

LOK SABHA DEBATES

(English Version)

Fifth Session
(Thirteenth Lok Sabha)



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CONTENTS

Thirteenth Series, Vol. XI, Fifth Session 2000/1922 (Saka)
No. 6, Monday, November 27, 2000/Agrahayana 06, 1922 (Saka)

SUBJECT	COLUMNS
ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS	
*Starred Questions Nos. 101-103.	3-40
WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS :	
Starred Questions Nos. 104-120.	41-83
Unstarred Questions Nos. 1145-1374.	83-351
PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE.	351-355
MESSAGE FROM RAJYA SABHA AND BILL AS PASSED BY RAJYA SABHA.	355
STANDING COMMITTEE ON PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS.	355
Ninth Report	
ELECTION TO COMMITTEE.	356
Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes	
BILLS INTRODUCED	
(i) Indian Council of World Affairs Bill.	364-368
(ii) Central Road Fund Bill.	368
(iii) Constitution (Ninety-First Amendment) Bill. (Amendments of articles 55, 81, 82, 170, 330 and 332)	369
STATEMENT RE: INDIAN COUNCIL OF WORLD AFFAIRS ORDINANCE.	368
STATEMENT RE: CENTRAL ROAD FUND ORDINANCE.	368
MATTERS UNDER RULE 377.	369-376
(i) Need to accord clearance to the proposal of Uttar Pradesh Government to strengthen the U.P. - Nepal Border Police for checking illegal activities along Indo-Nepal Border Shri Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh.	369-370
(ii) Need for early laying of railway line between Ujjain and Ramaganjmandi via Ghatia-Jhalwar Shri Thawar Chand Gehlot.	370
(iii) Need to sanction adequate funds for providing infrastructure facilities at Sonapur fair in Chhapra, Bihar Shri Rajiv Pratap Rudy.	370

* The sign + marked above the name of a Member indicates that the question was actually asked on the floor of the House by that Member

SUBJECT	COLUMNS
(iv) Need to protect the interests of workers engaged by Private Security agencies manning Government/Semi Government institutions	
Shri Radha Mohan Singh.	371
(v) Need to safeguard the interest of farmers engaged in the cultivation of arecanut in Dakshin Kannada in Karnataka	
Shri Vinay Kumar Sorake.	371
(vi) Need to undertake a special Air India flight to Iraq as a gesture of goodwill to the Iraqi people	
Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal.	371-372
(vii) Need to allocate adequate funds for gauge conversion work between Gadag and Bijapur in Karnataka	
Shri R.S. Patil.	372
(viii) Need for early completion of construction work of runway of Vijaywada Airport, Andhra Pradesh	
Shri Ram Mohan Gadde.	372-373
(ix) Need for construction of check dams on river Sharda in U.P. to check recurring floods in the region	
Shri Ravi Prakash Verma.	373
(x) Need to provide adequate financial assistance to Government of Bihar for proper water-management in the State	
Shri Nawal Kishore Rai.	373-374
(xi) Need for proper procurement of foodgrains throughout the Country	
Shri Bhartruhari Mahtab.	374
(xii) Need for early implementation of legislation providing for reservation to the SC/STs in matters of promotion in Government services	
Shri Holkhomang Haokip.	374
(xiii) Need to provide more railway facilities at Siwan, Bihar	
Mohd. Shahabuddin.	375
(xiv) Need to make reservation policy for SC/STs more effective	
Shri Ramdas Athawale.	375-376
COMPANIES (SECOND AMENDMENT) BILL.	376-458
Motion to consider.	376
Shri Arun Jaitley.	376-380, 419-429
Shri Shivraj V. Patil.	380-389
Shri Kirt Somaiya.	389-400
Shri Rupchand Pal.	401-406
Dr. Sanjay Paswan.	406-408
Dr. B.B. Ramaiah.	408-412
Shri G.M. Banatwalla.	412-418
Shri Haribhau Shankar Mahale.	418
Dr. Nitish Sengupta.	418-429
Clause 2 to 224 and 1.	430-458
Motion to pass.	458

LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Monday, November 27, 2000, Agrahayana 6, 1922 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

[English]

...(Interruptions)

SHRI KAMAL NATH (Chhindwara) : Sir, there is Delhi bandh today...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA (Delhi Sadar) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, there is Delhi Bandh today, I request you to save it, from being ruined. My submission is that a total 'bandh' has been declared in Delhi today and people are coming out on the roads.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Do you want to stall the proceedings of Lok Sabha also ?

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA : I don't want to stall the proceedings of Lok Sabha. That day also I was telling the same thing that you should save Delhi.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Since we also stay in Delhi we know it. We all know how serious the matter is. Therefore, you may speak over this issue after the question hour is over.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI KAMAL NATH : Sir, this is an abnormal situation . (Interruptions) Sir, three days ago there was a Calling Attention Motion on this and the Minister said that he would have a dialogue ...(Interruptions) But the situation is aggravating ...(Interruptions) It is not settling down ...(Interruptions) Would you like to proceed with the Question Hour ? ...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Kamal Nath, I am not going to suppress your urge here.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI KAMAL NATH : Sir, you should not minimise the gravity of the situation at obtaining in Delhi ...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : At least I am not going to minimise the gravity of the situation in Delhi here. What I am requesting you is that let us continue with the Question Hour and then definitely you would have opportunity to raise this matter.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI KAMAL NATH : Sir, this should be the first matter to be taken up after Question Hour ...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Let us see.

Now, Q.No. 101. Dr. V. Saroja.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA : Sir, in Delhi the situation is serious. ...(Interruptions) When the government of V.P. Singh was in power, at that time also the same thing was happening ...(Interruptions) Sir, such a thing is happening in Delhi...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI KAMAL NATH : Sir, this is an abnormal situation ...(Interruptions) This is the Capital of the country and this is where we are holding the Session of the Lok Sabha ...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA : Who will be responsible if something happens in Delhi today ...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You please speak after Question-hour.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY (Calcutta North West) : Sir, four of our supporters have been killed in the district of Midnapore in West Bengal ...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record.

...(Interruptions)*

* Not recorded.

SHRI KAMAL NATH : Sir, we cannot be so insensitive to this issue ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : We should first start with the Question Hour. I am not going to suppress your voice, and particularly all those who have given notices would get a chance.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KAMAL NATH : Sir, I am only raising the importance of the matter that it deserves...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Kamal Nath, you would be getting your chance.

Now, Q.No. 101. Dr. V. Saroja.

1104 hrs.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Performance of India in Sydney Olympics

⁺
*101. DR. V. SAROJA :
YOGI ADITYA NATH :

Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have assessed the poor performance of Indian team in the recently held Sydney Olympics;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for the dismal performance;

(c) whether the Government have conducted any study in this regard and if so, the details thereof;

(d) the number of sports persons (event-wise) and officials (department-wise) sent to Sydney in comparison to other countries alongwith the expenditure incurred thereon including the details of source from where they drew money;

(e) whether some officials visited Sydney without any purpose;

(f) if so, the action proposed against them;

(g) whether any inquiry is proposed in the whole episode;

(h) if so, the details thereof;

(i) the details of the future plan envisaged for bringing Indian sports at par with international level; and

(j) the findings of the genetic study for sports undertaken at Military Hospital's Cardiac and Thoracic Centre at Pune during last year and steps taken in light thereof ?

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (KUMARI UMA BHARATI) : (a) to (j) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) The performance of the Indian Contingent in the Sydney Olympic was unsatisfactory in terms of medals secured. However, relative to the earlier performance at the Atlanta Olympics, the performance of Indian in many disciplines such as Boxing, Weightlifting (W), Judo and Shooting was better.

(c) This is a continuous process. The performance of Indian Contingent has been discussed at various forums and various measures have been considered to improve the standard of sports in India.

(d) The Indian contingent comprised 123 persons which included 71 sports persons; 50 officials in the category of Coaches, Doctors, Managers, Masseurs and 2 youth campers. The event-wise break up of Sports persons and officials is at Annexure-I. The officials were cleared discipline-wise not department-wise.

The details of contingents of other participating countries is at Annexure-II.

As regards expenditure, free air passage, boarding and lodging was provided by the organisers to the accredited contingents. Government of India sanctioned an amount of Rs. 64,40,175/- to Indian Olympic Association (IOA) and released Rs. 58.00 lakhs as first instalment.

(e) The government only cleared visit of officials whose presence in Sydney was considered appropriate

(f) Does not arise.

(g) No, Sir.

(h) Does not arise.

(i) Promotion and development of Sports is an ongoing process and Government of India in consultation with Sports Authority of India; IOA and National Sports Federations is taking the following steps :

1. **Broadening the base - Especially for competitive sports.**
2. **Improved infrastructure - for the National Teams.**
3. **Improving the knowledge of our Coaching Community.**
4. **Improving the practical knowledge of our sports scientists to enable them to contribute along with the coaches to enhance performance of sports persons.**

5. Improved functioning and professionalisation in management of Sports Federations.
6. Greater involvement of States in the development of Sports Infrastructure and improved training of sport persons.
7. Involving the private sector to adopt and sponsor individual/specific sports disciplines.
8. To create awareness in the general public for greater participation in sports activities.

(j) Government has not received the report of the genetic study for sports undertaken at Military Hospital Cardiac and Thoracic Centre at Pune. However, as and when it is received required action will be taken.

Annexure I

Disciplines	Players		Coaches	Doctor	Masseuse/Massure	Physio	Manager	Others	Total	
	M	Fe								
Athletics	14	15	4	2	1	0	2	0	38	
Badminton	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	3	
Boxing	4	0	2	1	0	0	1	0	8	
Equestarian	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	
Hockey	16	0	2	1	0	0	1	1	21	
Judo	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	
Rowing	2	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	4	
Shooting	2	1	2	0	0	0	0	1	6	
Swimming	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	3	
Table Tennis	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	4	
Tennis	2	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	6	
Weightlifting	1	2	2	1	0	0	1	0	7	
Wrestling	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	
IOA (11)**						1		10	11	
Total	47	24	19	6	1	1	6	12	118	
Others										
Tech Officials									4	
Olympic Attache									1	
Youth Camp Participants									2	
Grand Total										123

Annexure II

NOC	NOC Code	Athletes			Officials			Delegation
		Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Albania	ALB	2	2	4	7	-	7	11
Algeria	ALG	38	11	49	34	-	34	83
American Samoa	ASA	3	1	4	8	1	9	13
Andorra	AND	3	2	5	5	1	6	11
Angola	ANG	15	16	31	22	2	24	55
Antigua & Barbuda	ANT	2	1	3	4	3	7	10
Argentina	ARG	100	45	145	78	5	83	228
Armenia	ARM	25	2	27	24	2	26	53
Aruba	ARU	3	2	5	4	2	6	11
Australia	AUS	348	283	631	290	107	397	1028
Austria	AUT	55	38	93	62	14	76	169
Azerbaijan	AZE	25	6	31	26	2	28	59
Bahamas	BAH	18	10	28	16	3	19	47
Bahrain	BRN	2	2	4	6	2	8	12
Bangladesh	BAN	2	3	5	3	-	3	8
Barbados	BAR	12	7	19	16	3	19	38
Belarus	BLR	73	67	140	63	15	78	218
Belgium	BEL	37	32	69	48	6	54	123
Belize	BIZ	1	1	2	3	2	5	7
Benin	BEN	3	1	4	8	-	8	12
Bermuda	BER	4	2	6	10	3	13	19
Bhutan	BHU	1	1	2	4	1	5	7
Bolivia	BOL	3	2	5	8	1	9	14
Bosnia & Herzegovina	BIH	7	2	9	9	2	11	20
Botswana	BOT	8	-	8	8	-	8	16
Brazil	BRA	111	94	205	126	15	141	346
British Virgin Islands	IVB	1	-	1	5	-	5	6
Brunei Darussalam	BRU	2	-	2	5	-	5	7
Bulgaria	BUL	55	40	95	48	12	60	155
Burkina Faso	BUR	3	1	4	6	2	8	12
Burundi	BDI	5	1	6	6	1	7	13
Cambodia	CAM	2	2	4	6	-	6	10
Cameroon	CMR	26	12	38	21	5	26	64
Canada	CAN	152	156	308	156	85	241	549
Cape Verde	CPV	1	1	2	6	-	6	8
Cayman Islands	CAY	1	2	3	7	-	7	10
Central African Republic	CAF	1	2	3	7	-	7	10
Chad	CHA	1	1	2	4	-	4	6
Chile	CHI	45	7	52	46	6	52	104

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Chinese Taipei	TPE	21	34	55	39	5	44	99
Colombia	COL	25	21	46	35	4	39	85
Comoros	COM	1	1	2	5	1	6	8
Congo	CGO	3	2	5	7	2	9	14
Cook Islands	COK	1	1	2	2	4	6	8
Costa Rica	CRC	5	2	7	12	-	12	19
Cote d'Ivoire	CIV	9	9	18	16	1	17	35
Croatia	CRO	69	27	96	49	5	54	150
Cuba	CUB	152	87	239	116	7	123	362
Cyprus	CYP	19	5	24	14	2	16	40
Czech Republic	CZE	91	37	128	68	6	74	202
Democratic People's Rep. of Korea	PRK	14	17	31	27	4	31	62
Democratic Republic of the Congo	COD	2	1	3	8	-	8	11
Denmark	DEN	54	44	98	53	12	65	163
Djibouti	DJI	1	1	2	5	-	5	7
Dominica	DMA	2	2	4	4	1	5	9
Dominican Republic	DOM	11	2	13	15	1	16	29
Ecuador	ECU	8	3	11	13	2	15	26
Egypt	EGY	76	16	92	54	6	60	152
El Salvador	ESA	4	4	8	12	2	14	22
Equatorial Guinea	GEQ	2	2	4	5	-	5	9
Eritrea	ERI	2	1	3	5	-	5	8
Estonia	EST	30	2	32	28	1	29	61
Ethiopia	ETH	19	12	31	16	1	17	48
Federated States of Micronesia	FSM	3	2	5	6	4	10	15
Fiji	FIJ	6	4	10	10	4	14	24
Finland	FIN	43	32	75	45	9	54	129
Fmr Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	MKD	6	4	10	12	1	13	23
France	FRA	214	129	343	240	26	266	609
Gabon	GAB	3	2	5	11	1	12	17
Gambia	GAM	1	1	2	5	1	6	8
Georgia	GEO	27	9	36	27	3	30	66
Germany	GER	243	191	434	234	39	273	707
Ghana	GHA	22	8	30	19	-	19	49
Great Britain	GBR	188	133	321	156	61	217	538
Greece	GRE	92	62	154	73	14	87	241
Grenada	GRN	2	1	3	3	4	7	10
Guam	GUM	5	2	7	9	3	12	19
Guatemala	GUA	14	1	15	14	3	17	32
Guinea	GUI	3	3	6	8	1	9	15
Guinea-Bissau	GBS	2	1	3	5	2	7	10
Guyana	GUY	3	1	4	6	2	8	12

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Haiti	HAI	3	2	5	8	1	9	14
Honduras	HON	19	2	21	14	2	16	37
Hong Kong, China	HKG	19	12	31	23	7	30	61
Hungary	HUN	118	74	192	105	13	118	310
Iceland	ISL	9	9	18	15	3	18	36
India	IND	48	25	73	46	2	48	121
Individual Olympic Athletes	IOA	3	1	4	5	-	5	9
Indonesia	INA	28	20	48	25	10	35	83
Iraq	IRQ	2	2	4	4	-	4	8
Ireland	IRL	45	26	71	37	13	50	121
Islamic Republic of Iran	IRI	34	1	35	30	1	31	66
Israel	ISR	30	10	40	45	5	50	90
Italy	ITA	259	126	385	230	20	250	635
Jamaica	JAM	24	29	53	22	6	28	81
Japan	JPN	158	110	268	157	23	180	448
Jordan	JOR	4	4	8	13	3	16	24
Kazakhstan	KAZ	87	44	131	71	6	77	208
Kenya	KEN	35	23	58	26	7	33	91
Korea	KOR	177	106	283	142	14	156	439
Kuwait	KUW	32	-	32	25	-	25	57
Kyrgyzstan	KGZ	36	13	49	28	4	32	81
Lao People's Democratic Republic	LAO	2	1	3	6	1	7	10
Latvia	LAT	30	15	45	28	6	34	79
Lebanon	LIB	4	2	6	12	-	12	18
Lesotho	LES	4	2	6	8	3	11	17
Liberia	LBR	6	2	8	7	1	8	16
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	LBA	3	-	3	7	-	7	10
Liechtenstein	LIE	1	1	2	4	-	4	6
Lithuania	LTU	40	22	62	37	5	42	104
Luxembourg	LUX	2	5	7	9	1	10	17
Madagascar	MAD	5	7	12	9	-	9	21
Malawi	MAW	1	1	2	4	-	4	6
Malaysia	MAS	32	9	41	25	4	29	70
Maldives	MDV	2	2	4	4	-	4	8
Mali	MLI	3	2	5	7	3	10	15
Malta	MLT	4	3	7	12	-	12	19
Mauritania	MTN	1	1	2	4	2	6	8
Mauritius	MRI	19	4	23	17	1	18	41
Mexico	MEX	53	26	79	73	7	80	159
Monaco	MON	3	1	4	5	2	7	11
Mongolia	MGL	12	8	20	18	2	20	40
Morocco	MAR	49	10	59	38	1	39	98

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Mozambique	MOZ	2	3	5	8	2	10	15
Myanmar	MYA	1	6	7	3	1	4	11
Namibia	NAM	11	2	13	13	2	15	28
Nauru	NRU	2	1	3	5	1	6	9
Nepal	NEP	2	3	5	9	1	10	15
Netherlands	NED	152	88	240	117	21	138	378
Netherlands Antilles	AHO	6	2	8	12	4	16	24
New Zealand	NZL	80	70	150	74	29	103	253
Nicaragua	NCA	5	2	7	11	1	12	19
Niger	NIG	2	2	4	7	1	8	12
Nigeria	NGR	46	44	90	47	12	59	149
Norway	NOR	50	50	100	57	15	72	172
Oman	OMA	8	-	8	9	-	9	17
Pakistan	PAK	26	1	27	16	-	16	43
Palau	PLW	2	3	5	7	2	9	14
Palestine	PLE	1	1	2	3	-	3	5
Panama	PAN	4	2	6	8	2	10	16
Papua New Guinea	PNG	2	3	5	6	4	10	15
Paraguay	PAR	2	3	5	8	-	8	13
People's Republic of China	CHN	96	187	283	138	29	167	450
Peru	PER	8	14	22	17	3	20	42
Philippines	PHI	11	9	20	22	2	24	44
Poland	POL	133	60	193	107	9	116	309
Portugal	POR	59	20	79	41	7	48	127
Puerto Rico	PUR	25	7	32	26	3	29	61
Qatar	QAT	22	-	22	18	1	19	41
Republic of Moldova	MDA	29	5	34	24	2	26	60
Romania	ROM	76	79	155	75	13	88	243
Russian Federation	RUS	254	200	454	261	47	308	762
Rwanda	RWA	3	2	5	7	-	7	12
Saint Kitts & Nevis	SKN	1	1	2	5	1	6	8
Saint Lucia	LCA	3	2	5	7	1	8	13
Saint Vincent & the Grenadines	VIN	2	2	4	7	1	8	12
Samoa	SAM	4	1	5	9	1	10	15
San Marino	SMR	3	1	4	7	1	8	12
Sao Tome & Principe	STP	1	1	2	4	2	6	8
Saudi Arabia	KSA	23	-	23	22	1	23	46
Senegal	SEN	10	21	31	24	1	25	56
Seychelles	SEY	6	3	9	10	2	12	21
Sierra Leone	SLE	7	1	8	5	2	7	15
Singapore	SIN	8	6	14	11	3	14	28
Slovakia	SVK	85	27	112	63	2	65	177

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Slovenia	SLO	57	21	78	44	2	46	124
Solomon Islands	SOL	1	1	2	4	-	4	6
Somalia	SOM	1	1	2	4	-	4	6
South Africa	RSA	92	38	130	58	17	75	205
Spain	ESP	236	113	349	181	24	205	554
Sri Lanka	SRI	10	9	19	16	1	17	36
Sudan	SUD	2	1	3	7	-	7	10
Suriname	SUR	2	2	4	6	1	7	11
Swaziland	SWZ	4	2	6	9	2	11	17
Sweden	SWE	99	56	155	89	27	116	271
Switzerland	SUI	66	39	105	67	14	81	186
Syrian Arab Republic	SYR	5	2	7	11	1	12	19
Tajikistan	TJK	2	2	4	8	2	10	14
Thailand	THA	38	21	59	35	5	40	99
Togo	TOG	2	1	3	5	-	5	8
Tonga	TGA	2	1	3	4	3	7	10
Trinidad & Tobago	TRI	17	6	23	16	1	17	40
Tunisia	TUN	41	7	48	30	2	32	80
Turkey	TUR	44	15	59	36	4	40	99
Turkmenistan	TKM	4	4	8	10	1	11	19
Uganda	UGA	9	4	13	14	1	15	28
Ukraine	UKR	143	94	237	145	17	162	399
United Arab Emirates	UAE	4	-	4	6	1	7	11
United Republic of Tanzania	TAN	3	1	4	6	-	6	10
United States of America	USA	338	265	603	304	101	405	1008
Uruguay	URU	12	3	15	17	3	20	35
Uzbekistan	UZB	55	22	77	46	8	54	131
Vanuatu	VAN	2	1	3	6	1	7	10
Venezuela	VEN	37	14	51	39	5	44	95
Vietnam	VIE	3	4	7	11	1	12	19
Virgin Islands	ISV	6	3	9	8	5	13	22
Yemen	YEM	1	1	2	2	1	3	5
Yugoslavia	YUG	94	18	112	57	2	59	171
Zambia	ZAM	6	2	8	6	1	7	15
Zimbabwe	ZIM	11	5	16	15	2	17	33
Total		6862	4254	11116	6763	1215	7978	19094

Date corrected at 21 Sept., 2000 06.00.

[English]

DR. V. SAROJA : Hon. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, on behalf of the hon. Members of Parliament and on my own behalf I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate, Karnam Malleswari, a woman, the only medal winner in the recently held Sydney Olympics 2000. I hope, this House would join me in wishing her a bright future and excellence.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You ask you supplementary now.

DR. V. SAROJA : Sir, based on the probability of winning medals, as per the qualifying standards, India was expected to participate only in six disciplines, namely, Athletics, Boxing, Hockey (men and women), Shooting, Tennis and Weightlifting (women).

Sir, the Indian Olympic contingent consisted of 121 persons comprising of 71 sports persons, 28 persons consisting of coaches, doctors and nurses, and 22 persons in the category of managers.

It is a pity that top players like Ashish Ballal and Sabu Varkey of hockey, and Kunjarani Devi of weightlifting have not found place. May I request the hon. Minister to have a thorough CBI inquiry conducted into the affairs of the Indian Olympic Association? I demand this since some of the members of the Association were interested in their own business rather than promoting sports.

[Translation]

KUMARI UMA BHARATI : Sir, first of all, I would like to thank the hon'ble Lady Member and this House for congratulating Karnam Malleswari. I would certainly convey their congratulatory message to Karnam Malleswari. The players who represented our country in the olympics had to attain qualifying standard in order to take part in olympic games irrespective of their discipline.

As regards the remarks of hon'ble Member about Indian Olympic Association, I would like to say that I have already sent a letter to Indian Olympic Association to collect as much information as we are entitled to get. I will apprise the House once all the information in this regard is collected. It is the view of hon'ble Lady Member as well as the House and it is true also that we are not able to perform upto the level of expectations in the olympics... (Interruptions) Despite being such a big country, our performance in olympics leaves much to be desired. Still, we are trying to review the performance in each discipline and department of the sports and we are trying to gather all the necessary information in this regard. We will try to improve upon our weaknesses and further improve the performance of worthwhile achievers. We will certainly extend our support to those sports person. I don't think it

necessary to conduct an investigation into the matter by CBI as has been advised by Shrimati Saroja. We have asked for furnishing complete details in this regard and we are trying to review their functioning.

[English]

DR. V. SAROJA : Sir, it is my personal opinion that there is no coordination, cooperation and proper understanding among Government of India, the Sports Authority of India, the Indian Olympic Association and the concerned National Sports Federation. They made use of the skills of Indian and foreign coaches; modern equipment, scientific support, and international expertise of allied sports personnel. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government of India would come forward to bring the subject of sports under the Union List; enact laws to regulate sports associations and federations; and stop release of all grants to sports associations and federations till this is done.

[Translation]

KUMARI UMA BHARATI : Sarojaji has asked two questions. Through you, I would like to inform her and the House that today by putting the questions, she has given me a good opportunity to apprise the House that sports do not figure in the concurrent list due to which we face problem. If the sports are included in concurrent list then it will be good. Two years ago, I had proposed this in the meeting of sports Ministers so that more transparency may be brought in the functioning of the Federation and the players could be promoted in a better way and the level of sports might also be improved. Hence while replying to the question asked by Sarojaji, I would like to submit that most of the states are prepared to include sports in the concurrent list owing to the efforts made in this direction for last two three years after the meeting of sports Ministers held two years back. The consultation with all the political parties is still due. If all the political parties favour such a move and once the sports are included in the concurrent list, we will certainly be able to bring transparency. With a view to bring reforms in the field of sports, if we act a little tough then we will be able to do something.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Her question is whether the Union Government are aware it or not?

KUMARI UMA BHARATI : Yes, it is, I understood her question. Consent of the States have been received but the consent of the Political parties are still awaited. The subject of the Sports can not be brought under concurrent list till all the political parties favour such a move. Representatives of all political parties are present in the House and I would like them to cooperate us and support us on this issue so that we could bring it under concurrent list.

YOGI ADITYA NATH : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the question raised was whether any inquiry is proposed in the whole episode. Hon'ble Minister has replied that the question does not arise.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : She has replied that investigation is going on.

YOGI ADITYA NATH : I am talking about the written answer. India's performance in Sydney Olympic was dismal. Only one bronze medal was won by one of our sports women and that too by the one who was not once included in the Indian contingent. Today some top cricketers have betrayed the emotions of our countrymen by indulging in match fixing. Why the Government is not interested in conducting C.B.I. inquiry or any high level investigation of the dismal performance of our players in Sydney Olympics ?

KUMARI UMA BHARATI : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to inform about the question raised by Shri Yogi ji that C.B.I. inquiry is not possible in this regard but we are reviewing the whole issue and are determined to remove the problem which hindered the good performance of our sports persons. We will leave no stone unturned for encouraging our sports persons and athletes. Regarding the question Shri Yogi ji has asked, I have already replied in the question raised previously by Saroja ji that the performance of sports persons in each discipline, their coaches and Managers who participated in Sydney Olympics is being reviewed and the reasons for poor performance are being reviewed. We will definitely share the review report with the House. C.B.I. inquiry is not possible in this regard.

[English]

PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM : Thank you very much, Sir for the opportunity given to me. I must say that it is a very dismal and low standard of performance which has been exhibited at the Sydney Olympics.

Again in this background, my question is this. Have the Government of India any idea or proposal at the national level to get the athletes and sports persons, catch them and train them young, and make them fit competitions at the highest level ?

I would also like to get a clarification from the hon. Minister on some reports which had been found in certain sections of Press that some of the very talented athletes and sports persons were sidelined on the basis of prejudice. Is there any truth in the reports which have come across in certain sections of the Press ?

[Translation]

KUMARI UMA BHARATI : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we are going to present a sports policy very soon in which we propose to get the athletes and sports persons at a very young age under catch them young programme and train them for higher competitions. We are also trying to glamourize the sports so that parents do not hesitate in adopting sports as a carrier for their wards. All these aspects have been included in the sports policy which will be presented very soon. Secondly, he seeks clarification regarding the various news items published in newspapers that some of the athletes and sports persons did not find place in Indian team. In this regard, I would like to mention that it was a significant aspect of Sydney Olympics that the expenditure incurred on the transportation, boarding and lodging of participants, their coaches, team managers and doctors etc. was borne by the Olympic organisers of Sydney. This was done on the basis of merits of players. The merit list was sent to them and they cleared it only after scrutinizing it. They also matched the merit of the players with the qualifying standards and only the suitable candidates cleared by them were able to go to Sydney. In this manner, no injustice was done to anybody. Even then, if any discrepancy will come to our notice, we will certainly inquire all its aspects.

[English]

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA : Sir, I must say that as usual it was a woman who saved the honour of this country.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : That is why I am giving chances to women hon. Members for asking Supplementaries.

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA : Karnam Malleswari has won a bronze medal; earlier, it was P.T. Usha.

[Translation]

It is a separate issue that one or two players saved the honour of the country and won one or two medals. Just now Hon'ble Minister has stated that a new sports policy will be brought. I would like to submit that till now various policies have been formed. One operation excellence policy was there under which it was decided to concentrate on 10 disciplines and not on 20-25 discipline thereby enhance the probability of medal winning. However, that was not seriously adopted and still 500-600 people are included in the contingent and only one bronze medal has been won at all. Therefore, I would like to ask the hon'ble Minister that

[English]

have you given up the approach that was adopted under operation Excellence ?

[Translation]

Earlier also we have demanded to bring the subject of sports under concurrent list.

[English]

The States have agreed and the draft bill has been introduced in Parliament.

[Translation]

What is the use of talking to political parties in this regard when most of the State Governments are agree on it, there is no difficulty in bringing constitution amendment bill. I would like to ask the hon'ble Minister whether the bill will be introduced soon. Nothing will happen if you leave the matter in the hands of Federation. Sports should be included in concurrent list and guidelines should be implemented properly. Only then the things will go in a right direction. Umaji, no one except you is able to perform this task.

KUMARI UMA BHARATI : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to remind Margaret didi that she herself had been the Minister of this department and is very much aware of the fact that such things happen in a department. The same old dialogue is there "hum angrezo key Jamaney key jailer hain, jab ham nahi sudharey to baki ko ham kya sudhar payengey." (Bad habits die hard) Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, you have given preference to the women members to ask questions in the House and it is the women players and athletes who are winning medals be it at any level. I would like to tell the Margaret didi that as the women have proven their capability in all fields, it seems that in the next 30-40 years a situation, will arise when the issue of reservation in politics will be raised by male members. So far as the issue of centre for excellency is concerned, I would like to tell Margaret didi that during her tenure, centre for excellency was for only 10 selected disciplines of sports but for some times we have opened these centres for women players and sports persons of all disciplines through Sports Authority of India. We are trying to keep the old conventions. Earlier also there was a suggestion to include sports under concurrent list but at that time all States were not agreed. The reason being the State Governments keep on changing and so changed their views. So difficulties came in the way but after the continuous efforts of one or two years we got success. If all the members of Parliament agree to include the subject of sports under concurrent list, we would like to bring it as early as possible. Margaret didi is well aware of the

departmental facts and I have the same eagerness to include the sports in concurrent list and to bring sports reform as she had. Inclusion of sports in concurrent list would help us a lot. With the consent of the members, we will definitely introduce the bill to fulfil the wishes of the players, to better their performance and to enhance the dignity of our country.

SHRI KIRTI JHA AZAD : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to ask the hon'ble Minister whether an official delegation of 80 people including their families had visited Sydney in the name of Asian Bids Committee. If so, how many number of votes, we got and what has been the fate of the Asian Games ? Whether it is also a fact that sports Ministry had released funds to the Bid Committee on 11th September without the permission of Finance Ministry or R.B.I.? From where the foreign exchange against that fund was granted? I would also like to ask whether it is true that when our sports persons alongwith their foreign coaches went to Jakarta and other places, they were given drugs to enhance their performance as drug testing was not so stringent there which they were not able to use in Sydney due to the stringent drug testing norms. Is the view of the people not true that if the performance of our players was at peak in Jakarta but they failed to perform in Sydney. I would like the reply to these two straight forward questions raised by me.

KUMARI UMA BHARATI : Sir, both the questions raised by hon'ble member have no concern with each other, but even then I will answer both the questions.

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Both are related to sports.

KUMARI UMA BHARATI : Yes, both are related to sports but the ambit of the questions asked should also be kept into mind. I will answer both the questions. First point is that on the demand of Olympic Association of India, 75 lakh rupees for bidding and campaigning were released. Thereafter, details of the expenditure incurred was demanded from them. The same was sent by them with the details of the expenditure made as per our permission. We have forwarded it to the auditors to check whether the expenses made by them were actually in tune with their demands or not. The report in this regard will be received soon.

Second, question he has asked as to why our performance in Sydney Olympics was not up to the mark as was in Jakarta ... (Interruptions)

SHRI KIRTI JHA AZAD : I have asked whether the list of families of the participants who accompanied them, is available.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : This has been sent for audit.

KUMARI UMA BHARATI : You are talking about bidding or about Indian contingent.

SHRI KIRTI JHA AZAD : The Union Government has given funds for bidding which is right but you have asked about its details. They were gone to Sydney to take advantage of the presence of other countries and thus those expenses were incurred. On one side they say that adequate funds are not provided and on the other ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The Minister has understood it.

[Translation]

KUMARI UMA BHARATI : The funds they had asked were for the bidding of Asian Games. Hon'ble Member has also asked about the number of votes. We had released 75 lakh rupees. As per the expenditure sent by them, funds were spent on publicity material, making a film and on other similar items. We have sent the details for auditing. We have got two votes in the bidding. Indian contingent was accompanied by a team of Government officials and a team of Olympic Association itself. Nine persons were in the team of Government officials. We have received the details in this regard, only a few details have been left which will be received very soon. The expenditure incurred on the team of Olympic Association and on the sports persons was borne by the organizers of Sydney Olympics. Some other things have also come into our notice. Some people were also included in the contingent about whom we have no information. These people had gone there on behalf of their state federations. We have asked about the complete information and as soon as we received it we will share it with the House.

SHRI KIRTI JHA AZAD : You did not mention about the performance. Drugs are being given to the sports persons. A young man of 32 years of age has died there due to brain haemorrhage. The reason being the excessive dose of drugs. So drugs are being given to our sportsmen.

KUMARI UMA BHARATI : This is not covered under the ambit of the question asked. The question he has asked concerns very little with the previous question ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI KIRTI JHA AZAD : It is about performance, and it is not enough. We have to discuss everything.

[Translation]

KUMARI UMA BHARATI : The information he has asked for is totally new.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You please send the written reply.

KUMARI UMA BHARATI : I will definitely send the reply.

[English]

SHRI KIRTI JHA AZAD : Sir, the main question talks about the genetic study for sports undertaken at Military Hospital's Cardiac and Thoracic Centre at Pune. Can I not ask about the drugs which affected a person of 32 years?

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Hon'ble Minister has stated that the information is not readily available. Written information will be sent to you.

[English]

SHRI KIRTI JHA AZAD : But I asked about the hospital.

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, hon'ble Minister has stated that a sports policy will be formulated. However, I would like to know whether preference has been given to the people of rural areas not only in olympics but in other competitions also. Several times I have stated in Lok Sabha and at other places also that national games are being ignored continuously. I have repeated time and again that cricket should be banned in our country because it is being played in the countries which were once slaves. Cricket has not enhanced the dignity of our country rather it has lowered the prestige of our country but still no ban has been imposed on it. Whether the facilities like Swimming Pool, Stadium etc. which are being provided in cities will be provided in rural areas also. There are very good sports persons in villages. What preference is being given to them by the Government? How many members are belonging to villages are there in the Selection Boards? Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the communities living on the banks of rivers and seashores are called Kevat, Nishaad or Mallah. No one can compete with them in the field of swimming. How many boys of the age of 14-16 years belonging to these castes have been selected for swimming competition. If not, what are the reasons? Though they are poor I would like to submit that if they will be selected for competition no one can compete with India in swimming. Whether you will consider it?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Mulayam Singhji, this question was about the position of our contingent in the Sydney Olympic games. You have deviated a little bit from that.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : When I raised the question of villages you have also started to interrupt me, rather it should be taken seriously and a reply should be given in this regard.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You give the Minister an opportunity to reply.

[Translation]

KUMARI UMA BHARATI : Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, through you I would like to inform the hon'ble Member that selection of players for Acquatics and other sports is done by the Sports Authority of India. There are some events like Kabaddi, Hockey, Kho-Kho and Acquatics in which players from village background have excellence. Therefore, we keep this thing in mind while selecting players for representing the country. During the course of selection players are not selected on the basis of their castes.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : What about wrestling ?

KUMARI UMA BHARATI : Shri Mulayam Singhji, you have been a very good wrestler and now a days you are proving your worth in politics also.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Mulayam Singhji and wrestling ?

KUMARI UMA BHARATI : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, he had been a wrestler, you can confirm it from him.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Then we will have to be careful.

KUMARI UMA BHARATI : The way he humbled the congress was also the part of his political wrestling.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to submit that there are other hon'ble Members who also have village background and belongs to backward castes and they are good sportsmen but could not get good facilities. What you have suggested has been in my mind since I took over the charge of the Ministry of Sports. I have given special instructions to the centres for excellence under the Sports Authority of Indian to select the children of the fishermen for acquatics etc. You have rightly said that it

is not necessary to keep in mind the social composition in sports but it does not mean that such people are ignored willfully. Though, caste factor should not be there in selection of sports persons. Despite all this we are certainly trying to provide sports facilities to the children of adivasis, tribals, backwards, downtroddens, underprivileged and poor people or rural areas.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, through you I assure the House that my department will not leave any stone unturned in providing further training to these people in the games and sports in which they excell so that they could fetch laurels for themselves and for the country.

SHRI VIJAY GOEL : Hon'ble Deputy Speaker, Sir, the hon'ble Member is applying wrestling tricks in the House also.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : In the House it should be through me.

KUMARI UMA BHARATI : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, you are our referee.

SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, when our Sports Minister herself has become a good player, I can hope that the future of our country in the field of sports will be bright.

KUMARI UMA BHARATI : Thank you Bapuji.

SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, as has been said just now by our hon'ble Member Shrimati Margaret Alva that it is a matter of shame that a great deal of discrimination is being made in the field of sports. The incidents of match fixing in cricket is utterly shameful. It is shameful that the poor woman weightlifter could get the bronze medal only.

KUMARI UMA BHARATI : Bapuji please do not address the women as "Bechari".

SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA : All right, I am sorry. After seeing you I will not use this word for women at all.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to know from the hon'ble Minister as to how much expenditure do we incur on our sports person to train them as per the international standards. Now a days several scientific instruments are available to train the sports person. Therefore, I want to know as to how much expenses the Government will incur on imparting training to the sports persons as per the international standard through these equipments and by what time they will be trained as per the international standard.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, in addition to this I would also like to know the steps being taken by the Government to improve, to make it more scientific and free from any sort of intervention the present faulty method of selection of sports persons by scrapping the present one because the prevalent procedure is faulty and under this procedure a good and self respecting sportsman is not selected to represent his country till he surrenders before the selectors. It is utterly humiliating to a woman sports person to get herself selected to represent the country.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Madam Minister, please reply in brief.

KUMARI UMA BHARATI : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am not able to furnish exact figures as the diet and training expenditure on sports persons varies from discipline to discipline. Therefore, I find it a little difficult to give accurate figures of expenditure on sportspersons in various disciplines. However, if the Member wishes so, I shall send these figures to him later on.

We always endeavour that one sportspersons do not put up dismal performances. Much of the hue and cry is created by the political leaders. Therefore, through you, I would like to emphasise that our department is quite determined to bring about reforms in the sports. Since Shrimati Margaret Alva has pointed out towards this aspect, our department is quite eager to improve the lot of sportspersons.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, today the condition of sportspersons is not good. At times, I have seen for myself that the sportspersons get lesser facilities than the sports managers. I have also seen that we or the sports managers travel in cars while the actual sportspersons have to commute in autos. The sports managers sit in the comfort of A.C. rooms whereas the sportspersons do not have even coolers in their rooms. I have also observed that bathrooms of the sportspersons are not clean enough.

SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA : Hon'ble Minister Madam, I have asked about the international standards. Therefore, you please tell about the expenditure on grooming the sportspersons and giving them facilities as per the international standards.

KUMARI UMA BHARATI : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I do not have such figures at the moment. I shall send these figures to the hon'ble Member. The diet and training expenses on sportspersons varies from discipline to discipline. For that, I shall have to go through the entire manual. However, the hon'ble Deputy Speaker has asked me to be brief. Therefore, I would not like to read out the entire manual.

[English]

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, it is an important question... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I have taken 33 minutes for this question on Sydney Olympics, only because I thought it is an important matter.

... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : By asking one question, you cannot justify the issue. If the hon. Minister agrees, we can have a half-an-hour discussion on it.

KUMARI UMA BHARATI : Sir, I request you to allow a half-an-hour discussion on it... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : We will have a half-an-hour discussion on it.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, you have given the opportunity to speak to those who do not happen to be sportspersons but except for Shri Kirti Azad ... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Rawale, now you give notice for half-an-hour discussion.

[Translation]

SHRI KIRTI JHA AZAD : I have tried to see you several times but I have not been able to meet you ... (Interruptions)

Production of Pulses

*102. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR KHANDELWAL : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the quantum of pulses produced in the country during the years 1998-99 and 1999-2000, variety-wise and State-wise;

(b) the schemes of the Government for increasing the production of pulses and other crops in the unirrigated areas; and

(c) the expenditure incurred thereon in the year 1998-99 and 1999-2000?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI NITISH KUMAR) : (a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Statement

(a) The quantum of pulses produced in the country during the years 1998-99, 1999-2000 variety-wise is given below :

	(Production in lakh tonnes)	
	1998-99	1999-2000 (Estimated)
Arhar	27.7	26.5
Other Kharif Pulses	23.9	21.5
Gram	66.8	50.8
Other Rabi Pulses	29.6	31.8
Total Kharif Pulses	51.6	48.0
Total Rabi Pulses	96.4	82.6
Total Pulses	148.0	130.6

The State-wise production of pulses during the years 1998-99, 1999-2000 is given in Annexure.

(b) The schemes of the Government for increasing the production of pulses and other crops in the unirrigated areas are given below :

- (1) National Pulses Development Project (NPDP)
- (2) Oilseeds Production Programme (OPP)
- (3) Accelerated Maize Development Programme (AMDP)
- (4) Integrated Cereals Development Programme (Coarse Cereal) ICDP-CC.

(c) The expenditure incurred on these schemes during the years 1998-99 and 1999-2000 is given below :

Name of the Scheme	(Rs. in lakhs)	
	1998-99	1999-2000 (Estimated)
NPDP	3600.00	3417.50
OPP	10230.00	9996.50
AMDP	495.00	510.00
ICDP (Coarse Cereal)	2584.42	1680.25

Annexure**State-wise production of pulses**

(Lakh Tonnes)

S. No.	State	Achievement 1998-99	Achievement (estimated) 1999-2000
1.	Andhra Pradesh	7.63	8.23
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0.07	-
3.	Assam	0.70	0.60
4.	Bihar	6.97	7.01
5.	Goa	0.09	-
6.	Gujarat	6.33	4.11
7.	Himachal Pradesh	0.13	0.18
8.	Haryana	3.53	0.95
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	0.18	0.26
10.	Karnataka	7.22	6.75
11.	Kerala	0.27	0.23
12.	Madhya Pradesh	35.73	38.05
13.	Maharashtra	22.55	21.88
14.	Manipur	-	-
15.	Meghalaya	0.03	-
16.	Mizoram	-	-
17.	Nagaland	0.14	-
18.	Orissa	2.64	2.84
19.	Punjab	0.51	0.44
20.	Rajasthan	24.40	8.99
21.	Sikkim	0.06	-
22.	Tamil Nadu	4.17	3.72
23.	Tripura	0.04	-
24.	Uttar Pradesh	22.69	23.30
25.	West Bengal	1.26	2.51
26.	A & N Island	-	-
27.	Delhi	0.01	-
28.	Others	0.15	0.55
Total		148.09	130.65

SHRI VIJAY KUMAR KHANDELWAL : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is said that last year there has been green revolution in our country and the production of foodgrains has increased to a large extent. As far as rice and wheat are concerned, our country has become self reliant in their production. But the figures given by the Minister for the year 1998-99 and 1999-2000 in reply to this question show that production of pulses has not increased, rather it has declined. The production of pulses during the year 1998-1999 was 148 lakh metric tonne which was reduced to 130.6 lakh metric tonne during the year 1999-2000. Likewise, there has also been decline in the amount spent to boost various schemes in this regard.

I would like to ask the Minister about the targets set and achievements made in regard to production of pulses and what quantity of pulses was imported to bridge the gap and what amount of the foreign exchange spent thereon during these years ?

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is true that there has been decline in the production of pulses during the last year as compared to the last to last year. But if we see from the beginning, we would find that the production of pulses has increased progressively. But so far we have not been able to become self reliant in this matter. The production of pulses has fluctuated every year. The productivity has also increased as compared to the previous figures but we have not been able to achieve the targets that we ought to achieve. It is because of this reason that the production of pulses has been put under technology mission since the year 1989-90. Since then we have progressed but is not to the extent that may enable us to become self reliant. Since we are not self sufficient in the matter of production of pulses, we have been importing them and the quantum of imports differ from year to year. As regards year-wise figures about production of pulses, we would find that production and imports of pulses during the year 1997-98 was 129.79 lakh tonne and 100.08 lakh tonne respectively. During the year 1998-99, the production was 148.10 lakh tonne and imports were 3.13 lakh tonne. And as per the figures available for the year 1999-2000, the production has been 130.65 lakh tonne and the imports 2.04 lakh tonne.

SHRI VIJAY KUMAR KHANDELWAL : Whether the Government propose to formulate any special scheme under which the farmers producing more pulses may be provided with any sum of bonus as incentive and whether the Government would provide quality seeds and fertilizers and pesticides at subsidised rates to these farmers and whether the Government propose to open any special research centre for this purpose?

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Research on pulses is going on and research institutions at national level for this purpose have been set up having

their centres at various places in the country. To increase the production of pulses, we launch programme under the technology mission known as the National Pulses Development Project. Under this project farmers are given many types of assistance right from providing minikits to giving rhizobium culture in other undertakings, and also providing assistance for Nutrients and sprinkles etc.

SHRI CHINMAYANAND SWAMI : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, green gram, black gram, lentil and gram are such varieties of pulses which are produced lesser time and no separate irrigation arrangements are required for them because green gram and black gram are Kharif crops and sowed together with other crops whereas Gram and lentil are Rabi crops but even for these crops, no special irrigation arrangements are required. I would like to ask the Minister that whether he would start any special scheme to promote the production of pulses that can be sowed together with other crops and require lesser irrigation arrangements in the areas like Eastern Uttar Pradesh where these pulses are produced in abundance?

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : As I have already informed the House about the ongoing National Pulses Development Project that this scheme is to enhance the productivity and the scheme is being implemented in the areas producing the pulses. But as I already said, we have not been able to achieve the required progress in the matter. If we go into its causes, we would find that these crops are prone to insects and pests. Another point is that these crops do not fetch the remunerative price as in the case of wheat or rice. Besides this, pulses are grown in the marginal, sub marginal land. There are many problems and in view of these problems, first of all I would say that the replacement rate of seed is less in respect of pulses. Today, the replacement rate of seed is two to three percent. It should be increased to ten percent. For that purpose Crash Programme for production of seeds has been started so that quality seeds are provided to the farmers.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, hon'ble Minister has mentioned two things in his reply - the first being that there is fluctuation in the production of pulses and the other being that the prices of pulses like green gram is not remunerative. It is also prone to pests due to which the production is affected. We must understand that when, in a particular year the production of pulses is higher or there is increase in agricultural production, the prices of these commodities fall in the market resulting in loss to the farmers.

Therefore, the farmers do not produce those crops next year in which they had suffered losses previous year as a result or which the prices of such items rise in the market and the consumers have to pay more for them. Due to this very vicious circle we have not been able to

produce more pulses and also the agriculture production could not be increased to the extent it should be. Therefore, we have not been able to do justice with the farmers as well as the consumers. Our entire agriculture including the production of pulses and foodgrains has been trapped in this vicious circle. The Government has got to do something to get the agriculture out of this vicious circle. Has the Government got any scheme to arrest the decline in the prices of particular agriculture produce in the year of its bumper crop and similarly to ensure that the prices of such a agriculture produce do not rise in the event of less production next year so that both farmers and consumers get justice. Has the Government any administrative or scientific or any such scheme to control the price fluctuation besides technology to strike a balance in the market forces?

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I agree with the observation made by hon. Shivraj Patilji. This is the problem related with agriculture that we are not able to produce as per our requirements. I also agree with him about the problems which he has told about the entire agriculture sector. There are only four varieties of pulses for which minimum support price is being given. Pulses like Masoor (lentil) and peas have not been brought under the ambit of the minimum support price. The Government is contemplating to bring Masoor (lentil) and peas under the ambit of the minimum support price but the problem is that for announcing minimum support price for any agriculture produce we need some figures in this regard. We have given directions that the above pulses should also be brought under the ambit of minimum support price. Other pulses are also proposed to be brought under it. The farmers are not getting reasonable prices for their pulses as they are getting for wheat and rice. There is no parity in the prices of pulses. The first thing we have to do is that foodgrains like pulses should be brought under the minimum support price mechanism and keeping this in view the minimum support price was comparatively enhanced in comparison to last years and the C.A.C.P. is also being asked to consider over this aspect. The way the minimum support price for wheat and rice is increased. in the same way the prices of pulses should also be increased. Generally, the minimum support price announced for pulses is comparatively less than the market price, therefore there is no need of market intervention. If we try to bring about a parity in the minimum support price in comparison to wheat and rice, perhaps the farmers will pay more attention to their production. Today, they are producing pulses on marginal and submarginal land but if once minimum support price is fixed, then they could consider to produce them on a better land and use more inputs in their production and also use the developed technology in their production and in the areas like Punjab where farmers who mostly produce wheat and rice, can also consider to grow pulses, if we succeed in evolving such a mechanism like announcing

minimum support price for pulses and there will also be diversification of crops as well which we repeatedly talk about.

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI : This problem relates to the farmers, you kindly let those members ask questions who belong to a farmer's family. Those members who have never seen fields are asking the questions about their problems and those who are associated with agriculture are not being given opportunity to raise the problems related to them.

[English]

PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU Sir, from the statistics that are made available by the hon. Minister, it is quite evident that the production itself is coming down from year to year though initially during the earlier years there was some increase in the total production. Further, the *per capita* consumption has also come down. From the reply that has been provided by the hon. Minister, it is found that during the year 1998-99, both the indigenous production and the imports put together stood at about 152 lakh tonnes. In 1999-2000, both the indigenous production and the import put together stood only at 123 lakh tonnes. So, the *per capita* consumption has sizeably come down. The very fact that it is coming down means that proper attention is not being paid to the research activity as far as pulses are concerned. Most of the pulses are being grown either in ID conditions - Irrigated Dry conditions - or in rice fallows. There is no proper research station in the entire nation to develop the rice fallow pulses and the better varieties as far as the rice fallow pulses are concerned.

In Andhra Pradesh there is sizeable area which produces rice fallow pulses. So, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether he is contemplating to set up a National Rice Fallow Pulses Research Station there so as to increase to production of pulses in the country.

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, he has given a suggestion and we will consider it. But it is true that no break through has been achieved. Research work on the subject is continuing. If we look at the figures from the start, it becomes clear. It is not that decline is occurring every year. If we compare it with figures of 1950, not much change has taken place with regard to area. But changes are taking place in productivity and production. Development is also taking place. More attention in this direction is required to be paid. Pulses are facing numerous problems. In view of this, Standing Committee of Parliament has suggested the setting up of an Expert's Committee. It has been set up. It has already submitted its report on pulses. That report is being studied. We will implement our programmes and reform it on the basis of that report.

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the problems of the farmers were discussed in the House last week. All hon'ble Members had the common view that agricultural production is continuously declining as a result of Government's apathy. I am satisfied that the Government's reply confirms our views. Total production of pulses in the year 1998-99 was 148 lakh tonnes which declined to 130.6 lakh tonnes in 1999-2000. The cause of this decline is evident in your reply. If we go through the various schemes being implemented to increase agricultural production we find that Rs. 3600 lakh was spent on N.P.D.P. in the year 1998-99. This year the amount has been reduced to Rs. 3417.5 lakh. Similarly Rs. 10230 lakh was spent on O.P.P. last year.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please ask the question.

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI : Since the last two years, Government has been reducing the outlay of the schemes meant for the increase in agricultural production. The same thing is continuously being said by the House that the Government is neglecting the work of the farmers, the programmes related to production. You have confessed yourself that the farmers are not getting the remunerative prices they ought to get. Government is doing nothing about that. Today hon'ble Minister is confessing that but on that day his reply was not as per our expectations. Whether the hon'ble Minister please tell us about the reasons for reducing the outlay of schemes, the reasons for decline in production in comparison to previous years and in the coming year whether adequate allocation will be made? What is the exact figure along with the requirement and the allotment?

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : I don't want to go in controversy about figures with the hon'ble Member.

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI : You have provided the figures and distributed it to all Members.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : I have heard your observation more than your question. One should not draw general impression about pulses on the basis of figures of two years. I have repeatedly said that as far as pulses are concerned, expected progress has not been made. But it is not proper to give opinion about the entire agriculture sector on this basis only. I have already said that the support price of pulse cannot be compared with that of rice or wheat. And this has not happened today but is continuing for long time. It was put in technology mission ten years ago. Some progress has been achieved since then. I have said at the outset that some fluctuations do occur. The production of pulses is still mostly dependent on rainfed conditions. Pulses, oilseeds and coarse cereals are most affected by natural conditions. Rainfed conditions affect all crops but these are comparatively more affected. Programmes are being implemented and through these programme the area and production which was in 1951, 19.09 million hectare and 8.41 million tonnes respectively.. (Interruptions)

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI : My question was why the allocation for different programmes were reduced this year? The answer of the hon'ble Minister does not cater to it. And this has happened not only in the case of pulses but also in the case of pulses development, oilseed development etc.... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please let him answer.

... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : I myself have mentioned about pulses, oilseeds and coarse cereals... (Interruptions)

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI : Less allocations have been made in all ... (Interruptions)

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : I have already said that these crops are grown in regions where rainfed conditions prevail .. (Interruptions) On behalf of Government you are being repeatedly told that these are grown in rainfed conditions. Two third of agriculture of the country is done under rainfed conditions and we need to give more thrust on that area. It is from this view point that the new agricultural policy speaks about adopting regionally differentiated strategy and increasing expenditure in these items. Farmers should be given incentives to increase the quality seed replacement rate. Cash programme for seeds are being implemented to ensure higher prices to the farmers and making available better seeds to them so that insects threat is minimised. Higher prices will appear as incentive for these crops and all this is possible only if an integrated policy is adopted, we are trying to do this on the basis of the report of the expert committee.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Now, Q.No. 103

... (Interruptions)

SARDAR BUTA SINGH : Sir, it is a very important question for the dryland States.... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : No, no; we have covered only two questions today...

... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : If the hon. Minister is agreeable, we can have Half-an-Hour Discussion.

SARDAR BUTA SINGH : Kindly permit a special discussion on dryland farming. This is a question of national importance. We must have a discussion on this ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI LAL MUNI CHAUBEY : Mr. Deputy Speaker, I kept my hand raised for a long time, but you did not look towards me..... *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Now, that question is over, you can ask supplementaries in this question.

... *(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Buta Singh, he has agreed for an Half-an-Hour Discussion.

Constitution of Technology Mission to Increase production of Oilseeds

*103. SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a technology mission has been constituted to increase the production of oilseeds in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the oilseeds included in this technology mission and whether coconut is also inducted in this list;

(d) if so, the details of schemes formulated to increase the productivity of coconut in Kerala during the last three years; and

(e) the total allocation made for implementation of these schemes alongwith the expenditure incurred thereon?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI NITISH KUMAR) : (a) to (e) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A Technology Mission on Oilseeds was set up in 1986 in order to meet the domestic requirement of edible oil so that the country was not dependant on the import of edible oils. This was to be done through adoption of integrated and Mission mode approach to production and processing technology, input services support and storage, marketing and processing support etc.

(c) The Oilseeds included under the Technology Mission are Groundnut, Rapeseed-Mustard, Soybean, Sunflower, Sesamum, Safflower, Niger, Linseed, Oil Palm and Castor. Coconut has not been included under the Technology Mission, but is covered under Price Support Scheme.

(d) Keeping in view the importance of Coconut it is being specifically Handled by the Coconut Development Board. The Board has been implementing the following schemes to increase productivity of Coconut in Kerala during the last three years :

1. Production and distribution of quality planting material.
2. Expansion of area under coconut.
3. Integrated farming in coconut holdings for productivity improvement.

(e) The total allocation made for implementation of these schemes along with the expenditure incurred for the last three years is as follows:

(Rs. in lakhs)		
Year	Total allocation	Expenditure
1997-98	840.675	1027.734
1998-99	1040.890	1053.140
1999-2000	814.675	799.952

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Now, Q. No. 103, Shri Ramesh Chennithala.

... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, the coconut growers in southern States are facing a lot of difficulties. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI LAL MUNI CHAUBEY : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I had kept my hands raised for such a long time but you didn't even look at me. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record except what Shri Ramesh Chennithala says.

... *(Interruptions)**

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA : Sir, the attitude of the Central Government is not at all helpful. In 1989, the then Prime Minister, Shri V.P. Singh, had announced that coconut would be included under the Technology Mission on Oilseeds... *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : This is Question Hour. I have gone to Q.No. 103.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The hon. Minister has given the reply.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA : In this answer, the hon. Minister says that coconut has not been included under the Technology Mission on Oilseeds. ... *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record except what Shri Chennithala says.

...*(Interruptions)**

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA : By this, the coconut growers have been deprived of getting the benefits of the Technology Mission on Oilseeds.... *(Interruptions)**

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Chaubey, I told you that nothing will go on record.

...*(Interruptions)**

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA : I would like to know the reason for not including coconut in the Technology Mission on Oilseeds. ...*(Interruptions)* It is mentioned that coconut is covered under Price Support Scheme. ...*(Interruptions)* The support price is not adequate. ...*(Interruptions)* I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the support price will be enhanced. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan, he is asking his supplementary.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : This is a question regarding coconut. ...*(Interruptions)* Will the Minister agree for an Half-an-Hour Discussion?

1200 hrs.

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Hon'ble Member said that at the time of Prime Ministership of Shri V.P. Singh under National Front Government, coconut was declared an oilseed and of tree-origin and was thus brought under minimum support price mechanism. Hon'ble Member has asked as to why it has not been included in the oilseed technology mission. Schemes are being implemented for coconut development and it could get fund allocation through technology mission oilseeds. The figures show that the allocation through Coconut Development Board is many times more than the allocation made through technology mission. Only one third of total coconut production is used for extracting oil and two third of the oil is extracted from that. From this viewpoint, the total outlay of Oilseed Production Programme of DNOP is Rs. 92 crore. The contribution of coconut oil in the total oil production is 6 percent. Thus its total allocation would come to around Rs. five crore whereas Rs. 20 crore is spent through Coconut Development Board. Therefore, it would be beneficial to include coconut in DMOP but there are many difficulties in it. Hon'ble Member spoke about minimum support price. Minimum support price is recommended by CACP. We are procuring copra from all coconut producing states and so far about 1.5 lakh tonnes of copra has been procured.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Hon. Minister, in the Zero Hour on Friday, this matter was raised by the Members of coconut growing States. The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs assured the hon. Members that he would bring it to your notice. You can see the agitation of these Members in the House. So, I would request you to convene a meeting with the Members of these coconut growing States, Commerce Minister and other Ministers related with this and sort it out as soon as possible.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, hon'ble Minister of Parliamentary Affairs has given assurance in the House. ...*(Interruptions)* I will call the meeting of hon'ble Members in this regard in this very session. The meeting will be held next week or the week after as per the convenience of hon'ble Members.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : All right.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[Translation]

Production of Tidal Energy in Tamilnadu and West Bengal

*104. DR. A.D.K. JAYASEELAN : Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) the quantum of tidal energy being produced in the country;

(b) the future programmes in this regard;

(c) whether the Government have explored the possibility of setting up of projects based on tidal waves at Tiruchendur in Tamilnadu and on river Hugli and its tributaries in West Bengal;

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the present position of these projects, State-wise; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN) : (a) No tidal power generation plant has been installed in the country due to its high cost of generation of electricity

(b) to (e) A detailed Project Report for a 3MW Tidal Power Plant at Durgaduani creek in Sundarbans area has been prepared. The experience gained in the above project will decide the future course of action for the development of tidal energy programme in the country. There is no potential for tidal wave power at Tiruchendur in Tamilnadu. However, a potential of about 25 MW has been assessed in the delta of Ganga in Sundarbans area of West Bengal.

[Translation]

Improvement in Forests

*105. MOHD. SHAHABUDDIN : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have conducted any survey to ascertain the present position of forests in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there are number of district which are without forests;

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

(e) whether the Government purpose to improve the position of forests in these districts;

(f) if so, the action plan formulated by the Government in this regard; and

(g) if not, the reason therefor?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) Yes, Sir, Forest Survey of India is assessing forest cover of the country using satellite data biennially since 1987.

(b) to (d) The details are given in the Statement enclosed.

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) Details of the action plan of the Government are :

(i) Afforestation programmes are undertaken by State Governments/UT Administrations from their own resources as well as with financial assistance from Government of India.

(ii) Externally aided projects are being implemented for development and preservation of forests.

(iii) Guidelines have been issued to all States/UTs to involve village communities in protection and regeneration of degraded forests.

(iv) Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 has been enacted to regulate the diversion of forest land for non forestry purposes.

(v) A net work of protected areas has been established.

(vi) Ministry of Environment and Forests has prepared a National Forestry Action Programme to enhance the contribution of forestry and tree resources for ecological stability and people centered development through increased investments in conservation and development of forest resources.

(g) Does not arise.

Statement**State-wise forest cover as per State of Forest Report, 1999**

State/UT	Total Forest Cover (sq.km)	No. of Districts without discernible forest cover as per State of Forest Report 1999
Andhra Pradesh	44,229	Nil
Arunachal Pradesh	68,847	Nil
Assam	23,688	Nil
Bihar	4,830	15
Chhatisgarh	56,693	Nil
Delhi	88	Nil
Goa	1,251	Nil
Gujarat	12,965	Nil
Haryana	964	Nil
Himachal Pradesh	13,082	Nil
Jammu & Kashmir	20,441	Nil
Jharkhand	21,664	Nil
Karnataka	32,467	1
Kerala	10,323	Nil
Madhya Pradesh	75,137	1
Maharashtra	46,672	Nil
Manipur	17,384	Nil
Meghalaya	15,633	Nil
Mizoram	18,338	Nil
Nagaland	14,164	Nil
Orissa	47,033	Nil
Punjab	1,412	Nil
Rajasthan	13,871	Nil
Sikkim	3,118	Nil
Tamil nadu	17,078	Nil
Tripura	5,745	Nil
Uttaranchal	23,260	Nil
Uttar Pradesh	10,756	2
West Bengal	8,362	3
A&N Islands	7,606	Nil
Chandigarh	7	Nil
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	202	Nil
Daman & Diu	3	Nil
Lakshdweep*	0	1
Pondicherry*	0	4
Total	637,293	27

* No discernible forest cover.

Benefits to Farmers

***106. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV :** Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the farmers are not getting full benefits of their produce despite India being the leading producer of vegetables and fruits in the world;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to put in place any system to do away with the intermediaries to ensure full benefits to the farmers; and

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

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI NITISH KUMAR) : (a) to (c) Farmers are generally getting benefit of their fruits and vegetables, except during the glut seasons. To safeguard the interest of farmers in the glut situation, Government of India has a Market Intervention Scheme (MIS) wherein market operation is done through identified market agencies based on the request from State Governments. The Government is also providing market infrastructure support for handling, marketing, processing and export of fruits and vegetables. This is an ongoing process.

Air pollution in Metropolitan Cities

***107. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE :** Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether air pollution in the metropolitan cities is rapidly increasing;

(b) if so, whether the Government have conducted any survey during the last two years;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to reduce air pollution in these cities?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) to (c) The air pollution load in the metropolitan cities exhibit an increasing trend due to increase in economic activities, urbanization and industrialization. The ambient air quality is monitored regularly through a network of monitoring stations under the National Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Programme. The annual averages of criteria air pollutants in four

metropolitan cities of Delhi, Mumbai, Calcutta and Chennai during the last two years are as follows:

(Annual Average in micro gram per cubic metre)

Metropolitan Cities	Sulphur dioxide		Nitrogen dioxide		Suspended Particulate Matter	
	1998	1999	1998	1999	1998	1999
Delhi	15.8	16.3	28.6	26.5	341	351
Mumbai	16.1	14.4	22.1	29.9	212	247
Chennai	10.5	8.2	22.3	14.0	116	77
Calcutta	31.0	31.5	30.9	29.2	275	268

(d) The Government has taken various steps to control pollution in the country which include the following :-

- (i) Emission standards for industries have been notified under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 to check pollution.
- (ii) Industries are also required to install necessary pollution control equipments before commissioning of their plants.
- (iii) Industries are required to take consents from the respective State Pollution Control Boards under the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981.
- (iv) Emission standards for on-road vehicles and mass emission standards for new vehicles have been notified under the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988 and are enforced by Transport Departments of the State Governments.
- (v) Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) is supplied for automobiles through a number of retail outlets in Delhi and Mumbai to cater to the CNG fitted vehicles.
- (vi) Unleaded petrol is supplied in the entire country from 1.2.2000 and diesel with 0.25% sulphur maximum content is supplied from 1.1.2000 in the entire country. Ultra low sulphur (0.05%) fuel (petrol and diesel) has also been introduced in Delhi.

[English]

CBI Report on Cricket Match Fixing

*108. DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA
SHRI TARACHAND BHAGORA :

Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received the CBI report on cricket match fixing scandal;

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

(c) the names of cricketers found guilty and the action proposed to be taken by the Government and BCCI against them;

(d) the views of certain other ministries as well as BCCI in this regard and action proposed in the matter;

(e) whether the Government have proposed any enquiry regarding sale of telecast rights of cricket matches by the BCCI during the last two years as pointed out by CBI;

(f) if so, the details thereof;

(g) whether the Government have contacted the South African Government in regard to match fixing;

(h) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(i) the concrete steps taken/being taken to check the recurrence of such episodes of match fixing in future?

THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (KUMARI UMA BHARATI) : (a) to (d) and (i) CBI submitted its report on Match Fixing and related malpractices to the Government on 30.10.2000. CBI has indicated some bookies, punters, some foreign players and five Indian players viz; Ajay Sharma, Manoj Prabhakar, Azharuddin, Ajay Jadeja, Nayan Mongia and Dr. Ali Irani, Physiotherapist. CBI has also indicated in its report, after consulting various legal experts including the Solicitor General of India, that no criminal charges can be filed under cheating or the Gambling Act against anyone because of the nebulous position of the law in this regard, as well as the improbability of the investigating agency being able to obtain sufficient legal evidence. However, it is evaluating the probability of prosecuting Ajay Sharma and Azharuddin as public servants under the Prevention of Corruption Act. A copy of the report has been sent to the concerned Ministries seeking their advice about the future course of action. The advice of the Ministry of Law has since been received and they have also expressed similar views about the likely prosecution of indicted persons as indicated in the CBI report. A copy of the report has also been given to BCCI for taking action against the indicted persons as per its rules and Code of Conduct. BCCI has suspended the indicted players for the time being and will submit its views on the report and decide the final action after examining the report by the end of November, 2000. The future course of action will be decided after getting advice from all concerned.

(e) and (f) CBI, in its report, indicated that the enquiry into the matter of grant of television rights was being dealt with separately. CBI has since informed that it has recently registered 5 cases against DD officials and others. 3 cases relate to cricket and two to Tennis.

(g) and (h) As per information received from Ministry of External Affairs, the South African authorities have been kept informed regarding the possible involvement of certain members of their cricket team in match fixing in conformity with the close and cordial relations between the two countries. The South African Government has reaffirmed their decision to abide by the results of the due process of law in this case.

[Translation]

Power Thefts

*109. SHRI P.R. KHUNTE :
SHRI RAMCHANDRA PASWAN :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) the estimated annual loss suffered by the Government due to power thefts in the country during each of the last three years, State-wise;

(b) whether the Government have recently reviewed the problem of power thefts in depth;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the steps taken by various State Electricity Boards and results achieved so far;

(e) the details of those State Electricity Boards which have failed in checking power thefts particularly by the industrial consumers;

(f) whether the Government have consulted the SEBs to tackle this problem;

(g) if so, the details thereof; and

(h) if not, the policy of the Government to prevent power thefts completely?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SURESH PRABHU) : (a) to (c) A statement showing the Transmission and Distribution losses (T&D losses) State-wise as reported by the State Power Utilities (including commercial losses due to theft) during the period 1995-98 is given in the Statement.

The losses due to theft of Power incurred by the State Power Utilities are not being assessed separately. However, the experience of States which have unbundled and restructured their operations (Orissa, Andhra Pradesh, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan and Karnataka) indicates that the T and D losses (including commercial losses due to theft) are in the range of 40-50 percent. A rough estimate indicates that the annual losses sustained by Power Utilities due to theft and pilferage are in the range of Rs. 20,000 to 25,000 crores.

Transmission and distribution losses are of two types: technical and non-technical. Technical losses take place due to energy dissipation in the conductors and equipment used for transmission, transformation and distribution of power. Commercial losses are caused due to pilferage, use of defective meters, errors in meter reading and due to errors in estimating unmetered supply of energy.

(d) to (g) The Central Electricity Authority (CEA) has issued guidelines to adopt the following measures for reducing the T&D losses :

- (i) Strengthening/improvement of the distribution system;
- (ii) Reducing LT line length by relocation of distribution sub-stations/installation of additional sub-stations;
- (iii) Formulation of comprehensive system improvement schemes;
- (iv) Setting up of vigilance squads to check and prevent pilferage of energy;
- (v) Imposition of severe penalties for tampering with meter seals;
- (vi) Fixing responsibilities on Executives Engineers responsible for distribution in a specified geographical area for accounting energy received and energy billed;
- (vii) Installation of temper-proof meters; and
- (viii) Formulating and implementing a time-bound Action Plan for checking the meter and replacing defective meters.

The measures to be adopted for reducing the T&D losses (including commercial losses) was discussed in the 'Conference of Power Ministers' held on 26th February, 2000 and it was unanimously resolved that the State/UT Governments would adopt the following measures :

- (i) Introducing of energy audit at all levels.
- (ii) 100% metering of all consumers by December, 2001 in a phased manner. Under Phase-I of the programme, metering upto 11 KV feeder and HT consumers will be completed by March, 2001 and under Phase-II of the programme metering upto consumer level will be completed by December, 2001.
- (iii) Reduction and elimination of power thefts within a specified time frame.

- (iv) Strengthening and upgrading of the sub-transmission and distribution system utilizing the funds to be available under the Accelerated Power Development Programme (APDP).

With the implementation of these measures, it will be possible for the State Power Utilities to substantially reduce the T&D losses, including losses due to theft and pilferage.

(h) The State Governments/State Power Utilities have to enforce the legal provisions which are already available and impose stringent punishment to those who indulge in theft and pilferage of electricity. Theft of electricity has been made a cognizable offence under the Indian Electricity Act, 1910. The State Governments/State Power Utilities also have to establish a strong enforcement machinery and take advantage of the legal enablement to curb theft of electricity.

Statement

Percentage Transformation, Transmission & Distribution Losses (Including Commercial Losses Such as Pilferage etc.) in SEBs/EDs

Region	SEBs/EDs.	95-96	96-97	97-98*
<i>Northern Region</i>	1. Haryana	32.39	32.77	33.04#
	2. H.P.	16.09	18.02	19.20
	3. J & K	47.52	48.27	47.48\$
	4. Punjab	18.49	19.10	17.90
	5. Rajasthan	29.27	26.28	26.46
	6. Uttar Pradesh	21.84	24.84	25.00
<i>Western Region</i>	7. Chandigarh	33.72	21.88	14.95
	8. DVB (Delhi)	48.57	49.08	46.86#
	1. Gujarat	20.08	17.14	19.06
	2. M.P.	17.84	19.24	19.08
	3. Maharashtra	16.95	16.55	17.73
	4. D & N Haveli	9.31	8.80	NA
<i>Southern Region</i>	5. Goa	26.06	23.50	23.39
	6. Daman & Diu	12.80	8.15	11.27
	1. Andhra Pradesh	19.34	33.19	31.76
	2. Karnataka	19.06	18.73	18.56
	3. Kerala	21.12	20.59	17.87
	4. Tamil Nadu	16.19	17.65	17.00
	5. Lakshadweep	17.23	15.11	15.83
	6. Pondicherry	16.54	17.38	13.79

Region	SEBs/EDs.	95-96	96-97	97-98*
<i>Eastern Region</i>	1. Bihar	15.91	25.31	25.41
	2. Orissa (GRIDCO)	24.17	50.15	NA
	3. Sikkim	16.47	29.24	20.13
	4. West Bengal	19.26	18.01	20.34
	5. A & N Island	19.25	19.15	20.15
<i>North-Eastern Region</i>	1. Assam	26.91	25.97	30.05
	2. Manipur	24.85	22.95	21.50\$
	3. Meghalaya	12.55	19.75	17.93
	4. Nagaland	35.17	26.81	29.50\$
	5. Tripura	30.86	30.11	29.758
	6. Arunachal P.	37.12	32.62	30.99\$
	7. Mizoram	25.18	34.35	47.00\$
<i>All India Utilities</i>		22.27	24.53	24.44

Source : DMLF Division, Central Electricity Authority (General Review) *Data is tentative as reported by SEBs/EDs

Computed Figures \$ As reported in the Annual Plan Resources Paper submitted to Planning Commission

NA—Information not yet furnished by the SEB/ED.

Investment in Agriculture Sector

*110. SHRI BHERULAL MEENA :
SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the status of investment in agriculture sector during 1998-89 and 1999-2000, till date;

(b) whether the capital investment is declining in the agriculture sector;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps being taken by the Government to check the decline in investments in the agriculture sector and to boost it?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI NITISH KUMAR) : (a) As per the Quick Estimates provided by Central Statistical Organisation, the amount of investment in Agriculture Sector including Animal Husbandry during the year 1998-99 at current prices was Rs. 25243 crores. The estimates of investment made in agriculture sector during the year 1999-2000 and the financial year have not yet been prepared.

(b) and (c) The Gross Capital Formation in Agriculture Sector including Animal Husbandry at current prices has increased during the 3 years as given below :

*Gross Capital Formation in Agriculture Sector
(At current prices)*

Year	(Units Rs. in crores)
1996-97	21824
1997-98	23228
1998-99*	25243

* Quick Estimates.

(d) With a view to increase capital investment in Agriculture Sector, the Government is *inter-alia*, implementing the following schemes :

- (i) Accelerated irrigation Benefit Programme (AIBP) initiated in the year 1996-97 for providing assistance to the States by way of loan for timely completion of selected large and multi-purpose irrigation projects.
- (ii) Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF) within the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development established during the year 1995-96.
- (iii) National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Areas (NWDPA) launched during the year 1990-91 for a holistic and sustainable development of vast rainfed areas.

[English]

Private Investment in Power Sector

*111. SHRI SHIVAJI VITHALRAO KAMBLE :
SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) the details of reforms effected in power sector to attract private investment in power generation transmission and distribution network;

(b) the details of private investment proposals cleared by the Planning Commission and Central Electricity Authority (CEA) since the announcement of privatization policy and actual investment made over the period, State-wise;

(c) the details of completed and ongoing projects in private sector with estimated cost and its capacity and progress made, project-wise;

(d) the details of fresh proposals received by the Government, State-wise; and

(e) the action taken by the Government to clear these projects?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SURESH PRABHU) : (a) Some of the steps taken by the Government for simplifying and decentralizing the procedure for clearance of private power projects and to attract more companies in the power sector, are :

- minimizing the number of clearances required to be obtained for the purpose of appraisal of the private power projects by Central Electricity Authority (CEA).
- minimizing 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 generation, transmission and distribution will be permitted foreign equity participation up to 100% on the automatic approval route without any limit.
- 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 Commissions Act, 1998 has been enacted which enabled setting up of the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission and the State Electricity Regulatory Commissions.
- the Electricity Laws Amendment Act, 1998 was enacted to make transmission as a distinct activity encouraging greater participation in the investment in the private sector.
- a policy on Hydro Power Development was initiated for accelerating the pace of hydro power development in order to exploit vast hydro-electric potential at faster pace, increase the private investment, promote small and mini hydel projects.

- the development of mega power projects at mine pit-heads and coastal location both in public and private sector with transmission facilities for evacuation of power to other regions was encouraged.

(b) Since the inception of the private power policy of the Government of India till date, Central Electricity Authority (CEA) has accorded techno-economic clearance (TEC) to 57 projects having an aggregate capacity of 29362.3 MW involving an estimate cost of Rs.122008.61 crores for which complete Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) had been received. The Planning Commission does not clear investment proposals for private sector power projects. Details of the projects accorded TEC by CEA are given in Statement-I. The actual investments involved are known only after these projects achieve financial closure, complete construction and the completion cost/firm financial package (FFP) is approved by the CEA. Out of the 57 projects accorded TEC, the FFP in respect of 5 projects has been approved by CEA, the details of which are indicated in Statement-II.

(c) Of The private power projects which have been accorded TEC by CEA, details of the completed and ongoing projects are given in Statement-III and Statement-IV. The Jojobera power project mentioned in the list of projects under construction (Statement-IV), has also been partially commissioned.

(d) and (e) Details of the schemes for setting up power projects in the private sector in the country for which the Detailed Project Reports have been received in CEA for consideration of TEC, indicating their estimated completed costs, the project promotes, capacity, pending inputs/clearances and action taken by CEA, are given in Statement-V.

