kalawal	Rahikwara
4.	Reruakhurd	Rahikwara
5.	Rampura	Rahikwara
6.	Baraha	Rahikwara
7.	Phurtal Khurd	Rahikwara
8.	Pathraundha	Rahikwara
9.	Reruwakala	Rahikwara

1	2	3
10.	Urdan	Rahikwara
11.	Jadhavpur	Rahikwara
12.	Shahpur	Rahikwara
13.	Majhgawanakhu	Rahikwara
14.	Semri	Rahikwara
15.	Turkaha	Rahikwara
16.	Bandhaon	Rahikwara
17.	Mada Tola	Rahikwara
18.	Gunhar	Rahikwara
19.	Kubhad	Rahikwara
20.	Majhgawana	Rahikwara
21.	Munghar	Rahikwara
22.	Kachloha	Rahikwara
23.	Lakhman	Rahikwara
24.	Patwara	Rahikwara
25.	Umari	Rahikwara
26.	Chandrakunawa	Rahikwara
27.	Damha	Rahikwara
28.	Amkui	Rahikwara
29.	Kamlapur	Rahikwara
30.	Radhepur	Rahikwara
31.	Ghateha	Rahikwara
1.	Bilaundha	Singhpur
2.	Akouna	Singhpur
3.	Ama	Singhpur
4.	Bandi	Singhpur
5.	Durgapur	Singhpur
6.	Dewari	Singhpur
7.	Khamhariyakhu	Singhpur
8.	Deori Khurd	Singhpur
9.	Karahiyakhurd	Singhpur
10.	Usar	Singhpur
11.	Raund	Singhpur
12.	Nungara	Singhpur
13.	Pangara	Singhpur
14.	Pipari	Singhpur
15.	Shivrajpur	Singhpur
16.	Majhagawan	Singhpur
1.	Bachwai	Sitpura
2.	Semri Khothar	Sitpura
3.	Bhitari	Sitpura
4.	Dhankher	Sitpura
5.	Chhinda	Sitpura
6.	Lalpur	Sitpura
7.	Mohari	Sitpura
8.	Deora	Sitpura
9.	Dilauri	Sitpura
10.	Gorhati	Sitpura
11.	Ahirgaon	Sitpura
12.	Majhokar	Sitpura
13.	Nakti	Sitpura
14.	Dilaura	Sitpura
15.	Amadari	Sitpura
16.	Khamariyakala	Sitpura
17.	Khamariyankhur	Sitpura
18.	Padriya	Sitpura
19.	Shami	Sitpura
1.	Naunia	Jasso
2.	Pawaiya	Jasso
3.	Rijhul	Jasso
4.	Paliv	Jasso
5.	Dureha	Jasso
6.	Sijahati	Jasso
8.	Kota	Jasso

1	2	3
9.	Amkuya	Jasso
10.	Chunha	Jasso
11.	Datunha	Jasso
12.	Surdaha Kalan	Jasso
13.	Kapuri	Jasso
14.	Umari	Jasso
15.	Bhitari	Jasso
16.	Gadri	Jasso
	SOHAWAL BLOCK	
1.	Khamahariya T	Satna
2.	Jignahat	Satna
3.	Sakaria	Satna
4.	Bharjunakala	Satna
5.	Bhumkahar	Satna
6.	Bihara	Satna
7.	Aber	Satna
8.	Gauraya	Satna
9.	Rampurchorasi	Satna
10.	Diloura	Satna
11.	Bardadeeu	Satna
12.	Mudha Kalan	Satna
13.	Mahadeva	Satna
14.	Ramsthan	Satna
15.	Bagha	Satna
16.	Kharwahi	Satna
17.	Barakala	Satna
18.	Amodhakala	Satna
19.	Bandhi	Satna
20.	Gobrao Khurd	Satna
21.	Babupur	Satna
22.	Lagargawan	Satna
23.	Gulua	Satna
24.	Sohash	Satna
25.	Lohraura	Satna
26.	Ragauli	Satna
27.	Tihai	Satna
28.	Hati Ex.	Satna
29.	Bandhi Mauhar	Satna
30.	Ghunchihan	Satna
31.	Umari	Satna
32.	Kuaan	Satna
33.	Dagdiha	Satna
34.	Kudiya	Satna
1.	Barkala	Sohawal
2.	Majhgawaon Bh.	Sohawal
3.	Khaira	Sohawal
4.	Gaura (Bagha)	Sohawal
5.	Karhi (Kothar)	Sohawal
6.	Kardi Pawai	Sohawal
7.	Girdi	Sohawal
8.	Chakbandi	Sohawal
9.	Hardua	Sohawal
10.	Bachbai	Sohawal
11.	Ghnkher Khurd	Sohawal
12.	Tumen	Sohawal
13.	Khawa Khuja	Sohawal
14.	Revra	Sohawal
15.	Mudha Khurd	Sohawal
16.	Badkher	Sohawal
17.	Mehdevi	Sohawal
18.	Bherri	Sohawal
19.	Khorgawan	Sohawal
20.	Devra	Sohawal
21.	Jignahat	Sohawal

1	2	3
22.	Devipur	Sohawal
23.	Dehura	Sohawal
24.	Semri Kala	Sohawal
25.	Dadehura	Sohawal
26.	Hermalla	Sohawal
27.	Manikwar	Sohawal
28.	Pawaiya	Sohawal
29.	Lokhariya	Sohawal
30.	Gopalpur	Sohawal
1.	Deorikala	Raigaon
2.	Kunchi	Raigaon
3.	Bhawnar	Raigaon
4.	Harkhar	Raigaon
5.	Chorbari	Raigaon
6.	Jamunihai	Raigaon
7.	Mahura	Raigaon
8.	Khangarh	Raigaon
9.	Rampura	Raigaon
10.	Paikora	Raigaon
11.	Ujraudha	Raigaon
12.	Rehuta	Raigaon
13.	Shrinagar	Raigaon
14.	Vidhata	Raigaon
15.	Naokhand	Raigaon
16.	Bandhi	Raigaon
17.	Shahpura	Raigaon
18.	Kalahari	Raigaon
19.	Dhaurahara	Raigaon
20.	Itama	Raigaon
21.	Jirwarkhurd	Raigaon
22.	Narayanpur	Raigaon
23.	Shivepur	Raigaon
24.	Itaora	Raigaon
25.	Goraiya	Raigaon
1.	Turra	Kothi
2.	Nayagawan	Kothi
3.	Teekar	Kothi
4.	Kailashpur	Kothi
5.	Semariya	Kothi
6.	Mankahari	Kothi
7.	Karshara	Kothi
8.	Didaundh	Kothi
9.	Paturi	Kothi
10.	Pawaiya	Kothi
11.	Padraut	Kothi
12.	Bhargawan	Kothi
13.	Lalpur	Kothi
14.	Mauhar	Kothi
15.	Jhali	Kothi
16.	Pondi	Kothi
17.	Raipur	Kothi
18.	Barahana	Kothi
19.	Bhaiswar	Kothi
20.	Chakdai	Kothi
21.	Sonaura	Kothi
22.	Kachanpur	Kothi
23.	Khatola	Kothi
24.	Seyani	Kothi
25.	Mathiya	Kothi
26.	Badaura	Kothi
1.	Purva	Hati
2.	Chaura	Hati
3.	Majhatolva	Hati
4.	Umari	Hati

1	2	3
5.	Madni	Hati
6.	Jhari	Hati
7.	Khokhali	Hati
8.	Turri	Hati
9.	Khamhariya	Hati
10.	Mathavariya	Hati
11.	Saha	Hati
12.	Kunchi	Hati
13.	Kathavariya	Hati
14.	Ghughuvar	Hati
15.	Mednipur	Hati
16.	Bamghouri	Hati
17.	Gaura	Hati
18.	Hatiya	Hati
19.	Dhirduli	Hati
20.	Mohuti	Hati
21.	Karmara	Hati
22.	Marva	Hati
23.	Bamharauli	Hati
24.	Patari	Hati
25.	Champurava	Hati
26.	Kushiyari	Hati
27.	Matima	Hati
28.	Sueuvar	Hati
29.	Nachanaura	Hati
30.	Jairiha	Hati
31.	Itama	Hati
32.	Salaia	Hati
33.	Gendua	Hati
1.	Siryatola	Madhogarh
2.	Krapalpur	Madhogarh
1.	Kol Gavan	Nai Basti

1	2	3
2.	Tikuri Khurd	Nai Basti
3.	Mand	Nai Basti
4.	Puraini	Nai Basti
5.	Sarbhana	Nai Basti
6.	Hara	Nai Basti
7.	Matehana	Nai Basti
8.	Majhiyar	Nai Basti
9.	Khamariyapaya	Nai Basti
10.	Bamhori	Nai Basti
11.	Jamodi	Nai Basti
12.	Khajurahara	Nai Basti
13.	Chhipiyadadi	Nai Basti
14.	Semara	Nai Basti
15.	Itama	Nai Basti
16.	Atrahara	Nai Basti
17.	Mohanna	Nai Basti
18.	Bela	Nai Basti
19.	Umrishardang	Nai Basti
20.	Kaima Unmulan	Nai Basti
21.	Bathia	Nai Basti
22.	Khmharia	Nai Basti
23.	Tikurikothar	Nai Basti
24.	Shipurwa	Nai Basti
25.	Bharjunkala	Nai Basti
26.	Lalpura	Nai Basti
27.	Puthodha	Nai Basti
28.	Podha Kala	Nai Basti
29.	Puthodhi	Nai Basti
30.	Nim	Nai Basti
1.	Sisraha	Jaitwara
2.	Kuwari	Jaitwara
3.	Chanderi	Jaitwara

1	2	3
4.	Baburaha	Jaitwara
1.	Majhgawan	Kothara
2.	Akauna	Kothara
3.	Pasi	Kothara
4.	Utaili	Kothara
5.	Bara	Kothara
	MAJHGAWAN BLOCK	
1.	Putarichua	Majhgawan
2.	Patana Kala	Majhgawan
3.	Gahira	Majhgawan
4.	Chouraha	majhgawan
5.	Arjunpur	Majhgawan
6.	Bhatwa	Majhgawan
7.	Chitahra	Majhgawan
8.	Kilhoura	Majhgawan
9.	Hiraudi	Majhgawan
10.	Barodha	Majhgawan
11.	Singhpur	Majhgawan
12.	Jhari	Majhgawan
13.	Nakila	Majhgawan
14.	Mahtain	Majhgawan
15.	Malgousa	Majhgawan
16.	Shahpur	Majhgawan
17.	Padari	Majhgawan
18.	Pidra	Majhgawan
19.	Rampurwa	Majhgawan
20.	Sanda	Majhgawan
21.	Hirapur	Majhgawan
22.	Lagi	Majhgawan
23.	Rohaniya	Majhgawan
24.	Mohani	Majhgawan
25.	Khahari	Majhgawan

1	2	3
26.	Karaula	Majhgawan
27.	Matti Nebi	Majhgawan
28.	Jirwar	Majhgawan
29.	Barha	Majhgawan
30.	Rampurgarri	Majhgawan
31.	Banhari	Majhgawan
32.	Machit	Majhgawan
33.	Kishunpur	Majhgawan
34.	Bramhipur	Majhgawan
35.	Chaurehi	Majhgawan
36.	Kanpur	Majhgawan
37.	Badbuda	Majhgawan
38.	Chulha	Majhgawan
39.	Hardikotar	Majhgawan
40.	Uachamar	Majhgawan
41.	Padmaniya	Majhgawan
42.	Patna Khurd	Majhgawan
43.	Heerapur Bair	Majhgawan
44.	Mudkhoha	Majhgawan
45.	Michkurin	Majhgawan
46.	Mourion	Majhgawan
47.	Patiyan	Majhgawan
48.	Irdijagir	Majhgawan
49.	Khera Majhgaw	Majhgawan
1.	Guptgodavari	Chitrakoot
2.	Hanumandhara	Chitrakoot
3.	Miya Maun	Chitrakoot
4.	Nardaha	Chitrakoot
5.	Kandar	Chitrakoot
6.	Chunwa	Chitrakoot
7.	Pathar Kachar	Chitrakoot
8.	Sati Ansuiya	Chitrakoot

1	2	3
9.	Khohi	Chitrakoot
10.	Paldeo	Chitrakoot
11.	Choubepur	Chitrakoot
12.	Hardua	Chitrakoot
1.	Khutha	Jaitwara
2.	Chundkhurd	Jaitwara
3.	Bamahouri	Jaitwara
4.	Piparitola	Jaitwara
5.	Bara	Jaitwara
6.	Banka	Jaitwara
7.	Barkhera	Jaitwara
8.	Jhakhaura	Jaitwara
9.	Birpur	Jaitwara
10.	Amirati	Jaitwara
11.	Kitha	Jaitwara
12.	Baraha	Jaitwara
13.	Khudhari	Jaitwara
14.	Majhgawan	Jaitwara
15.	Naya Gaon	Jaitwara
16.	Nandana	Jaitwara
17.	Bahmauri	Jaitwara
18.	Gorsari	Jaitwara
19.	Mata Mau	Jaitwara
20.	Khodhira	Jaitwara
21.	Rehan	Jaitwara
22.	Semra	Jaitwara
23.	Paduhar	Jaitwara
24.	Sonvarsa	Jaitwara
25.	Bijaihra	Jaitwara
26.	Gujhwa	Jaitwara
27.	Motva	Jaitwara
28.	Berahana	Jaitwara

1	2	3
29.	Bandhi	Jaitwara
30.	Karavia	Jaitwara
31.	Sujawalkhurd	Jaitwara
32.	Marwva	Jaitwara
33.	Saliya	Jaitwara
1.	Gudwa	Birsinghpur
2.	Baro	Birsinghpur
3.	Karigohi	Birsinghpur
4.	Hariharpur	Birsinghpur
5.	Shukwah	Birsinghpur
6.	Halawan	Birsinghpur
7.	Lakhnawa	Birsinghpur
8.	Pratappur	Birsinghpur
9.	Rimari	Birsinghpur
10.	Jamuwani	Birsinghpur
11.	Karaudi Khura	Birsinghpur
12.	Deora	Birsinghpur
13.	Bitama Vijayp	Birsinghpur
14.	Bajrahana	Birsinghpur
15.	Rasoiya	Birsinghpur
16.	Bara	Birsinghpur
18.	Vitma	Birsinghpur
19.	Khanch	Birsinghpur
20.	Maudha	Birsinghpur
21.	Misergawaon	Birsinghpur
22.	Jhota	Birsinghpur
23.	Nakheli	Birsinghpur
24.	Patna Khurd	Birsinghpur
25.	Shikari	Birsinghpur
26.	Hardi	Birsinghpur
27.	Bahera	Birsinghpur
28.	Tigra	Birsinghpur

1	2	3
29.	Amua	Birsinghpur
30.	Jahira	Birsinghpur
31.	Kadaila	Birsinghpur
32.	Khadura	Birsinghpur
33.	Herseid	Birsinghpur
34.	Pipri Tola	Birsinghpur
35.	Biharia	Birsinghpur
36.	Machkhada	Birsinghpur
37.	Sudamapur	Birsinghpur
38.	Bhaiden Tola	Birsinghpur
39.	Pipra Ven	Birsinghpur
40.	Vari Amrai	Birsinghpur
41.	Barua	Birsinghpur
42.	Nagaura	Birsinghpur
43.	Domhaj	Birsinghpur
44.	Gudwaon	Birsinghpur
45.	Karudi	Birsinghpur
46.	Pipra	Birsinghpur
47.	Vala	Birsinghpur
	MAJHGAWAN BLOCK	
1.	Jhagarha	Pindra
2.	Barua	Pindra
3.	Chauraha-II	Pindra
	AMARAPATAN BLOCK	
1.	Aodhki	Ahirgan
2.	Shahpura	Ahirgan
3.	Bandarkaha	Ahirgan
4.	Ajamain	Ahirgan
5.	Kulluha	Ahirgan
6.	Jodhaput	Ahirgan
7.	Kaara	Ahirgan
8.	Samogar	Ahirgaon
9.	Putriha	Ahirgaon
10.	Silpari	Ahirgaon
11.	Itama P. Tola	Ahirgaon
12.	Kotara	Ahirgaon
13.	Khutaha	Ahirgaon
14.	Paundi	Ahirgaon
15.	Dhatuwa	Ahirgaon
16.	Bachhara	Ahirgaon
17.	Deyu	Ahirgaon
18.	Bigauri	Ahirgaon
19.	Jhiria	Ahirgaon
20.	Yera	Ahirgaon
21.	Maharar	Ahirgaon
22.	Byodhara	Ahirgaon
23.	Bara	Ahirgaon
24.	Karala	Ahirgaon
25.	Sanehi	Ahirgaon
26.	Dhatuai	Ahirgaon
27.	Karaudi	Ahirgaon
28.	Ghurama	Ahirgaon
29.	Kirhai	Ahirgawaon
30.	Teothara	Ahirgawaon
31.	Semaria	Ahirgawaon
32.	Ahirgaon Bast	Ahirgawaon
33.	Umari Shivraj	Ahirgawaon
34.	Juhishi	Ahirgawaon
1.	Bichhiya	Kataha
2.	Bhadda	Kataha
3.	Jhayin	Kataha
4.	Bidhuriykala	Kataha
5.	Dhavarahara	Kataha
6.	Itamakhajuri	Kataha

1	2	3
7.	Kumhari	Kataha
8.	Dhamana	Kataha
9.	Amjhar	Kataha
10.	Judmaniya	Kataha
11.	Bari	Kataha
12.	Naugama	Kataha
13.	Ramgarh	Kataha
14.	Devarai	Kataha
15.	Majhgawan	Kataha
16.	Magraj	Kataha
17.	Lohhari	Kataha
18.	Kariya Pathar	Kataha
19.	Doma	Kataha
20.	Gora	Kataha
1.	Chakera	Amarpatan
2.	Itma (Kirhai)	Amarpatan
3.	Hardi	Amarpatan
4.	Kakra	Amarpatan
5.	Bachhara	Amarpatan
6.	Dubehi	Amarpatan
7.	Bhikhampur	Amarpatan
8.	Mand	Amarpatan
9.	Paraswahi	Amarpatan
10.	Raikwar	Amarpatan
11.	Sarbaka	Amarpatan
12.	Kanchanpur	Amarpatan
13.	Khokham	Amarpatan
14.	Rigara	Amarpatan
15.	Barehwada	Amarpatan
16.	Katiya	Amarpatan
17.	Beeda	Amarpatan
18.	Lalpur	Amarpatan
19.	Ramnagar	Amarpatan
20.	Budhaurwa	Amarpatan
21.	Chorahata	Amarpatan
22.	Bhatgawan	Amarpatan
23.	Ahirgawan	Amarpatan
24.	Asrar	Amarpatan
25.	Khamseda	Amarpatan
26.	Pal	Amarpatan
27.	Pagra	Amarpatan
28.	Obra	Amarpatan
29.	Mouhat	Amarpatan
30.	Karhijogia	Amarpatan
31.	Sua	Amarpatan
32.	Nadan Tola	Amarpatan
33.	Jarmohara	Amarpatan
34.	Simra	Amarpatan
35.	Teori	Amarpatan
36.	Itma Kirhai	Amarpatan
37.	Dudha	Amarpatan
38.	Dudhi	Amarpatan
39.	Bhadari	Amarpatan
40.	Barha	Amarpatan
41.	Bartona	Amarpatan
42.	Pratapgarhi	Amarpatan
43.	Badkhura	Amarpatan
44.	Itma Kothar	Amarpatan
45.	Bakaina	Amarpatan
46.	Veerdutt	Amarpatan
47.	Itma	Amarpatan
48.	Mohariya	Amarpatan
49.	Jamtal	Amarpatan
50.	Jhirha	Amarpatan

1	2	3
	MAIHAR BLOCK	
3.	Karaiya Deori	Maihar
4.	Karsara	Maihar
5.	Manpur	Maihar
6.	Karua	Maihar
7.	Magraura	Maihar
8.	Harnampur	Maihar
9.	Dhanwahikala	Maihar
10.	Tinduhta	Maihar
11.	Naktara	Maihar
12.	Jura	Maihar
13.	Sonwari	Maihar
14.	Olla	Maihar
15.	Dhatura	Maihar
16.	Pahadi	Maihar
17.	Pondi	Maihar
18.	Kalayanpur	Maihar
19.	Uchhinpur	Maihar
20.	Itma	Maihar
21.	Inchoul	Maihar
22.	Jeetnagar	Maihar
23.	Matwara	Maihar
24.	Harduakala	Maihar
25.	Hinotagajgaun	Maihar
26.	Patehra	Maihar
27.	Kalyanpur	Maihar
28.	Devijiudaipur	Maihar
29.	Deora	Maihar
30.	Bhadanpur	Maihar
31.	Barhi	Maihar
32.	Umarififri	Maihar
33.	Barethi	Maihar
34.	Tigharakala	Maihar
35.	Amiliyakala	Maihar
36.	Delha Road	Maihar
37.	Banshipur	Maihar
1.	Gugadi	Amadara
2.	Bharauli	Amadara
3.	Ludhoti	Amadara
4.	Hinotakala	Amadara
5.	Kherwasani	Amadara
6.	Karoundiya	Amadara
7.	Gumehi	Amadara
8	Mohaniya	Amadara
9.	Naktara	Amadara
10.	Khaira	Amadara
11.	Dhatura	Amadara
12.	Yaduveernagar	Amadara
13.	Suhola	Amadara
14.	Naugawan	Amadara
15.	Raigawan	Amadara
16.	Paloha	Amadara
17.	Pala	Amadara
18.	Binaika	Amadara
19.	Amadara	Amadara
20.	Berma	Amadara
21.	Amuwa	Amadara
22.	Rohaniya Khur	Amadara
23.	Sabhaganj	Amadara
24.	Ithara	Amadara
1.	Kansa	Bhatia
2.	Mantolawa	Bhatia
3.	Karaudidube	Bhatia
4.	Bhatiya	Bhatia

1	2	3
5.	Delha	Bhatia
6.	Amatola	Bhatia
7.	Jhali	Bhatia
8.	Tilaura	Bhatia
9.	Jariyari	Bhatia
10.	Hardaspur	Bhatia
11.	Gobri	Bhatia
12.	Barahiya	Bhatia
13.	Bhenda	Bhatia
14.	Chapan	Bhatia
15.	Beldara	Bhatia
16.	Kharaundinarw	Bhatia
17.	Nadan	Bhatia
18.	Parsokha	Bhatia
19.	Gobariya	Bhatia
1.	Budhagar	Ghunwara
2.	Doondee	Ghunwara
3.	Boree	Ghunwara
4.	Kuthilgawan	Ghunwara
5.	Uradanee	Ghunwara
6.	Roopguj	Ghunwara
7.	Kanhwara	Ghunwara
8.	Aamadandee	Ghunwara
9.	Dhanedi	Ghunwara
10.	Tisgiceekalan	Ghunwara
11.	Goraiyakalan	Ghunwara
12.	Bhainsasur	Ghunwara
13.	Sonvarsha	Ghunwara
14.	Harduasanee	Ghunwara
15.	Goraiyakala	Ghunwara
16.	Nai Basti	Ghunwara
17.	Fataktola	Ghunwara
18.	Rohniya	Ghunwara
19.	Semra	Ghunwara
20.	Gadhwa	Ghunwara
21.	Kaanhwara	Ghunwara
22.	Tiegicee Khur	Ghunwara
23.	Googad	Ghunwara
24.	Ghunwara Ex.	Ghunwara
25.	Kusedi	Ghunwara
26.	Pathratha	Ghunwara
27.	Paraswara	Ghunwara
28.	Kherawa Kalan	Ghunwara
29.	Mahedar	Ghunwara
30.	Sagmaniya	Ghunwara
31.	Belha	Ghunwara
32.	Amadandi	Ghunwara
33.	Cohee	Ghunwara
34.	Tighra	Ghunwara
	RAMPUR BAGHELAN BLOCK	
1.	Sagauni	Rampur Bag.
2.	Gajan	Rampur Bag.
3.	Raghunathpur	Rampur Bag..
4.	Salehna	Rampur Bag
5.	Mahidal Khurd	Rampur Bag.
6.	Shivpurwa	Rampur Bag.
7.	Lami Karhi	Rampur Bag.
8.	Janardanpur	Rampur Bag.
9.	Badhaura	Rampur Bag.
10.	Barti	Rampur Bag.
11.	Krishangarh	Rampur Bag.
12.	Karmau	Rampur Bag.
13.	Madhi Sonvars	Rampur Bag.
14.	Deomaudaldal	Rampur Bag.

1	2	3
15.	Chhibaura	Rampur Bag.
16.	Chormari	Rampur Bag.
17.	Jhand	Rampur Bag.
18.	Khahakhari	Rampur Bag.
19.	Ketiya	Rampur Bag.
20.	Chulhi	Rampur Bag.
21.	Bagahai	Rampur Bag.
22.	Tipani	Rampur Bag.
23.	Majhiyar Kota	Rampur Bag.
24.	Kudiya	Rampur Bag.
25.	Bhatiya	Rampur Bag.
26.	Bela	Rampur Bag.
27.	Maiganw	Rampur Bag.
28.	Sund	Rampur Bag.
29.	Baigaha	Rampur Bag.
30.	Itama	Rampur Bag.
31.	Kitaha	Rampur Bag.
32.	Nemua	Rampur Bag.
33.	Mahidal Kala	Rampur Bag.
34.	Komiya Kotar	Rampur Bag.
35.	Devmau	Rampur Bag.
36.	Degrahat	Rampur Bag.
37.	Ramnagar (Majh)	Rampur Bag.
38.	Bihara No. 2	Rampur Bag.
39.	Majhayar	Rampur Bag.
40.	Padariaya	Rampur Bag.
41.	Tapa	Rampur Bag.
42.	Katra	Rampur Bag.
43.	Jamuna	Rampur Bag.
44.	Patrahai	Rampur Bag.
45.	Livahi	Rampur Bag.
46.	Karhi	Rampur Bag.
47.	Sonvarsha	Rampur Bag.
48.	Devmak	Rampur Bag.
49.	Ramnagar	Rampur Bag.
50.	Davari	Rampur Bag.
51.	Khari	Rampur Bag.
1.	Sidhauli	Bamhouri
2.	Richhahari	Bamhouri
3.	Atarhar	Bamhouri
4.	Kheria Kothar	Bamhouri
5.	Narsinghpur	Bamhouri
6.	Beemai	Bamhouri
7.	Khagaura	Bamhouri
8.	Sonaura	Bamhouri
9.	Khamaria	Bamhouri
10.	Nemuwa	Bamhouri
11.	Guduhuru	Bamhouri
12.	Mankahari	Bamhouri
13.	Badadeeh	Bamhouri
14.	Gajgawan	Bamhouri
15.	Marauha	Bamhouri
16.	Karapwah Koth	Bamhouri
17.	Biharakalan	Bamhouri
18.	Hinauti	Bamhouri
19.	Sijhaita	Bamhouri
1.	Mohaniya	Kotar
2.	Khamha	Kotar
3.	Pagarkhurd	Kotar
4.	Golahata	Kotar
5.	Kalwaliya	Kotar
6.	Launlanch	Kotar
7.	Pagarkala	Kotar
8.	Patanakala	Kotar

1	2	3
9.	Deora	Kotar
10.	Rajarwar	Kotar
11.	Ghorkat	Kotar
12.	Chitgarh	Kotar
13.	Kotar	Kotar
1.	Malhdeva	Bihra
2.	Tikuri	Bihra
1.	Barikala	Sagmania
2.	Bharjanakhurd	Sagmania
3.	Pawaiya	Sagmania
4.	Tikuri Kalan	Sagmania
5.	Baraj	Sagmania
6.	Bathia Kalan	Sagmania
7.	Phutaundha	Sagmania
8.	Futaundhi	Sagmania
9.	Lilauri	Sagmania
10.	Patauda	Sagmania
11.	Sagma	Sagmania
12.	Badkhar	Sagmania
13.	Paindhakalan	Sagmania
14.	Kaimakothar	Sagmania
15.	Naina	Sagmania
16.	Naina	Sagmania
17.	Birhuli	Sagmania

[English]

Manipulation in Telephone Calls

4383. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the newsitem captioned "Kaalo mein garbari ke leye telephone nigam doshi" appearing in the 'Dainik Jagran' dated March 11, 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) Yes, Sir.

(b) Complainant Shri Ved Prakash Banga, telephone No. 2290796, lodged the complaint in Consumer Dispute Redressal Forum, Nand Nagari, for faulty service of above telephone on 19.2.98 showing the faulty condition of above mentioned telephone since Aug. 97. The main complaint of the subscriber was that his telephone is not functioning properly for incoming calls. The telephone of the complainant was checked properly and found OK but department is not having any record to verify the incoming calls. The fault history of this period was also not available in the computer for year 1997. The performance is judged on the basis of the faults reported by the subscriber.

(c) Efforts are being made to provide fault free services to customer.

Dhabol/Cogentrix Power Project

4384. DR. (SHRIMATI) C. SUGUNA KUMARI: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of Dhabol power project in Maharashtra and Cogentrix power project in Karnataka;

(b) the number of power companies that have withdrawn in executing the power projects after they obtained requisite permission from Ministry of Power and other departments; and

(c) the names of private power projects that have started the work after obtaining permission, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) The present status of these projects is indicated below:—

Dabhol Combined Cycle Power Project (2184 MW)

The project has obtained all the necessary clearances including Techno-Economic Clearance (TEC) of the Central Electricity Authority (CEA). Phase-I (740 MW) has been issued counter guarantee by the Government of India (GOI). The Phase-I project has already achieved financial closure and is fully commissioned. Phase-II (1444 MW) is not envisaged for issue of GOI counter guarantee. Phase-II has also achieved financial closure and is presently under construction.

Mangalore Thermal Power Project (1013.2 MW)

This project being developed by the Mangalore Power Company has tied up most of the required inputs/ clearances including the TEC of CEA. On December 22, 1999, GOI has taken decision to issue counter guarantee to this project subject to certain conditions. The decision has been communicated to the Government of Karnataka (GOK) whose response has not so far been received. Meanwhile, M/s. Cogentrix Energy Inc. have transferred their interests in the Mangalore power project and Mangalore Power Company to their partner in the company. M/s. China Light (Mauritius) Ltd. GOK have informed that M/s. CLP Power International propose to implement the Mangalore power project by choosing an Indian partner with 30% equity in the Mangalore power Company. CLP Power International would retain atleast 50% shareholding. Other issues such as legal aspects regarding change in the partnership of Mangalore Power Company, amendments to Power Purchase Agreement conditions laid down by the GOI for counter guarantee etc. are being examined by GOK.

(b) As per information available, among the various private sector power projects accorded TEC by CEA, M/s. Cogentrix Energy Inc. is the only promoting company that has withdrawn from the project.

(c) As per information available, the following private sector power projects accorded TEC by CEA have been commissioned/started construction:—

PROJECTS COMMISSIONED

S.No.	Name of the Project	CAP (MW)
1	2	3
Gujarat		
1.	Paguthan CCGT (M/s. Gujarat Torrent)	654.7
2.	Hazira CCGT (M/s. Essar Power Limited)	515.0
3.	Baroda CCGT (M/s. GIPCL)	167.0
4.	Surat Lignite TPP (M/s. GIPCL)	250.0
Maharashtra		
5.	Dabhol CCGT (M/s. Dabhol Power Co.)-Phase-I	740
Andhra Pradesh		
6.	Jegurupadu CCGT (M/s. GVK Industries) (Phase-I)	216
7.	Godavari CCGT (M/s. Spectrum Tech.) (Phase-I)	208
Karnataka		
8.	Toranagallu TPS (M/s. Jindal Tractebel)	260
Tamil Nadu		
9.	Basin Bridge DGPP (M/s. GMR Vasavi)	200
PROJECTS UNDER CONSTRUCTION		
Himachal Pradesh		
1.	Baspa Stage-II HEP (M/s. JPIL)	300
2.	Malana HEP (M/s. Rajasthan Spinning & Weaving Mills Ltd.)	86
Madhya Pradesh		
3.	Maheshwar HEP (M/s. S. Kumars Ltd.)	400

1	2	3
4.	Ratlam DGPP (M/s. GVK Power (Ratlam) Ltd.	118.63
Maharashtra		
5.	Dabhol CCGT (M/s. Dabhol Power Co.)-Phase-II	1444
Andhra Pradesh		
6.	Kondapally CCGT (Lanco Industries Ltd.)	350
7.	Vemagiri CCGT (Ispat Power Limited)	492
Tamil Nadu		
8.	Neyveli TPS-Zero Unit (M/s. ST-CMS)	250
9.	Pillaiperumalnallur CCGT (M/s. PPN Power)	330.5
10.	Samayanallur DGPP (M/s. Balaji Power Corp. Ltd.)	106
11.	Samalpatti DGPP (M/s. Samalpatti Power Co.)	106
Bihar		
12.	Jogobera TPP (M/s. Jamshedpur Power Co.)	240

[Translation]

Exploitation of Employees of ITI Mankapur

4385. SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN SHARAN SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any representations regarding the exploitation of the employees of I.T.I. Limited, Mankapur;

(b) if so, the action taken by the Government thereon;

(c) if not, whether the Government have formulated any action plan to put an end to the harassment of the employees; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) Although ITI Mazdoor Sangh Mankapur is not a recognised union, yet all the points raised by them in their representation were considered in consultation with the management of M/s. ITI and the position is as under:

1. Point raised:

   Kendriya Vidyalaya at ITI Mankpur should continue to operate.

   Action Taken:

   Chairman, Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan has decided that school will continue.

2. Point raised:

   Exploitation of employees due to inefficiency of the administration be stopped.

   Action Taken:

   No employee is being exploited. There is a staff grievance redressal system available in the company.

3. Point raised:

   Recasting of seniority list after removing anomalies therein, if any.

   Action Taken:

   Seniorities of various groups have been drawn up as per mutual agreement dated 28.3.95 between

the Unit management and recognised union. Some employees have filed Writ Petition with the Hon'ble High Court Bench Lucknow. Therefore the case is subjudice. Action will be taken as per the direction of the Hon'ble Court.

4. Point raised:

To provide appropriate induction level for ITI trade certificate holders.

Action Taken:

The seniority has been fixed in accordance with the mutual agreement between the Unit management and the recognised union.

5. Point raised:

Refixation of seniority by giving weightage to the past experience.

Action Taken:

Appropriate weightage has already been given to those employees who were appointed with experience.

6. Point raised:

Providing opportunities to employees to work in higher grade as per their professional qualifications.

Action Taken:

M/s. ITI already has certain award schemes one of which is to consider career growth for employees who acquire professional qualifications.

(c) There is no harassment of the employees of ITI Mankapur.

(d) Not applicable in view of above.

[English]

ISD/STD/PCOs Facilities in Bihar

4386. SHRI RAM PRASAD SINGH:
DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH:
SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether ISD/STD/PCO facilities have been extended to all the rural and adivasi areas in Bihar;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, whether these facilities are yet to be extended to those areas;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time by which these facilities are likely to be provided in the rural and adivasi areas of the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) and (b) Sir, ISD/STD/PCO facility is offered in rural and adivasi areas from an exchange located in the same or nearby area. If an eligible franchisee seeks to set up a PCO and if it is technically feasible, it is set up. For coverage of villages mostly Village Public Telephones (VPT) are provided and whenever a request is received for STD/ ISD facility on these VPTs and if they are technically feasible, the same is provided. Out of 22133 VPTs, 2647 have been provided with STD/ISD facility.

(c) to (e) All the villages have been targetted to be provided with VPTs by March, 2002. STD/ISD facility can be extended, if applied, subject to technical feasibility and completion of commercial formalities.

National Forestry Research Plan

4387. COL. (RETD.) DR. DHANI RAM SHANDIL:
SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR:
SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ:

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

(a) whether a draft five year national forestry research plan has been formulated by the Indian Council of Forestry Research & Education;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time by which the plan is likely to be implemented; and

(d) the number of workshops held at different places in the country before the draft plan was finalised along with details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) Yes, Sir. The National Forestry Research Plan is under finalisation by Indian Council of Forestry Research & Education.

(b) The National Forestry Research Plan, after giving the background of development of forest management

and forestry research in India, mentions research needs and priorities, mission vision & strategy, operational plans of State Forest Departments, national institutes & universities, constraints, implementation strategies and cost & investment strategy.

(c) The Plan is likely to be implemented from 2000-2001.

(d) 27 State level Workshops, in 25 States and Union Territories of Delhi and Andaman & Nicobar Island were held and subsequently, 8 institutional level Workshops were held at Dehradun, Jabalpur, Bangalore, Coimbatore, Jodhpur, Ranchi, Jabalpur and Shimla and finally, a National Workshop was organised on 16th February, 2000 at Vigyan Bhavan, New Delhi.

[Translation]

Adulteration of Petroleum Products

4388. SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to develop any new system to check adulteration in petroleum products;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (c) Oil marketing companies carry out regular/surprise checks of retail outlets, ot control various malpractices including adulteration. In addition, special drives are launched by the oil companies both on their own and also under direction of Government from time to time to check malpractices. To prevent adulteration various steps like blue dyeing of kerosene (PDS), furfural doping, filter paper test, stock reconciliation, checking of retail outlets by mobile laboratories, etc. are taken by oil companies.

Protection of Birds

4389. PROF. DUKHA BHAGAT: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are implementing a project for the protection of birds;

(b) if so, the objectives and functions of the said project and the budgetary provisions made for this purpose;

(c) the time since it has been initiated and the name of the implementing agency;

(d) the progress made in achieving the objectives of said project;

(e) whether process of reviewing its functioning has been initiated recently; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) The Goverment of India is implementing various Centrally Sponsored Schemes for the development and management of National Parks and Sanctuaries in the country. There is no specific project for the protection of birds.

(b) The objectives and functions of various Centrally Sponsored Schemes is given in enclosed Statement-I. The budgetary provisions under the schemes for the year 2000-2001 is given in enclosed Statement-II.

(c) The details of inception of the schemes is given in enclosed Statement-III. The schemes are implemented by State Governments as Centrally Sponsored Scheme.

(d) and (e) The schemes have made satisfactory progress.

(f) Does not arise.

Statement-I

Protection of Birds

The objectives and the functions of the various Centrally Sponsored Schemes are:

(I) **Development of National Parks and Sanctuaries**

The scheme was launched during Vth Plan. The main objective of the scheme is to assit the States in the development of National Parks and Sanctuaries through financial assistance and facilitate and encourage the States to expand the protected area network. The scheme also helps the States to create infrastructural facilities for better protection and management of these protected areas.

(ii) **Eco Development and Around Protected Areas including Tiger Reserves**

This scheme was started by the Government of India in 1991-92. The main objective of the scheme is to ensure socio-economic welfare of the villagers living in and near Protected Areas, mainly through increasing the supply of fuelwood, fodder and small timber, improvement of livestock and agricultural productivity, income-generating cottage industries, alternative energy, education and health care with intensive measures in family planning.

(iii) **Project Elephant**

The scheme was launched in 1991-92 as a sequel to a series of efforts to conserve this magnificent species covering primarily twelve States of India namely, Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Karnataka, Kerala, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Orissa, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal. Assistance is provided to States for habitat improvement, protection of corridors etc.

(iv) **Project Tiger**

The scheme was launched on 1st April, 1973 on the recommendation of special task force of the Indian Board for Wildlife. The main objective of the scheme is to ensure the maintenance of viable population of tiger in India for scientific, economic, aesthetic, cultural and ecological values, to preserve areas of biological importance and to increase the tiger population to optimum levels by the improvement of the bio-tope and stimulation of its diversity according to the sound principles of conservation.

Statement-II

Protection of Birds

The budgetary provision for the Centrally Sponsored Schemes during the year 2000-2001;

Sl. No.	Name of the Schemes	Budgetary Provision during 2000-2001 (Rs. in crores)
i.	Development of National Parks & Sanctuaries	15.85
ii.	Eco development in and Around Protected Areas including Tiger Reserves	15.33
iii.	Project Elephant	4.80
iv.	Project Tiger	17.00

Source: Demands for grants of Ministry of Environment & Forests for 2000-2001.

Statement-III

Protection of Birds

The details of inception of the schemes are:

Sl. No.	Name of the Schemes	Detail of inception of the schemes
i.	Development of National Parks & Sanctuaries	During Vth Plan
ii.	Eco development in and Around Protected Areas including Tiger Reserves	1991-92
iii.	Project Elephant	1991-92
iv.	Project Tiger	1st April, 1973

[English]

Power Projects by American Companies

4390. SHRI ANANT GUDHE:
SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR:
SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE:
SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA:
SHRI AJAY SINGH CHAUTALA:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any agreement in the power sector has been signed during the recent Clinton's visit to India;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the extent to which the agreement is likely to help in improving the sagging power situation in the country;

(d) whether any power plants by the American companies are proposed to be set up in the country as per the agreement; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. A Joint Statement on cooperation in Energy and Environment between India and United States of America was signed at Agra on 22.3.2000. The main objective of the Joint Statement is to intensify further cooperation in the fields of clean energy and environment protection. The Joint Statement, also envisages collaborative efforts in research, development, demonstration and transfers of clean energy and renewable energy technologies and for improving effeciency in production and consumption of energy from conventional resources. Progress in these areas can enhance availability of power and increase productivity and efficiency. In order to pursue the goals indicated in the Joint Statement, India and the United States intend to create a Joint Consultative Group on Clean Energy and Environment to foster greater bilateral cooperation, Government to Government dialogue and further encourage public and private sector cooperation in these sectors.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Pay Phone PCOs to Unemployed Youths

4391. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to provide pay-phone P.C.Os. to the unemployed youths on the priority basis in the entire country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have received any complaint regarding violation of the instructions issued in this regard; and

(d) 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) and (b) Sir, STD/ISD/PCOs are allotted to the educated unemployed person including youth. The STD PCO policy has been revised to liberalise the allotment of PCOs. Priority in allotment is given to the war-widow/dependants, SC/ST, handicapped persons and ex-servicemen.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

New Post Offices in Uttar Pradesh

4392. SHRI RAGHURAJ SINGH SHAKYA:
SHRI SHANKAR PRASAD JAISWAL:
DR. BALIRAM:
SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of post offices functioning in Uttar Pradesh as on March 31, 2000, district-wise and category-wise;

(b) the number of post offices upgraded as on March 31, 2000 and proposed to be upgraded in the State during 2000-2001, district-wise;

(c) whether the Government have received several representations for setting up a post office in Vaishali, District Ghaziabad, U.P.;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the time by which the said post office is likely to be set up;

(f) the name of places in Etawah and Oraiya of U.P. which fulfil the prescribed norms for opening of post offices;

(g) the places where these have not yet been opened;

(h) the steps taken by the Government in this regard; and

(i) the number of post offices proposed to be opened in the State particularly in Etawah, Oraiya, Purvanchal and Varanasi during 2000-2001, location-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) The information on the number of Post Offices functioning in Uttar Pradesh as on 31.2.2000 is given in the enclosed statement.

(b) Only one Extra Departmental Branch Post Office Pur in district Ballia was upgraded to a Departmental Sub Post Office during the year 1999-2000. There is no proposal as yet to upgrade any Post Office during the year 2000-2001.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Representation from the following Hon'ble MPs and others have been received.

1. Smt. Krishna Sahi, Former Union Minister.
2. Shri J. Baxla, M.P.
3. Shri B.B. K. Kalara, M.P.
4. Shri A.C. Goel, President, Resident Welfare Association, Vaishali, Ghaziabad.

(e) It is expected to set up a Post Office at Vaishali during the current financial year subject to sanctioning of Posts by Ministry of Finance.

(f) No place in Etawah and Oraiya district of Uttar Pradesh justifies the opening of a new Post Office as per the prescribed norms of the Department.

(g) and (h) No reply called for in view of (f) above.

(i) The target for opening of new Post Offices in the State for the year 2000-2001 is yet to be finalised. The opening of new Post Offices is subject to availability of funds and sanctioning of the required posts by Ministry of Finance.

Statement

New Post Offices in Uttar Pradesh

Classified List of Post Offices in the Districts as on 31.3.2000

S.No.	Name of District	Heads Offices		Deptt. Sub Offices		Extra Deptt. S. Os		Extra Deptt. B. Os.		Total Post Offices	
		Urban	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban	Rural
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
AGRA REGION											
1.	Agra	2	NIL	80	9	6	1	5	248	93	258
2.	Firozabad	1	NIL	13	6	3	1	1	128	18	135
3.	Aligarh	1	NIL	51	21	8	1	1	397	61	419
4.	M'Maya Ngr]	figure included in Aligarh									
5.	Bulandshar	2	NIL	35	14	NIL	7	3	309	40	330
6.	Etah	1	NIL	24	4	1	11	2	268	28	283
7.	Etawah	1	NIL	17	7	2	4	NIL	143	20	154
8.	Auraiya	1	NIL	10	8	1	5	1	130	13	143

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
9.	Jhansi	1	NIL	36	NIL	1	NIL	4	167	42	167
10.	Lalitpur	1	NIL	14	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	140	15	140
11.	Jalaun	1	NIL	23	2	NIL	6	NIL	216	24	224
12.	Mathura	1	NIL	40	12	4	5	1	186	46	203
13.	Mainpuri	1	NIL	15	6	1	7	3	142	20	155
ALLAHABAD REGION											
14.	Allahabad	2	NIL	63	35	4	14	NIL	266	69	315
15.	Kaushambi	NIL	NIL	7	7	2	2	NIL	155	9	164
16.	Pratapgarh	1	NIL	10	32	2	13	NIL	300	13	345
17.	Ghazipur	2	NIL	18	32	NIL	6	1	317	21	355
18.	Jaunpur	1	NIL	22	32	NIL	12	1	358	24	402
19.	Mirzapur	1	NIL	11	3	3	1	NIL	196	15	200
20.	Sonbhadra	NIL	NIL	14	19	NIL	NIL	NIL	90	14	109
21.	Varanasi	2	NIL	64	17	4	7	4	161	74	185
22.	Bhadhoi	NIL	NIL	5	9	NIL	1	NIL	86	5	96
23.	Chandauli	NIL	NIL	8	11	NIL	5	NIL	152	8	168
BAREILLY REGION											
24.	Almora	2	NIL	10	28	1	12	NIL	264	13	304
25.	Bageshwar	NIL	NIL	2	11	NIL	1	NIL	129	2	141
26.	Badaun	1	NIL	27	4	2	3	8	280	38	287
27.	Bareilly	1	NIL	47	5	12	3	12	205	72	213
28.	Pilibhit	1	NIL	8	6	1	2	NIL	126	10	134
29.	Hardoi	2	NIL	21	14	2	3	1	288	26	305
30.	Kheri	1	NIL	14	17	2	3	NIL	348	17	368
31.	Moradabad	1	NIL	35	7	1	2	9	191	46	200
32.	JP Nagar	1	NIL	12	2	2	2	NIL	88	15	92
33.	Rampur	1	NIL	19	2	2	1	2	102	24	105

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
34.	Nainital	2	NIL	19	8	1	11	2	126	24	145
35.	Udham S. Ngr.	NIL	NIL	21	2	NIL	7	NIL	81	21	90
36.	Pithoragarh	1	NIL	8	18	NIL	7	NIL	281	9	306
37.	Champawat	NIL	NIL	2	6	NIL	NIL	NIL	70	2	76
38.	Shajahanpur	1	NIL	27	6	4	NIL	3	207	35	213
DEHRADUN REGION											
39.	Bijnor	2	NIL	38	5	1	5	NIL	251	41	261
40.	Chamoli	1	NIL	12	19	NIL	8	NIL	194	13	221
41.	Rudraprayag	NIL	NIL	2	12	NIL	2	NIL	99	2	113
42.	Dehradun	2	NIL	59	12	2	13	4	159	67	184
43.	Ghaziabad	2	NIL	50	6	5	7	5	140	62	153
44.	G.B. Nagar	NIL	NIL	12	NIL	NIL	3	1	41	13	44
45.	Meerut	2	NIL	58	9	3	4	18	201	81	214
46.	Bagpat	1	NIL	9	5	NIL	5	NIL	88	10	98
47.	Muzaffar Ngr.	2	NIL	40	9	2	14	1	252	45	275
48.	Pauri	3	NIL	10	40	NIL	11	3	367	16	418
49.	Saharanpur	1	NIL	34	10	NIL	2	NIL	163	35	175
50.	Haridwar	1	NIL	33	8	1	NIL	NIL	74	35	82
51.	Tehri	1	NIL	11	14	NIL	5	1	243	13	262
52.	Uttarkashi	NIL	NIL	5	7	NIL	2	NIL	116	5	125
GORAKHPUR REGION											
53.	Azamgarh	1	NIL	13	29	5	4	1	345	20	378
54.	Mau	1	NIL	10	13	1	2	1	177	13	192
55.	Deaoria	1	NIL	22	13	1	6	NIL	238	24	257
56.	Kushinagar	1	NIL	7	9	NIL	1	NIL	199	8	209
57.	Gorakhpur	2	NIL	33	29	1	5	3	317	39	351
58.	Maharajganj	NIL	NIL	5	5	NIL	3	NIL	202	5	210

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
59.	Ballia	2	NIL	16	30	NIL	12	NIL	286	18	328
60.	Bahraich	1	NIL	11	13	NIL	NIL	5	232	17	245
61.	Srawasti	NIL	NIL	2	4	NIL	NIL	NIL	132	2	136
62.	Basti	1	NIL	15	30	1	5	NIL	414	17	449
63.	Sidharth Ngr.	1	NIL	4	10	NIL	2	NIL	101	5	113
64.	S.K. Nagar	NIL	NIL	1	1	NIL	NIL	NIL	106	1	107
65.	Gonda	1	NIL	17	22	1	12	4	282	23	316
66.	Balrampur	1	NIL	6	9	1	3	2	160	10	172
KANPUR REGION											
67.	Kanpur City	3	NIL	88	7	NIL	2	1	74	92	83
68.	Kanpur (D)	NIL	NIL	10	11	NIL	NIL	1	272	11	283
69.	Unnao	1	NIL	17	6	NIL	1	2	243	20	250
70.	Banda	1	NIL	11	6	2	1	1	188	15	195
71.	Sahu. M. Ngr.	NIL	NIL	5	2	NIL	2	1	66	6	70
72.	Hamirpur	1	NIL	8	6	NIL	2	2	123	11	131
73.	Mahoba	NIL	NIL	6	3	NIL	1	1	74	7	78
74.	Fatehnagar	1	NIL	11	17	2	4	NIL	219	14	240
75.	Farukhabad	1	NIL	26	9	4	1	2	110	33	120
76.	Kannauj	NIL	NIL	12	9	1	2	NIL	123	13	134
LUCKNOW REGION											
77.	Lucknow	2	NIL	114	13	8	1	11	137	135	151
78.	Sultanpur	1	NIL	12	36	NIL	5	3	432	16	473
79.	Sitapur	1	NIL	27	13	1	1	4	368	33	382
80.	Barabanki	1	NIL	19	25	1	NIL	NIL	358	21	383
81.	Raebareli	2	NIL	17	35	NIL	14	3	272	22	321
82.	Faizabad	1	NIL	22	30	NIL	NIL	11	282	34	312
83.	Amb'kar Ngr.	1	NIL	8	22	NIL	2	3	370	12	394
	Total	86	NIL	1800	1045	116	341	159	16631	2161	18017

Opening of Post Offices

4393. SHRI BRAJ MOHAN RAM: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of post offices functioning at present in the country State-wise and Union Territory-wise;

(b) the number of post offices opened in the country during the last three years till date, State-wise and U.T.-wise;

(c) whether the Government propose to open new post offices in the country during 2000-2001; and

(d) if so, the details thereof, State-wise and U.T.-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) The information asked for is given in enclosed Statement-I.

(b) The information asked for is given in enclosed Statement-II.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) It is proposed to open 500 Extra Departmental Branch Post offices and 50 Departmental Sub Offices during the current financial year. This is subject to availability of funds and sanctioning of the required posts by Ministry of Finance. The State-wise and Union Territory-wise allocation of target is yet to be finalised.

Statement-I

Opening of Post Offices

S.No.	Circles	No. of Post Offices	Total
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	10192	
2.	Assam	3911	
3.	Bihar	11965	
4.	Delhi	575	
5.	Gujarat	9044	9078
6.	D.N. Haveli (UT) Daman & Diu (DT)	34	
6A.	Haryana	2650	
7.	Himachal	2767	
8.	J&K	1660	
9.	Karnataka	9852	
10.	Kerala Lakshadweep (UT) 10 Mahe (UT) 4	5056	5070
11.	M.P.	11366	
12.	Maharashtra	12469	12727
	Goa (State)	258	
13.	North East (State)		2902
	Arunachal Pradesh	294	
	Manipur	690	

1	2	3	4
	Meghalaya	484	
	Mizoram	400	
	Nagaland	322	
	Tripura	712	
14.	Orissa	8135	
15.	Punjab	3899	3951
	Chandigarh (UT)	52	
16.	Rajasthan	10396	
17.	Tamil Nadu	12072	12167
	Pondicherry (UT)	95	
18.	U.P.	20233	
19.	W. Bengal	8662	8966
	A.N. Islands (UT)	98	
	Sikkim (State)	205	
	Total	148563	

Statement-II

No. of Post offices opened During the last three years

S.No.	Circles	No. of Post offices opened		
		1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	13	12	8
2.	Assam	21	59	31
3.	Bihar	35	74	51
4.	Delhi	7	6	6
5.	Gujarat	21	33	30
	D.N. Haveli (UT)	Nil	Nil	Nil
	Daman & Diu (UT)	Nil	Nil	Nil
6.	Haryana	15	16	16
7.	Himachal Pradesh	4	7	2
8.	J&K	12	24	13
9.	Karnataka	29	16	30

1	2	3	4	5
10.	Kerala	8	15	7
	Lakshadweep (UT)	Nil	Nil	Nil
	Mahe (UT)	Nil	Nil	Nil
11.	M.P.	43	55	31
12.	Maharashtra	37	70	48
	Goa (State)	1	2	5
13.	North East (States)			
	Arunachal Pradesh	1	10	6
	Manipur	3	15	
	Meghalaya	1	5	6
	Mizoram	4	7	—
	Nagaland	8	13	2
	Tripura	4	7	1
14.	Orissa	24	13	16
15.	Punjab	14	14	13
	Chandigarh (UT)	Nil	Nil	Nil
16.	Rajasthan	34	31	25
17.	Tamil Nadu	24	12	17
	Pondicherry (UT)	Nil	Nil	Nil
18.	U.P.	63	85	12
19.	W. Bengal	24	40	49
	A.N. Islands (UT)			1
	Sikkim (States)	4	7	1
	Total:	454	648	427

[English]

National Environment Awareness Campaign

4394. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any steps to bring awareness about the problem of environment among the common citizens;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the amount allocated by the Government to each State under National Environment Awareness Campaign during 1998 and 1999; and

(d) the success achieved by the Government in the implementation of this campaign?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Some of the steps taken by the Government to bring awareness about the problem of environment among the common citizens are:

— Launching of the National Environment Awareness Campaign.

— Setting up of Eco-clubs in Schools.

— Setting up of two Centres of Excellence on Environment Education.

— Supporting the organisation of Seminars/ Symposia/Workshops on environmental themes.

— Constitution of Paryavaran Vahinis in selected districts.

— Supporting the production of films/audio visuals on environmental issues and their telecast.

(c) A Statement showing the details of financial assistance provided for each State/UT under the National Environment Awareness Campaign during 1998-99 and 1999-2000, is attached.

(d) The Campaign has been quite successful as is evident from the increase in the number of participating organisations from 115 in 1986, when the campaign was launched, to 4040 in 1999.

Statement

"National Environment Awareness Campaign" Raised by Dr. Laxminarayan Pandey

S.No.	Name of the State/U.T.	Financial Assistance Provided (Amount in Rs.)	
		1998-99	1999-2000
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	17,32,000	17,28,000
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	1,00,000	89,000
3.	Assam	6,39,000	6,93,000
4.	Bihar	24,67,000	26,27,000
5.	Delhi	6,11,000	5,06,000
6.	Goa	37,000	58,000
7.	Gujarat	6,00,000	6,77,000
8.	Haryana	3,47,000	3,38,000
9.	Himachal Pradesh	4,24,000	4,91,000
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	9,51,000	6,25,000
11.	Karnataka	7,10,000	5,24,000
12.	Kerala	12,03,000	13,21,000
13.	Madhya Pradesh	18,12,000	19,24,000
14.	Maharashtra	8,26,000	9,97,500
15.	Manipur	8,81,000	9,44,000
16.	Meghalaya	40,000	27,000
17.	Mizoram	1,62,000	2,37,000
18.	Nagaland	—	—
19.	Orissa	19,20,000	16,95,500
20.	Punjab	3,72,000	4,28,000
21.	Rajasthan	6,11,500	6,89,000
22.	Sikkim	2,55,000	2,72,000
23.	Tamil Nadu	14,02,000	14,48,000
24.	Tripura	2,26,000	3,37,000
25.	Uttar Pradesh	30,55,000	29,33,500
26.	West Bengal	12,76,000	11,85,000
27.	Chandigarh	4,00,000	2,39,000
28.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	15,000	20,000
29.	Pondicherry	46,000	40,000
	Total:	2,31,20,500	2,30,93,500

Construction of New National Highway between Goa to Hubli

4395. SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to construct new National Highway between Goa to Hubli;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the total costs of estimates; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No such proposal has been received in this Ministry for consideration.

Matrimonial Cases Pending in Courts

4396. SHRI SAVSHIBHAI MAKWANA: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of matrimonial disputes cases pending in various courts in the country and the number out of these cases pending in the Supreme Court as on date;

(b) whether the Government have any plan to create 'Lok Adalat' type court related to matrimonial disputes;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether N.G.O.'s or Social Welfare Group's are likely to be given representation in such adalats; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI): (a) The number of cases relating to family law/matrimonial matters pending in the Supreme Court as on date is 57.

As per available information, 65,398 cases were pending during 1997-98 (on varying dates) in Family Courts in the country.

The information regarding the number of matrimonial disputes in other courts, *i.e.*, High Courts and subordinate Courts in the country will be collected and placed on the Table of the House.

(b) and (c) There is no proposal pending with the Government to create 'Lok Adalat' type court related to matrimonial disputes. However, the 'Family Courts' under the Family Courts Act, 1984 are set up for the speedy settlement of family disputes, where emphasis is laid on conciliation and achieving socially desirable results without adherence to rigid rules of procedure and evidence.

(d) In some 'Family Courts', NGO's or Social Welfare Group's also are allowed to make representations on behalf of parties.

(e) Does not arise.

Expansion of Port Trusts in Country

4397. SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have formulated any schemes for expansion of port trusts in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the total expenditure likely to be incurred on these schemes; and

(c) the likely increase in the Government revenue after expansion of these port trusts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) and (b) Steps have been taken to create additional capacity in existing major ports under various plan schemes as well as through private sector investment. A new Port at Ennore, 25 Kms. North of Chennai is being constructed at an estimated cost of Rs. 950 crores with assistance from Asian Development Bank with a capacity to handle 16 million tonnes of coal. A total 157 million tonnes of capacity is expected to be added in Major Ports during the 9th Five Year Plan (1997-2002). An investment of Rs. 8543 crores has been envisaged for Major Ports during 9th Five Year Plan. In addition, an investment approximately to the tune of Rs. 8000 crores is targeted to be raised through private sector participation.

(c) The Government does not earn any revenue from the Port Trusts.

Afforestation in Maharashtra

4398. SHRI NAMDEO HARBAJI DIWATHE: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have recently reviewed the programme/schemes/projects for afforestation in Maharshtra;

(b) if so, the details of funds allocated, released and actually utilised for the last three years, year-wise; and project-wise alongwith physical and other related achievements;

(c) the details of action plan finalised for 2000-2001 for Maharashtra and allocation of funds therefor; and

(d) the details of fresh proposals received from the State Government and action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) The ongoing afforestation programmes, schemes and projects are reviewed periodically for the entire country, including Maharashtra.

(b) and (c) Details of Central assistance (CA) allocated, released and utilised along with physical achievements, year-wise, scheme-wise, for the last three

years, and amount allocated for 2000-2001, for Maharashtra under the afforestation schemes of the Ministry of Environment and Forests, are given in Annexure.

(d) Maharshtra Forestry Project - Phase II titled "Natural Forest Management Project" has been forwarded to the World Bank for possible external asistance. Area proposed to be covered under this project is 2.34 million hectares, which is about 42% of the forest area of the State, with an investment of 599.30 crore over 7 years.

Strike by Lawyers

4399. SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI:
SHRI SHRINIWAS PATIL:
SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE:
SHRI SHIVAJI MANE:
SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:
SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI:
SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR:
SHRI P.C. THOMAS:
SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH:
SHRI SUNIL KHAN:
SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE:

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

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the newsitem captioned "Videshi Vakilon ke mudde par February main hertal va virodh pradarshan" appearing in 'Dainik Jagran' dated January 23, 2000;

(b) if so, whether lawyers of various courts in the capital are on strike in protest against the proposed amendments to the Advocate Act, 1961;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the disposal of various cases int he judiciary have come to a halt due to the strike of lawyers;

(e) if so, whether his ministry has approached the Supreme Court to settle this issue;

(f) if so, the details thereof;

(g) whether the Government have appointed a Commission to inquire into incident of lathicharge on lawyers during the demonstration of February 24, 2000;

(h) if so, the details of terms and reference of the Commission thereof; and

(i) if not, the steps taken by the Government to redress the grievances of the striking lawyers?

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

(b) and (c) Lawyers went on strike in various parts of the country with effect from 24.2.2000 protesting against CPC (Amendment) Act, 1999 and the entry of foreign lawyers and continuing tests for lawyers.

(d) Yes, in those courts where the strike was effective.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

(g) The Government has appointed a Commission of Inquiry presided by Mr. Justice G.T. Nanavati, a retired Judge of the Supreme Court of India.

(h) The terms of reference of the Commission are—

(i) to inquire into the facts, circumstances and events leading to the use of force by the police that is lathi charge and use of tear-gas etc. on the lawyers' demonstration held at Parliament Street, New Delhi on 24th February, 2000;

(ii) to examine and report whether the force used by the police was excessive and disproportionate and, if so, fix the responsibility on the erring police officials; and

(iii) to recommend measures that need to be taken to avoid occurrence of such incidents in future.

(i) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Funds for Afforestation

4400. SHRI RAMSHAKAL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether his ministry has demanded more funds for afforestation programme;

(b) if so, the details of the programmes proposed to be launched in this regard alongwith the total amount required for this purpose; and

(c) the acreage of land area to be brought under this programme in each of the States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) to (c) On the basis of the proposals received from the State Governments, Ministry of Environment and Forests has formulated the National Forestry Action Plan (NFAP)- a 20 year perspective plan to bring one-third of the country's land mass under tree cover through sustainable development and protection of forests. The physical targets and funds required for implementation of the purpose are given, State-wise, in enclosed Statement. The NFAP was presented on 27th September, 1999 to various multilateral/bilateral donor agencies for funding. The State Governments have also been requested to step up allocation to the forestry sector in the State Plans.

Statement

Funds for Afforestation

Financial and Physical Targets of the States (for 20 years) under the National Forestry Action Plan

States	Financial Targets (Rupees in million)	Physical Targets (million hectares)
1	2	3
Andhra Pradesh	51334.12	4.93
Arunachal Pradesh	14113.59	0.15
Assam	20720.35	1.10
Bihar	62067.66	4.21
Goa	1383.97	0.03
Gujarat	23246.66	2.62
Haryana	15767.29	0.87
Himachal Pradesh	108514.70	0.90
Jammu & Kashmir	57177.19	6.27
Karnataka	113377.00	3.21
Kerala	26082.89	0.26
Madhya Pradesh	230289.44	7.39
Maharashtra	84914.21	3.36
Manipur	19436.16	1.08
Meghalaya	1762.65	—
Mizoram	19220.90	0.62
Nagaland	4623.50	—
Orissa	27152.33	0.44
Punjab	22612.68	0.66
Rajasthan	191144.88	5.14
Sikkim	8493.07	0.28
Tamil Nadu	27188.00	0.71
Tripura	4623.50	0.08
Uttar Pradesh	32208.18	3.24
West Bengal	57278.85	0.61
A&N Islands	7587.83	0.07
Total	1232321.60	48.23

Duty of Petroleum Products

4401. SHRI ARUN KUMAR:
SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI:

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

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn towards the news-item captioned "Naik says duty cut can avert diesel price hike" appearing in the 'Pioneer' dated January 21, 2000;

(b) if so, whether the Government have prepared any concrete proposal in regard to duty on petroleum products;

(c) if so, the outlines thereof;

(d) whether this proposal has been sent to the departments concerned for approval; 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 PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (e) In November, 1997 Government accepted the recommendations of Expert Technical Group (ETG) and decided the phased programme of dismantling of Administered Pricing Mechanism including rationalisation of duty structure (customs/excise) of crude oil and petroleum products during the transition phase of reforms. Also there were pre-budget consultation between Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas and Ministry of Finance to consider reducing import duties in view of the steep hike in global product prices. The details of existing excise/customs duties and duties (excise/customs) proposed in the Union Budget presented in the Parliament on 29.02.2000 are given in enclosed Statement-I and II.

Statement-I

Excise Duties on Petroleum Products

(in percentage)

	Effective rates 1999-2000	Proposed in the Union Budget for 2000-01 (Cenvat+special excise duty)
Motor Spirit	32	32
Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG)	8	8
Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG)	8	16
Furnace Oil/Naphtha and Low Sulpher Heavy Stock-General Use	16	16
Furnace Oil/Naphtha and Low Sulpher Heavy Stock-Fertilisers	16	16
Kerosene	8	8
High Speed Diesel/Light Diesel Oil	16	16
Aviation Turbine Fuel	16	16
Bitumen	16	16
Others	16	16

Statement-II

Customs Duties on Petroleum Products

Item Name	Effective Rates 1999-2000	Proposed in the Union Budget for 2000-2001
1	2	3
Motor Spirit	30%	25%
High Speed Diesel	30%	25%
Aviation Turbine Fuel	30%	25%
Light Diesel Oil	30%	25%

1	2	3
Finance Oil	30%	25%
Bitumen	30%	25%
Low Sulpher Heavy Stock	30%	25%
Liquified Petroleum Gas (LPG)	10%	10%
Naphtha	5%	5%
Kerosene (PDS)	Nil	Nil
Kerosene (for manufacture of LAB/N-Paraffin)	5%	5%
Liquified Natural Gas (LNG)	5%	5%
All other petroleum products	30%	25%
Kerosene (Parallel Marketing Scheme)	30%	35%

[English]

Eco-Development Project

4402. SHRI KOLUR BASAVANAGOUD: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the amount spent to conserve the bio-diversity in the Nagarahole National Park in Karnataka under the World Bank-Global Environment Facility funded Eco-Development Project;

(b) whether the Union Government have directed that no protection staff should be used for this purpose;

(c) if so, whether the protection staff was used for this project; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) An amount of Rs. 11.48 Crore has been spent to conserve the bio-diversity in Nagarhole National Park under India Eco-Development Project from the date of inception of the project that is from 1995-96 to 1999-2000.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise

(d) Does not arise.

Development of Sanctuaries, Parks in Rajasthan

4403. CH. TEJVEER SINGH:
PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT:

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

(a) whether Rajasthan Government has submitted any schemes for the development and maintenance of sanctuaries, national parks and forest reserves;

(b) if so, the details of the schemes approved; and

(c) the details of those schemes which have not been given clearance so far indicating their cost and the Centre's contribution therein?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) to (c) Proposals seeking Central assistance of Rs. 270.11 lakhs were received, against an allocation of Rs. 70 lakhs, from the Rajasthan Gvoernment during the year 1999-2000, under the centrally sponsored

scheme, 'Development of National Parks and Sanctuaries'. Against this Rs. 66.54 lakhs were released for the following sanctuaries:

Sl.No.	Name of the Sanctuary	Rs. in lakhs
1.	Basai	5.09
2.	Sitamata	20.10
3.	Jaisamand	11.25
4.	Sajjangarh	11.45
5.	Kumbhalgarh	13.15
6.	Bensrodgarh	5.50

Proposals for release of Rs. 20.00 lakhs and Rs. 16.00 lakhs for Jawahar Sagar and Talchapper Sanctuaries respectively, could not cleared for non-receipt of full information from the State Government.

Fake LPG Cylinders

4404. DR. V. SAROJA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the circulation of fake gas cylinders in several parts of the country; and

(b) if so, the steps taken to prevent manufacture of such fake cylinders and to take suitable action against offenders?

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) Oil Marketing Companies are procuring LPG cylinders from the manufacturers, approved by Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas and holding statutory approval from Chief Controller of Explosives (CCOE) and Bureau of Indian Standard (BIS).

Oil Industry technical teams make surprise visits to the enlisted suppliers to check manufacturing activity/ quality as per the Indian Standard specifications and in case technical deficiencies are observed during the visit, the placement of orders on such units is suspended by industry. During the last three years, there have been no reported violations by any manufacturers from whom the Oil Industry has been procuring LPG cylinder.

[Translation]

Plan Allocation for Development of Environment and Forests in M.P.

4405. SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of plan allocation for the development of environment and forest in Madhya Pradesh during the last three years; and

(b) the extent of amount utilised out of the plan allocation for the said purpose excluding salary and maintenance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Environment and Forests has released an amount of Rs. 1433.76 lakhs, Rs. 2486.99 lakhs and Rs. 3340.88 lakhs during 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000 respectively to the State of Madhya Pradesh for the deelopment of Environment and Forests. The whole amount is to be spent on the components approved for taking up developmental activities under various schemes.

