

LOK SABHA DEBATES

(English Version)

Sixth Session
(Thirteenth Lok Sabha)



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LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Monday, February 26, 2001/Phalgun 7, 1922 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock

(MR. SPEAKER in the Chair)

[English]

... (Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (RAIGANJ) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, in the BAC meeting, you gave your wise counsel saying that the BALCO issue would be taken up on 1st March, 2001 ... *(Interruptions)* I gave a notice.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Dasmunsi, your notice has been disallowed. I will hear you after the Question Hour.

... (Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : While you gave your wise counsel in the BAC saying that the BALCO issue would be discussed on 1st March, is it proper, on the grounds of propriety, on the part of the hon. Prime Minister and Leader of the House to make a statement outside the House saying that the BALCO matter is over? He made such a statement outside the House. We cannot accept it. ...*(Interruptions)* It is not an issue of 'Zero Hour.' ...*(Interruptions)* It is an affront on the rights of Parliament.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Dasmunsi, I will hear you after the Question Hour. Please take your seat.

... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing should go on record.

*(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Dasmunsi, you are a senior Member. This is the Question Hour. After the Question Hour, I will give you a chance to raise it.

... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing should go on record.

*... (Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Dasmunsi, please cooperate with the Chair. After the Question Hour, I will allow you.

* Not recorded.

Now, Shri G. Ganga Reddy to put his question.

SHRI G. GANGA REDDY (NIZAMABAD) : Q.No.61 ... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing should go on record.

*... (Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Dasmunsi, please hear me. We had already fixed the date also. On 1st March, the BALCO issue is going to be discussed in the House. So, after finalising it in the BAC meeting, again you are disrupting the Question Hour. What is this? This is not the way to discuss the matters in the House.

... (Interruptions)

11.03 hrs.

At this stage, Shri Ramji Lal Suman came and stood on the floor near the Table.

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing should go on record.

*... (Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER : Last week, the Business Advisory Committee also met and decided the date and time also. Again, you are raising the matter in the Question Hour. Is it the proper way to discuss the matter in the House when the House is in Session?

... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : You are violating the procedure also. Whatever procedures are in vogue here, you are violating them in the House.

... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing should go on record.

*(Interruptions)**

11.04 hrs.

At this stage, Kunwar Akhilesh Singh, Shri Ramdas Athawale and some other hon. Members came and stood on the floor near the Table.

* Not recorded.

MR. SPEAKER : Please go to your seats.

... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav, your members are not behaving properly in the House. Every time they are coming into the Well of the House.

... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please go to your seats.

... (Interruptions)

11.05 hrs.

At this stage, Kunwar Akhilesh Singh, Shri Ramdas Athawale and some other Hon. Members went back to their seats.

... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : If you want to raise the matter, you can do so from your seats. I am appealing to the hon. Members to go to their seats. This is not the way to raise the matters in the House.

... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I have allowed this matter to be discussed in the House on 1st March. Again, you are disturbing the Question Hour.

... (Interruptions)

11.08 hrs.

At this stage Shri Bherulal Meena, Shri Rajo Singh and some other hon. Members came and stood on the floor near the Table.

... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : Switch off the T.V. Cameras.

... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing should go on record.

... (Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Once again, I am appealing to the hon. Members to please go to your seats. You are again

* Not recorded.

disturbing the Question Hour. This is not the way to decide the matters in the House.

... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : If you want to raise any matter, you can raise it after the Question Hour. I will give you a chance. This is not the way to raise the issues in the House.

... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Is there any response from the Government?

... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please go to your seats. It is already decided that this matter would be discussed in the House on 1st March, 2001.

... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : What new precedent are you setting in the House?

... (Interruptions)

11.09 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Twelve of the Clock.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Security Arrangements at Airports

*61. SHRI G. GANGA REDDY :

SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the security arrangements made by the Bureau of Civil Aviation Security and Central Industrial Security Force at different airports in the country are not satisfactory ;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) The number of times the security lapses of these agencies were noticed by the Government during the last one year ;

(d) the action taken by the Government thereon; and

(e) the steps being taken by the Government to make the security arrangement foolproof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (PROF. CHAMAN LAL GUPTA) : (a) to (e) There are laid down standards and guidelines under which the Bureau of Civil Aviation Security makes security arrangements at different airports, and it monitors their enforcement while the actual security functions are performed by different security agencies. The system is periodically reviewed by further strengthening the security wherever it is necessary.

During the last one year, no lapse has led to an disturbing consequence. Individual cases of lapse, if any, are dealt with strictly and disciplinary action is taken against the officials found guilty.

Government has taken a number of steps for strengthening security arrangements at airports. These include introduction of CISF in phases to bring about uniformity in training and standardised implementation of directives, which has not been possible with the traditional system of deployment of State police forces; introduction of ladder-point frisking at airports; deployment of sky marshals on selected routes on random basis; and arrangements for imparting comprehensive training to security staff and cockpit/cabin crew.

Sports Policy

*62. SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE : Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government, in the wake of Sydney Olympics experience have formulated any substantive sports policy to train Indian sportsmen at par with international levels;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to identify some sports for specialisation; and

(d) if so the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (KUMARI UMA BHARATI) : (a) and (b) Performance of Indian Sports Persons in Sydney Olympic Games was discussed in many meetings including the Parliamentary Standing Committee and Consultative Committee. Ingredients of a new Sports Policy have also been discussed with all stakeholders and the new policy is under finalisation. Its ingredients cover initiatives and

measures to improve standards of sports in India, including :-

- i) Broadening the base especially for competitive sports.
- ii) Improved infrastructure - for the National Teams.
- iii) Improving the knowledge of our Coaching Community.
- iv) Improving the practical knowledge of our sports scientists to enable them to contribute along with the coaches to enhance performance of sports persons.
- v) Improved functioning and professionalisation management of Sports Federations.
- vi) Greater involvement of States in the development of Sports Infrastructure and improved training of sports persons.
- vii) Involving the private sector to adopt and sponsor individual/specific sports disciplines.
- viii) To create awareness in the general public for greater participation in sports activities.

(c) and (d) Based on our potential and performance in the past, the Government has already grouped various sports disciplines into three categories. The details of these categories are as under :

1. Priority Sports Disciplines

(a) Archery; (b) Athletics; (c) Badminton; (d) Billiards and Snooker; (e) Boxing; (f) Chess; (g) Football; (h) Hockey (Men & Women); (i) Kabaddi; (j) Rowing; (k) Shooting; (l) Tennis; (m) Cycling; (n) Wrestling; (o) Weightlifting; and (p) Swimming.

2. General Sports Disciplines

(a) Basketball; (b) Canoeing and Kayaking; (c) Equestrian; (d) Fencing; (e) Golf; (f) Gymnastics; (g) Handball; (h) Judo; (i) Squash; (j) Table Tennis; (k) Volleyball; and (l) Yachting.

3. Other Sports Disciplines

Other recognised sports disciplines which are not covered under the aforesaid two categories.

Linking of Rivers

*63. SHRI LAKSHMAN SETH : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) the steps taken so far for linking of major rivers in India;

(b) the results achieved in this regard;

(c) whether the Government have prepared any comprehensive plan for linking Sankosh and Ganga rivers; and

(d) if so, the progress made so far in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI ARJUN SETHI) : (a) and (b) Ministry of Irrigation (now Ministry of Water Resources) and Central Water Commission have formulated a National Perspective Plan for water resources development which envisages inter linkages among the various Peninsular rivers and among the Himalayan rivers for transfer of water from surplus basins to water deficit basins for optimum utilisation of water resources. The Government of India has established National Water Development Agency (NWDA) as an Autonomous Society in July 1982 to inter-alia carry out the water balance and feasibility studies of the National Perspective Plan. The Plan envisages 17 water transfer links under the Peninsular rivers development component and 14 water transfer links under the Himalayan rivers development component. The pre-feasibility reports of all the 31 links have been completed. The feasibility reports of 5 links under the Peninsular rivers development component have also been completed.

(c) and (d) Under the Himalayan Rivers development component, inter-linking of Sankosh and Ganga by a link called Manas-Sankosh-Tista-Ganga link is envisaged. Pre-feasibility studies of this link have been completed and survey and investigation work has been taken up for preparing feasibility report.

Strike by Postal Employees

*64. SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY :

SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether postal employees all over the country had gone on strike in support of their demands in December, 2000;

(b) if so, the details of the demand of the employees;

(c) whether any vindictive and punitive action have been taken against workers who participated in the strike;

(d) the demands accepted by the Government and the demands which have not been found viable; and

(e) the total loss suffered by the Government in the wake of strike?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) to (e) Postal employees and Extra departmental Agents (EDAs) all over the country had gone on strike from 5/12/2000 to 18/12/2000 in support of their following demands :-

1. Implementation of positive recommendations of Justice Charanjit Singh Talwar Committee(JTC) for EDAs with particular reference to grant of status and pension.
2. Upgradation of pay scale for Postal Assistants/ Sorting Assistants(PA/SA), Group-D, Postman at all levels, as also Postal Accounts staff and Stenographers.
3. Additional increment for Drivers, Workshop staff and Post Office Accountants.
4. Upgradation of 10% of Higher Selection Grade-II (HSG-II) posts to HSG-I.
5. Issues of Casual labourers.
6. Filling up of all vacant posts in the department.

While orders have been issued for grant of special pay for qualifying in JAOs examination, the demand for additional HSG-I posts for PA/SA cadre, promotion from Sorter to LDC in Postal Accounts Cadre and change of nomenclature of EDAs to Gramin Dak Sewak have been accepted and necessary actions initiated for implementation. The demands relating to Workshop and Postal Accounts Staff are being considered along with the exercise for Cadre review.

Regarding the demands for implementation of positive recommendations of JTC including status and pension for EDAs, the package extended by the Government in December, 1998 was in full and final settlement of all demands relating to JTC recommendations and provided substantial benefits including lump-sum severance amount as post-employment benefit to EDAs. The existing provision of severance amount and ex-gratia gratuity provide sufficient compensation for EDAs and the demand for grant of pension has not been found to be feasible. Issues regarding Casual labourers are under discussion with the Unions and vacant posts in the department are being filled in accordance with the policy of the Government laid down by the nodal Ministry.

The other demands regarding upgradation of pay scales of Group-C & D employees, with wider implications being related the 5th Pay Commission recommendations have not been found to be viable.

No vindictive and punitive action has been taken by the Department against the employees for participation in the strike.

The estimated loss suffered by the Government due to Postal strike in financial terms based on the projected revenue estimate for the year 2000-2001 is approximately Rs. 94.44 crores.

Cellular Telephone Service

*65. DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH :

SHRI SHANKAR PRASAD JAISWAL :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have introduced MTNL Dolphin Cellular Telephone Service at reduced monthly rent and call charges forcing the private cellular telephone companies to reduce their call rate subsequently;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether MTNL had introduced limited range cellular service a year back having monthly rental charges higher than the Dolphin Cellular Service;

(d) if so, whether the Government propose to bring the monthly rental charges at par with the Dolphin Service;

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

(f) whether the cellular service of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) has been started;

(g) if so, the details thereof indicating the cities and towns covered thereunder, State-wise;

(h) the present pattern of charges of MTNL and BSNL;

(i) whether BSNL, is tying up with any other company; and

(j) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) to (e) MTNL has started its Dolphin Cellular Telephone Service based on GSM (Global System for Mobile) technology at Delhi from 7th February,

2001 and propose to start the service in Mumbai from 27th February, 2001. The tariff announced for this service by MTNL was substantially lower than the then tariff of the private operators. The details of MTNL tariff are enclosed at statement-I. After the announcement of tariff by the MTNL, private operators have also reduced their tariff subsequently.

MTNL had introduced limited range mobile service based on WLL (Wireless in Local Loop) technology on 2nd October 1999 with monthly rental of Rs. 600/-. However, the call charges were only Rs. 1.40 for outgoing call of 3 minutes. There is no charge for incoming calls.

There is hardly any comparison between the two services as the cellular mobile service is based on GSM technology and provides full mobility along with roaming facility and other value added services whereas WLL service provides only limited mobility without any roaming facility. The quality of service is also not the same. Although, the rental for WLL service is presently higher, this is subject to determination of rental by TRAI (Telecom Regulatory Authority of India). The call charges on the other hand are very much on the lower side.

(f) to (j) : BSNL has so far introduced Cellular Service based on GSM technology in the cities of Patna and Hazipur in the State of Bihar. The present tariff for the BSNL cellular service is enclosed at Statement-II. There is no proposal at present in BSNL for tying up with any other company for this service.

Statement-I

The Tariff Plan for Mumbai & Delhi for GSM Cellular Mobile Service

1. Dolphin

Monthly rental Rs. 400

Airtime Rate

Incoming Call Rs 1.50 per minute

Outgoing call Rs. 2.70 per minute

Pulse Rate* 30 seconds

* The Airtime would be charged in units of 30 seconds. For example, on a call lasting upto 30 seconds, the airtime chargeable would be Re 0.75 for incoming and Rs. 1.35 for outgoing.

The above airtime rates are valid 24 hrs. a day/7 days a week/365 days in a year.

1. Dolphin Standard

Rental	Standard Hours (0900 hrs.-2000 hrs)	Concessional Hours 1(0800 hrs – 0900 hrs & 2000 hrs – 2400 hrs)	Concessional Hours 2 (0000 hrs – 0800 hrs)
Rs 475	Rs 4.00 per min.	Rs 2.00 per min.	Rs 1.00 per min

The air time rates in the standard plan are applicable to both incoming and outgoing calls. The billing pulse is of 30 seconds. On Sundays and National Holidays (15th August, 26th January and 2nd October) the airtime rates per minute are Rs 2.00 (0800 hrs – 2400 hrs) and Re 1.00 (0000 hrs – 0800 hrs). This tariff is as per TRAI.

Note : As per TRAI regulation, calls to PSTN will entail the applicable PSTN charge as well as Airtime charge.

Value Added Service		
1.	Call forwarding/divert	Free
2.	Call hold	Free
3.	Call waiting	Free
The above three services are provided by default to all subscribers. However, airtime charge on usage applies		
4.	Call Line Identification	Rs 30 per month
5.	Voice mail service (VMS)	(a) Rs 10 per month or (b) Rs 2 per min. on message retrieval
6.	Short Message Service (SMS)	Re 1 per outgoing message, incoming free
7.	Call Conferencing	Rs 30 per month
8.	Itemised Bill (Detailed bill)	Rs 30 per month

Amount payable at the time of registration

Facility	Security deposit (refundable)	Activation charges	Total
a) Local only	Rs. 2000	Rs. 1050	Rs. 3050
b) Local and NSD	Rs. 4000	Rs. 1050	Rs. 5050
c) Local, NSD and ISD	Rs. 6000	Rs. 1050	Rs. 7050

Tariff for miscellaneous services

- | | |
|---------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| (1) Change of Name | No charge |
| (2) Safe custody | The rental only to be charged during the period of safe custody with no re-connection/activation fee, at the time of withdrawal from safe custody. |
| (3) Re-connection | <p>(a) after DNP (Disconnected for Non Payment : Rs 100 with late fee surcharge as applicable</p> <p>(b) of a surrendered connection within 3 month : Rs 200.</p> <p>Note : A surrendered number is not to be allotted to anyone else before 3 months)</p> <p>(c) of a surrendered connection after 3 months, if the number is apre at the time of request. Activation fee will be charged as for a new post paid connection</p> |
| (4) Migration from one package to another package | No charge, other conditions of respective purchase will apply. |

Statement-II

BSNL tariff for Cellular Service

Post Paid Service

- | | | |
|-----|------------------------------------------------|---------------------|
| (a) | Monthly rental charges | Rs.400/- |
| (b) | Peak hours (7 a.m. to 7 p.m.) Air time charges | Rs.3.50 Per minute. |

Regularisation of Forest Land

- (c) Off peak hour (7 p.m. to 7 a.m.) and Sundays/ National holidays Air Time charges Rs.3.00 Per minute.

(Pulse rate for Air Time in both outgoing and incoming calls shall be 30 seconds for (b) and (c) above)

- (d) Registration charges Rs.500 per subscriber

- (e) Activation charges Rs.500 per subscriber

- (f) The billing cycle period is one month

- (g) As per TRAI regulation, calls to PSTN will entail the applicable PSTN charge as well as Airtime charge

The above tariff will act as ceiling within which BSNL will be adopting different tariff plan for Telecom. Circles and Metro Districts.

Tariff for Prepaid Service and other type of packages and services will be fixed separately.

*66. SHRI K.MURALEEDHARAN Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received any proposal from different States particularly Kerala for regularisation of encroachments of forest land by tribals;

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

(c) whether the approval has been accorded to the said proposals;

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

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) to (e) So far 19 proposals from nine different State Governments/Union Territory Administration have been received for regularisation of encroachment of forest land under Forest(Conservation) Act, 1980. Out of the above mentioned proposals, only one proposal pertained to State of Kerala involving 28,588.159 ha. of forest land in Idduki, Ernakulam, Kollam, Thrissur and Pathanamthitta districts. The proposal has already been approved on 31.1.1995. Detailed-status of all the 19 proposals is attached as statement.

Statement

No.	Name of State/ U.T	District	Area (HA.)	Status
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
1.	A & N Islands	Andaman	1,367	Approved
2.	A & N Islands	Andaman	89	Rejected for want of information.
3.	A & N Islands	Andaman	735	Proposal incomplete. Additional information sought from UT Administration.
4.	Arunachal Pradesh	Dibang	10,545	Proposal incomplete. Additional information sought from the State Government.
5.	Arunachal Pradesh	Dibang	13,419.29	Approved in principle.
6.	Gujarat	Dang, Panchmahal, Sabarkantha etc.	10,900.47	Approved.

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
7	Gujarat	Vadodra, Dang, Surat etc.	39,750.59	Approved for 21082.33 ha.
8.	Karnataka	Bijapur	46.80	State Government has been requested for eviction of encroachers and action for violation of F(C) Act, 1980.
9.	Karnataka	Chickmagalur, D. Kannada, Mysore and U. Kannada	732.24	Rejected on merit.
10.	Karnataka	19 different districts	17007.2	Approved for diversion of 14,848.83 ha.
11.	Kerala	Idduki, Ernakulam, Kollam, Thirssur & Pathanamthitta.	28,588.159	Approved.
12.	Madhya Pradesh	Shajapur	22.29	Proposal incomplete. Additional information sought from State Govt.
13.	Madhya Pradesh	All districts	1.03 lakh	Approved for 1.03 lakh ha. out of 2.73 lakh ha.
14.	Madhya Pradesh	All districts	1,82,889.7	Under process.
15.	Maharashtra	Dhule	10,185.32	Proposal incomplete. Additional information sought from State Government.
16.	Maharashtra	Gadchiroli and other districts	28,886.410	Withdrawn.
17.	Maharashtra	4 Divisions	335.65	Proposal incomplete. Additional information sought from State Govt.
18.	Orissa	15 districts	3449.7952 + 446.995	Proposal incomplete. Additional information sought from State Govt.
19.	Rajasthan	10 districts	3171.42	Proposal closed and State Government has been requested for sending consolidated proposal.

Funds for construction of sports complex

67. SHRI GUTHA SUKENDER REDDY : Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have allocated funds to State Governments for construction of sports complex at all district headquarters of each State;

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

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (KUMARI UMA BHARATI) : (a) to (c) No state-wise funds are earmarked for construction of sports complex under the Scheme of "Grants for Creation of Sports Restructure". Sanction of Central assistance depends upon the receipt of viable proposals under the scheme from the State Governments.

[Translation]

Conversion of STD Calls into Local Calls

*68. Shri AJAY SINGH CHAUTALA :

SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have announced on January 16, 2001 that STD calls up to the distance of 200 kms will be charged at the rate of local calls;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the criteria adopted for fixing the rate;

(d) the profit/ loss likely to be accrued therefrom;

(e) the details of the present pulse rate being charged;

(f) whether the Government propose to increase the pulse rate from 30 seconds to 60 seconds for local calls of distance more than 100 kms;

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

(h) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) to (h) Concession in STD Calls up to 200 kms. has been allowed by Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited, but the same are higher than the local call rates. The concessional tariffs are a part of the package under which call charges have been reduced but rental has been brought at par with TRAI orders, with the exception of rural subscribers. The charges for calls above 50 kms and up to 100 kms have been reduced to 1/8th and those for above 100 kms and up to 200 kms have been reduced to half at peak rate.

The concessional rates apply in respect of intra-circle calls and normal rates are applicable in respect of inter-circle calls. The details of concessions announced are given below :-

Distance Slabs for intra-circle calls	Peak time pulse (in Seconds) (Prior to 26/01/2001)	Standard peak time pulse (in seconds) as per TRAI	Pulse (in seconds) made applicable from 26/01/2001*	Extent of reduction in tariff
Above 50 kms. and up to 100 kms.	15	15	120	to 1/8th
Above 100 kms. and up to 200 kms.	15	15	30	to 1/2

*The rates are applicable round the clock.

The concession in call charges has been given to make the shorter distance calls more affordable and also to optimize service usage for the general masses.

The estimated reduction in revenue on account of this package is about Rs. 250 Crores per annum. Since the tariffs have been revised only on 26th January, 2001, it is too early to review it again.

[English]

Agreement for Development of National Highways

*69. DR. B.B. RAMAIAH :

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT :

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

(a) whether the Government have signed any agreement with some countries for development of four laning of National Highways in the country;

(b) if so, the names of the countries and the details of the National Highways that are likely to be developed under these agreements; and

(c) the details of the plan expenditure likely to be incurred thereon?

The MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) SHRI B.C. KHANDURI) : (a) and (b) National

Highways Authority of India (NHAI) have signed on 19.12.2000 a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with a Malaysian Consortium headed by Malaysian Construction Industry Development Board (CIDB) for development of Tada Nellore Section of National Highway - 5 in a length of 110.8 km. and Ibrahimpatnam-Nandigama Section of National Highway - 9 in a length of 35 km. to 4-lane standards on Build Operate and Transfer basis. This MOA is under a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed in 1995 by Government of India and Malaysia for mutual cooperation in development of infrastructure facilities.

(c) NHAI will provide a capital subsidy of Rs. 167.50 crore out of a total project cost of Rs. 760 crore.

Review of Functioning of Directorate General of Mines Safety

*70. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY :

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE :

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have reviewed the functioning of the Director General of Mines Safety;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the experts of the Directorate General of Mines safety had prior knowledge about the imminence of such an accident that occurred in the Bagdihi Mines of Bharat Cooking Coal Limited;

(d) if so, the effective steps taken by the Directorate General, Mines Safety in this regard;

(e) whether the Government propose to entrust private agencies with the responsibility of mines safety; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir, a Review Committee was constituted in 1981 under the Chairmanship of Sh. J.G. Kumarmanglam on the Role and Functions of Directorate General of Mines Safety. This Committee submitted its report in 1982 and amongst other things suggested strengthening of the organization. Government after due consideration sanctioned 28 additional posts for the Directorate General of Mines Safety.

Another Sub-committee of the Consultative Committee of the Ministry of Labour was constituted in

1995 under the Chairmanship of Sh. Gurudas Das Gupta. to go into the status of safety in Mines. This Committee submitted its report to the Government in 1996. The recommendations amongst other things of this Sub-Committee also included strengthening of the DGMS by providing adequate and requisite manpower.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Social Afforestation Projects

*71. PROF. DUKHA BHAGAT :

SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN :

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

(a) whether any social afforestation projects have been launched in the country during the last three years;

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

(c) the financial assistance provided and achievements made thereunder during the said period, State-wise;

(d) whether the World Bank has also provided any assistance for the purpose particularly in case of Jharkhand State;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether the Government have formulated any action plan in this regard; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) to (c) The Ministry of Environment and Forests does not provide assistance to the State Governments exclusively for Social Forestry. The states are assisted by the Central Government for implementing afforestation programmes through centrally sponsored schemes with peoples' participation including usufruct sharing. The total financial assistance provided to

each of the States during the last three years under the afforestation schemes of the Ministry of Environment and Forests is at Statement-I. Tree planting activities are also taken up by States under their plan schemes and the schemes of the other central ministries. Overall, annual targets are fixed for afforestation and tree planting activities under the 20-Point Programme in two parts : the first is for seedlings distribution for planting on private lands and the second is in terms of afforestation on public lands, including forest lands. Plantations undertaken as part of social forestry are included therein. The State-wise targets and achievements for the last three years under the 20-Point Programme are at Statement-II.

(d) to (g) There is no World Bank assisted forestry project under implementation in Jharkhand. However, the World Bank has provided assistance to forestry projects in several other States as per details at statement-III. Several forestry sector projects have been posed to external-aid agencies including the World Bank as part of the continuing endeavour to augment internal resources through external support. Outcome of these proposals is dependent upon their assessment by the concerned agencies.

Statement-I

Funds provided to States under the centrally sponsored schemes of the Ministry of Environment and Forests during the last 3 years

(Rs. in lakhs)

State	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
Andhra Pradesh	232.02	320.73	378.36
Arunachal Pradesh	74.86	19.94	103.05
Assam	166.54	150.95	181.84
Bihar	202.35	125.59	262.04
Goa	21.78	22.82	26.77
Gujarat	272.05	281.86	421.04

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
Haryana	299.44	409.18	376.42
Himachal	207.46	131.85	283.27
Jammu & Kashmir	393.49	494.19	567.94
Karnataka	438.22	227.46	444.41
Kerala	257.77	334.80	463.37
Madhya Pradesh	690.71	876.06	896.93
Maharashtra	225.38	174.64	195.91
Manipur	218.48	469.07	676.54
Meghalaya	5.48	12.00	10.21
Mizoram	339.83	339.72	392.25
Nagaland	1.22	15.23	49.47
Orissa	192.13	378.11	521.73
Punjab	268.61	62.81	28.62
Rajasthan	643.36	663.05	684.84
Sikkim	194.04	343.08	281.34
Tamil Nadu	160.39	170.86	135.03
Tripura	166.51	106.46	55.02
Uttar Pradesh	648.60	633.44	736.23
West Bengal	288.52	433.39	506.99
Total	6609.24	7197.29	8679.62

Statement-II*Targets/Achievements for Afforestation Activities under Twenty Point Programme (TPP) during 1997-2000*

Seedlings in lakhs/Area in hectares

Sl. No.	State/ UT	Targets (1997-2000)		Achievements (1997-2000)	
		Seedling Distribution*	Area**	Seedling Distribution*	Area**
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
1	Andhra Pradesh	4200	255000	7030.08	522231
2	Arunachal Pradesh	21	30000	25.85	8588
3	Assam	75	81000	74.46	18088
4	Bihar	1500	120000	419.28	40657
5	Goa	70	4200	33.19	2610.30
6	Gujarat	5700	205000	5761.92	201432
7	Haryana	600	96000	106.13	48072
8	Himachal Pradesh	60	90000	90.09	89810
9	Jammu & Kashmir	180	72000	177.66	52758
10	Karnataka	1300	223000	1627.88	239963.30
11	Kerala	540	57000	15.07	34751
12	Madhya Pradesh	1350	450000	1786.41	643535
13	Maharashtra	3450	378000	2626.83	283266.94
14	Manipur	75	36000	35.57	17025
15	Meghalaya	120	54000	139.18	6546
16	Mizoram	66	59400	65.46	19309
17	Nagaland	180	24000	0	0
18	Orissa	900	253000	737.18	217496
19	Punjab	156	60000	156.87	31281
20	Rajasthan	1200	253000	1066.53	160115
21	Sikkim	66	33000	59.89	27326.86

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
22	Tamil Nadu	3300	295000	3106.06	484049
23	Tripura	120	30000	129.56	24794.58
24	Uttar Pradesh	6600	330000	5615.46	275186.91
25	West Bengal	2475	132000	541	34186
26	A & N Islands	12	12700	3.81	10141.13
27	Chandigarh	0.30	1100	1.53	269
28	D & N Haveli	37	2300	15.20	980
29	Daman & Diu	4.25	130	0.83	159
30	Delhi	75	3000	50.13	80
31	Lakshadweep	15	225	12	197
32	Pondicherry	15	225	16.51	224.09
Total		34462.55	3640280	31527.62	3495128.11

* Seedling Distribution : for planting on private lands — under Point No. 16A of the TPP.

** Area : coverage on public lands including forest lands — under Point No. 16B of the TPP.

Statement-III

Sl.No.	Name of the Project	Total Project Cost (Rs. in crore)	Physical Targets (in '000 ha.)
State Sector			
1	Uttar Pradesh Forestry Project 1997-98 to 2000-01	272.00	160
2	Kerala Forestry Project 1998-99 to 2001-02	183.00	54
Total		455.00	214
Central Sector*			
1	Forestry Research Education and Extension Project(FREEP), 1994-95 to 2001-02	192.47	
2	Eco-Development Project, 1996-97 to 2002-03	294.93	
Total		487.40	

* Being implemented by the Ministry of Environment and Forests

II. Completed World Bank assisted forestry sector projects

Sl. No.	Name of the Project	Project Period	Total Project Cost (Rs. in Cr.)
1.	Social Forestry Project, Uttar Pradesh	1979-80 to 1983-84	40.00
2.	Social Forestry Project, J & K and Haryana	1982-83 to 1990-91	57.07
3.	Social Forestry Project, West Bengal	1981-82 to 1990-91	34.75
4.	Social Forestry Project, Karnataka (with ODA)	1983-84 to 1991-92	124.55
5.	Social Forestry Project, Kerala	1984-85 to 1992-93	59.51
6.	National Social Forestry Project (with USAID) (UP, HP, Raj, Guj)	1985-86 to 1992-93	387.29
7.	Gujarat Community Forestry Project	1980-81 to 1984-85	66.65
8.	West Bengal Forestry Project	1992-93 to 1997-98	114.00
9.	Maharashtra Forestry Project	1992-93 to 1999-00	431.00
10.	Andhra Pradesh Forestry Project	1994-95 to 1999-00	353.92
11.	Madhya Pradesh Forestry Project	1995-96 to 1999-00	245.94
Total			1914.68

Telephone Cables

*72. SHRI RAMPAL SINGH : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have achieved the target fixed for laying of telephone cables in the country during 2000-2001;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor and the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) to (c) The targets for laying of Telephone Cables (Copper Cables) for BSNL (Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited) was fixed at 490 LCKM (.Lakh Conductor Kilometre) for the year 2000-2001. Out of this 263 LCKM of cable has been laid from 1/4/2000 to 31/12/2000. BSNL is expecting to achieve the said targets by 31/3/2001.

The targets for laying of Telephone Cables (Copper Cables) for MTNL (Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited) was fixed at 29 LC KM for the year 2000-2001. Out of this

21 LCKM of cable has been laid till January, 2001 end. While the target for Delhi (13 LCKM) is likely to be met, there is likely to be slippage in meeting the target in Mumbai (16 LCKM) due to problem in getting appropriate permission from Mumbai Municipal Corporation. However, efforts are being made to sort out the issue.

[English]

Privatisation in PSUs

*73. SHRIMATI MINATI SEN :

MOHD. SHAHABUDDIN;

Will the Minister of LABOUR pleased to state :

(a) whether a number of persons lost their jobs as a result of disinvestment and privatisation in Central Public Sector Undertakings;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to protect the jobs of such persons?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Government is fully committed to protect the interest of workers.

Exodus of Skilled and Semi-skilled Workers

*74. SHRI PRABHAT SAMANTRAY : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the mass exodus of skilled and semi-skilled workers from Gujarat and Orissa;

(b) whether the Government have a proposal to formulate a rehabilitation and incentive plan for the migrant labour force in the country; and

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

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA) : (a) The State Governments of Orissa and Gujarat have reported that there is no mass exodus of skilled and semi-skilled workers from their States.

(b) and (c) No, Sir. However, to safeguard the interests of the inter-state migrant workers, the Government has enacted the Inter-State Migrant Workmen (RECS) Act, 1979 which aims at protecting the interests of such migrant workers.

National Sports Academy

*75. SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH : Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to set up National Sports Academy in each State :

(b) if so, the details of such Academies set up so far in the country particularly in Bihar; and

(c) if not, the reasons for delay and the time by which the programme of setting up of Sports Academies is likely to be taken up?

THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (KUMARI UMA BHARATI) : (a) to (c) As yet there is no National Sports Academy which has been set up in States. However, government is examining the issue of setting up Academies in various disciplines in different States.

Pollution in Rivers

*76. SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB

SHRI RAMSHAKAL :

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

(a) the names of rivers which have become polluted because of dumping of polluted effluents;

(b) whether the Government have chalked out any action plan for making rivers pollution free particularly the Mahanadi and the Pamba rivers :

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the expenditure incurred on cleaning of each river during the last three years and till date;

(e) whether the Brahmani river got polluted due to the breakage of embankment of NALCO's ash pond; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and the steps, if any, being taken to save underground water from contamination?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T. R. BAALU) : (a) to (d) Under the ongoing phase of National River Conservation Plan (NRCP), polluted stretches of 27 major rivers in 16 states have so far been identified and included for pollution abatement. The list of these rivers along with amount released so far is at Statement. Pollution abatement works in Cuttack Town on river Kathjori/Mahanadi, at an estimated cost of Rs. 14.04 crore, have been included under the NRCP. So far, an amount of Rs.92 lakhs has been released to the State Govt of Orissa.

(e) and (f) The waters of Rivers Nandira and Brahmani were polluted after the breach of NALCO ash pond on 31-12-2000. The Orissa State Pollution Control Board has issued directions to NALCO to provide alternate source of water to the people of the affected area till the water quality of these rivers returns to normal. As for the ground water contamination, some of the dug wells in the vicinity of ash ponds were silted due to ash slurry. The NALCO authorities were directed to clean these dug wells by 28th February 2001. They have desilted all these wells before that date and there is no other source of contamination of ground water.

Statement			(1)	(2)	(3)
<i>Fund released during last 3 years and till date under national river conservation plan</i>			VIII	Orissa	92.00
(Rs. In lakhs)			18	Brahmini	
S.No.	State / River	Total	19	Mahanadi	
(1)	(2)	(3)	IX	Punjab	2446.80
I	Andhra Pradesh	877.89	20	Satluj	
1	Godavari		X	Rajasthan	50.00
II	Bihar/ III Jharkhand	106.50		Chambal	
2	Ganga		XI	Tamil Nadu	2094.57
3	Subarnrekha			Cauvery	
4	Damodar		21	Adyar	
IV	Gujarat	2583.62	22	Cooum	
5	Sabarmati		23	Vennar	
V	Karnataka	834.65	24	Vaigai	
6	Tunga		25	Tambrabharani	
7	Tungabhadra		XII	Haryana	7317.00
8	Bhadra		26	Yamuna	
9	Cauvery		XIII	Delhi	475.09
VI	Maharashtra	1033.00		Yamuna	
	Godavari		XIV	Uttar Pradesh/ XV) Uttranchal	20695.61
10	Krishna			Ganga	
VII	Madhya Pradesh	2472.70		Yamuna	
11	Betwa		27	Gomati	
12	Chambal		XVI	West Bengal	952.21
13	Khan			Ganga	
14	Kshipra			Damodar	
15	Narmada				
16	Tapti				
17	Wainganga				
			Grand Total		42031.64

Children in Hazardous Industries

*77. SHRI C.N. SINGH

DR. M.P. JAISWAL

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to take suitable action against those employers who employ children in hazardous industries as per the news item appearing in "Rashtriya Sahara" dated January 20, 2001;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to set up a fund for the rehabilitation of child workers;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the details of projects being implemented for the welfare of child labourers?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA) : (a) to (d) Government is aware of the news item published in the "Rashtriya Sahara dated January 20, 2001, wherein it has been reported that action will be taken against the employers guilty of employing child labour, who will also have to pay Rs. 20,000/- per child as penalty.

The Hon'ble Supreme Court in its Judgment dated 10th December 1996 in Writ Petition (Civil) No. 465/1986 gave certain directions on the issue of elimination of child labour. These included payment of contribution @ Rs. 20,000/- per child by the offending employers into a welfare-cum-rehabilitation fund to be constituted in the States for the purpose. A contribution of Rs. 5,000/- is also to be paid by the State Government if employment to one adult member of the family of the child so withdrawn from work could not be provided. Government has since been complying with the directions of the Hon'ble Court.

As per affidavit filed in the Hon'ble Supreme Court in December 1999, the amount deposited by the offending employers on whom show cause notices were issued, is given in the attached statement.

(e) Government of India has been implementing two schemes for the welfare and rehabilitation of child labourers namely, the Scheme of National Child Labour Projects (NCLP) and the Scheme of Grants-in-aid to Voluntary Organisations. Under the scheme of NCLP, funds are released to the Child Labour Project Societies, constituted at the district level under the Chairpersonship of the District Collector. The major activity under the

scheme is the running of Special Schools/Centers for rehabilitation of children withdrawn from work through non-formal education, vocational training, nutrition, health-care, stipend etc. So far 96 child labour projects with 3552 rehabilitation centres have been sanctioned in 13 child labour endemic states for the benefit of about 2.00 lakh children. Under the scheme of Grants-in-aid, funds are released directly to voluntary organisation on the recommendation of the State Governments for taking up action oriented projects for the benefit of working children.

Statement

	State	Amount
1.	Andhra Pradesh	Rs. 1,10,000.00
2.	Bihar	Rs. 1,00,000.00
3.	Gujarat	Rs. 2,40,000.00
4.	Haryana	Rs. 80,000.00
5.	Himachal Pradesh	Rs. 20,000.00
6.	Karnataka	Rs. 4,95,000.00
7.	Madhya Pradesh	Rs. 4,40,000.00
8.	Maharashtra	Rs. 4,80,000.00
9.	Orissa	Rs. 1,00,000.00
10.	Punjab	Rs. 1,20,000.00
11.	Rajasthan	Rs. 60,000.00
12.	Tamil Nadu	Rs. 1,60,000.00
13.	Uttar Pradesh	Rs.25,01,488.00
14.	West Bengal	Rs. 80,000.00

Post Offices in Rural Areas

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

(a) whether India has the lowest density of post offices and network of postal services in the World;

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

(c) whether there is huge requirement of post offices in rural areas; and

(d) if so, the reasons for not sanctioning new rural post offices in the country?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) to (d) With a total of 1,54,551 Post Offices, India has the largest Postal Network in the world. The network has steadily grown by almost 7 times in post independence era from 23344 post offices at the time of independence. There are total number of 1,38,149 post offices in the rural areas of the country. On an average, a post office in India serves an area of 21.26 sq. kms. and a population of 5462. These figures compare very favourably with the figures of average population and average areas served per post office in most other countries of the world. Information regarding total number of post offices, average population and average area served per post office in respect of some representative countries in the world is placed in the Statement-I. It can be seen from this that India is among the countries having the highest density of post offices and network of postal services in the world.