Statement - I

Private power projects which have been accorded techno-economic clearance of Central Electricity Authority

S. No.	Name of the Project	CAP (MW)	Cost (Rs/ Crores)
1	2	3	4
Himachal Pradesh			
1	Baspa Stage - II HEP (M/s JPIL)	300	949.23
2	Malana HEP (M/s Rajasthan Spinning & Weaving Mills Lt.)	86	341.911
Uttar Pradesh			
3	Vishnuprayag HEP (M/s JPIL)	400	1614.6

1	2	3	4
4	Rosa TPP (M/s. Indo-Gulf Fertilizers)	567	2432.10
5	Srinagar HEP (M/s Duncans North Hydro Power Co. Ltd.)	330	1699.12
Rajasthan			
6	Dholpur CCGT (M/s RPG Dholpur Power Co. Ltd.)	702.7	2294.078
7	Barsingsar TPP (M/s Hindustan Vidyut Corporation Ltd.)	500	2106.635
Madhya Pradesh			
8	Maheshwar HEP (M/s. S. Kumars Ltd.)	400	1500
9	Kobra (East) TPP (M/s Daewoo Power)	1070	4690.00
10	Bina TPP (M/s. Bina Power Supply Co. Ltd.)	578	2443
11	Narsinghpur CCPP (M/s GBL Power)	166	531.24
12	Korba (West) Extn. (M/s. ITPL)	420	1766.78
13	Guna CCGT (M/s. STI Power India Ltd.)	330	1079.39
14	Pench TPP (M/s. Pench Power Ltd.)	500	2183.50
15	Bhilai TPP (M/s. Bhilai Power Supply Comp.)	574	2489.71
16	Raigarh TPP (M/s Jindal Power Ltd.)	550	2411.80
17	Bhander CCGT (M/s. Bhander Power Ltd.)	342	1048.072
18	Pithampur DGPP (M/s Shapoorji Pallonji Power Co. Ltd.)	119.7	442.096
19	Ratlam DGPP (M/s. GVK Power (Ratlam) Ltd.)	118.63	451.294
20	Khandwa CCGT (M/s. Madhya Bharat Energy Corp. Ltd.)	171.17	550.667
Gujarat			
21	Paguthan CCGT (M/s. Gujarat Torrent)	654.7	2298.14
22	Hazira CCGT (M/s. Essar Power Ltd.)	515.0	1666.56
23	Baroda CCGT (M/s. GIPCL)	167.0	368.22
24	Surat Lignite TPP (M/s. GIPCL)	250.00	1167.189
25	Jamnagar TPP (M/s. Reliance Power Ltd.)	500.0	2550.741
Maharashtra			
26	Dabhol CCGT (M/s. Dabhol Power Co.)	2015	9051.27
27	Bhadravati TPS (M/s. Central India Power)	1072	4630.90

1	2	3	4
28	Patalganga CCGT (M/s. Reliance Patalganga Power)	447.1	1397.181
<i>Andhra Pradesh</i>			
29	Jegurupadu CCGT (M/s. GVK Industries)	216	816
30	Godavari CCGT (M/s. Specturam Tech.)	208	748.43
31	Vizag TPS (M/s. HNPCL)	1040	4628.11
32	Ramagundam Extn. (M/s. BPL Group)	520	2384.57
33	Kondapally CCGT (Lanco Industries Ltd.)	350	1035.471
34	Krishnapatnam 'B' TPP (BBI Power Krishnapatnam Co.)	520	2221.329
35	Vemagiri CCGT (Ispat Power Limited) - on ICB route	492	1679.907
<i>Karnataka</i>			
36	Toranagallu TPS (M/s. Jindal Tractebel)	260	1093.86
37	Mangalore TPS (M/s. Cogentrix)	1013.2	4253.399
38	Nagarjuna TPP (M/s. Nagarjuna Power Corporation Ltd.)	1051	5495.99
39	Bangalore CCPP (M/s. Peenya Power)	107.6	390.593
<i>Tamil Nadu</i>			
40	Neyeli TPS - Zero Unit (Ms. ST-CMS)	250	1200
41	Pillaiperumalnallur CCGT (M/s. PPN Power)	330.5	1121.70
42	North Madras TPS - II (M/s. Videocon Power)	1050	4423.80
43	Basin Bridge DGPP (M/s. GMR Vasavi)	200	756.77

1	2	3	4
44	Tuticorin TPP St. IV (M/s. SPIC)	525	2324.10
45	Samayanallur DGPP (M/s. Balaji Power Corp. Ltd.)	106	384.221
46	Samalpatti DGPP (M/s. Samalpatti Power Co.)	106	391.863
47	North Madras TPP (M/s. Tri-Sakthi Energy Private Limited)	525	2246.77
48	Cuddalore TPP (M/s. Cuddalore Power Company)	1320	6379.157
49	Vembar CCGT (M/s. Indian Power Projects Company)	1873	5060.165
<i>Kerala</i>			
50	Vypeen CCGT (M/s. Siasin Energy Pvt. Ltd.)	679.2	1964.3
51	Kannur CCGT (M/s. Kannur Power Projects Ltd.)	513	1470
<i>Orissa</i>			
52	Ib Valley TPS (Units 5 & 6) (AES IB Valley Cor.)	500	2369.48
53	Duburi TPP Units 1 & 2 (Kalinga Power Corporation)	500	2191.534
<i>West Bengal</i>			
54	Balagarh TPS (M/s. Balagarh Power Corpn.)	500	2234.69
55	Bakreshwar TPP (Bakreshwar Power Gen. Co. Ltd.)	420	1621.588
56	Gouripore TPP (Gouripore Power Co.)	150	659.442
<i>Bihar</i>			
57	Jojobera TPP (M/s. Jamshedpur Power Co.)	240	1025.19

Statement - II

Sl. No.	Name of Project/Promoters	Capacity (MW)	State (District)	Commissioning Schedule	Estimate Cost as per FFP
1.	P.P. Nallure CCPP by M/s. PPN Power Gen. Company	330.5	Tamil Nadu (Tanjavur)	3/2001	US\$177.48+Rs. 524.81 Crs. (1US\$=Rs.33.5)
2.	Kondapalli CCPP By M/s. Kondapalli Power Corp.	355.0	A.P.(Krishna)	GT1 : 1/2000 GT2 : 3/2000 ST : 8/2000	US\$178.636+Rs.384.441 Crs. (1US\$ = Rs. 36)
3.	Samalpatti DGPP By M/s. Samalpatti Power Co.	106.0	Tamil Nadu (Dharmapuri)	14-17 months From F.C.	US\$ 55.978m+Rs. 172.508 Crs. (1US\$ = Rs. 39)
4.	Maheshwar HEP By M/s. SMHPCL	400	M.P. (Khargone)	2003-04	US\$211.68 m+Rs. 921.665 Crs. (1 US\$ = Rs. 35.5)
5.	Malana HEP by M/s. Malana Power Co. Ltd.	86	H.P. (Kullu)	5 years after Fin. Closure	Rs. 332.711

Abbreviations

CCPP Combined Cycle Power Project
 DGPP Diesel Generating Power Project
 SMHPCL Sree Maheshwar Hydel Power Corporation Limited

GT Gas Turbine
 ST Steam Turbine
 FC Financial Closure

Statement - III

Private Power Projects accorded techno-economic clearance of Central Electricity Authority which have been fully commissioned

S.No.	Name of The Project	CAP (MW)	Estimated completed cost as per techno-economic clearance of CEA
<i>Gujarat</i>			
1	Paguthan CCGT (M/s. Gujarat PowerGen Energy Corporation Limited)	654.7	Rs.2298.14 crores
2	Hazira CCGT (M/s. Essar Power Ltd.)	515.0	US\$ 284.35 M + Rs.770.87 crores (ER Rs. 31.50/- = 1US\$)
3	Baroda CCGT (M/s. Gujarat Industries Power Corporation Limited)	167.0	Rs.368.22 crores
4	Surat Lignite TPP (M/s. Gujarat Industries Power Corporation Limited)	250.0	US\$44.538 M + DM4.92 M + Rs.999.99 crores (ER 1 US\$=Rs. 35/-, 1 DM= Rs.23/-)
<i>Maharashtra</i>			
5	Dabhol CCGT-Phase-1 (M/s. Dabhol Power Co.)	740	Rs.9051.27 crores (for both phase-I and Ph-II of 1440MW)
<i>Andhra Pradesh</i>			
6	Jegurupadu CCGT (M/s. GVK Industries Limited)	216	Rs.827.0 crores
7	Godavari CCGT (M/s. Spectrum Power Generation Limited)	208	Rs.748.43 crores
<i>Karnataka</i>			
8	Toranagallu TPS (M/s. Jindal Tractebel Power Company Limited)	260	US\$ 106.87 m + Rs. 725.16 Crores
<i>Tamil Nadu</i>			
9	Basin Bridge DGPP (M/s. GMR Vasavi Power Corporation Limited)	200	US\$ 125.82 M + Rs. 328.99 crores
10	Kondapalli CCGT of M/s.Lanco Kondapalli Power Corporation	350	US\$180.616+ Rs.385.254 crores

Statement-IV

Private Power Projects accorded techno-economic clearance of Central Electricity Authority which are under construction

S.No.	Name of Project	Cap. (MW)	State	Promoter	Remarks
Private Power projects					
1.	Dabhol CCGT-Phase-II	1440	Maharashtra	M/s. Dabhol Power Company	Partially commissioned (120 MW).
2.	Jojobera TPP	240	Bihar	M/s. Jamshedpur Power Company	
3	Maheshwar HEP	400	Madhya Pradesh	M/s. Shri Maheshwar Hydel Power Corporation Limited	
4	Baspa-II HEP	300	Himachal Pradesh	M/s. Jaiprakash Hydro Power Limited	
5.	Pillaiperumalnallur CCGT	330.5	Tamil Nadu	M/s. PPN Power Generating Company	
6.	Vemagiri CCGT (Naphtha)	492	Andhra Pradesh	M/s. Ispat Power Limited	
7.	Neyvelli TPP	250	Tamil Nadu	M/s. ST-CMS electric Company	
8.	Malana HEP	86	Himachal Pradesh	M/s. Rajasthan Spinning & Weaving Mills Limited	
9.	Samayanallur DGPP	106	Tamil Nadu	M/s. Balaji Power Corporation Private Limited	
10.	Samalpatti DGPP	106	Tamil Nadu	M/s. Samalpatti Power Company Private Limited	
11.	Ratlam DGPP	118.63	Madhya Pradesh	GVK Power (Ratlam) Limited	
12.	Ramagundam TPP	520	Andhra Pradesh	BPL Power Projects	

Statement -V

Private Power Projects for which Detailed Projects Reports have been received in Central Electricity Authority for accord of techno-economic clearance

S. Name of the project/ promoters/state No.	Capacity (MW)	Estimated completed cost(Rs. in crores)	Pending inputs	Action taken by CEA
1	2	3	4	6
1. Dhamwari Sunda HEP (M/s Dhamwari Power Company Ltd. Himachal Pradesh)	70	563.03	i. Tentative financial package ii. Forest clearance for transmission lines. iii. Power evacuation beyond Maliana Sub-station iv. Compliance to the comments on legal aspects.	In-principle clearance (IPC) issued on 31.3.96 - Cost estimates received in 9/99 are under examination of CEA/CWC - Considered by standing Project Appraisal Committee (SPAC) on 13.3.2000 and it was decided to sort out a number of issues before the project is recommended for TEC
2. Jawaharpur TPP (M/s. Jawaharpur Power India Ltd) Uttar Pradesh	800	3810.14	i. State Government recommendations on DPR/cost ii. Corrigendum for cost under Section 29 (2) of Electricity (Supply) Act 1948 iii. Clarifications on tentative financial package	IPC issued on 16.8.1995. Proposal not recommended for TEC. To be reconsidered after pending issues are sorted out and cost is reduced substantially.
3. Rajgarh CCGT (M/s. Alpine Power System Ltd.), Madhya Pradesh	343.48	1128.78	i. Compliance of Section 29 (2) of the Electricity (Supply) Act, 1948 corrigendum for revised capacity and cost, report u/s. 29(3) awaited ii. State Government consent u/s 18A for authorisation to revised capacity iii. Power evacuation system and number of outlets in switchyard	To be considered for TEC after pending inputs/ clearances are tied up.

1	2	3	4	5	6
				iv. Revalidated fuel transport MW clearance	
				v. Fuel linkage for revised capacity of 343.48 MW	
4	Jhabua CCGT (M/s. Kedia Power Ltd. Madhya Pradesh)	360	1365.768	i. Compliance of Section 29(2) of Electricity (Supply) Act, 1948 corrigendum for revised capacity and cost, report u/s 29(3) from State Government awaited ii. State Government consent u/s 18A for revised capacity iii. Ministry of Environment & Forests (MoEF) and State Pollution Control Board (SPCB) clearance for submergence of 194.33 Ha of land iv. Fresh approval from Government of Madhya Pradesh for drawal of 8.63 cu.m. of consumptive water v. Confirmation of power absorption by GOMP	Meeting held with IPP on 12.11.1999. The company intimated to keep the project capacity as 330 MW. Company have been asked to submit revised DPR upto 31.12.2000.
5	Hassan CCP (M/s. Hassan Power Supply Co. Ltd.) Karnataka	189	715.62	i. Resolution of water availability by CWC from inter State angle.	Considered by CEA for TEC on 28.5.1999. Scheme will be reconsidered after hard cost is reduced by IPP by Rs.51 crores in addition to Rs.20 crores already reduced by them and reduction of soft cost to reasonable level.
6	Nanjangud CCPP (T) (M/s. IPS Power Co.)	96.7	US\$52.26M +Rs.154.916 crore	i. Resolution of water availability by CWC from inter State angle. ii. Finalisation of hard cost	IPC issued on 31.3.1996. Considered by CEA for TEC on 26.2.1999.

1	2	3	4	5	6
7	Mandya CCPP (M/s. Mandya Power Partners Pvt. Ltd.)	164.4	674.775	i. Compliance of Section 29(2) - corrigendum for revised capacity & cost in Gazette ii. Water availability (central & State) iii. Extension of validity of fuel linkage and transfer of fuel linkage in favour of Generating company. iv. Fuel transport v. MoEF clearance - revalidation for revised capacity vi. Financial package. vii. Power evacuation system	Proposal returned by CEA on 1.5.2000 for want of pending inputs/clearances.
8	Telgi (Bijapur) TPP (M/s. KEI Energy Pvt. Ltd.)	350	1597.7	IPC issued on 30.3.1996. Considered By SPAC on 16.3.1999. Not recommended for techno-economic clearance as cost is not properly structured and equipment and service costs are not indicated in the reasonable proportion.	
9	Srimushnam Lignite TPP (M/s. TICAPCO)	250	1451	i. Water availability ii. State Government recommendation on DPR and cost iii. Approval of Ministry Coal for mining plan	Considered in pre-SPAC meeting in 16.11.1999.
10	Krishnapatnam 'A' TPP (M/s. GVK Power Krishnapatnam Ltd.)	520	US\$377.56Mi. + Rs.1089.72 9crores	i. Coal linkage & transportation ii. Revalidated MoEF clearance for revised capacity iii. Compliance of Section 29(2) & 29(3) iv. Firmed completed cost. v. State Government authorisation under Section 18(A) vi. Environment (SPCB) clearance for proposed Jetty.	Proposal returned by CEA on 20.4.2000 for want of pending inputs/clearances.

1	2	3	4	5	6
				vii. Revalidated NOC of Airports Authority of India Ltd.	
				viii. CWC clearance.	
11	Upper Krishna HEP (M/s. Chamundi Power Corp)	1146	US\$213.9M + Rs.941 crores	i. Compliance of Section 18-A of E(S) Act, 1948 ii. Compliance of Section 29 of the said Act. iii. Certificate from State authorities regarding availability of land and water. iv. Clearance from Forests, Environment and Re-settlement & Rehabilitation Plan Angles from MOE&F. v. Final clearance from CWC regarding inter-State water aspects vi. Submission of final cost estimates. vii. Submission of complete DPR alongwith capital cost and tentative financial package for the remaining power station Stage-II installed capacity of 849 MW between Narainpur Barrage and Tamanakal.	Proposal returned by CEA on 20.4.2000 for want of pending inputs/clearances.
12.	Allain Duhangan HEP (M/s. Rajasthan Spinning & Weaving Mills)	192	730.33	MOEF clearance. Finalisation of beneficiary of power, power evacuation, financial aspects, implementation agreement clearance of 'APPROACH' by CWC, Authorisation of	Proposals returned on 23.3.2000 for want of pending inputs/clearances.

1	2	3	4	5	6
				State Government u/s 18A. Clearance from Design aspects, clearance of cost estimates.	
13	Karcham Wangtoo HEP (M/s. Jaiprakash Industries Ltd.)	1000	3875.11	MOEF clearance, State Forest Department clearance, R&R programme, tentative financial package, land availability, water availability (S&C), compliance of Section 29(2) & (3) of E(S) Act.	Proposal returned on 5.7.2000 for want of pending inputs/clearances.
14	New Delhi TPS (M/s. Apollo Energy Co. Pvt. Ltd.)	350	US\$ 468.61M + Rs. 156.98 crores	Land availability. State Government consent u/s 18A, State Government recommendation of cost/ DPR, compliance of sec 29(2)-corrigendum for revised capacity and cost, NOC of SPCB, MOEF clearance, Power evacuation arrangement and outlets in S/Yard, report u/s 29(3) awaited.	Proposal returned on 19.11.1998 for want of pending inputs / clearances.
15	Surat Lignite Power Project Ext. Ph.II (M/s. GIPCL)	250	1145.29	Clearances are land availability, fuel linkage, water availability (S&C), NOC of SPCB, NOC of State Env. deptt., NOC of NAA.	Proposal returned on 23.10.2000 for want of pending inputs / clearances.
16	Korba (west) TPP (M/s RPG Korba West Power Co. Ltd.	520	2137.14	Clearances are CWC's clearance on water availability, fuel linkage, state government consent u/s 18A.	Proposal returned on 21.5.1997 for want of pending inputs / clearances
17	Banglore TPP (M/s. Pulakeshi Power Co.)	500	2372.55	State Government recommendation of DPR/cost fuel linkage/ transport, compliance of section 29(2), NOC of SPCB, MOEF clearance, firmed completed cost, power evacuation system,	Proposal returned on 18.12.1997 for want of pending inputs/clearances.

1	2	3	4	5	6
				water availability (S&C), NOC of NAA, State Government authorisation U/S 18A.	Proposal returned on 6.9.1999 for want of pending inputs/clearances.
18	Mean Shivapur Konnur LNG based CCPP (M/s Wescopower Gen. Ltd.)	500	1659.2	State Government recommendation of DPR/cost, clearance, firm completed cost, tentative financial package, water availability (S&C), NOC of NAA, State Government authorisation U/S 18A.	Proposal returned on 6.9.1999 for want of pending inputs/clearances.
19	Kasargod CCGT (M/s Einolox Energy Corporation)	459	1398.43	Land availability/fuel transportation, compliance of Sec. 29(2) in local newspaper, State Government authorisation u/s 18A for revised capacity, firm completed cost, State Government recommendation of DPR/cost, State Government consent for use and import of condensate as fuel in place of naphtha, power evacuation system.	Proposal returned on 19.6.1997 for want of pending inputs/clearances.
20	Kattupalli CCPP (M/s. Chennai Power Gen Ltd.)	1000	US\$662.21M+ Rs.1513.14 crores	Clearances are fuel availability/transportation, compliance of Sec 29(2), State Government authorisation u/s 18A, firm completed cost, power evacuation system, NOC of SPCB for condensate as back up fuel, MOEF clearance.	Proposal returned on 27.3.2000 for want of pending inputs/clearances.

Package for SEBs to settle dues

*112. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI :
DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have announced/proposed to announce any package for those States which are willing to settle their outstanding dues payable by the State Electricity Boards;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether a meeting was held between Finance Minister, Power Minister, Chairman of IDBI and other financial institutions in this regard;

(d) if so, the decision taken in the meeting; and

(e) the manner in which the State Electricity Boards are likely to be benefited by this package?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SURESH PRABHU) : (a) and (b) In July 2000, Government

announced a scheme for securitisation of the dues of State Electricity Boards towards the Central Public Sector Undertakings of the Ministry of Power and Department of Coal. The salient features of the scheme are as under :

- (i) The concerned defaulting SEBs would issue bonds to CPSUs of the Ministry of Power and the Department of Coal to cover the principal amount due upto 31.12.1999 or any other mutually accepted date.
- (ii) The bonds would be backed by a State Government's guarantee with specific allocation to be made in the concerned State Government's Budget for servicing the bonds in the event of the SEBs being unable to do so.
- (iii) By way of further comfort to the bond holder, the Central Government would undertake to use the existing authorization to deduct upto 15% of CPA allocations of the state concerned for the purpose of redemption of bonds if the State Government is unable to meet the guarantee obligation.
- (iv) The bonds will have tax-free status.
- (v) With the above features, the bonds are expected to be tradable in the secondary market and the Central PSUs would have the option to recover their money by selling the bonds in the Secondary market .
- (vi) The above facility of issue of guaranteed tax-free bonds by the SEBs will be available only to those SEBs/State Governments who agree to implement a suitable reform package including payment of current dues by the SEB and opening of LC to the extent of 105% of the current dues, adhering to milestone of reforms formulated by the MOP and the setting up of the SERC quickly in the concerned State etc.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Question does not arise.

(e) As stated in paras (a) & (b), State Electricity Boards by issuing bonds CPSUs are expected to reduce their outstanding dues which in turn will improve their credit rating in the market. The SEBs will also benefit due to the fact there is no immediate cash outflow, lower cost of servicing the bonds due to tax exemption as also saving on account of non accrual of surcharge after the date of issue of bonds.

Damage caused by Floods

***113. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE:
SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI :**

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether several States in the country have been badly affected by the floods during the current year;

(b) if so, the losses caused to life and property, crops and animals due to the floods in these States, State-wise;

(c) whether the Union Government have sent any Central Team to the States for making assessment of losses suffered by the States;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the details of Central assistance provided to these States against their demands in addition to calamities relief fund, Statewise;

(f) whether some State Governments have demanded to treat the entire amount provided to them for flood relief as grants;

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

(h) the concrete measures taken by the Government to control floods?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI NITISH KUMAR) : (a) Yes, Sir,

(b) The State-wise details are given in Statement-I.

(c) and (d) Central Teams have visited the States of Arunachal Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Bihar, West Bengal & Karnataka during June to November this year.

(e) The State-wise details are in Statement-II.

(f) and (g) It is primarily the responsibility of the States to provide relief to the people in the wake of natural calamities. Central Government only supplements the efforts of the States. State Governments at times do request for entire assistance sought by them for reconstruction/rehabilitation to be the commitment of the Central Government. However, besides assistance from Calamity Relief Fund (CRF), financial assistance under other heads is also provided wherever feasible.

(h) Measures taken to control floods include both structural and non-structural measures like construction of reservoirs, embankments, anti-erosion works and flood proofing.

Statement-I*Details of Loss/Damage during 2000 due to floods*

S. No.	Name of the State	No. of Districts affected	Loss of Human Life (Nos.)	Animal lost (Nos.)	Houses damaged (Lakhs)	Cropped area damaged (Lakh ha.)
1.	Andhra Pradesh	18	257	5368	1.04	4.22
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	4	26	NR	NR	NR
3.	Assam	18	32	NR	NR	2.24
4.	Bihar	33	273	1815	2.81	3.90
5.	Gujarat	10	116	406	0.24	NR
6.	Himachal Pradesh	3	100	NR	NR	NR
7.	Karnataka	NR	152	690	0.55	0.57
8.	Kerala	14	75	NR	0.09	NR
9.	Madhya Pradesh	6	13	147	0.03	NEG.
10.	Punjab	7	7	NR	NEG.	NR
11.	Sikkim	1	11	NR	NEG.	NR
12.	Uttar Pradesh	39	400	871	0.34	4.35
13.	West Bengal	9	1320	83630	21.95	19.20

NR - Not reported.

NEG. - Negligible

Statement-II*State-Wise details of central assistance provided to the States*

S.No	Name of State	Centres Share of CRF released during 2000-01 (Rs. in Crores)	Other assistance provided
1.	Andhra Pradesh	148.54	Rs.200 crores for repair of highways.
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	4.40	
3.	Assam	15.66	Rs.34.89 crores released as Non-Lapsable Central Pool of Resource.
4.	Bihar	Nil	
5.	Gujarat	131.41	Rs.50.00 crores ways and means advance and Rs.50.00 crore as advance normal Central assistance.
6.	Himachal Pradesh	8.44	
7.	Karnataka	13.11	Rs.422.43 crores revenue deficit grant. Rs.58.90 crores from Department of Drinking Water Supply; Rs.7.00 crores from Department of Surface Transport, Rs.18.51 crores from Department of Rural Development.
8.	Kerala	17.34	
9.	Madhya Pradesh	31.99	
10.	Punjab	16.95	
11.	Sikkim	2.95	
12.	Uttar Pradesh	39.18	
13.	West Bengal	75.83	

In addition to the above assistance, the Army and Air Force assisted the State Governments in relief measures like evacuation of people, air-dropping of food packets and relief materials. Foodgrains at BPL rates had been supplied to the State Governments particularly to the States of Bihar and West Bengal. Medicines, disinfectants bleaching powder, halogen tablets etc. were also supplied to the affected States.

New National Sports Policy

*114. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI :
SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR :

Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have formulated a new national sports policy;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (KUMARI UMA BHARATI) : (a) A new draft Sports Policy has been formulated.

(b) The salient features of the draft Policy are as under:

- (i) Broadbasing of Sports and Promotion of excellence;
- (ii) up-gradation and development of infrastructure;
- (iii) support to the National Sports Federations and other appropriate bodies;
- (iv) strengthening of scientific and coaching support to sports;
- (v) incentives to sports persons;
- (vi) enhanced participation of women, tribals and rural youth;
- (vii) involvement of the Corporate Sector in sports promotion; and
- (viii) creation of greater awareness to promote sports mindedness in the public at large.

(c) The draft New National Sports Policy is under finalisation and will be announced in due course. The policy will be implemented from the date of its being finally approved.

Telephone Facility in Rural Areas

*115. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the target for providing telephone to subscribers in rural areas has proved to be elusive so far;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the present target in this regard; and

(d) the steps taken/being taken to achieve the target?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) to (d) Telephones connections in the rural areas are provided to individual subscribers as DELs (Direct Exchange Lines) and as VPTs (Village Public Telephones) in villages. DELs targets are not only fully achieved but also exceeded.

However, there has been shortfall in the achievement of targets for VPTs. The main reasons for this shortfall are, the need to identify a suitable technology after decision to discontinue the MARR (Multi Access Radio Relay) system, unreliable power supply and other logistical difficulties. The achievement in rural DELs and shortfall in VPTs for the last two years are given in the Statement enclosed.

During the year 2000-01, it is planned to provide about 14.20 lakhs DELs (Direct Exchange Lines) in rural areas through Small and Medium capacity exchanges. To achieve this target, necessary action for supply of exchange equipments and other essential accessories such as power plant, battery, MDFs (Main Distribution Frames) and underground cables has been taken.

The target for VPTs during 2000-01 is 1,00,000. Action has already been initiated for procurement of essential items like cables, CDOT-TDMA/PMP, WLL systems and satellite terminals.

Statement

Targets/achievement in respect of rural DELs and VPTs for the last two years

Rural DELs

Year	Target DELs (lakhs)	Achievement DELs (lakhs)
1998-99	8.44	10.03
1999-2000	12.73	14.11

VPTs

Year	Target	Achievement
1998-99	45000	37058
1999-2000	45089	33965

Assistance to State Governments for Pre-Cooling and Cold Storage Projects

*116. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have been providing financial assistance to State Governments for establishment of pre-cooling and cold storage projects by cooperatives for storage of potatoes and other fruits and vegetables through NCDC;

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

(c) the total funds provided to Maharashtra for this purpose during the last three years and till date as compared to other States, year-wise;

(d) the achievements made in regard to establishment of pre-cooling and cold storages in Maharashtra during the above period;

(e) whether the Government have monitored the proper utilization of central funds; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI NITISH KUMAR) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) NCDC provides 90% of the total block cost to the State Government in the shape of 65% as loan and 25% as subsidy received from Government of India. The balance 10% is to be met by the beneficiary societies. Currently, NCDC has also dovetailed this scheme with other scheme of Government of India relating to back-ended capital subsidy for setting up cold storage facilities by cooperatives. Assistance for rehabilitation/modernisation of cooperative storages is also being provided by NCDC.

(c)

(Rs. Lakhs)

Year	Other States	Maharashtra
1997-98	574.56	-
1998-99	269.57	-
1999-2000	1137.90	-
Till date (upto 31.3.2000)	10429.85	1715.96

(d) Of the total sanctioned 32 pre-cooling-cum-cold storage units, 25 units have been completed and others are under construction. 2 potato cold storages are also installed.

(e) and (f) NCDC has been monitoring the implementation of sanctioned projects through field inspections, State level monitoring committee and quarterly progress reports received at Regional Office/ Head Office.

[Translation]

National Crop Insurance Scheme

*117. SHRI DINESH CHANDRA YADAV :
SHRI Y.G. MAHAJAN :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the salient features of the new National Crop Insurance Scheme;

(b) the relief proposed to be provided to the farmers in the country by this scheme, State-wise; and

(c) the amount likely to be incurred on this scheme?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI NITISH KUMAR) : (a) National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (NAIS) has been implemented in the country since Rabi 1999-2000 season after replacing the erstwhile Comprehensive Crop Insurance Scheme (CCIS). Salient features of NAIS are given in Statement enclosed.

(b) Under the scheme financial support is provided to the farmers in the event of crop failure as a result of natural calamities. State-wise coverage of the farmers under the scheme in Kharif 2000 season is given as under :

S.No.	Name of State/UT	Farmer Covered
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1213552
2.	Assam	100
3.	Bihar	40158
4.	Goa	953
5.	Gujarat	1113453
6.	Himachal Pradesh	77
7.	Karnataka	226264
8.	Kerala	12218
9.	Madhya Pradesh	533927
10.	Maharashtra	1352705
11.	Meghalaya	221
12.	Orissa	442169
13.	Tamil Nadu	18753
14.	Uttar Pradesh	218235
15.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	47
16.	Pondicherry	373

(c) Payable claims are worked by the implementing Agency at the end of the crop season. Budgetary provision for meeting the claims liability for the year 2000-2001 is Rs.139.00 crore.

Statement

1. The scheme is available to all the farmers irrespective of the size of holdings.
2. The scheme is compulsory for loanee farmers and voluntary for non-loanee farmers.
3. The sum insured would be equal to the value of the threshold yield of the crop. It may extent upto 150% of the average yield of the area.
4. It covers food crops (cereals, millets & pulses), oilseeds and annual commercial/horticultural crops in respect of which past yield data is available for adequate number of years. Among the annual commercial/horticultural crops - seven crops namely; sugarcane, potato, cotton, ginger, onion, turmeric & chillies are presently covered under the scheme.
5. The other annual horticultural and commercial crops will be covered within the 3 years subject to the condition of availability of past yield data.
6. The premium rates are 3.5 per cent for bajra and oilseeds, and 2.5 per cent for other kharif crops; 1.5 per cent for wheat, and 2 per cent for other rabi crops. In case the rates worked out on the basis of actuarial data are less than the prescribed premium rate, the lower rate will be applicable.
7. In the case of commercial and horticultural crops, actuarial rates will be charged from the inception of the scheme.
8. In order to ensure sustainability of the scheme, it is proposed that the actuarial regime will be achieved in 5 years.
9. Small and marginal farmers are entitled to subsidy of 50% of the premium charged from them.
10. The premium subsidy, however, will be phased out over a period of 5 years.
11. The scheme is operated on the basis of area approach. All farmers of a defined area which is affected by a calamity, are entitled to payment of insurance claim according to the indemnity rates prescribed for the area.
12. In the event of localised calamities, however, individual claims of affected farmers will be entertained separately. Localised calamities will include hailstorm, landslide, cyclone, flood, etc.
13. The scheme will be implemented for the time being by the General Insurance Corporation of India. It is proposed that an exclusive organisation, namely, Agricultural Insurance Company of India, will eventually be established to administer the scheme.
14. The settlement of claims will be the responsibility of the insurance agency.
15. To ensure the sustainability of the scheme, efforts will be made to obtain reinsurance cover, Nationally or Internationally.
16. The scheme also provides for annual review, and modifications, as may be required, would be introduced.
17. The scheme has been under implementation since Rabi session 1999-2000 and 18 States/UTs are participating.

[English]

Development of Bio-Mass

*118. SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO : Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have any proposal to implement new technologies to develop bio-mass energy production in the country during the Ninth Plan period;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is a vast scope to develop bio-mass energy in the country;

(d) if so, whether the Government have formulated any plan to tap the potentiality in this area;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the steps taken by the Government in this regard particularly in the State of Orissa?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN) (a) and (b) Yes Sir, Different technology routes such as gasification, combustion and co-generation

are being actively developed to promote conversion of biomass materials such as agricultural, forestry and agro-industrial residues into electric power.

(c) to (e) A total biomass power potential of about 19,500 MW has been estimated for the country. Under the National Programmes for Biomass Power/Co-generation and Biomass Gasifiers, a total biomass power capacity of 290 MW has so far been installed in the country.

Financial assistance is provided either by way of capital subsidy or interest subsidy for commercial projects. The central and State Governments also provide fiscal and financial incentives including relief from taxes and duties, accelerated depreciation etc. 14 States have so far announced promotional policies for wheeling, banking, third-party sale and buy-back of electricity generated from commercial projects. Soft loans are provided by the Indian Renewables Energy Development Agency (IREDA) for commercial projects. Financial assistance is also provided for preparation of detailed project reports, organization of business/interaction meets and training programmes.

(f) One 50 KW gasifier project has been approved for the State of Orissa. Biomass Resource Assessment Studies have been carried out in three talukas of Orissa State. Such studies have further been undertaken in ten talukas of the State.

Constitution of Tribunal for Inter-state Power disputes

*119. COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Hydro Electric Projects get inordinately delayed due to interstate disputes which adversely effects implementation of Hydro-Electric Projects;

(b) whether the cost of generation of Hydro-Electric Plants is much lower as compared with Thermal Projects.

(c) whether the Government have received any request to constitute Inter-State Tribunal for early setting of Inter-State disputes;

(d) if so, whether the Government propose to constitute such a Tribunal;

(e) If so, the time by which the Tribunal is likely to be set up; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SURESH PRABHU) : (a) A large number of hydro-electric projects are getting delayed due to Inter-State disputes. At present, 37 schemes with a total installed capacity of 6627.4 MW are held up due to Inter-State aspects in different parts of the country.

(b) The cost of generation from a hydro power station is relatively low as compared with other sources of energy generation, as the hydro generation cost is not only inflation free but reduces with time. Hydro-electric projects have long useful life extending over 50 years.

(c) to (f) Recognizing the need to take up hydro electric projects locked in inter-state power disputes, the Policy on Hydro Power Development approved by Government in August, 1998, *inter-alia*, provides for basin-wise optimal development of hydro electric projects without prejudice to the claims of the basin States of effect on the benefits from the existing projects. In this regard, Ministry of Power has taken steps in bringing about an understanding between the concerned States for the development of Cauvery Power projects. Similar steps are on with regard to Inter-State Power disputes amongst the States in the Northern Region.

Further, the Inter-State Council as well as Zonal Councils are considered to be appropriate fora for a resolution of Inter-State Power Disputes. There is no proposal under consideration to constitute Inter-State Tribunal for setting the Inter-State Power Disputes.

Performance of Aluminium Plants

*120. SHRI P.D. ELANGO VAN : Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have reviewed the performance of the aluminium producing plants in the country;

(b) if so, the details of the profit earned/losses suffered, production and export of aluminium by each plant during each of the last three years;

(c) the demand and consumption of aluminium in the domestic industry and the steps taken by the Government to improve availability of aluminium in the country; and

(d) the expenditure incurred by the major aluminium companies for the import of coal (non-coking/coking) with low-ash content during the said period?

THE MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI SUNDAR LAL PATWA) (a) and (c) The production of aluminium in the country is monitored on monthly basis, the overall performance of the aluminium plants in the public sector is reviewed in detail on quarterly basis by Government. The details of production and export of aluminium and

profit earned in the last three years in respect of all domestic primary producers of aluminium metal are as under :

	Production of Aluminium (Metric tonnes)			Export of Aluminium (Metric tonnes)			Profit (Rs. in crores)		
	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000
NALCO	200162	146206	212663	55475	39865	95185	547	248	611
BALCO	88198	91844	91345	1700	Nil	116	80	76	56
HINDALCO	200304	240926	248930	26207	25740	46369	496	566	612
INDAL	38790	42193	43458	NIL	NIL	NIL	71	76	84
MALCO	25140	20290	23345	NIL	NIL	NIL	50	33	30

(c) The consumption and the production of Aluminium metal in the country for the last 3 years are as under :

Year	Consumption of Aluminium in Metric Tonnes *	Production in Metric Tonnes
1997-98	542647	552594
1198-99	567000	541459
1999-2000	588000	619741

* Figures are estimated.

In order to increase the participation of the private sector, the Aluminium Industry has been exempted from the provisions of Compulsory Licensing. Foreign investment upto 100% equity participation is also permitted on the automatic route. The two major producers of Aluminium, viz NALCO and HINDALCO, are implementing major expansion programmes to increase their production by 1,15,000 MT and 1,00,000 MT per annum respectively.

(d) The expenditure incurred by MALCO, the only company using imported non-coking/coking coal with low ash content, during the last three years is as under :

Years	(Rs. in Crores)
1997-98	NIL
1998-99	6.15
1999-2000	73.96

Backlog of Vacancies for SCs/STs

*1145. SHRI BRIJLAL KHABRI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Dr. Ambedkar Birth Centenary Celebrations Committee had recommended to fill the backlog of vacancies reserved for the SCs/STs in the year 1993;

(b) if so, the action taken thereon during the last three years in respect of backlog of vacancies and results thereof;

(c) the number of vacancies for SCs/STs which remained unfilled as on 01-01-1997 in class I, II, III, and IV category in his Ministry and its autonomous/statutory/attached offices and action taken to fill these vacancies; and

(d) the backlog of vacancies reserved for the SCs/STs in class I, II, III and IV categories as on 29.8.1997?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK) : (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Discharge of Industrial Waste

1146. DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV :
SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV

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

(a) whether industrial units in Punjab and Haryana are discharging waste into the Indira Gandhi Feeder Canal causing serious health problems for the people; and

(b) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to check the release of industrial effluents into the water of Indira Gandhi Feeder Canal?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Raids on Tanneries

1147. SHRI GANTA SREENIVASA RAO : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether raids were conducted on tanneries in Warrangal of Andhra Pradesh recently which led to the recovery of skins of wild animals;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken against the officials involved therein?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) and (b) As reported by the State Government raids conducted on tanneries in Warrangal during October, 2000 led to the recovery of two cheetal skins, one tiger skin and one leopard skin.

(c) The owner of the tannery has been arrested and prosecution has been launched against him.

Amendment in Motor Vehicles Act, 1988

1148. SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ :
SHRI G. MALLIKARJUNAPPA :

Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Karnataka Government had suggested for amendment of Motor Vehicle Act, 1988 to facilitate switch over of 3-wheelers to LPG fuel;

(b) if so, whether the Karnataka Government had also reminded in March, 2000 to expedite the amendment; and

(c) if so, the time by which the Union Government is likely to amend the provisions of the Act to the desired extent?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) SHRI B.C. KHANDURI) : (a) to (c) Information is being collected and would be laid on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

Funds for Roads

1149. SHRI SURESH CHANDEL : Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Ministry of Surface Transport is making efforts to get more funds for the roads;

(b) if so, whether certain State Governments have not utilised the precious foreign assistance given to them for the roads;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether these loans were provided for the various projects of road construction on the assurance that the funds would be drawn as per the prescribed schedule;

(e) the States which have not utilised these funds and action taken against them;

(f) whether his Ministry has decided to sign the loan agreements after procuring the funds for concerned projects; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) SHRI B.C. KHANDURI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (e) Ministry of Road Transport and Highways is currently having six on-going projects of 4-laning and strengthening in the States of Haryana, Punjab, Orissa, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and West Bengal, out of a World Bank loan of US\$ 306 million under implementation by State Governments. An amount US\$ 247 million has been utilised upto September, 2000. The loan closes in June, 2001. Although there have been certain delays in all the cases, the projects are now nearing completion and are likely to be completed by the closing date.

(f) and (g) External agencies provide funds only after signing of loan agreements. Following are the on-going loans from various external agencies :

- (i) Asian Development Bank loan package-III for US\$ 245 million.
- (ii) Japan Bank for International Co-operation - 4 loan packages for Japanese ¥ 32060 million.
- (iii) World Bank loan package-III for US\$ 516 million.
- (iv) Asian Development Bank loan to National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) for US\$ 180 million.

All the projects under these loan are being implemented by NHAI.

[English]

Decline in Demand for Bulls

1150. DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that the demand for bulls has further declined with tractorization as tractors replace bullocks, male calves are being sold off or starved off as reported in *Business Standard* dated January 26, 2000;

(b) if so, whether NDA agenda item No. 4 is desired development of cow and her progeny; and

(c) if so, the steps being taken to save wilful destruction of valuable resources and to withdraw subsidy on tractors and low price of diesel, when in other countries there is a parity of petrol and diesel prices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN) : (a) and (b) The practice of selling off or starving off male calves were prevalent even before tractorization in the country. Decrease in demand for bulls is consistent with increase in mechanized agriculture. The progress of mechanization in the country is not likely to decimate demand for bulls altogether, nor this is inconsistent with item No. 4 of NDA agenda for governance.

(c) Government has launched National Project for Cattle and Buffalo Breeding with a view to genetic improvement of cattle and buffaloes and conservation of breeds including draught and dual purpose breeds.

The question of withdrawal of subsidy on tractor and diesel is a policy matter relating to a number of ministries on which information is being collected. A reply to this would subsequently be placed on the Table of the House.

Status Report on Agriculture Marketing

1151. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV :
DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have prepared status report on agriculture marketing;

(b) if so, the main recommendations of the report;

(c) whether the development of marketing of agriculture product is not scientific as per the report,

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government for scientific development of the markets?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK) (a) : No, Sir.

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

(e) The primary responsibility for strengthening, upgrading and expanding agricultural marketing facilities in the States and UTs vests with the State Governments

and UT Administrations and the Agricultural Produce Market Committees, which have been established under the respective State Agricultural Marketing Regulation Acts. However, the Directorate of Marketing and Inspection (DEMI), an attached office of this Ministry has been taking various steps for bringing about an integrated development of marketing of agricultural produce in the country. The main activities of DMI relate to promotion of standardization and grading of agricultural produce, marketing research, surveys and planning, and provision of training facilities for employees of State Governments and UT Administrations on regulation and Management of Agricultural Produce Markets. Recently, a Central Sector Scheme for Agricultural Marketing Information Network has been approved for establishing a nation-wide network for speedy collection and dissemination of market information/data for their efficient and timely utilization. Under this scheme, the important Agricultural Produce Markets and State Agricultural Marketing Boards/ Departments in the country will be linked up through a computer network. The scheme would, *inter alia*, help the farmers to realize better prices for their produce.

[Translation]

Fare Increase by Transporters

1152. SHRI MANIBHAI RAMJIBHAI CHAUDHRI : Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether proportion of increase made by the transporters in the rates of fare is more than the increase in the prices of petrol and diesel;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to take steps to this tendency;

(c) if so, the time by which the said steps are likely to be taken; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) SHRI B.C. KHANDURI) : (a) to (d) Under the Section 67 of the Motor Vehicle Act., 1988, the power to fix freight rate vests with the State Government and not the Central Government. In practice, these rates are governed by market forces. The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways has no mechanism to gauge the impact of hike in diesel prices on transporters.

[English]

Availability of Milk and Butter

1153. SHRI T. GOVINDAN : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have any proposal to make available milk, butter and Milk products to the public through import from other countries; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) In view of 'a' above, question does not arise.

[Translation]

Construction of Telephone Exchange Building

1154. KUMARI BHAVANA PUNDLIKRAO GAWALI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a large number of telephone exchanges are being run in the private buildings on rental basis in districts Washim of Maharashtra and Palamu and Gonda districts of Bihar;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to construct buildings for the said telephone exchanges and accommodation for employees in these districts;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) (a) Yes, Sir. The number of Telephone Exchanges being run in the private buildings on rental basis is as below.

1.	Washim district (Maharashtra)	-	39
2	Palamu District (Bihar)	-	29
3.	Godda District (Bihar)	-	07

(b) Yes, Sir. At present the Telephone exchanges are being run from private buildings taken on rental basis because lands are not available for construction of the departmental buildings. Construction of buildings and accommodation for employees will be taken up on procurement of lands.

(c) Details are as below :

- 1 In Washim district (Maharashtra), construction of six staff quarters at Malegaon and seven staff quarters at Washim is in progress.
- 2 In Palamu district (Bihar), the construction of departmental buildings at Chhattarpur, Manika, Kutumu, Barwadih, Nagarutati, is at planning stage.

3. In Godda district (Bihar), telephone exchange building at Pathargama is at planning stage and main exchange building at Godda is under construction.

(d) No, in view of reply at (b) above.

Implementation of Projects

1155. SHRI PUSP JAIN : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether several communications projects could not be implemented during Eight Five Year Plan due to non-availability of funds;

(b) if so, the details of the cost involved therein; and

(c) the time by which the said projects are likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) to (c) Implementation of none of the projects was held up for non-availability of funds during the Eight Five Year Plan.

[English]

Powai Lake

1156. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state

(a) whether the Government have finalized the action plan to save Powai Lake;

(b) if so, whether the Powai Lake, Mumbai is included in the National Conservation Plan;

(c) if so, whether his Ministry has taken up the subject with Maharashtra Government and Mumbai Municipal Corporation;

(d) if so, the details of the Powai Lake Project;

(e) the sources through which the amount is likely to be arranged for the Project;

(f) whether local encroachment and influx of sewage and polluted water into the Powai Lake has almost dampen one-third of the Powai Lake area;

(g) if so, whether his Ministry has issued instructions to the Maharashtra Government and Mumbai Municipal Corporation to stop quarrying and to remove encroachment and other hurdles;

(h) if so, whether the State Government and Mumbai Municipal Corporation have implemented the instructions; and

(i) if so, the present status of Powai Lake Project?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a), (b) and (i) Powai Lake is one of the 10 identified urban lakes for conservation under the National Lake Conservation Plan. The Plan has not been approved by Government so far.

(c) and (d) The Government of Maharashtra have submitted a proposal for conservation of Powai Lake at an estimated cost of Rs. 10.50 crore. Out of this, provision of about Rs. 6.0 crore has been proposed for conservation of lake and the remaining amount of about Rs. 4.5 crore for beautification of lake.

(e) Since the project is not approved so far, the question of its source of funding does not arise.

(f) Yes Sir.

(g) The Government of Maharashtra and Maharashtra State Pollution Control Board were asked in December, 1998 to take immediate preventive and curative measures for control of pollution of the Powai Lake. The State Government was also asked to take immediate steps to remove encroachment from the catchment area of the Lake.

(h) Quarrying work has been stopped in the vicinity of Powai area by Collector, Suburban District, Mumbai. However, quarrying in Chandivali village is still going on as per High Court orders. At present there are no encroachments within the Powai Lake water shed area. The point sources polluting the lake are identified and works for abatement have been taken by Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai.

National Highway Development Projects by NHAI

1157. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK : Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the names of National Highway Development Projects undertaken by the National Highway Authority of India in different States, State-wise;

(b) the date of the commencement of each project and the progress made so far, project-wise;

(c) whether any target date has been fixed for the completion of these projects; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) SHRI B.C. KHANDURI) : (a) The National Highways Development Project (NHDP) connecting four metropolitan cities and North-South and East-West Corridors involves upgradation of 133,252 Km. of National Highways along the following routes to four/six lane standards :

- | | | |
|------|---|-----------|
| (i) | Golden Quadrilateral (GQ) component connecting Delhi, Calcutta, Chennai, Mumbai-Delhi. | 5,952 kM. |
| (ii) | North-South (NS) corridor connecting Srinagar in Jammu & Kashmir with Kanyakumari including Salem-Cochin Spur and East-West (EW) Corridor connecting Silchar with Porbandar | 7,300 Km. |

Total	13,252 Km.
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A State-wise list is given in the Statement enclosed.

(b) Some of the projects have been under implementation under various earlier programmes. However, the NHDP was formally commenced in January, 1999. A length of 588 Km. on GQ and 628 Km. on the corridors has been completed.

(c) and (d) GQ is targeted for completion by end of 2003 and NS & EW corridors by 2007.

Statement

National Highway Development Project length - State-wise details

(Length in Km.)

Sl. No.	Name of State	Golden Quadrilateral	Corridors		Corridor Total	Grand Total
			North-South	East West		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1011	753	-	753	1764
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	-	-	-	-	-
3.	Assam	-	-	758	758	758
4.	Bihar	396	-	517	517	913
5.	Chandigarh	-	-	-	-	-
6.	Delhi	25	34	-	34	59

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
7. Goa	-	-	-	-	-	-
8. Gujarat	510	-	654	654	1164	
9. Haryana	175	180	-	180	355	
10. Himachal Pradesh	-	14	-	14	14	
11. Jammu & Kashmir	-	405	-	405	405	
12. Karnataka	690	125	-	125	815	
13. Kerala	-	160	-	160	160	
14. Madhya Pradesh	-	524	142	666	666	
15. Maharashtra	506	232	-	232	738	
16. Manipur	-	-	-	-	-	
17. Meghalaya	-	-	-	-	-	
18. Nagaland	-	-	-	-	-	
19. Pondicherry	-	-	-	-	-	
20. Orissa	442	-	-	-	442	
21. Punjab	-	296	-	296	296	
22. Rajasthan	688	32	480	512	1200	
23. Tamil Nadu	263	851	-	851	1114	
24. Uttar Pradesh	777	268	548	816	1593	
25. West Bengal	469	-	366	366	835	
Total	5952	3874	3465	7339	*13291	

*After minor adjustment due to realignments etc. 13,252.

Audit Observations

1158. SHRI SHEESH RAM SINGH RAVI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether about 8234 audit observations involving a sum of Rs. 161.18 crore are pending for settlement with DoT since June 1997; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the measures taken to settle the same urgently?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) and (b) As on June 1997, 8234 audit observations involving a sum of Rs. 161.18 crores were pending. These are essentially branch audit observations relating to 43 Circles (spending units) spread all over the country. The process of generation of audit comments and their settlement is a continuous one. To clear audit observations, field units have since been instructed to settle the cases on priority. Targets have also been fixed by the Department for field units to settle these cases. The progress of settlement is being monitored at Senior Levels in the Ministry.

[Translation]

Pagers to Linemen

1159. SHRI JAI PARKASH : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to provide Pagers to all the linemen posted at district headquarters of every State;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which this facility is likely to be made available?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) and (b) Sir, there is a proposal under consideration for provision of Pagers to Line Staff (linemen/Phone Mechanic) at Revenue District Headquarter level in a phased manner, wherever paging services are available, for speedy rectification of faults and to enhance customer satisfaction.

(c) Pagers have already been made available to the line staff in State Capitals and in some other towns of Haryana, UP (West), Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu.

[English]

New Schemes for ICAR

1160. SHRI SAMAR CHOUDHURY : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be please to state :

(a) whether the eight new initiatives under new schemes of ICAR have been extended to each of the North-East States and the funds provided for those initiatives;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the projects in ICAR including Institutes, National Research Centres, Projects Directorates and other plan/schemes extended to each of the State for operation in 2000-2001?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN) : (a) and (b) Since the new initiatives of ICAR are based on specific needs of the country which includes production of improved varieties of crops and animals species for different agro-climatic conditions, these are not feasible to be extended to all the North-Eastern States. However, Rs. 56.31 crore (approximately 10% of the Annual Budget) have been earmarked during 2000-2001 for ICAR programmes which include Rs. 6.00 crore of the World

Bank Aided National Agricultural Technology Project (new initiative of IX Plan) for its activities to be undertaken in North Eastern States.

(c) The ICAR is operating the following Institutes, National Research Centres (NRCs) and other Plan Projects in North Eastern States :

- (i) ICAR Research Complex for NEH Region at Shillong, Meghalaya
- (ii) Central Agricultural University, Manipur
- (iii) NRC for Mithun, Jharnapani, Nagaland
- (iv) NRC for Yak, Dirang, Arunachal Pradesh
- (v) 10 Centres of other ICAR Institutes
- (vi) 43 Centres of All India Coordinated Research Projects
- (vii) 13 Krishi Vigyan Kendras, Trainers Training Centre and Zonal Coordinating Unit
- (viii) Development Grant to Assam Agricultural University.

Setting up of Wind Power stations

1161. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE : Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) the installed capacity of wind power in the country, State-wise;

(b) the details of the potential from wind power in the country, State-wise;

(c) whether the Government have formulated any strategy for generating more wind power from the potential areas;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to encourage State Governments for setting up more wind power stations in their respective States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN) : (a) An aggregate wind power capacity of 1222 MW has so far been installed in the country. State-wise break-up is given in Statement-I.

(b) The total wind power potential in the country has been estimated at 20,000 MW. State-wise break-up is given in Statement-II.

(c) to (e) Under the Wind Resources Assessment programme, potential sites are identified which can be considered suitable for wind power projects. 192 sites have so far been identified in 13 States / UTs. Funds are provided for a limited number of demonstration projects. The Central and State Governments also provide fiscal and financial incentives, including relief from taxes and duties, accelerated depreciation, etc. The potential States have announced promotional policies for wheeling, banking, third party sale and buy-back of electricity generated from commercial projects. Soft loans are also provided by the Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA) for commercial projects.

Statement-I

State-wise wind power installed capacity

State	Capacity (MW)
Andhra Pradesh	89.6
Gujarat	166.9
Karnataka	37.8
Kerala	2.0
Madhya Pradesh	22.6
Maharashtra	112.9
Rajasthan	4.3
Tamil Nadu	784.6
Others	1.6
Total	1222.3

Statement-II

State-wise wind power potential

State	Gross Potential (MW)
Andhra Pradesh	2200
Gujarat	3100
Karnataka	4120
Kerala	380
Madhya Pradesh	3000
Maharashtra	1920
Orissa	840
Rajasthan	1210
Tamil Nadu	900
West Bengal	180
Other States	2150
Total	20000

Ban on hunting of animal

1162. SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE : 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 "Mongoose hair paints a grisly picture" appearing in the *Times of India* dated November 1, 2000;

(b) if so, whether the Government have banned hunting of this animal earlier, as well as dealing in its parts without a licence; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the guidelines issued by the Government in this regard?

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

(b) and (c) The hunting of Mongoose is banned under Section 9 of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972. There is no ban on issue of dealership licence under Section 44 of the Wild Life (Protection) Act. According to the information available in this Ministry, no dealership licences have been issued in case of Mongoose hair. The possibility of some stationery dealers manufacturing Mongoose hair brushes illegally cannot be ruled out. Directions have been issued to the Chief Wildlife Wardens of all the States to keep vigilance and take action against the persons indulging in such illegal activities.

Cordless Telephone service

1163. SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to introduce cordless telephone service; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) and (b) Sir, while there is no cordless telephone service as such, telephone users can procure the cordless telephones from the market and attach the same to their fixed telephone lines.

Tender for WLL CDMA Terminals

1164. SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the MTNL has floated the tender for procurement of 60000 WLL CDMA terminals;

(b) if so, the names of the parties who were considered the lowest by the technical Evaluation Committee as per the guidelines of the CVC; and

(c) the latest status of the said case?

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

(b) M/s HFCL - Hyundai.

(c) The subject tender has been closed.

Post Offices in Orissa

1165. SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of post offices opened in Orissa during the current year; and

(b) the number of post offices proposed to be opened during the remaining period of the current financial year in Orissa, district-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) No new post office has been opened in Orissa during the current year so far.

(b) District-wise number of post offices proposed to be opened during the current financial year is given in Statement enclosed. The opening of proposed post offices is subject to the fulfilment of departmental norms and sanctioning of the required posts by Ministry of Finance.

Statement

District-wise number of Post Office proposed to be opened during the year 2000-2001

Name of District	No. of Post Office proposed to be opened
Cuttack	1
Balasore	1
Kendrapara	1
Puri	1
Khurda	2
Bolangir	1
Dhenkanal	1
Sundargarh	1
Koraput	1
Kalahandi	1
Nuapada	1

Road Infrastructure Development Projects

1166. SHRI DAHYABHAI VALLABHBHAI PATEL : Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the roads infrastructure development projects under implementation in Daman and Diu;

(b) the cost involved in each project;

(c) the funds provided by the Union Government for each project; and

(d) the time by which the said projects are likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) SHRI B.C. KHANDURI) : (a) and (b) Central Government is primarily responsible for development and maintenance of National Highways only. Responsibility for development and maintenance of all other roads falls within the purview of the respective State Governments/ Union Territories. Funds for development of roads in the Union Territory of Daman and Diu are being provided by the Ministry of Home Affairs. It has been ascertained that UT Administration has taken up the works relating to widening of major district roads in the area of high density vehicular traffic at an estimated cost of Rs. 12.34 crores.

(c) A provision of Rs. 7.34 crores has been kept in the budget of U.T. of Daman & Diu for major works under road and bridges in the Demands of Grants of Ministry of Home Affairs for the current year (2000-2001).

(d) The works are targetted to be completed within one year.

Packages for Earthquake affected hill districts of Uttar Pradesh

1167. SHRI C.N. SINGH : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government had announced packages for the earthquake affected residents of hill districts of Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any grants have been given to the State;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps being taken to expedite the payment of grant of compensation to the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK) : (a) to (e) It is primarily the responsibility of the State Government to provide relief to the affected people in the wake of natural calamities including earthquake. The Central Government supplements the efforts of the States. An amount of Rs. 81.37 crore under Calamity Relief Fund and Rs. 16.68 crore from the then National Fund for Calamity Relief during 1999-2000 was released to the Government of Uttar Pradesh for the purpose. The ground level distribution of relief is the responsibility of the State Government.

[Translation]

Basic Telecom Operators

1168. SHRI RAJO SINGH : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any changes have been made in the service condition of Basic Telecom Operators;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Tata Telecom propose to start telecom services in rural areas of Bihar; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) and (b) Basic Telecom operators have been allowed to migrate from the fixed licence fee and duopoly regime to the revenue sharing and multipoly regime. The licence period has been extended from 15 years to 20 years.

(c) No such proposal has been received.

(d) Does not arise in view of (c) above.

[English]

Modern Agricultural Equipments to Farmers

1169. SHRI BHAN SINGH BHAURA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state

(a) whether the Government have formulated any scheme to make available modern agricultural equipments and developed seeds to farmers at cheaper and concessional price;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK) (a) and (b) Yes Sir. Subsidy is being provided under various schemes such as National Pulses Development Project, Oilseeds Production Programme, Accelerated Maize Development Programme, Oil Palm Development Programme, Technology Mission on Cotton and Macro management of Agriculture in order to make modern agricultural equipments and seeds available to the farmers at cheaper and concessional prices. The rate and amount of subsidy vary from item to item, under the schemes.

(c) The question does not arise in view of (a) & (b) above.

Allotment of PCO/STD/ISD

1170. SHRI CHINTAMAN WANAGA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether instrument for PCO/STD/ISD is provided by MTNL on certain arrangements or it is to be purchased from certain approved sources;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the steps taken by the Government to check accurate functioning of these instruments in order to avoid complaints of overcharging?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) Telecom Engineering Centre (TEC) approved model of Telephone instrument and Call logger are to be purchased from authorized dealers.

(b) and (c) The purchase of a proper instrument is cross checked by the field units before connection is put through. The 'rate card' is also required to be displayed by PCO operator.

Foreign Direct Investment

1171. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Finance Ministry has suggested to his Ministry to raise the Foreign Direct Investment limit in the telecom services; and

(b) if so, the reaction of his Ministry thereto?

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

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

[Translation]

Production of Foodgrains

1172. SHRI RAMCHANDER BAINDA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the target set and achieved for the production of various foodgrains of kharif and rabi crops in the country during the year 1999-2000;

(b) the target set in this regard for the year 2000-2001 alongwith the production of kharif crop so far during the current year; and

(c) the steps taken to increase the agricultural production in the country during the next three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK) : (a) The details are given below :

Production of Foodgrains during 1999/2000

	(Million Tonnes)			
	Kharif		Rabi	
	Target	Achievement	Target	Achievement
Rice	74.50	75.63	11.50	12.62
Wheat	Nil	Nil	74.00	74.25
Coarse Cereals	27.00	23.46	7.50	6.88
Pulses	6.10	4.80	9.40	8.26
Total Foodgrains	107.60	103.89	102.40	102.01

(b) The details of targets fixed and likely achievement thereunder during Kharif 2000/2001 are given below :

	Target	Likely Achievement (million tonnes)
Rice	76.30	74.07
Coarse Cereals	26.62	23.11
Pulses	6.00	5.50
Total Foodgrains	108.92	102.68

(c) A regionally differentiated strategy based on agro climatic zones is proposed to be pursued in the coming years. Side by side, States are being given the freedom to implement various centrally sponsored schemes under a MOU based Work Plan approach from the year 2000/2001.

*[English]***Cellular Mobile Telephone Network**

1173. SHRI ARUN KUMAR : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether ways and means have been found to set up cost effective cellular mobile telephone network in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) and (b) The Cellular Mobile Telephone Service Providers (CMSPs) may now set up their network using any technology, however, the technology must be digital. They are no more tied up with the GSM (Global System for Mobile Communication) technology which was prescribed to them earlier. This is likely to bring down the cost of the network, but there shall be no compromise on quality of service.

So far, the tariff for Cellular Mobile Service is concerned, in terms of Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (Amendment) Act, 2000, the tariff is now fixed/regulated by Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI). The tariff plans proposed by the CMSPs are reported to TRAI. TRAI ensures that no tariff fixing which is detrimental to the subscriber's interest will take place.

Celebrations over India's performance in Sydney Olympics

1174. SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK : SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE :

Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn towards the newsitem captioned "Nirashajanak Pardarshan Par bhi 18 lakh ki Party de dali" appearing in the *Dainik Jagran* dated October 6, 2000;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to conduct any enquiry in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the action taken so far against the guilty officials?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI PON RADHAKRISHAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The newsitem has mainly raised following issues:

(i) *Ratio of Athletes and Officials included in the Indian Contingent*

The IOA has informed that the International Olympic Committee had fixed norms for sending the officials along with the athletes. As such on the recommendation of IOA the participation of Indian Contingent was cleared.

(ii) *Deputation of Official Delegation at late stage*

Government of India had approved the deputation of 12 Member Official Delegation to Sydney in two batches. However, finally a 9 member Official delegation visited (in two batches) Sydney for Olympic Games. The objective of sending the Official Delegation was to boost the morale of the Indian Contingent; to notice their deficiencies; and to learn new techniques being adopted by the other participating countries so that future performance of Indian Players can be improved.

As regards expenditure Rs. 31.02 lakhs has been spent on the visit of Official Delegation. However, some bills are yet to be received from Indian High Commission.

(iii) *Hosting a party during Olympic Games*

On the advice of the Indian High Commission hosting of a reception during the Sydney Olympic Games by the Union Minister was approved by the Government long back.

(iv) *Visit of Indian Olympic Association's Delegation to Sydney*

On inquiry by Government, the Indian Olympic Association has intimated that it sent a delegation as follows :

(i) 7 Members delegation of National Sports Federation.

(ii) 20 Members Delegation in two batches (10 in a batch) to Campaign for 2006 Asian Games.

(iii) 8 Members delegation of Afro-Asian Games Coordination Committee.

(c) At present there is no such proposal under consideration of the Government.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) No such material facts have come to the notice of Government.

(f) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Vacant posts in Nehru Yuva Kendras

1175. SHRI RAGHURAJ SINGH SHAKYA : Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a number of posts are lying vacant in some of the Nehru Yuva Kendras at present in the country;

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

(c) the time by which these posts are likely to be filled up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI PON RADHAKRISHNAN) : (a) and (b) There are some Kendras without Youth Coordinators and Accounts clerk-cum-typists due to non sanction of posts. List of kendras without a Youth Coordinator is given in the Statement enclosed.

(c) The posts can be filled up only after they are sanctioned with the approval of competent authority.

Statement

S.No.	State	Kendra
1	Andhra Pradesh	1. Anantpur
		2. Cuddapah
		3. Mehbubnagar
		4. Srikakulam
		5. Adilabad
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	6. Vizianagaram
		7. Siang (Along)
		8. Lower Subansiri (Ziro)
		9. Upper Subansiri (Daporijo)
		10. Lohit (Tezu)
3	Assam	11. Dibrugarh
		12. Dhurbri
		13. North Lakhimpur
		14. Tezpur
		15. Halfong (N C Hills)
		16. Barpeta
		17. Kokrajhar
4.	Bihar	18. West Champaran (Bettiah)

S.No.	State	Kendra
		19. Dhanbad
		20. Katihar
		21. Daltonanj (Palamau)
		22. Patna
		23. Aurangabad
		24. Khagaria (Hajipur North)
		25. Jehanabad
		26. Chatra
		27. Garwah
		28. Jamui
5.	Goa, Daman & Diu	29. Diu
6.	Gujarat	30. Mehsana
		31. Bhavnagar
		32. Amreli
7.	Haryana	33. Bhiwani
		34. Sirsa
		35. Sonapat
		36. Jind
8.	Himachal Pradesh	37. Chamba
		38. Dharamsala (Kangra)
		39. Hamirpur
		40. Kinnaur
		41. Kullu
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	42. Poonch
		43. Rajouri
10.	Karnataka	44. Chikmagalur
		45. Gulbarga
		46. Karwar
		47. Mandya
		48. Dharwad
11.	Kerala	49. Kannur
		50. Malappuram
		51. Trichur
		52. Kasargod
12.	Lakshdweep	53. Kavaratti
13.	Madhya Pardesh	54. Damoh
		55. Satna
		56. Seoni

S.No.	State	Kendra
14.	Maharashtra	57. Amravati 58. Dhule 59. Lathur
15.	Manipur	60. Tamenglong
16.	Meghalaya	61. West Khasi Hills (Nongstoin)
17.	Mizoram	62. Chhimutuiपुर (Saiha)
	Nagaland	63. Mokokchung 64. Zunheboto 65. Mon 66. Wokha
19.	New Delhi	67. Nangloi (New Delhi)
20.	Orissa	68. Ganjam (Behrampur) 69. Dhenkanal 70. Phulbani 71. Puri 72. Sambalpur 73. Naupada
21.	Pondicherry	74. Karaikal 75. Mahe 76. Yanam
22.	Punjab	77. Bathinda 78. Gurdaspur 79. Kapurthala 80. Ludhiana 81. Patiala
23.	Rajasthan	82. Bikaner 83. Bundi 84. Churu 85. Dungarpur 86. Jalore 87. Sirohi 88. Udaipur 89. Pali 90. Dholpur 91. Rajsamand
24.	Sikkim	92. Mongon (North District)
25.	Tamil Nadu	93. Pudukottai 94. Vellore

S.No.	State	Kendra
		95. Thiruvallur 96. Tiruvarur 97. Namakkal
26.	Uttar Pradesh	98. Almora 99. Fatehpur 100. Ghazipur 101. Lakhimpur Kheri 102. Moradabad 103. Pithoragarh 104. Rai Bareilly 105. Uttar Kashi 106. Jalaun (Orai) 107. Hardoi 108. Basti 109. Sonbhadra

There are 18 Youth Coordinators who are either on projects or on deputation or attached to Zonal Offices etc. Therefore the effective number of places without YCs would be 91.

[English]

Bandit Gangs Operating in Forests

1176. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any strategy to liquidate the bandit gangs operating in different forests and sanctuaries in tiger and elephant reserves in Sandal and other rich forests has been worked out; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) and (b) Maintenance of law and order and dealing with unlawful elements including dacoits basically is the mandate of the State Government. However, the Government of India provides assistance of para military forces to tackle the situation as and when the assistance is asked for. As far as the problem of poaching and illegal felling of sandal wood is concerned, the steps taken include:

- (i) The Government has set up a special coordination committee under the Chairmanship of Secretary (E&F) and a decision has been taken to empower the CBI for investigation of wildlife offences.

- (ii) The states of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Bihar, Mizoram, Madhya Pradesh, Tripura & West Bengal have formed the state level/district level co-ordination committees for control of illegal trade, smuggling, trafficking of wildlife and its products.
- (iii) Financial assistance are being provided to the State Governments for procurement of wireless systems, vehicles, arms and ammunitions for the protection and effective coservation of wildlife.
- (iv) Special training and intelligence gathering are being organised for the wildlife officers at the Sardar Vallabhai Police Academy.
- (v) Assistance to the State Govts. is provided for strengthening the infrastructure through involvement of Arms Squads and Strikes Forces drawn out of paramilitary forces and State Armed Constabulary specially for tiger and elephant reserves.
- (vi) Periodic meetings with the State Forest and Wildlife Officials are held and the State Governments are directed for greater vigilance on poaching and illegal trade.

[Translation]

Internet facility

1177. SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to link Bhopal and Indore districts of Madhya Pradesh with international gateway hub;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time by which a final decision is likely to be taken in this regard; and

(d) if not, the reason thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) VSNL center of Indore is already connected with the International Gateway Hub. No plan to link Bhopal with the International Gateway Hub has been finalized.

(b) A F1 Satellite Station is already operational at Indore. It is linked to the International Gateway at Vikram Earth Station of VSNL.

(c) No decision regarding Bhopal Gateway has been taken. The decision will be taken based on commercial viability.

(d) In view of reply to (a) to (c) above, the question does not arise.

[English]

Alternative vocation to tobacco growers

1178. SHRI SHIVAJI MANE : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government propose to provide alternative vocation to the farmers involve in tobacco growing; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK) : (a) and (b) There is no proposal with the Government of India to provide alternative vocation to the farmers growing tobacco crop. It has, however been recommended by the research system to grow alternative crops such as groundnut, cotton, chillies, maize, onion, potato, castor, pulses, oilseeds, vegetables and other crops under different agro-climatic conditions.

LPG auto kit

1179. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether M/s. Gas Point has developed LPG auto kit;

(b) if so, whether a request has been made to the Government for according permission to launch the product in the market; and

(c) if so, the decision of the Government thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) SHRI B.C. KHANDURI) : (a) This Ministry is not aware of any such development.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not rise.

Smoke pollution

1180. SHRI K.E. KRISHNAMURTHY : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether as a result of smoke hazard created by fire works and crackers around Diwali and particularly in the evening times it becomes risky for pilots flying aeroplanes;

(b) if so, whether complaints have been received from a number of pilots in this regard; and

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

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Production of Cashewnut

1181. SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the percentage of raw Cashewnuts production in Andhra Pradesh in comparison to total production in the country;

(b) the percentage of raw cashewnuts exports from Andhra Pradesh;

(c) the plans/schemes of the Directorate of Cashewnut and Cocoa development to increase Cashew production in the State of Andhra Pradesh;

(d) whether the Government propose to do away with the existing land ceiling laws and accord plantation status to Cashew cultivation to increase the Cashew production and earn foreign exchange; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK) : (a) Production of raw cashewnuts in Andhra Pradesh during the year 1999-2000 was about one lakh tonnes which is about 19% of the total production of cashewnut in the country.

(b) During 1999-2000, about 3330 tonnes of cashew kernels were exported through Visakapatnam Port, which is about 3.6% of the total export of cashew kernels from India.

(c) A Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Integrated Development Programme of Cashew in India is being implemented in the State of Andhra Pradesh since the Eighth Five Year Plan. This scheme was continued during the first three years of the Ninth Plan in accordance with the pattern of assistance for the Eighth Plan. With effect from the year 2000-01, the scheme for cashew development has been included as a part of the Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Macro Management in Agriculture Supplementation/Complementation of States Efforts through Work Plans.

(d) and (e) In order to enhance production of cashewnuts in the country, Union Government had requested the cashew producing State Governments to accord plantation status to cashew, exempt land ceiling laws for cashew cultivation and allot wastelands on long term lease basis to cashew cultivators.

Withdrawal of subsidy

1182. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have decided to phase out grants and subsidies by the year 2002;

(b) if so, whether the views of State Governments have been obtained in this regard;

(c) whether any study has been conducted about the adverse impact of phasing out of subsidies particularly on agricultural production; and

(d) if so, the estimated loss is likely to be suffered due to the withdrawal of subsidies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK) : (a) No, Sir.

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

[Translation]

Food processing opportunities in Bihar and Jharkhand region

1183. SHRIMATI RENU KUMARI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether vast opportunities of food processing are available in Bihar and Jharkhand region;

(b) if so, whether the Union Government propose to formulate any programme for investment in the development of these two regions;

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES OF THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TH. CHAOBA SINGH) : (a) to (d) The potential for processed food sector in the country is immense in view of the abundance of the agro-horticultural produces. Based on raw material availability the scope for setting up food processing units of Lichi, Mangoes, Tomato, Chikoos, Bananas etc. exists in the eastern region including Bihar & Jharkhand region. A Techno Economic feasibility study conducted by the Central Food Technological Research Institute (CFTRI) at the instance of Jharkhand Area Autonomous Council has suggested that there is tremendous scope for setting up processing industries for fruit & vegetables in Chhotanagpur area.

Department of Food Processing Industries has formulated and is operating different plan schemes for implementation during the 9th plan for the development of processed food sector. Under these plan schemes, financial assistance in the form of soft loan and grant-in-aid is provided to Non-Governmental Organizations/ Voluntary Organizations, Cooperatives, Public Sector Undertakings, Human Resource Development and Research & Development Institutions. Our schemes are project oriented and not state or area specific. The Department does not set up Food processing units on its own directly.

[English]

Telephone connections in safe custody

1184. SHRI SAVSHIBHAI MAKWANA Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

- (a) the criteria laid down to keep the existing telephone connections in safe custody;
- (b) whether MTNL is allotting existing telephone numbers in safe custody to other party without any intimation and reasons;
- (c) if so, the details thereof,
- (d) whether the Department of Telecommunications in Gujarat is also allotting existing telephone numbers in safe custody to other party;
- (e) if so, the number of complaints received against violation of the above criteria in the state during the last three years and till date; and
- (f) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) Sir, there are two types of safe custody of telephones on subscribers request :

- (i) *Short-term safe custody* : maximum for a period of 90 days with cable pair and indicator kept reserved and full rentals are charged.
- (ii) *Long-term safe custody* : minimum period of six months on payment of 40% of rentals. In such cases cable pair and indicator is not kept reserved. However, in case where indicator and cable pair is reserved, full rentals are liable to be charged.

(b) and (c) No, Sir. In MTNL, only those telephones under long-term safe custody are allotted to other parties where cable pair and indicator are not reserved.

(d) In Gujarat Telecom Circle, in case of long-term safe custody, if the subscriber avails the facility of 40% rentals where telephone number and cable pair is not reserved; such telephone numbers under long-term safe custody are allotted to other telephone subscribers.

(e) No complaints have been received in Gujarat State during the last three years till date.

(f) Does not arise in view of (e) above.

Fishing harbour at Poompuhar, Nagapattinam

1185. SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there was a proposal under consideration of the Central Fisheries Research Institute (Bangalore) to establish a Fishing Harbour at Poompuhar in Nagapattinam district;

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

(c) the steps being taken to expedite the approval and implementation of the proposal ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN) : (a) Yes, Sir. A proposal is being processed by the Central Institute of Coastal Engineering for Fishery, Bangalore.

(c) and (c) Based on the directions issued by the Ministry of Agriculture, the Central Institute of Coastal Engineering for Fishery, Bangalore carried our engineering and economic investigations at the proposed site for development of a minor fishing harbour at Poompuhar. After analysing the field data and other engineering aspects the institute prepared an interim report and submitted to the Government of Tamil Nadu for preparation of detailed cost estimate based on current schedule of rates of the State Government. The detailed cost estimate is awaited from the State Government, on receipt of which, further steps would be initiated by the Central Institute at Bangalore.

SC/ST posts of Directors In National Research Centres

1186. SHRI VANLAL ZAWMA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of posts of Directors in all the National Research Centres under Indian Council of Agricultural Research and number of persons from SCs and STs category working against such posts as on January 1, 1996 and 1st January, 2000 and their percentage as compared to the said total posts; and

(b) the reasons for not appointing the persons from SC/ST categories?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN) (a) The total number of posts of Directors in all the National Research Centres (including all ICAR Research Institutes, National Research Centres and Project Directorates) under Indian Council of Agricultural Research is 91. As on 1.1.96, two SCs and one ST category persons were working against these posts and as on 1.1.2000, two SC category persons were working against the posts. The percentage has accordingly been worked out as under :

1.1.96 - 3.3%

1.1.2000 - 2.2%

(b) As per Government of India instructions reservation for SC/ST/OBC is applicable to posts upto & including the lowest grade of Group 'A' in the respective services. In pursuance of these instructions scientific posts above the level of Scientists (Rs. 8000-13500) in the ICAR are exempt from the preview of reservation for SC/ST. The selection/recruitment to all the scientific post including Directors in the National Research Centres under ICAR is made on direct recruitment basis through the Agricultural Scientists Recruitment Board, a recruitment agency of the ICAR.

[Translation]

Power Generation

1187. SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE :
SHRI PRABHAT SAMANTRAY :
SHRI P.R. KHUNTE :
SHRI T. GOVINDAN :
SHRI V.S. SIVA KUMAR :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) the target fixed for the generation of power in the country during Eighth Plan and the Ninth Plan period, State-wise;

(b) the actual achievements made in the generation of power in those plan period, State-wise;

(c) the total demands of power in each State;

(d) whether there is a wide gap between target fixed and its achievement in this regard;

(e) if so, the reasons therefor, State-wise;

(f) the steps taken to improve the situation; and

(g) the strategy proposed to be adopted by the Government in this regard during the current year ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) to (e) The All India/State-wise annual generation targets fixed for Eighth Plan and Ninth Plan (first three years) periods along with actual achievements are given at Statement-I and II, respectively. The State-wise power supply position during October 2000 and April-October, 2000 is given at Statement-III. There has been no wide gap between the all India generation targets and actual achievements.

(f) and (g) The following steps are being taken to improve generation :

- (i) Expeditious implementation of capacity addition programme.
- (ii) Renovation and Modernisation (R&M) and life extension of existing old generating units.
- (iii) Disbursement of loans by Power Finance Corporation for improving operation and maintenance of thermal power station under accelerated generation programme.
- (iv) Increasing the inter-state and inter-regional power transfer by construction of missing transmission links and system improvement.
- (v) Coordinated operation of Hydro, thermal, nuclear and gas turbine power stations in the regional power system.
- (vi) Ensuring adequate supply of coal to thermal power stations in the country.
- (vii) Scheme for payment of incentive to O&M personnel for better performance of thermal power stations.
- (viii) Early stabilization of newly commissioned units.