[English]

Oil Exploration on Mumbai High

4406. SHRI ANNASAHEB M.K. PATIL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received the progress report of oil exploration on Mumbai High;

(b) if so, the details thereof in terms of targets set and achieved both physical and financial;

(c) whether the Government propose to review the plan for Mumbai High and details thereof; and

(d) the details of investment proposed on ongoing and new oil exploration projects in Mumbai High 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): (a) to (d)

(i) Progress reports on exploration programmes undertaken by ONGC in Mumbai offshore region are received and reviewed regularly in the Ministry.

(ii) The targets and achievements of exploration activities undertaken by ONGC, during 1999-2000 and targets for 2000-2001, in Mumbai offshore region are given below:

Activity	1999-2000		2000-01
	BE	Actual*	(BE)
Physical+			
Survey (LK)	92000	79185	23500
Exploratory drilling			
Metreage ('000 M)	72.20	80.29	90.85
Wells (Nos.)	26	27	33
Financial (Plan Outlay)+			
Survey (Rs. cr.)	171.24	163.97 (RE)	88.68
Exploratory			
Drilling (Rs. cr.)	510.26	743.95 (RE)	778.34

*Provisional
BE: Budget Estimates
RE: Revised Estimates
+ Excludes Deepwater

Modernisation of Cargo Ships for Global Competition

4407. SHRI RAJAIAH MALYALA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to modernise Cargo ships to face global competition;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the target and allocation made for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. In order to give continued impetus to the growth and development of shipping sector in the country, the Government have set a target to achieve 9 million Gross Registered Tonnage (GRT) during 9tn Plan period by acquisition of modern ships. The Shipping Corporation of India, a Public Sector shipping company had earlier proposed to acquire 53 vessels aggregating to 23.84 lakhs DWT during 9th Plan period for which Government has allocated an outlay of Rs. 5752 crores. The SCI has revised their acquisition programme and now propose to acquire 21 vessels aggregating to 16.85 lakhs DWT during the said period.

New Road Projects in Rajasthan

4408. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to take up new Road Projects in the Backward Area of Rajasthan; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Surface Transport is primarily concerned with the development and maintenance of National Highways only. Their development and maintenance is a continuous process based on requirements of traffic without any distinction with regard to region.

Communication Facilities in U.P.

4409. SHRI PRAKASH MANI TRIPATHI:
SHRI SHANKAR PRASAD JAISWAL:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to improve communication facilities in the North Eastern portion of Uttar Pradesh particularly in the Varanasi;

(b) if so, whether any special budget made available for the purpose in view of poor communication facilities there;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the number of cellular telephones provided at present and proposed to be provided in the said area in the year 2000-2001?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) Yes, Sir. It has been planned to open exchanges in all Block Headquarters and also to clear the waiting list as on 31.3.2000 progressively by 31.3.2001. All the exchanges in North-Eastern district of Uttar Pradesh are being covered in phased manner with reliable media by laying of OFC cable to improve STD services. In Varanasi district 85 exchanges are working with capacity of 1,34,704 lines and 1,00,298 working connections as on 31.3.2000. Nine new exchanges are planned to be opened in 2000-2001 in Varanasi district.

(b) and (c) Required funds will be made available for the development plans for telecommunication facilities in Uttar Pradesh (East).

(d) At present 1,08,571 cellular mobile phones are working in U.P. (East) including Varanasi and these are being provided by private operators.

[Translation]

Production of Crude Oil and Gas in Maharashtra

4410. SHRI UTTAMRAO PATIL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been an increase in the production of crude oil and gas in Maharashtra during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the actual availability of crude oil and gas in Maharashtra during the Eighth Five Year Plan as against the plan estimate?

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) There is no production of oil and gas in the State of Maharashtra.

[English]

Utilization of Funds by Ports

4411. SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the amounts earmarked for ports have been fully utilised in the past three years;

(b) if so, the details of utilisation with figures of allotment for each major and minor ports during the above period, year-wise and port-wise;

(c) the reasons of non-utilisation of funds in each case;

(d) the details of activities proposed for the Cochin Port, Kerala during the current year; and

(e) the steps taken to increase the capacity of Cochin Port?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) to (c) The plan outlays earmarked for the Major Ports and utilisation thereof during the last three years is given in enclosed Statement-I. Minor Ports come under the jurisdiction of the State Governments and therefore, such information in respect of Minor Ports is not available.

The reasons for shortfall in plan outlay utilisations inter-alia, are:

(i) Delay in sanctioning of new schemes

(ii) Delay in commencement of work due to monsoons.

(iii) Contractual disputes/litigation

(iv) Delay in finalisation of tenders and award of contracts.

(v) Deferment of projects/schemes.

(d) and (e) The details of the plan schemes including capacity yielding ones costing Rs. 5 crores and above, to be taken up by the Cochin Port Trust in the Annual Plan 2000-2001 is given in enclosed Statement-II.

Statement-I

Utilisation of Funds by Ports

Plan Outlays Earmarked for Major Ports and Utilisation During last three years

(Rs. in crores)

Sl.No.	Name of the Major Port	1997-98		1998-99		1999-2000	
		Outlay	Actual Expdr.	Outlay	Actual Expdr.	Outlay	Actual Expdr.
1.	Calcutta including Haldia	45.22	28.11	30.10	61.36	30.00	82.24
2.	Mumbai	156.24	75.61	110.90	52.46	223.10	200.32
3.	JL Nehru	94.86	106.75	70.50	21.16	50.00	50.51
4.	Chennai	228.38	123.10	170.00	225.86	379.00	289.88
5.	Cochin	16.21	10.04	10.00	19.93	20.00	21.53
6.	Visakhapatnam	70.50	55.29	50.00	51.30	51.80	91.30
7.	Kandla	85.08	50.90	65.50	50.19	71.80	62.99
8.	Mormugao	15.42	7.78	15.00	31.05	30.00	25.50
9.	Paradip	224.84	117.62	120.00	199.73	344.00	235.47
10.	New Mangalore	31.44	20.58	30.00	14.81	44.00	40.67
11.	Tuticorin	34.18	16.07	55.00	48.36	170.00	196.44
	Total:	1002.37	611.85	727.00	776.21	1413.70	1296.85

Statement-II

Annual Plan 2000-2001 in respect of Cochin Port Trust

(Rs. in crores)

Sl. No.	Name of the Scheme	Estimated Cost	Approved Outlay 2000-2001
1	2	3	4
1.	Providing 3 MVA Diesel Generator Set	7.70	0.01
2.	Upgradation and strengthening of roads.	5.50	1.70
3.	Augmentation of container handling facilities -3rd shift operation (Replacement of LD container handling equipments/LD mobile cranes)	7.00	0.01
4.	Installation of 2 Nos. 40T.RTG cranes for container Terminal	15.00	0.01
5.	Deepening of channel upto 12.8 m draft vessels	50.00	5.00

1	2	3	4
6.	Reconstruction of BTP	23.00	7.00
7.	Replacement of dredger 'GHD Bolghatty"	140.00	1.00
8.	Installation of 110 KV substation in the new reclaimed area	8.50	0.01
9.	Installation of 1 No. Low profile 40 to container Handling Gantry Crane	35.50	0.01
10.	Development of South end reclamation area	6.00	0.80
11.	Housing for staff	6.00	0.50
12.	Improvement to NTB	5.00	0.02
13.	Replacement of Mattancherry Wharf	20.00	0.27
14.	Replacement of Mattancherry Bridge	30.00	0.10
15.	Extension of Ernakulam Wharf	15.00	0.01
16.	Conversion of Q5, Q6, Q7 berths into container berth	222.00	0.01
17.	Development of Transhipment Container Terminal at Vallarpadam	1200.00	7.00
18.	Construction of LNG/LPG Terminal at Puthuypin	2000.00	0.02

Deep Sea Oil Exploration

4412. SHRI DILEEP SANGHANI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned," Rs. 300 crores ONGC plan for deep-sea oil exploration in Gulf of Kutch" appearing in the 'Hindustan Times' dated March 23, 2000;

(b) if so, the details of drilling depths, risk involved and ultradeep venture;

(c) the number of contracts signed and wells drilled out of the above blocks; and

(d) the reasons for not attending the other blocks?

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) Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC) has applied for one Petroleum Exploration Licence (PEL) in deep water area of Kutch. The study of the data indicates that many prospects are present in the water depth range between 1500 to 2000 (plus) metres. The drilling depth depends upon the location of the sites for drilling over the identified prospects.

Oil exploration is a risk filled venture. Drilling in deep water requires deep water rigs and other technologies. Keeping the opportunities and the challenges in view, ONGC plans to acquire both 2D and 3D seismic data, the evaluation of which would decide prospects for taking up exploratory drilling including selection of drilling site. ONGC has a deep water rig capable of drilling in water depths of upto 900 metre.

(c) and (d) Seventy two blocks were offered to private (Foreign and Indian) companies for oil exploration in 1991. Contracts were signed for five blocks, of which four blocks have/had participating interest by foreign companies. Five wells were drilled in three signed blocks. The offer of blocks for exploration and exploitation is a continuous process. Since 1991 after the IVth round was announced, four more exploration rounds, one joint venture exploration round and one round under New Exploration Licensing Policy have been announced in which many of the blocks offered under IVth round in 1991 have been re-offered along with new blocks.

LPG Connections to Assam

4413. SHRI ABDUL HAMID: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons on the waiting list of LPG connections in Assam as on January 31, 2000 district-wise;

(b) the time by which waiting lists are likely to be cleared;

(c) the number of LPG connections released during 1998 and 1999, year-wise; and

(d) the number of LPG connections allotted to Assam during the years 1998 and 1999?

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) The total waiting list registered with LPG distributors in the State of Assam as on 31.1.2000 was 34969 and the same has been liquidated by the Oil Marketing Companies.

(c) and (d) Total number of LPG connections released by Oil Marketing Companies are about 0.56 lakhs and 2.40 lakhs during the year 1998 and 1999 respectively. New LPG 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.

LPG Pipelines in Tamil Nadu

4414. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up LPG pipelines in Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, the district/areas proposed to be covered under the scheme;

(c) the source from which the pipeline is likely to receive gas;

(d) whether the Government propose to include Madurai and Theni districts in view of long waiting lists for LPG connections in the region; 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) At present, there is no such proposal with the Government.

Royalty for Oil/Gas Extraction

4415. SHRI A. KRISHNASWAMY:
SHRI MOINUL HASSAN:

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

(a) the details of the States receiving compensation/ royalty for the oil/gas extracted from there and such amount paid during the last three years, State-wise;

(b) whether Tamil Nadu is receiving such specialities for the oil/gas being extracted from there; and

(c) if so, the location and details of per day output of oil/gas being extracted from Tamil Nadu?

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.

Electronic Telephone Exchanges in Kerala

4416. SHRI K. MURALEEDHARAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the name of places where electronic telephone exchanges with their capacity proposed to be set up in Kerala particularly in Calicut district, district-wise; 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) and (b) Thirty Seven new electronic telephone exchanges are tentatively proposed to be set up in Kerala during the year 2000-2001. District-wise name of the places with their capacities are given in enclosed Statement. However, this is subject to some changes based on further review.

Statement

Details of new electronic telephone Exchanges tentatively proposed to be set up in Kerala during the year 2000-2001

S.No.	Name of Place	SSA	District	Type	Capacity
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Thiruvanvandoor	Alleppey	Alleppey	E-10B	2000
2.	GM Office	Calicut	Calicut	WLL	1000
3.	Payyampilly	Calicut	Wayanad	MEM RSU	1000
4.	Malapattam	Cannanore	Cannanore	OCM	1000
5.	Dharmadam	Cannanore	Cannanore	OCB RSU	1000
6.	Eranholi	Cannanore	Cannanore	OCB RSU	2000
7.	Kodiyeri	Cannanore	Cannanore	OCB RSU	2000
8.	Edappally	Ernakulam	Ernakulam	AXE RSU	4000
9.	Choondy	Ernakulam	Ernakulam	AXE RSU	2000
10.	Ezhikkara	Ernakulam	Ernakulam	SBM	1000
11.	Pattimattom	Ernakulam	Ernakulam	AXE RSU	2000
12.	Kumaranalloor	Kottayam	kottayam	OCB RSU	2000
13.	Mooledam	Kottayam	Kottayam	OCB RSU	1000
14.	Vehyannur	Kottayam	Kottayam	OCB RSU	2000
15.	Akamalavaram	Palghat	Palghat	RAX	184
16.	Puthur	Palghat	Palghat	OCB RSU	2000
17.	Yakkara	Palghat	Palghat	E-10B RLU	1000
18.	Peringanad	Pathanamthitta	Pathanamthitta	XL RSU	1000
19.	Moozhiyar	Pathanamthitta	Pathanamthitta	RAX	184
20.	Mukhathala	Quilon	Quilon	OCB RSU	2500
21.	Mukkada	Quilon	Quilon	MBM RSU	3000
22.	Srayikkad	Quilon	Quilon	SBM	1000
23.	Channakkamaon	Quilon	Quilon	RAX	184
24.	Kadukutty	Trichur	Trichur	SBM	1200
25.	Edakkazhiyur	Trichur	Trichur	E-18B RLU	2000
26.	Arimpur	Trichur	Trichur	MBM RSU	2000
27.	Valakkavu	Trichur	Trichur	OCB RSU	2000
28.	Meenamukulam	Trivandrum	Trivandrum	AXE RSU	1000
29.	Pongumoodu	Trivandrum	Trivandrum	MBM RSU	2000

1	2	3	4	5	6
30.	Pattom	Trivandrum	Trivandrum	OCB RSU	3000
31.	Anayara	Trivandrum	Trivandrum	5ESS RSM	4000
32.	Udiyankulangara	Trivandrum	Trivandrum	SBM	1000
33.	Pudukulangara	Trivandrum	Trivandrum	SBM	1000
34.	Pullampara	Trivandrum	Trivandrum	SBM	1000
35.	Nagarur	Trivandrum	Trivandrum	XL RSU	2000
36.	Kottoor	Trivandrum	Trivandrum	SBM	1000
37.	Chengottukonam	Trivandrum	Trivandrum	SBM	1000

Private Investment in Power Sector

4417. DR. A.D.K. JAYASEELAN: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have asked the State Governments to avoid competitive offer on power projects;

(b) if so, the names of States adopting competitive methods to attract private investment in power sector so far; and

(c) the steps taken to ensure uniform policy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) Competitive bidding for award of power projects to private sector was made mandatory after 18.2.1995. However, certain categories of projects, where Competitive Bidding route have been exempted are mentioned below.

(i) Expansion project.

(ii) Joint venture projects between State Electricity Board (SEB)/Public Sector Unit (PSU) and private company where the SEB/PSU holds majority shares of the joint venture company.

(iii) Generating stations exclusively for captive use by an industry or a group of industries and set up by generating companies as long as no sale to State Grid is involved.

(iv) Power projects based on heavy bottom residue and set up by existing refineries.

(b) As per information available, some of the States who have adopted competitive bidding procedure for inviting private investment in power include Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Haryana, Maharashtra, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan and Tamil Nadu.

(c) The policy on competitive bidding for award of power projects to private sector is a uniform one equally applicable to all State Governments and no distinction has been made in this regard.

North Madras II Power Project

4418. DR. C. KRISHNAN: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated cost of the North Madras II Power Project;

(b) the salient features of this project;

(c) whether any agreement has been arrived at between the promoters of the project and the Tamil Nadu Electricity Board in regard to the power purchase;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the total quantum of coal required for the project and the sources through which it is likely to be met; and

(f) the time by which the power is liekly to be generated from the said project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (d) The North Madras Thermal Power Project Stage-II (1050 MW) in Tamil Nadu being promoted by M/s. Videocon Power Limited has been accorded techno-economic clearance of Central Electricity Authority on 3.4.1996 at an estimated

completed cost of US$ 585.96 million + Rupees 2402.24 crores (at an exchange rate US$ 1=Rs. 34.50/-). A Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) has been entered into between Tamil Nadu Electricity Board and the promoters on 2.2.1998.

(e) The Screening Committee of the Ministry of Mines and Minerals (Department of Coal) has allotted the Utkal-B1 Block in the Talcher Coalfields for meeting the requirement of 5.75 metric tonnes per annum of raw coal for the project. The promoters are proposing to partly import coal to meet the stipulations of the Ministry of Environment and Forests till the coal mine becomes operative.

(f) The first unit of the project is scheduled for commissioning 42 months from the date of financial closure by the promoters and the second unit four months thereafter.

Development of Forests in Andhra Pradesh

4419. SHRI A. NARENDRA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Andhra Pradesh Government has submitted any project for development of forests;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have cleared the project; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) and (b) The State Government has prepared a comprehensive plan of 20 years as State Forestry Action Programme (SFAP) for sustainable development of forests in the State. During this period, besides developing and strengthening the institutions, State has proposed a programme for regeneration of 2.65 million-hectare natural forests and plantation on 2.28 million-hectare non-forest lands. Total financial requirement for these programmes of 20 years is Rs. 51334.1 million, which is, much more than the current level of financial investments in forestry sector of the State.

(c) Government has accepted the proposals of SFAP and have incorporated in the National Forestry Action Programme (NFAP) which has been released by the Ministry on 9th August, 1999.

(d) The Government have organized a conference on International Agencies' Support to NFAP-India on 27th September, 1999 to mobilize the external aid for the projects. Central Government has also written to all States to mobilize funds from all possible sources for the sustainable development of forests.

[Translation]

Black-Listed Telecommunications Firms

4420. SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY:
SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Department of Telecommunications including MTNL has initiated any action against the telecommunications firms which have been black-listed;

(b) if so, the details of such firms and reasons for being black-listed, State-wise;

(c) the total amount of losses reported in the country as a result thereof and pertaining to theft of cables and other equipments in Calcutta during the last three years; and

(d) the action taken by the Government against these firms?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) and (d) The Department has not made any new contract with the black listed firms during the ban period.

(b) The following Telecommunications Firms have been black listed by the Department of Telecom (DOT)/ MTNL:

(I) M/S. TELEMATICS SYSTEMS LTD., CHENNAI:

The firms as balck listed by the DOT for a period of three years w.e.f. 29.9.97. The firm participated in DOT Tender in November 1994-95 and emerged as L1 bidder. The firm did not accept the Advance Purchase Order and backed out. The firm was black listed and business activities with them were banned for three years.

(II) M/S. ARM LTD. HYDERABAD:

The firm was black listed by DOT w.e.f. 8.8.1997 for a period of 2 years on the basis of recommendations of CBI. However, considering the appeal preferred by the

Firm the ban period was reduced to 8 months and lifted w.e.f. 8.4.1998.

(III) M/S. RAJAN ENTERPRISES, DELHI:

The firm has been black listed by MTNL because of the supply of poor and substandard items.

(IV) M/S. VIKAS TOUR & TRAVELS, NEW DELHI:

The firm has been black listed by MTNL as it submitted forged documents for obtaining tender for hiring of vehicles.

(V) M/S. HCL COMNET SYSTEM & SERVICES LTD.

The firm did not supply computer items against the purchase order issued and therefore, was black listed by MTNL.

(c) The total amount of losses due to theft of cable in Calcutta Telephone during the last three years is given below:

Year	Amount
1997-98	6,08,060
1998-99	6,000
1999-2000	14,000

All the above mentioned theft cases have been reported to the police stations and preventive steps have been taken to prevent theft of cables in future.

SC/ST Posts lying vacant

4421. SHRI TUFANI SAROJ: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether vacancies reserved for SCs/STs have been filled up in various departments under his Ministry;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether such vacancies are still lying vacant in large number;

(d) if so, the number of such vacancies at present category-wise; and

(e) the immediate steps proposed to be taken by the Government to fill up the said posts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

Uniform Power Tariff

4422. SHRI CHADA SURESH REDDY: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to introduce uniform electricity rates throughout the country for satisfaction of all customers;

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

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (c) The tariff for sale of electricity to different categories of consumers is fixed by the State Electricity Boards with the approval of the concerned State Governments. There is no proposal to bring electricity rates at par throughout the country.

However, with a view to rationalising electricity tariffs, Government of India have enacted Electricity Regulatory Commissions Act, 1998 enabling the State Governments to constitute State Electricity Regulatory Commissions who will have powers to determine the tariff for electricity. So far, 14 States have constituted/notified State Electricity Regulatory Commissions.

Construction of Roads and Bridges in Assam

4423. SHRI A.F. GOLAM OSMANI: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the NABARD and World Bank are funding construction of Roads and Bridges in Assam;

(b) if so, whether there is proposal to take up the road from Raha to Moinbori via Kalgachia under scheme is funded by NABARD or other agencies; and

(c) if so, the details thereof

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) to (c) The Ministry of Surface Transport is responsible for National Highways only and Roads other than National

Highways are the responsibility of concerned State Government. Road from Raha to Moinbori *via* Kalgachia is not a National Highway. No work on National Highway in Assam is being funded by NABARD and World Bank.

Supply of Bitumen to Andhra Pradesh

4424. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether public sector oil companies have stopped supplying Bitumen to users in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, whether users of bitumen in Andhra Pradesh are being forced to purchase bitumen from distant areas;

(c) if so, the reasons for holding up road development work in rural areas in Andhra Pradesh; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government 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) No Sir. Oil marketing companies are continuing the supplies of bitumen in Andhra Pradesh. Due to product availability constraints from the normal source of supply due to certain technical reasons, the availability of bitumen in Southern region was affected. The oil companies are maintaining supplies of bitumen, to Andhra Pradesh from alternate sources to meet the demand.

Power Projects in Gujarat

4425. SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any proposal to set up power projects in Gujarat;

(b) if so, the amount released by the Industrial Development Bank of India, State Bank of India and the Industrial Credit and Investment Corporation of India to the State Government for such projects;

(c) whether the Government have approved the foreign borrowings;

(d) if so, whether the said agencies have released loan without fulfilling any loan conditions; and

(e) if so, the present status of the projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (e) The following thermal power projects in Gujarat are under examination by Central Electricity Authority (CEA):

1. Hazira CCGT (GSECL) 156 MW
2. Dhuvaran Gas Power Project (GSECL) 100 MW
3. Extension U3 & 4 at Sikka TPS (GEB) 500 MW

Other projects being implemented by Gujarat Electricity Board include:

(i) Extension Unit 6 & 7 at Gandhinagar TPS (2x250 MW)

(ii) CCPP Extension Stage-II at Utran TPS (300 MW)

(iii) Extension Unit No. 4 at Panandhro TPS (75 MW)

(iv) Imported Coal Based TPS at Kandla (250 MW)

According to the financial package in respect of Hazira and Paguthan CCPP, IDBI, ICICI, SBI etc., after approval of foreign borrowings by the Government, have released the following amounts to these projects:

(Rs. in crore)

HAZIRA POWER PROJECT	
Rupee Term Loan/NCD/Leasing	548.00
Foreign Currency Loan	234.30
Deferred Payment Guarantees (for principal amount only)	439.20
Total	1221.50
PAGUTHAN CCGT	
KFW	416.50
Foreign banks	438.80
FC from IFIs	388.70
IFI (RTL)	275.00
Total Debt	1519.00 (67.60% debt)

Separately, ICICI is considering financial participation in a 500 MW petcoke based power plant/project by Reliance group in Jamnagar. SBI has also disbursed loans to following projects in Gujarat.

(Rs. in crore)

	Fund based	Non fund based
Gujarat Industrial Power Co. Ltd. Baroda/Surat	86.65	7.25
Gujarat Torrent Energy Corpn.	176.20	517.90
Essar Power Ltd. Hazira.	49.63	65.17
Gujarat State Electricity Corp. Ltd. (Gandhinagar/Wanakbori plants)	120	0
Reliance Utilities & Power Ltd. Jamnagar	200	0

IDBI has sanctioned/released financial assistance to the following units in the State of Gujarat:

(Rs. crore)

1.	CCGT (156 MW), Distt. Surat by Gujarat State Energy Generation Ltd.	200
2.	Lignite Based (2x125 MW) power project Distt. Kutch by Gujarat Mineral Development Corporation Ltd.	500
3.	Petcoke Based power plant at Jamnagar (500 MW) by Reliance Power Ltd.	653
4.	Ahmedabad Electricity Co. Ltd. (490 MW)	106
5.	Gujarat Inds. Power Co. Ltd. (555 MW)	514.24
6.	Gujarat State Elect. Corp. Ltd. (420 MW)	200
7.	Gujarat Torrent Energy Corp. Ltd. (655 MW)	340.39

The promoters of the remaining projects have not yet submitted the final financial packages. The terms and conditions of the loan are settled mutually by the lending agency and the project authorities.

Apart from the above, a 2000 MW power project at Pipavav has been identified for development by private sector as a mutli-state mega power project under the revised mega power policy announced in November, 1998. This project does not require the concurrence of CEA. Selection of the preferred bidder for development of this project is in progress and the financial package etc. would be known only after finalisation of the process.

Wage Negotiation for Port Officers/Workers

4426. SHRI PRABHAT SAMANTRAY: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the total expenditure incurred for conducting the wage negotiation with the Federation of Port workers, Port officers and Port Officer Association; and

(b) the total amount paid to be retired port officers engaged in the process of wage negotiation for port officers and workers separately?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) The expenditure incurred for conducting the wage negotiations with the Federation of Port workers is Rs. 33,06,484/- upto 31.0.3.2000. The expenditure incurred for conducting the wage negotiation with the Port officers and the Port Officer Association is as under:

(i) Expenditure incurred by Pay Revision Committee under the heads-salaries, TA/DA, Miscellaneous expenses, telephone/postage/fax, printing and stationery and furniture and fixtures during the period October 1996 to February 1999 - Rs. 23,67,422.95.

(ii) Expenditure incurred by the implementation cell (Pay Revision Committee) from February 1999 to February 2000 - Rs. 8,25,171.93.

(b) The total amount paid to the retired port officers engaged in the process of wage negotiations for workers is Rs. 3,17,794/-. An amount of Rs. 38,584/- was paid to Sh. A.P. Ghosh (Retired officer of Calcutta Port Trust), Secretary Officers' Federation as TA/DA.

[Translation]

Rehabilitation Programme in Paradeep

4427. SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to start rehabilitation programme in cyclone affected areas in Paradeep;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of the scheme formulated in this regard;

(d) the manner in which amount spent on the rehabilitation of the affected persons is likely to be mobilised; and

(e) the other facilities proposed to be provided to the affected persons?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) to (d) The rehabilitation of the cyclone affected areas of Paradip is a subject matter of the State Government. This Ministry is concerned with the rehabilitation and restoration of the Paradip Port. In the aftermath of the cyclone a three phase recovery plan for the Port was prepared. In the first two phases, normalcy has been restored. The third phase, consisting of full repairs and reconstruction of the damaged buildings and structures is under progress. The extent of the damages estimated by the Paradip Port authorities is Rs. 68.5 crores for the Port and Rs. 9.5 crores for the Fishing Harbour functioning in the Paradip Port area. An amount of Rs. 24.40 crores has been spent so far.

(e) Does not arise.

[English]

Loan/Finance by International Agencies to NHAI

4428. DR. RAMKRISHNA KUSMARIA:
SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of loans and finances made available by World Bank, Asian Development Bank and other International Financial Agencies to the National Highways Authority of India for construction of National Highways/ Bridges during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) whether the National Highways Authority of India is making use of such funds;

(c) if not, the details of expenditure being made on their heads;

(d) whether modern and people-friendly designs for road development have not been adopted by NHAI; and

(e) if so, the steps taken to ensure that NHAI uses latest design for road development in Madhya Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) No loan assistance has been provided by World Bank, Asian Development Bank and other International Financial Agencies directly to NHAI. However, NHAI are implementing projects financed from ADB loan of US$ 245 million and 4 OECF loans of Japanese Yen 32060 million within the States of Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Rajasthan, Haryana, Orissa, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) NHAI has been adopting modern design methods and people friendly policy.

(e) There is no internationally funded project under implementation by NHAI in the State of Madhya Pradesh.

Construction of Four Lane Bypass Road by Kandla Port Trust

4429. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Kandla Port Trust (KPT) has agreed for construction of four lane bypass road between Kandla Rehan (K.K. Road);

(b) if so, the salient features of the scheme;

(c) whether the tenders for this project has been received by the National Highways Authority of India;

(d) if so, the reasons for delay in execution of the project; and

(e) the present status of the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) and (b) Kandla Port Trust had a proposal for widening of Kandla-Kharirohar Road (K.K. Road) into four-lane from the junction of National Highway No. 8-A at Gandhidham to Oil Jetty Area at Kandla, in a length of 12 Kms. Besides, the scheme involved construction of bridge over Nakti Creek and construction of one no. of Rail-Over-Bridge (R.O.B.) on the said road.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) and (e) On reviewing the traffic scenario, the Kandla Port has now reduced the scope of work to rehabilitating the existing deteriorated two lane K.K. Road by providing a layer of Asphalt Carpet and constructing a bridge over Nakti Creek. The Port proposes to execute this work through National Highways Authority of India (N.H.A.I.).

Rural Electrification

4430. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR:
SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to devise a new strategy to prioritise the execution of projects with an interest subsidy;

(b) if so, whether this new strategy was okayed by the Government recently;

(c) if so, the details of the projects that are being considered by the Government;

(d) whether a group of Ministers has been set up to look into the speedy implementation of the new plan; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the number of villages likely to be electrified each year upto 2005 under this scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) and (b) Government has decided to grant interest subsidy of Rs. 16.67 crores for electrification of 415 Tribal villages and 2440 Dalit Bastis during the year 2000-2001.

(c) State-wise details of electrification of tribal villages and dalit bastis are given in enclosed Statement.

(d) and (e) The Group of Ministers consisting of Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission, Minister of Finance, Minister of Power, Minister of Information Technology and Minister of Tribal Affairs has been set up. The Group of Ministers may review all the existing schemes relating to electrification of Tribal villages, Dalit bastis and benefiting other weaker sections and suggest modifications for accelerating the pace of electrification.

Statement

State-wise details of electrification of Tribal villages and Dalit Basties

Sl. No.	States	Electrification of Tribal Villages (Nos.)	Electrification of Dalit Basties (Nos.)
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	0	250
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	60	0
3.	Assam	20	0
4.	Bihar	0	84
5.	Jammu & Kashmir	0	16
6.	Karnataka	0	100
7.	Kerala	0	60
8.	Madhya Pradesh	100	700
9.	Maharashtra	0	100
10.	Manipur	60	0
11.	Meghalaya	10	0
12.	Mizoram	3	0
13.	Nagaland	2	0
14.	Orissa	100	300
15.	Rajasthan	50	300
16.	Tripura	10	0
17.	Uttar Pradesh	0	500
18.	West Bengal	0	10
	Total States	415	2440

Setting up of Pension Court for Pensioner

4431. SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to set up pension court in the country for pensioner;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI): (a) The Department of Pension and Pensioners Welfare has informed that there is no such proposal under consideration in the Department of Pension and Pensioners Welfare for setting up of "Pension Courts" in the country for pensioners.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Department of Pension and Pensioners Welfare, has been advocating setting up of Pension

Adalats of the type prevailing in the Ministry of Railways for expeditiously looking into pensioners grievances. These Adalats are functioning in the nature of public grievances redressal mechanism and not as legal bodies.

Golden Quadrilateral Project

4432. DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government had planned a major road network project-Golden Quadrilateral a year back;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the present status of the project;

(d) whether the Government are also planning for road corridor projects; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) The Golden quadrilateral project comprises of upgradation to 4/6 lane of the existing National Highways connecting the four metros of Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai and Calcutta.

(c) Four laning on 504 kms. of National Highways on the Golden Quadrilateral has been completed and works on 732 kms. of National Highways is in progress.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) The North-South and East-West Corridors project comprises of upgradation to 4/6 lanes of existing National Highways from Srinagar to Kanyakumari and Silchar to Saurashtra respectively as also National Highway from Salem to Cochin.

Titex Grease

4433. SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Oil Corporation has suffered major losses due to cancellation of its export orders particularly of the Titex grease;

(b) if so, the facts and details thereof;

(c) the details of countries with whom contracts were signed by IOC to export products alongwith terms and conditions thereof;

(d) the reasons for failure of the IOC to fulfil its export obligations;

(e) whether any responsibility has been fixed in such losses; and

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

[Translation]

Hindi Advisory Committee

4434. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to constitute a Hindi Advisory Committee to celebrate Official Language Golden Jubilee Year;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether any special issue of publication by the Department of Posts has been brought out; and

(e) if not, the time by which the same is likely to be brought out?

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

(b) Details are given in the Statement.

(c) Question does not arise in view of part (a) & (b) above.

(d) A proposal of the Department of Post to bring out Rajbhasha Visheshank of Dak Patrika during the official Language Golden Jubilee Year is being actively considered.

(e) Question does not arise in view of part (a) above.

Statement

A Statement of Brief Regarding Hindi Advisory Committee for the Department of Post/Department of Telecom./Department of Telecom Services During Golden Jubilee Year of Official Language

1. *Department of Post*

For constitution of Hindi Advisory Committee of the Department of Post, the nominations from the various Government and non Government agencies have been received. The nomination of the 4 non official members, to be nominated by the department, is under consideration.

2. *Department of Telecom/Department of Telecom Services*

The issue of constitution of a Joint Hindi Advisory Committee for the Department of Telecom and the Department of Telecom Service is under consideration. The Ministry has nominated 4, nonofficial members on 5th April, 2000 for the proposed Committee. Out of these 4 members, details of two members have been received. Details of the remaining two members are being obtained. Nomination of 6 non-official members from Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs and Parliamentary Committee on Official Language are awaited. Nomination of 3 non official members from the Department of Official Language is also awaited. The said Committee could be constituted only as per rules on receipt of nominations of all non-official members from all these organizations.

Amount for Ranthambore National Tiger Project

4435. SHRIMATI JAS KAUR MEENA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the amount allocated by the Union Government for the Ranthambore National Tiger Project during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) the details of asistance provided by the Union Government, State Government and foreign countries to the above project during the last three years; and

(c) the details of financial assistance received for this project from other sources?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) The amount allocated by the Government of India for Ranthambore National Tiger Project during last three years is as under:

Year	Total (Rs. in lakhs)
1997-98	73.85
1998-99	96.55
1999-2000	116.57

(b) (i) The details of assistance provided by State Government are as under

Year	Against CSS (PT)	Plan	Non Plan	Total (Rs. in lakhs
97-98	53.220	1.750	63.697	118.66
98-99	85.50	4.64	75.93	166.00
99-00	60.98	2.00	81.21	144.1

(ii) The assistance received towards externally aided G.E.F. Project is as under:

Year	Total (Rs. in lakhs)
97-98	66.40
98-99	206.73
99-2000	315.26

(c) Nil.

[English]

SCs/STs in Foreign Exchange Regulation Appellate Board

4436. SARDAR BUTA SINGH:
SHRI PRAKASH YASHWANT AMBEDKAR:

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

(a) whether the persons belonging to SCs/STs categories have been given adequate representation while appointing to the post of President/Chairman, Vice-Presidents/Vice Chairmen, and Members of the Foreign Exchange Regulation Appellate Board;

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

(c) the total number of persons posted as President/ Chairman, Vice-Presidents/Vice-Chairmen and Members of the Foreign Exchange Regulation Appellate Board as on January 1, 1996; and

(d) the number of persons belonging to the SC/STs appointed to the said posts and their percentage to the total number of posts?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI): (a) and (b) Presently there is one full-time Chairman and one full-time Member in the Foreign Exchange Regulation Appellate Board, out of them the full-time Member belongs to Scheduled Caste. In addition, at present there are 3 part-time Members of the Board, out of them one belongs to Scheduled Caste.

(c) and (d) As on January 1, 1996, there was one full-time Chairman and the post of full-time Member was vacant and there were two part-time Members. Out of them, none belonged to SC/ST and hence, their percentage of representation to the above total number of posts as on 1.1.1996 was nil.

Rural Electrification Programme

4437. DR. GIRIJA VYAS: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of funds sanctioned for rural electrification programme for the years 2000-2001 and 2001-2002, State-wise;

(b) the target fixed for electrification in rural areas during the said period in the country; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (c) State-wise financial outlays and physical targets to carry out rural electrification works in the country are finalised by the Planning Commission on an annual basis keeping in view the financial resources and other inputs. The Planning Commission has not yet finalised the State-wise financial outlays and physical programme for rural electrification works for the year 2000-2001 and 2001-2002.

Flyash Discharge by Power Plants

4438. SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have conducted any survey to assess the percentage of flyash being produced and discharged by various power plants in Talcher amd Choudwar;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whetehr the discharge of such flyash is hazardous to health of the people living around the power plants; and

(d) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to deal with the problem?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) and (b) As per survey conducted by the National Productivity Council, ash production in Talcher region from the power stations of NTPC and captive power plants of M/s. National Aluminium Company and M/s. Fertilizers Corporation of India, was approximately 2.8 million tonnes during 1997-98 and is likely to increase to 5.33 million tonnes by the year 2002-2003. During the year 1999-2000, about 2.2. million tonnes of ash was produced from the Talcher Super Thermal Power Station (STPS) (2x500 MW) and Talcher Thermal Power Station (TPS) (4x60 MW + 2x110 MW). About 1.4 million tonnes of ash was gainfully utilised from these stations in the areas of land development, roads, bricks making and issue to industries. Balance ash was discharged in ash ponds/ash mounds in an environmentally safe manner. Fly Ash Mission under Department of Science and Technology has commissioned a survey to assess fly ash generation and utilisation. The survey covers Choudwar Captive Power Plant also.

(c) and (d) The fly ash from the Talcher STPP is arrested through high efficiency Electrostatic Precipitators (ESPs) limiting particulate emissions to less than 150 mg/Nm3 as per the statutory requirements. These particulates are discharged through 275 mtrs. high stake which facilitates wider dispersion. Incremental level of particulate in ambient ash due to the operation of the plant is likely to be insignificant and no adverse impact is envisaged. The ash collected from the ESPs hopper and bottom ash is discharged through slurry in a well designed ash ponds, bound by ash dykes all around, specially designed for this purpose. Adequate water cover is maintained over the ash dykes to avoid fugitive dust nuisance and to ensure that such fly ash do not become hazardous to the health of the people living around the power plants. NTPC has confirmed that the effluent discharged from the ash pond meets the regulatory standard. NTPC has retrofitted additional ESPs in Stage-II units of the Talcher TPS and has brought down the

emission level within the statutory limits and is presently retrofitting ESPs for Stage-I. No information is available in case of Choudwar Captive Power Plant.

Appointment of SCs/STs in MRTP Commission

4439. SHRI PRAKASH YASHWANT AMBEDKAR: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the persons belonging to the SCs/STs categories have been given adequate representation while appointing to the post of President/Chairman, Vice-Presidents/Vice-Chairmen and Member of the Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Commission;

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

(c) the total number of persons posted as President/ Chairman, Vice-Presidents/Vice Chairmen and Members of the Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Commission as on January 1, 1996; and

(d) the number of persons belonging to the SCs/STs appointed to the said posts and their percentage to the total number of posts?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI): (a) and (b) The Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Commission is a quasi-judicial body constituted under Section 5 of the Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Act. As per Section 5(2) of the Monopolies nd RestrictiveTrade Practices Act, the Chairman of the Commission shall be a person who is, or has been or is qualified to be, a Judge of the Supreme Court or, of a High Court and the Members thereof shall be persons of ability, integrity and standing who have adequate knowledge or experience of, or have shown capacity in dealing with, problems relating to economics, law, commerce, accountancy, industry, public affairs or administration. Selection of Chairman and other Members of the Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Commission is made keeping in view the provisions of the Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Act. These appointments are made for a fixed tenure.

(c) and (d) There is no post of Vice President/Vice-Chairman in the Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Commission. As on 01.01.1996 three (03) Members were in position of which one belongs to the minority community.

Expansion/Development of Roads/Bridges in Rajasthan

4440. COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of projects submitted by Rajasthan Government concerning expansion and development of roads communication, construction of over bridges on railway lines, new highways etc. to the Government;

(b) the present position of each of the projects;

(c) the steps taken by the Government/contemplated to be taken to clear these pending projects; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) to (d) Presumably, the Hon'ble Member is having in mind the proposals submitted by the Rajasthan Government for the development of National Highways during the Annual Plan 1999-2000. The State Government forwarded eight proposals for approval. Out of these eight proposals, five proposals have been returned to Rajasthan Government unsanctioned, while the following two proposals stand sanctioned:

Sl.No.	Name of work	Estimated cost
(i)	Widening of minor bridges from km. 215/0 to 290/0 on N.H. No. 12.	Rs. 199.27 lakhs
(ii)	Providing paved shoulders from km 186/0 to 195/0 on N.H. No. 14	Rs. 93.34 lakhs
		Rs. 292.61 lakhs

The remaining one proposal is under examination.

[Translation]

Rihand Hydro-Electric Power Project in U.P.

4441. SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the share of Madhya Pradesh in the power generated by Rihand Hydro Power Station in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) whether the Uttar Pradesh Government is supplying the requisite share of power to Madhya Pradesh;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether any agreement has been signed by the Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh Governments to this effect; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Kanha Tiger Sanctuary

4442. SHRIMATI JAYASHREE BANERJEE: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether maximum number of tigers in the world are found in the Kanha district Mandla, M.P.;

(b) if so, whether any scheme has been formulated by the Government to develop the said Kanha sanctuary; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) No such ranking has been ascertained. As per the 1997 All India Tiger Estimation, Kanha Tiger Reserve harbours a population of 114 tigers.

(b) Kanha Tiger Reserve was launched in the year 1972-73 under the Project Tiger Scheme of the Government of India. Ever since its inception, Kanha Tiger Reserve has been receiving budget/grants from the State Government as well as from the Government of India and Project Tiger under various Central and State sponsored schemes.

(c) Details are given in the enclosed Statement.

Statement

Kanha Tiger Reserve (MP)

Allocations Received Under Various Centrally Sponsored & State Schemes/Budget During the year 1999-2000

	Name of Schemes/Budget	Allocations Received (in Rs.)
1	10-2406 Non-Plan Govt. of MP)	2,42,30,000.00
2.	Baiga Vikash Abhikaran (Govt. of MP)	5,00,000.00
3.	41-2406 Tribal Sub-Plan (Central) Assistance)	2,51,75,000.00
4.	3601-Ecodevelopment Scheme (Central Assistance), Centrally Sponsored Scheme, Project Tiger	25,94,000.00
5.	77-2406-4406 MP Forestry Project (Govt. of MP)	1,04,00,000.00
6.	71-4406-10th Finance Commission (Central Assistance)	51,11,000.00
7.	23-3601-Ecodevelopment, National Afforestation & Ecodevelopment Board (Central Assistance)	5,08,000.00
8.	World Food Programme (Kalyan Nidhi) By samanvay Samiti, Bhopal (Govt. of MP)	3,60,000.00
	Total	6,88,78,000.00

UNCOAL Corporation

4443. SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM:
SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN:

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

(a) whether the U.S. based UNCOAL Corporation have prepared any draft of the Five Year Plan Projects for the oil and natural gas industry;

(b) if so, the likely cost on these projects and the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(c) the extent to which the oil and natural gas industry is likely to get a boost from it?

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) This Ministry has not received any proposal from UNCOAL Corporation on five year plan projects for the oil and gas industry.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[English]

Permission to Foreign Agencies

4444. SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI:
KUMARI BHAVANA PUNDLIKRAO GAWALI:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to permit foreign agencies to set up their ventures in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the areas identified for the purpose; and

(c) the names of such foreign agencies who have been granted permission to set up their shops in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) and (b) In the telecom sector, as per the present Foreign Direct Investment Policy, 49% foreign equity is permitted in Basic, Cellular Mobile, Paging and Value added service, and Global Mobile Personal Communications by Satellite. In the area of telecom equipment manufacturing 100% foreign equity is allowed.

(c) List of major foreign agencies/companies who have been granted permission to set up their companies/ joint ventures in the telecom sector in the country is given in enclosed Statement.

Statement

Permission to Foreign Agencies

S.No.	Foreign Investor
1	2
1.	Hughes Electronics Corporation
2.	Alltel
3.	Kellerton, BVI
4.	First HNS
5.	Nynex International (India) Ltd.
6.	STET International
7.	Bell Canda International
8.	AIG
9.	Lintech Ltd.
10.	Bell Atlantic Offshore Mauritius Ltd.
11.	Shinwatra International Public Co.
12.	Bezeq Global Mauritius Holding
13.	Century Telephone Enterprise
14.	AT & T Cellular Pvt. Ltd.
15.	Airtouch International
16.	Distacom Communications
17.	Swiss Telecom PTT
18.	US West Cellular Investment Co. (Media One)
19.	PCM
20.	Jasmine International
21.	Bell South International
22.	France Telecom
23.	Cellphone Ltd.
24.	Mitsubishi
25.	Nokia Telecommunications OY
26.	Cellstar Singapore PTE Ltd.

1	2
27.	Krone AG
28.	NEC Corporation
29.	Fujikura Ltd.
30.	Samsung Electronics Co. Ltd.
31.	Casio Telecom Ltd.
32.	Alcatel
33.	Siem-ens
34.	ITOCHU Corporation
35.	Simoco International Ltd.
36.	NERA AS
37.	Lucent Technologies International
38.	Philips Telecom Ltd.
39.	Andrew Corporation
40.	Motorola Singapore PTE. Ltd.

Rural Electrification

4445. SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Villages in the country electrified during 1999 as against the target;

(b) the names of the States which are lagging behind in the electrification of villages against the projection;

(c) the reasons for not achieving the target by these States; and

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to achieve the projected target during the current plan period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) The target for rural electrification works during 1999 has not been finalised by the Planning Commission. However, according to CEA during the year 1999-2000, 1578 villages upto February, 2000 have been electrified.

(b) and (c) The State of Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Meghalaya, Orissa, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal are lagging behind to the national average of village electrification on the basis of the progress upto February, 2000. Many villages which have remained un-electrified are generally in remote and far-flung areas. Some of the major reasons for slow progress are financial constraints of State Electricity Boards, 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.

(d) Priority areas for village electrification are decided and determined by the State Governments/State Electricity Boards keeping in view the availability of financial resources and other relevant inputs. Rural Electrification Corporation (REC) provides loan assistance to the schemes sponsored by the State Governments/State Electricity Boards (SEBs) provided the schemes are technically feasible and financially viable.

Rural Electrification Corporation (REC) has set a target of 7000 villages during the first three years of the Ninth Plan Period. Out of the targets set, REC has already achieved electrification of 6281 villages at the end of December, 1999.

New Power Distribution Policy

4446. SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether a new power distribution policy for the power generation in the central power generating plants has been announced; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) and (b) No new power distribution policy has been announced. However, it has been decided to treat the present "Gadgil formula" for allocation of power to the States/UTs as "guidelines" for new Central generating stations under which reforming states would get weightage in allocation of power from 15% unallocated quota from Central power stations and also from new power projects.

Strike by P&T Employees

4447. SHRI P. RAJENDRAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken any steps to avert the nation-wide indefinite strike of the six lakh employees of the Department of Posts starting from the May 3, 2000;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have decided to implement the recommendations of the Justice Charanjit Talwar Committee on Extra Departmental of Employees;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government have also implemented the agreed proposals between the officers side and the staff side of Department of Posts on the issues of anomalies of pay scales and other related issues of the regular Postal employees: and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Department has requested Chief Labour Commissioner to initiate conciliation proceedings under Industrial Disputes Act between the Department and Federations/Associations relating to the charter of demands. Deputy Chief Labour Commissioner fixed meeting for conciliation proceeding on 24.4.2000. A copy of charter of demands is given in the Statement attached.

(c) and (d) The recommendations contained in the report of Justice Talwar Committee were duly considered by the Government and thereafter it was decided in full and final settlement of all pending demands relating to the Talwar Committee recommendations to extend a package of benefits to ED Agents and orders were issued on 17.12.99 by which the following benefits became available to ED Agents:

(i) Raising the basic monthly allowance by a factor of 3.25 for the period 1.1.1996 to 28.2.1998.

(ii) Thereafter, with effect from 1.3.1998 placing ED Agents in Time Related Continuity Allowance (TRCA) corresponding to the first two scales of pay recommended by the JCT in case of different categories of ED Agents except EDSPM and the first scale in respect of the ED Sub Postmasters.

(iii) Increasing the maximum permissible amount of Ex-Gratia Gratuity from Rs. 6,000 to Rs. 18,000/-.

(iv) Increasing of Office Maintenance Allowance from Rs. 25/- to Rs. 50/- per month.

(v) Extending an entirely new facility by way of paid leave of 10 days for every half year for ED Agents without the provision of carry forward on encashment.

(vi) Further, providing for a lump sum severance amount of Rs. 30,000/- or Rs. 20,000/- depending on period of employment for ED Agents as a form of post-employment benefit.

(e) Demands made by the Staff Unions for improvements in the scales of pay of different cadres of the Department and other pay related demands were examined by a Departmental Committee including staff representatives. The views of this Committee have been further processed but the demands of the Staff Unions have not been implemented.

(f) In view of (e) above, question does not arise.

Statement

Charter of Demands

1. Implementation of the positive recommendations of Justice Charanjit Talwar Committee for the Extra Departmental Employees with particular reference to grant of status and pension.

2. Implementation of agreed proposal signed on 18.12.98 - regarding.

   (i) Upgradation of pay scales of Gr. D&C, TBOP, BCR, HSG. II, Postal Accts.

   (ii) Implementation of upgraded pay scales of Postmen/Mail Guard w.e.f. 1.1.96 and TBOP, BCR.

   (iii) Upgradation of pay scales of Head Mail Peon.

   (iv) Additional increments to Drivers/Work Shop Staff/PO & RMS Accounts.

   (v) Upgradation of pay scale of Stenographers.

   (vi) Issues of Casual Labourers.

3. Upgradation on 10% of BCR posts to HSG I in Clerical Cadre and provision of similar percentage of posts to HSG I in all cadres viz. Postman/Mail Guard, Group D etc. in the Department of Posts.

Development of Post and Telegraph Sector

4448. SHRI P.D. ELANGOVAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIOINS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any plans to introduce the scientific developments and technological innovations in the fields of Post and Telegraph in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the approximate quantity of posts mailed through speed post during the last three years, year-wise;

(d) whether the Government propose to revise the rates for the speed post;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) and (b) The Government has already introduced various applications of technology in the Post such as setting up of computer based multipurpose counter machines in important post offices with concept of single window for all kinds of transactions. Automatic mail Processing Centres have been established at Mumbai and Chennai. 77 VSATs have been installed and another 62 are in the process of being installed. The VSATs are being used presently for money transfer and the VSAT network ultimately would be the intranet of the Department of Posts. Further, the Micro-Processor Electronic Gadgets like Store and Forward Message Switching System (SFMSS), Electronic Key Board Concentrators Terminal Concentrators (FTCs) have been introduced in the National Telegraphic Network. The details of the systems are given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) The details of traffic for the last three years in respect of Speed Post articles are as under:

1996-97	112.4 lakhs
1997-98	141.4 lakhs
1998-99	195.95 lakhs

(d) No such decision has so far been taken in this regard.

(e) and (f) Does not arise in view of (d) above.

Statement

Status of Modernisation Telecom-Circle-wise Position

Name of Telecom Circle	SFMSS 128	SFMSS 64	SFMSS 32	EKBC/EKB	FTC/FT
1	2	3	4	5	6
Andaman & Nicobar	—	—	—	Nil/1	—
Andhra Pradesh	1	1	—	8/89	4/146
Assam	—	1	—	9/96	—
Bihar	—	1	1	3/2	0/1
Gujarat	1	—	1	18/88	4/64
Haryana	—	—	1	3/46	0/12
Himachal Pradesh	—	—	1	6/48	0/7
Jammu & Kashmir	—	—	1	4/25	0/2
Karnataka	1	1	1	14/130	0/32
Kerala	1	1	1	18/74	0/48
Madhya Pradesh	—	1	4	4/8	—
Maharashtra	2	2	4	43/368	0/114
North East	—	—	1	3/14	—

1	2	3	4	5	6
Orissa	—	—	2	2/8	—
Punjab	—	1	1	14/39	1/32
Rajasthan	—	1	1	32/209	2/28
Tamil Nadu	1	3	4	60/496	4/169
Uttar Pradesh (East)	1	—	3	14/0	3/54
Uttar Pradesh (West)	—	—	3	10/30	3/44
West Bengal	1	1	—	28/233	—
Northern Telecom Region, New Delhi	1	—	—	3/70	1/16
Total:	10	13	30	301/2074	22/749

LEGEND

SFMSS	Store & Forward Message Switching System
EKBC	Electronic Key Board Concentrators
EKB	Electronic Key Board
FTC	Formatted Therminal Concentrator
FT	Formatted Terminal

[Translation]

Construction of By-Pass at Bhagalpur

4449. SHRI SUBODH ROY: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to construct a by-pass road at Bhagalpur from Ganga bridge;

(b) if so, the reasons for not formulating the scheme and start the work in this regard;

(c) the details of financial assistance likely to be provided by the Government; and

(d) the time by which the construction work is likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) to (d) Central Government is primarily responsible for development and maintenance of only National Highways and bridges falling thereon in the country. All other roads/ bridges fall within the purview of respective State/U.T. Government. The construction of By-pass at Bhagalpur does not form a part of National Highway network and responsibility for its construction lies with the Government of Bihar.

[English]

Demand of Crude Oil

4450. SHRIMATI RANEE NARAH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the total domestic demand of curde oil (in tonnes per annum) and steps taken to meet the growing domestic demand;

(b) the refining capacity in the country during 1998-99; and

(c) the total consumption of petroleum products in the country during 1998-99?

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)

Crude oil requirement and domestic availability during last three years has been as under:

(Figure in Million Metric Tonnes)

	Requirement	Domestic availability
1997-98	65.18	31.59
1998-99	68.54	30.42
1999-2000	91.44	30.23

The balance quantities were sourced through imports.

(b) The refining capacity build up in the country as on 31.3.99 was 69.14 million metric tonnes per annum (MMTPA).

(c) The total consumption of petroleum products in the country during 1998-99 is as under:

(Quantity '000' Tonnes)@

Products	Consumption
LPG	5027
Petrol	5511
Kerosene	10583
Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF)	2097
High Speed Diesel (HSD)	36887
Furnace Oil	6482
Others	16979
Total:	83566

@ Excludes consumption met through private imports.

Allotment of LPG Agencies and Petrol Pumps

4451. SHRI SHIVAJI MANE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the LPG agencies and petrol pumps allotted during the last three years till date, State-wise; and

(b) the details of the persons to whom the above agencies/petrol pumps have been allotted during the above period?

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) During 1996-97, 1997-98 and 1998-1999 174 retail outlet dealerships and 236 LPG distributorships were allotted all over the country.

Development Projects Pending Clearance

4452. SHRI SHIVAJI VITHALRAO KAMBLE:
SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL:
DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV:
SHRI BHIM DAHAL:

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

(a) whether a large number of development projects are pending with the Government for environmental clearance;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith their location, estimated cost, physical benefits and period of pendency of each projects, State-wise;

(c) the details of the representations received from the State Governments suggesting radical changes in the Central Legislation;

(d) the reaction of the Government thereto and the details of action taken/proposed to be taken thereon; and

(e) the time by which the said projects are likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) Eighty-two projects are pending with the Ministry for Environment clearance as on 15.4.2000.

(b) A statement is enclosed.

(c) The Ministry of Environment and Forests has issued two draft notifications, one on sitting guidelines and another on amendments to the Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) notification. In respect of the draft notification on siting guidelines, some States have, inter-alia sought cancellation/reduction of distance criteria and leaving out expansion of existing units/industrial areas from the purview of the draft notification. In respect of the CRZ notification, the States have, inter-alia, sought reduction in extent of CRZ, permission for salt panning by the traditional method in CRZ I (ii) and permissibility of public amenities such as Post Office in CRZ.

(d) Draft notifications are to be finalised within 365 days from the date of issue. The views expressed by the State Governments are taken into account while finalising the notification.

(e) Decision on granting of environmental clearance to projects is taken within ninety days from the date of receipt of complete information in the Ministry.

Statement

Development Projects Pending Clearance

S. No.	Name of the Project, Location	Cost (Rs. Crores)	Physical Benefits (Capacity/Output/ etc.)	Pending Since
1	2	3	4	5
	Andhra Pradesh			
1.	Manufacturing of Aluminium Alloy wheel for Light Vehicles at VEPZ Visakhapatnam by M/s. Synergies Dooray Automotive Ltd.	106	4000 TPA	08.09.1999
2.	Expansion of Pesticide Unit at Srikakulam District By M/s. Nagarjuna Agrichem Ltd.	2.43	3500 TPA	06.03.2000
3.	Expansion for the production capacity of Chlorpyriphos from 300 TPA to 1000 TPA at Cheruvukommupalam village, Ongole Mandal Prakashan District by M/s. Bhagiradha Chemicals & Industries Limited.	3.86	1000 TPA	06.03.2000
4.	Expansion of Cement Plant at Anantapur, Tadipatri by M/s. L&T Ltd.	700	4 MTPA	11.04.2000
5.	DG Power Plant at Ghanapuram Village, Ghatkesar Mandal, District Rangareddy, of M/s. Inden Power International Ltd.	120.1	34.56 MW	27.10.1999
6.	Coal based Power Plant at Wadapalli, Nalgonda District of M/s. Krishna Godavari Power Utilities Ltd.	198	60 MW	28.01.2000
7.	Expansion of Tummalapenta limestone mine in district. Kurnool—by M/s. L&T Limited	700	3.60 MTPA	23.02.2000

1	2	3	4	5
	Arunachal Pradesh			
8.	Construction of Etaline Malinye Road from Km 0.00-Km. 47.00 (CSG Road) by Border Road Organisation	Not avalable	To provide road connecting remote areas	09.12.1999
9.	Construction of Haynliang-Changlagaon Road from Km. 0.00-Km. 57 (CSG Road) by Border Road Organisation.	Not available	To provide road connecting remote areas	09.12.1999
	Assam			
10.	ISOSIV & INSMAX unit at Guwahati Refinery of M/s. IOCL.	134	MS: 11,000 MTPA LPG: 44,290 MTPA	07.01.2000
	Goa			
11.	Proposed Construction of a Hotel in Survey No. 109/1 (pt) of Betalbatim Village, Salcete Taluka by M/s. Algoa Pvt. Ltd.	3.28	Construction of 38 rooms hotel	03.01.2000
12.	Proposed Construction of Dry Dock and Shed in Survey No. 209/2 of Sancoale Village, Salcete Taluka by M/s. Pinky Shipyard Pvt. Ltd.	Not available	Construction of a Dry Dock and Workshop	03.01.2000
13.	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	2.5	Construction of 36 unit apartments and nine villas	14.01.2000
	Gujarat			
14.	Expansion of Clinkarisation plant at Mithapur by M/s. Tata Chemicals Ltd.	99.60	2500 TPD	04.02.2000
15.	Proposed product substitution in Existing pesticide plant at GIDC, Industrial Area, Ankaleshwar Bharuch by M/s. FICOM	4.90	9635 TPA	21.02.2000
16.	Expansion of the pesticide manufacturing unit at GIDC, Panoli, Bharuch Distt. of M/s. Pesticides India Ltd.	4.00	1080 TPA	16.02.2000

1	2	3	4	5
17.	Pozzolona clay, laterite & silica sand mines in district Kutch—by M/s. Sanghi Industries	1.50	Pozzolona Clay - 0.20 MTPA Laterite-0.30 MTPA Silica Sand -0.30 MTPA	23.03.2000
18.	Sugala limestone mine in district Junagarh—by M/s. Gujarat Ambuja Cements Ltd.	Not available	1.29 MTPA	05.01.2000
19.	Expansion of infrastructural facilities at Pipavav Port in Gujarat by M/s. Gujarat Pipavav Port Ltd.	370	Development of Port facilities	14.07.1999
20.	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.	Not available	Cude Oil receipt, storage and transfer facility for Punjab Refinery	19.11.1999
21.	Constructions of LNG Import Terminal at Dahej by M/s. Petronet LNG Ltd.	2800	LNG import and regasification terminal	23.3.2000
	Karnataka			
22.	Expansion of Distillery from 30,000-45,000 KLPD by M/s. Ugar Sugar Works Ltd.	4.00	45,000 KLPD	10.03.2000
23.	Expansion of AC Works from 1.75 MTPA to 4.00 MTPA at Wadi, by M/s. ACC Ltd.	520	4 MTPA	07.03.2000
24.	Co-generation Power Plant at Sameerwadi, by M/s. Godavari Sugar Mills Ltd.	108	24 MW	12.11.1999
25.	Vijaynagar Thermal Power Project at Kuditini Village, Bellary District of M/s. Karnataka Power Corporation Ltd.	1796	500 MW	31.01.2000
26.	Thimmapur opencast limestone mine in district Bagalkot-by M/s. Shri Prahalad M. Pujar	0.05	0.01 MTPA	10.01.2000
27.	Expansion of Wadi Cements opencast limestone mine in Gulbarga—by M/s. Associated Cement Company Limited.	5.20	1.26 MTPA	27.03.2000

1	2	3	4	5
28.	170 MW Barge Mounted Power Project at Mangalore, Dakshina Kannada Distt by M/s. Smith Co-generation (India) Pvt. Ltd.	495	Generation of 170 MW power	3.1.2000
	Kerala			
29.	Shore Crude Oil Tank Farm of M/s. Cochin Refineries Ltd.- Crude Oil receipt facilities at Ernakulam.	690	Crude oil receipt and storage facility for Cochin Refineries	24.1.2000
30.	Setting up of Beach Resort at Chawara in Kottukal Village, Neyyatinkara Taluk of Thiruvananthapuram Distt. by M/s. Joy's The Beach Resort.	5.5	Construction of 72 rooms hotel	24.2.2000
	Madhya Pradesh			
31.	Pig Iron Plant in Dantewara Distt., by M/s. NMDC Ltd.	297.13	0.3 MTPA	10.03.2000
32.	Sanjay Gandhi Thermal Power Plant Stage-II at Mangather Village, Distt. Umari (MP) by M/s. Electricity Board.	200	500 MW	13.10.1999
33.	Liquid Fuel Based Power Plant at Mandideep Industrial Area, District Raisen (MP) by M/s. Som Power Ltd.	113.58	28.25 MW	4.11.1999
34.	Opencast Bodai-Daldali bauxite mine in district Kawardha—by M/s. Bharat Aluminium Company Limited	35.00	0.30 MTPA	31.03.2000
35.	Dharamsthal OC/UG coal mine in district Narsingpur—by M/s. BLA Industries	22.91	0.24 MTPA	09.09.1999
36.	Opencast limestone mine in district Satna—by M/s. Prism Cement Ltd.	Not available	0.30 MPTA	10.04.2000
37.	Bellora-Takli OC/UG coal mine in district Chandrapur—by M/s. Central Collieries Limited	200	0.45 MTPA	10.09.1999
38.	Adasa UG Coal mine in district Nagpur—by M/s. Western Coalfields Limited	35.86	0.45 MTPA	06.12.1999

1	2	3	4	5
39.	Kamptee UG to OC coal mine in district Nagpur—by M/s. Western Coalfields Limited	88.39	0.65 MTPA	06.12.1999
40.	Navin Kunada OCP (Ph-I) in district Chandrapur—by M/s. Western Coalfields Ltd. **Maharashtra**	19.68	0.22 MTPA	09.02.2000
41.	Expansion AC Sheets & Accessories Manufacture Unit at Wada, Thane by M/s. Roofit Industries Ltd.	15.36	72,000 TPA	03.12.1999
42.	Mini-Blast Furnaces steel plant at Kolhapur by M/s. Electro Steel Casting Ltd.	145	2,00,000 TPA	09.03.2000
43.	Polyolefins project of NOCIL at Thane Belapur road Ghansoli, Navi Mumbai by M/s. Shell-Montell-NOCIL	6600	3.5 MTPA	17.02.2000
44.	Automotive brake system manufacturing plant at Nanakarwadi Tal. Khed Dist. Pune by M/s. Kalyani Brakes	3.50	30 TPA	29.03.2000
45.	Bulk Drug & Chemical unit at MIDC industrial area, Tarapur, Tah. Palghar, distt. Thane by M/s. Calyx Chemicals & Pharmaceuticals Pvt. Limited	3.41	480 TPA	22.03.2000
46.	Foundry Unit of 900 TPA at village Shinde, Nasik District by M/s. Uni Deritend Ltd.	9.50	900 TPA	05.04.2000
47.	Talamba Irrigation Project, Deptt. of Irrigation, Govt. of Maharashtra	350.72	20000 ha. Culturable Command Area	06.04.2000
48.	Rehabilitation and Upgrading of Surat-Manor Road NH-8 Section III in Thane District	253.4	About 57.4 kms of road will be strengthened and widened.	25.10.1999
49.	Construction of Mumbai-Talasari Expressway by Public Works Department, Government of Maharashtra	1400	104 kms of Expressway will be built	12.01.2000 (reopened)
50.	Expansion of Abhishek Beach Resort in Survey No. 56-2B/1 and 56-2C at Village Ganapatipule by M/s. Courtesy Hotels Pvt. Ltd.	Not available	36 cottages for Tourists	01.02.2000 (reopened)

1	2	3	4	5
	Meghalaya			
51.	Myntdu (Leishka) Hydro Electric Project, Stage-I in Jayntia Hill district, Meghalaya, Shillong.—By Meghalaya Electricity Board	391.33	2X42 MW	12.01.2000
	Orissa			
52.	Kodingamali bauxite mines in district Koraput—by M/s. Aditya Aluminium Company	219.58	2.40 MTPA	10.03.2000
54.	Nandira UG Augmentation project in district Angul—by M/s. Mahanadi Coalfields Ltd.	176.96	0.33 MTPA	04.04.2000
	Punjab			
55.	Expansion of Pesticides Manufacturing Unit at Dera Bassi, Patiala, by M/s. Rallis India Ltd.	5.50	2800 TPA	14.12.1999
56.	Expansion of Bulk Drug Unit at Lalru, District Patiala by M/s. Alpha Drugs India Ltd.	2.70	2172 TPA	08.07.1999
57.	Bulk Drug Unit at Rajpura Distt. Patiala, by M/s. Sam Biotech Ltd.	25.00	1200 TPA	07.03.2000
58.	Expansion of existing Distillery Unit at village Banur, Tehsil Rajpur Distt. Patiala, by M/s. Chandigarh Distrilleries & Bottlers	25.00	1,10,000 LPD	07.03.2000
	Rajasthan			
59.	Asbestos Cement Products Unit at Dhamikhurd, Sangamner, Jaipur Rajasthan by M/s. Roofit Industries Ltd.	25.00	45000 TPA	24.09.1999
60.	Kasnau Matasukh Opencast lignite mine project in district Nagaur—by M/s. Rajasthan State Mines and Minerals Limited	210.49	1.0 MTPA	31.03.2000
61.	Opencast soapstone mine in district Udaipur—by M/s. Khaitan Industries Ltd.	0.06	0.06 MTPA	03.04.2000
62.	Upgradation of Jaipur Kishangarh Section of N.H-8 (Kms 273.5 to Kms. 366.2) in Jaipur and Ajmer Distt. by NHAI	Not available	Strengthening and widening of 92.7 kms of NH 8.	28.01.2000

1	2	3	4	5
	Tamil Nadu			
63.	Manufacturing Unit of Powder Paint at SIPCOT Industrial Estate, Gummidipundi, Thiruvallur District by M/s. Snowcem India Ltd.	7.45	3780 TPA	04.11.1999
64.	Steel Ingot Project at Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu by M/s. Raja Steels Private Ltd.	1.59	14400 TPA	28.02.2000
65.	Foundry unit at Arasur Village, Coimbatore, T.N. by M/s. Shri Ranganathar Industries (P) Limited.	0.98	120 TPM	03.03.2000
66.	Foundry Unit at Coimbatore District by M/s. Abinaya Engineering Industry Ltd.	0.22	210 TPA	03.04.2000
67.	Expansion of Bulk Drug Unit at Coimbatore by M/s. Shasun Chemicals Ltd.	20.00	193 TPM	03.04.2000
68.	Kollimalai Hydro Electric Project, in Salem/Trichy district By Tamil Nadu Electricity Board	71.10	1x20 MW	08.10.1999
69.	Naphtha Based Combined Cycle Gas Turbine Power Plant at Vallur Village, Ennore, North Chennai, by M/s. Aban Power Company Ltd.	385	109 MW	11.10.1999
70.	Opencast graphite mine in district Sivaganga—by M/s. Gem Graphite Private Limited	9.50	0.07 MTPA	09.09.2000
71.	Opencast limestone mine in district Salem—by M/s. Super Mines & Minerals	0.04	0.007 MTPA	23.12.1999
72.	Opencast limestone mine in district Perambalur—by Dalmia Cement Limited	2.50	0.30 MTPA	23.02.2000
73.	Tamil Nadu Road Sector Project Phase-I (Eastern Corridor) from Cuddalore to Tuticorin by Tamil Nadu Highways and Rural Works Department	479	Improvement of about 397 kms of road	07.12.1999

1	2	3	4	5
74.	Tamil Nadu Road Sector Project Phase-IA (Northern Corridor) by Tamil Nadu Highways and Rural Works Department	332.5	Improvement of about 353 kms of road	22.12.1999
	Uttar Pradesh			
75.	Saryu Nahar Pariyojana Kanpur, Deptt. of Irrigation, Govt. of U.P.	2810.00	120000 ha. Culturable Command Area	03.04.2000
	West Bengal			
76.	Proposal on Calcutta Leather Complex at Karaidanga, 24-Parganas (South) District by M/s. M.S. Dalmia & Co. Ltd.	258.18	1000 TPD	10.08.1999
77.	PET Resin Project at Haldia, by M/s. South Asian Petrochem Ltd.	443.45	1,40,000 TPA	21.09.1999
78.	Ductile Iron foundry project at Howrah, by M/s. Gemus Engineering Ltd.	2.70	3000 TPA	22.03.2000
	Union Territory			
	Delhi			
79.	Coal Based TPP at Narela, Delhi by M/s. Appollo Energy Company Ltd.	1500	330 MW	25.04.1997
80.	Gas Based Pragati Combined Cycle Power Project at IP Estate by Delhi Vidyut Board	961	330 MW	02.02.2000
	Lakshadweep			
81.	Setting up of the Tinna Beach Resort at Tinnakara Island—Pykala Society for Tourism and Water Sports Management (M/s. U.B. Resorts)	12.6	36 rooms resort	13.09.1999
	Others			
82.	1006 km Crude Oil Pipeline From Mundra in Gujarat Coast to Bhatinda in Punjab by M/s. HPCL	2330	To Transfer Crude oil from Port to Refinery	10.04.2000

Note: MW: Mega Watt
TPD: Tonnes Per Day
TPA: Tonnes Per Annum
MTPA: Million Tonnes Per Annum
TPM: Tonnes Per Month
LPD: Litres Per Day

[Translation]

Losses Due to Power Thefts

4453. SHRI SUKDEO PASWAN:
SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Power theft costs Rupees 20,000 crores a year" appearing in 'Business Standard' dated March 17, 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 POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (c) The losses being incurred by various State Governments on account of power theft are not being separately assessed. However, the experience of States undergoing reforms indicates that the losses on account of T&D, theft and pilferage are to the extent of 45% of the power generated. A rough estimate indicates that out of the total energy generated, only 55% is billed (Rs. 62,000 crores) of the amount not billed, 20% loss is sustained due to theft and pilferage (Rs. 22,500 crores).