The demands for opening of new post offices in the country are examined in accordance with the prescribed norms, copy of which is placed at Statement-II. Since the expansion of postal network is a Plan activity, the expansion is done as per Plan targets on the norms based justification subject to availability of financial and human resources.

The provisions of basic postal facilities in the rural areas of the country is also being done through opening of Panchayat Sanchar Sewa Kendras.

Statement-I

Number of post offices, average population and average area served per post office in some representative countries in the world

S. No.	Name of the country	Total Number of Post Offices	Average Population served per Post Office	Average Area served per Post Office
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
1.	India	154551	5462.00	21.26
2.	China	112204	11191.22	85.53

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
3.	U.S.A.	38159	7090.33	245.62
4.	Great Britain	18760	3126.33	13.01
5.	France	17038	3454.04	32.37
6.	Germany	14500	5656.55	24.61
7.	Iran	13715	4493.62	120.16
8.	Pakistan	13294	9822.48	59.88
9.	Brazil	11713	13812.86	726.71
10.	Poland	7836	4934.92	39.90
11.	Egypt	7488	8811.43	133.74
12.	Australia	3922	4780.72	1966.69
13.	Bulgaria	3303	2497.73	33.58
14.	South Africa	2449	17202.94	498.59
15.	Saudi Arabia	1421	14201.27	151.80
16.	Kenya	1033	28083.25	561.83
17.	Ghana	1010	18970.30	236.17
18.	Uganda	313	6718850	753.61

Statement-II

Norms for Opening EDBOs in rural areas

		In normal areas	In hilly, tribal, desert and in accessible areas
1)	Population	3000 (in a group of villages including the PPO village)	500 in individual village; or 1000 in a group of villages.
2)	Distance	3 Kms. From the nearest existing post office	3 Kms Except that the distance limit can be relaxed in special cases
3)	Anticipated Income	33.33% of the cost	15% of the cost.

Criteria for upgradation of an Extra-Departmental Branch Post Office and an Extra Departmental Sub Post Office into a Departmental Sub Post Office :-

- iii) The minimum daily workload of the Extra Departmental Branch Post Office should be at least 5 hours.
- iv) The annual loss should not be more than Rs.2400/- per annum in normal rural areas and Rs. 4800/- per annum in tribal and hilly areas. In urban areas, the post office should be initially self-supporting. At the time of the first annual review, it should show 5% profit to be eligible for further retention. The profit and loss is assessed according to the formula of income and cost, followed by the Department.

Promotion of Sports

*79. SHRI DAHYABHAI VALLABHBHAI PATEL : Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the schemes formulated by the Government for the promotion of sports in States and Union Territories particularly Daman and Diu;

(b) the funds allocated for the purpose during the last three years and the amount of funds actually released, State-wise and Union Territory-wise; and

(c) the achievements made on this score?

THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (KUMARI UMA BHARATI) : (a) The following centrally sponsored schemes are being implemented all over India including the Union Territory of Daman and Diu for the promotion of sports :

- (i) Promotion of Sports and Games in Schools;
- (ii) Rural Sports Programme;
- (iii) Sports Scholarship Schemes;
- (iv) National Championship for Women;
- (v) Grants for creation of Sports Infrastructure;
- (vi) Grants for Promotion of Sports in Colleges and Universities;
- (vii) Grant for Instalation of Synthetic Playing Surfaces;
- (viii) National Welfare Fund for Sports persons;
- (ix) Sports Funds for Pension to Meritorious Sports Persons;
- (x) Special Award to Winners in International Sports Events and their Coaches;
- (xi) Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award
- (xii) Arjuna Award;
- (xiii) Dronacharya Award;
- (xiv) (n)Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Trophy

(b) and (c) As per given in the attached statement..

Statement

Scheme-wise expenditure during the last three years is as under :

Allocation and Expenditure

		(Rupees in lakh)					
Name of the Scheme		1997-98		1998-99		1999-2000	
		BE	Expd.	BE	Expd.	BE	Expd.
(1)		(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
(a)	Incentives for Promotion of Sports Activities	400	45.23	400	600	400	368.70
(i)	Promotion of Sports and Games in Schools;						
(ii)	Special Award to Winners in International Sports Events and their Coaches						

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
(iii) Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award						
(iv) Sports Funds for Pension to Meritorious Sports Persons;						
(b) Rural Sports Programme;	100	60.76	150	21.78	125	66
(c) Sports Scholarship Schemes;	170	113	232	220	300	348
(d) National Championship for Women;	40	40	40	31.50	38	26
(e) Grants for creation of, Sports Infrastructure;	860	668.98	1160	267.30	656	726.99
(f) Grants for Promotion of Sports						
(g) in Colleges and Universities;.	325	311	309	492	500	500
(h) Grant for Instalation of Synthetic Playing Surfaces;	450	413	550	345.47	600	400
(i) National Welfare Fund for Sports persons;	2	2	3	3	3	3
(c) Arjuna Award;	8	9	9	12	12	45
(d) Dronacharya Award	3	0.75	3	7.50	2	7.50

Here it may be clarified that funds are not allocated State-wise. Financial assistance is sanctioned to States/UTs on the basis of viable proposal/request received from them.

Investment in Civil Aviation Sector

*80. SHRI ANANT GUDHE : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have reviewed the investment (both in public and private sectors) made in the civil aviation sector during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the funds required for execution of approved development plans and the resources mobilised so far;

(d) the details of packages of incentives finalised/under consideration to attract the required private/foreign direct investment in this sector; and

(e) the details of major projects proposed to be taken/completed during next Plan period in the country?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) In the Civil Aviation Sector, review of investment is a continuous process.

(b) and (c) A Statement indicating the plan outlays for the last 3 years in respect of various organisations under the Ministry of Civil Aviation is attached.

(d) and (e) The following initiatives have been taken to attract private/foreign investment in the civil aviation sector -

(i) Disinvestment of 60% of the government held equity in Air India, out of which 40% to be sold to a strategic partner. Upto 26% of the total equity can be availed of by the foreign investors which could also be a foreign airline.

(ii) Disinvestment of 51% of government equity in Indian Airlines of which 26% to be offered to a strategic partner and the rest 25% to employees, financial institutions and the public.

(iii) 100% disinvestment of equity held by Air-India in Hotel Corporation of India through the mode of sale.

- (iv) Development of four major international airports viz. Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkatta and Chennai to international standards through long-term leasing to private investors.

The following initiatives have been taken-up/being taken up for overall development of the Civil Aviation Sector

- (i) Construction of new international airports at Bangalore, Hyderabad and Goa with private sector participation.
- (ii) Declaration of seven domestic airports viz. Bangalore, Hyderabad, Ahmedabad, Goa,

Amritsar, Guwahati and Cochin as International Airports.

- (iii) Implementation of Satellite based CNS-ATM system for safe and regular operation of civilian aircraft.
- (iv) Constitution of the proposed Autonomous Economic Regulatory Authority called Civil Aviation Economic Regulatory Authority (CAERA).
- (v) Acquisition of 35-40 aircraft by Indian Airlines for its long-term requirements.

Statement

(Rs. in crore)

Sl. No.	Organisation	Ninth plan/ 1997-2002	Annual Plan 1997-98		Annual Plan 1998-99		Annual Plan 1999-2000		Revised 9 plan projection
			Approved outlay	Actual expenditure	Approved outlay	Actual expenditure	Approved outlay	Actual expenditure	
1.	Air India Limited	3664.00 (0.00)	1233.45	517.75	602.53 (5.00)	550.01 (0.00)	433.46 (0.01)	383.09 (0.00)	3652.52 (1000.01)
2.	Indian Airlines Ltd.	3640.75 (125.00)	470.00	441.90	630.00 (125.00)	522.03 (0.00)	540.01 (0.01)	492.27 (0.00)	3731.11 (325.01)
3.	Airports Authority of India	3421.87 (283.37)	609.15 (35.74)	338.58 (10.00)	800.43 (68.17)	319.87 (25.00)	697.93 (41.00)	360.63 (25.00)	3174.02 (551.69)
4.	PHHL	209.20	87.25	26.85	90.00	5.55	101.55	1.21	200.70
5.	DGCA	27.00 (27.00)	3.77 (3.77)	1.07 (1.07)	4.45 (4.45)	3.38 (3.38)	4.40 (4.40)	3.47 (3.47)	23.42 (23.42)
6.	BCAS	25.00 (25.00)	2.50 (2.50)	0.01 (0.01)	3.00 (3.00)	2.35 (2.35)	3.58 (3.58)	2.62 (2.62)	22.13 (22.13)
7.	IGRUA	35.00 (35.00)	14.73 (14.73)	10.00 (10.00)	12.94 (12.94)	11.00 (11.00)	6.00 (6.00)	6.00 (6.00)	35.00 (35.00)
8.	HCI	89.55	50.00	8.52	42.40	10.19	20.00	13.37	85.13
TOTAL		11112.37 (495.37)	2470.85 (56.74)	1344.68 (21.08)	2185.75 (218.56)	1424.38 (41.73)	1806.93 (55.00)	1262.66 (37.09)	10924.03 (1957.26)

(Figures in brackets indicate budgetary support)

[Translation]

Unemployment

623. DR. SANJAY PASWAN : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) the measures taken by the Government in view of the impending tremendous unemployment due to closure of industries which logged behind in the wake of globalisation and World Trade Agreement;

(b) whether the Government are contemplating upon a comprehensive rehabilitation scheme for the retrenched workers in Delhi in view of pollution;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the rationale of the Government for it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL) : (a) There is no evidence of any significant increase in unemployment at the all India level in the wake of globalization and World Trade Agreement. Closure of a establishments is a continuous process reflecting exit of un competitive industries and their replacement by new and competitive industries. The government has formulated an attractive Voluntary Separation package for those affected by closure of Public Sector Undertakings.

(b) to (d) With a view to rehabilitating workers affected by closure of industrial units in non conforming areas in Delhi, the Hon'ble Supreme Court gave permission to acquire land covering an area of 1300 acres, which was notified for acquisition. Possession of 1065 acres of land was taken for developing new industrial estates. Another 800 acres of land was acquired and possession taken bringing the total availability of land to about 1865 acres. The Scheme implementing agency of the Government of Delhi, i.e., the Delhi State Industrial Development Corporation has allotted specific plot numbers to about 14,700 applicants in Jhilmil, Badli, Patparganj and Narela Industrial Areas. In addition, 378 flatted factories were constructed at Jhilmil Industrial Area and possession of 178 flats have been given to eligible applicants.

Rehabilitation of the units is expected to take care of the job requirements of the affected workers.

Development of Mangalore Airport

624. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Airport Authority of India plans to construct a new runway and a new terminal building at Mangalore airport

(b) if so, the time by which the work on the project is likely to be commenced; and

(c) the expenditure involved thereon?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) to (c) The Airports Authority of India will conduct a detailed feasibility study before embarking on the project for construction of a new runway at Mangalore airport. Consultants are being appointed to carry out a detailed engineering survey and soil testing of the site. The proposal is at a preliminary stage and no specific time frame can be indicated at this juncture regarding commencement of the project. No detailed estimates have so far been worked out.

World Bank Fund for State Roads

625. SHRI TRILOCHAN KUNUNGO : Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have listed the State Roads in the country which are being funded by World Bank;

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

(c) the fund sanctioned by World Bank for those State Roads during Eighth and Ninth Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) SHRI B.C. KHANDURI) : (a) and (b) State roads come within the purview of the respective State Governments. However, the World Bank has provided a loan assistance of US\$51.5 million under Technical assistance for preparation of road projects and policy reforms. Fifteen States, viz. Andhra Pradesh, Haryana, Kerala, Gujarat, Orissa, Manipur, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, West Bengal, Mizoram, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Tripura and Union Territory of Pondicherry are preparing the projects out of this loan. There is no commitment, however, from the World Bank for funding these projects.

(c) Loans of US\$350 million and US\$381 million have been provided by World Bank for the State Road Projects in the States of Andhra Pradesh and Gujarat, respectively.

Amendments in Coastal Regulation Zones Rules

626. SHRI T. GOVINDAN : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have made some amendments in the Coastal Regulation Zones (CRZ) rules considering the special circumstances prevailing in the densely populated areas in Kerala; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) Does not arise.

Match Fixing Scandals

627. SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADODA MANDLIK : Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have any proposal to declare the match fixing scandals as an offence;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government against the cricketers who were involved in match fixing scandal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI PON. RADHAKRISHNAN) : (a) and (b) The Government is reviewing the existing laws such as Gambling Acts etc. and exploring the possibility of bringing suitable amendments in existing provisions so as to deal with the instances of match fixing and betting in sports effectively.

(c) The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has enforced ban on cricketing activities of the cricketers alleged in match fixing as per CBI Report and the report of Mr. Madhavan, Commissioner (Inquiries) appointed by BCCI. The Government had also issued show cause notices for withdrawal of Arjuna Award conferred on these players.

Transportation of Dangerous and Hazardous Goods

628. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to develop common action plan for the transportation of dangerous and hazardous goods in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BALLAU) : (a) and (b) A Regional-cum-National Seminar for Transportation of Dangerous and Hazardous Goods was organised by the Ministry of Surface Transport in September, 2000. Besides UN-Experts, representatives from countries of the SAARC region participated in this Seminar. The Seminar highlighted the need to standardise the system of transportation of hazardous goods within the country. The need to formulate a Common Code of Practice for transportation of hazardous goods across the borders was also highlighted. However, no such plan has been developed so far.

[Translation]

Completion of Twins Project

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

(a) whether the Union Government have received any proposal from Bihar for providing better telecommunication facilities to the subscribers of the State and completion of Twins Project (Twins Cities Network Services);

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

(c) the steps taken by the Government for early completion of the project?

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

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

[English]

Godavari Water Irrigation Project

630. SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the environmental protection training and research institute has decided to examine three alternative sites for the Inchampalli Godavari Water Irrigation Project in Andhra Pradesh as a part of environment impact assessment; and

(b) if so, the time by which a final decision is likely to be taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T. R. BAALU) : (a) and (b) Environmental Protection Training and Research Institute has been engaged by the project proponent for conducting comprehensive environment impact assessment studies for the Ichampally project. The Ministry is not aware whether evaluation of alternative sites forms a part of the assignment. The project proponent has not submitted a revised proposal for site/environmental clearance.

Electronic Telephone Exchanges

631. SHRI PUSP JAIN :

SHRI NAMDEO HARBAJI DIWATHE :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Electronic telephone exchanges functioning at present in Maharashtra and Rajasthan as on date separately, district-wise;

(b) the number of old exchanges still functioning in those States separately, district-wise;

(c) the steps being taken to replace all the exchanges by Electronic ones; and

(d) the funds allocated for the purpose during the current financial year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) The number of Electronic Telephone Exchanges functioning at present in Maharashtra and Rajasthan as on date separately and district-wise are given at Statement-I and II respectively.

(b) No old exchanges are functioning as all exchanges are electronics in these states.

(c) Not applicable in view of (b) above.

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

Statement-I

Status of Electronic Exchanges as on 31.1.2001 in Maharashtra State

Sl. No.	Name of Districts	Number of Electronic Exchanges
(1)	(2)	(3)
1	Ahmednagar	294
2	Akola	79

(1)	(2)	(3)
3.	Amravarti	116
4.	Aurangabad	136
5.	Beed	96
6.	Bhandara	50
7.	Buldhana	108
8.	Chandrapur	76
9.	Dhule	81
10.	Gadchiroli	36
11.	Gondia	51
12.	Hingoli	37
13.	Jalgaon	198
14.	Jalna	70
15.	Kalyan	114
16.	Kolhapur	259
17.	Latur	114
18.	Mumbai	123
19.	Nagpur	120
20.	Nanded	108
21.	Nasik	211
22.	Nandurbar	47
23.	Osmanabad	78
24.	Parbhani	52
25.	Pune	231
26.	Raigad	149
27.	Ratnagiri	140
28.	Sangli	291
29.	Satara	186
30.	Sindhudurg	87
31.	Solapur	174
32.	Thane	24
33.	Wardha	68
34.	Washim	46
35.	Yeatmal	86
Total		4136

Statement-II**Status of Electronic Exchanges as on 31-12-2001 in Rajasthan State**

Sl. No.	Name of Districts	Number of Telephone Exchange as on 31-1-2001
1.	Ajmer	82
2.	Alwar	101
3.	Banswara	34
4.	Baran	25
5.	Barmer	66
6.	Bharatpur	50
7.	Bhilwara	72
8.	Bikaner	64
9.	Bundi	38
10.	Chittorgarh	60
11.	Churu	83
12.	Dausa	41
13.	Dholpur	14
14.	Dungarpur	34
15.	Hanumangarh	58
16.	Jaipur	151
17.	Jaisalmer	26
18.	Jalore	63
19.	Jhalawar	33
20.	Jhunjhunu	70
21.	Jodhpur	90
22.	Karauli	26
23.	Kota	44
24.	Nagaur	101
25.	Pali	131
26.	Rajsamand	49
27.	Sawaimadhopur	33
28.	Sikar	89
29.	Sirohi	49
30.	Sriganganagar	100
31.	Tonk	45
32.	Udaipur	81
Total		2003

*[Translation]***Construction of National Highway between Dudhi and Ranchi**

632. SHRI BRAJ MOHAN RAM : Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the National Highway to be constructed between Dudhi in Uttar Pradesh and Ranchi in Jharkhand State;

(b) the estimated cost of the project;

(c) the time by which the work is likely to be started; and

(d) the completion target fixed, if any?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) SHRI B.C. KHANDURI) : (a) Extension of National Highway No. 75 notified on 12.10.2000 connects Dudhi Nagar in Uttar Pradesh with Ranchi in Jharkhand.

(b) to (d) The development of National Highways is a continuous process and works are taken up in a phased manner depending on the traffic needs, condition of road, inter-se priority and availability of funds.

*[English]***Projects for Protection of Taj**

633. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether projects have been approved by the Government to protect 'Taj' from the environmental point of view;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether work on the execution of these projects has been undertaken;

(d) if so, the progress achieved and the expected dates for the completion of work, project-wise; and

(e) the expenditure incurred on these projects against the estimated expenditure?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) (a) to (e) Yes, Sir. 10 projects costing Rupees 222.21 crores have been approved by the Government. These projects are implemented on a 50:50

percent cost-sharing basis with the State Government of Uttar Pradesh. The approved schemes are related to uninterrupted power supply in Agra, construction of Gokul Barrage, improvement of drainage system and sanitation in Agra, construction of bye-pass and construction/widening of Agra City roads. These projects are at various stages of implementation and are expected to be completed by 31st March 2002. So far, Rs.65.53 crores have been released as central share and an expenditure of Rs.101.83 crores was incurred upto 31.12.2000 on 10 projects.

Transport in U.T. Chandigarh

634. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the buses in Union Territory, Chandigarh are inadequate to meet the needs of the people;

(b) if so, the steps taken or proposed to be taken to meet the situation;

(c) the number of buses under operation by Chandigarh Transport Undertaking in the Union Territory; and

(d) the number of such buses that are more than 10 years old?

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

[Translation]

Local Calls Facility

635. SHRI P.R. KHUNTE : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) have started direct local call facility between Delhi and Meerut;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the BSNL propose to provide such services at other places in the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Direct local call facility i.e. without STD code on

180 sec. pulse rate has been provided between Delhi and Meerut.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir, such direct local call facility are already available at other places under following conditions :-

- (i) When two short distance charging areas (SDCA) are adjacent
- (ii) When the radial distance between the two short distance charging centers (SDCCs) of two SDCA's falling in the same or adjacent long distance charging areas (LDCAs) is upto 50 Kms.
- (iii) When the radial distance between two long distance charging centers (LDCCs) of two non-adjacent LDCAs is upto 50 Kms.

Air Crash

636. SHRI BABUBHAI K. KATARA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) the details of air crashes that took place in the country from December 1, 2000 to till date; place-wise;

(b) whether any inquiry has been undertaken on each air crash;

(c) if so, the outcome thereof and the details of persons found responsible for such crashes; and

(d) the concrete steps taken to check such crashes in future?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) There has been one accident to Indian civil registered aircraft involving Span Air helicopter at Hathipau near Mussorie on 2.1.2001. Five persons on board, including the Pilot in Command, received fatal injuries.

(b) to (d) The accident is under investigation by an Inspector of Accident under Rule 71 of Aircraft Rules, 1937.

[English]

Sharing of River Water

637. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL :

SHRI RAMSHEETH THAKUR :

SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK;

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether India and Bangladesh have agreed to share the water of six rivers which flow through both the countries; In

(b) if so, whether any meeting between the two countries has been held in Dhaka in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the outcome of the meeting?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) to (c) In the Thirty-fourth meeting of the Indo-Bangladesh Joint Rivers Commission (JRC) held at Dhaka in January, 2001. JRC has interalia directed the Joint Committee of Experts led by Secretary (Water Resources) of both the countries to submit the formulations for the sharing of the water of the six rivers e.g. Manu, Muhuri, Khowai, Gumti, Dharla and Dudhkumar between the two countries for consideration of the JRC at an early date.

[Translation]

Jawai canal in Rajasthan

638. DR JASWANT SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have formulated any scheme to replace Jawai Canal flowing from Jawai Dam to Jodhpur into a pipeline;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the funds earmarked by the Government for the purpose; and

(d) the number of villages of Rajasthan likely to be benefited on this account?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The project costing Rs.153 Crore to benefit 577 villages has been proposed by Government of Rajasthan in October, 1999. The clearance of the scheme is linked to resolution of outstanding issues by the State Government with the central appraising agencies.

Telecom facilities in Madhya Pradesh

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

(a) whether there is inadequate telephone and telecommunication facilities in rural areas of Madhya

Pradesh particularly in Satna, Rewa, Sidhi, Sahdol, Katni, Panna district of Vindhya division;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to launch a special drive to provide said facilities in the State;

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

(d) the number of application forms for providing telephone connections lying pending as on date in Satna district of Madhya Pradesh, village-wise; and

(e) the time by which the telephone facility is likely to be provided in these villages?

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

(b) Not applicable.

(c) Not applicable.

(d) and (e) Village-wise number of application forms lying pending for telephone connections as on date in Satna district of Madhya Pradesh and the time by which the telephone facility is likely to be provided in these villages are enclosed at Statement.

Statement

Village-wise number of application forms lying pending for telephone connections as on date in Satna District of Madhya Pradesh and the time by which the telephone facility is likely to be provided in these villages.

S. No	Names of the Villages	Number of application forms lying pending as on date.	Time by which the telephone facility is likely to be provided
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
1.	Bumkahar	19	2000-01
2.	Hardua	30	2000-01
3.	Dagdiha	15	2001-02
4.	Sakariya	21	2001-02
5.	Bhainswar	12	2001-02

*[English]***New Airport at Bangalore**

640. SHRI G. MALLIKARJUNAPPA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether a German-led consortium and a Swiss-led consortium are the two groups shortlisted to build a \$ 300 million airport in Bangalore;

(b) if so, whether all the formalities and bids in this regard have been finalised; and

(c) if so, the time by which the work on the proposed airport at Bangalore is likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) to (c) Two consortia led by M/s Hochtief Airport GmbH, Germany and M/s Siemens GmbH, Germany have been shortlisted as the two preferred bidders for the construction of a greenfield international airport at Devanahalli near Bangalore. At present, the second stage of the selection process is in progress, wherein the preferred bidders are in the process of conducting a detailed project feasibility study. After evaluation of the report submitted by the preferred bidders, the Joint Venture Partner will be selected. With the completion of all formalities/entering into all the requisite legal agreements, the construction of the airport will commence. Hence, at this stage, it is not possible to indicate the time for commencement of the construction work.

Construction of an International Road

641. SHRI M.K. SUBBA : Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a proposal for construction of an international road/highway called Steelwel Road, through Assam (India), China, Myanmar, Singapore etc.;

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

(c) the decision taken in this regard, indicating the stage at which it stands at present?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) SHRI B.C. KHANDURI) : (a) to (c) The Stilwel road from Ledo in Assam to Pangsu Pass on Indo-Myanmar border has been declared as National Highway No. 153 by the Government of India vide Notification No. 923(E) dated 12.10.2000. The State Governments of Assam and Arunachal Pradesh have been requested to

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
6.	Baraha	06	2001-02
7.	Aber	22	2001-02
8.	Mehuti	27	2001-02
9.	Dadhiya	6	2001-02
10.	Jignahat	10	2001-02
11.	Rampurchaurasi	20	2001-02
12.	Chandai	27	2001-02
13.	Baraondha	18	2001-02
14.	Rajarwar	20	2001-02
15.	Goraiya	20	2001-02
16.	Chorahata	20	2001-02
17.	Mudaha	20	2001-02
18.	Karigohi	20	2001-02
19.	Dureha	19	2001-02
20.	Koni	11	2001-02
21.	Kodar	10	2001-02
22.	Chunda	8	2001-02
23.	Madikala	13	2001-02
24.	Amkui	15	2001-02
25.	Jhingodar	26	2001-02
26.	Usarar	12	2002-03
27.	Karmau	22	2002-03
28.	Churbari	17	2002-03
Total		486	

send their 'No Objection' and to transfer all assets falling on the National Highway to the Central Government.

[Translation]

Irrigation Projects in Maharashtra

642. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) the names of schemes started for completion of irrigation projects in Maharashtra and other tribal and backward areas in the State during the last three years;

(b) whether these projects are likely to be completed as scheduled; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY):

(a) One major scheme, namely Temghar and 9 medium projects namely, Andhrakhore, Dhapewada Lift Irrigation Scheme (LIS), Ghatprabha (Phatakwardi), Haran Ghat LIS, Kirmiri, Pimpalgaon (Dhale), Uttarmand, Wang and Zashinagar have been taken up for implementation by Maharashtra in the three previous years. Out of these, Temghar, Andhrakhore, Kirmiri, Wang and Uttarmand will benefit tribal or drought prone districts.

(b) to (c) The completion of any project depends on various factors such as its size, availability of land, geological conditions and equally important are the funds allotted by the State Governments to individual project as per the States priority.

Accidents on National Highways

643. PROF RASA SINGH RAWAT : Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the measures being taken by the Government to prevent accidents on National Highways and to ensure unobstructed traffic;

(b) if so, the measures taken for the safety of vehicular traffic on National Highways;

(c) the criteria on which States are given assistance for constructing new roads and developing the existing road; and

(d) the amount given to Rajasthan State for construction improvement and maintenance of Highways during the last two years ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) SHRI B.C. KHANDURI) : (a) and (b) Identifying road accident prone stretches is a continuing process and road safety aspects are taken into consideration while formulating proposals for development and maintenance of National Highways (NHs). The Government is undertaking various improvement works like widening to 4-lanes, strengthening existing two lane pavements, construction of bypass of geometric improvements and also provide road signs, markings etc. to make road safety for vehicular traffic. In addition steps are also undertaken to create awareness amongst various categories of Road Users.

(c) The Central Government is providing funds to the States for development of National Highways keeping in view their requirement of fund for completion of the ongoing works, new works to be sanctioned as per the approved annual plan and the overall availability of fund. In addition funds are also being provided for development and maintenance of State roads from the Central Road Fund based on the petrol and diesel consumption as also the geographical area of the State. Funds are also provided under Strategic Roads Schemes and roads of Economic and Inter State importance.

(d) Following funds were allotted to State Government of Rajasthan for roads in Rajasthan :

(Rs. in crore)			
	Year	National Highways	State Roads
i)	1998-99	83.24	1.77
ii)	1999-2000	130.34	1.58
iii)	2000-2001	164.18	75.82

[English]

Highways between Bangalore and Devanahalli

644. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR : Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have a proposal for the construction of the National Highways between Bangalore and Devanahalli in Karnataka;

(b) if so, whether the approval has twice been given to the said project;

(c) the details of estimated cost of the project; and

(d) the steps taken to implement the project ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) SHRI B.C. KHANDURI) : (a) to (d) National Highway-7 already exists connecting Bangalore and Devanahalli in the State of Karnataka. However widening of this section is being taken up in phases as a part of North-South corridor. The work of six laning from km. 524 to 527 and from km. 535 to 539 has already been awarded under phase-I of the programme at a cost of Rs. 21.56 Crore. The stretches from km. 527 to 535 and km. 539 to 556 are included in phase-II. The estimated cost is Rs. 160.00 Crore.

[Translation]

Telephone Connections

645. SHRIMATI SUSHILA SAROJ : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether telephone connections are not provided inspite of availability of the cable in different parts of the country particularly in Trimuhani Ghat and Darbhanga districts of Bihar; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) No, Sir. Wherever cable and capacity is available, telephone connections are being provided in the country including Darbhanga. Trimuhani Ghat village falls in the exchange area of Bithauli at a distance of approximately 3 Km. Presently there is no cable laid in that village. Work order has been issued and work is likely to be completed within two months period. The connections will be provided immediately after completion of under ground cable laying

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

[English]

Incident of death of a girl at IGIA

646. SHRI SHEESH RAM SINGH RAVI : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have paid the compensation amount to the family members of the girl died in the escalator accident cast at IGIA on February 7, 2000;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

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

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) to (d) The ex-gratia compensation of Rs. 5 lakhs offered by Airports Authority of India was not accepted by the family of the girl died in the escalator accident on 13 December, 1999.

[Translation]

Telecom Facilities in Assam

647. SHRI TARUN GOGOI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the criteria fixed for opening of telephone exchanges in villages;

(b) the number of telephone exchanges functioning at present in Assam and proposed to be set up during 2000-2001;

(c) the number of villages in the State where telephone facility is available at present and the Number of villages in which no such facility is available;

(d) the time by which said facility is likely to be provided in the remaining villages;

(e) the number of persons on the waiting list for telephone connections in the State at present, district-wise;

(f) the steps taken by the Government to clear the waiting list;

(g) the cities and towns which have been covered with optical fibres so far and which are proposed to be covered in the State during 2001-2002, district-wise; and

(h) the time by which the remaining areas are likely to be covered?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) Minimum registered demand for 10 new telephone connections is required for opening of a new telephone exchange in a village provided this demand cannot be met from an existing exchange within the SDCA.

(b) Total 459 telephone exchanges are functioning in Assam as on 31.1.2001. 60 new telephone exchanges have been planned to be opened during the year 2000-2001.

(c) 14,478 villages out of 24,685 villages in the State are covered by Public telephones as on 31.1.2001.

(d) All the remaining villages are likely to be covered by Public Telephone facility by 31.3.2002.

(e) Total waiting list in Assam State as on 31.1.2001 is 25,680. Telecom. District-wise break up is as follows :

Bongaigaon	-	5514
Dibrugarh	-	2953
Jorhat	-	6604
Kamrup	-	2122
Nagaon	-	1627
Silchar	-	3535
Tezpur	-	3325

(f) All out efforts are being made to clear the present waiting list within six months.

(g) and (h) Out of 23 Revenue District Headquarters in the State, 14 are connected through OFC link. OFC connectivity is planned at the remaining 9 DHQs in a phased manner by 31st March, 2002.

[English]

Expansion of National Highways

648. SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the total amount sanctioned for maintenance, repair, new construction, strengthening of National Highway in West Bengal during 7th, 8th and 9th plan period;

(b) the details of amount spent during above period; plan-wise;

(c) whether the Government have received any proposal from West Bengal Government to strengthen and expand the National Highway within North Bengal specially National Highways No. 34, 35 etc; 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) and (b) The plan-wise details of amount (Rs. in crores) sanctioned and spent is as below :

Plan	For Maintenance and Repair (Non-Plan)		For New construction and strengthening (Plan)	
	Amount Sanctioned (Allocation)	Expenditure	Amount Sanctioned (Allocation)	Expenditure
7th Plan	40.08	40.08	46.88	46.88
8th Plan	83.89	94.94	171.35	169.39
9th Plan (Till Jan.2001)	148.32	147.11	424.64	342.38

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Labourers killed in Kutch due to Earthquake

649. SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) the number of labourers working in Public Sector industries killed and loss of houses and man power in Kutch, Jamnagar and other places in earthquake that struck Gujarat on January 26, 2001;

(b) the details of the persons killed and their family members;

(c) the details of compensation and assistance provided/proposed to be provided to each of them; and

(d) the schemes prepared to rehabilitate the affected persons and to help them to start their trade and industry again?

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

[English]

Irrigated Land

650. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) the total area under irrigation in the country from First Five Year Plan to Eighth Five Year Plan, State-wise and

(b) the rate of increase made at the end of each plan period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) and (b) Area under irrigation and its assessment based on Land use surveys varies from year to year and are not maintained Plan-wise. However, details of total Irrigation Potential Utilised (IPU) in the country in different Five Year Plans from the First Plan to the end of Eighth Plan and the rate of increase at the end of each plan are as under :

(All figures are in Million hectares)

Five Year Plan Period	Cumulative IPU at the end of the Plan period	Increase	Rate of increase per year
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
I Plan (1951-56)	20.04		
II Plan (1956-61)	27.80	2.76	0.55

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
III Plan (1961-66)	32.17	4.37	0.87
Annual Plans (1966-69)	35.75	3.58	1.19
IV Plan (1969-74)	41.89	6.14	1.23
V Plan + Annual Plans (1974-80)	52.64	10.75	1.79
VI Plan (1980-85)	58.82	6.18	1.24
VII Plan (1985-90)	68.59	9.77	1.95
Annual Plans (1990-92)	72.85	4.27	2.13
VIII Plan (1992-97)	80.76	7.91	1.58

State-wise details of IPU and increase thereof from VI Plan to the end of VIII Plan are furnished in Statement

Statement

Sl. No.	States/UTs	Irrigation potential utilised (in '000 Hectares) at the end of VI to VIII plans						
		At the end of VI Plan (1980-85)	At the end of VII plan (1985-90)	Increase Col (4)- (3)	At the end of Annual Plans (1990-92)	Increase Col (6)- (4)	At the end of VII Plan (1992-97)	Increase Col (8)- (6)
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)
1.	Andhra Pradesh	4891	5431.9	540.9	5509.6	77.7	5570.96	61.36
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	34.2	49.7	15.5	55.9	6.2	65.54	9.64
3.	Assam	404	535.9	131.9	578	42.1	622.62	44.62
4.	Bihar	5154	6250	1096	6652.2	402.2	6897.9	245.7
5.	Goa	13.7	21.1	7.4	28.7	7.6	29.84	1.14
6.	Gujarat	2255	2628.2	373.2	2790.2	162	3039.62	249.42
7.	Haryana	3106	3245.9	139.9	3274.7	28.8	3365.24	90.54
8.	Himachal Pradesh	110	118.7	8.7	126.4	7.7	134.01	7.51

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	439	463.2	24.2	488.4	25.2	508.73	20.33
10.	Karnataka	2168	2500.4	332.4	2587.6	87.2	2960.41	372.81
11.	Kerala	707	792.3	85.3	849.4	57.1	1001.8	152.4
12.	Madhya Pradesh	2942	3516.2	574.2	3770	253.8	4042.97	272.97
13.	Maharashtra	2586	3140.6	554.6	3247.1	106.5	3628.8	381.7
14.	Manipur	59	85.5	26.5	91.2	5.7	103.19	11.99
15.	Meghalaya	32	35.7	3.7	37.2	1.5	39.47	2.27
16.	Mizoram	5.8	8.2	2.4	9	0.8	11.22	2.22
17.	Nagaland	47	54.4	7.4	55.9	1.5	57.93	2.03
18.	Orissa	2158	2313.5	155.5	2452.2	138.7	2669.71	217.51
19.	Punjab	4373	5505.4	132.4	5547.2	41.8	5748.46	201.26
20.	Rajasthan	3488	3943.3	455.3	4203.7	260.4	4425.17	221.47
21.	Sikkim	10	15.9	5.9	17.1	1.2	20.59	3.49
22.	Tamil Nadu	3449	3585.4	136.4	3643.6	58.2	3656.85	13.25
23.	Tripura	50	74.5	24.5	80.9	6.4	86.33	5.43
24.	Uttar Pradesh	16600	20887	4287	23103	2216	28049	4946
25.	West Bengal	2669	3307	638	3567.9	260.9	3909.42	341.52
Total States		58750.7	68509.9	9759.2	72767.1	4257.2	80645.78	7878.08
Total UTs		71.5	77.1	5.6	84.6	7.5	113.36	28.76
Grand Total		58822.2	68587.0	9764.8	72851.7	4264.7	80759.14	7907.44

Teledensity

651. SHRI S.P. LECHA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of Teledensity in the country during each of the last three years, State-wise; and

(b) the measures taken by the Government to improve the situation in Bihar and West Bengal since these States stand far below the all-India average?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) The details of Teledensity in the country during last three years, State-wise are as per statement.

(b) It has been planned to provide 438000 and 260000 new telephone connections in West Bengal and Bihar respectively during 2000-01 to improve the situation in these States.

Statement

S. No.	Name of the State	31 March 1998	31 March 1999	31 March 2000
1.	Andaman and Nicobar	2.29	4.22	6.34
2.	Andhra Pradesh	1.63	2.21	3.13
3.	Assam	0.64	0.83	1.06
4.	Bihar	0.42	0.53	0.65
5.	Gujarat	2.82	3.40	4.26
6.	Haryana	2.30	2.78	3.36
7.	Himachal Pradesh	2.89	3.49	4.32
8.	Jammu and Kashmir	0.95	1.11	1.31
9.	Karnataka	2.50	3.00	3.76
10.	Kerala	3.48	4.37	5.60
11.	Madhya Pradesh	1.06	1.25	1.54
12.	Maharashtra	4.06	4.60	5.40
13.	North East	0.99	1.25	1.56
14.	Orissa	0.77	0.97	1.21
15.	Punjab	3.81	4.72	5.68
16.	Rajasthan	1.49	1.79	2.11
17.	Tamil Nadu	2.79	3.54	4.52
18.	Uttar Pradesh	0.86	1.09	1.33
19.	West Bengal	1.34	1.67	2.09
20.	Delhi	13.74	13.84	15.40
Total		1.94	2.32	2.86

Note :

- Gujarat State includes Dadar Diu, Daman and Nagar Haveli (U.T.)
- KERALA State includes Lakshadweep (U.T.).
- Maharashtra State includes Goa and Mumbai.
- North-East telecom circle includes Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalay, Mizoram, Nagaland and Tripura State.
- Punjab State includes Chandigarh (U.T.).
- Tamil Nadu State includes Chennai and Pondicherry (U.T.).
- West Bengal State includes Calcutta and Sikkim State

- Bihar State includes Jharkhand State.
- Madhya Pradesh State includes Chattisgarh State.
- Uttar Pradesh State includes Uttranchal State.