Statement-I**Energy Generation during Eighth Five Year Plan (MU)**

State/System	1992-93			1993-94			1994-95			1995-96			1996-97		
	Target	Actual	% Achv.	Target	Actual	% Achv.	Target	Actual	% Achv.	Target	Actual	% Achv.	Target	Actual	% Achv.
BBMB	11,010	12,471	113.3	10,760	10,657	99	9,505	12,232	128.7	10,020	12,004	119.8	11,600	12,058	103.9
Delhi	6,905	7,331	106.02	7,150	6,994	97.8	7,565	7,034	93	7,552	8,524	86.4	7,080	8,336	89.5
J&K	2,960	2,905	98.1	3,070	2,745	89.4	3,300	2,837	88	3,148	2,950	93.8	4,070	3,170	77.9
H.P.	1,875	1,899	101.3	2,261	1,566	69.3	3,475	4,257	122.5	3,792	4,341	114.5	4,150	3,612	87
Haryana	3,790	3,800	100.3	3,940	3,133	79.5	3,970	3,425	88.3	3,900	3,300	84.6	3,610	3,873	101.7
Rajasthan	8,680	8,487	97.8	8,188	9,438	115.3	9,255	8,489	91.5	9,325	9,244	99.1	9,180	9,914	108
Punjab	10,390	9,974	96	11,090	11,419	103	12,800	11,505	89.9	11,925	11,381	95.4	12,010	12,787	106.5
UP	47,720	47,268	99	48,941	50,958	104.1	58,085	54,214	96.7	62,260	63,457	101.9	84,357	85,779	102.2
Gujarat	24,100	24,548	101.9	27,590	27,012	97.9	30,470	28,849	94.7	31,030	33,706	108.6	34,858	35,802	102.7
Maharashtra	42,280	40,425	95.7	43,395	43,125	99.4	47,590	47,871	100.6	52,145	52,121	100	54,150	54,559	100.8
MP	34,030	33,034	97.1	33,620	37,752	112.3	39,155	39,701	101.4	41,130	42,869	104.2	42,495	44,003	103.7
AP	30,335	31,036	102.3	30,630	34,809	113.6	35,525	35,891	101	39,010	37,533	96.2	40,201	41,738	103.8
Karnataka	12,935	12,753	98.6	13,670	14,154	103.5	13,870	16,352	117.9	15,455	14,915	96.5	14,800	12,339	83.4
Kerala	5,350	6,195	115.8	5,800	5,823	100.4	5,800	6,573	113.3	6,220	6,701	107.7	7,250	5,491	75.7
T.N.	25,785	27,228	105.7	28,420	28,385	99.4	31,595	33,210	105.1	31,910	35,626	111.6	35,359	37,607	106.4
Pondicherry	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bihar	4,375	2,963	67.7	3,825	2,988	78.1	5,288	3,286	62.4	8,020	4,698	78	7,835	6,078	77.6
Orissa	5,080	5,187	102.1	5,410	5,117	94.6	5,750	5,555	98.6	7,630	7,437	97.5	10,800	8,136	75.3
W.B.	15,295	15,262	99.8	18,590	17,344	93.3	19,887	19,597	98.5	22,240	20,678	93	23,505	20,994	89.3
D.V.C.	6,350	5,201	81.9	6,805	6,918	101.7	7,500	6,915	92.2	7,970	6,837	85.8	8,125	6,673	82.1
Sikkim	45	30	86.7	65	34	52.3	50	55	110	50	49	98	70	64	91.4
Assam	1,660	1,070	64.5	1,623	908	55.9	1,655	1,255	75.8	1,668	1,434	86	1,585	1,362	85.9
NEEPCO	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,550	1,052	67.9	1,705	1,389	81.5
Megh.	1,215	1,290	108.2	1,240	1,490	120.2	1,293	1,241	96	475	539	113.5	450	480	106.7
Tripura	150	166	110.7	180	145	80.6	175	166	94.9	262	193	73.7	290	244	84.1
Manipur	410	545	132.9	425	817	145.2	450	515	114.4	450	480	106.7	450	497	110.4
Arunachal Pr.	15	0	0	12	0	0	12	20	166.7	15	15	100	15	17	113.3
All India	302,700	301,088	99.5	316,700	323,531	102.2	352,000	351,025	99.7	377,150	380,084	100.8	400,000	394,800	98.7

Statement-II**Energy Generation during Ninth Five Year Plan (MU)**

State/System	1997-98			1998-99			1999-00			200-01 (Apr.-Oct., 2000)		
	Target	Actual	%Achv.	Target	Actual	%Achv.	Target	Actual	%Achv.	Target	Actual	%Achv.
BBMB	11,000	10,695	97.2	10,650	14,106	132.5	10,760	12,067	112.1	7,283	7,450	102.3
Delhi	7,100	6,984	96.4	7,230	6,931	95.9	6,800	7,555	114.5	4,135	4,756	115
J&K	5,675	6,120	107.8	6,141	8,477	105.5	6,387	5,810	91	5,236	4,428	84.6
H.P.	3,960	3,956	99.9	3,804	4,570	120.1	4,015	3,748	93.3	3,362	3,368	100.2
Haryana	3,825	3,782	98.9	3,825	3,754	98.1	3,997	5,100	127.6	3,638	3,195	87.8
Rajasthan	10,800	11,157	105.3	12,510	12,820	102.5	12,797	14,570	113.9	8,200	8,978	109.5
Punjab	14,530	12,993	89.4	15,780	14,393	91.2	18,483	17,057	103.5	10,444	10,798	103.4
UP	88,180	87,489	99	69,070	69,818	101.1	69,650	72,914	104.7	41,362	44,044	106.4
Gujarat	40,060	39,711	99.1	50,220	44,845	89.3	46,953	48,386	98.7	27,439	26,896	98
Maharashtra	57,785	55,997	96.9	61,580	59,097	99.6	65,774	64,263	97.7	38,181	36,284	95
MP	44,545	44,598	100.1	44,675	46,709	104.6	47,875	48,291	100.9	28,279	29,080	102.8
AP.	43,000	45,911	106.8	48,965	47,820	97.7	52,797	52,066	98.6	30,604	29,705	97.1
Karnataka	16,440	17,093	104	17,205	17,087	99.2	21,298	20,931	98.3	13,134	12,192	92.8
Kerala	7,155	5,071	70.9	7,450	7,829	105.1	9,833	8,899	92.4	6,594	5,285	80.1
T.N.	37,045	38,090	102.8	40,280	37,908	94.1	39,450	40,562	102.8	23,818	24,576	103.2
Pondicherry	0	0	0	0	0	0	200	132	66	124	141	113.7
Bihar	7,930	7,093	89.4	6,790	8,212	120.9	7,490	7,906	105.8	3,913	4,781	122.2
Orissa	11,500	11,991	104.3	11,365	12,772	112.4	13,858	16,443	118.7	9,186	9,706	105.7
W.B.	24,825	20,502	82.6	20,250	21,212	104.8	20,238	23,223	114.7	14,017	14,993	107
D.V.C.	8,570	7,299	85.2	7,085	7,706	108.8	7,730	8,140	105.3	4,861	4,495	92.5
Sikkim	40	43	107.5	45	26	57.8	195	37	19	232	236	101.7
Assam	1,780	1,072	60.2	1,350	939	69.6	1,040	920	88.5	788	605	76.8
NEEPCO	2,230	1,527	68.5	2,415	1,921	79.5	2,464	2,214	89.9	1,914	1,498	78.3
Meghalaya	450	598	132.9	490	544	111	488	834	135.5	332	453	136.4
Tripura	515	302	58.6	390	344	88.2	380	312	82.1	224	185	82.6
Manipur	450	535	118.9	450	531	118	450	506	112.4	298	315	105.7
Arun. Pradesh	10	13	130	15	18	106.7	20	14	70	11	7	63.6
All India	429,000	420,622	98	450,000	448,387	99.6	469,000	480,880	102.5	287,629	288,448	100.3

Statement-III**Actual Power supply position**

(All figures in MU net)

Regiona/State System	October, 2000			April-October, 2000		
	Requirement	Availability	% Shortage	Requirement	Availability	% Shortage
<i>Northern Region</i>						
Chandigarh	88	88	0.00	681	680	0.10
Delhi	1,560	1,527	2.80	11,645	11,201	3.80
Haryana	1,550	1,522	1.80	10,340	10,226	1.10
H.P.	260	256	1.50	1,802	1,781	1.20
J&K	500	469	6.20	3,480	3,107	10.70
Punjab	2,250	2,154	4.30	18,055	17,744	1.70
Rajasthan	2,080	2,045	1.70	13,955	13,600	2.50
U.P.	4,030	3,523	12.60	26,580	22,907	13.80
N.R.	12,318	11,574	6.00	86,538	81,246	6.10
<i>Western Region</i>						
Gujarat	4,865	4,471	8.10	30,328	27,893	8.00
M.P.	3,600	3,151	12.50	21,261	19,482	8.40
Maharashtra	6,958	6,086	12.50	45,198	40,287	10.90
Goa	148	136	8.10	1,036	901	13.00
W R	15,571	13,844	11.10	97,823	88,563	9.50
<i>Southern Region</i>						
A.P.	4,168	3,988	4.30	27,075	25,141	7.10
Karnataka	1,960	1,826	6.80	16,172	14,542	10.10
Kerala	1,119	1,063	5.00	7,733	7,186	7.10
Tamil Nadu	3,324	3,168	4.70	24,299	22,356	8.00
S.R.	10,571	10,045	5.00	75,279	69,225	8.00
<i>Eastern Region</i>						
Bihar	793	745	6.10	5,202	4,914	5.50
D.V.C.	728	747	-2.60	4,994	5,109	-2.30
Orissa	1,056	1,086	-2.80	6,710	7,019	-4.60
West Bengal	1,600	1,628	-1.80	11,109	11,286	-1.60
E.R.	4,177	4,206	-0.70	28,015	28,327	-1.10
<i>North-Eastern Region</i>						
Arunachal Pradesh	10.5	11.1	-5.70	73.9	75.6	-2.30
Assam	261	327.3	-25.00	1,778.8	1,925.8	-8.30
Manipur	37.2	39.6	-6.50	257.1	257.1	0.00
Meghalaya	44.9	48.3	-7.60	299.8	334.7	-11.60
Mizoram	19.7	21	-6.60	134	138.9	-3.70
Nagaland	17.8	19.1	-7.30	123.1	127.8	-3.80
Tripura	50.8	54.5	-7.30	323.6	345.9	-6.90
N.E.R.	441.9	520.9	-18.00	2,990.3	3,205.8	-7.20
All India	43,079	40,190	6.70	290,647	270,567	6.90

*[English]***Speed post articles**

1188. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to ensure that all speed post articles reach the next day;

(b) if so, whether speed post delivery is not very efficient;

(c) the names of centres in Andhra Pradesh which come within the Speed Post jurisdiction;

(d) whether delay have become a routine in delivery of Speed Post articles; and

(e) if so, the steps proposed to be taken to improve the Speed Post System in the country ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) Department of Posts has prescribed delivery norms for all the Speed Post Centres, based on the availability of transport links. By linking all the available flights and trains dynamically and by providing overnight hub-and-spoke network, fast transmission and delivery of all Speed Post articles are ensured. Speed Post provides next day delivery to the centres wherever overnight flight/train/transport connections are available; in the remaining cases, in the absence of transport links the Speed Post articles are delivered within the published delivery norms.

(b) We are monitoring the delivery efficiency of Speed Post regularly and it shows that Speed Post delivery is efficient.

(c) Five cities in Andhra Pradesh Circle are on the National network of Speed Post service & 57 more cities/Town are on State Speed Post network service. List is given in the Statement enclosed.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Department of Posts has taken the following measures to improve Speed Post System in the country :

1. Increasing the weight limit to 35Kg per consignment.
2. Provision of door-to-door delivery services.
3. Provision of Track & Trace System.
4. Computerisation of Speed Post Network.

5. Expansion of the Speed Post operations.
6. Speed Post monitoring system.
7. Speed Post marketing.
8. Speed Post customer service.
9. Account management facilities.

Statement*List of Cities/Towns on National/State Speed Post Network***Speed Post Centres on National Network**

Sl. No.	Name of the Centre	Pin Code
1.	Hyderabad	500001
2.	Karnool	518001
3.	Tirupathi	517501
4.	Vijayawada	520001
5.	Visakhapatnam	530004

Speed Post Centres on State Network

Sl.No.	Name of the Centre	Pin Code
<i>Andhra Pradesh Circle</i>		
1.	Adilabad HO	504001
2.	Adoni	518301
3.	Allagadda	518543
4.	Anantapur	515001
5.	Armoor HO	503224
6.	Bhongir HO	508116
7.	Bodhan	503185
8.	Chandraguri	517101
9.	Chittoor	517001
10.	Cuddapah	516001
11.	Eluru	534001
12.	Gadwal	509125
13.	Guntakal	515801
14.	Guntur	522002
15.	Hindupur	515201
16.	Jagtial HO	505327
17.	Jangaon HO	506167

Sl.No.	Name of the Centre	Pin Code
18.	Huzurabad	505468
19.	Kakitaya Medical College (Warangal)	546007
20.	Kakinada	533001
21.	Kalyan Khani	504231
22.	Kamareddy HO	503111
23.	Karimnagar	505001
24.	Kazipet	506003
25.	Khammam	507001
26.	Kodad	508206
27.	Kothagudem	507101
28.	Machilipatnam	521001
29.	Mahabubnagar HO	506191
30.	Mahabubnagar	509001
31.	Mancherla	504208
32.	Medak HO	502110
33.	Miryalguda HO	508207
34.	Nalgonda	508001
35.	Nandyal	518501
36.	Nellore	524001
37.	Nirmal	504106
38.	Nizamabad	503001
39.	Ongole	523001
40.	Ordnance Factory	502205
41.	Parkal HO	506164
42.	Peddapallai HO	505172
43.	Prashantinilayam	515134
44.	Proddatur	518350
45.	Pulivedla	516390
46.	Rajahmundry	533101
47.	Rajampet	516115
48.	Sangareddy HO	502001
49.	Shakkarnagar	503188
50.	Siddipet HO	502103
51.	Stn. Jadcherla HO	509301
52.	Suryapet HO	508213
53.	Tanuku	534211
54.	Tenali	522201
55.	Wanaparthy HO	509103
56.	Wanangal	506002
57.	Zaheerabad HO	502220

Re-allocation of Naphtha for Power Projects

1189. SHRI DILEEP SANGHANI : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government had received any proposal from the Government of Gujarat for reallocation of Naphtha in December, 1999;

(b) if so, the details of power projects for which the said reallocation was demanded and the capacity of each of these power projects;

(c) the total quantity of Naphtha reallocated by the Government;

(d) whether the reallocated Naphtha is less than the quantity proposed;

(e) if so, the reasons therefor; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) A proposal from the Government of Gujarat for re-allocation of Naphtha to three power projects having a total capacity of 289.5 MW was received vide their letters dated 3.7.1999 and 25.10.1999.

(b) The details of power projects for which the said reallocation was requested are mentioned below :

Sl. No.	Name of Project/Project developer	Capacity (MW)
1.	Gujarat State Petroleum Corpn. Ltd.	114.5
2.	Expansion Captive Power Plant of M/s. Core Parental Health Care	65
3.	Power Project at Dhuvran of Gujarat State Electricity Corpn.	110

(c) to (f) After considering the various pending requests for naphtha allocation, including that from Gujarat, request for enhancement of the existing naphtha linkage of 4 projects were approved. These include only one of the three projects recommended by Government of Gujarat, i.e. the 65 MW expansion captive plant of M/s. Core Parental Healthcare. The enhanced allocation given to the said four projects is within the quota of naphtha allocated to the respective States. In view of the sharp hike in the global price of naphtha, it is no longer considered a viable and economical fuel for allocation to new power projects.

Investment in Telecommunication Sector

1190. SHRI HOLKHOMANG HAAKIP : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the amount of money to be invested in Telecommunication sector during the Ninth Five Year Plan, State-wise particularly in Manipur;

(b) whether the Private Sector and multinational telecommunication companies have shown interest to make investment for development of telecommunication facilities in North Eastern States;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) Ninth Five Year Plan does not include state-wise fund allocations. However, Planning Commission has approved an outlay of Rs. 46442.04 crores for Ninth Five Year Plan (1997-2002) for the Telecom Sector.

(b) and (c) So far two private companies have started their operations in North East Region. However, entry of more operators for development of telecommunication facilities in North Eastern Region is to be based on the recommendations of Telecommunication Regulatory Authority of India which are awaited.

(d) Government has introduced many incentives and investment policies for attracting investors in the Telecom Sector. Some of the measures are :

1. Procedures for automatic approval of 100 percent foreign equity in telecom manufacturing projects evolved.
2. No industrial license required for setting up manufacturing units for telecom equipment.
3. Foreign equity of 49 percent permitted in basic, cellular mobile, paging, value added services and global mobile personal communications by satellite.
4. FDI upto 100% allowed in ISPs not providing gateways (both for satellite and submarine cables), infrastructure providers providing dark fibre (IP Category-I), Electronic mail, voice mail.

Improvement in Hockey Game

1191. SHRI VIJAY GOEL : Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Indian Hockey team has all along faced humiliation in the International games;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps being taken to organise, strengthen or prepare an effective team to meet the international challenges ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI PON RADHAKRISHNAN) : (a) No Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The promotion of a particular sports discipline is the responsibility of the concerned National Sports Federation. Indian Hockey Federation (IHF) has formulated Long Term Development Plan (LTP) for promotion of hockey and the Government is supplementing its efforts by providing admissible assistance for its various programmes of LTDP under the Scheme of Assistance to National Sports Federations

[Translation]

Denudation of Forests

1192. SHRI DHARM RAJ SINGH PATEL : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether forest mafia in connivance with forest officers are engaged in denudation of forests,

(b) if so, the details of the cases registered with the police against forest mafias during the last three years, state-wise;

(c) whether the farmers are authorised to fell the trees for their own use in case they have lost their utility; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) There is no report with the Government of India that forest mafia in connivance with forest officers are engaged in denudation of forests.

(b) Question does not arise in view of (a) above.

(c) The felling of trees on private land is governed by the relevant Acts & Rules for the time being enforced in various State and Union Territories. The farmers are allowed to fell the trees subject to the statutory provisions.

(d) Question does not arise in view of (c) above.

[English]

Gas based Power Plant at Mangalore, Karnataka

1193. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have any proposal to set up a LNG Fuel Power Plant at Mangalore;

(b) whether NTPC was entrusted the task to set up the said plant;

(c) if so, the estimated cost along with the installed capacity of the plant; and

(d) the progress made in commissioning the said plant by NTPC so far ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) and (b) The Government of Karnataka has requested for feasibility studies by the National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) for setting up a 2000 MW gas based power project at Mangalore in Karnataka. The matter has been examined in the Ministry of Power, Government of India. The recent hike in international crude oil price has caused steep increase in the LNG prices as LNG price is indexed to crude oil prices. At the current LNG price, the cost of generation is expected to be over Rs. 4 per unit, which will make tariff unaffordable from such power plants.

NTPC has, therefore, been advised to discuss the rate of LNG which is likely to be obtained over a period of 20-25 years based on the long term LNG price with the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas and M/s Petronet LNG. Thereafter, NTPC would work out revised tariff and discuss Power Purchase Agreement with the beneficiary states. Depending in the techno-economic feasibility of the project, NTPC will initiate further action.

(c) and (d) Do not arise in view (a) & (b) above.

[Translation]

Neem as National Tree

1194. PROF. DUKHA BHAGAT : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to declare 'Neem' as national tree; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) There is no proposal to declare 'Neem' as National Tree.

(b) Does not arise.

Tree plantation in the country

1195. SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) the total area in the country on which trees were planted during the period from 1989 to 1999 indicating the number of trees planted ;

(b) the total amount spend thereon;

(c) the target fixed for the afforestation for the next year; and

(d) the amount proposed to be spent thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) to (d) During the period 1989-90 to 1999-2000, tree planting was carried out in the country over 17.53 million hectares, the number of seedlings planted being about 3,506 cores. Expenditure incurred on tree planting during 1989-90 to 1996-97 was about Rs. 5,526.78 crores. As per information given by the Planning Commission, the outlay for the forestry and wildlife sector during 1997-98 to 1999-2000 was Rs. 3,874.78 crores. Expenditure incurred on tree planting activities alone for 1997-98 to 1999-2000 has not been reported by the State Governments. The target of tree planting and afforestation for the financial year 2000-01 is 1.93 million hectares. The outlay for 2000-01 under the centrally sponsored afforestation schemes of the Ministry of Environment and Forests is Rs. 160.12 crores, in addition to the annual outlays for the purpose provided in the respective State Plans.

[English]

Encouragement to alternative non-pesticides

1196. SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to encourage alternative non-pesticide approach to farming; and

(b) if so, the biological agents including plants products available at present in the country indicating the total acreage and crops on which these are likely to be used ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK) : (a) Yes, Sir. The Government is encouraging alternative non-pesticide approach to farming under the ambit of Integrated Pest Management Technology. Such alternative non-pesticide approach includes cultural, mechanical and biological control measures.

(b) Important biological agents and plant products available in the country are as under :

- (i) Biological Agents : Trichogramma, Chrysoperla, Lady bird beetles, Trichoderma, Nuclear polyedrosis virus (NPV), and Bacillus thuringiensis.
- (ii) Plant Products : Neem-based formulations registered under the Insecticides Act, 1968 viz., Azadirachtin containing 300ppm, 1500ppm and 50,000ppm concentrations.

These biocontrol agents are available in the country through 356 Biocontrol Laboratories in the private and public sectors. Precise estimates about total acreages covered under such biocontrol agents are not available, however, these are becoming popular for control of pest and diseases in rice, jowar, cotton, vegetables, pulses, oilseeds and sugarcane crops.

Interest on Security Deposit

1197. SHRI RAM PRASAD SINGH :
MOHAMMAD ANWARUL HAQUE :
DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the total security deposits with the MTNL for cellular telephones and VSNL for Internet connections as well as of private service providers for cellular telephones in Telecom Sector throughout the country as on date;

(b) whether there is a long pending demand for giving of interest on security deposits to the consumers; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) to (c) Sir, Regarding the security deposit and its interest relating to various services, the status is as follows :

1. MTNL Cellular Telephones :

Total security deposits with MTNL for mobile Telephones based on CDMA WILL technology is

Rs. 137.20 lakhs. There is a demand for giving interest on the security deposit.

It has been decided to refund Rs. 7,000/- (with interest) out of a deposit of Rs. 10,000/- to each registrant on such telephones. Interest at the rate applicable on application deposit for a normal telephone will also be paid on the balance of Rs. 3,000/- till the date of provision of mobile telephone.

2. Internet Service of VSNL :

No security deposit is being charged by VSNL from the customers for the internet services provided by them.

3. Private service Providers for Cellular Telephones

In case of private operators, record of the security deposit collected by the private service providers of Cellular Mobile Telephone Service (CMTS) is not maintained by the Government. As per information obtained from Cellular Operators Association of India (COAI), all the CMTS operators are abiding by the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) tariff order, 1999 relating to tariffs and security deposits. Therefore, all tariffs and security deposits are within the prescribed limits of the TRAI tariff order. No interest is paid on the security deposits. The security deposits taken by the operators are refundable.

Foreign funds for Forestry

1198. SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to seek foreign funding for forestry;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have formulated a National Forestry Action Programme for increasing the forest cover in the country ; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. The Ministry of Environment and Forests have formulated National Forestry Action Programme (NFAP), a comprehensive strategic plan for the next twenty years to increase the forest cover in the country to the desired 33% as mandated in the National Forest Policy, 1988. It is estimated that Rs. 133903 crores would be required in

the next twenty years for implementation of National Forestry Action Programme. The various components of the NFAP are as follows :

1. Protection of Existing Forest Resources
2. Improvement of Forest Productivity
3. Reduction of Total Demand
4. Strengthening of Policy and Institutional Framework
5. Expanding Forest Area.

The availability of internal resources for forestry sector is inadequate. External assistance is sought in the forestry sector for augmenting the insufficient resource availability from internal resources. There has been flow of external funding for implementation of forestry projects in the country. So far 16 projects have been implemented in 14 States. Presently, 16 State-Sector and 2 Central Sector externally aided projects are under implementation in forestry sector. In addition, 12 projects have been formulated for external funding

Hike in MSP for pulses

1199. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY :
SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a high level expert committee has suggested a substantial hike in the MSP for pulses;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of the recommendations made by the high level expert committee and further action taken by the Government on such recommendations ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. An Expert Committee on Pulses has suggested that the present MSP is not commensurate with the increase in the cost of production of pulses as the pulses cultivation is associated with high risk factors of biotic and abiotic stresses that necessitates strong support to promote the production of pulses in the country. Therefore, the Committee has suggested that the strategy of fixing Minimum Support Price (MSP) for pulses is required to be reoriented to cover higher risk involved in the production of pulses.

(c) The details of the recommendations made by the Expert Committee on pulses are given below :

1. The crops like lentil, rajmash, peas and mothbean be also covered under MSP scheme.
2. The strategy for fixing MSP for pulses be reoriented to provide allowance for the higher risk involved.
3. Marketing of pulses through Co-operative societies as in case of Oilseeds would be desirable.

The Government has initiated necessary action in this regard.

[Translation]

Non-Utilisation of Foreign assistance by Power Sector

1200. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the foreign assistance amounting to rupees 10319 crores received from foreign financial institutions for assisting the power sector has not been utilized and as a result of which a huge amount has to be paid in the form of compensation charges;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) and (b) The undrawn balance at any given point of time represents a "pool" or "reserve" of funds with regular inflows and outflows. This pool also takes into account variations due to exchange rate fluctuations. As soon as a tranche of a loan for a particular project is made effective by an International donor, the entire tranche is added to this pool. With the execution of the project, funds are drawn from this pool. Since a power project normally takes five to seven years time for completion, with new tranches being added regularly, the size of pool is never "zero". For power projects, commitment charges are levied by some of the donors on the basis of undrawn balance in a particular year.

As on 31.3.1999, the undrawn balance involving 41 projects was Rs. 10319 crore. Out of this no commitment charge was paid for 23 projects having a total undrawn balance of Rs. 7263.11 crore (about 70%

of the total). Commitment charge was paid only for the balance 18 projects having an undrawn balance of Rs. 3056.82 crore.

(c) The Government regularly monitors all on-going projects including the ones which receive foreign assistance through various Monitoring Committees including Empowered Committee and Sectoral Task Forces.

Losses to Delhi Milk Scheme

1201. SHRI AKHILESH YADAV : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the existing distribution scheme of milk/ghee of Delhi Milk Scheme;

(b) whether the Union Government is incurring loss in crores of rupees due to the existing milk distribution scheme;

(c) if so, the amount of daily and monthly loss being incurred and the officials responsible therefor;

(d) whether the Government propose to take any stringent and rapid action to rectify the distribution policies of milk and to penalise the officials involved in formulating wrong policies; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN) : (a) DMS is supplying milk and milk product through a network of distributors. The milk and ghee is sold at the following rates .

Type of Milk-Ghee	Rates (Rs./Ltr.)
Full Cream Milk	17.00
Toned Milk	14.00
Double Toned Milk	11.00
Ghee	135.00

(b) and (c) Delhi Milk Scheme is not incurring losses worth crores of rupees due to the present distribution scheme

(d) and (e) Not applicable in view of (b) & (c) above.

[English]

Funds for National Highway-31A

1202. SHRI BHIM DAHAL : Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the expenditure incurred on the repair of National Highway Number 31-A during 1998-99 and 1999-2000;

(b) whether the Government have conducted any enquiry regarding its maintenance;

(c) if so, the steps taken by the Government to improve its dilapidated conditions; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. [RETD.] SHRI B.C. KHANDURI) : (a) Expenditure amounting to Rs. 575.44 lakh and Rs. 790.36 lakh has been incurred on the repairs of National Highway No. 31. A during 1998-99 and 1999-2000 respectively

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Do not arise. However, it is proposed to develop the existing intermediate land road to double lane standard depending upon availability of funds.

National Environmental Tribunal

1203. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH :
SHRIMATI BHAVNA CHIKHALIA

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

(a) the pending cases in Environment Courts as on date, State-wise;

(b) whether the number of cases of Gujarat is the highest;

(c) if so, whether the National Environment Tribunal has since been constituted;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps taken to expedite speedy disposal of cases ?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) and (b) There is no Environment Court set up by the Government. However, a list of pending cases as on 30.9.2000 relating to

environment in various courts under the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 has been provided in the Statement enclosed. The number of pending court cases is as per the information available with the Central Pollution Control Board. The number of pending cases is highest in the State of Gujarat.

(c) to (e) The Government is in the process of setting up of the Tribunal under the National Environment Tribunal Act, 1995 to dispose of cases expeditiously which currently are dealt with under the normal legal process.

Statement

Pending cases in different courts as per information available with the CPCB as on 30.9.2000

1.	Assam	Nil
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	Nil
3.	Andhra Pradesh	2
4.	Bihar	214
5.	Goa	Nil
6.	Gujarat	1600
7.	Haryana	460
8.	Himachal Pradesh	35
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	86
10.	Kerala	4
11.	Karnataka	116
12.	Maharashtra	120
13.	Madhya Pradesh	137
14.	Meghalaya	Nil
15.	Manipur	Nil
16.	Mizoram	Nil
17.	Nagaland	Nil
18.	Orissa	76
19.	Punjab	296
20.	Rajasthan	239
21.	Sikkim	Nil
22.	Tamil Nadu	98
23.	Tripura	Nil
24.	Uttar Pradesh	15
25.	West Bengal	2
26.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	Nil
27.	Damn, Diu & DNH	Nil
28.	Lakshadweep	Nil
29.	Delhi	NA
30.	Chandigarh	Nil
31.	Pondicherry	Nil

[Translation]

Power generation by Hirma Power Plant, Orissa

1204. DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA :
SHRI RAMJILAL SUMAN :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Hirma power generation project in Orissa has been completed;

(b) if so, whether the rate per unit of the power to be generated by the above project is fixed at Rs. 1.22 per unit whereas the plant load factor is 85%;

(c) whether the power generated in the said project is cheaper in comparison to the power projects run by the other private sector in the country;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the average rate of the power generated by the other projects under private sector ?

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

(b) The levelised fixed charge per unit of power to be generated from the 6x660 MW Hirma Thermal Power Project in Orissa being promoted by M/s Southern Electric Asia Pacific (SEAP) Ltd. has been determined as Rs. 1.3398 per unit at 85% guaranteed availability with super critical boilers and at 74% front loading, by the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC). However, the promoters of the project have filed a review petition with the CERC for review of this tariff

(c) and (d) The Hirma Thermal Power project has been identified as a mega power project which will meet the requirements of five States in the Northern and Western Regions. Under the revised mega power policy of the Government of India announced in 1998, the import of capital equipment for the mega power project would be exempted from payment of custom duty. In addition, the income tax holiday can be claimed by the promoters in any block of 10 years within the first 15 years. The State Governments have been requested to exempt supplies made to mega power projects from sales tax and local levies. All such measures and the economies of scale in mega projects would substantially bring down tariffs.

(e) It is not practical or possible to compute the average rate of power generated by the power projects commissioned in the private sector as the cost of power is dependent on various factors like the type of project, viz. Hydro or thermal, fuel used, viz. coal, liquid fuel, natural gas, etc. distance of the project from the fuel source, technology used, the mode of financing etc.

Telephone connections after issuing of O.B.

1205. SHRI UTTAMRAO PATIL : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it takes more than 2-3 months in providing telephone connection even after issuing of O.B.;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to expedite the procedure ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. Instructions exist that telephone connections should be installed and energized within 15 days after the issue of OBs. However, provision of telephones is sometimes delayed due to some pockets/areas being technically non-feasible or due to subscribers' reasons.

(c) Regular monitoring of delayed cases in technically non-feasible area in being done at appropriate level to provide telephones expeditiously. New technologies like WILL are proposed to be deployed to provide telephone connections expeditiously in technically non-feasible areas.

Modernisation of Postal Services

1206. SHRI RAM SINGH KASWAN : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether some schemes were prepared during the Eighth Five Year Plan for the modernisation of postal services in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the amount allocated for those schemes; and

(d) the provision made during the Ninth Five Year Plan for the purpose ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. The Department of Post had prepared and executed various schemes for the Modernisation of Postal Services during the 8th Five Year Plan. These schemes covered a wide gamut of services being performed by the Department of Post in order to streamline operations brining about greater efficiency and service to the public and to motivate and improve the work culture of the organisation.

The induction and upgradation of technology was undertaken in a big way with the installation of 2,660 computer based Multipurpose Counter Machines in about

800 Post Offices. These machines generate computer printed receipts and the public does not need to affix postage stamps while booking articles. Furthermore, a person can avail of all types of postal facilities at a single counter. VSAT technology was introduced in 1995 for the transmission of money orders and messages electronically via satellite. In the Eighth Plan 74 VSAT stations were installed country-wide. Money transfer especially to rural areas is now much easier and 300 offices were linked to the VSAT network by phone lines in the 8th Plan. Computerisation of Post Office Savings Bank was initiated in 100 Post Offices. A beginning was made to computerise the functions relating to Postal Life Insurance in selected offices. As part of the modernisation programme computerisation of Registration Sorting work was started in fourteen cities.

40 Franking Machines, 280 Typing and Bundling Machines were installed in Post Offices. Fully Mechanised Sorting Mail Offices were set up in Mumbai and Chennai. These are called Automatic Mail Processing Centres and process more than 12 lakh letter mails a day. Modernisation of delivery and mail transmission during the 8th Five Year Plan also included procurement of 284 Mail Motor Vehicles. 20 Railway Mail Service vans were remodelled. Mopeds were also procured for use by postmen.

To improve the ergonomics and ambience of mail offices, modern furniture and latest operational equipments were procured. 46 offices handling large volume of mail were modernised. Two transit mail offices and one international mail office were also computerised. A programme for development of philately was initiated with computerised Philatelic Bureaux, Customer Care Centres for setting up of public complaints were also set up.

The total financial outlay during the Eight Five Year Plan for modernisation of postal services was Rs. 205.59 crores.

During the 9th Five Year Plan the Department of Posts has sought to expand in a phased manner the scope and coverage of the programmes of modernisation of postal services including specific agency functions through induction of new technology initiated during the Eighth Plan period. The focus of the programme of modernisation is to improve the quality of postal services as well as to increase revenue generation. Human resource development through appropriate training for skill upgradation and streamlining of management functions are also priority areas identified to support the modernisation schemes. The financial outlay is Rs. 320.74 crores for modernisation out of a total Plan outlay of Rs. 507.25 crores.

WTO Impact on Import of Agricultural Products

1207. SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR CHOUDHARY : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have taken action to protect the interest of agricultural sector and farmers from the cheaper import from abroad under the provisions of WTO after signing it;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to constitute a Joint Committee having representation of all the departments concerning agriculture based products;

(d) whether the Government are increasing export subsidy and especially increasing the number of cold storages in the country to boost agriculture export; and

(e) if, so the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK) : (a) and (b) With a view to protecting the interest of the agricultural sector and farmers from cheaper imports into the country, the tariff levels have been bound by India for primary agricultural products, processed agricultural products and edible oils, with a few exceptions, at 100%, 150% and 300% respectively. Therefore, import of agricultural commodities into India can be suitably regulated by imposing appropriate tariffs within the bound levels for protecting the interest of the farmers. Government has been using import tariff as an instrument to discourage imports wherever necessary and to protect the interest of the farmers. Government has in the recent past increased the basic imports tariffs on a number of agricultural items as under :

Sl. No.	Item	Basic Customs Duty (in %age)
1.	Wheat	50
2.	Maize(corn) Seed	50
3.	Rice in Husk	80
4.	Husked (Brown) Rice	80
5.	Semi-milled or wholly Milled Rice whether or not polished or glazed.	70
6.	Broken Rice	80
7.	Grain Sorghum	50
8.	Millet	50

Sl. No.	Item	Basic Customs Duty (in %age)
9.	Sugar	60 (In addition to a countervailing duty of Rs. 850/- per tonne)
10.	Soyabean Oil, refined	45
11.	RBD Palmolein, refined	65
12.	Palm Oil, refined	65
13.	Groundnut oil, refined	45

(c) The various issues concerning WTO Agreement on Agriculture were discussed at length with representatives of various political parties, voluntary organisations, farmers' organisations, State Ministers for Agriculture and Food to obtain their views for finalising the country's proposals for the negotiations in the WTO. There is already in existence an International Trade Advisory Body in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry as well as WTO Coordinating Group of Secretaries, which regularly takes stock of all significant developments relating to WTO Agreements.

(d) and (e) No export subsidy is being given by the Government. A scheme of capital investment subsidy for construction/expansion/modernisation of cold storage/ storages for horticulture produce is already under implementation. The Department of Commerce, through the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority, (APEDA), has established Integrated Cold Storage and Cargo Handling Facilities at the major international Airports viz., IGI Airport, New Delhi, Chennai, Bangalore, Hyderabad and Thiruvananthapuram in order to boost exports of perishable agricultural products.

Construction of By-pass in Ranchi

1208. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY : Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether no by-pass has been constructed in Ranchi of Jharkhand;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government for the construction of by-pass in Ranchi ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. [RETD.] SHRI B.C. KHANDURI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Construction of by-pass is being given low priority due to paucity of fund.

(c) Provision for feasibility study/detailed engineering for construction of Ranchi by-pass amounting to Rs. 100 crore exists in the Annual Plan 2000-2001. Estimate for the same will be examined for sanction after its receipt from the State Government.

[English]

CBI probe into MTNL Contract

1209. SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY :
SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH :
SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ :
SHRI Y.S. VEVEKANANDA REDDY :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have ordered a CBI probe into the Rs. 400 crore mobile telephone equipment contract awarded by MTNL to the Indian Telephone Industries;

(b) if so, whether the CBI has submitted its report and if so, the action taken/proposed to be taken against those held responsible; and

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

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

(b) and (c) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

Length of National Highways in Karnataka

1210. SHRI G. MALLIKARJUNAPPA :
SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK :
SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR :
SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL :

Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the State Governments have submitted proposals to the Union Government for approval of length

of National Highways during the Eighth Plan period, particularly Karnataka and Maharashtra States;

(b) if so, whether the Government have approved all the proposals;

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

(d) if not, the details of proposals which have not been approved alongwith the reasons therefor;

(e) whether any further clearance has been sought from State Governments in this regard;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the funds provided by the Government for National Highways to States during Eighth Plan period and also in the first three years of Ninth Plan period, State-wise/year-wise.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. [RETD.] SHRI B.C. KHANDURI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) During the 8th Plan period due to constraint of funds and continued resources crunch only two proposals with an aggregate length of 609 kms. comprising NH-18, 369 kms. in Andhra Pradesh and NH-19, 120 kms. in U.P. & 120 kms. in Bihar respectively could be added to the National Highway network. Rest of the proposals including 14 proposals from Karnataka & 11 proposals from Maharashtra could not be considered.

(e) and (f) No, Sir. In May, 1997, while inviting proposals of new National Highways from all the State Government for consideration during the 9th Plan, the Central Government had made clear that the proposals to be forwarded by the State Governments would supercede all proposals/requests made by the State Governments during the 8th Five Year Plan. Therefore fresh proposals were received from the State Governments.

(g) A Statement giving details of funds allocated for the National Highways in the 8th Plan is given in Statement-I. A Statement giving details of funds allocated for National Highways during the first three years of the 9th Plan is in Statement-II.

Statement-I**Allocation of funds during 8th Five Year Plan for Development of National Highways**

(Rs. in lakh)

Sl. No.	Name of the State/UT	1992-93	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97
1.	Andhra Pradesh	2600.00	4524.00	5165.30	4864.00	3910.24
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	80.00	100.00	138.00	00.00	00.00
3.	Assam	1275.001	1400.00	1485.00	1650.00	1257.39
4.	Bihar	1385.00	1920.00	2221.00	1980.00	1583.35
5.	Chandigarh	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	24.00
6.	Delhi	700.00	550.00	150.00	400.00	400.00
7.	Goa	850.00	570.00	459.40	643.00	860.65
8.	Gujarat	4650.00	6200.00	7098.00	5458.00	3738.51
9.	Haryana	1870.00	3200.00	5160.00	5555.00	11245.87
10.	Himachal Pradesh	1150.00	1200.00	1350.00	1600.00	1200.00
11.	J&K	50.00	40.00	45.00	50.00	100.00
12.	Karnataka	1880.30	2707.00	3189.00	3319.00	3530.54
13.	Kerala	1400.00	3089.00	3124.95	4310.00	6022.33
14.	Madhya Pradesh	1915.00	1678.00	2347.39	2820.00	1792.21
15.	Maharashtra	3280.00	2831.00	3262.52	3703.00	2933.00
16.	Manipur	250.00	300.00	331.93	501.00	363.52
17.	Meghalaya	387.00	470.00	500.00	680.00	996.00
18.	Mizoram	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.00
19.	Nagaland	50.00	45.00	49.00	50.00	10.00
20.	Orissa	1375.00	1221.00	3557.55	3600.00	5917.28
21.	Pondicherry	44.64	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00
22.	Punjab	2800.00	2200.00	3559.00	5910.00	5801.79
23.	Rajasthan	3095.00	4028.00	4720.00	6733.00	3638.80
24.	Sikkim	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.00
25.	Tamil Nadu	1600.00	3064.00	2589.50	1276.00	2024.67
26.	Tripura	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.00
27.	Uttar Pradesh	4995.00	4579.00	7455.68	8842.00	7955.58
28.	West Bengal	2230.00	3500.00	3987.00	3810.00	3608.00

Statement-II**Allocation of Funds for first three years of the 9th plan
for Development of National Highways**

(Rs. in lakh)

Sl. No.	Name of State/UT	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000
1.	Andhra Pradesh	5957.17	4879.82	5707.87
2.	Assam	1860.80	2661.10	4239.32
3.	Bihar	1952.00	3417.35	6117.52
4.	Chandigarh	30.00	82.00	100.00
5.	Delhi	800.00	1400.00	700.00
6.	Goa	971.58	1100.00	1700.02
7.	Gujarat	4322.42	6628.54	8851.90
8.	Haryana	10040.00	7588.50	10000.00
9.	Himachal Pr.	1700.00	2500.00	4000.00
10.	J&K	150.00	100.00	100.00
11.	Karnataka	4238.78	3709.01	6487.42
12.	Kerala	8042.48	7030.16	12568.12
13.	Madhya Pr.	4657.00	8247.73	12036.75
14.	Maharashtra	8062.43	11382.63	17422.59
15.	Manipur	702.19	700.00	1010.75
16.	Meghalaya	970.50	1060.50	1730.28
17.	Mizoram	0.00	0.00	508.00
18.	Nagaland	100.00	200.00	800.00
19.	Orissa	6475.20	9726.82	9550.00
20.	Pondicherry	70.00	100.81	319.46
21.	Punjab	5378.88	7148.88	5119.56
22.	Rajasthan	4315.83	4605.81	4750.30
23.	Tamil Nadu	2567.92	3921.37	6542.57
24.	Tripura	0.00	0.00	55.00
25.	Uttar Pradesh	12535.27	12649.35	12059.13
26.	West Bengal	7335.00	10150.94	8818.02

[Translation]**Development of varieties of pulses**

1211. SHRI MANSINH PATEL : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the scientific organisation/institutions have not performed significantly in development of varieties of pulses;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the details of the developmental works undertaken in this filed during the last three years ?

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

(b) Question does not arise.

(c) Research work on the development of improved varieties in different pulse crops has been in progress in the following major areas :

(i) Incorporation of resistance against biotic and abiotic stresses.

(ii) Reduction in maturity duration for multiple cropping systems.

(iii) Development of hybrids in pigeonpea.

(iv) Varieties for non-traditional areas and seasons.

As a result of these research efforts, a number of improved varieties have been developed and released for different areas. Details of the improved varieties released during the last 3 years are given in the Statement enclosed.

Statement**List of improved varieties of pulse crops released during the last three years**

Name of variety/hydrbrid	Year of release	Yield q/ha	Area of adaptation	Remarks
1	2	3	4	5
Chickpea				
DCP 92-3	1997	18-20	NWPZ	Resistant to wilt
KDG 1168 (Alok)	1997	20-25	NWPZ	Resistant to wilt and root rot
Vishal	1997	30-35	CZ	Resistant to wilt

1	2	3	4	5
PDG 3	1997	16-18	Punjab	Tolerant to pod borer
CSG 8962 (Karnal Channa-1)	1997	18-20	NWPZ	Resistant to wilt. Suitable for saline condition.
GCP 101 (Gujarat Gram-1)	1999	18-22	CZ	Tolerant to wilt
Pusa 1003 (Kabuli)	1999	18-20	NEPZ	Tolerant to wilt, bold seeded
BGD-72 (Pusa Pragati)	1999	20	CZ	Bold seeded, resistant to wilt and root rot, drought tolerant
BG 1053 (Pusa Chamatkar)	1999	20	NWPZ	Bold seeded and moderately resistant to root diseases.
JG-11	1999	18-22	SZ	Tolerant to Fusarium wilt
GCP 105	2000	18	NEPZ	Moderately resistant to wilt rot.
<i>Pigeonpea</i>				
COPH-2 (Hybird)	1997	10	Tamil Nadu	Early maturing
Amar	1997	16-20	Uttar Pradesh	Resistant to sterility mosaic, tolerant to wilt
AKPH Hybrid 4101 (Hybird)	1997	20-22	CZ	Interminate to plant
Narendra Arhar-1	1997	20-22	Uttar Pradesh	Resistant to SMD, tolerant to wilt
AKPH 2022 (Hybrid)	1998	18-20	Maharashtra	-
Paras (H82-1)	1998	15-20	Haryana	-
MA-3 (Malviya Vikalp)	1999	20-22	CZ	Moderately tolerant to wilt and pod fly
Durga (ICPL 84031)	1999	18-20	Andhra Pradesh	-
<i>Mungbean</i>				
Pant Mung 4 (UPM 92-1)	1997	7	NEPZ	Resistant to yellow mosaic virus
HUM-1	1999	9(CZ) 8(SZ)	CZ and SZ	Resistant to yellow mosaic virus
Co 6	1999	10	Tamil Nadu	Resistant to yellow mosaic virus
PBM 2	2000	6	NEPZ	Resistant to yellow mosaic virus
Pusa 9531	2000	9	CZ	Resistant to yellow mosaic virus and tolerant to jassids and whitefly
Pusa Bold-1 (Vishal)	2000	11	NWPZ	Resistant to yellow mosaic virus and tolerant to jassids and whitefly
<i>Urdbean</i>				
Vamban-2	1997	8	Tamil Nadu	Resistant to yellow mosaic virus and tolerant to drought
Shekhar-1 (KU 301)	1997	13	SZ	Resistant to yellow mosaic virus and suitable for rabi season
TU 94-2	1999	15	SZ	Resistant to yellow mosaic virus, moderately resistant to powdery mildew and for rabi season
IPU 94-1 (Uttara)	1999	12	NWPZ, NEPZ	Resistant to yellow mosaic virus
KU 92-1 (Azad Urd-1)	1999	10	NEPZ	Resistant to yellow mosaic virus, suitable for spring season
RBU 38 (Barkha)	1999	12.5	CZ and NEPZ	Resistant to Cercospora leaf spot, bold seeded
WBG 26	1999	9.5	SZ	Resistant to Powdery mildew and yellow mosaic virus

1	2	3	4	5
<i>Lentil</i>				
Narendra Masoor-1 (NDL 92-1)	1997	14	Uttar Pradesh	Resistant to rust, tolerant to wilt and bold seeded
DPL 62 (Sheri)	1997	17	NWPZ	Resistant to rust, tolerant to wilt and bold seeded
JL 3	1999	14.5	CZ	Resistant to wilt
IPL 81 (Noori)	2000	12.5	CZ	Tolerant to rust and bold seeded
<i>Fieldpea</i>				
DMR 7 (Alankar)	1996	23.5	NWPZ	Resistant to powdery mildew
Uttra (HFP 8909)	1996	22	NWPZ	Resistant to powdery mildew
KFP 144-1	1997	18	Uttar Pradesh	Resistant to powdery mildew
HUDP 15 (Malviya Matar 15)	1999	23-24	NEPZ	Resistant to powdery mildew
DDR 23	2000	15.5	NEPZ	Resistant to Powdery mildew
<i>Lathyrus</i>				
Bio L 212 (Ratan)	1997	15	NEPZ	Low neurotoxin, suitable for Utera and drought prone conditions
Parteek	1999	13	Madhya Pr.	Resistant to powdery mildew and tolerant to pod borer and low neurotoxin (0.07%)
<i>Mothbean</i>				
RMO-225	1999	5-5.5	Rajasthan, Gujarat and Maharashtra	Drought tolerant
FMM-96	1999	5-6	All moth growing areas	Suitable for light alluvial to heavy soils and rainfed conditions
CAZRI Moth-1	1999	5.5-6.5	All moth growing areas	Drought tolerant
<i>Cowpea</i>				
GC-3	1999	10-11	SZ	Early maturing, suitable for arid and semi arid areas
Pusa Sampda	1999	9	NWPZ	Suitable for rainfed conditions
<i>Horse gram</i>				
Palem-2	1996	8-9	Andhra Pr.	Early maturity, suitable for rainfed conditions
AK-21	1999	8-8.5	NWPZ	Tolerant to anthracnose, suitable for rainfed areas
<i>Guar</i>				
RGC-1003	1999	11	All guar growing areas	Suitable for rainfed conditions and well drained soils.
RGC-1002	1999	10	All guar growing areas	Suitable for rainfed conditions
RGC-986	1999	10	All guar growing areas	Suitable for rainfed conditions
SZ (South zone) : Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu NEPZ (North Eastern Plain Zone) : Eastern Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, West Bengal and Orissa CZ (Central Zone) : South West Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Gujarat. NWPZ (North Western Plain Zone) : Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan, Delhi and Western Uttar Pradesh.				

[English]

Sanchar Dhabas

1212 DR. RAMESH CHAND TOMAR :
SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have decided to set up 'Sanchar Dhabas' in all Panchyat/Villages of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the extent to which Sanchar Dhabas are going to help and develop rural telephones in the big way?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) No Sir, there is no scheme to set up 'Sanchar Dhabas' in all the Block Headquarters.

(b) The 'Internet Dhabas' in all Block Headquarters in the country are proposed to be set up by 31st March, 2001 through franchisees for which the selection criteria is same as applicable for PCO allotment. Existing PCO franchisees are also encouraged to upgrade the existing PCOs to Internet PCOs. Free Internet Access is being permitted for the Internet Dhabas in the Rural Block Headquarters and in the Urban Block Headquarters, the free internet access for 1500 hrs. per annum is permitted. If any franchisee wants to set up the Internet Dhabas other than at the Block Headquarter, the same concessions are allowed.

(c) Internet Dhabas in all the Block headquarters will help in fast poliferation of the internet services amongst general public who will have the advantage of instant information about the markets, rates, education, health etc.

Rebate to SEBs to clear outstanding dues by NTPC

1213. SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the National Thermal Power Corporation has decided to give a 25 percent rebate on outstanding surcharge amount if defaulting State Electricity Boards clear their entire dues;

(b) the total amount payable by the State Electricity Boards to the NTPC as on August 31, 2000; and

(c) the details of the State Electricity Boards that are likely to avail the rebate offered made by the NTPC?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) The National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) has made one time settlement with UPPCL, APTRANSCO and GRIDCO wherein they have been given reduction of 25% in surcharge amount payable by them to NTPC for one time settlement of total outstanding dues (principal & surcharge) as on date of settlement. NTPC has also decided that reduction of 25% in surcharge amount payable by State Electricity Boards (SEBs) to NTPC would be considered for those SEBs who agree for one time settlement and payment of total outstanding dues (principal & surcharge) to NTPC as on date of settlement.

(b) The total amount of outstanding dues payable by SEBs to NTPC stands at Rs. 15307.39 crores as on August 31, 2000 which include surcharge of Rs. 5588.53 crores. The details are given in the Statement enclosed.

(c) NTPC is approaching all defaulting SEBs for one time settlement in line with the settlement reached with UPPCL, APTRANSCO & GRIDCO

Statement

NTPC outstanding dues as on 31.8.2000

(Rs. in lacs)

STPS/SEB	Outstanding as on date	Surcharge billed	Total outstanding
1	2	3	4
Sikkim	2337	838	3175
West Bengal	82386	42297	124683
Bihar	165293	99877	265170
Assam	2599	1121	3720
J&K	24655	33515	58167
Orissa	65723	18331	84054
Uttar Pradesh	202724	71375	274099
Delhi	135528	126903	262431
Damodar Valley Corporation	34560	28827	63387
Karnataka	17407	6921	24328
Tamilnadu	26172	9416	35588
Madhya Pradesh	54566	30911	85477
Andhra Pradesh	22447	6758	29205
Rajasthan	29623	8891	38514
Pondicherry	2332	796	3128
Gujarat	27088	19589	46677

1	2	3	4
Maharashtra	38217	19816	58033
Kerala	17421	4426	21847
Haryana	14913	25585	40498
Himachal Pradesh	1638	930	2568
Punjab	4306	1288	5594
Goa (Southern Region)	2	117	119
Union Territory of Chandigarh	-44	0	-44
Daman & Diu	-7	108	101
Goa (Western Region)	0	220	220
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	0	0	0
Total	971886	558853	1530739

Abbreviations

STPS : Super Thermal Power Station

SEB : State Electricity Board

Transport Corridor between India and Russia

1214. SHRI G. GANGA REDDY : Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether an agreement has been reached between India and Russia to construct a north-south transport corridor (highway) through Iran for linking Russia with India;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of hurdles being experienced in finalising this proposal ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. [RETD.] SHRI B.C. KHANDURI) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

*[Translation]***Investment by Foreign Telecom Companies**

1215. SHRI RAMPAL SINGH :
DR. ASHOK PATEL :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have invited the Telecom Companies of Japan to make investment in India; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) and (b) The Government has announced a liberal policy of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in Telecom Sector, inviting investment from all the countries including Japan. On a recent visit to Japan to attend the Asia-Pacific Summit on the Information Society, Minister of Communications had invited the Japanese investors to take advantage of this Foreign Direct Investment policy and the opportunities now offered to the foreign investors for making investment in the Telecom Sector in India.

[English]

New Power Projects for rural electrification

1216. SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) the details of new power projects approved for generation and rural electrification in Gujarat;

(b) the details of rural electrification carried out in the State during each of the last three years;

(c) the target fixed by the Planning Commission and Rural Electrification Corporation for rural electrification during 1999-2000; and

(d) the steps taken to achieve the target fixed in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) The following power projects have been given Techno-economic Clearance (TEC) by the Central Electricity Authority (CEA) :

Sl. No.	Name of the Project	Capacity (MW)
1.	Paguthan CCGT	654.7
2.	Gandhi Nagar Extn. Unit 5	210
3.	Wanakorbi Extn. Unit 7	210
@4.	Hazira CCGT	515
@5.	Petro Chemical Complex Power Plant at Baroda	167
@6.	Surat Lignite TPP	250
7.	Kawas CCPP St. II	650
8.	Jhanor-Gandhar CCPP St. II	650
@9.	Jamnagar Petcoke TPP	500
10.	Akrimota Lignite TPP	250
11.	Hazira CCPP	156

@ State Government have been requested to recommend the extension of deadline for submission of firm financial package.

In addition to the above, the Sardar Sarovar Project (6x200+5x500 MW) is under construction which would benefit Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra.

During the current financial year, one new project for Rural Electrification has been sanctioned involving financial assistance of Rs. 94 lakhs as sponsored by Gujarat Electricity Board (GEB).

(b) All villages in Gujarat have been declared electrified in December, 1998. The details of village electrification carried out during the last three years is as follows :

1997-1998	9
1998-1999	4
1999-2000	-

(c) and (d) Since all the inhabited village (1991 census) in the State of Gujarat are already declared as electrified, GEB has not proposed any scheme for electrification of new villages to Rural Electrification Corporation (REC) during 1999-2000.

[Translation]

Development of Non-Conventional Energy

1217. DR. SANJAY PASWAN : Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to develop non-

conventional energy sources particularly in Bihar, Assam and Eastern States;

(b) if so, the details of various developed equipments for use in non-conventional energy sources distributed to various State Governments during each of the last three years, State-wise;

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

(d) the number of solar energy equipments and other equipments sold in Bihar and the targets achieved in this regard during each of the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN) : (a) Yes, Sir. Non-conventional energy sources such as solar, wind, biomass and small hydro are being developed and promoted in various States, including Bihar, Assam and eastern States.

(b) and (c) Details of non-conventional energy systems/devices installed in Bihar, Assam, Orissa and West Bengal during each of the last three years are given, State-wise, in the Statement enclosed.

(d) Details of solar energy and other equipment installed in Bihar during the last three years are also given in the Statement enclosed.

Statement

Year-wise installations of various systems/devices in Bihar, Assam, Orissa and West Bengal during the last three years i.e. 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000

Sl. No.	Programmes	Assam			Bihar			Orissa			West Bengal		
		1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000
1.	Biogas (Nos)	275	223	67	920	708	480	8128	6046	8420	11336	10010	16015
2.	*CBP/IBP/NBP (Nos.)	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10	10	10
3.	Improved Chulhas (nost in Lakh)	0.24	0.14	0.22	0.32	0.42	0.41	1.32	1.02	1.50	1.92	1.71	3.76
4.	Energy Parks (nos.)	1	7	1	9	1	-	-	-	-	2	-	-
5.	SPV Programmes (nos.)												
	Solar Lantern (nos.)	-	125	175	4000	10085	7450	1693	1034	411	714	354	83
	Home Lighting (nos.)	200	450	252	1	249	201	37	579	192	1710	3585	2049
	Street Lighting (nos.)	-	-	-	24	-	50	54	1014	2346	202	99	37
6.	Small Hydro Power (MW)	-	0.20	-	-	0.04	0.01	-	0.06	-	-	-	-
7.	Biomass Gasifier (kW)	-	-	-	-	-	-	10	-	-	500	-	30
8.	SPV Power (kW)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	25	-	-
9.	SPV Water Pumping (nos.)	-	-	-	15	7	4	1	-	1	2	-	-
10.	Solar cookers (nos.)	-	-	-	-	-	-	51	400	51	175	523	802

* CBP/IBP/NBP = Community, Institutional and Nigh-soil-based biogas plants, SPV = Solar photoovoltaic, kW = Kilo Watt, MW = Mega Watt.

Draft of new power policy

1218. SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN SHARAN SINGH : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) the salient features of the new power policy;

(b) whether the Government have received certain suggestions from public representatives regarding new power policy;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) to (d) The Central Government have taken the following initiatives in the power sector in the last one year :

1. In the Chief Ministers/Power Ministers Conference held on 26th February, 2000 it was resolved that reforms must be undertaken to show results within the next 2-3 years. 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 period.
- (iv) Strengthening/upgradation of sub-transmission and distribution system by taking sub-station as a unit on priority basis.

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

2. A scheme for creation of a special fund for Accelerated Power Development Programme (APDP) has been initiated in order to give a fillip to the reforms process in the power sector. The scheme proposes to cover activities related to renovation and modernization (R&M)/life extension/uprating of generating stations (both thermal and hydel) and strengthening of sub-transmission and distribution system including metering.

3. The Ministry of Power has signed Memorandum of Agreement/Undertaking with Governments of Karnataka, Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh committing assistance to these States on fulfillment of the mutually agreed milestones of reforms. In terms of the agreements, the States are to undertake measures like segregation of transmission and distribution, commercial

viability in distribution, energy audit, metering and full support to the regulatory commissions. In reciprocation, Government of India has committed support which includes additional allocation of power from Central generating stations, enhanced financial assistance for improvement in transmission, sub-transmission and distribution system for reducing T&D losses as well as improving the quality of power supply.

4. The financial institutions are being persuaded to finance new power projects not on the basis of escrow but on the basis of agreed reform milestones.

5. A Committee has been set up to suggest ways and means to reduce costs delivered power.

6. A Group Ministers is going into the issue of accelerating the pace of rural electrification and also to review existing schemes.

The Ministry of Power is seeking public participation towards evolving a social and political consensus for addressing the problems of the power sector and finding pragmatic solutions.

[English]

Rural Sports Centres in Haryana

1219. DR. (SHRIMATI) SUDHA YADAV : Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of rural sports centres in Haryana at present and their location;

(b) the number of villages covered under each rural sports centre;

(c) whether the Government have any proposal to open new sports centres in the State; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI PON RADHAKRISHNAN) : (a) and (b) No Rural Sports Centres are established by the Sports Authority of India (SAI) under its Operational Scheme.

(c) and (d) At present there are two SAI Training Centres functioning in Haryana namely at Kurukshetra and Bhiwani. There is a proposal under consideration to open more Centres.

*[Translation]***Law on Sports**

1220. SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL : Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the necessity of enacting a sports law is being felt by the Government after match fixing case;

(b) if so, the ground work done by the Government in this regard and the time by which it is likely to be enacted;

(c) whether any efforts were made to enact the said law prior of this; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI PON RADHAKRISHNAN) : (a) to (d) There is no such proposal on anvil. Moreover, as Sports is a State subject, it is not possible for Central Government to enact a law on matters relating to sports until the subject is brought on the Concurrent List.

*[English]***Decline in Profit**

1221. SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE :
SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the telephone usage in the country has declined by 12% during the last one year;

(b) if so, whether per line revenue has come down from Rs. 843 to Rs. 739 during the said period;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether it is going to affect the profitability of new schemes formed by VSNL;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the steps, the Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) The telephone usage has slowed in the country by 9.54% from the year 1998-99 to 1999-2000.

(b) Per line revenue has come down from Rs. 843.12 to Rs. 743.19 during the said period.

(c) The reasons for the above are as follows:

About 3-4% of this decrease is attributable to the increase in tele density during the period, the low rural tariffs and the reduction in tariffs for one of the peak evening hours. Another 8-9% decrease can be attributed to the rebalancing of tariffs which came into effect from 1.5.99.

(d) and (e) No, Sir. It is not going to affect new schemes formed by Videsh Snachar Nigam Limited (VSNL).

However, revenue in case of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) and MTNL is likely to decrease.

(f) In order to offset the decline in revenue at stated in (b) above and generate additional resources, BSNL and MTNL are diversifying into new areas such as mobile cellular telephone services as well as expanding their Internet services.

Protection of Wildlife

1222. SHRI LAKSHMAN SETH :
SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA :

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

(a) whether the Government have formulated any policy to protect wildlife in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to enact suitable laws to prevent the illegal trade in wildlife and wildlife products; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) and (b) The protection of wildlife is governed by the National Wildlife Action Plan. The main components of the National Wildlife Action Plan are given in the Statement enclosed.

(c) and (d) A comprehensive and effective legislation for protection of wildlife, namely, "Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972" is already in place. The said act contains provisions for prohibiting hunting of wild animals, protection of specified plants, protection of wild animals in the sanctuaries and national parks, stringent regulation for trade of wildlife and their products, empowering the officers for search, arrest and detention of the offenders and also penal provisions for convicts, etc.

Statement

Main components of the Nation Wildlife Action Plan

1. Establishment of representative network of protected areas.
2. Management of protected areas and habitat restoration.
3. Wildlife Protection in multiple use in areas.
4. Rehabilitation of endangered and threatened species.
5. Captive breeding programmes.
6. Wildlife education and interpretation.
7. Research and Monitoring.
8. Domestic legislation and International conventions.
9. National conservation strategy.
10. Collaboration with voluntary bodies.

Illegal Mining

1223. SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB : Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the period of some of the leases granted for mining of iron ore and bauxite in Orissa has expired and the leaseholders are undertaking illegal mining;

(b) if so, whether the precious forest reserves are depleting as a result thereof ; and

(c) if so, the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Governemnt for controlling of such illegal mining?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI JAYSINGRAO GAIKWAD PATIL) (a) to (c) Instances from time to time are brought to the notice of the Central Government that mining is being continued by the mining lease holders in the States (including State Orissa) after expiry of mining leases. Under Rule 24A of Mineral Concession Rules (MCR), 1960, if the mining lease holder applies for renewal of mining lease within the prescribed time, he can continue mining operations even after expiry of the mining lease period till the State Government passes order on the renewal of mining lease application.

As per information furnished by Indian Bureau of Mines, a subordinate office of the Ministry of Mines, twenty two Iron ore/Iron & Manganese ore mining leases are working in Orissa wherein mining lease period has expired.

Controlling of illegal mining falls under the preview of the State Governments. To strengthen their hands, the Mines and Minerals (Development & Regulation) (MMDR) Act, 1957 has been amended recently to delegate powers to State Governments to frame rules for preventing illegal mining etc.

Instrument purchase at Higher rates

1224. SHRI RAMJEE MANJHI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a CBI inquiry has been conducted against telecommunication officials for purchasing instruments at higher rates;

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

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

(d) the action proposed to be taken by the Government against the concerned officials ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Basic Telecom Operators

1225. SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of private companies which have been issued licences to provide basic telephones and the number out of them are functioning at present; and

(b) the targetted Village Public Telephones (VPTs) for year 2000-2001 and the number of VPTs provided by the private companies till date ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) So far there are six private companies, which have been issued licences to provide basic telephone services and all of them are functional at present.

(b) The information regarding targetted Village Public Telephones (VPTs) for the first three years of their licence and the number of VPTs actually provided, as reported by these private companies till date, is given the Statement enclosed.

Statement**Provision of Village Public Telephones (VPTs) by Private Licensees (as on 31.10.2000)**

Sl. No.	Licence and Licenced Circle	Effective date of licence	Committed targets * for VPTs in first three years (As per obligations) under licence agreement			Total No. of committed VPTs in 1st 3 years	No. of VPTs actually provided till date
			I Year	II Year	III Year		
1.	M/s. Tata Teleservices (Andhra Pr.)	30.9.1997	9635	(all villages were to be covered in first year i.e. by 30.9.1998)		9635	Nil
2.	M/s Reliance Telecom (Gujarat)	30.9.1997	8635	(all villages were to be covered in first year i.e. by 30.9.1998)		8635	Nil
3.	M/s HFCL Infotel Ltd. (Punjab)	30.9.1997	5442	(all villages were to be covered in first year i.e. by 30.9.1998)		5442	Nil
4.	M/s Hughes Tele. Com (India) Limited, Maharashtra	30.9.199	4000	21760	No Village was to be left uncovered by 30.9.99	25760	Nil
5.	M/s Bharti Telenet (Madhya Pr.)	30.9.199	5500	5500	5500	16500	315
6.	M/s Shyam Telelink (Rajasthan)	04.3.1998	7439	10629	13766	31834	51
			(by 04.9.1999)	(by 04.3.2000)	(by 04.3.2001)	(36727)**	
Total			40651	37889	19266	97806	366

* Translated into absolute terms based on bid/tender documents keeping in view the committed targets for Direct Exchange Lines (DELs) and the figure for number of uncovered villages indicated in the tender.

** Total number of uncovered villages in Rajasthan Service area is only 31834 as against the licensee's commitment of 36727.

Pollution in Rivers

1226. DR. ASHOK PATEL : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Supreme Court has imposed a ban on the discharge of contaminated water in the rivers;

(b) whether the distilleries have started contaminating ground water ignoring all rules and regulations which led to losing fertility of the soil;

(c) if so, whether the Government propose to take any action against such distilleries with a view to check environmental pollution and soil erosion; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) As per Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, discharge of effluent

exceeding the prescribed standards in river is not allowed. The Supreme Court has also passed orders from time to time to this effect.

(b) to (d) It is true that many distilleries have started discharge of treated effluent on land. To prevent contamination of ground water and loss of fertility of soil, the Central Pollution Control Board has prepared a protocol for utilisation of treated distillery effluents for irrigation in a scientific manner. If the treated effluents are used for irrigation in accordance with this protocol, there will be no problem of ground water pollution and loss of fertility of soil. In addition, the State Pollution Control Boards have been directed to monitor and take action wherever industries are discharging effluents beyond the prescribed standards. Distillery units are also being monitored by the Central Pollution Control Board. As on September 30, 2000 out of a total number of 177 distilleries, 134 units are reported to be having adequate facilities to comply with discharge standards, 32 units have been closed down and legal action has been taken against the remaining 11 defaulting units.

Cultivation of Mushroom

1227. SHRI G.J. JAVIYA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government had introduced a Scheme of mushroom cultivation during Eighth Plan;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government are also providing assistance under the Scheme of Commercial Floriculture to promote mushroom cultivation; and

(d) if so, the assistance provided to Gujarat during the last two years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir, Government of India introduced a Central sector scheme on Mushroom cultivation during 8th Five Year Plan with an outlay of Rs. 15.68 crores. The major components of the scheme were Training of farmers in mushroom cultivation, and establishment of pasteurized compost and spawn production units.

(c) and (d) Government of India is implementing separate schemes for development of mushroom and floriculture in the country. Assistance provided to Gujarat during last two years under these schemes is as under :

(Rs. in lakhs)		
Year	Floriculture	Mushroom
1998-99	0.0	0.0
1999-2000	6.65	29.80

Consumption of Zinc

1228. SHRI PRABHAT SAMANTRAY : Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the demand of zinc is on the increase in the country;

(b) if so, the per capita consumption of zinc in the country during the last three years and also till date;

(c) the efforts made to increase the production of zinc;

(d) whether Hindustan Zinc Limited (HZL) proposes to expand its capacity; and

(e) if so, the steps taken in that direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI JAYSINGRAO GAIKWAD PATIL) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The per capita consumption of zinc in the country at present is estimated at 0.26 Kg per annum and figures of the same for the last three years are as follows :

Year	Per Capita consumption in kilograms
1997-1998	0.242
1998-1999	0.243
1999-2000	0.254

(c) to (e) Hindustan Zinc Limited (HZL) is expanding the existing installed capacities of Vizag Smelter in Andhra Pradesh and Debari Smelter in Rajasthan by 10,000 tonnes per annum each. HZL plans to set up a new Zinc Smelter of 1,00,000 tonnes per annum capacity at Kapasan, Chittorgarh, Rajasthan.

[Translation]

Payment of Pension to Employees

1229. DR. BALIRAM : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state

(a) the body which will grant pension to the Group 'C' and 'D' employees working in Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited at Delhi and Mumbai who have opted for DoT pension after retirement; and

(b) the account from which the payment of their pension is likely to be made?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) Pension to the Group 'C' and 'D' employees who have taken absorption in Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited and have opted for Government pension will be granted by Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited.

The Government will discharge its pensionary liability by paying in lump-sum as a one time payment, the pro-rata pension/service gratuity/terminal gratuity and DCRG for the service up to the date of transfer of Government servant to MTNL. In respect of the employees who retire while on deemed deputation to MTNL, the pension will be granted by the Government. For this purpose, the authority shall be issued by the respective 'DOT Cell' located at Delhi and Mumbai.

(b) In respect of the employees who have been absorbed in MTNL, payment of pension is to be made by MTNL. For this purpose, Pension Fund is to be created by MTNL in accordance with Government of India Guidelines.

In respect of the employees, who retire while on deemed deputation to MTNL, the Central Government will make payment of their pension out of the Government accounts. For this purpose, proportionate contributions are required to be made by MTNL for the period the employees serve in the PSU in accordance with Government of India guidelines.

[English]

Improvement in Telecom and Postal Services

1230 SHRI P.D. ELANGO VAN . Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have taken any steps to improve the Telecom and Postal Services in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of telegraph offices, telecom centres, EMT service centres and B.fax centres functioning in the country, State -wise with particular reference to Tamil Nadu;

(d) the revenue generated through these service centres in the country, State-wise;

(e) whether the Government propose to set up new telegraph offices and Very Small Aperture Terminals (VSATs) in the country during the year 2000-2001 and 2001-2002; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) and (b)

Department of Telecom

Yes, Sir. The objectives of the Ninth Five Year Plan to Improve Telecom Services in the country envisages :

- (1) To replace life expired and Technologically obsolete switches with digital switches.
- (2) To introduce Wireless in Local Loop, Highbit rate Digital Subscriber Line (H.D.S.L.), Asymmetrical Digital Subscriber Line (A.D.S.L.) and Optical Fibre technologies in the Local network.
- (3) To introduce better and reliable technologies for providing Village Public Telephones.

- (4) That all exchanges will have reliable media.
- (5) To make available sufficient band width for spread of Internet and Information Technology.
- (6) To set up Internet nodes at SSA-Level at first and then upto DHQ level.
- (7) To provide ISDN (Integrated Services Digital Network) facility. It has been planned to introduce ISDN upto DHQ level, subject to availability of demand.
- (8) To provide IN (Intelligent Network) services in the first phase in 9 major cities and in second phase all over the country.

Department of Post

Yes, Sir. 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 internet of the Department of Post.

(c) Number of Telegraph Office, Telecom Centre, EMT Service Centers and B.fax centres is given in Statement I.

(d) Revenue generated through these service centres in the country, is shown in Statement-II.

(e) and (f)

Department of Telecom

With the expansion of telecom network and introduction of STD and FAX facilities, the demand for telegraph is steadily reducing. Therefore no specific targets have been fixed. Telegraph facility is provided as per demand and justification.

The MCPC-VSATs planned to be set up in the country for 2000-2001 & 2001-2002 are given in Statement-III. This is subject to availability of equipments.

Department of Posts

Yes, Sir. 88 Very Small Aperture Terminals (VSATs) each are to be installed during the year 2000-2001. No more VSATs are proposed during 2001-2002.

Statement-I

Number of Telegraph Offices, Telecom Centres, EMT Service Centres and B.Fax Centres working during the year 1999-2000

Sl. No.	Name of the Circle	No. of Telegraph Offices	No. of Telecom Centres	No. of EMT Centres	No. of B.fax Centres
1.	Andaman & Nicobar	1	0	0	2
2.	Andhra Pradesh	117	199	53	167
3.	Assam	29	12	0	27
4.	Bihar	59	43	0	83
5.	Delhi (NTR)	27	23	0	33
6.	Gujarat (Dadar Nagar Haveli, Daman & Diu)	40	11	0	48
7.	Haryana	17	1	0	22
8.	Himachal Pradesh	13	14	0	25
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	9	5	0	11
10.	Karnataka	69	27	0	82
11.	Kerala	39	99	20	135
	(1) Lakshadeep				
	(2) Pondicherry (Mahe)				
12.	Madhya Pradesh	67	81	0	81
13.	Maharashtra (Goa)	99	42	43	121
14.	North East	13	14	0	13
	(1) Tripura				
	(2) Mizoram				
	(3) A.P.				
	(4) Meghalaya				
	(5) Manipur				
	(6) Nagaland				
15.	Orissa	30	7	0	29
16.	Punjab (Chandigarh)	27	18	0	36
17.	Rajasthan	47	50	0	94
18.	Tamilnadu (Pondicherry)	108	100	40	213
19.	Uttar Pradesh (East)	69	132	0	75
20.	Uttar Pradesh (West)	49	81	0	75
21.	West Bengal (Sikkim)	44	19	0	56
Total		973	978	156	1428

Statement - II

Revenue generated from Telegraph Offices & Telecom Centres, EMT Centres and B/Fax Centres in 1998-1999

(Rs. in thousands)				
Sl. No.	Name of the Circle	Tos & TCs	EMT Centres	B.Fax Centres
1.	Andaman & Nicobar	629	-	214
2.	Andhra Pradesh	83621	6659	8826
3.	Assam	11081	-	3110
4.	Bihar	13606	-	2655
5.	Delhi (NTR)	38001	-	266
6.	Gujarat (Dadar Nagar Haveli, Daman & Diu)	22608	-	3666
7.	Haryana	6508	-	4331
8.	Himachal Pradesh	3450	-	2922
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	5028	-	1355
10.	Karnataka	43611	-	8901
11.	Kerala	18336	26	16351
	(1) Lakshadeep			
	(2) Pondicherry (Mahe)			
12.	Madhya Pardesh	21890	-	4115
13.	Maharashtra (Goa)	92772	413	11230
14.	North East	5361	-	1713
	(1) Tripura			
	(2) Mizoram			
	(3) A.P.			
	(4) Meghalaya			
	(5) Manipur			
	(6) Nagaland			
15.	Orissa	9798	-	3031
16.	Punjab (Chandigarh)	15059	-	2674
17.	Rajasthan	23865	-	4538
18.	Tamilnadu (Pondicherry)	99890	3136	17444
19.	Uttar Pradesh (East)	16679	-	3621
20.	Uttar Pradesh (West)	13803	-	5144
21.	West Bengal (Sikkim)	16285	-	6351
Total		561881	10234	112458

Statement - III**MCPC-VSAT Planned**

S.No.	Circle	2000-2001	2001-2002
1.	Himachal Pradesh	18	13
2.	J & K	12	32
3.	U.P (W)	7	25
4.	Rajasthan	20	
5.	Andhra Pradesh	20	
6.	Kerala	6	4
7.	Karnataka	6	10
8.	Maharashtra		28
9.	M.P.	24	5
10.	Bihar	5	11
11.	Sikkim	1	5
12.	North East	45	57
13.	Tamil Nadu		3
14.	A & N Islands		5
Total		164	198

Assistance for Electrification Under Kutir Jyoti Programme

1231. SHRI ANADI SAHU : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) the amount sanctioned in the Tribal Sub-Plan under the Kutir Jyoti Programme for electrification in tribal villages of Orissa during each of the last three years;

(b) whether the Government propose to sanction adequate funds to Orissa for electrification of the remaining tribal villages during the current financial year; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) Under Kutir Jyoti Programme, Government provides grant to the State Electricity Boards (SEBs)/State Governments through Rural Electrification Corporation (REC) for extending single point light connections to the households

of rural poor living below the poverty line including Harijan and Adivasi families. REC has sanctioned Rs. 1.4 crores to Orissa State Electricity Board during 1997-98 under Kutir Jyoti Programme. Orissa State Electricity Board/GRIDCO has not submitted any scheme for financing to REC during 1998-99 and 1999-2000.

(b) and (c) As Orissa is an MNP State, the funds for electrification of villages including tribal villages, from the current financial year would be directly released to the State. An allocation of Rs. 11.33 crores has been proposed for Orissa for this purpose during 2000-01.

[Translation]

Production of Pulses

1232. SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI :
SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the production rate of pulses in the country is low to the World's average production rate;

(b) if so, whether no improved seeds of pulses have been developed during the last few years in the country;

(c) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;

(d) whether the Government have issued directions to the Research Institutions to develop improved seeds of pulses; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK) : (a) to (c) The average per hectare production rate of pulses during 1998-99 is 596 Kg/ha against the world's per hectare production 834 kg. However, several improved varieties of pulses have been developed during the last few years. Efforts are also being made by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) to improve the productivity of pulses in the country. A list of improved varieties developed in last three years is given in the statement enclosed.

(d) and (e) During Ninth Plan, number of centres located in different Agriculture Universities have been strengthened for more focussed research towards developing improved varieties of pulses. In addition, the Indian Institute of Pulses Research, Kanpur has been strengthened for basic and strategic research which will help in developing improved varieties of pulses.