Transmission and distribution losses occur on account of energy dissipation in the conductors and the equipment used for transformation, transmission and distribution of power. The technical losses have to be reduced to optimum levels by better design of lines, relocation of distribution transformers, installation of capacitors and use of higher efficiency transformers. Besides technical losses, the commercial and unaccounted losses caused by theft of energy, defective meters, meter reading errors and unmetered supply have to be reduced by energy audit at all levels and hundred per cent metering of all consumers.

The Central Electricity Authority has issued comprehensive guidelines for reduction of T&D losses to the State Electricity Boards/Electricity Deprtments. The following measures have been suggested:

— Upgradation of operating voltages.

— Reduction of length of LT lines.

— Location of transformers near load centres.

— Adoption of low capacity transformers near consumer premises.

— Installation of shunt capacitors; and

— Improvement in construction and operation techniques.

In the Power Ministers' Conference held on 26.2.2000, it has been resolved to undertake the following measures in order to achieve a reduction in the transmission and distribution losses:

(i) Energy audit at all levels;

(ii) Time bound programme of 100% metering of all consumers by December, 2001;

(iii) Reduction and finally, elimination of power theft within a specified time frame.

(iv) Strengthening/upgradation of sub-transmission and distribution system by taking sub-station as a limit on a priority basis.

The Rural Electrification Corporation is providing financial assistance to the State Electricity Boards for undertaking system improvement project in rural areas. The Power Finance Corporation is also providing funds to the State Electricity Boards for System Improvement Projects in urban areas and for installation of capacitors and meters.

Additional funding assistance through a combination of grant and loan for strengthening and upgradation of the sub-transmission and distribution network by undertaking specific projects will also be available from the current financial year under the Accelerated Power Development Programme (APDP). The modalities for implementing the APDP Schemes are being finalised by the Planning Commission in consultation with the Ministry of Power.

[English]

Widening of NH-47 between Cochin and Salem

4454. SHRI VAIKO: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Highways Authority of India propose to take up the widening work of the NH-47 between Cochin and Salem;

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

(c) the traffic volume in this sector at present and the expected growth of traffic in the near future;

(d) the expected cost to be involved in the process alongwith the length of National Highways proposed to be covered;

(e) the manner in which the National Highways Authority of India is mobilising the funds required for the expansion; and

(f) the targeted date of its completion?

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

(b) Project report for 4-laning from Angamali to Aluva which is part of Cochin-Salem segment of NH-47 has been got prepared.

(c) The traffic volume as per the project report at Km. 317/0 is 36084 Passenger Car Unit (PCU) per day and at Km. 325/0 is 26665 PCU per day and is expected to grow at the rate of 7.5% per annum.

(d) The total length of the Cochin-Salem Section, which is proposed to be taken up for four laning is 310 Km. The approx. cost of four laning will be about 1200 crore.

(e) The fund required for 4-laning is planned to be generated from the levy of cess on petrol and diesel, loans from Multinational/bilateral agencies; private section participation, market borrowings etc.

(f) The work is targetted to be completed by March, 2009.

[Translation]

Power from Power Trading Corporation

4455. SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN:
SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM:
SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to supply power from Power Trading Corporation to those cities having more than one million population only after privatisation of generation of power, there;

(b) if so, the salient features of the scheme; and

(c) the number of cities likely to be covered under the scheme, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise in view of reply to (a) above.

[English]

Tiger Population

4456. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA:
SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE:
SHRI KRISHNAMRAJU:

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

(a) whether a census of the tigers in Sunderbans based on a pugmarks counts is showing increase in the population of the big cats in the world's largest mangrove forest; and

(b) if so, the outcome of the census, in Sunderbans and other tiger reserves and forests in the country indicating the comparative figures for the earlier there censuses of the tigers and other wild cats?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The details of earlier censuses of tiger and leopards are given in the enclosed Statement-I and 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	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
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

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
4.	Karnataka	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 & 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.	Meghalaya	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

Population of Leopards in the Country as Reported by the States

S.No.	Name of State	1984	1989	1993	1997
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Tamil Nadu	189	119	138	110
2.	Maharashtra	380	580	417	431
3.	Kerala	—	27	16	N.R.
4.	Orissa	266	279	378	422
5.	Karnataka	238	283	455	N.R.

1	2	3	4	5	6
6.	Rajasthan	270	461	475	474
7.	Madhya Pradesh	1322	2036	1700	1851
8.	Uttar Pradesh	880	1095	711	1412
9.	Andhra Pradesh	—	301	152	138
10.	Himachal Pradesh	199	199	821	N.R.
11.	Manipur	7	—	—	N.R.
12.	Tripura	27	37	18	N.R.
13.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	—	10	15	15
14.	Mizoram	6	38	49	28
15.	Nagland	72	72	—	N.R.
16.	Arunachal Pradesh	21	121	98	N.R.
17.	Sikkim	—	1	—	N.R.
18.	Gujarat	498	702	772	832
19.	Haryana	10	19	25	N.R.
20.	Goa Daman & Diu	10	18	31	25
21.	Jammu & Kashmir	4	4	—	N.R.
22.	West Bengal	112	108	108	N.A.
23.	Bihar	113	134	203	N.A.
24.	Assam	123	123	246	N.A.
	Total	4747	6767	6828	5738

N.R.-Not reported by States

Privatisation of Shipping Corporation of India

4457. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are planning to privatise the Shipping Corporation of India; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) and (b) The Disinvestment Commission had, inter-alia, recommended disinvestment of 40% SCI's shares to the Oil Sector Companies over and above the 20% shares already disinvested. As the Oil Sector Companies have indicated that they may not be keen on buying SCI equity the Government has initiated action to consider other options.

SCs/STs on Deputation to Foreign Assignments

4458. SHRI SURESH PASI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have directed all the Ministries/Departments to duly consider the candidates belonging to the SCs/STs while filling posts/assignments by way of deputation;

(b) if so, the total number of persons sent on deputation to various posts/assignments belonging to class I, II, III & IV category in various foreign assignments by his Ministry during the last three years;

(c) the total number of persons belonging to SCs/ STs in the above categories of class, I, II, III & IV posts/ assignments among the total staff;

(d) the percentage of such SC/ST persons as compared to the total staff in the above categories; and

(e) the reasons for not giving the adequate representation to persons belonging to the SC/ST categories?

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 instructions in this regard are issued by the Department of Personnel and Administrative Reforms.

(b) to (e) Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas has not sent any official on deputation to foreign assignment during the last three years.

Construction of Terminals on National Waterways

4459. SHRI AKBOR ALI KHANDOKER:
SHRI DINSHA PATEL:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether construction of some permanent terminals on the National Waterways is under progress;

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

(c) the time by which the said work is likely to be completed;

(d) whether the Government propose to set up another permanent terminal at G.R. Jetty, Calcutta on National Waterway 1; and

(e) if so, the time by which the proposed terminal is likely to be ready?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Central Public Works Department (CPWD) have been awarded the work to construct one permanent terminal at Patna in National Waterway No. 1 (NW-1), and 11 permanent terminals on National Waterway No. 3. CPWD has also been entrusted with Geo-technical investigation for preparation of estimate for construction of permanent terminal at Pandu in National Waterway No. 2.

(c) Schedule of completion for construction of terminal at Patna is two years from the date of sanction of revised cost estimate and for the terminals in NW-3, it is three years.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. Schedule of completion for this terminal is about two years, after the approval of the revised cost estimate.

Family Courts in Delhi

4460. SHRI R.L. BHATIA:
SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV:

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

(a) whether the Government propose to create 15 Family Courts in Delhi;

(b) if so, whether the Government have also sanctioned 15 posts of Judges and supporting staff for these Courts;

(c) if so, whetehr the Government also propose to set up such Family Courts in other parts of the country;

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

(e) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the steps taken by the Government for setting up these Courts in rest of the States?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI): (a) and (b) The Government of India has sanctioned 15 posts of Judges of Family Courts along with the supporting staff for NCT of Delhi.

(c) Family Courts have been set up in a number of States and in the Union territory of Pondicherry. At present, there are 79 Family Courts in the Country.

(d) The detailed break up of Family Courts State/UT wise is attached as Statement.

(e) and (f) The Family Courts Act, 1984 is an enabling Act. On the basis of a specific request made by a State Government, the Central Government extends the jurisdiction of this Act to the concerned State. The State Government, after consultation with its High Court, may establish family courts by a notification for area in the State comprising a city or town whose population exceeds one million or in any other area in the State as it may deem necessary.

The Central Government is periodically taking up with the concerned State/UT the matter regarding setting up of family courts.

Statement

State/UT wise break up of number of Family Courts

1. *Andhra Pradesh (7)*

Hyderabad, Vijayawada, Visakhapatnam, Tirupathi, Warangal, Kurnool, Secundrabad.

2. *Assam* (1): Guwahati

3. *Bihar* (2) : Dhanbad and Patna.

4. *Karnataka* (8)

Bangalore (3), Belgaum, Bijapur, Gulbarga, Mysore, Raichur.

5. *Kerala* (7)

Thiruvananthapuram, Kollam, Ernakulam, Thrissur, Kozhikode, Kottayam, Manjeri.

6. *Maharashtra* (16)

Pune (5), Mumbai (7), Aurangabad (2), Nagpur (2).

7. *Manipur* (1)

8. *Orissa* (2) : Cuttack and Rourkela.

9. *Pondicherry* (1): Pondicherry

10. *Rajasthan* (6)

Jaipur (2), Jodhpur, Udaipur, Kotah & Ajmer.

11. *Sikkim* (1): Gangtok

12. *Tamil Nadu* (6)

Chennai (3), Madurai, Coimbatore & Salem.

13. *Uttar Pradesh* (16)

Kanpur (2), Lucknow (2), Gorakhpur, Jhansi, Bareilly Allahabad, Meerut, Agra, Varanasi, Moradabad, Nainital, Pauri Garhwal, Faizabad and Azamgarh.

14. *West Bengal* (1): Calcutta.

15. *Gujarat* (4): Ahmedabad

[Translation]

Introduction of Alarm System

4461. DR. ASHOK PATEL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to introduce 'alarm system' to prevent illegal use of the I.S.D. and S.T.D. system in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the said system to be introduced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) and (b) It is proposed to set up fraud management and control center at Hyderabad as a pilot project. The proposed center will provide technological solution for the fraud management. This system can prevent illegal use of STD/ ISD by screening the list of STD barred numbers, by making profile comparison of the subscriber, monitoring the threshold value of the subscriber etc.

Similar system is being set up by MTNL for their Delhi and Mumbai units.

(c) These centers are likely to be operational by this year end.

Dilapidated Condition of National Highways

4462. DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the schemes and targets to improve the dilapidated condition of Hazipur-Muzzaffarpur-Sitamarhi-Sonvarsha road after upgrading it as a National Highway and to repair the damaged bridges and road as per the criteria fixed for the National Highways;

(b) the details of schemes and targets for improving the dilapidated condition of Muzzaffarpur-Motihari National Highway and Muzzaffarpur-Darbhanga (L.R.P.) roads; and

(c) the present status regarding construction of roads of Buddhist circuits in Vaishali, Muzzaffarpur and eastern Champaran as well as Vaishali-Sariya-Paru-Sahebganj and Keseria in Bihar State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) to (c) The Ministry of Surface Transport is responsible

for National Highways only. All other roads Vaishali, the roads of the Buddhist circuit is the concern of the State Government.

Development of National Highways is a continuous activity. Development works are undertaken depending upon need, intensity of traffic, inter-se priority on all India basis and availability of funds.

Hazipur-Muzzaffarpur-Sitamarhi-Sonvarsha road is part of National Highway-77. The work for construction of two high level bridges in replacement of existing submersible causeways on NH-77 are in progress. In addition six works amounting to Rs. 8.82 crore for development of this National Highway stand sanctioned.

For improvement of Muzzaffarpur-Motihari section of National Highway, 3 works amounting to Rs. 9.15 crore are in progress. In addition, one estimate for Rs. 1.85 crore for improvement stand sanctioned. For Muzzaffarpur-Darbhanga section of National Highway 57, three estimates amounting to Rs. 3.03 crore stand sanctioned.

[English]

Deleting of Dead Laws

4463. VAIDYA VISHNU DATT SHARMA: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government are aware that a number of acts/laws which are actually dead and are of no use with the change of time;

(b) if so, whether such acts/laws are great cause of corruption and hinders in the speedy justice;

(c) if so, whether the Union Government propose to delete such acts/laws in consultation with the State Governments; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

To remedy the situation, the Central Government had constituted a Commission on Review of Administrative Laws and the said Commission had recommended repeal of about 1382 Central Acts which have been identified either as obsolete or dysfunctional or needing modification. The administrative Ministries/Departments of the Government of India concerned with these Acts are now examining whether the said laws could be repealed. Some Bills have already been moved for this purpose.

Electronic Telephone Exchange in Maharashtra

4464. SHRI CHINTAMAN WANAGA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIOINS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Electronic telephone exchanges set up in Maharashtra as on March 31, 2000 district-wise;

(b) the number of such exchanges proposed to bet up in the State during the Ninth Five Year Plan, district-wise; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) The district-wise details of number of electronic telephone exchanges set up in Maharashtra as on 31.3.2000 is given in enclosed Statement-I.

(b) The district-wise details of number of such exchange proposed to be set up in the State during the last years of Ninth Five Year Plan is given in enclosed Statement-II.

(c) Planning action searching of accommodation, arranging switching and transmission equipment and cables electric power supply etc. are being done to open the exchanges.

Statement-I

District-wise Number of Exchanges working in Maharashtra State as on 31.3.2000

S.No.	Name of the District	No. of the exchanges as on 31.3.2000
1	2	3
1.	Ahmednagar	257
2.	Akola	69
3.	Washim	41
4.	Amravati	107
5.	Aurangabad	112
6.	Beed	82

1	2	3
7.	Bhandara	44
8.	Gondia	44
9.	Buldhana	94
10.	Chandrapur	70
11.	Dhule	74
12.	Nandurbar	42
13.	Gadchiroli	31
14.	Jalgaon	176
15.	Jalna	64
16.	Kalyan (Thane)	104
17.	Kolhapur	183
18.	Latur	91
19.	Nagpur	111
20.	Nanded	97
21.	Nasik	203
22.	Osmanabad	72
23.	Parbhani	45
24.	Hingoli	33
25.	Pune	196
26.	Raigad	133
27.	Ratnagiri	113
28.	Sangli	219
29.	Satara	152
30.	Sindhudurg	77
31.	Solapur	153
32.	Wardha	60
33.	Yeotmal	66
34.	Mumbai	117
35.	Thane	25
	Total	3557

Statement-II

District-wise details of number of exchanges proposed during last two years of 9th Five Year Plan

S.No.	Name of the District	No. of the Exchanges
1	2	3
1.	Ahmednagar	39
2.	Akola/Washim	32
3.	Amravati	15
4.	Aurangabad	16
5.	Beed	15
6.	Bhandara/Gondia	7
7.	Buldhana	9
8.	Chandrapur	7
9.	Dhule/Nandurbar	4
10.	Gadchiroli	10
11.	Jalgaon	7
12.	Jalna	7
13.	Kalyan	33
14.	Kothapur	66
15.	Latur	22
16.	Nagpur	11
17.	Nanded	19
18.	Nasik	19
19.	Osmanabad	6
20.	Pune	76
21.	Parbhani/Hingoli	20
22.	Raigad	9
23.	Ratnagiri	32
24.	Sangli	71
25.	Satara	55
26.	Sindhudurg	10
27.	Solapur	50

1	2	3
28.	Wardha	4
29.	Yeotmal	20
30.	Mumbai	18
31.	Thane	4
	Total:	713

Electric Power Survey Report

4465. SHRI DINSHA PATEL: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Sixteenth Electric Power Survey Committee has submitted its reports;

(b) if so, the findings thereof;

(c) whether the demand projection of power in each State upto the year 2005 has been covered by this Committee;

(d) if so, the details thereof particularly with reference to Gujarat;

(e) whether the Government propose to overcome the increasing demand of power in the country; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (f) The Sixteenth Electric Power Survey Committee constituted by the Central Electricity Authority (CEA) has submitted its draft report which is now being examined. The report considers the demand projection upto the year 2005. The report would be adopted after receiving comments from all quarters. Demand projection etc. for each State can only be indicated after the report is finalised.

[Translation]

Modernisation of Telegraph Services in Bihar

4466. SHRI RAJO SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken any steps for the modernisation of telegraph services in Bihar;

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

(c) whether any budgetary allocation has been made for this work during the current and next financial year;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time by which the said work is likely to be completed in the State?

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

(b) The micro-processor based Store and Forward Message Switching Systems (SFMSS), Formatted Terminal Concentrators (FTCs), Electronic Key Board Concentrators (EKBCs), the terminals of these systems and Fax machines have been provided in different districts in Bihar. The district-wise details are given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) and (d) No separate budget is provided for the purpose.

(e) The modernisatioin is an ongoing process and the action is taken on need basis.

Statement

Modernisation of Telegraph Services in Bihar

District-wise Status of Modernisation in Bihar

Sl.No.	Name of District	SFMSS/SFT-Port	Fax
1	2	3	4
1.	Patna	Available	Available
2.	Arrah	Available	Available
3.	Dhanbad	Available	Available

1	2	3	4
4.	Gaya	Available	Available
5.	Bokaro	Available	Available
6.	Ranchi	Available	Available
7.	Jamshedpur	Available	Available
8.	Muzaffarpur	Available	Available
9.	Sitamarhi	Available	Available
10.	Chapra	Available	Available
11.	Katihar	Available	Available
12.	Bhagalpur	Available	Available
13.	B. Deoghar	Available	Available
14.	Purnea	Available	Available
15.	Biharsarif	Available	Available
16.	Buxar	Available	Available
17.	Giridih	Available	Available
18.	Sasaram	Available	Available
19.	Aurangabad	Available	Available
20.	Jehanabad	Available	Available
21.	Nawada	Available	Available
22.	Hazaribagh	Available	Available
23.	Daltonganj	Available	Available
24.	Lohardagga	Available	Available
25.	Samastipur	Available	Available
26.	Darbhanga	Available	Available
27.	Madhubani	Available	Available
28.	Motihari	Available	Available
29.	Gopalganj	Available	Available
30.	Siwan	Available	Available
31.	Hazipur	Available	Available
32.	Saharsa	Available	Available
33.	Munger	Available	Available
34.	Begusarai	Available	Available
35.	Khagaria	Available	Available

1	2	3	4
36.	Kishanganj	Available	Available
37.	Banka	Available	Available
38.	Bettiah	N/A	Available
39.	Araria	N/A	Available
40.	Jamui	N/A	Available
41.	Bhabhua	N/A	Available
42.	Chaibasa	N/A	Available
43.	Madhepura	N/A	Available
44.	Godda	N/A	Available
45.	Dumka	N/A	Available
46.	Sahebganj	N/A	Available
47.	Supaul	N/A	Available
48.	Gumla	N/A	Available
49.	Lakhisarai	N/A	Available
50.	Sheikhpura	N/A	Available
51.	Koderma	N/A	Available
52.	Chatra	N/A	N/A
53.	Pakur	N/A	N/A
54.	Sheohar	N/A	N/A
55.	Garhwa	N/A	N/A

Legend

SFMSS — Store and Forward Message Switching System

SFT — Store and Forward Telegraph System

N/A — Not available

English]

Marine Aquarium in Kerala

4467. SHRI T. GOVINDAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have received any proposal from Kerala Government to set up Marine Aquarium in the State; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Construction of National Highway in Bilaspur

4468. SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether National Highway is proposed to be constructed in Bilaspur area of Madhya Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) to (c) New National Highway No. 200 connecting NH6 near Raipur in Madhya Pradesh and NH 5 near Chandikhol in Orissa, passes through Bilaspur. Development and maintenance of National Highways is a continuous process. Improvement works on National Highways are undertaken, depending upon the inter-se-priority and availability of funds.

[English]

Telephone Exchanges in Kerala

4469. SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH:
SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of telephone exchanges functioning in Kerala as on March 31, 2000, district-wise;

(b) the number of telephone exchanges set up in the State during the last three years till date, district-wise;

(c) the number of new exchanges proposed to be set up in the State during 2000-2001, location-wise;

(d) the status of telephone exchanges installed at Adoor region in Kerala;

(e) the number of persons on the waiting list for telephone connections in the said region;

(f) the steps taken by the Government to clear the waiting list in the region;

(g) whether there is any proposal for construction of building for Adoor telephone exchange; and

(h) if so, the time by which the said work is likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) and (b) The district-wise details of telephone exchanges functioning in Kerala as on 31.3.2000 and number of telephone exchanges set up in State during last three years is given in enclosed Statement-I.

(c) Location-wise details of 37 new exchanges proposed during 2000-2001 are given in enclosed Statement-II.

(d) The status of telephone exchanges indicating capacity, working connections and waiting list in Adoor Parliamentary Constituency is given in enclosed Statement-III.

(e) 33242 applicants are on the waiting list in Adoor Parliamentary Constituency.

(f) 32378 lines of net switching capacity is tentatively programmed to be added to the exchanges in Adoor Parliamentary constituency during the year 2000-2001. About 22000 new phone connections are likely to be given in Adoor Parliamentary Constituency during this year. 'On Demand' stage is likely to reach by March, 2002.

(g) No, Sir. The present Departmental building is adequate for expansion of the exchange up to 14000 lines capacity.

(h) Does not arise in view of (g) above.

Statement-I

The District-wise telephone exchanges functioning in Kerala as on 31.3.2000 and no. of exchanges set up during last three years

District	Telephone exchanges functioning as on 31.3.2000	The exchanges set up during last three years		
		1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000
1	2	3	4	5
Alleppey	48	1	1	8
Calicut	69	6	4	3

1	2	3	4	5
Maalappuram	62	—	2	6
Wynad	25	—	—	4
Cannonore	79	2	4	8
Kasaragod	50	2	2	1
Ernakulam	92	1	2	6
Idukki	73	2	3	4
Kottayam	72	2	3	6
Palghat	83	5	2	3
Pathanamthitta	53	2	5	8
Quilon	71	3	—	8
Trichur	67	3	4	3
Trivandrum	69	3	5	11
Total:	913	32	37	79

Statement-II

New Exchanges Programmed during 2000-01 in Kerala

Sl.No.	Name of Place	District	Capacity
1	2	3	4
1.	Thiruvanvandoor	Alleppey	2000
2.	GM Office	Calicut	1000
3.	Payyampilly	Wayanad	1000
4.	Malapallam	Cannanore	1000
5.	Dharmadam	Cannanore	1000
6.	Eranholi	Cannanore	2000
7.	Kodiyeti	Cannanore	2000
8.	Edappally	Ernakulam	4000
9.	Choondy	Ernakulam	2000
10.	Ezhikkam	Ernakulam	1000
11.	Pattimattom	Ernakulam	2000
12.	Kumaranalloor	Kottayam	2000
13.	Mooledam	Kottayam	1000
14.	Veliyannur	Kottayam	2000

1	2	3	4
15.	Akamalavaram	Palghat	184
16.	Puthur	Palghat	2000
17.	Yakkara	Palghat	1000
18.	Peringanad	Pathanmthitta	1000
19.	Moozhiyar	Pathanamthitta	184
20.	Mukhathala	Quilon	2500
21.	Mukkada	Quilon	3000
22.	Srayikkad	Quilon	1000
23.	Channakkamon	Quilon	184
24.	Kadukutty	Trichur	1200
25.	Edakkazhiyur	Trichur	2000
26.	Arimpur	Trichur	2000
27.	Valakkavu	Trichur	2000
28.	Meenamkulam	Trivandrum	1000
29.	Pongumoodu	Trivandrum	1000
30.	Pattom	Trivandrum	3000
31.	Anayara	Trivandrum	4000
32.	Udiyankulangara	Trivandrum	1000
33.	Pudukulangara	Trivandrum	1000
34.	Pullampara	Trivandrum	1000
35.	Nagarur	Trivandrum	2000
36.	Kottoor	Trivandrum	1000
37.	Chengottukonam	Trivandrum	1000

Statement-III

Status of Exchanges in Aboor Parliamentary Constituency

Sl. No.	Name of Exchange	Capacity	MIG. Conn.	Waiting List	Proposed increase in capacity during 2000-2001
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Adoor	14000	5910	1820	1000
2.	Anchal	5000	4631	1539	0
3.	Aryankava	368	350	126	637

1	2	3	4	5	6
4.	Ayoor	1512	1461	476	988
5.	Bharathipura	368	359	344	664
6.	Chadayanagalan	1384	1328	297	0
7.	Channapella	1000	458	572	1032
8.	Chepra	768	767	882	632
9.	Chithara	520	432	9	480
10.	Chozhiacode	336	308	78	664
11.	Chunda	368	342	347	632
12.	Edanon-Punalur	376	366	544	624
13.	Elamannur	1000	681	20	0
14.	Ellakattoor	640	560	138	360
15.	Ezhankulam	2700	2458	454	0
16.	Irunbangangad	2680	930	985	0
17.	Kadakkal	4400	1791	1822	0
18.	Kadambanddu	2400	2049	1073	1600
19.	Kilivayal	550	527	200	950
20.	Kodumon	750	730	990	1250
21.	Kokkad	1000	269	579	0
22.	Konri	4000	3904	1150	2000
23.	Kottarakkara	8500	5732	2952	0
24.	Kulakkada	3176	1309	1251	0
25.	Kulanada	1850	1723	837	1150
26.	Kulathupuzhe	1584	1518	144	600
27.	Kunnil	184	161	541	816
28.	Konnicode	2024	1039	780	0
29.	Madathara	1200	497	1137	0
30.	Malayalabuzha	750	608	720	1250
31.	Mancode	367	352	177	184
32.	Murinjakal	1500	1350	545	500
33.	Pallikal	750	651	550	750
34.	Pathanapuram	4747	4145	1876	2253
35.	Pattazhi	1000	972	307	1000

1	2	3	4	5	6
36.	Pooyapally	3000	2703	799	1000
37.	Punalur	7000	6783	1532	5000
38.	Punnala	544	490	372	941
39.	Puthur	4012	1795	1061	0
40.	Thadikkadu	368	364	504	632
41.	Thalavoor	1000	904	319	0
42.	Thannithode	750	532	147	250
43.	Thekkuthode	350	242	316	650
44.	Thenmala	344	336	225	656
45.	V. Kottayaa	750	655	243	250
46.	Valakom	1512	1454	234	488
47.	Velinallur	2048	729	920	0
48.	Vettikkavala	1512	950	303	500
	Total:	96942	69104	33242	32378

[Translation]

LPG Agencies in Madhya Pradesh

4470. SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government are supplying LPG as per the requirement of Madhya Pradesh;

(b) if so, the number of new agencies targetted to be set up during the current year in the State;

(c) the details of the rules Governing a gas agency and the action taken in case the rules are not followed;

(d) the number of applications received for LPG distributorship from Shahdol and Sarguja Sidhi tribal district as on date;

(e) the number of applications out of those received have been disposed off;

(f) the details of the action being taken on the remaining applications;

(g) whether the Government have received any complaints with regard to appointing any LPG distributor in Shahdol district by ignoring the rules; and

(h) if so, the action being taken thereon?

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 requirement of LPG of the existing consumers in the State is being fully met by and large.

(b) 287 LPG distributorships have been planned to be set up under the LPG Marketing Plan 1996-98 in the State.

(c) The operation and management of the distributorship are governed by various guidelines formulated from time to time by Oil Industry, State Government and other statutory authorities etc. In case of non compliance of laid down guidelines, action is taken against the erring distributors under the Distributorship Agreement/Market Discipline Guidelines.

(d) to (f) At present, 13 locations have been advertised from the areas in questions which are pending for selection of distributorship.

(g) and (h) As per available information, a complaint was received against the selection made at Pasan in Shahdol district. On investigation, Indian Oil Corporation Limited found it unjustified.

[English]

New Postal Registration Directives

4471. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether newspapers and journals that mainly publish religious and cultural news-items have been denied for postal registration renewal under a new directive issued by the Government recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reasons for the issue of such directives?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) No Sir. The Government have not issued any new directive under the Indian Post Office Act 1898 and Indian Post Office Rules 1933 to deny the Postal registration/renewal to newspapers and journals that mainly publish religious and cultural news items.

(b) and (c) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

Gas Supply to Uran Power Plant

4472. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Maharashtra State Electrity Board has urged the Union Government for supply of adequate gas for expansion of Urban power plant;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the per day requirement of gas of this plant and the quantum of gas being supplied to this plant at present;

(d) whether supply of gas is not upto the requirement; and

(e) if so, the steps being taken to provide adequate gas to this plant?

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 Government of Maharashtra had requested the Government of India that the gas supply ex-Uran for the Maharashtra State Electricity Board be increased from the present level of around 2.40 million standard cubic metres per day (MMSCMD) to the contracted level of 3.50 MMSCMD. Due to the overall shortfall in gas availability ex-Urban, the supply of gas is not upto the level of requirement. The available gas is distributed on a pro-rata basis with priority to feedstock consumers followed by the Power Plants.

[Translation]

STD/ISD/PCO Booths in Darbhanga

4473. SHRIMATI SUSHILA SAROJ: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of P.C.O./S.T.D. and I.S.D. booths allotted in Darbhanga district, Bihar during the last three years;

(b) the number of such booths out of them allotted to the women and disabled persons during the said period;

(c) the number of applications lying pending for sanction of such booths in Trimutani Ghat, Bahera in Darbhanga District at present; and

(d) the reasons for denying the allotment of the said booths to the women applicants and the time by which these applications are to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) 2459 STD/ISD, PCO booths have been allotted in Darbhanga district during the last three years.

(b) 440 such booths have been allotted to the women and disabled persons during the said period.

(c) At present 50 applications are lying pending for allotment of PCOs in Trimutani Ghat and Bahera of Darbhanga district.

(d) Unemployed persons including a women is eligible for allotment of PCOs and therefore question of denying to women applicant, if eligible, does not arise. Currently, the exchange does not have spare capacity. Pending applications of eligible persons would be cleared as soon as expansion of the exchange takes place.

[English]

Upgradation of Highways by Malaysia

4474. SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Malaysia has offered to upgrade two highways in Andhra Pradesh State;

(b) if so, whether Union Government has agreed to the proposal of Malaysia; and

(c) if so, the time by which the agreement is likely to be signed?

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

(b) and (c) The proposal has been accepted in principle. However, no definite time frame can be given for signing of the Agreement.

Development of Kiesar Forest Area

4475. SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to develop the Kiesar Forest Area in Yamunanagar District of Haryana for the development of Project Tiger; and

(b) if so, the total amount sanctioned by the Union Government to Haryana State for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Hydro Power Generation by NHPC

4476. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Hydro Electric Power Corporation Limited has taken steps to increase hydro power generation in the country;

(b) if so, the achievements made during Eighth Plan Period, State-wise;

(c) the number of projects taken up by National Hydro Electric Power Corporation in each State; and

(d) the power generation expected from hydro projects of NHPC during Ninth Plan Period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The National Hydro-electric Power Corporation (NHPC) set up in 1975, is the largest organisation for hydro development in India. The NHPC has completed 8 (eight) hydro-electric projects (HEPs) to date with a total installed generating capacity of 2175 MW and a total design energy of 9431 MUs. During the Eighth Plan period, NHPC had completed three major hydro projects, with a total installed capacity of 1365 MW. These are:

Name of Project	State	Capacity
Chamera HE Project Stage-I	Himachal Pradesh	540 MW
Salal H.E. Project Stage-II	Jammu & Kashmir	345 MW
Uri HE Project	Jammu & Kashmir	480 MW

(c) The details of Projects (State-wise) taken up by NHPC is given in Table-A of Statement. In addition to the eight completed projects, NHPC has taken up 6 (six) projects (Table-B) of Statement which are in the construction stage. The details of projects which are under Survey & Investigation by NHPC, are at Table-C of Statement.

(d) The capacity addition during the 9th Plan by NHPC would be 60 MW and the aggregate generation in 9th Plan from all the hydroelectric projects of NHPC is expected to be 46,229 MUs.

Statement

Hydro Power Generation by NHPC

Table-A

Commissioned projects of NHPC:

S.No.	Name of the project	State	Installed capacity MW
1.	Baira Siul	H.P.	180
2.	Chamera Stage-I	H.P.	540
3.	Salal Stage-1	J&K	345
4.	Salal Stage-II	J&K	345
5.	Uri	J&K	480
6.	Tanakpur	U.P.	120
7.	Rangit	Sikkim	60
8.	Loktak	Manipur	105
	Total:		2175

Table-B

Projects under construction (ownership basis):

Sl. No.	Name of the project	State	Installed capacity (MW)	Annual Generation (MU)
1.	Dulhasti	J&K	390	1928
2.	Chamera Stage-II	H.P.	300	1500
3.	Dhauliganga St.-I	U.P.	280	1134
4.	Teesta Stage-V	Sikkim	510	2573
5.	Loktak Downstream	Manipur	90	420
	Total:		1570	7555

Table-C

Projects under Survey & Investigation:

S.No.	Name of the project	State	Installed capacity MW
1	2	3	4
1.	Parbati Stage-II	H.P.	800
2.	Parbati Stage-III	H.P.	501
3.	Parbati Stage-I	H.P.	750

1	2	3	4
4.	Dihang Upper Scheme	Arunachal Pradesh	11000
5.	Dihang Middle Scheme	Arunachal Pradesh	700
6.	Dihang Lower Scheme	Arunachal Pradesh	1700
7.	Subansiri Upper Scheme	Arunachal Pradesh	2500
8.	Subansiri Middle Scheme	Arunachal Pradesh	2000
9.	Subansiri Lower Scheme	Arunachal Pradesh	2800
	Total:		22751

[Translation]

Laying of Pipeline by GAIL Through Rajasthan

4477. PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Gas Authority of India Limited is laying a new pipeline passing through Rajasthan;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the places through which the said pipeline is likely to pass;

(c) whether the gas storage and bottling plant are also proposed to be set up for the purpose;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the total expenditure likely to be incurred on the said pipeline and the time by which the work on the said pipeline is likely to be completed;

(f) the reasons for not providing jobs to the local people while deploying for the construction of the said pipeline; and

(g) the provisions made for providing compensation for the agricultural land and other area acquired by the Gas Authority of India Limited 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) Gas Authority of India Limited (GAIL) is laying an LPG pipeline from Jamnagar (Gujarat) to Loni (UP) *via* Delhi, passing through the Districts of Sirohi, Pali, Ajmer, Jaipur and Alwar in Rajasthan.

(c) and (d) Indian Oil Corporation Ltd., Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd. and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited are setting up new bottling plants and also augmenting the existing ones to be catered by this LPG pipeline of GAIL.

(e) Total expenditure is estimated to Rs. 1229.45 crore and this LPG pipeline project is scheduled to be completed by February 2001.

(f) GAIL has awarded the construction job of this pipeline to various vendor contractors, who employ the local people for their works as per the need and requirement in job.

(g) The land is not acquired by GAIL but only the Right of Use in land is acquired under the provisions of the Petroleum & Minerals Pipelines (Acquisition of Right of Use in Land) Act, 1962 (P&MP Act) for laying the above LPG pipeline. The compensation for acquiring the right of use in land is paid as determined by the Competent Authority appointed for this purpose under the P&MP Act.

[English]

Mega Power Projects on Imported Coal

4478. SHRI SHAMSHER SINGH DULLO: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up mega power projects in the country based on imported coal;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have decided to consider central organisation to co-ordinate with private power projects and State Electricity Boards for proper distribution of power generated in the power sector; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) Yes, Sir, some of the multi-State power projects identified as mega power projects to be developed under the revised mega power projects policy announced in November, 1998, are envisaged to use imported coal.

(b) The details are as follows:

Sl. No.	Name of the Project	Fuel	State	Capacity MW
1.	Cuddalore TPP	Blend of Imported & Indigenous Coal	Tamil Nadu	1000
2.	Krishnapatnam TPP	Blend of Imported & Indigenous Coal	Andhra Pradesh	1500
3.*	Pipavav TPP	Imported Coal/LNG	Gujarat	2000

*The actual Fuel in respect of the Pipavav TPP will depend upon the offers submitted by the preferred bidder.

(c) and (d) A Power Trading Corporation (PTC) has been incorporated on 16th April, 1999 as a public limited company under the Companies Act, 1956. The PTC would purchase power from the identified mega power projects in the private sector and sell it to the concerned State Electricity Boards (SEBs)/Utilities. Security to the PTC would be provided by means of a Letter of Credit and recourse to the State's share of Central Plan Allocations and other devolutions. In case found feasible, PTC can also supply power directly to a 'cluster' like licensees and industrial establishments. The Power Trading Corporation has been set up to facilitate distributioin of power from identified mega projects as well as other large inter-State projects by mitigating the risk involved in dealing with several financially weak SEBs. PTC is, at present, structuring the Pipavav mega project (2000 MW) in Gujarat and Hirma mega project (6x660 MW) in Orissa.

Ban on International Ivory Trade

4479. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether concerned with the decline in the elephant population in the country, Government of India have appealed to the member countries for ban on international ivory trade;

(b) if so, the details threof;

(c) whether poaching has increased in the country following restricted lifting the ban on the ivory trade;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether any response has been received from the member countries on the appeal so made; and

(f) if so, the reaction of the member countries and the steps being taken to save the elephant population in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) and (b) The 10th Conference of Parties (COP) of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Flora and Fauna (CITES) held in June, 1997 at Harare had permitted down listing of three populations of African elephants namely, those of Botswana, Namibia and Zimbabwe from Appendix 1 to Appendix 2 of CITES, i.e., permitting ivory trade. This decision was taken through a majority vote, although some countries like India were opposed to it because of its likely impact on the Asian elephant population which faces serious threat from poching for ivory. Government of India has expressed reservations to CITES Secretariat in this regard.

(c) and (d) There is likelihood of increasing poaching in the country following restricted lifting of the ban of ivory trade, however there is no reported direct adverse impact on the Indian elephant population. Details of elephant poaching reported from various States during the last three years are given in the enclosed Statement.

(e) and (f) The report on the 41st Standing Committee of the CITES held at Geneva during February 1999, shows that, the USA, Israel and Australia were strongly against the lifting of the ban alongwith India. From Europe, France, Germany, Netherlands, Austria and Belgium were also against the lifting of the ban. The African countries

like Kenya, Zambia, Mali, Ghana, Chad, Congo, Liberia and Cameroon were also against the lifting of the ban of ivory trade.

The steps being taken to save the elephant population in the country are as given below:

(i) Elephant is included in Schedule 1 of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, which provides full protection against hunting & commercial exploitation.

(ii) Trade in elephant ivory has been totally banned to discourage poaching of elephants for its tusk.

(iii) The Asian Elephant is also included in Appendix-1 of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Flora and Fauna (CITES) which prohibits International Trade in Asian Ivory.

(iv) Government of India has launched Project Elephant in 1992 to provide impetus to the conservation of wild elephants in India. Under this project assistance is given to 12 States for strengthening their protection and communication infrastructure, development of habitat, prevention & mitigation of man-elephant conflicts etc.

Statement

Sl.No.	State	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99
1.	Andhra Pradesh	Nil	Nil	N.A.
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	1	Nil	Nil
3.	Assam	4	6	3
4.	Bihar	2	3	N.A.
5.	Karnataka	18	15	11
6.	Kerala	7	2	2
7.	Meghalaya	N.A.	N.A.	Nil
8.	Nagaland	5	1	Nil
9.	Orissa	11	7	N.A.
10.	Tamil nadu	15	6	9
11.	Uttar Pradesh	Nil	Nil	Nil
12.	West Bengal	Nil	Nil	6
	Total:	63	40	31

[Translation]

Excess Telephone Bill

4480. SHRI AJAY SINGH CHAUTALA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the complaints relating to the excess billing from telephone exchanges of Haryana, particularly in Bhiwani, Hissar and Sirsa districts have been received by the Government during the year 1999-2000;

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

(c) the remedial steps 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) The number of complaints received in 1999-2000 at the following stations were as follows:

Hissar-116 Sirsa-182 Bhiwani-6

These were due to technical faults in the exchange systems.

(c) The following remedials steps were taken by the Government:

(i) Efforts were made to rectify the technical faults causing excess metering as soon as they came to notice, during testing etc.

(ii) The telephone exchanges were replaced by electronic ones whereby the possibilities of excess metering has been minimized.

(iii) The STD/ISD locking facility has been made available to subscribers by which they can control the no. of calls from their premises. For this, they operate a secret code to which others will not have access.

[English]

Collection of Security by NCCFI and Super Bazar

4481. SHRI C.N. SINGH: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any representation from Members of Parliament regarding the National Consumers Coop. Federation of India and the Super Bazar, Delhi who are collecting security amount of Rs. 10,000/- per item from the traders who get themselves registered with those agencies to supply their items free of interest;

(b) whether these agencies are utilising the funds so collected for their day-to-day business activities;

(c) if so, the extent to which this practice is unfair and attracts the provisions of MRTP Act; and

(d) the action taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to check such activities of these organisations?

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

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

(c) The Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Commission (MRTP Commission) has ordered the Director General of Investigation and Registration (DGIR) to conduct Preliminary Investigation in the matter. The matter is under investigation by the DGIR. MRTP Commission would take further action after receipt of the Preliminary Investigation Report from DGIR.

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

Trees Infested with Sal Borer

4482. SHRI CHANDRA VIJAY SINGH:
SHRI MAHESHWAR SINGH:
SHRI SURESH CHANDEL:

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

(a) whether Government are aware that a large number of trees of Northern India are victim of a disease called sal borer;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the nature of the disease which may have widespread ramifications on the ecological system; and

(c) the remedial steps being taken to check the disease, stall its spread and prevent its reappearance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Sal forests in Madhya Pradesh and some parts of sal forests in Uttar Pradesh and Himachal Pradesh have been affected by sal borer disease. It was first noticed in 1995 in Mandla and adjoining districts of Madhya Pradesh. The matter was referred by them to the Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education (ICFRE) Dehradun for guidance. ICFRE advised to conduct 'trap tree operation' during the months of monsoon to check the beetle population and recommended removal of affected trees. Government of India had set up a task force to study the problem, extent of damage and suggest remedial measures. A Steering Committee under the Chairmanship of Director General, ICFRE was set up to suggest long term measures to check sal borer attack. Government of India had advised Madhya Pradesh Government to undertake 'Trap tree operation' and felling of totally dead trees. A committee under the Chairmanship of Director, Tropical Forest Research Institute, Jabalpur was set up to supervise marketing of trees for felling. The State Government has stopped felling of sal trees in areas unaffected by sal borer in other districts of Madhya Pradesh to compensate for the tree felling being done in affected areas. To supplement the regneration process, dribbling of seeds of sal and other miscellaneous species will be done in critical areas.

Closure of Division of Balmer Lawrie & Company Ltd.

4483. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Balmer Lawrie & Company Limited has decided to close down the Oleochemicals and Specialities Division at Taloja;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the company has incurred a huge losses during the last few years;

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

(e) whether the Government/Board of the company have received any requests for reviewing the earlier decisions of closing down the company; and

(f) if so, the reaction of the Government/Board of the company thereto?

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 plant of Balmer Lawrie & Company Limited at Taloja has become unviable.

'e) and (f) A suggestion was received by company on behalf of affected workers to continue their jobs or transfer to any other division or for enhancement of their closure compensation etc. The company has agreed to increase the closure compensation.

Development Projects in North Eastern States

4484. SHRI BHIM DAHAL. Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the development projects under execution in the North Eastern States including Sikkim under the environment and forests schemes, State-wise;

(b) the present status of each of such project;

(c) the expenditure likely to be incurred on these projects, project-wise; and

(d) the time schedule for completion of these projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) and (b) The details of the budgetary support and funds released for the 19 Schemes of this Ministry under execution in the North-Eastern States including Sikkim are shown in the statement-I. The detailed notes inidicating the status of the major 17 Projects is given in enclosed Statement-II.

(c) and (d) The further release of funds for the Projects depends on the receipt of project proposals from the implementing Agencies; most of the Projects are of a continuing nature.

Statement-I

The Scheme-wise and State-wise details of funds allocated and released to N.E. States during 1999-2000

(Rs. in Lakhs)

Sl. No.	Name of Schemes	Arunachal		Assam		Manipur		Meghalaya		Mizoram	
		Allo.	Rel.	Allo.	Rel.	Allo.	Rel.	Allo.	Rel.	Allo.	Rel.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
1.	IAEP	61.04	47.87	83.95	67.15	468.73	468.73	13.61	10.21	147.66	141.3
2.	AOFFP	9.69	7.00	182.50	89.69	214.19	127.54	29.95	0.00	180.5	173.22
3.	NTFP	67.53	30.00	51.62	25.00	53.94	53.94	27.72	0.00	41.67	53.45
4.	Seed Development Scheme	4.50	0.00	0.64	0.00	2.30	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
5.	Support to Regional Centres	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	9.06	10.33	0.00	0.00
6.	Grants to NGOs	0.00	8.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	24.67	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
7.	National Wetland Conservation	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	97.28	97.28	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
8.	Environment Education & Trg.	0.00	0.89	0.00	7.20	0.00	9.75	0.00	0.27	0.00	2.37
9.	Abatement of Pollution	0.00	8.75	0.00	0.00	0.00	9.30	0.00	12.00	0.00	8.00
10.	Development of National Parks	60.00	5.98	40.00	53.44	15.00	13.28	15.00	0.00	10.00	12.30
11.	Eco-Dev. Around Protected areas	—	11.82	—	32.00	—	10.11	—	—	—	59.85
12.	Biosphere reserve	0.00	2.05	0.00	11.75	0.00	0.00	0.00	12.00	0.00	0.00
13.	Research and Development	27.30	5.70	29.60	3.90	11.60	3.60	6.80	0.50	6.20	0.00

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
14.	Asso. of Scheduled Tribes and Rural Poor	8.18	8.18	0.00	0.00	26.33	26.33	0.00	0.00	18.02	18.02
15.	Assistance to Botanical Gardens	0.00	7.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	5.50	0.00	4.00	0.00	0.00
16.	National Natural Resource Management	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	9.52	5.97	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
17.	Project Tiger	—	20.50	—	87.29	—	—	—	—	—	21.43
18.	Project Elephant	40.00	19.30	50.00	25.15	0.00	0.00	40.00	20.63	0.00	0.00
19.	Indian Institute of Bio-Diversity	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Total	278.24	184.04	438.31	402.57	898.89	856.00	142.14	69.94	403.60	489.67

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl. No.	Name of Schemes	Nagaland		Tripura		Sikkim		Total	
		Allo.	Rel.	Allo.	Rel.	Allo.	Rel.	Allo.	Rel.
1.	IAEP	59.68	38.60	94.24	37.77	187.38	109.82	1116.29	921.18
2.	AOFFP	19.44	10.87	106.77	0.00	68.52	69.52	811.11	477.84
3.	NTFP	12.89	0.00	24.72	17.25	120.10	102.00	400.19	281.64
4.	Seed Development Scheme	3.00	3.00	17.50	12.00	9.65	0.00	37.59	15.00
5.	Support to Regional Centres	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	9.06	10.33
6.	Grants to NGOs	0.00	22.99	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	56.16
7.	National Wetland Conservation	0.00	0.00	16.96	16.96	0.00	0.00	114.24	114.24
8.	Environment Education & Trg.	0.00	0.38	0.00	3.86	0.00	2.72	0.00	27.44
9.	Abatement of Pollution	0.00	13.35	0.00	8.00	0.00	8.00	0.00	67.40
10.	Development of National Parks	10.00	9.70	10.00	19.97	10.00	12.00	170.00	126.67
11.	Eco-Dev. Around Protected areas	—	8.06	—	—	—	26.00	0.00	147.78
12.	Biosphere reserve	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	4.36	0.00	30.16
13.	Research and Development	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	81.50	13.70
14.	Asso. of Scheduled Tribes and Rural Poor	17.51	0.00	14.16	8.00	0.00	0.00	84.19	60.52
15.	Assistance to Botanical Gardens	0.00	0.00	0.00	3.00	0.00	6.50	0.00	26.50
16.	National Natural Resource Management	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	9.52	5.97
17.	Project Tiger	—	—	—	—	—	—	0.00	129.22
18.	Project Elephant	15.00	40.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	145.00	105.08
19.	Indian Institute of Bio-Diversity	—	—	—	—	—	—	0.00	0.00
	Total	137.52	146.89	284.35	126.81	395.65	340.92	2978.69	2616.84

Statement-II

Brief on the Development Programmes Implemented in North East during 1999-2000

North Eastern Region has strategical position with regard to bio-diversity, ecology, geo-morphology, varied topography, international boundary and minerals. The region is very rich in endemic species and one of the 18 identified hot spots of bio-diversity in the world. It is also one of the two identified hot spots of India. The region is also rich in wild relatives of agricultural plants and rich in citrus genepool. In view of the abundance of natural resources and growing local needs, it is imperative that the development of this region should be in accordance with the principles of sustainable development and harmony with nature. Keeping above in view the Ministry of Environment and Forests implements a number of schemes in the North East. The status of these schemes during 1999-2000 is as follows:

1. ***Integrated Afforestation and Eco-Development Project Scheme (IAEP)***

This scheme is 100% Centrally sponsored scheme and being implemented in the States of Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura, Meghalaya and Sikkim. The funds released for these States during 1998-99 were to the tune of Rs. 718.08 lakhs and Rs. 921.18 during 1999-2000.

2. ***Area Oriented Fuelwood and Fodder Projects Scheme (AOFFP)***

This scheme is under implementation in 41 district viz. 9 in Arunachal Pradesh, 14 in Assam, 4 in Manipur, 7 in Nagaland, 3 in Tripura and 2 each in Meghalaya, Mizoram and Sikkim. The State of Meghalaya has an unspent balance of Rs. 58.16 lakh. The total release of funds was Rs. 529.21 lakhs during 1998-99 and Rs. 477.84 during 1999-2000.

3. ***Non-Timber Forest Produce Scheme (NTFP)***

The scheme covers whole of North East States. It has a special focus on tribal population for whom NTFP is an important source of livelihood. It is a 100% centrally sponsored scheme. An amount of Rs. 179.70 Lakh was released during 1998-99 and Rs. 281.64 during 1999-2000.

4. ***Tree and Pasture Seed Development Scheme***

This scheme is a 100% Centrally sponsored scheme being implemented in the States of Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur and Nagaland. An amount of Rs. 33.26 Lakh was released in 1998-99. Meghalaya and Mizoram failed to submit proposals despite repeated efforts. Rs. 15.00 lakhs was released in favour of Nagaland & Tripura during 1999-2000.

5. ***Regional Centres:***

North Eastern Hill University (NEHU), Shillong, one of the seven Regional Centres of NAEB, provides Technical and Training assistance to all States of North East. A work Programme for conducting 6 Training Programmes, one workshop and two studies was sanctioned during 1998-99 releasing an amount of Rs. 17.12 lakh, Rs. 10.33 lakhs was released during 1999-2000.

6. ***Grant-in-Aid Scheme***

A substantial number of project proposals from Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) from the States of Manipur, Meghalaya and Nagaland were received and appropriate decisions were taken Rs. 21.33 Lakh were released under this scheme during 1998-99 and Rs. 56.16 lakhs was released during 1999-2000.

7. ***Conservation of Freshwater Bodies under National Wetland Conservation Programme***

In North East, three wetland have been identified, namely Loktak Lake from Manipur, Deepar Beel Wetland from Assam and Rudrasagar Lake from Tripura. Under this programme, an amount of Rs. 72.48 lakhs were released in 1998-99 and Rs. 114.24 lakhs were released during 1999-2000.

8. ***Environment, Education & Training***

It has two main programmes, namely, National Environment Awareness Campaign and Eco-Clubs. Funds are not released directly to any centres in N.E. States. Under this programme, an amount of Rs. 27.44 lakhs were released.

9. ***Assistance for Abatement of Pollution***

The scheme provide financial assistance to strengthen the State Pollution Control Boards (SPCBs)/Committees including N.E. State Pollution Control Boards in terms of enhancement of technical manpower and strengthening of laboratories with latest equipments. During 1998-99, an amount of Rs. 36.15 lakhs was released and Rs. 67.40 lakhs was released during 1999-2000.

10. *Development of National Parks and Sanctuaries*

The State of Meghalaya and Tripura have not submitted any project proposal. Under this scheme, an amount of Rs. 164.04 lakhs during 1998-99 and Rs. 126.67 released during 1999-2000.

11. *Eco-Development Around Important Protective Areas*

Project proposal has not been received from the State of Meghalaya, hence, funds could not be released. For other States an amount of Rs. 89.11 lakhs was released during 1998-99. During 1999-2000, an amount of Rs. 147.78 lakhs was released.

12. *Biosphere Reserves*

There are 10 biosphere reserves in India of which 4 are located in North East States. These are: Nokrek in Meghalaya, Manas and Dibru-Saikhowa in Assam and Dehang-Debang in Arunachal Pradesh. Funds are being provided to the respective State Governments for conservation and management of these biosphere reserves. The release of funds under this scheme was Rs. 59.50 lakhs during 1998-99 and Rs. 30.16 lakhs released during 1999-2000.

13. *Association of Scheduled Tribes and Rural Poor in Regeneration of Degraded Forest on Usufruct Sharing Basis Scheme*

During the 9th Plan, this scheme was extended to the North East Region also. Project Proposals from the States of Manipur, Mizoram, Nagaland and Tripura were received and a sum of Rs. 26.46 lakhs was released to them during 1998-99. Rs. 60.52 lakhs were released during 1999-2000.

14. *National Natural Resource Management System*

The main objective of National Natural Resource Management System (NNRMS) is utilisation of remote sensing technology with conventional methods for the management of natural resources such as land, water, forests, minerals, oceans etc. for attaining sustainable development. During 1998-99 the on-going project in Arunachal Pradesh is 'Delineation of Shifting cultivation areas & forest cover mapping in eastern region of Arunachal Pradesh using Remote Sensing data' at a total outlay of Rs. 3.93 lakhs. An amount of Rs. 1.14 lakhs was released as 3rd. instalment in 1998-99.

A new project titled 'Watershed Prioritization of Bank Basin using GIS & Remote Sensing Techniques' was sanctioned at a total outlay of Rs. 5.73 lakhs. An amount of Rs. 1.83 lakhs was released as Ist instalment Rs. 5.97 were released during 1999-2000.

15. *Environmental Research*

Research projects are funded in multidisciplinary aspects of environment protection, conservation and management at various universities, research and development institutions and reputed Non-Government Organisations (NGOs) of the country. 9 research projects were supported at the expenditure of Rs. 28.31 lakhs and the findings of research will be communicated to the agencies as soon as these are available.

16. *Environmental Impact Assessment*

For North East, a regional office of the Ministry of Environment and Forests at Shillong scrutinizes the monitoring reports, review the implementation and make a site visit, if necessary.

17. *Bio-Diversity*

The Ministry of Environment & Forests has been examining the feasibility of setting-up an Institute of Bio-diversity in Arunachal Pradesh with the explicit mission of conservation, sustainable utilisation and generation of models for fair and equitable sharing of benefit with the communities and other State holders. The expert group has submitted its reports in regard to mandate, structure, discipline and location of the institute. The said report is under active consideration of the Ministry of Environment & Forests.

[Translation]

Production Capacity of Panipat Refinery

4485. SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA:
DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA:
SHRI ARUN KUMAR:
SHRI SUKDEO PASWAN:
SHRI TUFANI SAROJ:
SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI:

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

(a) whether the Government had constituted a Committee to look into the various snags/accidents developed/occurred in the Panipat refinery;

(b) if so, the details of recommendations made by the committee and action contemplated by the Government thereupon;

(c) whether the installed capacity of the refinery is fully utilised;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to make full utilisation of the installed capacity of the refinery?

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. However, Government had constituted an Enquiry Committee to investigation into the causes of fire which occurred on 7th May, 1999 at the Hydrocracker unit of the refinery.

(b) The Committee in its report had made certain recommendations on the safety aspects of the refinery. The Government had sent the report to IOCL for taking action on the recommendations.

(c) to (e) The actual crude throughput in 1998-99 was *2.208* Million Metric Tonnes (MMT) and in 1999-2000, *4.153* MMT as against the installed capacity of *6 MMT* per annum. For the year 2000-01, crude throughput of 5.7 MMT has been planned.

[English]

Construction of Bridges on National Highways

4486. SHRI HOLKHOMANG HAOKIP: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of bridges constructed on National Highways in the North East Region during the last three years;

(b) the number of bridges proposed to be constructed in the Region during the Ninth Plan; and

(c) the details of target proposed to be fixed for construction of these bridges?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) 44 bridges were completed in the North East Region during the last three years.

(b) and (c) 162 bridges are proposed for construction during the Ninth Five-Year Plan. It is not possible at this stage to indicate the details of target for construction of bridges, which depend on availability of funds, site investigations, project preparations etc.

Funding in Power Sector

4487. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL:
SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned 'Safety, security, good return must for global funding in power' appearing in the 'Indian Express' dated March 24, 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 POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Government is aware that unless good returns are available, private capital will not flow into the power sector. In order to improve the returns from the power sector, the financial health of the power utilities/State Electricity Boards (SEBs) have to be improved. The Government has, therefore, embarked upon the process of reforms in the power sector. The Central Electricity Regulatory Commission was set up in July, 1998 and fourteen State Electricity Regulatory Commissions (SERCs) have also been set up. One of the primary functions of these commissions is to rationalise tariff so that the power utilities earn an adequate profit. The Government plays a catalytic role by encouraging the States to undergo reforms. A new plan scheme has been launched from 2000-2001 wherein financial assistance will be extended to those States which make a commitment to reforms. One of the latest initiatives of the Government is to undertake complete metering of all consumers in a time bound manner by December, 2001 which would help in augmenting the revenues of the SEBs. Further, the Government, in its effort to promote reforms in the north eastern States, proposes to give financial assistance for setting up of a joint SERC for the region.

The above measures are expected to improve the financial viability of the power utilities/SEBs, which in turn, would enthuse the private sector to invest in the power sector.

Marketing Rights to Refineries

4488. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY:
SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH:
SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY:
SHRI BHAN SINGH BHAURA:

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

—

(a) whether the Government propose to grant marketing rights to the private and joint sector refineries in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the benefit likely to be accrued by the Government as a result thereof;

(c) whether the decision of the Government is likely to have any adverse affect on the working of the public sector refineries; 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) Government have permitted marketing of decontrolled products to private and joint sector. Marketing of kerosene and LPG is permitted to private and joint sector under Parallel Marketing Scheme (PMS).

The petroleum products under the Administered Pricing Mechanism (APM) are marketed by Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies only. These products are Motor Spirit, High Speed Diesel, LPG (domestic), SKO (PDS), Aviation Turbine Fuel.

Tender for Passenger Vessels

4489. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the A&N Administration had placed order for 18 numbers passenger vessels during 1998-99;

(b) if so, the details of size, passenger capacity and costs thereof;

(c) whether these purchases fall under the purview of EFC/PIB/CCEA and A&N Administration had placed orders by exceeding their delegated powers and resorting to splitting of purchase;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government have taken any action and/or fixed responsibilities for such irregularities;

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

(g) the action taken or proposed to be taken by the Government for ensuring financial propriety and to obviate such irregularities in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Andaman & Nicobar Administration have placed orders on various Indian shipyards for acquisition of 18 medium sized vessels of 75 to 100 passenger capacity. The cost of each vessel is about Rs. 7 to 8 crores.

(c) to (g) The informatioin is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the Lok Sabha.

Oil and Gas Fields in Godavari Basin

4490. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited has made any effort to find new oil and gas fields in south of the existing Godavari Basin and the East Coast of the country;

(b) if so, whether any initial surveys have shown good prospects;

(c) if so, whether any areas have been identified in this off-shore region for the purpose; 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) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) Three new prospects in the shallow water and two new prospects in the deep water offshore sectors have been identified by Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC). Recently, 3D seismic surveys have also been carried out by ONGC over the identified deep water prospects. In shallow water sector also, 2D Teleseis surveys have been carried out. Based on the results of the data acquired exploratory drilling will be undertaken over these prospects.

Privatisation of Department of Posts

[Translation]

4491. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to privatise Department of Posts;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have prepared any plan to open cyberbooths in each post office to adopt new technologies; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) No Sir. The Government does not propose to privatise the Department of Posts.

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

(c) No Sir. The Government have not prepared any plan to open cyberbooths in post offices.

(d) Does not arise in view of (c) above.

Development of Environment and Forests in Madhya Pradesh

[Translation]

4492. SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the amount allocated for the development of environment and forests in Madhya Pradesh during the last three years;

(b) the amount out of the total spent on salary and preservation of forests during the above period, year-wise; and

(c) the extent of development of forests to be carried out in Madhya Pradesh during the current financial year and the amount likely to be spent in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Environment and Forests has released an amount of Rs. 1433.76 lakhs, Rs. 2486.99 lakhs and Rs. 3340.88 lakhs during 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000 respectively to the State of Madhya Pradesh for the development of Environment and Forests. The whole amount is to be spent on the components approved for taking up developmental activities under various schemes.

(c) An amount of Rs. 1293.46 lakhs is to be spent for the development of 18800 ha. of forests in Madhya Pradesh during the current financial year.

[English]

Thermal Power Stations in the Country

4493. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government prefers thermal power to hydel power;

(b) if so, the number of thermal as well as hydel power stations set up in the country so far alongwith reasons for developing more number of thermal power stations than hydels;

(c) whether majority of the country's total hydel power potential is lying untapped; and

(d) if so, the steps taken to tap the hydel power potential?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) and (b) The ideal hydro-thermal mix is 40:60. This was maintained upto the end of 5th Plan period (March, 1979). However, due to various factors such as delay in civil works, geological surprises, issues relating to Environment and Forests Act, contractual and law and order problems, fund constraints, resettlement and rehabilitation issues and inter-State disputes etc., development of hydro power could not keep pace with thermal power. In order to meet the demand of power for the development of the economy, the development of thermal power outstripped the hydro development, as thermal plants have low gestation period and encounter less problems vis-a-vis hydro power. The present hydro-thermal mix is about 25:75.

As on 31.3.2000, there are 87 steam based thermal power stations, 41 gas based stations and 322 hydel stations in the country.

(c) and (d) The economically exploitable hydro potential of the country is assessed as 84044 MW at 60% load factor, out of which 13579.1 MW (16.16%) has been developed and 5467.88 MW (6.51%) is under various stages of development in the country. To accelerate the pace of hydro power development in the country, the Government have taken several steps such as creation of power corporations under Central/Joint Sector, liberalisation of policies and procedures to attract private investment, emphasis on renovation, modernisation and uprating of existing hydro stations and small hydro developments etc. With the objective for faster

development of hydro potential, the Government of India has announced a policy on hydro development in August, 1998 incorporating several measures. Besides, Government has also announced a mega power policy including hydro power projects.

Private Telecom Operators

4494. SHRI RAM PRASAD SINGH:
SHRI SUKDEO PASWAN:
DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of private telecom operators in Bihar have not paid their dues;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the areas effected in the State thereby;

(c) the details of defaulting companies which are yet to clear their dues in the State;

(d) the reaction of the Government thereto;

(e) the extent to which the telecom services/facilities have been effected due to non-cooperation of these private telecom companies;

(f) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The details of companies, type of service provided by them, Service Area and license fee dues outstanding as on 31.3.2000 are given in enclosed Statement.

(d) to (f) The details in respect of the licensees mentioned at Sl. No. 1, 2 and 3 in the Statement are as follows:

1. In case of M/s. Koshika, the license was terminated on 22.5.99 because of non-payment of dues. There is another operator namely M/s. Reliance, licensed for the same Service Area and therefore the users of the service have a fall back option. However, on 17.4.2000 an offer has been given to the company for the restoration of its terminated license and Migration to New Telecom Policy, 1999 regime, subject to fulfilment of prescribed conditions.

2. The Radio Paging Service Operators, have raised several issues *viz.* Reduction in Committee license fee, payment of outstanding license fee in instalments over a longer time at concessional interest rate, implementation of Calling Party Pays (CPP) regime, reduction of WPC charges etc., which are under active consideration of the Sub-group on resolution of subsisting problems, constituted by the Group of Telecom and IT Convergence. Meanwhile, the operators have been asked to pay their current dues (4th Year onwards) immediately. The services are operational.

3. The amount shown pertains to the current dues of M/s. Mobilcom and the licensee is being reminded for making the payment. The service has not been affected.

Statement

Details of Licensees operating in Bihar and defaulting in payment of license fees

(Rs. in crores)

Sl. No.	Service	Name of the Company	Service Area	Amount* Outstanding as on 31.3.2000
1.	CMTS (Circle)	M/s. Koshika	Bihar	62.38**
2.	Radio Paging (Cities)	M/s. Beltron	Patna	0.09***
	—do—	M/s. Easy Call	Patna	0.09***
3.	Public Mobile Radio Trunk Service	M/s. Mobilco	Dhanbad	0.01

* The amount shown do not include interest on overdue payments.

** This license was terminated for default in payment of license fee on 22.5.99.
On 17.4.2000 an offer has been given to this licensees for restoration and Migration to NTP-99 regime. Amount of license fee due shown is in terms of the Migration Package thus offered.

*** Apart from this amount, license fee (as revenue share) for 4th and 5th year is also due.

Attack by Wild Animals

4495. COL. (RETD). DR. DHANI RAM SHANDIL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of increasing attacks by wild animals resulting in death of human beings;

(b) if so, whether it is proposed to pay compensation to the families of victims of such attacks;

(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) Wild animals particularly those outside the national parks and sanctuaries are known to cause injury and death to human beings.

(b) and (c) The Government of India has decided to pay Rs. 1 lakh as ex-gratia payment in cases of death or permanent incapacitation of any person by a wild animal. The compensation in cases of grevious injuries is 1/3rd of Rs. 1 lakh.

(d) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Shortage of Material

4496. SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the work of laying of optical fibre cables has been delayed due to non-availability of required material in the Malegaon area of Nasik district of Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the telecommunication towers of the circle from Malegaon to Nasik are also not functioning due to non-availability of required material in time; and

(d) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to make available required material in the circle?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) No Sir. There is no shortage of Optical Fibre Cable.

(b) Not applicable in view of reply to (a) above.

(c) There is no telecommunication tower working between Nasik and Malegaon. The two stations are linked by optical fibre cable.

(d) Not applicable in view of reply to (c) above.

Review of Forest Policy

4497. PROF. DUKHA BHAGAT:
SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN:
SHRI RAMJIVAN SINGH:

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

(a) whether the Government propose to review the National Forest Policy, 1988;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the background thereof;

(c) whether the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 and Forest (Conservation) Act, 1986 are also to be updated under this review;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (e) Does not arise.

Telephone Exchanges in Bihar

4498. SHRI BRAJ MOHAN RAM: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up new telephone exchanges in Bihar during the Ninth Five Year Plan;

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

(c) whether there is any plan to modernise telephone exchanges in the State during 2000-2001; and

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

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

(b) The district-wise details of new telephone exchanges set up in Bihar during 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000 are given in enclosed Statement. The district-wise details for 2000-2001 and 2001-2002 have not been finalised. However, it is proposed to set up seventy five new telephone exchanges during 2000-2001 and eighty new telephone exchanges during 2000-2002 in Bihar.

(c) and (d) all the existing telephone exchanges in Bihar are electronic.