[Translation]

Telecom Sector

652. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to deregulate telecom sector in the country in order to introduce competition and making communication affordable;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to establish world class telecommunication infrastructure in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) and (b) Availability of affordable and effective communications for the citizens is at the core of the vision and goal of New Telecom Policy (NTP-99). NTP-99 also envisages transforming, in a time bound manner, the telecommunication Sector to a greater competitive environment in both urban and rural areas providing equal opportunities and level playing fields for all players. All the telecom services within the country namely, Basic, Cellular Mobile, Radio Paging, Internet, Very Small Aperture Terminal (VSAT), Voice Mail, National Long Distance (NLD), global mobile personal communication Service (GMPCS) and Public Mobile Radio Trunking Service (PMRTS) have been opened up for private participation.

(c) The following steps have been taken by the Government to establish world class telecommunication infrastructure in the country.

- (i) There is no restriction on the number of operators in Telecom Services such as Basic, Internet, VSAT, Voice Mail, NLD and GMPCS. The number of operators are restricted in telecom services such as Cellular Mobile where there is limitation of resource like frequency spectrum.
- (ii) Under National Long Distance Policy, there are two categories of Infrastructure Providers (IP) namely IP-I and IP-II. IP-I can provide assets such as dark fibres, right of way, duct space etc. and IP-II can provide end to end bandwidth.

- (iii) Internet Service Providers (ISPs) have been permitted to set up International Gateways for Internet using satellite and submarine cable medium after getting security clearance. ISPs setting up International Gateways for Internet have been permitted to sell bandwidth to other ISPs.

- (iv) A bandwidth Advisory Committee consisting of eminent personalities of the IT and Telecom Industry has been set up to advise Department of Telecommunications (DOT) on the steps to be taken to ensure that bandwidth is available on demand.

Telephone Facilities in Bihar

653. SHRI RAMJEE MANJHI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of villages having telephone facility in Bihar particularly in Gaya district as on date, district-wise;

(b) the number of villages yet not having said facility in the State and the said district, district-wise; and

(c) the time by which the said facility is likely to be provided in the remaining villages of the State and the said district?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) and (b) In Bihar, 14,703 villages are having telephone facility and 24,772 villages are without telecom facility. 560 villages in Gaya district of Bihar are having telecom facility as on 31.1.2001. District-wise details of Bihar are in the Statement.

(c) All the remaining villages are planned to be provided with telecom facility progressively by March, 2002.

Statement

Sl. No.	Revenue Distt.	Total Villages	Villages with VPTs as on 31/1/2001	Villages without telephone facility as on 31-1-2001
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
1.	Bhojpur	990	552	438
2.	Buxer	816	294	522
3.	Bhagalpur	805	664	141
4.	Banka	1616	510	1106

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
5.	Chapra	1563	542	1021
6.	Siwan	1353	369	984
7.	Gopalganj	1453	359	1094
8.	Darbhanga	1081	423	658
9.	Madhubani	1054	467	587
10.	Samastipur	1061	432	629
11.	Gaya	2659	560	2099
12.	Nawada	946	344	602
13.	Jahanawad	857	322	535
14.	Aurangabad	1737	404	1333
15.	Vaishali	1402	668	734
16.	Purnia	1296	354	942
17.	Katihar	1548	356	1192
18.	Kishanganj	802	253	549
19.	Nougachia	180	148	32
20.	Araria	751	328	423
21.	Khagaria	241	143	98
22.	Begusarai	867	549	138
23.	East Champaran	1283	901	382
24.	West Champaran	1359	461	888
25.	Munger	526	325	201
26.	Jamui	1354	283	1071
27.	Lakhisarai	359	223	136
28.	Sheikhpura	179	173	6
29.	Muzaffarpur	1736	601	1135
30.	Sitamarhia	781	516	265
31.	Shiohar	179	59	120
32.	Patna	1582	690	692
33.	Nalanda	1081	508	573
34.	Saharsa	472	345	127
35.	Supaul	451	243	208
36.	Madhepura	438	366	72
37.	Rohtas	1710	358	1352
38.	Kaimur	1297	210	1087
Total		39675	14903	24772

[English]

E-Mail facilities in States

654. SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the criteria adopted to provide E-mail facilities in various States;

(b) the name of cities where said facility has been provided as on December 31, 2000, State-wise; and

(c) the names of cities where said facility is proposed to be provided particularly in backward areas of North Bengal in West Bengal during 2000-2001, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) and (b) E-Mail facility in the country can be provided by any Internet Service Provider (ISP) or E-Mail operator licenced by Department of Telecommunication (DOT). Since 1994, licences for E-Mail service were granted by DOT. Since announcement of Internet policy in November 1998, licences have been granted by DOT to ISPs who are providing internet service. E-Mail facility is a part of Internet service. It has been decided by Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) to open Internet nodes at all Secondary Switching Areas (SSAs) subject to technical feasibility. Internet nodes at District Headquarters will be opened subject to demand and technical feasibility by BSNL. The Internet facility can also be accessed from the District Headquarters and nearby places on local call facility, subject to technical feasibility.

List of the stations where Internet nodes have been opened as on 31st December, 2000 is given in the attached statement.

(c) All the Districts of West Bengal are provided with Internet facility and backward areas of North Bengal having telecom. Network can have access to Internet.

Statement

State-wise/city-wise list of internet node as on 31.12.2000

State	City/Node
(1)	(2)
Delhi	Delhi
Tamil Nadu	Coimbatore
	Chennai
	Cuddalore

(1)

(2)

Tamil Nadu(contd)

Dharmapuri

Erode

Kanchipuram

Karaikudi

Kumbakonam

Madurai

Nagarkoil

Ooty

Salem

Tirunelveli

Trichy

Tiruppur

Tuticorin

Vellore

Virudhunagar

Thanjaur

Maharashtra

Mumbai

Nagpur

Pune

Ahmednagar

Akola

Amravati

Aurangabad

Beed

Bhandara

Chandrapur

Dhule

Gadchiroli

Jalgaon

Kalyan

Kolapur

Jalna

Latur

Nanded

Nasik

(1)	(2)	(1)	(2)
Maharashtra (contd)	Osmanabad	Karnataka (contd)	Udipi
	Parbhani		Utter Kannad
	Raigad	Andhra Pradesh	Adilabad
	Ratnagiri		Ananthapur
	Sangli		Cuddapah
	Satara		Eluru
	Sawanthwadi		Guntur
	Sholapur		Hyderabad
	Wardha		Karnool
	Yeotmal		Kakinada
Karnataka	Bangalore		Karim Nagar
	Begalkot		Khammam
	Belgaum		Mahboobnagar
	Bellary		Nalgonda
	Bidar		Nellore
	Bijapur		Nizamabad
	Chamarajnag		Ongole
	Chikmanglur		Sangareddy
	Chitradurga		Srikakulam
	Davangere		Tirupati
	Dharwar		Vijianagaram
	Gadag		Vijayawada
	Gulberga		Vishakhapatnam
	Hasan		Warangal
	Havery	Gujarat	Ahmedabad
	Hubli		Ankleshwar
	Kodagu		Ahmednagar
	Kolar		Amreli
	Koppal		Anand
	Mandya		Baroda
	Mangalore		Bharuch
	Mysore		Bhavnagar
	Raichur		Bhuj
	Shimoga		Gandhinagar
	Tumkur		Gandhidham

(1)	(2)	(1)	(2)
Gujarat (contd)	Godhara	West Bengal (contd)	Balurghat
	Himmatnagar		Krishnagar
	Jamnagar	Rajasthan	Kota
	Junagarh		Alwar
	Mehsana		Ajmer
	Palanpur		Udaipur
	Rajkot		Jaipur
	Sensagar		Jodhpur
	Surat	Uttar Pradesh	Ghaziabad
	VV Nagar		Mathura
	Valsad		Badayun
	Vapi		Meerut
Madhya Pradesh	Bhopal		Agra
	Gwalior		Noida
	Jabalpur		Lucknow
	Indore		Varanasi
Punjab	Amritsar		Allahabad
	Bhatinda		Kanpur
	Jalandhar		Muzaffarnagar
	Ludhiana		Bareilly
	Mohali		Rampur
	Patiala		Muradabad
West Bengal	Siliguri		Bijnaur
	Durgapur		Saharanpur
	Calcutta	Kerala	Allepy
	Malda		Calicut
	Berhampore		Cochin
	Raiganj		Iddukki
	Halda		Kannur
	Suri		Kavarathy
	Kharagpur		Kollam
	Bankura		Kottayam
	Purulia		Palghat
	Coochbehar		Pathanamthitta
	Jalpaiguri		Thiruvananthapuram

(1)	(2)
Kerala (contd)	Tiruvella
	Trichur
Orissa	Cuttack
	Bhubaneshwar
	Rourkela
	Sambalpur
	Balasore
	Baripada
	Bolangir
	Dhenkanal
	Keonjhar
Uttaranchal	Dehradun
	Haridwar
	Pilibhit
	Nainital
	Almorah
Andaman	Portblair
Himachal Pradesh	Shimla
Pondichery	Pondichery
Goa	Goa
Bihar	Patna
	Begusarai
	Khagaria
	Hajipur
	Ara
	Motihari
	Bhagalpur
	Muzaffarpur
	Darbhanga
	Sasaram
	Daltanganj
	Hazaribagh
	Munger

(1)	(2)
Jammu & Kashmir	Jammu
	Srinagar
	Udhampur
	Rajouri
	Leh
Meghalaya	Shillong
Tripura	Agartala
Chattisgarh	Raipur
Haryana	Panipat
	Ambala
	Faridabad
	Gurgaon
	Karnal
Assam	Guwahati
	Silchar
Sikkim	Gangtok
Chandigarh	Chandigarh

[Translation]

**Declaration of Textile Industry as
Public Utility Services**

655. SHRI TUFANI SAROJ : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to declare textile industry and sectors such as utility services as main industries;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government propose to enact separate labour laws for the new industrial units, export promotion sectors and cent per cent export oriented units;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the huge investment is not taking place in the textile units in the absence of separate labour laws; and

(f) if so, the steps being taken by the Government to augment investment in this sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL) : (a) and (b) "Cotton Textiles" industry could be declared to be a Public Utility Service under Sub-clause (vi) of Clause (n) of Section 2 of the Industrial Disputes Act by the appropriate Government.

(c) and (d) The existing Labour Laws of the land are applicable to all industrial units, export promotion zones and cent per cent export oriented units.

(e) and (f) Investment in any industry depends to a large extent, on supply-demand conditions for the product prevailing in domestic and international markets. The cumulative disbursement of All India Financial Institutions to the Textile Industry upto end March, 1997 is estimated at Rs. 25,929 crore constituting a share of 11.3% vis-à-vis all industries. These figures do not indicate that existing labour laws are coming in the way of attracting investments in the Textile Sector.

[English]

Conversion of National Highway-28

656. SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH : Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to convert National Highway No. 28 from Tankuhi in UP border to Muzaffarpur-Barauni into four lanes;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the work is likely to be commenced ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) SHRI B.C. KHANDURI) : (a) to (c) Four laning of National Highway No. 28 from Tankuhi in U P border to Muzaffarpur is included in National Highway Development Programme and will be taken up based on the priorities, which is under finalisation. However there is no proposal for four laning of Muzaffarpur Barauni section of NH-28.

[English]

Effects of Toxic Waste

657. SHRI SAIDUZZAMA : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have recently banned imports of toxic waste etc. used for recycling and dumping in the country;

(b) if so, whether toxic waste is still being imported at Alang in Gujarat coast by way of ships breaking in the name of providing work to unemployed workers and their families;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Government are aware of the studies carried out by Singapore at Alang yards regarding metallic contamination and its ill effects;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the steps taken by the Government to check the import activities of ship breaking?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) Import of hazardous waste for dumping and disposal is banned as per Hazardous Waste (Management and Handling) Rules, 1989 as amended in 2000.

(b) and (c) Old ships for breaking are not considered as toxic waste as per the above regulation.

(d) and (e) As per information made available by the Gujarat Maritime Board (GMB), no such report has been submitted to the Government.

(f) Only cargo free ships are imported for dismantling at Alang for which the local Port Authority authorised by GMB under Gujarat Maritime Board Regulation, 2000, grants permission for beaching and cutting of ships.

[English]

Protection of Forestry in Assam

658. SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR BWISW-MUTHIARY : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to grant Rs. 1000 crore for afforestation of Northern Brahmaputra valley in Assam;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Assam Government has implemented all the Directives and Guidelines being issued from time to time by the Union Government in regard to protection and preservation of Forestry, Forests Lands, Wild animals, Wild Sanctuaries including Manas Tiger Project, Rajiv Gandhi Wild Sanctuary—'Orang' and Kajiranga etc.;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No such proposal has been planned and budgeted during IXth plan under the Ministry of Environment and Forests.

(d) to (f) Funding is being provided to Assam for conservation of wildlife and its habitat under four centrally sponsored schemes. Amount of funding provided during last three years, under these schemes, is as follows :

(Rs. in lakhs)				
Name of the Scheme	1997-1998	1998-1999	1999-2000	2000-2001
Development of National Parks and Sanctuaries	54.62	58.05	53.44	262.805
Project Tiger	45.08	35.00	87.29	140.10
Project Elephant	-	29.60	25.15	45.00
Eco Development around National Parks and Sanctuaries	10.250	42.34	20.00	45.51

Government of India, from time to time issues guidelines with reference to management of National Parks and Wildlife Sanctuaries, including payment of compensation for cattle kill and loss of human life; preparation of management plans and elephant census etc., which are generally complied as per rules and procedures.

Cellular Operators

659. SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a number of complaints received by the Government in regard to overcharging subscribers by the cellular operators particularly by the Bharti Cellular Limited;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Delhi High Court also issued some directions in this regard recently;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action take by the Government against the cellular operators found guilty?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) to (e) The information is being compiled/gathered and shall be placed on the Table of the House.

Expansion of Rural Telephone network

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

(a) whether the Government have received a representation from the Telecom Users Forum of India regarding the expansion of rural telephone network;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) to (c) No such representation appears to have been received in the Department of Telecommunications.

Less Rainfall

661. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR :

SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL :

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether according to Agricultural Meteorology, rainfall in many parts of the country is less than the normal rainfall;

(b) if so, the names of places where rainfall was less than the average level in each State during the last one year;

(c) whether the survey of the Central Ground Water Board has also shown a fall in water level in range of 0.1 and 5.0 metres; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY) : (a) and (b) The India Meteorological Department has

divided the country into 35 regions/Sub-divisions. The rainfall in the Andaman & Nicobar Island, West Rajasthan, East Rajasthan, West M.P., East M.P. & Chhathisgarh, Gujarat region, Saurashtra & Kutch sub divisions is less than normal during 2000 and can be termed as deficient in 134 districts and scanty in 8 districts. The list of districts which received deficient Monsoon rainfall in each State is given in the attached statement.

(c) and (d) Long term observations made by the Central Ground Water Board have shown situation of fall in the level of ground water in various parts of the country. The decline in the level of ground water is mainly due to withdrawal in excess of annual recharge, variation in the amount and distribution of rainfall, reduction in recharge of ground water due to increased urbanization and deforestation.

Statement

Districts which received deficient monsoon rainfall (20% or less) in 2000

State	Name of district	Actual	Normal	% Dep	CAT.
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
Arunachal Pradesh	1. Tirap	2033.5	2798.6	-27%	D
Assam	1 NC Hills	1433.2	2179.4	-34%	D
	2. Sibsagar	977.6	1569.8	-38%	D
Nagaland	1. Nagaland	1023.7	1380.6	-26%	D
Sikkim	1. Sikkim	1815.5	2536.6	-28%	D
Orissa	1. Bolangir	882.6	1254.8	-30%	D
	2. Cuttack	811.5	1102.3	-26%	D
	3. Kalahandi	827.1	1110.5	-26%	D
	4. Phulbani	961.8	1195.8	-20%	D
	5. Sambalpur	774.4	1355.6	-43%	D
	6. Sundargarh	995.6	1358.4	-27%	D
Bihar	1. Saran	687.3	934.7	-26%	D
	2. Siwan	757.7	955.2	-21%	D
Jharkhand	1. Singbhum	835.8	1105.8	-24%	D
Uttar Pradesh	1. Ballia	712.5	902.7	-21%	D
	2. Hardoi	529.5	804.7	-34%	D
	3. Rae Bareilly	488.0	825.1	-41%	D
	4. Agra	420.1	669.9	-37%	D
	5. Aligarh	476.8	624.9	-24%	D
	6. Etah	420.8	625.3	-33%	D

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
Uttar Pradesh (contd)	7. Etawah	519.8	693.1	-25%	D
	8. Jhansi	636.1	822.6	-23%	D
	9. Lalitpur	544.8	944.6	-42%	D
Uttaranchal	1. Garhwal Tehri	534.5	722.2	-26%	D
Haryana	1. Gurgaon	362.1	487.0	-26%	D
	2. Hissar	108.5	316.6	-66%	S
	3. Jind	320.3	448.4	-29%	D
	4. Karnal	484.2	640.7	-24%	D
	5. Kurukshetra	375.0	517.4	-28%	D
	6. Mahendragarh	185.4	440.1	-58%	D
	7. Panipat	316.5	517.9	-39%	D
	8. Rewari	321.7	412.7	-22%	D
Delhi (UT)	1. Delhi	498.0	629.0	-21%	D
Punjab	1. Bhatinda	209.1	290.3	-28%	D
	2. Faridkot	154.9	329.6	-53%	D
	3. Gurdaspur	610.2	822.5	-26%	D
	4. Jalandhar	417.5	542.0	-23%	D
	5. Ludhiana	355.7	511.3	-30%	D
	6. Sangrur	156.8	573.5	-67%	S
Himachal Pradesh	1. Chamba	700.9	948.9	-26%	D
	2. Kangra	1284.1	1683.5	-25%	D
	3. Sirmur	1168.0	1535.8	-24%	D
	4. Solan	806.4	1098.1	-27%	D
Jammu and Kashmir	1. Srinagar	108.4	163.2	-34%	D
	2. Kupwara	212.7	264.6	-20%	D
	3. Badgam	88.8	182.5	-51%	D
	4. Baramula	263.7	342.6	-23%	D
	5. Ladakh	5.7	35.3	-84%	S
Rajasthan	1. Sri Ganganagar	134.1	178.5	-25%	D
	2. Hanumangarh	111.0	262.5	-58%	D

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
Rajasthan (contd)	3. Jaisalmer	109.3	150.0	-27%	D
	4. Jalore	310.1	387.6	-20%	D
	5. Jodhpur	208.0	295.9	-30%	D
	6. Pali	318.1	468.0	-32%	D
	7. Alwar	364.4	552.4	-34%	D
	8. Banswara	429.2	843.4	-49%	D
	9. Bharatpur	439.4	605.9	-27%	D
	10. Bhilwara	397.3	600.6	-34%	D
	11. Bundi	533.4	686.5	-22%	D
	12. Chittorgarh	479.6	742.8	-35%	D
	13. Dausa	410.4	580.8	-29%	D
	14. Dholpur	454.3	670.7	-33%	D
	15. Dungarpur	354.4	638.5	-44%	D
	16. Jaipur	385.7	480.7	-20%	D
	17. Jhalawar	713.7	901.9	-21%	D
	18. Jhunjhunu	384.7	392.9	-28%	D
	19. Karauli	448.0	616.2	-27%	D
	20. Rajsamand	215.9	495.2	-56%	D
	21. Sawai Madhopur	412.8	655.1	-37%	D
	22. Sikar	248.7	414.5	-40%	D
	23. Sirohi	631.4	804.5	-22%	D
	24. Tonk	315.0	555.9	-43%	D
	25. Udaipur	336.9	559.9	-40%	D
	26. Churu	212.2	287.8	-26%	D
Madhya Pradesh	1. Betul	572.7	920.6	-38%	D
	2. Bhind	275.0	679.2	-60%	S
	3. Bhopal	848.2	1080.5	-21%	D
	4. Chhatarpur	646.1	1053.0	-39%	D
	5. Chhindwara	527.4	932.1	-43%	D
	6. Damoh	831.2	1092.5	-24%	D
	7. Datia	584.0	817.4	-29%	D

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
Madhya Pradesh (contd)	8. Dewas	482.0	930.8	-48%	D
	9. Dhar	453.1	781.0	-42%	D
	10. Gwalior	421.3	763.2	-45%	D
	11. Hoshangabad	710.8	1344.5	-47%	D
	12. Indore	431.6	865.1	-50%	D
	13. Jhabua	450.3	720.9	-38%	D
	14. Khandwa	417.2	752.6	-45%	D
	15. Khargaon	433.8	731.3	-41%	D
	16. Mandsour	534.3	727.7	-27%	D
	17. Narsingpur	822.3	1091.4	-25%	D
	18. Raisen	609.4	1133.7	-46%	D
	19. Rajgarh	566.2	948.3	-40%	D
	20. Ratlam	432.4	846.2	-49%	D
	21. Sehore	547.5	1220.1	-55%	D
	22. Seoni	655.8	1153.0	-43%	D
	23. Shajapur	634.6	932.1	32%	D
	24. Shivpuri	536.3	784.7	32%	D
	25. Tikamgarh	404.4	825.2	-51%	D
	26. Ujjain	427.5	863.8	-51%	D
	27. Balaghat	1092.2	1358.6	-20%	D
	28. Mandla	697.5	1255.7	-44%	D
	29. Panna	709.5	1130.5	-37%	D
	30. Rewa	411.0	1066.3	-61%	S
	31. Satna	685.6	953.1	-28%	D
	32. Sidhi	406.8	1020.3	-60%	S
Chhatisgarh	1. Bastar	1005.4	1270.8	-21%	D
	2. Durg	704.0	1002.9	-30%	D
	3. Raigarh	889.2	1307.1	-32%	D
	4. Raipur	821.2	1195.1	-31%	D
Gujarat	1. Banaskantha	395.0	621.2	-36%	D
	2. Baroda	430.0	953.6	-55%	D

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
Gujarat (contd)	3. Broach	376.1	951.9	-60%	S
	4. Dangs	1353.0	1843.2	-27%	D
	5. Gandhinagar	289.0	525.9	-45%	D
	6. Kaira	406.2	784.1	-48%	D
	7. Mehsana	317.0	609.7	-48%	D
	8. Panchmahal	406.1	861.5	-53%	D
	9. Sabarkantha	376.5	783.8	-52%	D
	10. Surat	719.4	1293.7	-44%	D
	11. Amreli	217.7	556.3	-61%	S
	12. Bhavnagar	260.0	607.4	-57%	D
	13. Junagarh	478.7	724.9	-34%	D
	14. Kutch	177.2	435.0	-59%	D
	15. Rajkot	367.4	557.3	-34%	D
	16. Surendranagar	261.2	511.7	-49%	D
Diu (UT)	1. Diu	333.8	576.8	-42%	D
Maharashtra	1. Dhule	459.2	666.8	-31%	D
	2. Pune	566.8	817.9	-31%	D
	3. Amraoti	528.6	701.3	-25%	D
Tamil Nadu	1. Chengalpattu M.G.R.	300.5	442.7	-32%	D
	2. South Arcot	208.1	394.8	-47%	D
	3. Thanjavur	216.2	316.2	-32%	D
	4. Tiruchirapalli	206.8	273.5	-24%	D
	5. Nagapatinam Q.E.M.	190.5	276.5	-31%	D
Kerala	1. Kozhikode	1823.0	2762.9	-34%	D
	2. Cannur	2096.7	2793.9	-25%	D
	3. Malapuram	1603.9	2087.9	-23%	D
	4. Trissur	1626.1	2253.9	-28%	D
	5. Thiruvananthapuram	848.6	1173.2	-28%	D
	6. Kasargode	2358.7	2963.7	-20%	D
	7. Wynad	1861.9	2918.7	-36%	D

D = Difficient when rainfall is -20% to -59%.

S = Scanty when rainfall is -60% or less.

Security of Miners

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

(a) the number of officers dealing with the security of the Miners indicted by the investigating DGMS (Director General of Mine Safety) in the last three years; and

(b) the number out of them punished by the Mining Companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL) : (a) The number of officers dealing with the security of the Miners indicted by the investigating DGMS (Directorate General of Mine Safety) in the last three years are as under :-

Type of Mineral	1998	1999	2000
Coal	273	213	137
Non-Coal	106	110	74

(b) The number out of them punished by the Mining Companies are as under :-

Type of Mineral	1998	1999	2000
Coal	88	85	28
Non-Coal	42	45	11

[Translation]

Sports Activities In Jharkhand

663. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY :

PROF. DUKHA BHAGAT :

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

(a) whether there is any centrally sponsored scheme with regard to sports activities being implemented in Jharkhand;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the funds allocated under this scheme during the last two years and the funds proposed to be allocated during the Ninth Five Year Plan.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI PON. RADHAKRISHNAN) : (a) to (c) There is no separate

scheme for implementation of sports activities in Jharkhand. The Central Government extends assistance to States on the basis of project proposals received from State Government on sharing basis.

[English]

Eradication of child labour

664. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE :

SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV :

COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY :

SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH :

SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI :

SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL :

DR. (SHRIMATI) SUDHA YADAV :

SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR :

SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK :

DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV :

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY :

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Prime Minister has expressed his unhappiness over the eradication of child labour in the recently held Conference in Delhi;

(b) if so, the details of the discussions held in the said Conference;

(c) whether there is an urgent need to extend more help to NGO to eradicate child labour;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether there was a view in the conference to make more stringent laws to eradicate child labour; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and action taken or being taken on the resolutions adopted at the conference of State Labour Ministers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL) : (a) to (f) The National Conference on Child Labour was held at New Delhi on 22nd January, 2001 was addressed by the Hon'ble Prime Minister. Representatives of concerned State Governments, District Collectors, Project staff in-charge of

implementing the National Child Labour Projects, Trade unions, Employers, Research Institutions, NGOs, and other concerned parties met and deliberated on the subject of elimination of child labour.

The Conference inter-alia resolved that, concerted action should be taken in a time bound manner for elimination of child labour from hazardous occupations/processes. For achieving this, all Government agencies, research institutions, Panchayat Raj Institutions, employers, trade unions, members of press, bar associations, NGOs etc. should work together and establish synergies so that with their collective resources, the problem of child labour is addressed in a holistic way. Enforcement machinery for implementation of legal provisions should be trained, sensitized and strengthened where necessary and that there should be strict enforcement of child labour related Acts.

Irrigation project on Pagladia river

665. SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR BWISWMUTHIARY: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have formulated any coercive policy to construct a major Irrigation Dam on the River Pagladia in Nalbari district of Assam;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether his Ministry proposes to utilise the already sanctioned fund of Rs.540 crores for the completion of the said project, and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) and (b) Government of India has approved the implementation of Pagladiya Dam Project with an estimated cost of Rs.542.90 crore for execution as a Central Sector project by Brahmaputra Board. The project will protect an area of 40,000 ha. from flood and erosion in Nalbari and Karmrup districts of Assam. The project will also give irrigation benefit to an area of 54,160 hectare in Nalbari and Barpeta districts and an incidental hydro power of 3 Megawatt (installed capacity) to the resettled villages for domestic use.

The project has a provision for suitable Rehabilitation and Resettlement (R&R) package for the project affected persons with the objective of improving their existing economic conditions.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Hiring of Helicopters

666. SHRI KALAVA SRINIVASULU : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Pawan Hans Helicopters Limited has decided to hire helicopters from other countries for off shore exploration and tourism;

(b) if so, details thereof alongwith the name of the countries from which the same are proposed to be hired;

(c) the number of helicopters that company has at present; and;

(d) the places of tourist interest where helicopters services are likely to be provided?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The fleet of Pawan Hans Helicopters Limited (PHHL) at present consists of the following types of helicopters :-

i) Dauphin	-	20
ii) MI172	-	03
iii) Bell-407	-	02
iv) Bell-206L4	-	03
v) Robinson-44	-	02

(d) At present, PHHL has been operating regular helicopter services for Mata Vaishno Devi. In addition, the helicopters deployed by PHHL in Lakshadweep, Arunachal Pradesh, Sikkim and Meghalaya are also being utilised for promotion of travel and tourism.

The proposals of PHHL for connecting various tourist places such as Kedarnath-Badrinath, Pantnagar-Nainital etc. are under examination by the Government of Uttaranchal.

[Translation]

Construction of Bridge over Ghaghara River

667. SHRI BABBAN RAJBHAR : Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the construction of a bridge over the Ghaghara river in Deoria in Uttar Pradesh started in 1986 has not yet been completed;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government propose to probe into the delay and expedite the construction work; 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) This pertains to State Government of Uttar Pradesh. The bridge over river Ghaghara in Deoria District is at Turtipar, which is not on National Highway. This Ministry is responsible for the development and maintenance of National Highways only. Development and Maintenance of all roads other than National Highways is the responsibility of the concerned State Governments.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Pollution in Delhi

668. SHRI MANSINH PATEL : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Delhi is one of the most polluted metros of the World;

(b) if so, whether all the forms of pollution emanating from air, noise and filth exist in Delhi;

(c) if so, whether pulmonary diseases are fast spreading in Delhi owing to air pollution;

(d) if so, whether the Government have prepared any action plan to remove various kinds of pollution from Delhi; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) to (e) Delhi is one of the most polluted cities in the world in respect of the prevailing ambient concentration of particulate matter. However, due to various measures taken during the last two years the pollution levels have indicated a downward trend. There is no conclusive data available to indicate spreading of pulmonary diseases due to air pollution in Delhi. A White Paper on Pollution in Delhi with an Action Plan covering various aspects of pollution control, including vehicular and industrial pollution, solid waste management and

noise pollution was prepared. An authority known as the Environment pollution (Prevention and Control) Authority for the National Capital Region was constituted with effect from 29th January, 1998 for protecting and improving the quality of the environment and monitoring the implementation of the Action Plan.

[English]

Enhancement of Commission for STD/PCOs booth operators

669. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH :

PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received representations regarding non-implementation of orders of enhancement of commission for STD/PCOs booth operators and their other problems;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited has issued directions to implement such orders and also examine their problems urgently;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time by which such orders are likely to be made effective?

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) No, Sir.

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

[Translation]

Declaration of National Highway

670. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA : Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Nasirabad-Mahu section of the Delhi-Mumbai road passing through Jaipur-Ajmer-Nasirabad-Mahu has been declared the National Highway;

(b) if so, the amount sanctioned for construction of this road during the year 1999-2000; and

(c) the details of latest position in regard to construction work of this road?

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

(b) A sum of Rs. 13.07 Crores was sanctioned for eleven works during the year 1999-2000 for this road.

(c) Nine works have already been completed and the remaining two works are in progress.

Activities of National Sports Authority

671 SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI :

SHRI ZORA SINGH MANN :

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN :

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

(a) whether the activities of the National Sports Authority of India have been confined to certain limited areas;

(b) if not, the places where the units of this institution are located in the country;

(c) the annual expenditure incurred on each units;

(d) whether these units are undertaking activities in order to search sports talents there in remote areas of the country and promote games by imparting training; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

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

(b) The location of various training units of SAI functioning under the Sports Promotion Schemes are as given below :-

- i) Details of adopted schools under the National Sports Talent Contest (NSTC) Scheme are given in the attached Statement-I.
- ii) Region-wise details of Army Boys Sports Company (ABSC) are given in the attached Statement-II.
- iii) Region-wise details of Special Area Games Centres are given in the attached Statement-III.
- iv) Region-wise details of Sports Training Centres are given in the attached Statement-IV.

v) Region-wise details of Centres of Excellence are given in the attached Statement-V.

(c) An amount of Rs.21,500/- to Rs.26,500/- is spent annually on the residential trainees for providing boarding and lodging facilities, medical and insurance cover and educational expenses. An expenditure of Rs.8,000/- to Rs.15,000/- is incurred per trainee annually on non-residential trainees. In addition to the above, SAI meets the expenditure towards the upkeep of sports facilities, sports equipment, scientific back up and salaries of coaches and administrative staff. The exact expenditure incurred on each SAI Unit will be collected and laid on the table of the House.

(d) Yes, Sir.

The SAI Centres also induct meritorious sports persons from remote areas of the country and impart training to them. The Special Area Games (SAG) Scheme of SAI is specially focussed towards scouting talent from remote, tribal, rural and coastal areas of the country. The trainees admitted under this scheme are provided similar facilities as those given to trainees of other schemes.

(e) Details of the SAG Centres are given at Statement-III.

Statement I

NSTC Adopted Schools and Akharas

Southern Region

1. St.Joseph's Indian High School, Bangalore
2. V.P.Sidhartha Public School, Vijayawada
3. Mount Carmel School, Kottayam

Northern Region

1. DAV Sr.Sec.School, Chandigarh
2. Govt.Girls Sr.Sec.School, Jalandhar
3. CRZ Sr. Sec. School, Sonapat

Eastern Region

1. St.Ignatius High School, Guimla
2. Sukantanagar Vidyaniketan, Calcutta
3. B.S. High School, Sundetgarh
4. Umakanta Academy, Agartala
5. Tashi Namgyal Academy, Gangtok
6. Govt. Girls Hr. Sec. School, Ranchi

Eastern Region (contd)

7. Govt. Girls Hr. Sec. School Krishna Nagar
8. St. G. H. School, Kurseong
9. Downhill G.H.School, Kurseong

Western Region

1. Muktangana English School, Pune
2. Parvara Public School, Ahmednagar
3. Bhupal's Noodles Hr. Sec. School, Udaipur
4. Bhonsla Military School, Nasik
5. Sanjeevan Vidyalaya, Panchgani
6. St. Anthony's High School, Goa
7. S.G.N.Sr.Sec.School, Sriganganagar

Central Region

1. M.K.P.Inter College, Dehradun
2. Govt. Multipurpose Hr. Sec. School Indore
3. Udaipratap Inter College, Varanasi
4. Colvin Taluqdar, Lucknow
5. Maharani Laxmibai Multipurpose Jabalpur

North Eastern Region

1. Dony Polo Vidya Bhavan, Itanagar
2. Don Bosco High School, Guwahati
3. Sainik School, Imphal
4. Anthony's High School, Shillong

Akharas

1. Gokul Ustad Talim Kendra, Pune
2. Krida Vikash Vayayamandal, Sangli

Statement-II*Army Boys Sports Company (ABSC)***Central Region**

1. ISTC, Jabalpur (M.P.)
2. Jat Regimental Centre, Barielly (U.P.)
3. BEG, Roorkee, (U.P.)

North East Region

1. 58, GTC, Shillong

Eastern Region

1. Bihar Regimental Centre, Danapur (Bihar)

Western Region

1. BEG, Kirkee, Pune (Maharashtra)
2. ASC (South), Bangalore (Karnataka)
3. Arty Centre, Hyderabad (Andhra Pradesh)

Statement-III*Special Area Games (SAG)***Eastern**

1. SAG, Ranchi
2. SAG, Jagatpur
3. SAG, Port Blair
4. SAG, Muzzaffarpur
5. SAG, Kishanganj

North Eastern

1. Imphal
2. Naharlagun
3. Aizwal
4. Utlov
5. Agartala

Southern

1. Alleppey
2. Tellichery

Northern

1. Annandpursahib

Central

1. Delhi (Asso. Centre)
2. Allahabad (Asso. Centre)

Statement-IV*SAI Training Centre***Western Region**

1. STC, Kandivali
2. STC, Gandhinagar

Western Region (contd)

3. STC, Goa
4. STC, Alwar
5. STC, Jodhpur

North Eastern Region

1. STC, Dimapur
2. STC, Imphal
3. STC, Guwahati
4. STC, Golaghat
5. STC, Shillong

Central Region

1. STC, Dhar
2. STC, Delhi
3. STC, Kashipur
4. STC, Raibarielly
5. STC, Etawah
6. STC, Bhopal
7. STC, Lucknow
8. STC, Allahabad
9. STC, Jabalpur

Eastern Region

1. STC, Calcutta
2. STC, Legong
3. STC, Dhankenal
4. STC, Burdwan
5. STC, Cuttack
6. STC, Siliguri

Southern Region

1. STC, Kollam
2. STC, Bangalore
3. STC, Trivandrum
4. STC, Medikeri
5. STC, Pondicherry
6. STC, Chennai

Southern Region (contd)

7. STC, Dharwad
8. STC, Trichur
9. STC, Calicut
10. STC, Salem
11. STC, Hyderabad
12. STC, Nizamabad
13. STC, Elluru
14. STC, Medak

North Region

1. STC, Patiala
2. STC, Chandigarh
3. STC, Bhiwani
4. STC, Kurukshetra
5. STC, Bilaspur
6. STC, Dharmshala
7. STC, Sangrur (Maustana Sahib)
8. STC, Badal

Total SAI Training Centres 47

Statement-V*Centre of Excellence***Southern Region**

1. CEX, Bangalore
2. CEX, LNCPE, Trivandrum

Northern Region

1. CEX, Patiala

Eastern Region

1. CEX, Calcutta

Western Region

1. CEX, Gandhinagar

Central Region

1. CEX, Delhi
2. CEX, Lucknow

North Eastern Region

1. CEX, Imphal

† Total Centre of Excellence 08

Reviewing the Capacity of the Aircraft

672. SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE :

SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL :

SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR :

SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have reviewed the declining capacity of air fleet and inadequate number of passengers;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. In the domestic air transport sector, the total capacity available and the traffic trends have been analysed. Fleet augmentation plans of various operators are examined on the basis of the available data and capacity induction is accordingly approved keeping in view the future requirements. At the same time it is also sought to be ensured that overcapacity and consequent sickness in the aviation sector are avoided.