Statement*Disease resistant varieties of pulse developed*

Pulse crop.	Disease	Resistant Varieties
Chickpea	Wilt	JG-315, 6-82-2, Avrodhi, Pulse G-5, KWR 108, DCP92-3, JG74, Vijay, ICCV, 10GPF2, Vishal, H355, Pusa 212, G543, BG 244, ICCV 32.
	Blight	Gaurav, C 235, GNG 146, BG 261, PBG1
	Root rot	H 355
Pigeonpea	Wilt	BDN 1&2, C11, TT6, ICP 8863 (Maruthi), Asha, BSMR736, DA11
	Sterility mosaic	Bahar, DA 11, HY 3C, Pusa 9, ICPI 366,
	Alternaria blight	WB 20(105), Pusa 9 DA11
	Wilt + Sterility Mosaic	Asha (ICP 87119)
Mungbean	Yellow mosaic virus	Pant Mung 1,2,3,4, Narendra Mung 1, PDM 11, PDM 54, ML 5, ML131, ML267, ML337
	Powdery Mildew	ML 131, COG 4, Sabarmati, HUM 1, TARM-1, Pusa-9072, PUSA-105, Pant Mung 1 & 3, ML131, Pusa 105
Urdbean	Yellow mosaic virus	PDU-1, Pant U-19, Pant U 30, UG 218, Narendra Urd-1
	Powdery mildew	Lbg-17, lbg-402, cobg-5, wbu-108
Fieldpea	Powdery mildew	Rachana, Pant P-5, HFP-4, HUP-2, DMR-7, DMR11, Shikha, JG885, HFP-8909
Lentil	Rust	Pant L-406, Pant L-639, DPL-15, DPL-62, Pant L-77-12, Pant L-4
	Wilt	Pant-72-12

Survey by GSI Mineral Reserves in Madhya Pradesh

1233. DR. RAMKRISHNA KUSMARIA : Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether there are vast reserves of Mineral resources in Madhya Pradesh;

(b) if so, whether the Geological Survey of India has conducted any survey in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken for the proper exploitation of mines in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI JAYSINGRAO GAIKWAD PATIL) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Madhya Pradesh contains vast reserves of mineral resources and Geological Survey of India (GSI) has been conducting mineral exploration in the State since long.

(c) The reserves of some of the minerals in Madhya Pradesh have been estimated by GSI as follows :

Minerals	Reserves
Barytes	207,000 tonnes
Bauxite	47 million tonnes
Granite	241,78,125 cubic meters
Calcite	0.45 million tonnes
China clay	18 million tonnes
Coal	14360.98 million tonnes
Copper	240.4 million tonnes
Diamond	1001146 Carats
Dolomite	1283.39 million tonnes
Feldspar	45774 tonnes
Fire clay	102.205 million tonnes
Fuller's earth	0.117 million tonnes
Galena	44000 tonnes
Graphite	10128 tonnes
Gypsum	686 tonnes
Iron Ore	124.408 million tonnes

Minerals	Reserves
Limestone	3089.05 million tonnes
Manganese	25.65 million tonnes
Red ochre	235219 tonnes
Yellow ochre	256706 tonnes
Phosphorite	40.66 million tonnes
Pyrophyllite	1.32 million tonnes
Quartz	0.60 million tonnes
Zinc Ore	3.61 million tonnes

(d) Any Indian National or a Company as defined in sub-section (1) of Section 3 of the Companies Act, 1956 is free to exploit the mineral reserves after getting mining lease in accordance with the provisions of Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 and Rules framed thereunder.

[Translation]

Production, Demand and Supply of Pulses

1234. SHRI ZORA SINGH MANN :
SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the production of pulses is required to be increased in view of big gap between demand and supply of pulses in the country;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government in this regard;

(c) whether the Government have fixed any target for production of pulses in order to make the country self sufficient in pulses; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the plans formulated to meet the requirement?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK) : (a) and (b) A demand-supply gap continues to exist for increasing the production of pulses, a Centrally Sponsored Scheme of National Pulses Development Project (NPDP) is under implementation in 27 States/U.Ts. covering 305 districts. The scheme envisages financial assistance to the States for production and distribution of certified seeds, seed minikits, rhizobium culture, sprinkler sets and improved farm implements etc. In addition, field demonstration and farmers training are also being organised for the transfer of improved production and protection technologies to the farmer's field for increasing the production of pulses in the country.

(c) and (d) The Planning Commission has fixed a production target of pulses for the IX Plan i.e. 2001-2002 at 16.5 million tonnes for making the country self-sufficient in pulses.

An Action Plan has also been formulated for increasing the production of pulses. The major thrust will be to increase the productivity of pulses through the following :

- (i) Use of improved seeds of high yielding varieties;
- (ii) Application of sulphur;
- (iii) Integrated Nutrient and Pest Management and application of NPV for control of Pod borer in Arhar and Gram;
- (iv) Use of sprinkler irrigation.

[English]

Agriculture Stabilisation Fund

1235. SHRI R.S. PATIL : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Karnataka Government has urged the Union Government to sanction Rs. 200 lakhs by way of loan and subsidy under the centrally sponsored scheme of agriculture stabilisation fund to help the DCC Banks in Karnataka; and

(b) if so, the reaction of the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK) : (a) Yes, Sir. Government of Karnataka has sent a proposal for Rs. 100.00 lakhs on 8.9.2000 for sanction of loan under Agriculture Credit Stabilisation Fund Scheme.

(b) The Scheme of Agricultural Credit Stabilisation Fund has been sub-summed under Macro Management Mode from the year 2000-2001. The State Government is required to incorporate this component in their Work Plan for release of the funds under the scheme.

Pollution in Rivers in Kerala

1236. SHRI SURESH KURUP : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether many rivers in Kerala are getting polluted due to industrial effluents;

(b) if so, the details of such industries;

(c) whether the Government propose to take any action against such industries; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) and (b) A total of 36 Grossly Polluting Industries (GPI) located along the rivers/lakes in Kerala were found defaulting in 1997. The details of these units are as under :

Distillery	5	Rayon	1
Pulp & Paper	5	Oil Refinery	1
Chemical	5	Insecticide	1
Food & Vegetable	4	Zinc	1
Textile	2	Caustic Soda	1
Fertilizer	2	Mineral Processing	1
Petro-chemical	3	Sugar	1
Tannery	2	Manmade Fibre	1

(c) The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) had issued directions under Section 18(1) (b) of the Water Act, 1974, to the Kerala State Pollution Control Board for taking action against the defaulting industries. Out of a total of 36 industries, 32 have provided the requisite effluent treatment facilities and the remaining four units are closed.

(d) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Violation of Environmental Laws by Private Factories

1237. SHRIMATI JAS KAUR MEENA :
SHRI Y.G. MAHAJAN :

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

(a) whether large number of private factories in the country are violating environment related rules and laws;

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

(c) the number of factories against which action has been taken for violating environment laws during the last three years, till-date;

(d) whether the Government have made any policy to tackle such a situation; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) and (b) As on 30th September, 2000, a total of 11 private industries (large and medium) falling under the categories of highly polluting industries, were identified as defaulting units by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB). The State-wise break-up is as follows :

Bihar -1, Gujarat - 1, Haryana - 1, Karnataka - 1, Madhya Pradesh - 4, Orissa -1, Uttar Pradesh - 1 and West Bengal -1.

(c) Action under Section 5 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 has been taken against the 168 highly polluting large and medium industries during the last three years. In view of the vigorous monitoring and legal action initiated against the defaulting units, now only 57 units have to comply with the prescribed standards.

(d) and (e) The steps taken/policy measures adopted to tackle pollution from industries include the following :

- (i) The Government have identified 17 categories of highly polluting industries, which are being regularly monitored for taking adequate measures to comply with the prescribed standards.
- (ii) An "Environmental Surveillance Squad" has been constituted for surprise inspection of industries by CPCB.
- (iii) Central Pollution Control Board has been issued directions to State Pollution Control Boards to monitor and take action against the defaulting industries.

[English]

Joint Forest Management

1238. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has entrusted the promotion of Joint Forest Management to a body, which has representatives of the World Bank and Five other foreign agencies;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the number out of them which are genuine environmentalists or grass root level experts?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) No, Sir. The Joint Forest Management programme is monitored by the JFM Cell in the Ministry. For wider consultation and for receiving the feed back from all the stakeholders, a JFM network has been established by the Government of India under the Chairmanship of Inspector General of Forests & Special Secretary. This network has membership from Central and State Government representatives, NGOs, Academic and Research institutions and international funding organisations who are working in the field of Joint Forest Management.

(b) and (c) Questions do not arise in view of (a) above.

Diamond digging activity at Khajuraho

1239. SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU : Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Diamond digging activity at Khajuraho in Madhya Pradesh has been started;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) its effect on the safety of the Khajuraho temples?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI JAYSINGRAO GAIKWAD PATIL) : (a) As per information furnished by the State Government of Madhya Pradesh, no Prospecting Licence or Mining lease for diamond has been granted in Khajuraho area of Chhattarpur district of Madya Pradesh and no diamond digging activity has been started in the said area.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Target for Utilisation of Non-Conventional Energy Sources

1240. SHRI DILIP KUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have fixed any target for utilizing non-conventional energy sources for the current year in the country;

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

(c) the central assistance allocated for Maharashtra during each of the last three years including current financial year; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to popularize it in villages?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN) : (a) and (b) Wide-ranging non-conventional energy programmes are being implemented throughout the country. The physical targets fixed under various programmes for the current year are given in the Statement-I. State-wise targets are allocated only for Biogas, Improved Chulha and Solar Photovoltaic programmes, and for the current year are given in Statement-II.

(c) Central assistance of Rs. 8.20 crores and Rs. 16.09 crores has been provided to the State of Maharashtra during the years 1998-99 and 1999-2000 respectively. During the current year 2000-2001, an amount of Rs. 5.42 crores has been released to Maharashtra State under various programmes.

(d) Biogas plants, improved chulhas, solar energy and biomass programmes are mainly being implemented in the rural areas. Besides Central financial assistance, various fiscal and financial incentives, including soft term loans, are being provided to popularise various non-conventional energy programmes in the villages. Public awareness is also created through electronic, print and postal media to popularise use of non-conventional energy, especially in the rural areas. Training programmes are organised to seek involvement of the people, including women, in the installation, maintenance and repair of various systems and devices. Rural energy entrepreneurship is also being promoted.

Statement I

Details of programme-wise physical targets fixed for 2000-01

Sl. No.	Programme	Physical Targets
1	2	3
1.	Biogas Community/Institutional/Night-soil based Biogas Plants	1,80,000 Nos. 400 Nos.
2.	Improved chulha	20 Lakh in Nos.
3.	Biomass / Gasifier	7MW
4.	Integrated Rural Energy Programme (IREP)	550 districts
5.	Special Area Demonstration Programme (SADP)	36 Nos.
6.	Solar Photovoltaic (SPV) Programme	
	SPV Home lighting systems	50000 Nos.
	SPV Lanterns	70000 Nos.
	SPV Street Lighting Systems	3000 Nos.
	SPV Power Plants & other systems	275 kWp

1	2	3
7	SPV Pumps	700 Nos.
8.	Solar Thermal (ST) Energy	
	Solar water Heating Systems (Domestic)	35000 M sq. collector area
	Solar Cookers	35000 Nos.
9.	Wind Pumps	200 Nos.
10.	Small aerogenerators and hybrid systems	60 kW

1	2	3
11.	Wind Power	200 MW
12.	Small Hydro Power (SHP)	SHP Projects 40 MW
	Renovation and Maintenance	20 MW
	Water Mills	200 Nos.
13.	Biomass Power	60 MW
14.	Solar Power	300 KV
15.	Energy from Urban & Industrial Wastes	10 MW

MW = Mega Watt; kW = Kilo Watt; M.sq = Meter square.

Statement II

State-wise targets allocated for the year 2000-2001

S. No.	States/UT	Biogas (Nos.)	NPIC (No. in lakhs)	Solar Photovoltaic Programme		
				SL (Nos.)	HLS (Nos.)	SLS (Nos.)
1	Andhra Pradesh	25300	1.50	3,000	100	50
2	Arunachal Pardesh	-	0.05	1,000	200	-
3	Assam	750	0.20	200	200	20
4	Bihar	1000	0.25	8,000	1,000	200
5	Goa	300	-	100	-	-
6	Gujarat	8000	0.90	6,000	1,000	100
7	Haryana	2500	0.60	5,000	4,000	200
8	Himachal Pardesh	650	0.06	2,000	2,500	300
9	Jammu & Kashmir	200	0.60	2000	3,000	-
10	Karnataka	20,000	0.60	1,500	1,000	100
11	Kerala	1500	0.75	4,000	5450	100
12	Madhya Pradesh	14,000	0.50	-	-	-
13	Maharashtra	12000	1.15	1,500	250	150
14	Manipur	600	0.05	500	200	-
15	Meghalaya	300	0.05	600	500	-
16	Mizoram	400	0.075	2,500	-	-
17	Nagaland	800	0.075	300	200	50
18	Orissa	10,000	1.70	2,500	2,000	600
19	Punjab	6500	0.65	3,500	800	400
20	Rajasthan	750	0.30	-	5,000	300
21	Sikkim	600	0.05	100	50	-
22	Tamilnadu	2000	0.60	2,000	50	100
23	Tripura	250	0.05	6,000	100	60
24	Uttar Pradesh	10,000	1.75	5000	5000	100
25	West Bengal	15,000	3.75	50	2,450	100
26	A & N Islands	-	0.012	300	200	20
27	Chandigarh	-	-	600	125	-
28	Lakshadweep	-	0.002	-	-	-
29	Pondicherry	10	0.03	-	-	-
30	Others	46,590	3.56	17750	6925	50
Total		1,80,000	20.00	76,000	40,050	3000

NPIC = National Programme on Improved Chulhas, SL = Solar Lanterns,

HLS = Home Lighting Systems, SLS = Street Lighting Systems.

*[English]***Output of Kharif Foodgrains**

1241. SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY :
SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Kharif foodgrains production is likely to be down by 1.2 million tons in the country,

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the extent to which the production of foodgrains is less in comparison to the last year; and

(d) the steps being considered to increase the Kharif production?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The production of Kharif foodgrains during 2000-2001 and 1999-2000 is presently estimated at about 102.68 million tonnes and 103.90 million tonnes respectively. This shortfall is mainly due to aberrant weather conditions.

(d) To increase the production and productivity of kharif foodgrains, various steps have been taken by the Government. These include, inter-alia, implementation of centrally sponsored Integrated Cereal Development Programmes in Rice/Wheat/Coarse Cereals Based Cropping System area, National Pulses Development Project and Seed Minikit Scheme. Under these programmes/project, incentives are provided to farmers for use of high yielding varieties of seeds, application of integrated pest management, propagation of scientific water management including micro irrigation and improved farm implements. In addition, field demonstrations on farmers' holding including training of farmers and farm labourers are organised for effective transfer of technology. Further, instructions have been issued to states to go for less water requiring crops where there is a shortage of water. They have also been called upon to prepare contingency plan to tackle drought/flood situation.

*[Translation]***Use of Siren and Red Lights on Vehicles**

1242. DR. M.P. JAISWAL : Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the categories of persons who are eligible to use siren and red lights on their vehicles;

(b) whether a number of persons are using siren and red light on their vehicles unauthorisedly; and

(c) if so, the number of cases detected during the last three years and action taken against those found guilty, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) SHRI B.C. KHANDURI) : (a) At present this is being done by the respective State Governments.

(b) and (c) Information is being collected from the State Governments and would be laid on the Table of the House.

*[English]***Clearance to Irrigation Projects of Maharashtra**

1243. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR
SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK :

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

(a) the names of small, medium and big irrigation and other projects received by the Government from Maharashtra and other States for environmental and forestry clearance during first three years of Ninth Five Year Plan, State-wise;

(b) the names of projects out of them cleared, State-wise;

(c) the number of projects lying pending and the reasons for each of them;

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

(e) whether the Government propose to keep irrigation and other development schemes out of the preview of Forest (Conservation) Act; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) (a) to (c) Detailed list of all irrigation projects received in 1997, 1998 and 1999 alongwith their present status for forestry and environmental clearances from the Government of Maharashtra is given in the Statement as part A and B respectively. The list of projects pertaining to other States as well as other categories will be lengthy and cumbersome. Therefore, brief abstract of this information

is annexed. Status of irrigation projects of all States is given in part C and D of the Statement. A summary of status of all projects including that of irrigation State-wise is given in part E and F of the Statement.

(d) As per part E Statement only 355 out of 2953 proposals are pending decision for forestry clearance. Most of the projects are pending due to non-furnishing of additional/essential details by the State Governments and

hence the proposals are incomplete. Similarly only 9 projects out of 344 are pending for environmental clearance (part F) for want of additional information. Therefore, no time limit can be fixed for clearance of projects till the States/project authorities furnish the wanting information.

(e) and (f) No Sir. The development activities have to be allowed keeping due regard to environmental security of the country.

Statement

A. Status of Forestry Clearance of small, medium & Big irrigation projects received from Maharashtra

S.No.	Name of Proposal	Area (ha)	Year	Present Status
1.	Loni medium irrigation project, Nanded Dist.	67.71	1999	Approved in-principle on 6.8.99
2.	Jhansinagar lift irrigation scheme, Bhandara	31.350	1999	Approved in principle on 28.8.00
3.	Bhondki new minor irrigation tank, Bhandara	25.10	1999	Rejected on 16.3.99
4.	Minor irrigation tank on Kag river in Jalgaon	150.00	1999	Rejected on 22.5.00
5.	Lendezari minor irrigaton tank in Bhandara	21.04	1999	Approved in-principle on 31.3.99
6.	Tultuli project in Gadchiroli	2228.06	1999	Rejected on 3.8.99
7.	Talamba major irrigation project, Sindudurg	367.11	1999	Esential details sought from the State
8.	Malsej ghat pumped storage scheme, Thane	73.949	1999	Rejected on 3.7.00
9.	Hattigota medium irrigation project, Chandrapur	800.67	1999	Rejected on 30.11.99
10.	Urmodi irrigation project, Satara	28.62	1999	Approved in principle on 17.11.00
11.	Lower Panzara (Alkaepacea) project, Dhule	188.00	1999	Essential details sought from the State
12.	Ghoshi Khurd Right Bank Canal Km. 11-25	121.37	1999	Approved in principle on 13.7.00
13.	Lakkakot Irrigation tank, Nanded	3.87	1999	Approved in Principle on 10.02.99
14.	Bhota Minor IT, Bhuldhana	1.40	1999	Approved in principle on 12.4.99
15.	Ujleshwar Percolation Tank, Akola	0.77	1999	Approved on 12.4.99
16.	Asoli tank, Bhandara	4.00	1999	Approved in Principle on 2.7.99
17.	Keshori village tank, Nagpur	1.688	1999	Approved in principle on 10.9.99
18.	Upadgad MIT, Bhandara	5.60	1999	Pending with State-13.5.99
19.	Dhawalkhedi MIT, Bhandara	8.85	1999	Pending with State 12.4.99
20.	Kitadi (Girola) MIT, Bhandara	10.28	1999	Approved in principle on 13.7.99
21.	Mangatola MIT, Bhandara	8.14	1999	Approved in principle on 12.7.99
22.	Kolhapur type storage Bandhara of Khaikuti, Dhule	0.94	1999	Essential details sought from the State
23.	Kholhapur type storage Bandhara of Sangvi, Dhule	0.97	1999	Essential details sought from the State.
24.	Katangadhara Peroclation Tank, Nagpur	5.08	1999	Approved in principle on 13.7.99
25.	Kachepar New MIT, Chandrapur	15.78	1999	Approved in principle on 2.9.99
26.	Ghat Prabha Medium Project, Sindhudurg	12.00	1999	Pending with State- 2.6.99

S.No.	Name of Proposal	Area (ha)	Year	Present Status
27.	Jangamhatti Medium project, Kholapur	6.50	1999	Approved in principle on 2.9.99
28.	Mangezai minor tank project, Bhandara	9.92	1999	Pending with State 2.6.99
29.	Madan Tank (Pickup Weir), Wardha	13.90	1999	Pending with Ministry - 1.10.99
30.	Minor irrigation tank at Mandana	51.67	1998	Approved in principle on 7.01.99
31.	Namdgoan regional rural water supply scheme in Raigad	28.56	1998	Approved in principle on 8.9.98
32.	Ghoddeo Irrigation tank project	22.28	1998	Approved on 31.7.00
33.	Human river project in Chandrapur	2895.02	1998	Under submission for decision
34.	Gosikhurd RBC 0 to 10 Km. in Bhandara	40.497	1998	Approved in principle on 13.01.99
35.	Lower Wardha major project in Wardha	122.79	1998	Approved on 16.3.00
36.	Karaj Kheda lift irrigation scheme, Bhandara	36.095	1998	Approved on 28.7.00
37.	Pindkepar irrigation tank project in Bhandara	48.14	1998	Closed on 20.6.00
38.	Bhuratola minor irrigation tank in Bhandara	47.96	1998	Approved on 3.4.00
39.	Kardi new minor irrigation tank in Bhandara	21.00	1998	Approved in principle on 26.10.98
40.	Bhiwapur minor irrigation tank in Nagpur	47.37	1998	Approved in principle on 15.03.99
41.	Regional rural water supply scheme and earthen dam kainad in Thane	36.552	1998	Approved in principle on 10.11.98
42.	Bewartala minor irrigation project, Bhandara	68.49	1998	Approved on 14.2.00
43.	Kasala minor irrigation tank in Yeotmal Satara and Pune	42.73	1998	Approved in principle on 03.03.99
44.	Dhom Balkawadi tunnel Irrigation project, in Satara and Pune	109.49	1998	Essential details sought from the State.
45.	Chilhewadi Medium Irrigation project, Pune	54.16	1998	Approved in principle on 26.02.99
46.	Lohi Minor IT, Yeotmal	4.43	1998	Approved on 12.4.00
47.	Jelugade Minor IT, Kolhapur	4.280	1998	Approved in principle on 9.3.98
48.	Temghar Irrign. Project, Pune	2.42	1998	Approved in principle on 15.5.98
49.	Arphal Left bank canal tunnel, Satara	1.17	1998	Approved on 7.9.99
50.	Constn. of canal from Badri tank, Jalgaon	0.50	1998	Approved on 3.7.98
51.	Saboradara Percolation Tank, Nashik	4.00	1998	Rejected on 29.10.99
52.	Kolhapur type weir at Sohale, Kolhapur	0.24	1998	Approved on 17.11.98
53.	Taroda Percolation Tank, Nashik	3.60	1998	Approved in principle on 22.10.98
54.	Londha nala project, Kolhapur	4.007	1998	Approved in principle on 14.1.99
55.	Gavase Minor IT, Kolhapur	2.83	1998	Approved on 24.9.99
56.	Talegaon MIT, Wardha	0.425	1998	Approved on 14.1.99
57.	Nandore Percolation Tank, Thane	9.00	1998	Approved in principle on 21.4.98
58.	Koprichapada Minor Irrign. Scheme, Thane	12.71	1998	Approved in principle on 6.6.98
59.	Dhamanevade MIT, Bhandara	8.05	1998	Rejected on 27.4.98
60.	Popatkhedha MIT, Akola-Amaravati	15.50	1998	Approved
61.	Chulband Medium Lower Irrign. Project, Bhandara	16.858	1998	Approved in principle on 16.4.99

S.No.	Name of Proposal	Area (ha)	Year	Present Status
62.	Sonegaon Pendh Tank, Bhandara	13.11	1998	Approved in principle on 23.7.98
63.	Kapada MIT, Bhandara	7.67	1998	Approved in principle on 23.7.98
64.	Alesur MIT, Bhandara	10.27	1998	Approved in principle on 23.7.98
65.	Kandwan MIT, Kolhapur	10.57	1998	Approved in principle on 23.7.98
66.	Putala MIT, Bhandara	6.10	1998	Approved in principle on 12.7.98
67.	Wang Medium Irrign. Project, Satara	10.50	1998	Approved in principle on 12.10.98
68.	Left Bank Kar River Project, Nagpur	18.09	1998	Approved on 2.9.99
69.	Chikla MIT, Bhandara	10.47	1998	Approved in principle on 28.10.98
70.	Pindekpar Irr. Tank, Bhandara	11.50	1998	Approved in principle on 28.10.98
71.	Gudru Minor Irr. Tank, Bhandara	8.33	1998	Approved in principle on 28.10.98
72.	Mamalde Percolation Tank, Jalgaon	5.75	1998	Approved in principle on 28.10.98
73.	Banera MIT, Nagpur	5.60	1998	Rejected on 30.11.98
74.	Chak Ghosari M. Tank, Chandrapur	12.04	1998	Approved in principle on 15.12.98
75.	Kondoshi MIT, Kolhapur	19.57	1998	Approved in principle on 31.3.99
76.	Daitmagoli MIT, Bhandara	17.56	1998	Approved in principle on 15.4.99
77.	Bamni Minor IT, Badchiroli	10.91	1998	Pending with State - 15.1.99
78.	Pindkepar MIT, Bhandara	13.20	1998	Pending with State - 12.1.99
79.	Dhaga Bazargaon Percolation Tank, Nagpur	7.53	1998	Approved in principle on 16.4.99
80.	Kuttarbari MIT, Nashik	8.24	1998	Approved in principle on 16.4.99
81.	Chorvira No: I Minor irrigation tank	27.020	1997	Approved in principle on 25.7.97
82.	Wagzira minor irrigation tank in Jalgaon	25.44	1997	Approved on 4.3.98
83.	Andhra Valley medium irrigation project, Pune	131.40	1997	Approved in principle on 23.2.00
84.	Sapan river project in Amravati	49.54	1997	Approved on 3.4.00
85.	Lal Nullah irrigation project in Wardha	29.83	1997	Approved in principle on 25.5.00
86.	Nilwande major irrigation project	383.46	1997	Earlier proposal approved on 7.5.92. This is modified proposal. Additional information sought from State Govt. on 23.9.99. Reminder on 25.1.00
87.	Bhormal Percolation Tank, Nashik	2.00	1997	Rejected on 21.10.99
88.	Galwat Percolation Tank, Nashik	3.00	1997	Rejected on 21.10.99
89.	Feeder channel to MI tank at Tadala, Chandrapur	0.740	1997	Pending with State Govt. since 27.2.97. Reminder on 11.1.00
90.	Kelvahir Percolation Tank, Nashik	2.35	1997	Rejected on 21.10.99
91.	Jaitkheda Percolation Tank, Aurangabad	2.00	1997	Approved in principle on 9.4.97
92.	Kachorpada Percolation Tank, Nashi	2.80	1997	Approved in principle on 9.4.97
93.	Dhulghat Percolation Tank, Nashik	1.90	1997	Approved in principle on 9.4.97
94.	Ghota Percolation Tank, Amaravati	0.86	1997	Approved on 16.5.97

S.No.	Name of Proposal	Area (ha)	Year	Present Status
95.	Wai Minor IT project, Yeotmal	0.53	1997	Approved on 16.5.97
96.	Bhandwal Percolation Tank, Nashik	0.30	1997	Approved 12.6.97
97.	Kodvi Medium project, Kolhapur	2.52	1997	Approved in principle on 13.11.97
98.	Subkund Percolation Tank, Nagpur	3.50	1997	Approved in principle on 17.11.97
99.	Gangayari tank, Bhandara	5.00	1997	Approved in principle on 23.10.97
100.	Kolatipada Percolation Tank, Nashik	2.85	1997	Pending with State Govt. since 5.10.99
101.	Salangatola canal project, Bhandara	1.89	1197	Approved on 12.4.90
102.	Varambhe Percolation Tank, Nashik	3.25	1997	Approved in principle on 17.11.97
103.	Chimbale Percolation Tank, Ahmednagar	1.71	1997	Approved in principle on 16.12.97
104.	Washi Percolation Tank, Usmanabad	0.95	1997	Approved on 17.11.97
105.	Majri Masala Irrign. Tank, Amravati	4.47	1997	Approved on 13.4.00
106.	Biloni Percolation Tank, Aurangabad	0.94	1997	Approved on 15.1.98
107.	Khapa Nipani Percolation Tank, Nagpur	1.00	1997	Approved on 15.1.98
108.	Wanola (Panola) Percolation Tank, Nanded	1.40	1997	Approved in principle on 15.1.98
109.	Nandari Minor IT, Kolhapur	2.18	1997	Approved in principle on 15.1.98
110.	Shekhapur Percolation Tank, Nagpur	7.85	1997	Approved in principle on 29.5.97
111.	Raulgaon Percolation Tank, Nagpur	5.20	1997	Approved in principle on 22.4.98
112.	Nandhuri MI, Amravati	16.53	1997	Approved in principle on 21.4.98
113.	Khambala-V percolation Tank, Dhule	7.00	1997	Approved in principle on 22.4.98
114.	Bajura M.I., Amravati	13.16	1997	Approved on 11.9.98
115.	Janai-Shrimani Lift Irrign. Scheme, Pune	14.925	1997	Approved in principle on 27.4.98
116.	Makkotola M.I., Bhandara	10.73	1997	Approved in principle on 5.5.98
117.	Nokhabardi Lift Irrign. Project, Nagpur	9.925	1997	Essential details sought from the State.
118.	Sondyatola Lift Irrign, Project, Bhandara	13.3724	1997	Approved on 15.9.99
119.	Manoli M.I., Kolhapur	8.58	1997	Approved in principle on 27.4.98
120.	Phaye M.I., Kolhapur	17.00	1997	Approved on 13.7.98
121.	Meghali M.I., Kolhapur	8.11	1997	Approved on 12.4.99
122.	Bhandarbodi Percolation Tank, Kolhapur	12.65	1997	Rejected on 12.10.98
123.	Uchangi Irrign Tank, Kolhapur	19.00	1997	Approved in principle on 6.5.98

B. Status of Environmental Clearance of Irrigation Projects Received from Maharashtra

S.No.	Name of the Project	Status
1.	Lower Wardha Irrigation Project	Closed due to incomplete documents
2.	Tillari Inter state Irrigation Project	Approved

C. Abstract of Irrigation Projects of Maharashtra & Other States for Forestry Clearance

S. No.	State	No. of proposals received	Sanctioned	Rejected	Rejected for want of Information	Returned/ Withdrawn by States	Under Consideration of Ministry	Pending with States for want of Information
1.	Assam	1	0	0	0	0	1	0
2.	Andhra Pradesh	11	5	1	1	1	2	1
3.	Bihar	5	5	0	0	0	0	0
4.	Gujarat	7	4	2	0	0	0	1
5.	Haryana	2	1	0	0	0	0	1
6.	Himachal Pradesh	4	2	0	1	0	0	1
7.	Meghalaya	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
8.	Punjab	2	1	0	0	0	0	1
9.	Orissa	21	17	0	3	0	1	0
10.	Madhya Pradesh	16	7	4	2	0	0	3
11.	Maharashtra	123	93	11	1	0	2	16
12.	Rajasthan	7	7	0	0	0	0	0
13.	Karnataka	3	0	3	0	0	0	0
14.	Kerala	4	4	0	0	0	0	0
15.	Tamil Nadu	8	6	2	0	0	0	0
16.	Uttar Pradesh	13	10	0	2	0	0	1
Total		228	163	23	10	1	6	25

D. Abstract of Irrigation Projects of Maharashtra & Other States for Environmental Clearance

S.No.	State	No. of Proposal Received	Sanctioned	Closed
1.	Assam	2	1	1
2.	Andhra Pradesh	1	1	
3.	Haryana	1	1	
4.	Orissa	2	2	
5.	Maharashtra	2	1	1
6.	Karnataka	1	1	
7.	Uttar Pradesh	2	2	
Total		11	9	2

E. Status of Forestry Clearance for All Projects Including Irrigation State-wise

S. No.	State	No. of Proposals received	Sanctioned	Rejected	Rejected for want of Information	Returned/ with-drawn by States	Under Consideration of Ministry	Pending with States for want of Information
1.	Assam	73	44	0	24	1	4	0
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	16	11	0	0	1	0	4
3.	Andhra Pradesh	82	40	26	8	3	3	2
4.	Aandman & Nicobar Island	8	6	0	0	0	1	1
5.	Bihar	113	63	5	34	2	2	7
6.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	70	60	0	0	0	0	10
7.	Gujarat	302	209	44	6	2	4	37
8.	Haryana	133	89	4	18	1	0	21
9.	Himachal Pradesh	190	93	10	46	4	2	35
10.	Manipur	3	3	0	0	0	0	0
11.	Meghalya	11	10	0	1	0	0	0
12.	Mizoram	39	37	0	0	0	2	0
13.	Chandigarh	7	4	0	0	0	0	3
14.	Delhi	3	0	0	0	1	0	2
15.	Goa	11	6	2	2	0	0	1
16.	Punjab	227	161	5	42	0	0	19
17.	Orissa	112	88	7	8	2	3	4
18.	Madhya Pradesh	182	94	44	18	2	7	17
19.	Maharashtra	314	233	22	19	0	5	35
20.	Rajasthan	346	220	34	11	7	49	25
21.	Karnataka	89	39	18	24	3	0	5
22.	Kerala	28	17	2	7	1	0	1
23.	Tamil Nadu	59	41	4	8	0	1	5
24.	Tripura	43	38	0	1	0	3	0
25.	Sikkim	22	16	0	1	0	4	1
26.	West Bengal	15	11	1	1	0	0	2
27.	Uttar Pradesh	455	383	19	19	7	0	27
Total		2953	2016	247	298	37	91	264

F. Environmental clearance for other projects, State-wise

Sl. No.	State/Union Territory	No. of Projects		
		Received	Approved	Pending
1.	Andhra Pradesh	37	29	1
2.	Assam	3	3	-
3.	Bihar	2	1	-
4.	Goa	16	12	-
5.	Gujarat	33	19	1
6.	Haryana	2	2	-
7.	Himachal Pradesh	6	3	-
8.	Karnataka	34	23	-
9.	Kerala	9	6	1
10.	Madhya Pradesh	10	5	2
11.	Maharashtra	32	20	2
12.	Manipur	1	1	-
13.	Meghalaya	1	-	1
14.	Mizoram	1	-	-
15.	Orissa	17	3	-
16.	Punjab	9	7	1
17.	Rajasthan	18	15	-
18.	Sikkim	1	1	-
19.	Tamil Nadu	64	49	-
20.	Uttar Pradesh	20	8	-
21.	West Bengal	7	7	-
22.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	10	6	-
23.	Daman & Diu	2	-	-
24.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	1	1	-
25.	Delhi	4	2	-
26.	Lakshadweep	1	1	-
27.	Pondicherry	1	1	-
28.	Others	2	1	-
Total		344	226	9

Sustainable Agricultural Development

1244. SHRI A. NARENDRA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to set up integrated data base for sustainable agricultural development in the country; and

(b) if so, the time by which a final decision in this regard is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK) : (a) and (b) A decision to strengthen the data base for the sustainable agriculture development has already been taken and it forms part of recently announced National Agriculture Policy. There is no time frame set for this purpose since the strengthening of data base is a continuous process.

[Translation]

Compensation to farmers for losses due to National Calamities

1245. SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the administrative norms prevalent for paying compensation to the farmers for losses due to natural calamities and diseases;

(b) whether the said norms are out dated;

(c) if so, whether the Government propose to review the said norms; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK) : (a) In addition to general relief for damage/losses in the wake of natural calamities, there is a provision for input subsidy to the farmers for crop losses in accordance with the norms and guidelines for relief assistance.

(b) to (d) An Expert Committee has been set up by the Government on the recommendations of the 11th Finance Commission for General review of the norms of assistance under Calamity Relief Fund.

Post Offices in Gujarat

1246. SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of post offices functioning at present in Banaskatha region of Gujarat; and

(b) the target set for opening more post offices during the current year alongwith Post Offices opened till date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) Total 458 post offices are functioning at present in Banaskatha region of Gujarat.

(b) The target for opening of one Branch Post Office has been fixed for Banaskatha region during the current year. The Opening of said Branch Post Office is subject to the fulfilment of departmental norms and sanctioning of required posts by Ministry of Finance.

[English]

Norms for allotment of transponder space

1247. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the existing norms for allotment of transponder space to service provider of VSAT by DoT;

(b) the number of VSATs installed by these service providers so far;

(c) the details thereof, company-wise; and

(d) the amount of revenue generated therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) (a) Transponders are being allocated as per well defined transparent policy to all VSAT service providers as per their demand projections, utilisation of transponders already allotted in case of existing service providers and availability of transponders in INSAT systems.

(b) VSATs installed by service providers are 5228 as on 30.9.2000.

(c) Details of Service providers & VSATs are given in the Statement enclosed.

(d) Licenses do not furnish the information regarding the amount of revenue generated from their operations.

Statement**Company-wise details of VSATs**

Sl.No.	Name of Company	No. of VSATs
1.	M/s. HECL	1982
2.	M/s. RPG SCL	150
3.	M/s. COMSAT MAX	887
4.	M/s. BHARTI BTL	606
5.	M/s. TELESTRA VCL	295
6.	M/s. HFCL	121
7.	M/s. HCL CSSL	1034
8.	M/s. ITI	77
9.	M/s. ESCL	76
Total		5228

**Linking and upgrading of National Highways
In Orissa**

1248. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO : Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Orissa Government had recommended approval for linking and upgradation to National Highways level between Dhenkanal district headquarters of N.H. 42 to Keonjhar district headquarters on N.H. 6;

(b) if so, whether proposes exists to contain linking district headquarters Dhankanal on N.H. 42 to Kamakhanagar sub-division via Batangaon, Kalihata headquarters of N.H. 200 to Keonjhar N.H. 6; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) SHRI B.C. KHANDURI) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Installation of PCO/STD/ISD

1249. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of applications lying pending for installation of PCO/STD/ISD/ booths in Uttar Pradesh particularly in Kheri district, district-wise; and

(b) the steps being taken by the Government to clear the said applications?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) Sir, the number of applications lying pending for installation of STD/ISD/PCOs in Uttar Pradesh, telecom district-wise, including Kheri are given in the Statement enclosed.

(b) All efforts are being made to clear the pending applications and provide STD/ISD/PCOs on demand by expanding the Exchanges and providing reliable media.

Statement

Sl. No.	Name of the Telecom District	No. of Application lying pending for installation of STD/ISD PCOs
1	2	3
1.	Allahabad	24
2.	Azambagh	0
3.	Baharaich	0
4.	Ballia	0
5.	Banda	0
6.	Barabanki	1
7.	Basti	1
8.	Etawah	0
9.	Faizabad	0
10.	Farrukhabad	12
11.	Fatehpur	0
12.	Ghazipur	0
13.	Gonda	0
14.	Gorakhpur	9
15.	Hamirpur	6
16.	Hardoi	0
17.	Jaunpur	23
18.	Jhansi	0
19.	Kanpur	10
20.	Lakhimpur (Kheri)	0
21.	Lucknow	0
22.	Mainpuri	0
23.	Mau	0
24.	Mirzapur	0
25.	Orai	0
26.	Pratapgarh	83

1	2	3
27.	Raibareli	0
28.	Shahjahanpur	0
29.	Sitapur	14
30.	Sultanpur	30
31.	Unnao	4
32.	Varanasi	2
33.	Agra	584
34.	Aligarh	0
35.	Almora	10
36.	Badaun	27
37.	Bareilly	0
38.	Bijnore	28
39.	Dehradun	13
40.	Etah	0
41.	Ghaziabad	0
42.	Mathura	0
43.	Meerut	0
44.	Moradabad	220
45.	Muzaffarnagar	143
46.	Nainital	77
47.	Pilibhit	0
48.	Rampur	0
49.	Saharanpur	542
50.	Srinagar Gwl	88
51.	Uttarkashi	0
52.	Bulandshahar	35
53.	Noida	0

Telecom Facilities

1250. SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Blocks and Police Stations which have not been connected with telephone in the country at present; and

(b) the time by which these are likely to be connected?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) and (b) 19 Block Head Quarters (BHQs) out of 6,806 have not been connected with telephone facility at present.

Telephones to police stations are provided on demand from police authorities on priority. All the remaining BHQs are likely to be connected with telephone facility during the current financial year.

[Translation]

Construction of Rail-Cum-Road/Bridge on Ganga River

1251. SHRI BRAHMA NAND MANDAL : Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received any proposal for construction of rail-cum-road bridge on river Ganga in Monghyr;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) SHRI B.C. KHANDURI) : (a) Yes Sir. It has been intimated by the Ministry of Railways that they had received a proposal from the Government of Bihar for sharing cost of survey of Railway Bridge at Monghyr as Rail-cum-Road Bridge.

(b) and (c) Ministry of Railways had in turn requested the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways to share the cost, but the same was not agreed to because the proposed bridge does not fall on national highway network. The Ministry of Railways have informed that they have taken up detailed final location surveys, geo-technical, hydrological, model studies including bridge configuration through M/s RITES.

[English]

WLL Technology by BSNL

1252. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) has any plants to launch mobile telephone services in some parts of the country using WLL technology;

(b) if so, the State where BSNL plants to start initial mobile telephone operations;

(c) the estimated cost of the project; and

(d) the extent to which it has helped to remove the need of expanding the old system of Fixed Exchange telephone services?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. It is proposed to give some limited mobile telephone connections also along with fixed telephone service using WLL technology. The list of State along with the cities where such service is proposed is given in the Statement enclosed.

(c) The total estimated cost of the project (mobile service & fixed service) is approximately Rs. 156 crores.

(d) The proposed service is yet to be launched. However, it will help in giving telephone connection in congested/Technically non Feasible (TNF) areas where laying of cable is a problem.

Statement

S.No.	State	City
1.	West Bengal	Calcutta
2.	Tamil Nadu	Chennai
3.	Karnataka	Bangalore
4.	Andhra Pradesh	Hyderabad
5.	Gujarat	Ahmedabad
6.	Uttar Pradesh	Kanpur, Lucknow
7.	Rajasthan	Jaipur
8.	Kerala	Ernakulam
9.	Maharashtra	Pune
10.	Madhya Pradesh	Indore
11.	Bihar	Patna
12.	Punjab	Chandigarh, Ludhiana
13.	Haryana	Gurgaon
14.	Assam	Guwahati

Review of production trends of pulses

1253. SHRI BHUPENDRA SINH SOLANKI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have reviewed the production trends of pulses during the last two years in terms of targets set, State-wise;

(b) the extent of pulses imported during the last two years;

(c) the extent of domestic requirement of pulses at the end of the Eighth Plan i.e. during 1996-97;

(d) the annual production target at the end of Ninth Plan i.e. 2001-2002;

(e) the details of the investment made under Research and Development for pulses during Ninth Five Year Plan; and

(f) the details of new strategies worked out for self-sufficiency in production of pulses in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK) : (a) Yes, Sir. The State-wise information in respect of targets set and production achieved during the last two years is given in the Statement enclosed.

(b) The extent of Pulses imports during the last two years is given below :

(In lakh tonnes)

Year	Import of Pulses
1998-99	5.64
1999-2000	2.04

(c) According to the Working Group on demand projections for the IX Plan constituted by the Planning Commission, the domestic requirement at the end of the Eight Plan i.e. during 1996-97 was estimated at 15.30 million tonnes.

(d) The annual production target at the end of Ninth Plan i.e. 2001-2002 is 16.5 million tonnes.

(e) The ICAR has allocated an amount of Rs. 6108.75 lakhs under Research and Development for Pulses during Ninth Five Year Plan.

(f) Two-pronged strategy of increasing the area under Pulses cultivation and maximising the present levels of yield has been worked out for increasing the production of pulses in the country. Under area expansion, in addition to pure cropping, mixed and inter-cropping of pulses with other crops, additional coverage is proposed to be brought from new and non-traditional areas and cultivation of Pulses in summer season under irrigated conditions. To maximise the yield levels, the use of better varieties seeds, and greater investment for different components under the National Pulses Development Project like use of rhizobium culture/PSB, application of sulphur, control of pod borer in Arhar and Gram through use of NPV and life saving irrigation in rabi/summer pulses through sprinklers are being promoted.

Statement

Target and achievements of pulses during last two years

(Lakh Tonnes)

S. No.	State/UTs	1998-99 (Advance)		1999-2000	
		Target	Ach.	Target	Ach.
1.	Andhra Pradesh	7.80	7.63	7.80	8.23
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0.05	0.07	0.05	-
3.	Assam	0.65	0.70	0.65	0.60
4.	Bihar	8.37	6.97	8.37	7.01
5.	Goa	0.05	0.09	0.05	-
6.	Gujarat	6.95	6.33	6.95	4.11
7.	Himachal Pradesh	0.15	0.13	0.15	0.18
8.	Haryana	5.35	3.53	5.35	0.95
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	0.25	0.18	0.25	0.26
10.	Karnataka	7.45	7.22	6.95	6.75
11.	Kerala	0.40	0.27	0.40	0.23
12.	Madhya Pradesh	36.95	35.73	35.95	38.05
13.	Maharashtra	23.99	22.55	24.49	21.88
14.	Manipur	0.12	-	0.12	-
15.	Meghalaya	0.03	0.03	0.03	-
16.	Mizoram	-	-	0.03	-
17.	Nagaland	0.04	0.14	0.04	-
18.	Orissa	5.20	2.64	5.20	2.84
19.	Punjab	0.95	0.51	0.95	0.44
20.	Rajasthan	17.50	24.40	17.50	8.99
21.	Sikkim	0.13	0.06	0.13	-
22.	Tamil Nadu	6.06	4.17	6.04	3.72
23.	Tripura	0.04	0.04	0.04	-
24.	Uttar Pradesh	24.90	22.69	25.90	23.30
25.	West Bengal	1.50	1.26	1.50	2.51
26.	A & N Island	0.02	-	-	-
27.	Delhi	0.02	0.01	0.02	-
28.	Others	0.02	0.15	0.05	0.55
Total		155.00	148.09	155.0	130.65

Opening of Long Distance Telephony

1254. SHRI B.K. PARTHASARATHI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have any plan to offer long distance telephony to private companies; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the time by which a final decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) and (b) The Government has already decided to open long distance telephony to private sector companies and the guidelines for the same have been issued on 13.08.2000. The salient features of the guidelines are :

- (i) Indian registered companies can apply for licence.
- (ii) Free and open competition without any restriction on the number of entrants.
- (iii) The licence is issued for 20 years, extendable by 10 years at a time.
- (iv) The licencees are to pay one time entry fee.
- (v) Fixed revenue share as licence fee for the entire licence period.

Selection of sports persons

1255. SHRI PADAM SEN CHOUDHRY : Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are framing a comprehensive policy to improve the standard of sports in the country;

(b) if so, the details therefor;

(c) whether any complaints have been received to the effect that talented sports persons are discouraged by Sports Federations;

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

(e) whether any complaints regarding irregularities committed while sending the sports person to various sports events have been received; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI PON RADHAKRISHNAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The salient features of the New Draft Sports Policy are as under :

- (i) Broadbasing of Sports and achievement of excellence;
- (ii) upgradation and development of infrastructure;
- (iii) support to the National Sports Federations and other appropriate bodies;
- (iv) strengthening of scientific and coaching support to sports;
- (v) incentives to sports persons;
- (vi) enhanced participation of women, tribals and rural youth;
- (vii) involvement of the Corporate Sector in sports promotion; and

Creation of greater awareness to promote sports mindedness in the public at large.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) A few complaints have been received from a weightlifter and an athlete regarding selection of sports persons for participation in Olympic Games. Here it may be clarified that the Government has no role in selection of players, participating international sports events, as the responsibility of selection of the sports persons entirely lies with the concerned National Sports Federations. However, Government disposes the complaints in consultation with the Sports Authority of India and concerned sports federations as and when received.

Contract Rules for National Highways

1256. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR : Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the procedure for award of road construction contracts on the National Highways has been reformed;

(b) if so, the details of the changes made in the contract rules;

(c) whether a number of changes are being considered in view of the failure of the contractors to complete the work in time; and

(d) if so, the details of other changes that are being considered for immediate implementation of the National Highways programmes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) SHRI B.C. KHANDURI) : (a) Yes, Sir,

(b) A Standard Bidding Document for Civil Works Contracts for National Highways has been framed and circulated to implementing agencies for adoption. The new contract document will ensure uniformity in bidding procedure throughout the country. The document provides inter-alia for detailed qualification requirement for contractors, liquidated damages for delay, bonus for early completion, dispute review mechanism, compensation events, escalation of cost, advances for mobilisation and equipment, performance security, defect liability, etc. It also details the procedure for bid invitation, opening, evaluation and contract award.

(c) Since the new bidding procedure has been made effective from 1st November, 2000, no further changes are contemplated at this stage.

(d) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Subsidy to Farmers

1257. SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI :
SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the amount of subsidy provided to the farmers in comparison to the farmers of America and other developed countries during the last three years;

(b) whether the amount of subsidy being provided to the farmers of our country is being reduced gradually;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps being taken/proposed to be taken to bring the subsidy amount at par with the amount being given in developing/developed countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK) : (a) As per latest information the subsidies given to Indian Farmers during the three years from 1995-96 to 1997-98 amounted to 1.6%, 2.10% and 1.98% of GDP of respective years. The Total Transfers Associated with Agricultural Policies (TTAP) in the OECD countries during these three years is summarised in the Table below :

*Measures of support to agriculture in OECD Countries**

	<u>1995</u>	<u>1996P</u>	<u>1997E</u>
Share of total Transfer in GDP (%)	1.5	1.3	1.3

P : Provisional; E : Estimate

* Source : OECD. The OECD total excludes the Czech Republic, Hungary, Korea, Mexico and Poland.

Details of exactly comparable information on subsidies in India and other developed countries is not available.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Does not arise.

Pollution in Delhi

1258. SHRI LAL BIHARI TIWARI : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any plan to clean Yamuna river and plant trees around its embankments to provide green cover; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) and (b) A scheme of pollution abatement of Yamuna which is known as the Yamuna Action Plan was approved by the Government in April 1993. The present approved cost of the Action Plan is Rs. 509.54 crore. Under this Plan, works have been taken up in 21 towns out of which 8 towns are in Uttar Pradesh and 12 towns in Haryana besides Delhi. The Plan includes such works as interception & diversion of sewage, sewage treatment plants, low cost toilets, crematoria and river front development. So far, an expenditure of Rs. 446.04 crore has been incurred on this Plan. The Delhi component of Yamuna Action Plan is small comprising 2 sewage treatment plants each of 10 million liters per day capacity and one electric crematorium. There is no proposal for plantation of trees under Yamuna Action Plan around river embankments in Delhi to provide green cover. The Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi is implementing the major part of pollution

abatement programme of Yamuna out of their own plan funds. Under this programme, 14 additional sewage treatment plants along with allied works are to be constructed. Out of these, 9 treatment plants have already been completed and another 5 will be completed by March 2003. In addition, Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi is also to construct 15 common effluent treatment plants to treat industrial effluents from 21 industrial estates of Delhi. This Project is under implementation and will be completed by December, 2002.

[English]

Setting up of Sports Regulatory Authority

1259. SHRI UTTAMRAO DHIKALE : Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal for setting up of a Sports Regulatory Authority considering dismal performance in the recent olympic games;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI PON RADHAKRISHNAN) : (a) No, Sir. The performance of the Indian Contingent in the Sydney Olympic was unsatisfactory in terms of medal secured. However, relative to the earlier performance at Atlanta Olympics, the performance of India in many disciplines such as Boxing, Weightlifting (W), Judo and Shooting was better.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Sports Authority of India looks after the present needs of Sports in the country.

Coconut Development Board

1260. SHRI K. FRANCIS GEORGE : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Coconut Development Board has indicated its readiness for a market intervention programme to support Coconut prices;

(b) if so, whether the Coconut Development Board has started such operation in Kerala;

(c) if so, the quantum of coconut or coconut products purchased from Kerala; and

(d) the plan for market intervention in other parts of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK) (a) to (d) Government of India fixes Minimum Support Price of Copra every year. The price fixed for 2000 Season is Rs. 3250/- per quintal for milling copra and Rs. 3500/- per quintal for ball copra. The procurement under the scheme is made through National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Limited (NAFED) which is the nodal agency for the purpose for copra. The State-wise progress of procurement as on 20th November, 2000 is given below :

State	Quantity of copra procured (Metric Tonnes)
1. Kerala	65,840
2. Tamil Nadu	66,700
3. Andhra Pradesh	10,401
4. Lakshadweep	2,004
5. Andaman & Nicobar Islands	2,487
Total	1,47,432

Yamuna Action Plan

1261. SHRI KISHAN SINGH SANGWAN : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) the funds allocated under Yamuna Action Plan, during the last three years, State-wise;

(b) whether some State Governments have utilised the funds for other purposes;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the action Government propose to take against such States?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) The funds allocated under Yamuna Action Plan during the last three years State-wise are given below :

(Rs. in crore)				
State	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-2001
Haryana	11.12	37.00	9.75	9.00
Delhi	1.70	8.90	2.50	1.00
Uttar Pradesh	35.48	95.60	69.00	12.00

(b) and (c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Setting up of Telephone Exchange

1262. SHRI NAGMANI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to set up telephone exchange in all the blocks of Chatra district;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to set up telephone exchange and provide better telephone service in the district?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Out of 10 blocks of Chatra district, telephone exchanges are already working in 6 blocks. In the remaining 4 blocks, exchanges are planned to be opened during the current financial year by March, 2001. The block-wise details are given below :

S.No.	Name of Block	Status of telephone exchange
1.	Chatra	1K CDOT SBM already working
2.	Itkhor	256P CDOT already working
3.	Hantarganj	256P CDOT already working
4.	Partappur	256P CDOT already working
5.	Simaria	256P CDOT already working
6.	Tandwa	256P CDOT already working
7.	Kunda	Exchange planned during 2000-01
8.	Lawalong	Exchange planned during 2000-01
9.	Pathargarha	Exchange planned during 2000-01
10.	Giddhour	exchange planned during 2000-01

For better telephone service at Chatra, 34 MBPS OFC system has been commissioned. All the 256 P exchanges have been opened on reliable media and the exchanges in the remaining 4 blocks are planned to be opened on OFC media for better STD/ISD service. In view of poor power supply position in Chatra district, standby Diesel Generating sets have been provided.

[English]

Crash in Price of Agricultural produce in Karnataka

1263. SHRI R.L. JALAPPA :
SHRI H.G. RAMULU :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the prices of Jawar, Maize, Coconut and Copra and other agricultural crops have crashed in Karnataka;

(b) if so, whether it is due to dumping of farm produce from the developed countries to India;

(c) if so, whether the Government have conveyed its opinion as a prelude to the GATT meeting to protect the interests of third world countries by checking the dumping of agricultural produce; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government to protect the interests of farmers/coconut growers of Karnataka?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK) : (a) The prices of Jawar, Bajra, Coconut, Copra and other agricultural crops have recently by and large recorded a declining trend in some of the selected markets.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) All necessary steps are being taken to protect the interests of the farmers including those of coconut growers. These include enhancing the import tariffs on certain commodities and procurement of agricultural commodities like certain cereals and oilseeds under price support scheme.

[Translation]

Widening and Development of National Highways

1264. SHRIMATI JAYASHREE BANERJEE :
SHRI DINSHA PATEL :

Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any scheme for widening and development of National Highways in the country, particularly Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Chhatisgarh is under consideration of the Government;

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

(c) whether the Union Government have received any such proposal from State Governments;

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

(e) the total amount of funds being allocated to States for the purpose, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) SHRI B.C. KHANDURI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Annual Plan 2000-2001 provides for development of National Highways in Madhya Pradesh, Chhatisgarh, Uttar Pradesh and Uttaranchal at plan costs of Rs. 325.47 crore. This includes the provision for widening of National Highways at plan cost of Rs. 48.25 crore as per details given below :

Provisions for Widening	Madhya Pradesh & Chhattisgarh		Uttar Pradesh & Uttaranchal	
	Length (Kilo meters)	Amount (Rs. in crores)	Length (Kilo- meters)	Amount (Rs. in crores)
(i) FS/Detailed engineering for four laning	586	8.79	264	2.66
(ii) Land acquisition	—	—	88	10.00
(iii) Widening to 2 lanes	43	26.80	—	—
Total		35.59		12.66

(c) and (d) The position of development proposals received from States of Madhya Pradesh, Chhatisgarh, Uttar Pradesh and Uttaranchal is given below :

Particulars	Madhya Pradesh & Chhattisgarh		Uttar Pradesh & Uttaranchal	
	No.	Amount in crores	No.	Amount in crores
(i) Plan provisions	57	150.82	58	172.67
(ii) Proposals received	41	110.90	31	102.10
(iii) Work sanctioned	30	71.99	21	60.11

(e) A Statement indicating funds allocated to various States is attached.

Statement

Allocation of funds under various schemes during 2000-2001

S. No.	Name of States/ UT	NH(O)	EAP	SRP	M&F
		(Rs. in Lakhs)			
1.	Andhra Pradesh	9100.00	50.00	1718.75	3230.00
2.	Assam	5800.00	0.00	1894.73	2693.03
3.	Bihar*	8800.00	0.00	2265.00	3933.70
4.	Chandigarh	150.00	0.00	24.04	41.00
5.	Delhi	1200.00	0.00	0.00	82.00
6.	Goa	2300.00	0.00	232.00	328.53
7.	Gujarat	8810.00	0.00	312.79	1950.00
8.	Haryana	5800.00	8135.00	409.90	1410.00
9.	Himachal Pradesh	4700.00	0.00	839.68	1877.26
10.	J & K	150.00	0.00	0.00	274.42
11.	Karnataka	7800.00	105.00	1586.16	2897.67
12.	Kerala	10500.00	100.00	524.00	1419.03
13.	Madhya Pradesh**	10000.00	9000.00	3748.27	5670.46
14.	Maharashtra	11800.00	7250.00	230.00	3915.00
15.	Manipur	1250.00	0.00	0.00	824.49
16.	Meghalaya	2000.00	0.00	318.12	798.59
17.	Mizoram	1200.00	0.00	286.21	670.22
18.	Nagaland	1500.00	0.00	0.00	361.25
19.	Orissa	7000.00	3400.00	500.00	3626.99
20.	Pondicherry	200.00	0.00	102.10	70.00
21.	Punjab	4800.00	1500.00	395.62	1690.00
22.	Rajasthan	11000.00	50.00	691.85	4307.25
23.	Tamil Nadu	10200.00	0.00	1136.70	3388.79
24.	Uttar Pradesh***	13684.00	1259.00	736.08	5349.82
25.	West Bengal	8800.00	4800.00	1665.00	3209.50
26.	BRDB	13592.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
27.	Ministry	3000.00	1751.00	0.00	0.00
28.	NHAL	0.00	15614.00	0.00	0.00
Total		165136.00	53014.00	19617.00	54019.30

* Includes allocation for newly created state of Jharkhand

** Includes allocation for newly created state of Chhattisgarh.

*** Includes allocation for newly created state of Uttaranchal.

Cultivation of Paddy varieties

1265. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GOVIT : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the kind of varieties of Paddy cultivated in the country at present and per hectare production thereof;

(b) the varieties of Paddy which have helped in enhancing the production of rice;

(c) the production of rice in the country at present and whether the production is adequate to meet the demand; and

(d) if not, the steps being taken by the Government to meet the shortage?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK) : (a) A large number of paddy varieties are under cultivation in different eco-systems of the country, which include common tall, high yielding, basmati and hybrids. The average productivity of rice during 1999-2000 is estimated at 1964 kg per hectare.

(b) High Yielding Varieties/Improved Varieties alongwith improved production technologies have resulted in enhancing the productivity and production of rice.

(c) and (d) The present level of rice production is estimated at 88.25 million tonnes during 1999-2000. As per normative requirement of foodgrains including rice, the production level is more than the requirement for our population.

[English]

Incorporation of MTNL

1266. SHRI GUNIPATI RAMAIAH : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a major objective for the incorporation of MTNL was to access the market to raise resources for the expansion programme of the DoT;

(b) if so, whether the budget proposals have imposed ceilings on how much resources could be raised by MTNL from the market each year;

(c) if so, the ceilings indicated during each of the last three years; and

(d) the tax and dividends paid by the MTNL to Government during the last three years, year-wise and head-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) One of the main objective for the incorporation of MTNL was to raise necessary financial resources for development needs for Telecommunication services in the areas managed by the MTNL and also for the other parts of the Telecommunication network in the country managed by erstwhile Department of Telecom Operations (DTO).

(b) and (c) To meet the gap between the internal resources and plan outlay of the erstwhile DTO, the requirements of bonds to be raised through MTNL are included in the budget proposals of the Department. The budgetted amount of bonds for the last 3 years are as follows :

Year	BE (in crores)
1997-98	2741.00
1998-99	2291.00
1999-2000	977.63
2000-2001	2152.00

During 1997-98 & 1998-99, though budgetted, bonds were not raised since the Department had enough internal resources to meet Plan outlay. In 1999-2000 since there was a shortfall in revenue, the requirement of bonds was revised to Rs. 3539.13 crores in RE 1999-2000.

During the current year 2000-2001, only a sum of Rs. 50.00 crores of bonds have been raised. Consequent on the corporatisation of DTO from 1.10.2000, bonds will hereafter be raised by Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited for their own needs.

(d) Tax and dividends paid by MTNL to Government during the last three years, year-wise and head-wise are given below :

Year	Tax paid (Rs. in crores)	Dividend (Rs. in crores)
1997-1998	Rs. 516.00	114.629 63027
1998-1999	Rs. 602.00	106.311 8220
1999-2000	Rs. 583.00	106.311 8220

Speed Post facility in Kerala

1267. SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have any plan to start Speed Post Delivery facility especially in Kerala;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to start speed post delivery facility in Pathanamthitta Head Post Office; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) Speed Post delivery facility is already available at 33 places including all the district headquarters in Kerala.

(b) and (c) Speed Post delivery facility is already available in Pathanamthitta Head Post Office.

Letter Boxes in Rural Areas

1268. SHRI KOLUR BASAVANAGOUD : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of villages with 300 or more population which have been provided letter boxes in Bellary constituency;

(b) the number of villages with 300 or more population yet to be provided with letter boxes; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to cover all such villages in the said constituency?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) The number of villages in Bellary Constituency provided with letter boxes where population is 300 or more is 561.

(b) NIL.

(c) Does not arise.

Coconut as Oilseed

1269. DR. C. KRISHNAN : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received any representation to declare coconut as oilseed;

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

(c) the production cost of 1000 coconuts in the country as compared to various South Asian Countries presently, country-wise;

(d) the price of coconut, copra and coconut oil during the last year; and

(e) the reasons for the steep fall in prices of these products and the steps taken to give remunerative price to coconut growers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK) : (a) and (b) Government of India declared coconut as an oilseed of tree origin in October, 1990 to emphasise importance of coconut as an oilseed for price support operations.

(c) The production cost of 1000 coconuts in India and other South Asian Countries is given below :

Name of the country	Production cost (Rupees per 1000 nuts)
India	2500
Srilanka	1881
Indonesia	1843
Philippines	1489

(d) The average yearly prices of coconut, copra and coconut oil during last year (1999) are given below :

Product	Name of the market	Average yearly price
Dry Coconut	Kozhikode	- Rs. 4468 per thousand
Copra	Kochi	- Rs. 3506 per quintal
Coconut Oil	Kochi	- Rs. 5446 per quintal

(e) There has been a declining trend in the prices of oilseeds and vegetable oils in domestic and international markets. Due to import of cheap vegetable oils, the prices of coconut oil has also been depressed as the prices of copra and coconuts are determined by prices of coconut oil. In order to ensure remunerative prices to coconut growers, Government of India has fixed Minimum Support Price (MSP) of Rs. 3250 per quintal for milling copra and Rs. 3500 per quintal for ball copra for 2000 season. As on 20th November, 2000, the total quantity of copra procured by the National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Limited (NAFED) was 1,47,432 metric tonnes. On 21st November, 2000, the import duty on edible oils has been further increased.

Telephone Facility

1270. SHRI H.G. RAMULU : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of villages in Koppal region which are without telephone facilities;

(b) the number of villages to be provided with telephone facilities in the region during 2000-2001; and

(c) the time by which all the villages in the region are likely to be provided with telephone facilities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) to (c) All the 588 villages in Koppal region have been provided with telephone facility.

High charges of Speed Post

1271. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether charges of speed post by P&T are more than those of private couriers resulting into diversion of business to them;

(b) if so, the measures proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) to (c) Speed Post is operating in a competitive environment. The rates of Speed Post are lower than the published rates of the organized couriers, both in the domestic market and in the international market. Speed Post has been consistently growing, as seen in the table given below:

Growth of Speed Post traffic in the last three years :

Year	No. of Speed Post articles booked (in lakhs)	Growth over the previous year
1997-98	141.4	25.8%
1998-99	195.95	38.6%
1999-00	312.64	59.6%

Department of Posts has taken the following measures to operate effectively in the competitive express market :

- Increasing the weight limit to 35 Kg per consignment
- Provision of Door-to-door delivery services
- Provision of Track and Irack System
- Computerisation of Speed Post Operations
- Expansion of the Speed Post network
- Speed Post monitoring System.

[Translation]

Land Acquisition for Jodhpur Bypass

1272. SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI : Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the land has been acquired for by-pass in Jodhpur city of Rajasthan;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the compensation for the land has been given to the farmers and the possession of land has been taken;

(d) if so, since when; and

(e) if so, the time by which the said by-pass is likely to be Constructed/Completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) SHRI B.C. KHANDURI) : (a) and (b) Total length of bypass of Jodhpur city in Rajasthan for which land acquisition estimate was sanctioned under strategic roads in 43.6 km. Land has been acquired in 36 km portion and further acquisition is in progress in the remaining 7.6 km. length.

(c) and (d) Land acquisition process started in 1989 and possession was taken in stages upto 1997 and the compensation has been given to the farmers.

(e) Since land acquisition has not yet completed, it is too early to indicate the likely date of completion of the bypass.

[English]

Talcher Power Plant

1273. SHRI MOINUL HASSAN : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the work on setting up of 500 KV transmission line from Talcher Power Plant to Kolar has started;

(b) whether the Eastern States particularly West Bengal, Bihar and Orissa would get benefit from this connectivity;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the details of those States which are likely to be benefited from the proposed transmission line?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) The work on Talcher-Kolar Transmission System has started in February, 2000.

(b) to (d) In view of the power surplus situation in Eastern Region, Power from Talcher-II Thermal Power Plant has been allocated to power deficient Southern Region States of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Pondicherry. Therefore, the transmission system for evacuation of power from Talcher-II Project has been planned to transfer power from this project to the States in the Southern Region. Since this transmission system will be integrated with Eastern Grid, the States of Eastern Region will also be benefited by transferring surplus power thus leading to improved level of performance of the generating stations in the Region.

Resorts in Forest

1274. SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of resorts under operation on the ridge of Delhi and in other forests in the country;

(b) whether a resort which was banned earlier is still operating in Mussoorie;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

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

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Decline in Electricity production

1275. SHRI MAHBOOB ZAHEDI : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether electricity production fell from 10% in April-August, 1999 to 0.6% in the same period in 2000;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the rate of industrial production came down to 4.8% from 7.3% between April-August, 1999 and April-August, 2000 due to fall in electricity production; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. The growth of electricity production (generation) during the period April-August, 1999 and April-August 2000 was 5.8% and 3.6%, respectively.

(c) and (d) As per quick estimates from CSO, the industrial production growth during the period April-August 1999 and during April-August 2000 was 6.2% and 5.3% respectively. The electricity generation alone does not influence the rate of industrial production. There are many other factors influencing the rate of industrial production like liberalized imports, economic status of the masses, quality competition of the product, agriculture produce, labour problems, transportation cost, availability of raw inputs and demand and supply conditions within the country and outside the world. In order to improve power availability the following measures are being taken :

- (i) Expedient implementation of capacity addition programme.
- (ii) Promotion of measure for demand side management.
- (iii) Renovation and Modernisation (R&M) of existing old generating units.
- (iv) Disbursement of loans by Power Finance Corporation for improving operation and maintenance of thermal power stations under accelerated generation programme.
- (v) Promotion of inter-state and inter-regional power transfers.
- (vi) Coordinated operation of Hydro, thermal, nuclear and gas turbine power stations in the regional power system.
- (vii) Augmentation of transmission, transformation capacity in the power system and installation of shunt capacitors to improve the voltage.
- (viii) Reduction of transmission and distribution losses.

Sub-Post Offices

1276. SHRI DINSHA PATEL : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Sub-Post Offices opened during the first three years of the Ninth Plan Period in the rural areas of Gujarat together with their locations; and

(b) the number of Sub-Post Offices proposed to be opened in rural areas of Gujarat during the last two years of the current plan period together with their locations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) No sub-post office has been opened in rural areas of Gujarat during the first three years of the Ninth Plan.

(b) It is proposed to open Sub-Post Offices at Puna Kumbharia and Reliance Petro Township Moti Khadi during the year 2000-01. The targets for opening of Sub-Post Offices during the year 2001-02 are yet to be finalized.

[Translation]

Construction of Bridge on Yamuna River

1277. KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH : Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the initial cost of the bridge approved on river Yamuna at Allahabad in the year 1990;

(b) the reasons for not starting the construction of the bridge till today; and

(c) the present status of the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) SHRI B.C. KHANDURI) : (a) Rs. 100.36 crores.

(b) and (c) After the sanction of the Project, Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund (now Japan Bank for International Cooperation) offered to provide loan assistance for this bridge. It was then decided in consultation with the funding agency to change the design of the bridge from conventional prestressed concrete cantilever type to a cable stayed concrete bridge so as to bring this new technology to the country and provide an aesthetically pleasing structure. This involved further study by the consultants and proof checking by international consultants before the work could be started. The work has been awarded in September, 2000 and has commenced now.

Loans to Farmers

1278. SHRI NAMDEO HARBAJI DIWATHE : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have formulated any policy to waive off the agriculture loans to farmers;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK) : (a) to (c) No, Sir. As a matter of policy Government of India is not in favour of any blanket write-off/waiver of agricultural loans to farmers as it tends to vitiate the recovery climate and thus undermining the viability of the financial institutions.

[English]

National Highway in Eastern Region

1279. SHRI SUNIL KHAN : Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Eastern Region is neglected in case of National Highway other than western, southern and central;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the details of allocation made during 1998-99, 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 among four regions;

(d) the details of fund allocated for National Highways from Barakar to Durgapur and Sargapur to Burdwan in West Bengal;

(e) whether there is any scope for nationalisation of highways from Midnapur to Durgapur via Bankura, Beliatore or Midnapur to Raniganj via Bankura, Mejia, and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) SHRI B.C. KHANDURI) : (a) No, Sir

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The allocation is made State-wise and not region-wise.

(d) An amount of Rs. 48.00 crore has been allocated for Barakar to Raniganj project in West Bengal during 2000-2001. The National Highway project from Raniganj to Durgapur and from Durgapur to Burdwan is entrusted to NHAI and they have allocated the funds of Rs. 88.50 crore for these projects during 2000-2001.

(e) and (f) The stretch between Midnapur to Raniganj via Bankura and Mejia has already been declared as NH 60. There is no proposal for declaration of road from Bankura to Durgapur as National Highway.

Construction work on National Highway-208

1280. SHRI P. RAJENDRAN : Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the steps taken to start construction work from Quilon on National Highway-208 in this year; and

(b) the progress made in the construction work of National Highway-208 during the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) SHRI B.C. KHANDURI) : (a) and (b) The NH-208 from Quilon (in Kerala) to Tirumangalam (in Tamil Nadu) covering a distance of about 231 km. was declared as new National Highway on 6.1.1999. Improvement of riding quality in 63.2 km. length has been completed during 1999-2000, and four works for improvement of carriageway, drainage, accident-prone section and providing road signs costing Rs. 137 Lakh have also been sanctioned during the same period. For improvement of riding quality in another 57.4 Km. of length a sum of Rs. 868 Lakh has also been sanctioned for the year 2000-2001. Besides, there is a provision for widening to 2 lane standard in 5 km. of length and reconstruction of damaged culvert, improvement to drainage at an estimated cost of Rs. 187 Lakh in the current Annual Plan 2000-2001 for which estimates are awaited from State P.W.D.

Rainfall

1281. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the rainfall in some States such as Gujarat, Rajasthan and Karnataka has failed for the third consecutive year;

(b) if so the details of rainfall in these States as compared to other States during the above period;

(c) whether it is a fact that due to failure of rainfall, people from many parts of these areas have been moving out to escape the drought situation;

(d) if so, the percentage of people affected due to such situation in these three States; and

(e) what measures being taken by the Government for the rehabilitation of affected people?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK) : (a) and (b) During the South-West monsoon period this year, Gujarat and Rajasthan received deficient rainfall while Karnataka received excess rainfall, as compared to the normal. The States of Madhya Pradesh & Chattisgarh and Orissa also received deficient rainfall as compared to the normal. The other States have received normal to excess rainfall.

(c) to (e) No report of large scale migration on account of drought has been received from Gujarat, Rajasthan and Karnataka. However, some migration on account of various other factors does take place in different parts of the country. To provide relief to the people in the drought affected States, a number of measures have been taken by the Central Government which include the following :

- (a) Circulation of a Drought Contingency Plan to the concerned States for taking necessary steps.
- (b) It has been decided to allocate additional foodgrains at BPL rate @ 20 kg. per family unit to all the families in the drought affected areas.
- (c) Funds have been released under related Central Schemes for starting employment generation programmes.
- (d) The States have also been advised to start Food for Work Programme.
- (e) The Department of Drinking Water Supply is constantly monitoring drinking water supply projects with a view to expediting them.
- (f) The Central Ground Water Board has been advised to hand over exploratory tube wells to the States for the purpose of drinking water.
- (g) The States have been advised to sensitize farmers about the scarcity of water and encourage them to go for the crops which require less water.
- (h) State have also been advised to open fodder depots and cattle camps wherever necessary.

Alway-Trichur-Cherthala-Kayamkulam road as four lane

1282. SHRI V.M. SUDHEERAN : Will Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the need for making the Alway-Trichur-Cherthala-Kayamkulam portion of National Highway as four lane; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) SHRI B.C. KHANDURI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The development and maintenance of National Highways is a continuous process and works are undertaken in the phased manner depending upon inter-se priority and availability of funds. The Alwaye-Sherthala section of NH-47 has already been widened to four lane in a length of 36.45 Km. Further the Cochin-Salem spur (Km. 332/370 to 182/200) is also proposed

to be widened into four lane in different phases as part of the National Highway Development Project to be implemented by the National Highways Authority of India. Land acquisition estimate from Alwaye (Km 332/370) to Angamali (316/00) amounting to Rs. 4.19 Crores had already been sanctioned by the Ministry. In addition, the provision for conducting feasibility/detailed engineering study for 4 laning from Km. 348 to 353, Km. 387 to 408, and Km. 541 to 551 has been included in the current Annual Plan 2000-2001.

[Translation]

Discharge of Effluents

1283. SHRI BRAJ MOHAN RAM : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have conducted any enquiry into the aspect of barrenness of land and water saline due to effluents being discharged by the Bihar Caustic and Chemicals Ltd. at Rehela in Bihar;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of instructions issued to the said company in this regard; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to protect the people in the area from pollution?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) to (c) Yes Sir. Based on the enquiry, directions were issued under Section 5 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 to the company for taking measures to control pollution. The directions/instructions issued to the company pertained to the supply of piped/tanker drinking water to the affected areas, removal of caustic tanks from the railway station, making necessary arrangements for covered storage of salt and providing of a railway line/railway siding from the station to industry's premises.

(d) The steps taken to protect the people in the area from pollution include the following :

- The industry has complied with the direction to adhere to zero discharge of effluent.
- The industry is supplying drinking water through tankers to the affected areas, in addition to the piped water supply system commissioned by the industry.
- The caustic storage tanks at Rehela Railway Station and the nearby areas are kept cleaned and this storage facility is used only for a limited period. The work regarding the construction of railway siding is in progress.

[English]

Death of Tigers and Animals in Zoos

1284. SHRI J.S. BRAR :
SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ :
SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH :

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

(a) whether large scale deaths of tigers, leopards and other animals have been reported in various zoos in the country;

(b) if so, whether the Government have asked the State Governments to conduct enquiries on such deaths;

(c) if so, the number of States which have responded to the Government in this regard;

(d) whether any amendment is required in the present wild life protection laws to check the killings, poaching resulting in deaths of wild animals both in forests and zoos all over the country; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) During last few months several reports regarding deaths of tigers and panthers have been received. Most of the deaths relate to infant mortalities, mainly caused by mothers rejecting the young ones. As far as adult animals are concerned, there has been no case of large scale mortalities except Nandankanan zoo, where 13 tigers died of 'Trypanosomiasis'.

(b) and (c) The Central Government ordered enquiry into the incident at Nandankanan Zoo. The enquiry report has been received and mitigative measures, after discussions with State Government, have been finalised. State Government has already implemented most of these measures. Andhra Pradesh Government, soon after the killing of a tigress at Hyderabad zoo, handed over the case to State C.I.D as well as to a senior IAS officer of the State at the initiative of the Chief Minister. The Ministry, through Central Zoo Authority, has got rapid assessment of all zoos done after Nandankanan episode and a meeting of Secretaries has been called to discuss the mitigative measures on 27th November, 2000.

(d) and (e) The present legal provisions under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 appear to be adequate to address the issues of poaching and management of Zoos and Protected Areas. The problem is mainly due to

ineffective implementation of the provisions of the Act. Financial stringencies in States have further compounded the problem. The Central Government has upgraded the funding pattern in respect of the areas forming part of habitat of endangered species. Funding is now available for reimbursement of the non-recurring and the recurring cost (other than salaries) in full. Even in case of zoos, 100% funding is available for improvement of animal housing, upkeep and healthcare

Welfare Projects in the Country

1285. SHRI RAMANAIDU DAGGUBATI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether due to non-implementation of welfare projects, drought and famine like conditions prevail in the country;

(b) if so, the reasons for not releasing the funds sanctioned by the Planning Commission;

(c) the projects help-up for want of funds and the amount remained unspent during the last three years;

(d) whether the Government propose to fix the responsibilities in regard to allocation of funds; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK) : (a) to (e) Drought and famine like conditions are not due to non implementation of welfare projects. Further, it is clarified that there are no famine like conditions prevailing in the country at present. However, some parts of the States of Rajasthan, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Orissa are likely to face drought like situation due to deficient rainfall during south-west monsoon. The Central Government is regularly monitoring the situation and have taken a number of steps which include :

(a) Circulation of Drought Contingency Plan to the concerned States for taking necessary steps.

(b) It has been decided to allocate additional foodgrains at BPL rate @ 20 kg. per family unit to all the families in the drought affected areas.

(c) Funds have been released under related Central Schemes for starting employment generation programmes.

(d) The States have also been advised to start Food for Work Programme.

(e) The Department of Drinking Water Supply is constantly monitoring drinking water supply projects with a view to expediting these.

(f) The Central Ground Water Board has been advised to hand over exploratory tubewells to the States for the purpose of drinking water.

(g) The States have been advised to sensitize farmers about the scarcity of water and encourage them to go for the crops which require less water.