Statement

New Telephone Exchanges set up in Bihar During 1997-98, 1998-99 & 1999-2000

New Telephone Exchanges set up during the year 1997-98

Sl.No. No.	Name of District	1997-98
1.	Palamu	1
2.	Muzaffarpur	1
3.	Sitamarhi	1
4.	Saran	1
5.	Khagaria	1
6.	Gumla	1
7.	Deoghar	1
8.	Begusarai	1
9.	Patna	1
10.	Madhubani	2
11.	E. Singhbhum	1
12.	Munger	2
13.	Jehanabad	1
14.	Nawadah	1
15.	Gaya	2
16.	Bhagalpur	1
17.	Banka	1
18.	Buxur	1
19.	Ranchi	1
20.	Dhanbad	1
21.	E. Champaran	1
22.	Rohtas	1
23.	Darbhanga	2
	Total	27

New Telephone Exchanges set up during the year 1998-99

Sl.No. No.	Name od District	1998-99
1.	Palamu	1
2.	Muzaffarpur	2
3.	Sitamarhi	1
4.	Saran	1
5.	Gumla	1
6.	Begusarai	2
7.	Patna	2
8.	Munger	1
9.	Madhubani	1
10.	Nawadah	1
11.	Bhagalpur	1
12.	Banka	2
13.	Buxur	1
14.	Ranchi	3
15.	E. Champaran	1
16.	W. Singhbhum	1
17.	Dumka	1
18.	Araria	1
19.	Sheikhpura	1
20.	Siwan	1
21.	Katihar	1
22.	Bhojpur	2
23.	Pakur	1
24.	Hazaribagh	1
25.	Kishanganj	1
26.	Purnea	1
27.	Lakhisarai	1
28.	Jamui	1
29.	W. Champaran	2
30.	Vaishali	1
31.	Lohardaga	1
32.	Madhepura	1
	Total	40

New Telephone Exchanges set up during 1999-2000

Sl.No. No.	Name of District	1999-2000
1	2	3
1.	Palamu	4
2.	Muzaffarpur	4
3.	Sitamarhi	1
4.	Saran	3
5.	Gumla	5
6.	Deoghar	1
7.	Begusarai	1
8.	Patna	6
9.	E. Singhbhum	4
10.	Jehanabad	2
11.	Nawadah	2
12.	Gaya	1
13.	Bhagalpur	2
14.	Banka	2
15.	Ranchi	8
16.	Dhanbad	2
17.	E. Champaran	3
18.	Rohtas	2
19.	Darbhanga	3
20.	W. Singhbhum	1
21.	Dumka	2
22.	Siwan	1
23.	Katihar	3
24.	Bhojpur	3
25.	Hazaribagh	4
26.	Kishanganj	2
27.	Purnea	2
28.	Lakhisarai	4
29.	Vaishali	1
30.	Madhepura	2
31.	Monghyr	1
32.	Supaul	1
33.	Chatra	2
34.	Saharsa	1
35.	Bhabua	2
36.	Giridih	2
37.	Bokaro	2
38.	Gopalganj	1
39.	Godda	1
40.	Sahebganj	1
41.	Nalanda	2
42.	Samastipur	2
	Total	100

[English]

Disposal of Ships by SCI

4499. SHRI B. VENKATESHWARLU: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Shipping Corporation of India propose to dispose of some ships;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken for development of shipping sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) and (b) The SCI propose to dispose off 13 ships during the year 2000-01. The Government have fixed the economic life of all categories of vessels. Normally when a ship completes its economic life and its repair expenses become prohibitively high, the same is disposed off. However, in some cases when a ship has not completed its economic life but the repair expenses become high due to poor physical condition of the ship or the ship is not acceptable in the market and thus the operation of ship techno-commercially unviable, the same is disposed off.

(c) The Government have taken the following steps for development of shipping sector:

(i) Introduction of automatic approval for acquisition of ships.

(ii) Committee for Slotting of ship repair, which used to decide about the yards where ships were required to be repaired, has been abolished. It has been left to the shipowners to decide the yard for repairs based on his commercial judgement.

(iii) Shipping companies have been permitted to retain sale proceeds of Indian ships abroad for utilization for fresh acquisition.

(iv) Freedom to time charter out Indian ships to foreign companies for employment in international cross trade.

(v) Allowing shipping companies to acquire vessels on charter-cum-demise method (similar to hire purchase system).

(vi) Age norms for acquisition of second hand vessels have been further relaxed.

(vii) Import of large vessels have been placed under open general licence w.e.f. 1.4.1997.

Fire in Oil Wells

4500. SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the locations of oil wells in the country which caught fire during 1999-2000;

(b) the reasons of fire;

(c) the estimated loss suffered as a result thereof;

(d) the number of days taken to extinguish fire in these wells; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to avoid recurrence of such incidents?

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 oil well at any of the locations in the country caught fire between 1st April, 1999 to 31st March, 2000.

(b) to (e) Does not arise.

Trials in Jail Premises

4501. SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI:
SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE:
SHRI SHIVAJI MANE:
SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE:

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

(a) whether the Delhi High Court has set up a four members Committee of Advocates under the directives of the Chief Justice of India to scrutinise the cases of undertrials booked for petty offences to see who among them could be released on bails;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have also issued any guidelines to the State Governments/Union Territories administration to take such decisions in their respective States;

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

(e) the time by which the said directives are likely to be implemented; and

(f) the extent to which it is likely to clear the pending undertrials cases?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI): (a) and (b) Information is being collected from the Delhi High Court and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(c) In pursuance of the orders passed on 13.10.1999 and 7.12.1999 by the Supreme Court of India, in the case - R.D. Upadhyay Vs. State of Andhra Pradesh & Others, the Central Government has written to all the State Governments and Union territories Administration to take urgent necessary steps for expeditious disposal of cases of undertrials who are languishing in various jails in the country.

(d) Most of the State Governments have appointed Special Judicial/Metropolitan Magistrates for the disposal of petty criminal cases, including traffic cases.

(e) and (f) It is not possible to indicate a definite time frame for its implementation and the extent to which it is likely to clear the pending undertrials cases.

[Translation]

Development of National Highways

4502. SHRI ARUN KUMAR:
SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the total length of the National Highways of the country;

(b) whether the Government have fixed any time-bound targets to develop this entire National Highways;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether any national level organization has been assigned the responsibility to maintain the high standards in development and maintenance of National Highways; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) At present the total length of National Highways in the country is 52,010 kms.

(b) and (c) Development and maintenance of National Highways is a continuous process. However, Government has drawn up a phased programme for improving riding quality of all National Highways.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. The National Highways Authority of India has been entrusted with the development and maintenance of certain National Highways.

Telephone Exchanges in Aurangabad

4503. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of telephone exchanges functioning at present in Aurangabad district;

(b) whether these exchanges are working satisfactorily;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) 112 telephone exchanges are functioning, at present, in the Aurangabad District.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Does not arise in view of (b) above.

(d) However, the following steps are being taken to further improve the working of all telephone exchanges:

1. Reliable transmission media is being provided in a phased manner to all the exchanges working on overhead media.
2. Daily monitoring of performance of all lines.
3. Providing standby power arrangements and maintenance free battery sets.

[English]

Damage of National Highways

4504. CH. TEJVEER SINGH: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the total loss suffered as a result of damage of National Highways by heavy rain and flood in the country particularly in Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh during the last three years, State-wise; and

(b) the total amount spent on the maintenance of such National Highways during the above period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) Total cost of restoration of damages to National Highways due to flood as reported by PWDs in the country during last three years, and particularly in the State of Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh are as below:

(Rs. in lakhs)

	Total in the country	Uttar Pradesh	Madhya Pradesh
1997-98	13539	1315	350
1998-99	23878	5000	200
1999-2000	22182	2000	3160

(b) Total amount allocated on maintenance and repair of National Highways in the country during last three years and particularly in the State of Uttar Pradesh and

Madhya Pradesh are as follow:

(Rs. in lakhs)

	Total in the country	Uttar Pradesh	Madhya Pradesh
1997-98	49750	4949.19	3313.78
1998-99	54980	6128.44	3945.04
1999-2000	68750	6105.49	5573.15

Post Offices in Tamil Nadu

4505. DR. V. SAROJA:
DR. A.D.K. JAYASEELAN:
SHRI THIRUNAVUKARASU:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of post offices functioning in Tamil Nadu particularly in Rasipuram, Tiruchendur and Puddukottai regions at present, district-wise;

(b) the number of post offices opened in the State and in the said regions during the last three years till date, district-wise; and

(c) the number of post offices proposed to be opened in the State and in the said regions during 2000-2001, location-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) The number of post offices functioning in Tamil Nadu Circle at present, district-wise is given in Statement-I. The post offices functioning at present in Rasipuram, Tiruchendur and Puddukottai are given in Statement-II.

(b) The number of post offices opened in the State during the last three years is given in Statement-III.

(c) Post Offices are opened subject to justification as per prescribed norms. The opening of new post offices depends upon availability of resources such as funds and sanctioning of posts by Ministry of Finance. The targets for opening new Post offices in Tamil Nadu in 2000-2001 are yet to be finalized.

Statement-I

Post Offices in Tamil Nadu

District-wise Number of Post Office in Tamil Nadu Circle as on 31.3.2000

Sl.No.	Districts	Urban	Rural	Total
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Chennai	175	—	175
2.	Cuddalore	71	437	508
3.	Coimbatore	181	444	625
4.	Dindigul	44	422	466
5.	Dharmapuri	40	523	563
6.	Erode	49	465	514
7.	Kanchipuram	78	513	591
8.	Kanyakumari	29	236	265
9.	Karur	23	218	241
10.	Madurai	93	316	409
11.	Nagapattinam	55	408	463
12.	Namakkal	36	394	430

1	2	3	4	5
13.	Nilgiris	40	143	183
14.	Pudukottai	43	301	344
15.	Perambalur	4	133	137
16.	Ram. N. Puram	39	295	334
17.	Salem	93	364	457
18.	Sivagangai	50	249	299
19.	Thanjavur	132	428	560
20.	Theni	44	125	169
21.	Tir. Ch. Ppalli	127	586	713
22.	Tirunelveli	82	474	556
23.	Tiruvallur	159	140	299
24.	Tiruvarur	10	251	261
25.	Tri. V. Malai	25	465	490
26.	Tuticorin	74	358	432
27.	Vellore	88	579	667
28.	Villupuram	24	612	636
29.	Virudhu Nagar	40	245	285
	Total	1948	10124	12072
30.	Pondicherry	38	57	95
	G. Total	1986	10181	12167

Statement-II

Number of Post Offices Functioning in Rasipuram, Tiruchender and Puddukottai

Sl.No.	Name of Place	No. of Post Offices
1.	Rasipuram Taluk	64
2.	Rasipuram M.P. Constituency	313
3.	Tiruchendur Taluk	100
4.	Tiruchendur M.P. Constituency	364
5.	Pudukottai District	338
6.	Pudukottai M.P. Constituency	455

Statement-III

Number of Post Offices Opened in Tamil Nadu During the Last Three Years (District-wise)

Sl.No.	District	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000
1.	Coimbatore	1	1	2
2.	Erode	1	—	—
3.	Cuddalore	3	—	—
4.	Chengalpattu	2	1	1
5.	Kanyakumari	2	—	—
6.	Kanchipuram	1	—	1
7.	Namakkai	3	—	—
8.	Nagapattinam	2	1	1
9.	Tiruvannamalai	1	1	2
10.	Vellore	5	1	2
11.	Pudukottai	2	1	1
12.	Ramnad	1	1	—
13.	Tuticorin	—	1	1
14.	Salem	—	3	1
15.	Nilgiri	—	—	1
16.	Theni	—	—	1
17.	Trichy	—	—	3
18.	Sivaganga	—	1	—
	Total	24	12	17

Finance for Building Roads without Toll on Consumers

4506. SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH:
SHRI THIRUNAVUKARASU:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Economic Survey for the year 1999-2000 has explored the possibility to financing for building roads without imposing a direct toll tax on the consumers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the total amount received in the Central Road Fund during the year 1999-2000 by cess on petrol and diesel; and

(d) the total amount given from Central Road Fund during the year 1999-2000 for development of roads?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) and (b) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(c) and (d) Out of the cess levied on petrol and diesel, an amount of Rs. 1900 crores was made available by way of Supplementary Grant for development and maintenance of National Highways. Apart from this, an amount of Rs. 1000 crores has been transferred to Central Road Fund which has not yet been distributed.

[Translation]

Panipat Refinery

4507. SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI:
SHRI SUKDEO PASWAN:

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

(a) whether the total cost of the construction of the Panipat Refinery has exceeded the initially estimated cost;

(b) if so, the extent of the gap in the initially estimated cost and the actual expenditure incurred; and

(c) whether several foreign agencies were also engaged in the construction of this refinery;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the amount paid to them for construction of the refinery separately, country-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) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) No foreign agencies were engaged in the construction work of this refinery. However, technologies were supplied by foreign process licensors for some of the units in the refinery.

[English]

Privatisation of SEBs

4508. SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any proposal from the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry in regard to privatisation of the State Electricity Boards;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) and (b) The special group on Power Sector Reform for Prime Minister's Council on Trade and Industry headed by Shri G.P. Goenka, President, Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI), made following recommendations, among other things, about the restructuring of the State Electricity Boards.

— Break up monolithic State Electricity Boards into four corporations to look after thermal generation, hydel generation, transmission and distribution.

— Privatise distribution through management contracts, joint ventures, or full fledged licenses. This should be done through competitive bidding with transparent criteria.

— Privatise transmission, either completely or partially through joint ventures with not more than 26% Government equity.

— Recognize that reforms must begin with transmission and distribution, especially distribution, not with generation.

— For agriculture, increase tariff over a pre-announced three year period to Rs. 0.50, Rs. 0.75 and Rs. 1.10 per unit.

— Take subsidization away from State Electricity Boards and move it to State budgets. Target subsidies only at the poor, subject to a threshold monthly consumption of electricity.

(c) Government of India has taken a proactive role in reforming State Electricity Boards so that they function on commercial lines. Power Ministers Conference held on 26.2.2000 resolved that reform must be undertaken with determination, vigor and a sense of urgency. The key elements of the Reforms Strategy are:

(i) Energy audit at all levels;

(ii) Time bound programme of 100% metering of all consumers by December 2001;

(iii) Reduction and finally, elimination of power theft within a specified time frame.

(iv) Strengthening/upgradation of sub-transmission and distribution system by taking sub-station as a limit on a priority basis.

If above appears unattainable in the existing Act Corporatisation/Co-privatisation/Privatisation of distribution would have to be undertaken.

[Translation]

Construction of Four Lane Roads

4509. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the States where four lane roads have been constructed, State-wise;

(b) the length of Jaipur-Delhi and Jaipur-Ajmer four lane roads;

(c) the amount incurred till date on the construction of Jaipur-Delhi and Jaipur-Ajmer four lane roads;

(d) whether the construction work has been completed;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the time by which the said work is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) Four laning has been completed in certain sections and is in progress in certain other sections of National Highways in the State/Union Territories of Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Chandigarh, Delhi, Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal.

(b) and (c) Four lane carriageway has been constructed in 178 Km of Jaipur-Delhi section and 64 Km length is in progress. An expenditure of about Rs. 346.51 crore has been incurred on four laning. No section of Jaipur-Ajmer has been four laned till now.

(d) to (f) The portion of National Highway, No. 8 from Delhi to Gurgaon is already four lane. From Gurgaon to Kotputli, the work of four-laning is in progress and is targetted to be completed by December, 2000. From Kotputli to Amer, four-laning work stands completed. It is proposed to upgrade the Jaipur-Kishangarh Section into

six-lane carriageway under BOT (Build-Operate-Transfer) basis and the work is expected to commence by March 2001.

[English]

Container Terminal at Vallarpadam

4510. SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the present stage of container terminal at Vallarpadam near Cochin, Kerala;

(b) whether the Government have dropped this project for execution;

(c) if not, the reasons for the delay in execution of this project; and

(d) the steps envisaged to make this project functional?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) to (d) The scheme of development of Container Terminal and Transhipment Centre at Cochin is proposed to be undertaken through a Joint Venture of Cochin Port Trust and the private operator. The developer shall initially operate the existing Rajiv Gandhi Container Terminal and then shift the operation to Vallarpadam. Rajiv Gandhi Container Terminal shall revert back to the Cochin Port Trust without the equipment installed by the developer after the operation is shifted to Vallarpadam. P&O Ports, Australia are the lone bidders for the project. Cochin Port Trust is considering the proposal.

Setting up of Benches of Karnataka High Court

4511. SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up a bench of Karnataka High Court at Malnad in Northern area of Karnataka;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether a number of cases ae pending in the Karnataka High Court for the last several years;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps proposed to be taken to provide expeditious justice and set up a bench of Karnataka High Court at Malnad or any other places in the State?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) There were 84,486 cases pending in the Karnataka High Court as on 31st December, 1999.

(e) Various steps have been taken by the Government for the speedy disposal of cases. These include amendment of the Civil Procedure Code and the Code of Criminal Procedure, increase in the number of posts of Judges/establishment of Special Courts/Tribunals and adoption of alternative modes of dispute resolution, such as, arbitration and conciliation. Lok Adalats have been given a statutory base as supplementary forum for resolution of disputes.

The Government of Karnataka is of the view that a permanent Bench of the Karnataka High Court should be established at Hubli-Dharwad in northern area of Karnataka. However, the proposal has not so far been endorsed by the High Court. The Chief Justice of the High Court has intimated vide his letter dated 28th December, 1999 that he has constituted a Committee of 5 Judges of the High Court to consider the demand for establishing Benches of the High Court at Hubli-Dharwad, Belgaum, Bijapur, Bellary, Gulbarga and Bidar, if having a Bench of the High Court at a place away from its principal seat is considered necessary.

[Translation]

Computer Facility in Post Offices

4512. SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of post offices where computer facility is proposed to be provided during 2000-2001 and 2001-2002, State-wise;

(b) the amount likely to be incurred thereon;

(c) the time by which the above work is likely to be completed;

(d) whether the Government propose to pay additional amount to the employees working on computers besides their salaries;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) 100 post offices each would be provided with computer facility during 2000-2001 and 2001-2002. The names of the post offices are being identified for the purpose.

(b) The likely expenditure during 2000-2001 would be around Rs. 5.19 crores and that during 2001-2002 would be around Rs. 5.38 crores.

(c) The work for the year 2000-2001 is likely to be completed by March, 2001 and that for 2001-2002 by 31st March, 2002.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

(f) Since it forms a part of their normal duty.

Losses to Postal Department

4513. SHRI BRIJLAL KHABRI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the postal department is running into losses;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the losses suffered during 1999-2000; and

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to meet the loss in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) The Department of Posts is not running in losses as such, but has been in deficit.

(b) Not applicable in view of (a) above.

(c) The deficit projected for the Revised Estimates 1999-2000 is Rs. 1740.53 crore.

(d) Since the cost of most of the Postal services is much more than the tariff being charged for these services, the Department is making all efforts for reduction of deficit. Though 87.88% of the Department's Budget (Budget Estimates 1999-2000) is on Salaries, wages and Pension etc., which are committed liabilities, the Department is closely monitoring expenditure on a month to month basis to keep it under control. Due to close monitoring and strict administrative action, the Department has been able to maintain the expenditure well within the ceiling approved by Government during the last 4 years from 1996-97 to 1999-2000. The Department has also been making concerted efforts for increasing its revenue receipts particularly by strengthening speed post operations and also proposes to introduce some new schemes such as Greeting post, Data based post and media post etc. besides aggressive marketing of all premium postal products. This is evident from the upward trend of revenue receipts during the last 4 years from Rs. 1214.62 crore in 1996-97 it has risen to Rs. 1722.57 crore in 1998-99 and in 1999-2000 (as on Feb. 2000) it is Rs. 1812.41 crore.

[English]

LPG Connections at Calicut in Kerala

4514. SHRI K. MURALEEDHARAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of consumers are on the waiting list for LPG connections at Calicut District of Kerala;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which waiting list for LPG connections is 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) Presently, total number of wait-list with LPG distributors of PSU Oil Marketing Companies in Calicut district of Kerala, is 68,575.

New LPG connections are released in a phased manner thoughout the country depending on the LPG availability, waiting list, slack available with the distributors and their viability. However, the Government has a plan to release 1 crore LPG connections during the year 2000 to clear the waiting list registered with the distributors of PSU Oil Companies as on 1.12.1999.

Hydrocarbon Vision 2025

4515. DR. A.D.K. JAYASEELAN:
SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY:
SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI:
SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ:

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

(a) whether the present ceiling of foreign direct investment has been limited to 49%;

(b) if so, whether Hydrocarbon Vision 2025 report presented to the Prime Minister has recommended 100% foreign direct investment for setting up refineries;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government propose to merge some of the refineries with the bigger marketing oil companies to enable them to face the competition in the petroleum sector especially after liberalization of this sector from 2002;

(e) if so, the details of the refineries likely to be merged; and

(f) the other remedial measures likely to be taken to save the Indian refineries from the liberalization competition?

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. At present ceiling of foreign direct investment for refining sector is 49%.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The report has recommended to increase the ceiling of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in refining sector from the present level of 49% to 100%.

(d) to (f) Government have yet to take a view on the subject.

Committee on Power Tariff

4516. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to conduct a meeting of State Power Ministers to reconsider the matter relating to hike in power tariffs in agriculture sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Chief Ministers' Conferences held on 16th October and 3rd December, 1996 adopted a Common Minimum National Action Plan for Power (CMNAPP) which stipulated that no sector shall pay less than 50% of the average cost of supply (cost of generation plus transmission and distribution system). Tariffs for agricultural sector would not be less than 50 paise per Kwh which would be brought to 50% of the average cost in not more than 3 years.

Government of India have enacted the Electricity Regulatory Commissions Act, 1998. The Act enables the State Governments to establish State Electricity Regulatory Commissions. Under the provisions of the Act, State Regulatory Commissions have been empowered to fix retail tariff within the State. As per Section 29(5) if the State Government require the grant of any subsidy to any consumer or class of consumers in the tariff determined by the State Commission, the State Government shall pay the amount to compensate the person affected by the grant of subsidy in the manner the State Commission may direct. So far, fourteen States have notified/constituted State Electricity Regulatory Commissions.

[Translation]

Post Offices in Gujarat

4517. SHRI MANIBHAI RAMJIBHAI CHAUDHRI:
SHRI P.S. GADHAVI:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of new post offices have been sanctioned in both the urban and rural areas of Gujarat during the 1999-2000;

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

(c) whether any time bound programme has been fixed for opening of new post offices in the State;

(d) whether the Government have received representations for opening of post offices, sub post offices in some villages in Gujarat;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) the reaction of the Government thereto;

(g) the places in Balsad district of Gujarat which fulfil the prescribed criteria for opening of post offices;

(h) the places where post offices have not yet been opened in the district so far;

(i) the time by which the said post offices are likely to be opened in such places; and

(j) the number of post offices proposed to be opened in the State during 2000-2001, location-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) 28 Branch Post Offices in rural areas and 2 Sub Post Offices in Urban areas have been sanctioned and opened during the year 1999-2000 in Gujarat.

(b) District-wise details of the post offices opened during 1999-2000 are given in enclosed Statement.

(c) New Post Offices are opened as a part of Annual Plan. The target fixed for each year is required to be achieved in the same year.

(d) Total 62 representations for opening of new post offices have been received.

(e) 51 representations were received for opening of Branch Post Offices and 11 representations were for opening of Sub-post offices.

(f) The examination of 39 proposals is complete and they were not found justified on existing departmental norms for opening of new post offices. The remaining proposals are under active consideration.

(g) There is no place in Balsad district which fulfills the existing departmental norms for opening of new post offices.

(h) and (i) No reply called for in view of (g) above.

(j) The targets for opening of new post offices are yet to be fixed for the year 2000-2001. The opening of new Post Offices is subject to availability of funds and sanctioning of required posts by Ministry of Finance.

Statement

District wise Details of Post Offices Opened During the year 1999-2000

Sl. No.	Name of District	No. of Post Offices opened Branch Post Offices
1.	Banaskantha	5
2.	Sabarkantha	4
3.	Kheda	1
4.	Vadodara	4
5.	Valsad	2
6.	Navsari	1
7.	Bharuch	1
8.	Narmada	1
9.	Surat	1
10.	Dahod	4
11.	Panchmahals	2
12.	Porbandar	1
13.	Rajkot	1
	Total:	28
		Sub Post Offices
1.	Mahesana	1
2.	Kheda	1
	Total	2

Special Environment Adalats

4518. SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have examined the various decisions of the Hon. Supreme Court suggesting to set up special environment adalats to deal with the cases of violation of environment related laws;

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government in this regard as on date;

(c) whether the Government propose to strengthen the institutional machinery at the Centre and State levels; and

(d) if so, the details of the stringent measures taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) to (d) After the observations of the Supreme Court in the Oleum gas leak case at Shriram Food & Fertilizer Industries Ltd., Delhi, suggesting setting up of Environmental Courts, the Government has enacted a legislation called the National Environment Tribunal Act, 1995 which provides for strict liability for damages arising out of any accident occurring while handling any hazardous substance. This Act provides for establishment of a National Environment Tribunal for effective and expeditious disposal of cases arising from such accidents. Recently, the Government has constituted a National Environment Appellate Authority under the National Environment Appellate Authority Act, 1997.

In order to strengthen institutional mechanism at the Central and State levels, the Government have delegated powers under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 to Central Pollution Control Board, State Pollution Control Boards and Committees. The State Pollution Control Boards/Committees have powers defined in the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act 1981. The legal capacity of the Central Pollution Control Board, State Pollution Control Boards and Committees is being further strengthened to enable the expeditious disposal of the cases.

[English]

LPG Agencies in Assam

4519. SHRI A.F. GOLAM OSMANI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to increase the number of LPG distributors in the district of Nalbari, Barpeta and Bongaigaon and the Guwahati city in Assam;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which pending applications for LPG agencies 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) Locations Tihu in district Nalbari, Sarthebari, Howly and Sorbhog in district Barpeta, Bijni and Abhoyapuri in distt. Bongaigaon and Guwahati (Mirza) in district Kamrup in Assam have been included in the LPG Marketing Plan 1996-98. Locations included in the Marketing Plans are advertised by the oil marketing companies from time to time. Selection is made through the Dealer Selection Boards. It generally takes about 6-12 months for commissioning of the dealerships/distributorships from the date of interview.

LPG Agencies in Bihar

4520. DR. M.P. JAISWAL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the locations in Bettiah District of Bihar where LPG agencies have been established;

(b) the number of additional connections of LPG provided to these agencies during each of the last three years;

(c) the number of persons registered with these agencies for new connections during the above period; and

(d) the details of additional connections released and the number of persons on the waiting list, agency-wise in these districts?

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 present there are 3 LPG distributorships at Bettiah in district West Champaran (Bihar). The details of these three LPG distributorships, connections released by them

during the last three years and their current waiting lists are given below:

Name of Distributor	LPG conn. released During 97-98, 98-99 & 99-2000	Waiting list
Nutan Gas	700	1051
Radhika Jyoti Gas Agency	1903	286
Pragya Gas Agency	1562	558

Supply of Bitumen and Other Petroleum Products to A.P.

4521. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Bharat Petroleum Corporation supplies petroleum and bitumen to Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the quantum and details of petroleum and bitumen and other products supplied by Bharat Petroleum Corporation to Andhra Pradesh in 1999-2000;

(c) whether Bharat Petroleum Corporation has reduced supply of some products;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether Bharat Petroleum Corporation has deliberately reduced supply of Bitumen; and

(f) if so, full details of marketing strategy of Bharat Petroleum Corporation in Andhra Pradesh?

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) The quantum of petroleum products including bitumen supplied by Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited in 1999-2000 to Andhra Pradesh is as follows:

(Figures in M.Ts)

Products	Quantity
1	2
Motor Spirit	143899
High Speed Diesel	854422
SKO	81540
LPG	77677 (Prov.)
Naphtha	11
ATF	6542
Bitumen	37100
FO/LSHS	98841
LDO	2667
Lube/Greases	7397
Others	13047

(c) to (f) The sales of petroleum products by Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) to Andhra Pradesh have generally recorded an overall growth during 1999-2000 over the previous year.

Development of Major Ports

4522. SHRI PRABHAT SAMANTRAY:
SHRI DINSHA PATEL:
SHRI SUNIL KHAN:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have drawn a plan for infrastructure development/upgradation of Major Ports in the country during the Ninth Plan period;

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

(c) the funds earmarked for the development of major ports during the Ninth Plan period, year-wise;

(d) the details of various development plan formulated for each major ports; and

(e) the details of progress made in this regard during the first two years of the Ninth Plan period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) to (d) Infrastructure development/upgradation of Major Ports is an ongoing continuous process. A list of capacity yielding major schemes to be taken up at various Ports durign the 9th Plan is given in enclosed Statement-I. The funds earmarked for the development of Major Ports during the 9th Plan period year-wise is given in enclosed Statement-II.

(e) In the first two years of 9th Plan, 20 million tonnes of the cargo handling capacity has been added in the Maior Ports.

Statement-I

List of Capacity Yielding Major Schemes to be taken up at various Major Ports during 9th Plan

Sl. No.	Name of the Port/Project	Capacity Addition (in 9th Plan)		Capacity Addition (in 10th Plan)
		Continuing Schemes	New Schemes	
		(in Million tonnes)		
1	2	3	4	5
I.	*Calcutta/Haldia*			
1.	Construction of 3rd Oil jetty		6.00	
2.	Construction of Chemical Handling Jetty		1.50	
3.	Construction of multi-purpose berth in Continuation of berth No. 5		1.50	
4.	Construction of two multipurpose berths (Berth No. 12 & 4A)			
	Berth No. 12		0.40	
	Berth No. 4A		1.50	
	Total		10.90	
II	*Paradip*			
1.	Coal handling facilities (ADB Schemes)	20.00		
2.	Construction of oil berth including Reception facilities		6.00	
3.	Construction of second multipurpose Cargo berth		1.00	
4.	Construction of Western Quay		2.00	
5.	Captive fertilizer handling facilities		2.50	
	Total	20.00	11.50	
III	*Visakhapatnam*			
1.	Construction of LPG berth	1.00		
2.	Construction of multi-purpose berth in Inner Harbour	1.00		
3.	Construction of multi-purpose berth at Outer Harbour		0.70	
4.	Construction of four multipurpose berths in the extended Northern arm of Inner Harbour		2.40	
5.	Construction of Addl. Berth of Inner Harbour		0.80	
	Total	2.00	3.90	

1	2	3	4	5
IV	*Chennai*			
1.	Construction of new port at Ennore	8.00	8.00	
2.	Further extension of Container Terminal by 290 metres (Civil Works only)		0.50	
3.	Provision of Additional Container handling Equipments		2.60	
4.	Provision of 3 Nos. of 20 MT gantrny Type Wharf Cranes		1.00	
5.	Modernisation of West quey berths			1.00
6.	Modernisation of SQ III and East Quay berths			0.70
	Total	8.00	12.10	1.70
V	*Tuticorin*			
1.	Container terminal at berth no. 7		2.25	1.35
2.	8th cargo berth		1.50	
3.	Construction of shallow water at (-) 7 m depth		0.25	
4.	Capital dredging		3.40	
5.	SEPC Jetty			1.50
	Total		7.40	2.85
VI	*Cochin*			
1.	LPG/LNG terminal at Pauthuvpean			2.50
2.	Vellarpadam terminal			5.00
	Total			7.50
VII	*New Mangalore*			
1.	Port facilities for refinery expansion (MRPL)		8.50	
2.	Oil Jetty (multi user)		3.00	
3.	Captive coal berths			4.50
4.	One berth on BOT basis			4.50
5.	Additional General Cargo berth			0.50
	Total		11.50	9.50

1	2	3	4	5
VIII	*Mormugao*			
1.	Modification of MOHP		1.00	
2.	Realigment of old berth/construction of berths No. 5A & 6A		5.00	
3.	Deepening of berth no 10 & 11 and Mooring buoy		2.80	
4.	FRH Master Plan berths			2.00
	Total		8.80	2.00
IX	*Jawaharlal Nehru Port*			
1.	Marine Chemical Terminal (3 berths)			15.00
2.	Feeder berth		1.20	
3.	New Container Terminal		7.80	
4.	Berth of Liquid cargo		5.50	
	Total		14.50	15.00
X	*Mumbai*			
1.	Replacement of submarine pipelines	7.00	—	—
2.	Modernisation of jetties 1,2,3	—	—	4.00
3.	Second liquid chemical berth	—	—	3.00
4.	Construction of coal jetty	—	—	1.50
	Total	7.00	8.50	
XI	*Kandla*			
1.	Construction of 3rd oil Jetty	2.00	—	—
2.	Construction of fourth oil jetty	2.00	—	—
3.	General Cargo Berth 9 & 10	—	—	2.50
4.	Additional Cargo Berth (8th berth)	1.25	—	—
5.	11th & 12th cargo berths	—	—	2.50
6.	Container handling facilities	—	2.40	—
7.	Additional facilities for handling crude Oil at Vadinar	—	10.00	—
8.	Multipurpose Berth and development of infrastructure facilities at Vadinar	—	—	2.50
9.	5th oil jetty to be constructed by M/s. IFFCO	—	2.00	—

1	2	3	4	5
10.	Setting up of Port related facilities By M/s. ESSAR Refinery at Vadinar (SBM IOMT *one berth 5MT)	—	15.00	—
11.	Development of Tuna bunder	—	—	0.85
12.	Development of Jaffervadi bunder	—	—	0.85
13.	POL Jetty by BPCL	—	2.00	—
14.	Conversion of IOC virtual Jetty to Permanent Jetty	—	2.00	—
		—	—	—
15.	Facilities at berth no. 5A by APEDA	—	0.35	—
	Total	5.25	33.75	9.20
	Grand Total	42.25	114.35	56.25

Statement-II

Development of Major Ports

Year-wise Funds Earmarked/Utilised During the 9th Five Year Plan in respect of Major Ports

(Rupees in crores)

	Name of Port	1997-98 Actual Expenditure	1998-99 Actual Expenditure	1999-2000 Actual Expenditure	2000-2001 Approved Outlay	2001-2002 Provisional
1.	Calcutta including Haldia	28.11	61.36	82.24	279.14	294.00
2.	Mumbai	75.61	52.46	200.32	217.99	447.90
3.	JL Nehru	106.75	21.16	50.51	101.70	300.00
4.	Chennai	123.10	225.86	289.88	228.50	406.00
5.	Cochin	10.04	19.93	21.53	26.00	200.00
6.	Visakhapatnam	55.29	51.30	91.30	138.40	458.20
7.	Kandla	50.90	50.19	62.99	109.93	231.20
8.	Mormugao	7.78	31.05	25.50	50.21	163.00
9.	Paradip	117.62	199.73	235.47	275.52	279.00
10.	New Mangalore	20.58	14.91	40.67	90.00	309.00
11.	Tuticorin	16.07	48.36	196.44	72.60	90.00
	Total	611.85	776.21	1296.85	1589.99	3178.30

[Translation]

Oil Refining Capacity

4523. DR. RAMKRISHNA KUSMARIA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the oil refining capacity of the various refineries in the country at present;

(b) whether the Government have prepared any scheme to increase the oil refining capacity in the country;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the extent to which the oil refining capacity in the country is likely to be increased during 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) Present capacities of the various refineries in the country are given in Statement.

(b) and (c) Government has taken the following measures to increase the refining capacity in the country;

1. Permitting refining capacity additions by way of expansion of existing refineries and setting up of new refineries in public sector, joint sector and private sector;

2. Delicensing of refining sector; and

3. Giving duty protection to domestic refineries.

(d) As per current assessment, refining Capacity in the country is likely to increase to about 129 million metric tonnes per annum by the end of the year 2001-02 and expected to reach a level of 160 to 170 MMTPA by the end of X Plan period.

Statement

Refining Capacity

(Million Metric Tonnes Per Annum)

A.	*Public Sector*	
1.	IOCL, Digboi	0.65
2.	IOCL, Guwahati	1.00
3.	IOCL, Barauni	4.20
4.	IOCL, Haldia	3.75
5.	IOCL, Mathura	8.00
6.	IOCL, Panipat	6.00
7.	IOCL, Koyali	12.50
8.	BPCL, Mumbai	6.90
9.	HPCL, Mumbai	5.50
10.	HPCL, Vishakh	7.50
11.	CRL, Cochin	7.50
12.	CPCL, Chennai	6.50
13.	CPCL, Narimanam	0.50
14.	BRPL, Bongaigaon	2.35
15.	NRL, Numaligarh	3.00
	Sub Total	75.85
B.	*Joint Sector*	
1.	MRPL, Mangalore	9.69
C.	*Private Sector*	
1.	RPL, Jamnagar	27.00
	Total Capacity	112.54

[English]

Telephone Adalats in Tamil Nadu

4524. SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of telephone adalats held in Tamil Nadu during the last three years till-date;

(b) the number of cases received and the number out of those settled by each of these adalats; and

(c) the details of relief provided to the telephone subscribers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) The number of telephone adalats held during the last three years in Tamil Nadu is as follows:

1997-98	48
1998-99	64
1999-2000	69

(b) The number of cases received and the number of cases settled in these Adalats is as under:

	Cases received	Cases settled
1997-98	1239	1239
1998-99	1552	1552
1999-2000	1584	1584

(c) Complaints in respect of new telephone connections, shifts, refund on closure of telephones, rental rebates, excess metering complaints have been looked into and settled in Adalats. Monetary relief was provided wherever justified.

Deep Water Exploration

4525. DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV:
SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA:

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

(a) whether ONGC has taken up extensive deep water exploration activities in the East and West Coast;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether seismic studies have been carried out in the East and West Coasts;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the likely time for completion of the said study;

(f) whether ONGC has launched any programme to increase production from the existing fields; and

(g) 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) and (b) Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC) drilled the first deep water well in Krishna-Godavari (KG) offshore in 1983. Till date seven wells on six prospects, (both in East and West Coast) have been drilled in the deepwater regime. Out of the five wells drilled in East coast, two are hydrocarbon bearing. Of the two wells drilled in West coast, one well went dry and the other is under testing.

During the IX Plan period, seven exploratory wells are planned in deep water areas of East and West coast. So far, five wells have been drilled of which one is under testing (as on 1.4.2000). Additionally, 3041 LKM of 2D, 32194 LKM of 3D seismic data has been acquired.

Based on Mid Term Review carried out during 1999, it is envisaged to acquire 22,500 Line Kilometre (LKM) of 2D; 1,19,000 LKM of 3D and drill eight wells in the deep water areas during the remaining period of IX Plan.

(c) and (d) As on 1.4.2000, total seismic data acquired both in East coast and West coast areas is as below:

	2D-LKM	3D-LKM
Shallow water	400038	424751
Deep water	115811	39610

(e) As both East and West coast basins are petroliferous, the seismic data acquisition, processing, interpretation in various offshore areas is a continuous process.

(f) and (g) Various actions taken/being taken by ONGC for augmenting the crude oil and natural gas production include:

- Repair and servicing of existing wells (sick/producing);
- Artificial lifts/stimulation of wells for maintaining/enhancing production rates;
- Induction of advanced and cost effective technology;
- Drilling of additional infill wells to reduce the sweep area;
- Redistribution of water injection;
- Fire flooding in heavy oil belt of Mehsana;
- Cyclic steam stimulation;
- Artificial lift optimisation;
- Long distance side tracking;
- Drilling of additional wells through clamp-on structures on existing well platforms.

ONGC's Stake in Mumbai High Oilfields

4526. SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation proposes to divest a part of its stake in the Mumbai High Oil exploration;

(b) if so, whether the ONGC has submitted a detailed report to the Government in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the extent to which the exploration of gas and oil from Mumbai High oilfields is likely to be increased due to divesting a part of its stake?

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) to (d) Do not arise.

Oil Pool Deficit

4527. SHRI SUNIL KHAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the recent hike in prices of LPG and kerosene have any effect on the deficit of oil pool account; and

(b) 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) and (b) Consequent to the recent revision of the selling prices of petroleum products including LPG (Packed Domestic) and PDS Kerosene, the estimated deficit in the oil poor account would come down by about Rs. 5,400 crores on an annual basis.

[Translation]

Post Offices in Bihar

4528. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV:
SHRI RAJO SINGH:
SHRIMATI SUSHILA SAROJ:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of post offices functioning in Bihar particularly in Shekhpura and Lakhisarai regions at present, district-wise;

(b) the number of post offices opened during the last three years till date in the State and the said regions, district-wise;

(c) the number of applications pending for opening of post offices in the rural areas of the State and since when;

(d) the time by which the said applications are likely to be approved and the post offices set up; and

(e) the number of said post offices proposed to be set up in the State particularly in Shekhpura, Lakhisarai, Darbhanga, Jamui, Doodda, Devdhar, Dumka, Munger during 2000-2001, location-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) Number of post offices functioning at present in Bihar including Shekhpura and Lakhisarai districts are shown in Statement-I.

(b) The number of post offices opened during the last three years till date in Bihar State, district-wise are shwon in Statement-II.

(c) The number of applications pening for opening of post offices are as under:

1998-99	1999-2000	2000-2001
40	432	63

(d) Applications for opening of post offices are decided on norm based justification, *i.e.* distance, population and finance.

(e) Post offices are opened subject to justification as per prescribed norms. The opening of new post offices depends upon availability of resources such as funds and sanctioning of posts by Ministry of Finance. The targets for opening new post offices in Bihar in 2000-2001 are yet to be finalized.

Statement-I

Post Offices in Bihar

District-wise Number of Post Offices in Bihar Circles as on 31.3.2000

Sl.No.	Districts	Urban	Rural	Total
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Araria	5	155	160
2.	Aurangabad	9	263	272
3.	Banka	1	188	189
4.	Begusarai	13	217	230
5.	Bhabhua	2	101	103
6.	Bhagalpur	29	244	273
7.	Bhojpur	18	272	290
8.	Bokaro	25	123	148
9.	Buxar	10	182	192
10.	Chatra	2	82	84
11.	Deoghar	17	144	161
12.	Dhanbad	68	122	190
13.	Dharbanga	20	301	321
14.	Dumka	12	265	277
15.	E. Champaran	13	406	419
16.	E. Singhbhum	30	166	196
17.	Garhwa	1	83	84
18.	Gaya	25	362	387
19.	Giridh	7	181	188
20.	Goda	2	145	147
21.	Gopalganj	4	224	228
22.	Gumla	3	247	250
23.	Hazaribag	19	200	219
24.	Jamui	4	134	138
25.	Jehanabad	3	167	170
26.	Katihar	8	175	183
27.	Khagana	4	138	142
28.	Kishanganj	2	86	88
29.	Kodanna	3	47	50

1	2	3	4	5
30.	Lakshisarai	4	51	55
31.	Lohardaga	3	50	53
32.	Madhepura	9	198	207
33.	Madhbani	13	410	423
34.	Mauzaffarpur	29	398	427
35.	Munger	13	131	144
36.	Nalanda	16	316	332
37.	Nawada	5	195	200
38.	Pakur	2	67	69
39.	Palamu	9	252	261
40.	Patna	102	316	418
41.	Purnia	3	179	182
42.	Ranchi	54	338	392
43.	Rohtas	12	283	295
44.	Saharsa	7	166	173
45.	Sahibganj	6	89	95
46.	Samstipur	10	395	405
47.	Saran	13	368	381
48.	Sheohar	2	40	42
49.	Shikhpura	5	84	89
50.	Sitamarhi	10	280	290
51.	Siwan	8	293	301
52.	Supaul	6	193	199
53.	Vaishali	8	257	265
54.	W. Singhbhum	17	191	208
55.	W. Champaran	11	269	280
	Total:	736	11229	11965

Statement-II

No. of Post Offices Opened in the State During the Last Three years (District-wise)

S.No.	Districts	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Araria	—	1	—
2.	Aurangabad	1	1	2

1	2	3	4	5
3.	Banka	1	2	—
4.	Begusarai	—	1	—
5.	Bhabhua	—	—	—
6.	Bhagalpur	1	4	1
7.	Bhojpur	—	1	—
8.	Bokaro	—	—	—
9.	Buxar	—	2	—
10.	Chatra	—	—	1
11.	Deoghar	—	1	—
12.	Dhanbad	—	—	—
13.	Dharbanga	1	2	8
14.	Dumka	4	2	—
15.	E. Champaran	2	1	—
16.	E. Singhbhum	1	3	—
17.	Garhwa	—	—	—
18.	Gaya	—	1	—
19.	Giridih	—	—	1
20.	Goda	—	1	—
21.	Gopalganj	4	2	2
22.	Gumla	—	—	1
23.	Hazaribag	—	2	—
24.	Jumui	1	—	1
25.	Jehanabad	—	—	—
26.	Katihar	—	—	—
27.	Khanaria	1	—	2
28.	Kishanganj	—	—	—
29.	Kodarma	—	—	—
30.	Lakhisarai	—	—	—
31.	Lohardaga	—	—	—
32.	Madhepura	—	1	1
33.	Madhubani	2	4	1
34.	Muzzaffarpur	—	2	2

1	2	3	4	5
35.	Munger	—	3	—
36.	Nalanda	1	2	5
37.	Nawada	—	2	—
38.	Pakur	1	—	—
39.	Palamu	—	2	1
40.	Patna	—	5	—
41.	Purnia	—	1	—
42.	Ranchi	5	8	—
43.	Rohtas	—	3	—
44.	Saharsa	—	2	—
45.	Sahibganj	2	—	—
46.	Samastipur	1	2	3
47.	Saran	2	1	—
48.	Sheohar	—	1	—
49.	Shikhpura	—	1	—
50.	Sitamarhi	1	1	—
51.	Siwan	—	—	1
52.	Supaul	1	2	—
53.	Vaishali	—	—	17
54.	W. Singhbhum	3	4	—
55.	W. Champaran	—	—	—
	Total	35	74	51

[English]

SCs/STs in Appellate Tribunal for the Forfeited Property

4529. SARDAR BUTA SINGH: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of persons belonging to SCs/STs categories have been given adequate representation while appointing to the posts of President/Chairman, Vice-Presidents/Vice-Chairman and Members of the Appellate Tribunal for the Forfeited property;

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

(c) the total number of persons posted as President/Chairman, Vice President/Vice-Chairman and Members of the Appellate Tribunal for the Forfeited Property as on January 1, 1996; and

(d) the number of persons belonging to the SCs/STs appointed to the said post and their percentage to the total number of posts?

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

Appointment for the one post of Chairman and two posts of members of the Appellate Tribunal for Forefeited Property is made on the basis of the provisions of the Smugglers and Foreign Exchange Manipulators (Forfeiture of Property) Act 1976 and the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985 and the rules framed under the said Acts. The said Acts and the rules do not provide for reservation against the said posts. As on 1st January, 1996, Smt. Justice S. Duggal as Chairman and Smt. Kamlesh Shukla, as Member were in position. The other post of member was lying vacant on that date.

[Translation]

Waiting List for LPG Connections

4530. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons registered for L.P.G. connections in the country as on March 31, 2000, State-wise;

(b) the number of persons provided with L.P.G. connections in the country and the number of people out of them having D.B.C. connection facility; and

(c) the number of L.P.G. connections issued on priority basis during the last three years, year-wise and State-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) The total number of persons registered for L.P.G. connections with the distributors of PSU Oil Marketing Companies as on 1.1.2000 is 89.08 lakhs.

(b) The total number of customer population with the distributors of the PSU Oil Marketing Companies as on 1.1.2000 is about 438.88 lakhs and out of this 297.85 lakhs customers are having D.B.C. facility.

(c) The information is being collected.

[English]

Telephone Directories for Orissa

4531. SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the telephone directories have not been issued in Orissa during the last two years;

(b) if so, the reasons for delay in this regard and the names of cities for which directories have not been issued; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to ensure timely issuance of telephone directories alongwith corrigenda thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) and (b) In Orissa Telecom Circle, telephone directories were published during 1998 & 1999 in all the Telecom Districts except in Berhampur. The delay in publication of directories in the aforesaid Telecom District was due to failure on the part of Orissa Government Press, Cuttack, which was awarded the work, to print the directory in these two years.

(c) Tenders for Bhubaneswar, Rourkela, Koraput, Bolangir and Berhampur Telecom Districts have been finalised. Tenders for rest six Telecom Districts viz., Baripada, Balasore, Bhawanipatna, Cuttack, Dhenkanal and Sambalpur Telecom Districts are in the process of finalisation.

Improvement in Telephone Facilities in Haldibari

4532. SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any representation regarding improvement in the telephone facilities in Haldibari, Distt. Coochbehar, West Bengal; and

(b) if so, the efforts made by the Government in this regard and the outcome thereof?

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

(b) Haldibari exchange has been directly connected to Jalpaiguri TAX through 120 channel digital UHF with 15 incoming junctions for providing better STD services. 180 Second pulse calling facility has also been introduced. A higher capacity exchange is under installation at Haldibari and is likely to be commissioned by 30.6.2000.

Tariff Structure for Port Sector

4533. SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a group of experts has recommended a cost based pricing and simplified tariff structure for the port sector in the country;

(b) if so, whether the committee commissioned by the Asian Development Bank in relation to the port implementation policy has also underlined the need for effecting these reforms urgently in the major ports tariff structure;

(c) whether the Government have considered this proposal;

(d) if so, whether a suggestion of an outer limit of three years for carrying out the reforms;

(e) if so, the decision taken in this regard; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The Government have not set up any group of experts as also no committee has been commissioned by the Asian Development Bank.

(c) to (f) Does not arise.

Pending Power Projects in Rajasthan

4534. COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Power Projects submitted by Rajasthan Government for clearance by the Union Government;

(b) the present status of the pending Power Projects;

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

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

THE MINISTRY OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (d) The status of projects which have been cleared/appraised and under examination of Central Electricity Authority as on 31.3.2000 is given as under:

A. CEA Cleared/Appraised

		Cap (MW)	Date of receipt in CEA	Date of TEC
1.	Dholpur CCGT (M/s. RPG Dholpur Power Co. Ltd.	702.7	7/97	13.2.1998
2.	Barsingsar Lignite TPP (M/s. Hindustan Vidyut Corporation Ltd.)	2x250	6/97	20.4.1998
3.	Anta CCGT Stage-II Rajasthan (NTPC)	650	5/97	21.5.1998
4.	Mathania Integrated Solar CCPP-RSPCL (Jodhpur)	140	4/99	27.8.1999
B.	DPR Under Examination in CEA			
1.	Ramgarh CCGT Stage-II RSEB (Jaisalmer)	71	11/98 — Pending inputs are fuel linkage — Considered in SPAC on 11.2.2000 and recommended for TEC — Clarifications received from RSEB in 3/2000 — Comments on technical and cost aspects forwarded on 30.3.2000	

C. Schemes Returned/Submission of DPR Expected

S.No.	Name of Project	Cap. (MW)	Date of receipt in CEA	Status
1.	Mandalgarh	3x210	8/84	Returned on 24.7.85 as linkages were not confirmed
2.	Rahughat Stage-III	4x40	6/87	Returned in 2/88 for re-submission after resolving inter-state aspect with MP
3.	Gas Based G.T. Plant at Banswara and Sawaimadhopur	4x100	1/84	Not being pursued as Central Sector Anta CCGT (430 MW) has been approved.
4.	Chittorgarh	1x500	2/92	IPC not recommended by SPAC for want of coal linkage.
5.	Kota Stage-IV	1x210	7/94	Returned on 26.2.96 for non tie up of inputs such as, water availability, Env. clearance, transmission system etc.

[Translation]

Hirakund Hydro-Electric Power Project in Orissa

4535. SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of power supplied to Madhya Pradesh from the Hira Kund Hydro Power Project in Orissa;

(b) whether compensation is being paid to Madhya Pradesh for not supplying its share of power by Orissa; and

(c) if not, the details of the outstanding amount alongwith the action being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Setting up of Emergency Service Cell by IOC

4536. SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM:
SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN:

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

(a) whether the Indian Oil Corporation has set up an Emergency Service Cell in some States for ensuring safety of the LPG consumers;

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

(c) whether such cells are likely to be set up by the Indian Oil Corporation and other oil companies in other parts of the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof, State-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 (d) Yes, Sir. Oil Companies have set up Emergency Service Cells in Metros/major towns to attend leakage complaints etc. These Cells are being operated after the normal working hours of the distributorships and also on holidays.

[English]

Offer of Blocks Under NELP

4537. SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY:
SHRI BHAN SINGH BHAURA:

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

(a) whether some blocks were put up for international bidding under the New Exploration Licensing Policy of the Government; and

(b) if so, the details of the blocks put up for bidding and the names of the companies awarded the same?

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 the first round of offer of blocks under NELP, forty eight blocks were offered for bidding. Out of these, twenty five blocks have been awarded. The details of the blocks offered and those awarded are given in enclosed Statement I and II.

Statement-I

Details of blocks put on offer under New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP) - 1999

Deep Water Blocks

Sl.No.	Basin	Block No.
1	2	3
1.	Cauvery	CY-DWN-98/1
2.	-do-	CY-PR-DWN-98/2
3.	Palar	PR-DWN-98/1
4.	Krishna-Godavari	KG-DWN-98/1
5.	-do-	KG-DWN-98/2
6.	-do-	KG-DWN/98/3
7.	-do-	KG-DWN/98/4
8.	-do-	KG-DWN/98/5
9.	Mahanadi	MN-DWN-98/1
10.	-do-	MN-DWN-98/2
11.	-do-	MN-DWN-98/3S
12.	North East Coast (NEC)	NEC-DWN-98/1
Offishore Blocks		
1.	Bengal	NEC-OSN-97/1
2.	-do-	NEC-OSN-97/2
3.	Cauvery	CY-OSN-97/1
4.	-do-	CY-OSN-97/2
5.	Cauvery	CY-OSN-97/3
6.	-do-	CY-OSN-97/4
7.	Gujarat-Kutch	GK-OSN-97/1
8.	Krishna-Godavari	KG-OSN-97/1
9.	-do-	KG-OSN-97/2
10.	-do-	KG-OSN-97/3
11.	-do-	KG-OSN-97/4
12.	Kerala-Konkan	KK-OSN-97/1
13.	-do-	KK-OSN-97/2
14.	-do-	KK-OSN-97/3
15.	-do-	KK-OSN-97/4
16.	-do-	KK-OSN-97/5
17.	-do-	KK-OSN-97/6
18.	Mumbai	MB-OSN-97/1
19.	-do-	MB-OSN-97/2
20.	-do-	MB-OSN-97/3
21.	-do-	MB-OSN-97/4
22.	Mahanadi	MN-OSN-97/1
23.	-do-	MN-OSN-97/2
24.	-do-	MN-OSN-97/3
25.	Palar	PR-OSN-97/1
26.	Saurashtra	SR-OSN-97/1
Onland Blocks		
1.	Assam-Arakan	ARP-ONN-97/1
2.	Bengal-Purnea	PA-ONN-97/1
3.	-do-	WB-ONN-97/1
4.	Ganga Valley	GV-ONN-97/1
5.	-do-	GV-ONN-97/2
6.	-do-	GV-ONN-97/3
7.	Rajasthan	RJ-ONN-97/1
8.	-do-	RJ-ONN-97/2
9.	-do-	RJ-ONN-97/3
10.	-do-	RJ-ONN-97/4

Statement-II

Sl.No.	Block Name	Awardee	Status
1.	KG-DWN-98/2	Cairn Energy India Pvt. Ltd.	PSC signed.
2.	CY-OSN-97/2	Oil India Ltd.	-do-
3.	KG-DWN-98/4	ONGC	-do-
4.	KG-DWN-98/5	ONGC	-do-
5.	MN-DWN-98/3	ONGC	-do-
6.	KG-OSN-97/1	ONGC	-do-
7.	KK-OSN-97/3	ONGC	-do-
8.	MN-OSN-97/3	ONGC-GAIL	-do-
9.	GV-ONN-97/1	ONGC-IOC	-do-
10.	MB-OSN-97/4	ONGC -IOC	-do-
11.	KG-DWN-98/1	Reliance Industries Ltd. (RIL)-Niko Resources Ltd. (Niko)	-do-
12.	KG-DWN-98/3	RIL, Niko	-do-
13.	MN-DWN-98/2	RIL, Niko	-do-
14.	GK-OSN-97/1	RIL, Niko	-do-
15.	KG-OSN-97/2	RIL, Niko	-do-
16.	KG-OSN-97/3	RIL, Niko	-do-
17.	KG-OSN-97/4	RIL, Niko	-do-
18.	KK-OSN-97/2	RIL, Niko	-do-
19.	MB-OSN-97/2	RIL, Niko	-do-
20.	MB-OSN-97/3	RIL, Niko	-do-
21.	NEC-OSN-97/2	RIL, Niko	-do-
22.	SR-OSN-97/1	RIL, Niko	-do-
23.	ARP-ONN-97/1	Geoenpro India Ltd.-Geopetrol International-Enpro India Ltd.	PSC not yet signed
24.	NEC-OSN-97/1	GAIL-GAZPROM	-do-
25.	CY-OSN-97/1	Mosbacher Energy-Energy Equity-Hindustan Oil Company Ltd. (HOEC)	-do-

Setting up of Crude Oil based Industries in Maharashtra

4538. SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of Foreign Direct Investment proposals for setting up of crude oil and natural gas based industries in Maharashtra under New Exploration and Licence Policy have been received;

(b) if so, the details thereof separately during 1998-99 and 1999-2000;

(c) whether some of the proposals have been operationalised so far; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) and (b) In the first offer of blocks for bidding under the NELP in 1999, no block from the State of Maharashtra was offered for exploration of oil and gas.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Completion of Ganga Bridge in Bhagalpur

4539. SHRI SUBODH ROY: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ganga Bridge in Bhagalpur has been completed within the stipulated time;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor and the persons held responsible for it; and

(c) 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) Central Govt. is primarily responsible for development and maintenance of only National Highways and bridges falling thereon in the country. All other roads/bridges fall within the purview of respective State/U.T. Government. The Ganga Bridge in Bhagalpur does not form part of National Highway network and responsibility for its construction lies with the Government of Bihar.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[English]

Ranganadi Hydel Power Project

4540. SHRIMATI RANEE NARAH: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of Ranganadi Hydel Power Project of North Eastern Electric Power Corporation;

(b) the date on which the foundation stone for the project was laid;

(c) the reasons for delay in completion of the project; and

(d) the likely time by which the project would be made operational?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) The construction activities relating to Ranganadi Hydro Electric Project (405 MW) in Arunachal Pradesh are in advanced stage. Details of physical progress of these activities are indicated in the enclosed Statement.

(b) The project was initially sanctioned by the Planning Commission in April, 1987 and the foundation stone was laid on 4th April, 1988.

(c) The main reasons for delay in the commissioning of the projects are attributed to the following:

(i) The project was originally sanctioned by Planning Commission in April, 1987. But major project construction activities could only be started after receiving the forest clearance in July, 1990.

(ii) There was a further delay of about 2 years in getting a decision regarding the type of Dam to be constructed.

(iii) There was slow progress in construction the Head Race Tunnel due to adverse geological conditions.

(iv) Unprecedent floods in Dikrong River during July, 1998 causing flooding of Power House Area.

(d) All the three units of 135 MW each are scheduled to be commissioned in the year 2001-2002.

Statement

Details regarding physical progress of various construction activities of Ranganadi HE Project (405 MW)

	Activities	Status of Completion/ Anticipated date of Completion
1.	Diversion Tunnel	Complete
2.	Diversion Dam	
	(a) Coffer Dam	Complete
	(b) Excavation for foundation	Likely to be completed by December, 2000
	(c) Concreting	
3.	*Main Tunnel*	
	(a) Boring	Complete
	(b) Concreting	To be completed by February, 2001
4.	*Power House Civil Works*	
	(a) Excavation	To be completed by June, 2001
	(b) Concreting	
5.	*Electrical Works*	
	(a) TG Set	Material/Equipment reached at Project Site, work in progress, likely to be completed by March, 2001.
	(b) GT Set	
	(c) EOT Crane	
	(d) Switch Yard	

Revenue Loss

4541. SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI:
KUMARI BHAVANA PUNDLIKRAO GAWALI:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have suffered a great loss in the market capitalisation to the tune of thousands of crores;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) to (c) Sir, Information is being collected. The same will be placed on the Table of the Lok Sabha as soon the requisite information becomes available.

Waste Generation on Streets

4542. SHRI SHIVAJI MANE:
SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE:
SHRI M.V.V.S MURTHI:
SHRI R.S. PATIL:

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

(a) whether the waste generation on streets, parks and public places is one of the main reasons for air pollution;

(b) if so, the directives given by the Supreme Court in this regard;

(c) the specific measures proposed to be taken by the Government to strictly stop waste generation on roads, parks and public places particularly in metropolitan cities;

(d) whether any charter of duties for citizens for a neat and clean environment in the metropolitan cities and provision of fine for violation of these duties have been worked out;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the extent to which the metropolitan cities are likely to be pollution free as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) and (b) The management and handling of waste generated in public places is one of the important obligatory functions of urban local bodies in the country. The service provided by the urban local bodies falls far short of desired level causing environmental pollution. The Supreme Court of India had appointed a Committee under the Chairmanship of Shri Asim Barman, Commissioner, Calcutta Municipal Corporation to look into various aspects of solid waste management in class-I cities. In its Report submitted on 25.3.1999, the Barman Committee has made recommendations to stop waste generation in public places, imposing fines against littering and creating public awareness. The Supreme Court had also directed the Union of India, all State Governments and Central Pollution Control Board to file their respective response to the Report.

(c) to (f) As a follow up of Supreme Court directions, following steps have been taken by the Government:

(i) The Ministry of Environment & Forests have published draft rules, entitled 'Municipal Solid Wastes (Management & Handling) Rules, 1999' on 27th September, 1999 which prescribe procedure for proper collection and disposal of municipal solid wastes including specifications for land-fill sites.

(ii) The Ministry of Urban Development have brought out a comprehensive draft manual entitled 'Manual on Municipal Solid Waste Management'.

(iii) Several State Governments have brought out their own regulations to prevent littering in public places.

(iv) In compliance of the order of Supreme Court dated 15.2.2000, the Government of Delhi has taken up cleaning of Delhi streets and public places on a regular basis and also imposition of fine against littering.

(v) The Government of Delhi have also issued an executive order dated 17.12.1998 to ban open burning of leaves in National Capital Region.

Eco Villages

4543. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR:
PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU:
SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY:

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

(a) whether the Government have formulated any plan to develop Eco villages all over the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have approached the United Nations Environment Programme and UN Conference on trade and development for the purpose;

(d) if so, the response thereof;

(e) the details of villages that will be adopted by these two organisations; and

(f) the time by which the work on this project is likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (f) Does not arise.

Telephone Facility in Tamil Nadu

4544. SHRI VAIKO:
SHRI A. KRISHNASWAMY:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of villages in each district particularly villages in Thiruvallur district of Chennai Division, Tamil Nadu which have been provided telephone facility as on date, district-wise;

(b) the number of villages which have not been provided the said facility so far in the State and in the said Division, district-wise;

(c) the time by which the said facility is likely to be provided in the remaining villages of the State and the said Division; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) to (d) Out of total 17,634 villages in Tamil Nadu, telecom facilities have been provided in 17,579 villages. Only 55 villages are left uncovered. All the villages in Thiruvallur district have been provided with telecom facility. District-wise details are given in the enclosed Statement. All the remaining 55 villages are proposed to be covered by March, 2000 progressively.

Statement

Sl. No.	Name of District	No. of Villages with VPTs as on 31.3.2000	No. of Villages not having VPTs as on 31.3.2000
1	2	3	4
1.	Kanchipuram	1100	0
2.	Coimbatore	488	0
3.	Cuddalore	790	0
4.	Dharmapuri	1153	17
5.	Dindigul	398	1
6.	Erode	528	3
7.	Kanniyakumari	183	0
8.	Karur	189	0
9.	Madurai	631	0
10.	Nagapattinam	338	0
11.	Namakkal	450	1
12.	Perambalur	402	0
13.	Periyakulam	173	0
14.	Pudukottai	816	0
15.	Ramnad	554	0
16.	Salem	652	0
17.	Sivaganga	635	0
18.	Thanjavur	846	0
19.	The Nilgiris	54	1
20.	Tirunelveli	590	0
21.	Tiruvallur	630	0
22.	Tiruvarur	714	0
23.	Tiruvannamalai	1112	13
24.	Trichy	546	0
25.	Tuticorin	507	0
26.	Vellore	903	4
27.	Villupuram	1546	15
28.	Virudhunagar	651	0
	Total	17579	55

Report of Law Commission on Terrorism

4545. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA:
SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE:

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

(a) whether the Law Commission has submitted any report of recommendations to the Government for enacting a law to combat terrorism on the lines of the Terrorist and Disruptive Activities (Prevention) Act, 1987;

(b) if so, the main recommendations made by the Commission; and

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon?

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

LPG Agencies/Petrol Pumps in Assam

4546. SHRI ABDUL HAMID: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of LPG agencies and petrol pump outlets operating in Assam;

(b) the number of villages covered under this scheme;

(c) whether the Government propose to open such agencies in remote villages; 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 on 1.10.1999, there were 148 LPG distributorships and 368 retail outlet dealerships in operation in Assam to meet the fuel requirements of the consumers. In order to meet the increased demand of LPG, in addition to the locations pending from the previous marketing plans, 69 LPG distributorships and 4 retail outlet dealerships have been included for Assam in the Marketing plans 1996-98. These include 26 LPG distributorships for rural areas and 38 LPG distributorships for urban/rural areas and one retail outlet dealership for rural areas in Assam.

Permission to Private Firms for Import of Petroleum Products

4547. SHRI SURESH PASI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of private parties/firms have been permitted to import LPG, kerosene and other petroleum products by using oil companies facilities at different ports;

(b) if so, the total number of such private parties/ firms engaged for the said purpose during the last three years; and

(c) the total number of persons belonging to SC/STs among them including their percentage as compared to the total such parties/firms?

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) Under Parallel Marketing Scheme (PMS), any party can import and sell LPG and Kerosene in the country with their own distribution network at market driven prices. As per the information available with the Government, 114 parties have actually imported Kerosene and 23 parties have imported LPG under PMS, so far.

Capacity of Major Ports

4548. SHRI AKBOR ALI KHANDOKER: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to increase the major ports capacity during the Ninth Plan period;

(b) if so, the total outlay made for the purpose;

(c) whether the Government are expecting private participation in the sector;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the extent to which Calcutta Port and Haldia Port would benefit after implementation of the proposal?

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) The total outlay made for major Ports during 9th Five Year Plan is Rs. 8543 crores.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) During 9th Plan an investment approximately to the tune of Rs. 8000 crores is targetted to be raised through private sector participation. So far, 13 private sector projects aggregating 52.80 million tonnes of capacity with investment of Rs. 3926 crores have been approved. Eight projects of 34.4 million tonnes capacity involving investment of Rs. 3500 crores are under bidding process. Three projects aggregating to 5 million tonnes capacity and investment of Rs. 450 crores have been identified for which bids are to be invited.

(e) An additional capacity of 8.5 million tonnes is likely to be created in Calcutta and Haldia Ports after materalisation of projects envisaged under private sector participation.

[Translation]

Irrigation Projects Pending Clearance in M.P.

4549. SHRI RAMANAND SINGH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of irrigation projects of Madhya Pradesh pending with the Union Government alongwith the period, name of each of these projects and their estimated cost;

(b) the amount spent by Madhya Pradesh Government on each of these projects; and

(c) the time by which the projects are likely to be cleared by the Union Government for irrigation in the State alongwith the names of the projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) and (b) No proposal from Madhya Pradesh is pending in the Ministry for environmental clearance under Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.

The details of the 7 proposals (received from Madhya Pradesh in the last five years), which are pending for forest clearance under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 is annexed.

(b) The Ministry of Environment and Forests does not monitor the amount spent on the projects/proposals, which are received for clearances. It monitors the compliance of conditions laid out in the forest and/or environmental clearances only.

Statement

S. No.	Name of Proposal	Cost as per the Proposal (Rs.)	Remarks
1	2	3	4
1.	Indira Sagar Pariyojana Canal Khandwa (part of Narmada Sagar Project)	2167.67 crores (for the whole Narmada Sagar Project)	The proposal was received from the State Government on 16.2.95. Essential details have been sought from the State Govt. on 23.2.95. Reminded on 2.9.1999. Only on receipt of the essential details the proposal can be processed further.
2.	Danmarhi Tank Project, Vidisha	1.02 crores	The proposal was received on 13.5.97 and was rejected on 26.10.98. However, on request of the State Government, the proposal is being reconsidered.
3.	Amanalla Tank Project, Balaghat	2.24 crores	The proposal was received from the State Government on 19.5.97. Essential details have been sought from the State Govt. on 21.5.97 & 11.11.98. Reminded on 11.10.99. Only on receipt of the essential details the proposal can be processed further.
4.	Bijasan tank project, Khargone	2.94 crores	The proposal was received from the State Government on 30.10.98. Essential details have been sought from the State Government on 24.2.99. Reminded on 27.9.99. Only on receipt of the essential details the proposal can be processed further.

1	2	3	4
5.	Sagad minor irrigation project, Vidisha	31.30 crores	The proposal was received from the State Government on 5.3.1999. Essential details have been sought from the State Govt. on 2.7.1999. Only on receipt of the essential details the proposal can be processed further.
6.	Ratapani irrigation project, Raisen	Not available	The proposal is under active consideration of the Ministry.
7.	Sumeri tank project, Guna	4.70 crores	The proposal was received from the State Government on 28.7.99. Essential details have been sought from the State Govt. on 16.8.99. Only on receipt of the essential details the proposal can be processed further.

[English]

LPG Agencies/Petrol Pumps and Kerosene Depots in Scheduled Districts

4550. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to allot new LPG agencies, petrol pumps and kerosene depots in the Scheduled districts;

(b) if so, the details of Scheduled districts in Orissa where these agencies have been allotted as on date;

(c) whether quota are fixed or proposed to be fixed for Scheduled Tribes in those Scheduled areas;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the number of proposals for the opening of these agencies in the Scheduled districts of Orissa particularly in Keonjhar district of the State is pending at present?

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 25% dealerships/ distributorships are reserved for SC/ST category.

In Orissa, as on 1.10.1999, there were 23 and 25 retail outlet dealerships, 7 and 3 SKO/LDO dealerships and 6 and 12 LPG distributorships pertaining to SC and ST categories respectively.

In the Marketing Plan 1996-98, 2 retail outlet dealerships have been reserved for ST category in district Keonjhar of Orissa.