Labour Intensive Policy

673. SHRI ZORA SINGH MANN :

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN :

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a need to adopt a labour intensive policy to achieve 9 per cent annual growth rate in the country; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL) : (a) and (b) It is recognized by the Government that step up in the existing rate of growth in the economy on sustainable basis is possible only with creation of more employment opportunities for the workforce. As part of the planning exercise, certain labour intensive sectors/economic activities, having more employment generation potential, have been identified for special attention and higher public investment. These include irrigation and rural infrastructure. Other labour intensive sectors identified in the 9th Five Year Plan are horticulture, plantation, animal husbandry and dairying in

the farm sector and textiles industry, village and small industries, handloom, sericulture and construction in the non-farm sector.

*[English]***Upgradation of Road by World Bank in Karnataka**

674. SHRI R.S. PATIL :

SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ :

SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA :

SHRI R.L. JALAPPA :

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

(a) whether a nine member World Bank Team has visited Bangalore recently on an appraisal visit of the road upgradation works;

(b) if so, the details, thereof;

(c) whether the World Bank has agreed to sanction about 2000 crores of rupees for upgradation of roads to an extent of about 2000 km. in Karnataka; 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) and (b) A World Bank Appraisal Mission visited Bangalore in January, 2001, to appraise the Karnataka State Road Projects.

(c) and (d) There is no approval from the World Bank as yet for project scope and cost, nor there is any commitment.

*[Translation]***National Child Labour Project, Jabalpur**

675. SHRIMATI JAYASHREE BANERJEE : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the proposal from National Child Labour Project, Jabalpur regarding liberation of child labour and rehabilitation has been received and is under consideration;

(b) whether any decision has since been taken in this regard; and

(c) if so, the cost of the said proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL) : (a) and (b) A proposal was received from the Collector, Jabalpur for establishing a National Child Labour Project in the district. As the proposal was not in conformity with the existing scheme of National Child Labour Projects, it was returned with the request that it be prepared in accordance there with. The revised proposal is yet to be received.

(c) In view of the above, does not arise.

[English]

Flight to Cochin

676. SHRI P.C. THOMAS :

SHRI V.M. SUDHEERAN :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received any request from any foreign airlines company/companies to operate flights to Cochin International Airport;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have denied permission to any foreign airline to operate flights to Cochin International Airport;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) if not, the reason in delay for clearing the proposal?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) to (e) Oman Air, Kuwait Airways, Gulf Air, Sri Lankan Airlines, Qatar Airways, Emirates, Saudia, Singapore Airlines and Yemen Airways have expressed interest to operate services to/from Cochin. The Government of India has agreed to grant Cochin as a point of call in lieu of Chennai to Saudia as requested by them. A commitment has also been given to grant Trivandrum or Cochin as a point of call to Emirates by September, 2002. The other requests are still under consideration.

[Translation]

Professional Training Scheme for Workers in Bihar

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

(a) whether the Government propose to implement comprehensive Professional Training Scheme for workers with the assistance of World Bank in Bihar;

(b) whether new industrial training institutes for women are proposed to be run under the said scheme;

(c) the number of training institutes and the places where these are being run under the said scheme in Bihar;

(d) whether the Government are considering the scope of opening industrial training institute for women in Purnea division of Bihar;

(e) if so, the time by which it is likely to be opened; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL) : (a) Government of India implemented a World Bank assisted Vocational Training Project during 1989-1998 covering 28 states including Bihar. A proposal to consider a fresh World Bank assisted Vocational Training Project is at its preliminary stages of consultation with the states. No decision on a fresh World Bank assisted Project has been taken.

(b) Opening of new Industrial Training Institutes is under the purview of the concerned state governments.

(c) to (f) Do not arise.

[English]

Rehabilitation of freed bonded labour

678. DR. S. VENUGOPAL : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received any request from Andhra Pradesh Government to enhance the unit cost for the rehabilitation of freed bonded labourers;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the decision taken by the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL) : (a) to (c) Request for enhancement of the rehabilitation assistance to freed bonded labourers had been received from various State Governments including the Government of Andhra Pradesh. Based on the consultation held with the representatives of the State Governments, rehabilitation assistance has been enhanced from Rs. 10,000/- to

Rs.20,000/- per freed bonded labourer with effect from May, 2000.

Cost Price of Aluminium

679. SHRI SUNIL KHAN : Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether six ton bauxite produce one ton aluminium;

(b) if so, the cost price of one ton aluminium produced by NALCO;

(c) whether the cost price of one ton aluminium of Australian and other countries are higher than that of one ton aluminium cost price of India; and

(d) the reasons for importing aluminium from other countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI JAYSINGRAO GAIKWAD PATIL) : (a) The production of aluminium from bauxite depends on the content of alumina in the bauxite. In the case of NALCO, 6 tonnes of bauxite produce 1 tonne of aluminium.

(b) The cost price of one tonne of aluminium produced by NALCO during 1999-2000 was Rs. 48,606/-.

(c) The comparative cost of some aluminium plants for the year 1999-2000(or 2000) is given below :-

Plant/Country	Cost of production (US\$)
NALCO, Angul, India	1054
Mozal, Mozambique	959
Tomago, Australia	1126
Alba, Bahrain	1107
Karmoy 2, Norway	1190
Alcoa Tennessee A, USA	1232

(d) The import and export of aluminium is under Open General Licence (OGL) as per the Export-Import Policy of the Government. As per the information available, the export of aluminium during the year 1999-2000 was more than its import.

Complementary Passes in Cricket Match

680. SHRI KIRTI JHA AZAD : Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether about 2000 tickets of club house were distributed as complementary passes during India Vs. Zimbabwe test match held on 18th to 22nd November 2000 in Ferozeshah Kotla Cricket Ground, Delhi;

(b) if so, the amount of loss on such distribution of complementary passes; and

(c) the details of those who were benefited by such distribution of free passes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI PON. RADHAKRISHNAN) : (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Telephone Facility in Villages

681. DR. RAMESH CHAND TOMAR :

SHRI GANTA SREENIVASA RAO :

SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH :

SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI :

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have decided to connect all the villages with telephone by 2002;

(b) if so, the number of villages where telephone facility provided and the number of villages where this facility has not been provided as on date, State-wise;

(c) whether these telephones having STD facility;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the estimated funds allocated for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) Yes, Sir. The Government plans to connect all the revenue villages of the country by March, 2002 with the joint efforts of Fixed Service Providers.

(b) 3,93,722 villages have been provided with telecom facility and 2,13,769 villages are without telecom facility as on 31.1.2001. State-wise details are given in the enclosed statement.

(c) and (d) 7,497 village public telephones are having STD facility. STD facility is provided on demand.

(e) Rs. 634 crores have been allocated for village public telephone for the current financial year 2000-2001.

Statement

Sl. No.	Circles	Total No. of villages	Villages with VPTs as on 31-01-2001	Village left uncovered as on 1-2-2001
1.	Andaman and Nicobar	282	282	0
2.	Andhra Pradesh	29460	23383	6077
3.	Assam	22224	14478	7746
4.	Bihar	79208	26267	52941
5.	Gujarat	18125	13923	4202
6.	Haryana	6850	6811	39
7.	Himachal Pradesh	16997	12118	4879
8.	Jammu and Kashmir	6764	3917	2847
9.	Karnataka	27066	26414	652
10.	Kerala	1530	1530	0
11.	Madhya Pradesh	71526	47272	24254
12.	Maharashtra	42060	31170	10890
13.	Goa	407	371	36
14.	Arunachal	3599	672	2927
15.	Manipur	2394	692	1702
16.	Meghalaya	5629	1215	4414
17.	Mizoram	770	621	149
18.	Nagaland	1192	649	543
19.	Tripura	862	660	202
20.	Orissa	46989	23486	23503
21.	Punjab	12687	12687	0
22.	Rajasthan	38634	23816	14818
23.	Tamil Nadu	17991	17898	93
24.	Uttar Pradesh(E)	75698	56188	19510
25.	Uttar Pradesh(W)	39551	25415	14136
26.	West Bengal	37910	20874	17036
27.	Sikkim	427	301	126
28.	Calcutta	468	421	47
29.	Delhi	191	191	0
Total		607491	393722	213769

Sewerage Treatment Plants

682. SHRI D.V.G. SHANKAR RAO :

SHRI RAMANAIDU DAGGUBATI :

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

(a) whether the Government propose to give financial assistance to Andhra Pradesh for setting up of three sewerage treatment plants aimed at cleaning of Musi river under National Rivers Conservation Projects for Hyderabad and Secunderabad at a cost of Rs. 295 crores; and

(b) if so, the time by which the amount is likely to be released for taking up the project?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R.BAALU) : (a) and (b) As the river Musi has not been included in the approved list of rivers under the National River Conservation Plan, the proposal is under examination.

[Translation]

Agro Tank Garden In Himachal Pradesh

683. SHRI SURESH CHANDEL : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have approved the construction of Agro Tank Garden in district Bilaspur of Himachal Pradesh;

(b) if so, whether owing to the non-availability of other land this project has been sent to Regional Forest Office, Chandigarh for permission for the use of forest land by Himachal Pradesh;

(c) whether the permission has since been granted; and

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

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) and (b) The Government of India, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has sanctioned Rs.5 lacs for a project of development of agro-techniques of medicinal Plants (year 1999-2002) and to implement the project, the State Government of Himachal Pradesh has submitted a proposal to Regional Office, Chandigarh, Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India, for diversion of 19 ha of forestland at Bilaspur in Himachal Pradesh.

(c) and (d) After examination of the proposal this Ministry has requested the State Government of Himachal Pradesh in December 2000 to furnish additional information regarding the project but till date no reply has been received from the State Government.

[English]

Killing of Floras and Faunas in Rann of Kutch

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

(a) whether the plant imported from Australia - the Prosopis juliflora (Ganda Babool) to prevent desertification and denudation in the Rann of Kutch in 1960, is now on a rampage killing the natural floras and faunas of Rann of Kutch as reported in the Pioneer dated January 8, 2001; and

(b) if so, the steps being taken to arrest this rampage, and to protect the redural flora and fauna of the Rann of Kutch ?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (Shri T.R. Baalu) : (a) and (b) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of House.

[Translation]

Aircraft for Relief Materials

685. SHRI TUFANI SAROJ : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have put some aircraft on operation to deal with recent earthquake disaster in Gujarat and to carry relief material for the quake victims;

(b) if so, the total number thereof alongwith the details in this regard;

(c) whether these aircraft operated their flights to carry relief material to their full capacity;

(d) if so, the total number of flights operated by them; and

(e) the agency bearing expenses on the operation for the said aircrafts?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) to (d) Yes Sir. Ministry of Civil Aviation has taken various measures for relief operations in connection with earthquake in Gujarat. 173 relief flights (including 126

international) have been operated at Ahmedabad and Bhuj airports upto 22.2.2001. Indian Airlines have operated 184 additional flights and uplifted 775 tonnes of relief material from 26th January to 14th February, 2001. Air India has handled 56 flights carrying relief material at Mumbai and Delhi airports and received 376.875 tonnes of relief material from abroad from 26th January to 22nd February 2001.

(e) Indian Airlines had issued instructions for acceptance of gratis relief material for quake victims. Air India had offered to transport relief material free of cost from various points to India. Airports Authority of India have waived off all airport charges to all domestic/international flights operated exclusively for relief operation and also waived of charges of cargo/terminal handling upto 28.2.2001.

[English]

ISD/STD/PCO Facilities in Rajasthan

686. COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY :

SHRI PUSP JAIN :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

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

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) the time by which such facilities are likely to be made available there;

(e) whether a large number of demands for providing STD facilities in the rural areas, especially in Barmer and Jaisalmer districts of the State are pending with the Government;

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

(g) the steps taken by the Government to clear the pending demands?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) and (b) Sir, about 80% of rural and 70% of tribal area exchanges have been provided with STD/PCO facility.

(c) The said facility in the remaining areas could not be provided due to non availability of STD facility in the exchanges for want of adequate reliable media.

(d) Action Plan has been drawn to provide such facilities to the remaining exchanges progressively by end of March, 2002 subject to availability of resources.

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) The details are given in the statement attached.

(g) Reliable media has been planned extensively to provide connectivity to various exchanges so that STD facilities in exchanges could be provided.

Statement

SSA	Total rural Exchange	Rural exchange W/o STD
Ajmer	66	18
Alwar	90	0
Banswara	58	9
Barmer	62	27
Bharatpur	51	2
Bhilwara	63	18
Bikaner	56	20
Bundi	33	5
Chittorgarh	53	9
Churu	72	16
Jaisalmer	23	14
Jaipur	134	29
Jhalawar	29	5
Jhunjhunu	58	0
Jodhpur	82	9
Kota	53	9
Nagaur	89	23
Pali	115	37
Sawaimadhopur	53	3
Sikar	80	17
Sirohi	103	24
Sriganganagar	139	13
Tonk	33	10
Udaipur	112	32
Total	1713	349

Telecom Districts

687. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Telecom districts in each State as on January 31, 2001;

(b) whether the Government propose to set up new telecom districts during 2001-2002; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) Information is given in the attached statement.

(b) and (c) Each Telecom District or S.S.A. (Secondary Switching Area) is a basic unit of operation for the purpose of administration, charging, routing and numbering plans. As per the existing policy, SSAs are not being generally bifurcated because of administrative and operational reasons, but the existing Telecom Districts are being upgraded to the level of Telecom District Managers/General Managers/Principal General Managers depending upon the workload of the Telecom District.

Statement

Number of Telecom Districts in each State

Sl. No.	State	No. of Telecom Districts
(1)	(2)	(3)
1.	A and Nicobar (Union Territory)	1
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	1
3.	Andhra Pradesh	22
4.	Assam	7
5.	Bihar	14
6.	Chhatisgarh	6
7.	Goa	1
8.	Gujarat	17
9.	Himachal Pradesh	6
10.	Haryana	9
11.	Jammu and Kashmir	5
12.	Jharkhand	6
13.	Kerala	12

(1)	(2)	(3)
14.	Karnataka	19
15.	Maharashtra	30
16.	Madhya Pradesh	34
17.	Manipur	1
18.	Meghalaya	1
19.	Mizoram	1
20.	Nagaland	1
21.	Orissa	12
22.	Pondicherry	1
23.	Punjab	11
24.	Rajasthan	24
25.	Sikkim	1
26.	Tamil Nadu	18
27.	Tripura	1
28.	Uttar Pradesh	48
29.	Uttaranchal	5
30.	West Bengal	14
31.	Delhi	1
Total		330

Damages Suffered by Airports in Gujarat

688. SHRI DINSHA PATEL : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) the details of damages suffered by airports in Gujarat during the recent earthquake, airport-wise; and

(b) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to repair the damages?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) and (b) Minor damages caused to Ahmedabad, Bhavnagar and Porbandar airports have already been repaired. Minor cracks in the walls of terminal buildings at Rajkot and Vadodara are under repair. The transmitter station at Vadodara was damaged beyond economic repairs. Minor cracks have been caused at different places in Jamnagar Civil Terminal and services of structural engineers have been requested to assess the damage.

At Bhuj Civil Air Terminal, the terminal building is totally damaged and deep cracks developed on Doppler Very High Frequency Range/Distance Measuring Equipment (DVOR/DME) Building and four residential quarters. At Kandla airport also the terminal building is totally damaged. Action is in hand to provide temporary structure for passengers and offices at these airports.

Linking of Buddhists pilgrimage places

689. SHRI ARUN KUMAR : Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to link the Buddhists Pilgrimage places in Bihar to the National Highways; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI) : (a) Presently there is no proposal.

(b) Does not arise.

Modernisation of Telephone Exchanges

690. SHRI GANTA SREENIVASA RAO : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have chalked out any policy for modernisation of telephone exchanges functioning at present in Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) Following steps are taken for modernization of Telephone Exchanges :-

- (i) Provision of Reliable Media like Optical Fibre Cable etc.
- (ii) Provision of Satellite terminals to inaccessible areas.
- (iii) Conversion of analog type electronic exchanges to new type of digital exchanges.
- (iv) Introduction of DLC, HDSL and WLL equipment in the network.

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

**Ichampally and Polavaram Projects as
National Projects**

691. SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU :

SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE :

SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI :

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES
be pleased to state :

(a) whether Andhra Pradesh Government has requested to the Union Government to declare Ichampally and Polavaram projects on river Godavari as national projects; and

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto and the time frame fixed for their completion?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF
WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY):
(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) There is no proposal to declare any such Irrigation / Multipurpose project as a national project. The implementation and completion of these projects is linked to resolution of inter-state issues related mainly to submergence in Maharashtra, Chhattisgarh, Orissa, preparation of detailed project report by Government of Andhra Pradesh thereafter and obtaining clearances from central appraising agencies and provision of requisite funds by the state.

Safety Measures at I.G.I. Airport

692. SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY :

DR. ASHOK PATEL :

DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV :

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be
pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item captioned 'IGI airport safety at the mercy of weather Gods' appearing in Statesman dated December 12, 2000;

(b) whether the ILS-III which was set up at airport during the last February is not working till date;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether any inquiry has since been conducted in this regard;

(e) if so, the findings thereof;

(f) whether in the absence of any advance ILS, the pilots are facing difficulties particularly during winter season; and

(g) if so, the corrective steps the Government now propose to take in this regard?

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

(b) and (c) Cat.III Instrument Landing System (ILS) was installed at IGI Airport, Delhi on 14.2.1999. However, it was made operational as Cat.II because additional ground facilities like Runway Centre-line Lights, Approach Lights etc. were to be provided. The civil works could be taken up in November, 1999. The delay was due to the ban imposed by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India on the use of hot-mix plant in Delhi.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

(f) and (g) The Cat.IIIA system has now been installed and is likely to be made operational by March, 2001. Indian Pilots have already been trained for Cat.II operations. After they acquire requisite experience of Cat.II operations, they will be authorised for Cat.III operations.

Brain Drain

693. SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH :

SHRI NARESH PUGLIA :

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to
state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the newsitem captioned "IT brain drain to West will continue, says ILP report" appearing in the Hindustan Times dated January 27, 2001;

(b) if so, whether the hi-tech workers from India are seeking migration to Western countries as revealed by ILO report;

(c) if so, whether the Government propose to take any corrective steps to check migration of hi-tech workers to western countries; and

(d) if so, the details thereof

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF
LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL) : (a) Yes Sir.

(b) to (d) Government is aware that some of the IT professionals are leaving the country for better employment opportunities in the West. Movement of knowledge workers increases the long-term opportunities of Indian IT companies in the global market. However, Government of India is adopting measures to strengthen the infrastructure and promoting venture creation thereby encouraging IT companies to set up off-shore software development and IT enabled services.

New Civil Aviation Policy

694. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to refer to the reply given to USQ No.195 dated 24.07.2000 regarding draft civil aviation policy and state :

(a) whether the new Civil Aviation policy has been finalised;

(b) if so, the details thereof and by when it is expected to be implemented;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

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

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) to (d) The civil aviation policy document is being finalised and shall be put up before the Cabinet in the near future.

[Translation]

Training Camp for Sports

695. SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN :

DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA :

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

(a) whether a training camp was organised in the winter season by the Sports Authority of India (SAI);

(b) if so, the sports for which this special training arrangements were made;

(c) the number of youths provided training under the above training camp and the sports in which they were provided training; and

(d) the income earned through the above training scheme and the total expenditure for making arrangements in this regard ?

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

National camps were organised during last winter by Sports Authority of India at the National Institute of Sports at Patiala.

(b) The sports discipline in which camps were held are :

- i) Women Hockey (Sr.)
- ii) Women Hockey (Jr.)
- iii) Wrestling (Sr.)
- iv) Boxing (Sr.)
- v) Volleyball (Youth Camp)
- vi) Athletics (Sr.)
- vii) Judo (Sr.)
- viii) Rowing (Sr.) (Chandigarh)

(c) The following number of sportspersons were trained in their respective disciplines :

	Discipline	No. of Campers
1)	Women Hockey (Sr.)	29
2)	Women Hockey (Jr.)	38
3)	Wrestling (Sr.)	32
4)	Boxing (Sr.)	49
5)	Volleyball (Youth Camp)	28
6)	Athletics (Sr.)	77
7)	Judo (Sr.)	32
8)	Rowing (Sr.) (Chandigarh)	12
	Total	297

(d) There was no income earned from the National Camps. These camps are financed by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports.

[English]

Joint Forest Management

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

(a) the number of States which have passed resolution on Joint Forest Management (JFM) so far for the management of forest with people's participation;

(b) the number of States which have not passed such resolution alongwith reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government have constituted a Committee on Joint Forest Management to advise on the matters pertaining to operationalisation of Joint Forest Management;

(d) if so, whether this Committee has submitted its report and suggested ways and means for JFM; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Govt. in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) So far 26 States have passed resolution for involving the local people in forest management through the Joint Forest Management programme.

(b) Goa and Meghalaya are yet to adopt the resolution for implementation of JFM. The Management of Forests at the field level is primarily the responsibility of the States.

(c) to (e) No Committee has been set up by the Government of India for operationalisation of the JFM. The operationalisation of JFM is done through the State forest Department and the Village Committees. However, Government of India has constituted JFM Network under the Chairmanship of Director General Forests and Special Secretary for constant consultation and obtaining feed back from all the stake-holders.

Chhatrapati Shivaji International Airport

697. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have formulated any programme for the modernisation of Chhatrapati Shivaji International Airport, Mumbai;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) to (c) As a part of expansion to international terminal, a new Terminal-2C having an area of approximately 72000 sq. metres has already been commissioned. The existing Terminal-2B is being modified. After completion of these modifications, the international terminal will have the capacity of handling 7.5 million passengers annually.

It has also been decided to lease Mumbai airport on long term basis to private airport operators in order to modernise and improve the standard of services and facilities. The private airport will be required to undertake specified expansion works in the short term and to undertake other expansion works in long term to meet the specified performance standards.

Instrumental Landing System

698. SHRI BIJOY HANDIQUE : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Instrumental Landing System (ILS) Category III has been installed in Delhi Airport;

(b) the year in which the decision was taken to instal the system and the length of time taken from the date of the decision to the date of installation thereof;

(c) whether Indian pilots have been trained on these sophisticated equipments;

(d) if so, whether Government have assessed the extent of loss in time and money caused by disruption of commercial flights due to poor visibility in absence of the Category III ILS; and

(e) whether Government have set a time frame for installing the system in major airports like Mumbai, Calcutta, Chennai airports enveloped by fog and pollution?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) Yes, Sir. Instrument Landing System (ILS) equipment capable of Cat.IIIA operations was installed at IGI Airport, Delhi on 14.02.1999. However, it was made operational as Cat.II because additional ground facilities like Runway Centre-line Lights, Approach Lights, etc. were to be provided.

(b) The decision to install Cat.IIIA ILS at IGI Airport, Delhi was taken in August, 1998 and the installation of the various facilities including the main equipment was completed in November, 2000. The delay was due to the ban imposed by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India on

the use of hot mix plant in Delhi. The system would be made operational by March, 2001.

(c) Indian pilots have already been trained for Cat.II operations. After they acquire the requisite experience of Cat.II operations, they will be authorised for Cat.III operations.

(d) Installation of Cat.III ILS enables aircraft operations in low visibility condition upto 200 metres. However, the visibility condition sometimes drops below 200 metres as well and aircraft operations have to be suspended during that period. Hence it will not be proper to attribute suspension of aircraft operations at the airports purely to non-installation of Cat.III ILS and therefore, it is difficult to assess the extent of loss in time and money caused by disruption of commercial flights, on account of this.

(e) Instrument Landing Systems (ILS) for Cat.I requirement are already in operation at the International airports at Mumbai, Kolkata and Chennai. These are considered adequate.

[Translation]

Telephone Facilities in Bihar

699. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV :

SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR CHOUDHARY :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the number of telephones are lowest in Bihar as compared to population in the state;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to increase the number of telephones in the State and linking every village panchayat with telephone?

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

(b) The telephone density of Bihar as on 31.01.2001 is 0.82 per hundred population against the National average of 3.34.

(c) The following steps have been taken/are proposed to be taken by the Government to increase the number of telephones in the state and linking every village panchayat with telephone.

(i) There is a proposal to add 2,60,000 new telephones during the current financial year out of which 1,47,488 have already been provided by 31.01.2001.

(ii) WLL system have been planned to cover all the revenue villages of Bihar by the year 2002.

[English]

Flights from Hyderabad by U.A.E

700. SHRI RAJAIAH MALYALA :

SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether United Arab Emirate has shown interest in starting flights from Hyderabad and other places in India;

(b) if so, whether the Government have received a request from U.A.E. in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the reaction of the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) to (d) During the last round of bilateral talks on air services matters held in May, 2000, the Government of India has agreed to grant Chennai as a new point of call to the designated airline of U.A.E. It has also been agreed to offer either Thiruvananthapuram or Kochi as another new point by September, 2002. Emirates Airlines, the designated airline of the United Arab Emirates, has also been recently permitted to operate international services to/from Hyderabad airport.

Post Offices

701. SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state the number of Post Offices proposed to be opened in State during the year 2001-2002, district-wise and location-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : The post Offices are opened on norms based justification in accordance with plan targets subject to availability of resources.

[Translation]

Construction of Airport at Kurukshetra Haryana

702. SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to construct an Airport at Kurukshetra (Haryana);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have conducted any departmental study in this regard; and

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

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) to (d) There is no proposal to construct an airport at Kurukshetra, Haryana.

[English]

Concessional Tickets by Indian Airlines

703. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Indian Airlines has issued concessional tickets to certain categories of persons;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Indian Airlines has issued an order restricting the total number of concessional passengers on a flight to 10 (ten);

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

(e) whether the Government propose to review this order of the Indian Airlines restricting the number of concessional passengers on a flight; and

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

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Indian Airlines, as a policy, has issued concessional fares to various categories of passengers which inter-alia include serving personnel of Armed Forces/Para Military Forces, Police Personnel, Recipients of Gallantry Awards, Students, Senior Citizens, Disabled Persons, Sports Persons etc.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. This has been done in furtherance of social commitments of a PSU and also with

an objective to have better Yield Management and make the flights more remunerative, depending on the low/high season demand of the flights.

(e) and (f) There is, at present, no such proposal under consideration of the Government.

Task Force on Working Women

704. SHRIMATI JAYABEN.B. THAKKAR : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No.4910 dated December 20, 2000 regarding Task Force on working Women and state :

(a) whether the Task Force on working women has submitted its report to the Government;

(b) if so, the highlights of the report;

(c) the details of recommendations accepted for implementation and the reasons for not accepting the remaining ones; and

(d) if the report has not yet been submitted, the time by which it is likely to be submitted alongwith reasons for delay?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Question does not arise.

(d) The term of the Task Force has been extended upto 30.4.2001.

[Translation]

Mandal Dam

705. KUMARI BHAVANA PUNDLIKRAO GAWALI : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that Mandal Dam in Palamu district in Jharkhand has not yet completed;

(b) if so, whether the Government have chalked out any plan to make the dam operative;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY) : (a) to (d) The North Koel Irrigation Project near village Mandal in Palamu district has not yet been completed.

Being a state subject, irrigation projects are planned, investigated, implemented and funded by the State Governments out of their own resources and as per their own priorities.

Laws Related to Child Labour

706. KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are contemplating to amend the laws related to child labour in order to check the atrocities like victimisation, exploitation and murder of child labourers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of child labourers employed in carpet industries of Bhadohi and fire work industries of Shivkashi in Tamil Nadu; and

(d) the action proposed by the Government for liberation of these labourers expeditiously?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL) : (a) and (b) The Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986 prohibits employment of children in occupations and processes listed in Schedule to the Act and regulates it in all other employments. Additions to the schedule are made on the advice of the Technical Advisory Committee constituted under the Act. The issue regarding amendment of the Child Labour Act, 1986 is an ongoing process and has been discussed in several fora including the State Labour Ministers' Conference held in July, 1997. Important suggestions made in the conference to make the Act more stringent include (a) making the offence a cognizable one; (b) making the penalties more stringent and deterrent; and (c) the responsibility as to the proof of age of a child being made that of the employer. Action has already been initiated in this regard.

(c) Authentic information on child labour in the country is generated by the decennial census. According to the 1991 census, the number of working children in India is 11.28 million. Industry wise figures of number of working children are not maintained.

(d) Government has taken a series of steps to address the problem of child labour in the country. A National Policy on Child Labour was announced by the Government in 1987 which envisages strict enforcement of child labour related laws, convergence of services for the benefit of parents of child labour in order to improve their economic conditions and launching of projects in areas of high concentration of child labour.

Apart from legal measures, Government has taken steps for withdrawal and rehabilitation of child labour working in hazardous occupations through the scheme of National Child Labour Projects and the Scheme of Grants-in-aid to Voluntary Organisations. Awareness Generation activities are also being taken up by the concerned project societies at the district level.

[English]

National Water Policy

707. SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the United Nations has warned the developing countries including India to evolve a National Water Policy to prevent water wars between nations;

(b) if so, whether any seminar under the auspices of United Nations was held in Bangalore on restoration of lakes and wastelands;

(c) the suggestions made at the seminar;

(d) whether India has agreed to implement the suggestions; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY) : (a) Director-General of United Nations Environment Programme in one of the issues of Scientific Journal on Environmental Science and Technology and while addressing International Conference on Water and Sustainable Development in Paris on 21st March, 1998 has predicted the possibility of wars being fought in future over the issue of water.

However, India has already adopted a National Water Policy in 1987 for optimum utilization of its water resources in an integrated and environmentally sound basis.

(b) to (e) A symposium named "Lake 2000 - Restoration of Lakes and Wetlands" was held at Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore during 27th - 29th November, 2000 which was sponsored by Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India, Commonwealth of Learning, Society of Wetlands Scientists and Indian Council of Agricultural Research. A number of recommendations and suggestions were made in the symposium. The seventeen recommendations made in the symposium are given in brief in the statement

attached. The recommendations made in the various symposia are kept in view by the Government while formulating and implementing plans and policies relating to Lakes and Wetlands.

Statement

Main recommendations in brief made in the symposium held at Bangalore during 27th – 29th November, 2000 named "Lake 2000 – Restoration of Lakes and Wetlands"

1. The integration of different Government Agencies for effective implementation of activities related to restoration of wetlands, their sustainable utilization and conservation.
2. A National Committee for reclamation, restoration and development of Lakes and Wetlands be formed to formulate a National Policy to evolve strategies for sustainable utilization and conservation.
3. A Comprehensive Plan be prepared to study selective, representative wetlands in a phased manner to create a database with regard to their present status, sustainable use, management and conservation; and to formulate strategies for their long term management in rural and urban areas. Regular monitoring of ecosystems through the involvement of schools, colleges and universities to be taken up.
4. A Comprehensive Action Plan be chalked out immediately for taking care of health, disease and quarantine aspects of aquatic biota.
5. A Comprehensive action plan be chalked out to study the aquatic biodiversity of the inland water bodies of the nation.
6. Mass awareness programmes be chalked out and implemented through Government and Non-Government Organisations (NGO's) for recognition of the importance of the lakes, wetlands and rivers and their role in the sustenance of human civilization and the aquatic biodiversity.
7. Lakes and Ponds in each Zilla Panchayath area be identified and their streams recharged through people's participation.
8. Temporary Ponds be identified and their diversity explored to delineate their contribution to the society and biosphere.
9. A people's watchdog team to be set up to stop the dumping of wastes into water bodies and the catchment area protection.
10. Fishermen's socio-economic aspects to be taken into consideration while formulating wetland policies.
11. Students involvement including curriculum development concerning the protection of the ecosystem.
12. Ownership and the legal status of lakes be properly defined.
13. Easy access to data be provided to scientists and students to investigate the status of wetlands in protected areas.
14. Introduction of exotic fishes into lakes be permitted only after clearance from fishery experts.
15. Education and Training : Public needs to be better informed about the rationale, goals and methods of aquatic ecosystem restorations. Scientists and researchers need to be trained in aquatic ecosystem restoration, management and conservation.
16. The Central and State Governments should support research and development, watershed/scale restorations that integrate lake, stream and wetland components. State agencies, NGOs and university researchers should participate in planning, implementing and evaluating restoration projects.
17. Goals for restoration of lakes be realistic and be based on the concept of expected conditions for individual eco-regions.

Resignation by Pilots and Co-Pilots of Indian Airlines

708. SHRI BHAN SINGH BHAURA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether a number of Commanders and co-pilots of Indian Airlines have resigned during the last six months and joined different Airlines;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

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

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) to (c) During the last six months, 8 resignations were rendered by the Pilots. Out of these, 5 resignations were for personal reasons and in the case of remaining three, no reason was given. Since these Pilots did not give the requisite notice for resignation, as provided for in the company rules, none of the resignations has so far been accepted.

Extension of National Highway-93

709. SHRI CHANDRA VIJAY SINGH : Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the National Highway No. 93 is proposed to be extended from Agra via Chandausi to Moradabad;

(b) if so, the time by which the broadening and resurfacing work is likely to be commenced;

(c) whether there is any proposal to build a flyover on rail track at Kunderki in Moradabad district on NH-93;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons for excluding this much needed flyover?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) SHRI B.C. KHANDURI) : (a) Agra to Moradabad via Chandausi is connected by National Highway No. 93 notified on 12.10.2000.

(b) to (e) The development of National Highways is a continuous process and development works on National Highways including bridges thereon are taken up in a phased manner depending on the traffic needs, condition of road, inter-se priority and availability of funds.

[Translation]

Development of Adivasi Regions

710. SHRI MANSUKHBHAI D. VASAVA : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the work related to development and providing facilities in the Adivasi regions have been stopped due to the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T. R. BAALU) : (a) to (c) No, Sir. The Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 does not prohibit use of forest land for any non-forestry activity. However, prior approval of the Central Government is required for the purpose. In the Last 20 years since the enactment of the legislation more than 6000 developmental proposals involving about 4.94 lakh hectares of forest land, which are predominantly in Adivasi areas, have been accorded approval. Moreover,

while diverting any forest land for any non-forestry activities under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, due consideration is given to the likely adverse impact of the project on the local people particularly the tribals.

In order to expedite clearances of proposals related to specific development and providing facilities in the Adivasi regions which may include roads, drinking water supply scheme, transmission lines, schools, dispensaries, etc. and where the requirement of forest land does not exceed 5 hectare, the powers have been delegated to the six Regional Offices to decide the cases within 4 weeks, if the proposal is complete in all respects.

[English]

Replacement of Old Fleet of A.I. and I.A

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

(a) whether the Government have provided sufficient funds to the two national carriers to replace their old and outdated aircrafts;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken to revitalise the fleets of the two airlines?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) to (c) Air India is inducting aircraft on dry lease for fleet rationalisation and growth. Indian Airlines is presently carrying out a Techno-Economic study for acquisition of new aircraft. On completion of the study, a project report will be submitted to the Government after approval of the Board of Directors.

Implementation of Road Projects

712. SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH : Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the cost escalation due to delay in implementation of several Road Projects consisting of National Highways;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) 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) and (b) There have been delays in implementation of some National Highway

projects mainly due to difficulty in land acquisition, shifting of utilities along the National Highways, and also due to delay in issue of Letter of Credit (LOC) by some States.

(c) Projects for development are now approved only after acquisition of land. Direct payment procedure has been introduced in some States to expedite the payment to the contractors and obviating the need for issue of letter of credit by State Governments. The progress of all National Highways works are being periodically reviewed with the concerned State Govt. Officials to ensure that bottlenecks if any are removed by taking appropriate remedial measures to complete projects as per targets set.

Construction Of Departmental Buildings

713. DR. RAM CHANDRA DOME :

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether more than 75 percent of post offices and telephone exchanges are functioning in rented buildings in Assam;

(b) if so, the details thereof,

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government for construction of departmental buildings in the State;

(d) the names of places in Mandsaur and Neemuch districts of Madhya Pradesh where new buildings of telephone exchanges have been constructed and are functioning during the last two years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) :

(a) **Department of Post**

No, Sir.

Department of Telecom

Yes, Sir.

(b) **Department of Post**

Not applicable in view of (a) above.

Department of Telecom

Out of a total of 459 telephone exchanges working in the State of Assam as on 31st

January 2001, 365 exchanges are housed in rented buildings.

(c) **Department of Post**

Six post office buildings are currently under construction in addition the Department is taking up construction of departmental buildings in Assam as per operational priority and availability of plan resources.

Department of Telecom

Construction of Departmental buildings to house telephone exchanges at about 50 stations has already been finalised and buildings are likely to be completed in a phased manner by March 2002. Constant persuasion is being made with State Government for allotment/acquisition of land at various places in the State so that departmental buildings can be constructed at the earliest.

(d) **Department of Telecom**

In Madhya Pradesh, new telephone exchange buildings constructed and functioning during the last two years are at :

1. In Mandsaur district (a) Mandsaur (b) Sitamau (c) Pipliya (d) Shyamgarh
2. In Neemuch district (a) Singoli (b) Manasa

Committee to Review Plight of Child Labour

714. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH. Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the National Human Rights Commission has appointed any Committee to review the plight of child labour in the country;

(b) if so, whether the said Committee has submitted its report and if so, the outcome thereof;

(c) if so, the action taken on the report so far;

(d) whether a large number of children are still working as labourers in Hardware Industry in Aligarh; and

(e) if so, the measures the Government propose to take to eradicate the child labour?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL) : (a) to (c) As per the information received from the National Human Rights Commission, a Committee has been constituted to examine every aspect of the employment of child labour in the Lock Industry in the Aligarh District of Uttar Pradesh. The Committee is yet to submit its report.

(d) and (e) Authentic information on child labour in the country is generated by the decennial census. Industry wise figures of the number of working children are not maintained.

Under the scheme of the National Child Labour Projects, 30 special schools/rehabilitation centres are being run in Aligarh for coverage of 2500 children withdrawn from work.

Inadequate Flights at Trivandrum - Male sector

715. SHRI V.M. SUDHEERAN : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the difficulties being experienced by the passengers in the Trivandrum-Male Sector due to shortage of flights; and

(b) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Govt. in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Indian Airlines operates five flights per week between Trivandrum and Male with A-320 aircraft on a scheduled basis. The problem occurs during the peak period of winter on this sector. In order to cater to the passengers rush during this season, Indian Airlines operate additional flights on this sector, subject to availability of aircraft, crew and other resources.

During January, 2001, Indian Airlines operated 2 extra section flights between Trivandrum and Male and 4 additional flights on this route upto 14.2.2001.

Study on Animals Behaviour

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

(a) whether the Government propose to conduct a thorough study about animals' behaviour considering that they behave differently before an earthquake occurs or other calamity strikes;

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

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) and (c) Steps to screen/review the literature on correlation between abnormal behaviour of animals and prediction of earthquake to prepare a research project have been initiated.