(h) States have also been advised to open fodder depots and cattle camps wherever necessary.

(i) Amounts as indicated below have been released to the following rain deficient States as part of the central share of Calamity Relief Fund during 2000/2001 :

Name of the State	Funds Released (Rs. Crores)
Gujarat	131.14
Madhya Pradesh/Chhattisgarh	31.98
Orissa	41.05
Rajasthan	168.18
Total	372.35

User charges and restoration fees

1286. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI : Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether owing to serious inter-ministerial differences, the Prime Minister's Office has directed his Ministry to seek Attorney General's opinion on the proposed levy of user charges and restoration fees;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether his Ministry is strongly in favour of levying user charges and restoration fees;

(d) if so, whether the Prime Minister's Office and Telecommunication Ministry have opposed it;

(e) if so, whether any meeting has been held between his Ministry, National Highways Authority of India and Prime Minister's Office and Telecommunication Ministry in this regard;

(f) if so, the decision arrived at so far in this regard; and

(g) the time by which this issue is likely to be finalized?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) SHRI B.C. KHANDURI) : (a) to (g) Policy for levying user charges and restoration fees has been evolved by the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways after due deliberations with all concerned. The question of interpretation on the policy has arisen in a case, hence the opinion of Attorney General has been sought.

[Translation]

Modern Techniques of Agriculture

1287. SHRI P.R. KHUNTE : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of education/training imparted to women in the rural areas regarding utilization of modern techniques of agriculture;

(b) the agencies through which this training is imparted; and

(c) the response to this scheme in Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK) : (a) Special Schemes/Projects/Sub-programmes for training rural women in the modern techniques of agriculture are in operation with the assistance from Central Government, Bilateral Support and UNDP assistance in 21 States of the country. These Schemes are as follows :

- (i) Central Sector Scheme of "Women in Agriculture" in the States of Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Kerala, Sikkim, Assam, Manipur, Mizoram, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Tripura and Arunachal Pradesh.
- (ii) Danish and Dutch assisted projects on "Training & Extension of Women in Agriculture" in Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Orissa, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, and Andhra Pradesh respectively.
- (iii) UNDP funded Sub-programmes on "Empowerment of Women Farmers" in Uttar Pradesh, Orissa and Andhra Pradesh.

(b) The training to women farmers is imparted through the Agricultural Scientists & Trainers of Farmers Training Centres, State Agricultural Universities, District Team of Specialists in Agriculture and Line Departments of State Governments and Resource Persons from Central/ICAR Institutes.

(c) The Review-cum-Appraisal Missions which were commissioned to evaluate these Projects have reported that the projects have resulted in a number of positive impacts such as :

- clear and substantial empowerment of women farmers of small and marginal land holdings.
- increase in the household income in cash or kind by the adoption of low cost agricultural technologies.
- Gender sensitization of the general extension system.
- Strengthening of training infrastructure for women farmers.
- increased induction of women extension workers in the extension system.

[English]

Use of medicine for treatment of livestock

1288. DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Homoeopathic/Ayurvedic medicines are also found useful for treatment of livestock;

(b) if so, whether it is a part of curriculum for veterinarian; and

(c) if not, the time by which it is proposed to be introduced for them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN) : (a) to (c) It is seen that the indigenous drugs are relevant, and hence, included in the veterinary curriculum. The curriculum covers study of source of alkaloids, glycosides resins, gums, tannins, fixed volatile oils, plant drugs with proven pharmacological and therapeutic efficacies in various animal and human ailments, and popular indigenous drugs such as antiseptics, antifungals, anthelmintics and arthropod repellants. On the basis of the recommendation of the Standing Committee on Agriculture, the Department have identified a consultant to prepare an Inventory of Traditional Medicinal Practices in India and codifying them.

Damage of groundnut crop in A.P.

1289. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that groundnut crop in Anantpur district of Andhra Pradesh has been totally damaged due to attack of dreaded Bud Necrotic virus during the current year;

(b) if so, whether any group of scientists was sent to the affected areas to control the virus;

(c) if so, the outcome of the same; and

(d) the measures taken/proposed to be taken to check the spread of virus in future and also to provide compensation to the groundnut farmers whose crop has been completely damaged?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK) : (a) The groundnut crop in Anantpur district of Andhra Pradesh has been damaged to some extent due to the attack of Bud Necrosis virus during the current year.

(b) Yes, Sir. Groups of Experts/Scientists from Acharya Ranga Agricultural University, Hyderabad, Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), ICRISAT and State Department of Agriculture visited the affected area for on the spot evaluation and to suggest control measures for curtailing disease spread.

(c) The Scientists have suggested short term and long term measures to control the disease as under :

- (i) *Short-term Measures* (i) Monitoring of thrips population and Bud Necrosis virus disease affected area; (ii) spraying with pesticide viz., Monocrotophos in areas where crop is less than 45 days old; (iii) education to extension workers and farmers in local language to create awareness about the disease etc.
- (ii) *Long-term Measures* : (i) Development of Bud Necrosis virus resistant short duration varieties; (ii) Monitoring of fields during the next Kharif season for the presence of virus disease in weeds as well as the thrips population; (iii) crop rotation with other crops like pearl-millet, pigeonpea, castor, etc. and (iv) publicity through distribution of printed pamphlets/bulletins about the disease management.

(d) Following are the measures being taken to check the spread of the virus disease :

- (i) Constitution of survey teams to create awareness among the farmers for undertaking control measures;
- (ii) Training to farmers and other field functionaries in the proper diagnosis of the disease and the vector;

(iii) Publicity through Akashwani, Doordarshan and visual display in the Cinema Halls as well as distribution of pamphlets, etc. about the management of the disease; and

(iv) Application of pesticides, viz., Monocrotophos mixed with crude neem-oil for controlling the insect vector.

As regards compensation to the groundnut farmers, the State Government has reported that the prospects of groundnut yield are very good in the State except in isolated cases.

[Translation]

Telephone Complaints

1290. SHRI MANIBHAI RAMJIBHAI CHAUDHRI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any representations are being received from Delhi and other parts of the country to the effect that the complaints are removed from the computer without attending to the faults of telephones;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to make it mandatory for the lineman to obtain signatures of the subscribers to check this menace;

(c) if so, the time by which it is likely to be done; and

(d) if not, the method in which the Government propose to check it?

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

(b) and (c) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

(d) The pendency of the faults is removed from the computer only after rectification of the fault and confirmation from the subscribers.

[English]

Arecanut Growers

1291. SHRI T. GOVINDAN : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Arecanut growers are facing crisis due to reduction in price on account of smuggling from Sri Lanka via Nepal which has affected adversely the Indian domestic market; and

(b) if so, the action taken to protect the farmers in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK) : (a) and (b) Arecanut growers faced a problem due to decline in prices. The import of Arecanut was negligible. Decline in prices is attributed to increased production and not due to import. However, to safeguard the interest of arecanut growers, the Government have already raised import duty from 35% to 100%. The Finance Ministry has also issued instructions to customs officials to prevent the illegal entry of Arecanut in the country.

[Translation]

Production of prawn

1292. KUMARI BHAVANA PUNDLIKRAO GAWALI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the total production of prawn in the coastal States of Maharashtra, Gujarat and Kerala,

(b) whether the production of prawn has declined as compared to the previous years;

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

(d) whether the Government propose to increase its production; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN) : (a) A Statement giving total production of prawn in the coastal States of Maharashtra, Gujarat and Kerala during the past five years is given in the Statement enclosed.

(b) and (c) There is no significant decline in the total production of prawn and the fluctuations in annual production are due to natural factors which are quite normal

(d) and (e) A package of technical, financial and extension support is given to the shrimp farmers under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Integrated Coastal Aquaculture for increased production. 39 Brackish water Fish Farmer Development Agencies (BFDAs) have been set up in the Coastal States/Union Territories for this purpose. The BFDAs provide assistance for undertaking shrimp aquaculture in a scientific and sustainable manner as details below :

(i) 25% of capital cost for construction/renovation

and total cost of inputs for the first crop, subject to a maximum of Rs. 30,000 per hectare, will be provided as subsidy to a beneficiary

(ii) Payment of stipend of Rs. 25 per day and travelling allowance limited to Rs. 140 per trainee (beneficiary) for training of two months duration.

(iii) The subsidy will be shared between the Centre and State Governments on 50:50 basis, whereas it will be in the form of 100% Central grant in the case of UTs. The administrative cost will also be shared between the State and Centre on 50:50 basis; for UTs the Centre will provide 100% cost as grant in aid

(iv) Private/Public Sector will be provided assistance for establishment of prawn seed hatcheries of 2 to 5 million capacity of post larvae (PL 20) per annum. Assistance to the extent of Rs. 1.00 lakh per hatchery or 10% of the cost, whichever is lower will be granted.

(v) Public sector enterprise/companies/corporations and private entrepreneurs who construct new ponds will be eligible for the same rate of subsidy as under BFDA (i.e. Maximum of Rs. 30,000 per ha) to undertake scientific prawn farming in coastal areas.

Statement

Shrimp Production during 1995-96 to 1999-2000

(In Tonnes)

States	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99	1999-00
Gujarat	55872	59960	63977	63887	64161
Kerala	53134	60396	69250	70192	63759
Maharashtra	107275	146889	120355	103656	107565

[Translation]

Bio-Gas Plant in Orissa

1293. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK : Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) the number of biogas plants set up in Orissa;

(b) the Central assistance provided to Orissa during each of the last three years;

(c) whether any review has been made on the working of these biogas plants; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN) : (a) A total of about 1.62 lakh family type biogas plants and 33 community and institutional plants have been set up so far in the State of Orissa under the Central Sector Schemes—National Project on Biogas Development (NPBD) and Community, Institutional and Night-soil based Biogas Plants (CBP/IBP/NBP) programme respectively.

(b) Details of the Central financial assistance sanctioned to the State nodal agency, namely Orissa Renewable Energy Development Agency (OREDA) during the last three years are mentioned below :

Year	NPBD	CBP/IBP/NBP Programme
1997-98	Rs. 156.28 lakh	Nil
1998-99	Rs. 308.19 lakh	Rs. 1.50 lakh
1999-2000	Rs. 429.00 lakh	Rs. 7.00 lakh

Besides, Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) reported utilisation of the Central assistance of about Rs. 1.68 crore in the year 1997-98 and All India Womens Conference, New Delhi reported utilisation of Rs. 1.33 lakh, Rs. 0.70 lakh and Rs. 0.56 lakh during 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000 respectively in Orissa under NPBD.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) In a recent survey conducted by OREDA, about 86% family type biogas plants have been found working in 21 districts. Besides, a survey of 3981 family type plants set up by KVIC in 1996-97 and 1997-98 in district Puri, Orissa indicated that only 102 plants were working. In case of community and institutional plants, OREDA has reported that 68 per cent plants were in working order. The non-working plants are being revived under repair scheme. Further, an evaluation study on biogas programme is in progress under the aegis of the Programme Evaluation Organisation, Planning Commission in 18 States, including Orissa.

Commercial use of Fly Ash

1294. SHRI SHIVAJI VITHALRAO KAMBLE : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) the estimated quantity of fly ash resulted per annum due to thermal power generation units in the country;

(b) existing arrangements made by each thermal plants for the disposal of fly ash in eco-friendly manner to check environment pollution conservent degradation in the country, State-wise;

(c) the details of suggestion made by the experts committee for the commercial use of fly ash for building material;

(d) whether the Government have formulated any action plan to deal with the problem more effectively during the Ninth Plan period, particularly in Maharashtra;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the action taken by the State Governments in this regard, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) Total quantity of fly ash generated from thermal power plants is 80 million tonnes per annum based on an average ash content of 40% of coal.

(b) The fly ash generated in the power stations is collected with the help of high efficiency electrostatic precipitators and is disposed off in the low lying areas in the form of slurry. All the power stations in the country are making arrangements for dry fly ash collection and in turn using the ash for making of bricks, cement and other building materials. A Statement showing the State-wise details of dry fly ash collection arrangements, made for utilization/disposal by each thermal power station is given in the Statement enclosed.

(c) The Fly Ash Mission established under the Department of Science & Technology in the year 1994 has *inter alia* suggested that fly ash should be used for construction of roads & embankments, manufacture of bricks & blocks, production of cement, fertilizers and utilization of fly ash for reclamation of ash ponds for human settlement and under ground mine fill.

(d) to (f) The Government of India vide Gazette Notification No. SO 763 (E) dated 14.09.1999 has *inter alia* directed that—(i) every coal or lignite based thermal power plant commissioned subject to environmental clearance conditions stipulating the submission of an action plan for full utilization of fly ash shall, within a period of nine years from the publication of the Notification, phase out the dumping and disposal of fly ash on land in accordance with the Plan; and (ii) Every coal or lignite based thermal power plant not covered by (i) above shall, within a period of fifteen years from the date of publication of this Notification, phase out the utilization of fly ash in accordance with an action plan to be drawn up by the power plants.

Various utilities have set up fly ash utilization divisions in their respective stations and are taking steps to promote utilization of fly ash produced by their power stations.

The Maharashtra State Electricity Board is encouraging the entrepreneurs for utilization of fly ash. It has intimated that agreements have been signed for utilization of fly ash being produced at Nasik and Chandrapur TPSs.

The Central Electricity Authority is monitoring fly ash production, its utilization and also the status of implementation of the action plans in respect of the thermal power stations in the country.

Statement

State-wise details of dry fly ash collection arrangements made by Thermal Power Stations for its utilisation/disposal

Sl. No.	Name of the Power Station (State-wise)	Mode of Pulverised Fly Ash (PFA) Utilisation	Dry PFA Collection facilities
1	2	3	4
1.	Assam		
	Bongaigaon	Asbestos, Cement Industries	Available
2.	Andhra Pradesh		
	Kothagudem	Nil	N.A. (under construction)
	Nellore	Bricks & Cement	Available
	Ramagundam	Nil	Available
	Rayalseema	Bricks & Cement	Available
	Vijayawada	Bricks & cement	Available
3.	Bihar		
	Barauni	Nil	N.A.
	Muzaffarpur	Nil	N.A.
	Patratu	Bricks & Cement	Available
	Tenughat	Nil	N.A.
4.	Gujarat		
	Gandhinagar	Nil	Available
	Kutch	Nil	Available
	Sikka	Cement	Available
	Ukai	Cement	Available
	Wanakbori	Bricks	N.A.
	Sabarmati	Building materials, land filling, high way slabs.	Available

1	2	3	4
5.	Haryana		
	Faridabad	—	N.A.
	Panipat	—	N.A.
6.	Karnataka		
	Raichur	Bricks, Cement & Ceramics	Available
7.	Madhya Pradesh		
	Amarkantak	Nil	N.A.
	Korba II & III (East)	Cement & Ash dyke	N.A.
	Korba West	Bricks & Ash dyke	N.A.
	Sanjay Gandhi	Bricks	Available
	Satpura	Nil	N.A.
8.	Maharashtra		
	Bhusawal	Bricks, Land fill & agriculture	N.A.
	Chandrapur	Bricks & Asbestos products	N.A.
	Khaperkheda	Bricks & structural fill	Available
	Koradi	Bricks & structural fill	N.A.
	Nasik	Cement, agriculture & ash dyke	N.A.
	Paras	Agriculture & Bricks	Available
	Parli	Agriculture & asbestos products	N.A.
	Dahanu	Bricks	N.A.
	Trombay	Data not available	—
9.	Orissa		
	Ib Valley	Ash dyke & land filling	Available
10.	Punjab		
	Bhatinda	Cement	Available
	Ropar	Cement	Available
11.	Rajasthan		
	Kota	Cement, Bricks & Ash dyke	N.A.
	Suratgarh	Nil	N.A.
12.	Tamil Nadu		
	Ennore	Bricks & asbestos products	Available
	Mettur	Cement	Available
	North Chennai	Bricks, Blocks & asbestos products	N.A.
	Tuticorin	Cement industries	Available
13.	Uttar Pradesh		
	Amara A & B	Ash dyke & Cement	N.A.
	Hapur	Nil	N.A.
	Obaid	Cement & asbestos products	N.A.
	Panki	Nil	N.A.

1	2	3	4
	Paricha	Cement	N.A.
	Tanda	Data not available	—
14.	<i>West Bengal</i>		
	Titagarh	Land, Road & Bricks	Available
	B.B.G.S.	Land, Road & Bricks	Available
	S.G.S.	Land, Road & Bricks	Available
	Kolaghat	Bricks, Land & Fertilizer	Available
	Bandel	Nil	N.A.
	Santaldih	Nil	N.A.
	DPL	Mine filling	Available
15.	<i>NCR Delhi</i>		
	Indraprastha	Structural fill & land development	N.A.
	Rajghat	Back filling	N.A.
	Central Sector		
16.	<i>DVC</i>		
	Bokaro 'A'	Abandoned mine filling	N.A.
	Bokaro 'B'	Nil	N.A.
	Chandrapura	Nil	N.A.
	Durgapur	Mine filling	N.A.
	Mejia	Nil	N.A.
17.	<i>NTPC</i>		
	Badarpur	Industries, Ash dyke, brick, etc	N.A.
	BALCO	Industries, Ash dyke, bricks, etc.	Available
	Dadri	Land development & Industries	Available
	Farakka	Land development, Industries, Ash dyke, etc.	N.A.
	Kahalgau	Land development & Industries	Available
	Korba	Industries, Ash dyke, bricks, etc.	N.A.
	Ramagundam	Land development, Industries, Ash dykes & bricks	Available
	Rihand	Land development & Industries	Available
	Singrauli	Land development & Industries	Available
	Talcher	Land development & Industries	Available
	Talcher STPS	Land development & Industries	Available
	Unchahar	Industries	Available
	Vindhyachal	Industries, Ash dykes & bricks	N.A.
18.	<i>NLC Ltd.</i>		
	Neyveli I	Cement, bricks & RCC products	Available
	Neyveli II	—	N.A.

Source : Central Electricity Authority.

[Translation]

Post Offices in villages in Maharashtra

1295. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state .

(a) whether the Government have received any proposal to open new post offices in villages in Maharashtra especially at Pomgaon;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the progress made so far in this regard; and

(d) the time by which the post offices are likely to be opened especially at Pomgaon?

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

(b) 43 proposals for opening of Extra Deptt. Branch Post Offices and 49 proposals for opening of Deptt. Sub Post Offices have been received for the Maharashtra Circle as a whole and 1 proposal has been received for Pomgaon, Tal. Mulshi, District, Pune

(c) and (d) The opening of Post Offices is dependent upon fulfillment of departmental norms and sanctioning of the required number of posts by the Ministry of Finance. In case of Pomgaon, the proposal received was examined and found not justified as per departmental norms.

Conversion of single lane into double lane

1296. SHRI JAI PRAKASH : Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether some of the National Highways passing through Uttar Pradesh are of single lane; and

(b) if so, the action taken to release funds from Central Road Fund for converting them to double lane?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN (RETD.) SHRI B.C. KHANDURI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Central Road Funds earmarked for development and maintenance of National Highway works are being primarily utilised for the National Highways Development Project (NHDP) under implementation by the National Highway Authority of India. The works of widening single lane stretches of other National Highways to double lane are being funded from the Plan allocation for National

Highway (original) works. Therefore no releases have been made from the Central Road Fund for this purpose, except for those stretches which fall under the NHDP.

implemented by the Government in agriculture sector has been made;

[English]

(b) if so, the results thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Evaluation of Schemes in Agriculture Sector

1297. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The details are given in the Statement enclosed.

(a) whether any evaluation of the schemes

(c) Does not arise.

Statement

List of evaluation studies completed/are in progress

Sl. No.	Name of the Study	Time and Organisation conducting the study	Main findings/follow up actions
1.	Impact Evaluation of NWDPR scheme in Karnataka	Geo Environmental Management Service Hyderabad (1999/2000)	Favourable impact on ground water potential & productivity improvement.
2.	Impact Evaluation of NWDPR scheme in Rajasthan	Foundation for Natural and Human Resources Development, New Delhi (1999/2000)	Favourable impact on ground water potential & productivity improvement.
3.	Impact Evaluation of NWDPR scheme in Maharashtra	Development Centre for Alternative Policy, New Delhi (1999/2000)	Favourable impact on ground water potential & productivity improvement.
4.	Impact Evaluation of NWDPR scheme in Andhra Pradesh	Agricultural Finance Corporation, New Delhi (1999/2000)	Favourable impact on ground water potential & productivity improvement.
5.	Impact Evaluation of NWDPR scheme in Assam.	Agricultural Finance Corporation, New Delhi (1999/2000)	Favourable impact on ground water potential & productivity improvement.
6.	Impact Evaluation of NWDPR scheme in Uttar Pradesh	Agricultural Finance Corporation, New Delhi (1999/2000) (AFC)	Favourable impact on ground water potential & productivity improvement.
7.	Impact Evaluation of NWDPR scheme using Remote Sensing techniques	Indian Space Research Organisation Bangalore (1998-2000)	Favourable impact on vegetation
8.	Evaluation of Schemes on Soil Conservation in the Catchments of River Valley and Flood Prone Areas implemented in different States of country	1. Administrative Staff College of India, Hyderabad, (1986, 1998 and 1989) 2. Agricultural Finance Corporation Bombay (1989/1991) 3. Centre for Management and Development, Kerala (1991) 4. Institute of Economic Growth, Delhi (1995)	1. Increase in Agriculture Yields. 2. Increase in Cropping Intensity 3. Reduction in Sediment Yields 4. Reduction in Peak rate of run-off. 5. Increase in employment generation.
9.	Watershed Development Projects in Shifting Cultivation Areas in North-Eastern States	Ghas Rao Consultants Pvt. Ltd. (1995)	1. Reduction in Jhooming 2. Increase in Agriculture income per family.

Sl. No.	Name of the Study	Time and Organisation conducting the study	Main findings/follow up actions
10	Reclamation of Alkali Soils	K. Lal Goel & Co. (1995)	Increase in crop productivity.
11	Impact Evaluation of setting up of Bio Fertiliser Production Units at different places of the country with central assistance	M/s Bio-Tech Consortium India Ltd. (BCIL), New Delhi (1999-2000)	Favourable impact on increased use of bio-fertiliser. Channelisation of financial assistance through NABARD has been recommended by evaluating agencies.
12	Impact Evaluation of Central Sponsored Scheme Oilseed Production Programme (OPP)	Agricultural Finance Corporation 1989	Shortcomings and Bottlenecks in the implementation of the schemes were found and the States concerned have been asked to sort out the problems.
13	Impact Evaluation of Use of Plastics in Agriculture	Agricultural Finance Corporation, Mumbai (1997-98)	Drip irrigation is beneficial for water saving, increase yield of crops and improvement of quality of produce.
14	Impact Evaluation of the central sector scheme on women in agriculture	Inter-disciplinary Teams (IDTs) and the Internal Consultancy Studies (ICS)	Positive impact on creation of general awareness levels of women farmers on use of various agricultural technologies.
15	Impact Evaluation of Crop Oriented Schemes for rice, wheat, jute, cotton, cereals and sugarcane	Agricultural Finance Corporation Limited, 2000-01 for wheat, rice, coarse cereals. Also, evaluation done in eighth plan for coarse cereals and rice	Positive impact of mini-kit programmes on production and productivity of rice, wheat and coarse cereals. The final results of the current evaluation studies are awaited.

Animal Birth Control Policy

1298. SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal under consideration of the Government for the implementation of 'Animal Birth Control Policy' in the Metropolitan Cities and other thickly populated areas and important cities, in order to reduce the population of stray dogs and cattle on the roads;

(b) whether the Government are aware that cows, bulls and stray dogs have become a veritable traffic hazard; and

(c) if so, the details regarding the policy of Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN) : (a) Animal Birth Control Policy in the Metropolitan Cities and other thickly populated areas and important cities is implemented by Animal Welfare Division of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.

(b) and (c) In order to prevent stray bulls from procreation, financial support is provided by Ministry of Agriculture to State Governments towards procurement of castrators. Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment implements "provision of shelter houses" for stray animal. Managing population of stray dogs and cattle is, however, in the jurisdiction of State and Local Self Governments who take up programmes to deal with the problem.

Funds for Bridges in Daman and Diu

1299. SHRI DAHYABHAI VALLABHBHAI PATEL Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of locations in Daman and Diu where High Level Bridges/Major Bridges/Causeways on roads are under constructions;

(b) the funds provided by the Union Government for each of such scheme; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) SHRI B.C. KHANDURI) : (a) Central Government is primarily responsible for development and maintenance of National Highways only. Responsibility for development and maintenance of all other roads falls within the purview of the respective State Government/Union Territories. There is no National Highway in Daman and Diu. As such the question does not concern this Ministry. Funds for development of Road in Daman & Diu are being provided by the Ministry of Home Affairs. It has been ascertained from the Administration of Daman & Diu that Planning Commission has approved two bridges namely, Coastal Highway Bridge on Damanganga river and a new bridge on Damanganga. The tenders for construction of new bridge across Damanganga have been invited by R&B Department Government of Gujarat as deposit work.

(b) A provision of Rs. 7.34 crores has been kept in the budget of U.T. of Daman & Diu for major works under road and bridges in the Demand of Grants of Ministry of Home Affairs for the current year (2000-2001).

(c) It is too early to indicate the completion date.

Development of Agriculture Produce Marketing Committee

1300. SHRI BHAN SINGH BHAURA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a proposal is under active consideration in his Ministry for the development of Agriculture Produce Marketing Committee under Centrally sponsored scheme in Punjab; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Question does not arise.

[Translation]

Free Telephone connections

1301. SHRI RAMCHANDER BAINDA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to provide free telephone connections to the family members/dependents of the Kargil martyrs;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time by which the said connections are likely to be provided; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) No, Sir. There is no proposal to provide free telephone connections to the family members/dependents of the Kargil martyrs.

(b) and (c) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

(d) War widows in general are fully exempted from payment of registration and installation charges. They are also given additional recurring rebate of 50% in normal rental charge. These concessions are equally applicable to war widows of Kargil martyrs.

[English]

Pollution in Ganga River

1302. SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH : 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 "Ganga more polluted than Norway's sewers" appearing in the 'Statesman' dated June 20, 2000;

(b) if so, whether a Norwegian Institute report has revealed that the Ganga is polluted than public sewers in Norway;

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

(d) the concrete steps taken by the Government to check pollution in the Ganga?

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

(b) and (c) The Norwegian Institute Report indicates that a sample of treated effluent from the common effluent treatment plant set up for treating tannery effluents in Jajmau and not from the Ganga river shows a chemical oxygen demand level of 800 milligram per litre and chromium concentration of 10.9 milligram per litre. The Central Pollution Control Board carried out the monitoring of the Jajmau common effluent treatment plant during the months of April & June, 2000 and found chemical oxygen demand concentration of 341 milligram per litre and chromium concentration of 0.15 milligram per litre in the treated effluent as against the prescribed discharge standards of chemical oxygen demand of 250 milligram

per litre and total chromium of 2 milligram per litre. A recent report on the treated effluent from the common effluent treatment plant, Jajmau carried out by the National Botanical Research Institute, Lucknow, also indicates the chromium levels of treated effluent to be 1.7 milligram per litre which is within the standard. While the monitoring report of the Central Pollution Control Board indicates that the chromium concentration in the treated effluent is within the discharge standards, the chemical oxygen demand values are violating. The Government of Uttar Pradesh has been asked to take corrective steps to ensure the compliance of effluent standards.

(d) To tackle the problem of high concentrations of chromium in the treated effluent and sludge from the common effluent treatment plant at Jajmau, it has been decided that all the large and medium tanneries will set up chromium recovery systems individually. The small tanneries will set up common chromium recovery systems collectively. In order to tackle the pollution of river Ganga from the municipal sewage, under the Ganga Action Plan Phase-I which has since been completed, about 35 per cent pollution has been tackled. The remaining 65 per cent pollution is to be tackled under the Ganga Action Plan Phase-II, which is under implementation.

Postal Stamp

1303. SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

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

(b) the list of the commemorative postal stamps, released in honour of the distinguished Indian Personalities during the last three years and till date especially from Kerala;

(c) whether the Government have received a proposal for releasing a commemorative Postal Stamp in honour of Late Shri Tungal Kunju Musaliar; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) Proposals for issue of commemorative postage stamps are examined by a Philatelic Advisory Committee, constituted for the purpose. The Committee examines the proposals on the basis of certain guidelines which *inter-alia* stipulate :

1. The personalities on whom commemorative stamps may be issued should be of national or international importance and the occasion may be the birth centenary or 10th/25th/50th or 100th death anniversary.

2. Not more than one stamp may be issued on the same personality.
3. Out of the commemorative/special postage stamps issued every year those on personalities should not normally exceed 25%.

(b) The list of personalities on whom stamps were issued during the last three years and till date are given in the Statement enclosed.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The proposal was placed before the Philatelic Advisory Committee. The Committee did not approve the proposal. However, the Department of Posts already released a special cover with special cancellation to mark birth centenary of Shri Musaliar, on 12.01.1997.

Statement

Stamps on Personalities issued in 1997

S.No.	Name of Personality
1.	Dr. Vrindavan Lal Verma
2.	Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose
3.	Jose Marti
4.	Morarji Desai
5.	Shyamlal Gupta
6.	Saint Dnyaneshwar
7.	Ram Manohar Lohia
8.	Jnanpith Award Winners : Kannada
9.	Madhu Limaye
10.	Pandit Omkarnath Thakur
11.	Ram Sewak Yadav
12.	Sibnath Banerjee
13.	Thirumathi Rukmini Lakshmipathi
14.	Sri Basaveswara
15.	Sir Ronald Ross
16.	Three INA Stalwarts P.K. Sahgal, G.S. Dhillon & Shah Nawaz Khan
17.	Firaq Gorakhpuri
18.	Bhaktivedanta Swami
19.	Swami Brahmanand
20.	Sir William Jones
21.	V.K. Krishna Menon
22.	Sant Kavi Sunderdas

S.No.	Name of Personality
23.	K. Rama Rao
24.	Hazari Prasad Dwivedi
25.	Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel
26.	Pattabhi Sitaramayya
27.	Ram Prasad Bismil and Ashfaquallah Khan
28.	Jerome D'Souza

Stamps on Personalities Issued in 1998

S.No.	Name of Personality
1.	Nahar Singh
2.	Nanak Singh
3.	Maharana Pratap
4.	V.S. Khandekar
5.	Jagdish Chandra Jain
6.	Mahatma Gandhi
7.	Sardar A. Vedaratnam
8.	Savitribai Phule
9.	Syed Ahmed Khan
10.	Sri Ramana Maharshi
11.	N.G. Gorey
12.	Dr. Zakir Hussain
13.	Md. Abdurahiman Shahib
14.	Loknayak Omeo Kumar Das
15.	INA Hero-Abdul Khader, Fouja Singh & Satyendra Chandra Bardhan
16.	C. Vijayaraghavachariar
17.	Jnanpith Award Winners : Bangla
18.	Bhagawan Gopinathji
19.	Aruna Asaf Ali
20.	Shivpujan Sahai
21.	Gostha Paul
22.	Bhai Kanhaiyaji
23.	Dr. Tristao Broganza Cunha
24.	Jananeta Hijam Irawat Singh
25.	Acharya Tulsi
26.	Baba Raghav Das
27.	Lt. Indra Lal Roy
28.	Sant Gadge Baba

Stamps on Personalities issued in 1999

S.No.	Name of Personality
1.	Biju Patnaik
2.	Dr. K.B. Hedgewar
3.	Gulzarilal Nanda
4.	Ustad Alauddin Khan Saheb
5.	Musiri Subramania Iyer
6.	Swami Ramanand Teerth
7.	Swami Keshawanand
8.	Sardar Ajit Singh
9.	Vishwambhar Dayalu Tripathi
10.	P.S. Kumaraswamy Raja
11.	Arati Gupta (Saha)
12.	Kazi Nazrul Islam
13.	Ramdhari Singh 'Dinkar'
14.	Rambriksh Benipuri
15.	Zaverchand Kalidas Meghani
16.	Kalki Krishnamurthy
17.	Dr. T.M.A. Pai
18.	Chhaganlal K. Parekh
19.	A.B. Walawalkar
20.	A.D. Shroff
21.	Rajmata Jijabai
22.	Veerapandia Kattabomman
23.	Brig. Rajinder Singh, MVC
24.	Balai Chand Mukhopadhyay, 'Banaphool'
25.	A. Vaidyanatha Iyer
26.	Indulal Kanaiyalal Yagnik
27.	Dr. Punjabrao Deshmukh
28.	P. Kakkan

Setting up of Sports Schools

1304. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI : Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of scheme prepared during 1998 for setting up of sports schools in the country;

(b) the locations identified for setting up of such schools in Gujarat; and

(c) the criteria adopted for the selection of the location?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI PON RADHAKRISHNAN) : (a) to (c) Earlier, Government had mooted a proposal for formulation of a scheme for setting up of 20 Sports Schools, one in each State with intake capacity of 500 students per school. Subsequently, after deliberations on the subject, Government has decided that, instead of setting up of exclusive sports schools, Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti may develop basic sports facilities in one Navodaya Vidyalaya School in each State.

No Sports Schools have so far been set up by Government under the said proposed proposal.

[Translation]

Rural Telephone Exchanges

1305. SHRI RAJO SINGH : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government had taken any decision to set up rural telephone exchanges to provide telecommunication facilities in rural areas;

(b) if so, the number of such telephone exchanges set up during the last three years;

(c) whether most of such exchanges are out of order particularly in Bihar; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government to provide satisfactory telephone services in rural areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. During the last three years, 3731 rural telephone exchanges have been set up in the country.

(c) No, Sir. Most of the rural exchanges including those in Bihar, are working satisfactorily. However, to further improve the services, reliable transmission media is being provided gradually in all the exchanges. This work is targeted to be completed by March, 2002.

(d) Does not arise in view of reply to part (c) above.

[English]

Synthetic Material in Soft Drinks

1306. DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware about the presence of synthetic material in soft drinks produced by the Multinational Companies;

(b) if so, whether the Government have conducted any scientific analysis to detect this harmful substances in soft drinks;

(c) if so, the details thereof indicating the remedial action taken by the Government in this regard;

(d) whether there is a proposal under Government's consideration to encourage the production of soft drinks on the basis of Juice or Pulp of the fruits; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPTT. OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES OF THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TH. CHAOBA SINGH) (a) to (c) Synthetic material in soft drinks is allowed within permissible limits prescribed under Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954 and Rules thereunder. The material/ ingredients permitted in soft drinks have been evaluated toxicologically and these are safe when used within the prescribed limits under the Rules.

(d) and (e) Department of Food Processing Industries provides support to facilitate overall growth of food processing sector including fruit processing. Under its Plan Schemes, the Department provides concessional finance to food processing industries including production of juice/ pulp based soft drinks.

Grant to N.E.E.R.I.

1307. DR. V. SAROJA : Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether his Ministry has refused to give grant to the National Environmental Engineering Research Institute (N.E.E.R.I.) at Nagpur for working on Zero Emission Vehicle (two wheeler); and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN) : (a) and (b) An R & D project proposal on development of battery operated two wheeler, submitted by National Environmental Engineering Research Institute (NEERI), Nagpur, to this Ministry for financial assistance, was not found feasible due to non-availability of expertise with N.E.E.R.I. in the area of zero emission battery operated two wheeler.

[Translation]

Damage to Soyabean Crop

1308. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR KHANDELWAL : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the crop of soyabean has become infected by rust disease in certain parts of Madhya Pradesh during the last few years;

(b) if so, whether any reasearch work has been conducted by the Union Government to protect this crop from the disease;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether any proposal has been sent by Jawaharlal Nehru Agriculture University, Jabalpur to the Indian Council of Agriculture Research, Delhi in this regard; and

(e) if so, the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN) : (a) Yes, Sir. The soyabean growing districts which have been affected by rust disease since 1994 are : Betul; Chhindwara; Seoni; Jabalpur; Narsinghpur; Hosangabad; Indore; Ujjain and Dhar. However, of late, the incidence of rust has been very low during the year 1999 and rust did not appear in the year 2000.

(b) Research work has been done by the National Research Centre, Indore to develop technologies for protection of crop from the disease.

(c) Varieties of soyabean having tolerance/resistance to rust have been identified. These are : PK 1024, PK 1029 and Indira soyabean-9.

- It has also been found that continuous crop of soyabean in Kharif followed by rabi season is more prone for disease development. Therefore in no case more than one crop of soyabean is to be grown in a year at a location.
- Cultural practices such as summer ploughing/ clean cultivation, burning of rust infected plants/ crop residues reduces the incidence of disease.
- Prophylactic as well as curative sprays of Hexaconazole or Propiconazole or triadimefon @ 0.1% at the time of flowering or at the time of disease appearance is recommended. Second need based spray may also be given at an interval of 15 days.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. One project entitled 'Epidemiology and Management of soyabean rust' was received from Jawaharlal Nehru Krishi Vishwa Vidhyalaya, Jabalpur by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research and the same was sanctioned on 23.3.1999.

Another Project entitled 'Soyabean Rust and its Management' was received on 18.11.1999 for founding under National Agricultural Technology Project of ICAR. The Project was reviewed on February 24-25, 2000. Some concrete guidelines have been given to the P.I. of the Project to revise the Project.

[English]

Construction of Express Highway

1309. DR. A.D.K. JAYASEELAN : Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to construct an express highway between Chennai and Kanyakumari considering heavy traffic and commercial potentials;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ GEN (RETD.) SHRI B.C. KHANDURI) : (a) to (c) No, Sir. There is no proposal at present to construct an Expressway between Chennai and Kanyakumari. However, the National Highway connecting Chennai and Kanyakumari is proposed to be 4/6 laned depending on availability of funds. Presently, this work is at project preparation stage.

[Translation]

Jobs to Agriculture Graduates

1310. MOHD. SHAHABUDDIN : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of unemployed agriculture graduates in the country and the initiatives being taken by the Government to provide them jobs in agriculture sector;

(b) whether the Government propose to utilize their services for propagation and publicity of new agriculture technology and agriculture research; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN) : (a) As per the projections available from the State Government/

Universities about 5000-6000 graduates in agriculture and allied fields are unemployed in the country. Further it takes 6 months to 3 years for a Graduate/Post-Graduate in Agriculture to get gainful employment in Public/Private Sector

The Agriculture Policy has been formulated by Government of India which will address to the issue of enhancement of employment potentials. Further, the Government of India has drafted a Central Sector Scheme for establishment of network of Agriculture and Agri-business Centre for an outlay of Rs. 165.00 crores to allow the graduates to establish Agri-clinics/Agri-business Centre in rural conditions for which a loan of Rs. 10.00 lakhs would be provided through banks. 25% of the loan would be in form of Government subsidies. Initially, it is proposed to extend this scheme to 5000 graduates.

(b) and (c) Through the medium of Krishi Vigyan Kendras under Rural Agriculture Work Experience Programme graduates are being involved in propagation and transfer of technology.

Requirement of Nitrogen, Phosphorous and Potassium

1311. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the requirement of Nitrogen, Phosphorus and Potassium for cultivable land in the country and the extent of imports being made every year to meet the requirement; and

(b) the measures taken by the Government to motivate the farmers to use more and more compost fertilizers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK) : (a) Requirement of Nitrogen, Phosphorus and Potassium in nutrient terms is estimated to be 126.61, 53.64 and 20.23 lakh tonnes respectively for the year 2000-01 A Statement indicating import of fertilizers during last four years is enclosed.

(b) The Government of India has been emphasizing upon the States/UTs to promote the concept of integrated nutrient management system among farmers which envisages the use of organic sources of plant nutrients such as compost, farm yard manure and bio-fertilizers etc. in conjunction with chemical fertilizers. The Government is encouraging production of compost and bio-fertilizers by providing financial incentives for setting up of compost plants for processing city bio-degradable waste into compost and for setting up of bio-fertilizer production units.

Statement

'Import of Fertilizers' (Qty in lakh metric tonne) for the year 1996-97 to 1999-2000

Year	Urea	DAP	MOP
1996-97	23.28	5.34	10.21
1997-98	23.89	14.60	19.00
1998-99	5.56	21.05	25.70
1999-2000	5.33	32.68	28.98

The imports of fertilizers in terms of NPK during the last four years is as follows :

(Qty in LMT)

Year	N	P	K	NPK
1996-97	11.67	2.46	6.13	20.26
1997-98	13.62	6.72	11.40	31.45
1998-99	6.35	9.68	15.42	31.45
1999-2000	8.33	15.03	17.39	40.75

[English]

Increase in Agricultural production

1312. SHRI SAVSHIBHAI MAKWANA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of centrally sponsored schemes being implemented in Gujarat to increase the agricultural production during the current year;

(b) the achievements made therefrom so far; and

(c) the financial assistance extended to the State during the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK) : (a) and (c) The details of centrally sponsored schemes being implemented in Gujarat to increase the production of crops and the funds released there under during the current financial year are given in the Statement enclosed.

(b) Due to the implementation of the above schemes, production and productivity of crops have increased as indicated below :

	1994/95		1998/99	
	Production*	Yield**	Production*	Yield**
Coarse Cereals	18.24	9.25	22.10	12.89
Cotton	16.64@	179	39.35	416
Sugarcane	107.85	69.70	143.09	71.20

Notes : @ for the year 1970/71

* Production is in lakh tonnes except in the case of cotton where it is in lakh bales.

** Yields are in kg per hectare except in case of sugarcane where it is in terms of tonnes/ha.

Statement

Details of funds released to Government of Gujarat to implement various centrally sponsored schemes during the year 2000-2001 (upto 30.9.2000)

Sl. No.	Name of the Scheme	Amount (Rs. lakhs)
1.	Technology Mission on Cotton	214.00
2.	National Pulses Development Project (NPDP)	25.00
3	Oil Seed Production Programme	510.00
4	Accelerated Maize Development Programme (AMDP)	2.16
5	Oil Palm Development Project	10.00
6.	Integrated Cereals Development Programme in Coarse Cereals Based Cropping System Areas (ICDP-Coarse Cereals)	39.40
7	Sustainable Development of Sugarcane Based Cropping System-SUBACS	7.25
8.	Balanced and Integrated use of Fertilizers	50.00
9	Promotion of agricultural mechanization among small farmers	15.00
10	Integrated Development of Tropical Arid and Temperate Zone Fruits	12.03
11	Development of Commercial Floriculture	3.00
12	Development of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants	0.27
13	Integrated Programme for Development of Spices	13.65
14	Development of Mushroom	5.00
15.	Use of Plastics in agriculture	182.76
16.	National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Areas (NWDPR).	1000.00
17	Soil Conservation in the catchments of River Valley Projects and Flood Prone Rivers	134.00
18	Strengthening of State Land Use Boards	3.00
Total		2226.52

Note Sl. No. 6 to 18 have been identified, for implementation through Work Plan Approach.

[Translation]

Production of Non-Conventional Energy

1313. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE :
SHRI PUSP JAIN :
SHRI P.R. KHUNTE :

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

(a) the percentage of Non-Conventional Energy Sources being used by the common people in the country, State-wise;

(b) the quantum of non-conventional energy produced during each of the last three years, State-wise;

(c) the potentiality of Non-Conventional Energy Sources in the country;

(d) whether the Government have formulated any plan to explore non-conventional energy sources; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN) : (a) and (b) Power generated from non-conventional energy sources such as solar, wind, biomass and small hydro, is about 1.75% of the total installed capacity in the country. The capacity addition under various non-conventional energy programmes during each of the last three years, State-wise, is given in the Statement-I.

(c) The total estimated potential in the country of various non-conventional energy sources is given in the Statement-II.

detailed plan for exploitation of non-conventional energy sources in the country during the Ninth Five Year Plan. The details of physical and financial targets allocated under various programmes are given in the Statement-III.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. The Ministry has prepared a

Statement-I

State-wise and Year-wise power capacity added under various non-conventional energy programmes during the last three years

Sl. No.	State/UT	Wind Power Programme (MW)			Solar Photovoltaic Power (KW)			Small Hydro Power (MW)		
		1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1.50	6.00	26.25	—	—	—	—	14.01	12.10
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
3.	Assam	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0.20	—
4.	Bihar	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0.04	0.01
5.	Goa	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
6.	Gujarat	20.10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
7.	Haryana	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
8.	Himachal Pradesh	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0.13	2.00
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4.00	—
10.	Karnataka	11.17	2.63	14.59	30.00	—	—	7.10	2.75	5.40
11.	Kerala	—	—	—	—	—	25.00	—	2.00	—
12.	Madhya Pradesh	2.70	6.16	4.14	—	100.00	—	—	2.41	—
13.	Maharashtra	0.23	23.34	50.35	—	—	—	2.50	0.21	—
14.	Manipur	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15.	Meghalaya	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0.10	—
16.	Mizoram	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0.01	6.39
17.	Nagaland	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0.70
18.	Orissa	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0.06	—
19.	Punjab	—	—	—	—	—	100.00	—	2.00	4.50
20.	Rajasthan	—	—	2.00	—	—	—	—	—	0.53
21.	Sikkim	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0.15	—
22.	Tamil Nadu	31.14	17.77	45.68	150.00	—	—	—	—	—
23.	Tripura	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
24.	Uttar Pradesh	—	—	—	—	25.00	—	1.50	0.10	—
25.	West Bengal	—	—	—	25.00	—	—	—	—	—
26.	Andaman & Nicobar	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
27.	Chandigarh	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
28.	Dadar & Nagar Haveli	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
29.	Daman & Diu	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
30.	Delhi	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
31.	Lakshwadeep	—	—	—	—	—	100.00	—	—	—
32.	Pondicherry	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
33.	Others	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total		66.83	55.89	143.00	205.00	125.00	225.00	11.10	28.57	33.58

MW = Mega Watt; KW=kilo watt.

State-wise and Year-wise power capacity added under various non-conventional energy programmes during the last three years.

Sl. No.	State/UT.	Biomass Power (MW)			Biomass Gasifier (KW)			Energy from Wastes (MW)		
		1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000
1.	Andhra Pradesh	—	10.00	1.00	1000.00	2300.00	3630.00	0.25	—	4.70
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
3.	Assam	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
4.	Bihar	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5.	Goa	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
6.	Gujarat	—	0.50	—	—	5.00	—	—	2.00	—
7.	Haryana	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
8.	Himachal Pradesh	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10.	Karnataka	—	10.00	26.00	860.00	500.00	10.00	—	—	1.00
11.	Kerala	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
12.	Madhya Pradesh	—	5.00	—	—	100.00	—	—	—	2.70
13.	Maharashtra	—	—	—	—	100.00	200.00	—	—	—
14.	Manipur	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15.	Meghalaya	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
16.	Mizoram	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
17.	Nagaland	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
18.	Orissa	—	—	—	10.00	—	—	—	—	—
19.	Punjab	—	—	—	—	—	—	0.75	—	—
20.	Rajasthan	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
21.	Sikkim	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
22.	Tamil Nadu	33.50	10.00	—	130.00	70.00	120.00	—	—	0.06
23.	Tripura	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
24.	Uttar Pradesh	8.00	8.00	24.00	—	—	—	1.00	—	—
25.	West Bengal	—	—	—	500.00	—	30.00	—	—	—
26.	Andaman & Nicobar	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
27.	Chandigarh	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
28.	Dadar & Nagar Haveli	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
29.	Daman & Diu	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
30.	Delhi	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
31.	Lakshwadeep	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
32.	Pondicherry	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
33.	Others	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total		41.50	43.50	51.00	2490.00	3085.00	3990.00	2.00	2.00	8.46

MW-Mega Watt; KW=Kilo Watt.

Statement-II

Details of estimated potential of various Non-conventional energy sources in the country

Source/System	Estimated Potential
1. Biogas plants (No.)	120 lakh
2. Improved Chulha (No.)	12 crores
3. Biomass	
(a) Biomass Power	16,000 MW
(b) Bagasse based Cogeneration	3,500 MW
4. Solar Photovoltaic Power	20 MW/sq. km.
5. Solar Thermal Power	35 MW/sq. km.
Solar Water Heating Systems	30 million square meter collector area
6. Wind Power	20,000 MW
7. Small Hydro Power	10,000 MW
8. Energy Recovery from wastes	1700 MW

MW = Mega-watt, Sq. km. = Square Kilometer.

Statement-III

Programme-wise allocations and physical targets during 9th Plan period

Sl. No.	Financial (Rs. in crores)		Physical	
	Programmes/ Schemes	9th Plan Allocation (Rs. in crores)	Units	9th Plan Physical Target
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Biogas (NPBD)	286.00	No. in lakhs	10
2.	CBP/IBP/NBP	30.00	Nos.	800
3.	Improved chulha	84.00	No. in lakhs	150
4.	Biomass/Gasifier	25.00	MW	40
5.	IREP	53.00	Block Nos. 660 (old) 200 (new)	
6.	Urjagram	1.00		
7.	SADP	8.00	Nos. (Energy Parks)	200
8.	Animal energy Programme	2.14		

1	2	3	4	5
9.	SPV Demo	219.00		
	SPV Home Light		Nos.	2,00,000
	SPV Lanterns		Nos.	3,00,000
	SPV Power Plants		MW	1.6
10.	SPV Pumps	46.50	Nos.	4000
11.	SPV R&D	25.00		
12.	ST Energy	34.00		
	Solar Water Heating System		M2 collector area	1,50,000
	Solar Cooker		Nos.	1,50,000
13.	Solar Energy Centre	24.00		
14.	Wind Pumps & Hybrid Syst.	8.00	Nos.	1000
			KW	250
15.	Wind Power	63.00	MW	1000
16.	Small Hydro (SHP)	187.00		
	(Water Mills) (R&M)		Nos.	700
			MW	65
17.	Biomass Power	226.00	MW	314
18.	ST Power / SPV Power	63.00		
	ST Power		MW	140
	SPV Power		MW	1.5
19.	U&I & NBB	62.00	MW	42
20.	New Technology			
	a. Chemical sources	7.00		
	b. Hydrogen Energy	4.50		
	c. Alternate Fuels	7.50		
	d. Ocean Energy	3.00		
	e. Geo-Thermal	3.00		
21.	I & P	15.00		
22.	International Cooperation	9.00		
23.	Project Preparation Assistance	2.00		
24.	TIFAC	6.00		
25.	Seminars	2.50		
26.	Regional Office	4.00		
27.	NIRE	20.00		
28.	State Nodal Agencies	15.00		
29.	Rural Energy Entrepreneurship/ Institutional Development	5.00		
30.	Market development & Export Promotion	5.00		
31.	Women and Renewable Energy Development	1.00		
32.	HRD & Training	6.00		
33.	IREDA			
	a. Equity	250.00		
	b. Technology Commercial Funds	10.00		
	Total (DBS)	1822.14		
34.	Counterpart funding to IREDA (EAP)	300.00		
	Total (GBS)	2122.14		
35.	IEBR	1678.00		
	Total outlay	3800.14		

* Rs. 65.50 crores in NPBD and Rs. 23.00 crores in NPIC programmes would be needed in addition to the above allocation to meet the physical targets. This would be met through saving during the remaining period of the Ninth Plan.

Maintenance of newly declared National Highways

1314. SHRI BHERULAL MEENA : Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are contemplating to take the responsibility of upkeep and maintenance of works of the newly declared National Highways under the World Bank sponsored State Highway Projects; and

(b) if so, the details of work likely to be started thereon alongwith the names of the States which have been taken up on priority basis for the said highways?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) SHRI B.C. KHANDURI) : (a) and (b) The Central Government becomes responsible for the maintenance of newly declared National Highways after these are handed over by the States to the Central Government. This shall also be applicable to state highways being developed under World Bank sponsored project and declared as new National Highways.

[English]

Corporatisation of Telecom Services

1315. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE :
SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY :
SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA :
DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV :
SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA :
SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE :
SHRI BHIM DAHAL :
SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY :
SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT :
SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE :
SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA :
SHRI B.K. PARTHASARATHI :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) has since been corporatised as Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) and started functioning with effect from October 1, 2000;

(b) if so, the details alongwith objectives and purpose;

(c) whether the employees have been agitating against it.

(d) if so, the reaction of the government thereto;

(e) the extent to which it has helped in better customer service and its likely impact on the benefits of employees;

(f) whether the Government have further liberalised Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) rules allowing 100% investment through automatic route by foreign investors. NRI's and overseas corporate bodies;

(g) if so, the details thereof and the response of foreign and private investors thereto;

(h) whether the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has agreed to reduce the rates of STD/ISD calls; and

(i) if so, the details thereof and the estimated loss of revenue thereby?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The erstwhile Department of Telecom Services and Department of Telecom Operations have been corporatised as Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) which has started functioning with effect from 1.10.2000.

The two departments have been corporatized to cope with the increasingly competitive environment in the Telecom Sector. The main advantages of the corporate structure are an increase in commercial orientation, increase in autonomy and flexibility in decision making, increase in financial flexibility, appropriate customer orientation and the skill building of the work force etc

(c) and (d) Some of the Federations/Associations/Unions of the employees launched agitation against corporatization. The matter was discussed with them and an agreement was signed with some of the staff federations paving the way for corporatisation

(e) The corporation has already taken some customer friendly decisions like reduction of registration charges, making the application form for new connection free of cost and speedy restoration of telephones disconnected on account of non-payment etc. The employees opting for absorption in Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) will be extended the benefits of pay and perquisites of Public Sector Undertakings as finalized by BSNL. Immediately on absorption the non-executive employees will get Rs. 1000/- per month.

(f) and (g) Yes, Sir. The Government has allowed 100% Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) through automatic route for the manufacture of Telecom Equipment and certain other areas in the Telecom Sector. Leading manufacturers such as Siemens, Lucent, Alcatel, Motorola, Fujitsu and Ericsson etc. have already set up

their manufacturing units in the country. With the liberalized policy of the Govt. more investment is expected in this area

(h) Yes, Sir.

(i) The TRAI as part of tariff re-balancing has already implemented the second phase and reduce the peak time STD and ISD rates w.e.f. 1.10.2000. The reduction applicable for the period 1.10.2000 to 31.03.2002 ranges from 7% to 25% in terms of long distance tariff. The estimated reduction in revenue due to new rates is expected to the tune of Rs. 754 Crores from 1.10.2000 to 31.03.2001.

[Translation]

Land on Lease to Mine Mafias in Bihar

1316. SHRI RAGHURAJ SINGH SHAKYA : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of mine mafias allotted more than 100 acres of land on mine lease in Kodarma Reserve Forests of Bihar during the last three years;

(b) the number of persons allotted stone mining lease in Nawada and Kodarma districts of Kodarma Reserve Forests alongwith the details of areas;

(c) whether there is a loss of crores of rupees to environment and forests because of leasing out of these areas for mining;

(d) if so, whether an enquiry committee is likely to be constituted to review the devastation of environment and forests in the said areas; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) No proposal has been approved under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 involving more than 100 acres of forest land for mining leases in Kodarma Reserve Forests of Bihar during last three years.

(b) The details of proposals which have been approved under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for stone mining in district Nawadah and Kodarma are as under :

S. No.	District	Name of Persons	Forest Area Diverted (hectares)	Name of Area
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Nawadah	Smt. Prem Jain	4.33	Ratanpur R.F.
2.		Shri Ajay Jhanjri	4.98	-do-

1	2	3	4	5
3.		Shri Vivek Jhanjri	2.31	-do-
4.	Kodarma	Shri H.B. Pandey	1.21	Langraparas Domchanch P.F.
5.		Shri P.K. Sukhani	2.30	-do-
6.		Shri U.S. Prasad	2.38	-do-
7.		Smt. Neeta Rampal	3.16	-do-
8.		Shri S. Rampal and Shri H. Rampal	1.21	-do-

(c) Since out of 8 approved cases, five (pertaining to Kodarma district) are for renewal of mining leases, no significant loss of environment is assessed. However, in order to mitigate any likely damage to environment due to grant of mining lease on forest lands, suitable conditions including raising of compensatory afforestation over equivalent non-forest land/degraded forest land at the cost of user agency have been stipulated in the approval order by the Central Government.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

Water logging in Kosi Irrigation Command Area

1317. SHRI DINESH CHANDRA YADAV : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that 1.4 lakh hectare land is affected by water logging in Kosi Irrigation Command Area resulting the loss of 20 lakh quintal of food-grains every year; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK) : (a) and (b) According to recent information received from Government of Bihar on 17.11.2000, about 82,000 ha. of area of Kosi Irrigation Command is affected by the problem of water logging. To tackle the problem of water logging in the Irrigation Commands covered under the Command Area Development Programme, a new component of "Reclamation of water logged areas in Irrigation Command" has been included in the programme since 1.4.1996. Under this component, Central Assistance of Rs. 6,000/- per ha. or half of the cost of reclamation, whichever is less, is provided to the State Government.

During 1997-98, a project proposal for reclamation of water logged areas in Kosi Irrigation Command was received by the Ministry of Water Resources. After examination of the proposal certain suggestions were

given and a few clarifications/additional information were asked for from the State Government and requested to resubmit the proposal.

Assistance to States for Rural Electrification

1318. SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE :
KUMARI BHAVANA PUNDLIKRAO GAWALI:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Rural Electrification Corporation has sanctioned funds for 79 projects in various States;

(b) if so, the details of projects funded by the Rural Electrification Corporation, State-wise;

(c) the details of achievement made so far in this regard; and

(d) the steps taken by the Rural Electrification Corporation for achieving the targets fixed for the total electrification in the rural areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) and (b) During the year 2000-2001, Rural Electrification Corporation (REC) has sanctioned financial assistance of Rs. 15128 lakhs for 528 projects to various State Electricity Boards (SEBs)/Power Utilities/State Power Departments. State-wise details are given in the statement enclosed.

(c) Disbursement of funds against the projects are made by REC on completion of execution of loan documents by the concerned SEBs/Power Utilities/State Power Departments. The concerned SEBs/Power Utilities/State Power Departments are yet to complete the execution of loan documents.

(d) The priorities and targets for Rural Electrification are determined by the State Governments/State Electricity Boards depending upon the availability of financial resources. Rural Electrification Corporation (REC) provides loan assistance to SEBs/Power Utilities for the schemes sponsored by them provided these are technically feasible and financially viable. The time frame for complete electrification of rural areas would largely depend upon the availability of financial resources for creating required infrastructure systems, the demand from consumers.

Statement

Statewise Details of Projects Sanctioned by REC
during 2000-2001

(Rs. In Lakhs)

S.No.	State	No.	Loan Amt.
1.	Andhra Pradesh	48	10533
2.	Delhi	2	817
3.	Goa	2	247
4.	Gujarat	45	17870
5.	Haryana	70	11384
6.	Jammu & Kashmir	21	7291
7.	Karnataka	144	35376
8.	Kerala	29	11894
9.	Maharashtra	132	38745
10.	Manipur	2	207
11.	Punjab	24	12887
12.	Tripura	5	950
13.	Uttar Pradesh	4	3325
Total		528	151528

[English]

Pollution in Metropolitan Cities

1319. SHRI SHIVAJI MANE :
SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI :

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

(a) whether the Government have constituted any Commission to study the pollution problems in the National Capital Territory of Delhi and other Metropolitan cities and also to make recommendations for suggesting measures to control vehicular pollution;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the steps taken by the Government to control the vehicular pollution in Delhi and other Metropolitan cities?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) The steps taken to control the vehicular pollution in Delhi and other metropolitan cities include notification of stringent Mass Emission Standards known as India 2000 norms akin to Euro-I norms for motor vehicles manufactured from 1.4.2000 in the entire country and more stringent Mass Emission Standards known as Bharat Stage-II akin to Euro-II norms for registration of four wheeled private (non-commercial) vehicles from 1.4.2000 in the National Capital Region, 1.1.2001 in Mumbai and from 1.7.2001 in Chennai and Calcutta, notification of specification of two-stroke engine oil effective from 1.4.1999 in the entire country, supply of improved fuel quality commensurate to upgradation of automobile technology, supply of only unleaded petrol, adoption of Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) and Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) as auto fuel.

Tariff of STD and ISD

1320. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH :
SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have a dual STD rates for rural and urban areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the tariff rate of domestic long distance calls (STD) and International Calls (ISD);

(d) the revenue earned from ISD calls during the last three years;

(e) whether sharp cut in the tariff of ISD will have effect on revenue earnings; and

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

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

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

(c) The tariff of domestic long distance calls (STD) and International call (ISD) are given in the statement enclosed.

(d) In the existing system of calls passing through several layers of an Integrated network, it is not possible to segregate ISD call revenues from the rest.

(e) and (f) The tariff reduction of ISD calls may in the short run affect revenue earnings. But it is also expected that there may be increase in traffic volumes which may offset, wholly or partly, the possible reduction in the revenue.

Statement

STD Tariff Rate (1.10.2000 to 31.3.2002)

1 Minute Charges Unit rate 1.2

Distance In KMs	Full Rate Pulse	Charges (Rs.)	Off-Peak-I		Off-Peak-II		Off-Peak-III	
			Pulse	Charges (Rs.)	Pulse	Charges (Rs.)	Pulse	Charges (Rs.)
0.50	180	1.20	180	1.20	180	1.20	180	1.20
50-200	15	6.00	28	3.60	36	2.40	60	1.20
200-500	6.2	12.00	10	8.40	14	6.00 (6.00)	24	3.60
500-1000	4.1	18.00	7	10.80	10	8.40	16	4.80
above 1000	3	25.20	5	15.60	7	10.80	12	7.20

ISD Tariff Rates (1.10.2000 to 31.3.2002)

1 Minute charges Unit rate (Rs.) 1.2 concessional period

Distance In KMs	Full Rate		Concessional	
	Pulse	Charges (Rs.)	Pulse	Charges (Rs.)
Slab I	2.8	26.4	3.3	22.8
Slab II	1.8	40.8	2.1	34.8
Slab III	1.5	49.2	1.7	43.2

Road Stretches

1321. SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ :
SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY :

Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether about 5700 km of road stretches have been brought under the category of National Highways in Karnataka;

(b) if so, the total kilometres of roads that are likely to be undertaken under the scheme in Karnataka; and

(c) the other details of the roads that is likely to be added to Karnataka's present National Highway network?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) SHRI B.C. KHANDURI) : (a) and (b) No, Sir The Central Government vide Notification dated 12.10.2000 has declared 5694 kms. of new National Highways in the country, out of which NH No. 218 with approximate length of 176 kms. is in the State of Karnataka.

(c) Expansion of National Highway network is considered from time to time keeping in view the traffic needs, *inter-se* priority of proposals and availability of funds. It is not possible to indicate details in advance.

Sea Erosion

1322. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether sea erosion in the coastal States is increasing especially in coastal districts of Karnataka;

(b) if so, the details of the erosional damage assessed by the Government in 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 so far;

(c) whether any measure is adopted to check sea erosion problems in those coastal States and particularly in the coastal districts of Karnataka; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) Coastal States, including the State of Karnataka have not reported any increase in beach erosion.

(b) Coastal erosion damages have not been assessed by the maritime States on a year to year basis. However, assessment made by the States of the coastline

affected by sea erosion is as under :

Andhra Pradesh	-	9	km
Goa	-	11	km
Gujarat	-	38	km
Karnataka	-	242	km
Kerala	-	480	km
Maharashtra	-	263	km
Orissa	-	108	km
Pondicherry	-	6	km
Tamil Nadu	-	32	km
West Bengal	-	49	km

(c) and (d) The planning, investigation and execution of schemes related to prevention of coastal erosion is the responsibility of the State Governments. These are funded by the State Governments from the Annual Plan funds provided to the States by the Planning Commission under flood control. In respect of Karnataka, a length of 30.4 km of the coast has been protected up to the end of the Eighth Plan with an expenditure of Rs. 30.66 crores.

A Centrally-assisted anti-sea erosion scheme has been put into operation under the Ninth Plan to assist the maritime States to undertake Projects in critical areas. The Central component of the scheme and the State component are in a ratio of 75 : 25. An amount of Rs. 20 crores has been earmarked for Central Assistance under this scheme, which includes Rs. 5.50 crores for the State of Karnataka.

Poaching of Musk Deer

1323. SHRI RAMACHANDRA PASWAN :
SHRI RAMJIVAN SINGH :

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

(a) whether illegal killings of the musk deer by poachers in the Himalayan region of Arunachal Pradesh is going on unabated which is on the verge of extinction;

(b) if so, whether the Government have made any assessment of the poaching of the musk deer;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the measures taken by the Government to check it?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) to (c) The Chief Wildlife Warden of Arunachal Pradesh has informed that no case of killing of musk deer has been reported. However, the possibility of a few poaching cases in far-flung areas can not be ruled out as no systematic assessment of poaching of musk deer has been made in the State.

(d) The funding pattern of central assistance under the scheme "Development of National Parks and Sanctuaries" has been upgraded to provide effective protection of musk deer and other endangered species found in high mountain regions of the state.

[Translation]

Telephone Service In Rural Areas

1324. PROF. DUKHA BHAGAT :
SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY :
SHRI RAJO SINGH :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether most of the telephone exchanges and telephones in the rural areas/villages are out of order for more than six months;

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

(c) whether the loss worth crores of rupees is being incurred as a result thereof;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken to make them operational;

(e) the details of the schemes prepared to check the telephones before installing and the reasons due to which these schemes could not be implemented so far; and

(f) whether several officers have been found guilty in this connection and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) to (f) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

Clearing of Rivers under National River Action Plan

1325. SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK :
Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) the names of rivers where cleaning work has so far been undertaken under the National River Action Plan;

(b) the estimated cost for implementing the Action Plan for each river with the target dates fixed for completion;

(c) the expenditure incurred during the last three years, river-wise; and

(d) the allocation made for 2000-2001, river-wise?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) and (b) The names of rivers undertaken under the National River Action Plan, the estimated cost and the target dates fixed for completion are given in the Statement-I.

(c) The expenditure incurred during the last three years, river-wise is given in the statement-II.

(d) The allocation made for 2000-2001, river-wise is given in the statement-III.

Statement-I

(Rs. in lakhs)

River No.	Rivers	State No.	State	Approved Cost
(A)	National River Conservation Plan			2005 (Target completion date)
I	Adyar	1	Tamil Nadu	49152.00
II	Cooum		Tamil Nadu	
III	Betwa	2	Madhya Pradesh	863.88
IV	Bhadra	3	Karnataka	459.49
V	Brahamini	4	Orissa	994.30
VI	Cauvery		Karnataka	4137.96
			Tamil Nadu	
VII	Chambal	5	Rajasthan	1693.10
			Madhya Pradesh	
VIII	Godavari	6	Andhra Pradesh	13442.31
		7	Maharashtra	
IX	Khan		Madhya Pradesh	4219.08
X	Krishna		Maharashtra	2814.37
XI	Kshipra		Madhya Pradesh	2492.13
XII	Mahanadi		Orissa	1404.00
XIII	Narmada		Madhya Pradesh	1380.77
XIV	Sabarmati	8	Gujarat	9383.39

River No.	Rivers	State No.	State	Approved Cost
XV	Satluj	9	Punjab	21961.36
XVI	Subarnarekha	10	Jharkhand	3064.09
XVII	Tapti		Madhya Pradesh	525.79
XVIII	Tunga		Karnataka	708.93
XIX	Tungabhadra		Karnataka	894.07
XX	Wainganga		Madhya Pradesh	265.51
Sub Total :				119856.53
(B)	Ganga Action Plan Phase-II			2005 (Target completion date)
XXI	Damodar		Jharkhand	2241.24
		11	West Bengal	
XXII	Ganga	12	Uttar Pradesh	58789.11
		13	Bihar	

River No.	Rivers	State No.	State	Approved Cost
		14	Uttaranchal	
			West Bengal	
XXIII	Gomati		Uttar Pradesh	5811.37
XXIV	Yamuna	15	Delhi	49645.35
		16	Haryana	
			Uttar Pradesh	
Sub Total :				116487.07
Total (A+B) :				236343.60
(C)	Ganga Action Plan Phase-I			(Declared closed on 31.03.2000)
1	Ganga		Bihar	41998.47
			Uttar Pradesh	
			West Bengal	
Total :				41998.47

Statement-II

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl. No.	State	River	Funds Released				Total
			1997-98	1998-99	1999-00	(2000-01) (Till 10/2000)	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1	Andhra Pradesh	Godavari	200.00	0.00	677.89	0.00	877.89
2	Bihar	Ganga	144.72	0.00	0.00	0.00	144.72
3	Delhi	Yamuna	82.59	200.00	125.00	0.00	407.59
4	Gujarat	Sabarmati	650.00	220.00	1713.62	0.00	2583.62
5	Haryana	Yamuna	2585.00	2650.00	1482.00	0.00	6717.00
6	Jharkhand	Damodar	0.00	0.00	0.00	100.00	100.00
		Subarnarekha					
7	Karnataka	Bhadra	0.00	90.00	435.65	0.00	525.65
		Cauvery					
		Tunga					
		Tungbhadra					
8	Madhya Pradesh	Betwa	124.00	500.00	1150.00	54.43	1828.43
		Chambal					
		Khan					
		Kshipra					
		Narmada					
		Tapti					
		Wainganga					

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	Maharashtra	Godavari Krishna	100.00	0.00	233.00	600.00	933.00
10	Orissa	Brahamini Mhanadi	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
11	Punjab	Satluj	0.00	500.00	1295.00	126.80	1921.80
12	Rajasthan	Chambal	0.00	0.00	50.00	0.00	50.00
13	Tamil Nadu	Cauvery Adyar Cooum	0.00	90.00	649.57	250.00	989.57
14	Uttar Pradesh	Ganga Gomati Yamuna	5413.50	5350.00	6846.51	100.00	17710.01
15	Uttaranchal	Ganga					
16	West Bengal	Ganga Damodar	0.00	400.00	400.00	0.00	800.00
Total :			9299.81	10000.00	15058.24	1231.23	35589.28
Ganga Action Plan Phase-I			(Declared closed on 31.03.2000)				
1	Uttar Pradesh	Ganga	274.00	250.00	0.00	0.00	524.00
2	Bihar	Ganga	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
3	West Bengal	Ganga	55.60	0.00	0.00	0.00	55.60
Total			329.60	250.00	0.00	0.00	579.60

Statement-III

(Rs. in lakhs)

1	2	3	4
		Tapti	
		Wainganga	
9	Maharashtra	Godavari	2000.00
		Krishna	
10	Orissa	Brahamini	300.00
		Mahanadi	
11	Punjab	Satluj	1350.00
12	Rajasthan	Chambal	200.00
13	Tamil Nadu	Cauvery	2500.00
		Adyar	
		Cooum	
14	Uttar Pradesh	Ganga	4200.00
		Gomati	
		Yamuna	
15	Uttaranchal	Ganga	(Covered under Uttar Pradesh)
16	West Bengal	Ganga	2500.00
		Damodar	
Total			19150.00

Sl. No.	State	River	Budget Allocation (2000-01)
1	2	3	4
1	Andhra Pradesh	Godavari	1000.00
2	Bihar	Ganga	900.00
3	Delhi	Yamuna	100.00
4	Gujarat	Sabarmati	1000.00
5	Haryana	Yamuna	900.00
6	Jharkhand	Damodar (Covered under Bihar)	
		Subamarekha	
7	Karnataka	Bhadra	500.00
		Cauvery	
		Tunga	
		Tungbhadra	
8	Madhya Pradesh	Betwa	1700.00
		Chambal	
		Khan	
		Kshipra	
		Narmada	

Noise and Air Pollution

1326. SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI :
SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE :
SHRI SHIVAJI MANE :

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

(a) whether the Delhi High Court has issued directions recently for keeping noise and air pollution caused by the fire crackers within a limit including restricting bursting of crackers;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the number of persons and fire crackers industries found violating the directions of the Delhi High Court alongwith action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The directions issued by the Honourable Court include the following :

- Notification dated 5.10.2000 issued by the Ministry of Environment & Forests be strictly complied with.
- Fire crackers, rockets, atom bombs etc. generating noise levels exceeding 125 dB(A) or 145 dB(c) peak at 4 metres distance shall not be manufactured or sold.
- From 1st November, 2000, the manufacturers shall specify and record the noise level on the crackers itself.
- Use of fire crackers will be strictly between 6.00 PM to 11.00 PM.
- Fire crackers shall not be used in areas designated as silence zones including hospitals and nursing homes.
- People should be educated and made aware of the ill effects of air and noise pollution caused by the indiscriminate use of fireworks for this purpose.

(c) The directions of the Honourable Court were brought to the notice of the concerned departments and no violations in this regard have been reported.

Threat to Ecology by Exploitation of Minerals

1327. SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether exploitation of minerals like iron-ore, coal and other has posed a grave threat to ecology by way of endangering wildlife and forest reserves;

(b) if so, whether the Government have made any study regarding the impact of mining, industrial and other developmental activities on wildlife and forests;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps being taken to preserve ecology?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) Exploitation of minerals is always associated with some disturbance to terrestrial configuration including its surroundings. The magnitude of such disturbance depends on the size of operation, location of deposit and its extent. Some environmental impacts are unavoidable during mines development and operation phases. However, impacts are minimised by adoption of appropriate management plan and conservation measures which is always ensured while granting permission for use of forest land for mining purposes.

(b) to (d) As per the provision of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, no State Government/authority can divert forest land for non-forestry purposes without prior approval of Central Government. The proposal received from the State Government under Forests (Conservation) Act, 1980 is examined in accordance with the rules and guidelines made under the Act for detailed assessment of the likely adverse impact of mining on the environment. The proposal is approved only after ascertaining that the project is site specific and requirement of forest land is bare minimum. Further, in the case of major minerals where diversion of forest land is more than 5 hectares, detailed environment impact assessment is carried out and environment management plan is prepared for environment clearance under Environment Impact Assessment Notification, 1994. While according approval to a proposal for use of forest land for mining purposes, suitable safeguards (based on the assessment report/ inspection report) such as raising of compensatory afforestation on equivalent non-forest land or double the degraded forest land, as the case may be; phased reclamation of mined out areas, etc. are stipulated to mitigate any likely adverse effects of such activities to the flora and fauna in that area.

Studies are carried out by the Experts/Institutions having specialisation in the field whenever a need is felt that non-forest activity may significantly affect the adjoining flora and fauna of the project site. The stipulated conditions recommended in the approval order are monitored by both State Government and Regional Offices of this Ministry. Wherever necessary, mid-term corrections are made in the environmental safeguards to ensure harmonious balance between exploitation of minerals and local ecosystem. Several steps have been taken to preserve ecology, some of the important ones are as follows :

- (i) For diversion of any forest land for non-forestry purposes like mining etc. prior approval of Central Government is required to be obtained.
- (ii) State Governments have been advised not to recommend proposal for diversion of forest land for protected areas like wildlife sanctuary and national parks which are not in consonance of the proviso of Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.
- (iii) A detailed guideline has been issued to all States for submission of proposals for diversion of forest land for non-forestry purposes.
- (iv) Whenever forest land is diverted for site specific non-forestry activities, compensatory afforestation is raised at the cost of user agency to ensure that overall forest cover is maintained.
- (v) Afforestation programmes are taken up on forest lands.

[Translation]

Suicides by Farmers

1328. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE :
 SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY :
 COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY :
 SHRI K.E. KRISHNAMURTHY :
 SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY :
 SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK :
 SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL :
 SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA :
 SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE :
 DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV :
 SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV :
 SHRI MAHBOOB ZAHEDI :
 KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH :
 SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether incidents of suicides by Cotton, Paddy, Sugarcane, Tobacco and Groundnut farmers and their family members in various States have been reported during the last six months;

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

(c) whether such mishaps were also noticed by the Government during the last three years;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the causes and circumstances which led to take the extreme steps and whether Government propose to enquire into the matter;

(f) whether arrears of payment for supply of Agricultural Commodities are piling up and if so, the latest accumulation of such arrears;

(g) whether the Union Government have provided any help/relief package to farmers in various States and propose to send Central Teams to assess condition of farmers in various States;

(h) if so, the details thereof;

(i) whether any assistance is likely to be extended to farmers in those States which are affected by natural calamities; and

(j) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK) : (a) and (b) The Government of Andhra Pradesh has reported 22 cases of suicides during 2000-2001 due to crop failure while the Governments of Gujarat; Madhya Pradesh, Punjab and Rajasthan have reported that there are no cases of such suicides. No report on suicides has been received from the other States.

(c) to (e) The Government of Andhra Pradesh reported 358 cases during 1997 & 1998 and 5 cases during 1999-2000, the Government of Karnataka reported 60 cases during 1998, the Government of Maharashtra reported 32 cases during 1998 and the Government of Punjab reported 418 cases during 1997 and 3 cases during 1998.

While the suicides in Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Maharashtra were mainly due to crop failure and indebtedness, in Punjab the reasons include family discord, alcohol & illicit drug use, indebtedness, loss of status and crop failure.

(f) No such details are maintained.

(g) to (j) It is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments concerned to undertake immediate relief measures in the wake of natural calamities. The Central

Government supplements the efforts of the State Governments in accordance with the recommendations of the Finance Commissions appointed from time to time. Central Teams are deputed, wherever necessary, for assessment of the situation in the wake of natural

calamities. Central share of Calamity Relief Fund(CRF) for 2000-01 has been released to States for undertaking immediate relief measures in the wake of natural calamities. Details of State-wise releases are given in the statement enclosed.