Amendment of Motor Vehicles Act, 1988

4551. SHRI ANNASAHEB M.K. PATIL:
SHRI NARESH PUGLIA:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government had amended certain provisions of Motor Vehicles Act, 1988 including fee for issuing duplicate Registration Certificate, permit and driving licence etc.;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the inconvenience is being caused to the public on account of the enhancement of fee;

(e) if so, whether Government propose to review the said decision and roll back to the previous fee;

(f) if so, the time by which a decision is likely to be taken in this regard;

(g) if not, the reasons therefor;

(h) whether the Government have also standardised emission norms for different type of vehicles;

(i) if so, the details thereof; and

(j) the measures taken to implement them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) to (g) No, Sir. However, certain amendments had been carried out in the Central Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989 through which fees for issuance of driving licenses, permit, registration certificate etc. were increased with effect from 22.10.1999 vide Gazette of India Notification No. GSR 684(E) dated 5.10.1999 to meet the administrative expenses incurred by the State Governments for such services. Further, in pursuance to the agreement with the truck transport association during their strike in October, 1999, the hike in the fees have already been withdrawn with effect from 31st January, 2000, vide Gazette of India Notification No. GSR 76(E) dated 31.1.2000.

(h) to (j) Yes, Sir. The Government have notified the emission standards for various categories of vehicles from time to time. Emission norms for different categories of vehicles were notified vide Gazette of India Notification No. GSR 493(E) dated 28.8.1997 which have come into effect from 1.4.2000 throughout the country. Further, in pursuance to the directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court, stringent emission norms for four-wheeled motor vehicles having gross vehicles weight upto 3.5 tons for operation in the National Capital Region, Delhi have also been notified vide Gazette of India Notification No. GSR 77(E) dated 31.1.2000. These emission norms have come into effect from 1.4.2000. These Gazette Notifications have been circulated to all concerned Viz. State Governments, authorized testing agencies and the automobile manufacturers for strict compliance.

[Translation]

Pollution Control Wings

4552. SHRI RAMSHAKAL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to encourage the industries to open Pollution Control Wings adjacent to the big factories to minimise the environmental pollution on the major cities;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the industries thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) to (c) Polluting industries are required to set up pollution control mechansim. All the major polluting industries have set up environmental cells/pollution control mechanism in their units for ensuring pollution control measures. Periodical reports regarding effluent treatment and other environmental activities are sent to the concerned State Pollution Control Board.

[English]

Renovation of Power Projects

4553. SHRI NAMDEO HARBAJI DIWATHE:
DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received proposals for new projects/expansion of capacity of existing power plants, major renovation etc. from the Government of Maharashtra during 1999-2000;

(b) if so, the present status thereof alongwith action taken thereon;

(c) the time by which the techno-administrative clearance is likely to be given, project-wise;

(d) the details of proposals of Maharashtra Government seeking financial assistance from the Central Financial Institutions/Corporations in power sector pending, proposal-wise; and

(e) the details of funds received for implementation of power projects for 2000-2001 from the Financial Institutions/Corporations in power sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (d) The proposals for new projects/expansions, renovations etc., received from the Government of Maharashtra during 1999-2000 are given in the Statement. For R&M projects costing less than Rs. 500 crore, techno-economic approval is to be given by the State Government itself.

(e) As the financial year 2000-2001 has just begun, it would not be possible to give details of funds received at this juncture.

Statement

(A) Proposals for New Projects/Extensions

	Name of project	Estimated cost (Rs. crore)	Status
1.	Parli Thermal Power Project Extn. St. I (250 MW)-MSEB	1053.90	Techno economic clearance of CEA given on 9.7.99. The scheme envisaged funding through Power Finance Corporation. Details of tentative financial package indicated by MSEB are: Total cost: Rs. 1053.90 crores Govt. Loan Rs. 270.00 crores Internal Accrual Rs. 433.90 cores PFC Rs. 350.00 crroes Interest of at Govt. loan and PFC loan is @ 14.25% and 16% respectively.
2.	Chandrapur TPS Extn. 60 MW by MSEB	150	Estimated cost of the scheme being less than 250 crores, CEA's TEC is not required and MSEB was advised to obtain the State Government clearance for the same.
3.	Humbarli HEP 2x200 MW Koyna HE Projects St. V	838.92	DPR was received in Sept. 99 and comments on the same have been sent to Govt. of Maharashtra and reply is awaited
B. Renovation of HE Projects			(TEC not required from CEA)
1.	Koyna Generating Complex St. I to IV (4x70+4x80+4x80 MW)	14.00	PFC sanctioned a loan of Rs. 9.8 crores. The scheme is for provision of data exchange system for integrated operation of Koyna Complex, unit automation and synchronous operation of St. I and St. II machines.
2.	Koyna St. III 4x80 MW	14.00	Replacement of runner, AC system, excitation system telepac/teledac system and replacement of 220 KV ABC BS with SF6 breakers
3.	Koyna I and II switchyard equipment	8.00	Replacement of 220 KV breakers and isolators
4.	Koyna Dam Power House 2x18 MW	20.00	It is intended to uprate the units by 11 MW each, uprating studies to be carried out.
5.	Tillari HPS 1x60 MW	4.5	PFC sanctioned a loan of Rs. 2.4 crores for uprating the units to 68.2 MW by replacing the Pelton runner with runner of modified design and better material.
6.	Bhira Tail Race 2x40 MW	1.8	PFC sanctioned a loan of Rs. 1.2 crores. Provision of static excitation system and micro processor based EH Government. Order placed on BHEL for governor.
7.	Vaitarna HP A 1x60 MW	4.0	Uprating and life extension of unit by replacing existing class B stator winding with Class F stator winding. Provision of static excitation system micro process based governing system etc.

Mobile Repair Service in Bellary

4554. SHRI KOLUR BASAVANAGOUD: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Bellary Telecom Department has started mobile repair service;

(b) if so, whether the said service is available to all subscribers of Bellary;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) the number of said service vans in Bellary;

(e) whether the Government propose to provide this service to all the subscribers without any discrimination; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) to (f) Yes, Sir. An emergency vehicle with a driver and fault repairman is kept at Bellary town to attend to faults on an experimental basis from 23.2.2000. The service will be made available to all the subscribers in Bellary town in a phased manner, if the experiment is successful.

LPG to Power Projects

4555 DR. (SMT.) C. SUGUNA KUMARI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria fixed for the allotment of gas from GAIL to power projects;

(b) the number of sanctions accorded for supply of LPG to various private and Public sector power projects during the last three years including quantity in cubic million meters, State-wise; and

(c) the number of applications pending for sanction of gas to power projects during the above period including the quantity demanded, State-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) Allocation of natural gas to different consumers including Power Projects is made by the Government on the recommendations of an Inter-Ministerial Committee called Gas Linkage Committee.

(b) Liquified Petroleum Gas (LPG) is not supplied to Power Projects. However, details of allocation of natural gas to power projects made during the last three years are as follows:

(in million standard cubic metres per day-MMSCMD)

State	No. of Projects	Total allocation
Andhra Pradesh	6	4.135
Delhi	1	1.950
Rajasthan	1	0.200
Tamil Nadu	5	1.870
Tripura	2	0.175

(c) The demands for allocation of natural gas are considered by the Government from time to time to the extent of gas availability and also the long term gas availability projections.

Telecom Facility

4556. SHRI A. KRISHNASWAMY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a fixed time limit to issue STD/PCO booths and telephone connection;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reasons for not setting up separate exchange for those suburban villages where large number of telephone connections are in the waiting lists;

(d) the total number of PCO/STD allotted/functioning in Trivallur district (Sriprembudur Constituency) of Chennai Division, Tamil Nadu; and

(e) the total number of STD/PCO awaiting for sanction in Trivallur district of Tamil Nadu (Chennai Div.)?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) and (b) The norms prescribed for new telephone connection is 15 days after the issue of O.B. STD PCOs installation also takes about the same time after the allottee has completed commercial formalities.

(c) Separate telephone exchanges are not required if the telephones can be provided from nearby existing exchange. A separate telephone exchange is installed if there is sufficient demand for telephones which are technically not feasible from an other exchange in the area.

(d) 497 STD PCOs have been allotted in Tiruvallur District.

(e) 434 applicants are on waiting list in Tiruvallur District.

Profit in Department of Telecommunications

4557. SHRI CHINTAMAN WANAGA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Department of Telecommunications have made profit in some areas during 1998-99 and 1999-2000;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the areas of profit, year-wise;

(c) whether the Government propose to provide some relief in rent of increase of local free calls to subscribers paying bi-montly bill upto Rs. 1,000/-;

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

(e) the details of the areas where these profits are utilised?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) to (e) The network owned by DoT/DTS is an integrated all-India Network and area-wise (Circle-wise) profitability is not worked out. The 'Surplus' (viz. The excess of income earned from all services over net operating expenses of running these services) is determined for the Department as a whole. This 'Surplus' together with depreciation (an internal resource) and 'borrowing', if any, is entirely ploughed back as Capital expenditure on projects, etc. The 'Surplus' earned in 1998-99 was Rs. 7646.05 crores and anticipated in 1999-2000 is Rs. 7250 crores.

(c) and (d) The tariffs for Telecom Services are fixed by the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India, specially constituted for this purpose by an Act of Parliament. Despite a steep rise in the monthly telephone rental and reduction in free calls notified by the Authority with effect from May 1999, the Department of Telecom Services has already provided relief to all Rural subscribers and Urban low calling subscribers (those who make up to 200 calls in a month) by not increasing the rental and local call charges.

Statistical Report on Trees

4558. SHRI P.D. ELANGOVAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any statistical report on the growing of Neem, Pungai, Pipal, Banyan, Wild Tamarind trees in India;

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

(c) the steps taken by the Government to increase the production of above trees?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Preference is given to these species while raising plantations by various State Governments under Plan Schemes and Non-Plan expenditure.

Hike in Tariff Rate by NTPC

4559. SHRI T. GOVINDAN: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the NTPC has recently revised the tariff rate of power produced at Kayamukulam Thermal Power Project in Kerala; and

(b) if sc, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The tariff for Kayamkulam Thermal Power Project of National Thermal Power Corporation is to be determined by Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC) under the provisions of Electricity Regulatory Commissions Act, 1998. The tariff for Kayamkulam Thermal Power Project is yet to be approved by CERC. At present, billing for power supply from the project is being done only on *ad-hoc* basis.

[Translation]

Clearance to Road Projects in Bihar

4560. SHRIMATI SUSHILA SAROJ: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

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

(b) the number out of these proposals cleared so far; 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) No proposal has been received from the Government of Bihar for environmental clearance of road projects during the last three years.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

[English]

Regime of Economic Liberalisation and Globalisation

4561. SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFARIS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh has sent any proposal to the Union Government for revamping all laws to suit the new regime of economic, liberalisation and globalisation;

(b) if so, the details of the new laws proposed by the State Government; and

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

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

Storage Depots of IOC in Ambala Cantt.

4562. SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that a storage depot of the Indian Oil Corporation is located in the crowded area of Ambala Cantt;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to shift the said depot to some other place; 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) and (c) Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) is operating a storage depot along with railway siding at Ambala Cantt. to meet the POL requirements of Haryana, part of Punjab and Defence. When the depot was constructed there was no habitation nearby. Subsequently unauthorised structures have come up around the depot. Government of Haryana have been requested to remove the unauthorised structures.

[English]

Performances of PSUs

4563. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether he has reviewed the performance of the public sector undertakings under his Ministry;

(b) if so, the period covered under the review;

(c) the performance of each Public Sector Undertakings under his Ministry during the last three years; and

(d) the steps taken to improve the performance of each Public Sector Undertakings?

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) Performance of the Public Sector Undertakings is reviewed periodically.

(c) A statement is enclosed.

(d) Steps taken to improve the performance inter alia include restructuring, monitoring of productivity, resorting to cost cutting measures, reduction in fuel and loss etc.

Statement

(Rs. in crores)

S.No.	Name of PSUs	Profit after tax during		
		1996-97	1997-98	1998-99
1.	Oil & Natural Gas Corporation Ltd.	2033.65	2677.78	2754.49
2.	Oil India Ltd.	220.14	288.84	291.60
3.	Gas Authority of India Ltd.	606.87	1020.31	1059.22
4.	Indian Oil Corporation Ltd.	1408.22	1706.50	2213.92
5.	Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd.	612.22	701.16	901.26
6.	Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd.	432.6	532.7	701.23
7.	IBP Co. Ltd.	—	31.56	35.23
8.	Balmer Lawrie & Co. Ltd.	14.21	16.41	16.83
9.	Biecco Lawrie Ltd.	(-) 2.69	(-) 4.88	0.45
10.	Madras Refineries Ltd.	102.18	129.28	204.93
11.	Cochin Refineries Ltd.	92.93	220.41	338.23
12.	Bongaigaon Refinery & Petrochemicals Ltd.	29.07	67.99	34.26
13.	Lubrizol India Ltd.	33.84	31.05	41.24
14.	Engineers India Ltd.	72.05	73.24	117.77

Gas Supply from Iran

4564. SHRI R.L. BHATIA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are planning to have an integrated gas supply chain from Iran;

(b) if so, whether any Memorandum of Understanding has been signed in this connection; 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) The Government of Iran has proposed supply of natural gas through an onland pipeline route passing through Pakistan.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Satellite Stations in North Eastern States

4565. SHRI BHIM DAHAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of satellite stations functioning in the North Eastern States including Sikkim at present, State-wise;

(b) whether there is any proposal to set up some new such stations in the States including Sikkim recently;

(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)

	Name of State	Number of Stations
1	2	3
1.	Arunachal Pradesh	30
2.	Manipur	5
3.	Meghalaya	10
4.	Mizoram	3
5.	Nagaland	3
6.	Tripura	5
7.	Assam	3
8.	Sikkim	14
	Total	73

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The details, location-wise are given in Annex-I attached herewith.

(d) Not applicable in view of part (c) above.

Statement

ANNEXURE-I

Sl.No.	Name of State	No. of earth stations planned	Names of locations
1	2	3	4
1.	Arunachal Pradesh	22	1. Mariang 2. Chyang Tezo 3. Kolariang 4. Hunli 5. Raga 6. Nacho 7. Pangin 8. Zemithang 9. Sharjaon 10. Sangram 11. Jamiri 12. Taliha 13. Ronjong 14. Tenjingoan 15. Nafra 16. Old Ziro 17. Kamba 18. Geku 19. Nampong 20. Manmao 21. Yachuli 22. Niyapin

1	2	3	4
2.	Meghalaya	8	1. Barangpara 2. Nangal Bibra 3. Rambarai 4. Khaskute 5. Lumshong 6. Ranikor 7. Dainadubi 8. Chokopt
3.	Manipur	8	1. Thinghat 2. Chapikarong 3. Litan 4. Henglep 5. Sugnu 6. Kassemkhullen 7. Saikul 8. Kakching Khunao
4.	Mizoram	8	1. Aibawk 2. Bairabi 3. Lakhicherra 4. Kawnpui 5. Ngopa 6. Sangau 7. Bunghmun 8. West Phaileng
5.	Nagaland	6	1. Bandari 2. Aboi 3. Noklok 4. Tobu 5. Tuli Town 6. Tenning
6.	Tripura	6	1. Hmunpui 2. Jatanbari 3. Killa 4. Silliachchari 5. Bhangmun 6. Chhawmanu
7.	Assam	2	1. Maibong 2. Lanting

1	2	3	4
8.	Sikkim	10	1. Kaluk 2. Uttaray 3. Heegaon 4. Mangalbari 5. Kavi 6. Lachung 7. Phudong 8. Rongli 9. Yangiong 10. Tashiding

ATNs on Irregularities

4566. SHRI C.N. SINGH:
SHRI RAJ NARAIN PASSI:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 1598 on March 6, 2000 regarding Action Taken Notes (ATNs) on irregularities and state;

(a) the total number of audit observations pending as on date and since when these are pending;

(b) the details of amount involved in those observations;

(c) whether the facts of the pending ATNs have been verified and comments obtained from concerned field units; and

(d) if so, the action taken against the delinquent officials alongwith improvements made in the working of his ministry and the departments thereunder?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) and (b) The details of pending audit observations (paragraphs of the C&AG's Reports) including those where ATNs are pending, and the amount involved, are furnished in the enclosed Statement relating to the Department of Telecom. No ATN is pending in the Department of Post.

(c) and (d) Out of the total of 781 ATNs required on the Audit observations, verification of facts and framing of initial ATNs is pending only in 110. Action in these cases is in progress. Suitable remedial and preventive measures are taken on audit observations at appropriate levels. Administrative, vigilance and other actions as warranted are also initiated against the concerned officials, after suitable enquiry.

Statement

Status as on 17th April, 2000

Year of C&AG's Report	Total No. of Audit Paragraphs in the Report	No. of ATNs needed on Para-graphs in Col. 2	ATNs framed and vetted by Audit	ATNs wt Audit for vetting	ATNs Pending in Dept. of Telecom			
					ATNs received back from observations for modifi-cation	ATNs not yet framed	Since when pending	Amount involved in pending cases (Col. 6&7) (Rs. in crores)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
P&T Audit								
1993-94	5	81	80	—	01	—	15.7.1997*	4.66
1994-95	5	102	102	—	—	—	15.7.1997	—

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1995-96	5	128	115	05	8	—	19.07.1997	67.32
1996-97	40	163	131	13	18	01	7.10.1998	1638.64@@
1997-98	52	185	54	66	7	58	29.2.2000	239.40
Total	107	659	482	84	34	59	—	1950.04
Commercial Audit								
Up to								
1995-96	—	49	36	5	8@	—	1997@	1.38
1996-97	3	21	17	1	3	—	07.10.1998	3.79
1997-98	3	33	—	1	—	32	17.4.2000	15.1
Total	6	103	53	7	11	32		20.18
Autonomous Bodies								
1997-98	1	19	—	—	—	19	29.2.2000	
G. Total	114	781	535	91	45	110		1970.22

* Extended due date

@ Of the 8,7 relate to the C&AG's Report for 1995-96, and one to that for 1993-94.

@@ This includes Rs. 837 crores in respect of paragraph No. 3 which has been examined by th PAC and on which PAC report is awaited and Rs. 768.76 crores in respect of paragraph No. 4 which is also awaiting examination by PAC.

[Translation]

Terminalling Charges

4567. SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA:
DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA:
SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI:
SHRI SUKDEO PASWAN:

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

(a) whether the Government propose to make three categories of fund for the payment of terminalling charges;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether a committee of experts was constituted to fix terminalling charges;

(d) if so, the composition of the members of the said Committee;

(e) whether the said Committee has submitted its report to the Government;

(f) if so, the recommendations made by the Committee;

(g) the rate of terminalling charges proposed for each category alongwith the reasons for variation in these rates; and

(h) the name of the agency and the fund through which the expenses as a result of these charges are likely to be met?

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 (h) A committee was constituted by the Government to study and advise the evacuation and despatch facilities that should be provided by the refineries and marketing companies separately and to suggest determination of additional compensation to refineries for having despatch

facilities meant to be provided by the marketing companies. The composition of the committee was as follows:

1.	Chairman & Managing Director Indo Burma Petroleum Company	Chairman
2.	Adviser (Refineries) Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas	Member
3.	Director (Marketing) Indian Oil Corporation Limited	Member
4.	Director (Planning) Oil Coordination Committee	Member
5.	Joint Adviser (Finance) Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas	Member
6.	Director (S&P) Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas	Member Secretary

The Committee constituted by the Government have adopted the groupings of refineries under the following broad categories and recommended for computation of rates based on these groupings:

(i) Refineries commissioned after 1.4.1998 *i.e.* the date of introduction of Refinery Gate Prices linked to import parity prices for refineries.

(ii) Refineries commissioned prior to 1.4.1998, which are further sub divided into two groups, namely, refineries where written down value (WDV) is likely to be 70% or more of investment and the other where WDV is likely to be less 70% of investment.

No rates have been finalised as yet.

[English]

Allocation of Liquid Fuel to Maharasthra

4568. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL:
SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA:

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

(a) the quantum of liquid fuel supplied to Maharashtra as compared to other States during the last three years;

(b) whether the State Government has submitted certain projects to the Union Government requesting for the allocation of an additional liquid fuel to boost the generating capacity of the State; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the response of the Union Government thereto?

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 details of quantity of Naphtha, FO/LSHS and LDO supplied to Maharashtra and other States during 1996-97, 1997-98 and 1998-99 are given in the Statement attached.

(b) and (c) Government of Maharashtra have submitted a request for allocation of Naphtha for a combined cycle power project of 198 MW at Mahad to the Ministry of Power, Government of India, and same will be considered for allocation as per policy guidelines.

Statement

(Fig. in TMT)

	Naphtha			FO/LSHS			LDO		
State	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
Maharashtra	749	841	857	2332	2402	2204	322	319	298
Punjab	49	53	47	797	908	882	22	20	31
Rajasthan	317	326	258	227	232	298	39	43	44
Uttar Pradesh	919	1304	1362	610	608	706	88	106	151

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Haryana	0	0	0	483	423	473	47	47	43
Bihar	57	53	23	445	337	330	136	115	93
Orissa	127	113	114	321	321	289	27	17	14
West Bengal	47	9	4	271	278	305	150	147	147
Gujarat	590	696	2065	2174	2054	1997	185	184	192
Madhya Pradesh	4	96	141	353	368	405	24	28	41
Andhra Pradesh	102	247	530	426	473	581	28	32	37
Kerala	169	184	381	414	430	439	6	6	7
Tamil Nadu	458	373	498	1083	1077	1350	47	43	40
Karnataka	168	140	165	510	519	596	21	23	28

Creation of Infrastructure for Ship-Building

4569. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether creation of infrastructure for ship-building/ ship repair by the existing shipyards, particularly chronically sick yard, requires approval of the Government;

(b) if so, whether the Government have accorded approval for creation of such infrastructure at Port Blair by Hooghly Dock and Port Engineers Ltd.;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) if not, whether the company has already initiated such action involving additional expenditure to the exchequer;

(e) if so, whether the Government propose to fix responsibility for such irregularities; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The company has initiated some preliminary action to secure ship repair business at Port Blair. However, proposal has not yet materialised.

(e) and (f) Does not arise.

Enron Power Project

4570. SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have accorded clearance to the Enron Power Projects in Kannur in Kerala;

(b) if so, the details of the terms and conditions thereof; and

(c) the time by which the project is expected to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) No, Sir. However, the Central Electricity Authority (CEA) has recently accorded techno-economic clearance to the 513 MW Kannur Combined Cycle Power Project (CCPP) in Kerala which is promoted by M/s. Kannur Power Projects Private Limited and not by Enron.

(b) and (c) The Kannur CCPP has been accorded TEC by CEA at an estimated completed cost of US$ 210.01 million plus Rs. 587.971 crores including Interest During Construction (IDC) and Financing Charges (FC) of US$ 18.550 million plus Rs. 114.485 crores

(@ 1 US$ = Rs. 42.00). The TEC stipulates, inter alia, that approval of Government of Kerala for the Final Financial Package (FFP) shall be made available before approval of the same by CEA. The project shall be executed in accordance with the FFP approved by CEA and the tariff for sale of power shall be worked out on the completed project cost and approved FFP. Any change to the approved FFP shall be done only with the prior approval of CEA. It is also stipulated in the TEC that M/s. KPP Nambiar and Associates, who are one of the main promoters, shall bring in one or more foreign co-promoters/foreign investors acceptable to the Government of Kerala within 6 months from the date of TEC.

As per the schedule mentioned in the TEC, the project is to be completed within a period of 27 months from the date of financial closure. However, actual completion of the project would depend on the typing up of all pending inputs/clearances and achieving financial closure.

Petrol Pumps and Diesel Outlets in Andhra Pradesh

4571. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of petroleum and diesel outlets of the Indin Oil Corporation functioning in Andhra Pradesh at present;

(b) whether some new outlets have been set up by IOC during 1999, 2000 in the State;

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

(d) whether IOC has made any plan to set up new outlets in the State keeping in view of the growing demand of motor industry during 2000-2001;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the steps taken by the Government 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 on 1.3.2000 Indian Oil Corporation Limited had 505 retail outlet dealerships in Andhra Pradesh.

(b) and (c) IOC has commissioned 45 retail outlet dealerships during the years 1999 and 2000 in Andhra Pradesh.

(d) to (f) In the Marketing Plan 1996-98, 48 retail outlet dealerships have been allocated to IOC for Andhra Pradesh.

Losses in Central Inland Water Transport Corporation

4572. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Inland Water and Transport Corporation is running at loss for the last two years;

(b) if so, the details thereof during the above period, year-wise;

(c) the number of vessels which are not in operation; and

(d) the steps proposed by the Government to make CIWTC financially viable?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The details of losses are given below:

(Rs. in lakhs)

Year	Operating Loss (Before depreciation & Interest)	Total Loss
1998-1999	2837.59	6589.74
1999-2000	2200.00 (Unaudited)	6300.00 (Unaudited)

(c) The number of vessels not in operation is 75.

(d) Action has already been initiated to evolve a comprehensive package to re-organise/revive Central Inland Water Transport Corporation.

Denotifying Zudpi Jungle Land

4573. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to denotify Ha Zudip Jungle land in Vidharbha region of Maharashtra as recommended by the High Powered Committee appointed under the Chairmanship of Shri M.K. Sharma;

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

(c) the time by which a notification is likely to be issued in this regard; and

(d) if not, reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) to (d) The Ministry of Environment and Forests vide its notification No. 4-8/87-FC (Pt.) dated 21.9.1998 had constituted a High Powered Committee to identify and sort out the problems of zudpi jungle areas in Maharashtra and to suggest different land uses for such areas in the interest of conservation as well as development.

The High Power Committee, in its report has made certain recommendations out of which one of the recommendation is that the 86,409 ha. of zudpi land, which is not suitable for forest management, should be denotified and be allowed for non-forestry use. Out of this 86,409 ha.; 27,507 ha. land is under encorachment; 26,672 ha. is under non-forestry use; and 32,229 ha. is fragmented land etc. The report of the Committee is under consideration of this Ministry.

Oil Import Bill

4574. SHRI AJAY SINGH CHAUTALA:
SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL:
DR. RAMESH CHAND TOMAR:
SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE:
SHRI SHIVAJI MANE:
SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH:
SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL:
SHRI R.S. PATIL:
SHRI G.J. JAVIYA:

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

(a) whether attention of Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Indian could save up to $2.5 billion, oil price fall" appearing in the Indian Express dated March 30, 2000.

(b) if so, the raction of the Government thereto;

(c) whether due to increase in production of oil by OPEC, the Government propose to decrease the prices of petroleum products;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) the extent to which our oil import bill is likely to be affected; and

(f) the likely impact on our public sector oil companies in view of the decision of OPEC?

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) to (f) OPEC members (excluding Iran) in their meeting held on 27.3.2000 agreed to increase the production of crude oil by 1.45 million barrels per day which may result in fall in prices. OPEC have also decided to review their decision in June, 2000. Prices of oil in the international market are highly volatile and are subject to wide fluctuation. The oil prices trend in the international market has an impact on our import bill and the domestic prices. There is no proposal to roll back the increase in prices effected in the midnight of 22nd-23rd March, 2000.

Air Pollution

4575. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH:
SHRI SHEESH RAM SINGH RAVI:
SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR:

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

(a) whether the Government are aware that scientific evidence has emerged of drastic change in rainfall pattern if urban air pollution is not checked;

(b) whether the exhaust emitted from diesel engines pollute the air most;

(c) if so, the steps taken to check the growth of diesel engine run vehicles in Delhi; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) The Government are aware of the findings of the research studies reported in a journal regarding change in rainfall pattern due to air pollution. According to Indian Meteorological Department, however, no drastic changes in rainfall pattern have been observed from its observatories located in all major cities in India.

(b) and (c) Oxides of nitrogen and particulate matter from diesel engines and carbon monoxide and hydrocarbons from petrol engines are the main pollutants causing air pollution. The steps taken to check the growth of diesel engine run vehicles in Delhi includes ban on registration of vehicles auctioned by Defence/Government Organizations, phasing out and ban on plying of all commercial/transport vehicles which are more than 15 years old, ban on registration of vehicles replacing petrol engine with diesel, ban on plying of diesel buses more than eight year old and pre-1990 taxies, adoption of Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) as auto-fuel, promotion of CNG taxies and battery operated 3 wheelers.

(d) Does not arise.

Phasing Out of ODS

4576. COL. (RETD.) DR. DHANI RAM SHANDIL:
PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU:
SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE:
SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI:
SHRI G.J. JAVIYA:
SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE:
SHRI JITENDRA PRASADA:

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

(a) whether the Government have recently framed comprehensive draft rules to phase out the Ozone Depleting Substances (ODS);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the rules ban creation of new capacity or expansion of capacity and prohibit new investments;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action proposed to be taken in cases of violation of the norms fixed in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Draft rules on Ozone Depleting Substances (Regulation) Rules, 2000 have been published in the Gazette of India on 25.1.2000 for inviting public comments or objections.

(c) and (d) Rule No. 9 in the draft rules on Ozone Depleting Substances (Regulation) Rules, 2000 proposes ban on creation of new capacity or expansion of capacity and prohibition of new investments using Ozone Depleting Substances technology.

(e) It is proposed that violation of norms will be liable for action under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.

[Translation]

Security Problem due to Cellular Telephones

4577. SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the introduction of cellular telephones has given rise to serious security problems in the border States; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) and (b) Sir, the informatioin is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Review of Power Projects

[English]

4578. SHRI SHIVAJI VITHALRAO KAMBLE: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have recently reviewed the progress of implementation of newly approved power projects in the States;

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

(c) the reasons for delay in execution of the projects, project-wise and the likely impact thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (c) The Government is constantly monitoring the progress of implementation of newly approved power projects in the States. A Statement showing the status of approved power projects is attached.

Statement

Name of Project	Capacity	Commissioning Schedule		Constraints/ Action Reqd./Remarks
		Orig.	Expected	
1	2	3	4	5
Thermal				
Northern Region				
Central Sector				
1. Faridabad CCGT (Haryana NTPC)				
GT-1	143	1/2000	—	Already
GT-2	143	3/2000	—	commissioned
ST	143	1/2001	10/2000	Supply of generator and generator transformer

1		2	3	4	5
2.	Anta CCGT St. II (Rajasthan NTPC)	650	42 months from date of investment approval		Investment decision by NTPC Board
3.	Auraiya CCGT St. II (U.P. NTPC)	650	-do-		-do-
State Sector					
4.	Suratgarh St. 2 U-3	250	9/2002	9/2002	Achievement of financial closure
	(Raj. RSEB) U-4	250	3/2003	3/2003	
5.	Panipat St. IV U-6 (Haryana)	210	9/93	12/2000	(i) Revamping of TG damaged material (ii) Supply and erection of C&I equipment
Private Sector					
6.	Dholpur CCGT GT-1	231.75	24 months from FC		Achievement of financial closure
	(Raj.) GT-2	231.75	26 months from FC		
	ST	239.20	28 months from FC		
7.	Barsingsar U-1	250	38 months from FC		-do-
	Lignite, Raj. U-2	250	42 months from FC		
8.	Chambal CCGT (Raj.)	166	GT-19 months from issue of notice to proceed ST-29 months from issue of notice to proceed.		-do-
9.	Mathania ISCC GT-1&2 and ST (Raj.)	140	36 months from FC		-do-
10.	Rosa TPP (U.P.) U-1	283.5	37 months from FC		-do-
	(Raj.) U-2	283.5	40 months from FC		
Western Region					
Central Sector					
11.	Kawas CCPP (Guj. NTPC)	650	42 months from inv. approval		Investment decision by NTPC Board
12.	Janohar Gandhar (Guj. NTPC)	650	-do-		-do-
State Sector					
13.	Dhuvaran Gas GT+ST (Guj. GSECL)	100	5/2001 9/2001		Achievement of financial closure

1		2	3	4	5
14.	Parli TPS Extn. (Mah. MSEB) Based CCPP	250	48 months from date of inv. approval 9/2001		FFP approval of Planning Commission, FSA.
15.	Khaperkheda Extn. St. II (Mah. MSEB) U-3&4	2x210	94-95		Readiness of B-C bay by MSEB
Private Sector					
16.	J. Station Sabarmati (Guj. M/s AECo)	125	5/2001 3/2003		Achievement of FC. State Env. Clearance.
17.	Jamnagar Petcoke Based TPP U-1&2 (Guj. M/s. Reliance)	2x250	36 and 39 months from date of FC		Achievement of FC
18.	Akrimota Lig. TPP (Guj.) U-1&2	2x125	32 and 38 months from FC with COD		-do-
19.	Pench U-1&2 (M.P.)	2x250	38 and 41 months from FC		Escrow agreement
20.	Korba West Extn. (M.P.) U-5&6	2x210	33 and 36 months from FC		-do-
21.	Korba (E) TPP (M.P.) U-1&2	2x535	41 and 47 months from FC		-do-
22.	Bina TPP Ph. I (M.P.) U-1&2	2x289	33 and 36 months from FC		-do-
23.	Narsinghpur CCGT (M.P.) GT ST	110.47 56.08	18 months from FC 23 months from FC		-do-
24.	Guna CCPP (M.P.) GT-1&2 ST	2x111.7 106.6	18 and 21 months from FC 25 months from FC		-do-
25.	Raigarh TPP Ph. I (M.P.) U-1&2	2x275	36 and 39 months from FC		-do-
26.	Bhilai TPP (M.P.) U-1&2	2x287	-do-		-do-
27.	Khandwa CCPP (M.P.) GT ST	112.27 58.9	21 months from FC -do-		-do-
28.	Ratlam DG Power Project (M.P.) U-1 to 8	8x14.829	14 to 17 months from FC		-do-

1		2	3	4	5
29.	Pithampur Kheda Diesal (M.P.) U-1 to 8	8x14.96	14 to 17 months from FC		Escrow agreement
30.	Bhander CCGT (M.P.) GT-1&2 ST	2x112 118	12 and 18 months from FC 25 montsh from FC		-do-
31.	Dabhol CCGT (Mah.)	1444	2000-01		-do-
32.	Patalganga CCGT (Mah.) GT-1&2&ST	447	18,22 and 25 montshs from FC		Achievement of FC
33.	Bhadrawati TPP (Mah.) U-1 U-2	541 541	2000-01 2000-01	39 months from FC 43 months from FC	-do- Fuel supply agreement
Southern Region					
Central Sector					
34.	Simhadri TPS (A.P. NTPC) U-1 U-2	500 500	3/2002 12/2002	3/2002 12/2002	Acquisition of balance land Non-availability of tranche-II loan for ATS package from JBIC.
35.	Ramagundem TPP St. III (A.P. NTPC) U-1	500		55 months from date of investment	
36.	Neyveli TPS-1 Expansion U-1 (T.N. NLC) U-2	210 210	8/2000 2/2001	11/2001 5/2002	
State Sector					
37.	DG Power Station, North Andaman (A&N Islands) U-1&2	2x2.5	3/2001		
38.	DG Set at Kolar, U-1 to 12 Bidar, Jamkhandi and Indi. (Kar. KEB)		89/90 12x6.48		Scheme is being posed for Private Sector
39.	Rayalseema St. II TPP (A.P. APSEB) U-1&2	2x210	Status awaited		
40.	Kovilkalappal CCPP (T.N. TNEB) GT&ST	107.8	7/2000 10/2000	9/2000 10/2000	Supply of gas turbine

1	2	3	4	5
Private Sector				
41. Bambooflat DG (A&N Islands) U-1 to 4	4x5	19-20 months for U-1&2 and 24 months from the date of FC		Opening of Escrow account by A&N Admn.
42. Gautami CCGT (A.P.) GT-1 118.1 GT-2 118 ST 122.7		Status awaited		Escrow agreement
43. Krishnapatnam B TPP (A.P.) U-1&2	2x260	32 and 36 months from FC		-do-
44. Visakhapatnam TPP (A.P.) U-1&2	2x520	38 and 44 months from FC		-do-
45. Ramagundam TPP (A.P.) U-1&2	2x260	9/2001 3/2002	6/2002 12/2002	-do-
46. Vemagiri CCPP (A.P.) GT-1 107 ST-1 51 GT-2 221.5 ST-2 112.5		26 months from FC		Achievement of FC
47. Kondapalli CCGT (A.P.) GT-1&2	2x112	2/2000 4/2000	5/2000 3/2000	
ST	126	10/2000	8/2000	
48. Peddapuram CCGT (A.P) 200	—	3/2001		-do-
49. Bidadi CCPP 200 (A.P.)	—	3/2002	-do-	
50. Bellary DGPP 27.8 (Karnataka)	—	3/2000		
51. Tanirbavi CCGT 220 (Karnataka) GT+ST		12 months from FC		-do-
52. Nagarjuna TPP (Karnataka) U-1&2	2x507.5	38 and 42 months from FC		Financial closure
53. Tumkar DGPP 32.5 (Karnataka)	—	—		-do-

1	2	3	4	5
54. Mangalore TPP (Karnataka) U-1 to4	4x253.3	Within 33 months of FC for 1st unit and 3 months thereafter for every unit		Financial Closure
55. Ginigera MFP 50.8 (Karnataka)	—	—		-do-
56. Kaniminike CCGT (Karnataka) GT-1&2 ST	2x35.3 37	19 months from FC		Escrow agreement
57. Vypeen CCGT (Kerala) GT-1 to 3 ST	3x146.9 238.5	27 months from FC		-do-
58. Eloor CCGT (Kerala) GT 1 to 3 ST	3x45 38	Already commissioned 4/2000		
59. Vembar CCPP (T.N.) 5 Modules	1873	38 months from first module and 3 months each thereafter for other modules		Details awaited
60. Tuticorin TPP St. IV (T.N.) U-1	525	39 months from FC		Details awaited FC
61. Samayanallure DGPP (T.N.) U-1 to 7	7x15.143	14 to 17 months from FC		Details awaited. Escrow agreement
62. North Madras TPP St. II (T.N.) U-1&2	2x525	42 months from FC		Details awaited. FC
63. North Madras St. III (T.N.) U-3	525	37 months from FC		Details awaited
64. Cuddalore TPS (T.N.) U-1&2	2x660	39-44 months from FC		-do-
65. Neyveli Zero TPS (T.N.) U-1	250	34 months from FC		
66. Samalpatti DGPP (T.N.) U-1&2 U-3&4 U-5&6 U-7	105.66	14 to 17 months from FC	2/2001 3/2001 4/2001 5/2001	
67. Pillaiperumalanallur CCPP (T.N.)	330.5	27 months from FC	12/2000	
Eastern Region				
Central Sector				
68. Farakka STPS U-6 (W.B. NTPC)	500	12/95		As order for main plant and equipment is yet to be placed, commissioning schedule can not be anticipated.

1		2	3	4	5
69.	Talcher STPP St. II (W.B.) U-3 to 6	4x500	6/2003 3/2004 12/2004 9/2005	11/2003 8/2004 5/2005 2/2006	
State Sector					
70.	Tenughat TPP St. II (Bihar) U-3 to 5	3x210	9/94, 3/95 and 12/95		As order for main plant and equipment is yet to be placed, commissioning schedule can not be anticipated. Tying up of financial assistance.
71.	Muzzaffarpur TPP Extn. (Bihar) U-1&2	2x250	2001-02 2002-03		-do-
Private Sector					
72.	Jojobera TPP (Bihar) U-1&2	2x120	6/2001 (COD) 9/2001 (COD)	6/2001 (COD) 9/2001 (COD)	(i) Availability of land for ash disposal (ii) Env. clearance from MOEF
73.	Ib Valley TPP St. II (Orissa) U-5&6	2x250	33 and 36 months from FC		FC, counter guarantee by Government of India approved
74.	Duburi TPS (Orissa) U-1&2	2x250	33 and 36 months from FC		Guarantee by State Government, FC
75.	Bakreshwar TPS (W.B.) U-4&5	2x210	30 and 33 months from FC		EPC contract-discussions finalised and LOI issued on 24.12.1999
76.	Gouripore TPS U-1 (W.B.)	150	32 months from FC		
77.	Balagarh Power Project (W.B.) U-1&2	2x250	2001 2002 2001 2003		Out of 1050 acres of land acquisition-623 acres under possession. 32 acres on main land already acquired. EPC contract finalised. Order for detailed engineering of Railway infrastructure work placed on RITES who have submitted DPR.

1		2	3	4	5
North Eastern Region					
State Sector					
78.	Amguri CCGT (Assam) GT-1 to 8 ST-1 to 4	8x30 4x30	97-98		Gas linkage not finalised
79.	Leimakhong DG (Manipur) U-1 to 6	6x6	10-12/98	11/2000	Delay in releasing of funds.
Hydro					
Central Sector					
80.	Chamera St. II (H.P. NHPC) Dt of sanction 18.5.99	3x100	10th Plan		Agreement between NHPC and consortium lead by M/s. Jaiprakash Industries signed on 18.7.99. Major works started by the contractor.
81.	Teesta St. V 3x170 (Sikkim) Dt. of sanction 11.2.2000	2006-07			Development of infrastructure facilities commenced at the project site.
82.	Loktak DS (Manipur NHPC) Dt. of sanction 30.12.99	3x30	2006-07		-do-
83.	Tuirial (Mizoram NEEPCO) Dt. of sanction 7.7.98 (CCEA)	2x30	2005-07		Pre construction and infrastructural works in progress. NIT for pre-qualification for package I floated. Project area and some submergence area land acquired.
84.	Kopili St. II (Assam NEEPCO) Dt. of sanction 6.7.99 (CCEA)	1x25	2003-04		Pre construction and infrastructural works in progress. LOI for TG and package I placed tenders for package II scrutinised. Tender for package III under preparation.
State Sector					
85.	Rolep I (Sikkim) Dt. of sanction 16.8.97	2x4.5	2001-02	2003-04	E&F clearance and funds constraints. External funding project.
Private Sector					
86.	Malana HEP (H.P.) Dt. of sanction 27.7.98	2x43	Beyond 9th Plan		Financial closure achieved infrastructure works are in progress.
87.	Vishnu Prayag (U.P.) Dt of sanction 30.6.97	4x100	Beyond 9th Plan		TEC given in 6/97. Infrastructure work in progress. Delay in finalisation of executing agency E&F clearance awaited.

12.05 hrs.

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 Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti, New Delhi, for the year 1996-97.

(ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti, New Delhi, for the year 1996-97, together with Audit Report thereon.

(iii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti, New Delhi, for the year 1996-97.

(2) Sttement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Place in Library, *See* No. LT-1652/2000]

(3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti, New Delhi, for the year 1997-98.

(ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti, New Delhi, for the year 1997-98, together with Audit Report thereon.

(iii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti, New Delhi, for the year 1997-98.

(4) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons fro delay in laying the papers mentioned at (3) above.

[Place in Library, *See* No. LT-1653/2000]

(5) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Nehru Memorial Museum and Library, New Delhi, for the year 1996-97 alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Nehru Memorial Museum and Library, New Delhi, for the year 1996-97.

(6) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (5) above.

[Place in Library, *See* No. LT-1654/2000]

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to lay on the Table—

(1) A copy of the Notification No. S.O. 454 (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 19th February, 2000 recognising the laboratories specified in the Notification as environmental laboratories so as to make the amendment in the Notification No. S.O. 728(E) dated the 21st July, 1987 issued under sections 12 and 13 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.

[Place in Library, *See* No. LT-1655/2000]

(2) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Central Pollution Control Board, Delhi, for the year 1998-99, together with Audit Report thereon.

(3) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (2) above.

[Place in Library, *See* No. LT-1656/2000]

(4) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:—

(i) Review by the Government of the working of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands Forest and Plantation Development Corporation Limited, Port Blair, for the year 1998-99.

(ii) Annual Report of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands Forest and Plantation Development Corporation Limited, Port Blair, for the year

1998-99, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

(5) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons fro delay in laying papers mentioned at (4) above.

[Place in Library, *See* No. LT-1657/2000]

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table—

(1) A copy of the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (Preparation, Submission of budget, Maintenance of accounts) Rules, 2000 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 237 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 10th March, 2000, under section 56 of the Electricity Regulatory Commissions Act, 1998.

[Place in Library, *See* No. LT-1658/2000]

(2) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Damodar Valley Corporation, for the year 1998-99, alongwith Audited Accounts, under sub-section (5) of section 45 of the Damodar Valley Corporation Act, 1948.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Damodar Valley Corporation for the year 1998-99.

(3) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (2) above.

[Place in Library, *See* No. LT-1659/2000]

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 212 of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988:—

(i) The Central Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Rules, 2000 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 65(E) in Gazette of India dated the 25th January, 2000 together with an explanatory memorandum.

(ii) The Central Motor Vehicles (2nd Amendment) Rules, 2000 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 76(E) in Gazette of India dated the 31st January, 2000 together with an explanatory memorandum.

(iii) The Central Motor Vehicles (3rd Amendment) Rules, 2000 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 77(E) in Gazette of India dated the 31st January, 2000 together with an explanatory memorandum.

(iv) The Central Motor Vehicles (4th Amendment) Rules, 2000 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 99(E) in Gazette of India dated the 9th February, 2000 together with an explanatory memorandum.

(v) The Central Motor Vehicles (Regulation of Bus Service Between New Delhi and Lahore) Rules, 2000 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 127(E) dated the 16th February, 2000 together with an explanatory memorandum.

(vi) The Central Motor Vehicles (Regulation of Bus Service Between Calcutta and Dhaka) Rules, 2000 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 128(E) in Gazette of India dated the 16th February, 2000 together with an explanatory memorandum.

(vii) The Central Motor Vehicles (5th Amendment) Rules, 2000 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 129(E) in Gazette of India dated the 16th February, 2000 together with an explanatory memorandum.

(viii) G.S.R. 110(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 14th February, 2000 making certain Amendments in the Central Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Rules, 1998 together with an explanatory memorandum.

[Place in Library, *See* No. LT-1660/2000]

(2) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under section 10 of the National Highways Act, 1956:—

(i) S.O. 1027(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 11th October, 1999 regarding

entrustment of the development and maintenance of National Highways mentioned in the Notification to the concerned State Governments.

(ii) S.O. 1139 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 18th November, 1999 regarding entrust of the development and maintenance of National Highways mentioned in the Notification to the concerned State Governments.

(iii) S.O. 1158 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 19th November, 1999 notifying the land to be acquired under National Highways Act, 1956 for Hubli-Dharwad Bypass.

(iv) S.O. 1211 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 3rd December, 1999 making certain amendments in the description of National Highway No. 200.

[Place in Library, *See* No. LT-1661/2000]

(3) A copy of the National Highways Authority of India (Budget, Accounts, Audit, Investment of Funds and Powers to Enter Premises) Amendment Rules, 2000 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 140 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 17th February, 2000 under Section 37 of the National Highways Authority of India Act, 1988.

[Place in Library, *See* No. LT-1662/2000]

(4) (i) A copy of the Annual Administration Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Calcutta Dock Labour Board, Calcutta 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 Calcutta Dock Labour Board, Calcutta, for the year 1998-99.

(5) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (4) above.

[Place in Library, *See* No. LT-1663/2000]

(6) (i) A copy of the Annual Administration Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Mumbai Dock Labour Board, Mumbai, 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 Mumbai Dock Labour Board, Mumbai, for the year 1998-99.

(7) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (6) above.

[Place in Library, *See* No. LT-1664/2000]

(8) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Kandla Dock Labour Board, Kandla, 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 Kandla Dock Labour Board, Kandla, for the year 1998-99.

(9) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (8) above.

[Place in Library, *See* No. LT-1665/2000]

(10) A copy of the Memorandum of Understanding (Hindi and English versions) between the Dredging Corporation of India Limited and the Ministry of Surface Transport for the year 2000-01.

[Place in Library, *See* No. LT-1666/2000]

(11) A copy of the Memorandum of Understanding (Hindi and English versions) between the Hindustan Shipyard Limited and the Ministry of Surface Transport for the year 2000-01.

[Place in Library, *See* No. LT-1667/2000]

(12) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Seamen's Provident Fund Organisation (Navik Bhavishya Nidhi), Mumbai, 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 Seamen's Provident Fund Organisation (Navik Bhavishya Nidhi), Mumbai, for the year 1998-99.

(13) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (12) above.

[Place in Library, *See* No. LT-1668/2000]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI N.T. SHANMUGAM): Sir, on behalf of Shri E. Ponnuswamy, I beg to lay on the Table—

(1) A copy of the Memorandum of Understanding (Hindi and English versions) between the Madras Refineries Limited and the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas for the year 2000-01.

[Place in Library, *See* No. LT-1669/2000]

(2) A copy of the Memorandum of Understanding (Hindi and English versions) between of the Indian Oil Corporation Limited and the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas for the year 2000-2001.

[Place in Library, *See* No. LT-1670/2000]

12.06 hrs.

ESTIMATES COMMITTEE

Second Report

[English]

PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU (Tenali): Sir, I beg to present the Second Report (Hindi and English versions) on action taken by Government on the recommendations contained in the Second Report of Estimates Committee (Twelfth Lok Sabha) on the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas-Crude Oil-Indigenous Production and Imports.

12.07 hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON URBAN AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Ninth, Tenth, Eleventh, Twelfth and Thirteenth Reports

[Translation]

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE (Ratnagiri): Sir, I beg to present the following Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Urban and Rural Development:

(1) Ninth Report on Demand for Grants (2000-2001) of the Ministry of Urban Employment and Poverty Alleviation.

(2) Tenth Report on Demands for Grants (2000-2001) of the Ministry of Urban Development.

(3) Eleventh Report on Demand for Grants (2000-2001) of the Department of Drinking Water Supply (Ministry of Rural Development).

(4) Twelfth Report on Demand for Grants (2000-2001) of the Department of Land Resources (Ministry of Rural Development).

(5) Thirteenth Report on Demand for Grants (2000-2001) of the Department of Rural Development (Ministry of Rural Development).

12.08 hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

Eighty-ninth, Ninetieth, Ninety-first and Ninety-Second Reports

[Translation]

SHRIMATI JAS KAUR MEENA (Sawai Madhopur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy each (Hindi and English versions) of the following reports of the Standing Committee on Human Resource Development:—

(1) Eighty-Ninth Report on Demands for Grants 2000-2001 of the Department of Health (Ministry of Health and Family Welfare);

(2) Ninetieth Report on Demands for Grants 2000-2001 of the Department of Family Welfare (Ministry of Health and Family Welfare);

(3) Ninety-First Report on Demands for Grants 2000-2001 of the Department of Indian Systems of Medicine and Homoeopathy (Ministry of Health and Family Welfare); and

(4) Ninety-Second Report on Demands for Grants 2000-2001 of the Department of Culture (Ministry of Culture, Youth Affairs and Sports).

12.09 hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS

Seventy-second, Seventy-third, Seventy-fourth, Seventy-fifth, Seventy-sixth, Seventy-seventh and Seventy-eighth Reports

[English]

PROF. R.R. PRAMANIK (Mathurapur): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy each (Hindi and English versions) of the Seventy-second, Seventy-third, Seventy-fourth, Seventy-fifth, Seventy-sixth, Seventy-seventh and Seventy-eighth Reports on Demands for Grants (2000-2001) of the Departments of Science & Technology, Scientific & Industrial Research, Biotechnology, the Ministry of Information Technology, Departments of Ocean Development, Space and the Ministry of Environment & Forests, respectively.

12.09 $^{1}/_{2}$ hrs.

MOTION REGARDING JOINT COMMITTEE ON THE PROTECTION OF PLANT VARIETIES AND FARMERS' RIGHTS BILL

[Translation]

SHRI SAHIB SINGH (Outer Delhi). Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move:—

"That this House do recommend to Rajya Sabha that Rajya Sabha do appoint six members of Rajya Sabha to the Joint Committee on the Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights Bill, 1999 in the vacancies caused by the retirement of Sarvashri Janardhana Poojary, V. Kishore Chandra S. Deo, Dr. Ranbir Singh, Onkar Singh Lakhawat, Dr. Biplab Dasgupta, Gurudas Das Gupta, from Rajya Sabha and communicate to this House the names of the members so appointed by Rajya Sabha to the Joint Committee."

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That this House do recommend to Rajya Sabha that Rajya Sabha do appoint six Members of Rajya Sabha to the Joint Committee on the Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights Bill, 1999 in the vacancies caused by the retirement of Sarvashri Janardhana Poojary, V. Kishore Chandra S. Deo, Dr. Ranbir Singh, Onkar Singh Lakhawat, Dr. Biplab Dasgupta, Gurudas Das Gupta, from Rajya Sabha and communicate to this House the names of the Members so appointed by Rajya Sabha to the Joint Committee."

The motion was adopted.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: The House will now take up the 'Zero Hour'.

[Translation]

KUMARI UMA BHARATI (Bhopal): Mr. Speaker, Sir, permit me to first raise the matter of Madhya Pradesh...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (Maharajganj, Bihar): Mr. Speaker Sir, I have also given notice for the Zero Hour...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN (Khurja): Mr. Speaker, Sir, a serious incident has occurred in Madhya Pradesh. A Dalit family has committed suicide there after being harassed by the Chief Minister...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Madam, I will call you later. He has given notice. I will call you after that.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): Sir, I have given a notice on an urgent matter. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj): Sir, I gave a notice on a very serious matter...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

KUMARI UMA BHARATI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I will raise this matter first. A dalit family has committed suicide and they have held Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh responsible for it. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I will call you after him. You can raise this issue then.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR (Mayiladuturai): How can she hold the House into ransom like this? The House has a much more important matter. Why is she disturbing the House?

[Translation]

Madam, you will also get the permission. But for now, Shri Dasmunsi has been called. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL (Kanpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, will the proceedings of the House be held up, in such a manner.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Madam, please take your seat.

[Translation]

I will call you after him.

[English]

I have already called Shri Dasmunsi. I have already called him.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Madam, I have already called his name.

[Translation]

KUMARI UMA BHARATI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I won't let him speak. This issue will be raised first. ...*(Interruptions)* A dalit family has committed suicide in Madhya Pradesh...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing should go on record, except Shri Dasmunsi's speech.

...*(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER: I will call you but not now. Please understand I have already called Shri Dasmunsi. After that, I will call you, Madam.

...*(Interruptions)*

*Not recorded.

MR. SPEAKER: Please understand I have already called the name of Shri Dasmunsi. Madam, after that, I will call you.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: I will call you too. I will call everybody. I have the list with me. Why are you being unruly...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, the other day, in this House, several distinguished Members, like Shri Somnath Chatterjee, Shri Basu Deb Acharia and many other Members did express their concern over the manner in which the disinvestment and privatisation process in the Public Sector Steel Plants is going on, especially, in relation to Salem and Vizag Steel Plants. Now, today, Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the Government to a very serious matter pertaining to Indian Iron and Steel Company which is known as IISCO in Burnpur. It was nationalised by Shrimati Indira Gandhi's Government in the 70s. Now, for the last one year or so, talks are going on whether it would go to a joint venture, whether it would be totally privatised or whether it would wait for some time.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I will tell you about the latest situation of IISCO plant. I had the opportunity to meet the staff and workers' leaders. The *Tendertimes* of 20th April, the first web site daily, is giving all the information. Mr. Speaker, Sir, an annual turnover of over 5,000 million, that is, Rs. 500 crore, in any of the preceding three years of the company was chosen as the eligibility criterion. A global invitation for 'Expression of Interest' has been floated. The worth of the total property of IISCO at the moment is like this. The turnover of IISCO for the last five years was Rs. 1038.54 crore, Rs. 958.73 crore, Rs. 909.08 crore and Rs. 910 crore till 1995-96. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Dasmunsi, are you reading from the written text?

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: No, Sir. I am only quoting the figures. I cannot recollect the figures off-hand. ...*(Interruptions)*

Sir, IISCO is the only steel plant in the country which is having its own coal mine and its own iron ore mine. The iron ore mine is having a reserve of about 2 billion tonne iron ore. The cost of the property is

Rs. 1,19,600 crore and the Chasnala coal mine is having a property worth Rs. 35,520 crore.

The property worth Rs. 1,19,600, with these deposits, is being privatised for only Rs. 500 crore, *...(Interruptions)* It is a big loot in the country.

Therefore, I want the hon. Minister of Steel to come here and make a statement. I know the West Bengal Government is not encouraging it. The Chief Minister refused, it yet the matter is on. Therefore, the hon. Minister of Steel, if not today at least tomorrow, must make a statement. It is a property of Rs. 1,20,000 crore. The total value is nearly Rs. 2,00,000 crore. The entire plant is being disposed of for a small amount of Rs. 500 crore to a group. It is a shame. The Government must make a statement. The hon. Minister of Steel must take the House into confidence about the deal in IISCO. *...(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Basu Deb Acharia, please sit down. I will call you after Kumari Uma Bharati ji.

KUMARI UMA BHARATI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, our country is now self sufficient in foodgrain production and we are also making lot of progress in the field of science and technology. But Mr. Speaker, Sir, Mahatma Gandhi had said that progress will be said to have made only when the poorest of the poor are benefitted and that beneficiary would be the widow living in a village who has no child and who is dependent on her family or the poorest person of the dalit community of the village. As long as that person has no right to live honourably, the country can not achieve real progress.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to inform the House through you that in the Vidisha district of Madhya Pradesh, there is a Mohalla called Kachi Kaun which is near Vidisha city. A dalit youth named Raj Kumar Jatav who was a daily wage employee lived there. You can imagine that only those people work on daily wages, who have no other source of livelihood. He was dismissed three months back and thus he was forced to commit suicide. On the night of the day before yesterday, he committed suicide along with his wife, and three children by consuming poison. A series of suicides are going on in Madhya Pradesh. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is a State subject.

KUMARI UMA BHARATI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon'ble Chief Minister says that the economic condition of Madhya Pradesh is not in a good shape. It has forced him to discontinue the services of daily wage employees. From Independence to 1992, the total debt on the State was Rs. 5000 crore which has now risen to Rs. 22000 crore. Debt has risen by Rs. 17000 crore in the last 8 years. How did it happen? Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you I would request the Government of India to impose financial emergency on Madhya Pradesh. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: This is a State matter. Madam, it is a State matter. How can you raise it here.

...(Interruptions)

KUMARI UMA BHARATI: I demand that the Madhya Pradesh Government be dismissed and financial emergency be imposed there. *...(Interruptions)* I request the Government to give a statement on it. *...(Interruptions)*

[English]

Sir, Shrimati Sonia Gandhi is here. I want to draw her attention, through you, that she removed the Chief Minister of Orissa because of the killing of a *Padri* family. Would she now remove the Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh also because of the suicide by a *dalit* family?*...(Interruptions)* I request Shrimati Gandhi to have some sympathy for the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and OBCs*...(Interruptions)*. Through you, Sir, I ask her whether she would take action against the Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh?*...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Now Shri Basu Deb Acharia.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing should go on record except what Shri Basu Deb Acharia says.

*...(Interruptions)**

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): Sir the Government of India has issued a global tender for selling out a very important public sector undertaking of West Bengal, the Indian Iron and Steel Company*...(Interruptions)*.

MR. SPEAKER: I have already called Shri Basu Deb Acharia.

...(Interruptions)

*Not recorded.

MR. SPEAKER: This will not go on record.

*...(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER: I have already called Shri Basu Deb Acharia. Why are you unnecessarily interrupting?

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Satyavrat Chaturvedi, I have already called Shri Basu Deb Acharia.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, the Government of India has issued a global tender for selling out the Indian Iron and Steel Company, which is a very important public sector undertaking in the State of West Bengal. IISCO has property worth more than Rs. 5,000 crore. It has its own coal mines, it has its own iron ore mines, it has the best coal washery producing washed coal whose ash content is only 13 per cent, and it has other properties also. It has its own huge township and an airstrip. IISCO was nationalised in 1978. Since then we have been demanding that IISCO should be modernised, but not a single paisa has been spent for the modernisation of this premier and the oldest steel company of our country. There were a number of proposals and eleven committees were constituted to examine those proposals. The Government has spent crores of rupees but not a single paisa has been spent for the modernisation of this important steel company of West Bengal. Even the workers have agreed to have the shares of IISCO and the WBIDC also has agreed to have equity participation in this company.

There were a number of proposals for its modernisation. Even now there are 23,000 workers in the Indian Iron and Steel Company. It is the oldest plant. It used to earn profits. Now the Government has decided to sell this important public sector undertaking at a throwaway price of only Rs. 500 crore. This is a very serious matter. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Basu Deb Acharia, there are other Members also. Do you want to raise the matter further?

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, they are selling away a huge property of Rs. 5,000 crore and also not making cash profit. We demand that the modernisation of the plant should be done. The proposal which was earlier approved, with the participation of the workers and the Government of West Bengal and other parties, should be finalised. The Indian Iron and Steel Company should not be sold out. *...(Interruptions)* It should not be closed down. This is a very important public sector undertaking with 23,000 workers. That should be modernised. *...(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

KUMARI UMA BHARATI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am requesting you about such a serious matter*...(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur): The Government of India is also in a loss. Can you sell away the Government of India then?*...(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, they are selling the property at a throwaway price of Rs. 500 crore. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: The turnover of the company for the last three years itself is Rs. 5,000 crore. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, it is a property worth more than Rs. 5,000 crore. It is a big scandal.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI S. BANGARAPPA (Shimoga): Sir, the Bhadravati Steel Plant in Karnataka is 100 per cent owned by the Steel Authority of India. They manufacture items used in defence departments. *...(Interruptions)* It was given to SAIL with the condition that they will invest money for modernisation and development. *...(Interruptions)* The Bhadravati Steel Plant should not be privatised. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, we want a categorical statement from the hon. Minister of Steel. The hon. Minister of Finance is here. He should make a statement. *...(Interruptions)* We want a statement from him as to how it is being sold out. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Is there anything from the Government?

...(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, huge property is being sold out by the Government at a throwaway price. The hon. Minister should clarify it. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Sudip Bandyopadhyay to speak now.

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY (Calcutta North West): Sir, I rise to speak on a very important issue. *...(Interruptions)*

*Not recorded.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, the Government must respond to our demand.

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU (Srikakulam): There is a Committee for it. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, this is the third time that we are raising this issue here. There is no response from the Government. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: The Government must respond. The hon. Minister of Finance is here. He should make a statement. ...*(Interruptions)* It is a sell-out.

DR. RAM CHANDRA DOME (Birbhum): Sir, a very important issue has been raised here. The Government must respond and make a statement. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Basu Deb Acharia, I cannot compel the Government to make a statement. Please understand. Let Shri Sudip Bandyopadhyay speak.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing should go on record except Shri Sudip Bandyopadhyay's speech.

...*(Interruptions)**

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY: Sir, I rise to speak on a very important issue. There have been attacks on the Christian minorities which occurred yesterday. Two incidents occurred yesterday, one in Haryana and the other at Agra. Three nuns have been brutally injured. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, what about the statement from the hon. Minister?...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Basu Deb Acharia, I have already told you that I cannot compel them. Shri Sudip Bandyopadhyay has also given notice for an important issue. Please allow him.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY: Sir, two incidents of atrocities on Christian minorities have occurred yesterday—one at Agra and the other in Haryana. It is for a long time that this type of incidents are happening continuously. The Christian minorities particularly are feeling very helpless. The Christian minorities are to be protected. Such type of heinous activities should be dealt with very firmly and exemplary punishment should be given against those who are responsible — whether it is the Bajrang Dal or any other political party or political group. The Government is to investigate the matter.

Such incidents are happening day in, day out, in the country, but no proper steps are being taken. ...*(Interruptions)* Sir, we firmly protest and say that such types of activities are to be dealt with firmly and exemplary punishments are to be provided so that such incidents do not happen any further.

Sir, three nuns are fighting with death. They have been brutally injured. They have been admitted in the hospitals. We urge upon the Central Government, and we also appeal to all the State Governments, to take this matter with all priority and to see that in future, the minorities are protected in this country. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Sir, this is not a solitary or isolated incident. This is a pattern of activity...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Somnath Chatterjee.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I have called Shri Somanth Chatterjee. I will call you later.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Sir, I wish to associate with what has come from Shri Sudip Bandyopadhyay. I am happy that he has raised a very important issue. This is not a sudden, solitary incident which has taken place. It is a part of a pattern of activity that is going on, a sort of *jehad*, which has been declared against the minorities, particularly the Christian minorities, in this country. This is the ethos of this Government that we find in this country. This is a calculated move to go on affecting the interests of the minorities. They are infinitesimal small, about two per cent in this country, and they are being selected. Today's newspaper mentions that the *Bible* has been burnt. This is how their religious sentiments are being injured. ...*(Interruptions)* Therefore, I say that this dastardly attack must be curbed. Such attacks should not only be curbed but totally eliminated. Sir, we strongly protest. I believe, the House as a whole should protest against this activity. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Lakshman Seth and Shri Rashid Alvi have also given notices on the same subject. You can also associate.

...*(Interruptions)*

*Not recorded.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri S. Jaipal Reddy.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI RASHID ALVI (Amroha): Sir, I have given notice on the same subject. I should also be allowed to speak. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You can also associate with them. Shri Rashid Alvi, you have also given notice on the same subject. You can associate with them.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAJ BABBAR (Agra): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have also given notice. The issue relates to Agra. *..(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: He has given notice.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: He has given notice on it.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY (Miryalguda): Mr. Speaker Sir, you have been good enough to identify me. *...(Interruptions)* Sir, this is not a sporadic incident. This happened hot on the heels of what had happened in Mathura. One priest and two nuns were attacked in a village near Agra and Biblical literature has been reduced to ash. Mr. Speaker Sir, I do not have to remind the House of the diabolical attack on the Australian Missionary in Orissa or the series of attacks on Christian religious institutions in Gujarat. It is part of a persistent premeditated perverse pattern. Shri Sudip Bandyopadhyay was hesitant to mention the name of *Bajrang Dal*. *...(Interruptions) Bajrang Dal* is acquiring the dubious distinction of a terrorist organisation. It has been concentrating all its force. All the newspapers mentioned *Bajrang Dal* by name.

Therefore, the Home Minister must come forward and take the House into confidence. In fact, since Bajrang Dal is becoming a terrorist organisation, the Government of India should seriously consider the proposition of banning it. Bajrang Dal should be banned. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Bajrang Dal should be banned. *...(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI RAJ BABBAR: The issue relates to Agra Parliamentary Constituency. *...(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing should go on record except Shri Rashid Alvi's speech.

*...(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, if you want to behave like this, then there is no other alternative before me than to cancel the 'Zero Hour'. How can I run the 'Zero Hour' in this way? Please understand that there are 33 names in the list, which is before me, and I have to call all of them. Why are they giving the notices in advance? The Members are coming to the office before 10 o'clock and are giving the notices.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down. I have called Rashid Alvi.

[English]

If this is the attitude of the Members, then I have to think as to how I should run this 'Zero Hour'.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing should go on record.

*...(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Raj Babbar, please take your seat. I have called Shri Rashid Alvi.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RASHID ALVI (Amroha): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am pained to say that whenever I want to raise an issue, I am not allowed to do so. It is an important issue and is connected to the whole country. For that reason, they want to gag my voice. They are anti-democratic. *...(Interruptions)* It is undemocratic, they don't know the meaning of democracy...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing should go on record except Shri Rashid Alvi's Speech.

*...(Interruptions)**

*Not recorded.

[Translation]

SHRI RASHID ALVI: Can one not raise a proper issue in the House? Will the B.J.P. and Bajrang Dal people suppress our voice? In Agra...*(Interruptions)* They are not allowing me to speak...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAJ BABBAR (Agra): Mr. Speaker, Sir, there are police atrocities in my parliamentary constituency of Agra. The question is of my area. ...*(Interruptions)* You are not allowing him to speak....*(Interruptions)*

12.36 hrs.

At this stage Shri Raj Babbar came and stood on the floor near the Table.

12.36 hrs.

At this stage Shri Raj Bbar went back to his seat.

SHRI RASHID ALVI: Sir, he want to suppress our voice...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Rashid Alvi, please conclude.

[Translation]

SHRI RASHID ALVI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, how to conclude? I can conclude only if these people allow me to speak. Not even a single person want that I should speak...*(Interruptions)* I am constrained to say the incident of barbaric attack on Christians which took place in Agra is highly condemnable. It was published on the first page of Times of India that these people reached Agra on Friday and on Saturday next day people from Bajrang Dal lodged F.I.R. saying that they are converting Hindus to Christians. Sir, can they convert all Hindus of Agra into Christians within one day? These people reached on Friday and on Saturday they were put in lock up on the complaint of some people. People gathered around their van and holy book of Bible was torched. ...*(Interruptions)* with the intervention of DIG...*(Interruptions)* Times of India has reported that F.I.R. was lodged against Bajrang Dal with the intervention of D.I.G. Whether DIG is wrong person? Whether he has tried to protect. ...*(Interruptions)* People of Bajrang Dal are engaged in acting against minorities in well planned way in this country...*(Interruptions)* Christians are being killed in Agra...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: It will not go on record.

*...(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I fully agree that if such type of incident occurs in any part of any country, that should be condemned. Whoever is found guilty action should be taken against him. Though such type of environment should not be allowed to form but complete information should be obtained. Once it was said that Bible was burnt in Kerala. This issue was raised in the House. Most famous Christian leader from there said afterwards that no Bible was burnt. No such incident has taken place there...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RASHID ALVI: Times of India has published that they have information that atrocities are being committed on Christians in Agra and Bajrang Dal people are behind this...*(Interruptions)*

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Strict action be taken against any person who commits violence whether he belongs to minority community or majority community...*(Interruptions)* It is surprising that hon'ble Members come here in this House as leader of minority Imam Bukhari says in Ramlila Maidan that he was an ISI agent, if you have guts then take action against me. He instigated people to indulge in arson and communal riots. But no voice is raised against him. In Jammu and Kashmir five Hindus were caught and was said about communal riots openly. But no question was raised. In Jammu 5 Hindus were caught their flesh was cut and fried. Their blood was drunk. This news was also pulished in the Times of India. ...*(Interruptions)* This news of Jammu Kashmir was published in detail in Times of India. Adopt uniform policy for everyone whether he is Hindu, Muslim or Christian.

[English]

SHRI RAJESH PILOT (Dausa): There is a Government in Jammu and Kashmir...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Hon'ble Members whatever we are doing in House, people are observing that.

*Not recorded.