Forest Development Projects

717. SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received any proposal from different States particularly Assam for setting up of forest development projects in their respective areas;

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

(c) the action taken or proposed to be taken by the Government on each of the proposals?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T. R. BAALU) : (a) to (c) Proposals for providing central assistance to Forest Development Agencies set up recently have been received from 15 States including Assam. Details of the proposals received and action taken thereon is given in the attached Statement.

Statement

1. *Projects sanctioned so far to Forest Development Agencies (FDAs) during 2000-01 (as on 22.2.2001) are as follows :*

Sl. No.	State	Location of FDA	Total Area to be covered (in ha.)	Total Project Cost sanctioned for the 9th Five Year Plan (Rs. in lakhs)
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
1	Punjab	Muktsar	355	70.68
2	Jammu and Kashmir	Doda	1720	111.67

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
3	Jammu and Kashmir	Kathua	580	37.84
4	Jammu and Kashmir	Anantnag	1140	75.28
5	Jammu and Kashmir	Budgam	1140	75.28
6	Madhya Pradesh	Guna	6500	743.97
7	Madhya Pradesh	Hoshangabad	2000	330.05
8	Himachal Pradesh	Suket	1950	200.47
9	Uttar Pradesh	Firozabad	2000	359.75
10	Uttar Pradesh	Mirzapur	1279	199.80
11	Uttar Pradesh	Meerut	1070	124.07
Total			19734	2328.86

II. The under-mentioned project proposals have also been received from different States till 22.2.2001. These projects are at different stages of consideration for sanction, which will be finally subject to their technical suitability, regional distribution among various States, and the availability of funds for this scheme during the 9th Five Year Plan.

Sl. No.	State of FDA	Location	Total Area to be covered (in ha.)	Total Proposed Project Cost (Rs. in lakhs)
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
1.	Andhra Pradesh	Paloncha	3550	434.34
2.	Assam	Kaziranga	200	134.40
3.	Goa	Goa South	180	49.95
		North Goa	275	49.90
4.	Himachal Pradesh	Hamirpur	1675	68.31
5.	Maharashtra	Dahanu	6040	617.70
		Thane	5000	608.89
		Pune	1000	162.17
		Jalgaon	800	128.96
		Kolhapur	1358	187.72
		East Nasik	5100	1394.69
		West Nasik	2850	755.50
		South Chandrapur (Central Chandrapur)	825	460.05
		South Chandrapur (Bharagad, Sironcha)	1125	182.54

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
	Maharashtra (contd)	Allapalli	50	259.70
		Mewasi	640	109.41
		Dhule West	1045	257.67
		Dhule North	1045	117.23
6.	Madhya Pradesh	West Chhindwara	7625	919.50
		South Chhindwara	6850	831.38
		East Sidhi	640	128.00
		West Sidhi	640	128.00
		South Seoni	1050	157.50
		North Seoni	3000	375.00
		Sehore	1000	185.00
7	Uttar Pradesh	Hardoi	1700	753.70
		Faizabad	1495	241.60
		Renukoot	800	158.40
8.	Haryana	Gurgaon	3000	800.73
		Sirsa	1200	307.26
9.	Nagaland	Tuensang	1260	125.39
		Mon	980	99.71
		Kohima	1200	149.99
10.	Chhattisgarh	Mahasamund	750	256.00
		East Surguja	750	188.42
		Bastar	750	230.08
11.	Gujarat	Panchmahals	2650	629.95
		Valsad	1840	318.64
		Vadodara	1600	408.00
		Narmada	1000	203.25
12.	Karnataka	Kolar	1045	210.20
		Bellary	650	107.35
		Tumkur	1350	231.98
13.	Rajasthan	Dungarpur	2000	418.23
		Pratapgarh	2000	420.95
		Udaipur Central	1750	367.17

Expansion of Telecommunication Network

718. SHRI P.D. ELANGO VAN : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are expanding telecommunication network in the country in collaborations with private sector;

(b) if so, the details of the investments made by the said sector for the purpose;

(c) the areas in which private sector's investments are being made; and

(d) the measures taken by the Government to enhance the communication network at cost effective in the country?

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

(b) The total investment in the major telecom service sector by private operators upto 31.3.2000 is approximately Rs.16564.38 Crores. The break-up is as under :-

Basic Services	Rs. 3605.48 Crores
Cellular Mobile Telecom Services	Rs. 11860.91 Crores
V-SAT	Rs. 184.52 Crores
Mobile Radio Trunk Service	Rs. 250.00 Crores
Paging Service	Rs. 663.47 Crores

(c) The private sectors investment are being made in all the areas barring International Long Distance. Government has already announced that the International Long Distance will be opened for private sector participation in April 2002.

(d) Year-wise plans are drawn to enhance the communication network depending on the availability of funds. Tariff for telecom services is being fixed by Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI). Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) and Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) are also following the cap fixed by TRAI. Private sector participation is also being encouraged in Telecom sector. Thus cost effective services are being offered in the country.

Civil Servant Status to Telecom Officers

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

(a) whether the Government have received any demand from the Telecom Officers to grant them the status of civil servant; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) Yes, Sir. The Group 'A' officers of the Department demanded the status of civil servants in case of corporatisation of Telecom Services.

(b) Government decided that Group 'A' officers will be given an extended period of deemed deputation, for a period up to five years, while deciding upon the cut off date.

[Translation]

Telephone Facility in Rural Areas of Jammu and Kashmir

720. SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of villages in Jammu and Kashmir which are having telephone facilities, district-wise;

(b) the number of villages where telephone facilities are yet to be provided in the said state, district-wise; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to provide telephone facilities to such villages?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) and (b) 3,905 out of 6,764 villages in Jammu & Kashmir are having telephone facility and 2,859 villages are without telephone facility. District-wise details are given in the Statement attached.

(c) All the remaining villages in the State of Jammu and Kashmir are proposed to be provided with telecom facility by March, 2002.

Statement

Sl. No.	District	No. of Villages with Village Public Telephones	No. of Villages without Village Public Telephones
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
1	Jammu	961	236
2	Kathua	489	100

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
3	Udhampur	540	85
4	Doda	357	298
5	Srinagar	137	17
6	Badgam	185	316
7	Anantnag	141	505
8	Pulwama	222	332
9	Kupwara	118	260
10	Baramulla	224	439
11	Rajauri	331	72
12	Poonch	146	11
13	Leh	31	82
14	Kargil	23	106
Total		3905	2859

Protection of Peacocks

721. SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR CHOUDHARY : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of peacocks in various Zoological Parks and sanctuaries in the country;

(b) the number of peacocks killed by poachers during the last three years and punishment given to them as a result thereof; and

(c) the policy of the Government to increase the number of peacocks and providing them protection?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) There are 764 peafowls in various Zoological Parks of the country. Population estimation of peafowls in sanctuaries and other parts of the country has not been carried out.

(b) The details of peafowls killed due to poaching and other reasons during the last three years and the action taken against the offenders is given in the attached Statement.

(c) The steps taken by the Government to provide protection to peafowls are as follows :

- (i) Legal protection has been provided to wild animals including peafowls against hunting and commercial exploitation under the provisions of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.
- (ii) Peafowl is included in the schedule -I of Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 thereby according it highest degree of protection.
- (iii) The Central Bureau of Investigation has been empowered under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 to apprehend and prosecute wildlife offenders.
- (iv) Funds are provided to the State Governments for improving the habitats and providing protection of wildlife in various parts of the country.
- (v) Export of peafowl and their derivatives is prohibited under the current EXIM Policy.
- (vi) Awareness is generated amongst the farmers for using Bio-pesticides and non-poisonous chemicals in their fields. They are also advised to cover the seeds with soil immediately after sowing.
- (vii) The forest field staff have been instructed to maintain vigil in sensitive areas.

Statement

State	Year	Number killed			Remarks
		Poaching	Poisoned	Natural	
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
Haryana	1999		10		Case registered against offender under WLPA
Haryana	1999		2		

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
Haryana	2000		10		F.I.R. regd. With police
Haryana	2000	3			Case registered against offender under WLPA
Haryana	2000			5	
Rajasthan	1998	12	4		Investigation/pending in court
Rajasthan	1999	6	7		Pending in court
Rajasthan	2000	3	18		Pending in court
Rajasthan	2001		20		Chalan filed in court
Rajasthan	2001	21 cases of deaths reported in Sikar District separately on 13-2-2001 and 16-2-2001.			Case in under investigation
Delhi	99	2			Convicted (3 months imprisonment and Rs. 500/- fine)
Delhi	99			5	
W.Bengal	2000			4	
Chandigarh	2000			2	
Gujarat	98-99	10		4	1 arrest (Pending in court)
Gujarat	99-2000	9	3	15	Pending in court
Gujarat	2000-2001		4		
TN	98-99	1			2 arrested (pending in court)
Orissa	98	1			4 arrested (pending in court)
MP	1-98 to 12-2000	137	87		Cases regd. Against 125 accused in the court of law. 3 accused convicted.

*[English]***New Telephone Exchanges in Kerala**

722. SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA :

SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS
be pleased to state :

(a) the number of telephone exchanges functioning in Kerala at present, district-wise;

(b) the number of exchanges under construction in the State, location-wise;

(c) whether the Government propose to set up new telephone exchanges in the State particularly in Pathanamthitta and Alappuzha districts during 2001-2002; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) The number of telephone exchanges functioning as on 31.01.2001 in Kerala State, district-wise are given in the attached Statement-I.

(b) The number of exchanges under construction in the State are given in Statement-II.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) 50 new telephone exchanges are proposed to be opened in Kerala State during 2001-2002. Seven number of exchanges are proposed to be opened in Alappuzha and Pathanamthitta districts details given in Statement-III.

Statement-I

New telephone exchanges in Kerala.

District	Number of Exchanges functioning at present
Alappuzha	49
Calicut	70
Malappuram	63
Wynad	25
Cannanore	83
Kasaragod	50
Ernakulam	96
Idukki	74
Kottayam	72
Palaghat	84
Pathanamthitta	55
Quilon	71
Trichur	66
Trivendrum	70
Total	928

STATEMENT-II

District	Number of Exchanges under construction by March 2001
Alappuzha	1
Calicut	1
Malappuram	-
Wynad	1
Cannanore	2
Kasaragod	-
Ernakulam	3
Idukki	-
Kottayam	3
Palghat	2
Pathanamthitta	2
Quilon	4
Trichur	4
Trivendrum	9
Total	32

Statement-III

Name of Exchange	District	Type	Capacity
Mannanchery	Alappuzha	OCB RSU	1500
Venmoni	Alappuzha	5ESS RSM	2000
Cheriyanaad	Alappuzha	E10 RLU	2000
Kartikapally	Alappuzha	C-DOT MAX-XL RSU	2000
Tiruvalla Unit II	Pathanamthitta	OCB	3000
Chengarur	Pathanamthitta	OCB RSU	2000
Pazhakulam	Pathanamthitta	MAX-XL RSU	1500

Sharing of Krishna water

723. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Tamil Nadu Government is getting its share of Krishna Water as per the agreement between Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu Governments;

(b) if not, whether the Union Government propose to intervene into the matter to supply the water share of Tamil Nadu as per the agreement; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY):

(a) Tamil Nadu Government are getting its share of Krishna Water from Andhra Pradesh as per the agreement between the Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu Governments depending upon the quantum of Krishna Water available in the reservoirs of Andhra Pradesh under Telugu Ganga Project System.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

National Highways in Himachal Pradesh

724. COL (RETD.) DR. DHANI RAM SHANDIL : Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the extent of National Highways passing through the State of Himachal Pradesh;

(b) the total funds provided for their maintenance during the last three years;

(c) whether the amount allocated has been fully utilized;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor, alongwith the names of authorities responsible for it; and

(f) the details of amount allocated for repairing and construction of the totally damaged National Highway No.22 due to natural calamities in Himachal Pradesh during 2001-2002?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) SHRI B.C. KHANDURI) : (a) 8 National Highways, aggregating a length of 1239 kms. pass through the State of Himachal Pradesh.

(b) Funds provided for maintenance in the last 3 years :

	(Rs.in crore)
1997-98	20.34
1998-99	22.56
1999-2000	23.26

(c) and (d) Fully utilized.

(e) Does not arise.

(f) Budget for the year 2001-2002 is yet to be approved. Therefore, it is too early to give details at this stage.

Eco-cities

725. SHRI C.P. RADHAKRISHNAN : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to develop some cities as eco-cities in the country;

(b) if so, the name of those cities and criteria adopted for their selection; and

(c) the measures undertaken for implementation of the National Forestry Action Plan?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T. R. BAALU) : (a) and (b) Yes Sir. Seven most populated cities including Delhi, Mumbai, Calcutta, Chennai, Bangalore, Hyderabad and Ahmedabad have been selected to be developed as eco-cities. State Government agencies have been asked to draw up environmental management plans for these cities.

(c) The Government have taken various steps for the implementation of National Forestry Action Programme including the following :-

- (i) The Ministry has requested the Planning Commission to enhance allocation to the forestry sector in the annual plans of State and Central Government in the coming years for implementation of National Forestry Action Programme to achieve the desired objectives of the sustainable development of forests.
- (ii) All the State Governments have been requested to enhance allocation to forestry sector in Annual Plans of the States for implementation of State Forestry Action Programme.

- (iii) All the State Governments have been requested to form coordination committees at State level under the Chairmanship of Chief Secretary for implementation of National Forestry Action Programme.
- (iv) A compendium of project proposals has been prepared for exploring the possibility of international funding.

Completion of Dams

726. SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government have formulated any plan for the early completion of incomplete dams;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, dam-wise;
- (c) the progress made so far in the construction of dams on river Subernarekha at Chandil and Galudhi in Jharkhand; and
- (d) the time schedule fixed to complete these dams?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY):

(a) Completion of a large number of irrigation and multipurpose schemes has got delayed due to various reasons the most important of them being the paucity of funds with the State Governments. Keeping this in view Central Government launched Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programmes (AIBP) during 1996-97 to provide Central Loan Assistance (CLA) to States for their major/medium irrigation projects with the objective to accelerate the implementation of the projects which are beyond the resource capability of the States or are in an advanced stage of completion.

(b) The details of dam-wise release of Central Loan Assistance is given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) The progress of construction works of the Chandil Dam and Baludhi barrage is 97% and 98% respectively (Except for the installation of gates).

(d) Being a state subject, irrigation projects are planned, investigated, implemented and funded by the State Governments out of their own resources and as per their own priorities.

Statement

(AIBP-CLA Allocation (status as on 15-2-2001))

(Amount in Rs. Crore)

State	Sr. NO.	Project Name	CLA Release 1996-97	CLA Release 1997-98	CLA Release 1998-99	CLA Release 1999-2000	CLA Release 2000-01 upto 15/2/2001	Cumulative CLA release upto 15/2/2001
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)
Andhra Pradesh								
	1.	Sriramsagar St.I	31.500	50.000	25.000	38.000	27.720	172.220
	2.	Cheyzeru(Annamaya)	3.750	4.000	2.500	3.000	2.080	15.330
	3.	Jurala		16.500	21.500	13.000	21.000	72.000
	4.	Somasila		3.500	14.500	9.525	17.000	44.525
	5.	Nagarjunsagar			9.000	0.000	3.630	12.630
	6.	Madduvalasa			7.170	1.490	13.200	21.860
	7.	Gundalavagu					1.670	1.670
	8.	Maddigedda					1.000	1.000
	9.	Kanupur Canal					1.920	1.920
	10.	Yerrakalva Res.					2.170	2.170
Total			35.250	74.000	79.670	65.015	91.390	345.325

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)
Assam								
	1.	Pahumara	0.600	1.300	1.000	0.430	0.000	3.330
	2.	Hawaipur lift	0.875	0.000	1.000	1.090	0.000	2.965
	3.	Rupahi	0.255	0.000	0.400	0.000	0.000	0.655
	4.	Dhansiri	1.500	5.000	4.000	5.000	5.400	20.900
	5.	Champamati	1.000	1.000	1.800	1.750	3.050	8.600
	6.	Borolia	0.500	1.350	1.600	1.500	0.000	4.950
	7.	Boradikarai		1.000	1.350	0.750	1.800	4.900
	8.	Burhi Dihang		0.500	0.800	0.750	0.000	2.050
	9.	Intg. Irr. Scheme in Kollong Basin.		2.250	2.000	1.750	2.250	8.250
*	10.	Kolonga	0.500				0.000	0.500
Total			5.230	12.400	13.950	13.020	12.500	57.100
Bihar								
	1.	Western Kosi	10.000	0.000	14.635	30.570	25.000	80.205
	2.	Upper Kiul	2.500	0.000	5.100	7.625	1.200	16.425
	3.	Durgawati	1.000	0.000	1.150	11.000	0.000	13.150
	4.	Bansagar		1.500	2.000	80.000	0.000	83.500
	5.	Orini Reservoir		2.030	5.500	0.000	2.370	9.900
*	6.	Bilasi Reservoir		1.620	0.800	0.500	0.470	3.390
	7.	Sone Modernisation			7.000	0.000	16.920	23.920
Total			13.500	5.150	36.185	129.695	45.960	230.490
Chhattisgarh								
	1.	Hasdeo Bango		4.250	9.000	8.600	8.930	30.780
	2.	Shivnath Diversion		0.250	0.500	0.920	1.000	2.670
	3.	Jonk Diversion				1.000	0.000	1.000
Total			0.000	4.500	9.500	10.520	9.930	34.450
Goa								
	1.	Salauli Ph-I		5.250	0.000	3.500	3.350	12.100
	2.	Tillari					43.300	43.300
Total			0.000	5.250	0.000	3.500	46.650	55.400

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)
Gujarat								
	1.	Sardar Sarovar	71.250	177.000	410.000	267.000	300.000	1225.250
*	2.	Jhuj	1.200	1.800	1.070	0.670	0.000	4.740
	3.	Mukteshwar	0.488	2.700	0.900	1.130	2.000	7.218
*	4.	Sipu	1.635	2.900	1.800	0.120	0.000	6.455
*	5.	Damanganga		5.000	3.250	1.220	0.000	9.470
*	6.	Karjan		4.000	2.500	1.100	0.000	7.600
*	7.	Sukhi		2.000	2.650	1.000	0.000	5.650
*	8.	Deo		0.500			0.000	0.500
*	9.	Watrak		1.000	1.650	0.460	0.000	3.110
*	10.	Harnav - II	0.065				0.000	0.065
*	11.	Umaria	0.135				0.000	0.135
	12.	Aji-IV					10.350	10.350
	13.	Ozat-II					2.750	2.750
	14.	Brahmini-II					4.000	4.000
	Total		74.773	196.900	423.820	272.700	319.100	1287.293
Haryana								
	1.	Gurgaon canal	2.500	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	2.500
	2.	J. L. N. Lift Irr.		12.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	12.000
*	3.	WRCP	30.000			0.000	0.000	30.000
	4.	Hathini Kund (WRCP)					0.000	0.000
	5.	Loharu Lift					0.000	0.000
	Total		32.500	12.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	44.500
Himachal Pradesh								
	1.	Shahnehar Irr. project		6.500	5.000	14.455	5.625	31.580
	2.	Sidhata					1.500	1.500
	3.	Changer Lift					0.765	0.765
	Total		0.000	6.500	5.000	14.455	7.890	33.845
Jammu and Kashmir								
*	1.	Marwal Lift	0.300				0.000	0.300
	2.	Lethpora Lift	0.500			0.680	0.000	1.180

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)
*	3.	Koil Lift	0.500				0.000	0.500
	4.	Mod. of Ranbir Canal				2.250	5.000	7.250
	5.	Mod. of Pratap Canal				0.750	0.900	1.650
	6.	Mod. Of Kathua Canal				1.000	0.750	1.750
	7	Rajpora Lift					1.000	1.000
	8.	Tral Lift					1.000	1.000
	9.	Igophey					1.500	1.500
	Total		1.300		0.000	4.680	10.150	16.130

Jharkhand

	1.	Gumani		3.000	2.440	10.000	0.000	15.440
	2.	Torai		2.500	0.000	0.000	0.000	2.500
	3.	Latratu		0.670	1.000	0.340	0.120	2.130
	4.	Kansjore		1.850	3.250	2.130	2.330	9.580
	5.	Sonua		0.420	3.500	0.000	1.535	5.455
	6.	Surangi		0.200	1.300	1.760	1.730	4.990
	7	Tapkara Reservoir		0.250	0.150	0.115	0.000	0.515
	8.	Batane					3.335	3.335
	Total		0.000	8.890	11.640	14.345	9.050	43.925

Karnataka

	1.	Upper Krishna St.I	57.000	50.000	50.000	100.000	50.000	307.000
	2.	Malaprabha	1.500	12.000	10.000	13.500	0.000	37.000
	3.	Hirehalla	2.750	6.000	6.000	8.000	8.000	30.750
	4.	Ghataprabha		15.000	12.500	20.000	45.000	92.500
	5.	Karanja		7.500	16.000	15.640	18.000	57.140
	Total		61.250	90.500	94.500	157.140	121.000	524.390

Kerala

	1.	Kallada	3.750	15.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	18.750
	2.	Muvattupuzha					12.650	12.650
	Total		3.750	15.000	0.000	0.000	12.650	31.400

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)
Madhya Pradesh								
1.	Indira Sagar		37.500	51.000	37.500	40.000	80.000	246.000
2.	Bansagar Dam		23.250	54.000	20.000	38.000	25.000	160.250
3.	Upper Wainganga		2.500	5.000	10.000	9.830	14.000	41.330
4.	Rajghat Dam				11.500	4.375	11.928	27.803
5.	Sindh Phase II				2.250	2.120	3.865	8.235
6.	Sindh Phase I					1.000	3.500	4.500
7.	Mahi						2.170	2.170
8.	Bariarpur LBC						5.000	5.000
9.	Urmil						1.000	1.000
10.	Banjar						1.000	1.000
Total			63.250	110.000	81.250	95.325	147.483	497.288
Maharashtra								
1.	Gosikhurd		10.000	0.000	6.110	3.170	4.500	23.780
2.	Surya		2.000	5.000	0.000	3.910	2.640	13.550
3.	Waghur		2.000	5.000	10.000	0.000	10.000	27.000
4.	Bhima			12.500	19.750	12.255	0.000	44.505
5.	Upper Tapi			2.500	0.000	3.800	0.000	6.300
6.	Upper Wardha			30.000	0.000	20.000	17.655	67.655
7.	Wan				15.000	6.740	8.620	30.380
8.	Jayakwadi						8.920	8.920
9.	Vishnupuri						4.000	4.000
10.	Bahula						4.410	4.410
Total			14.000	55.000	50.860	49.875	60.745	230.480
Manipur								
1.	Khuga		4.300	6.000	4.500	9.250	0.000	24.050
2.	Thoubal			20.000	6.280	11.060	0.000	37.340
3.	Dolaithabi						0.000	0.000
Total			4.300	26.000	10.780	20.310	0.000	61.390
Meghalaya								
1.	Rangai Valley						1.280	1.280
Total							1.280	1.280

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)
Orissa								
	1.	Upper Indravati(KBK)	19.000	30.000	10.000	17.850	10.000	86.850
	2.	Rangali	9.900	20.000	50.000	28.300	17.000	125.200
	3.	Subernarekha	18.000	27.000	0.000	19.500	0.000	64.500
	4.	Anandpur Barr.	1.550	3.000	0.250	2.050	0.000	6.850
	5.	Upper Kolab(KBK)		5.000	10.000	6.900	2.350	24.250
	6.	Titlagarh St II(KBK)			1.250	0.000	3.000	4.250
	7	Lower Indira(KBK)				3.750	5.500	9.250
	8.	Lower Suktel(KBK)				3.000	2.500	5.500
	Total		48.450	85.000	71.500	81.350	40.350	326.650
Punjab								
	1.	Ranjit Sagar Dam	67.500	100.000	0.000	42.000	0.000	209.500
	2.	Remodelling of UBDC					0.000	0.000
	Total		67.500	100.000	0.000	42.000	0.000	209.500
Rajasthan								
	1.	Jaismand (Modernisation)	0.925	1.000	1.000	0.125	0.075	3.125
	2.	Chhapi	1.750	2.500	5.500	4.000	0.900	14.650
	3.	Panchana		2.500	1.120	3.520	3.497	10.637
	4.	IGNP Stage-II		36.000	74.000	50.000	25.780	185.780
*	5.	Bisalpur			30.430	11.130	0.000	41.560
	6.	Narmada Canal			23.000	13.320	0.000	36.320
	7	Gambhiri (Modernisation)			1.000	0.000	0.315	1.315
	8.	Chauli			4.000	7.900	0.460	12.360
	9.	Mahi Bajaj Sagar				16.870	14.130	30.800
	Total		2.675	42.000	140.050	106.665	45.157	336.547
Tamilnadu								
*	1.	WRCP	20.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	20.000
	Total		20.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	20.000

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)
Tripura								
	1.	Manu	1.313	2.000	1.175	2.890	1.500	8.878
	2.	Gumti	1.560	2.200	1.850	1.945	1.845	9.400
	3.	Khowai	0.900	0.900	0.950	1.465	1.500	5.715
	Total		3.773	5.100	3.975	6.300	4.845	23.993
Uttar Pradesh								
	1.	Sarda Sahayak	15.000	10.000	16.000	40.000	50.000	131.000
	2.	Sarju Nahar	9.000	17.500	20.000	54.000	22.500	123.000
	3.	Upper Ganga including Madhya Ganga Canal	15.000	17.500	20.000	28.000	32.640	113.140
	4.	Providing Kharif Channel in H.K. Doab	0.500	3.000	4.000	10.000	13.500	31.000
	5.	Bansagar		10.000	16.500	38.000	16.360	80.860
	6.	Lakhwar Vyasi		20.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	20.000
	7.	Tehri				96.000	49.500	145.500
	8.	Gyanpur Pump Canal				12.000	5.200	17.200
	9.	Eastern Ganga Canal				8.000	4.000	12.000
*	10.	Rajghat Dam	3.000				0.000	3.000
*	11.	Gunta Nala Dam	1.000			0.000	0.000	1.000
	Total		43.500	78.000	76.500	286.000	193.700	677.700
West Bengal								
	1.	Teesta Barrage	5.000	15.000	10.000	19.000	0.000	49.000
	2.	Kangsabati		4.000	0.000	6.000	2.500	12.500
	3.	Mod. Barrage and Irri. System of DVC		1.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	1.000
	4.	Tatko					0.625	0.625
	5.	Patloi					0.700	0.700
	6.	Hunumanta					0.500	0.500
	Total		5.000	20.000	10.000	25.000	4.325	64.325
Total CLA released for Major and Medium Sector			500.000	952.190	1119.180	1397.895	1184.135	5153.400
Total CLA released for Minor Sector						62.707	23.595	86.302
Grand Total			500.000	952.190	1119.180	1460.602	1207.730	5239.702

* the project is not under AIBP now

[Translation]

Telephone Exchange in Hilly and Inaccessible Areas

727. SHRI MAHESHWAR SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of the telephone exchanges targetted to be set up in hilly and inaccessible areas during the current financial year, State-wise;

(b) the places where telephone exchanges could not be set up due to non-supply of M.C.P.C. and other equipments in time, State-wise; and

(c) the steps taken to achieve the target?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) It is proposed to set up 299 telephone exchanges in the hilly and inaccessible areas during the current financial year. The State-wise targets are given below :-

Assam	=	4
Bihar	=	13
Himachal Pradesh	=	75
J&K	=	30
Karnataka	=	12
Madhya Pradesh	=	20
Maharashtra	=	67
North East	=	40
Arunachal Pradesh	=	2
Manipur	=	3
Meghalaya	=	11
Mizoram	=	10
Nagaland	=	4
Tripura	=	10
Orissa	=	22
West Bengal	=	11
Sikkim	=	5

There are no plans for hilly /inaccessible areas, if any, in the remaining States.

(b) The State-wise information is given in the attached statement.

(c) The procurement action has already been taken . Purchase orders have been issued. The equipments are under field evaluation for M/s PCL/PDISL, Chandigarh. The equipments are yet to be supplied by M/s PCL/PDISL, Chandigarh and ITI, Bangalore.

Statement

State-wise list of places where MCPC V-SATs are required to set up new exchanges

S. No.	Name of State	Name of Places
(1)	(2)	(3)
1	Bihar	Mahua Tand, Garoo, Ramgarh, Bqrio, Karron, Kundhit, Masalia, Kumarduggi, Adhaura. (Total = 9)
2	Himachal Pradesh	Thirot, Khoksar, Dhankar, Chitkul, Syabung, Chiuni, Sada Gussain, Sudhar, Goma, Sainj Khud, Pul Bahal, Manioti, Sarpara, Dhambari. (Total = 14)
3	Madhya Pradesh	Chhindi, Satrenga, Longi, Salhebera, Rengakherka, Srakheda, Kikirmeta, Khoksapare, Johrapadar, Urmal, Sulesa, Kuma, Kindha, Khamhar, Bhatrakachhar, Katekalyan, Girola, Vishrampur, Jaitpur and Salbardi. (Total = 20)
4.	Maharashtra	Sheloshi, Vishalgad, Anuskura, Gajapur, Barvidam and Hajiimalangwadi. (Total = 6)

(1)	(2)	(3)
5	North-East (including States of Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland and Tripura)	Yachali(AP), Niyapin(AP), Tengkingaon(AP), Sugnu (MN), Kassemkhullen(MN), Saikul(MN), Kakching Khunao(MN), Kharkhuta(MG), Lumshnong(MG), Ranikor(MG), Dainadubi(MG), Chockpot(MG), Noklok(NG), Tobu(NG), Tenning(NG) and Chawmanu(TP). (Total = 16)
6	Rajasthan	Dangri, Awai, Randha, Hiyzaler, Kot and Mandrayal. (Total = 6)
7	Uttar Pradesh (West)	Degan Chola, Sheraghat, Kanda, Nagthat, Lakhwar, Lakhamandal and Ghutta. (Total = 7)

[English]

Kosi Dam

728. SHRI RAMCHANDRA PASWAN : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that due to non- completion of Kosi dam on Darjhia Phuia (Bihar) the farmers living on the banks of Kosi river are suffering; and

(b) if so, the steps the Government propose to take to provide adequate financial assistance to the State Government for the completion of the said dam in the time bound programme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY):
(a) and (b) There is an ongoing embankment scheme of construction of embankment along river Kamla – Balan at Darjhia – Phuia (Bihar) for protection from flood. The work is already undertaken by Govt. of Bihar out of its own State plan fund. The issue of providing financial assistance to Govt. of Bihar for the completion of this embankment scheme is not under consideration of the Govt. of India

Irrigation facilities in Bihar

729. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether proper irrigation facilities are not available in Bihar;

(b) if so, whether rivers that originate from Himalayan region of Nepal cause havoc;

(c) if so, the steps the Government propose to take to dig more wells, tubewells to create irrigation facilities in the State;

(d) whether any proposals to construct Dams to tame the rivers emanating from Nepal to check devastation and to harness the water for better and useful purposes; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY):
(a) and (c) Out of the ultimate irrigation potential of 13347 thousand hectares for the United Bihar State, 8124 thousand hectares have been created till March 2000. Development of irrigation facilities, including ground water development, is done by the states themselves as per their priorities with provision of necessary funds.

(b), (d) and (e) The rivers originating from Himalayan region of Nepal cause floods in Uttar Pradesh and North Bihar. The issue of construction of dams on river Kamalabalan, Kosi and other rivers originating from Nepal was discussed at the Secretary level from 1st to 3rd October, 2000 during the meeting of the Joint Committee on Water Resources wherein the two sides agreed to hold talks at expert level and decided about opening up of project/field offices for preparation of Detailed Project Report (DPR) of Sapt Kosi High Dam Project. For Pancheshwar Multipurpose Project on river Mahakali (Sarda in India) an India-Nepal Joint Project Office has already been opened in Kathmandu in December 1999 with the mandate of preparing of joint DPR. As decided in the Secretary level meeting, an Indian team has visited Nepal for jointly identifying projects relating to development of small/medium hydropower projects in Nepal for mutual benefit.

Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose Academy , Patiala

730. DR. NITISH SENGUPTA : Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose Academy, Patiala, a deemed University, has been brought under the administrative control of the Sports Authority of India;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether there is any proposal to delink it from the Sports Authority of India; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI PON. RADHAKRISHNAN) : (a) and (b) The Netaji Subhash National Institute of Sports, Patiala is not a deemed University. It is functioning as an Institute under the control of Sports Authority of India.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Telephone Connections in U.P.

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

(a) the number of persons on the waiting list for Telephone connections in each Telephone Exchange of Azamgarh and Mau Districts of Uttar Pradesh as on January 31st, 2001; and

(b) the steps taken by the Government to clear the waiting list?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) The number of persons on waiting list for telephone connections in each Telephone Exchange of Azamgarh and Mau districts of Uttar Pradesh as on January 31st, 2001 are placed in the given statements I and II attached.

(b) The following steps have been taken to clear the waiting list.

(i) Exchanges are planned to be expanded to clear the waiting list

(ii) OFC is planned to open new exchanges in rural areas.

(iii) U/G cable is also planned for removing nonfeasible pockets in the network.

Statement-I

Waiting List of Azamgarh U.P. (E)

S. No.	Name of Exchange	Waiting List
(1)	(2)	(3)
1	Ahiraulla	85
2	Ambari	54
3	Anjanshaheed	33
4	Atraulia	58
5	Amuwari(NE)	5
6	Azamgarh Rly. Stn.	961
7	Azamgarh	
8	Bankat	48
9	Bardah	41
10	Bilarmau (Katar)	60
11	Bilariyaganj	68
12	Bindawal	23
13	Bardeeha(NE)	16
14	Bindra Bazar	215
15	Chandpatti	271
16	Chapra Sultanpur	49
17	Cheota (NE)	
18	Chittepur	88
19	Didarganj	148
20	Devgaon	259
21	Durvasa(NE)	22
22	Fariha	111
23	Gopalganj	14
24	Gosai ki Bazar	11
25	Haraiya(NE)	65
26	Jahanaganj	85
27	Jeanpur	221
28	Kanchanpur	28
29	Kandhrapur	35
30	Kaptanganj	37
31	Kauria	23

Statement-II*Waiting List of Mau district UP (E)*

(1)	(2)	(3)
32	Kanhani	28
33	Koilsa	48
34	Lahideeh	40
35	Lalganj	146
36	Lalghat	126
37	Maharajganj	1
38	Mahul	208
39	Martinganj	24
40	Mehnagar	105
41	Mehnajpur	29
42	Mubarakpur	471
43	Mittupur(NE)	80
44	Manjhari	48
45	Nainizor(NE)	21
46	Nandawan(NE)	13
47	Nizamabad	350
48	Palhana	19
49	Pawai	71
50	Phulpur	375
51	Rani ki Sarai	76
52	Ramgarh(NE)	26
53	Sanjarpur	122
54	Sarai Meer	244
55	Sardaha	27
56	Sathiawan	41
57	Senpur	16
58	Singhpur	14
59	Sumbhi Bazar	16
60	Tahbarpur	45
61	Tarwa	36
62	Thekma	107
Total		6107

S. No.	Name of Exchange	Waiting List
(1)	(2)	(3)
1	Adari	0
2	Ailak	0
3	Amila - A	4
4	Amila - B	
5	Atar Sawan	7
6	Baragaon	0
7	Bojhee - A	19
8	Bojhee - B	
9	Chakara	0
10	Chiraiyakot	0
11	Doharighat	10
12	Dubari	124
13	Ghosi	35
14	Haldharpur	0
15	Hathini	0
16	Kalyanpur	15
17	Karha - A	35
18	Karha - B	
19	Karisath	0
20	Khurhat	0
21	Kurthizafer Pur	0
22	Kushmaur	0
23	Kopaganj	0
24	Madhuban	15
25	Maryadpur - A	85
26	Maryadpur - B	
27	Mau	90
28	Mau Indust. Area	0

(1)	(2)	(3)
29	Mohmdabad	0
30	Nadava Sarai	0
31	Piprideeh	0
32	Piparsath	0
33	Ranipur	2
34	Ratanpura	0
35	Sarsena	0
36	Semari Jamalpur	32
37	Sipah	30
38	Suggichauri	10
39	Surajpur - A	12
40	Surajpur - B	
41	Sultanpur	4
Total		529

[Translation]

Concession in Air Fare for Aged Women

732. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR KHANDELWAL : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are contemplating to give concession in the air fare to the women aged above sixty years;

(b) if so, the percentage of the proposed concession likely to be given and the time by which it is proposed to be made effective; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) to (c) No, Sir. Indian Airlines gives 50% discount on fare, to women above 63 years of age.

[English]

Establishment of Natural Park in Visakhapatnam

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

(a) whether any decision has been taken for establishment of a Natural Park in Visakhapatnam Forest Area in Kambalakonda in Hyderabad ;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons for the delay in giving clearance to this Park?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) to (c) The Chief Wildlife Warden, Andhra Pradesh has informed that it has been decided to develop an area of 6037.33 hectare in Kambalakonda Forest Block as Nature Park, in order to preserve and improve the natural flora and fauna in the area at an estimated cost of Rs. 20 crores. Since Nature Park is not a legally recognised entity, which can be funded by the Central Government, the State Government has been advised to consider notifying the area as a wildlife sanctuary. The Central Government would be in a position to provide assistance for development of the sanctuary in a phased manner, once it has been notified as a sanctuary.

NALCO's hold on Aluminium Market

734. SHRI ANADI SAHU : Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the National Aluminium Company Ltd. (NALCO) is losing its hold on the aluminium market inside the country and abroad;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps the Government propose to take to boost the production and marketing of aluminium in the country and abroad?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI JAYSINGRAO GAIKWAD PATIL) : (a) to (c) The share of NALCO in the domestic market and the export of aluminium during the last three years is as under :-

Year	Domestic Market Share	Export of Aluminium in Metric Tonne(MT)
1997-98	26%	55,475
1998-99	18%	39,865
1999-2000	22%	95,185

The projected export for 2000-2001 is estimated as 1,20,000 MT. The share of NALCO in domestic market has varied from year to year in recent past but the export of aluminium from NALCO has increased progressively except the year 1998-99 which was a bad year for NALCO due to the pot line failures in Aluminium Smelter. Thus NALCO is not losing hold on the aluminium market in the

domestic market or in the quantum of the export sale of aluminium metal. NALCO is in a position to sell its product whether in domestic or in international market depending upon the best possible realisation. In order to increase the production of aluminium, Government has already approved the expansion of capacity of NALCO for production of aluminium from 2,30,000 Tonnes Per Year (TPY) to 3,45,000 TPY which is scheduled to be completed in May, 2002.