Statement

Release of Instalments of Central Share of Calamity Relief Fund for 2000-01

(Rs. in lakhs)

S. No.	Name of State	(Rs. in Crore)		Instalments released				
		Allocation	Central Share	First	Second	Third	Fourth	Total
1.	Andhra Pradesh	198.06	148.54	3889.10	3889.10	7075.80		14854.00
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	12.02	9.02	219.91	219.91			439.82
3.	Assam	101.49	76.12	1566.47				1566.47
4.	Bihar	123.66	92.74					
5.	Goa	1.24	0.93	33.58	12.92			46.50
6.	Gujarat	161.40	121.05	4371.17	4371.17	4371.17		13113.51
7.	Haryana	81.30	60.98	784.32	784.32			1568.64
8.	Himachal Pradesh	43.49	32.61	843.90				843.90
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	34.90	26.18	617.49	691.51			1309.00
10.	Karnataka	74.57	55.93	1310.81	1485.69			2796.50
11.	Kerala	67.24	50.43	1734.39				1734.39
12.	Madhya Pradesh	90.10	67.58	1598.97	1598.97			3197.94
13.	Maharashtra	157.20	117.90					
14.	Manipur	2.87	2.15	78.00	78.00			156.00
15.	Meghalaya	3.94	2.95	87.75	87.75			175.50
16.	Mizoram	2.97	2.23	40.08	40.08	31.34		111.50
17.	Nagaland	1.96	1.47	53.08				53.08
18.	Orissa	109.47	82.10	1535.06	1535.06	1034.88		4105.00
19.	Punjab	122.72	92.04	1695.39				1695.39
20.	Rajasthan	207.00	155.25	5606.15	5606.15	5606.15		16818.45
21.	Sikkim	6.91	5.18	147.33	147.33			294.66
22.	Tamil Nadu	102.64	76.98	1858.97	1990.03			3849.00
23.	Tripura	5.20	3.90	140.83				140.83
24.	Uttar Pradesh	178.64	133.98	3918.35				3918.35
25.	West Bengal	101.10	75.83	1606.56	1606.56	578.38	3791.50	7583.00
Total		1992.09	1494.07	33737.66	24144.55	18697.72	3791.50	80371.43

[English]

Pending Road Projects pertaining to North-Eastern States

1329. SHRI BHIM DAHAL : Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of road projects pertaining to North-Eastern States including Sikkim pending with the Union Government for clearance; and

(b) the steps taken by the Union Government for early clearance of these projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) SHRI B.C. KHANDURI) : (a) The following five road project pertaining to North-Eastern States including Sikkim are pending with the Ministry of Road Transport & Highways for clearance :

Sl. No.	Name of State	Name of the project	Estimated amount (Rs. crore)
1	Assam	Construction of major bridge No. 350/2 across river Pote on NH 52	4.80
2	Meghalaya	Improvement of riding quality from km 0 to 10.275 of NH 40	3.98
3	Nagaland	Improvement of riding quality from km 100 to 105 of NH 61	2.50
4	-do-	Widening and improvement from km 105 to 110 of NH 61	2.51
5	-do-	Widening and improvement from km 156 to 160 of NH 61	2.24

(b) The projects are under scrutiny for early clearance.

Review on Budgetary System

1330. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to undertake a thorough review of DoT budgetary systems to avoid excess expenditure and violation of budgetary ceilings;

(b) whether DoT has not taken any action and excess expenditure still continue to take place;

(c) if so, the details of excess expenditure made during 1998-99; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to ensure that no excess expenditure is incurred henceforth?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) to (d) The 'excess' of Rs. 300.85 crores in the Revenue section of the Grant during 1998-99 constitutes only 1.62% of the total grant and is mainly due to more appropriation of surplus to Reserve Funds. It reflects that the Department has earned more revenue to that extent than anticipated during the year due to which the "appropriation to Funds" turned out to be higher than estimated. It is in this sense only a 'technical' excess, and not excess of expenditure over authorization approved by the Parliament. Steps have been taken to further strengthen the system of estimation of earnings and control of expenditure.

[Translation]

Poor quality of services of Post, Telegraph and Telecom Sector in Maharashtra

1331. SHRI UTTAM RAO PATIL : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state

(a) whether the Government are aware of the poor quality of essential services being provided by Post, Telegraph and Telecom sector in Maharashtra;

(b) if so, whether there is a need to improve the quality of these services; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) :

Postal Services :

(a) The quality of essential services in Maharashtra is generally satisfactory. The delivery efficiency (mails delivered as per norms prescribed by the Department) in Maharashtra Circle as per the All India Live Mail Survey conducted in September, 2000 is 91.36% in urban areas and 85.13% in rural areas which is quite satisfactory. However, there are occasional instances of delay to mails due to various reasons which are beyond the control of the Department like cancellation/late running of mail carrying planes, trains and buses, natural calamities like floods, landslides, cyclones, civil disturbances like bandhs, and sudden and unexpected spurt in the mail volume, etc.

(b) and (c) Improvement in the quality of postal services is a continuous process and steps taken in this regard, include the following :

Mail & Delivery Services :

- (i) Installation of Automatic Mail Processing Centre at Mumbai with a capacity to sort 30,000 articles per hour for 200 destinations at a time.

- (ii) Computerisation of Registration Sorting work at Dadar Sorting office Mumbai and Pune RMS.
- (iii) Computerisation of Airport Transit Mail Office at Mumbai.
- (iv) Transmission of Money Orders through very Small Aperture Terminals (VSATs). 6 VSAT stations with 79 Extended Satellite Money Order stations are functioning in Maharashtra Circle.
- (v) Progressive mechanisation of delivery by providing mopeds to postmen for delivery work in suitable areas. 64 Mopeds have been supplied to postmen in Maharashtra Circle.
- (vi) Rationalisation/restructuring of delivery, with a view to deploying adequate manpower in the expanding urban conglomeration.
- (vii) Monthly Live Mail Survey both in rural and urban areas to identify weak links and streamline and improve mail transmission and delivery system.
- (viii) Regular co-ordination meetings with Airlines, Railways and State Road Transport authorities to sort out problems relating to transmission of mails.
- (ix) Educating the customers for installation of Mail Boxes on the ground floor of multistoreyed buildings.
- (x) Regular monitoring of mail routeing, and delivery by posting Test Letters and Trial Cards.

Computerisation of Counter Services :

- (i) 320 Multi-Purpose Counter Machines (MPCMs) have been installed in various post offices in Maharashtra Circle to reduce the waiting time and to provide multiple services at a single counter.
- (ii) Saving Bank operations at 22 Post Offices have been computerised.

Telegraph Services :

- (a) The quality of essential service provided by Telegraph Sector in Maharashtra is not poor. The quality of Telegraph Service measured as Percentage of Telegrams delivered within 12 daylight hours, is quite satisfactory in Maharashtra which is 96.8% during the current year against All India target of 95.5%.

(b) and (c) The improvement in the quality of service is a continuous process. Efforts are made at all levels to improve the quality of service.

Telecom. Sector :

- (a) The Telecom Services in Maharashtra are working satisfactorily.
- (b) and (c) The improvement of telecom service is a continuous process. Following measures have been taken to improve the telecommunication services in a phased manner :
 1. Opening of more and more remote line units in order to reduce the cable network up to subscribers premises which is the main contributor in the fault rate.
 2. Computerisation of Fault Repair Service in more exchanges for better monitoring of faults.
 3. Provision of pagers to line staff for fast communication of fault in some cities to begin with.
 4. Use of Interactive Voice Response System for prompt booking and attention to faults in more exchanges.
 5. Use of 5 pair cable in place of drop wire to the extent feasible.
 6. Connecting increasing number of exchanges on reliable media.

Fake Cable Companies

1332. SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR CHOUDHARY : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether many fake cable companies are doing business in the country due to which the quality of communication services has been affected;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if so, the action taken against such companies?

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

(b) and (c) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

Rural Telephone Exchanges

1333. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the number of rural telephone exchanges are less than the requirement in Ranchi region of Bihar;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of telephone connections provided in rural areas of the said region as on date;

(d) the number of applicants in the waiting list in the region as on date; and

(e) the time by which the waiting list is likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. At present 55 exchanges are working in rural areas. Recently, demand has been registered at 3 places. This demand is also planned to be met by opening exchanges during the current financial year.

(c) The number of telephone connections working in the rural areas in Ranchi region is 4533 as on date.

(d) and (e) Waiting list of Ranchi SSA (Secondary Switching Area) as on date is 2,305. This waiting list is likely to be cleared gradually March, 2001.

[English]

Ornamental Fish Training Programme in A.P.

1334. SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have any plan to organise training programmes to encourage women and unemployed youth to start ornamental fish cultivation in Andhra Pradesh which have good potential in export market; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN) : (a) and (b) The Government of India has been implementing a Central Sector Scheme on "Fisheries Training and Extension" wherein 80% central share is provided to the State Governments/Union Territories for organizing training programmes for the fish farmers/fishermen including women and unemployed youth in topics such as freshwater aquaculture, coastal aquaculture, mariculture

and other subjects of topical importance. The Central assistance under the scheme can also be availed by the State Governments/Union Territories for imparting training in ornamental fish cultivation, etc. However, no proposal in this regard has been received so far, from the Government of Andhra Pradesh.

[Translation]

Post Offices in Rural Areas

1335. DR. SANJAY PASWAN : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have formulated any plan for the speedy implementation of target set for opening up of Post Offices in rural areas of the country;

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

(c) whether the Government propose to privatise the work of opening of Post Offices in rural areas partly in order to achieve the target;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the number of villages identified for the purpose and the criteria fixed in this regard?

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

(b) It is proposed to open 500 Extra Departmental Branch Post Offices in rural areas in current year. The details of target for opening of post offices in rural areas are given in the Statement enclosed. The opening of new post offices is dependent upon fulfilment of departmental norms and sanctioning of posts by Ministry of Finance.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) No, reply called for in view of (e) above

Statement

Targets for Opening of Post Offices in Rural Area for the Year 2000-2001

Sl. No.	Name of Circle	Extra Departmental Branch Offices (EDBOs)
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	15
2.	Assam	30

1	2	3
3.	Bihar	75
4.	Delhi	4
5.	Gujarat	20
6.	Haryana	15
7.	Himachal Pradesh	7
8.	Jammu & Kashmir	5
9.	Karnataka	21
10.	Kerala	4
11.	Madhya Pradesh	40
12.	Maharashtra	60
13.	North East	40
14.	Orissa	10
15.	Punjab	14
16.	Rajasthan	20
17.	Tamil Nadu	15
18.	Uttar Pradesh	50
19.	West Bengal	55
Total		500

[English]

Mega power project at Hirma in Orissa

1336. SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the country's first mega power project is being executed at Hirma in Orissa;

(b) if so, the public as well as private sector companies who are developing this power project;

(c) the plant load factor of the project;

(d) the requirement of coal for the project;

(e) whether any agreement has been made with the Mahanadi Coalfields Limited for coal supply to that mega power project; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) and (b) M/s. Southern Energy Asia Pacific Limited (SEAP), Hong Kong (earlier known as Consolidated Electric Power Asia Ltd.), a wholly owned subsidiary of Southern Energy Inc., USA, is proposing to set up the 6×660 MW Hirma Thermal Power Project in Jharsuguda District, Orissa under the revised mega power policy of the Government of India announced in November, 1998 through a Joint Development Agreement entered into on 22.1.1999 between them and Reliance Power Ltd. (RPL) to jointly develop, construct, own, operate and maintain the project. The Power Trading Corporation of India Ltd. has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding on 6.12.1999 with M/s SEAP for development of the project for purchase of the entire power generated from the project and for sale of the same to various State Electricity Boards.

(c) The fixed charges of the project are based on guaranteed availability of 85%. The plant load factor of the power station will depend on actual off take of power by the beneficiary States.

(d) to (f) The Standing Linkage Committee of the Ministry of Mines & Minerals (Department of Coal) has granted a linkage of 19 million tones per annum to the project from the Ib Valley Coalfields of Mahanadi Coalfields Ltd. The promoters of the project have not yet concluded the Fuel Supply Agreement with the coal company.

[Translation]

Assets of BCCI

1337. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA : Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any fixed deposits worth crores of rupees have been recovered from any office bearers of Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) during the C.B.I. raid;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of existing movable/immovable property of BCCI;

(d) whether a return in this regard is submitted by the Board to the Government every year;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor;

(f) whether the Government propose to takeover the Board in view of prevailing irregularities there; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI PON RADHAKRISHNAN) : (a) and (b) As per information provided by Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT), fixed deposits amounting to Rs. 1,04,82,74,774, term deposits amounting to US \$ 15,75,000 and Pounds 1,23,000 were found and inventorised during the course of survey under Section 133A of the Income Tax Act, 1961, on 20.7.2000 in the office of Shri Kishore Rungta, Hony. Treasurer, BCCI at Jaipur.

(c) The details of assets as reflected in the Balance Sheet as at 31.3.2000 filed along with the Income Tax return of A.Y. 2000-01 are given in the Statement enclosed.

(d) Yes, Sir. The Board has been filing returns of income regularly.

(e) Does not arise.

(f) and (g) There is no such move. The Government is studying the CBI report and consulting concerned Ministries. BCCI has also been asked to offer its comments on various aspects of the report including the observations made on its functioning. The future course of action will be decided after getting the comments from all concerned.

Statement

Copy of the Balance Sheet of the Board of Control for Cricket in India as at 31st March, 2000

Assets	As At 31.3.2000	
	Rupees	Rupees
Fixed Assets		
(a) As Per Schedule-C	1,153,428	
(b) Others		
Duleep Trophy Replica	5,000	
Vizzy Trophy Replica	5,125	1,163,554
Investments : (Schedule-D)		1,048,620,265
Current Assets, Loans and Advances :		
(a) Current Assets		
Amounts Receivable	219,236,853	
Interest accrued on	46,116,527	
Investments		
Cash and Bank Balances	31,873,312	
Tax Deducted at Source	53,385,419	

(b) Loans and Advances

 Imprest with Hon. Jt. Secretary

 Imprest with Hon. Secretary 400,000

 Sundry Advances 3,883,613

 Pilcom 46,359,107

 Sundry Deposits 200,070

Total 1,449,218,7220

[English]

Sub-Post Offices in Tamil Nadu

1338. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the criteria fixed for opening sub-post offices in the country;

(b) the number of sub-post offices in existence in Tamil Nadu; and

(c) the number of sub-post offices proposed to be opened during the year 2000-01 in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) The details of criteria for opening of sub-post offices in the country are given in the Statement enclosed.

(b) Total 2764 sub-post offices are in existence in Tamilnadu (including Pondicherry) as on 31.3.2000.

(c) A target of opening of two sub-post offices during the year 2000-01 has been fixed for the State.

Statement

Criteria for Upgrading/Opening Departmental Sub-Post Offices

(a) *In rural areas :*

The minimum workload of the Extra Departmental Branch Post Office, proposed to be upgraded, should be five hours per day. The permissible limit of annual loss is Rs. 2400/- (Rupees Two Thousand Four Hundred) in Normal Rural areas and Rs. 4800/- (Rupees Four Thousand Eight Hundred) in Tribal and Hilly Areas.

(b) *In urban areas :*

In urban areas, the post office should initially be self-supporting and, at the time of the first annual review, it should show a 5% profit to be eligible for further retention.

The minimum distance between two post offices should be 1.5 KMs. in cities with a population of 20 Lakhs and above, and 2 KMs. in other Urban Areas. No two delivery offices, however, should be closer than 5 KMs. for each other.

Heads of Postal Circles have powers to relax the distance condition in 10% of the cases.

A Delivery Post Offices in Urban Area should have a minimum of 7 Postmens beats.

Expansion of Roads/Bridges in Rajasthan

1339. COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY : Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received some proposals from the Government of Rajasthan for expansion of Roads and Bridges in the States;

(b) if so, the number of proposals approved during each of the last three years;

(c) the details of funds allocated for the purpose;

(d) the number of proposals still lying with the Government awaiting clearance and date from which these are pending; and

(e) the time by which the pending proposals are likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) SHRI B.C. KHANDURI) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The number of works approved during the last 3 years is as under :

Year	No. of works Approved including miscellaneous and special repairs programme
1997-98	39
1998-99	48
1999-2000	48

(c) The year-wise allocation of funds to Rajasthan for the development of National Highways is as under :

Year	Amount allocated (Rs. in crore)
1997-98	30.46
1998-99	40.56
1999-2000	95.14

(d) and (e) 12 proposals received from Government of Rajasthan during August-November, 2000 are under consideration in the Ministry. Final decision will be taken by December, 2000.

Starting of Cellular Services by MTNL in Mumbai

1340. SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE : SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether MTNL has taken proper steps to start its cellular telephone services in Mumbai in October, 2000 as promised;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether MTNL cellular services were delayed by 15 months;

(d) if so, the reason therefor;

(e) whether entry of MTNL in cellular market has straight-away benefitted the private cellular operator;

(f) if so, the details thereof;

(g) whether wireless in local loop services of MTNL was also delayed due to lack of co-ordination and inefficiency of Department of Telecommunications (DoT);

(h) if so, the details thereof; and

(i) the time by which the GSN cellular services and loops services are likley to be started?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) It has not been possible to start the Cellular Service in October, 2000 for reasons beyond control. The services are now planned for introduction by early next year. The details of the steps taken in the meanwhile are as per (b) below :

(b) Details of action taken are as follows :

(i) MTNL got amended its license dated 27.3.86 by DoT on 10.10.97 specifically including Cellular Mobile Service in License.

(ii) Private Cellular Operators challenged the above amendment in TRAI by filing a petition. TRAI on 17.2.98 ruled that the license of MTNL cannot be amended without taking the recommendation of TRAI and hence is invalid. MTNL filed an

appeal in Hon'ble High Court of Delhi against the order of TRAI. Hon'ble High Court vide its order dated 16.7.98 ruled that the amendment issued to the license of MTNL is legally valid and the recommendations of TRAI are not a condition precedent for amending the license of MTNL. Thereafter, some of the private cellular operators went in appeal against the order dated 16.7.98.

On 29.7.99, the private cellular operators withdrew their appeals as well as petitions. Accordingly, the same were dismissed as withdrawn by division bench of Hon'ble High Court of Delhi vide its order dated 13.8.99.

- (iii) MTNL floated a tender to provide GSM services on 2.4.98 which was allowed to lapse as the matter of license of MTNL for Cellular Mobile Service was pending in Hon'ble High Court of Delhi.
- (iv) MTNL launched Cellular Mobile Service based on CDMA technology on 2.10.99 which was successful.
- (v) MTNL floated another tender on 14.8.98 to provide GSM services immediately after categorical clearance from Hon'ble High Court of Delhi. The tender has been finalised and Purchase Orders have been placed. The factory inspection of equipment is complete and the equipment is under installation.
- (vi) MTNL floated tenders to provide Cellular Mobile Service on CDMA technology. The tenders have been finalised and Purchase Orders have been placed. The factory inspection of equipment is complete and the equipment is under installation in case of Delhi and the equipment is under factory inspection in case of Mumbai.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Reasons given at (b) above.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Not applicable in view of (e) above.

(g) No, Sir. However the project was delayed due to various litigations. In case of Mumbai, the litigation was conclusively decided by Hon'ble Supreme Court only on 15.9.2000 and the equipment is under factory inspection at present. In case of Delhi, order has already been placed for 50,000 lines and its installation is in progress.

(h) Not applicable in view of (g) above.

(i) These projects are planned to be completed during this financial year.

Centrally Sponsored Environmental Projects In Orissa

1341. SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of centrally sponsored environmental projects launched in Orissa during the last three years;

(b) the details of the achievements made so far and the amount of assistance provided under each project; and

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

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) to (c) The details of Centrally Sponsored Environmental schemes launched in Orissa during the last three years and the details of the achievements made under each scheme are given in the Statement enclosed. All the ongoing schemes will be continued in the State in near future.

Statement

Sl. No.	Name of the Scheme	Achievements during 1997-98 to 1999-2000	
		Financial (Rs. in Lakhs)	Physical
1.	Project Elephant	73.40	—
2.	Modern Forests Fire Control Methods	141.82	—
3.	Conservation and Management of Mangroves and Coral Reefs	46.50	
4.	Conservation and Management of Wetlands	36.00	
5.	Biosphere Reserves	70.50	One Biosphere Reserves covered
6.	Integrated Afforestation and Eco Development Project	416.26	9300 ha. area covered
7.	Area Oriented Fuelwood and Fodder Project	276.48	10565 ha. area covered
8.	Non Timber Forest Produce including Medicinal Plants	236.96	5350 ha. area covered
Total		1297.92	

By-pass on National Highway-7

1342. SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA : Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to construct by-pass on NH-7 at Sivani Nagar, Rewa and Katani in Madhya Pradesh; and

(b) if so, the present status of the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) SHRI B.C. KHANDURI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) It has been decided to construct bypasses for Rewa and Katni on BOT basis. Estimates for land acquisition have already been sanctioned. The land for Katni bypass has been acquired and progress on land acquisition for Rewa bypass is 80%. The proposal for inviting bids for Katni bypass on BOT basis is in final stage. The proposal for bypass on Seoni (Sivani Nagar) is still in preliminary stage for finalisation of alignment etc.

Contamination in Milk

1343. SHRI PRABHAT SAMANTRAY : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the high level of contamination that is taking place in milk largely due to germs;

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to free cattle from germs and stop contamination of milk; and

(c) the steps taken to create disease free zones of cattle to improve the health of national milk herd?

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

(b) Even though no contamination is reported, Government of India provides financial assistance to States and Union Territories to screen cattle and buffaloes for tuberculosis and brucellosis, the causative organisms of which may come in the milk of the affected animal.

Further, pasteurization of milk is done primarily to eliminate any pathogenic organism which may be present in the milk either from an unhealthy animal or present as a contaminant during or after milking.

(c) The department has decided to create initially three Disease Free Zones covering the States of Punjab, Haryana, Delhi and Western Uttar Pradesh (Zone-I), Gujarat (Zone-II), and the States of Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh (Zone-III).

Admissions of SCs/STs in Agricultural Universities

1344. DR. BALIRAM : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Dr. Ambedkar Birth Centenary Celebrations Committee had recommended for ensuring admission of students from SC/ST community to the fullest extent of the quota of seats reserved in the year 1993;

(b) if so, the total number of seats offered in different faculties/disciplines in all the Agricultural Universities (receiving the grant in aid from the Central Government) in the Post Graduation level courses during the last three years, year-wise;

(c) the number of students from SC/ST community admitted to the above referred courses in different faculties/courses including their percentage as compared to the total seats during the last three years; and

(d) the reasons for not implementing the recommendations satisfactorily?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN) : (a) to (d) The agricultural education is a State subject and therefore information is being collected from all the State Agricultural Universities and concerned State Governments.

Preservation of Wildlife Wealth

1345. SHRI P.D. ELANGO VAN : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state

(a) whether the Government have any details and updated population census record of wild animals in the country;

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

(c) the details of the funds allocated to various States for the protection and preservation of wildlife wealth in the country during the Ninth Plan period;

(d) whether the Government have initiated any new projects to save the endangered animals in the country;

(e) if so, the details of the wild species identified as the endangered in the country, State-wise; and

(f) the details of the externally funded projects to save wild animals and endangered species in the country?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) and (b) The State wise population estimates of important wild animal species in the country are given in Statement-I.

(c) The details of funds allocated to various States for protection and preservation of wildlife are given in the Statement-II.

(d) Central Government has upgraded funding pattern for the development of National Parks and Sanctuaries forming part of the habitat of identified endangered species particularly in mountains, deserts and coastal areas from

the existing funding pattern to 100% funding of both non-recurring and recurring (excluding salary) costs. This arrangement is preferable to creation of separate schemes for various species because it facilitates close monitoring and evaluation of the work done.

(e) The details of the endangered species of India are given in Statement-III.

(f) Government of India is presently implementing GEF (Global Environment Facility) assisted India Eco Development project in seven protected areas of the country viz. Buxa (West Bengal), Palamau (Bihar), Pench (Madhya Pradesh), Ranthambore (Rajasthan), Nagarhole (Karnataka), Periyar (Kerala) and Gir (Gujarat). The project aims at improving the enforcement infrastructure and reducing the dependence of local people on the forest usufructs.

Statement-I

Population estimates of important wild animal species in the country

Sl. No.	States	Name of Important wild animal species					
		Tiger 1997	Leopard 1997	Lion 1995	Elephant 1997	Rhino 1998-99	Sanghai 1997
1.	Andhra Pradesh	171	138		57	—	—
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	180*	98*		2102	—	—
3.	Assam	458	246*		5312	1684	—
4.	Bihar	103	203*		618	—	—
5.	Goa/Daman & Diu	6	25		—	—	—
6.	Gujarat	1	803	304	—	—	3000 (approx)
7.	Haryana	—	25*		—	—	—
8.	Himachal Pradesh	—	821*	—	—	—	—
9.	J & K	—	—		—	—	—
10.	Karnataka	350	—		6088	—	—
11.	Kerala	57*	16*		5737	—	—
12.	Madhya Pradesh	927	1851		—	—	—
13.	Maharashtra	257	431		—	—	—
14.	Manipur	—	—		—	—	147
15.	Meghalaya	63	—		1840	—	—
16.	Mizoram	12	28		—	—	—
17.	Nagaland	83*	—		147	—	—
18.	Orissa	194	422		1827	—	—
19.	Punjab	—	—		—	—	—
20.	Rajasthan	58	474		—	—	—
21.	Sikkim	2*	—		—	—	—
22.	Tamilnadu	62	110		2971	—	—
23.	Tripura	—	18*		—	—	—
24.	Uttar Pradesh	475	1412		1984	13	—
25.	West Bengal	361	108*		327	120	—
26.	A & N Island	—	—		—	—	—
27.	Chandigarh	—	—		—	—	—
Total		4181	7229	304	28010	1817	147
							3000

1993 Census.

Statement-II

Funds released under the "scheme project Tiger" during the last three years

(Rs. in lakhs)

S. No.	Name of States	Funds Released		
		1997-98	1998-99	1999-00
1.	Andhra Pradesh	10.70	18.01	18.495
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	20.00	47.68	305.90
3.	Assam	45.08	35.00	87.29
4.	Bihar	36.75	153.99	165.952
5.	Karnataka	25.00	69.34	167.079
6.	Kerala	34.95	39.19	43.665
7.	Madhya Pradesh	137.778	225.125	332.160
8.	Maharashtra	60.53	110.74	134.765
9.	Mizoram	12.45	9.65	21.43
10.	Orissa	49.30	67.65	84.45
11.	Rajasthan	149.885	472.265	222.595
12.	Tamil Nadu	45.60	32.50	58.78
13.	Uttar Pradesh	125.012	199.75	234.23
14.	West Bengal	58.95	179.985	137.14
Total		807.985	1660.875	1749.162

Funds released under the "scheme project Elephant" during the last three years

(Rs. in lakhs)

S. No.	Name of States	Funds Released		
		1997-98	1998-99	1999-00
1.	Andhra Pradesh	18.90	30.21	11.86
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	—	10.08	19.303
3.	Assam	—	29.60	25.15
4.	Bihar	—	40.00	26.00
5.	Karnataka	51.79	40.00	85.00
6.	Kerala	76.87	143.40	63.55
7.	Meghalaya	12.31	—	20.68
8.	Nagaland	—	11.00	40.00
9.	Orissa	48.40	—	25.00
10.	Tamil Nadu	30.60	69.28	48.21
11.	Uttar Pradesh	111.95	95.00	155.806
12.	West Bengal	84.72	78.44	76.011
Total		435.54	547.01	596.57

Funds released under the scheme "Development of national parks and sanctuaries" during the last three Years

(Rs. in lakhs)

S. No.	Name of States	Funds Released		
		1997-98	1998-99	1999-00
1.	Andhra Pradesh	43.39	50.72	87.54
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	27.953	57.91	50.983
3.	Assam	54.62	58.05	53.44
4.	Bihar	6.00	—	27.85
5.	Goa	—	11.70	21.305
6.	Gujarat	17.005	13.80	22.105
7.	Haryana	14.57	37.20	21.55
8.	Himachal Pradesh	61.50	49.80	47.46
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	124.70	7.00	5.55
10.	Karnataka	78.17	84.12	100.319
11.	Kerala	49.29	49.35	59.975
12.	Madhya Pradesh	195.67	35.93	152.203
13.	Maharashtra	48.845	27.783	123.43
14.	Mizoram	13.48	8.45	12.30
15.	Manipur	13.50	19.64	13.28
16.	Meghalaya	—	—	—
17.	Nagaland	15.29	9.00	9.70
18.	Orissa	34.22	68.73	94.74
19.	Punjab	14.03	8.65	11.57
20.	Rajasthan	82.34	89.52	66.54
21.	Sikkim	12.51	11.00	12.00
22.	Tamil Nadu	61.284	74.63	61.18
23.	Tripura	29.81	—	19.97
24.	Uttar Pradesh	112.11	89.57	117.81
25.	West Bengal	69.69	72.96	55.20
26.	A & N Island	20.56	—	22.00
27.	Chandigarh	12.00	—	28.00
Total		1212.533	934.883	1298.00

*Funds released under the scheme "Eco Development
in and around protected areas including
tiger reserves*

(Rs. in lakhs)

S. No.	Name of States	Funds Released		
		1997-98	1998-99	1999-00
1.	Andhra Pradesh	25.399	40.020	44.534
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	4.998	15.229	13.820
3.	Assam	10.250	42.34	20.00
4.	Bihar	—	15.00	38.39
5.	Gujarat	—	—	9.64
6.	Himachal Pradesh	58.400	—	86.84
7.	Jammu & Kashmir	22.490	—	13.700
8.	Karnataka	34.650	20.350	62.250
9.	Kerala	—	70.550	36.450
10.	Madhya Pradesh	51.330	65.890	54.200
11.	Maharashtra	7.435	41.880	86.675
12.	Mizoram	10.500	2.00	45.500
13.	Manipur	4.750	10.400	10.110
14.	Nagaland	—	10.00	8.00
15.	Orissa	45.775	22.600	12.00
16.	Punjab	9.140	10.200	—
17.	Rajasthan	36.390	53.440	16.740
18.	Sikkim	—	5.850	26.00
19.	Tamil Nadu	4.120	18.100	31.960
20.	Tripura	—	44.40	—
21.	Uttar Pradesh	41.453	101.860	51.510
22.	West Bengal	66.525	44.390	48.873
Total		484.145	634.499	729.208

Statement-III

*Endangered species of India as reported by the
Zoological Survey of India*

Sl. No.	Species	States
1	2	3
1.	Lion tailed macaque	Kerala, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu
2.	Hoolock Gibbon	Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Tripura
3.	Malayan Sun bear	Assam, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Arunachal Pradesh
4.	Himalayan Brown Bear	High hills of Western and Central Himalayas i.e. Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttaranchal
5.	Red Panda	West Bengal, Sikkim and Arunachal Pradesh
6.	Binturong	Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh
7.	Malabar Civet	Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Kerala
8.	Spotted Lingsang	Sikkim
9.	Marbled Cat	Sikkim and Arunachal Pradesh
10.	Desert Cat	Gujarat, Rajasthan
11.	Golden Cat	North-East India particularly Meghalaya
12.	Caracal	Rajasthan
13.	Himalayan Lynx	Jammu and Kashmir
14.	Clouded Leopard	North East States
15.	Lion	Gujarat
16.	Snow Leopard	High Himalayas from Jammu and Kashmir to Arunachal Pradesh
17.	Tibetan Wild Ass	Ladakh
18.	Indian Wild Ass	Gujarat
19.	Great Indian one horned rhinoceros	Assam and West Bengal
20.	Pigmy Hog	Assam
21.	Hangul	Jammu & Kashmir

1	2	3
22.	Manipur Brow antlered deer	Manipur
23.	Himalayan Musk deer	High Himalayas from Jammu & Kashmir to Arunachal Pradesh
24.	Wild Buffalo	Madhya Pradesh and Assam
25.	Morkhur	Jammu & Kashmir
26.	Himalayan ibex	Himachal Pradesh and Jammu & Kashmir
27.	Himalayan Thar	High Himalayas of Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttaranchal and West Bengal
28.	Urial or Shapu	Jammu and Kashmir
29.	Small Travancore flying squirrel	Kerala
30.	Grizzelled Giant Squirrel	Tamil Nadu
31.	Hispid hare	Uttar Pradesh, Assam
<i>Birds</i>		
32.	Christmas Island frigate bird	Andaman & Nicobar Islands
33.	Adjutant Stork	Assam and North East States
34.	Lesser hair crested Adjutant Stork	North East India and East India
35.	Eastern White Stork	Assam & Manipur
36.	Andaman Teal	Andaman & Nicobar Islands
37.	Himalayan Bearded Vulture	Himachal Pradesh
38.	Lagger Falcon	Throughout India except Andaman & Nicobar Islands
39.	Shaheen Falcon	Throughout India
40.	Tibetan Snowcock	Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Sikkim
41.	Western Tragopan	Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Uttaranchal
42.	Elwes's Eared Pheasant	Arunachal Pradesh

1	2	3
43.	Temminck's Tragopan	Arunachal Pradesh
44.	Himalayan Monal Pheasant	Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Uttaranchal and West Bengal
45.	Mishmi Monal Pheasant	Arunachal Pradesh
46.	Cheer Pheasant	Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Uttaranchal
47.	Mrs. Hume's Bartailed Pheasant	Nagaland, Manipur and Mizoram
48.	Green Burmese Peacock	Mizoram, Manipur and Assam
49.	Blacknecked Crane	Jammu and Kashmir and Arunachal Pradesh
50.	Hooded Crane	Assam and Arunachal Pradesh
51.	Siberian Crane	Rajasthan
52.	Masked Finfoot	North East States
53.	Great Indian Bustard	Rajasthan
54.	Houbara Bustard	Rajasthan
55.	Bengal Florican	Bengal, Assam, Uttar Pradesh and Bihar
56.	Jerdon's Courser	Andhra Pradesh
57.	Indian Skimmer	Throughout India
58.	Nicobar Pigeon	Andaman and Nicobar Islands
59.	Forest Spotted Owlet	Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh and Orissa
60.	Great Pied Hornbill	Maharashtra, Karnataka and Kerala
<i>Reptiles</i>		
61.	Gharial	Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Orissa, Assam, Arunachal Pradesh and West Bengal
62.	Salt Water Crocodile	Orissa, West Bengal, Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Andhra Pradesh & Tamil Nadu
63.	Marsh Crocodile	Throughout India

1	2	3
64. Green Sea Turtle	All along Eastern Coast and Western Coast	
65. Hawksbill Turtle	Tamil Nadu, Gujarat, Lakshadweep, Andaman & Nicobar, Andhra Pradesh	
66. Oliver Ridley Turtle	West Bengal, Orissa, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Andaman and Nicobar Islands	
67. Leatherback Sea Turtle	Andaman, Lakshadweep, Kerala, Goa and Andhra Pradesh	
68. Terrapin	West Bengal	
69. Common Indian Monitor	Throughout India	
70. Yellow Monitor	Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, West Bengal, Orissa and Assam	
71. Water Monitor	West Bengal, Orissa, Andaman and Nicobar, Meghalaya	
72. Desert Monitor	Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan	
73. Rock Python	Throughout India	
74. Reticulated Python	Throughout India	
75. Indian Egg eating Snake	Northern India	
76. Himalayan Newt	West Bengal, Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh and Manipur.	

Hindustan Samachar Industrial Cooperative Society

1346. SHRI ARUN KUMAR : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the election of the Board of Directors of M/s Hindustan Samachar Industrial Cooperative Society Limited, New Delhi has not been held since the last fifteen years;

(b) if so, whether there was any stay order of the Court in respect of the annual election;

(c) if not, the circumstances under which the election was withheld; and

(d) the time frame, within which the elections are likely to be held?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK) : (a) to (d) The Hindustan Samachar Industrial Cooperative Society Limited, New Delhi was proposed to be wound up as it became non-functional since the year 1986.

Therefore, the Registrar of Cooperative Societies, Delhi after issuing statutory notice in exercise of the powers of the Central Registrar of Cooperative Societies ordered the Society to be wound up.

Subsequently, one of the member of the Society filed writ petition before Delhi High Court challenging the order of the Registrar of Cooperative Societies, Delhi ordering the winding up of the Society. The Delhi High Court dismissed the writ petition allowing the Registrar of Cooperative Societies, Delhi to proceed with liquidation or inquiry proceedings.

Thereafter the Registrar of Cooperative Societies, Delhi has issued Notice dated 17.1.2000 under Section 77 of the Multi-State Cooperative Societies Act, 1984 to show cause as to why the Society be not ordered to be wound up. The Question of elections of the Society may only be decided in view of the outcome of the liquidation proceedings of the Society.

Assistance to Women Cooperative Societies

1347. SHRI R.S. PATIL : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Karnataka has urged the Union Government to sanction financial assistance to Eleven Women Cooperative Societies under the Central Sector Scheme;

(b) if so, whether funds have already been released for the societies during the current financial year; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The proposals of all these eleven women cooperative societies were received in the year 1999-2000 and the funds were sanctioned and released during the same year. The amount of Rs. 9.395 lakhs was provided for these societies. The society-wise details of funds is given in the Statement enclosed.

Statement**Particulars of Cooperative Societies which have been sanctioned financial assistance by Central Government**

Sl. No.	Name of the Society	Funds sanctioned (in Rs.)
1.	Sharada SC/ST Mahila Multipurpose Coop. Society Ltd., Davanagere.	1,00,000
2.	Annapoorna SC/ST Mahila Multipurpose Coop. Society Davanagere.	1,00,000
3.	Roshan Minorities Mahila Multipurpose Coop. Society Davanagere.	1,00,000
4.	Naseeb Mahila Multipurpose Coop. Society, Davanagere	1,00,000
5.	Shaheen Minorities Mahila Multipurpose Coop. Society Davanagere	1,00,000
6.	Chetana Mahila Multipurpose Coop. Society, Chiradoni, Channagiri Tq.	1,00,000
7.	Annapoornmeshwari Mahila Multipurpose Indl. Coop. Society, Davanagere	1,00,000
8.	Yashaswini Mahila SC/ST Welfare Multipurpose Coop. Society, Davanagere	69,500
9.	Sri. Padmamba Mahila Multipurpose Coop. Society, Jagalur	50,000
10.	Hombalagetta Mahila Multipurpose Indl. Coop. Society Hombalagetta, Harappanahally Taluk	60,000
11.	Sri Sidammanahalli Murigama Mahila Multipurpose Indl. Coop. Society, Halavagilu, Harappanahilli Taluk.	60,000
Total		9,39,500

Electronic Telephone Exchanges In Kerala**Statement-I**

1348. SHRI SURESH KURUP :
SHRI K. MURALEEDHARAN :

The number of electronic telephone exchanges functioning in Kerala district-wise as on 31.10.2000

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Electronic Telephone Exchanges functioning at present in Kerala, district-wise;

(b) whether the Government propose to setup more electronic telephone exchanges in the State during 2000-2001 and the new telephone exchanges during Ninth Five Year Plan; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) The number of electronic telephone exchanges functioning in Kerala district-wise as on 31.10.2000 is as given in Statement-I.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. The location-wise details of the electronic exchanges proposed to be set up during 2000-2001 and during the 9th Five Year Plan are given in Statements II and III respectively.

District	No. of Electronic exchanges functioning	District	No. of electronic exchanges functioning
Alleppey	49	Calicut	69
Malappuram	63	Wynad	25
Cannanore	81	Kasargod	50
Ernakulam	94	Idukki	74
Kottayam	72	Palghat	84
Pathanamthitta	54	Quilon	71
Trichur	65	Trivandrum	69
Total for Kerala State : 920			

Statement-II*New Exchanges programmed during 2000-2001*

Sl. No.	Name of Place	Name of SSA & District	Type	Capacity
1.	Thiruvannamoor	Alleppey	E-10B	2000
2.	GM Office	Calicut	WLL	1000
3.	Payyampilly	Calicut/Wayanad	MBM RSU	1000
4.	Malapattam	Cannanore	SBM	1000
5.	Dharmadam	Cannanore	OCB RSU	1000
6.	Eranholi	Cannanore	OCB RSU	2000
7.	Kodiyori	Cannanore	OCB RSU	2000
8.	Edappally	Ernakulam	AXE RSU	4000
9.	Choondy	Ernakulam	AXE RSU	2000
10.	Ezhikkara	Ernakulam	SBM	1000
11.	Pattimattom	Ernakulam	AXE RSU	2000
12.	Kumaranalloor	Kottayam	OCB RSU	2000
13.	Mooledam	Kottayam	OCB RSU	1000
14.	Veliyannur	Kottayam	OCB RSU	2000
15.	Akamalavaram	Palghat	RAX	184
16.	Puthur	Palghat	OCB RSU	2000
17.	Yakkara	Palghat	E10B RLU	1000
18.	Peringanad	Pathanamthitta	XL RSU	1000
19.	Mooshiyar	Pathanamthitta	RAX	184
20.	Mukhathala	Quilon	OCB RSU	2500
21.	Mukkada	Quilon	MBM RSU	3000
22.	Srayikkad	Quilon	SBM	1000
23.	Channakkamon	Quilon	RAX	184
24.	Kadukutty	Trichur	SBM	1200
25.	Edakkashiyur	Trichur	E10B RLU	2000
26.	Arimpur	Trichur	MBM RSU	2000
27.	Valakkavu	Trichur	OCB RSU	2000
28.	Meenamkulam	Trivandrum	AXE RSU	1000
29.	Pongumoodu	Trivandrum	MBM RSU	2000
30.	Pattom	Trivandrum	OCB RSU	3000
31.	Ariyara	Trivandrum	5ESS RSU	4000
32.	Udiyankulangara	Trivandrum	SBM	1000
33.	Pudukulangdara	Trivandrum	SBM	1000
34.	Pullampara	Trivandrum	SBM	1000
35.	Nagarur	Trivandrum	XL RSU	2000
36.	Kotloor	Trivandrum	SBM	1000
37.	Chengottukonam	Trivandrum	SBM	1000
Total : 37				

Statement-III*New Exchanges programmed during 2001-2002*

Sl. No.	Exch. Name	Capacity
1.	Mannancheri	1500
2.	Moozhikkal	2000
3.	Nallalam	2000
4.	Vallikunnu	3500
5.	Athavandu	2000
6.	Velimukku	2000
7.	Vettam	2000
8.	Vailathur	3500
9.	Kunnathupalam	2000
10.	Chokkala	1000
11.	Edoor	368
12.	Kokkyangad	1000
13.	Kakkara	368
14.	Kottila	1000
15.	Vidyanagar	2500
16.	Peolakutty	368
17.	Poovam	1000
18.	Thadikkadavu	368
19.	Chokli	2000
20.	Eranjoli	3000
21.	Pattalam	1000
22.	Vellad	1000
23.	Kuliyal	1000
24.	Mundenveli	3000
25.	Thevara	3000
26.	Manjummal	3000
27.	Perumattom	1000
28.	Azad Road	3000
29.	Vallarpadam	3000
30.	Kodumaloor	2000
31.	Nattakam	2000
32.	Thuruthy	2000
33.	V. Puram	2000
34.	Puthur	1000
35.	Pazhakulam	1500
36.	Chengarur	2000
37.	Thiruvalla	2000
38.	Pulamon	2000

Sl. No.	Exch. Name	Capacity
39.	Thankassery	2000
40.	Chanippankuzhi	1000
41.	Tanissary	2000
42.	Koorkancheri	2000
43.	Muthuvara	2000
44.	Karakulam	1000
45.	Pezhummodu	2000
46.	Kannammola	2000
47.	Medical College	2000
48.	Thyeadu	3000
Total		48

[Translation]

Investment made by IARC in Bihar

1349. SHRIMATI RENU KUMARI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the investment to be made by Indian Agriculture Research Council (IARC) in Bihar is negligible in comparison to other States;

(b) whether the Government propose to open new Agricultural Institutes and centres in Bihar; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN) : (a) The State-wise investment is not made by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research. It is made for agricultural research programmes in the institutes and project operating throughout the country.

(b) and (c) During the IX Five Year Plan the Council has proposed to establish an ICAR Research Complex for Eastern Region at Patna in Bihar. This complex shall address to multidimensional issues in consideration of problems, resources and needs of the Eastern Region covering Eastern U.P., Bihar, Orissa and West Bengal States.

It will develop technologies that are relevant to the prevailing bio-physical and socio-economic environment of this region.

[English]

Protection of Wildlife

1350. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have planned to make effective safety nets to protect endangered wildlife wealth like tigers in the forests, in the Zoos and National Park;

(b) if so, whether the Government have formulated any policy in this regard after the tragedy in Nandankanan and Hyderabad;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether offenders of Nandankanan and Hyderabad have been identified and would be given exemplary punishments; and

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

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) No, Sir

(b) and (c) Central Government has already adopted a new Policy on zoos. The policy envisages that no new zoo should be set up unless sustained availability of resources for effective management of zoo is guaranteed. All the animals in zoos are to be provided conditions congenial to their health. Minimum standards of upkeep and healthcare as per the guidelines provided under the recognition of zoo rules are to be maintained. The Ministry after Nandankanan tragedy has got a rapid evaluation of all the zoos done. The strategy adopted by the Ministry in this regard is closure of zoos which have no potential to improve and assisting the remaining zoos to come up to the required standards.

(d) and (e) In Nandankanan Zoo both Director and Veterinary Officer have been transferred and show cause notices have been issued to all the concerned officers to explain their inability to take timely action to check the spread of disease. In connection with the killing of a Caiman in Nandankanan Zoo, after enquiry, the animal keeper has been dismissed from the service and a criminal case has been filed against him separately.

Regarding the killing of tigress in Nehru Zoological Park, Hyderabad, State Government of Andhra Pradesh has handed over the case to State C.I.D. for the inquiry and has also put four employees of the zoo under suspension.

[Translation]

Committee on Working of SEBs

1351. DR. M.P. JAISWAL : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have constituted any Committee to enquire into the working of State Electricity Boards;

(b) if so, whether the said committee has submitted its report;

(c) if so, the details of the main recommendation made by said Committee; and

(d) the action taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) to (c) The National Development Council had constituted a Committee in June, 1993 under the Chairmanship of Shri Sharad Pawar, the then Chief Minister of Maharashtra to review inter alia :

- The factors which have contributed to technical and managerial inefficiencies of the power utilities in the States;
- To review the institutional and financial structure of the State Power Utilities and recommend necessary changes including, inter alia, the need to dealing distribution from generation and the need to involve the consumers in the management of electricity distribution through rural cooperatives etc., in order to ensure that the State Power Utilities function on commercial lines with adequate customer orientation; and
- To suggest measures necessary for suitably orienting the State Power Utilities towards promoting investments from the private sector within the framework of the recently announced changes in the economic and industrial policy for covering the anticipated gap in the availability financial resources for power development in the coming years.

(d) The Committee submitted its report in September, 1994 and the recommendations given by the Committee in the report inter-alia include the following :

- Restoration of autonomy to State Electricity Boards (SEBs) to the extent envisaged in the statute.

- Regional Tariff Boards to fix tariffs of the SEBs—Tariff Policies to be made transparent.
- SEBs to be permitted to function on commercial lines with the ability to mobilize their own resources.
- SEBs to be progressively restructured with Government equity being reduced in the first instance to 51% and thereafter progressively to 26%.
- The State Governments to commission studies on restructuring the SEBs—Reports to be made available within one year.
- Distribution in major/medium-sized urban and semi urban area to be entrusted to private sector.
- State Governments to adopt minimum all India agricultural tariff as notified by Ministry of Power/ Central Electricity Authority and also agree to provide subsidies to the SEBs in a transparent manner to compensate for the losses, if any.
- Subsidies to the agricultural consumers to be progressively faced out and, if necessary subsidies on foodgrains to be reviewed.
- Priority to be accorded to the schemes promoting improved utilization of the existing assets, energy conservation and reduction in transmission and distribution losses.

The action taken by the Government is given below :

- (i) The Electricity Regulatory Commission Act, 1998 was passed for setting up of State Electricity Regulatory Commissions (SERCs) in States/UTs and Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC) at national level for rationalization of tariff, transparent policies regarding subsidies, promotion of efficiency, economy and competition. The CERC was constituted in July, 1998 and has become fully functional. States of Orissa, Haryana, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Tamil Nadu, Punjab, Delhi, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Maharashtra and Rajasthan have either constituted or notified the constitution of SERC. Tariff orders have been issued by Electricity Regulatory Commission of Orissa, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh.
- (ii) In the Chief Ministers/Power Ministers Conference held on 26 February, 2000, it was resolved that reforms must be undertaken to show results within

next 2-3 years. The key elements of the reforms strategy are:

- **Energy Audit at all levels.**
- Time bound programme of 1000% metering of all consumers by December, 2001.
- Reduction and finally, elimination of power theft within a specified period.
- Strengthening/upgradation of sub-transmission and distribution system by taking substation as a unit on priority basis.

If the above appear unattainable in the existing set up, corporatisation/co-operatisation/privatization of distribution would have to be undertaken.

- (iii) The The SEBs of Orissa, Haryana, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan have been unbundled/corporatised. In Haryana two subsidiary distribution companies have been created out of the State owned power transmission company (Haryana Vidyut Prasaran Nigam Ltd.). In Andhra Pradesh, 4 subsidiaries distribution companies have been created out of the State owned power transmission company (AP TRANSCO). Karnataka Electricity Board has also been unbundled. The Government of Uttar Pradesh plan to privatize distribution in Kanpur. In Rajasthan, one generation, one transmission and three distribution companies have been created out of the Board. Under the provisions Power Reform Ordinance promulgated by the Government of Delhi, Delhi Vidyut Board would be unbundled into one generation, one transmission and three distribution companies. The reform process in Orissa has further progressed with privatization of distribution in the State. The four subsidiary companies of GRIDCO have been disinvested in favour of the private companies. BSES Ltd. has taken over the three distribution zones (WESCO, NORTHCO & SOUTHCO) and the US based AES Ltd. has taken over the Central Zone. The Power Generation Corporation (OPGC) has also been disinvested to the extent of 49%. Fourteen States (Orissa, Haryana, Andhra Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Karnataka, West Bengal, Tamil Nadu, Punjab, Delhi, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Maharashtra and Rajasthan) have either constituted or notified the constitution of SERC.
- (iv) The Ministry of Power has signed a Memorandum of Agreement/Undertaking with Government of Karnataka, UP & MP committing assistance to the States on fulfillment of the mutually agreed

milestones of reforms. As per the Agreement, the States are to undertake measures like segregation of transmission and distribution, commercial viability in distribution, Energy Audit, metering, full support to the regulatory commissions etc. In reciprocation, Government of India has committed support which includes additional allocation of power from Central generating stations, enhanced financial assistance for improvement in transmission, sub-transmission and distribution system for reducing T&D losses as well as improving the quality of power supply.

[English]

Ban on Prawn Cultivation in Coastal Areas

1352. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Supreme Court had delivered its judgement regarding ban on prawn cultivation in the coastal areas keeping with a view to environment problem;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the farmers have not complied the same till now and prawn cultivation in coastal areas is continuing;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to save the environment on the verdict of the Supreme Court?

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

(b) The salient features of the Supreme Court's judgement dated 11-12-1996 on the Writ Petition No. 561/1994 relating to setting up of shrimp aquaculture farms in coastal areas are as follows :

- (i) No shrimp culture pond can be constructed within the Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ), except traditional and improved traditional types of ponds.
- (ii) Shrimp culture ponds other than the traditional and improved traditional types set up within the CRZ shall be demolished.
- (iii) An Authority shall be constituted under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 to deal with the situation created by the shrimp culture industry.

(iv) Shrimp ponds outside CRZ should be set up with prior approval of the Authority to be constituted by the Government.

(v) The Authority so constituted by the Central Government shall implement the precautionary principle and polluter pays principle.

(c) and (d) A Review Petition was filed by the Ministry of Agriculture and others seeking review of the Supreme Court's judgement. The Supreme Court vide its interim order dated March 21, 1997 has granted stay on implementation of the judgement relating to demolition of shrimp ponds. Subsequently the Court vide its order dated 31st October, 2000 has admitted the Review Petition and currently the matter is subjudice.

(e) In accordance with the directives of the Supreme Court the Aquaculture Authority has been set up to regulate shrimp farming activities in coastal areas. The Authority has evolved guidelines for adopting improved technology for increasing production and productivity in traditional and improved traditional systems of shrimp farming in an eco-friendly manner. Shrimp farming activities which may cause environmental degradation are not allowed by the Authority.

Effect on Environment due to Deforestation

1353. SHRI A. NARENDRA : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the environment is being affected due to deforestation; and

(b) if so, the preventive steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) No, Sir. As far as deforestation is concerned, from the State of Forest Report 1999 released by the Forest Survey of India in the year 2000, there is no indication of overall deforestation in the country. The comparison of the forest cover of the country between the present (1999) and the preceding assessment of 1997 shows a net increase in the forest cover by 3986 sq. km. The dense forest has increased by 10098 sq. km. mainly due to improvement in the open forests. However, cases of the deforestation on account of poor land use policy, illicit fellings and pressure on the forests for meeting the livelihood needs of the people living in and around forest areas has contributed to some deforestation which is a natural feature in a developing nation like India where we have to meet the demands of 16% of the world population and 17% of the world's cattle population from 1.8% of the world's forest cover.

(b) Major steps taken by the Government to check deforestation are :

1. Government of India is biennially assessing the forest cover of the country through Forest Survey of India since 1987. As per 1999 assessment overall 3896 sq.km. of forest cover has increased as compared to 1997 assessment.
2. Guidelines have been issued to involve village communities in protection and regeneration of forests through Joint Forest Management.
3. Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 has been enacted to regulate diversion of forest land.
4. A centrally sponsored scheme Modern Forest Fire Control Methods is being implemented to protect and conserve the forests from fire.
5. Special measures for protection and conservation of tigers and elephants and their habitat are being implemented.
6. A network of Wildlife Sanctuaries and National Parks has been set up for conservation of wild flora and fauna.
7. Afforestation programme are being undertaken by the States as well as under Centrally Sponsored Scheme.

Production of Groundnut, Coconut and Sesame in Gujarat

1354. SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the production of groundnut, coconut and sesame during the last three years in Gujarat;

(b) the steps being taken to boost their production;

(c) whether the above crops are being purchased at a lower rate than the price fixed by the Government;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps being taken to safeguard the interest of the farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK) : (a) The

production of groundnut and sesamum during the last three years in Gujarat is as follows :

(Thousands tonnes)

Crops	1999-2000*	1998-99	1997-98
Groundnut	781.0	2577.8	2615.9
Sesamum	87.0	136.9	177.0

* Advance estimates as on 26.09.2000.

Coconut in the State of Gujarat is not grown to any appreciable extent hence information on production is not maintained.

(b) To increase the production and productivity of various Oilseeds, the Government is implementing Oilseeds Production Programme (OPP). This programme is being implemented in 23 States covering 381 districts of the country. The major components of the programme are as follows :

- (i) Production and purchase of breeder seeds, production of foundation seeds, production and distribution of certified seeds, distribution of seed minikits.
- (ii) Frontline, block and IPM demonstrations.
- (iii) Distribution of sprinkler sets.
- (iv) Distribution of Improved farm implements and plant protection equipments.
- (v) Distribution of rhizobium cultures, nutrients and micro-nutrients.
- (vi) Seed storage, threshing floors and irrigation at Government farms.
- (vii) Training of farmers.

(c) to (e) To ensure remunerative prices to the farmers for their produce, the Government announces Minimum Support Prices (MSP) for major agricultural commodities such as groundnut, sesamum and copra. The Government decides on the MSP after taking into consideration the recommendations of the Commission for the Agricultural Cost and Prices, views of the State Governments and concerned Central Ministries as well as other relevant factors which in the opinion of the Government are important for fixing the MSP. In case prices touch the MSP level, the nodal agency is required to immediately intervene and start procuring so as to stabilize prices. Procurement of FAQ (Fair Average Quality) of agriculture commodities by the Government nodal agencies is always undertaken at MSP and not at lower prices.

The prices of groundnut in shell and sesamum in the market during 2000-01 are ruling above MSP. However, the prices of copra in copra growing States such as Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Andaman Nicobar Islands and Lakshadweep are ruling below the MSP level. To safeguard the interests of copra growers, NAFED intervened in the market. As on 14.11.2000, NAFED purchased 1.37 lakh tonnes of Milling Copra under PSS (Price Support Scheme).

Modernisation of Slaughter Houses

1355. DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have launched any scheme for the development and modernisation of meat and slaughter houses during the Ninth Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the objectives for launching the said scheme; and

(d) the total outlay for the Ninth Five Year Plan and plan outlay for 2000-2001 and 2001-2002?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN) : (a) Yes, Sir. Following Schemes have been launched in 9th Plan :

- (i) Improvement of Slaughter houses by Department of Animal Husbandry & Dairying (DAH&D).
- (ii) Development/Modernisation of Meat Processing by Department of Food Processing Industries (DFPI).
- (iii) Upgradation of Meat Plants by Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA).

(b) and (c) A Statement is enclosed.

(d) (Rs. in crore)

	Ninth Plan	Outlay for 2000-01
DAH&D	55.00	1.25
DFPI	20.68	0.10
APEDA	3.09	0.50

The plan outlay for 2001-2002 is being finalised.

Statement**Department of Animal Husbandry & Dairying (DAH&D):
Scheme for Improvement of Slaughter houses**

Assistance as Grants-in-aid is provided to the State Governments on 50:50 (Centre : State) basis of capital cost for modernization/improvement of slaughter houses.

Objectives of the Scheme

To produce hygienic and wholesome meat, introduce stunning for humane slaughter of meat animals, prevent environment pollution by using effluent treatment, prevent bird hit hazards for defence and civil aircraft, gainfully utilize slaughter house byproducts to increase the returns and prevent spread of zoonotic diseases.

**Department of Food Processing Industries (DFPI) :
Scheme for Development/Modernization of
meat processing**

Under the scheme NGO's/ Cooperatives/ Civic Bodies and Government organizations are given grants. Private and assisted joint sector projects are given soft loans.

Objectives of the Scheme

Development of meat processing industries to achieve good quality, hygienic production of meat and meat products, and development and propagation of international quality standards through modernization of abattoirs, adoption of Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point & ISO standards, and evolving an effective quality assurance system.

**Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export
Development Authority (APEDA) : Scheme for
upgradation of meat plants**

1. Assistance is provided upto 85% of cost of upgradation of public sector & municipal slaughter houses and processing plants engaged in export production in order to meet with international standards.

2. Assistance is provided upto 25% of the project cost subject to a ceiling of Rs. 25 lakhs to privately owned slaughter houses and processing plants engaged in export production, to meet with international standards.

Objectives of the Scheme

To upgrade and modernise the slaughter houses, meat processing plants engaged in export production to meet international standards.

[Translation]**Cellular Mobile Service by MTNL**

1356. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Cellular Mobile Service operated by M.T.N.L. is not functioning effectively though M.T.N.L. had made an assurance in the beginning to expand this service within two months,

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to expand cellular telephone service operated by M.T.N.L.;

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

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) and (b) The MTNL's cellular mobile service using WILL CDMA technology covers only certain areas as per the map advertised at the time of launch of this service. The reason for this selected coverage is on account of availability of limited number of Base Transceiver stations at the time of launch of this service. MTNL is now upgrading the service except in respect of roaming facilities in case of service provided with CDMA technology. However, with GSM technology roaming shall also be possible.

(c) 30,000 number of subscribers shall be provided mobile service covering all areas of Delhi by using WILL CDMA technology and 1 lakh subscribers will be provided mobile service covering all areas of Delhi using GSM technology. These two projects are planned to be completed in the financial year so that the customers get a satisfactory quality of service.

(d) Not applicable in view of (c) above.

[English]**Waste Heat Recovery Power Plant In Orissa**

1357. SHRI K.P. SINGHDEO Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether a waste heat recovery power plant is being set up by Orissa Sponge Iron Limited;

(b) if so, whether the above plant is funded by Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA);

(c) if so, the total fund provided by IREDA; and

(d) the time by which the said plant is likely to be commissioned?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN) : (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA) has sanctioned a waste heat recovery power plant of 10 MW capacity with a loan amount of Rs. 27.15 crores to M/s Orissa Sponge Iron Limited and disbursed Rs. 26.97 crores. The plant is scheduled to be commissioned by December 2000.

[Translation]

Inflated Bills in Delhi

1358. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether most of the telephone subscribers are receiving inflated bill in Delhi particularly in Chanakya Puri and Dabri-More telephone exchanges;

(b) if so, the details of complaints received in the capital particularly from the above zones, during the last six months, zone-wise; and

(c) the action taken by the Government in this regard?

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

(b) and (c) Number of complaints received in the last six months from Chanakya Puri and Dabri-More exchanges areas are given in the Statement enclosed. Such complaints are examined and rebate is granted in genuine cases where technical faults etc. are found.

Statement

The total number of complaints received in the last six months from Chanakya Puri and Dabri More Telephone Exchange areas is as follows :

Month	Number of Complaints received	
	Chanakya Puri	Dabri-More
May, 2000	37	49
June, 2000	32	58
July, 2000	32	63
August, 2000	40	41
September, 2000	29	71
October, 2000	13	41

Gold Reserves In Karmatia, Bihar

1359. SHRI BRAHMA NAND MANDAL : Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether there are any Gold reserves in Karmatia under Sono block of Jamuati district of Bihar;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Bihar Government has sent any proposal to the Union Government for mining of Gold; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI JAYSINGRAO GAIKWAD PATIL) : (a) and (b) Geological Survey of India (GSI), a subordinate organisation under the Ministry of Mines has not estimated any gold reserves in Karmatia under block Sono of Jamuati district.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Question does not arise.

[English]

Provision of WLL Technology in Rural Areas

1360. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the criteria laid down for providing wireless in local loop (WLL) technology in rural areas;

(b) the number of telephones based on said technology functioning in the country, State-wise;

(c) whether the Government have plan to provide two lakhs said telephones by the year 2002 in rural areas;

(d) if so, the details thereof including the estimated cost of the plan;

(e) whether this technology is likely to improve the condition of the traditional telephone exchanges in the rural areas;

(f) if so, the details thereof;

(g) whether the Government have invited tenders for the purpose;

(h) if so, the details thereof;

(i) whether the Government propose to introduce cellular telephone through use of WLL technology in the rural areas; and

(j) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) WLL systems have been planned to be provided in those Secondary Switching Areas (SSAs) having large number of villages without telephone facility.

(b) 187 telephones are working on WLL technology in the country as on date. State-wise details are as under:

Himachal Pradesh	—	112
Uttar Pradesh (East)	—	75

(c) and (d) Yes Sir. The Government have planned to install 2 lakh lines of WLL systems to provide VPTs and to meet scattered demand of DELs in rural areas. The system will cover 60 SSAs and 400 SDCAs of the country. The estimated cost of the system is around Rs. 700 Crores.

(e) and (f) Being wireless, this technology is going to provide more reliable connectivity in the rural areas.

(g) and (h) Tenders were invited for procurement of 6 lakh lines of WLL systems. Bids have been opened and evaluation of bids has been completed. Advance purchase orders for procurement of 2 lakh lines of WLL equipment are going to be issued to three companies shortly.

(i) No Sir.

(j) Does not arise in view of (i) above.

Telecom Network

1361. SHRI BHUPENDRA SINGH SOLANKI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the names of the places including capitals/headquarters of Union Territories which have not been connected with telecom network so far;

(b) the reasons therefor; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) to (c)

All capitals/headquarters including that of Union Territories are connected with telecom network.

Subsidies to Farmers

1362. SHRI Y.G. MAHAJAN .
SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the subsidies granted to the farmers directly or indirectly,

(b) the subsidies out of the total granted to small and marginal farmers as well as to relatively poor sections of farmers during the last three years;

(c) whether any study has been conducted to ascertain that the benefit of subsidies reach the targeted farmers at lower level; and

(d) if so, the findings thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK) : (a) to (d) The major agricultural subsidies given to the farmers are in terms of subsidised prices of fertilizers, lower charges for irrigation and power and subsidies given on seeds, farm machinery etc. A Statement giving details of the subsidies given to agriculture sector under these various headings, since 1996-97 as compiled by the Central Statistical Organisation is given in the Statement enclosed. Information about the percentage of subsidies out of total subsidies for agriculture sector which is going to small and marginal farmers, is not maintained. The Government have sponsored a study to ascertain whether the benefits of the subsidies are reaching the targeted farmers. However, the Central Government is also implementing several schemes targeting specially small and marginal farmers and certain subsidies/incentives are inbuilt into these schemes. As per the information received from the Central Statistical Organisation, subsidies amounting to Rs. 1124 crores were given to small and marginal farmers in 1997-98 for components like seeds, agro-mechanisation etc.

Statement

Details of Subsidies to Agriculture Sector

Item	(Rs crore)			
	1996-97 (Actuals)	1997-98 (Actuals)	1998-99 (Actuals)	1999-2000 (Revised)
Subsidy to agriculture sector through inputs				
1. Fertilizer (Total)	7578	9918	11596	13250
1.1 Indigenous fertilizer	4743	6600	7473	8670
1.2 Imported fertilizer	1163	722	333	80

Item	1996-97 (Actuals)	1997-98 (Actuals)	1998-99 (Actuals)	1999-00 (Revised)
1.3 Sale of decontrolled Fertilizer with concession to farmers	1672	2596	3790	4500
2. Electricity**	8356	6210	N.A.	N.A.
3. Irrigation ##	9117	10284	10880+	N.A.
4. Other subsidies given to marginal farmers in the form of seeds, development of oil seeds, pulses and farmers cooperative societies etc.	917	1124	N.A.	N.A.

Source : 1. Fertilizers : Expenditure Budget 2000-2001, Vol. I of Central Government

2. Electricity and Irrigation : Central Statistical Organisation

Note : N.A. Not Available

2 Electricity includes all subsidies to Electricity Boards and Corporations. Separate estimates of electricity subsidy accountable exclusively to agricultural sector is not available.

The rates for supply of water to farmers are kept low as a matter of policy resulting in losses to the Government irrigation system. The excess of operating costs over the gross revenue is treated as imputed irrigation subsidy.

+ Quick estimate.

[Translation]

New Post Offices/Sub-Post Offices in U.P.

1363 SHRI PADAM SEN CHOUDHARY : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to open new post offices and sub-post offices in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to modernise the existing post offices in the State;

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

(e) the amount allocated for the construction and repair of the buildings of the post offices in the State during the last three years; and

(f) if so, the achievements made in this regard?

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

(b) A target of Opening of 50 Extra Departmental Branch Post Office; (EDBOs) 83 Departmental Sub Post Offices (DSOs) have been fixed for the Current Annual Plan 2000-2001.

(c) Yes Sir,

(d) It is proposed to modernise 13 Head Post Offices in the following district headquarters of the State.
1. Lucknow Chowk Head Post Office (H.O.) 2. Moradabad

H.O., 3. Varanasi H.O., 4. Gorakhpur H.O., 5. Kanpur H.O., 6. Agra H.O., 7. Saharanpur H.O., 8. Bareilly S.O., 9. Ghaziabad H.O., 10. Aligarh H.O., 11. Meerut city H.O., 12. Meerut Cantt. H.O. and 13. Lucknow G.P.O.

(e) Rs. 3.59 crores were allotted for construction of Post Offices and Rs. 6.63 crores were allotted for maintenance of departmental building during the last 3 years.

(f) During last 3 years 8 Post Office buildings were constructed and periodical maintenance of Post Offices done wherever due as per allotted funds.

[English]

Assistance for Vehicular Pollution

1364. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR : Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government propose to provide any financial assistance to the States for procurement of vehicular pollution testing equipments;

(b) if so, whether the Union Government had initially granted 100% grant in aid to the State Governments in the shape of reimbursement of actual cost of the equipments purchased by them;

(c) if so, the total assistance provided under this scheme to various States so far;

(d) the amount actually utilised so far by each State; and

(e) the extent to which it has benefited the States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) SHRI B.C. KHANDURI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Initially 100 percent grant-in-aid to the State Governments was being given in the shape of reimbursement of actual cost of the equipment. However, since 1.6.1998, only 75 per cent reimbursement is being permitted to the State Governments.

(c) to (e) The total reimbursement provided so far to the various States is Rs. 8.3 crores, the State-wise details of which are indicated in the Statement enclosed. The scheme has assisted the State Governments in curbing vehicular pollution and the equipments provided under the scheme are utilised for mandatory periodical testing as well as for surprise checking on the roads.

Statement

Name of the States	Rs. in Crores
Andhra Pradesh	0.75
Gujarat	0.40
Haryana	0.28
Karnataka	0.52
Nagaland	0.36
Punjab	1.04
Rajasthan	0.25
Sikkim	0.04
West Bengal	0.72
Tamilnadu	1.00
Meghalaya	0.06
Jammu & Kashmir	0.21
Goa	0.07
Uttar Pradesh	0.98
Madhya Pradesh	0.61
Bihar	0.20
Tripura	0.07
Kerala	0.34
Mizoram	0.02
Assam	0.26
Delhi (DTC)	0.12
Grand Total	8.30

Losses Suffered by State Farm Corporation of India

1365. SHRI SHEESH RAM SINGH RAVI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the State Farm Corporation of India is running into huge losses for the last two years;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the measures taken/proposed to be taken to improve the situation in the organization to bring it out of the red?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The main reasons for the losses are as under

- Inadequate irrigation facilities in the Farms of SFCI and, therefore, vulnerability to vagaries of nature;
- disproportionately large staff strength, and heavy wage bill;
- obsolete equipment and machinery;
- erosion of working capital and lack of financial liquidity.

(c) The following remedial steps are being taken to improve the situation to bring it out of the red :

- improved management practices and close monitoring of farm operations;
- introduction of VRS/VSS to reduce staff strength;
- disposal of non-viable farms.
- prudent financial management and reduction of expenditure;
- optimum utilization of available resources;
- augmentation of irrigation facilities to expand cultivable area;
- replacement of obsolete machinery;
- shift in production strategy to focus on high value seeds;
- improved marketing strategy;
- Engagement of a Consultant for conducting a study of the organization to recommend ways and means of improving its functioning.

*[Translation]***Strike by Telecom Employees**

1366. SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI :
 SHRI P.R. KHUNTE :
 SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE :
 SHRI MOHAN RAWALE :
 SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI :
 SHRI TARUN GOGOI :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether approximately four lakh telecom employees of the entire country went on an indefinite strike on 6 September, 2000;

(b) if so, the details of their demands;

(c) the action taken/being taken by the Government in regard to the demands of employees; and

(d) the total loss suffered by the Government as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) and (b) On a call given by the three staff Federations, the Group C & D Telecom employees launched an indefinite strike on 6th September, 2000 for settlement of issues connected with the proposed corporatisation of Department of Telecom Services/Department of Telecom Operations w.e.f. 1st October, 2000.

(c) After negotiations with the Federations one of the Federations called off the strike on 6th September, 2000 itself and other two Federations withdrew their strike on 8th September, 2000 after signing an agreement with the official side in regard to their demands.

(d) Most of the exchanges being automatic, the Telecom services were not severely affected and the loss as a result of the strike was minimal.

*[English]***Direct Local Call Facility**

1367. DR. (SHRIMATI) SUDHA YADAV :
 SHRI RAMANAIDU DAGGUBATI :
 SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether several cities and towns falling in National Capital Regions (NCR) have a direct local dialing telephone facility with national Capital of Delhi;

(b) if so, the names thereof alongwith the code numbers;

(c) the names of places in NCR which have not been connected with Delhi through local dialing telephone facility;

(d) whether the Government propose to provide direct local call facility between Rohtak, Jhahhar, Rewari, Panipat and Palwal districts of Haryana with Delhi;

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

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) The information is given in the Statement-I.

(c) The information is given in the Statement-II.

(d) to (f) Sir, the present policy, which is enumerated in Statement-III, does not provide local call facility to all towns in NCR region, However, BSNL, the service PSU of DOT has been advised to formulate a package by which non-STD subscribers of NCR towns can also avail dialing into Delhi network and vice-versa.

Statement-I

The name of cities/towns falling in National Capital Region (NCR) having direct dialing telephone facility with Delhi/New Delhi.

Name of city/town	Code for accessing Delhi/New Delhi
1. Faridabad	91
2. Ballabgarh	91
3. Bahadurgarh	91
4. Gurgaon	91
5. Kundli	91
6. Ghaziabad	91
7. Noida	91
8. Loni	91
9. Meerut	91

Statement-II

The names of cities/towns falling in National Capital Region (NCR) which do not have direct local dialing telephone facility with National Capital of Delhi/New Delhi.

Sl.No.	Name of City/Town
1	Rohtak
2	Rewari
3	Palwal
4	Panipat
5	Dharuhera
6	Bulandshahar
7	Khurja
8	Hapur
9	Alwar
10	MIA-Alwar
11	Bhiwadi
12	Gwalior
13	Patiala
14	Hissar
15	Kota
16	Bareilly

Statement-III

The present policy envisages local dialing facility (without STD code) between :

- (i) Two short distance charging areas (SDCA) which are adjacent.
- (ii) When the radial distance between two Short Distance Charging Centres (SDCC) of two SDCAs falling in the same or adjacent Long Distance Sharging Areas (LDCAs) is upto 50 Kms.

There is no place Jhahhar in Haryana. However a place called Jhajjar (also not in NCR) of Haryana is a separate SDCA and does not qualify for local dialing facility with Delhi in view of above policy.

[Translation]**Rate of Agricultural Development**

1368. SHRI RIZWAN ZAHIR : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that the rate of Agricultural Development is slow in comparison to the rising population; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to check the threat?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK) : (a) According to Technical Group on Population Projection constituted by the Planning Commission, the annual compound growth rate of population during 1996 to 1999 is estimated at 1.65% per annum. The compound growth rate of GDP (Gross Domestic Product) at 1993-94 prices during 1996-2000 for agriculture and allied sector, according to advance estimates prepared by Central Statistical Organisation for the year 1999-2000, is estimated at 2.10% per annum.

(b) To increase the production and productivity of various crops and thus growth rate, various steps have been taken by the Government. These include, inter-alia, implementation of centrally sponsored Integrated Cereal Development Programmes in Rice/Wheat/Coarse Cereals Based Cropping System area, National Pulses Development Project, Oilseeds Production Programme and Seed Minikit Scheme. Under these programmes/project, incentives are provided to farmers for use of high yielding varieties of seeds, application of integrated pest management, propagation of scientific water management including micro irrigation and improved farm implements. In addition, field demonstration on farmers' holding including training of farmers and farm labourers are organised for effective transfer of technology.

[English]**Financial closure of Power Projects**

1369. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have cleared the financial closure of some power projects;

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

(c) whether the SEBs have been forced to give undertakings to reduce subsidies; and

(d) if so, the details of those SEBs which have given such undertakings?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) and (b) The Government of India does not determine financial closure by Independent Power Producers (IPPs). The Government only acts as a facilitator in their obtaining/expediting various linkages and other statutory/non-statutory clearances. As on date, Central Electricity Authority (CEA) has accorded techno-economic clearance to 57 projects having an aggregate capacity of 29362.3 MW involving an estimated cost of Rs. 122008.61 crores for which complete Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) had been received. As per available information, 16 of these projects have achieved financial closure. Details of these projects are given in the Statement enclosed.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise in view of reply to (c) above.

Statement

Techno-Economically cleared private projects which have achieved financial closure

S.No.	Name of the Project	Cap. (MW)
1.	Paguthan CCGT (M/s Gujarat Torrent), Gujarat	654.7
2.	Hazira CCGT (M/s. Essar Power Ltd.), Gujarat	515.0
3.	Baroda CCGT (M/s. GIPCL), Gujarat	167.0
4.	Dabhol CCGT (M/s. Dabhol Power Co.) Phase-I & II, Maharashtra	2184
5.	Jegurupadu CCGT (M/s. GVK Industries), Andhra Pradesh	216
6.	Godavari CCGT (M/s. Specturam Tech.), Andhra Pradesh	208
7.	Kondapally CCGT (Lanco Industries Ltd.), Andhra Pradesh	350
8.	Toranagallu TPS (M/s. Jindal Tractebel), Karnataka	260
9.	Pillaiperumalnallur CCGT (M/s PPN Power), Tamil Nadu	330.5
10.	Basin Bridge DGPP (M/s. GMR Vasavi), Tamil Nadu	200
11.	Jojobera TPP (M/s Jamshedpur Power Co.), Bihar	240
12.	Neyveli TPP (M/s St-CMS), Tamil Nadu	250
13.	Samalpatti DGPP (M/s Samalpatti Power Com.), Tamil Nadu	106
14.	Malana HEP (M/s Rajasthan Spinning & Weaving Mills Ltd.), Himachal Pradesh	86
15.	Samayanallur DEPP of M/s. Balaji Power Corporation Pvt. Ltd., Tamil Nadu	106
16.	Surat Lignite TPP (M/s GIPCL), Gujarat	250
Total		6123.2

Deep Sea Fishing Policy

1370. SHRI GUNIPATI RAMAIAH : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to review the deep sea fishing policy;

(b) whether an expert group has been set up for the purpose; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The Government have constituted an Expert Group on 28.12.1999 under the Chairmanship of Dr. K. Gopakumar, Deputy Director General (Fisheries), I.C.A.R., for formulation of a comprehensive policy on marine fisheries. The terms of reference include a review of the Deep Sea Fishing Policy in line with the recommendations of the Murari Committee. The terms of reference of the Expert Group are enclosed in the Statement. The Committee had so far four sittings and the final report is expected to be submitted shortly.

Statement

Terms of Reference of the Expert Group

- (i) To ascertain the present status of exploitation of marine fishery resources by the traditional (including motorised), mechanised and deep sea fishing vessels.
- (ii) To formulate programmes for upgradation of the capabilities of the small scale sector of fish in deeper waters.
- (iii) To fix area-wise resource specific deep sea fishing fleet like tuna long liners, purse seiners, squid jiggers, pole and long line fishing etc..
- (iv) To evaluate the capacity of the present fishing deep sea fishing fleet and suggest modifications and redeployment, if necessary.
- (v) To estimate and identify sources for meeting the investment requirements of the marine fisheries sector;
- (vi) To assess the need for joint ventures, leasing, etc. with foreign fishing companies;
- (vii) To identify the human resource development needs of the marine fisheries sector and

formulate programmes for meeting such requirements; and

- (viii) To suggest conservation measures taking into account the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries and other global initiatives for sustainable development of marine fisheries.

Telephone on Demand in Karnataka

1371. SHRI KOLUR BASSAVANAGOUD : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether telephone is being provided on demand in Karnataka;

(b) if so the name of telephone exchanges offering telephone on demand in the State particularly Bangalore city at present; and

(c) the telephone exchanges where the telephone on demand is proposed to be provided during 2001-2002 in the said city?

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

(b) Following are the names of telephone exchanges in Karnataka offering telephone on demand :

(i) *In Bangalore City*

1. Ulsoor OCB exchange
2. Central Exchange
3. C.T.O. Exchange
4. Kumaraswamy layout Exchange
5. Chandra layout Exchange
6. C.T.S.D. Exchange

(ii) *Other areas of Circle*

1. Hubli, Dharwad
2. Belgaum
3. Bellary (Raghavendra Colony, Gandhinagar, APMC Yard exchanges).

(c) All exchanges in Bangalore city.

Setting up of Wind Mill/Solar Energy Projects in Maharashtra

1372. SHRI UTTAMRAO DHIKALE : Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) the details of wind mill/solar energy projects in Maharashtra;

(b) whether the Government propose to set up any wind mill/solar energy project in Maharashtra during the current year;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN) : (a) An aggregate wind power capacity of 113 MW has been set up in Maharashtra. A grid interactive solar power project of 110 KW has been set up in Lonavala district. 146 SPV water pumping systems; 18 water pumping windmills; and, small aerogenerators/solar-wind hybrid systems of 25 KW aggregate capacity, have also been set up in the State.

(b) and (c) A wind power capacity of 34 MW has been set up so far during the current year at Vankusawade in Satara district.

(d) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Pulse producing States

1373. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the names of the major pulse producing States in the country;

(b) the percentage of production of pulses in Maharashtra, Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh in comparison to total production;

(c) whether any assistance have been given to these States for increasing the production of pulses in the last three years; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK) : (a) The major pulses producing States are Madhya Pradesh.

Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Bihar, Gujarat, Haryana and Orissa.

(b) The total production of pulses in the country is 13.06 million tonnes and the contribution of Maharashtra, Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh to total production is 16.72%, 3.15% and 29.12% respectively.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The financial assistance has been given to these States under National Pulses Development Project (NPDP) for increasing the production of pulses. The details of financial assistance provided during last three years is given below :

States	(Rs. in Lakhs)		
	Central Releases		
	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000
Maharashtra	412.00	430.00	430.00
Gujarat	90.00	208.00	180.22
Madhya Pradesh	555.00	485.00	369.00

[English]

MSP Policy

1374. SHRI K.E. KRISHNAMURTHY : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have decided to withdraw the policy of Minimum Support Price by stopping the procurement of food-grains from farmers;

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

(c) whether the Government are aware of its adverse effects on farming community; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK) : (a) No, Sir

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

[English]

12.01 Hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Environment (Protection) Amendment Rules, 2000 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification

No.G.S.R., 742(E) in Gazette of India dated the 25th September, 2000, under section 26 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2428/2000]

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SUNDAR LAL PATWA) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 28 of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 :

- (i) G.S.R. 95(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 8th February, 2000 declaring the ordinary earth used for filling or levelling purposes in construction of embankments, Roads, railways, buildings to be a minor mineral.
- (ii) G.S.R. 713(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 12th September, 2000 making certain amendments to the Second Schedule to the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957.
- (iii) G.S.R. 714(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 12th September, 2000 making certain amendments to the Third Schedule to the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957.
- (iv) The Mineral Concession (Second Amendment) Rules, 2000 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 743 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 25th September, 2000.
- (v) The Mineral Conservation and Development (Second Amendment) Rules, 2000 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 744(E) in Gazette of India dated the 25th September, 2000.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2429/2000]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table :

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Cooperative Agriculture and Rural Development Banks' Federation Limited, Mumbai, for the year 1999-2000
- (ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the National Cooperative Agriculture and Rural Development Banks' Federation Limited, Mumbai, for the year 1999-2000, together with Audit Report thereon.

- (iii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Cooperative Agriculture and Rural Development Banks' Federation Limited, Mumbai, for the year 1999-2000.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2430/2000]

- 2. (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Federation of State Cooperative Banks Limited, Navi Mumbai, for the year 1999-2000.
- (ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the National Federation of State Cooperative Banks Limited, Navi Mumbai, for the year 1999-2000, together with Audit Report thereon.
- (iii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Federation of State Cooperative Banks Limited, Navi Mumbai, for the year 1999-2000.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2431/2000]

- (3) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956 :

- (a) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Tamil Nadu Agro Industries Development Corporation Limited, Chennai, for the year 1998-1999.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Tamil Nadu Agro Industries Development Corporation Limited, Chennai, for the year 1998-1999, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor-General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2432/2000]

- (b) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Jammu and Kashmir State Agro Industries Development Corporation Limited, Srinagar, for the year 1982-83.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Jammu and Kashmir State Agro Industries Development Corporation Limited Srinagar, for the year 1982-83, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor-General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2433/2000]

- (c) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Jammu and Kashmir State Agro Industries Development Corporation Limited, Srinagar, for the year 1983-84.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Jammu and Kashmir State Agro Industries Development Corporation Limited; Srinagar, for the year 1983-84, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor-General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2434/2000]

- (d) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Karnataka Agro Industries Corporation Limited, Bangalore, for the year 1998-99.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Karnataka Agro Industries Corporation Limited, Bangalore, for the year 1998-99, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor-General thereon.

- (4) Four Statements (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying papers mentioned at (3) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2435/2000]

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to lay on the Table

- (1) A copy of the Memorandum of Understanding (Hindi and English versions) between the Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited and the Department of Telecom, for the year 2000-2001

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2436/2000]

- (2) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under section 37 of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India Act, 1997 :

- (i) The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (Allowances to part-time members) Rules, 2000 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 666(E) in Gazette of India dated the 18th August, 2000.

- (ii) The Telecom Disputes Settlement and Appellate Tribunal (Salaries, Allowances

and other Conditions of Service of
Chairperson and Members Rules, 2000
published in Notification No. G S.R. 778(E)
in Gazette of India dated the 9th October,
2000.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 2437/2000]

1202½ Hrs.

[English]

**MESSAGE FROM RAJYA SABHA
AND
BILL AS PASSED BY RAJYA SABHA**

SECRETARY-GENERAL : Sir, I have to report the
following message received from the Secretary-General,
Rajya Sabha :

"In accordance with the provisions of rule 111 of Rules
of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya
Sabha, I am directed to enclose a copy of the
Immigration (Carriers' Liability) Bill, 2000, which has
been passed by the Rajya Sabha at its sitting held on
the 24th November, 2000."

2. Sir, I lay on the Table the Immigration (Carriers'
Liability) Bill, 2000, as passed by Rajya Sabha on the
24th November, 2000.

1203 Hrs.

[Translation]

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON PETROLEUM
AND CHEMICALS**

Ninth Report

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV (Sambhal) : Mr.
Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to present the Ninth Report
(Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee
on Petroleum & Chemicals on 'Krishak Bharati
Cooperative Limited (KRIBHCO)'.

...(Interruptions)

1203½ hrs.

*At this stage, Shri Rajesh Ranjan alias Pappu Yadav,
Shri Sukdeo Paswan and some other hon. Members
came and stood on the floor near the Table.*

...(Interruptions)

1204 hrs.

*At this stage, Shri Sudeep Bandyopadhyay and some
other hon. Members came and stood on the floor near
the Table.*

...(Interruptions)

1204½ hrs.

ELECTION TO COMMITTEE

**Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes
and Scheduled Tribes**

[Translation]

SHRI KARIYA MUNDA (Khunti) : Mr. Deputy Speaker,
Sir, I beg to move :

"That this House do recommend to Rajya Sabha that
Rajya Sabha do agree to nominate one member from
Rajya Sabha to associate with the Committee on the
Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes
of the House for the unexpired portion of the term of
the Committee vice Shri K.G. Bhutia died and do
communicate to this House the name of the member
so nominated by Rajya Sabha."

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The question is .

"That this House do recommend to Rajya Sabha that
Rajya Sabha do agree to nominate one Member from
Rajya Sabha to associate with the Committee on the
Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes
of the House for the unexpired portion of the term of
the committee vice Shri K.G. Bhutia died and do
communicate to this House the name of the Member
so nominated by Rajya Sabha."

The motion was adopted.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Now, we shall take up
the 'Zero Hour'.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please go back to your
seats.

....(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I will call you, first you go back to your seat

....(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Sudip Bandyopadhyay, I will call you. Hon. Members, please go back to your seats.

....(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You go back to your seats. Raghuvanshi you will get chance in zero hour, please go back to your seat.

....(Interruptions)

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA (Delhi Sadar) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, today Delhi is being ruined.
..(Interruptions)

SHRI SAHIB SINGH (Outer Delhi) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir dismiss the Government of Delhi.
..(Interruptions)

SHRI VIJAY GOEL (Chandni Chowk) : Poor people are being deprived of employment. Dismiss the Government of Delhi...(Interruptions) Save poor labourers of Delhi...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Time of the House is being wasted. You go back to your seats. I will give you chance in zero hour. If you disturb the House like this you will not get the chance to speak.

....(Interruptions)

1208 Hrs.

At this stage, Shri Sudip Bandyopadhyay and some other hon. Members went back to their seats.

1208½ Hrs.

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

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Hon. Members, all of you will get a chance to speak. Please go back to your seats.

....(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You please go back to your seats. I will give you chance to speak.

....(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY (Calcutta North West) : Trinamool Congress workers have been killed yesterday in the district of Midnapore...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Party leaders, see how your members are behaving?

....(Interruptions)

1211 hrs.

At this stage, Shri Sudip Bandyopadhyay and some other hon. Members came and stood on the floor near the Table.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : 32 Members have given notices. If this continues, how will the House function?

....(Interruptions)

SHRI VIJAY GOEL : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Delhi Bandh is today being organised against closure of industrial units in residential areas of Delhi. For this the Government of Delhi is responsible...(Interruptions) I request that the Government of Delhi should be dismissed...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Will you all not go back to your seats?

....(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please go to your seats. How can we conduct the House? There is a limit.

....(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The House stands adjourned to meet again at 2 p.m.

1212 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Fourteen of the Clock.

1403 hrs.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled at three minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.

[SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA in the Chair]

[Translation]

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH (Maharajganj, U.P.) :
Mr. Chairman, Sir, Farmer of the country is in dire straits.
...(Interruptions)

1403½ hrs.

At this stage, Kunwar Akhilesh Singh and some other hon. Members came and stood on the floor near the Table.

MR. CHAIRMAN : No purpose will be solved by raising hue and cry. First you people go back to your seats.

....(Interruptions)

1403¾ hrs.

At this stage, Shri Sudip Bandyopadhyay and some other hon. Members came and stood on the floor near the Table.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Nothing will go on record.

....(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Nothing will go on record.

....(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : If you want to speak, you please go back to your seats.

1404 hrs.

At this stage, Shri Sudip Bandyopadhyay and some other hon. Members went back to their seats.

....(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : If you want to speak then go back to your seat and speak from there.

....(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : You go to your seat and speak from there.

....(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : I am not able to listen anything, you go back and speak from your seat.

1406 hrs.

At this stage, Shri Sudip Bandyopadhyay and some other hon. members came and stood on the floor near the Table

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, farmer of Bihar is in trouble today....
(Interruptions)

1406½ hrs.

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

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : If you do not want to cooperate, then I will adjourn the House. Please go back to your seats.
....(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (Pandharpur) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, a new state of Vidharba should be formed.
....(Interruptions)

1407 hrs.

At this stage Shri Ramdas Athawale came and stood on the floor near the Table.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You listen to me for a minute. Allow me to speak. I will ask them to get in touch with you.

....(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : The House stands adjourned to meet again at 4 p.m.

1408 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Sixteen of the Clock.

16.00 hrs.

Lok Sabha reassembled at 16.00 hrs. of the clock.

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

[Translation]

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA (Delhi Sadar) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Delhi is being ruined...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : You please sit down.

....*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE Sir, we want a separate Vidharba State...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members, please take your seats.

....*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER Shri Pappu Yadav, what is your submission?

[Translation]

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV (Purnea) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, opportunity to speak on the issue of farmers of Bihar in zero Hour was given in the morning today. The Union Minister in Bihar as well as in Delhi in the meeting of NAFED and FCI, asked for payment of remunerative prices of foodgrains to poor farmers of Punjab and Haryana. opening of procurement centres and asked for fixing of foodgrain prices of farmers there. But even after statements by the Minister time and again till now no procurement centres have been opened and support price of foodgrain of farmers is not fixed there. I want a special discussion should take place about it during which Minister should be present and whole House wants it too. My submission is, after allotting sometime for it tomorrow a special discussion should be held and the reply should be given by the hon. Minister.

MR. SPEAKER : Just after Question Hour tomorrow, we will discuss the issue pertaining to the farmers.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali) : Mr.

Speaker, Sir, the condition of farmers is miserable all over the country. You gave us time and there was debate on adjournment motion for hours but Governments reply was political and it contained nothing which could provide solution to the problems of farmers. When we toured our constituencies we saw there the farmers were in distress and no one was ready to buy their paddy and maize even at half the minimum support price. And if crop of farmers would not be purchased then next crop will also be in jeopardy. Therefore problem of farmers are not being solved and importance of House is not being realised. When farmers in Punjab were treated in special manner, then why other States are being discriminated against?

Therefore, a uniform policy should be adopted for farmers and procurement centres should be opened immediately in all the States so that farmers can get minimum support price for their products.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, for solution of problems relating to farmers, a parliamentary committee should be constituted which can look after issues relating to every department and resolve them. That is my submission...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI LAKSHMAN SETH (Tamluk) : Sir, the BJP, in its election manifesto, had promised to create one crore jobs every year. Today, the students and youths are holding a rally in front of Parliament...*(Interruptions)* I want to draw the attention of the Government to this very important subject. I want a response from the Government*(Interruptions)* What steps have then taken to solve the unemployment problem?...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Firozabad) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is a very serious matter that though we discussed in detail the problem relating to farmers through "Adjournment Motion" but not a single problem could be solved. It seems that even in Lok Sabha we merely complete formality. Though this House is meant for raising issue of public interest and get some sort of relief for the common man, yet that purpose is not being solved through debate.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, Minimum Support Price for paddy is Rs. 510 per quintal...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Ramji Lal Suman, please understand. We are not discussing this subject today. We will take it up tomorrow.

....*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am concluding....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : You are disturbing the House. Please take your seat.

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN : Mr. Speaker Sir, the matter is very serious, therefore my submission is that should be detailed discussion on this matter tomorrow immediately after the Question Hour there(Interruptions)

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon'ble Deputy Speaker had assured to give me an opportunity to speak later on...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Khurana, please understand. I am not allowing any 'Zero Hour' submission today. You can make your submission tomorrow.

....(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to say only this much that the situation in Delhi has become quite explosive. My submission is that while replying to calling attention motion on last Friday, hon'ble Minister assured the House that the concerned parties will be invited to attend the meeting convened to discuss Master Plan and work of sealing the industries will be stopped after that day, but on Saturday and Sunday...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj) : Why do you not take it up with the hon. Minister?...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : This will not go on record.

....(Interruptions)*

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY (Calcutta North West) : Sir, the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and minorities of West Bengal are being tortured and killed at random. The democratic set up in West Bengal is under threat...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : You may please raise this tomorrow.

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY : Will you allow me tomorrow?

MR. SPEAKER : Yes.

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY : Thank you.

BILLS INTRODUCED

(I) Indian Council of World Affairs Bill*

MR. SPEAKER : Now, the House will take up item No. 9.

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH) : Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to declare the Indian Council of World Affairs to be an institution of national importance and to provide for its incorporation and matters connected therewith.

MR. SPEAKER : Motion moved :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to declare the Indian Council of World Affairs to be an institution of national importance and to provide for its incorporation and matters connected therewith."

....(Interruptions) *

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : It is not right.

....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Rajo Singh Ji, tomorrow I will give you an opportunity to speak.

....(Interruptions)

[English]

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

....(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Bill which has just been introduced...(Interruptions)

[English]

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

....(Interruptions)**

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I oppose the introduction of this Bill, not just on the ground of legislative competence. It has legislative competence. Legislative competence is there.

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2 dated 27-11-2000.

** Not recorded.

* Not recorded.

By introducing this Bill, this Government is deliberately engineering a confrontation, exposing its total disregard to the judiciary.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Dasmunsi, your notice in this regard has reached after 10 o'clock today.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Sir, I will take only two minutes.

Sir, the matter is lying in the court. The BJP Government is taking over one institution after another by force, to design their plan. The Executive Committee of the Indian Council of World Affairs is an elected body. Shri Jag Mohan wanted to capture this building by force. The High Court gave a stay. In violation of stay, they did it; on a matter of contempt, again it has gone. The matter is listed for hearing in the Delhi High Court on the 7th December. Deliberately by bringing the Ordinance, he wants to take it over....(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN) : Sir, he is not talking of legislative competence. At the introduction stage, he can only talk and oppose on the ground of legislative competence(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Sir, he is not to reply now. This is not the way to interrupt. Let me complete and then let him talk.(Interruptions)

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : I am talking to the hon. Speaker. He does not follow any rules in the House.(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : This is not fair. I will sit down and then let him react.

Sir, I strongly oppose the introduction of this Bill. In total disregard to the judiciary, they are doing it. The issue of contempt proceedings is lying in the court for hearing on the 7th December. By force, they brought forward the Ordinance to take over this organisation. I tooth and nail oppose its introduction.(Interruptions)

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil) : Sir, I have moved an amendment.(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : This is introduction stage; we cannot take up any amendments now.

....(Interruptions)

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : Sir, I have moved a Statutory Resolution, disapproving the Ordinance.(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : You can speak later and not now. We are in the introduction stage.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : Sir, I paid very close attention to what my dear friend, Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi has stated. May I just cite very briefly three or four aspects?

Firstly, at this stage of introduction of a piece of legislation, it can be questioned only on the ground of competence of the legislature to consider it or not to consider it. He is good enough to say that it has legislative competence....(Interruptions) There is no *mala fide*....(Interruptions) I will come to that in a minute....(Interruptions) I will come to all these aspects.(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : When the Minister is replying, please do not interrupt. This is not the proper way. If you want to say anything, you can do so, once he completes and not now.

....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : This is not the parliamentary practice.

....(Interruptions)

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : Sir, in this case the question of competence of the House is not even being cited by the hon. Member. May I take this opportunity to inform the hon. Member—as he is no doubt informed—that we have a unanimous report of the Standing Committee on External Affairs, which recommended precisely such a step?

Thirdly, may I also inform the hon. Member that during the Prime Ministership of late Shri Rajiv Gandhi in 1985-86 to 1988-89, mindful of the irregularities that were taking place here, for the first time action began to be taken against this organisation? So, the financial assistance from the Government was discontinued and began to be progressively cut down.

Finally, on the question of the High Court of Delhi having granted any Stay, may I inform the hon. Member that if there was indeed a Stay, this Stay would have been on the operation of the Ordinance. There is no Stay of the High Court. There was a case filed in the Chandigarh Court. The Supreme Court has therefore taken both the cases, in accordance with the law.

The legislature legislates and the judiciary interprets the law. I would appeal to the hon. Members not to curtail the powers of the legislature on the ground that judiciary is seized of the matter.

The matter is not *sub judice*. We are not violative of any judicial norms. We are acting entirely in accordance with the Constitution and we are taking a step to declare

an Institution as venerable as the Indian Council of World Affairs at Sapru House as an Institution of national importance. I am astonished that my hon. friend finds fault with it when it comes to declaring this Institution as an institution of national importance. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : You do not know past history. It is not your declaration. It has already been declared as an institution of national importance. Since it is managed by the Congress people who are in the Executive Committee, by the design of RSS, you want to grab it by any force. ...*(Interruptions)* Now, what is important for you is to implement the dictates of the RSS. That is of national importance for you. ...*(Interruptions)*

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi) : In the Committee, even the Congress Members supported it. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Yes, I know. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore) : Sir, he admits it. Then what is the harm in introducing this Bill. ...*(Interruptions)* What is wrong with the RSS? ...*(Interruptions)* If Congress can do it, then RSS can also do it. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : You are not the Minister. ...*(Interruptions)* We will oppose it tooth and nail. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record except the Minister's reply.

...*(Interruptions)**

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : The member is well within his right to support or oppose this. He can do whatever he wishes to. But I must express my disappointment that the hon. Member stretches the point to such an extent which is not expected of him. The Government is entirely clear and the Government is not persuaded by what the hon. Member imputes so loosely. The Government is entirely persuaded to restore to this Institution its importance as an Institution of national importance. Hence I seek the permission of the House to introduce the Bill.

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to declare the Indian Council of World Affairs to be an institution of national importance and to provide for its incorporation and matters connected therewith."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : I introduce* the Bill.

STATEMENT RE : INDIAN COUNCIL OF WORLD AFFAIRS ORDINANCE

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : I beg to lay on the Table an explanatory statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for immediate legislation by the Indian Council of World Affairs Ordinance, 2000.

[Placed in Library. See No LT 2438/2000]

(ii) Central Road Fund Bill**

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) SHRI B.C. KHANDURI) : Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to give statutory status to the existing Central Road Fund governed by the Resolution of Parliament passed in 1988, for development and maintenance of national highways and improvement of safety at railway crossings, and for these purposes to levy and collect by way of cess, a duty of excise and duty of customs on motor spirit commonly known as petrol, high speed diesel oil and for other matters connected therewith.

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to give statutory status to the existing Central Road Fund governed by the Resolution of Parliament passed in 1988, for development and maintenance of national highways and improvement of safety at railway crossings, and for these purposes to levy and collect by way of cess, a duty of excise and duty of customs on motor spirit commonly known as petrol, high speed diesel oil and for other matters connected therewith."

The motion was adopted.

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) SHRI B.C. KHANDURI : I introduce* the Bill.

STATEMENT RE : CENTRAL ROAD FUND ORDINANCE

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) SHRI B.C. KHANDURI : I beg to lay on the Table an explanatory statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for immediate legislation by the Central Road Fund Ordinance, 2000.

[Placed in Library See No. LT 2439/2000]

* Introduced with the Recommendation of the President.

** Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2 dated 27-11-2000.

(iii) Constitution (Ninety-First Amendment) Bill*
(Amendments of articles 55, 81, 170, 330 and 332)

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY) : I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY : I introduce** the Bill.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members, Matters under Rule 377 listed for the day be treated as laid on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (Pandharpur) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to read my Matter under Rule 377, which is very important.

MR. SPEAKER : You were disturbing the House, so what could I do.

...(Interruptions)

1620 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377***

- (i) **Need to accord Clearance to the proposal of Uttar Pradesh Government to strengthen the U.P. Nepal Border Police for checking illegal activities along Indo-Nepal border**

[Translation]

SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN SHARAN SINGH (Gonda) : In view of ISI and anti-national activities, Indo-Nepal International Border has become highly sensitive border. With a view to contain these activities effectively in this belt of border area, Uttar Pradesh-Nepal Border Police was raised in April, 1997. Since it is international border, therefore, the expenditure incurred for strengthening and

maintenance of the police force is to be borne by the Central Government. Total expenditure in this regard is one billion, Twenty Seven Crore, six lakhs and twenty one thousand rupees only. Uttar Pradesh Government has prepared a detailed action plan and forwarded it to the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India for sanction, which is awaited.

I request the Union Government to approve the proposal received from the Government of Uttar Pradesh with regard to strengthening of Uttar Pradesh-Nepal Border Police immediately.

- (ii) **Need for early laying of railway line between Ujjain and Ramaganjmandi via Ghatia-Jhalwar**

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT (Shajapur) : The Ministry of Railways has got a preliminary survey conducted for laying a new railway line from Ujjain to Ramaganjmandi via Ghatia, Ponsala, Tanodia, Agar-Malwa, Susner, Soyat and Jhalawar to connect Madhya Pradesh with Rajasthan through railway line. The then Minister for Railways inaugurated the said survey. Complete survey Report is under consideration with Railway Board and Ministry of Railway since April, 2000. Survey report is positive. There existed a narrow gauge line on the said route between Ujjain to Agra which was operational till end of the Emergency, i.e. 1975-76. This railway line was damaged during last days of Emergency. Laying of railway line between Ujjain to Ramaganjmandi is important in the public interest and also for development of this backward area.

Therefore, I urge the Central Government to issue necessary sanction so that work regarding laying of said railway line can be started at the earliest.

[English]

- (iii) **Need to sanction adequate funds for providing infrastructure facilities at Sonapur fair in Chhapra, Bihar**

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY (Chhapra) : The Sonapur Fair, held in Chhapra in the State of Bihar is one of the oldest rural fairs in the country as compared to Pushkar Mela in Rajasthan. Lakhs of tourists and pilgrims both from the country and abroad visit the Sonapur Mela. However, there are no adequate facilities for them. Therefore, there is need to build (i) full size Auditorium-cum-recreational centre for hosting cultural programmes; (ii) construction of bathing ghats, (iii) Landscaping and construction of roads, and (iv) provision of Tourist Information building.

I request the Minister of Tourism to provide grants for development of infrastructure there.

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2 dated 27-11-2000.

** Introduced with the Recommendation of the President.

***Treated as laid on the Table of the House.

(iv) Need to protect the interests of workers engaged by private security agencies manning Government/Semi-Government Institutions

[Translation]

SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH (Motihari) : Youths are being exploited on large scale in the name of security arrangements in Government's various hospitals, offices and public undertakings. In Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital, All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Sucheta Kripalani Hospital, IFECO, CRESCO, NTPC and in nearly all oil companies, contract of security has been given to private contractors. Youth engaged in security work are not being paid properly. At many places regular workers are being thrown out of employment and forced to work on contract basis. Hindustan Lever has taken over Modern Food Industries. There also work is being done on contract after throwing out regular workers.

Therefore, I request the Union Government to make a policy in this regard and abolish contract system so that workers are not exploited.

[English]

(v) Need to safeguard the Interest of farmers engaged in the cultivation of arecanut in dakshin Kannada in Karnataka

SHRI VINAY KUMAR SORAKE (Udupi) : There is unprecedented crash in prices of arecanut (Supari) which sustain a large section of farmers in any constituency—Dakshin Kannada. The stocks of arecanut are piling up with farmers with no buyers ready to offer a remunerative price. The arecanut farmers are in debt and cannot sustain any longer unless the Centre intervenes through its agricultural commodity procurement agencies by offering a minimum floor price for arecanut to bail out the farmers from this crisis.

Further, the situation has been worsened through unhindered imports of arecanut, at low import duty, which has destabilised the domestic market. I would, therefore, call upon the Government to delink arecanut from import classification of 'Nuts' and ban the imports altogether to protect the interest of the local arecanut farmers.

(vi) Need to undertake a special Air India flight to Iraq as a gesture of Goodwill to the Iraqi people

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL (Chandigarh) : People of Iraq have suffered immensely because of onerous sanctions against Iraq. At last the world community has come to realize that the country deserves a better deal, particularly because it has observed and

respected all the conditions imposed upon it. Sanctions have led to untold misery and sorrow with continuing deaths of innocent citizens for lack of adequate medical facilities and food denied to them.

Since ban on civilian flights was not strictly stipulated, many countries have gone ahead to undertake flights to Iraq with academicians, social workers and doctors, etc. on board as a mark of solidarity with the people. When the Iraqi Vice-President visits India this week, we should also demonstrate our solidarity and good will for the people of Iraq by undertaking a special Air India flight to Iraq. Many citizens will come forward to bear their own expenses. I urge the Government to take this initiative immediately as a follow up of the visits of our Minister for External Affairs to Iraq and of Iraqi Vice-President to India.

(vii) Need to allocate adequate funds for gauge conversion work between Gadag and Bijapur in Karnataka

SHRI R.S. PATIL (Bagalkot) : It is during 1993 that the conversion of metre gauge into broad gauge between Gadag and Bijapur was taken up. But till today i.e. after 7 years, there is no progress in this regard. This railway line links Hubli-Dharwar on one side and Sholapur on the other. Hence it is a very important line not only for North Karnataka but also for the whole of South India. Lime Stone, Iron Ore have to be transported to various industries daily and at present trucks are the only mode of transportation, which is very costly. In addition to this, the above gauge conversion reduces the distances of Bangalore-New Delhi route by more than 150 kms. Hence there is urgency to complete this long awaited conversion work. But, so far, only a meagre amount has been allocated for this work.

Therefore, I urge upon the hon. Railway Minister to immediately allocate at least 100 crores of rupees for this gauge conversion work between Gadag and Bijapur at the earliest.

(viii) Need for early completion of construction work of runway at Vijayawada Airport, Andhra Pradesh

SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE (Vijayawada) : The Airport Authority of India had sanctioned the work of strengthening of runway and construction of new apron and link taxiway for Vijayawada Airport at a cost of Rs. 16.29 crore. As agreed by the State Government to give interest free loan of Rs. 8-crore, an amount of Rs. 4 crore has been paid to Airport Authority of India during the year 1997-98 and the balance amount of Rs. 4 crore is payable during the year 1998-99.

The State Government has no information about the progress of work and release of balance Rs. 4 crore. I, therefore, request the Union Government to review the work done so far and direct to Airports Authority for early completion of work.

(ix) Need for construction of check dams on river Sharda in U.P. to check recurring floods in the region

[Translation]

SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA (Kheri) : There was huge loss of life and property due to unexpected severe flood by rivers on the north frontier region of India during the last few years. A discussion was also held on this issue in the House on 9th August, 2000. Due to uncontrolled release of water by neighbouring Nepal, huge loss of life and property was caused in frontier districts of Kheri, Pilibhit, Sitapur and Bahrieh. Crops of more than fifty crore rupees have been destroyed and many villages have submerged. Therefore, in order to control the flood of Sharda river, the Union Government is requested to construct a barrage and embankments on both sides of Sharda river from Sharda Nagar to Ghaghra river's confluence, so that people could be saved from the effect of flood.

(x) Need to provide adequate financial assistance to Government of Bihar for proper water management in the State

[Translation]

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI (Sitamarhi) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, after division of Bihar now rest of the Bihar has to depend on foodgrains of farms instead of mines and minerals. But at present, in farms instead of foodgrains there are only weeds. It is necessary to change this condition immediately and therefore proper water management is required. As per latest assessment, irrigation facility can be provided to 53.530 lakh hectares of land in rest of Bihar's area. But till now only 26.170 lakh hectares of land have been provided irrigation facility. Similarly due to water logging 63.31 lakh hectare of land is affected. But drain out facility has been provided only 29.28 lakh hectare of land. According to one estimate Rs. 66,5000 crore would be needed to solve both the problems at present. It is not possible for a poor State like Bihar, having no means to collect such a huge amount of money on its own. Therefore, I request the Union Government to make arrangement of the above amount

for the State of Bihar, so that by making proper water management the State could be saved from destruction and brought to the path of development.

[English]

(xi) Need for proper procurement of foodgrains throughout the Country

SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB (Cuttack) : The Government has admitted that there are serious shortcomings in its grain procurement, storage and distribution policy and that the action plan for the 'Green Revolution' was based on bad economics, as it concentrated only on a specific region. The off take of foodgrain from the Central pool has declined considerably. This is because the retail market prices of wheat and rice are much lower than that under the Public Distribution System.

When the Green Revolution was initiated in the country, agricultural production and productivity was higher in the eastern parts of the country and in other rainfed areas. But these areas were not considered for the proposed 'Green Revolution'. Though production of paddy and wheat is more in Bengal, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh, procurement by the Central pool is concentrated in Punjab. Had the procurement been done judiciously in all potential areas of the country, the problem of huge costs of transportation to deficit areas would not have risen.

I request the Government to look into it.

(xii) Need for early implementation of legislation providing for Reservation to the SC/STs in matters of promotion in Government Services

SHRI HOLKHOMANG HAOKIP (Outer Manipur) : Both the House of Parliament have already passed the 82nd Amendment Bill thereby providing reservation to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in matters of promotion to any Government services or posts. After the mandatory Presidential assent the matter is now with the Government of India. As per this legislation reservation in matters of promotion is now an undeniable right of the SC and ST Government employees. I feel that the Government is going to show as far as the implementation part is concerned.

I, therefore, strongly urge upon the Government to enforce this legislation at the earliest without any further delay.

[Translation]

(xiii) Need to provide more railway facilities at Siwan, Bihar

MOHD. SHAHABUDDIN (Siwan) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, through I want to draw the attention of the House towards Sadbhawna Express, Sabarmati Express, Saryu-Yumuna Express and Tata Gorakhpur Express (now Chhapra-Tata-Express) which earlier used to go via Siwan but now after changing of routes these trains are going via Chhapra-Balia. Hence passengers of Siwan have to face lot of problems. Therefore, it is necessary that these trains are re-routed via Siwan. Secondly due to insufficient number of reservation counters in comparison to number of passengers at Siwan station, passengers have to face lot of difficulties for getting reservations. Therefore additional number of counters are required to be opened there. Thirdly, since Siwan station has not been provided the status of ideal station passengers of second class have to face many difficulties. Fourthly, in absence of boundary wall of circulating area, construction of Rail Yatri Niwas in station complex and provision for parking space for cycle and permanent arrangement for motor cycle/scooter stand/shed on Godown, waiting room for passengers and housing for porters, passengers are facing lot of problems. Keeping in view the number of passenger at Siwan station and to reduce rush on ticket window, arrangement for separate ticket window for women, senior citizens and for people's representatives should be made separately.

[English]

(xiv) Need to make reservation policy for SC/STs more effective

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (Pandharpur) : At present the policy of reservations is governed by executive instructions issued by the Department of Personnel and Training from time to time. As this arrangement has not proved to be effective, it is requested that a law should be enacted for giving statutory basis to this policy with a provision for punitive action against persons/authorities responsible for its non-implementation. This law should be kept in the Ninth Schedule to the Constitution.

Representation of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the Lok Sabha, Vidhan Sabhas, services, educational institutions and all other organisations, corporations etc. should be strictly as per the percentage of their population. Representation to SCs and STs should

be provided in the Rajya Sabha and Vidhan Parishads in the States.

Urgent action should be taken for effective implementation of Land Reforms Act and distribution of surplus land among SC and ST. In the Scheduled Areas, implementation of land transfer regulations should be made more effective.

1621 hrs.

[English]

COMPANIES (SECOND AMENDMENT) BILL

MR. SPEAKER : The House shall now take up Item No. 15 of today's List of Business. The time allotted for its discussion is four hours.

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY) : Sir, I beg to move :

"That the Bill further to amend the Companies Act, 1956, be taken into consideration."

Sir, I am grateful to you for having permitted me to introduce the Companies (Second Amendment) Bill, 2000.

Sir, in the year 1996 an expert Committee had been appointed by the Government of India which prepared a comprehensive report and suggested several changes to be brought about to the Indian Companies Act. On the basis of the report, in 1997 a comprehensive Bill running into several hundred clauses had been introduced in the House and thereafter since it was felt that a discussion on the entire Bill or legislating on the entire Bill in one go may not be very simple, therefore, in the year 1999—on several aspects which had been suggested—the Government of India had proclaimed an Ordinance which was subsequently accepted by the House as a Bill. Several amendments to the Companies Law had been introduced. 1999 amendment deals with several important aspects such as provision for sweat equity in favour of employees, a provision for buy-back of shares, simplified nomination facility to the legal heirs and representatives of deceased shareholder, enforcement of standard accounting practices and the most important, setting up of an Investor Education Fund. Those amendments, which were incorporated in the Bill, have since been a part of the Act

and have been functioning to the fullest of satisfaction. On the basis of several other suggestions which had been made, a Bill was introduced in the year 1999 to bring about several other amendments into the Companies Act.

A reference was made to the Standing Committee, which has since examined the matter at length, and this House also has had the benefit of a detailed report of the Standing Committee. In brief, some of the provisions which have been introduced by virtue of these amendments include the following : There is redefinition of some phrases which have been done in the new proposed amendment. For instance, the word 'dividend' now also includes interim dividend because in some cases interim dividend is declared by the companies. A mandatory provision has been made that dividend is now required to be paid to the shareholders within 30 days instead of 42 days. The Standing Committee has given a recommendation which I commend to this House for acceptance. As far as interim dividend is concerned, that has to be paid within a lesser period of five days from the declaration to the shareholder itself.

Another amendment relates to laying down of criteria for minimum capital for any company to be registered under the Companies Act. For Private Limited company the limit is Rs. 1 lakh and for Public Limited Company, the limit is Rs. 5 lakh. This provision has been introduced in order to ensure that there is a certain basic minimum capital in each company so that fly by night operator, who without any reasonable share capital register companies and dupe investors, are discouraged.

There is yet another provision, that even when the registered office of a company is located within a State and it is to be transferred from that State within the geographical limits of that State, an approval of the Regional Director is required. Earlier, such an approval was required only when there was an inter-State transfer of the office of the company.

Sir, it has been felt that provisions relating to some private companies to be deemed as public companies with passage of time and the experience of corporate governance, seem to have become somewhat redundant and, therefore, there has been a suggestion to delete those provisions. Similarly, there were several provisions in the Companies Act dealing with managing agents, etc. which have not been implemented and which have become irrelevant, the suggestion is that those provisions which have now become irrelevant to the commercial world may also be deleted. Similarly, powers with regard to market regulations, which were earlier within the ambit of the

Companies Law, have since been transferred to SEBI. So, all the market regulatory functions under the Companies Act are also proposed to be deleted because there is a separate legislation which confers jurisdiction upon the SEBI to deal with this.

With regard to investor protection, several important changes have been suggested in this Act. For instances, clause 19 seeks to amend Section 58(A) of the Principal Act. Under this provision, the Company Law Board has been given special responsibility in relation to the interest of the small depositors. Every company which defaults in repayments to the small depositors shall within 60 days give an intimation to the Company Law Board. After that, the Company Law Board, after enquiring into it will pass appropriate order either on the basis of this information or on the basis of its own *suo motu* motion within 30 days of the intimation with regard to the payment. There is deterrent on companies which do not return the moneys to the small depositors. Now, they shall not be permitted to take any further deposits if they defaulted in complying with the orders of the Board in repayment of the moneys to the small depositors.

Several offences under the Companies Act provided for penalty. The penalty amounts on account of inflation and on account of the falling value of the currency itself have become inadequate. Therefore, across the Board most of the offences are now punishable with penalty amounts which have almost been increased ten times over and above the earlier amount.

There are several provisions with regard to ensuring corporate democracy. Clause 75 seeks to amend Section 192(A) of the principal Act. Earlier under the Companies Act the voting is essentially either by the shareholders of the company who are present or by proxy. For the first time, a provision for postal ballot has been introduced. The Standing Committee has suggested that the phrase 'postal ballot' be re-defined as also to include the new technologies which are available, namely, electronic voting. That is to say, that the shareholders who would neither attend the meeting of the company nor are represented through the proxy but are sitting in their own offices or houses at far flung places can exercise that right by a postal ballot which will also include electronic voting. The Government strongly commend that this suggestion also requires to be accepted.

Sir, there are several other provisions with regard to payment of dividend which I have already mentioned. It is under Clause 88 of the Act. There are further provisions with regard to inspection of the books of accounts of the

[Shri Arun Jaitley]

company which have been made. In fact, Clause 95 which deals with Section 217 is also a new Chapter in corporate governance. For the first time, in the Companies Act, the annual report of the Board shall also include the Director's Responsibility Statement. Now, this Director's Responsibility Statement shall be in relation to the accounts which the Director approves. So, the Directors will no longer be allowed to take a plea that they have, without applying themselves, signed on those accounts and so they are not responsible for any inaccuracies in the accounts. Therefore, each Director will be responsible. There are standard accounting practices which have been made applicable and each Director has to make responsibility statement that he has personally perused the accounts and that he is satisfied with the accounts that he has signed. This is intended to bring an element of responsibility and transparency into corporate governance.

Sir, as I have already mentioned, certain obsolete provisions have now been deleted. There is also a provision in Section 102 and Section 103 under which some of the comments of such auditors have to be highlighted. There is a provision which has been made in regard to those comments.

Sir, there was a provision which was suggested in Clause 122 with regard to representation of some minority shareholders on the Board of each company. Two kinds of views on the subject had been expressed. One is that on optional basis, an option can be given to these companies that in case a procedure be laid down and if the companies exercise the option with regard to the representation of one minority director of small shareholders, this provision, in the first instance, is not to be mandatory. Under this amendment, it is optional in the first instance itself.

There are several other responsibilities. In case companies have not filed their annual return, the consequences will come upon the companies and upon the directors of the companies if they are directors of one company which has defaulted. They can be directors of the defaulting company and continue to run several other companies. There is now some responsibility which will be attached to them with regard to other companies in which also they are directors.

The maximum number of companies in which a person can be a director has been reduced from 20 to 15.

Clause 134 is an important provision which has been introduced with regard to the constitution by the Board of an Audit Committee. This Audit Committee is expected to independently audit the accounts of the companies. The Board is bound by the report of the Audit Committee.

Certain amount of power and autonomy has been given to the Audit Committee. In case the Board disagrees with the observations of the Audit Committee, the entire matter is required to be placed before the general body of the company. There is also a provision that companies beyond a certain threshold limit of Rs. 50 lakh should have a whole time Secretary of the company.

These are several amendments which have been suggested to the Companies Act. I may add a word to what I have started with. The original suggestion was to comprehensively amend the entire Act. But, since the Standing Committee has gone into it in stages, in 1999 the first part of the amendments has already been legislated. The second part has been debated at considerable length. The Government has taken a conscious view after going through each of these provisions and the report of the Standing Committee.

I, therefore, with the amendments which are proposed, commend to this hon. House that the Companies (Second Amendment) Bill be accepted

MR. SPEAKER : Motion moved

"That the Bill further to amend the Companies Act, 1956, be taken into consideration."

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL (Latur) : Mr. Speaker Sir, the Companies Act, 1956, is a very bulky and complicated legislation. In the years gone by, many amendments have been introduced to the original Act. Yet, the Act has not become really small, simple, easy to understand, and easy to implement. Therefore, it has become very necessary that the entire legislation is examined very carefully and the Act is amended.

What should be done to make this law more acceptable? It should become less bulky. The amendments which have been introduced by the Government have reduced the number of sections. It should become less complicated and more simple to understand and implement. It should provide facilities to those who want to establish companies, run companies and contribute to the development of the economy.

We are living in an era when these companies would be required to compete with the companies in other countries. The law should facilitate, encourage and help our companies to be able to compete with them. There are interests of the investors to be protected and they should be protected. I must say that the second amendment tries to protect the interests of investors, the small shareholders and the depositors to a very great extent. If something more could be done, it would be very useful.

This law should help modernisation - modernisation in management, modernisation in technology adoption and utilisation and also in developing technologies. The companies should be able to contribute towards the development of technologies. In other countries, development of technologies is the responsibility of private industries.

Whereas in India, this responsibility is shouldered only by the Union Government. So, this law should have some provisions which should really help these companies to contribute towards the funds which can be utilised towards the development of technologies. This law should also help our companies to join the mainstream in the world. Now, these are the objectives which have to be achieved. Unfortunately, many of these objectives have not yet been touched upon and the law has not been amended in a manner to see that these objectives are achieved.

Now what does the Companies (Second) Amendment Bill intends to do and has done? It was explained by the hon. Minister. It tries to remove the redundancies which are there in the law. It enhances the punishment. In some cases, the punishment is enhanced by ten times. It tries to increase the responsibility of the officers working in the companies. It tries to enhance the responsibility of the directors, creates and establishes a new concept of Audit Committee so that auditing of the company can be done in a different and more responsible manner. It protects the small shareholders and depositors and increases the responsibility of the directors. I must say that these provisions are salutary provisions. They can be accepted and incorporated in the law.

While commenting on the amending Bill, it may not be easy for anybody to agree with all the proposals as they have been submitted to this House. There would be nuances and different ideas and views on different clauses. We shall have to examine these different clauses.

Now, as regards the concept of defunct companies, we have a number of companies registered but these companies are not working. If the paid-up capital of a private company is expected to be increased to Rs. 1 lakh and the paid-up capital of a public company is expected to be increased by Rs. 5 lakhs within the stipulated time and if that is not done, then the companies which have not done so would be declared as defunct companies. This would certainly help in administering the companies law in a better fashion and will help us. This is provided in Clause 3.

I will go to the Securities and Exchange Board of India and the Central Government as provided in Clause 16. Clause 16 reads like this :

"(a) in case of listed public companies;

- (b) in case of those public companies which purport to be listed, be administered by the Securities and Exchange Board of India; and
- (c) in any other case, be administered by the Central Government."

Now, the responsibility is shared by these two organisations—the Central Companies Board and the SEBI. I must say that these two organisations have not done their job in the manner in which they should have.

The SEBI says that it is not in a position to protect the interests of the shareholders because of many reasons. This aspect has to be very carefully examined. It says that there are many other laws which are creating difficulties in seeing that the interests of the small shareholders, depositors and the investors are protected. If this is not done, if it is not given any authority or the teeth and if it is left as it is, the purpose of amending the law will not be fully met. That is why, it has become necessary not only to examine the existing Companies Act but also it would be necessary to examine many other laws and many other policies also to see that these two organisations are helped to function in a proper manner. I am making this point because we have found that those who are working in the SEBI sometimes are feeling helpless, throwing their hands up and saying that it has not been possible for them to fulfil their duties because of some laws and policies. This aspect has to be examined if we really want to strengthen our corporate activities.

In clause 19, the small depositors' interests are protected. Clause 19 (a) reads like this :

"The intimation under sub-clause 1 shall be given within 60 days from the date of default."

It has to be examined whether we can reduce the period from 60 days to 45 days. Or, it has to be examined whether this time should be increased. According to some, this time is not enough. According to others, this time is more than what is required. So, this aspect should be very carefully examined.

Clause 75, provides for voting by ballot. The hon. Minister did make a reference to it. But I am afraid that this clause is likely to be misused. We know that voting can be done by ballot in some elections and how the voting takes place. A person goes around, collects the ballot, puts the mark on them and then deposits them with the authority which can use that kind of a voting. In my opinion, this is likely to create many difficulties. The proxy voting in general elections will create difficulties and the voting by a ballot in taking the decisions in companies will create problems. These are two things. Here I would say that if

[Shri Shivraj V. Patil]

is very strangely worded. You can have a look at the exact words which are used in clause 192A (1) :

"Notwithstanding anything contained in the foregoing provisions of this Act, a listed public company may, and in the case of resolutions relating to such business as the Central Government may, by notification, declare to be conducted only by postal ballot, shall get any resolution passed by means of a postal ballot, instead of transacting the business in a general meeting of the company."

It is saying that it will be done only by a postal ballot. There is a kind of business, which will be given, which will be mentioned, and it has to be conducted only by a ballot. This kind of a provision is not going to help the companies to perform their duties as they should. It may reduce the time taken for taking the decisions. It may reduce expenses of holding the General Body meetings and yet it would create many other problems.

So, this aspect has to be very carefully examined. Why are we adopting this out-dated method of voting by ballot? The Minister himself said that electronic voting system should be adopted. Why do we not adopt that system? Now, we have the equipment and systems which can be used to reduce the time taken for taking the decision or reduce the expenditure involved in it to see that this is not done. This provision is likely to create many problems and it is likely to give more authority to those people who want to manipulate the activities of the companies in the manner they want to. It is not going to help the company, but it is going to help some of the manipulators in the company. So, this has to be very carefully examined.

Then, clause 88 of the Bill says :

"Where a dividend has been declared by a company but has not been paid, or the warrant in respect thereof has not been posted, within thirty days from the date of declaration, to any shareholder entitled to the payment of the dividend, every director of the company shall, if he is knowingly a party to the default, be punishable with simple imprisonment for a term which may extend to 3 years..."

Now, the dividend has to be given within 30 days. I am told that this would create problems. The company's board has to clear the declaration of the dividend and they take more than 30 days to declare the dividend. Then, if it is so, instead of giving 30 days, we can give them 45 days as the time limit, so that there is no unnecessary litigations and hassles involved.

Now, I come to the Directors' Responsibility Statement. I think, this is a salutary provision and this has to be there. But here is one idea which is put forth with respect to this provision and that idea is : are you going to treat the part-time directors at par with the full-time directors? Now, the part-time directors are generally persons who advise the companies. They do not participate in day-to-day management and the administration of the company. If you hold the part-time directors also responsible at par with the full-time directors, it may create difficulties. Sometimes, they may say that they would not be in a position to accept the responsibility as part-time directors. So, this provision also has to be very carefully looked into.

Then, I come to clause 122 of the Bill to which a reference has been made by the hon. Minister and it relates to the directors elected by small shareholders. I think, originally this provision was not there in the Bill and this provision was included at the instance of the Standing Committee. Now, we are told that at the first instance this would not be necessary. I do not understand as to what is meant by 'first instance' What does the Minister want to convey to this House by this? I fail to understand it.

It says that it shall have at least one Director elected by such small shareholders in the manner as may be prescribed. There are many small shareholders. They are entitled to attend the general meetings. If they want to create problems, they can create problems in the general meetings also. If there is a Board of Directors, it is not one or two Directors who will be sitting there and taking decisions. At least, one Director has to be there who represents the small shareholders. If one Director is there, I do not know what kind of problem that Director is likely to create while sitting in the Board. Why has the Government been saying now that, at the first instance, it may not be necessary? I have not understood what is meant by the hon. Minister. Will he be kind enough to explain it so that I can make my comments on that? What do you mean by that?

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY : Sir, I will first correct the facts. This provision was there in the Bill, as proposed. It may not be very accurate to suggest that it was not there. In fact, the Standing Committee had some doubt because of the debate involved in this subject. In their suggestions, the Standing Committee, in the first instance, said : "The requirement of at least one Director for small shareholders should be deleted." Thereafter, at that time, the suggestion made was :

"Since it could be experimented, therefore, you may or may not amend Clause 122 to incorporate the suggestion of the Government."

The Standing Committee reluctantly agreed. Thereafter the matter was considered at length by the Government again in view of various representations. It discussed the whole scheme. Should it be made mandatory for every company to have it or should it be made optional in the first instance? So, there is an official amendment which we have circulated. It says that the words 'shall have at least' may be substituted by the words 'may have'. That is what I meant. Then, I said, 'in the first instance' because this has not been experimented anywhere else in the world. This is a new concept which is being suggested. There has been a debate within our own system—within our own Standing Committee. Therefore, we make it optional in the first instance. Let us see if it works at some places. Then, in future, we will decide what to do about it.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL : Does the company decide it?

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY : In the first instance, it is optional.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL : I fail to understand its implications very clearly. Now, if the company wants to have it, they can have it. If they do not want to have it, they may not have it.

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY : The AGM can decide it.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL : The General Body will decide it. But why has it been left to them? If there is a Board of Directors of 10 Directors or 20 Directors and if one Director, representing a small shareholder, is there, what kind of difficulty is he going to cause to them? Are we not going to protect the interests of the small shareholders? Now, any decision taken by the Board of Directors will be binding on the company. Probably, it is optional.

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY : We will be starting this whole concept.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL : He may change it later on.

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY : No, I am not saying it. It is for the House to decide it.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL : That is right. You may come with a proposal for the House to change that also. Now, we are saying :

"Why have you done this thing? What was the compulsion for you to change your stand? Why did you come to this conclusion that the small shareholders' interests have to be protected?"

You felt that the interests of the small shareholders had to be protected. That is why you provided in the law this provision. It went to the Standing Committee. The Standing Committee wanted to delete this thing and you insisted : "You accept this thing. Later on, you have changed it." Why? What is the force? Why are you changing your stand on this point? We would like to understand it.

Here the entire law is meant to protect the investor. We, as a Government and as a nation, have a responsibility to provide facilities to those who wanted to establish companies and want to contribute towards the development of our economy. All facilities should be given to them. But, at the same time, we, as a Government, have a responsibility to protect the interests of those people who are small people and whose voice may not be heard.

Otherwise their interest would not be protected and it is for this reason that the minister or the Government came to the conclusion that it should be done. When the Committee suggested that it should be deleted, he insisted that it should not be done and now he comes to the House saying that it should be deleted. It can be 'shall' or it can be 'may'. Why this? What is the intention? What is the purpose? What is the implication of it?

I can understand some people creating problem from inside also. I do not say that there are no persons who would not create problems from inside. But there are people also who would not protect the interests of the small shareholders. What do we do with that? Is it not our responsibility? Is it not our duty to protect the interests of small shareholders also? There are two interests. They have to be balanced. The Government has to do the balancing act. The Government has come to the House with a Bill and go to the people with the Act, which will really balance these two interests?

I do not think now this is achieved. It looks very doubtful and fishy as to why this provision has followed this route? Under whose pressure? Are we applying the principles or are we succumbing to the pressures?

We are living in a democracy and the opinion of the people should be respected. At the same time, if he himself has come to that conclusion initially, it should not be given up simply because there is a pressure. SEBI says that it is not in a position to protect the interests of the small shareholders. The Company Law Board is having so many things on hand and is not in a position to protect the interests of the small shareholders.

We have instances in our country where the interests of the small shareholders were not protected. Small people, selling their houses and their lands, have purchased

[Shri Shivraj V. Patil]

the shares and they have gone down the drain. They have not received anything in return. Who will protect their interests? If he is not protected by law, if SEBI is not in a position to protect, if the Company's Board is not in a position to protect and if they are not in a position to have a recourse to the court of law, who will protect?

So, in my opinion, this was a salutary provision and I think it should not have been deleted from the Act and no amendment should have been introduced in its place. It would not be good. I can understand the difficulties. It is not that there are no difficulties and there is no logic behind saying that let us not have the Director representing those people who want to create problems for the company. I can understand that. But at the same time, it cannot be forgotten that the interest of the small shareholders has to be protected and if we do not protect the interest of the small shareholder, we have not done our duty.

DR. NITISH SENGUPTA (Contai) : Sir, there was a particular provision in the Companies Act which referred to the possibility of proportional representation. But it has not been tried at all, all these years. I just want to draw the attention of the hon. Minister to the fact that this also may not be tried at all. If the Government really wants, that should be made a kind of mandatory for companies. Although how the directors will be elected, what kind of lobby will be working and whether it will be more in breach than observance, that I do not know. But I wanted to feel the experience of Section 165 or something like that which was there in the Companies Act.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL : This proportional representation and all those things will complicate the matter and so probably it was not accepted. But here we are suggesting and the Government had suggested that, at least, one representative of the small shareholders should be the director of the Board. If we are giving it up, I do not think, it is good.

There was a suggestion that the representative of the workers should be sitting in the Board. The representatives of the workers have refused to go to the Board? Why? They say, "if I go there and I am only one person sitting in the Board, I am not in a position to influence the decision and the decision taken with my presence in the Board becomes binding and my position becomes very vulnerable." Some people would not like to go there alone without any assistance, without any support and cooperation.

1700 hrs.

That is a case as far as the representatives of the workers in the Board are concerned. Here is a question of the representatives of the small shareholders. Why

should we not do it? I would request the hon. Minister to pay attention to this aspect. Please do not press for your own amendment. You can withdraw your amendment also. It is not necessary for you to do it. Now, if your Cabinet had approved the Bill initially and if your Cabinet and you were inclined to suggest to the Standing Committee not to ask this provision to be deleted, at this last moment I would ask you and your Cabinet not to press for the deletion of this provision, which is salutary. One person is not going to make any difference. I am repeating that I do understand that the mischief can be played and yet the responsibility to protect the small shareholders is more onerous than seeing that the mischief is not played by a single representative of the small shareholders sitting in the Board.

I come to audit. This is the last point that I will be making. I would say that the Audit Committee is also a salutary provision. In Parliament we are not in a position to examine the Budget which is presented to us. In the Companies also, the Audit Reports are not carefully examined by the members sitting in the Board or the shareholders also. There has to be a body of experts who understand auditing, who understand the financial matters and all those things, and they shall have to go into all these details, and then they shall have to suggest to the Board as to what should be accepted, what should not be accepted, and then the decision should be taken.

But having said this, I would like to say that what is it we are doing by this Bill. Clause 134(a) (iii) reads :

"The recommendation of the Audit Committee on any matter relating to financial management including Audit Report shall be binding on the Board."

You are making the recommendation of the child binding on the parent. You are making the recommendation of the Audit Committee binding on the Board, which creates the Audit Committee. Now, supposing we say in Parliament that the recommendations of the Standing Committee will be binding on the Government, will you accept it? You would say that the Standing Committee is a part of the Parliament and yet, the recommendations have a persuasive value but not a mandatory nature. Now, here you are saying that the Report given by the Audit Committee will be binding

I would explain as to why this was suggested at the time when the Standing Committees were established in Parliament in 1993. They were saying that anything and everything which is suggested by the Standing Committee should be binding on the Government. One of the gentlemen got up and said that it would be difficult to approach all the Members sitting in Parliament and get a particular kind of recommendation made by them but it

would be easier to convince 45 Members of the Standing Committee and get that decision binding on the Government. The same thing can be applicable to Audit Committee also. It would be difficult for anybody who wants to manipulate and to approach all the Directors sitting in the Board but it will not be that difficult to approach few of these members and get the report on something fishy is going on in that company. So, my request is that it should be made clear by our law that the recommendations have to be respected, they should have a mandatory nature but they should not be mandatory and they should not, in all cases, be binding on them. Some thing of that nature should be there. Otherwise, this provision is likely to be misused. We have public and financial institutions in which there are Boards and there are Directors who would be sitting

And they say that three members of this body will decide how much of money should be given to a company and that would be binding on the Board. What will be the implication of it? If there are three members sitting and if you have one member your friend, other member his friend and the third member his friend, what will be the implication? I am not doubting the bonafides of all. Let us not doubt anybody's *bona fides*. Yet, the human nature is such that there are some people who can do it. While making the law, we shall have to visualise the implications of it. We shall have to see that by providing something which, according to him is good, will be used in such a fashion that exactly opposite result will emanate from it. That is why, my submission to this House and to the Minister is that this binding nature of the report of the Audit Committee would create problems and it has to be looked into and done away with.

Well, I do not think anything more is necessary for me to say on this point. This Bill is good. It will be supported. But the details of it have to be very carefully examined. Lot of time has passed since the time when we are thinking of modifying the existing Companies Act and to make it as good as the Companies Act in other countries are, and capable of meeting the requirements of the present times. I would request the Government that no time should be wasted; no delay should be allowed and a comprehensive Bill to amend the Companies law should be introduced and should be got passed.

[Translation]

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA (Mumbai North East) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, we have read and heard about abhimanyu and his chakravayuha in Mahabharata. As, Hon. Shivraj Patil have just said that comprehensive bill should have been brought earlier. This comprehensive bill is being talked about since 1906. Abhimanyu was trapped in the seven circles of Chakravayuha. I presume that Arunji is

also in the same situation. He is entering into the second circle after crossing the first circle. He is making good efforts therefore I support him and I wish him to bring this comprehensive bill in the House as early as possible as he said recently.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to start my speech with the reference of small investors which was mentioned by Hon. Shivraj Patil. I am a chartered accountant. I am also the Chairman of Investor's Forum of Small investor's in Mumbai which is a recognised organisation of SEBI. We have been struggling for the cause of small investors for almost eight years. It's a good beginning. Now, atleast we will get the opportunity to raise the problems of small investors in board. But along that the apprehension raised by Shri Senguptaji and Shri Shivraj Patilji is still there. If the small investors get chance in the Board they will definitely be able to keep their points there but getting a chance depend on the will of promoters and owners of the company. Thus, it is a good beginning. The standing committee must have taken this decision after serious consideration. The Government is trying a little but how successful this provision will prove or how much successful we will be. If you ask this from the point of view of investors I will say it is still doubtful because as they have said that giving a chance to investors depend on promoter, owners of the company. When they will find that the representative of small investors is of their side then they will allow him and when they will find that the representative will go against them, then they will not implement this provision.

[English]

But let us begin somewhere.

17.10 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER in the Chair]

[Translation]

Therefore, I support this.

[English]

something is better than nothing.

[Translation]

There was nothing till date. I would like to tell Hon. Minister that Dena Bank has this provision. You have to check it that under what section it exists there but

[English]

Dena Bank is a Nationalised Bank. There is a provision.

[Shri Kirit Somaiya]

[Translation]

The representative of small investors who has been elected there is a friend of mine. I am not aware of the type of provision.

[English]

It exists somewhere; we have to exploit it.

[Translation]

If you go further in this direction you will find that, if anybody talk about business houses and industrial association or of good governance, then on one side as a part of good governance they want all the facilities from Government.

[English]

but they do not want to be accountable to the society.

[Translation]

They want all the rights but afraid of responsibilities. This subject has been discussed in many places. Some persons thought that his competitor might take his place.

[English]

When you are talking about good governance then why are you afraid of your competitors? When you want all the authority, powers and all the facilities through the Government or the financial institutions, what sort of financial institution do you want?

[Translation]

Therefore, by not going deep into the subject I would like to say one thing that Arunji has shown courage by making this provision. Let's see what experience we get in a couple of years. Otherwise Arunji, you too is going to remain minister and this House is also going to remain for five years. Geete ji has also brought the proposal(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Now four years still remains.

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA : Actually this subject is not directly related to this but a very serious discussion is going on in the society on this subject on which I would like to draw the attention

[English]

that is, take over code. That may not be directly linked with it i.e.

[Translation]

Finance Ministry and Ministry of Company Affairs, SEBI says that company affairs don't have the authority whereas company affairs says that it is under our authority.

[English]

There is some confusion, whatever it is. But one thing I would like to mention here

[Translation]

by not going into the details of takeover we have to consider it as to what will be the position of a company when any private business houses.

[English]

Whether it is an Indian business house or foreign institutions

[Translation]

tries to totally takeover the Company then what will be the position of the Company.

[English]

If it is a Professional management, it means it is the Company Affairs Government Officials in a situation heading in a major state, Government financial institution,

[Translation]

Some have the share of 5 percent, 6 percent, 3 percent

[English]

and there is no coordinating body. [Translation] At that time any business house comes, it acquires 15 percent shares, announces the take over and gets the another 2 percent share then

[English]

he can grab the Company, he can run away. What is the provision? There is no provision, I approach the Department of Company Affairs, I approach the SEBI. When there is no provision, what will happen to Bombay Electric Suburban Company, what will happen to ITC, what will happen to HPC and what will happen to ICICI?

[Translation]

What will be their fate. Tomorrow if you make Unit Trust of India an independent body and somebody grabs it then

[English]

what will happen.

[Translation]

Government along with anybody don't have such a major share. Therefore, I would like to bring it to the notice of Government that this matter should be taken seriously. There is a very good provision regarding transfer of share, unpaid dividend, direct defaulters of company, people with criminal record or about non-payment of deposits but there is a proverb in Hindi that 'Hathi nikal gaya our dum reh gayi.' The efforts were made to bring this bill in 1996. At that time

[English]

a number of vanishing companies were entering in the market.

[Translation]

In the year 1994-95, 1995-96 some 3500 companies entered the market and nobody was there to stop them. Registrar of companies used to issue them certificate across the counter. If you go to fetch a ration card you need to fulfill a number of requirement but if you want to form a public limited company you simply go to the office of registrar and oblige them with Rs. one or two thousand

[English]

you can go to the office.

[Translation]

And what about the small inverter in villages of the country

[English]

You get the incorporation certificate.

[Translation]

and then by using this certificate of Government they used to collect a good amount of money, 3500 companies have collected rupees 10 thousand crore. I am going to say further and I am going to present data before you that this rupees 10 thousand crore was collected and out of these 3500 companies, 997 companies were put in 'Z' category by Mumbai Stock Exchange.

[English]

They said this company whether exists or does not exist, we do not know.

[Translation]

where they have withdrawn the money and where they spent it nobody knows. The collected money for a particular work but invested in some other company, subsidiary, holding company or some other place today we are bringing this act, the reply in this regard has come in the Parliament.

[English]

When we contacted when we approached various Ministries, they came out with the list

[Translation]

then why you are making this provision here that in this manner companies run away, they do not transfer, change their registered office.

[English]

The number of vanishing companies is only 80 and the total amount collected is only Rs. 240 crore. Then, why are you making this provision here?

[Translation]

Hon. Shivraj Patilji has said it very rightly that SEBI says they cannot protect small investor. What shall I say, about the department of companies affairs. It is said here that the people of Company Law Board are saying that

[English]

because nobody wants to accept the responsibility.

[Translation]

and the legal provision they are going to create is that within 30 days they have to give reply to C.L.B. and C.L.B. will have to take action. C.L.B. has only four Benches all over India for the small investors living in Jabalpur, Jamshedpur and Tripura.

[English]

There are only four Benches, only regional Benches and if

[Translation]

they file their complaints in C.L.B. they do not get reply

[English]

How can he approach the C.L.B.?

[Shri Kirit Somaiya]

[Translation]

We are trying to befool people, we have bring down the provision of 42 days to 30 days.

[English]

The Department of Company Affairs does not have any machinery. I am not blaming as such. They do not have the machinery. They do not have the Budget. They do not have the finance. Then, what kind of an Act are we bringing over here?

[Translation]

Here the Vice President of C.L.B. has said.

[English]

Now I would like to quote :

"CLB Vice Chairman, S. Balasubramanian pointing out several inconsistencies and anomalies in the various provisions of the Bill introduced in the Lok Sabha last session said companies as well as the CBL would face practical difficulties implementing the changes sought to be brought in through amendments."

Shri Balasubramanian felt that CLB would face problems passing orders on default in payment of small depositors money within 30 days of intimation.

[Translation]

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, whether they accept it or not but the condition of CLB is so pitiable that no matter how many NBFC have defaulted the Government has failed to get the money of a single investor recovered from NBFC. Here by Government, I don't mean Arunji because he has taken charge only a few days back. Earlier the Government was of UF and before that of Congress.

[English]

I am talking of the system. Not a single investor has got back a single paise.

[Translation]

What we are are going to do. We are talking that this amendment is for small investors but I don't to know how much small investors are going to be benefitted.

This is possible if the hon. Minister takes it seriously.

[English]

He has got that capacity; he can do it.

[Translation]

small investors expect a lot from the Government. They are expecting so many things from the Government and hope that this could be done, but how will it be done. It has been stated that there is default in deposits and interest on the deposit is not received. The Government have now brought a new provision, but we do not know whether any provision at present exists or not? Many companies including Garware and Kirloskar have not returned the deposit money of investors, they do not return the payment of debentures, pay interest etc, but have you ever penalised any Director for all these discrepancies? How may investors were given their money back? I had asked for a statement regarding the number of NBFCs which turned defaulters from the CLB, Department of Company Affairs and Ministry of Finance. The statement they have given is very comprehensive

[English]

see how these people replied.

[Translation]

there are different categories. As per the reply there are 97 Companies furnished in first category.

[English]

The number of complaints received is 3,535 and the total amount involved is Rs. 8.24 crore

[Translation]

Therefore, the reply is quite confusing. What is this reply? What is the amount involved in this? So 97 Companies have either been closed or have altogether vanished. Therefore what is the amount of loss. An amount of rupees 8.24 crore is involved as per all the complaints including individual complaints received. Actually the amount collected at that time had been lost.

[English]

but these people are not deriding that reply.

[Translation]

97 companies have officially accepted that the total amount is more than rupees 1300 crore, but the Department has stated this amount to be rupees 8.24 crore and now they come up with the provision. I only want to submit to the hon. Minister that he is doing a good job in every field, be it interim dividend, deposit, interest payment or transfer of shares.

[English]

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY : Sir, I fully share the sentiments of the hon. Member. Section 58AA has been introduced precisely keeping in view what the hon. Member has in his mind. Under this provision, he is right when he says that how do we expect small investor to travel to all parts of the country and then say that his Rs. 5,000 is stuck and he is spending Rs. 25,000 to recover it back. Therefore, in the first instance, now the obligation is on the company that the company must inform the Company Law Board what its defaults of all small depositors are. A provision has also been put giving the time limit that this intimation must come within sixty days of the default. The CLB will act within thirty days. The maximum extension that the CLB can get for acting is an additional period of thirty days. So, even for condonation of the delay for not having acted in thirty days, the CLB has an outer limit of sixty days under this Act.

The hon. Member said how does the small investor travel. It has been further provided that it is not necessary for the small depositor to be present at the time of the hearing. A simple postcard is enough. Then, there is a provision for penalties on the company which defaults. If a company does not repay him back, it cannot raise any further deposit from the market. Further, if it accepts loans from banks or financial institutions, all those moneys are first going to be utilised for repayment to the small depositors, rather than for any other business of the company, and if it still does not pay, the penalty amount is extended and then there is a provision for punishment up to three years to the officer of the company who is responsible.

[Translation]

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA : I admire and support the hon. Minister for the good work he is doing, but at some time I would like to draw his attention towards the fact that we work in the field, I am giving you the feed back that despite writing post cards to the company law board, no cognisance has been taken thereof.

[English]

Because they do not have the machinery, they do not have that much staff. That is why I am requesting you to provide something.

[Translation]

The Government have made a more large scale provision regarding unpaid dividend with the company for the last 7-8 years. No Government took any interest. However, this Government has paid attention towards the money locked up for 7-8 years.

[English]

It is a total waste.

[Translation]

Can you mention the amount of unpaid dividend lying with various banks till date, and what happened to the amount that is with the company or the amount that had been lost? No one has any information in this regard.

[English]

At least you have taken cognisance of it. It can be Rs. 10,000 crore, it can be Rs. 2,000 crore. Nobody knows it. That is why I am supporting you.

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY : For the entire money which is the unpaid dividend or the unpaid interest of depositors, now there will be a Fund created, which is the Investor Education Fund, and it will entirely go away from the company into that Fund. So, that Fund is intended to be created. Perhaps there is an independent Trust.

[Translation]

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA : You are doing all this and I congratulate you and urge you to at least take the investors awareness education protective measures too.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Kirit Somaiya, the hon. Minister is going on replying to all those points that you are raising. Now, a comprehensive provision is already made for all your points. I request you to make it short, as we have to pass this Bill.

[Translation]

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA : Sir, I would finish my speech after raising a few points. As per the provision made RBI can take action against those not implementing the orders of CLB. I would like to tell you that RBI has not taken action against any Director of any company.

[English]

How can you frame that the action can be expedited?

[Translation]

CLB passes order regarding payment of money with in two years, but it is not paid. RBI says that it does not have any machinery.

[English]

That is one more point. Another point is that there is a multiplicity of regulators to protect the interest of the small investors.

[Shri Kirit Somaiya]

[Translation]

and from this point of view I would say that there is SEBI, IOC, DC, CLB, RBI, State Government and CBI.

[English]

There are several multiplicity of agents.

[Translation]

If you do something from this point of view then it would be good and may facilitate the investors to make written complaints of any sort to only one agency.

[English]

That Government agency can act as a nodal agency and can pass on the complaint.

[Translation]

Sir, in the end, I would like to give a small suggestion to the hon. Minister. You are doing a lot. The Chartered Accountant Institutions have given suggestions to the Government. You also entered into discussion with the various Members of the Standing Committee. The two provisions which you are going to make,

[English]

In 1970, both the Government and parliament have brought the Chartered Accountants under a limit or ceiling.

[Translation]

No single Chartered Accountant can do audit of more than 20 companies, but another provision had been introduced at that time that the turnover of private limited company is very high.

[English]

That will be treated as a deemed public limited company.

[Translation]

That would also be included in this ceiling. Now you are making a provision to exclude a deemed limited company.

[English]

Once again that will become a private limited company.

[Translation]

Now one should find out as to which of the companies can become private limited under this provision. [English] Godrej will become a private limited company because Godrej is both a private limited company and also due to this deemed company's provision

[Translation]

then there is coca-cola alongwith this.

[English]

That is a private limited company. Enron is a private limited company.

[Translation]

My request is that we may monitor this to the best of our ability. You may please maintain the ceiling of 20 companies to be audited by a Chartered Accountant, but private company is also included in this ceiling. You don't exclude anything, but let them remain as it is. You have made one more small provision.

[English]

At one place, you have made some changes in the definition of an officer. The change that you have made is here. I do not know what was the intention of the Department in doing so.

[Translation]

At the time of changing the definition of managing agent you stated

[English]

Chartered Accountants will become or will be treated as officers now under the new definition.

[Translation]

I think that if the Chartered Accountant remains independent it would be beneficial. But their independence would be affected if they are made company's officer.

I would say one thing that you are proceeding in good direction. We hope that you would safeguard the interests of sole investors by bringing a comprehensive Bill soon.

[English]

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (Hoogly) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, my first observation on the Bill is that it is too little and too late because things are not going to improve.

DR. NITISH SENGUPTA (Contai) : It is better late than never.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : It may be so. Things are not going to improve—say it in the case of better corporate governance, better corporate democracy, more transparency and disclosure or be it in respect of prospectus or balance sheet, more accountability more deterrence in the matter of anti-investor activities. My apprehension is that things are not going to improve at all.

Sir, as you know, since the market economy was introduced in 1992 till today, the people of this country have lost an amount ranging from Rs. 35,000 crore to Rs. 38,000 crore. That is the rough estimate made by an independent authority. Of this, only the plantation companies alone accounted for above Rs. 15,000 crore. This Government has neither done anything nor does it intend to do anything. I am making a reference to the reply given by the hon. Minister. It says that out of 142 vanishing companies, prosecutions have been initiated against 93 companies and no prosecutions have been initiated against 37 companies. The question was : "What about the money lost by the common people of this country?" The reply was : "The Department has constituted some task force to identify the vanishing companies and the vanishing companies could not be traced. So, money could not be given back." This is the state of affairs.

Sir, investors are suffering in India. There are about 19 million investors in the country. The number is less than that in China although China opted for reforms in the share market only three or four years back and our stock market is about 125 years old. The protection that we provide to the investors is really in a very distressing condition. People have become totally disenchanted and the small investors, who are considered to be the pillars of the Indian stock market, have lost confidence. This piece of legislation is never going to restore the confidence of the small investors, and even of medium and short-term investors, in the share market. Investors have lost money in several ways. They have lost it through erosion of prices in the secondary market and through siphoning off company funds. We know that in this very House, we had discussed about some very important companies and how the promoters had siphoned off company funds, made them sick and to just avoid repayment of the money, they had managed to refer it to the BIFR. There was bad management of the companies. There is no legal system in this country to protect the investors' interest as it is there in some developed countries, for example, the United States. The Minister may now say that I have referred to China and now I am referring to the US. But what is good should be considered as good. In the U.S., such an exemplary compensation is given that it acts as a

deterrence, and the fly-by-night companies and others cannot escape. They have to pay money back. They are punished in such a manner that they have to pay back the money. But things are not going to improve here by this limited piece of legislation.

Again, several things are being said currently. It is also said that the smaller investors will be able to sell and buy their shares in the current situation in the demat form—I am speaking about the current situation—but the small investors can neither sell nor buy their shares, they are shunning the depositories. Only seven stock exchanges out of 23 have such arrangements. Depository is a costly affair and the custodial charges are there. The Registrar of Companies—this needs to be seriously considered—who is handling share transfer through conventional physical form is resorting to delaying tactics and the victims are the small investors.

The concept of corporate governance is there in Sir Cadbury Committee Report and several other Committee's Reports. We have discussed it in the House and also in the Committee, but we are nowhere near to the minimum concept of corporate governance

Coming to the Directors' responsibility, if the repayment of the deposit or dividend has not been made, then even the director of the defaulting company should be held responsible. Even today, the nominee directors are not at all held responsible, leave alone the other directors. Do you know what is happening? The companies are working in the manner they want them to be, without caring for the Company Law Board and SEBI. I had once asked the SEBI Chairman, "Do you consider yourself to be adequately equipped with the authority and power?" He frankly admitted, "SEBI is a toothless body." Even in the case of the prospectus when it was said that they should examine the prospectus before the initial offering was made, SEBI said that it was not its job, and that it was the job of the merchant banker. Now, it is good that the Government is ready to take up that responsibility. How far this is going to serve the purpose, I do not know.

The CLB is a quasi-judicial body. What punishment have they meted out to those offenders who have looted common people's money during the last eight years? When the market was opened in 1992 as a result of the then Congress Government wanting a market economy, there was *laissez-faire*, and there was no controlling or regulatory body. We know as to what happened in the securities scam. In the securities scam case, the JPC recommended certain things, but till today, this Government has not acted on them. There was a unanimous recommendation by the same JPC on securities scam that companies should have to perform such and such things; such and such should be the minimum criteria to be observed by them etc.

[Shri Rupchand Pal]

Coming to the provision of small investors' representatives on the Board, my esteemed senior colleague, Shri Shivraj Patil, mentioned that it was there earlier. But as far as I could understand from the Press reports, the industrial houses and the industrialists had put pressure on the Government that it should not be there. Now, they have made it optional not mandatory. It should be there to protect the small investors. This minimum provision should be there that they should have some sort of representation on the Board of Directors.

Sir, now I will come to clause 58 (a) (9). There is a sort of expression given in this clause, that is, the 'CLB can get an appropriate order'. What is an 'appropriate order'? It should be that the payment would have to be made. Clause 58 (a) (9) is not using that expression. The Minister may kindly explain as to what an appropriate order is.

Coming to the delegation of powers from the Department of Company Affairs to the Company Law Board, and to the SEBI, is okay. But how far SEBI will be able to perform this role, I am not sure about it.

Coming to the provision about the Audit Committee to be set up by the Board, and particularly, its observations to be incorporated in the report itself so that the shareholders can have their democratic right of perusing it, it is okay. But there is a serious development that is taking place. The independence of the audit system as such is being diluted. There are so many reports on the erosion of the independence of the audit system, and I am giving only one reference. There was a court judgment about the malpractices in the ICWA examinations. The Government is sitting over the report of the Inquiry Team on alleged malpractices in the declaration of June/December 1998 examination results by ICWA. The directives of the Department of Company Affairs are being thrown to the winds by very important people, by their own people. Even after the court judgment, if the malpractices in the examination results are allowed, then the independence of the audit system gets diluted.

The independence of the audit system is being diluted. The format has not been prepared and still the Government is saying that in a liberalised atmosphere we shall go in for the international standard of accounting. No one is going to believe such things.

Sir, my next point is about mergers and amalgamations. The points such as, what does the Government propose to do in case of takeovers that are hostile or otherwise; or, what would the SEBI do in case of takeovers, are being widely discussed. But my point is this. How is the interest of the small investors going to be protected in case of hostile takeovers or normal takeovers? How is this piece of legislation going to take care of this development that is taking place in the country? This is

one grey area that is helping the unscrupulous operators of the different companies to accumulate wealth at the cost of the nation and at the cost of the investors.

Sir, my next point is about the inter-corporate investments. The Government, in this piece of legislation, has not proposed anything concrete to take care of this particular area and things are deteriorating day by day.

My next point is about the conflicting powers of various institutions. What is the responsibility of the Company Law Board? What is the responsibility of the SEBI? What is the responsibility of the RBI? These responsibilities should be very clearly and categorically mentioned. There are cases where the SEBI says that it is the duty of the Company Law Board and the Company Law Board says that they are powerless and RBI can only do it. There are cases about prosecution, punishment, penalties and such other things.

Sir, my next point is about falsification of accounts. After the changes made in the Money Laundering Bill and with the introduction of the new FEMA, falsification of accounts is a very serious problem. We may go on speaking about corporate governance, about transparency and about disclosures, but this falsification of accounts is a very big menace. After the introduction of the new FEMA, there are always two to three sets of balance sheets. One is for income tax, one is for prospectus and one is for other purposes. I would like to know as to how this piece of legislation is going to improve the situation.

Sir, I have one suggestion to make. Why should the interest of the small investors not be insured? Insurance of the interest of the small investors is one of the measures that could give some protection to the small investors as a whole.

Sir, there were some recommendations made by the Dhanuka Committee. They made very valid suggestions in regard to the division of jobs and exclusive powers given to SEBI and others. The hon. Minister may just share his information about the recommendations made by the Dhanuka Committee.

Sir, my next point is about deletions made. We are repeatedly being told that any company where there is a Government share of more than 25 per cent it is not to be considered a private company. In the matter of disinvestment the Government is repeatedly saying that in case of banks even if the shareholding is brought down from 51 per cent to 33 per cent, it does not matter. In case of the insurance sector 26 per cent shareholding is enough to control it because nothing can be done without the permission of the Government. The hon. Minister may kindly clarify section 43(a). I would like to know if the Government would have the same kind of control with 26 per cent of shares as it would have with 51 per cent of shares or not.