[English]

SHRI RAJESH PILOT: Let the Government react to it and then the discussion would stop. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: We have condemned the incident which occurred in Mathura. Everyone went there. Christian leader also went there. They said it is not communal incident. This is mutual social conflict...*(Interruptions)* It is not a question of Hindu, Muslim or Christian. But these people are trying to defame the country in the whole world. Whereas Muslims are enjoying maximum protection here.

SHRI RAJ BABBAR (Agra): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am thankful to you as well as the House.

MR. SPEAKER: You will be given the opportunity to speak but you should not come into the well.

SHRI RAJ BABBAR: I am sorry that I came here. I have retreated.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, many facts are being concealed with regard to the incident of Agra. What is the situation there. Truth is not known. There people belonging to the Christian community were killed and their vehicle was damaged. After burning their holy book case was filed against them only. ...*(Interruptions)* Mr. Speaker, Sir, a tragedy took place in front of the Bishop. Police caught two priests without lodging any FIR and they were put in lock up. I met Bishop on the night of 14th. I did not try to make this a political issue. D.I.G. was also requested not to make this a political issue. I am thankful to the D.I.G. because he transferred the area Inspector after two days of conducting the inquiry.

Sir, it is being mentioned again and again after twisting what Imam has said. Why they are not saying something against him. Samajwadi Party condemns Imam as well as Bal Thackrey...*(Interruptions)* both are same...*(Interruptions)* Do not twist the facts. Listen to me...*(Interruptions)* It is an issue of our Parliamentary constituency. Whether he is Bal Thackrey or Imam...*(Interruptions)* whoever speaks against secular thinking of the country, we will rise against him. ...*(Interruptions)* We are not favouring anyone. We want that no one is insulted and no massacre takes place. We would only like to say this much only that whether it is the issue of Imam or of Bal Thackrey...*(Interruptions)* whoever is guilty should be punished...*(Interruptions)* Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh should be removed. Thank you...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA (Guna): Mr. Speaker, Sir, it seems to be a very sad reflection on all of us, the Members of Parliament that even on some issues which are so fundamental...*(Interruptions)*

Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is a very sad reflection on all of us, the Members of Parliament that there are certain issues which are so fundamental, the whole atmosphere in our nation is atmoising or it is becoming an atomisation of our entire polity, the entire society in our country...*(Interruptions)*

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: But they cannot accuse the Government. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: I did not interrupt you. ...*(Interruptions)* I did not interrupt you. ...*(Interruptions)*

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: How can your Members accuse the Government?...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: I did not get up once to interrupt you. Please give me the same mutual respect. I did not interrupt you once....*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Why your members are accusing Government.

[English]

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, our country is facing a very dangerous situation on the communal and caste fronts. The whole country is atomising or made into small bits and pieces, to serve certain political purposes. I think, all of us, the Members of Parliament should now look at the inherent dangers that exist in the situation. Let us at least speak with one voice. We must be against fanaticism on all sides. It is a fight between liberals and the hard-liners. All of us must support the liberals in whichever community they exist; and and we should not turn a blind eye to the hard-liners or the fanatics, even if he is associated with us. We must try and curb these activities. This is the responsibility of both the Government and all the political parties sitting here.

I would appeal to all that this sort of issues should not disintegrate into a political squabble. Let me give my suggestion. There is a pattern in this. This type of a thing began, a couple of years ago, in the State of Gujarat. Every one knew about it. At that time, the Home Minister and the Prime Minister went to Gujarat. ...*(Interruptions)* What is the point? I have not yielded to you, Kumari Uma Bharati...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

KUMARI UMA BHARATI: Shri Scindia ji, what happened in Jhabua of Madhya Pradesh...*(Interruptions)* About what you are saying, thing which you were opposing...*(Interruptions)* You yourself are committing the same mistake. You start with Jhabua. Why are you starting with Gujarat...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: Kumari Uma ji, we know your philosophy very well...*(Interruptions)* You do not know Parliamentary system...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

Sir, I will leave it to you to handle her. I cannot go on shouting back. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SPEAKER: Please take your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: I am trying to raise a serious issue. . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I have allowed Shri Scindia. Please take your seat, Kumari Uma Bharati.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: Sir, I have plenty to say about her also. ...*(Interruptions)* If I want to, I can speak about Kumari Uma Bharati, but I am not going to speak. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Kumari Uma Bharati, please take your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: Sir, I am speaking on a very serious issue. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I allowed Shri Madhavrao Scindia to speak. Kumari Uma Bharati, please take your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: Sir, I have plenty to speak about her. ...*(Interruptions)* I can speak about her also. ...*(Interruptions)*

At that time, a clean chit was given to the State Government. We had expected that some weighty statements would come out and that the State Government would be asked to try and curb such activities. Something happened in Orissa when the Defence Minister...*(Interruptions)*

Sir, I did not interrupt her. Please show the same courtesy to me also. ..*(Interruptions)* I have plenty to say about her. I know what has happened in my own constituency five years ago. I am not going to speak about that. When she went there, *dalit* brothers and sisters were humiliated. But I will not speak about that. ..*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Madhavrao Scindia, please conclude.

..*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: Sir, please ask her not to interrupt. ..*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: There are so many notices.

..*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: I am not allowed to speak. Please control the situation. ..*(Interruptions)*

Sir, this is the pattern that is continuing for the last few years. The Governemnt must also try and curb such activities. We must also try and hold our emotions. We must all hit out against the hardliners whichever community they may belong to. This is what I believe in.

I have two suggestions to make. Since these incidents are happening in quick succession, I think, it is but right that Members of Parliament should hear the Home Minister. Let him make a statement on this as to what exactly are his views; what exactly has happened; and what is the Governmental information. This is my first suggestion.

I would like to ask the Government how long has it been since the National Integration Council met. These are the days when we are seeing great dangers on the communal front. So, this is the time when the National Integration Council should be called where the tempers can be cooled. It is because there we have people who

are not as sentimental as some of the Members sitting on the other side who are not even prepared to listen to sanity. The danger is really here more than there. We have some people here who are not prepared to listen to sanity. They have their own agenda and they have their own programmes. The country may go anywhere, but, they think, their programmes must continue. These are my two suggestions, *i.e.* a statement by the Home Minister and the quick meeting of the National Integration Council where all these matters can be discussed coolly. *..(Interruptions)*

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU (Srikakulam): Sir, I am associating myself with the remarks of Shri Madhavrao Scindia.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE (Mumbai South Central): Mr. Speaker, Sir, what has been stated about Bala Saheb Thackreyji should be expunged from the proceedings.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: If there are any objectionable remarks, they would be expunged from the records.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore): Sir, I fully appreciate some remarks of Shri Madhavrao Scindia that all of us should rise beyond these petty considerations and we should not brand everybody as communal. I fully agree with Dr. Vijay Kumar Malhotra also.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Swain, your notice is on super cyclone in Orissa.

..(Interruptions)

SHRI KIRTI JHA AZAD (Darbhanga): This is also a super cyclone. *..(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is the responsibility of the Union Government and State Governments to provide security to the minorities. It is the right of the minorities that they should be provided security. Whether the Government is in Delhi or in State capitals, it is their duty to provide security to the minorities.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, second thing which I want to say as has been said by Shri Scindiaji that it is the responsibility of all the political parties, irrespective of which one is in the Government, to condemn such incidents. If it is found that there is some conspiracy or there is hand of any mischieveous element behind such incidents, the State Government should come forward to punish the guilty. The Union Government should provide all kinds of help to the State Government besides fulfilling security related needs of the State Governments. I would like to assure on the part of Government of India that I will certainly convey to the Minister of Home Affairs regarding the incidents which you have mentioned here and will suggest him to hold discussion with the Chief Ministers of various States so that there should not be any kind of laxity in regard to the security of the minorities. Such kind of discussion will be held between Centre and the State Governments. As far the question of National Security Council is concerned, I think it is a good suggestion and if its meeting has not taken place for long, I will request the hon'ble Prime Minister to call its meeting at the earliest. I will apprise the House whatever decision he takes in this regard. I would like to make it clear in the House that the present Government holds the security of minorities as Supreme. A person belonging to a minority community is always the same irrespective of whether he may belong to my region or State whether he belong to Hindu minority of Kashmir, whether he is Muslim or a Christian and to protect them is the duty of those who belong to minority communities and we have been doing it and no negligence will be shown by us in this regard.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV (Sambhal): Mr. Speaker, I would like to say one thing....

MR. SPEAKER: Mulayam Singhji, that has been done, he has given the reply. Mr. Kharabela Swain.

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Shri Raj Babbar Saheb has mentioned the name of Shri Bala Saheb, that should not go on record.

[English]

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore): Sir, I would like to draw the kind attention of the Government of India to the devastation caused by a super-cyclone in Orissa..*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I have already said that if there is any objectionable remark, I will expunge it.

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs has said in his statement that he will talk to the Prime Minister regarding

National Security Council. Shri Scindiaji also has said about it but earlier we had said that I had give a notice before going to the National Security Council. You asked to submit it once again and I did so. We can find a solution about the communal problem only when we discuss it in the entire House, hence I have given a Notice under rule 193. The Bajrang Dal and R.S.S. can be included among the command forces and we will discuss this issue extensively. The Members of ruling party also will get a chance to put forth their opinion. Shri Malhotraji has said that Hindus should take care of Muslims while I have always held this opinion that the communal feeling perpetuated by the majority communities is much more dangerous than one held by the minorities. Hence the House should extensively discuss whatever has happened with the Christian in Agra. I have given Notice under the rule 193. A solution of this problem can only be found once this issue is discussed in the National Security Council as well as by all the political parties.

MR. SPEAKER: Mulayam Singhji, it has been resolved.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, As I said earlier that the Government is fully vigilant for the security of the minorities. The discussion in the House which took place today was not initiated by the opposition. The leader of the Tran Mool Congress of National Democratic Alliance had started the discussion, nobody from your side had started the discussion.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: Mr. Speaker, when did I claim that the discussion was started by us..*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the name of Shri Bala Saheb has been mentioned.

MR. SPEAKER: I have said that any objectionable remarks would be expunged from the records.

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE (RATNAGIRI): Mr. Speaker, Sir, we object over what Shri Mulayam Singhji has said that Hindu are more communal than the minority Muslims.

13.00 hrs.

..(Interruptions)

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE: Sir, he has said that Hindu are always communal..*(Interruptions)* Speaker, Sir it is improper to accuse the entire Hindus of this country as communal..*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Sir, I would like to draw the kind attention of the House towards the serious situation prevailing in the State of Orissa..*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Sir, it is an atrocity against the Hindu, he has wrongly told. ..*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE: Mr. Speaker, Sir he has no right to abuse the entire Hindu majority by calling them communal. You cannot abuse the Hindus. ..*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Rawale, please understand that I have already said it.

..(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing should go on record.

*..(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down. I have called Shri Kharabela Swain to speak.

..(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: This will not go on record.

*..(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned to meet again at 2 p.m.

13.02 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned for Lunch till Fourteen of the Clock.

14.07 hrs.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch at seven minutes past fourteen of the Clock.

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE (Mumbai South-Central): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Mulayam Singhji give a Statement here that it were Hindus who indulged in maximum riots..*(Interruptions)*

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*Not recorded.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: this is not Zero Hour. Nothing will go on record.

*..(Interruptions)**

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Speaker Saheb said that whatever is objectionable would be deleted from the record.

..(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I told you that the Speaker had already given a direction that any objectionable remark would be deleted from the record.

14.07 $^{1}/_{2}$ hrs.

INSECTICIDES (AMENDMENT) BILL**

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SUNDER LAL PATWA): Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill regarding amendment in the Insecticides Bill, 1968.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Insecticides Act, 1968."

The motion was adopted.

[Translation]

SHRI SUNDER LAL PATWA: I introduce the Bill.

14.08 hrs.

DIRECT-TAX LAWS (MISCELLANEOUS) REPEAL BILL**

[English]

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to repeal certain enactments relating to direct taxes.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to repeal certain enactments relating to direct taxes."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: I introduce the Bill.**

14.09 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

(i) Need to introduce Boeing air service from Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh

[Translation]

SHRIMATI JAYASHREE BANERJEE (Jabalpur): Crores of rupees have been spent on the expansion of Jabalpur Airport but due to the non-availability of national air route and Boeing aircraft service, the air-traffic is not being utilised to its full capacity.

The air service which is presently available at Jabalpur, comprise a small 13 sitter donniar aircraft. As a result, passengers have to wait upto five days. The passengers are also available for the bigger aircraft-service. Hence there is an urgent need of a 'Boeing aircraft service in Jabalpur.

If air-service from Delhi-Jabalpur-Jaipur, Bhopal and Nagpur is started from Jabalpur, passengers can be benefitted of other air-services from Mumbai, Calcutta, Madras and Nagpur. Jabalpur boasts of world famous tourist sites and those sites can also be developed by starting a Boeing service from here.

(ii) Need to appeal against the judgement of Mumbai High Court restoring possession of CPWD land at Nityanand Nagar, Ghotkapur, Mumbai to regional landlords.

[English]

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA (Mumbai North East): Sir, more than 25,000 people are residing at Nityanand Nagar, Ghotkapur, Mumbai for the past 40 years. The land belongs to Central Public Works Department of

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*Not recorded.

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**Introduced with the recommendation fo the President.

Government of India. The Government of India acquired this land on lease from some private landlords. Recently, a High Court judgement has come to give vacant possession to the original landlords. The CPWD has issued notices to these 25,000 people. This will render the downtrodden homeless. A proper representation to the court is necessary. There is an urgent need to go for an appeal at higher Court. The Government must take all the necesary steps to safeguard the interests of these 25,000 downtrodden slum-dwellers.

(iii) Need to re-introduce Calcutta-Shillong air service by using 50-seater aircraft.

SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH (Shillong): Sir, Meghalaya, a State in the North-Eastern Region, is not presently airlinked and does not appear in the aviation map of the country. Shillong, the capital of the State and the erstwhile capital of Assam since 1874 till Meghalaya was created in 1972, is not linked by air although it has a 6,000 ft. airfield runway at Umroi and used to be connected by air to Calcutta. A huge sum of money sanctioned for the construction of the airfield and its complex has thus become infructuous. There is indeed a proposal to increase the length of runway to enable landing of bigger aircraft. But pending implementation of this proposal which will take time, I urge upon the Government to re-introduce Calcutta-Shillong air service by using 50-seater aircraft either by Indian Airlines or any private airline.

(iv) Need to chalk out concrete schemes for the welfare of carpet weavers in the country particularly in Aurangabad Parliamentary Constituency, Bihar.

SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH (Aurangabad, Bihar): Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the House towards the deplorable condition of carpet weavers in the country particularly carpet weavers in Obra block of Aurangabad parliamentary constituency.

There are thousands of carpet weavers alone in Aurangabad parliamentary constituency. For the last several years, they are facing financial as well as other difficulties. Neither the State Government nor any financial institution is extending any kind of financial help to such carpet weavers. The carpet weavers are facing problems and shortage of raw materials and availability thereof at subsidised rates. It has now become impossible for them to survive. There is an urgent need that the Union Government should chalk out some concrete schemes for the welfare and financial help of carpet weavers throughout the country and particularly for carpet weavers in Aurangabad parliamentary constituency. The Union Government should also direct public sector banks to extend them loans, etc., at a nominal rate of interest for their survival.

I, therefore, urge upon the Union Government to take remedial steps to save the carpet industry.

(v) Need to upgrade the status of telephone Exchange at Sitamarhi in Bihar

[Translation]

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE ROY (Sitamarhi): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Sitamarhi district in Bihar is contiguous to Nepal and is a flood prone district. Every year, the district headquarters road link with rural and division areas gets disturbed due to floods and rains. In such a situation, telephone is the only means of communication. The Sitamarhi Telephone Exchange remains out of order for 20 days in a month due to technical snag. Efforts have been made to contact the regional office as well as the hon. Minister in order to bring about some improvement in the telephone services but the situation remains as it is. The telephone subscribers of Sitamarhi have to go Muzzafarpur, 70 kilometres away from the district in order to submit their registration bills and to register there complaints due to which their day a wasted in this exercise. Despite the availability of local telephone Service from Sitamarhi to Pupari, Mahuagacehi, Muzzafarpur etc. the people are unable to benefit from this service became the telephone exchange remains out of order for most of the time due to which the subscribers have to face a lot of problem. The S.T.D. service of Sitamarhi Exchange always remains out of order.

Hence it is submitted to hon. Minister of Communication that the district status must be accorded to the Sitamarhi telephone exchange during the financial year 2000-2001 and after laying the foundation stone the work of Sitamarhi, Muzzafarpur, Puperi-Muzzafarpur, and Sitamarhi Pupri, Sursand, Bijapatte, Parihar, Sonabarsa, Nanpura, Mahugachhi, Raipur exchanges with the O.F.C. Service so that the problem in S.T.D. and I.S.D. Service being faced by the local subscribers could be resolved without delay.

(vi) Need to clear the proposal of Kerala Government for the integrated development of coastal infrastructure.

[English]

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA (Ponnani): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, fishermen are one of the weakest sections of our society. This section is also the most neglected section. The living and working conditions of our fishermen community are extremely appalling. The social and economic backwardness of the fishermen community demands massive developmental intervention both from the Central and the State Governments. The pressing need for adequate housing project, provision of the basic amenities like drinking water, electricity, sanitation arrangements and the likes brook no delay. The fishermen need also to be provided with modern fibre boats. I request the Central Government to formulate adequate and effective package for the integrated development of the fisheries sector.

The Government of Kerala has submitted a project proposal to the Eleventh Finance Commission for the integrated development of coastal infrastructure at a cost of Rs. 103.75 crore. I appeal to the Central Government to pursue this for the required award.

14.18 hrs.

DISCUSSION UNDER RULE 193

DROUGHT SITUATION PREVAILING IN VARIOUS PARTS OF THE COUNTRY

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The House will now take up item No. 17 discussion under Rule 193. Time allotted for this item is two hours. Prof. Rasa Singh Rawat.

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer): Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, terrible drought conditions are prevailing in Rajasthan, Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka, West Bengal, Orissa etc. due to failure of rains and the situation has gone from bad to worse.

In this content I would heartily like to express my gratitude to you, the Business Advisory Committee and the hon. Prime Minister for the sensitivity they have shown in allowing a discussion in the House regarding the drought situation prevailing in the country and also for the decision to render all kinds of help to combat such a situation. It is a matter of further happiness that the hon. Prime Minister has issued an appeal to the countrymen on Doordarshan and Akashvani that keeping in view the gravity of the situation which has arisen out of the terrible famine whether it is in Gujarat, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, West Bengal, Orissa, Andhra Pradesh, they should treat it as National Calamity and render their liberal support and contribution as they did during Orissa cyclone and had contributed to the National Defence Fund on the appeal of the hon. Prime Minister during the Kargil crises. The hon. Prime Minister has made similar appeal to contribute to the National Calamity Fund or the Prime Minister's relief Fund. This also is the indicator of the sensitivity of the Government. For it, through you I would like to thank the Prime Minister as well as the Government.

I would like to draw your attention especially towards Rajasthan. As such we should be sensitive to the drought situation in any of the State in the same way as we feel the pinch of a thorn in our entire body despite its being injected in a minute part of our body. Our hand does not send this message that it is only painful for the thumb and similarly eye also do not label it as the agony of the thumb only. The whole body feels the pain when there is pain in our thumb, our hand repeatedly reach the affected point. The eyes sight the thorn and urge our remaining senses to pull the thorn out and once it is removed, the entire body feels the relief. Similarly, the entire countrymen should assist in case of an natural calamity in any part of the country.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the drought situation in Rajasthan is extremely menacing. Rajasthan is continuously facing a famine for the third time in succession. Low-rainfall took place previous year and the year before this time there was no rain and due to which the Kharif and Rabi crops got damaged. As it did not rain, no crop was grown and resultantly the economic condition of the farmers has become deplorable. It has adversely affected the village economy. No fodder could be grown for the cattle due to famine and it has become very difficult to rear them. The wells, handpumps, ponds in villages have dried up. Whatever little water was available at a particular place has also dried up due to non availability of rains. The water level has gone down a lot for it has been used in excess due to it a serious crisis of drinking water has emerged.

In this regard, I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards some figures. The 10.7 percent of the total area of the country is covered by Rajasthan. Rajasthan has 5.01 percent of total population of the country but it has only one to two percent of the total water resources of the country. It is an important point. Many other States of the country have the water resources in plenitude but owing to the specific natural

and geographical condition of Rajasthan, there is a dearth of water resources here and it should be included among the category of sensitive States of the country. Most of its area is covered by Thar desert and Aravali hills and it has forest in very minute proportions of its total area due to which it witness very scanty rainfall. Rajasthan bears the succour of famine every two or three years. This drought of Samvat 2056 is extremely severe. Here hon. Pilotji is sitting and he might be aware that this is known as the famine of 'Chhappania'. Such type of famine had occurred in Samvat 1956 and lakhs of people died in it. In this way, a very frightening situation has been emerging there. Only 1 percent of the total water resources of the country is available in Rajasthan. Hence 76 percent of its area remains unirrigated. Therefore the people of Rajasthan are dependent upon the rain. If the god is kind, good rain takes place and consequently a good crop is grown. But it can be easily assessed as to what kind of situation can arise if the god is not kind. The problem of bread before the people and the fodder for cattle has arose due to non-availability of rains out of 32, there are 26 such districts in Rajasthan where adequate rainfall has not taken place at many places only 0.1 inch or 0.2 inch rainfall has taken place. Consequently the cultivable area has been utilised to the tune of 116.84 lakh hectares rainy season instead of targeted area of 128.90 lakh hectares. The production of foodgrains has declined by 53 percent as against the target due to inadequate rainfall at the time of sowing. I would like to submit to hon. Minister that the famine adversely affects each and every sphere of life.

14.25 hrs.

[SHRIMATI MARGARET ALWA *in the Chair*]

What kind of situation can emerge. A decline of 53 percent in the production of wheat, 73 percent in pulses, 56 percent in foodgrains, 23 percent in oilseeds, 26 percent in cotton, and 30 percent decline in production of 'Gawar' which is used as a cattle food in Rajasthan. As per the official estimates also a total loss of crop worth Rs. 2155.20 crore calculated on the basis of minimum support price occurred in Rajasthan as a result of declined production due to scanty rainfall. Out of 34693 villages in 21 district of Rajasthan, 23406 are affected due to famine. I am giving the figures of villages because the State Government have provided employment to only sixty persons while on an average, 300 persons are below poverty line in each panchayat and hence employment should be provided to 300 persons. When the famine like conditions are prevailing every able bodied person should get employment. 300 persons should get employment in each Panchayat as per the specification in regard to the persons living below poverty line but only 60 persons are being provided employment. In my district Ajmer there are 276 panchayats but only 60 persons are getting employment in Panchayat, through it only it can be estimated as to how many more persons should be provided employment. Similarly the number of persons provided employment as on April, 2000 fits the maximum of a from in the ocean. The crop has damage to the extent of 76 to 100 percent in 18085 villages and 50 to 74 percent in 5021 villages. These figures might have reached to the Government already. I am presenting them only for the sake of informing the House. Population of two crore, sixty one lakhs, seventy nine thousands and three crore, forty five lakh and sixty thousand cattle has been affected by famine. I am giving you the figures of Rajasthan only and not of Gujarat or Andhra Pradesh. Last year and this year also terrible state of famine is prevailing in all the States. In Katch and Saurastra region of Rajasthan and Gujarat the situation is extremely grim along with the areas of Northern Gujarat. The cattle have not been getting fodder to eat and are dying. Three crore, forty five lakhs and sixty thousands, cattle and two crore, sixty one lakh humans have been adversely affected due to drought. Last year also, 20679, villages were affected due to drought. The drought for two consecutive years has given a severe blow to the purchasing power of the common man and problem of earning the bread has arisen before them. You will be surprised to learn that many persons were to get employment from first November but the scheme could not become feasible thanks to a clash between N.C.F. and National Fund for Calamity relief, the centrally governed funds and the Government of Rajasthan. The time claimed and counter claimed that the Rajasthan Government have funds worth Rs. 300 crore at its disposal while the latter refused to have received any funds the centre. The Chief Minister of Rajasthan had convened a meeting of the parliamentarians on 9th January in this regard and no relief work was undertaken till then. While it was to begin from 1st November as per the initial scheme. It has result in a problem of food and livelihood for the people. Villages after villages have been deserted, houses locked and the cattle have been desired after applying 'tilak' on their forehead as per the convention. Piles of keltons been lying scattered outside village.

The cattle are being sent to slaughter houses. Many people don't want to do so and it is leading to a tense situation. As the Act related to cow progeny is effective in Rajasthan, hence a serious situation has arisen there. Hence the cattle have been facing the threat of existence. There are 22 lakhs landless and marginal farmer in the drought affected villages and it is a matter which is to be addressed. The number of SC is 52.77 lakhs while of STs is 47.08 lakhs. Among it, according to a rough estimate the number of SC, ST, small and marginal

[Prof. Rasa Singh Rawat]

farmers is very large in Southern Rajasthan, Western Rajasthan, Northern and Central Rajasthan. According to the official records 52.36 lakh families were to be given employment from Ist November, 1999. But no famine relief measure was undertaken till December when a series of meeting took place to discuss the problem while the Rajasthan Government had given the assurance for providing employment to two lakhs persons. But the impasse between National clamity Fund and National Fund for Calamity relief went on and it was argued that the relief measure could only get under, once any of the above said two organisation would release the funds. Rajasthan Government kept on saying that it wants to undertake the relief but don't have any fund while the Centre had released the entire funds. The funds for centrally sponsored schemes in villages was released but their further finding was stopped when the State Government failed to produce the utilisation certificate and the funds were instead spent for other jobs. The Government would come out with a statement in this regard but I want to draw the attention of the House towards the actual position.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to present my viewpoint rising above politics. I am not criticising any specific party or Government. You don't table it otherwise, it is my duty to present the facts before the House. The annual plan outlay of Rajasthan has been reduced from Rs. 5020 crore to Rs. 3900 crore. The ongoing projects under the plan have been stopped and ban has been put on starting new projects. In such a situation the people living in state have started to migrate to Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh and Delhi. A number of village have been deserted, cattle have died and the villages have been forced to flee from their villages due to poverty and unemployment. The situation is extremely grave. Hence the Central Government should liberally extend its assistance treating it as a National Calamity so that the Rajasthan Government could be relieved of the ongoing crises. When the land dries up, it causes the crop to die and the water level also goes down a lot. It takes time to recharge. It takes two to three years to nullify the adverse effects of soil erosion. This problem has to be faced in the coming years. Even if it rains with the grace of god, good crop is not produced at once. The months of June and May are extremely dangerous from this point of view.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON: Ten more people hence to speak from you party. You please conclude quickly.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: Sir, I was explaining the factual position. People have started migrating from there due to the ongoing famine. As I said 345.7 lakhs cattle have been affected and the bread like Nagor Ox Thaperkar Ox and Kabra Ox etc. have been affected most. There is problem of fodder and water in 26 districts. Though the people have been getting a lot of money in lieu of the work done by them, it is not even to the extent of maximum wages criteria. The minimum wage of Rs. 60 per day has come into force in Rajasthan since April as per the High Court order. The people will somehow earn their bread but from where the money to by fodder for the cattle will come? Therefore, some arrangement should be made for cattle also. Through you, I would like to urge upon the hon. Minister of Food and Civil Supplies who is sitting here to make provision for enhancing the present quota of 20 kg of foodgrain being given under the PDS at fair price, to 30 kilograms. it will help remove their problem of earning the bread for their families during famine.

I would like to say something about the cattle. The Government of Rajasthan have itself admitted that fodder is being sold at Rs. 3 to Rs. 4 per kilogram. Five Kilogram of fodder is needed for an animal. As per this rate for the eight months upto June 2000 fodder worth Rs. 4800 is needed to save the life of an animal. As the people affected by drought find it difficult to procure food for their own sustenance they cannot think of buying fodder at such high rates to save their cattle. Therefore, the farmers are compelled to abandon the cattle and they have started doing so. When such quantity of fodder is required for an animal as such I would like to urge upon the Government to provide special grant to save the live stock in Rajasthan which is also an important input for agriculture in the State besides being an important economic resource. Besides arrangements should be made to transport fodder by trains to Rajasthan from the States where it is available without charging freight. In order to save the live stock it is necessary for the Government of Rajasthan to supply fodder to all the depots and major centres in the State. However, this can be arranged but the problem is, how drinking water will be made available? The major problem is that ground water table has gone down. Even Jaipur City is facing water problem. Jaisamand lake has dried up. The sources of water has dried up in Udaipur. There is acute shortage of drinking water in Ajmer. Besides cities there is acute shortage of water in villages.

Sir, through you I would like to urge upon the Government that water should be supplied to the places where there is acute shortage of water through tankers and rail tankers. Besides the Union Government should announce a package for this purpose and the State Governments should also provide water through tankers to the villages where there is acute shortage of water. This is an immediate measure. In addition to this it is necessary to clean the ponds so that ground water table could increase. It is necessary to deepen the ponds, to

repair the dams and to construct smaller ducts for smooth flow of water. It is also equally important to make arrangement to conserve water at some place for use in case of drought. Famine occures every year and it is discussed here in the House and the Government replies to the debate and some immediate measure are taken but desired benefit therefrom is not derived. We are celebrating the golden jubilee of our independence as well as the enforcement of our Constitution. During these fifty years we have not been able even to remove the problem of drinking water, we have not been able to find any permanent solution to famine, which is a big questionmark on our achievements. The acute drought situation in Rajasthan has created three problems *i.e.* drinking water, means of livelihood and fodder for cattle...*(Interruptions)*... Therefore, a special package should be announced for all these three problems and food for work scheme should be implemented in the State and adequate arrangements should be made for making available drinking water and fodder in the State. With these words I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak.

SHRI SIS RAM OLA (Jhunjhunu): Mr. Chairman Sir, I am grateful to you for giving me an opportunity to participate in the discussion on famine in the House. Sir, at present several States are in the grip of famine but Rajasthan is the most affected State. Sir, Rajasthan is famine prone State and there is hardly any year when the State is not hit by drought. Sir, Rajasthan is one of the States which have common border with Pakistan.

Drinking water is not available in the State. In absence of rain fodder for cows, Buffalos and other cattle is not available. Rajasthan is continuously in the grip of famine for the last three years. Out of total 34,609 villages of the State 23,500 villages are badly affected by famine. In Rajasthan 3-3-/4 crore cattle and 3-1/2 crore people have been affected by famine.

Rajasthan is dependent on animal husbandry and milk is supplied to Delhi from Rajasthan and if the present situation continuous to prevail, there will be acute shortage of milk in Delhi alongwith Rajasthan. The farmers are finding it very difficult to save the life of milch animals. There are tears in the eyes of the farmers. Due to shortage of fodder the farmers are abandoning their cows, bulls and calves etc. with heavy heart after typing a red thread around their neck as they know they will not be able to save their lives due to shortage of fodder. Sir, the Union Government are not paying attention towards this. Whereas despite having limited resources, the State Government of Rajasthan had engaged more than four lakh people on relief work and it had opened several fodder depots and water is being made available through tankers to save the lives of cattle. In November, 1999 the Chief Minister of Rajasthan had demanded Rs. 1145 crores from the Prime Minister out of the National Calamity Funds to undertake a famine relief work. Shri Rasa Singhji had said that the Union Government have sanctioned a substantial amount to the State Government. I would like to know as to where that amount has been spent? Sir, through you I would like to inform the House that only Rs. 103 crores have been sanctioned whereas 26 districts out of total 32 districts are completely in the grip of famine...*(Interruptions)*...To deal with the famine Rs. 1145 crores were demanded from the Union Government. Prior to this in 1988-89 the State was hit by famine and at that time our late Prime Minister Shri Rajiv Gandhi toured the State twice. For the first instance he toured the State for three-four days and second time he travelled there for two three days by road and provided more than Rs. 600 crores to State Government to deal with famine situation the state and there is a huge difference between the rates prevailing at that time and the present day rates. At that time wages given to a person engaged in carrying out the relief work was Rs. 44 which has been increased to Rs. 60 from first of April. There is considerable increase in rates prevailing during 1988-89 and the rates prevailing at present. You are well aware that the amount of Rs. 103 crores which has been provided is a drop in the ocean. Sir, areawise Rajasthan is the second largest State after Madhya Pradesh and 23,500 villages in the State have been declared famine affected and one village consist of ten to fifteen hamlets at a distance of three to five kilometre and it is the responsibility of the Government to provide water in these villages alongwith making efforts to save the lives of cattle and to provide employment to the people but the Union Government have not given any assistance to the State Government so far. Due to lack of any assistance the State Government is finding quite difficult to deal with the famine. I would also like to mention that it is the proposal of the State Government that six lakh people should be given employment in the month of May and eight lakh people should be provided with employment in the month of June itself. But where more than three crore peoples are affected by famine, whether it is possible to save the lives of people by providing employment to eight lakh people? The people are finding it very difficult to feed their children and to save the lives of their cattle. The livestock in Rajasthan is the soul means of earning livelihood by the farmers. In view of the severity of famine the Union Government should provide maximum assistance to Rajasthan without any delay. Thousands of cattle are dying every day in the State. Parents are unable to feed their children, they have become helpless.

[Shri sis Ram Ola]

Mr. Chairman Sir, when there was famino in the State last year the Government of the Rajasthan had spend Rs. 500 crores from their funds whereas the Union Government had provided only Rs. 21 crores. This year the State Government have demanded Rs. 1145 crores for relief work but the Union Government have provided a paltry amount of Rs. 103 crores. In order to save the lives of human being and cattle the Government will have to spent Rs. 2.5 thousand crores and it is imparative to provide employment to the people to save them from the jaw of death. In order to accelerate the pace of relief work the Union Government should provide the amount sought by the State Government at the earliest.

Hon. Madam Chairperson, problem of drinking water is very serious in Rajasthan. The entire area has become dry and so we are unable to get drinking water. Animals in the forest do not get fodder, there is no greenary at all. Nagauri Bulls in Rajasthan are very famous and they are used in the cultivation of small landholdings in Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and Delhi. There is apprehension that this breed of the bulls would perish due to the famine and then Rajasthan would definitely face destruction, as the State has few other sources of income. There is no water canal in Rajasthan, nor there is any source of acquiring water, and a very long stretch in this area is dry. Drinking water is not available even beneath the earth. The farmer of Rajasthan is living at the border of Pakistan with courage against all adds. I remember that in the war of 1962, the Collector of Tejpur had virtually run away from the headquarters but the farmers of Rajasthan determinedly held the grounds there. Now, on the other side, there is Pakistani population and here there is virtually no water in the hamlets. The farmer of Rajasthan determinedly kept on living despite all awkward situations. Drinking water is brought from places which are fifteen to twenty kilometres away. I therefore, urge that keeping the miserable condition of Rajasthan in view, please provide for the famine relief assistance immediately. Presently, the State Government has opened fodder depots (Chara depots) through its own resources. The hon. M.P. from Jalore, Shri Buta Singh has made efforts to bring trucks of fodder for Jalore and Sirohi from Punjab State, so that people may get some relief. I have talked to him today itslef, and he said that the train bogies are not available, although a lot of fodder has been collected. Atleast people of his district could get some help. There are 23,500 villages in Rajasthan, but in many hamlets, there is no arrangement of fodder for the animals. In the absence of this, the whole livestock would perish as also human beings would die if drinking water is not made available. I therefore, emphasise and request that the Central Government may kindly provide for the famine relief assistance to the State Government as soon as possible so that the livestock as also people of that area could be saved and famine could be dealt with properly. So, I once again request you that in Rajasthan where there was a proposal to give employment to 8 lakh people in the month of June, at least 35-40 lakh people should be provided employment so that atleast 35-40 lakh families could be saved and the family Members could get food for themselves and the animals could get fodder for survival. Depots may be opened at various places and special arrangements for drinking water may be made to ameliorate the sufferings of the people. With these words I extend my thanks to you for giving me an opportunity to speak on the severe drought that has hit my state.

SHRI MAHBOOB ZAHEDI (Katwa): Madam Chair person, I am grateful to you for giving me an opportunity to speak on such an important issue which involves a serious matter of life and death of human being. I remember that just a few days back a forceful and long discussion regarding cyclone and floods took place in the House and a lot many issues were raised at that time. But at the same time we were also apprehending that severe famine would follow the cyclone and floods, and it did happen also. I do not want to go into the matter as to what my friends have stated about the famine stricken area, or what the other hon'ble Members are going to say about it. But the most important thing is that today there is great advancement in science. We have the meteorological system. We are making atom bomb and also doing a lot many of things. 52 years have passed since we achieved independence. The concept of five year plans had started three years after independence. But it is an irony that the big problems of floods, rains and drought before us, have not been solved as yet. I do not want to mention the statistics as such, I only want to point out that even today Rajasthan, Gujarat and Kutchh areas, are facing drought and there is no improvement in this regard. Now, drought has entire country in its grip. You may recall as to how the famine had affected 52 districts of 13 States and you may also recall that three districts of Orissa are badly affected and some hon. Members raised their voice over here today also. My friends have stated here about the condition of Rajasthan, Gujarat and Kutchh. People of these areas are leaving their villages. There is mass exodus. I was thinking that my friends would speak something regarding this. Livestock is perishing there. A fews days back my friends would have seen a picture in the newspaper as to how dead animals were hanged on the backside of a truck in Gujarat and taken away.

Madam Chairperson, those animals perished in the absence of food, fodder and water. So in this way, with the onset of drought the animals started perishing. You might recall that there was a news that cows and bulls were purchased and sent there, some controversy over

this issue had also taken place. The reason behind this is that the farmer of this area sell the animals due to the problem of paucity of fodder and water for them.

Madam, I wish to say that there is a grave problem of water in the villages of Gujarat and Rajasthan. And that is why the people are leaving their villages and emigrating to other regions. I would like to speak something about Bhavnagar area of Gujarat, infact I was thinking that my brothers from Gujarat would definitely speak something about this. It is surprising that in this area water is not supplied for five days out of seven. It is provided for only two days of the week. Water has receded 200 ft. below the ground level in many villages of Rajasthan. I have come to know that in Rajasthan a person tied a rope and rubber tube and through it went inside the well merely to take one small pot of water. Factually speaking, whole water has dried up.

Madam Chairperson, I want to tell you that such a famine has never struck the State as it has occurred this time here. So far the rainfall in monsoon season is concerned, I wish to say that though there was a heavy rainfall in the State but it all dried away. Water in 64 big dams has dried up and there is no water even in the small dams. All wells, ponds, rivers and rivulets have dried.

Madam Chairperson, situation is so pitiful that two tankers of water have been provided to cater the needs of 400 villages. And these tankers too supply water in the village for only 15 to 20 minutes in two days a week. You must have read in the newspapers that three persons were killed under such circumstances. On 15th April, the villagers objected towards taking water of the dam to the town and blocked the road in protest. The police resorted to firing to disperse them and in this incident three persons died. Government datas show that such a drought has never occurred in Gujarat in the last 100 years.

15.00 hrs.

This struggle is going on 143 dams are complete. There is already no water in the reservoirs. It has been published in today's newspaper that they are becoming even smaller. Water in the dams is receding continuously. I told you that three persons were shot dead at Jamnagar. Cows and bulls are lying dead here and there. People are taking them away from these places and selling them. Large number of cows and bulls have perished. There was a news in a channel, which stated that nearly 25000 bulls perished in Gujarat and Rajasthan. *...(Interruptions)* You are ringing the bell every now and then. It is right, but if you give me two minutes to speak, it would be good.

The problem of famine has been there since long. According to the data in 1999-2000 crops in 125 districts get destructed. The estimated loss is to the tune of Rs. 64 crore, 134 thousand-lakh hectares of land had become a wasteland and 369 lakhs of population was badly affected by this. If we take only Gujarat, the estimated loss is to the tune of Rs. 6200 crore. The drought has severely affected 18000 villages, and I do not know to which extent it would spread further. 1 crore people in Gujarat alone, have been affected by the drought. Saurashtra, which is the greatest revenue earner was affected the most. It has now become the most backward area. All my friends have stated about the heavy loss that has occurred there. Rs. two thousand crore have been given uptill now. Production has come down to 53 percent. No power is there. We also went there. In Rajasthan 800 Megawatt of electricity is given only for 8 hours. There is problem in lifting water due to paucity of electricity. I want to say only this to the Government that meteorological data enables us to know in advance as to where the thunder-storm or anything else is going to come. We made atom bumb, conducted its test, has it led to some imbalance? We should also think in this regard. We are making atom bomb but we are unable to do away with famine problems. We are not able to make any arrangements to prevent the occurrence of famine. *...(Interruptions)*

It is always said that we must take some pre-famine prevention measures. We know that famine would definitely occur. And it is ironical that though having full knowledge of the fact that famine will occur, even then we do not take any preventive steps. Why did you release water from the reservoir and dams. You shouldn't have done this. Our foremost need is drinking water and it should be released only after this need is met. Drinking water should be released first. Friends from Bihar are sitting here with us. In Bihar, on one hand they have adequate water and on the other, the whole area is affected by drought. If we bring water in dry area by evolving a scientific system, then I am sure that there would be no dry land and there would be no floods. This would make it fit for habitat. But there is no arrangement for this. This is the condition of Bihar. Why do we say that famines are an act of nature. There are good scientists for checking the natural calamities. They are concerned about it. We are just finding an excuse and that is why we are saying so. What I want to say is that the Government is responsible for this. It would have been better if we would have warned Rajasthan regarding drought when we were discussing about flood here. If any person or animal dies, then only the Government, which has created such a situation, shall have to shoulder the responsibility of such deaths. State Governments are responsible for such situation and taking the country

[Shri Mahboob Zahedi]

towards destruction. I wish to give two suggestions. First that arrangements for foodgrain and drinking water should be made in famine-affected areas on priority basis and secondly fodder should be provided to save the livestock of this area.

[English]

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU (Srikakulam): Madam, Chairperson, we are today discussing the drought situation. Every year, in this august House, we are discussing about drought. This year, the problem is very severe in some parts of our country.

Our hon. Minister of Agriculture has answered a Question on the 8th March, 2000. He has admitted that the Governments of Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Manipur, Mizoram, Rajasthan and Tripura had submitted memoranda of assistance from the NFCR in the wake of drought. The Central teams have already visited the affected areas except Karnataka and Himachal Pradesh.

Yesterday, the hon. Prime Minister has given a statement. He has addressed the nation. But he has mentioned only about Rajasthan and Gujarat. Of course, it depends upon the seriousness of the situation. But I would appeal to the hon. Minister through you that he should respond to the situation throughout the country, to the extent of the drought situation prevailing in each State at this moment.

Since 1995, Andhra Pradesh has been passing through natural calamities one after the other. Every year, we are facing cyclones and droughts. That is why the financial situation in Andhra Pradesh is very bad. I would like to draw the attention of this Government to the fact that out of 22 rural districts in Andhra Pradesh, 18 have been declared drought-affected. We have a total of 1099 revenue *mandals* in Andhra Pradesh. Out of them, we have declared 688 *mandals* affected by drought. Various districts have reported a fall in the level of ground water from 0.54 metres to 17 metres. If the same adverse condition continues, the ground water level is likely to reach 20 metres by the end of May-June, 2000.

The India Meteorological Department had, in their Report, predicted another normal monsoon year. They had submitted the Report in May, 1999. But the Government of India has no infrastructure. Every year, we are discussing about drought but we are not taking any preventive action.

In this country, we have sufficient water. We have a number of rivers, but 75 per cent of the water is going into the sea. If we do not provide water, we will face drought every year. I am watching for the last four years that we are only discussing, but there is no improvement; the Government of India is not formulating any new scheme to provide water facilities to farmers.

In various parts of Andhra Pradesh, 13,266 tube-wells had already dried up. The situation is alarming. In Andhra Pradesh, 619 protected water supply schemes have failed. We are now transporting drinking water to more than 1400 villages. The South-West monsoon has failed this year; the North-East monson also failed aggravating the situation further. So, I am appealing to the Union Government to look into it and take possible steps to help the Government of Andhra Pradesh. The agricultural labour, in search of employment, has started migrating, particularly from Telangana and Rayalaseema regions of the State due to substantial deficit of rainfall from the North-West monsoon. Fodder has become scarce resulting in severe hardship for cattle population in the affected areas of the State.

The Government of Andhra Pradesh has started all the employment generation schemes. We have already given instructions to the District Collectors to get the work done only through manual labour and there shall be no question of using any machinery. We want to provide employment to migrants. We are taking steps and the State Government has released Rs. 90 crore to small and marginal farmers whose crops had been damaged due to severe drought.

In view of the magnitude of the problem, the Government is requested to release Rs. 174.95 crore towards agricultural inputs subsidy. Already, a Central Government team had visited Andhra Pradesh. It has submitted a report to the Government of India. The Government of Andhra Pradesh had requested the Union Government to release Rs. 700 crore, but the Government of India had sanctioned only Rs. 75 crore as on 31st March 1999. Again we are requesting the Government to release the fund. The Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh has written a letter to the hon. Prime Minister and also to the hon. Agriculture Minister for immediate release of Rs. 250 crore.

For agricultural inputs subsidy, we need Rs. 174.95 crore, for drinking water, Rs. 265 crore, for employment generation, Rs. 116.69 crore, for fodder supply, Rs. 65 crore, for special nutrition programme, Rs. 28 crore and for health, Rs. 1.22 crore, totalling Rs. 645.36 crore. Out of that, we are asking the Government of India to at least release Rs. 250 crore immediately.

There are many Centrally sponsored schemes. You can take the example of EAS. The Employment Assurance Scheme is intended to provide rural employment. Now, the situation is very severe and that is why, we are appealing through you, Madam Chairman, that instead of giving only one instalment this year, without waiting for audit and accounts reports, the Government of India releases the second instalment immediately.

The Tenth Finance Commission has provided nearly Rs. 6000 crore for Calamity Relief Fund in which three-fourths is supported by the Centre and one-fourth is supported by the State Governments.

Naturally, the amount provided is very very meagre. Last year, the allocation made for Andhra Pradesh under Calamity Relief Fund was only Rs. 134 crore, but we have spent Rs. 300 crore. The Government of India has given only Rs. 75 crore under NCRF. Even the recommendations of the Tenth Finance Commission are not being accepted by the Government. They have provided only Rs. 700 crore for five years under NCRF. The Government of India has spent this amount in two years and there is no money for the remaining three years. I would like to ask the Planning Commission and the Finance Ministry as to how can we face the situation with this meagre money. Last year for supercyclone, the Government of India had provided Rs. 800 crore through a special provision. They get permission from the Finance Ministry. If the money is available in the NCRF pool and if there is any deficiency in any State, then immediately they can release the money to help the State Governments.

The State Government of Andhra Pradesh has taken several steps to provide immediate relief. Nearly fifty per cent of the area has been declared drought-affected and nearly 3.50 crores of people are affected by the drought. Collection of water charge has been postponed; and payment of crop loans are rescheduled. The Government has made a provision for releasing fresh loans; and exempted school and college fees. Due to all these reasons, our revenue receipts have come down. That is why we are facing financial crisis.

15.18 hrs.

[SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA *in the Chair*]

Normally, in Andhra Pradesh, 80.16 lakh hectares of land is covered every year, but this year only 74.71 lakh hectares of land has been covered. Many crops, like groundnut, redgram, and sunflower, have been affected. Under minor irrigation, out of 12,264 tanks of water, only 4,424 tanks of water have been received. Under medium irrigation, out of 8.30 lakh acres of land, only 3.78 acres of land have been sown. So, Andhra Pradesh in general and Telengana and Rayalaseema in particular are facing severe drought condition. Of Rayalaseema region, Anantapur, Cuddapah, and Chittor are facing severe drought condition, and of Telengana region, Mehoobnagar, Prakasam and Nellore are facing severe drought condition. That is why I am requesting the Government of India to sanction second instalment for all the Centrally-sponsored schemes without waiting fro the utilization certificates. Under MWS, the Central Government has already released the first instalment. Since there is a lot of scarcity for drinking water in these areas, the second instalment should be released without waiting for the utilization certificates. A team was sent to assess the situation which had already submitted its report in October. Already more than five months are over. Now, the situation has changed. If necessary, the Central Government can send one more team to study the present situation. Through that also the Centre can help the State of Andhra Pradesh. Thank you.

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali): Mr. Chairman, Sir, it is really very nice that you have allowed a discussion on the issue of drought. In our country, since times immemorial drought is a recurring feature and rainfall is scanty. In our mythology, there is a story that there was rainfall only when Raja Janak himself ploughed the field. It is an old saying:

"Jaake Raj Priye Praja Dukhari,
Te Nrip Woe Narak Adhikari."

In the earlier times people used to perform various rituals, or practice meditation-self mortification etc. to please the rain god. Women used to worship Lord India for rainfall.

"Haali-Huli Varsha Indra Devta,
Pani Binu Jaaiye Paran Hoe."

So, the women worshipped Lord Indra so that there could be good rainfall.

In India Agriculture is a sort of gambling. If rains occur, the hon'ble Minister of Agriculture is fortunate. If there is good rainfall 20 crore tons foodgrain is produced in my State alone and if there are no rains then everything is exposed. All the irrigation facilities are useless as they are unable to combat with the menace of drought Agriculture of our country is dependent upon monsoons and nature. Rajasthan has been facing drought problem since long and there are three classes who get affected by drought. First of all, it is the farmer, who gets affected

[Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh]

by it, there is no cultivation and money is also spent unnecessarily. Secondly the poor man does not get food, or employment and thirdly the animals do not get water and fodder. Such a situation leads to absolute starvation. Recently Yerranaidu ji has also stated that Andhra Pradesh is also affected with this situation and some parts in other States are also affected by the drought. In Bihar also Palamau, Garva and Gaya are drought Prone areas. There are no rains in Rajasthan and as we proceed towards the west, rainfall becomes scanty. Government should provide some relief. On this matter, a discussion also took place and it was demanded that a provision for Rs. one hundred crore should be made for calamities in the National Calamity Fund. It was unanimously agreed upon by the entire House that the budget of National Calamity Fund must be increased. If it is not increased then I charge the Government that all the mess is created by the Government. What is the problem before the Government? Why does it not want to increase the budget of National Calamity Fund? It is very well known that the State Government does not have the capacity of combating drought. The Finance Commission has also recommended that Government of India would give three-fourth and State Government would give one-fourth of the total amount for these purposes. So, in this way even the Finance Commission has felt that the State Government is unable to deal with drought situation and that is why it has decided that Government of India would give three-fourth of the total amount, but it is a routine affair. So, the Central Government has to come forward in order to deal with drought situation. There were Rs. one hundred crore in the National Calamity Relief Fund. Hon'ble Prime Minister made a declaration, package was made, infact all packages declared are merely bogus. It is just increasing the problems more and more. It is said that State would get Central Assistance.

This is not help, but deception. My first point is that if Rs. one hundred crore have not been allocated to the National Calamity Relief Fund, then the Government should immediately allocate this amount to the fund. It is correct that efforts for preventing the natural calamities have not been made, but if such a calamity takes place, then the Government has to come forward to combat it. Earlier foodgrains were given free of cost, but according to the comments of one of the economists of Great Britain, Mr. Ken, poor people should be given foodgrain only when they do some work. When there is scarcity of food and the animals are unable to get food due to famine, then even the ground water beneath the earth, recedes below the normal water table. When even drinking water is not available, migration starts. There is exodus of people to other parts of the country due to the drought conditions and livestock would completely perish. And due to this, economy of the country would come to a standstill and then one would not be able to compete with others. So, the Central Government should come forward determinedly and stand beside the State Government, so that it could help the State Government whenever required. Arrangements of drinking water as also irrigation should be made in drought affected areas. If irrigational facilities are adequately provided, then we can face the drought situation. Irrigation can be provided during drought only if there is some water in rivers and rivulets. But we are experiencing such a severe drought in these areas that irrigation schemes are not properly working. In such a situation we cannot combat with the problem of drought. So, the Cental Government must come forward to give relief and should safeguard the interests of the poor by giving them relief from the Calamity Relief Fund.

Sir, previously poor people used to get lot of help during drought through the PDS. Hon'ble Food Minister is not here in the House at the moment. Under the Public Distribution System, the price of wheat for APL has been determined at Rs. 9/- whereas it is selling at Rs. 6/- in the open market. The Government is buying it at Rs. 5.80. They sell it for Rs. 9.00. Even a profiteer would not go to such an extent. Sir, we consider the Government as 'Panch' (Panchayat which is a supreme body in a village) when the price of wheat in the market is Rs. 6.00, we fail to understand how it has been determined at Rs. 9.00 for P.D.S. Will the Government be able to deal with the situation in such a manner. On what grounds, you have determined this price. I am not speaking according to Amartya Sen's calculation, but I am mentioning this in a simple manner. This Government has really become incapable of exercising its mind.

Drought is there, rivers are drying up and plants and trees are also dying. How the Government has fixed the rate of wheat at Rupees nine per kg. I am concerned and worried for the drought that has occurred in Rajasthan. Under which formula this rate of Rupees nine has been fixed. They have looted the country by reducing subsidy. Common man is adversely affected by this cut in subsidy. It is ironical that the rate in open market is rupees six and in PDS it is rupees nine. I think it is all because of the pressure from WTO to do away with Public Distribution System. Poor people are getting Wheat at a rate of Rs. 5. The Government can double this rate. people have voted you to power, what explanation you will give to them? You have increased too much the price of Kerosene oil. Such type of increase do not take place anywhere in the world. Earlier the price of Kerosene oil used to increase slightly alongwith the increase in the prices of other commodities but this time you have doubled its price. It is used by the poor people and you have added to their sufferings and miseries. How they

will face drought situation. Other people are also affected by this increase in price of Kerosene oil. Have the Government released Rs. 1000 crore or not? If not, we would bring a no-confidence motion against the Government right now. The Government should give explanation about the prices of PDS. When market price is rupees six then why do the Government want to increase it to rupees nine. You are asking profiteers to come and increase the prices. How liberal you are that you are yourself selling it for rupees nine. The Government should discuss the problem with Gujarat, Rajasthan and other states where there is scarcity of drinking water. To save livestock fodder be provided free of cost from wherever it is available. Arrangement of free ration for poor people should be made. The Govt. itself is increasing the prices, so they have no intention to provide free ration to the suffering people. The Finance Minister has made a declaration that the Govt. would provide ten kg. of foodgrain free of cost to the destitute people. Now one and half year have elapsed but no one has received the foodgrain free of cost. They have backtracked from their words, so they can be sent to jail. You very well know the law. Declaration was made in the House that the Government would provide ten kg of foodgrain free of cost to the poor people under Annpurna Scheme. Since then one and one half year has past, but none could get foodgrain free of cost. They cannot give anything to the poor. They do not like to listen the name of poor. They get irritated as to why they are poor. ...*(Interruptions)*

Sir, in the drought affected areas farmers and poor people living below poverty line are the worst affected and something should be done for them through State Government. Arrangement should be made for drinking water and foodgrain. Work, employment should be provided to the people. Fodder for cattle should be provided. ...*(Interruptions)*. The Prime Minister has made declaration and it was published in newspapers also that Rs. 26000 crores package was there for Bihar. When we asked a question about the declaration of Rs. 26000 crores we were informed that no such declaration was made. When the Prime Minister of the country backtracks from his wards then which case should be initiated against him. Therefore, the practice of making such announcements should be stopped and the State Governments, Union Government and voluntary organisations should take prompt action to deal with the natural calamity and serve humanity. Arrangement for water, food, fodder and medicine should be made in drought affected areas. Irrigation department and other related departments should be geared up. Kerosene oil should be given free of cost to the poor people in drought affected areas. But this Government has put all burden on the poors. We have no confidence in this Government...*(Interruptions)* No politics should be brought in while dealing with these problems. It is National Calamity and we all should come together to serve the suffering humanity. Farmers and poor people should get relief and PDS should be improved. If it is not improved there will be hike in prices.

With these words, I once again express my sympathy with Gujarat and other drought affected States of the country and conclude.

[English]

SHRI P.S. GADHAVI (Kutch): Sir, I thank you very much for giving me this opportunity to speak. I also thank Prof. Rasa Singh Rawat for bringing up this issue of drought for discussion in this august House.

Drought is a very serious issue concerning millions of people of our country, particularly Rajasthan, Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh and other parts of the country. In Gujarat, there are three regions which are hard-hit by severe drought, that is, Sourashtra, North Gujarat, and Kutch from where I am hailing. In Kutch we witnessed 32 droughts during the last 52 years. Many people from my part have migrated as they had no work there and had to look for jobs outside my place. This process has been going for the last fifty two years. Once upon a time, Kutch was known as one of the best grasslands in Asia. There is a particular area known as Banni which had very good breed of buffaloes and cows. There were three to four lakh buffaloes and cows but gradually, due to drought, they are perishing. Many projects and programmes had been taken up by the Central Government and the State Government as drought relief measures. But people have not realised the result of such projects and programmes.

Where does the fault lie? There are so many Ministries and agencies working on this. Recently, one article has appeared in *The Times of India*, the title of which is: "Too-many water-related Ministries leave people high and dry." In the Central Government, we have got the Ministry of Water Resources, Ministry of Rural Development, Ministry of Irrigation, the Drinking Water Mission and many other Departments and agencies. But the problem remains there. So, this is a very serious problem. Our aim is not to blame this Government or that Government. Here, we are all concerned with the plight of the people. We have to consider what to do and why these people are not getting water.

There is a peculiar situation. In Bihar, there are many floods while in other parts, there is the problem of drought. So, what to do? How do we solve this problem? There are very big potentialities available to develop these regions like Kutch. If water is given to Kutch, then Kutch

[Shri P.s. Gadhavi]

can prosper like anything. The only hope for the Kutch region and other areas to get water is to bring water from the South Gujarat rivers, particularly from the Narmada river. Had the Narmada Project been completed as per schedule, the Kutch region would not have faced the situation which it is facing today. Why has this happened?

Sir, many times, environmental issues come in the way of the project. In the name of some section of people, the Narmada Project is entangled in litigation. About the Narmada Project, I would like to state that millions of gallons of water flow into the sea even today. So, my only humble request to this august House and to all those who are sitting here is to see that this type of a project is considered as a project of national importance. If some people are to be rehabilitated, definitely they should be rehabilitated. Some 30,000 to 40,000 people are to be rehabilitated. But the project should not be held up at the cost of three crore people. Please consider the plight of the people today. We cannot provide water to Kutch from anywhere. The Government of Gujarat is doing very well. It has started doing in its own way. The Government of Gujarat has recently started one scheme called the *Sardar Patel Jalsanchay Sahbhagi Yojana*, that is, People's Cooperation Scheme, in which 60 per cent is to be borne by the Government of Gujarat and 40 per cent is to be borne by the people. So, people are coming forward to fund. When rain is not there, how can we get water? We can get water only from the South Gujarat rivers. So, my suggestion to the hon. Minister is that the Government should take measures for giving water to Kutch and other parts which are on the coastal areas. If we put up the Reverse Osmosis Plant (the R.O. Plant) immediately, it would help. The long-term solution is to be there. In many parts of the Gulf countries, this R.O. Plant is put up. The Gulf countries are getting water from the sea. So, only if the sea water is converted or if the R.O. Plant is there, it can solve the problem. If there is the long-term solution, then the problem of water and all other problems can be solved. Kindly see the plight of the people. People are migrating. They have gone outside Kutch. As I said earlier, we can get water only from the South Gujarat rivers and the second solution is the putting up of the R.O. Plant.

A few days back, all the hon. Members of Parliament from our State met the hon. Agriculture Minister, Shri Sundar Lal Patwa who is holding the charge of the Rural Development Ministry also. As soon as we approached him, he immediately told the Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh to send fodder from Madhya Pradesh. He has already arranged it. Now, fodder is coming. But it costs a lot to get fodder from a long distance, from Madhya Pradesh or Punjab. If the provision of water is made on a long-term basis, it would go a long way. Long-term projects can be worked out for the Kutch region. I and other Members of Parliament from the drought-prone areas like Mehsana, Jamnagar, Patan Surendra Nagar and Banaskantha have called on the hon. Prime Minister. The hon. Prime Minister was kind enough to send a team. But the team has not still formulated any particular project for this part of Gujarat. I would suggest that the hon. Agriculture Minister and the other Ministers should formulate a long-term plan for getting water from the South Gujarat rivers. If a coordinated effort is not made, then these projects are not going to be carried out. The Central Government and the Gujarat Government should come forward to do something in this regard. The Kandla Port Trust has got reserve funds. The Gujarat Mineral Development Corporation has got funds. There is one scheme of providing Rs. 800 crore for bringing water from the South Gujarat rivers.

Similarly, the Narmada Dam Project cannot be implemented immediately, but other projects are there like the project for getting water from the South Gujarat rivers at a cost of Rs. 800 crore. In this project, if the State Government of Gujarat, the Central Government and other corporations like GMDC, GMB, Kandla Port Trust, IFFCO etc. contribute some money, then this problem can be solved. Otherwise, this problem will remain. We have not been able to solve the water problem for the past 50 years. We have been hearing about the Grid Project for so many years now. If that project had been implemented, this problem could have been solved.

Sir, yesterday, the hon. Prime Minister appealed to all our countrymen to contribute generously towards the Prime Minister's Relief Fund. Everybody should consider this very seriously and contribute so that we can solve this problem. Many times, what happens is, whenever this type of situation arises, it attracts the attention of the media and politicians. We all talk about it, but thereafter nothing happens. I have seen a very good Editorial, which has appeared in *The Times of India*. It says:

> "Searing pictures and live footage of hapless villagers risking their lives for a few precious drops of water seize public attention and provide a newsworthy backdrop for air-dashing politicians on rescue missions. Well-meaning and well-orchestrated charity drives are organised. And almost as soon as it all begin, it is over and things revert to the *status quo*."

So, we should not forget it. It is the responsibility of every citizen of the country and we are all duty-bound to help in solving this problem. Here, I would like to draw the attention of this august House to the Kandla cyclone

which has completely ruined the Kandla Port Trust. During that cyclone, 3,000 poor people lost their lives and many people have lost their houses. Even today they are living in temporary sheds and they have no houses. This kind of thing should not happen again. Now, this problem has attracted the attention of this august House. So, we should formulate a permanent solution to this problem. Therefore, I would humbly request the Government that they should find both short-term as well as long-term measures to solve this water problem in States like Gujarat, Rajasthan, Andhra Pradesh and other parts of the country, so that we do not face this kind of a drought situation in future.

[Translation]

DR. GIRIJA VYAS (Udaipur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, with, pain and anguish I would like tc express my views today in this House on drought situation in the country. Drought is drought be it in Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Saurashtra or Rajasthan. But I want to draw the attention of the House towards severe drought situation in Rajasthan. I recently visited about 22 district and during these visits I saw the sufferings, miseries, pain and tears of the people. I think it is my duty to put forth their problems before the House.

Shri Pilot was just speaking on the subject and I recited a couplet. KAISA KAHAR BARPA HUA HAI MERI ZAMEEN PAR SUKHI ZAMEEN, SUKHE SHAZER, PYASE HAIN JANWAR. A lot of difficulties are being faced in Rajasthan. Therefore Raosinghji said one thing that though Rajasthan has 10.7 percent area of the country yet it takes only one percent of water available in the country. 75 per cent of the land which can be cultivated could not be cultivated in lack of irrigation facilities because of drought like situation. Monsoon generally remains failure in succession and occasionally it comes out of the drought like situation. Therefore people of Rajasthan say that it is common to witness the displeasure of God but the Government should not do so. I would like to express my views in the same context. At present rainfall in Rajasthan is normal only in Jaisalmer, Bharatpur and Chittorgarh but in other areas rainfall is only minus 20 per cent to minus 70 per cent. Mr. Chairman, Sir, lowest rainfall was recorded in Barmer. Though any area Udaipur is called the city of lakes but this year rainfall was very low in Bikaner, Churu, Ganganagar, Jalore, Sirohe, Pali, Alwar, Jaipur and Banswada near Kota, Rajsumand and Udaipur. Same situation is there in Dausa from where our hon'ble Member Shri Rajesh Pilot comes. The rainfall was below 20 per cent there. Eight other districts were also identified where the rainfall was poor. The rainfall is also low in other areas like Ajmer, Bhilwara, Nagaur, Jhunjhunu, Dausa, Dholpur, Sikar, Bara, Bundi, Jhalawar, Karoli and Swai Madhopur. In such a situation, when rainfall is low in third successive years and people have to face severe drought situation, you can imagine the condition of that land. It does not seem as land because cracks have developed all over its surface. If you look at the ponds you will not find even a single drop of water there and they all have turned into a barren land.

The drought occurred there third time in succession and the situation has become worst there. As my previous speaker said that Kharif crop was bound to be destroyed, but Rabi crop has also been destroyed due to poor rainfall. The condition in 18085 villages has become serious as they neither have any crop in their fields nor they have favourable conditions for cultivation.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, occurrence of famine is adjudged from three conditions-rainfall which occurs there, help provided to the people there and the method of improving the supply of drinking water. But Rajasthan is such a State where green revolution can not be brought about, but with little effort white revolution can be brought there. First of all I will talk about employment generation. This year 30406 villages are in the grip of drought. Drought has occurred in 26 districts affecting 262 lakhs people. You can imagine that total population of Rajasthan is 440 lakh and more than half of the population is affected by drought. In view of it the Government should have tried to generate employment on such a large scale.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, you may recollect that the famine occurred in 1986-87 and 1987-88 there for the first time. The State Government at that time asked the Union Government for an assistance of Rs. 500 crores. But due to the sympathetic attitude of Shri Rajiv Gandhi and in view of the gravity of the situation, the Union Government released Rs. 600 crores to Rajasthan Government. In addition to that Rs. 200 crores were released for solving water related problems, health and I.C.D.S. and in this way Rs. 800-900 crores were spent at that time. At present 261.17 lakhs people are affected by the drought out of which small and marginal farmer are 22.59 lakhs and 36.39 lakhs are agricultural and landless labourers. Besides that, S.C. and S.T. are 52.77 lakh and 47.78 lakhs respectively. In such a situation Rajasthan Government wished to provide employment to atleast 52.36 lakhs families but due to shortage of funds, as my previous speaker also pointed out, it could provide employment only to five lakh people. The target of Government was to provide employment to two lakh people by the month of November and 11 lakh people by the month of June. But we will be able to provide employment to only 8-10 lakhs people by the month of June. Now what was the reason for that. I need not to say anything about that.

[Dr. Girija Vyas]

Mr. Chairman, Sir, yesterday only the Prime Minister in his speech gave a call to the nation that whenever there is such a national calamity no one should sit idle.

I would like to request you that the Government of Rajasthan has been continuously requesting that a sum of Rs. 1114 crore may be sanctioned for famine-affected districts of the State. A memorandum to this effect was also given during November and March. Every time the same request was made that as per our estimate Rs. 1114 crore are needed for betterment of the State. The Government sent merely a Central team but the funds were not enhanced.

Recently we have received only Rs. 103 crore from Central Government. As I said it is the third consecutive year of famine in the State. last year it was second year. That time we had demanded Rs. 700 crore from the Central Government whereas Central Government granted Rs. 21 crores only to the Government of Rajasthan. Rajasthan Government had arranged Rs. 600 from its own resources. I would like to recall that erstwhile Chief Minister Shri Bhairon Singh Shekhawat had demanded Rs. 900 crores for that year. But, despite the then Government's demand for Rs. 700 crores, which is a Congress Government, the Central Government released only 21 crore rupees. Somehow that year passed and again there is same situation. We never thought that even for the third consequent year also we will have to fight against famine.

Rajasthan is such a State where white revolution can easily be brought. For white revolution in such a situation, it was necessary that the arrangements should have been made for cattle conservation and fodder. I have just said that Nagauri and Rathi cows are very famous. There was a need to promote them but on the contrary large number of these cows are not only being migrated from Rajasthan but are losing their life also. We have requested voluntary agencies and also we are trying to take help from them. But untill the Central Government clarifies its stand we can't formulate any plan concerning cattles.

State Government has recently taken ample steps to save cattles. Earlier for fully grown animals 6 rupees and for small animal three rupees were given, now this amount has been enhanced to Rs. Ten for fully grown animals and Rs. Five for small animals. But, even today the condition of animals is not satisfactory. Animals are forced to knock at door-to-door and die.

I would like to tell, you are thing that the area come from, when Raj-Samudra lake was being dug in that area and water level was not coming up. Then a Pandit told the King that unless you have sentiments, you keep on trying effortlessly you will not succede. Rajiv ji had those sentiments and he visited Rajasthan four-five times continuously by road. But now after this disaster how many Central Ministers have visited Rajasthan? To-day the situation warrants that the Prime Minister along with the leader of opposition should visit Rajasthan and other adjoining districts of Gujarat and Andhra Pradesh and assess the actual situation over there. Different Governments are trying to come out of dismal condition whereas two other are facing the disaster of famine along with Rajasthan. One State amongst them is ruled by Bhartiya Janata Party's Government. You look at the figures. I don't say that the fund should not be released to a State where only six or seven districts are facing famine, sufficient funds should have been given. But the amount of funds given for 26 districts, which were badly effected by drought, where there was scarcity of water for lives stock, were not proportionate to the funds granted for six-seven districts. It is an indication of politicisation...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHRICHAND KRIPLANI (Chittorgarh) Entire funds have been spent for Rajiv School...*(Interruptions)*, complete work is being done on basis of politics over there ...*(Interruptions)* you are talking of famine...*(Interruptions)*

DR. GIRIJA VYAS: That money was meant for education we are talking of famine...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please take your seat.