Task Force for North Eastern Region Airports

735. SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Task force set up by the Government for improvement of Airport Infrastructure and air-link in the NER has submitted its report;

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

(c) the steps taken by the Government to implement the recommendations of the Task Force; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) Major recommendations relate to :

- i) Development of airport infrastructure viz. construction of runways, terminal buildings, installation of modern navigational systems, etc.
- ii) improvement in air services i.e. airlinking capitals of all the North Eastern States, induction of 50 seater aircraft; and
- iii) tax concessions, and creation of Civil Aviation Development Fund, to make air services economically viable.

(c) and (d) The Report has been forwarded to all concerned including the State Governments and the follow-up action is being review periodically. Action on many of the recommendations has already been completed.

Attack on Parassinikkadavn Snake Park

736. SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any complaint has been received against the attack on Parassinikkadavn Snake Park of Kannur district of Kerala;

(b) If so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any inquiry has been ordered in this regard; and

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

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. A complaint has been received regarding seizure of animals in the Snake Park of Kannur district of Kerala. According to the report received from the State Government, animals of the park kept illegally by park owner were seized by State Government officials under the provisions of Wildlife (Protection) Act. After seizure, it was planned to take the animals to safer places under the supervision of a team of experienced veterinarians. However, the seized animals could not be moved to the places as planned due to extraordinary delay in the Judicial process spanning over more than 50 hours. Hon'ble High Court of Kerala has directed that the animals be kept in the Park itself under the supervision of forest official till a final view has been taken by the Court in the matter.

[Translation]

Industries under Pollution Control

737. MOHD SHAHABUDDIN : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state the details of the industries falling under F, F-27 and F-42 categories of pollution control in the country?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : No such categorization of industries has been done for the country. However, following 17 categories of highly polluting industries have been identified which are closely monitored by the Central Pollution Control Board and the State Pollution Control Boards for control of pollution from these industries :-

- | | |
|-------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. Aluminium | 10. Caustic |
| 2. Cement | 11. Copper |
| 3. Distillery | 12. Dyes & Dye Intermediates |
| 4. Fertilizer | 13. Iron & Steel |
| 5. Leather | 14. Pesticides |
| 6. Petrochemicals | 15. Pharmaceuticals |
| 7. Pulp & Paper | 16. Refinery |
| 8. Sugar | 17. Thermal Power Plant |
| 9. Zinc | |

Supply of Equipments

738. SHRI RAGHURAJ SINGH SHAKYA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to supply necessary equipments for setting up telephone exchanges in rural areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time by which the said equipments are likely to be supplied;

(d) the number of villages in remote areas having tower telephone facility in the country; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to tone up the said facility in remote areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government has planned to set up Small and Medium capacity exchanges to provide telephone connections in rural areas. These exchanges are State of Art digital Electronic Exchanges based on C-DOT design. Transmission media of adequate capacity is also planned to provide reliable connectivity to the exchanges working in rural areas. The Department has taken all necessary action for supply of exchange equipments and other essential equipments such as power plant, battery, MDF and underground cable for successful installation in rural areas. The Government plans to install 3431 exchanges in rural areas in the current year with the switching capacities of 25.82 lakh lines to provide 14.2 lakh DELs (Direct Exchange Lines).

(c) The said equipments are likely to be supplied by March, 2001.

(d) The number of villages in remote areas having tower telephone facility in the country are 2,10,791 as on 31/1/2001.

(e) AMC has been awarded to firms. Task force teams and Flying squads have been set up at Circle levels for quick maintenance. Repair centers are being opened in strategic locations. Old and unserviceable MARR systems are planned to be replaced gradually.

[English]

Tank Improvement Project in Karnataka

739. SHRI IQBAL AHMEDSARADGI :

SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ :

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Karnataka Government has forwarded a project report to the Government for seeking World Bank assistance to Karnataka Govt. for Tank Improvement Project;

(b) if so, whether the Government have sent the proposal to the World Bank for consideration;

(c) if so, whether the World Bank has agreed to provide assistance to this project; and

(d) the time by which the said assistance is likely to be provided to the Karnataka Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY):

(a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) The Karnataka Tank Improvement Project estimated to cost Rs.946.47 crores was posed to the World Bank in October, 2000. At present the World Bank is in the process of project preparation through its missions. Subsequent negotiations and signing of the agreement depends upon the response of Govt. of Karnataka on the suggestions of the World Bank.

Multi Model International Passenger and Cargo Hub at Nagpur Airport

740. SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT :

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have approved the proposal for the construction of a Multi Model International Passenger and Cargo Hub at Nagpur Airport;

(b) if so, whether the contract for conducting the techno economic feasibility survey has been awarded to M/s. Larson and Toubro led consortium; and

(c) if so, the time by which survey report is expected to be received?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) to (c) No, Sir. However, Government of Maharashtra has constituted a high level steering committee for development of Multimodel International hub at Nagpur. Maharashtra State Road Development Corp.(MSRDC) has appointed M/s L&T- Ramboll Engineers Ltd. as Consultants for carrying out the Techno-

Economic Feasibility Study. The report is likely to be submitted by August, 2001.

Withdrawal of flights by Indian Airlines

741. SHRI T. GOVINDAN : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Indian Airlines has withdrawn flights from various sectors during the last three years; and

(b) if so, the details and reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) and (b) A statement-I indicating the sectors de-linked on the domestic network during the period 1998 to 2000 and reasons therefor is attached. Details of the new sectors introduced during the same period is also attached as Statement-II.

Statement-I

Sectors de-linked on the domestic network during the period 1998 to 2000 and reasons therefor

Sectors delinked	Frequency/ Aircraft	W.e.f.	Remarks
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
Bangalore-Calicut	3 A320	Jan.98	Repositioning of flight from Bangalore to Calicut- Low passenger demand.
Guwahati-Lilabari	2 D228	Sept.98	Repositioning of D228 aircraft from Kolkata Base to Delhi- Low passenger demand.
Guwahati-Dimapur	3 D228	Sep.98	Repositioning of D228 aircraft from Kolkata Base to Delhi- Low passenger demand.
Kolkata-Ranchi	2 A320	Dec.98	Low passenger demand.
Aizwal-Guwahati	3 D228	Jan.99	Introduction of B737 services to Aizwal w.e.f. Dec.98. Repositioning of Dornier aircraft from Kolkata to Delhi.

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
Chennai-Puttaparthi	2 B737	July 99	Low passenger demand. Average passenger per flight 30.
Jabalpur-Bhopal	2 D228	Nov.99	Route restructuring/ New service introduced on Delhi-Gwalior-Jabalpur route.
Aurangabad-Udaipur	7 B737	Nov.99	Route restructuring and low passenger demand.
Aurangabad-Jaipur	7 B737	Nov.99	Route restructuring and low passenger demand.
Kolkata-Pune	3 B737	Nov.99	Route restructuring and low passenger demand.
Ahmedabad-Pune	3 B737	Nov.99	Route restructuring and low passenger demand.
Ahmedabad-Chennai	3 B737	Nov.99	Route restructuring and low passenger demand.
Chennai-Pune	3 B737	Nov.99	Route restructuring and low passenger demand.
Chennai-Goa	3 A320	Nov.99	Route restructuring and low passenger demand. Average passenger per flight 30.
Mumbai-Pune	6 A320	Oct.00	Low passenger demand.
Chennai-Nagpur-Bhopal	2 B737	Oct.00	Low passenger demand.
Jodhpur-Jaisalmer (seasonal)	3 B737	Oct.00	Route restructuring Udaipur-Jaisalmer linked).

Statement-II
New sectors introduced on domestic network

Sector	Date of Introduction	Freq.wkly/ A/C
Delhi-Vizag	23/9/98	3 B737
Mumbai-Jaisalmer	26/10/98	3 B737
Mumbai-Raipur	26/10/98	3 B737
Ahmedabad-Pune**	26/10/98	3 B737
Calcutta-Pune**	26/10/98	3 B737
Mumbai-Varanasi	1/12/98	7 A320
Aizwal-Imphal	12/12/98	2 B737
Delhi-Simla	12/3/99	3 D228
Delhi-Kulu	12/3/99	3 D228
Mumbai-Lucknow	29/3/99	D A320
Mumbai-Patna	29/3/99	D A320
Mumbai-Ranchi	29/3/99	D A320
Delhi-Coimbatore	29/3/99	D A320
Delhi-Calicut	29/3/99	D A320
Lucknow-Varanasi	29/3/99	D A320
Delhi-Jabalpur	11/6/99	2 D228
Jabalpur-Bhopal**	11/6/99	2 D228
Delhi-Dehradun	16/9/99	3 D228
Delhi-Dharamshala	16/9/99	3 D228
Bangalore-Coimbatore	1/11/99	D B737
Gwalior-Jabalpur	1/11/99	3 D228
Mumbai-Jammu	1/11/99	D A320
Mumbai-Srinagar	1/11/99	D A320
Mumbai-Pune	1/11/99*	6 A320
Chennai-Bhopal	26/3/2000*	2 B737
Chennai-Nagpur	26/3/2000*	2 B737
Bhopal-Nagpur	26/3/2000*	2 B737
Goa-Agra(one way)	29/10/2000	2 A320
Udaipur-Jaisalmer	29/10/2000	3 B737

(*) Delinked eff. Oct,2000

(**) Dlinkd eff. 1/11/99

**Model Concession Agreement for
Construction of NHDP**

742. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE : Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to make changes in model concession agreement for construction of National Highways Development Project to guarantee minimum rate of return to private investors;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the other steps proposed by the Government to attract private sector investment in road sector?

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) Government has already provided a number of incentives for private sector such as tax holiday for five years and 30% tax deduction for another five years, duty free import of construction equipment, capital subsidy upto 40% in Build-Operate-Transfer Agreements on case-to-case basis, etc. In addition, annuity approach whereby the entrepreneur is assured a fixed annual sum to recover the investment, is also being adopted.

[Translation]

Fund for National Highways in Bihar

743. SHRI RAJO SINGH : Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the extent of amount proposed to be spent on National Highways in Bihar during the year 2001-2002,

(b) item-wise amount proposed to be spent on construction of roads, culverts and on increasing the number of lanes; and

(c) the total amount proposed to be spent on the projects of National Highways passing through Bihar State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) SHRI B.C. KHANDURI) : (a) to (c) Since the budget for the year 2001-2002 is yet to be presented and passed by the Parliament, it is not possible to indicate the

amount proposed to be spent on National Highways for Bihar State.

[English]

Assistance to Irrigation Projects in Andhra Pradesh

744. SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the present wastage of water and to develop irrigation on a large scale is considered as one of the major problem in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, whether the Government have agreed to help and assist the State in improving major irrigation projects; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY):

(a) to (c) Due to non-implementation of major projects on Godavari like Inchampalli and Polavaram in Andhra Pradesh, there is wastage of Godavari waters to the sea. These projects involve inter-state issues with Maharashtra, Chhattisgarh and Orissa like submergence. With a view to resolve the inter-state issues, a High Level Committee under Member (Water Planning & Projects), Central Water Commission has been set up with members from the concerned states.

The Centre is providing central loan assistance under Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme (AIBP) for early completion of major ongoing irrigation projects in Andhra Pradesh viz. Nagarjunasagar, Sriramsagar stage-I, Somasila and Jurala.

Purchase of Switching Equipment by C-DOT

745. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Department of Telecommunications and Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited have placed orders with multi-national companies for hardware and software separately;

(b) if so, whether the same procedure is adopted by the C-Dot also for purchase of switching equipments;

(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) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) The eligible bidders as per terms and conditions of C-DOT and New Technology Switching Tenders are Indian companies registered to manufacture the tendered items in India.

The orders for Switching Equipment comprising both C-DOT and New Technology are placed as a complete package on L1 evaluated prices in Indian Rupees on all eligible bidders. This ordering package is based on the quote of the bidder.

[Translation]

Licences to Private Companies for Domestic Flights

746. SHRI P.R. KHUNTE : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) the number of private companies provided licences for operating domestic flights, company-wise; and

(b) the number of private companies proposed to be provided licences for operating domestic flights in the domestic sector, company-wise alongwith the details of sectors likely to be covered?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) At present, two private companies viz. M/s.Jet Airways and M/s.Sahara Airlines have permit to operate domestic scheduled air services.

(b) Consideration of proposals to commence airline operations is an on-going process. At present, applications received from two private companies namely, M/s.Crown Express Pvt.Ltd. and M/s.Ahmedabad Aviation and Aeronautics Ltd. for obtaining 'No Objection Certificate' for operation of scheduled air services in the country are under consideration with reference to the provisions of the guidelines on the subject. The following four applications are pending for want of information/clarification :

- i) M/s. Shree Raj Travels & Tours;
- ii) M/s. Royal Chinar Airlines;
- iii) M/s Asian Airlines; and
- iv) Government of Arunachal Pradesh.

Besides, M/s. Stallion Airlines who had been given NOC on 8.4.1997 has sought extension in NOC which is also under examination. NOC was also given to M/s. Modiluft Ltd. on 29.2.2000 subject to certain conditions.

Under the existing guidelines airlines are free to operate on any sector in their commercial judgement subject of course to compliance with the Route Dispersal

Guidelines which provide for certain minimum operations in specified category of routes.

Illegal Quarrying Bauxite and Kheria

747. SHRI RAMANAND SINGH : Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the illegal quarrying being carried out in the Bauxite and Kheria(Chalk) quarries despite the completion of their lease period in Satna district of Madhya Pradesh; and

(b) the action being taken by the Government to check the illegal quarrying?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI JAYSINGRAO GAIKWAD PATIL) : (a) and (b) Under the provisions of Mineral Concession Rules, 1960 (MCR), if the application for renewal of mining lease is made twelve months prior to the expiry of the lease period, the existing mining lease continues till the concerned State Government disposes of the application for renewal of the mining lease.

Responsibility for checking illegal mining, if any, rests with the State Governments. Several provisions exist in the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 to curb illicit mining. Moreover, to further strengthen the provisions in this regard, under recently introduced Section 23C of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957, State Governments have been empowered to make rules for preventing illegal mining.

[English]

Flood Control

748. SHRI M.K. SUBBA : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether a coordination meeting of ministers in charge of flood control in Assam and other States in the North Eastern region, was held recently in Guwahati; and

(b) if so, the decisions arrived at the meeting and the action plan formulated to control flood menace ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) It has been decided in the meeting that all possible help and cooperation would be extended by the Ministry of Water Resources Government of India for mitigating the menacing flood problem in the North-

Eastern region. It was informed that the Centre has formulated a Centrally Sponsored Scheme amounting to Rs. 55.56 crore for flood management in Brahmaputra and Barak Valleys for the remaining two years of IX Plan. Regarding comprehensive watershed management in the hilly region, it was decided that the matter be referred to the Ministry of Agriculture for necessary action.

[Translation]

Constitution of National Highways Authority of India

749. PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the date of constitution of National Highways Authority of India alongwith its functions, powers and responsibilities;

(b) the names of the present members of the authority;

(c) the area justified to be taken over by N.H.A.I. on both sides of the National Highways;

(d) whether it has been properly demarcated along National Highways;

(e) whether farmers have been paid compensation for the land or buildings from them and the houses falling under this area are likely to be demolished; and

(f) the reasons for stoppage of work under construction, non-completion of work in time and delay in construction work on Ratanpur stretch of National Highway No. 8 by N.H.A.I?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) SHRI B.C. KHANDURI) : (a) The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) was constituted by an Act of Parliament in 1988 (No.68 of 1988), which came into force on 15th June, 1989. The functions, powers and responsibilities of the Authority are given in the Statement-I attached.

(b) The names of the present Members of the Authority are given in the statement-II attached.

(c) and (d) NHAI requires land on the basis of nature of facilities to be provided. Usually, the land is required in a strip of 45-60m width depending upon site conditions and project requirements.

(e) Compensation is paid on the basis of assessment of Competent Authority in accordance with the provisions of National Highways Act, 1956. Efforts are made to ensure that the need for demolition of buildings is minimal and compensation paid is adequate.

(f) The development/construction of Udaipur-Ratanpur Section of National Highway-8 in Rajasthan is to be taken up only after award of works which is likely by June, 2001. Therefore, the question of stoppage of work does not arise at this stage.

Statement-I

Functions, Powers and Responsibilities of the Authority as per the National Highways Authority of India Act, 1988.

Functions

- (1) Subject to the rules made by the Central Government in this behalf, it shall be the function of the Authority to develop, maintain and manage the national highways and any other highways vested in, or entrusted to, it by the Government.
- (2) Without prejudice to the generality of the provisions contained in sub-section (1), the Authority may, for the discharge of its functions :-
 - (a) survey, develop, maintain and manage highways vested in or entrusted to it;
 - (b) construct offices or workshops and establish and maintain hotels, motels, restaurants and rest-rooms at or near the highways vested in or entrusted to it;
 - (c) construct residential buildings and townships for its employees;
 - (d) regulate and control the plying of vehicles on the highways vested in, or entrusted to, it for the proper management thereof;
 - (e) develop and provide consultancy and construction services in India and abroad and carry on research activities in relation to the development, maintenance and management of highways or any facilities thereat;
 - (f) provide such facilities and amenities for the users of the highways vested in, or entrusted to, it as are, in the opinion of the Authority, necessary for the smooth flow of traffic on such highways;

(g) form one or more companies under the Companies Act, 1956 (1 of 1956) to further the efficient discharge of the functions imposed on it by this Act;

(h) engage, or entrust any of its functions to, any corporation or body corporate owned or controlled by the Government;

(i) advise the Central Government on matters relating to highways;

(j) assist, on such terms and conditions as may be mutually agreed upon, any State Government in the formulation and implementation of schemes for highway development.

(k) collect fees on behalf of the Central Government for services or benefits rendered under section 7 of the National Highways Act, 1956, as amended from time to time, and such other fees on behalf of the State Governments on such terms and conditions as may be specified by such State Governments; and

(l) take all such steps as may be necessary or convenient for, or may be incidental to, the exercise of any power or the discharge of any function conferred or imposed on it by this Act.

(3) Nothing contained in this section shall be construed as :-

(a) authorising the disregard by the Authority of any law for the time being in force; or

(b) authorising any person to institute any proceeding in respect of a duty or liability to which the Authority or its officers or other employees would not otherwise be subject under this Act.

Powers and Responsibilities

1. Any land required by the Authority for discharging its functions under this Act shall be deemed to be land needed for a public purpose and such land may be acquired for the Authority under the provisions of the National Highways Act, 1956 (48 of 1956).
2. Investment of Funds - The Authority may invest its funds (including any reserve fund) in the

securities of the Central Government or in such other manner as may be prescribed.

3. Borrowing Powers of the Authority

(1) The Authority may, with the consent of the Central Government or in accordance with the terms of any general or special authority given to it by the Central Government, borrow money from any source by the issue of bonds, debentures or such other instruments as it may deem fit for discharging all or any of its functions under this Act.

(2) Subject to such limits as the Central Government may, from time to time, lay down the Authority may borrow temporarily by way of overdraft or otherwise, such amounts as it may require for discharging its functions under this Act.

(3) The Central Government may guarantee in such manner as it thinks fit the repayment of the principal and the payment of interest thereon with respect to the borrowings made by the Authority under sub-section (1).

4. **Power for the Authority to Undertake Certain Works** - The Authority may undertake to carry out on behalf of the Government or any local authority any works or services or any class of works or services on such terms and conditions as may be agreed upon between the Authority and the Government or local authority concerned.

5. **Powers to Enter** - Subject to any regulations made in this behalf any person, generally or specially authorised by the Authority in this behalf may, whenever it is necessary so to do for any of the purposes of this Act at all reasonable times, enter upon any land or premises, and -

- a. make any inspection, survey, measurement, valuation or enquiry;
- b. take levels;
- c. dig or bore into sub-soil;
- d. set out boundaries and intended lines of work;

e. mark such levels, boundaries and lines by placing marks and cutting trenches; or

f. do such other acts or things as may be prescribed.

Provided that no such person shall enter any boundary or any enclosed court or garden attached to a dwelling house (except with the consent of the occupier thereof) without previously giving such occupier at least twenty-four hours' notice in writing of his intention to do so.

6. **Budget** - The Authority shall prepare, in such form and at such time in each financial year as may be prescribed, its budget for the next financial year, showing the estimated receipts and expenditure of the Authority and forward the same to the Central Government.

7. **Annual Report** - The Authority shall prepare, in such form and at such time in each financial year as may be prescribed, its annual report, giving a full account of its activities during the previous financial year, and submit a copy thereof to the Central Government.

Statement - II

The composition of the Authority as on date is as under :-

(1) Shri Deepak Dasgupta - Chairman

Full Time Members

(2) Shri Hardeepak Singh - Member (Finance)

(3) Shri R.L. Koul - Member (Private Investment)

(4) Shri N. K. Sinha - Member (Technical)

(5) Shri Mukesh Kacker - Member (Administration)

Ex-Officio part-time Members

1. Dr. N.C. Saxena, Secretary, Planning Commission

2. Shri C.M. Vasudev, Secretary, Ministry of Finance, Department of Expenditure

3. Shri Ashoke Joshi, Secretary, Ministry of Road Transport and Highways

4. Shri S.C. Sharma, Director General (Road Development) and Additional Secretary, Ministry of Road Transport and Highways

[English]

Highway Projects in Karnataka

750. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR : Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether some projects are being implemented with aid of external agencies in Karnataka;
- (b) if so, the details of external aided projects; and
- (c) the details of the National Highway projects in the State which are being implemented with Central allocation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) SHRI B.C. KHANDURI) : (a) No projects on National Highways are at present under implementation with external assistance in Karnataka.

- (b) Does not arise.

(c) Seventy-six works, costing Rs.188.27 crores, are currently in progress in the State of Karnataka out of Central allocation.

Telephone Exchanges

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

- (a) whether several exchanges connected by optical Fibre Cables (OFC) is performing poorly in Bihar;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether number of rural telephone exchanges in the district of Saran, Chapra in Bihar are not functioning properly;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether large number of sanctioned telephone connections are pending due to lack of planning and poor administrative management and scarcity of material;
- (f) if so, the details thereof; and
- (g) the steps taken by the Government to update and expand the existing telephone exchanges in the State particularly in Chapra district?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. Exchanges connected by OFC are generally performing satisfactorily. Sometimes working is affected due to interruptions on OFC route, long power supply interruptions etc.

(c) and (d) Exchanges are working properly. However, problem exists with the exchanges connected on unreliable media like O/H lines etc.

- (e) No, Sir.

- (f) Not applicable in view of (e) above.

(g) The capacity addition and opening of new telephone exchanges in rural areas is in progress. During the current financial year, additional 2,05,674 lines have already been added and 186 new exchanges have been opened upto 31/1/2001. In Chapra SSA capacity addition upto 31/1/2001 is 7792 and new exchanges opened upto 31/01/2001 is 12.

Workforce engaged in Public Sector

752. SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of workforce engaged in public sector like steel, coal and telecom industries as on December 31, 2000;

(b) what was the total workforce as on March 31, 1996; and

(c) the total number of unemployed educated and uneducated youths in the Employment Exchanges of India as on date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL) : (a) As per the information collected through the Employment Market Information Programme of Directorate General of Employment and Training, the employment in the public sector (Central Government, State Government, Central Quasi, State Quasi and local bodies) as on 31.3.1999 was of the order of 19.4 million. This, however, does not include employment in the Indian Missions/Embassies abroad and Defence forces.

(b) As per survey carried out by the National Sample Survey Organisation on thin sample basis during 1997, the estimated number of persons employed both in the organised and unorganised public and private sector was of the order of 354 million.

(c) The total number of job seekers (both educated and uneducated), all of whom are not necessarily unemployed, on the live register of the employment exchanges as on 30.11.2000, was of the order of 41.4 million.

Employment in Abandoned Township

753. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that in normal circumstances, a mining township is destined to die when a mining company depletes the mineral resources and leaves for a new location resulting in social and economic disruption in old township; and

(b) if so, the policy the Government have contemplated for broad base activities and sources of employment in abandoned township?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL) : (a) and (b) The National Mineral Policy envisages that since mineral deposits are exhaustible, once the process of economical extraction of

a mine is complete, there is a need for its closure. Whenever mine closure becomes necessary, it should be orderly and systematic and so planned as to help the workers and the dependent community rehabilitate themselves without undue hardship.

Employment Assurance Programme

754. SHRI S.P. LEPCHA : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) the total amount provided to States under Employment Assurance Programme during the last three years, State-wise; and

(b) the mandays created in the said programme, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI MUNI LALL) : (a) and (b) As per available information funds provided to the states and the mandays generated under Employment Assurance Scheme during 1998-99, 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 are as given in the attached Statement.

Statement

S. No	State/ Union Territories	Amount provided (Central release and state matching share) (Rs in lakhs)			Mandays Generated (lakhs)		
		1998-1999	1999-2000	2000-2001	1998-1999	1999-2000	2000-2001
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
1	Andhra Pradesh	20925.00	13718.00	4467.74	370.67	175.63	N.A.
2	Arunachal Pradesh	2675.00	959.00	672.41	38.29	26.25	12.38
3	Assam	13772.50	6701.11	3372.80	259.86	148.52	45.92
4	Bihar	23245.00	33849.85	4876.98	400.89	384.62	74.70
5	Jharkhand	N.A.	N.A.	2994.81	N.A.	N.A.	38.37
6	Goa	225.00	73.33	29.03	2.65	1.05	0.22
7	Gujarat	5512.50	5735.18	4768.13	63.07	48.49	26.63
8	Haryana	2075.00	2641.97	907.60	18.02	22.65	5.87
9	Himachal Pradesh	2562.50	1260.05	389.72	35.45	25.65	7.37
10	Jammu & Kashmir	5950.00	3673.24	2131.83	69.37	26.27	13.99

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
11	Karnataka	12937.50	8893.18	2698.76	292.41	185.95	49.35
12	Kerala	4826.25	4722.49	1375.19	55.75	42.94	19.02
13	Madhya Pradesh	27541.25	23284.90	8847.49	429.43	288.90	91.05
14	Chhattisgarh	N.A.	N.A.	4488.68	N.A.	N.A.	36.30
15	Maharashtra	10208.96	14670.27	4136.04	205.62	234.67	76.45
16	Manipur	1112.50	410.48	302.89	16.97	9.70	2.31
17	Meghalaya	762.50	294.31	204.81	10.69	7.67	0.00
18	Mizoram	1000.0	636.86	150.62	19.56	4.95	4.14
19	Nagaland	2625.00	432.62	382.19	51.59	22.92	7.31
20	Orissa	15940.00	23494.24	11109.73	340.14	215.42	104.47
21	Punjab	3400.00	1486.45	354.41	19.74	16.81	10.12
22	Rajasthan	11168.75	9183.94	3927.90	209.61	91.89	46.40
23	Sikkim	400.00	557.10	81.10	8.20	5.34	0.00
24	Tamil Nadu	23400.00	14129.63	7229.12	457.09	166.79	59.82
25	Tripura	1800.00	1201.46	680.16	40.86	17.91	7.55
26	Uttar Pradesh	43942.06	48206.11	13720.62	754.31	485.73	43.45
27	Uttanchal	N.A.	N.A.	911.56	N.A.	N.A.	6.84
28	West Bengal	10337.50	12644.63	7169.18	106.37	127.70	67.60
29	A & N Islands	40.00	27.36	0.00	0.49	0.39	0.18
30	D & N Haveli	30.00	27.36	0.00	0.13	0.21	0.00
31	Daman & Diu	0.00	0.91	0.00	0.03	0.00	0.00
32	Lakshadweep	100.00	1.82	0.00	1.72	0.87	0.00
33	Pondicherry	0.00	34.66	0.00	0.38	0.29	0.68
All India		248514.78	232952.53	92381.50	4279.36	2786.17	858.49

N.A. - not available

Pending Road Proposals of Orissa

755. SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO : Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any proposals regarding National Highways are pending for consideration with the Union Government;

(b) if so, the details of these proposals, State-wise;

(c) whether any step has been taken to consider the proposals submitted by the Government of Orissa; 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) 185 proposals regarding development and improvement of National Highways under Annual Plan 2000-01 are under examination.

(b) State-wise details are at given in the statement attached.

(c) and (d) A total of 16 proposals were received from Orissa, 6 sanctioned and balance are under examination. Decision on the same will be taken during current Financial Year.

Statement

S. No.	Name of the State	No of Proposals
(1)	(2)	(3)
1	Andhra Pradesh	1
2	Assam	8
3	Bihar	21
4	Chandigarh	1
5	Goa	7
6	Gujarat	9
7	Haryana	9
8	Himachal Pradesh	7
9	Jammu & Kashmir	1
10	Karnataka	3

(1)	(2)	(3)
11	Kerala	4
12	Madhya Pradesh	9
13	Maharashtra	16
14	Manipur	3
15	Meghalaya	8
16	Mizoram	3
17	Nagaland	3
18	Orissa	10
19	Punjab	7
20	Rajasthan	15
21	Tamil Nadu	5
22	Uttar Pradesh	7
23	West Bengal	12
24	Chhattisgarh	6
25	Jharkhand	10
Total		185

Carpetting Work of Runway at Bagdogra Airport

756. SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the runway carpetting work of Bagdogra airport has been completed;

(b) if so, the time by which it is likely to be used for domestic flights;

(c) whether there is a proposal to have a separate domestic airport at Bagdogra;

(d) if so, the time by which it is likely to be constructed; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) The runway carpetting work which is being done by the Indian Airforce (IAF) is in progress and is likely to be completed by 31st March, 2001.

(b) Domestic flights have already been resumed from 5.1.2001, as per revised schedule given by the IAF.

(c) to (e) There is no proposal to have a separate domestic airport at Bagdogra at present as the existing airport is serving scheduled flights satisfactorily.

Setting up of Airport in Backward Territory

757. SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR BWISW-MUTHIARY : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have contemplated any policy to set up any Airport within the backward Bodoland Territory with special mention to Kokrajhar, Bongaigaon, Barpeta, Nalbari, Kamrup, Darrang, Sonitpur, Dhemaji and Dhubri districts located in the Northern bank of the river Brahmaputra aiming at providing air service facility to the people living therein;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the details of the action taken so far?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) to (d) At present, there is an international airport at Guwahati and domestic airports at Jorhat, Silchar, Tezpur and Dibrugarh in Assam, which are operational. Since no airline has indicated its plan to start air operations from Bodoland Territory in view of lack of demand for air traffic, there is no plan at present to set up any new airport in this area.

[Translation]

Work on National Highways in Haryana

758. SHRI AJAY SINGH CHAUTALA : Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of the works being executed on National Highways in Haryana and the details thereof as on December 31, 2000;

(b) the total funds allocated therefor;

(c) whether the Government propose to increase the existing financial allocation for early completion of these works; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN.

(RETD.) SHRI B.C. KHANDURI) : (a) 29 nos. of National Highways developmental works were in progress in Haryana as on 31.12.2000.

(b) An amount of Rs.134.75 crore has been allocated for the above mentioned on-going works including those completed from 1.4.2000 to 31.12.2000 during the current financial year.

(c) and (d) The funds allocated are considered sufficient for the completion of on-going works targeted during 2000-2001.

[English]

Optical Fibre Cables

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

(a) whether the Government propose to lay Optical Fibre Cables (OFC) for about one lakh kilometre route during 2000-2001;

(b) if so, the details including the estimated cost thereof;

(c) the steps taken by the Government in this regard;

(d) whether the Optical Fibre cable is cheaper than the microwave system for extending telecom facilities; and

(e) if so, the details of the comparative advantage of Optical Fibre Cables system over the microwave system ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) Yes Sir, subject to availability of material.

(b) Estimated cost Rs. 1990 Crs.

(c) Procurement of 6F OFC, is under process by different Circles. For procurement of 12F and 24F OFC, a tender was floated but supply could not commence for full quantity due to non-acceptance of tendered prices by vendors. A short notice limited tender has been called for procurement of balance quantities.

(d) Reliable communication media can be provided by OFC M/w and satellite depending upon geographical terrain in an area. Techno-economical consideration is kept in view while planning any reliable communication media for a place.

(e) Details of comparative advantage of OFC system over the microwave system is given in Statement attached

Statement

Different media are suited for different communication jobs. The choice depends on the job and nature of the transmission medium.

Radio frequency/Microwave communication is the best way to avoid cables for cellular phones and to reach remote places like tropical islands or arctic bases.

On the other hand, OFC system is preferable for making physical links among many fixed points. Key factors to consider are how far the signal must go and how much information it carries.

Advantage of OFC over microwave media is detailed as below :

OFC	MICROWAVE
1. High bandwidth (information carrying capacity).	Limited bandwidth
2. Longer distance between Regenerators/ amplifiers.	Maximum 50 Km.
3. Upgradability of the system without fibre redeployment.	Upgradability of system needs all changes and hence heavy cost involved.
4. Immune to electromagnetic Interference(EMI).	Susceptible to EMI.
5. Reduced installation and maintenance cost .	Repaid installation High maintenance cost.
6. Less susceptible to weather /disasters but can be washed away in flood, cyclone etc.	Comparatively it is stable.
7 System available	System available
8 Mb/s,34 Mb/s,	2Mb,8 Mb(2 Ghz),
140 Mb/s, STM-1, STM-4	34Mb (7 Ghz, 11 Ghz),
STM-16 & DWDM systems.	140 Mb (6Ghz, 13 Ghz, 18 Ghz)
8. It is not possible to take it to each and every geographical location.	It may be possible to connect in rugged terrain also.

Improvement in Communication System

760. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of development work executed in communication system in the country during the last three years, State and Union Territory-wise;

(b) the amount spent for the purpose during the said period;

(c) whether the Government propose to take some effective steps to ensue further improvement in communication system in the country during the current and next financial year;

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

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) The details of telephone connections provided in the country during last three years, State-wise are as per statement-I attached.

(b) The amount spent during last three years are as per statement-II attached.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The objectives of the Ninth Five Year Plan for modernisation and expansion of communication 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 Optital Fibres 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 provide ISDN (Integrated Services Digital Network) facility, It has been planned to introduce ISDN upto Dhq level, subject to availability of demand.

- (7) Provide telephone on demand with the participation of private sector supplementing the efforts of the Government for both fixed and mobile phones.

- (8) Provide telephone facility in all the villages with the participation of private sector supplementing the efforts of the Government.

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

Statement I

Statewise telephone connection provided during the last three years

S. No.	Name of State	Telephone connection provided		
		1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000
1.	Andaman and Nicobar	2012	7501	8690
2.	Andhra Pradesh	216487	404980	655088
3.	Assam	36477	50375	61162
4.	Bihar	66294	103128	125179
5.	Gujarat	213824	255388	374022
6.	Haryana	73081	96170	117436
7.	Himachal Pradesh	40176	43217	60027
8.	Jammu and Kashmir	20819	18501	22158
9.	Karnataka	254378	237002	364715
10.	Kerala	230010	271065	350055
11.	Madhya Pradesh	102692	140352	154816
12.	Maharashtra	501441	502129	657868
13.	North East	23030	35116	43801
14.	Orissa	67178	68175	89036
15.	Punjab	165969	193469	208288
16.	Rajasthan	147632	171445	182395
17.	Tamil Nadu	364546	480238	546170
18.	Uttar Pradesh	313918	341602	418217
19.	West Bengal	238140	281745	301803
20.	Delhi	180941	90392	176733
Total		3259045	3791990	4917659

Note : Gujarat state includes Dadar Diu, Daman and Nagar Haveli (U.T.).
 Kerala state includes Lakshadweep (U.T.).
 Maharashtra state includes Goa and Mumbai.
 North-East telecom circle includes Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalay, Mizoram, Nagaland and Tripura state.
 Punjab state includes Chandigarh (U.T.).
 Tamil Nadu state includes Chennai and Pondicherry (U.T.).
 West Bengal state includes Calcutta and Sikkim state.
 Bihar state includes Jharkhand state.
 Madhya Pradesh state includes Chattisgarh state.
 Uttar Pradesh state includes Uttranchal state.

Statement-II
Amount spend during last three years

S. No.	Name of State/Ciurcle	Amount spent (Rs. crores)		
		1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000
1	Andaman and Nicobar	9.95	16.47	27.30
2	Andhra Pradesh	550.54	694.94	1122.63
3	Assam	122.45	112.86	143.67
4	Biahr	269.08	325.45	390.13
5	Gujarat	565.95	552.24	820.47
6	Haryana	181.21	207.17	301.03
7.	Himachal Pradesh	121.59	119.87	168.02
8.	Jammu and Kashmir	52.51	51.04	87.07
9.	Karnataka	654.33	714.02	962.52
10.	Kerala	631.11	731.50	926.51
11.	Madhya Pradesh	329.84	390.54	481.83
12.	Maharashtra	846.63	865.52	1236.75
13.	North East	104.72	182.03	201.14
14.	Orissa	167.28	174.44	224.44
15.	Punjab	463.32	525.99	584.27
16.	Rajasthan	386.01	374.81	568.15
17.	Tamil Nadu	876.24	1015.70	1383.35
18.	Uttar Pradesh	1018.09	1014.20	1171.52
19.	West Bengal	638.83	669.19	795.70
20	Other Units	656.42	710.36	935.77
21	MTNL	858.95	953.06	947.99
Total		9505.05	10403.40	13480.26

Note : Gujarat state includes Dadar Diu, Daman and Nagar Haveli (U.T.).
 Kerala state includes Lakshadweep (U.T.).
 Maharashtra state includes Goa.
 North-East telecom circle includes Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalay, Mizoram, Nagaland and Tripura state.
 Punjab state includes Chandigarh (U.T.).
 Tamil Nadu state includes Chennai and Pondicherry (U.T.).
 West Bengal state includes Calcutta and Sikkim state.
 MTNL includes New Delhi and Mumbai

Maintenance of National Parks and Sanctuaries

761. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Forest Departments of States are unable to maintain sanctuaries, national park and zoo properly due to shortage of funds;

(b) if so, whether the people living adjacent to these areas are forced to live with fear and death as a result thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) Due to financial crunch the State Governments are unable to provide funds to the required extent to sanctuaries, national parks and zoos.