Then there is this Indian company concept in the case of insurance also. What is an Indian company? How can a foreign company have an Indian partner? It was stated-Indian company 'as defined in the Companies Act'. In the current scenario where foreign companies are coming into the country and having Indian partners with a larger share, matters relating to takeover, behind-the-scenes operations, having full control, and all such things should be explained by the Government.

In the current situation in which the investor's confidence is at a low ebb, a comprehensive statutory codification is necessary. A blend of statutory codification with self-regulation is essential. A new concept has come up of not only corporate governance but corporate ethics. Will this piece of legislation be able to ensure that the companies act more ethically? Unethical practices like taking money from banks but not repaying, promising high dividends to investors but not paying them, are going on. After a point of time such companies vanish from the scene. An independent study has stated that between 1992 and 2000, no less than Rs. 35,000 crore to Rs. 38,000 crore of investors' money has been lost this way.

Postal ballot is a good idea, but the Government has to see as to how things can be improved. Coming to disqualification of Directors, is there any limit on how many Directors can be there in a company? I asked a Director of a company as to how he is able to remember all those things. Some of them said that they did not need to remember things and all that they need to do was to put their signatures. It has to be seen as to how the Directors of defaulting companies can be debarred. Responsibility should be fixed on the Directors of such companies. I would suggest that Directors of those companies who defaulted on payments should be punished. Such companies should not be given financial assistance by any financial institution till they repay the loans taken. I started with the observation that it is too little and too late. Hundreds and thousands of people of this country have lost huge amounts of their hard-earned money.

There is hardly any transparency in the capital markets. There is hardly any control exercised over them. Reforms do not mean that there should be no control. Even in a liberalised atmosphere we find control over loans taken by companies from financial institutions. The Government should apply its mind to this very serious situation. The capital market currently looks like a paradise of the foreign institutional investors who are operating as speculators. Only a handful of scrips relating to the fields of information, communication and entertainment, and consumer goods are doing well. It is a dismal picture otherwise. The capital market has neither the depth nor the breadth. If anyone is responsible for this, it is the policy of the Government. In the name of reforms the Government has opened up economy without imposing any control. The people are at the receiving end. They are losing.

They have lost faith and confidence. This piece of legislation is not going to restore confidence among the people because there is a total lack of confidence.

I would rather suggest that by bringing a comprehensive Bill please try to protect not only the small investors but all other investors who want to contribute to the nation-building process in their own way. There should be more transparency and more accountability. There should be a Government which applies its mind about the operations taking place not only in the capital market but inside the companies also.

[Translation]

DR. SANJAY PASWAN (Nawada) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise to speak in support of the Companies Amendment Bill.

First of all I would like to say that in childhood, we used to be scared of the name 'company' because East India Company had enslaved us. That's why we used to be apprehensive about it. Later on as we grew, people used to say that a person's character is reflected in the company he keeps.

[English]

A man is known by his company.

[Translation]

It led to a change in our perception that company refers to something different and when I heard about company in 'Company Bagh' from people, I felt better. Now I feel pride in saying that the companies of our country, all the countries of world.

[English]

Today a country is known by the companies, as to what they possess in regard to their dimensions, size and corporate outlay.

[Translation]

Today, it is the competition age all over the world.

1753 hrs.

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair.]

Scenario of the whole world is changing. Therefore, companies of our country were hoping that the expected fundamental changes in the corporate structure should occur, economy should transform. That is why demands for amendment were being made since long. The Bill

[Dr. Sanjay Paswan]

hon'ble Minister has brought is not comprehensive but even then it will lead to internal reforms and the Indian corporate world is definitely going to benefit from it. I would like to especially mention ESOP which provides for stock options for employees of the company. Today the number of employees of 'Wipro and Infosys' runs in lakhs and these companies are flourishing. On the other hand the public sector companies are on the verge of closure. They may get a new lease of life if employees have a stake in the companies. The new scheme of ESOP will definitely be beneficial to us and the companies, on verge of becoming sick and liable to be referred to BIFR will get an opportunity of revival through direct participation of greater number of employees in management. Therefore, I want that ESOP be re-defined and more companies should be benefitted from it. We appreciate the efforts of hon'ble Minister in that direction.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, a good provision has been mentioned by Shri Shivraj Patil that the foreign companies role in technology upgradation, skill development and other social sectors has been defined through corporate social response.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, Companies Act does not provide for social responsibility. It ought to be included. It may not be possible to include it in this amendment but the later amendments should include provision for corporate social responsibility. Our society is large. The economic prosperity of companies at present is benefitting only a few regions, a few persons and a few metropolitan areas. I wish that the advantages of economic prosperity should permeate all over the society. The corporate sector should benefit all sections of society which include women, farmers, youth, students, workers etc. Every section should get the benefit. Therefore cooperative, Social Responsibility clause should be included by bringing a comprehensive Bill.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, thirdly I would like to mention GDR or Global Depository Receipt and ADR or American Depository Receipt. Similarly we should also provide for India Depository Receipt so that the foreign companies willing to enter capital market of the country can be permitted to do so. Therefore, through you, I would like to submit that the obstructions in the way of making it society oriented should be removed and proper care should be taken to ensure its benefit to the common man.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, fourthly, 'demat' form has been made compulsory which is good. It was warranted and would prove beneficial. Earlier putting in so much information required in the application was very difficult. Therefore 'demat' form has been made mandatory for a few companies. It is a good provision and will benefit the investor and their participation will increase. We are optimistic because the hitherto unrepresented section will now have a Director in the Board who would protect the interests of small investors.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the power given to SEBI through the amendment is praiseworthy, it is the age of convergence. It is the age of homogeneity. I welcome whatever has been stated about convergence. It will remove the complaints raised by SEBI. I welcome it whole heartedly.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is a provision about debenture trustee. Definitely, it is in the interest of common man. I welcome it. Common man reposes faith in debentures and in India more people invest in debenture than in shares. Low income group wants to earn an assured percentage of interest on their money. Therefore, a large section of our society invests in debentures. Therefore it is right on the part of hon'ble Minister to try to form debentures trustee. Investors need security of return. Therefore this attempt to protect the interests of the investor through debenture trustee, needs to be welcomed. It will benefit small investors of our country.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon'ble Minister had also dwelt about transparency. If there is any difference between audit committee and Board, that would be brought before the shareholders. It is a great leap forward. It reflects the concern of the hon'ble Minister for transparency and it also reveals his willingness to bring about transparency in the companies.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Bill was quite comprehensive and I welcome the effort to make it more concise through the exclusion of useless clauses and retaining of effective and relevant ones. Thus the number of clauses, sections and schedules have been reduced. It is definitely an admirable step. Finally I would like to repeat that in order to socially orient the role of companies, the concept of corporate social responsibility should be introduced in our country. The concept exists in other countries of the world. I want that the concept of CSR be implemented in our companies and they should be encouraged to work for the betterment of society and the country. The hon'ble Minister should take care of these aspects.

I believe that Government is concerned about it. After this amendment, other more comprehensive amendments would follow and the aspects which have been raised may find a place there. Therefore I think that the major companies of our country would work in the interests of our economy and society. I conclude with once again expressing my support in favour of the Bill.

18.00 hrs.

[English]

DR. B.B. RAMAIAH (Eluru) : Hon. Speaker, Sir, the Companies (Second Amendment) Bill is mainly intended to provide certain measures for evolving good corporate

governance, to provide measures for investor protection and to make certain important changes in the Companies Act which could not be done when it was enacted in 1997.

Whatever major items the hon. Minister mentioned in his introductory speech, were covered by other hon. Members here. One of the items is amendment to Section 205 and Section 205A, which is about interim dividend. It is a good suggestion. Interim dividend is to be protected like any other dividend. It cannot be reduced. That is more important. Once they declare dividend, that has to be protected and implemented. They should take care of that aspect. At a later stage, they should not be allowed to say that they would reduce it.

The next thing is that they want to modify '42 days' as '30 days'. Hon. Member Shri Shivraj Patil also mentioned about it. I feel that it should be kept as 42 days so that reasonable time is given to them to take all measures necessary. They have to take care of implementation and distribution also. These may take some more time. I feel that even 42 days is not enough and it should be 45 days. So, I feel that the existing thing should not be disturbed and it should be kept as it is. The only thing is that the interim dividend has to be made compulsory and it should not be reduced at a later date. It is a very important one and we should be able to take proper care of this.

The next one is about Clause 7, which is about insertion of new section 17A. It provides for a change of place within a State. After going through the whole Bill, I feel that it is not really making any difference when it is going to be within a State. When it is going to be within the State, this experiment need not be made on a trial basis; and the existing system itself would provide sufficient protection. So, having a change within the State is not necessary. Therefore, you may take this into consideration when you are doing it finally.

The other amendment is in Clause 75, which is insertion of new section 192A. Some hon. Members have already said about ballot. I feel that electronic system is working properly here and we have so many other protections. So, I think, postal ballot need not be made compulsory. It is this provision which leads to so many other conditions. They mentioned the period as 30 days within which postal ballots have to be sent. I feel that postal delays would take place depending on whether a place is remote or otherwise. So, it has to be taken into consideration.

Another thing is that is mentioned that notice will be sent by registered post. It will cost you substantial amount of money.

MR. SPEAKER : Just a minute, Shri Ramaiah. It is already 6 o'clock. There are three more speakers. If the House agrees we can extend the time till the completion of this business.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj) Sir, there are no speakers from our party. If there are only two or three more speakers, we can sit and dispose it of today itself.

MR. SPEAKER : Thank you. You are more liberal today.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Sir, I am always. In the liberal economy, everything is to be liberal.

DR. B.B. RAMAIAH : About this registered post, I think, it is going to take substantial amount. The number of shareholders has gone up to nearly lakhs and it is going to be very expensive. So, shall we make a slight modification here? We can say that it will be sent to those who are interested or those who opt for giving a postal ballot provision. Something like this should be there. If we do this, we will be able to save substantial amount. I only request the hon. Minister to take care of this small provision.

The next thing on which we should take a re-look is the powers that have been given to SEBI. All the time, SEBI is saying that it does not have enough teeth to operate and have control.

Now the Company Law Board says that you want to give more powers to SEBI and they should operate it. If we want the SEBI to take up this responsibility, they should be given enough machinery so that the listed companies are not made to run from pillar to post and from Company Law Board to SEBI. We should make it clear as to who is going to operate, who has got the power and how they should be operated. I would request the hon. Minister to make it very clear. If you want the SEBI to take care of all these things, make it very clear that SEBI is the final authority and they should not be again going to the Company Law Board.

Clause 102 talks about Audit. Several hon. Members have already mentioned about the Audit Committee. The Audit Committee made it very clear that only outside Directors should become member of the Committee. As the Bill say, it is going to be mandatory for the Board to accept whatever the Audit Committee says. They have to simply take into consideration whatever the Committee says. I think we should not make it compulsory. But they should take that into consideration. They should give all

[Dr. B.B. Ramaiah]

the responsibility and they should honour it as far as possible. A full time Director should also be there in the Audit Committee so that he can also make proper decisions at the time of the audit committee meets. Now, the Audit Committee does not have a full time Director and no responsible person is there. They will be able to make their own comments and the Board has to accept it. I think we should be able to make some changes in the provisions of the Audit Committee. It also says that General Body has to take into consideration any case, any resolution and anything that is coming to it. It is the final authority. No matter what is going to happen.

Presently, a person can be Director of the Board in 20 companies. I am happy that it has been reduced to 15 companies. It is quite good. It is quite reasonable. Small depositors protection clause is very clear. The penalties that we have put here are very severe. I think, at this juncture it should be moderate and could be increased step by step. If some representations come to you, then probably you can increase it step by step later on.

I am very happy that you are talking about small depositors. We should also give protection to small depositors. If the small depositors are not able to get the refund in time, they should be able to come back to you. I hope the concerns of the small depositors will be taken into consideration.

Regarding take-over, I would like to know whether SEBI is going to take full responsibility for the take-overs in view of the multi-nationals coming into our country. What type of protection are you going to give to these people? What type of regulations are you going to make? Since they have a huge money, takeover would be much easier for them.

Now, I will come to buy back shares. We should make some clauses very clear. We should make clear the provisions regarding buy back shares as far as possible. On the auditors side, I would suggest that you can put a limit on the number of debentures or shares which the Auditor can hold in a company. Just because somebody is holding debentures or shares in a company, he should not be prohibited from auditing.

The limit of Rs. 5 lakh prescribed for the public companies is not enough. The minimum should be Rs. 10 lakh. It is because the value of the rupee is coming down so much. It should be Rs. 10 lakh to see to it that an individual who does not have enough money is not registered. Otherwise, many small companies have registered themselves with small amounts and they are raising money from the public also. The Public is not able to understand their financial and management capacities.

So, we have to take that into consideration. It is said that small shareholders should be represented by a Director in the Board. I do not know whether it would be of much use for small shareholders because they are already represented in the General Body.

Worker Directors are not willing to come, as Shri Shivraj Patil has mentioned, because they have a commitment. Once they are in the Board, they have to oblige others. Being outsiders, they have more right to fight and they can make more representations. I feel that is not an important thing. Their Directorship in the company is not very important. What is being mentioned is also very clear. If we can consider some of these things, it is good. Of course, it is not going to be final. It is only a second amendment Bill and we are going to have a final amendment Bill which is going to take care of some of the items which are not covered in this.

Somebody has suggested about the insurance for small share-holders. I think it is very good. If this is done, it will cover a number of problems. Today, insurance is not going to help anybody, if he is in difficulty because bulk insurance has been taken. If you can make it, it would become much easier for the companies to operate and they will also be more effective.

I appreciate the hon. Minister taking up this issue. I hope he will be able to bring the third amendment Bill also which will be the final Bill and which will take care of all that is required for the protection of small shareholders and for better management of companies. With these few words, I thank you very much.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA (Ponnani) Mr Speaker Sir, at the outset, I record my protest and objection at the procedure adopted by the Government with respect to the amendment of our Company Law. It is very fortunate that, Mr. Speaker, Sir, you yourself are in the Chair. Please consider this situation.

A comprehensive Bill was introduced in the other House. It is pending there. The government picked up certain provisions of that Bill, incorporated them in an Ordinance and promulgated the Ordinance. Now, the comprehensive Bill, which was introduced, had been referred to the Departmentally related Standing Committee. By doing so, they have presented the Standing Committee with a strange situation as the clauses which had to be considered had already come into force. This is rather unfortunate. The matter has gone further. The Government again picked up certain more clauses from the comprehensive Bill, and incorporated them into the Companies (Second Amendment) Bill which is now before us.

Now, Sir, we have this situation; a comprehensive Bill is before the other House. At the same time, a Companies (Second Amendment) Bill is before us. Such anomalies must be avoided. What was the defence of the Government? The Government said that certain provisions of the comprehensive Bill must come into force at once so that benefit can be obtained. It is a good point but look at the situation. The Departmentally related Standing Committee has cleared the comprehensive bill and the report of the Standing Committee has also been laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha on 27th July, 2000. Similarly, the report of the Standing Committee on the second amendment Bill has also been cleared and laid on the Table of the House on the 27th July, 2000.

So, when both the Bills—the comprehensive Bill and the amendment Bill that you have brought—have already been cleared by the Standing Committee and the reports have already been given, then the preference ought to have been given to the comprehensive Bill rather than this amendment Bill. We have this very strange situation. We are today considering the Companies Second (Amendment) Bill in direct contravention of what is stated in the Statement of Objects and Reasons appended to this Bill. The statement of aims and objects of the Bill says

"The process of examination (examination of the comprehensive Bill), however, is not yet over and is still to take some more time. The passing of this Bill is likely to be delayed further."

But Sir, this is not today's position. The comprehensive Bill has already been cleared. So, why is the priority to amendment Bill rather than the comprehensive Bill without being told as to what is the Government attitude with respect to the comprehensive Bill?

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I must say, with due respect, that you must take cognisance of such playful attitude to the legislative procedure. It is now for the Speaker himself, for the Rules Committee, and for the House to consider whether when a particular Bill is before a Standing Committee or a Select Committee, it is appropriate, proper, fair, and just for the Government to pick up certain clauses, formulate an amendment Bill, and rush it through either by an ordinance or an amendment Bill. Sir, this is an unhappy situation that has come up. We must deliberate upon this so that we are not faced with this situation that the Members go on asking for a comprehensive Bill and the comprehensive Bill is already there, cleared by the Standing Committee and yet in preference to that the Government comes up with a Bill in which certain provisions of the comprehensive Bill have been picked up and formulated as an amendment bill.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, with that protest with respect to the Parliamentary procedure, I proceed with the provisions of the Bill. The objectives of the Bill are three-fold. First, to secure better corporate governance, second, to secure transparency in the working of companies, and third to secure better compliance with the provisions of the Act. These are welcome objectives and it is heartening to find that the Government is alive to the needs as are reflected in the objectives of the Bill. The Government needs to be complimented in that particular respect.

Sir, there are, however, several deficiencies and defects, if I may say, with respect to the Bill that is there. In general, the sincerity of the Government for the various objectives as I have presented is a welcome thing and deserves full congratulations and compliments. However, there are serious defects in the Bill.

Sir, I take up the question of powers that have been given to the different authorities. There are concurrent powers given to different authorities. Now, I can give so many examples. But these concurrent powers that will be exercised by different authorities will create chaos and confusion.

Take clause 16. Clause 16 says that the administration of the provisions of certain sections will be with the Board which is called Securities Exchange Board of India, SEBI. What are these sections, the administration of which now goes to SEBI? I will take up just a few sections to give certain examples.

Section 60 of the principal Act says that a copy of the prospectus has to be delivered to the Registrar. There is no provision whatsoever either in the principal Act or in this amending Bill that a copy of the prospectus is also to be delivered to the SEBI. Yet, the SEBI is required to administer this section also. These are certain facts which are to be taken into consideration.

Take section 211 of the principal Act. It deals with the form and content of the balance sheet and the profit and loss account. Section 227 makes the compliance of this provision of section 211 about the balance sheet and the profit and loss account the responsibility of the auditors. Here, the responsibility is also placed for administration concurrently upon the SEBI. What would be the position in case the two authorities differ with respect to the compliance of the provisions of section 211 with respect to the balance sheet and the profit and loss account? If the auditors say one thing and the SEBI says another thing and if the Act says that both are responsible for the administration of this particular section, then we have a confusing situation.

[Shri G.M. Banatwalla]

Similarly, in the case of inspection of books of accounts, the authority rests with the Registrar of Companies and with such officers of the Central Government as may be authorised. Here, by an amendment in the present Bill, the authority also rests with the SEBI. We, therefore, have concurrent powers. I do not want to say that SEBI should not have the responsibility to administer. That is not my point. The only point that I am emphasizing here is that this sort of concurrent powers resting with different authorities may create confusion and difficulties with respect to the implementation of the various provisions.

We have clause 3 which deals with the requirements of minimum paid up capital. A private company must have a minimum paid up capital of Rs. 1 lakh and a public company is required to have Rs. 5 lakh of minimum paid up capital. This requirement is imposed with retrospective effect. It would have been better if this requirement had been for the new companies. But, even when we take the question of retrospective effect, I do not have any serious objection. There are certain points that have to be considered here. If an existing public company is not in a position to acquire the minimum paid up capital of Rs. 5 lakh during a period of two years after the commencement of the Act, its name will be struck off the register.

Here, an option should be given to this public company stating that instead of the name being struck off from the register, the public company may exercise the option to be treated as a private company. Now, this option may exist as a result of certain other provisions of the Act but then to avoid the difficulties, the option ought to have been included in Clause 3. There are also companies that are limited by guarantee and not having share capital. Their position is also to be taken into consideration.

Now, two years time is given after the commencement of this Act for the companies to comply with the requirement of minimum capital. What would be the status of these companies during this interval of two years? It should have been clarified rather than left to a mere guess work. It should have been clarified that during the period of these two years granted to the companies, in order to acquire the minimum paid-up capital, their status would be the same and should be considered the same as they were at the commencement of the Act.

Sir, in the case of directors, it is a welcome provision that no person can hold the office of directors in more than 15 companies at a time but even this figure of 15 is rather large. I have an amendment to say that the maximum number should not be more than seven. Then, how are the shareholders and others to know whether a particular person who has presented himself to be

appointed as a director is or is not a director in 15 or more companies? Therefore, certain provisions should have been there to take care of it, for example, requiring that a director to give an affidavit to the effect that he is not a director in 15 or more companies. There is also Clause 122 about the appointment of a director to represent the small shareholders. The point has already been made and I emphasise that this particular provision given in the Bill must remain. I emphasise that and I appeal to the hon. Minister not to move an amendment which makes it optional. This is throwing away the interests of the small shareholders. The point has already made very clearly and therefore, I will not speak more about this particular point. But let there be no dilution of this particular fact that the interests of the small shareholders be represented in the Board of Directors through the provision that there shall be a director representing them. Sir, small shareholders must be given the voice to represent on the Board of Directors and I see no practical difficulties in having this provision of the Bill come into force.

There are questions about the postal ballot. There is a need for postal ballot. I am happy that it is coming up from the Government. It gives transparency with respect to working and various points. But the items for which the postal ballot shall be necessary must be mentioned in the Bill itself. It has been relegated to the field of delegated legislation.

On the one hand, if you are assuring the Bill is coming in order to have transparency and, on the other hand, you relegate important areas to delegated legislation or rules made under the law, it is not a happy situation. If I am not wrong, there was a Committee that goes by the name "Birla Committee." This Birla Committee has already mentioned certain businesses, the resolution reading which shall be transacted by a postal ballot. Those items of business should have been included in the Bill itself, in the relevant clause itself. It is not a happy method of legislation to depend upon excessive delegated legislation.

The second point in the matter of postal ballot is that the value of shares should be given due weightage for the purpose of passing any resolution. Right now, the Company Law allows a poll to be taken when demanded. Therefore, the shareholders with the requisite voting clout can put up their point of view. The same thing should be there in the case of postal ballot also.

The third point that I make is that there will be need for elaborate rules with respect to postal ballot. Perhaps that goes in the field of delegated legislation. But let us not go the way the United States has gone today. Let our postal ballot, counting of etc. go well. I wish the Government well in that particular matter.

We are talking about electronic methods of voting also. It is a happy and welcome point. But then let us remember that the electronic voting method is also subject to manipulations and great care will have to be taken with respect to it.

A good concern and a welcome concern has been shown to the protection of the interests of the small depositors. However, in thinking of the interests of the small depositors, we need not unnecessarily make such a discrimination which does not really go in favour of the small depositors. For example, when a company makes default in payment, then default is a default whether it is with respect to small depositors or others. The intimation of the default both in respect of the small depositors and the others must go to the Company Law Board. There is nothing wrong in it. The intimation can go to the Board. When it comes to taking up loans from the bank for working capital needs, the small depositors must be paid first. That point is well taken. But then having other unnecessary provisions is a different matter. So, in the case of default, that default has to be communicated to the Company Law Board both in respect of the small depositors as also the other depositors. But in the case of payment of money obtained as a loan for working capital needs from the banks, preference may be given to the small depositors. Here, a practical question may arise. A company may go to a bank for a loan for working capital needs. Supposing the bank does not agree to such an utilisation of funds, namely, that the deposits are to be paid, then what would be the situation? The point to be considered is : "Will the company get dried up of raising the loan needed for working capital?"

Sir, in the case of auditor's adverse comments, what does the clause say? The relevant clause says : "that observations and comments of the auditors which have any adverse effect on the functioning of the company should be given in bold letters or in italics." This is a long way of going through which would create problems. It says that not all the adverse comments of the auditors are to be put in bold letters, but the directors will sit in order to pick and choose as to which of the adverse comments are such that would have an effect on the functioning of the company and then, as per their choice, those comments may be highlighted. I think, all the adverse comments of the auditors should have been taken up for being given in bold letters.

There is a welcome provision about the auditors. But it is provided that a private company shall be excluded in reckoning the number of companies an auditor can audit. I feel that this exclusion should not be there. Otherwise, there will be concentration of audit work with certain large

audit firms. This is a very unhappy situation. Then, Section 224 (1) (b) has two distinct restrictions. The first restriction is that it forbids those with a full-time employment from being appointed as auditors. The second restriction is that it restricts a person from being appointed as auditor of more than one specified company. But in the case of private companies, both these restrictions are removed. This is rather unfair and the restriction on a person with a full-time employment ought not to have been there. The private companies are being exempted from the restriction with respect to the number of companies that an auditor can have. It will lead to a concentration of audit work with certain companies.

Sir, there are several other points that have to be considered. But in deference to your restlessness, I would conclude by saying that the whole Bill needs a relook in spite of the fact that it has been cleared by the Standing Committee. There are certain amendments for which I have given notices. Then there are certain other amendments for which I could not give notices. But then the fact remains that the Bill is highly deficient and defective in various respects.

[Translation]

SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE (Malegaon) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, companies play a big role in the development of the country. Companies have share holders which include educated persons and other people. Many opinions have been expressed about the Bill.

But it has been provided for the first time that in case a private or public company is unsuccessful in raising its paid up capital in a manner prescribed in subsection (3) and sub section (4) such company is liable to be declared a defunct company under section 560 and its name will be struck off by the Registrar. A number of companies avail themselves of a number of facilities at the outset while many other think that they will be better off if closed. I have seen many such cases in Mumbai. Companies get all the facilities from the Government and the shareholders and then they think about the ways to make the company defunct. It gives them maximum benefits. Therefore I request the hon'ble Minister that much more thought be given in this regard.

[English]

DR. NITISH SENGUPTA (Contai) : Sir, I thank you very much. First of all, let me congratulate the hon. Minister and the faceless civil servants who have been responsible for bringing forward this long overdue Amending Bill. We are present on an historic occasion when the sun is setting

[Dr. Nithish Sengupta]

on the old Indian Companies Act, 1956. Hopefully, by tomorrow morning, the sun will rise on the Companies Act, 2000. Or more appropriately, looking at the very modernising features which have been introduced, I venture to suggest that it should be re-christened as the Corporate Governance Act, 2000 consistent with the current reality all over the world and also in India.

I support many of the salutary provisions. I think, one of the things which was omitted by all the speakers is the fact that in 1970, the managing agency was abolished. As you know, one-third of the old Act dealt with the managing agency. Today, up till now, technically, all sections remain, although they were repealed-cluttering the number situation in the Companies Act. I thank the Minister for bringing out a new Act with re-numbering of the sections which may create some problems initially for lawyers, accountants and corporate people but will eventually be very helpful.

I have only two more points to add. One is that when you are bringing postal ballot, why do you also not try to rationalise it? Let me say that telephone conferences, meetings or video conferences and very often Board meetings in the West are held through video or through telephone. Our laws do not permit it. I think, we should permit that sort of thing.

The other point is about Audit. I support that proposal of the Audit Committee which is consistent with the Cadbury Committee and the new provisions of corporate governance. I support my colleagues who mentioned earlier that this should not be binding on the Board of Directors because the Board of Directors have a complete authority over total management of the companies under the Companies Act. That cannot really be taken away by the Report of the Audit Committee. So, it should be given due consideration.

With these words, I wholeheartedly support this Bill and recommend that the House should pass it as quickly as possible.

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY) : Sir, I am extremely grateful to the hon. Members of the House who have expressed themselves at length on various provisions of the proposed Amending Bill. Several very valuable suggestions have been made. I take up the suggestion made by Dr. Nitish Sengupta. This is really a new law for corporate governance. The object of this law is corporate governance in the context of the modern economy – transparency in the functioning of the companies and the protection of investor's interests as such.

This Bill is really an offshoot of the comprehensive or the mother Bill as was suggested three years ago, the first instalment of which we legislated last year; the second we are in the process of doing. And since a question has been raised by Shri Banatwalla as to what happens to the comprehensive Bill, let me assure the hon. Member that as far as the comprehensive Bill is concerned, a very large number of its provisions have already been legislated. A very large number of its provisions are being legislated presently. One exclusive aspect is really relating to the jurisdiction of the Company Law Board. One of the reasons why it was held back for some period was -- because of the question which Shri Banatwalla himself raised -- that there is in some areas of corporate governance a multiplicity of authority.

My friend Shri Kirit Somaiya also raised this question as to the small investors having to go from pillar to post, there are some powers in relation to some companies which go to the BIFR, there are some powers in relation to adjudication of disputes which are before the Company Law Board, there are some powers in relation to small depositors which are before the Company Law Board and there are also some powers relating to corporate insolvency which are with the High Courts. Therefore, a view had been expressed in addition to the suggestions which have already been made that this multiplicity of different forums, on which various corporate related legal issues and issues of rights of depositors, investors, shareholders are settled, should it remain different forums or is a comprehensive view possible on that.

The Government had constituted a Committee on the subject headed by Justice Eradi which has already submitted its report. The very valuable suggestions made by the Committee are being considered. So, one significant aspect or the crucial aspect in the comprehensive Bill which remains will be harmoniously dealt with when we deal with that along with the recommendations of the Justice Eradi Committee and very soon hopefully even those aspects will one day see the light of the day and that day will not be very far off.

Several issues have been raised and very valuable suggestions have been given. Some provisions have been considered very salutary and with regard to some others, some suggestions have been made.

I think, Shri Shivraj Patil, with all his experience, made a valuable suggestion that in addition to this law, we also require a modernisation of the entire corporate governance of the corporate structure and its management. I take this suggestion and I would inform the hon. Member that today, when we raise this threshold limit for registration of private

companies to a Rs. 1 lakh capital and the public companies to a Rs. 5 lakh capital, one of the reasons was that we want the excess baggage which has been registered with the companies and which are defunct companies, not doing any business, really there ought to be some disincentive for them to go out because they are only blocking the space.

A large number of them do not even file annual returns. There is an onerous responsibility and a large manpower required in order to take penal action against them. So, the Government in this regard had initiated the Company Law Settlement Scheme this year. The Company Law Settlement Scheme was that for all companies which are really defunct which have not been really filing returns, we give them an option with a certain penalty amount, should do so now. The second limb of the scheme is today in operation wherein a fast track exit rule has already been provided to them. That is to say, that if you are not doing any business, instead of merely being an excess baggage in the office of the registrar of companies, you apply for deregistration of companies and within a period of 37 days, we deregister you. The corpus collected from that, of course, goes into the Consolidated Fund of India and we are making an endeavour to get back some grant for that purpose so that the entire function of the ROC offices in relation to the reduced burden could really be computerised and you could have filing of returns inspection of balancesheets, inspection in relation to the documents of the company, the whole exercise itself could be on line. That really is a process which is separately on, in relation to the modernisation of the very functioning of the companies itself.

A very important question has been raised relating to exercise of ballot by a postal ballot. Let me elaborate upon this. Normally, the voting in the company takes place at the Annual General Meetings of the company or the Extraordinary General Meetings of the company. The traditional methods of voting are either you be present in person or you exercise your vote through a proxy. Now, in large public companies, it is not possible for shareholders to travel across the length and breadth of the country to be present in person only with regard to voting because the amount they spend in the process of attending those AGMs itself may be much more than the amount of dividend which they are realising.

Therefore, the practice, which Shri Patil fears, that people go around collecting proxies has been a practice which is in vogue.

It is precisely to do away with that practice, it has been suggested that there could be certain spheres of corporate governance in which a larger participation is

required, which the Government could notify from time to time those spheres of corporate governance and those resolutions where voting would be by postal ballot. Electronic voting has been suggested by the Standing Committee - we accept that suggestion - and electronic voting should be included within the definition of 'postal ballot'. So, postal ballot will enable a shareholder to say, "I cannot be present at the AGM of the Company. I am not prepared to cut my hands off and give my right to vote to somebody else as a proxy holder. I shall, by post, sitting in my house, register my ballot and the obligation is in the company to provide him with the resolution and all the facilities for exercising the right of postal ballot." Therefore, as far as postal ballot is concerned, it is a step which we have taken in the right direction, in order to have a more participatory involvement of the shareholders in certain crucial decisions which will be taken at the AGM or the EGM of the Company.

A suggestion was made whether 30 days' period for payment of dividend would be inadequate, and therefore, some Director, maybe a professional Director itself, may be held responsible if the Company does not pay. If we analyse clause 88, we have consciously used the word, "whoever knowingly delays". So, there is an element of *mens rea*, there is an element of criminal intention, you know that you are supposed to have the dividend paying to the shareholder within 30 days. In fact, the Standing Committee has gone a step further and said, "for interim dividend, do not even wait for 30 days, make it 'within five days'." Once the company is declaring an interim dividend the company knows that it has to pay to every shareholder, and therefore, make it five days that it must reach. Somebody, for reasons beyond his control if it cannot be paid because of a postal delay, he would not be liable. But if somebody knowingly and consciously delays the payment of dividend and involves himself into such an act, which goes to hurt the interest of the shareholder, it is only such Director who would be held responsible. So, the entire responsibility is prefaced by consciously using the word, 'knowingly', as far as this section is concerned.

Directors' responsibility statement is a concept of corporate governance which applies to all Directors. The object is that now there are standing accounting norms. Shri Rupchand Pal was right when he said that in the matter of accounting of the companies, let nothing be done, which hurts the interest of the system or the shareholders or the depositors as far as the company is concerned. Now, internationally acceptable accounting standards have been evolved over a period of years. Now, these accounting standards are known to the Company. Those who consciously choose even as professionals to become the Directors of the Company are aware of these accounting standards and when they lend their weight to the management of the Company, and when they lend

[Shri Arun Jaitley]

their signature to the Balance Sheet of the Company, they must be fully conscious that all those standards have been complied with, and there is no jugglery which is being played against the interest of somebody. Therefore, it would not be proper to say that some Directors should be held responsible and some Directors merely because they belong to particular vocations should be exempted from this provision. This provision has been applied to all the Directors as far as the Company is concerned.

A question was raised with regard to clause 122. Let me assure you that there are no pressures on the Government, there are no pressures on Parliament, and there are no pressures on the Standing Committees, everybody is heard and thereafter, an objective viewpoint even in evolving a concept is made.

1854 hrs.

[Mr. DEPUTY-SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

When the Standing Committee, in its wisdom, felt that presently there is no need for it, it was a part of the debate, there is no pressure on the Standing Committee. When the Government got back the recommendations of the Standing Committee, its own views in the final recommendations, the Government reconsidered the matter. While we reconsidered the matter, we are fully conscious of the protection of the interest of the small shareholder. In fact, a large number of provisions, particularly the tight provisions with regard to payment of dividend in time, payment to the small depositors, return of their money, virtually blacklisting companies for collecting money, which do not take care of the small depositors - these are the tight provisions which have been made in the interest of the small shareholders. The small shareholders also will have a right in the case of mismanagement under section 397 of the Companies Act to take action for mismanagement of the Company, for oppression of the interest of the small shareholders. Similarly, other provisions have been tightened to ensure transparency and the interest as far as the small shareholders are concerned.

There are two views which have been coming on this particular suggestion. This has not been experimented anywhere. Also the Standing Committee's initial view was that at present there was no need to do it.

The Government had felt in its *bona fide* we could try this. Should this, therefore, in the first instance, be made a mandatory provision or an optional provision? There will be several instances. Shri Shivraj V. Patil was very fair to say this can be misused. This can also be used in the interest of a shareholder. A good representative of a small shareholder will certainly voice concern. This was the

argument in favour of retaining this proviso. There was also a fear that it would be used for corporate rivalry; it would be used for extracting other favours. Therefore, let us prescribe a procedure in which, in the first instance, we make it optional for the companies to experiment this. After we have seen some initial evidence of this, the Parliament, in its wisdom, would always be ready to make amendments because corporate governance is not an issue which comes to a standstill with the passage of one Act. This procedure will go on and on. Finally, several improvements have to be made. The Legislature is fully alive to what is happening as far as the system is concerned. Therefore, even making it optional after considering all views including the suggestions of the Members of the Standing Committee, the original views of the Government, views of the industry, views of the depositors, we thought it is best, in the first instance, to start it as an experiment rather than a mandatory obligation.

Sir, a comment has been made with regard to the powers of the Audit Committee. Several Members have expressed the view that Audit Committee really ought not to be binding on the Board. Let me just clarify. The Audit Committee performs a very important function. It goes into the entire accounting systems of the company and it gives its suggestions. Those suggestions are not given with the intention of finding fault or destroying the management structure of the company but where the company's accounting procedures have altered, where questions are raised in the larger interest because today you have, in corporate governance, very tight accounting standards, we give those suggestions. Therefore, we have suggested that adverse remarks of the Audit Committee should not be brushed below the carpet. They must be put in bold print. They must be put in italics so that anybody among the shareholders, when the comments of the Audit Committee are there in the Annual Report of the company, is in a position to appreciate those comments. But there is a crucial distinction. The Audit Committee is not a super Board. The Audit Committee performs an independent function. It is appointed by the Board of the company. Its recommendations cannot be brushed aside by the Board. Its recommendations will be binding on the Board. In case it suggests these are the accounting changes which have to be made, the Board is bound by it. However, they are not binding on the company. This is a very subtle distinction. The company, in this case, is the Annual General meeting of the company. So, if the Audit Committee makes a suggestion, the Board will ordinarily accept it. But the Board should not say, I ignore everything that the Audit Committee has said. If the Board wants to disagree, the shareholders of the company will be informed. In corporate democracy, eventually, it is the shareholders of the company who matters.

Shri Banatwalla, it will be rightly informed in bold print and italics that this is what the Audit Committee has said about the accounting management; the Board has disagreed; and the final decision will have to be taken by the shareholders at the AGM. In fact, this will be corporate governance and corporate democracy at its best. Therefore, it may be binding on the Board but the company, in its AGM, will still have a power, authority to take a different decision. It is, therefore, to make sure of this.

Let me give a practical illustration. There may be something that the Board itself has done which the honest Audit Committee may like to indict. The Board may say I reject it. But ultimately, the accountability will have to be to the shareholders. Therefore, this is very important provision which has been made keeping all those facts in mind.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL (Latur) : The provision is in clause 138A. The recommendations of the Audit Committee on any matter relating to financial management including the Audit Report financial management and Audit Report shall be binding on the Board. Now, if the Audit Committee gives a report which is adverse to the company, it is all right. But supposing Audit Committee does give a report which favours certain others, what happens? There is a scope for manipulation.

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY : I am very grateful to the hon. Member. Clause 8 and Clause 9 of Section 292A may be read harmoniously. The recommendation of the Audit Committee on any matter relating to financial management, including the Audit Report, shall be binding on the Board. The Board will say, I accept it; these are the three shortcomings, I will comply with it. But the Board may say, I disagree it. Or alternatively, some Member has the extreme situation that you say, the Audit Committee and the Board are acting in collusion. What then protects the interest of the company?

1900 hrs.

Clause (8) comes in. The Chairman of the Audit Committee shall attend the AGM of the Company to provide any clarifications on matters relating to audit because that is where the accounts have to be finally approved. Therefore, there is a provision emanating from corporate governance and corporate democracy that whether it is adverse or collusive, ultimately we leave it to the wisdom of the company at its best, that is, the shareholders who will go into all these questions.

Shri Kirit Somaiya has raised very vital issues relating to the interests of the small investors. He has been in the forefront of the whole movement leading to protect the interests of the small investors. I agree with him and also

when Shri Rupchand Pal said that some companies have vanished. In fact, we ourselves have been candid to place the details of the vanishing companies. It is not that we are not concerned about it. As we have expanded in the area of liberalisation, as we permitted companies to raise capital from the market and as the number of the companies has been increasing even the malpractices and misdemeanours have come to light, how small shareholders and small depositors have been duped.

With regard to the depositors in the NDFCs where a very large number have lost money, which Shri Kirit Somaiya has repeatedly raised in this House, the hon. Finance Minister has already announced that he was coming out with a specific legislation to deal with those NDFCs and to protect the interests of the depositors in the NDFCs.

As far as the other areas are concerned, he rightly said that today the CLB has four regional branches. In fact, we have already announced it that the Chennai Branch is a regular Branch, a Bench of the CLB itself. Obviously the Eradi Committee—whose recommendations are being processed—which is only a recommendation at this stage—has in fact suggested that for all issues relating to corporate justice from BIFR to CLB to High Court jurisdiction, there should be a national Company Law Tribunal. That is also the last limb of the comprehensive Bill which remains.

Now, once we evolve such a situation there will be a very wide institution. Obviously, we will require the staff, the Benches for this institution which has to operate, because we are vesting a lot of authority as far as this institution is concerned. As I said in the intervention, Clause 88(a) has been amended and the amendment today is that a company has an obligation to inform the CLB that it has become a defaulter. After informing the Board the company also has an obligation after the Board directs, within a time frame to pay the amount. It is restrained from raising further deposits. Its first obligation even about advances from institutions is to pay the depositors and there is a criminal penalty up to three years of imprisonment, if it defies the orders. Now, this kind of comprehensive provisions are being brought in so that there may be deterrent as far as the actions are concerned.

As far as the provisions relating to the Chartered Accountants are concerned, in the original Act there was a prohibition, there was a cap that the maximum number of audits one could undertake was 20. That cap was there essentially on the ground that it was the maximum he could do and he could concentrate on that cap of 20. Today when we take out the private limited companies out of this, ultimately, it is an additional facility to the profession of Chartered Accountants that we are giving that one could

[Shri Arun Jaitley]

originally do only 20, but today he could do 20 plus private limited companies. Those companies may be large, those companies may be small. In fact, in a world of liberalisation this is a cap which is being diluted.

Now, I do not expect the suggestion that merely because the cap is removed this will then amount that a Chartered Accountant who on the basis of his ability will do the audits, there will be a concentration of work. Ultimately, it is for the client company whose audit has to be undertaken to decide. If somebody is awfully busy he does not go to him, the company goes to somebody else. Should we be liberalising these provisions or tightening the provisions in the regime today, it is an issue which this hon. House in this Bill has to consider and I would commend to this House that today it is an additional facility which has been granted as far as the Chartered Accountants are concerned.

Shri Rupchand Pal wanted to know as to what are the appropriate orders that the CLB has been empowered to pass. The CLB is a quasi-judicial authority which has been vested with all the powers. And in order to make sure that the interests of justice are met, when judicial or quasi-judicial authorities are created, you do not narrow their power by defining or illustrative or enumerative cases that these are the only powers they could exercise. You use larger phrases so that there is a lot of play with the joints available wherever the interests of justice can be met; those are the appropriate orders. The appropriate orders will be those which will reach out to wherever injustice is found.

The word 'appropriate orders' has been consciously used so as not to limit jurisdictions by just having an enumerative case of five or six orders that the Company Law Board can pass. Since we are vesting it with a large amount of authority, we expect that the authority also is exercised keeping all these factors in mind.

There are several other issues, which have been raised by the hon. Members. We are in the process of updating our company law. We are making it in tune with the changing times in our economy in addition to corporate governance.

There are several very good suggestions, which have been made. This is not the last time that the company law is being updated. As Dr. Nitish Sengupta said, 'the sun is setting'. But when the sun sets somewhere, it rises somewhere else. It is an on-going procedure and, therefore, the process of evolution of the company law will go on. Newer concepts of corporate governance will be borne everyday and certainly a large number of the suggestions which have been made will be borne by the Government at any given point of time. But the principle

object behind each of these is transparency, corporate governance and also accountability of those who hold the public money in trust in order to run it. This Bill is motivated with this intention. That is why, it has been approved by the Standing Committee comprising of all political parties.

So, I would commend to this august House, with the official amendments which we have circulated, that this Bill be accepted.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (Hoogly) : I have mentioned two specific issues. One is the need to have insurance coverage of the deposits of small investors and depositors.

The Second is about the irregularities in the Institute of Costs and Works Accounts where serious irregularities and malpractices have taken place in respect of holding up examinations of the Institute. The Company Law Board has also given directives, but they have been ignored.

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY : I am quite certain that with the opening up of the insurance sector, additional facilities being available, and also on the kind of deterrent on non-payment which we have imposed, the market forces will certainly compel a large number of companies to adopt a safer route, which is the insurance route.

As far as your questions with regard to independence of the audit agencies are concerned, we have made a beginning. In fact, some of the suggestions were : are you making the Audit Committee too powerful? We are making it powerful to a reasonable extent, not to override the shareholders, but to have an authority visible with the Board because we want the body to be autonomous and powerful so that it is able to speak out wherever there are irregularities. We bear all these reports in mind, and, therefore, we come out with a formulation, which makes the legislation viable.

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN (Tirunelveli) : I want to get a clarification from the hon. Minister. Section 58(a) is intended to safeguard the interests of the small depositors. I would like to know whether there is enough sufficient manpower or infrastructure to comply with that within a specified limit. Section 58 (a) (a) has to be treated as a cognisable offence, this is notwithstanding the provisions of 621 and 624. What is the answer of the hon. Minister? Can we treat it as a cognisable offence?

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY : In fact, not only have we increased penalties, we have made it cognisable in the Act itself. The offences under this Act have been made cognisable bearing this in mind.

Secondly, let me at the cost of repetition say this, we have brought into this additional powers of the Company Law Board, as I indicated in the matter of corporate governance, protecting the shareholders since there are other legislations which are at work. The Company Law Board or whatever shape it takes in future, because we have the recommendations of the Justice Eradi Committee also with us; we have the NBFCs which are also intending to the legislation in process which is intending to vest it with power, certainly this institution will not only have to be strengthened in terms of staff, it will have to be strengthened even in terms of Benches. Therefore, we are trying to create a system where there will be a lot more power with this institution, which is intended in some of the proposed legislations.

Therefore, I bow to the point made by hon. Shri Pandian. Perhaps it may not be sufficient because you are giving it so much power and you are expected to dispose it off within 30 days. But we will have to strengthen that structure

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore) : Sir, my clarification is with regard to the postal ballot. Lots of shareholders are involved in a company. Will it be practically possible to send the postal ballots to these lots of people? That is what I want to be clarified.

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY : Sir, may I say that a phrase we occasionally use in the context of corporate management is 'oligarchy'—rule by a few—and one of the points made is, it is rule by a few because the average shareholder is indifferent. It is only some shareholders who attend and there are some whose votes are collected, and, therefore, with 15 per cent or 20 per cent, you can really rule the AGM. Precisely, keeping this in mind, a system is being introduced—at least an effort is made—that you send the postal ballots to all the shareholders, even if there are 5,000 or 20,000 shareholders, and at least make an effort to get their responses. I am conscious of our system where there may be some default, but it is certainly going to be an improvement on the current system which we have, where the only avenue available to a shareholder is that either he attends or gives it to somebody else to vote for him.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Now, the question is :

"That the Bill further to amend the Companies Act, 1956, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The House will now take up clause-by-clause consideration of the Bill.

Clause 2 Amendment of Section-2

Amendments made :

Page 1, for line 8, substitute—

"(a) clause (1) shall be re-numbered as clause (1A) thereof and before the clause as so re-numbered, the following clause shall be inserted, namely:

'(1) "abridged prospectus" means a memorandum containing such salient features of a prospectus as may be prescribed;';

(aa) clauses (3) and (4) shall be omitted." (3)

Page 1, after line 8, insert—

"(ab) after clause (12), the following clauses shall be inserted, namely :

'(12A) "Depository" as the same meaning as in the depositories Act, 1996;

(12B) "derivative" has the same meaning as in clause (aa) of section 2 of the Securities Contracts (Regulation) Act, 1956;." (4)

Page 1, after line 10, insert—

"(ba) after clause (15), the following clause shall be inserted, namely :

'(15A) "employees stock option" means the option given to the whole-time directors, officers or employees of a company, which gives such directors, officers or employees the benefit or right to purchase or subscribe at a future date, the securities offered by the company at a pre-determined price;';

(bb) after clause (19), the following clauses shall be inserted, namely :-

'(19A) "hybrid" means any security which has the character of more than one type of security, including their derivatives;

(19B) "information memorandum" means a process undertaken prior to the filing of a prospectus by which a demand for the securities proposed to be issued by a company is elicited, and the price and the terms of issue for such securities is assessed, by means of a notice, circular, advertisement or document;';

(bc) after clause (23), the following clause shall be inserted, namely :-

“(23A) “listed public companies” means a public company which has any of its securities listed in any recognised stock exchange;”. (5)

Page 1, after line 15, insert—

“(da) after clause (31), the following clause shall be inserted, namely :-

“(31A) “option in securities” has the same meaning as in clause (d) of section 2 of the Securities Contracts (Regulation) Act, 1956;”. (6)

Page 1, after line 16, insert—

“(ea) after clause (45A), the following clause shall be inserted, namely :-

“(45AA) “securities” means securities as defined in clause (h) of section 2 of the Securities Contracts (Regulation) Act, 1956, and includes hybrids;”. (6)

(eb) after clause (46), the following clause shall be inserted, namely :-

“(46A) “share with differential rights” means a share that is issued with differential rights in accordance with the provisions of section 86;”. (7)

(Shri Arun Jaitley)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The question is :

“That clause 2, as amended, stand part of the Bill.”

The motion was adopted.

Clause 2, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clause 3 Amendment of Section-3

Amendments made :

Page 2, line 22, for “Companies (Second Amendment) Act, 1999”, Substitute “Companies (Amendment) Act, 2000.”. (8)

Page 2, line 26, for “Companies (Second Amendment) Act, 1999”, Substitute “Companies (Amendment) Act, 2000.”. (9)

Page 2, after line 33, insert—

“(6) A company registered under section 25 before or after the commencement of Companies (Amendment) Act, 2000 shall not be required to have minimum paid-up capital specified in this section.”. (10)

(Shri Arun Jaitley)

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA (Ponnani) : Sir, I beg to move :

Page 2, line 28,—

add at the end—

“or convert itself as a private company if the number of its members is below fifty” (48)

Page 2, lines 29 and 30,—

for “fails to enhance its paid-up capital in the manner specified in” *substitute* “fails to comply with the provisions of” (49)

Page 2, after line 33,—

Insert “Provided that where a defunct company has secured creditors, the name of the defunct company concerned shall be deemed to be on the register for the limited purpose of enabling its secured creditors to enforce their security.” (50)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER I shall now put amendments Nos. 48, 49 and 50, moved by Shri G.M. Banatwalla to clause 3, to the vote of the House.

The amendments were put and negatived.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The question is :

“That clause 3, as amended, stand part of the Bill.”

The motion was adopted.

Clause 3, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clauses 4 to 6 were added to the Bill.

Clause 7 Insertion of New Section 17A

Amendment made :

Page 3, for lines 5 and 6, *substitute—*

Change of registered office with-in a State

"17A. (1) No company shall change the place of its registered office from one place to another within a State unless such change is confirmed by the Regional Director.

(2) The company shall make an application in the prescribed form to the Regional Director for confirmation under sub-section (1).

(3) The confirmation referred to in sub-section (1), shall be communicated to the company within four weeks from the date of receipt of application for such change.

*Explanation.—*For the purposes of this section, it is hereby declared that the provisions of this section shall apply only to the companies which change the registered office from the jurisdiction of one Registrar of Companies to the jurisdiction of another Registrar of Companies within the same State.

(4) The company shall file, with the Registrar a certified copy of the confirmation by the Regional Director for change of its registered office under this section, within two months from the date of confirmation, together with a printed copy of the memorandum as altered and the Registrar shall register the same and certify the registration under his hand within one month from the date of filing of such document.

(5) The certificate shall be conclusive evidence that all the requirements of this Act with respect to the alteration and confirmation have been complied with the henceforth the memorandum as altered shall be the memorandum of the company.". (11)

(Shri Arun Jaitley)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The question is :

"That clause 7, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 7, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clauses 8 to 11 were added to the Bill.

Clause 12 Amendment of Section 43 A

Amendment made :

Page 3, for lines 21 to 24, *substitute—*

12. In section 43-A of the principal Act,—

(a) after sub-section (2), the following sub-section shall be inserted, namely :-

"(2A) Where a public company referred to in sub-section (2) becomes a private company on or after the commencement of the Companies (Amendment) Act, 2000, such company shall inform the Registrar that it has become a private company and thereupon the Registrar shall substitute the word 'private company' for the word 'public company' in the name of the company upon the register and shall also make the necessary alterations in the certificate of incorporation issued to the company and in its memorandum of association within four weeks from the date of application made by the company."

(b) after sub-section (10), the following sub-section shall be inserted, namely :—

"(11) Nothing contained in this section, except sub-section (2A), shall apply on and after the commencement of the Companies (Amendment) Act, 2000". (12)

(Shri Arun Jaitley)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The question is .

"That clause 12, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 12, as amended, was added to the Bill

Clauses 13 to 15 were added to the Bill

Clause 16 Insertion of New Section 55A

Amendment made :

Page 3, for lines 36 to 42, *substitute—*

Powers of Securities and Exchange Board of India

"55A. The provisions contained in sections 55 to 58, 59 to 81, 108, 109, 110, 112, 113, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 206, 206A and 207, so far as

they relate to issue and transfer of securities and non-payment of dividend shall,—

(a) in case of listed public companies;

(b) in case of those public companies which intend to get their securities listed on any recognized stock exchange in India,

be administered by the Securities and Exchange Board of India; and

(c) in any other case, be administered by the Central Government.

Explanation.—For removal of doubts, it is hereby declared that all powers relating to all other matters including the matters relating to prospectus, statement in lieu of prospectus, return of allotment, issue of shares and redemption of irredeemable preference shares shall be exercised by the Central Government, Company Law Board or the Registrar of Companies, as the case may be.". (13)

(Shri Arun Jaitley)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The question is :

"That clause 16, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 16, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clauses 17 and 18 were added to the Bill.

Clause 19 Insertion of new Sections 58AA and 58AAA

Amendments made :

Page 4, after line 18, insert—

"Explanation.—For removal of doubts, it is hereby declared that the intimation under this section shall be given on monthly basis.". (14)

Page 5, for line 35 to 41, substitute—

Explanation.—For the purposes of this section, "a small depositor" means a depositor who has deposited in a financial year a sum not exceeding twenty thousand rupees in a company and includes his successors, nominees and legal representatives.

Default in acceptance of refund of deposits to be Cognizable.

58AAA. (1) Notwithstanding anything contained in sections 621 and 624, every offence connected with or arising out of acceptance of deposits under section 58 A or section 58AA shall be cognizable offence under the Code of Criminal procedure, 1973. (2 of 1974.)

(2) No court shall take cognizance of any offence under sub-section (1) except on a complaint made by the Central Government or any officer authorised by it in this behalf.'. (15)

(Shri Arun Jaitley)

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA (Ponnani) : Sir, I beg to move the following amendments to Clause 19 :

Page 4, line 11,-
omit "from small depositors," (51)

Page 4, line 17,-
omit "small" (52)

Page 4, line 20,-
omit "small" (53)

Page 4, line 27,-
omit "small" (54)

Page 4, line 30,-
omit "small" (55)

Page 4, line 31,-
omit "small" (56)

Page 4, line 34,-
omit "small" (57)

Page 5, line 2,-
omit "small" (58)

Page 5, line 5,-
omit "small" (59)

Page 5, line 7,-
omit "small" (60)

Page 5, line 9,-
omit "small" (61)

Page 5, line 17,-
omit "small" (62)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I shall now put amendment numbers 51 to 62 moved by Shri G.M. Banatwalla to the vote of the House.

The amendments were put and negatived.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The question is :

"That clause 19, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 19, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clauses 20 and 21 were added to the Bill.

Motion Re : Suspension Under Rule 80(i)

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY) : Sir, I beg to move :

"That this House do suspend clause (i) of rule 80 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha in so far as it requires that an amendment shall be within the scope of the Bill and relevant to the subject matter of the clause to which it relates, in its application to Government amendment No. 16 to the Companies (Second Amendment) Bill, 1999 and that this amendment may be allowed to be moved."

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The question is :

"That this House do suspend clause (i) of rule 80 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha in so far as it requires that an amendment shall be within the scope of the Bill and relevant to the subject matter of the clause to which it relates, in its application to Government amendment No. 16 to the Companies (Second Amendment) Bill, 1999 and that this amendment may be allowed to be moved."

The motion was adopted.

New Clause 21A

Amendment made :

Page 5, after line 45, insert—

Insertion of New Sections 60A and 60B.

"21A. After section 60 of the principal Act, the following section shall be inserted, namely :-

Shelf Prospectus.

'60A. (1) Any public financial institution, public sector bank or scheduled bank whose main object is financing shall file a shelf prospectus.

(2) A company filing a shelf prospectus with the Registrar shall not be required to file prospectus

afresh at every stage of offer of securities by it within a period of validity of such shelf prospectus.

(3) A company filing a shelf prospectus shall be required to file an information memorandum on all material facts relating to new charges created, changes in the financial position as have occurred between the first offer of securities, previous offer of securities and the succeeding offer of securities within such time as may be prescribed by the Central Government, prior to making of a second or subsequent offer of securities under the shelf prospectus.

(4) An information memorandum shall be issued to the public along with shelf prospectus filed at the stage of the first offer of securities and such prospectus shall be valid for a period of one year from the date of opening of the first issue of securities under that prospectus :

Provided that where an update of information memorandum is filed every time an offer of securities is made, such memorandum together with the shelf prospectus shall constitute the prospectus.

Explanation —For the purpose of this section, -

- (a) "financing" means making loans to or subscribing in the capital of, a private industrial enterprise engaged in infrastructural financing or, such other company as the Central Government may notify in this behalf;
- (b) "Shelf prospectus" means a prospectus issued by any financial institution or bank for one or more issues of the securities or class of securities specified in that prospectus.

Information memorandum

60B. (1) A public company making an issue of securities may circulate information memorandum to the public prior to filing of a prospectus.

A company inviting subscription by an information memorandum shall be bound to file a prospectus prior to the opening of the subscription lists and the offer as a red-herring prospectus, at least three days before the opening of the offer.

(3) The information memorandum and red-herring prospectus shall carry same obligations as are applicable in the case of a prospectus.

(4) Any variation between the information memorandum and the red-herring prospectus shall be highlighted as variations by the issuing company.

Explanation. For the purposes of sub-sections (2), (3) and (4), "red-herring prospectus" means a prospectus which does not have complete particulars on the price of the securities offered and the quantum of securities offered.

(5) Every variation as made and highlighted in accordance with subsection (4) above shall be individually intimated to the persons invited to subscribe to the issue of securities.

(6) In the event of the issuing company or the underwriters to the issue have invited or received advance subscription by way of cash or post-dated cheques or stock-invest, the company or such underwriters or bankers to the issue shall not encash such subscription moneys or post-dated cheques or stock-invest before the date of opening of the issue, without having individually intimated the prospective subscribers of the variation and without having offered an opportunity to such prospective subscribers to withdraw their application and cancel their post-dated cheques or stock-invest or return of subscription paid.

(7) The applicant or proposed subscriber shall exercise his right to withdraw from the application on any intimation of variation within seven days from the date of such intimation and shall indicate such withdrawal in writing to the company and the underwriters.

(8) Any application for subscription which is acted upon by the company or underwriters or bankers to the issue without having given enough information of any variations, or the particulars of withdrawing the offer or opportunity for cancelling the post-dated cheques or stock invest or stop payments for such payments shall be void and the applicants shall be entitled to receive a refund or return of its post-dated cheques or stock-invest or subscription moneys or cancellation of its application, as if the said application had never been made and the applicants are entitled to receive back their original application and interest at the rate of fifteen per cent from the date of encashment till payment of realisation.

(9) Upon the closing of the offer of securities, a final prospectus stating therein the total capital raised, whether by way of debt or share capital and the closing price of the securities and any other details as were not complete in the red-herring prospectus shall be filed in a case of a listed public company with the Securities and Exchange Board and Registrar, and in any other case with the Registrar only'. (16)

(Shri Arun Jaitley)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The question is :

"That new clause 21A be added to the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

New clause 21A was added to the Bill.

Clause 22 was added to the Bill.

Clause 23 Amendment of Section 63

Amendment made .

Page 5, after line 52, insert—

"Provided further that nothing contained in the first proviso shall apply to the non-banking financial companies or public financial institutions specified in section 4A of the Companies Act, 1956". (17)

(Shri Arun Jaitley)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The question is

"That clause 23, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 23, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clause 24 was added to the Bill

Motion Re : Suspension under Rule 80(i)

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY : Sir, I beg to move

"That this House do suspend clause (i) of rule 80 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha in so far as it requires that an amendment shall be within the scope of the Bill and relevant to the subject matter of the clause to which it relates, in its application to Government amendment No. 18

to the Companies (Second Amendment) Bill, 1999 and that this amendment may be allowed to be moved."

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The question is :

"That this House do suspend clause (i) of rule 80 of the Rules of procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha in so far as it requires that an amendment shall be within the scope of the Bill and relevant to the subject matter of the clause to which it relates, in its application to Government amendment No. 18 to the Companies (Second Amendment) Bill, 1999 and that this amendment may be allowed to be moved."

The motion was adopted.

New Clause 24A

Amendment made :

Page 6, *after* line 11, *insert*—

Insertion of new section 68B.

"24A. After section 68A of the principal Act, the following section shall be inserted, namely :-

Initial offer of securities to be in dematerialised form in certain cases.

"68B. Notwithstanding anything contained in any other provisions of this Act, every listed public company, making initial public offer of any security for a sum of rupees ten crores or more, shall issue the same only in dematerialised form by complying with the requisite provisions of the Depositories Act, 1996 and the regulations made thereunder." (18)

(Shri Arun Jaitley)

MR. DEPUTY : SPEAKER The question is :

"That new clause 24A be added to the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

New clause 24A was added to the Bill.

Clauses 25 to 35 were added to the Bill.

Motion Re : Suspension under Rule 80(i)

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY : Sir, I beg to move :

"That this House do suspend clause (i) of rule 80 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha in so far as it requires that an amendment

shall be within the scope of the Bill and relevant to the subject matter of the clause to which it relates, in its application to Government amendment No. 19 to the Companies (Second Amendment) Bill, 1999 and that this amendment may be allowed to be moved."

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The question is

"That this House do suspend clause (i) of rule 80 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha in so far as it requires that an amendment shall be within the scope of the Bill and relevant to the subject matter of the clause to which it relates, in its application to Government amendment No. 19 to the Companies (Second Amendment) Bill, 1999 and that this amendment may be allowed to be moved."

The motion was adopted.

New Clause 35A

Amendment made :

Page 6, *after* line 42, *insert*,-

Substitution of new Section for Section 86

35A. For section 86 of the principal Act, the following section shall be substituted, namely :-

New issues of share capital to be only of two kinds.

"86. The share capital of a company limited by shares shall be of two kinds only, namely :-

- (a) equity share capital—
 - (i) with voting rights; or
 - (ii) with differential rights as to dividend, voting or otherwise in accordance with such rules and subject to such conditions as may be prescribed;
- (b) preference share capital." (19)

(Shri Arun Jaitley)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The question is

"That new clause 35A be added to the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

New clause 35A was added to the Bill.

Motion Re : Suspension under Rule 80(i)

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY : Sir, I beg to move :

"That this House do suspend clause (i) of rule 80 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha in so far as it requires that an amendment shall be within the scope of the Bill and relevant to the subject matter of the clause to which it relates, in its application to Government amendment No. 20 to the Companies (Second Amendment) Bill, 1999 and that this amendment may be allowed to be moved."

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The question is :

"That this House do suspend clause (i) of rule 80 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha in so far as it requires that an amendment shall be within the scope of the Bill and relevant to the subject matter of the clause to which it relates, in its application to Government amendment No. 20 to the Companies (Second Amendment) Bill, 1999 and that this amendment may be allowed to be moved."

The motion was adopted.

New Clause 35B

Amendment made :

Page 6, after line 42, insert,—

Omission of section 88.

35B. Section 88 of the principal Act shall be omitted.' (20)

(Shri Arun Jaitley)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The question is :

"That new clause 35B be added to the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

New clause 35B was added to the Bill.

Clauses 36 to 43 were added to the Bill.

Motion Re : Suspension of Rule 80(i)

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY : Sir, I beg to move :

"That this House do suspend clause (i) of rule 80 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in

Lok Sabha in so far as it requires that an amendment shall be within the scope of the Bill and relevant to the subject matter of the clauses to which it relates, in its application to Government amendment No. 21 to the Companies (Second Amendment) Bill, 1999 and that this amendment may be allowed to be moved."

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The question is :

"That this House do suspend clause (i) of rule 80 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha in so far as it requires that an amendment shall be within the scope of the Bill and relevant to the subject matter of the clauses to which it relates, in its application to Government amendment No. 21 to the Companies (Second Amendment) Bill, 1999 and that this amendment may be allowed to be moved."

The motion was adopted.

New Clause 43A

Amendment made :

Page 7, after line 23, insert,—

Insertion of new sections 117A, 117B and 117C.

43A. After section 117 of the principal Act, the following sections shall be inserted, namely

Debenture trust deed

"117A (1) A trust deed for securing any issue of debentures shall be in such form and shall be executed within such period as may be prescribed.

(2) A copy of the trust deed shall be open to inspection to any member or debenture holder of the company and he shall also be entitled to obtain copies of such trust deed on payment of such sum as may be prescribed.

(3) If a copy of the trust deed is not made available for inspection or is not given to any member or debenture holder, the company and every officer of the company who is in a default, shall be punishable, for each offence, with fine which may extend to five hundred rupees for every day during which the offence continues.

Appointment of debenture trustees and duties of debenture trustees.

117B. (1) No company shall issue a prospectus or a letter of offer to the public for subscription of its debentures, unless the company has, before such issue, appointed one or more debenture trustees for such debentures and the company has, on the face of the prospectus or the letter of offer, stated that the debenture trustee or trustees have given their consent to the company to be so appointed :

Provided that no person shall be appointed as a debenture trustee, if he—

- (a) beneficially holds shares in the company;
- (b) is beneficially entitled to moneys which are to be paid by the company to the debenture trustee;
- (c) has entered into any guarantee in respect of principal debts secured by the debentures or interest thereon.

(2) Subject to the provisions of this Act, the functions of the debenture trustees shall generally be to protect the interest of holders of debentures (including the creation of securities within the stipulated time) and to redress the grievances of holders of debentures effectively.

(3) In particular, and without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing functions, a debenture trustee may take such other steps as he may deem fit—

- (a) to ensure that the assets of the company issuing debentures and each of the guarantors are sufficient to discharge the principal amount at all times;
- (b) to satisfy himself that the prospectus or the letter of offer does not contain any matter which is inconsistent with the terms of the debentures or with the trust deed;
- (c) to ensure that the company does not commit any breach of covenants and provisions of the trust deed;
- (d) to take such reasonable steps to remedy and breach of the covenants of the trust deed or the terms of issue of debentures;

- (e) to take steps to call a meeting of holders of debentures as and when such meeting is required to be held.

(4) Where at any time the debenture trustee comes to a conclusion that the assets of the company are insufficient or are likely to become insufficient to discharge the principal amount as and when it becomes due, the debenture trustee may file a petition before the Company Law Board and the Company Law Board may, after hearing the company and any other person interested in the matter, by an order, impose such restrictions on the incurring of any further liabilities as the Company Law Board thinks necessary in the interests of holders of the debentures.

Liability of company to create security and debenture redemption reserve.

117C. (1) Where a company issues debentures after the commencement of this Act, it shall create a debenture redemption reserve for the redemption of such debentures, to which adequate amounts shall be credited, from out of its profits every year until such debentures are redeemed.

(2) The amounts credited to the debenture redemption reserve shall not be utilised by the company except for the purpose aforesaid

(3) The company referred to in sub-section (1) shall pay interest and redeem the debentures in accordance with the terms and conditions of their issue.

(4) Where a company fails to redeem the debentures on the date of maturity, the Company Law Board may, on the application of any or all the holders of debentures shall, after hearing the parties concerned, direct, by order, the company to redeem the debentures forthwith by the payment of principal and interest due thereon.

(5) If default is made in complying with the order of the Company Law Board under sub-section (4), every officer of the company who is in default, shall be punishable with imprisonment which may extend to three years and shall also be liable to a fine of not less than five hundred rupees for every day during which such default continues." (21)

(Shri Arun Jaitely)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The question is :

"That New Clause 43A be added to the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

New Clause 43A was added to the Bill.

Clauses 44 to 57 were added to the Bill.

Clause 58 Amendment of Section 148

Amendment made :

Page 8, line 29, for "Companies (Second Amendment) Act, 1999", substitute "Companies (Amendment) Act, 2000". (22)

(Shri Arun Jaitley)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The question is :

"That clause 58, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 58, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clause 59 Amendment of Section 149

Amendment made :

Page 8, line 33, for "Companies (Second Amendment) Act, 1999" Substitute "Companies (Amendment) Act, 2000". (23)

(Shri Arun Jaitley)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The question is :

"That clause 59, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 59, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clauses 60 to 70 were added to the Bill.

Clause 71 Amendment of Section 163

Amendment made :

Page 9, line 32, for "Companies (Second Amendment) Act, 1999" Substitute "Companies (Amendment) Act, 2000". (24)

(Shri Arun Jaitley)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The question is :

"That clause 71, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 71, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clause 72 Amendment of Section 165

Amendment made :

Page 9, lines 36 and 37 for "Companies (Second Amendment) Act, 1999" substitute "Companies (Amendment) Act, 2000". (25)

(Shri Arun Jaitley)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The question is :

"That clause 72, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 72, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clauses 73 and 74 were added to the Bill.

Clause 75 Amendment of Section 176

Amendments made :

Page 10, in line 18, for "majority of the shareholders", Substitute "requisite majority of the shareholders" (26)

Page 10, after line 27, insert—

'Explanation.—For the purposes of this section, "postal ballot" includes voting by electronic mode.' (27)

(Shri Arun Jaitley)

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA (Ponnani) : Sir, I beg to move :

Page 10, line 18,—

for "by a majority of the shareholders" substitute "both by a majority of the total numbers of shareholders of the listed public company and by shareholders holding a majority of the total shares of that company." (63)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I shall now put amendment No. 63 moved by Shri G.M. Banatwalla to the vote of the House.

The amendment was put and negatived.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The question is :

"That clause 75, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 75, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clauses 76 to 86 were added to the Bill.

Motion Re : Suspension of rule 80(i)

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY : Sir, I beg to move :

"That this House do suspend clause (i) of rule 80 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha in so far as it requires that an amendment shall be within the scope of the Bill and relevant to the subject matter of the clause to which it relates, in its application to Government amendment No. 28 to the Companies (Second Amendment) Bill, 1999 and that this amendment may be allowed to be moved."

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The question is :

"That this House do suspend clause (i) of rule 80 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha in so far as it requires that an amendment shall be within the scope of the Bill and relevant to the subject matter of the clause to which it relates, in its application to Government amendment No. 28 to the Companies (Second Amendment) Bill, 1999 and that this amendment may be allowed to be moved."

The motion was adopted.

New Clause 86A

Amendment made :

Page 11, after line 12, insert—

'86A. In section 205 of the principal Act, after sub-section (1), the following sub-section shall be inserted, namely :-

Amendment of section 205

"(1A) The Board of directors may declare interim dividend and the amount of dividend including

interim dividend shall be deposited in a separate bank account within five days from the date of declaration of such dividend.

(1B) The amount of dividend including interim dividend so deposited under sub-section (1A) shall be used for payment of interim dividend.

(1C) The provisions contained in sections 205, 205A, 205C, 206, 206A and 207 shall, as far as may be, also apply to any interim dividend". (28)

(Shri Arun Jaitley)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The question is

"That new clause 86 A be added to the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

New Clause 86A was added to the Bill

Clauses 87 to 100 were added to the Bill.

Clause 101 Amendment of Section 217

Amendment made .

Page 13, lines 42 and 43, for "Companies (Second Amendment) Act, 1999", *substitute*, "Companies (Amendment) Act, 2000." (29)

(Shri Arun Jaitley)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The question is

"That clause 101, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted

Clause 101, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clause 102 Amendment of Section 218

Amendments made :

Page 14, lines 4 and 5, for "Companies (Second Amendment) Act, 1999", *substitute*, "Companies (Amendment) Act, 2000". (30)

(Shri Arun Jaitley)

Page 14, after line 5, insert—

Explanation.—For the purposes of this section, "security" means an instrument which carries voting rights. (31)

(Shri Arun Jaitley)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The question is :

"That clause 102, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 102, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clauses 103 to 121 were added to the Bill.

Clause 122 Amendment of Section 245

Amendment made :

Page 16, line 35,—

for "shall have at least one director" *Substitute*
"may have a director" (47)

(Shri Arun Jaitley)

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : Sir, the small investors must have one director. Let the hon. Minister reconsider this aspect. The interest of the small investors must be protected.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The Minister has already clarified this point. At least you should give that satisfaction to him.

The question is :

"That clause 122, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 122, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clauses 123 to 126 were added to the Bill.

Clause 122 Amendment of Section 251

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : I beg to move :

Page 17, line 24,—

for "fifteen companies" *substitute* "Seven companies" (64)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I shall now put Amendment No. 64, moved by Shri G.M. Banatwalla, to the vote of the House.

The amendment was put and negatived.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The question is :

"That clause 127 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 127 was added to the Bill.

Clause 128 Amendment of Section 252

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : I beg to move :

Page 17, line 26,—

for "fifteen" *substitute* "seven" (65)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I shall now put Amendment No. 65, moved by Shri G.M. Banatwalla, to the vote of the House.

The amendment was put and negatived.

Amendment made :

Page 17, line 29,—

for "Companies (Second Amendment) Act, 1999", *substitute*, "Companies (Amendment) Act 2000." (32)

(Shri Arun Jaitley)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The question is :

"That clause 128, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 128, as amended, was added to the Bill

Clause 129 Amendment of Section 261

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : I beg to move

Page 17, line 32,—

for "fifteen companies" *substitute* "seven companies" (66)

Page 17, line 42,—

for "fifteen" *substitute* "seven" (67)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I shall now put Amendment Nos. 66 and 67, moved by Shri G.M. Banatwalla, to the vote of the House.

The amendments were put and negatived.

Amendments made :

Page 17, lines 34 and 35,—

for "Companies (Second Amendment) Act, 1999", *substitute*, "Companies (Amendment) Act, 2000". (33)

Page 17, line 39 and 40,—

for "Companies (Second Amendment) Act, 1999", *substitute*, "Companies (Amendment) Act, 2000". (34)

(Shri Arun Jaitley)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The question is :

"That clause 129, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 129, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clause 130 Amendment of Section 269

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : I beg to move :

Page 17, line 44,—

for "fifteen companies" *substitute* "seven companies." (68)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I shall now put Amendment No. 68, moved by Shri G.M. Banatwalla, to the vote of the House.

The amendment was put and negatived.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The question is :

"That clause 130 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 130 was added to the Bill.

Clauses 131 to 133 were added to the Bill.

Clause 134 Amendment of Section 276

Amendment made :

Page 18, after line 39, *insert*,—

"(8A) If the Board does not accept the recommendations of the Audit Committee, it shall record the reasons therefor and communicate such reasons to the shareholders." (35)

(Shri Arun Jaitley)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The question is :

"That clause 134, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 134, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clauses 135 to 164 were added to the Bill.

Clause 165 Amendment of Section 370A

Amendment made :

Page 21, for line 37, *substitute*—

"as to whether the company has complied with all the provisions of this Act and a copy of such certificate shall be attached with Board's report referred to in section 217". (36)

(Shri Arun Jaitley)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The question is :

"That clause 165, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 165, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clauses 166 to 209 were added to the Bill.

Motion Re : Suspension of Rule 80(i)

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY : Sir, I beg to move :

"That this House do suspend clauses (i) of rule 80 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha in so far as it requires that an amendment shall be within the scope of the Bill and relevant to the subject matter of the clause to which it relates, in its applications to Government amendment No. 37 to the Companies (Second Amendment) Bill, 1999 and that this amendment may be allowed to be moved."

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The question is :

"That this House do suspend clauses (i) of rule 80 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha in so far as it requires that an amendment shall be within the scope of the Bill and relevant to the subject matter of the clause to which it relates, in its applications to Government amendment No. 37 to the Companies (Second Amendment) Bill, 1999 and that this amendment may be allowed to be moved."

The motion was adopted.

New Clause 209A

Amendment made :

Page 24, after line 28, insert—

Insertion of "Section 605A.

209A. After section 605 of the principal Act, the following section shall be inserted, namely :-

Offer of India Depository Receipts

"605A. Notwithstanding anything contained in any other law for the time being in force, the Central Government may make rules applicable for—

- (a) the offer of Indian Depository Receipts;
- (b) the requirement of disclosures in prospectus or letter of offer issued in connection with Indian Depository Receipts;
- (c) the manner in which the Indian Depository Receipts shall be dealt in a depository mode and by custodian and underwriters;
- (d) the manner of sale, transfer or transmission of Indian Depository Receipts,

by a company incorporated, or to be incorporated outside India, whether the company has or has not been established or, will or will not establish any place of business in India." (37)

(Shri Arun Jaitley)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The question is :

"That new clause 209A be added to the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

New Clause 209A was added to the Bill.

Clause 210 Amendment of Section 551

Amendment made :

Page 24, for lines 29 and 30, substitute—

Amendment of section 606

210. In section 606 of the principal Act,—

- (a) after the words "application for shares or debentures", the words "application for shares, debentures or Indian Depository Receipts" shall be substituted;

(b) for words and figures "and 605", the word and figures "605 and 605A" shall be substituted;

(c) for the words "five thousands rupees", the words "fifty thousand rupees" shall be substituted." (38)

(Shri Arun Jaitley)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : "The question is .

"That clause 210, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 210, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clauses 211 to 213 were added to the Bill.

Clause 214 Amendment of Section 583

Amendment made :

Page 24, for lines 36 and 37, substitute—

"214. In section 621 of the principal Act, in sub-section (1), after the proviso, the following shall be inserted, namely :-

"Provided further that the court may take cognizance of offence relating to issue and transfer of securities and non-payment of dividend on a complaint in writing by a person authorised by the Securities Exchange Board of India." (39)

(Shri Arun Jaitley)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The question is :

"That Clause 214, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 214, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clauses 215 to 224 were added to the Bill

Clause 1 Short Title and Commencement

Amendment made :

Page 1, line 2, for "Companies (Second Amendment) Act, 1999", Substitute "Companies (Amendment) Act, 2000." (2)

(Shri Arun Jaitley)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The question is :

The Enacting Formula, as amended, was added to the Bill.

"That clause 1, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The Long Title was added to the Bill.

The motion was adopted.

Clause 1, as amended, was added to the Bill.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Now, the hon. Minister may move that the Bill be passed.

Enacting Formula

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY) : Sir, I beg to move :

Amendment made :

Page 1, line 1, for "Fiftieth Year", substitute "Fifty-first Year" (1)

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed."

(Shri Arun Jaitley)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The question is :

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed."

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The question is :

The motion was adopted.

"That the Enacting Formula, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

1947 hrs.

The motion was adopted.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Tuesday, November 28, 2000/Agrahayana 7, 1922 (Saka).

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