DR. GIRIJA VYAS: We have listened all you said about...*(Interruptions)* You too at least listen to your aspect. I was saying that despite all this, our Rajasthan Government, which is a Congress Government, is committed because we have not came to power merely to rule. It is our commitment to be with the people in case of misery, poverty alleviation and to work for providing them drinking water and employment ...*(Interruptions)*

DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV (Alwar): Mr. Chairman, Sir, hon'ble Member has declared in yesterday's paper that Rajasthan Government is not sensitive and no work is being done over there. Your statement is published...*(Interruptions)*

DR. GIRIJA VYAS: I asked the Rajasthan Government to work sensitively. I asked them this only on behalf of party President...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: She is not yielding.

DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV: It means she speaks something else in public and speaks differently here...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please take you seat.

SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH (Rajgarh): Mr. Chairman Sir, they are not taking Rajasthan issue seriously. *...(Interruptions)*

DR. GIRIJA VYAS: Mr. Chairman, I am saying same thing. *...(Interruptions)*

16.00 hrs.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

DR. GIRIJA VYAS: Even from party platform I speak same thing, what I am dare enough to say here that we should not politicise famine issue. It is because not only Shri Rajiv Gandhi's regime, but even later when Shri Rajiv Gandhi was not the Prime Minister, and Rajasthan was not ruled by Congress Government, *i.e.* we were not in power at the Centre, you may check up from the figures that the same amount was granted to State Government.

16.01 hrs.

[SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN *in the Chair*]

Today I would like to quote the then Chief Minister Shri Bhairon Singh Shekhawat's statement wherein he had said that though our Government is not in the Centre still Rajasthan gets maximum funds. It is because we never politicise is case of famine, or development and in case of aid. But at present a sensitive person, who is a poet as well, is our Prime Minister, I've read his 51 poems. I would like to say through hon'ble Ministers who are sitting here that would they have seen the havoc played by famine in Rajasthan and adjoining Gujarat, then perhaps they would write 102 poems and those poem would reflect same misery, pain and agony being faced by our land, trees, live-stock and our people.

I want to request somewhat on the problem of drinking water in Rajasthan. There are 222 urban towns in Rajasthan. There the situation is such that people get water only for one or half an hour only. You imagine of rural sector, where there are 93,946 hamlets, out of these, 83,900 heimlets were fully or partly affected by water problem. But 90 percent area is still facing gravest water problem and the largest area amongst them is Barmer and second area is my constituency from Rajasmand to Dungarpur and Banswara. Governments have made efforts to install approximately 1.65 lacks of handpumps so that atleast 62 percent water problem could be solved. But despite all these efforts we could not succede. It's simple reason was that the Government of Rajasthan even could not get the tenth of the assistance, what it should have got from the Central Government. Still I said that we will work with commitment the Government of Rajasthan has sanctioned 17,945 relief works out of which 10,442 in progress. In the month of March this number was increased to 4,31,500 in future, it has been recommended to increase it to 8 lacs Government has approved 1850 fodder depots out of which 889 are now operational. Similarly the assistance for fodder and transportation has been increased from Rs. 40 to 60. People have been given 60 rupees as subsidy along with it. Cattle Camps and Goshalas are functioning. In addition, we have requested voluntary organisation for help. But the situation is such, as has been said-'Vibhikshita Kim Na Kiroti Pap; *i.e.* no act is sinful for a hungry person. Today hunger is not compling to commit only one sin. The news appearing daily regarding looting and death of large number of animals are not false.

Now we are afraid that T.B. like disease may spread from Barmer to Jalore and even up to Udaipur area. The list of increasing number of patient of T.B. is an evidence of the fact that hunger does not only results in a disease or is a minus point, but it's results are multi-directional. Therefore, I would urge the Cetral Government to divert all work to this side. Aapatkale mariyada nasti' is not merely a saying. What should be our Dharma on the hour of distress in India, has been explained in details. I have appealed to various State Governments and I want to appeal to you also that you should not hesitate in amending laws and relaxing them a bit in this difficult situation.

Come forward with coordinated policy and collective efforts for this purpose. Government's commitment, sensitivity of official machinery and people's contribution is necessary for completing this job. I would urge the Central Government to open a separate cell for the States which have to face famine frequently, so that on the basis of forecast preventive arrangements can be made State Government should also be directed to take steps to avoid havoc of famine and flood.

I would again request the Government to rise above politics, provide help to famine stricken Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat and Rajasthan. I would like to emphasize specially one thing that earlier Assured Employment Programmes were in vogue in Rajasthan. Sir, through you, I request hon'ble Members especially the Members of opposition that AES is no more in vogue there. Even if this scheme was prevalent people would have got wages. We don't discuss that even now in the month of April and May only five lacs people are engaged in work. Therefore it

[Dr. Girija Vyas]

is essential to reintroduce such central schemes which are employment oriented, which can help in providing drinking water, are helpful in providing more water for irrigation. Therefore, I want to stress upon to say that let this discussion should not merely remain a discussion but we should work with co-ordinated efforts and come forward with full consciousness for our future. Rising above politics, the Prime Minister should decide to visit the effected area as our leader of opposition is visiting Rajasthan and Gujarat. Today, if all the Members of Parliament visit and see the horror then they would definitely laugh at the Government. I would conclude with this couplet—

'Sookhi jamin par faslen ugain kahan talak
Askon se log pyas bujhayen kahan talak:

Today we are fed up. Therefore, kindly donot consider the famine relief as a bit given to someone and link it with the sentiments of the people and give sufficient funds to these States, especially Rajasthan to come out of this horror.

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE (Ratnagiri): Mr, Chairman Sir, about 26 districts of Rajasthan are in the grip of famine and about 23,400 villages are facing drought. The situation in Saurastra Kutch in Gujarat and Northern Gujarat has become very serious. Some, districts of Andhra Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh are also drought stricken. Yesterday we viewed Prime Minister's address to the nation on Doordarshan. Approximately five crore people are effected by drought and similarly live stock in Rajasthan, Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh, and Madhya Pradesh is also effected by drought. Scarcity of food grains and fodder is being felt there once or twice in a year we discuss about natural calamity in this House. Sometimes, entire villages are swept in flood. There is a loss of life, money and the property as well, Sometimes, cyclone strikes and the entire state is destroyed. At times, it becomes difficult to get drinking water because of drought. Today, the problem of drought is not limited to the State of Rajasthan, Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh or Madhya Pradesh, it should be taken as a national calamity. The Government should declare it as a national calamity and provide the maximum relief, to the drought affected States.

Mr. Chairman Sir, sometimes Brahmaputra river is flooded, sometime Bihar and sometimes some parts of Uttar Pradesh get flooded. Life gets destroyed because of floods, whereas on the otherhand man and the animal as well are longing for water. Therefore, whatever immediate relief can be given to solve the problem, it should be given. As every year we have to face these problems. Government should give immediate relief, like wise there is a need for maintaining relief. I came from Maharashtra fortunately the problem of drought is not there. I pray to the God, let Maharashtra do not have to face such situation.

SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE (Malegaon): What is the position of Sugarcane over there?

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE: I am coming to that point. We were in power in Maharastra for about four and a half years. *...(Interruptions)* only time will tell whether it was fortune or misfortune. During that period top priority was given to drinking water only our Government started schemes worth Rs. 7000 crores for drinking water. But, unfortunately the Government changed and whatever scheme for drinking water were in progress were stopped by the Government. Hence I am not raising this issue as politics.

The House will have to discuss, the issue of drought in Maharashtra if these schemes are not completed there. This situation should not arise. The Union Government and the State Government, should fix their priorities. If we give priority to drinking water schemes and spend more on them, there would be no need to discuss drought issue would not arise in the House.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, drought affected States face the scarcity of fodder alongwith foodgrains. It is affecting livestock also. Maharashtra is rich in sugarcane production. Approximately 3 lakh Mt. sugarcane remains in the fields every year. There are maximum number of sugar mills in Maharashtra, even then the sugarcane crop of the farmers does not reach these mills. More than 3 lakh Mt. of sugarcane remain lying in the fields. Sugarcane is also used as fodder to animals. Union Government is required to purchase the surplus crop of sugarcane in Maharashtra so that the farmers do not suffer any more and get remunerative prices for their produce otherwise the crop get rotten in the fields itself. Sugarcane can also be used as animal fodder in the areas which are in the grip of drought.

Severity of drought is at its peak in Rajasthan. Water level is going down there. People are not getting water from bore-well or wells, therefore, storage of rain water is required. Unfortunately, Rajasthan is most affected by the drought due to scanty rainfall during the last three years. Therefore, rain water should be stored by constructing small and big dams. We can not rely on nature. There were no rains during the last three years. Therefore, rainwater should be stored by constructing small and big dams. We can not rely on nature. There were no rains during the last three years and rains are unpredictible this year also. Therefore, we are required to save every drop of water. Our country gets sufficient rain fall. If we are able to store the rain water of

Rajasthan alone, the problem of drinking water can be solved at least for one year and ground water level would also rise. Forest wealth and agriculture produce will also be increased which will further increase the rainfall. An ambitious plan was in news for the last few years. The Ganges water is to be diverted towards South. Flood in Brahamputra river causes havoc. There is need to connect the country through river links as we have connected it through rail routes. Water of those rivers which are facing regular floods are required to be diverted to drought affected areas. It is an expensive and uphill task but it should be done on priority basis especially for the Ganges. If we are able to divert the Ganges towards South, then the whole country will become prosperous. There will be no need to discuss the issue of flood and drought in the House. We should extend our full support to drought affected States and Government should take concrete steps to save them from this situation in future. We must think over the issue seriously.

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj): Mr. Chairman, Sir, it would be better if you tentatively fix the time of the reply by the hon. Minister. There are so many hon. Members from Andhra Pradesh, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Orissa, Haryana etc. who want to speak. I would be happy if the hon. Minister replies at about 7.30 p.m.

MR. CHAIRMAN: It will be discussed with the hon. Speaker. We will let you know.

Hon. Member Shri Raj Babbar to speak now.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJ BABBAR (Agra): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the House is expressing serious concern about the drought situation but it seems that the Government has no time to think about the National water policy. By having a debate on this issue in the House and by listening to the discussions held, Government thinks that it has fulfilled its responsibility. But the Government has not tried to think over the National water policy. At the outset, I would like to quote from the poem of a renowned poet Dhomil whom I hold in high esteem—

> "ek admi roti belta hey, ek admi roti khata hey aur ek tisra admi jo na roti belta hey, na roti khata hey, balki veh roti say khelta hey. Main Puchchta hun- veh tisra admi kaun hey, lakin meray desh ki Sansad Maun hey."

Sir, the country is facing innumerable problems but a few Ministers of the Government making tall claims that our country is second most powerful country in the world. It may please be clarified by the Government itself or by seeking advise from the R.S.S. whether this number two position is from the top or from bottom. I mean to say whether our country's position is after America or after Ethopia. If people of the country die due to disease or hunger, it is shameful for the Government. It is unfortunate that Government does not feel ashamed. Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and even the whole of our country is facing water crisis. There are 5.75 lakh villages in our country out of which 2 villages are facing scarcity of water. Government is patting its back not knowing to which direction the country is heading for. I do not know how the Government is assessing the Standing of the country. I must warn you that now even the mud ponds are drying up. You can better explain it. This issue has also been raised several times by the Members belonging to other side. I do not know whether it is true but some Members of ruling party had gheraoed the Finance Minister on the issue of problems being faced by the masses. Since they have secret meetings, I am not aware whether the issue of drought was discussed in that meeting. I charge this murderous Government of killing people. This Government should be removed immediately.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I may sound a bit aggressive...*(Interruptions)* Dialogues are good because I am an educated man. You also come prepared, then you will be able to deliver good dialogues. ...*(Interruptions)* These dialogues have been written by a good writer and not by a cheap writer. Everybody is aware that Raj Babbar writes good dialogues. ...*(Interruptions)* Please make him understand it. He has never delivered a good speech. His ideas and his language are not good...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI M. MASTER MATHAN (Nilgiris): One must be able to deliver the goods. There is no need to be a good writer.

SHRI RAJ BABBAR: Look, it is very important. Unless and until-

[Translation]

Good dialogues are delivered how can goods be delivered. ...*(Interruptions)*

DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV: Who had ordered firing on Dalits in Uttar Pradesh.

SHRI RAJ BABBAR: We will discuss this issue later on. Sir, the discussion is on flood and drought situation.

[Shri Raj Babbar]

Please try to understand. ...*(Interruptions)* I do not understand why the Members from that side create uproar in the House as soon as I start my speech. What is their problem? I want them to listen to me. A good speech makes the listener feel good. They should hear me. I just want to say that we have no way to topple this Government. The Government may pat itself for conducting nuclear test at Pokharan and protecting the Kutchh area but I would like to ask whether they are aware that people are dying there for want of drinking water. We bow our heads before the soldiers who sacrifice their lives on borders, it is our duty but the people who are the backbone of this country dying and who want to live and contribute in the building of nation are dying for want of drinking water. What should we do for them, whether the Government will respond to it?

Sir, hon'ble Prime Minister has appealed to the people of our country to extend their support for those areas which are facing water crisis. The hon. Prime Minister has a Poet's heart. I appreciate his tender feelings. One of the hon'ble Member mentioned that if our hon. Prime Minister goes in the fields and make there symbolic gesture of ploughing a field or using a spade, only then the burden of sins can be reduced. But he did not come to the House to hear us, perhaps he is sick. We wish him speedy recovery. I appreciate his poetic feelings. These incidents can be stopped. We should have sympathetic attitude not only for the dead but the living also. There are many places in our country where people have to drink floride contaminated water. As per the recommended limit there should not be more than 2 PPM of clorine in water but they are drinking water which has 10-12 times more clorine in it. It is affecting their stomach, intestine, lungs and even eyes also. Central Pollution Control Board, Delhi has advised not to drink this water. The Supreme Court has issued strict orders to improve the drinking water arrangements. National organisation on Environment Technology, Nagpur, has stated that this water is not fit even for the animals what to talk about human beings. Its supply should be banned. All the countries of the world have banned the use of clorine in the water. Ozon gas is being used. I am talking about Agra. Agra is a internationally famous city but adequate drinking water is not available there. There are 300 villages in Agra where drinking water is not available even after 53 years of our independence. There are more than 600 colonies where drinking water is not available, people have to go 5-7 kms away to fetch water. Agra is very much close to Rajasthan. Drought is gradually affecting this area also. We do not have any water policy for Agra to make drinking water arrangements there.

I would like to cite an example. 2 lakh 20 thousand micro-organisms are found in 100 MP of water which is consumed by people of Agra whereas its permissible limit is just 5000. It is only because contaminated water from the drains of Delhi, Haryana, Shahdara and Okhla mix up and reach Agra. We have never thought about it. We are required to look into this aspect also alongwith drought.

What is our water policy? In 1988 Agra Barrage Scheme was passed which has become a dream now. Foundation stone was laid but what happened thereafter, nobody knows. If it is constructed, the problem of potable water, environment, forest land, agriculture land and transport will be solved and Yamuna river will not go dry during summer.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, domestic and foreign tourists visit Agra in large numbers. Foreigners have a craze for Agra. When Mr. Clinton an old friend of BJP and great personality of America visited Agra, crores of rupees were spent for his 2 hour visit, however, the Government has neither time nor funds to solve the problems of people of Agra.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, water is life and when it is the question of life and death, people turn violent. Therefore, Government should start implementing the permanent measures to provide ration, water and other assistance in drought affected areas and famine prone areas before it is too late.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to conclude by saying that water can not be imported. We have to make arrangements in our own country and Government should think over it.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: I have an announcement to make. The reply of the hon. Minister on this discussion will be at 6.30 p.m. We have a long list of speakers. Kindly be brief so that maximum number of speakers can participate in the discussion. We have already exhausted two hours, and we have got two more hours. The Minister will reply at 6.30 p.m.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Mr. Chairman, Sir, what I wish to submit to you is that the hon. Speaker took a right approach today. Normally, any discussion under Rule 193, as a matter of convention of this House, is taken up at 4 o'clock. However keeping in view the magnitude of drought, which was so severe, the Speaker was kind enough that he called us this morning and said that the House would not take up any other business and that we shall straightaway discuss the drought situation during the day. A lot of speakers, cutting across

party lines, whose constituencies have been affected, have given their names and they want to explain their viewpoint. Therefore, I would humbly request you to take the sense of the House to let the hon. Minister reply at 7.30 p.m. instead of at 6.30 p.m.

MR. CHAIRMAN: That can be done. Since we have a long list of speakers, kindly be brief.

SHRI V.P. SINGH BADNORE (Bhilwara): Mr. Chairman, Sir, this august House is discussing the severest drought situation that has arisen. I hail from Rajasthan where we are having drought for the third consecutive year. Hon. Members Prof. Rasa Singh Rawat, Dr. Girija Vyas and others have very correctly picturised the severest conditions in Rajasthan caused by the third consecutive drought and famine.

I will not be repeating the things that have been mentioned. I would like to say that it is severe and it is another Chhappaniya. No one from those times is alive now to tell us about what Chhappaniya was like but people remember it and say that this is a repetition of Chhappaniya. It is the worst famine ever that we have faced so far. As has already been mentioned, 23,500 villages are affected; cattle are dying; and migration is taking place. All that is there. we have been discussing drought and famine for the last fifty years. Dr. Girija Vyas has very rightly said that Rajiv Gandhi visited Rajasthan when it was in the grip of a severe famine and he did a lot for the State. But have we really gone to the root cause? Is it only because of the failure of the monsoon that drought occurs or is it also sometimes man-made? Are the policies of the Government, of whichever Government they are, also not responsible for famine? I would like to take up a few points only in this regard because of the paucity of time.

I come from Mewar area from where Dr. Vyas also hails. We in that area are used to living in famine conditions. It is not only the people living in the Thar desert that are used to living in desert and famine conditions but we were also used to living in famine conditions for many decades. In Mewar area, every big village had a reservoir that was kept just as a reservoir and never used for irrigation. The Government had changed the policy and those reservoirs were started being used for irrigation purposes also. As a result of that we started having water problem in the villages. I remember that about twenty-five to thirty years ago in my own village there was no canal for the tank that we called Akshaya Sagar. They dug a canal and started using its waters for irrigation. We started having problems like depletion of water table in and around that area. After we realised this problem I stopped that practice. After that, even during the severest famine, my village did not have to face water problem. These are the things that we must get into.

For some time I served as the Minister of Irrigation in Rajasthan Government. I was interacting with the Department of Irrigation people then. I found that they never had a policy of upstream and downstream problems of the river. They never thought of depletion of water table in the basin villages because of the dams that have been constructed. They have a separate CCA and they talk and think about only the CCA. They never thought about the plight of the villages downstream of the river next to the dam, depletion of water table, etc. Do the people living in those areas not have a right to water? The gates of the dam were never closed.

They never had gates put to the dams. If they had put gates to these dams, then they would have let the water flown into the river and all these basin villages could send truck loads of tomatoes, potatoes and everything to Delhi and Mumbai as they used to do earlier. But today those villages are finding themselves in a sad plight because of the depletion of the water table. I asked those villagers whether they know that they have a right to get water and was told by them that they do not know about this right, namely the riparian right which is recognised in the whole world, even in the USA and in most of the countries. But in India, nobody talks about the riparian right.

I would like to give you the picture of what Bhilwara is today and how severe the drought is. But we must have some sort of a high level committee to go into the frequency of drought and famine. Can we put an end to drought and famine? We cannot, because there is the failure of the monsoon. It is also because of deforestation. There is no forest today. You have cut most of the forests.

There is also the phenomenon of E1 Nino. Sometimes we have a very good monsoon. Sometimes we do not have it. People talk of E1 Nino but they do not know about it much. We must have some sort of a high level Committee to go into it and its recommendations should be adhered to.

SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL (Patan): Sir, we are discussing about the great crisis of our country. The seriousness and magnitude of the crisis has increased on account of the crisis of character in this country and the rise in the prices of essential commodities, the crisis on account of mismanagement by the Government, and the crisis on account of failure on the part of the Central Government to rush requisite financial assistance to the respective State Governments, whether it is Gujarat,

[Shri Pravin Rasthrapal]

Rajasthan or Andhra Pradesh. The hon. Prime Minister is not here. But in his absence, I would like to invite the attention of the House to what he said in this House during discussion on water in the previous Lok Sabha, that is, 1998. He said:

"Water can also catch fire."

The hon. Prime Minister was talking about water crisis in the country.

"The problem of water is going to be even more complicated. The problem of water is not just limited to India. This has become a global problem. It is possible that the next major source of tension in the world will be water table falling. We all see this in our Constituencies."

As my friend, Shri Raj Babbar has pointed out about this Constituency, Agra and as my senior colleague from Maharashtra has also pointed out indirectly that there is no scarcity of water in his State, but there is the problem of water, we feel disturbed by the problem people are facing. Now I quote the important sentence.

"We are not giving an assurance that we will do everything in five years."

The hon. Prime Minister spoke this in the year, 1998.

"Only in the case of water, we would like to give this assurance".

The hon. Prime Minister was not prepared to give an assurance on any other subject but he had given an assurance as far as water is concerned. I want the hon. Minister Shri Sunderlal Patwa to invite the kind attention of the hon. Prime Minister that he had gone on record in the year 1998 giving an assurance as far as drinking water is concerned. The assurance was, 'Only in the case of water, we would like to give this assurance that in five years there should be clean drinking water everywhere and this is our commitment.' Out of those five years, two-and-a-half years have already passed. I want to know from the Government what its drinking water policy is. What is the water management policy of this Government?

What has happened to the rivers flowing all over the country? I have taken bath in the flowing rivers of Saraswati, Sabarmati, Hathmati and Bhogavo. We have now got rivers flowing only in South Gujarat. The three rivers flowing there are Mahi, Tapi and Narmada. What has happened to Sabarmati? What has happened to Saraswati? What has happened to Bhogavo? I am told, river Saraswati is mentioned in the *Vedas* and *Puranas*. This is one of the most ancient rivers of the country. In the district of Kutch (Bhuj), we have an historical place called 'Dhola-Vira'. We are told that historical civilisations sprung on river banks. Dhola-Vira is on the banks of river Saraswati and there was an historical civilisation. I am told that river Saraswati has gone into the Earth. It has disappeared because of the typical sand there. It passes through North Gujarat; it touches Kutch and Bhuj and goes to Pakistan. The Government of Pakistan has tapped the water from river Saraswati. They are using that water for irrigation and drinking purposes. The Government of India or the Government of Gujarat is not able to tap the water of river Saraswati, which starts flowing from India and a major portion of which flows through India, particularly Gujarat. This is the situation that I want to invite the attention of the Government to.

I also invite attention to what the hon. Prime Minister spoke on the 15th December, 1999. Many friends have mentioned about the Gujarat water riots and I thank them. Water riots have already taken place in Gujarat and they are going on. We had an incident on the 14th December, 1999 at Falla near Jamnagar. There, the water was being taken from the rural areas to the city. The villagers protested against it. They staged a demonstration. There was a point-blank range firing at the demonstrators and three youths were killed. We, the Members of Parliament from Gujarat brought this matter up during the 'Zero Hour' on the 15th December, 1999. The Prime Minister spoke for a few minutes on the 15th December, 1999 and said, 'This is not a regional problem. This is a national problem. We will discuss about the drinking water problem in this House.' Where has that promise gone? Why has it been forgotten? I want a reply from the Government on this also.

I am coming from a constituency called 'Patan', the most ancient town in Gujarat, which was established 1200 years. My entire constituency is affected due to drought. The *talukas* of Radhanpur, Santalpur and Sami are particularly greatly affected. On the one side, we have got Bansakantha from where my BJP friend Shri Haribhai Chaudhary has got elected. On the other side, there is Mehsana, which is worst affected. Then, go to Kutch (Bhuj), the biggest district in Asia and see the position.

I will give you a few figures. I will not give much figures and take the time of the House. In Gujarat, we have got an arid zone of 62,180 kilometres where you cannot have trees or tanks for water. It is a saline land mass running miles together. If you go by road there, you will simply feel thirsty. Of this, 73 per cent is in Kutch (Bhuj).

You can just imagine the position there. The Government of Gujarat has officially declared scarcity in 9200 villages out of 18509 villages. Gujarat is a State where there is 37 per cent urbanisation, thus, the number of villages are less. Out of a total population of 4,15,00,000 of Gujarat, a total number of 1,25,00,000 people have been directly affected because of scarcity and drought; and equal number is indirectly affected because of the drought situation. The districts of Jamnagar, Rajkot, Porbunder, Junagadh, Surendranagar, Amreli, Patan, Mahsana are the worst affected districts. The opposition parties in Gujarat started requesting them in the month of October. Any man with little intelligence will be able to decide by *Diwali,* whether the monsoon has failed or not. The last rain came to Gujarat on 2nd September, which was the date of counting of votes in our State. After that, there were no rains. The senior retired officials from PWD, senior citizens, the NGOs and the entire opposition parties had requested the Government, since it was not raining. We cannot blame the Government; and the failure of monsoon cannot be attributed to the Government.

[Translation]

It is an old saying that rainfall could not take place because of the sins committed by the rulers but we have 70 such rulers to whom we should blame.

[English]

We cannot blame anybody. But it was the duty of the State Government to declare scarcity, but that was not done. That was done only in the first week of January. As a result of the delay, migration has started taking place. People from Saurashtra, people from Sami, Radhanpur and Santalpur left their villages with cattle.

I want to invite the attention of this House to what happened yesterday in Sayla near Chotila of Rajkot district. One hundred and twenty five cows died there within an hour of taking grass—in the same cattle camp—due to the quality of grass. On account of killing of one cow, there was an agitation in Gujarat and one man was killed, while saving that cow. We had a strike all over Gujarat. Only one cow was involved in that incident. But in yesterday's incident one hundred and twenty five cows died due to poisonous food. There was no strike in Gujarat. Why? There is no *Hindutva there.*

[Translation]

In such cases cow is not considered as our mother. However, when a person involves in cow slaughting, it becomes an issue. We call our land as mother but do not take proper care of it.

[English]

I am extremely sorry. The situation in Gujarat is very serious. The relief work was started only last month.

There is one very serious thing and I want to inform this House about that. On 6.4.2000, in Sebalia village, Khedbrahmi Taluk of Sabarkantha district, one man died of hunger at the work site. A man of 35 years with five children died at the relief work site, due to hunger. The body of that man was lifted after 27 hours. The *post mortem* was conducted below the tree at the work site; and the doctor has gone on record saying that there was not a single grain in his stomach. That man has not eaten anything for the last two days. No doubt, he was suffering from TB. But the main cause of death of that man of 35 years was only hunger, because the Government has failed to provide him anything.

Shri Sundar Lal Patwa is sitting here. I will speak about one or two more things and then I will conclude.

What kind of drought situation exists in our country? According to a report submitted to the Consultative Committee on 18th April, 2000, the total number of habitations in this country are 14,30,543. As far as drinking water is concerned, fully covered habitations are 11,92,377, partially covered habitations are 2,11,685 and not covered habitations are 26,481. This is one part of the story. On page 5 of the same Report, the Ministry talks about the quality of drinking water. Just see what type of water the people are drinking in these fully covered and partially covered habitations. The number of villages where there is excess flouride in water is 13,845; the number of villages where there is excess arsenic in water is 3,133; the number of villages where there is excess salinity in water is 34,478; and the number of villages, I think it is in Orissa and other Eastern part of the country, where there is excess iron in water is 61,942. So, the total comes to 1,38,398 habitations. The poor people are drinking flouride, arsenic, salinity and iron. What are we discussing here today? The hon. Prime Minister appeared on the television and exhorted the people to come out with financial help. This is not an issue like Kargil where the Government should seek more and more financial help from the common men.

In my State, Gujarat, in the name of Kargil Rs. 23 crore were collected, but only Rs. 2 crore were spent and the balance had been put in the fixed deposit. The same Government will collect money in the name of drought, but will not give it to poor people. The money will go to fixed deposit where they will get commission. Sixteen crores of rupees are kept in the fixed deposit by the Chief Minister. This money should be transferred to Prime Minister Relief Fund.

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO (Kalahandi): Sir, the Member said that the money that comes to the Prime Minister Relief Fund will not be utilised and that it would be utilised for commission. I think that should not form part of the record.

SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL: I was talking about the State Government of Gujarat. ...*(Interruptions)* Let the Minister reply. Digging the well when the fire is on, is not a solution. The Prime Minister is not like an ordinary teacher. He must know that the problems of drought, famine and scarcity are permanent in this country.

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO: If the hon. Member yields, I would like to say that we have inherited this legacy from the Congress Government. So, it will take time for us to settle the things. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Bikram Keshari Deo, you can reply when your turn comes.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SUNDAR LAL PATWA): Please give your suggestions and do not get annoyed.

[English]

SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL: Now, I am coming to solutions. The solution to the problem of Gujarat lies in the successful completion and implementation of Sardar Sarovar Project. ...*(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SUNDAR LAL PATWA): Please talk to Shri Digvijay Singh. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL: Do not mix the issues. Is it the issue of Madhya Pradesh alone? I am very sorry that if this is going to be the attitude of the Central Government, then it can never succeed. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Let there not be any cross talks.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI SUNDAR LAL PATWA: Please do not be annoyed.

SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL (Patan): That ...*(Interruptions)* You will have to face the wrath ...*(Interruptions)*

17.00 hrs.

SHRI SUNDAR LAL PATWA: For your information I would like to tell you that I was the Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh and hon'ble Chiman Bhai Patel was the Chief Minister of Gujarat. There was concensus on this and without any dissension we implemented that programme. I am submitting that the dispute is not regarding Rajasthan or Maharashtra. The issue regarding Narmada is between Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh. I am not shriking from my responsibility. It would be better not to politicize this sensitive matter.

SHRI DINSHA PATEL (Kaira): Please do not talk about Shri Divgijay Singh. You are a Union Minister. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SUNDAR LAL PATWA: So what, should I not mention his name. He is my friend.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record except what Shri Pravin Rashtrapal says.

SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL: The dispute is regarding resettlement of project affected area. The Central Minister does not know, there is no stay on construction of dam. There is no stay on utilisation of Narmada water. It can be canalised and taken anywhere in Gujarat. There is no stay on this. There is no stay on calling a meeting of the four beneficiary Chief Ministers. I would like to tell you, as also Shri C.P. Thakur, who is not present here, there is no ban from the Supreme Court. They have misunderstood it. The Chief Ministers of Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Rajasthan and Maharashtra are involved. During the election campaign in Gujarat, the hon. Prime Minister gave an assurance that once elected he will solve the issue of Narmada within 15 days on the pattern of Cauvery. What happened to that assurance? Why is he not calling a meeting of the four Chief Ministers involved? People are dying there without water. Cattle are dying there without water. People have migrated beyond Surat. Is this not a national issue? Writing poems, making expert speeches and appearing on television is very easy but to remain without water is very difficult. I would appeal to the Central Government, till it is not able to provide safe drinking water to the people of this country, it has no right to use mineral water bottles in all the conferences being held by the Central Government. Let us not drink Bisleri mineral water.

I request that the issue of Narmada project may be solved as early as possible. Even if the dam is not

constructed in time, the water of Narmada may be allowed to flow in canal as a result of which the ground water level of the wells and the tanks in Gujarat will go up. With due respect to the Supreme Court, this is not a matter where the Supreme Court can interfere. Nobody can stop a child from drinking milk. Nobody can stop a mother from giving milk to her son. Narmada is our mother. We are its children. We want to drink Narmada water.

The State Government of Gujarat had requested the Central Government to give Rs. 100 crore in the month of December. I would like to know from the Central Government, what has happened to that request. It is the BJP Government there in the State as also here. The State Government of Gujarat, which was a BJP Government, requested Rs. 600 crore during Kandla cyclone. I have got the official figures that only Rs. 52 crore were provided. What happened to that? I would like the hon. Minister to please enlighten all the Members from Gujarat in particular and the entire House in general, whenever a State Government is facing crisis on account of natural calamity and mis-management on account of the bureaucracy, what action the Central Government is going to take to help the Government of Gujarat which is in distress. Why the Ministers from Gujarat are going to Netherlands, Australia and United States for 10 to 12 days when the State is facing a crisis? I would request the Government of India to inquire into it. Thank you.

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY (Calcutta North West): Sir, the whole country is really very anxious over the drought situation. Gujarat, Rajasthan, Andhra Pradesh along with a few other States and ten districts of West Bengal are facing a serious drought situation. Sir, people are struggling just to remain alive. They do not know how to get water at this crucial juncture. Instead of blaming each other, the first step that the Government should take is to make sure that the affected people get water supply immediately.

Sir, India has enough and surplus water sources. It is not that India has a deficiency so far as the water is concerned. But the defect is that it is not managed scientifically and is not planned properly. The immediate task is to see water is sent through wagons and through roads to the drought affected areas from where there is more water. We should assure people that they are being provided with drinking water. This should done without further delay.

Many people are leaving their villages. People are searching their relatives. We should open enquiry offices and emergency offices to supply proper information on a regular basis.

Sir, the water levels have fallen down. Rainfall is much below the average. The cash crops are totally ruined in the States which we have categorically mentioned. At this crucial juncture we have to see that war-footing efforts are made to fight the drought situation. The hon. Prime Minister's appeal was necessary. The Prime Minister's message to the nation was very necessary. We fully appreciate it. The whole nation should come forward and respond to the Prime Minister's appeal.

We feel that some steps are to be taken in this regard. We are proceeding towards the 21st century. Whenever any natural calamity like drought or flood shower on us, we become helpless. Sir, I would propose a few methods for consideration of the Government for the permanent solution of the drought situation in the country.

Sir, the method of water conservation is very important. It has to be modernised. As I said earlier, we have enough water. Rather we have surplus water. So, if the scientific methods for the conservation of water are introduced this can give better results in future. In Israel, even the rain water harvesting takes place. so, could we not introduce this system in our country also? The Government should think about it. The micro level strategies are to be set up and proper investigations have to be done to see as to how this problem can be sorted out. The projects for protection of dams are also required. Another problem which sometimes create tremendous confusion is the inter-State river water. Unless inter-State river problems are sorted out considering all political aspects, we cannot solve this problem. We do not take decisions in time. Sometimes, we hesitate to take decisions. Sometimes, the inter-State river water problems genuinely affect the people of the States concerned. Considering all these aspects we would feel that the crisis which has been precipitated this time would be effectively managed. People have many grievances. They are waiting for water. There was a news item that yesterday a few raindrops had fallen in some parts of Gujarat. Sitting in Delhi we got enthused thinking that some relief had come. but the actual report is that this rain is in no way helpful to those people who are affected by drought.

We want to listen from the Government today about the positive steps that it wants to take and the new direction that it wants to give. We would certainly appeal to the nation to generously respond to the Prime Minister's appeal to donate to the Prime Minister's Relief Fund, by which we can overcome this problem at this juncture.

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO: Mr. Chairman Sir, today we are discussing drought. As you know, drought is a subject which is usually dealt with by the State

[Shri Bikram Keshari Deo]

Governments. I would like to thank my Government which has shown real concern for the drought affected people in various parts of the country, be it parts of Gujarat, Rajasthan, Orissa, Himachal Pradesh or Jammu and Kashmir.

The Meteorological Department forecast in May 1999 that there would be yet another normal monsoon this year. This is the twelfth normal monsoon in a row. In spite of this, there are pockets in Rajasthan, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh and Orissa which received scarce rainfall. You would see that in Gujarat and Rajasthan the scarcity was very high. This has led to the damage of crops and fall in the ground water level below even the minimum level. This has also created the present human problem.

I would like to draw the attention of the House to a quotation of the Allahabad High Court about the right to life enshrined in the Constitution of India in article 21. The learned judges have said: "Right to life includes right to get water." This case for drinking water was started long ago as the people of Allahabad where Ganga and Jamuna both flow never got drinking water for themselves. So, one Shri Kabju went to the High Court with a public petition, placed the petition before the hon. High Court which then established that water was the primary need; it was a part of the right of life of a human being; and that it should be given the top-most priority.

Therefore, the NDA Government understands the fact that this right cannot be neglected. A lot of programmes have been started to which the hon. Minister will refer in his reply. I would like to cite certain drought-related problems. In a drought situation you will see things like migration and distress sale of children. There have been instances that in Kalahandi, one of the KBK districts of Orissa, in the district of Nuapara Panaspunji, a mother sold her child for just Rs. 40. This was the time when late Shri Rajiv Gandhi had visited Kalahandi. In one of his speeches he said that whatever money was being given to the State, out of one rupee, only nineteen paise reached the poor or the objective for which the money was meant.

There are lots of programmes to mitigate drought. The present as well as the previous Central Governments have initiated the programmes to mitigate drought under the Drought Prone Area Programme, EAS and DRDA. But, I am sorrty to state that in Orissa, in places like Kalahandi, Bolangir and Koraput, the EAS card which is given to labourers for one hundred days is being utilised only for seventeen days.

Only 17 days out of 100 days were utilised. So, how can we expect that the objective will be met? At that time, Congress Government was there in Orissa. Today, there are Congress Governments in Rajasthan and Maharashtra. They are unable to cope up with their resources. Hence, the Central Government will definitely give the money because we are bound by human tragedy caused by drought and the Government will definitely meet the situatioin. The hon. Prime Minister appealed to the country to help the Government as they are running short of money. It is a known fact as we have been having elections after elections thereby draining the exchequer. Therefore, a situation has come when drought has to be completely mitigated from the face of earth.

The prime necessity is drinking water. And today, we are discussing about it. Today, you will see that violence has erupted in Gujarat. There is loss of crop worth Rs. 6200 crore. Eight thousand villages have been affected in Gujarat. I do not understand why Narmada Project has not been completed today. Shrimati Medha Patkar who is a great environmentalist should understand the position. We respect her, her environmental concerns and views. At the same time, she should understand that this is going to irrigate one of the most drought-prone areas in Gujarat, namely, Kutch and other regions thereby increasing foodgrains production in the country. Therefore, top priority should be given to this project and I think she should understand this point. You will see that the loss of pulse crops in Rajasthan amounts to 53 per cent, 73 per cent of the cotton crop has been damaged and 26 per cent of the oilseed crops had been damaged. Out of the 32 districts, there is drought in 26 districts of Rajasthan. There is drinking water scarcity. How do we solve this problem? I would like to remind the Government of the mega plan that had been drawn out to link Ganga with Cauvery. If that plan is initiated, that can also provide employment to the people of the country besides softening the drinking water problem.

Before I conclude, I would like to stress something about Orissa. As you know, Orissa was affected by supercyclone last year. It had inundated 14 districts of our State. You may understand that almost all the tubewells in the coastal Orissa have been completely damaged and are completely filled with mud and saline water. They have become completely defunct and cannot be put to use unless new tubewells are provided in the supercyclone hit areas. Thus, the miseries of Orissa have been compounded by cyclone and drought in the Western Orissa, namely, KBK districts where a lot of irrigation projects like Indirawati, Sukhtel, etc. which could recharge ground water of those districts are pending. Therefore, I request the Central Government to initiate these projects and provide adequate funds under AIDP to complete these

projects. Besides these projects, there are a lot of drinking water and pipe water projects in KBK districts, Bhavanipatnam, Koraput and Navrangpur which are pending with the Central Government for clearance. I request the Government to clear the drinking water and pipe water projects for small and medium towns so that our people who are reeling under drought could get some respite. If you go to Bolangir and Kalahandi, you may find that the villages have become empty. You will find only disabled and old people, and infants. the able-bodied people have all migrated to Raipur which Shri Patwa very well knows.

He was the Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh. Today, most of the labour class people in Raipur belong to our district because they do not have any employment opportunity in Kalahandi, Koraput and Bolangir. As I told you earlier, out of the 100 days' projection of EAS, only 17 days have been utilised.

Besides the drinking water scarcity problem, I would like to lay stress on the global problems. A couple of days back, we read in the newspapers and magazines regarding the global warming. Sir, you know that the North Pole and the Arctic Circle are going to melt. The chance of the North Pole melting is there. The Ozone layer has completely been degraded. There is a big hole in the Ozone layer thereby influencing the hydrocarbons to be affected. Further, the ultra-violet rays are coming and melting the snows thereby getting global warming.

One of our friends Shri Vijendra Pal Singh was mentioning about the E1 Nino effect and the Greenhouse effect. These two effects are leading to the global warming. How do we erase this problem?

Now, I would like to show you the rainfall data. if you kindly see the rainfall data right from 1988 to 1999, you will see that there is a marked difference. The rainfall has been coming down gradually. There has been a decrease of about 30 per cent rainfall. From where does the ground water come? The ground water comes from rainfall, by water-harvesting and by recharging the dams. Today, what is the reservoir capacity of our country? Our country has got 68 important reservoirs. The mean reservoir level should be 129.5 TMC but this year it is only 95.3 TMC at the end of September, 1999 thereby leading to shortage of water. We should do something in this regard.

With these words, I thank you for giving me this opportunity. I would request the hon. Minister and the Government to show concern for the KBK districts because these districts are the misery of Orissa and also the misery of the country. The scarcity of water problem should be mitigated. Thank you.

[Translation]

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH (Uluberia): Sir, here we are discussing a very serious subject. I would like to express a few words of sympathy and concern for those thousands of my brother and sisters who have been struggling with death alongwith their families and cattles in more than hundred districts. I have come from a two to three days visit of Rajasthan and I have had talks with the people. I have also witnessed as to what kind of situation is prevailing there. Rajasthan and Gujarat are the most affected States among the seven-eight famine affected States of the country. During the last 20 years, 12 times the famine has struck Rajasthan and it has only a brief period of solace. It is not a new phenomenon, we have been witnessing it right from the beginning. You all know that we should have a comprehensive plan for water management, water supply, providing employment to the unemployed youth to combat the succour of famine. But even then the problem remains the same despite the fact that we are having regular discussions every year on this subject. Many of our friends have pointed out that whether the thing does not indicate a lack of honesty and real will to overcome this problem, whether or not we want to do away with this problem honestly and sincerely. Plan and after plans are being formulated and crores of rupees are being spent but no relief is being felt by the sufferers. Famine has not only caused crop damage and the loss of livestock in Rajasthan but people are also dying there. The news of people's death are also being received from Gujarat. One not knows as to how many people have to meet their untimely demise due to the famine.

All the Members have raised the issue of shortage of drinking water in Rajasthan. The water level has sunk very low. One has to travel 20 kms to fetch a bucket full of water. 7 lakhs tubewells are lying unused due to non-availability of electricity. The cattle have been dying in want of water. The fodder for cattle has become extremely costly at present. The people of Udaipur used to migrate to Gujarat on the occurrence of famine but presently they are getting neither employment nor food to eat even there. Today, they virtually have nothing to eat. Such is the scenario that the womenfolk are ready to sell their bodies as the men have migrated to other States in search of employment. We will have to seriously ponder over as how to face all these problems and find solution thereto. One parliamentarian had told right now that a demand for allocating Rs. 1145 crore was put forth for Rajasthan but only Rs. 103 crore were provided. The biggest hurdle in it is that our officers lack sensitivity. They keep on sitting, conducting meetings but are not spending on money in view of the ground realities to combat the situation. It should also be monitored. We

[Shri Hannan Mollah]

are not combating the succour of famine at a war footing which is the need of the hour. A lot of lacunaea are also being observed in the working of the administration. We also have to look into this aspect.

I would like to demand from the Government to immediately make arrangements of water there and to prepare a long term water conservation plan. Animals can not express their agony and suffering, hence it is on our part to make arrangement of fodder for them.

I also demand from the Government to liberally distribute foodgrains to the needy people through food for work programmes out of thousands of tonnes of foodgrains stored in our godowns. News of the spread of diseases like Malaria and many other diseases is also being received from the famine affected areas. The Government should immediately make arrangements for supplying medicines and sending its team of medical officers and experts to those areas.

The situation is even worse in Adivasi areas. Preparation should be made right now for sowing of next crop. How can the farming be undertaken immediately after drought? It will take at least three months to the preparation. It is also to be immediately looked into as to how power supply can be regularised or increased by few hours. It can be done by supplying power from other powergrid. All these things should be looked into. The centre should, at the earliest, release the funds for which the State Government has sent its requisition or which have been recommended by the visiting team. The Government should allocate more funds from National Calamity Relief Fund. The work of tax collection should be suspended in those areas and loans on the part of State Government should be written off. The work on river projects such as Sardar Sarovar project should be completed at the earliest by holding discussion with the State Governments and evolving consensus. It is very essential.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, many many thanks for giving me an opportunity to speak.

DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA (Hissar): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I express my gratitude to you for giving me an opportunity to speak on a serious problem of drought.

The problem of drought in the country is a very serious one. The discussion over it is not being held for the first time but it is taking place every year since India attainted independence. If it does not rain, drought comes into the focus and if it rains heavily then the focus shifts to the problem of flood. According to the available information, presently 107 million hectares of area has been affected by drought. 126 districts in 11 States are either partly or fully affected by drought. Gujarat, Rajasthan and Andhra Pradesh are the main among them. In Gujarat 9500 villages, in Rajasthan 26 districts out of 32 districts and in Andhra Pradesh 22 districts are affected by drought. It is indeed ironical that an area falls into the grip of drought if there is no rain. Many parts of the country are devastated by flood if it rains heavily. Can't we take some remedial measures to combat the drought so that we may not have to discuss this matter every year? If we look at the geographical location of the country, it becomes evident that it is surrounded by sea from three sides while the great Himalayas guard it from other side which is covered with snow throughout the year. We have a plentiful resources of water in Himalayas. Despite it we have 20 river as source of water. We have a network of approximately hundred rivers in the country yet the droughts occur at regular intervals and a great dearth of water is felt. According to datas of flowing water available, we have a total capacity of 1869 million cubic metre of all the rivers and rivulets whereas our requirement is of 1304 million cubic metre. We have not evolved any National water policy despite the availability of so much of water. We never tried to mobilise the means for proper utilisation of water so that both drought and flood like situations could be averted. Mr. Chairman, Sir, though a National Water Policy was announced in 1987, yet it was not implemented. It remained on papers only. It was not implemented in such a way by which we could have properly utilised the water resources. We can allow the sharing of water of Ravi and Vyas with Pakistan but do not accept the construction of SYL canal and using the water for our own use. It is really very unfortunate that we have been fighting over petty issues and this controversial scheme involving Punjab and Haryana has been lying pending for many years. We have not been able to properly resolve that controversy. We don't have any objection over allowing the release of water to Pakistan but it is ironical that we have objection over the sharing of water by our own people.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, a survey was conducted in 1991 and it was revealed that the water level was 2213 cubic metres earlier which has reduced to 1875 cubic meters. The ground water level is going low. There are also many reasons for the inadequate rainfall. The forest are the good source of environmental preservation, balanced growth and water supply but they have also been reduced to 23 per cent of our total area whereas they should be 33 per cent of the total area. The photographs sent by the satellite shows that forest cover area is only 12 per cent. Even today, 12 crore and 96 lakhs hectare land comprising 40 per cent of our total area is lying barren. We don't have any dearth of water resources. But a statement was issued by the previous Government in

which it was mentioned that even there will be rationing on the water and money from the water consumers will be realised with severity. I would like to the example of ganga river which is the most famous and sacred river in India. We consider its water holy and worship it. This river passes through maximum number of States in the country.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the river Ganges passes through maximum number of States and carries a volume of 525.24 million cubic metres of water out of which 250 million cubic metres can be used for various pruposes but presently we are only using 36.84 million cubic metres of water. It tells as to how less capacity we have been using. If we further add the figures of our those projects which are being constructed over river Ganges and amounts to 17.12 million cubic metres, total volume of water which is being used by us is 83.52 million cubic metres. Had the previous Governments as well as the present government taken some steps we certainly could have utilised more volume of water from Ganges than what we are doing now. But we merely discuss the things instead of paying attention towards utilisation.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to cite the example of Saurastra which is in the grip of severe drought. If we look at the capacity of water volume flowing in this region, we could make utilisation of 15.12 million cusec metres but we are not able to do so. Had we been able to make proper use of the water flowing in the rivers of Gujarat, it may not have suffered as much from drought as it is suffering now. The examples which I have given are apt throughout the country and water utilisation shows the same pattern throughout the country. We are utilising a very small amount of water in proportion to the water capacity of our rivers.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, recently a report of National Water Resource Institute, Hyderabad was published and a news on TV was flashed on the basis of that report. It says that if we collect the rain water in ponds and utilise it properly then the problem of drought could be brought under control to a great extent. Had we made proper utilisation of water the problem of drought would not have been so grave as it is presently in Rajasthan and Gujarat.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, Rajasthan is our neighbour State and Haryana also get affected by any calamity it faces. It is my submission to the Government that it should also discharge its duty with as much responsibility as the hon. Prime Minister expects from people in response to his appeal to extend their maximum cooperation in largest numbers to face the situation. Hon. Minister of Food and Civil Supplies had given a statement on Doordarshan news that the Government have enough stocks of foodgrains but it would distribute it on the same rates as of PDS, I would like to submit to hon. Minister that there can not be a greater injustice than giving foodgrains on PDS rates to the people in drought affected areas where the people in drought affected areas where the people are longing for even a single grain. I think that the foodgrains are lying in godowns for many years and it can be utilised by distributing among the needy persons. Today, it is the duty of every citizen to express their solidarity and extend their full cooperation to those who are suffering from drought.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to say that many people are migrating from Rajasthan to Haryana especially to Southern Haryana. Some part of my parliamentary constituency Sirsa is adjacent to Rajasthan and a drought like situation is prevailing these also.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude. That is all. You have exhausted so much of time.

[Translation]

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA: The Government should provide financial assistance to Haryana also so that proper arrangements to combat the drought could be made not only in those drought areas of Haryana especially South Haryana like Bhiwani, Sirsa but rehabilitation measures could be taken for those people who have migrated to Haryana in the hope of survival.

COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY (Barmer): Mr. Chairman Sir, I am thankful to you for allowing the discussion on the issue like famine today. I belong to Barmer. Jalore, Jodhpur, Bikaner and Nagore are situated nearby. There, famine has become a part of our life. If you take the data of that place which I have taken, then you will find that there are 40 famine in last 50 years and for last three years there has been continuous famine. Some Member told that somewhere there is famine and somewhere there are flood and cyclones. Everyone knows that there has been frequent famine and we also discuss that there should be a long term planning to overcome this calamity but it is unfortunate that neither the Government of India nor the State Governments have done more than that. Fact is that the people of that place have to face the hardship. This year, alongwith the Rajasthan, some parts of Gujarat and Andhra Pradesh have also witnessed the famine. I am raising this issue in the Parliament from different platform for last one year that you please do something.

[Col. (Retd.) Sona Ram Choudhary]

One of my collegue was just now telling that at the time of taking oath, hon'ble Prime Minister had assured that he would do something. When somebody asked as to would he do everything the Prime Minister gave his commitment about which our collegue Shri Pravin Rashtrapalji has quoted in which it has been said that he may or may not do any other thing but water will be made available everywhere. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: You should not talk to Col. Sona Ram Choudhary directly.

[Translation]

COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY: I would like to tell you about my unstarred question No. 2521 which I had asked on 15 March, 1999. I had sent this question to Prime Minister some four months back. It was replied by Shri Arun Shourie. I am quoting that:

> "Whether Rajasthan is continuously facing the severe drought and famine problem? Whether people are migrating to the neighbouring States in search of livelihood as their crops and livestocks are being destroyed due to the acute shortage of water. If so, then will you announce special package to solve the problem of Thar desert?"

He did not say anything about the package but he admitted that out of the 32 districts of the State, 26 districts are facing the drought situation and crops are being destroyed. There is acute shortage of employment fodders and drinking water in this area. It is due to the non-availability of fodders and drinking water that situation is quite serious particularly in western districts. The people of this region migrate in search of livelihood during hardtimes. But this year migration is at large scale. Further it was also said that in order to alleviate the distruction in the State, a plan of Rs. 1,300 crore was prepared and sent there. This plan was sent there nearly five months back. Only 10 days back, out of the Rs. 1,140 crore, Rs. 103 crore was given. I admit that the Rajasthan Government started work in the third week of February which should have been started in the month of October-November. Their financial condition is not good. But you have admitted in the House same four months back that this thing exists, central study team went there and they recommended for the assistance, but in spite of that nothing was done. Last year too the study team had recommended for the assistance of Rs. 960 crore but only Rs. 21 crore was given to Rajasthan Government. At least some semblance of justice should be done. There should not be any politics with the people in such matter. Who is facing its consequence? Poor famine victims of Rajasthan are suffering from this. Till date, half of the livestocks have perished. There is no cultivation. There 80% of the population depend on livestock. You can imagine the condition of those who have lost their sheep, goats and cows. Yesterday, I had gone there. I feel pity to see them. So my submission is that the Government of India should do something for them.

You see 'The Hindustan Times' and 'The Times of India' newspaper of today. They have published photographs of my area. At one place animals are dead and vultures are eating them and on the other hand there is few employment and women are covering long distance to fetch water. My submission is that assistance should be provided to them as soon as possible. Their crops have been destroyed due to the absence of rainfall for three sucessive years, there is no drinking water, there is no fodder for livstocks, farmers have no employment and there is exodus from the villages. As my collegue was telling, last year, out of the 32 districts 20 districts were struck by famine whose population was 20,000. This year, out of the 35,000 population of 26 districts, 24,050 persons are affected by famine. Thus, total of 2.65 crore people are affected by famine. Livestocks are 3.5 crores. There are 2,760 villages in my constituency. Last year 2,700 villages were affected by famine and this year all 2,760 villages have been affected. You can understand the condition of the people who are facing famine for last three successive years. Besides this, there are 11,000 'Dhanis' out of which 8,000 'Dhanis' do not have water at all. I am telling this because there is no policy. When Pt. Jawahar Lal Nehru was Prime Minister, he had prepared plan for Rajasthan Canal Project which is now named as Indira Gandhi Canal Project. Today water has reached everywhere in the country. Further it has reached Godra Pakistan Border. Within two or three years canal will be completed but there is no scheme prepared for water. Some schemes have been prepared because the Rajasthan Government alone can not bear the cost of the project, and complete it. They are not giving clearance to the project. People are aggrieved, please prepare scheme for water. Similarly projects for Sardar Sarovar Dam should be prepared. It is said that within 3-4 years water will be released. Initially there was stay of the Supreme Court, now stay has been vacated. For that there should be well thought long term plan so that it may work.

Besides this, as far the employment is concerned, 2.65 crore people are affected by this. As per the figures received from the Rajasthan only 4 lakhs persons have got employment while if 5 persons are taken from one family then 50 lakhs labourers should be provided with jobs and if even 10 persons are taken from one family

then at least 25 lakhs persons should be provided with jobs. There is no comparison between 25 lakhs and 4 lakhs. The Rajasthan Government says that they did not get money under emergency plan and they do not have money. Today the Prime Minister is not present here, hon'ble Minister is sitting here. My submission is that going beyond politics we should provide assistance to those who are suffering. Similarly there are live stock. ...*(Interruptions)*. I have taken less time. There are about 3.5 crore live stock. Out of that, half of the livestock are dead. The reason behind this is that there was delay in starting the works. But please save the rest livestocks. Even now something can be done. We are not demanding much. Girija Vyas ji was telling that Rajiv Gandhi had given Rs. 6500 crore in 1988 while you have given only Rs. 103 crore. It is insignificant, you have a huge treasure for example Rajasthan Government has demanded Rs. 700 crore and if you give Rs. 700 crore it will not make much difference to you and your step will be appreciated. So, my request is that you please meet our demand.

There should be 1850 fodder depots but only 825 have opened yet. Buta Singhji is very senior Member, he is rich and big farmer, he has provided rail access but everybody can not do that. You please help us so that we may work. ...*(Interruptions)* No Sir, please give me time.

Second thing I would like to tell you about drinking water. Our area is desert where each person is provided with 40 litres of water. It is a scale for all over India but here 30 litre water is consumed by animals so it is altogether 70 litre. But as per my estimate even 20 litre water is not provided to us against the authorised quota of 70 litre water. It is injustice. Narmada has reached upto Rajasthan canal. As the Prime Minister had assured in Centre that some schemes would be prepared and we want that instead of 70 litre of water, at least half of it *i.e.* 35 litre of water may be provided to the people. It was said that in India nobody will have to cover more than 1.6 k.m. to fetch water by 2000 but year 2000 is going to over and even today the people of my constituency are compelled to cover 15-15, 20-20 and 25-25 k.m. to fetch drinking water. If you go there then you will realise. It should be noted and justice should be done. My next point is regarding special package. At the time of nuclear blast while we were with the Prime Minister he had accepted the fact that Rajasthan is a famine prone region and had also assured for the provision of some extra financial assistance as is provided to hilly regions or to the north-east regions. Two and half years have elapsed since then, but we have not get anything from him so far. He should give us something.

Similarly I would like to give you some suggestion. My important suggestion is that only three months are remaining, time is very less and I have pointed out this thing earlier also. If the God desires then it will rain. You liberally give us money. As Girijaji was telling that there are 3-4 districts of Gujarat, Banaskhanta and Kutch are adjacent to our district where you are liberally giving money. There are 26 districts in my State it would be better if you please give us assistance to that proportion.

My next suggestion is about long term plan for western Rajasthan. Two or three divisions of the Ministry of Water Resource are in my State. Some are in Jaipur and one is in Jodhpur. Then number should be increased. Then work is to conduct survey. There are not sufficient number of rings, equipment and machinery for digging dips. So, I would like to request the Ministry to send machinery to this State from the other parts of the country for three months to open up new source of water where source of water has been dried up. My second point is that since the situation there is very grave so a parliamentary group in the form of Committee should be sent there to assess the gravity of the situation. That group should visit Rajasthan, Andhra Pradesh and Gujarat.

18.00 hrs.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Many Members have spoken on behalf of the Congress Party.

[Translation]

COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY: So that the Committee may see their condition. Our hon. Chief Minister had come here and he had requested the hon. Prime Minister to make arrangement for supply of food grains so that food grains programme may be implemented.

With these words I conclude.

[English]

SHRI E. AHAMED (Manjeri): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I have a humble submission to make before you. Hon. Members from all the Parties must be given an opportunity to speak. Of course, major Parties like the B.J.P. and the Congress will get more chance. But I would like to say that other Parties should also be considered. As it is a national issue, Members of different Parties, particularly smaller parties, may also be given an opportunity to express their feelings and reflect the mood of the country.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I will call you.

Hon. Member Shri Jaswant Singh Bishnoi to speak now.

[Translation]

SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI (Jodhpur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, there has been famine in Rajasthan for the last two years and rainfall is scant. Bigger dams of Rajasthan like Jawai Dam, Pichhola dam, Fateh sagar, Mejar dam and Ramgarh dam have no water and as a result of this the people there are facing a lots of hardship.

'Rahiman pani rakhiya, bin pani sab sun
Pani gaye na ubare moti manush chun.'

Nobody can survive without water in this world, not even wild animals. There is a saying in Rajasthan that Congress rule and calamity in Rajasthan come together.

18.02 hrs.

[DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH *in the Chair*]

SARDAR BUTA SINGH (Jalore): What had happened when Bhairo Singh Shekhawat was Chief Minister in 1977-78.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI: Bhartiya Janta Party ruled in Rajasthan for eight years and during that period though there was flood but there was no famine. The people there say so.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to give some suggestions for water. There are bigger villages in our State. At the time of settlement of those villages ponds were made near the villages and there were 'Auran' nearby. This water of the 'Auran' was accumulated in the ponds. It was catchment area. Gradually Auran was encroached by the people and as a result of this 'Auran' was over. Thus in the absence of catchment area ponds were dried up. Therefore, the problem of water crisis of this region will not be solved unless we recreate that system. Arrangement of water for this region can be made if the old sources of water are revived.

Col. Sona Ramji is present here. He too knows that there are Dhanis (Hamlet) away from the villages where people had made tanks. Wherever there was rainfall the rain water used to be accumulated in those tanks. In this way people were using that water for six-seven to twelve months. Our demand from the Government is that the Government of India or the State Government should give us grants for the construction of tanks. Unless we give grants, the people will not be motivated to construct tanks. As long as people are not motivated this problem will remain the same. I would like to request the hon'ble Minister to give grants to the people who have 'Dhanis' for the construction of tanks as tanks are badly required for the western Rajasthan. It is because they may collect water in future and could use it at appropriate time.

Out of the 32 districts of Rajasthan there is famine in 26 districts. As a result of this, against the target of 128.90 lakh hectare of sown area, 116.84 lakh hectare of land has been sown. There has been decrease of 53 per cent in the production of grains, 73 per cent in pulses, 56 per cent in food grains, 26 per cent in cotton and 30 per cent in 'gawar'. As per the estimate of the Government on the basis of minimum support price, there is loss of crops worth Rs. 2155.20 crore in Rajasthan. Out of the total 34693 villages of all the districts of Rajasthan 23406 villages have been affected by famine. Three crore forty five lakh sixty thousand animals and two crore sixty one lakh people are affected by the famine. As colonel Saheb was telling about the fodder depot for providing fodders to the animals but I am very sorry to inform this House that no grant has been given by the State Govornment for any fodder depot. The Rajasthan Government issued letter and after geting this letter people started bringing fodder. There are two types of schemes there. One is G.S.S. Gram Sewa Sahkari Samiti which is taking fodder after opening the depots and second is Gram Panchayats which are taking fodder after opening fodder depots. But unless grant is provided fodder can not be brought. I can tell that the Government of Rajasthan is very sensitive to the famine. When the Government knew in July-August that there is no rain, it should have thought about the future plan in September-October. The Chief Minister of Rajasthan, Shri Gehlot had called a meeting of all the members of Parliament on 9.1.2000 and had asked them about the further course of action. After five months the Government came into action and the work could be started in February. Even today as per the figure the work has not started. Jodhpur, from where, I have been elected has 360 Panchayats and in 107 Panchayats work has not been started and the labourers have not been employed. The Rajasthan Government never took the famine seriously. If the Government would have taken it seriously, the Rajasthan Government would not have to face the situation that it is facing. The Government of India had sent a Central Group and this group met Collector and Commissioner. It was in the Newspaper that this group visited Dhaba village of Jodhpur district and there this group was served with 'Kaju' and 'Kishmish'. I had read this in the newspaper. This Central group neither talked to the representatives of the people nor the member of Parliament, MLA or

Pradhan and Sarpanch of the locality. The report that is submitted by the central study group can be obtained from here only but unless the group talks to the people's representatives how can it give detailed information about the situation? I extend my sincere thanks that you gave me time to speak.

[English]

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN (Tirunelveli): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank you very much for having given me this opportunity to participate in the discussion regarding drought situation prevailing in various parts of the country. On behalf of AIADMK, I associate myself with the views expressed by the Members regarding the drought situation prevailing in Rajasthan, Bihar, Orissa and Andhra Pradesh. ...*(Interruptions)* At this juncture, I would like to say that without water, mankind cannot exist; without water, vegetation cannot grow and exist. There is a famous Tamil proverb *neerillaamal amaiyaadhu ulagu.* The word water is most important.

My colleague from the other side has said that the Supreme Court has interpreted that right to life includes right to live and eat. Right to potable water is a Fundamental Right now, as interpreted by the Supreme Court.

As far as Tamil Nadu is concerned, we have certain drought-prone districts in the northern part of Tamil Nadu. During summer, particularly in Chennai City, the people do not get water because of imminent drought conditions.

About 17 years ago, when MGR was the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu and NTR was the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh, they both entered into an agreement on the *Telugu Ganga* Project. At that point of time, the foundation-stone to execute that project was laid by late Shrimati Indira Gandhi, but the water has not yet come to the City so far.

SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI (Visakhapatnam): It is because of the drought conditions prevailing in Andhra Pradesh.

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN: About four years ago, when the city municipal elections were in the offing, the Government announced the release of water. There was a function held, and that supply went on for a week; that is all. Last week, the State Government of Tamil Nadu announced that the people of Chennai are going to get *Telugu Ganga* water on 1st May. So, I would like to draw the attention of the House and also the Minister to see that the people of Chennai get this Krishna water at least...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI: If there is water in the reservoir, then it will be released. If there is no water in the stream, where from will they release?

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN: That is for you to answer. As far as Chennai City is concerned, there is an acute water problem.

In the northern part of Tamil Nadu where *Tamiraparani* River is flowing, storing is not being done properly, and there is no proper water management. If an expert goes to Israel and if he learns the art of water management then there will not be any wastage of water, which otherwise is flowing into the sea.

Sir, *Tamiraparani* River originates from the hills of Podhigai; the water is flowing from those hills. However due to mismanagement or improper management or lack of skill to manage it, it is resulting in wastage of water which is flowing into the sea either at Tiruchendur or at Tuticorin, which is a port city.

My appeal to the hon. Minister is, he should see that the right man is in the right place. We are now in the computer age. We have enough water, but we are not able to conserve water or distribute water properly. We are not able to protect water. Along the seacoast, water is not potable; people are not able to drink that water because they get a number of diseases when they drink that water. Therefore, the Minister may take up this responsibility of seeing that protected water supply is given to the Northern parts of Tamil Nadu, which are drought prone, particularly V.O. Chidambaranar District, which is a part of my constituency. The people in Ottapidaram constituency are not able to get drinking water because there is no water at all. During my election campaign they asked for water. I said, "Yes". Now, from the MPLADS, I have given some money for providing water. In the adjacent Vilathikulam constituency also, there is no scheme to provide protected water supply. In the Tuticorin City, which is a port city, there is no water. People come to me and say that they are not able to get water. The municipality of the city executed a scheme and built a tank there but that tank is not able to cater to the entire population of the city. It is the constitutional duty of the Government to see that the people of this great city are supplied with potable water.

As far as agriculturists are concerned, in some parts of Tamil Nadu they depend on rain water and in other parts they depend on rivers, Tamiraparani and Cauvery. Cauvery river water problem is known to everybody. Because of rainy season it is overlooked now but it will crop up again. It is a perennial problem and it has to be solved.

[Shri P.H. Pandiyan]

As far as river Tamiraparani is concerned, I raised it in the House under Rule 377 and mentioned that de-silting of the river had not been done ever since Independence and that the river was totally polluted. Following that, a team of officials from New Delhi visited my constituency Tirunelveli. They examined the issue and made an estimate. I was told that if the Government grants Rs. 70 crore for the purpose, de-silting of the river can be done. Because the river supplies potable water to the whole of southern Tamil Nadu, this project should be taken up.

From Tamiraparani river water flows to adjacent Districts. Its waters are taken from Cheranmadhevi through pipes forty kilometres away to Vijayanarayanam, a place adjacent to my constituency, where a Naval establishment is located. However, these waters are not available for use to the people in the wayside villages as they are taken straight to the Naval establishment. If there is excess water available, the Government can consider supplying potable water to the wayside villages like Pathamadai. Let the Government consider whether it is feasible to supply water to the wayside villages. It is a serious problem. The Central Government has a duty to act and the State Government has a duty to obey. Both the Governments should perform their constitutional duty.

SHRI M.V.V.S MURTHI (Visakhapatnam): Mr. Chairman, Sir, Andhra Pradesh, Rajasthan, Gujarat are the States that are worst hit by the drought. Besides these, some districts of Orissa and West Bengal and some other areas in the country are also affected.

It is very unfortunate that even after fifty years of Independence, we are not able to tackle the problem of drinking water supply in the country. Our country is bestowed with Himalayas, Eastern Ghats and Western Ghats from where several perennial rivers flow. The water that flows through the length and breadth of the country can more than meet the irrigation and drinking water requirement in the country. However, unfortunately, we are not able to formulate a policy to harness these waters even for drinking purposes.

Even though there is a talk of industrial revolution in the country, ours is primarily an agrarian country. Seventy per cent of the country's population is dependent on agriculture. These 70 per cent people depend on agriculture for their supply of food and water and then they supply food to the rest of the 30 per cent people also. Even then we are unable to tackle the water problem. Rain-fed agriculture is creating fodder and food problmes for cattle and human beings. If things continue like this, a stage may come when we have to import these things.

I agree with Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh when he said that because of lack of proper irrigation facilities, drought could not be fought in this country. The PDS rates have also gone up. On one side, we are tackling the issue of drought and, on the other side, the purchasing power of people has come down. For many years, we have been demanding that not only the people below the poverty line, but the population as a whole should be covered under EAS. When the rates have been increased, the poor man has no capacity to purchase food grains. I appeal to the hon. Minister and the Union Government to think of reducing the prices of the PDS, at least of wheat and rice till the drought conditions are solved. Otherwise, people will die. Today only the cattle are dying. If you increase the prices, tomorrow there will be starvation deaths. There are already starvation deaths in Andhra Pradesh. There are some starvation deaths in Rajasthan. Can't we have a policy where millions of people at least have food to eat? Either you provide the money by way of drought relief or EAS or reduce the prices. Kindly look into these aspects.

The other point is, to assess the drought situation, a team was sent to Andhra Pradesh in October, 1999. They have released only Rs. 70 crore recently whereas the State Government has asked for Rs. 700 crore. The inordinate delays have to be cut in releasing the money. When the expert team gives its report, kindly act on that report. Don't dealy further. Any further delay will cause further damages and Rs. 700 crore will become Rs. 1,400 crore and the situation will aggravate. Kindly look into this aspect also without standing on formalities to release the funds. If need be, send another team. I would request the hon. Minister of Rural Development to visit all the States under drought and take a look and take some steps immediately.

The Tenth Finance Commission has said:

> "75 per cent the Union Government should bear the cost of these calamity funds and 25 per cent the States will bear."

If that is the case, ask the States to spend 25 per cent. The Union Government can provide the balance 75 per cent as asked by States. The situation is very grave. That is why I have chosen to speak on this subject.

The Centre has announced its national policy on water and agrarian matters, way back in 1987, but no concrete steps have been taken. They have yet to implement at the earliest its 1998 annual policy which they have announced.

There are perennial rivers in North and South. In the South, there is a mighty river Godavari out of which we are using 700 TMC where the outflow into the sea is about 2,000 TMC. Shri P.V. Narasimha Rao our former Prime Minister promised that Polavaram project would be implemented. If it is implemented, the water could be routed through Krishna river and that water will reach Chennai at the earliest through Telugu Ganga. Now there is no sufficient water in Chennai. They have implemented the Telugu-Ganga project. There is no water in Krishna river upstream.

Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh are already fighting for the water that flows in river Krishna. There is no water in river Krishna to be given to Chennai. This is a serious problem.

The National Calamity Relief Fund should be Rs. 1,000 crore per annum. It should not be a small amount like Rs. 100 crore. If that much of money could be kept in the Fund annually relief could be given as and when there are calamities. The National Calamity Relief Fund should also be a flexible fund so that whatever the Prime Minister is getting by way of Prime Minister's Relief Fund could also be used. Otherwise, it is difficult for the States to overcome this problem, everytime.

There are a lot of diseases caused by the drinking water that is available for human consumption. In Andhra Pradesh, there is already diarrhoea because of the sort of water that is being drunk. I would like you to take this into consideration. The Andhra Pradesh Government has implemented a long-range watershed policy for harnessing of rain water. This could be implemented in all the States so that the wastelands could also be cultivated.

The Employment Assurance Schemes have to be covered in areas where there is drought. There is an example. Jaisalmer in Rajasthan and Anantapur district in Andhra Pradesh are having the same lowest level of rainfall, about 500 millimetres annually. So, Anantapur is today really crying for water. The water in drought areas is carrying excess fluorides, arsenal and salinity. I would request the neighbouring States to come to the rescue of the affected States with supplies of food grains, and fodder.

This is a serious situation. That is why I thought of bringing it to the notice of the hon. Minister to help Andhra Pradesh with enough money. I hope, they would release whatever money they have asked for in this hour of crisis.

SHRI E. AHAMED (Manjeri): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I stand here to express my deep-seated sentiments and concerns towards the people of the different States of the country, particularly the States of Gujarat, Rajasthan, Andhra Pradesh, etc. on the devastating droughts and the people's sufferings in these States.

I also associate myself with the sentiments expressed by my hon. colleagues on the devastating droughts and the people's sufferings in many of the States.

Today, the hon. Prime Minister has appealed to the people to help get rid of or wriggle out of the present situation. The people of the country, especially the drought-prone areas have been extended all support all over the country. There is sympathy for the people belonging to those areas.

I would like to ask how the performance of the Government is. The hon. Prime Minister should himself see whether the Ninth Plan allocations for rural development have been utilised properly. It is the duty of the Government and also of the Prime Minister to examine the performance of the desert development programme, the performance of the drought-prone area development programme, the performance of the accelerated water supply scheme and also the integrated wasteland development programme. I would say without any hesitation that the performance of these programmes in 1999-2000 was the worst in the last decade. It will be a testimony if the hon. Minister will read the Report laid on the Table of the House by the Standing Committee on Rural and Urban Development today. They have come out with a graphic picture of the failures of this Government. I would like to take this particular opportunity to tell the Government that the people's co-operation will always be there.

Why does the Government wake up only when there is drought in this country? There was a drought-proofing programme in this country. I would urge the Minister to examine whether this programme has been taken care of by the administration. The administration may be sleeping and the administration may be lethargic in its approach to this whole problem. Only when there is drought, they go helter-skelter. How many animals have died due to drought, especially in Gujarat? When there is agitation against cow slaughter on the one side, we are losing the very cows on the other. How do we stand all these things? These things have to be taken care of by the Government.

My dear friend and colleague, Shri Pandiyan has mentioned that water supply is very acute in every State Even in a State like Kerala where we have abundant water available, there are areas where there is not even a drop of water. We have the adage 'Water water everywhere, not a drop to drink'. Why is it so? It is because there are problems.

[Shri E. Ahamed]

I myself have been associated with the Rural Development Board as its Chairman for about five to six years in Kerala. We are implementing rural water supply schemes with the financial assistance of LIC, which has thousands of crores of rupees of public money with them. It has given money at one time, for implementation of water supply schemes for a State like Kerala. Why not the Minister examine the possibility of making available such institutional finances for implementation of water supply schemes throughout the country? If we do this, our rural economy would be developed. We have to implement these schemes scrupulously. We have to take care of the minutest details for implementation in rural areas in such a devastating situation, which will be of great help for the people.

Therefore, the Government must have a long-term policy as well as a short-term policy. The long term policy would at least be taken care of by implementing desert development programme, drought-prone area development programme, accelerated water supply programme, integrated wasteland development programme, etc. These programmes have been utter failures. Everybody is here to cooperate with the Government. If the Government is sincere at heart to do something to people, it can really go into these things and make available sufficient institutional finance in this country to tide over such a situation that we are facing.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJU RANA (Bhavnagar): Mr. Chairman, Sir, through you, I express my gratitude to all my hon'ble colleagues who have expressed their view on the conditions of famine. It has been observed that of the three States affected by famine, *viz.* Gujarat, Rajasthan and Andhra Pradesh, it is Gujarat which has never faced such a severe famine in the past hundred years. This famine has been described as rarest of the rare famines. Though rainfall has occurred at a few places, but it has been very scanty. Broadly speaking, this time, the monsoon failed to arrive at these places. 17 out of 25 districts of Gujarat are struggling with famine.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I wish to say that 9200 villages out of 18 thousand villages are facing this calamity of severe drought. There are 174 natural water reservoirs in our area, which are having even less than 25 percent of water as compared to their actual water storage capacity and that too is getting dried day by day due to scorching sun, thereby decreasing the quantity of water. Out of these, 44 ponds are such which are having virtually no water at all. All such conditions are prevalent in Saurashtra, Kuchh and northern Gujarat. All these areas are more severely into the clutches of famine, but in Gujarat this drought is affecting the entire population. It is not only the matter of Saurashtra, or Kuchh, or northern Gujarat, but all the people of Gujarat are seriously concerned about the miserable conditions prevailing there and this famine is adversely effecting the entire population.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, keeping all these conditions in mind, Government prepared a master plan in the month of November. In January, team came from the Centre for the survey of the area. A plan worth Rs. 922 crores was prepared at that time. And as per that plan the team was taken to observe the drought affected areas. They themselves observed that very less cultivation has taken place due to meagre rainfall and thats why there was a fall in the cultivation of Chokha, Bajra and Jwar. 77 percent of our crop cultivation depends upon rain water. Irrigated land is very less in that area. Southern Gujarat is an exception, so leave it. So majority of land in rest of the area is dependent upon rainfall for their agricultural needs. Discussions and deliberations were made with the Central Government team in accordance with the master plan worth Rs. 922 crores. With the changes in the circumstances after the month of January, now the estimated cost has been determined at Rs. 1100 crores. There are three important areas which are affected by famine where neither proper drinking water facilities, nor availability of grass, nor adequate cattle camps have been provided. Efforts are being made to keep the livestock safely in around 400 cattle camps of various non Governmental and Government organisations.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, incidents mentioned by my dear friend Pravin ji do take place and have taken place also. I do not say that it is possible for everyone to tackle all problems in all conditions and that everyone is capable of solving all the problems. I neither say so nor believe so, but on the whole we can atleast try to solve such problems and according to that, our estimate for requirement of grass till the month of May-June is likely to be doubled in future. Besides this, we are making arrangements for bringing grass from the States of Maharashtra, Punjab and Haryana through trucks and trains. So far as the matter of drinking water is concerned, I have already told you about the water resources available in the areas where rainfall has not occurred as also the percentage of water left in various ponds and the rivers that have dried. I am from Saurashtra and I can say that we have never seen a river flowing in Saurashtra. Whenever we go to Southern Gujarat and see a flowing river we halt for 15-20 minutes because of the fact that we have never seen a flowing river in our area, we have seen it only in pictures. We have never come across a flowing river in Kuchh and Saurashtra.

As far as the matter of drinking water is concerned, the status of drinking water in villages is worst as the resources are very less. We are making arrangements to provide drinking water through tankers. At those places where arrangements for drinking water are required to be made. I am not talking about water for irrigation purposes as such. But if even after such arrangement, there is any deficiency, then efforts should be made to fulfil such deficiency from the available resources. In big cities drinking water arrangement has been made through pipelines.

I would give only one example that the Raska Ware Project in Ahmedabad has been completed in time. We are going to make drinking water arrangements in Jamnagar, Surendranagar, Rajkot, Bhavnagar etc. We are making further efforts in this regard also. This is the fifth crisis that Gujarat is facing in the last two years. Gujarat faced two floods, two cyclones and now this famine has occurred. I was taken aback just three-four days back, when I read a news item in the newspaper. One of the astrologers of Pune had predicted that a cyclone is likely to come in Kuchh area between 6th and 12th of May. They have published this item in the newspaper. I do not know whether it is right or wrong. He said this and it was published in the paper also. This is the fifth calamity faced by Government of Gujarat as well as the people of Gujarat. Sir, through you, I would request the Government of India that crores of rupees have been spent so far in these circumstances. Although, Gujarat Government has earmarked an amount of more than Rs. 200 crore in order to combat the menace of famine, but still this is not adequate. On behalf of the people of Gujarat, I wish to request the Central Government that they should fulfil our requirement of Rs. 1100 crores as soon as possible.

SHRI RAM SAGAR RAWAT (Barabanki): Mr. Chairman, Sir, with your permission I rise to make few suggestions regarding the discussion going on in the House on the dreadful drought situation prevailing in Rajasthan, Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh, West Bengal and in other parts of the country.

The present drought situation is totally different from the earlier ones. Summer season has just began-months of May, June and July with scorching heat are yet to come. The drought situation has worsend to an extent that the people alongwith their cattle are migrating from there because of unavailability of water and fodder. It is difficult for the people to live there in this severe famine situation. Attention of the State Governments and Union Government has been drawn towards it through newspapers and media. State Governments are repeatedly demanding for providing relief measures. This issue is being discussed in House also and is unanimously pressuring the Government for providing relief measures in the State. Hon'ble Prime Minister in his statement has expressed his feelings and appealed the people to lend their support. Although the matter is being discussed in the House but whether the Government will pay attention towards it or not would be unveiled later on. However, people of the drought affected area are listening it. Those States would like to know intention of the Government in regard to providing relief measures. We are hopeful that the Government will take action on the demand unanimously made in the House. Government will announce that no laxity will be tolerated in providing relief measures. Neither humans nor animals will be allowed to die due to shortage of water, foodgrains and fodder. Drought is gradually affecting the adjacent States also. I would like to mention about my Parliamentary Constituency Barabanki were water level of rivers Ghaghra, Gomati, Rari and Kalyani have gone down to the extent that there is no water in handpumps. Hon'ble Minister from Uttar Pradesh is present in the House. Water level in ponds has also gone down. People can be saved from this situation. Although we always discuss about formulating a permanent scheme to resolve this problem but no efforts have been made to formulate such scheme. Therefore, Government should formulate a permanent scheme to atleast save the people from such situation in future. People of Rajasthan, Gujarat and other States are dying due to famine. Through you, I would like to demand the Government that adequate water arrangements should be made there and recoveries should be stopped. Assistance should be provided to the people who are dying due to starvation. Scheme should be formulated for those areas where the situation is likely to be deteriorate.

With these words, I again demand the Government that there should be no laxity in providing assistance to the people who are facing this situation. We should not remain as silent spectators in the House. A good message should be conveyed to the people and starved people should not be allowed to die.

DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV (Alwar): Mr. Chairman, Sir, first of all, I would like to thank the hon'ble Prime Minister and the Union Government for providing assistance to the famine affected areas and for the appeal made by him to the countrymen in this regard, Members who have spoken prior to me also mentioned about drought and famine like situation prevailing in Rajasthan, Gujarat and other parts of the country. Undoubtedly, Rajasthan is in the grip of severe famine. However, this has not happened for the first time. Rajasthan Government was aware of it as there was no rainfall during last monsoon period—Rajasthan Government remained insensitive to the situation and blame the Union

[Dr. Jaswant Singh Yadav]

Government. The work regarding the identification of drought prone areas in Gardavari was to be completed in October after Monsoon. But Rajasthan Government did not even complete that. I was also a member of Assembly, at that time. We had appealed the Rajasthan Government for completing identification work so as to undertake the famine relief measures at the earliest. It was also announced by the Rajasthan Government in the House that famine relief work will be undertaken from November. But they did not complete the identification work and falsely publicized in the newspapers. Rajasthan Government was aware of the fact that a fixed amount of funds is provided to all the States from Calamity Relief Fund of Union Government. That fund was provided to Rajasthan Government. Rajasthan Government had funds in its hands. Had it been seriously concerned, it would have started the work in November itself. However, only for getting National calamity fund, it allowed the situation to be deteriorated and let the people die. It did not utilize its funds and did not care for the people. Hon'ble Member who spoken prior to me, belongs to Congress party, have mentioned several points today. I am only citing brief examples. Parliament is discussing the issue of famine but it is not for the first time that the famine has struck the State. Had the Government worried about the situation, it would have taken steps to meet the situation. This Chief Minister of Rajasthan has been a pointed here for the first time. It is a matter of shame that inspite of the funds granted by Central Government, the old age pension has not been given for the last 6 months - 1 year, No body is extending helping hand to these old people, they are facing starvation there though the Central Government's funds in this regard have reached there long before. When hon'ble Member is admitting that the State is in the grip of famine, the State Government should have acted rising above the politics and should not have waited for Central Government's National Calamity relief fund.

Likewise, Rs. 120 crore has been granted by the Central Government for providing drinking water facility in the State in the year 1999-2000. Only one month back Rs. 80 crores have also been granted. Government was aware that sufficient rainfall has not taken place, even then the 75% of the handpumps which were to be installed, could not be installed. Had these handpumps installed in time, there would have been no water crisis. Similarly, water schemes for other villages are still lying incomplete. Rajasthan Government's only motive is to terrorise the people. Recently launched Pink city operation is also not in the favour of people. Rajasthan Government was in a hurry to launch this scheme but had no time to implement the schemes regarding the installation of handpumps and taps. The foremost thing. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM RAGHUNATH CHAUDHARY (Nagpur): Are you demanding for assistance or just cursing the Rajasthan Government?

DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV: It is the truth. Situation has been deteriorated there and you should mention about the relief measures to be taken there. Funds provided by the Central Government will be misutilized.

SHRI RAM RAGHUNATH CHAUDHARY: Congress Government has built up a canal at Jodhpur, therefore, people in your constituency hae no resentment against the Government.

DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV: The funds are demanding from the Central Government will not be utilized for the welfare of the people because Rajasthan Government prefers only to propagate the matter through newspapers instead of doing work. If Rajasthan Government really wants to do the work, it should show its potential. Only four days ago Congress party President hon'ble Shrimati Girija Vyas has stated that the State Government is insensitivity to the situation, its officers are not working seriously. At present Congress party is in power in Rajasthan. Chief Minister of Rajasthan is responsible for this situation. When the Governor of Bihar appoints Chief Minister of any other party, Union Government is blamed for interfering but who is responsible for not executing the relief works and not utilizing the funds amounting Rs. 300 crores it was already having. Chief Minister who heads the Government in the State is responsible for all this...*(Interruptions)* Hon'ble Member, please listen to me first. ...*(Interruptions)*

SARDAR BUTA SINGH: It is the politics of B.J.P. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM RAGHUNATH CHAUDHARY: They are misleading the country as well as the House.

DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV: At present Congress Party is in power in Rajasthan and they are shirking from their responsibility. They are blaming the Central Government for not releasing funds. I would like to mention that inspite of having hiked the road tax and imposing several other taxes including road tax, State Government is complaining about the paucity of funds. Rs. 11,000 crores have been collected as tax which is in the possession of the Chief Minister...*(Interruptions)* Funds were provided to the State Government during the Chief Ministership of Shri Bhero Singh Shekhawat because he was a very able administrator. He proved his ability by providing full details of the amount spent. Your Ministers do nothing except to be in the news. They visited the villages after budget Session. On 21st, he directed his

Cabinet to visit famine affected areas. What was the Chief Ministers and other Ministers doing earlier. ...*(Interruptions)*

SARDAR BUTA SINGH: The Chief Minister of Gujarat is in America while people are dying here.

DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to advise the hon'ble Members to rise above petty politics and face this grim situation. Rajasthan Government have funds available with them. They have ruined the lives of the people of the State by not spending these funds. It is right on the part of the Central Government to assist the State Government but such an insensitive Chief Minister should be taught a lesson. It would be better to replace such a Chief Minister by an efficient and sincere person so that the State could be saved and people may also get relief from famine.

SHRI RAM RAGHUNATH CHAUDHARY: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am thankful to you for giving me an opportunity to speak. People of Rajasthan are mustering courage to face this severe famine. The situation is so dreadful that there is no water to drink. Fodder is also not available for livestock and labourers are not getting their wages.

The hon. Member who spoke prior to me belongs to Alwar and he has been with me in the Congress Party. Therefore, I know all these things. There is no shortage of water in Alwar but the situation is so pathatic in Western Rajasthan or in 26 famine affected districts where even drinking water is not available.

DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV: Out of the total sanctioned handpumps, how many have been installed. Those which are out of order have not been repaired because of the repairing amount of Rs. 20-25.

SHRI RAM RAGHUNATH CHAUDHARY: Rajasthan is facing severe drought. There are still such villages where drinking water is not available and people have to walk 10-12 kms. to fetch water. The issue of famine was discussed during the Legislative Assembly Session held in November last year. Members of all the parties whether BJP or Congress have together stated that the condition of Rajasthan is very bad, therefore, immediate attention should be paid to provide water and fodder. Since then State Government has repeatedly written to the Central Government regarding its weak financial position because of insufficient rainfall. Many villages have not received any rainfall and the condition of farmers have become pathatic there. It was written to the Central Government that there is likely to be a scarcity of water and fodder but the required attention was not paid towards it. On 27th March, hon'ble Prime Minister made an announcement.

19.00 hrs.

An assistance of Rs. 103/- crores was given to Rajasthan Government against the demand of Rs. 1143 crores. It is not the question of how much work is being done by the Government of Rajasthan and also to which party the Government belongs to. The issue is that it is a matter of great concern that Rajasthan is in the grip of famine. Union Government can extent its help to save their lives. You must have read in the newspapers that cattles are dying in Jaiselmer, Barmer and Nagour. Carcasses of animals are lying in the fields and forests. They are dying there for want of water and fodder. Therefore, it is the duty of the Central Government to timely assess the gravity of the drought and make necessary arrangements before hand. My submission is that all of us whether belonging to BJP or Congress have to work together to face this problem. I would like to say that Members of BJP are blaming us but we would not like to react in the same manner. We as well as Government of Rajasthan are requesting the Central Government to provide assistance. You have helped Gujarat and as a result of which it is in a better position now, assistance should also be provided to Rajasthan. The land of Rajasthan is quite fertile. Dr. Sahib is aware that soil in Jhunjhunu, Nagaur etc. is so fertile that with the availability of adequate means of irrigation, they can provide foodgrains for half the country. However, water is not available there. Water reached to Ganga Nagar through Indira Canal as a result of which Ganga Nagar is now competing with Punjab in agricultural production and is providing foodgrains to half of our country. Water reached to Jaisalmer also through Indira Canal and it is also flourishing in the same way. So schemes were formulated to provide water to Rajasthan through Ganges and Indira Canal but these schemes could not be implemented at Bikaner. Floods in Brahamputra cause havoc. Schemes or packages should be formulated so as to divert this water which would help in solving many problems alongwith drinking water. $1^1/_2$ years ago, hon'ble Prime Minister had committed to solve the drinking water problem. As per his commitment, there should not have been any scarcity of drinking water. Arrangements in this regard should be made immediately and it should be made a point that drinking water should be made available in all parts of our country in future whether it is Gujarat or Bihar. Earlier small dams and ponds were constructed in Rajasthan to store rain water. However, during the last few years people were having an apprehension that they may suffer from 'Naal' disease if they drink pond water. Therefore, wells were dug up but water level in them fell down. Last year due to insufficient rainfall people

[Shri Ram Raghunath Chaudhary]

stopped drinking pond water. In the cities and towns, new residential colonies have comp up on the land where there were ponds. Today, we thought that those ponds could have helped in solving this problem. Today, we show historical 'bavaries' to tourists and tell them about their usefulness. Government should spent adequate funds on their maintenance so that they could become useful again. Last year Rajasthan Government has sent a scheme of Rs. 1300 crores. Hon'ble Minister had visited Jaipur and held a meeting. Today itself, I saw hon'ble Minister Shri C.P. Thakur on television—issuing a statement regarding Rajasthan that Central Government never refused to provide water, had the State Government asked for it, we would have certainly provided drinking water to them. I was watching it on the television yesterday. I would like to submit that since November Rajasthan Government is inviting Central Government's attention towards problem of drinking water. They have stated that scarcity of water is likely to increase in the near future. If we solve the water problem, the problem of unavailability of fodder will also be automatically solved. Dairies of Rajasthan provide milk to the people of Delhi. How it will be possible when cattles in Ajmer and Bikaner are facing such a plight? Their condition is very pathatic. It is not the time to indulge in personal vendatta. The need of the hour is that hon'ble Prime Minister and the concerned Minister should provide drinking water in Rajasthan and wages should also be provided to labourers.

Sir, I have many things to say but the time is limited. Hon'ble Shri Buta Singh made his own efforts to arrange fodder for Uttar Pradesh and Punjab etc. but it is insufficient, moreover every body cannot make efforts like Shri Buta Singh. I would like to tell you that one has to spend Rs. 50 in a day and Rs. 1500/- in a month to maintain a cow but one cannot get that much money if one sell the cow in the market. Therefore, Government should provide more and more assistance to them.

With these words I conclude my speech.

SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR BWISWMUTHIARY (Kokrajhar): Sir, some States of India are in grip of drought and I am thankful to you for giving me time to speak. I represent Bodoland. I surprised to see the same situation during this year as was in the previous year. 52 years have passed since India got independence and during these years the people of Central India got opportunities but tribal people did not get opportunity to rule. I amazed to find the prevailing problems of drinking water, drought and famine in the country after 52 years of independence. I express my deep concern for the drought and the hardships being faced by the people of various States of India particularly Rajasthan, Gujarat and Andhra Pradesh. Sir, the Union Government should provide assistance to those states of the country which are facing such serious situation. We find that people of different political parties blame each other but first they should pay attention towards the problems of the country. Our Bodoland is facing the same problem.

[English]

Bodoland region is said to be the 'Land of rivers and water'.

[Translation]

Several rivers flow in this but people of that area do not have drinking water and there is shortage of water for irrigation. The people of Kokrajhar to Bodoland and Uttaranchal have to purchase water from foreign country like Bhutan. It is a matter of shame for India.

[English]

Is India a free country? The people of Bodoland have been clamoring for drinking water. They have to purchase water from the Kingdom of Bhutan. It is shameful on the part of the Government of India. I strongly urge upon the Government of India to look into all these burning problems with positivity.

I would like to appeal to the Government of India to create a separate State of Bodoland so that we could get justice after formation of the Bodoland State.

[Translation]

The Government of India has done nothing for the rivers in India. The development works have not been done to that extent as it should have been done.

[English]

I would again like to appeal to the Government of India to extend a helping hand to the suffering people of Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Rajasthan and so on and so forth. With these words, I conclude.

[Translation]

SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE (Malegaon): Mr. Chairman, Sir, Gujarat, Rajasthan, Andhra Pradesh and Bengal and Orissa are facing problems and if the Government pay attention towards this, it can be solved. I am giving me one example, there was a grave famine in Maharashtra in 1972. Hon'ble Buta Singhji knows it. At that time, Vasant Rao Naik was Chief Minister who

handled situation in an efficient way. The Maharashtra Government and the Union Government also assisted in it. It is man made and this Government is formed by the people. Presently, I am not speaking about the present Government. Today, Mr. Vajpayee has said something else. Please tell us as to what does the Government do. The duty of the leader is to console the people at the time of crisis that he has not done. I am extremely sorry to say that he is not at all concern for water. There is a pond in our Nasik district. There is a Girna Dam where water water is available in abundance. This water was used for the cultivation of banana in Jalgaon and it helped in producing good yield. Narkhede Bandhu established cooperative society that made banana chips and exported it to Australia. There after Narkhede and his brethren were implicated in crime and they were imprisoned. Narkhede Bandhu had connection in Australian Government which had good terms with Nehru Government so at their insistence, they were acquitted. Thus, water is very important. It is a question of manmade problem. If there were planning for water from the beginning, then there would not have been any problem. Maharashtra has westward flowing rivers, that meets in the sea and their water is not utilized. My request is that a project should be started to divert the course of the rivers to eastward and the course of the westward flowing rivers should be diverted to eastward.

[English]

SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO (Dhenkanal): Mr. Chairman, Sir, in this entire debate, I have heard the distinguished Members speak. In my humble submission, the whole thing is the question of water and water management.

"Water, water, everywhere,
And all the boards did shrink;
Water, water, everywhere,
Not any drop to drink."

Poet Coleridge said so many years back in *The Ancient Mariner*. Today, only 30 per cent of our cultivable land is irrigated and more than 60 per cent of the water goes to the sea. Unless, we change our entire attitude towards the natural calamities, whether it is drought or flood or cyclone, it is not going to solve this problem.

We are discussing drought today, we heard about floods—Shri Santosh Mohan Dev was mentioning about floods in his area. When we were discussing the Supercyclone of Orissa only two months back, many Members had the occasion to say that the constant companion of States like Orissa, some parts of Bihar, some parts of West Bengal, some parts of Andhra Pradesh is cyclone, drought, flood, back to cyclone and in between intermittent heat-wave and Sun stroke. Year before last, more than 1800 people died in Orissa, out of which 400 from my own area, due to Sun stroke. That is because, today the forest cover and the environment has been totally destroyed whether by the poor out of need or by the rich out of greed. Today, the fact is and the satellite imagery photographs prove that it is only 11 to 12 per cent of forest cover, whereas 50 years back we had more than 36 per cent of forest cover.

The population is going on increasing. We are about to overtake China. At the same time, the water level is going down. Today, there is no water to drink. We have heard speakers say that people have to move 10 kms., 8 kms., 7 kms. to get potable water. We do not have water for the irrigation nor do we have enough for bathing nor do we have for the animals.

Hon. Dr. Venkateswarlu is sitting here. I am very grateful to him. When he was the Minister he had given us a lot of water projects. He gave a sum of Rs. 20 crore for two projects in my constituency three years back. Today, that entire sum of Rs. 20 crore is going to come back because the State Government has not been able to provide the margin money. Why? Because most of the States are impoverished, most of the States are chronically drought-affected, flood-affected and cyclone-affected. What can the poor hon. Minister do?

The Finance Commission has opined and recommended that it is mandatory for the Agriculture Minister to be the nodal Minister. There are no other Ministers here to listen to the debate or to contribute to the debate. So, what the poor hon. Agriculture Minister will do? He will do little gap filling. That is the Planning Commission's contribution in the last fifty years. Whether you abuse the Congress or the Janata Dal or the BJP, still droughts, floods, and cyclones will be with us even for the next fifty years. Therefore, the entire attitude has to change. I think, the hon. Member from Kalahandi was mentioning that Rajiv Gandhi is supposed to have said that only 16 paise are reaching to the people. Therefore, because of Rajiv Gandhi two new things came up. One was Jawahar Rozgar Yojana and the Panchayati Raj Institution. So that the Panchayat, and not the Planning Commission, would have a more intimate knowledge of the lay of the land, of the peculiar problems of their area.

So, this coercive planning, centralised planning must stop. The micro-level planning must come up. The district-level planning must come up. Therefore, we have to fortify them.

[Shri K.P. Singh Deo]

Shri Deve Gowda, the then Prime Minister, visited Bolangir and Kalahandi in 1996, which was supposed to be the worst drought of the century. In 1987 we also heared that that was the worst drought of the century. And now, this year we are also hearing that this is the worst drought of this century. What did Shri Deve Gowda say? He said that there were not enough officers at the cutting edge level of administration. You may give any amount of money. If the district administration fails, if the Revenue Department fails, neither Shri Patwa nor the entire Parliament can do precious little. Therefore, what is required is the micro-level planning and we must fortify them, strengthen them.

Then comes the question of dependable data. To whom we depend upon? We depend upon some peons. In the last cyclone in Orissa the RIs did not reach every place because 14 districts out of 30 districts were affected. So, they sent peons and the peons sat under a tree and enumerated. Some people were given relief and some were not given relief. The whole thing is that people who were suffering were denied the basic necessity, which is a fundamental right. Therefore, we have to strengthen the local administration. And this is where, the Centre must think. The Planning Commission must change its attitude from the normal normative approach because we have 35 agro-climatic zones. Each zone has a peculiarity of its own.

Sir, the agricultural scientists have done an excellent job in their research laboratories. There was a little experiment which we did in Dhenkanal, which is my constituency, in 1996. At that time, that was considered to be the worst drought of the century. It was a communication exercise, convergence of all the agencies. In the previous year, the Crop Kalinga II of the Central Rice Research Institute, which had failed, was an unqualified success because the inter-personnel communication between the scientists, farmers and bureaucrats was so good that the same land gave 19 times yield, and the hon. Minister knows about it. I had mentioned this in the meeting of the Consultative Committee which was held last month.

Sir, when Sardar Buta Singh was the Agriculture Minister, he had laid stress on dry-land farming and up-land farming. Sixty per cent of our cultivable land in India is in up-land and they are rain-fed. So, attention and focus must be given to that.

[Translation]

SHRI KISHAN SINGH SANGWAN (Sonepat): Mr. Chairman, Sir, today the entire House is discussing major problem of the country, that is drought. The hon'ble Members have described the situation of their respective States and the entire nation that has evolved out of the drought. The geographical condition of our country is such that while some of its part face floods, the other parts witness severe drought. Somewhere it is hilly, somewhere it is desert, somewhere it is forest and somewhere it is rocky mountain. Every year the country bear loss of millions of rupees sometimes due to the flood and somewhere due to the drought. Specially farmers and poor people become victim of this catastrophe. Today the drought is being discussed here which is prevalent in Gujarat, Rajasthan and Andhra Pradesh. Every year Rajasthan suffer from drought. Though Haryana is a small State but especially half of it which is called South Haryana has common boundary with Rajasthan. There drought situation is similar to that of Rajasthan because its geographical condition is similar and it witness drought. Every year, half of the Haryana remains in the grip of flood and half of it witness drought and farmers are losers in both the situations whether it is flood or drought. Out of the 19 districts of Haryana, 10 districts are still affected by drought. The major among them are Mahendragarh, Bhivani, Revari, Fathehabad, Jhajjar, Rohtak, Sonepat, Faridabad and Hissar. This is the belt that is called South Haryana and it is severely affected. Everybody appeals the Union Government for the assistance to their respective States. Everyone has a right to do so and the demand is also appropriate. But these are natural calamities, that depend on God. But there are certain problems that can be solved at the Government level through mutual cooperation. During the last Lok Sabha, hon'ble Vajpayeeji had solved the prominent issue of Cauvery water dispute. It was a dispute among four States that was pending for years. But after the settlement of the dispute, the water problem of the four States has solved. A major dispute of SYL Canal continues to persist between Haryana and Punjab for 33 years since the formation of these two States. Crores of rupees of Haryana Government and the Union Government have been spent for this. 12 Kms. of the canal has been completed and only six Kms. is yet to be completed. It is due to this six Kms. portion of the canal that thousands of crores of rupees are being wasted. Rajasthan also has share in the water of Haryana. If this canal is completed, then the problem of South Haryana and to some extent of Rajasthan will be solved. But that water is going wasted. I am sorry to note that we allowed the water to flow to Pakistan for the last 33 years but Haryana did not get water. Many agreements were signed. There are Indira Award, Rajiv-Longowal agreement and some other Agreements. Agreements were being signed but none was implemented.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, last time too we had requested hon'ble Vajpayeeji and the Members of Parliament, other

people's representatives and the public too have met him time and again. He had assured us that he would solve this problem in consultation with the brethren of Punjab. But unfortunately that Government was voted out of office. Again elections were held and I am proud to say that Shri Vajpayeeji is our Prime Minister and I am confident that he will solve the problem that is pending for 33 years thus solving the problem of Haryana and Rajasthan. I would like to request hon'ble Minister that a survey team should be sent to Haryana so that full assistance should be given to Haryana to compensate its losses. With these words, I express my thanks.

SARDAR BUTA SINGH (Jalore): Hon. Mr. Chairman, Sir, today this House is seriously discussing the grave problem of those people who are leading the most miserable life as also the areas where animals are dyeing and drinking water is not available and water level has receded. Many MPs described about their respective areas and regions, various datas have been presented as also numerous opinions of the State Government and the Union Government have been mentioned here. I would not like to make discussion upon it. I would only say to the hon. Minister regarding the discussion going on over here that this problem may be considered as a national calamity and not only a wave of sympathy should be there, but some alternative should also be made for this menace.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, what efforts the Government of India is making to tackle this terrible situation of severe famine, this House would definitely be besides the Government. We are discussing here on this problem and so I would like to tell you that my area viz. Bikaner, Barmer, Jaisalmer, Nagaur and Jodhpur, which is western part of Rajasthan, is undergoing a serious situation. There are two meteorological divisions - one in eastern Rajasthan and the other in western Rajasthan, and according to these divisions 92 percent of rainfall has failed in western Rajasthan and 67 percent of rainfall has failed in eastern Rajasthan. You can imagine the plight as also the condition of natural environment, vegetation, animals and human beings of such an area, where 92 percent of rainfall has not occurred.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the biggest cow shed of Asia is at village Patpeda in my constituency Jalore, which is being run by a Mahatma. About 700 cows died there in a day. The newspapers have published lot of stories in this regard. News regarding famine in Rajasthan has been published in all the leading newspapers of the country. Coorespondents of Times of India, Hindustan Times, Tribune, Pioneer have gone to Rajasthan and have published the news in their newspapers as per their own understanding and perception of the situation which they observed there. I, therefore, make a request to hon. Minister that he may please read all newspapers of today in order to understand the famine conditions of the area.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the way hon. Prime Minister has made an appeal to the people, it has really shown a light of hope, but do you think that our condition has become so pitiable that we do not have even scientists, inventors and technicians, or the entire country is full of bureaucrats only. Have we become beggars and shall we have to beg to others for providing even food to the people of our own country, are we not even in such a position that we may be able to provide food to the people of our country? I am happy that hon. Prime Minister has arrived. I welcome the appeal made by hon. Prime Minister, but I doubt as to whether his appeal may not lead to such results as described in the following couplets:

"Tasallie de jaaye unko jinhein dushwar tha jeena,
Arz yeh thi ki mama bhi kahin dushwaar na ho jaaye."

Hon. Prime Minister, Sir, your appeal is very efffective, but the way people have tried to politicise it and if such a feeling persists, then I doubt that your appeal will have no effect at all.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, scientists of our country are making new inventions in other developed countries, but are we in such a state that we cannot provide even water to our people. I would not give too much of datas or suggestions, but merely give two suggestions. I have been the Minister of Agriculture, Minister of Rural Development, Minister of Cooperative and Minister of Fertilizer in the Government and so the country should take advantage of my experiences and it is necessary also. I would like to draw your attention towards the famine of 1986-87, when the Prime Minister of India himself driving the jeep, used to go to Rajasthan, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh. I request you to direct all the universities of agriculture in the country viz, Pantnagar in UP, Ludhiana University in Punjab, Rohtak University in Haryana and other big universities of Gujarat and other States to send the fodder of their farms to those areas of Rajasthan, Gujarat and Orissa, where it is required at free of cost. My second suggestion is that lot of foodgrain has been produced this time in the country and in Punjab, it so much in quantity that there is no place to keep it even on the roads. Primary and secondary schools have been closed and foodgrains is stored in the buildings of these schools. The situation is that due to excessive foodgrain, there is nobody to take care of it or utilise it and so it is becoming rotten and getting wasted. The chaff is in such a large quantity that the farmers of Haryana and Punjab are burning thic chaff and in Rajasthan and

[Sardar Buta Singh]

Gujarat, the situation is such that animals are dyeing due to scarcity of chaff for them. So, this chaff may kindly be taken to the famine stricken areas from Uttar Pradesh, Haryana and Punjab. We have done this.

We sent two trains of fodder, each of which has a capacity to load two hundred and fifty trucks of fodder to Jalore and Sirohi. Actually we wanted to send it every month, but due to certain directions of our hon. Minister of Railways, we could not get any train after that. I have written a letter to her in this regard that she may provide trains for this purpose, and I would send fodder in such a huge quantity in the famine-stricken areas that the Government will not need to spend money.

My another suggestion is that the biggest institution of dryland famine in the world is in our country itself. If you have ever visited then you would have come to know that there is one institution by the name of 'Tikri Set' in Andhra Pradesh, which is making new inventions regarding dryland farming viz, how to store the rainwater, which is the crop that can be grown without water, infact we have not benefitted out of it as yet. I had appointed a team, which gave some suggestions, some crops were grown also and now they are successfully cultivated. I wish that hon. Minister of Agriculture may have some benefit from this world organisation, which is situated in our country and is serving the whole world but is not serving its own nation. Our own scientists working this institution.

At the end I would say one more thing that we had conducted a survey of Rajasthan through remote sensing by the Ministry of Defence in which it was found that river Saraswati, which is worshipped by us, is flowing beneath the land of Rajasthan. Mr. Prime Minister if you would harness the water of Saraswati river than you would also be compared to the great Bhagiratha, who caused river Ganga on the earth. If the Government of India harness river Saraswati for the country, which flows beneath the desert and proceeds towards Kandla and survey of which has already been conducted thereby spending lakhs of rupees, then not only Rajasthan, but the whole country would benefit out of it. I therefore request you, Patwaji that nothing is going to be done with these hackneyed formulae that we gave so much of amount, or did not give such and such amount for this purpose. Our country would benefit only when we break a new ground. All water problems can be solved provided that the Government of India is willing to do so and the State Governments are willing to support it.

19.38 hrs.

[Mr. Speaker *in the Chair*]

SHRI RAJESH PILOT (Dausa): Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon. Member Shri Buta Singh has given certain suggestions. He has covered some of the suggestions but I would like to give two-three suggestions. A wide discussion took place on this subject and all hon. Members gave their valuable viewpoints. When the national calamity fund was made, then at that time the Finance Commission had given its report. My suggestion to hon. Minister is that at that time nobody thought over the matter that every year atleast one calamity occurs in one or the other State. When this calamity fund was made, then at that time it was decided that such and such amount would be given by the Union Government and such and such amount would be given by the State Government. Today the side effects of that formula which we are facing is that in 1998-99, State like Rajasthan was given Rs. 21.98 crore, Haryana was given Rs. 14 crore and Sikkim was given Rs. 8 crore. Calamities are very rare in Sikkim. Same condition is with Haryana. The calamities do not occur every year and so this sector is not covered by the norms of the formula and States like Rajasthan have to suffer for this. My suggestion is that if some amendments are made in this formula and a special formula is evolved then the States which are continuously facing flood and famine problems like Assam, where floods often occur or Andhra Pradesh which is affected by cyclone or Gujarat and Rajasthan which often become a victim of famine, may not suffer to such an extent. As the hon. Members were saying that they ask for two thousand crore or two thousand five hundred crores and get only Rs. 80 crore. Sometimes this thought also come to the mind of the people that Government at the Centre is of different party and Government in the State is of some other party. If the formula is made in a proper form, then such a feeling would completely vanish.

My second suggestion is that whenever such conditions occurred a team from the Centre was always sent and this team used to prepare and present a report to this effect. This time, the central team has neither gone to Rajasthan nor Gujarat as yet due to certain reasons...*(Interruptions)* Its alright our hon. Members were saying that Rs. 103 crore were sent and this amount too was not spent. Report of the team from the centre can be presented in the House, so that we all may be well-informed about the situation. It can also be possible that BJP may have its Government in Gujarat State and our Government may be in Rajasthan State. I can assure hon. Members from my side. I would talk to hon. Chief Minister today itself and would say that we would send each and every detail to our members who are elected from Rajasthan about the actions taken by our Government in this regard and if any question arises even after this then it is the duty of the Government to give its reply.

Third point is that of hon. Prime Minister's appeal. Everybody has mentioned about it, Shri Buta Singh also mentioned about it. Hon. Prime Minister has made an appeal to the entire country. Today, in the proceedings of the House, we are discussing the drought conditions. My suggestion is that if nothing is possible, then we may give one day's D.A. on behalf of Parliament to the Prime Minister's Fund, which would also convey good message that Parliament has initiated a good step in this regad as hon. Prime Minister has made an appeal to the entire country. In the present condition, even if we send our one day's salary to this effect, which I know, is not a big amount, then we would be able to inculcate some feeling of sympathy towards this grave problem.

Hon. Prime Minister has come. As Buta Singh ji has said that fodder and foodgrain is available in the said States and can be obtained from there. He also talked about the Railway Minister that he has made some provisions. I would urge the hon. Prime Minister that earlier during famine or flood, the Government used to run trains free of cost *i.e.* without any reservation expenses by the railway department and if there was some big work, then also used to provide subsidy for this. It is a matter of only one and a half months, and it is expected that monsoon would arrive by 25th of May or first week of June. If you provide us with the facility of free trains, then we would today itself, accept the offer of Shri Buta Singh. If Railway Minister provide us trains, these States would get fodder and foodgrain. If we are given the facility of Rail in Rajasthan and Gujarat, then both the Governments would coordinate and they can get fodder and foodgrain from Punjab and Haryana. I feel that hon. Prime Minister can issue directions in this regard. If everyday two trains are given free of cost, then Ministry of Railway would not have to bear too much of cost and if 60 trains are sent to one State in one months, it would be more beneficial.

With these suggestions, I hope that the Hon. Prime Minister would draw his attention towards this and would help us and if all the hon. Members agree to the suggestion made by me, then hon. Speaker may after approving this suggestion, send one days's salary to the Government.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Now the hon. Minister to reply.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR (Mayiladuturai): Sir, please allow me.

MR. SPEAKER. No.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Sir, I waited for five hours. I do not think it is very fair.

MR. SPEAKER: The time allotted was two hours.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: It may be so. But everybody else has spoken and I waited till the end. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Many hon. Members spoke. Please understand.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Sir, I would request you to please understand and give me another five minutes. I am sure, the hon. Prime Minister and the hon. Minister Shri Patwa will wait for that. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: If you want any clarifications to ask, you can ask them from the hon. Minister after the reply.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Sir, this is the extent of study done. *...(Interruptions)* I deliberately waited because I do not belong to the drought-affected States. I submitted my name and was waiting. *...(Interruptions)*

PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU (Tenali): Sir, Andhra Pradesh is also the worst-affected State. Please allow us also to bring out the situation in the State*...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Aiyar, you can ask any clarifications after the hon. Minister replies.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Sir, mine are series of questions to be put. There is a major national problem. It is not a problem of Rajasthan and Gujarat. I, as a Tamilian, have got questions to ask. *...(Interruptions)*

PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Sir, you please see the size and extent of the damage that has occurred in Andhra Pradesh. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: The time allotted to this was two hours. It has taken five-and-a-half hours. Please understand it.

PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU Sir, Andhra Pradesh is one of the worst-affected areas.

MR. SPEAKER: I will allow two minutes each to Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar and Prof. Ummareddy Venkateswarlu.

PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Sir, kindly give five minutes.

MR. SPEAKER: No. I will give two minutes each to the hon. Members. Shri Aiyar to speak now.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR (Mayiladutural): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I will send all the information that I have to the hon. Prime Minister. I have already drawn his attention, through the hon. Minister Shri Rajnath Singh who is here, to page 7 of the statistics of the Performance Budget of the Ministry of Rural Development. You will find, Sir, that in every single programme that has been drawn by the Ministry of Rural Development, in this year, there has been such poor physical performance that it has contributed in a major way to the disaster that has overtaken the States of Rajasthan and Gujarat.

As I do not have much time now, let me draw your attention to para 2.28 of the Report of the Standing Committee of Urban and Rural Development that was presented this morning in the Parliament.

You will see that last year, we did not spend Rs. 800 crore of the money sanctioned by Parliament for the Rural Water Supply Scheme. The number of habitations covered has been cut by half compared to the previous year. There has been a total drop in any increase in physical achievement. The ratio of financial to physical achievement, which took 13 years to double until 1998-99, has reduced in a single year, in the year 1999-2000. There is a disaster overtaking the Accelerated Rural Water Supply Scheme. Equally, on the DPAP...

SHRI PRAKASH MANI TRIPATHI (Deoria): Up to which date are these figures?

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: These figures are up to the year 2000.

SHRI PRAKASH MANI TRIPATHI: Up to which date are these figures? Are these figures up to November or December?

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Member, the Minister can also give the reply.

SHRI PRAKASH MANI TRIPATHI: Sir, it is very pertinent because he had spent half-an-hour on page 7 on the same thing in another context. Sir, I am very curious because I also did some homework. I find that the Government fell in May, within two months of the financial year. These figures are for December and therefore, to castigate...

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: We are not castigating anybody.

SHRI PRAKASH MANI TRIPATHI: I just want to know whether these figures are for December. Did they give any chance to the Government?

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Sir, I am not castigating anybody.

I am bringing to the attention of the Prime Minister that there has been a huge shortfall, on the basis of the figures supplied to the Standing Committee on Urban and Rural Development, which is chaired by a Member of the *Shiv Sena*. I am only quoting from the Report of the Standing Committee.

SHRI PRAKASH MANI TRIPATHI: Sir, it is very material to know whether it is up to December. It is a very important thing because a lot of time of this House has been taken on this issue that so much was sanctioned and only so much has been spent. If you look at the time given to this Government, then, you will find that this expenditure relates only to three months or maximum four months. These figures are being given again and again. So, it is a very material point to know. That is what I was curious about.

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Sir, my time is very limited. I plead with you that we can deal with these statistics later. I want to draw the attention of the Prime Minister to the fact that there has been a very poor performance of the Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme last year. The same thing has happened in the Drought Prone Areas Programme, DPAP. There has been a very sharp shortfall last year compared to the previous year. I am not comparing the years of the BJP Government to the years of the Congress. I am taking the BJP Government's second year and comparing it with their first year.

Equally, with regard to the Desert Development Programme, which is also related exactly to the same subject, we have had a very serious shortfall. When it comes to Water Harvesting Structure—it is mentioned in the Annual Report of the Ministry of Rural Development - in the first batch, that was five years ago, Gujarat took Rs. 3 crroe and Rajasthan took about Rs. 1.5 crore. In the last three years, batch after batch, there has been expenditure of zero rupees! No water harvesting structure has at all been made.

There has been such serious shortfalls with regard to Integrated Wastelands Development Programme, with regard to watershed appraoch to the DPAP and to the DDP that unless the Prime Minister himself takes up

these enormous physical shortfalls in all the programmes of that Department—particularly those related to areas like Rajasthan and Gujarat which are suffering severe shortages of natural rain water—I am afraid, we will not be able to address these problems with the seriousness that they require.

I just wish to contrast in conclusion the way in which things have been going on over the last one year compared to what happened when we had such a major drought, famine in Rajasthan, Gujarat and rest of the country in the mid-80s. In consequence of that, in 1987, it was decided that we would adopt the watershed approach both in the Desert Development Programme, DDP as well as the Drought Prone Areas Programme, DPAP.

In the same year, 1987, we inaugurated a National Water Policy in which it was stated that drinking water would get the top priority. In 1989, we established the Integrated Wastelands Development Programme. It was in that year that we started the Oilseeds Mission Technology, which resulted in an enormous increase in oilseeds production in the later half of the 80s. The same thing was then applied as a mission mode to the drinking water programme, which is called the Rajiv Gandhi Drinking Water Mission. But now we find from the report of our Standing Committee that the Department itself does not seem to understand the difference between the mission mode and the Department. So, taking all these into account and taking advantage of the Prime Minister and the Finance Minister's presence over here, I would make a major plea to the Prime Minister. Sir, just give a few hours—two or three hours—to your Ministry of Rural Development and other Ministries concerned like that of Water Resources and Agriculture. Call them together with the bureaucrats, use this crisis as an opportunity for re-launching the social security net for the poor, which has just got tattered over the course of the last year or so. If you do this, I am sure that kind of drought proofing which we did in the mid 80s, which has saved Rajasthan and Gujarat for ten years, will not occur again. I would be more pleased than anybody else to praise you for your contribution to this, as much as I today would like to praise that Prime Minister who prevented such a disaster from overtaking Gujarat and Rajasthan for all of 15 years. Thank you, Sir.

PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU (Tenali): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am thankful to you for having given me the opportunity to participate in the debate on the drought situation in the country. The country is passing through the worst phase, with regard to the natural calamity. Instead of blaming each other and trying to draw political mileage out of the discussions, the nation as a whole should be one in addressing this particular problem, whether it is in Orissa, Rajasthan, Gujarat, or Andhra Pradesh.

In fact, a few months ago, when there was a super-cyclone in Orissa, it was the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh who rose to the occasion. There is a severe drought situation particularly in Rajasthan, Gujarat and Andhra Pradesh. In most of these areas, one of the problems that has emerged is the inadequacy of drinking water; leave aside the protected water or potable water. For drinking purposes, at least, some water should be provided. There is inadequacy in most of these areas.

The second one is about the power shortage. We are just in the half way, in the month of April, and in the next two months, the situation is going to be much worse. Unless we draw a plan right now, we are not going to address this problem.

The third one is the fodder shortage. On several occasions, as and when this type of situation arose, we were thinking of maintaining fodder banks. What happened to these fodder banks? A fodder bank has never been maintained at any point of time. If a bank is maintained, then a situation of this type can be immediately addressed to.

The fourth one is about the accessibility of food to the poorer sections. All the people do not have the wage earning opportunities, which are normally required. The limited wage earning opportunity is another cause. As such, we will have to strengthen the Employment Assurance Scheme.

The next one is about the loss of crops and input subsidies that are extended. The re-schedulement of loans is one of the very important points, which has to be thought about. Then, speedy settlement of crop insurance claims is also not being done by most of the insurance companies.

These are some of the short-term and immediate steps to be taken. In the long-term, there has to be an expansion of the resource-base under the NCR, National Calamity Relief, and also under the National Fund for Calamity Relief. We have got a very meagre amount—Rs. 126 crore under NCR and Rs. 140 crore under NFCR annually—when compared to the magnitude of disasters that take place. Cyclones, floods, droughts, epidemics, etc., are taking place in a cycle. Whenever there is a drought situation, we perform the ritual of discussing it and then we forget about it. We have not been trying to expand this meagre resource base of Rs. 266 crore under the two heads mentioned. The Tenth Finance Commission has also adequately mentioned about it. It is high time this resource base is expanded by allocating more money under these two heads.

[Prof. Ummareddy Venkateswarlu]

In Andhra Pradesh, out of a total of 935 blocks, as many as 688 blocks in 18 Districts are worst hit by the drought. From 14th March to 11th April this year, Government of Andhra Pradesh had released about Rs. 219.74 crore for input subsidy, drinking water, EAS, fodder procurement, reschedulement of loans, etc. The Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh has been reviewing the drinking water and drought situations in the entire State on a day to day basis.

As against the drought of last year, the Government of India had sanctioned just about Rs. 75 crore to Andhra Pradesh and that too after passage of six months. This year, it is yet to make up its mind on the amount to be sanctioned for the purpose. This is the state of affairs.

The Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh had suggested that major amounts from MPLADS be immediately spent on drinking water schemes. However, funds under MPLADS for the year 1999-2000 are yet to be released by the Central Government. I would request the Central Government to release at least Rs. 1 crore for each Member under MPLADS immediately so that it can be spent on drinking water schemes to relieve the situation. There are about 700 Members of Parliament. If an amount of one crore rupees is spent by each Member, Rs. 700 crore would become available to address this drinking problem in the country. I would request the Government of India to rise to the occasion and do the needful for the affected States.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SUNDER LAL PATWA): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am grateful to all the hon. Members including Prof. Rasa Singh Rawat who have initiated this discussion. I am very much aware and also agree to the anxiety of hon. Members who have participated in this discussion. I can very well assume the seriousness of situation and concern of hon. Members by the fact that thirty hon. Members have participated in this discussion. First of all, I would like to mention that as per our constitutional provisions this subject comes under the purview of State Government, whereas the responsibility of the Union Government is of giving cooperation. All the hon. Members very well know that the role of Union Government is that of cooperation, but basically it is the subject of State Government to implement the schemes or solve the problems.

[English]

PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU (Tenali): If you say that all the responsibility lies with the States, then the Centre will shirk its responsibility.

[Translation]

SHRI SUNDER LAL PATWA: I have listened to your views. I have only drawn the attention towards constitutional provisions. By saying so I do not want to relieve Union Government or State Government of its responsibility. This is a national calamity. We have not even completely come out of one national calamity, that we have come under the clutches of another one. Many hon. Members said that we should face this problem thinking above our political ideology and face this national calamity. I agree to their viewpoints. I am continuously in touch with the Chief Ministers of those States where this problem is more severe.

Today in the morning I myself talked to the Chief Ministers of all the three States viz., Rajasthan, Gujarat and Andhra Pradesh and asked them to give me the latest position in this regard. I am presenting the first information sent to me regarding the actual state of affairs before the House.

The information from Gujarat is that due to inadequate rainfal in Gujarat last year, 9421 village in 135 talukas of 17 districts are in the grip of drought. Around 80 towns and four metropolis are affected. Water problem is very serious here. Arrangement for fodder is being made from other States. 70 group water projects out of 157 group water projects have been implemented by the State Government.

The State Government has welcomed Union Government's move to send the water train. I have conveyed them that the Union Government are ready to provide water through train. They have said that they do not need it immediately but we have made arrangement for this at four places. A meeting of the State Government and the officers of the Ministry of Railways was convened today. I have made every possible effort in this regard. I have requested the Chief Ministers of Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Punjab, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh to send fodder to Gujarat and Rajasthan. I have written to them and they have responded favourably. By the grace of God, there has been a bumper crop of wheat this season in Madhya Pradesh and adequate quantum of chaff is available in Punjab. I would like to thank the farmers of Punjab that they have harvested their crop manually this year otherwise had they used combine harvester such quantum of chaff would not have been available. They have assured of making chaff available in adequate quantum in Haryana. As per the scheme formulated by the Union Government additional 20 kg. of wheat is being made available.

As per the information received from Rajasthan there is famine like situation in 23406 villages of 26 districts. Recovery of revenue has been deferred there up to 30th December, 2000. More than 50 thousand cattle are being taken care of through thre cow tending centres. Arrangements are being made to send more than one

lakh cattle to different cow tending centres by June. Scheme for drinking water has been chalked out. They have initiated efforts to rectify the handpumps which are out of order. Employment is being provided to four lakh labourers and the rate of wages has been increased from Rs. 44 to Rs. 60 per day. Besides, interest free loan is being provided to run dairies. Fodder is being arranged from Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh. On my request, the Government of Madhya Pradesh is despatching a fodder train to Jodhpur and Barmer.

In Andhra Pradesh famine like situation is prevailing in 17,421 villages of 18 districts. Similar arrangements are being made there also. Sir, before going ahead I would like to quote words of my friend Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar. You have said that disaster like situation is prevailing, our rural development department has failed, our performance in this regard has not been upto the mark. Shri Mani Shankarji you are a learned person. I do not think that you are unaware of it. I am also not ready to accept that you have alleged intentionally but do not you know that the rural development department provides the funds only. We have already released the first instalment and unless the utilisation certificate in respect to that amount is submitted how we can release the second instalment...*(Interruptions)*

SARDAR BUTA SINGH (Jalore): Does not the Government monitor it?

SHRI SUNDER LAL PATWA: Yes, it does.

SARDAR BUTA SINGH: Then you are also equally responsible.

SHRI SUNDER LAL PATWA: Shri Buta Singhji, please let me complete, I did not interrupt you when you were speaking...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA Mumbai North East): Please first listen to his complete reply...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): Sir, this is not the way. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Dr. Girija Vyas, he is not yielding. Please take your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Let him conclude. He is not yielding. You know the procedure in the House.

...*(Interruptions)*

DR. GIRIJA VYAS (Udaipur): The hon. Prime Minister is also here. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI SUNDER LAL PATWA: Please do not get agitated, let me complete first. ...*(Interruptions)*

DR. GIRIJA VYAS (Udaipur): I want to say that you have said that every day your ministerial colleagues are replying to this question that we have sanctioned this much amount. You said that the Union Government have sanctioned funds and thereafter it has nothing to do with it. Hon. Prime Minister is here and I would like to urge upon him that till arrangements for monitoring are made this sort of allegations and counter allegations will be levelled against each other here in the House. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SUNDER LAL PATWA: I have just started my reply to the discussion, you have patiently listened the debate which lasted for five and half hours and I have even not spoken for five and half minutes. We should not get agitated and we should not resort to allegations and counter allegations. Girija ji you have said that we should let aside the other things and we should tackle this as national calamity. This two and half months time is a very tough time. Instead of levelling allegations and counter allegations we should face this calamity with such spirit and I believe that we have the capacity to face it. It is not so that the nature is totally displeased with us and intends to destroy us. Recently Ajmer received 1.6 m.m., Dhaulpur also received some rainfall and there was 1.4 m.m. rainfall in Kota, 11 m.m. in Mount Abu 1.2 m.m. in Jodhpur 0.1 m.m. in Jaisalmer some showers in Churu and Madhavpur received 7 m.m. rainfall. This is the beginning of monsoon season and we should be hopeful about it. On Saturday there was heavy rainfall in Ambaji of northern part of Banaskantha district of Gujarat and so we should have some faith in nature also. I would like to tell the hon. Shri Mani Shankar Aiyarji, that he has alleged that Government will mention the implementation only after monitoring and reminding frequently. You know it is not within our purview. Therefore, if the allocated funds are not utilised, we are not only to be blamed for that. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: I was not talking about the expenditure. I was talking about the physical achievements. I request you to kindly go through the report laid on the Table of the House today morning...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Let him conclude please.

[Translation]

SHRI SUNDER LAL PATWA: After all this, if they are unable to understand then what can I do.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: It is not the Government's report, it is our committee report.

SHRI SUNDER LAL PATWA: Shri Mani Shankar ji, physical achievements are beyond my capacity.

[English]

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: At this point, I do not know what we can do. He is saying that physical achievement is not in his hands. *...(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): The implementation is the duty of the State Government. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Do you now see, Mr. Prime Minister why such a disaster—I repeat, such a disaster—is overtaking this country? Your Ministers do not understand their own schemes! This is the problem. *...(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer): Sir, this is objectionable and it should be expunged from the proceedings of the House. *...(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI RAJESH PILOT (Dausa): Sir, the Minister has yielded. My appeal is that let him tell us which are the States which have not utilised Rs. 800 crore, as per that report. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: He has not completed his reply. How can you interrupt him like this? Let him complete the reply first. *...(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRIMATI BHAVNABEN DEVRAJBHAI CHIKHALIA (Junagarh): Had this concern been expressed during the last fifty years the country would not have been in the present position. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAJESH PILOT: This country has not developed this much during the last one year, it has taken fifty years to reach the present position. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI SUNDER LAL PATWA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it has been reported in some newspapers today that people have started migrating from Rajasthan and Gujarat. I immediately contacted the Rajasthan Government. According to the fax message received from the Government of Rajasthan people are not migrating from Rajasthan in search of employment due to famine in the State.

[English]

It is not from me, it is from Shri Ashok Gehlot. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, please address the Chair and not the Members. This is always happening and we have been facing this problem. Both the Members and the Ministers are not addressing the Chair. You may please address the Chair now so that you can avoid all these things.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: When the hon. Minister is giving the reply, Members cannot obstruct him. This is not the proper way. What is this?

...(Interruptions)

SHRI SUNDAR LAL PATWA: The paper abstract mentions that there is a large scale migration from Gujarat because of drought. This is not based on facts. There is no migration due to drought.

[Translation]

Sir, there was a mention of the National Calamity Relief Fund. The Tenth Finance Commission has drawn up the scheme pertaining to earmarking of funds and its expenditure for the period from 1995-96 to 1999-2000 for carrying out relief measures during natural calamities. Calamity Relief Fund has been constituted for 5 years with an amount of Rs. 6304/-. Out of which funds are provided to State Governments every year according to their contribution. Grants were to be given to the States by the Central Government from Calamity Relief Fund to face the situation during natural calamities. The ratio proportion of the contribution made by the Central Government and State Government in Calamity Relief Fund is 3:1 respectively. Central Government contributes Rs. 4728/- crores and State Government's contribution is Rs. 1576 crores. While understanding the fact that the natural calamity can be of rare and severe intensity, the Tenth Finance Commission recommended that the funds provided for such calamities should be assessed on the

basis of the intensity of each calamity. While keeping in view the intensity of the calamity, its nature, the level of essential relief measures, the capability of the State to deal with the calamity and the flexibility in the available relief schemes and several other points, a provision of Rs. 700 crores was made for the period from 1995-96 to 1999-2000 to deal with the calamity of such rare intensity. It was also in the ratio of 3:1. But this amount got spent only in two years due to occurrance of calamity of such rare intensity. Keeping in view the increasing demands of the State the contribution in National Calamity Fund was further enhanced by Rs. 120 crores in January, 1998. This whole amount was spent in the year 1997-98. Then Central Government itself provided assistance to the States to face the calamities of rare intensity. An assistance of Rs. 1264 crores was provided from National Calamity Relief Fund for the period of four years from 1995-96 to 1998-99. In spite of the fact that the entire amount of National Calamity Fund has been exhausted, the present Government provided an assistance of Rs. 1291 crores to various States to deal with the calamities of severe intensity. Rs. 1264 crores were provided during entire 4 years and Rs. 1291 crores were given in 6 months. Out of it Rs. 75 crores were allocated to Andhra Pradesh, Rs. 38 crores to Bihar, Rs. 54 crores to Gujarat, Rs. 73 crores to Jammu & Kashmir, Rs. 17 crore to Karnataka, Rs. 38 crores to Madhya Pradesh, Rs. 4 crores to Manipur, Rs. 6 crores to Mizoram, Rs. 828 crores to Orissa and Rs. 102 crores to Rajasthan. Except Orissa, Rajasthan has got the major share of the fund as compared to other States. Tripura has got Rs. 5 crore, Uttar Pradesh Rs. 16 crore and West Bengal got Rs. 29 crores. Hence, into, Rs. 1291 crores were provided from National Calamity Relief Fund set up for rare calamity. Rs. 1264 crores were provided in 4 years and Rs. 1291 crores in 6 months.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the present Government led by Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee has provided Rs. 1291 crores to various States to meet the natural calamities during last 6 months though funds were not available in National Calamity Relief Fund. Hon'ble Prime Minister directed me to keep in touch with the situation of the States affected by such calamities. I would like to tell you further that Central Government not only provided asistance to the State Governments but also the Finance Commission did not insist the States to contribute their 25% share in the National Calamity Relief Fund as was prescribed by 10th Finance Commission. It has been provided as hundred percent grant-in-aid by the Central Government till date. In view of the drought situation, Rs. 54 crores and 102 crores were provided to Gujarat and Rajasthan Governments respectively from National Calamity Relief Fund. Though funds were not available in the month of March, even than these amounts were released under special assistance by 31st March. And it is due to this that regular instalment of assistance is available with them.

SHRI RAJESH PILOT: Please state the ratio of the amount of assistance demanded by Gujarat and Rajasthan Government.

SHRI SUNDAR LAL PATWA: Gujarat and Rajasthan have demanded Rs. 700 crores and Rs. 1145 crores respectively.

COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY (Barmer): Discrimination has been made while providing assistance. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI SUNDAR LAL PATWA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, this convention has not been made by the present Government rather this commission has been set up on the recommendation of the Finance Commission. That commission has formulated these norms. The procedure for providing the funds was decided. A Central team is sent to assess the situation of the calamity affected area and recommends the necessary relief measures.

SARDAR BUTA SINGH: How much was recommended by that team?

DR. GIRIJA VYAS: How much was recommended by the team?

SHRI SUNDER LAL PATWA: As per recommended by the team and even more than that thas been given to the affected States. Figures regarding recommendations of the team are not available with me at this time. I can provide those figures if you want. However, I can confidently say that we have not provided the amount less than the one recommended by the team. Team was not belonging to any Political Party. Funds provided to States were not less than the recommended amount. I would like to mention the steps taken by the Central Government considering the seriousness of the situation and I hope hon'ble members will appreciate the Central Government's sympathetic view in this regard.

Employment generation is an important matter. Under all the schemes of employment and wages mainly Employment Assurance Scheme and Jawahar Gram Samridhi Yojna, Government has provided Rs. 78 crores and Rs. 122 crores to Gujarat and Rajasthan respectively during the year 1999-2000. In view of the miserabe situation of Gujarat and Rajasthan, a special grant of Rs. 12 crores and 10 crores respectively was also made to these States through the amounts saved under various schemes. Government released these funds before 31st March. The Government did not wait for Implementation, and Utilization certificate and released First instalment of Rs. 6 crore and Rs. 13 crores to Gujarat and Rajasthan respectively for the year 2000-2001. We have told the

[Shri Sunder Lal Patwa]

State Governments that we are ready to release the second instalment also without waiting for the formalities if they are require so. We are seriously considering the issue and the Central Government is prepared to extend maximum help with their available resources without going into the various formalities.

First instalment of funds is being released separately to some elective States under Employment Assurance Scheme and to all States under Jawahar Gram Samridhi Yojna. It can also be mentioned that Rs. 53 crores and Rs. 83 crores were released to the States of Gujarat and Rajasthan respectively for the year 1999-2000 under Drought Prone Area Programme, 'Desert Development Programme', 'Integrated Wasteland Development Programme and Watersheds.' The unavailability of drinking water is the major problem when there is drought in an area. An assistance of Rs. 74 crores and Rs. 120 crores were released to Gujarat and Rajasthan respectively during the year 1999-2000. An amount of Rs. 35 crores and Rs. 81 crores has been released to Gujarat and Rajasthan respectively during the current year 2000-2001. On 21st and 22nd of this month teams of Water Supply Department visited Rajasthan and Gujarat so as to consider the issues relating to drought situation of the State and drinking water problem. Central Underground Water Board of Gujarat handed over 36 wells available in various districts to State Government and 140 more wells are ready to be handed over to the State Governments. 216 wells have already been handed over to Rajasthan Government. Animal Husbandry and Dairy Department are providing assistance for Fodder, production of seeds, strengthening of farms, establishment of Fodder Banks, production of seeds through registered producers and development of reserved land as pastures etc.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, Railway Ministry has issued directions to give priority to transportation of fodder.

SARDAR BUTA SINGH: It should be free of transportation charges. It is a different thing to give priority.

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE): Mr. Speaker, Sir, just now hon'ble Minister of State in the Ministry of Railways has informed me that the fodder for the drought affected areas will be transported through rails free of charges.

SHRI SUNDAR LAL PATWA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Cabinet Committee related to economic affairs have taken some decisions which have already been announced. One of the decisions was that in drought affected areas of Gujarat and Rajasthan, every family living below or above the poverty line will be provided 20 kgs of Foodgrains at B.P.L. rates. Also 2 kg. of foodgrains will be provided for every man day's work in drought affected areas of Gujarat and Rajasthan. These immediate measures have been taken.

[English]

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: What about foodgrains for work?

[Translation]

SHRI SUNDAR LAL PATWA: Mr. Speaker, I have stated that under the scheme "Foodgrains for work". 2 kg of foodgrains will be made available for every man day's work at below poverty line rates. Such orders have been issued and State Governments have been informed in this regard.

[English]

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU (Srikakulam): Sir, the hon. Minister has mentioned only two States where they are providing foodgrains. I would like to know whether this relief is extended to the whole country. There are not the only two States which are affected by drought. So many States are facing drought problem and people are migrating to other places.

[Translation]

SHRI SUNDAR LAL PATWA: Shri Yerrannaidu, please be assured. Sir, through you I would like to submit that Andhra Pradesh has also been included in this scheme.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, some long term projects have also been discussed. We have caused damage to the environment during the past 50 years. I do not want to go into the issue of which Government is responsible for it. All of us are equally responsible for committing mistakes. All of us together have to face problem and unitedly we have to find a solution for it. We have to consider some points cutting above a certain level. Long term measures are required for the damage caused to the nature, for deforestation, for affected pastures, and for dry ponds, wells and bavaries. We exploited but did not generate the resources.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am happy to say that the issue of national grid for water also came up during discussion. A separate National Power Grid has been set up for power. Railway has a separate Grid. All hon'ble Members have stated that there is scarcity of water but it is not true. The reality is that we have sufficient amount of water but still we are facing the problems for which the

management is to blame. We have to find a long term solution for it. Still there is a scope to improve the situation. It is not too late it can be started now. Therefore, we have to formulate a long term policy by integrating water grid, water harvesting mission, watershed, desert development, wasteland development schemes etc. Only then our country will be called as — "Annpurna Vasundhara, Ratnagarbha Vasundhara, Sashey Shyamala Vasundhara". We have to formulate a long term planning to realize that dream. I want to give separate replies to the questions asked by all the hon'ble Members but I am abide by the time limit. However, I am agree with hon'ble Shri Buta Singh and Shri Rajesh Pilot. I am also agree with the members who have spoken just to blame us or just to admonish us. I am ready to accept their admonishment. Tulsidas ji has stated "Nindak niyarey rakhiye, Angan kuti chchvay". I am grateful to those who have spoken here as well as to those who did not get the opportunity to speak. I would like to wind up while requesting that within the available time of $2–2^1/_2$ months, we must be ready to extend assistance to the calamity affected area in addition to resources available to the Government. I request the State Governments also to discharge their responsibility of implementation of the schemes seriously in view of the gravity of the problem so that we all could successfully face this national calamity. We have to provide fodder and water to the calamity affected areas to save the people and livestock. Unitedly, we should make all possible efforts to face this situation.

I am grateful to hon'ble Prime Minister. He has exhorted the people. Pilot ji has given a suggestion to which I agree and I hope the entire House will also be agreed with it. With these words I conclude and thank you.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned to meet again tomorrow at 11 a.m.

20.32 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Tuesday, April 25, 2000/ Vaisakha 5, 1922 (Saka)