(b) The incidence of killings of livestock and loss of human life are reported from areas adjacent to various national parks and sanctuaries. No incident of killing human beings and livestock has been reported in case of zoos.

(c) The Government of India has issued guidelines regarding payment of compensation both in cases of loss of human life and killing of livestock by wild animals. The amount of compensation is reimbursed to States under various Centrally Sponsored Schemes.

Linking of Ganga with Cauvery River

762. SHRI G. GANGA REDDY : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received the detailed project reports on linking Ganga with Cauvery river from concerned States;

(b) if so, the details of agreement between various States reached in this regard; and

(c) the modalities envisaged for transfer of water by inter-linking of rivers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY):

(a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Hike in Monthly Rent of Telephones by MTNL

763. SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE :

SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT :

SHRI NARESH PUGLIA :

SHRI CHINTAMAN WANAGA :

SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) has increased the monthly rent of telephone for low calling subscribers in Delhi and Mumbai and for the safe custody of telephones from February 1, 2001;

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

(c) the revenue likely to be generated annually as a result thereof;

(d) whether the Government propose to review these orders of the MTNL to give relief to Low Calling subscribers; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Rental for urban low calling subscribers has been increased from Rs. 190/- per month to Rs. 250/- per month w.e.f. 1.2.2001 and rental for safe custody of telephones has been reduced to 20% of rental for all slabs w.e.f. 1.2.2001.

(c) The rental have been increased alongwith the reduction in STD tariffs upto 200 Kms.

(d) The package is not likely to generate additional revenue.

(e) There is no such proposal for review at present, as the whole scheme has been announced as a package.

Improvement of Coastal Canal in Orissa

764. SHRI LAKSHMAN SETH : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have formulated any comprehensive plan for improvement of Coastal Canal in Orissa; and

(b) if so, the progress made so far in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) and (b) Taking note of heavy silting of coastal canal in Orissa, the State Government has prepared an estimate amounting Rs. 28.72 crore for its desilting. The project has been approved by the World Bank under Cyclone Reconstruction component of Orissa Water Resources Consolidation Project (WRCP) for implementing the project in the financial year 2001-2002.

[Translation]

Telephone Connections In Bihar

765 DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH :

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV :

SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR CHOUDHARY :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of persons on waiting list for telephone connections in Bihar as on January 31, 2001, district-wise;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) The number of persons on waiting list for telephone connections in Bihar as on January 31, 2001, district-wise are placed at statement.

(b) The number of telephone connections provided in the state during the last three years, district-wise are placed at statement.

(c) The following steps are being taken to clear the waiting list :

(i) Augmentation of switching capacity wherever it is essential.

(ii) Opening of new exchanges.

(iii) Laying of underground cable.

Statement

S. No.	Name of District	Waiting List as on 31-01-2001	DEls Provided		
			1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
1	Bhojpur	2088	1102	1364	1516
2	Buxar	1377	1447	1640	1687
3	Bhagalpur	2515	1033	7329	2510
4	Banka	432	964	1043	1062
5	Saran	3045	2015	2254	2968
6	Gokpal Ganj	2167	622	763	1036
7	Siwan	3148	372	986	2048
8	Darbhanga	2863	2817	2805	2162
9	Madhubani	6125	1724	1062	2032
10	Samastipur	3998	1266	989	1708

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
11	Gaya	2495	1997	3567	3513
12	Aurangabad	1396	334	532	738
13	Jahanabad	1086	250	908	846
14	Nawada	708	638	1039	988
15	Vaishali	5417	937	1098	2050
16	Katihar	1092	1103	2249	2154
17	Kishanganj	212	313	786	708
18	Araria	974	449	743	868
19	Purnea	1726	1924	2490	2286
20	Khagaria	3317	422	868	1842
21	Begusarai	4312	1490	1532	1789
22	W.Champaran	3333	552	2036	1862
23	E.Champaran	6831	1822	2965	3419
24	Munger	2893	572	1366	2863
25	Lakhisarai	442	499	868	1008
26	Shekhpura	264	203	686	703
27	Jamui	411	299	789	896
28	Muzaffarpur	7896	3273	2346	3811
29	Sitamarhi	3266	359	1848	1268
30	Sheohar	940	49	280	289
31	Patna	16294	6024	12253	19356
32	Nalanda	5636	1633	2784	3686
33	Saharsa	798	572	1094	2045
34	Madhepura	568	605	798	986
35	Supaul	532	408	885	1084
36	Rohtas	2716	1242	762	1638
37	Bhabhua	2012	898	672	908

*[English]***STD/ISD/PCO Booths**

766. SHRI K. MURALEEDHARAN :

SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of applications lying pending for installation of PCO/STD/ISD booths in the country during the last three years, State-wise and also each district of Kerala;

(b) the reasons for which these are lying pending; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) The information is given in statements I and II.

(b) The applications are pending due to non-availability of spare capacity in the exchanges, non-availability of reliable media, court cases and non-completion of formalities by applicants.

(c) The pending applications can be cleared subject to technical feasibility and the applicants fulfilling other prescribed conditions.

Statement-I

S. No.	Name of the States/Circles	Application pending during the last three years as on 31 March of each year		
		1997-1998	1998-1999	1999-2000
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
1.	Andaman and Nicobar	0	0	0
2.	Andhra Pradesh	34157	21009	7304
3.	Assam	454	905	2038
4.	Bihar (including Jharkhand)	3482	4776	10029
5.	*Gujarat(including U.T. of Daman, Diu and Dadra and Nagar Haveli)	1666	6179	1830
6.	Jammu and Kashmir	4358	6543	7401
7.	*Kerala (including U.T. of Lakshadweep and Minicoy)	17734	16040	14034
8.	Karnataka	0	0	0
9.	Madhya Pradesh (including Chattisgarh)	292	957	84
10.	Maharashtra	20061	22772	11960
11.	Goa	375	0	80
12.	Orissa	976	1565	456
13.	Haryana	4252	6141	2706
14.	Himachal Pradesh	0	14	4
15.	*Punjab (including U.T. of Chandigarh)	3073	2640	2654
16.	Rajasthan	13500	10021	5473
17.	Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	0
18.	Manipur	0	0	0
19.	Meghalaya	0	0	0
20.	Mizoram	0	0	0

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
21.	Nagaland	0	0	0
22.	Tripura	0	0	0
23.	*Tamil Nadu (including U.T. of Pondicherry but excluding Chennai Telephones)	33528	43471	21373
24.	U.P. (including Uttaranchal)	77	193	1301
25.	West Bengal (excluding Calcutta Telephones)	1981	3534	12954
26.	Sikkim	0	0	15
Metro Districts				
27.	Calcutta	341	320	581
28.	Chennai	0	0	0
29.	Delhi	0	0	0 as on
30.	Mumbai	0	0	0 1.1.01

Note : * Circles include their respective Union territories.

Statement-II

Kerala Telecom Circle

S. No.	Name of District	Application pending during the last three years (as on 31 January 2001)		
		1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000
1	Trivandrum	0	0	28
2.	Quilon	114	254	309
3.	Pathnamthitta	0	0	0
4.	Allepy	0	0	0
5.	Kottayam	0	0	0
6.	Idukki	0	0	0
7.	Ernakulam	0	0	0
8.	Trichur	0	45	374
9.	Palakkad	0	105	384
10.	Malappuram	502	1064	1400
11.	Calicut	488	1206	1627
12.	Waynad	196	457	490
13.	Kannur	10	25	392
14.	Kasragod	15	10	155

Funds for National Highways and Bridges in A. P

767. SHRI GUTHA SUKENDER REDDY : Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of allocation made to Andhra Pradesh for development, maintenance and repair of National Highways for the year 1999-2000 and 2000-2001, year-wise;

(b) the likely/actual time of completion of the bridges on the Highways which are presently being constructed in the State;

(c) whether the estimated construction cost of the bridges has been increased due to delay in its execution and completion; 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) Details of allocation are :-

Year	Allocation (Rs. lakh)	
	NH (Original) for Development	NH (Maintenance and Repair)
1999-2000	5045.00	3440.26
2000-2001	10188.00	3230.00

(b) There are 12 nos. of bridges presently being constructed on National Highways in the State of Andhra Pradesh. These are likely to be completed during the period March, 2001 to September, 2001.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Post Offices in Bihar

768. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY :

SHRI RAJO SINGH :

SHRIMATI SUSHILA SAROJ :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of post offices/sub-post offices operating in all the districts of Bihar at present, category-wise;

(b) the number of post offices/sub-post offices running into loss/profit in the State;

(c) whether the Government propose to close down those post offices/sub-post offices which are running into losses; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) The number of post offices/sub-post offices operating in all the districts of Bihar at present, category-wise is as under :

Head Post Offices	30
Departmental sub-post offices	1012
Extra Departmental sub-post offices	99
Extra Departmental branch post offices	7781

(b) There is a provision of triennial financial review of Branch Post Offices and periodical financial review of temporary Sub Post Offices. The details as per the present status of the reviews are given below :

	Incurring Loss	Earning Profit
i) Departmental Sub-Post Offices :	04	46
ii) Extra departmental Branch post offices :	3160	2275

(c) and (d) At present, there is no such proposal.

Registration Fees for New Telephone Connections

769. SHRI RAMPAL SINGH : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any proposal to waive registration fee on application of senior citizens for new telephone connections is under consideration of the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) to (c) Instructions already exist for exempting the senior citizens of the age of 65 years and above from payment of registration charges for registering their request for one telephone connection under N-OYT-Special category. Statement is enclosed.

Statement

No. 2-12/99 PHA

Dated : May 29, 2000

CIRCULAR # 8/2000

Subject : Waival of Registration Charges for Senior Citizens.

The issue of granting various concessions to Senior Citizens has been examined and it has been decided that Senior Citizens of the age of 65 years and above who are entitled for registration of telephone priority under N-OYT-Special category as per instructions contained in circular No. 11/99 dated 05/10/1999 [copy enclosed], be exempted from payment of Registration Charges for registering the request for a telephone connection. This may be brought to the notice of all concerned for compliance.

The orders are effective from the date of issue of the Circular.

WIDE PUBLICITY MAY PLEASE BE GIVEN TO THIS FACILITY.

Hindi version will follow.

S/d

Anit Kaur Gill

Under Secretary (PHA)

All Chief General Managers

Telecom Circles/Telephone Districts

Chairman-cum-Managing Director, MTNL, New Delhi

Chief General Manager, MTNL, Mumbai/New Delhi.

No. 2-12/99 PHA

Dated : October 5, 2000

CIRCULAR # 11/99

Subject : Provision of Telephone Connection on priority to Senior Citizens.

As a welfare gesture, it has been decided that the senior citizens of the Age 65 years and above shall be

entitled to register their demand for one telephone connection their names under "Non-OYT-Special" category. Telephone thus provided shall be transferable only in the name of spouse, if alive after death of the subscriber as a general category telephone and subsequent transfers shall be governed by prevailing telephone transfer rules.

WIDE PUBLICITY MAY PLEASE BE GIVEN TO ABOVE SCHEME.

S/d

S.K. Bhardwaj

Asst. Director General (PHA)

All Chief General Managers

Telecom Circles/Telephone Districts

Chairman-cum-Managing Director, MTNL, New Delhi

Chief General Manager, MTNL, Mumbai/New Delhi.

Construction of By-pass in Varanasi

770. SHRI SHANKAR PRASAD JAISWAL : Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the extent of amount released for the construction of by-pass road sanctioned for Varanasi district in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) the time by which the rest of the funds are likely to be released and the time limit fixed for the completion of this by-pass road ; and

(c) the details of the progress made in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) SHRI B.C. KHANDURI) : (a) Funds are allocated to the State Government for the development of National Highways as a whole and not work wise. An amount of Rs.13390.56 lakh has been allocated to the Government of Uttar Pradesh for development of National Highways during the year 2000-2001. This includes the work of preparation of detailed project report and land acquisition for the proposed bypass at Varanasi.

(b) and (c) Requisite funds will be allocated from time to time as per the requirement. It is too early to indicate the time limit for the completion of this road as the work is still in the stage of preparation of Detailed Project Report (DPR).

*[English]***Mishandling of Baggage**

771. SHRI PRABHAT SAMANTRAY : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the increasing incidents of the mishandling of baggage which are either missing or arrive late causing hardship to passenger of Indian Airlines and Air India; and

(b) if so, the details of steps taken to avoid such incidents and ensure the timely and safe delivery of baggages to the respective passengers?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Nearly all airlines including Air India have computerised their baggage tracing system, which has resulted in faster and more accurate tracing of missing bags. Airlines have also their procedures with respect to compensating passengers for delayed delivery and loss of baggage.

International Flights from Bhubaneswar Airport

772. SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to operate new international flights from Bhubaneswar Airport; and

(b) if so, the details of the Airline company who has asked for permission?

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

(b) Does not arise.

Private Basic Telecom Operators

773. SHRI C.N. SINGH :

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether all Private Basic Telecom Operators have not met their target of providing Village Public Telephones (VPT) and some of them have not yet even started work on these projects;

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

(c) the action taken by the Government against such operators?

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

(b) and (c) It has been observed that investments by licensed private Basic Telephone Service operators, have so far been made in urban areas mostly. They have consistently been insisted upon to clear the backlog of missed targets of VPTs and to discharge their committed obligations. It has also been made clear to them that there will not be any dilution in performance obligations committed by them in their Licence Agreement.

Scam in Airport Authority of India/Air India

774. SHRI DAHYABHAI VALLABHBHAI PATEL :

SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE :

SHRI SHRINIWAS PATIL :

SHRI NARESH PUGLIA :

SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI :

SHRI SHIVAJI MANE :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the scams unearthed by the Vigilance Authorities of the Airport Authority of India/Air India during the last two years;

(b) the amount involved in each scam and the details of the officials found involved therein; and

(c) the action taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) No case of scam has come to the notice of Vigilance Authorities of Airport Authority of India/Air India during the last two years. Any complaint, however, is immediately enquired into/referred to the investigating agencies as the case may be.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Growth of Cellular Telephone Subscribers

775. SHRI ANANT GUDHE : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the extent of growth of cellular telephone subscribers increased in the country during the last three years, State-wise;

(b) whether the Government have assessed the projections regarding growth in number of said subscribers in the country as on date;

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

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to encourage faster growth of cellular sector in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) The subscriber base of Cellular Mobile Telephone Service (CMTS) in the country as on March 1998, March 1999 and March 2000 (service area wise) is attached as statement.

(b) to (d) The Government have not assessed the projections of cellular subscribers. However, Government proposes to award licences for CMTS to fourth cellular operator and fill up certain vacant slots by inviting bids for the same to achieve faster growth and more competition in the field. Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL)/Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) have also earlier been given licences for CMTS to provide the cellular service in the country.

Statement

Subscriber of cellular mobile telephone service

Sl. No.	Service Area(Metro/Telecom circle)	No. of subscribers		
		March 1998	March 1999	March 2000
1.	Delhi	215144	215637	332330
2.	Mumbai	243028	228297	319309
3.	Calcutta	51166	39777	90036
4.	Chennai	42419	35832	54256
5.	Andhra Pradesh	37653	73991	105469
6.	Assam	2259	3869	5823
7.	Bihar	7379	19197	21901
8.	Guarat	39600	81499	146175
9.	Haryana	13975	18411	25047
10.	Himachal Pradesh	2080	3360	5048
11.	Karnataka	43530	76984	127967
12.	Kerala	21380	45623	106560
13.	Maharashtra	44859	97204	115086
14.	Madhya Pradesh	12234	20814	40544
15.	North East	Nil	556	722
16.	Orissa	3578	9933	9139
17.	Punjab	16977	55425	94403
18.	Rajasthan	13011	16126	20025
19.	Tamil Nadu	11312	25121	90956
20.	Uttar Pradesh (W)	36280	74713	55950
21.	Uttar Pradesh (E)	23049	54262	113587
22.	West Bengal	1403	2947	3978
Total		8,82,316	11,99,578	18,84,311

Ambulance run by NHAI

776. SHRI A. BRAHMANAH : Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of ambulances being run by the National Highway Authority of India on its roads;

(b) the number of such ambulances likely to be introduced in 2001-2002;

(c) whether NGOs have also been requested to cooperate in this task; 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) to (d) The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) is at present running one ambulance service on Kotputli-Amer Toll Highway Section of National Highway No. 8 in Rajasthan, with the help of NGOs. NHAI proposes to extend this facility to some more stretches of National Highways in 2001-2002.

[Translation]

Damage by Pollution

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

(a) whether according to a report by the World Bank, property worth one crore dollar is damaged and 20 lakh people die every year in the country due to pollution; and

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto and the details of the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) and (b) A Report entitled 'The Cost of Inaction : Valuing the economy wide cost of Environmental Degradation in India' has been published by the World Bank. This report makes rough estimates of the total magnitude of economic cost associated with environmental degradation in India. The World Bank has also estimated that about 40,000 deaths in 36 cities have occurred in 1995 due to air pollution. However, there is no

conclusive data available to confirm these figures. The Government have taken various steps to control pollution which includes the following : -

- (i) Effluent and emission standards have been notified under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 to check air, water and noise pollution.
- (ii) Industries have been directed to install necessary pollution control equipments on a time bound basis and legal action is taken against the defaulting units.
- (iii) A number of Common Effluent Treatment Plants (CETPs) have been installed in the industrial estates of Maharashtra, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Karanataka, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan etc.
- (iv) For control of pollution from vehicles, emission norms for both petrol and diesel driven vehicles at the manufacturing stage were introduced for the first time in 1990 and made tighter in 1996. More stringent emission norms have come into effect from 1.4.2000.
- (v) CNG is supplied for automobiles through a number of retail outlets in Delhi and Mumbai to cater to the CNG fitted vehicles.
- (vi) A notification on Noise Pollution (Regulation and Control) Rules, 2000 has been issued on 14.02.2000 to check noise pollution from all sources.
- (vii) An Environmental Action Plan to control pollution in Mumbai Metropolitan Region has been prepared and is forwarded to the Government of Maharashtra for implementation.
- (viii) Owing to the different measure taken to control vehicular pollution in Delhi, the level of pollutants in the recent years have shown a decreasing trend.
- (ix) Environmental Epidemiological studies have been undertaken to find out the extent of health implications due to environmental pollution.

Irregularities in Telecommunication Department

778. SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI :

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received any complaint regarding irregularities prevalent in the Department of Telecommunications in Madhya Pradesh as reported in Rashtriya Sahara dated January 9, 2001;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) No such complaints have been received and even in Rashtriya Sahara no irregularities have been pointed out except the 'heading' for which a letter was written to the Chief Editor for correction in the 'heading'. Press representatives who visited CGM did not point out any irregularities during the interview held in the first week of Jan. 2001.

(b) No irregularities were pointed out.

(c) Does not arise.

Refund of Excess Charges by Cellular operators

779. SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI :

SHRI ZORA SINGH MANN :

SHRI SHIVAJI MANE :

SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE :

SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India has issued any instructions to the cellular telephone operators to refund excess tariffs charged from the subscribers since August, 1999;

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

(c) the estimated amount to be refunded by the Cellular Companies, company-wise; and

(d) the time by which the work regarding refund is likely to be completed?

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

(b) and (c) The Telecommunication Tariff (Twelfth Amendment) Order 2001 notified on 25th January, 2001 specifies the amount of refunds that shall be made by cellular service providers to subscribers of cellular mobile service as a result of reduction in license fee. The Order contains the amount of refund of rental per subscriber as well as refund per minute of use by the subscriber for each company. The aggregate refund amounts for each company will depend upon individual subscriber usage during the relevant period. Details on the exact amount of refund would be available when the operators submit their reports.

In a letter dated 5th February, 2001 to Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) the Cellular Operators Association of India (COAI) has stated on behalf of the industry, that they are pleased to make the refunds to cellular subscribers. They had, however, asked for certain clarifications which have already been provided.

(d) Cellular Service Providers have been allowed a period of four months beginning 1st April, 2001 to complete the task of issuing refunds.

Inclusion of Mugdar Jori Sports in National Games

780. SHRI SHANKAR PRASAD JAISWAL : Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to include 'Mugdar Jori' sports of Varanasi in the National Games; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action being taken therefor?

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

(b) Does not arise.

Polluting Industries

781. SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE :

SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY :

SHRI RAMANAND SINGH :

KUMARI BHAVANA PUNDLIKRAO
GAWALI :

SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN SHARAN SINGH :

DR. BALIRAM :

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

(a) the names of private/public sector companies/ industrial units which are violating environmental rules and laws by discharging hazardous effluents and solid wastes, location-wise;

(b) the action taken against each such defaulter units;

(c) whether the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) has studied the problem of effluents and solid wastes and issued notices to the polluting industrial units for their closure;

(d) if so, the details thereof, Statewise and unit-wise;

(e) whether the CPCB has constituted a committee to fix the norms in this regard,

(f) if so, the details thereof, and

(g) the steps taken by the Government to protect environment from such pollution?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) to (d) The names of 53 industrial units (State-wise) falling under the 17 categories of highly polluting industries which are violating environmental norms and the action taken against such defaulting units, including Notices issued for their closure by Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), are given in the statement attached.

(e) and (f) Environmental norms for most of the industries have already been prescribed under Environment (Protection) Act, 1986. However, these norms are reviewed from time to time by the standing

Peer & Core Committee and made more stringent if needed from environmental angle.

(g) The steps taken by the Government to protect environment from such pollution include the following :-

- i) The Government have identified 17 categories of highly polluting industries, which are being monitored periodically.
- ii) 24 critically polluted areas have been identified and Action Plans for all the areas have been prepared which are being implemented by CPCB/State Pollution Control Boards (SPCBs).
- iii) Environmental clearance is made compulsory for certain categories of developmental projects involving public hearing/NGO participation.
- iv) Environmental audit in the form of environmental statement has been made mandatory for all the polluting industries.
- v) Preparation of Zoning Atlas for siting of industries based on environmental considerations in various districts of the country has been taken up. So far, 19 such districts have been covered.
- vi) A Scheme for setting up of Common Treatment Plants (CTPs) in cluster of small scale industrial units has been taken up. 89 CTPs projects have been approved which are at various stages of implementation.
- vii) A Network of Ambient Air (290) and Water (480) Quality Monitoring Stations has been set up throughout the country.
- viii) Effluent and Emission Standards have been notified under the Environment (Protection) Act for about 80 categories of industries. Besides, standards for ambient air and water quality have also been notified.
- ix) Environmental Surveillance Squads have been constituted for undertaking surprise inspection of defaulting industries by CPCB/State Pollution Control Boards/Pollution Control Committees.
- x) In order to manage solid waste from the industries, norms are prescribed by the State Pollution Control Boards.
- xi) Hazardous waste disposal sites are identified and industries are asked to set up joint disposal facilities for properly disposing the hazardous wastes.

Statement
Statewise status of the defaulting industries of 17 categories
(As on December 31, 2000)

S.No.	Name and address of the industry	Category and whether CU/PU/SU/CP	Status of Pollution Control/Action Taken
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
Andhra Pradesh			
01.	M/s N.V.R. Co-op Sugars Ltd., Jampani Vemur Mandal, Guntur Dist., Andhra Pradesh	Sugar (CP)	Directions issued to the industry by SPCB for upgradation of the ETP and Emission Control System.
02.	M/s Kothagundem Thermal Power Station, Paloncha, Khammam Dist., Andhra Pradesh	TPP (SU)	Upgradation/retrofitting of ESPs is expected to be completed by July 2002. Order placed by the unit to BHEL.
Assam			
03.	M/s Hindustan Fertilizer Corpn. Ltd., Namrup Unit – I&II, Parbatpur Dibrugarh Dist., Assam	Fertiliser (CU)	All the units except ammonia plant are closed. The industry has been directed under Section 5 of EP Act, 1986 not to restart the operation of the closed unit till the requisite pollution control facilities are provided.
04.	M/s Bongaigaon Thermal Power Station, Bongaigaon Assam	TRP (SU)	Augmentation of ESPs is in progress.
Bihar			
05.	Hindustan Copper Ltd., Indian Copper Complex, P.O. Ghatsila – 832 303, Dist. Singhbhum, Bihar	Copper (CU)	Industry visited by CPCB team and directions issued under Section 5 of the E(P) Act, 1986 requiring the unit to submit the action plan for providing the requisite pollution control facilities.
06.	M/s Bokaro Steel Plant, Bokaro, Bihar	Iron and Steel	Directions issued by CPCB under section 5 of EP Act, 1986 to the unit for compliance to the emission standards by October 2001.
07.	M/s Tata Iron and Steel Co. Ltd., Bihar	Iron and Steel (PU)	Directions issued by CPCB under section 5 of EP Act, 1986 to the unit for compliance to the emission standards by October 2001.
08.	M/s Patratu Thermal Power Station, Patratu, Hazaribagh, Bihar	TPP (SU)	Augmentation of ESP in unit No. 10 is nearing completion.
09.	M/s Bokaro Thermal Power Plant (DVC) A, Bokaro, Bihar	TPP (CU)	Installation of ESPs is to be completed by June 2001. Work in progress.
10.	M/s Bokaro Thermal Power Plant (DVC) B, Bokaro, Bihar	TPP (CU)	Installation of ESPs is to be completed by June 2001. Work in progress.

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
Gujarat			
11.	M/s Yeast Alco Enzymes Ltd., Palitana Dem Site, Bhavnagar Dist., Gujarat	Distillery (PU)	The closure order issued earlier by the State Government., was withdrawn in view of the ETP upgradation programme of the industry which has now been completed and the industry is under observation.
12.	M/s Charotar Sahakari Khand Udyog Limited P.O. Palaj – 388465 Tehsil Petlad, Dist. Kaira, Gujarat	Sugar (CP)	Latest status is being ascertained.
Haryana			
13.	M/s Ashoka Distillery and Chemicals, Hathin Fbd. Gahlab Road, Vill. Hathin Faridabad, Haryana	Distillery (PU)	Matter is in the Hon'ble Supreme Court.
Karnataka			
14.	M/s Dakshina Kannhada S.S.K. Ltd., Brahmvar Udipi, S. K. Dist., Karnataka	Sugar (CU)	Industry has provided the ETP and latest status is being ascertained.
15.	M/s Bidar S.S.K. Ltd., Bidar, Karnataka	Sugar (CP)	Industry has provided the ETP and latest status is being ascertained.
16.	M/s Sahakari Sakkare Karkhana Niyamit, Aland Taluk, Gulbarga Dist., Karnataka	Sugar (CP)	Latest status is being ascertained.
17.	M/s Siruguppa Sugars and Chemicals Ltd., Deshnur Bellary, Bellary Dist., Karnataka.	Sugar (PU)	Matter is in the Hon'ble High Court.
Kerala			
18.	M/s The Co-operative Sugars Ltd., (Distillery Unit) Chittur, Palakkad, Kerala	Distillery (SU)	Industry visited by CPCB team and asked to ensure compliance to the standards.
19.	M/s The Co-operative Sugars Ltd., (Sugar Unit) Chittur, Palakkad, Kerala	Sugar (SU)	Latest status in regard to compliance is being ascertained.
Madhya Pradesh			
20.	M/s Cox Distillery Naugaon, Chattarpur, Madhya Pradesh	Distillery (PU)	Matter is under process for action against the unit.
21.	M/s Chhatisgarh Distillery, Khapri, Kunhari Durg, Madhya Pradesh	Distillery (PU)	ETP provided by the unit is not found adequate, and further action is under process.

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
22.	M/s Bhilai Steel Plant, Bhilai Madhya Pradesh	Iron and Steel (CU)	Directions issued by CPCB under section 5 of EP Act, 1986 to the unit for compliance to the emission standards by October, 2001.
23.	M/s Orient Paper Mill, Amlai, Madhya Pradesh	Pulp and Paper (PU)	Industry visited by CPCB, and ETP not found adequate. M.P. State Pollution Control Board has accordingly issued directions to the industry for compliance to the standards.
24.	M/s Naval Singh Ka Sahkari Shakkar Kharkhana, Burhanpur, Madhya Pradesh	Sugar (CP)	Zonal Office, CPCB has been requested to verify the compliance status.
25.	M/s Gwalior Sugar Co., Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh	Sugar (PU)	ETP not found adequate. The State Board has been directed by CPCB to ensure compliance by the industry.
26.	M/s Satpura Thermal Power Station, Betul, Madhya Pradesh	TPP (SU)	MPEB has submitted action plan for retrofitting of existing ESPs. Work will be initiated after availability of funds from PFC.

Maharashtra

27.	M/s Niphad S.S.K. Ltd., Bhausahenagar, Niphad Dist. Nasik, Maharashtra	Distillery (CP)	Notice under section (5) of EP Act, 1986, issued by CPCB for closure.
28.	M/s Panchaganga S.S.K. Ltd., Ganganagar, Hatkanangale, Maharashtra	Distillery (CP)	Latest status is awaited.
29.	M/s Karanveer Kakasaheb Wagh SSK Ltd., Kaskasaheb Nagar Niphad Dist. Nasik, Maharashtra	Distillery (CP)	ETP not found adequate. SPCB directed to take action against the unit.
30.	M/s Terna Shetkari SSK Ltd., Terna Nagar Osmanabad Dist., Maharashtra	Distillery (CP)	Latest status is awaited.
31.	M/s Chandrapur Super Thermal Power Station Maharashtra State Electricity Board, Dist. Chandrapur Maharashtra	TPP (SU)	All units have ESPs but performance is not satisfactory. MSEB has decided to install either Bag filter/higher size ESPs in all the units in a phased manner by 2002-2004.
32.	Koradi Thermal Power Station, Maharashtra State Electricity Board, Koradi -441 111, Dist. Nagpur, Maharashtra	TPP (SU)	All the units have ESPs but their performance is not satisfactory. Augmentation of the ESPs is in progress and expected to be completed in a phased manner by the year 2003.
33.	Nashik Thermal Power Station, Maharashtra State Electricity Board, P.O. Eklahare - 422 105, Maharashtra	TPP (SU)	All units have ESPs but performance is not satisfactory. MSEB has decided to install either Bag filter/higher size ESPs in all the units in phased manner by 2002-2005.

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
34.	Bhusawal Thermal Power Station, Maharashtra State Electricity Board, Deep Nagar – 425 307, Maharashtra	TPP (SU)	All units have ESPs but performance is not satisfactory. MSEB has decided to install either Bag filter/higher size ESPs in all the units in a phased manner by 2005-2006.
35.	M/s Parli Vajinath Thermal Power Station Beed, Maharashtra	TPP (SU)	All units have ESPs but performance is not satisfactory. MSEB has decided to install either Bag filter/higher size ESPs in all the units in a phased manner by 2004-2006.
Orissa			
36.	Rourkela Steel Plant (Fertilizer Unit) Rourkela – 769 011, Orissa	Fertilizer (CU)	Matter is in the Hon'ble Supreme Court.
37.	Paradeep Phosphates Ltd., P.O. PPL Township, Paradeep – 754145, Dist. Jagatsinghpur, Orissa.	Fertilizer (CU)	A detailed inspection of the unit has been conducted by CPCB during September 19-23, 2000 for assessment of the status in view of the affects of the cyclone and the report has been sent to the Orissa State Pollution Control Board for implementation of the recommendations.
38.	M/s Rourkela Steel Plant (Iron and Steel), Rourkela, Dist. Sundargarh, Orissa	Iron and Steel (CU)	Directions issued by CPCB under Section 5 of EP Act, 1986 to the unit for compliance to the emission standards by October 2001.
39.	M/s Dharani Sugars and Chemicals Ltd., Nayagarh, Orissa	Sugar (PU)	Latest status is awaited.
40.	M/s Aska Co-operative Sugar and Chemicals Ltd., Aska, Orissa	Sugar (CU)	Matter is in the Hon'ble Supreme Court.
41.	M/s Talcher Thermal Power Station, P.O. Talcher Thermal, Dist. Angul, Orissa – 759 101	TPP (CU)	Augmentation of ESPs in unit No. 5 and 6 completed. Augmentation of the remaining ESPs to be completed in a phased manner by the year 2002.
42.	M/s Rourkela Steel Plant (CPP-I and II), Rourkela, Sundargarh, Orissa	TPP (CU)	Industry visited by CPCB teams and asked to upgrade the pollution control facilities to comply with the standards.
Uttar Pradesh			
43.	M/s Saravasti Kisan Sahakari Chini Mills, (Distillery Unit) Nanpara, Baharaich, Uttar Pradesh	Distillery (CP)	ETF not adequate. SPCB directed to take action against the unit.
44.	M/s Captanganj Distilleries, Deoria, Uttar Pradesh	Distillery (PU)	Industry visited by CPCB and asked to ensure compliance to the standards. Latest status is awaited.

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
45.	M/s Obra Thermal Power Station, Unit (B) Obra, Sonebhadra, Uttar Pradesh.	TPP (SU)	None of the unit is provided with ESP. Due to paucity of funds no action has been initiated. Capacity of ash ponds has also been exhausted. Plant authority is not keen to take necessary steps to provide pollution control measures. The proposal for installation of ESPs is pending with World Bank/PFC for financial assistance.
46.	M/s Obra Thermal Power Station, Unit (A) Obra, Sonebhadra, Uttar Pradesh	TPP (SU)	None of the unit is provided with ESP. Due to paucity of funds no action has been initiated. Capacity of ash ponds has also been exhausted. Plant authority is not keen to take necessary steps to provide pollution control measures. The proposal for installation of ESPs is pending with World Bank/PFC for financial assistance.
47.	M/s Hardwarganj Thermal Power Project, Kasimpur, Aligarh, U.P.	TPP (SU)	None of the unit is provided with ESP. Due to paucity of funds no action has been initiated. Capacity of ash ponds has also been exhausted. Plant authority is not keen to take necessary steps to provide pollution control measures. The proposal for installation of ESPs is pending with World Bank/PFC for financial assistance.

West Bengal

48.	M/s Indian Iron and Steel Company, Burnpur, Burdwan, West Bengal	Iron and Steel (CU)	Directions issued by CPCB under Section 5 of EP Act, 1986 to the unit for compliance to the emission standards by 2001.
49.	M/s Durgapur Steel Plant, Durgapur, W.B.	Iron and Steel (CU)	Directions issued by CPCB under Section 5 of EP Act, 1986 to the unit for compliance to the emission standards by 2001.
50.	M/s Shaw Wallace, Haldia, Midnapur, W.B.	Pesticide (PU)	Matter is in the Hon'ble Supreme Court.
51.	M/s Santaldihi Thermal Power Station, Puralia, West Bengal.	TPP (SU)	Status reviewed in a meeting held on 31.7.2000. Installation of ESPs nearing completion. Capacity of ash pond will be augmented by July 2001 to comply with the standards.
52.	M/s Durgapur Thermal Power Station, Damodar Valley Corpn., P.O. Durgapur – 713 207 Dist. Burdwan, W.B.	TPP (SU)	ESPs installed are not found satisfactory. Augmentation of the ESPs is expected to be complete by June 2001.
53.	M/s Durgapur Projects Ltd., Burdwan, West Bengal	TPP (SU)	Unit 6 has adequate ESP. However, ESPs are under commissioning in unit nos. 3,4 and 5. Ash pond capacity is not adequate. Ash pond effluents do not comply with standards. Action taken to excavate the existing pond to create additional capacity.

Ganga Action Plan

782. SHRI ZORA SINGH MANN :

DR. RAMESH CHAND TOMAR :

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN :

SHRI NARESH PUGLIA :

SHRI MOINUL HASSAN :

SHRI RAMJEE MANJHI :

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

(a) whether Ganga Action Plan is running far behind the completion schedule;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the date on which this plan was implemented alongwith its main aims and objectives thereof;

(d) whether targets fixed under the plan has been achieved within the stipulated time;

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

(f) the total funds allocated for the plan alongwith the expenditure incurred thereon, State/Union Territory-wise;

(g) whether several discrepancies have been pointed out by CAG for poor implementation of the said plan;

(h) if so, the details thereof; and

(i) the concrete steps taken to complete the plan speedily alongwith its time of completion?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T. R. BAALU) : (a) to (f) The Ganga Action Plan Phase I was launched in 1985 with the objective of preventing the pollution of river Ganga and to improve its water quality. The Plan was declared closed on 31.3.2000. Against a targeted capacity of 873 million litres per day planned for treatment of wastewater, a capacity to treat 835 million litres per day has been created. The implementation of the programme was delayed due to encroachments, delay in land acquisition, litigation and contractual problems. The Ganga Action Plan Phase II, that covers Ganga and its tributaries viz. Yamuna, Gomati and Damodar was approved in phases between 1993 and

1996 and is under implementation. Under this Plan, against a target capacity of 1861 million litres per day for treatment of wastewater, a capacity to treat 634 million litres per day has been created so far. The total funds allocated for these plans alongwith the funds released by the Government of India State-wise are given in the attached Statement.

(g) and (h) The Comptroller and Auditor General of India in his report on Ganga Action Plan for the year ended March, 2000 has mentioned that Ganga Action Plan has not been able to achieve its objectives despite a total expenditure of Rs.901.71 crore over a period of 15 years.

(i) The achievement of the objective of Ganga Action Plan Phase-II will be possible only after all the works taken up under the programme are completed by December, 2005.

Statement

Statewise fund allocation/funds released under GAP

Phase-I & II

(Rs in crore)

Sl. No.	Action Plan/State	Fund Allocation	Funds released
A	Ganga Action Plan Phase-I	462.04	
1.	Bihar		53.55
2	Uttar Pradesh		190.12
3	West Bengal		185.60
4	Estt.		22.43
	Total	462.04	451.70
B	Ganga Action Plan Phase-II	1276.26	
1.	Delhi		11.44
2	Uttar Pradesh		246.83
3	Haryana		148.00
4.	Bihar		1.70
5.	West Bengal		14.44
6.	Consultants		9.03
	Total	1276.26	431.44

*[English]***Import of Toxic Mercury**

783. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR :

SHRI RAMJIVAN SINGH :

SHRI DINESH CHANDRA YADAV :

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

(a) whether a large quantity of used mercury is being exported to some of the private parties in India by United States of America;

(b) if so, the reasons for importing this deadly toxic;

(c) whether the Government have examined the ill-effect of this toxic on the human body and if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the private parties have the prior permission from the Government in this regard; and

(e) if not, the action taken against the parties importing the used mercury?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) to (e) On 1st January, 2001 the 'Times of India' carried an article entitled 'America's Unwanted Heading for India' regarding possible shipment of 118 MT of toxic mercury from the United States of America to India. As import of mercury bearing wastes has been banned vide notification No. SO 897 dated 26th December, 1996 by the Ministry of Environment and Forests, Member (Customs), Ministry of Surface Transport and Chief Secretaries of all the coastal states were asked to take immediate action to ensure that Customs authorities in all the ports are informed of the possible landing of the above consignment, to confiscate the consignment on arrival, keep it in safe custody and inform the Ministry of Environment and Forests.

As import of waste containing mercury is banned, no permission has been granted to any private party by the Ministry of Environment and Forests. No information has been received from the Customs department on arrival or otherwise of the said consignment.

*[Translation]***Damage due to Earthquake in Gujarat**

784. SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL :

SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH :

SHRI DINSHA PATEL :

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA :

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the extent of loss/damage suffered by the Telecommunication/Postal system due to recent earthquake in Gujarat;

(b) whether the communication and postal systems have paralysed completely in the affected cities;

(c) the time by which the said systems are likely to be provided;

(d) the compensation and assistance provided to the affected employees of the Ministry; and

(e) the concrete measures being taken by the Government to combat such natural calamity in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) :

Reply for Telecommunication System.

(a) The extent of loss suffered by Telecommunication system due to recent earthquake in Gujarat State is expected to be around Rs. 200 crores.

The extent of damage caused to Telecom network by earthquake is as given below :

Sl. No	Name of SSA	Number of exchanges affected	Number of buildings affected	
			Departmental	Rented
1	Bhuj	147	06	141
2	Rajkot	25	11	16
3	Surendernagar	03	01	17
4	Jamnagar	04	09	06
Total		179	27	180

(b) The Communication system in Kutchh District was completely paralysed and partially affected in Rajkot, Surendernagar and Jamnagar Districts.

(c) Within 8 days of earthquake, more than 90% of network was restored. By 11th Feb. 2001, the Telecom services were restored in all affected 179 exchange areas. The present focus is on restoration of faults in Telecommunication lines and repair/reconstruction of damaged buildings which may take 3-6 months.

(d) Twelve officials of BSNL have lost their lives in the earthquake. There is a plan to provide ex-gratia and financial assistance to officials of the affected areas who have lost their properties.

(e) Concrete measures being taken by the Government to combat such natural calamity in future include :

Construction of buildings in urban areas taking into account seismic considerations.

- Use of prefab material for construction of buildings in villages which also withstands seismic effects.
- Establishing a stable, reliable communication transmission network.
- Providing cellular mobile services.
- Providing alternate routes for connectivity to the national network.
- Introduction of Wireless in Local Loop (WLL) and High bit-rate Digital Subscriber Line (HDSL) in access network.

Reply for Postal System

(a) The extent of loss/damage suffered by Postal Buildings :

Region	Departmental		Rented	
	Damaged	Destroyed	Damaged	Destroyed
Ahmedabad	44	-	55	1
Vadodara	34	-	21	-
Rajkot	39	2	49	1
Total	117	2	125	2

Names of destroyed buildings

1. Bachhau PO (Departmental)
2. Bhuj Sorting Office (Departmental)
3. Rampura (Rented)
4. Memnagar SO (Rented)

(b) Even though as many as 90 Departmental offices and 500 Extra Departmental offices were badly affected in the earthquake, more than 50% offices were made functional by shifting some of them to different buildings and running them in tents within four days of the earthquake. A Mobile post office was also provided at Bhuj town.

(c) Postal services have since been restored in all the affected areas.

(d) The Department provided immediate assistance to the affected employees in terms of supply of necessary items like medicines, eatables, drinking water, blankets, woolen clothes, particularly blankets and ensured round the clock availability of medical and para-medical personnel and medicines. Tents were also supplied in adequate numbers for shelter. The staff were also provided cash assistance.

(e) While planning building structures in future, adequate attention will be paid for making them safe from the point of view of earthquake.

[English]

Markandeya Irrigation Project

785. SHRI R.S. PATIL

SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether a proposal relating to Markandeya irrigation project in Karnataka is pending for clearance by the Government for the last six years; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the time by which the project is likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) and (b) The Government of Karnataka has submitted a proposal to the Central Water Commission (CWC) in May 1997 on Markandeya Project for techno-economic appraisal. The project was examined in CWC and found

acceptable on Embankment Design, Plant Planning, Gates Design and Concrete and Masonry Dam Design aspects. The State Government have not yet replied to the comments on several aspects particularly Canal Design, Hydrology, Irrigation Planning and Cost Estimates.

The clearance of the scheme is linked with the promptness with which the State authorities comply with the observations of various central appraising agencies.

Telecom Schemes for Rural and Tribal Areas

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

(a) the details of various telecom schemes introduced for rural and tribal areas in the country during the last three years ;

(b) whether these schemes are not being implemented properly for the benefit of these areas; and

(c) the measures taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to implement these schemes properly ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) Targets and achievements of various telecom schemes in the country during the last three years in rural and tribal areas are given in statement-I attached.

(b) and (c) No Sir. The Government is committed to provide one telephone in each village the country by March, 2002 with the joint efforts of Fixed Service Providers. Wireless in Local Loop(WLL) and CDOT TDMA/PMP technologies are being inducted to provide VPTs and to meet scattered demand of telephones in rural and tribal areas.

Statement

(a) The Targets and Achievements of various telecom schemes introduced for Rural areas in the country during the last three years are as given below :

S. No.	Item	1997-98		1998-99		1999-2000	
		Targets	Achievement	Targets	Achievement	Targets	Achievement
1.	Telephone Exchanges	*		1385	1450	2000	2293
2.	Switching Capacity	1800000 (GL)	1800000 (GL)	1520000 (NL)	1505752 (NL)	1959500 (NL)	1979941 (NL)
3.	Direct Exchange Lines	*		844000	1003013	1273700	1411259
4.	Village Public Telephones	83000	42855	45000	37058	45136	33965

* No separate target was fixed for these items during 1997-98

Note :

GL = Gross Lines,

NL = Net Lines

(b) The Targets and Achievements of various telecom schemes introduced for Tribal areas in the country during the last three years are as given below :

S.No	Item	1997-98		1998-99		1999-2000	
		Targets	Achievement	Targets	Achievement	Targets	Achievement
1.	Telephone Exchanges	100	114	120	138	160	327
2.	Switching Capacity	125000	196297	200000	258000	266000	419564
3.	Direct Exchanges Lines	100000	161384	160000	175121	200000	305905
4.	Village Public Telephones	13500	5316	13000	5006	10000	4963
5.	Transmission Systems (RKMs)	1500	1697	1500	1425	1500	1733
6.	Satellite Stations	20	03	61	68	73	49

[Translation]

Setting up a Regional Centre at Bhopal

787. SHRIMATI JAYASHREE BANERJEE : Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Sports Authority of India (SAI) propose to set up a regional centre at Bhopal in Madhya Pradesh;

(b) whether the SAI also propose to set up a sub-centre at Jabalpur in Madhya Pradesh;

(c) the amount proposed to be provided for setting up these said centres; and

(d) the time by which the schemes regarding expansion of the sports of SAI in Madhya Pradesh are likely to be cleared ?

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

(b) No, Sir.

(c) For setting up Regional Centre of SAI at Bhopal, the State Government of MP has agreed to provide Rs. 1.00 crore as their share. In addition to this, funds to the tune of Rs. 1.00 crore have been earmarked for this purpose, out of the budget allocation of SAI for the financial year 2000-2001. For creating the required infrastructure as planned, funds to the tune of Rs. 10/- crores will be required, which will be provided in a phased manner as the development work progresses.

(d) Government has already cleared the setting up of the SAI Regional Centre at Bhopal.

[English]

Construction/Modernisation Expansion of Major Highways in Kerala

788. SHRI P.C. THOMAS : Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of Major Highways planned for construction or modernisation or expansion during the next three years;

(b) the details of the construction of Express Highways and Golden Quadrilateral;

(c) the details of the National Highways, their expansion, modernisation or construction in Kerala during the present and coming two years;

(d) whether there is any plan for the construction of Bypass on N.H. 49; and

(e) if so, the details of the stages thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) SHRI B.C. KHANDURI) : (a) and (b) Government have approved the National Highways Development Project (NHDP) consisting of Golden Quadrilateral linking four metropolitan cities of Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai and Kolkata in a length of 5952 Km. and North-South and East-West corridors connecting Srinagar in Kashmir to Kanayakumari with Salem-Cochin spur and Porbandar with Silchar aggregating a length of 7300 Km. The estimated cost of this project is Rs.54,000 Crores and the project envisage 4/6 laning of National Highways.

(c) Development/improvement works such as widening to two lanes, improvement of riding quality, construction of bypasses and bridges etc. aggregating to Rs.110.64 Crores for National Highways in Kerala are included in the current Annual Programme 2000-2001. The proposed Annual Programme 2001-2002 for Kerala State contains provision for works aggregating to Rs.177.45 Crores. Annual Programme for 2002-2003 is yet to be prepared.

(d) and (e) There are three bypasses proposed on NH 49 namely :

(i) Tripunithura bypass

(ii) Kothmagalam bypass and

(iii) Muvattupuzha bypass. Provision for Land Acquisition for Thripunithura bypass is included in the current Annual Programme 2000-2001. The proposed Annual Programme 2001-2002 includes provision for Land Acquisition for Kothmangalam bypass and Muvattupuzha bypass.

[Translation]

Pending Projects in Uttar Pradesh

789. SHRI RAMSHAKAL : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether various irrigation projects of Uttar Pradesh are lying pending with the Union Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the Kanhar project in Uttar Pradesh is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY) : (a) and (b) The details of the unapproved irrigation projects of Uttar Pradesh are given in the statement attached.

(c) The clearance of Kanhar project in Uttar Pradesh is linked to early resolution of Inter-State issues including submergence of land in Bihar and Madhya Pradesh. The project can be taken up for implementation as an approved project only after Inter-State issues are resolved, techno economic clearance and other statutory clearances are obtained and investment clearance of Planning Commission is thereafter is obtained.

Statement

Details of pending projects of Uttar Pradesh for clearance as on 31.1.2001

Sl. No.	Project Name	Estimated cost (latest) Rs in crore	Benefits in Th. Ha. / Power Gen. in MW
1	Bewar Feeder	33.73	9.80/0
2	Raising of Meja Dam	65.00	17.88/0
3	Bansagar Canal	190.27	150.13/0
4	Rajghat Canals	126.43	138/0
5	Maudaha Dam	125.16	17.70/0
6	Lining of Channel Bundelkhand	57.37	23.78/0
7	Chittaurgarh Reservior	36.70	11.83/0
8	Kanhar Irrigation	341.45	33.12/0
9	Kishau Dam Project (Multi purpose Project)	4099.00	0/600
10	Modernisation of Agra Canal	45.83	65.96/0
11	Increasing capacity of Bhupali Pump Canal.	64.86	48.257
12	Hathni Kund Link Channel for eastern Yamuna Canal	22.49	
13	Kanchnoda Dam	70.46	13.55/00

Youth Hostels in States

790. SHRI SURESH CHANDEL :

SHRI ANANTA NAYAK :

SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL :

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA :

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

(a) whether there is any proposal to set up youth hostels in joint ventures with State Governments in every district headquarter of the country including Bilaspur, Himachal Pradesh;

(b) if so, the cost sharing ratio between the Union Government and the State Governments for setting up of such hostels;

(c) whether the Union Government propose to bear the larger portion of the expenditure in this regard so as to lighten the burden of State Governments;

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

(e) the time by which such hostels are likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI PON. RADHAKIRISHNAN) : (a) to (e) No Sir, there is no proposal to set up youth hostels in every district headquarters in the country. Construction of Youth Hostels is not made on the basis of cost sharing between the Central and State Govt. It is a joint venture between the Central Govt. and the State Govt. While the State Govt. provides fully developed land free of cost with approach road, boundary wall, with a provision for electricity and water, the Central Govt. bears the entire cost of construction of the hostel buildings. A Youth Hostel in Bilaspur (H.P.) is already functioning.

[English]

Voluntarily Retirement Scheme

791. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY :

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA :

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the retired employees who resigned under voluntarily retirement scheme entitled for pension under Employees Pension Scheme 1995 are getting a minimum pension of Rs.265 p.m.;

(b) if so, whether this pension is also not linked with dearness relief based on Cost of Living Index as it is in the case of other Government Pensioners;

(c) whether there is a pressing demand for increase in the pension under Employees Pension Fund and for linking it with Cost of Living Index like the dearness relief payable to other Government employees; and

(d) if so, the Government's decision in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL) : (a) to (d) Under the Employees' Pension Scheme, 1995, pension is worked out on the basis of basic pay and D.A. both. As such, to begin with, the Pension sanctioned under the EPS includes an element of D.A. too. The amount of pension under the Employees' Pension Scheme is determined keeping in view the length of contributory service rendered by the employees including beneficiaries of VRS under the scheme subject to a minimum of Rs. 265/- per month. Under the Scheme, there is a provision for valuation of Pension Fund and review of pensionary benefits on an annual basis. Accordingly, on completion of the first annual valuation, relief of 4% on pension in payment was sanctioned to the beneficiaries w.e.f. 16.11.1996. On completion of second annual valuation, additional relief of 5.5 percent was sanctioned to the pensioners w.e.f. 01.04.1998. The Employees Pension Scheme, is a contributory scheme with limited resources. Therefore, it is not considered desirable to burden the scheme with unlimited liability which is likely to arise by linking the pension under the EPS with the consumer price index.

Killing of Elephants in Corbett National Park

792. SHRI RAMJIVAN SINGH :

DR. (SHRIMATI) SUDHA YADAV :

SHRI DINESH CHANDRA YADAV :

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE :

SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH :

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

(a) whether killing of elephants at the Corbett and Rajaji National Parks are ominous in North India;

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

(c) the number of elephants died/killed during the last three years and till date, reserve-wise;

(d) whether elephants in the Corbett National Park have been recently killed by poachers by feeding them with nails and sharpnails causing slow and painful deaths;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether any inquiry has been made by the Government into the laxity and callousness in the preservation of the animals;

(g) if so, the details thereof; and

(h) the action taken by the Government in the matter and further steps proposed for effective prevention of elephants?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) and (b) During the period from 27.12.2000 to 10.2.2001, five cases of killing of elephants for the purpose of stealing their tusks have been reported from the Corbett National Park.

(c) As reported by the State Government, the number of elephants which died or were killed during the last three years and till date is as follows :

	Natural Death (Including Accidents)	Killing (Poaching)	Total
Rajaji National Park	31		31
Corbett National Park	11	5	16

(d) and (e) Preliminary reports sent by the authorities of the Corbett National Park in respect of the elephant killed on 27.12.2000 suggested the recovery of a sharp edged iron piece from the alimentary canal of the animal. However, the latest reports received from the State Government authorities indicate that sharp metal projectile about 6-7 cm. in length have been used to kill the elephant. The projectile could have been fired either from a gun or a bow.

(f) and (g) A team of senior wildlife officers of Government of India visited the Park on 12-13th February, 2001 to make on the spot assessment of the situation. According to the report of the team, there are large

number of vacancies in the Park. Communication network and the mobility of staff needs to be improved. The Park is also passing through a financial crisis because of non transfer of funds from Uttar Pradesh Government. The response of the senior officers of the Park in the initial stages was not up to the desired level.

(h) (1) The Central Government has requested the State Government of Uttaranchal Pradesh to take following actions :-

- (i) Replace the senior level officers of the Park with more efficient and committed officers.
- (ii) Fill up all the vacant posts at field level
- (iii) To ensure regular and intensive patrolling by the field staff and close supervision and monitoring by senior officers.
- (iv) To Improve the communication network to enable the field staff to reach the far-flung area of the Park quickly as and when required.
- (v) The State Government has also been asked to prepare a contingency plan for which the funds can be made available by the Central Government.

(2) Uttar Pradesh Government has been requested to transfer the funds released by the Central Government for the Park expeditiously to Uttaranchal Government.

(3) CBI has also been requested to assist the State Government in investigating the case successfully.

Telephone Facility in Rural Areas

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

(a) the details of the target fixed for providing telephone facility in the rural areas of Rajasthan particularly in Barmer and Jaisalmer districts during 2001-2002, district-wise;

(b) whether TDM Barmer is facing shortage of cables for laying of telephone line in Barmer and Jaisalmer districts and as a result "Out of Turn" allotment of Telephone connections from MP quota are not being provided; and

(c) If so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) It is proposed to provide 84,600 Direct Exchange Lines (DELs) in the rural areas of Rajasthan during 2001-2002. The targets for the districts of Barmer and Jaisalmer are 2,800 and 800 DELs respectively. The district-wise targets for providing DELs in the rural areas are given in the attached Statement.

(b) No, Sir. There is no shortage of cable in Barmer and Jaisalmer districts for release of Out of Turn MPs quota for providing telephone connections.

(c) Does not arise in view of reply to part (b) above.

Statement

District-wise DELs targets for rural areas of Rajasthan for the year 2001-2002

S.No.	Telecom. District	Target for Rural DELs
1	Ajmer	2600
2	Alwar	7700
3	Banswara	2400
4	Barmer	2800
5	Bharatpur	2900
6	Bhilwara	1900
7	Bikaner	2100
8	Bundi	1300
9	Chittorgarh	2400
10	Churu	2100
11	Jaipur	4200
12	Jaisalmer	800
13	Jhalawar	800
14	Jhunjhunu	5200
15	Jodhpur	3200
16	Kota	1400
17	Nagaur	5500
18	Pali	7000
19	Sawaimadhopur	2800
20	Sikar	4800
21	Sirohi	7700
22	Sri Ganganagar	7400
23	Tonk	1300
24	Udaipur	4300
Total		84,600

Unemployed Registered with Employment Exchanges

794. DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA :

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH :

SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY :

SHRI TARA CHAND BHAGORA :

DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV :

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) the number of unemployed persons registered in the Employment Exchanges in the various states of the country and in Delhi more than three years as on January 31, 2001;

(b) the number of unemployed persons who have been provided jobs through the Employment Exchanges during the last two years;

(c) whether the responsibility to set the target for employment generation has been assigned to the State Governments; and

(d) the steps the Government propose to take to provide the maximum jobs for the unemployed persons every year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL) : (a) The number of job seekers, all of whom are not necessarily unemployed, in the live register of employment exchanges located throughout the country and in Delhi as on 30.11.2000 was 413.52 lakh and 9.86 lakh respectively.

(b) The number of placements made by the Employment Exchanges during 1999 and 2000 (upto Nov.) was 2.21 and 1.62 lakh respectively.

(c) and (d) Employment is in the concurrent subject and, therefore, both Central Government as well as the State Governments are responsible for employment generation. The Planning Commission has already set up a Task Force under the Chairmanship of Dr. Montek Singh Ahluwalia to go into the details of the employment generation taking place in the economy and suggest measures for creation of 100 million additional jobs (10 millions per year) in a period of 10 years.

Integrated Afforestation and Eco-Development Scheme

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

(a) the name of the States where the Integrated Afforestation and Eco-Development Projects Scheme is being implemented;

(b) the allocation made to each of those States under the above scheme during 1999-2000 and 2000-2001; and

(c) the details of the afforestation programmes undertaken in each State particularly in Orissa during the said period under the above scheme ?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R.BAALU) : (a) to (c) The Integrated Afforestation and Eco-Development Project Scheme (IAEPS) is presently under implementation in all States except Goa. Allocations made under the scheme during 1999-2000 and 2000-2001, project-wise, for each of the States are given in the Statement. Under the projects sanctioned to States under this scheme, including Orissa, afforestation related activities carried out are nursery raising, plantation work, soil and moisture conservation where necessary. The use of new and improved technologies is also encouraged. All such projects are implemented with people's participation.

Statement

Year-wise & State-wise details of Projects showing Allocations & Amounts Released Under Integrated Afforestation & Eco-Development Project Scheme during 1999-2000 & 2000-2001

Name of State	Watershed	District	1999-2000		2000-2001	
			Allocation	Released	Allocation	Released
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
Andhra Pradesh		Nizamabad	17.40	8.70	16.61	28.67
		Cuddappah	16.49	16.94	16.77	13.64
		Anantapur	26.03	26.03	27.11	32.12
		Kurnool	16.89	11.80	16.85	25.28
		Chittoor	24.99	25.74	24.83	15.60
		Khammam	50.94	60.44	51.46	51.46
	Coastal Shelter Belt Plan	Srikakulam, Vihayanagaram, Krishna, Guntur & Nellore	0.00	0.00	154.43	79.78
	Total		152.74	149.65	308.06	246.55
Arunachal Pradesh	Panhkao Catchment	Lohit	4.15	4.15	9.68	7.30
	Sange Sella & Twang (Ph-II)	Tawang	20.37	26.19	36.72	31.57
	Tapo-Tarak (Ph-II)	Tapo-Tarak	11.87	20.00	23.68	0.47
	Yanman Watershed	Changlang	7.52	7.53	14.15	7.31
	Chongkham Watershed	Lohit	0.00	0.00	6.68	5.34
	Total		43.91	57.87	90.91	51.99
Assam	Arang Watershed	Cachar	16.79	13.43	17.91	7.61
	Darrang Block	Sonitpur	16.79	13.43	17.91	7.89
	Kadam-Jadhal	Lakhimpur	16.79	13.43	17.91	13.43
	Kamrup	Kamrup	16.79	13.43	17.91	7.93

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
Assam (contd)	Kuruwa & Rowta wshed	Darrang	16.79	13.43	17.91	7.97
	4 Watershed	Nagaon	0.00	0.00	9.28	7.42
	Total		83.95	67.15	98.83	52.25
Bihar/Jharkhand	Ajoy watershed	Deoghar	9.18	9.18	9.54	1.96
	Giridih	Giridih	27.38	27.38	31.57	16.84
	Subarnrekha Watershed	Ranchi	24.13	24.13	25.58	13.16
		Dumka	0.00	0.00	19.50	15.60
	Total		60.69	60.69	86.19	47.56
Gujarat	Bhavnagar	Bhavnagar	67.88	58.94	69.50	46.87
	Coastal Shelter Belt Plantn.	Kutch, Jamnagar, Junagarh, Amaralli, Bhavnagar & Ahmedabad	0.00	0.00	280.35	145.58
		Surat	0.00	0.00	14.91	4.00
		Panchmahal	0.00	0.00	110.44	25.00
	Total		67.88	58.94	475.20	221.45
Haryana	Ghaggar & Markanda	Panchkula	81.29	81.29	90.13	77.60
Himachal Pradesh	Giri Watershed	Sirmour & Solan	38.56	19.38	45.17	15.89
	Dehar- Kangu	Mandi	37.08	18.54	44.02	63.02
	Total		75.64	37.92	89.19	78.91
Jammu & Kashmir	Basanter Catchment	Kathua	57.33	57.60	86.81	44.00
	Bringi Catchment	Anantnag	57.99	42.49	65.90	0.00
	Chenani Watershed	Udhampur	65.71	47.52	78.67	78.67
	Karnah Watershed	Kupwara	53.12	20.00	56.37	55.20
	Sukhtao Watershed	Rajouri	64.50	52.71	69.56	96.43
	Trikuta Hills(Ph-II)	Jammu	78.90	79.55	84.48	43.55
	Indira Hills	Anantnag (Maint)	0.00	8.20	0.00	0.00
	Sukhtao Watershed	Rajouri (Maint)	9.58	5.95	0.00	0.00
	Trikuta Hills(Ph-I)	Jammu (Maint)	10.71	10.71	0.00	0.00
	Basanter Catchment	Kathua (Maint)	25.00	25.00	22.16	0.00

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
Jammu & Kashmir (contd)	Chenani Watershed	Udhampur (Maint)	5.16	4.32	0.00	0.00
	Bringi Catchment	Anantnag(Maint)	5.00	5.00	0.00	0.00
	Billani Catchment	(Maint)	5.04	5.04	0.00	0.00
	Total		438.04	364.09	463.95	317.85
Karnataka	2 Watersheds	Chitradurga	23.72	23.72	26.78	26.78
	3 Watersheds	Hassan	40.16	30.11	33.71	33.67
	3 Watersheds	Tumkur	37.45	37.45	38.91	29.55
	4 Watersheds	Belgaum	28.35	28.35	29.11	29.11
	2 Watersheds	Bidar	24.01	24.01	23.14	19.14
	4 Watersheds	Kolar	17.72	16.72	15.32	15.32
	Coastal Shelter Belt Plantn.	Kannara (South), Udukki, Kannada (U)	0.00	0.00	26.79	13.86
	Total		171.41	160.36	193.76	167.43
Kerala	Chuliar & Agali watershed	Palakkad	49.39	49.03	125.07	68.43
	Deviar Project	Idukki	65.53	52.83	71.94	71.94
	Edmalayar	Ernakulam	52.77	46.24	32.59	23.13
	Illithodu Watershed	Ernakulam	38.34	38.34	34.03	40.52
	Kakkad Watershed	Pathanamthitta	51.07	51.07	39.88	29.91
	Pulakodu-Chelakkara	Thrissur	47.64	47.64	43.76	52.82
	Sankily Watershed	Thiruvananthapuram	58.65	54.27	56.93	99.83
	#	Malappuram	0.00	6.72	0.00	0.00
	Coastal Shelter Belt Plantn.	Thiruvananthapuram Kollam, Kannur, Alappuzha, Ernakulam, Thrissur, Malappuram, Kozhikode & Kasaragod	0.00	0.00	199.02	99.51
	Total		363.39	346.14	603.22	486.09
Madhya Pradesh/ Chattisgarh	Bhind Watershed	Bhind	40.40	40.30	41.00	0.00
	Bina Watershed	Raisen	40.55	15.00	40.13	40.13
	Chambal Watershed	Mandsaur	33.17	33.17	36.05	35.95
	Choral & Kunda Watershed	West Nimar	42.28	12.11	43.33	4.53

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
Madhya Pradesh/ Chattisgarh (contd)	Dhanesara Nala Watershed	Bastar	9.19	9.19	4.13	0.00
	Dudhi Watershed	Hosangabad	27.48	0.00	28.16	20.53
	Ken Watershed	Chhatarpur	38.09	38.09	40.35	23.93
	Mahi Watershed	Dhar	28.93	28.93	29.90	42.43
	Parvati & Sind	Guna	45.70	23.82	45.80	32.93
	Sendur Watershed	Sarguja	42.14	29.77	43.52	23.00
	Seonath Watershed	Rajnandgaon	35.86	35.86	35.21	21.86
	Sind Watershed	Datia	43.67	32.31	45.41	33.49
	Sitarewa Watershed	Chindwara	38.17	38.17	39.17	17.84
	Kanha Tiger Reserve	Mandla	0.00	16.11	36.27	0.00
	Sunar Nadi Watershed	Damoh	0.00	0.00	32.28	25.92
	Total		465.63	352.83	540.71	322.54
Maharashtra	10 watersheds	Nasik	27.44	0.00	16.70	11.91
	5 Watersheds	Kolhapur	5.96	0.00	6.40	6.39
	BM 117,118,121, KR35	Sangli	23.83	0.00	25.17	18.88
	BM 39, BM 55	Pune	22.75	9.18	12.15	12.11
	Junner, Shirur	Pune	1.44	0.00	0.63	0.00
	6 watersheds	Nasik	6.56	0.00	3.78	22.24
	Dhule	Dhule	169.92	0.00	188.44	141.35
		Sindhudurg	10.55	8.00	13.95	12.80
	Total		268.45	17.18	267.22	225.68
Manipur	Imphal watershed	Imphal	139.44	139.44	128.71	122.39
	Loktak Catchment Phase(II)	Imphal	118.60	118.60	88.43	36.94
	Maklang Watershed	Ukhrul	77.84	77.84	89.83	88.15
	Thoubal Watershed	Thoubal	132.85	132.85	153.55	80.63
	Total		468.73	468.73	460.52	328.11
Meghalaya	Chibok Watershed		13.61	10.21	19.60	14.70

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
Mizoram	Kamaphuli Watershed	Chhimtuipui	15.30	15.20	15.44	28.98
	Tiau Watershed	Aizawl East	32.99	32.99	35.53	35.53
	Tlawng Watershed	Aizawl	66.54	66.54	69.20	54.91
	Tuivawl Watershed	Aizawl East	32.83	32.83	34.10	30.00
	Total		147.66	147.56	154.27	149.42
Nagaland	DZU-U	Kohima	24.80	18.60	40.80	30.60
	Meguiki Watershed	Kohima	34.88	20.00	57.38	43.04
	Total		59.68	38.60	98.18	73.64
Orissa	Tel watersheds	N.K.B. Distt.	152.89	0.00	204.60	153.45
	Chilka Watersheds	K.N.P Distt.	44.15	0.00	58.35	43.76
	Salandi Watersheds	K.M. Distt.	38.60	0.00	54.26	90.70
	Similipal Tiger Reserve	Mayurbhanj Distt	23.59	18.50	27.17	0.00
	Hadua Chatara	Cuttack	46.93	37.54	82.03	0.00
	Kelua Bada Genguti	Jajpur	27.40	21.92	50.75	0.00
	Baripada F. Div.	Mbhj,Blsr&Bhdrk	28.68	22.94	37.65	0.00
	Karanjia F. Div.	Mayurbhanj	28.67	22.93	37.66	0.00
	Mahanadi & Brahmani	Cuttack & Jajpur	56.94	37.54	87.03	0.00
	6 watersheds	Keonjhar	40.14	32.12	52.72	0.00
	Barhanadi Loharkhandi	Ganjam	51.46	41.17	89.48	0.00
	Kuakhai Bada Gangua	Khurda	45.20	5.00	80.50	0.00
	Coastal Shelter Belt Plantn.	Puri	0.00	0.00	278.68	159.59
	Coastal Shelter Belt Plantn.	Ganjam	0.00	0.00	44.30	26.07
	Coastal Shelter Belt Plantn.	Balasore	0.00	0.00	35.44	20.86
	Coastal Shelter Belt Plantn.	Kendrapara	0.00	0.00	277.21	100.00
	Coastal Shelter Belt Plantn.	Jagatsinghpur	0.00	0.00	226.21	129.35
	Coastal Shelter Belt Plantn.	Bhadrak	0.00	0.00	8.86	5.22
	Total		584.65	239.66	1732.90	729.00

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
Pondicherry	Coastal Shelter Belt Plantn	Pondicherry, Karaikal, Yanam & Mahe Circles	0.00	0.00	41.62	20.12
Punjab	Sutlej	Rupnagar	112.49	28.62	113.02	0.00
Rajasthan	11 Watersheds	Banswara	85.45	85.36	152.07	147.81
	10 Watersheds	Jhalawar	55.53	35.00	119.16	66.17
	Ladpura & Mandana	Kota	70.51	75.00	158.12	71.70
	5 Watersheds	Tonk	43.25	51.43	72.18	29.97
	3 Ranges	Udaipur	78.94	95.00	173.54	117.02
	Sariska Tiger Reserve	Alwar	43.47	34.78	56.67	0.00
	Total		377.15	376.57	731.74	432.67
Sikkim	Dzongu Watershed	North Sikkim	48.18	33.45	44.45	0.00
	Rangpochu Watershed	East Sikkim	139.20	76.37	133.57	183.01
	Total		187.38	109.82	178.02	183.01
Tamil Nadu		Madurai	35.13	0.00	38.73	0.00
	Coastal Shelter Belt Plantn.	Chennai, Dharmapuri, Trichy & Virudhunagar	0.00	0.00	156.81	84.55
	Total		35.13	0.00	195.54	84.55
Tripura	10 Watersheds	Agartala	94.24	37.77	97.46	91.51
Uttar Pradesh/ Uttaranchal	Amtiargad Catchment	Dehradun	78.65	72.90	81.72	66.29
	Jaikurgad Watershed	Uttar Kashi & Tehri	81.03	40.52	89.73	79.66
	Khoh-Sukhro	Pauri	64.80	58.60	75.54	51.44
	Koshi-Ramgad	Nainital	174.90	126.40	191.31	102.35
	Corbett National Park	Ramnagar-Nainital	45.80	2.68	60.60	30.80
		Nainital (Maint)	15.25	15.25	0.00	0.00
		Dehradun (Maint)	13.68	13.68	0.00	0.00
	Horticulture	Taj Afforestation	0.00	3.57	0.00	0.00
	Forest Deptt.	Taj Afforestation	19.83	34.11	5.77	3.34
		Hardoi	0.00	0.00	13.14	3.00
	Forest Deptt.	Agra	0.00	0.00	53.02	53.02
		Bijnor	0.00	0.00	4.51	1.50
	Total		493.94	367.71	575.34	391.40

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
West Bengal	Soil Cons. Divisions	3 North Bengal	93.16	83.95	98.38	48.22
	Sundarban Bio Reserve	24 Parganas South	93.16	86.69	98.36	44.78
	Coastal Shelter Belt Plantn.	Kharagpur	0.00	0.00	13.80	7.60
	Hill Circle	Darjeeling Kurseong	0.00	0.00	22.00	17.00
	Total		186.32	170.64	232.54	117.60
	Grand Total		5034.00	3750.00	7938.12	4911.63

[Translation]

Agreement with Russia

796. SHRI BABUBHAI K. KATARA :

SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether any agreement regarding Civil Aviation has been signed between India and Russia in February, 2001;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the benefits accrued or likely to be accrued to India from this agreement; and

(d) date from which the agreement will come into effect?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) An agreement for promotion of aviation safety has been signed between India and the Russian Federation on 14th February, 2001.

(b) The agreement provides for reciprocal acceptance of certification and approval of Civil aeronautical products including aircraft, maintenance facilities and training establishments subject to the standards and systems being sufficiently equivalent and compatible.

(c) The Agreement is intended to harmonise the Systems and Standards followed by the two countries in the field of Civil Aviation Safety and to reduce economic

burden imposed on aviation industry and operators by redundant inspections, evaluations and testing.

(d) The agreement has come into effect from the date of signature.

[English]

Decline in Employment in Urban and Rural Areas

797. SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether according to latest survey conducted by NSSO employment in the country has declined marginally in both urban and rural areas;

(b) if so, the factors responsible for such a decline of employment in urban and rural areas;

(c) whether the Government propose to take any steps to create more employment opportunities in urban and rural areas; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) The Planning Commission has set up a Task Force under the Chairmanship of Shri Montek Singh Ahluwalia to look into the details of the employment generation taking place in the economy and suggest measures to create 100 million jobs (10 million per year) in a period of 10 years.

Recommendation of TRAI

798. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI :

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA :

MOHD. SHAHABUDDIN :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has recommended to reduce the revenue share for Cellular telephone operators;

(b) if so, whether the Government have accepted the recommendations of TRAI;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Government have received any representations from the cellular industry in this regard;

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

(f) the impact of said recommendations on domestic and foreign investors;

(g) whether this decision is likely to attract more companies in this field;

(h) if so, the details thereof; and

(i) the criteria fixed for entering the new companies in this field?

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

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Does not arise in view of above.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) to (h) The Cellular Operators Association of India (COAI) on behalf of the Cellular Industry have, inter-alia, represented that grant of limited mobility to the Basic Service Operators will have adverse impact on their business. The Government have taken steps to address their concerns including bringing the license fee of cellular service operators at par with basic service operators, provision of fixed phones using GSM (Global System for Mobile Communication) network, retention of 5% out of the charges collected by the cellular operators for fixed leg of the call, more points of interconnection, thereby

ensuring level playing field. With the fall in call charges of Cellular Services the growth of subscribers has been substantial during last one year, thereby increasing the revenue. The Government expects that this will have a good impact on domestic and foreign investors and it will attract more companies in the field for Cellular as well as Basic Services.

(i) As listed in the Statement attached.

Statement***Criteria for entry of new Cellular Mobile Telephone Service Providers (CMTSPS)***

Salient features are as follows :

1. The bidder must be an Indian company, registered under the Indian Companies Act'1956.
2. The bidder company can apply for any number of service areas subject to fulfilment of all the conditions of entry such network, experience etc.
3. The license for CMTS will be issued on non-exclusive basis, for a period of 20 years, further extendable by 10 years at one time.
4. The total foreign equity in the bidder company must not exceed 49% at any time during the entire licence period.
5. The licences shall be awarded based on the tendering process structured as "Multi-Stage Informed Ascending Bidding Process"
6. The network of company shall be Rs. 30 crores, Rs.50 crores and Rs.100 crores and paid-up equity shall be Rs.3 crores and Rs.10 crores for category 'C', 'B' and 'A' Circle respectively. Network is to be added for the Circle bid for.
7. A promoter company cannot have stakes in more than one Bidder Company for the same service area.
8. The existing licensees cannot bid for the same service area.
9. The bidder company and/or its promoters should have experience in telecom sector.
10. The successful bidder will be required to pay one time Entry Fee based on the final bid before signing the Licence Agreement. The company shall also submit Financial Bank Guarantee (FBG) of amount equal to Rs.50, 25 and 15

crores and Performance Bank Guarantees (PBGs) of amount equal to Rs.20, 10 and 2 crores for category 'A', 'B' and 'C' service areas.

11. The license fee for cellular services, for new as well as existing operators, shall be at par with Basic Services by reducing license fee to 12% of 'Adjusted Gross Revenue' (AGR) for Metro Service Areas and category 'A' circles, 10% of AGR for category 'B' Circles and 8% of AGR for category 'C' Circles, excluding spectrum charges.
12. In addition, the cellular licensees shall pay spectrum charges on revenue share basis of 2% of AGR for spectrum upto 4.4 Mhz (or 3% of AGR for spectrum upto 6.2 Mhz, as the case may be).
13. The frequencies shall be assigned from the designated bands prescribed in National Frequency Allocation Plan - 2000. (NFAP-2000). Appropriate frequency spots in Cellular band of 890-915 MHz paired with 935-960 MHz will be assigned to operators selected for vacant slots and 1710-1785 MHz paired with 1805-1880 MHz will be assigned to fourth cellular operator. A cumulative maximum of upto 4.4 MHz + 4.4 MHz will be permitted. Based on usage, justification and availability, additional spectrum upto 1.8 MHz + 1.8 MHz making a total of 6.2 MHz +6.2 MHz, may be considered for assignment.
14. Minimum roll-out obligation : In Telecom Circles, atleast 10% of the District Headquarters (DHQs) will be covered in the first year and 50% of the District Headquarters will be covered within three years of effective date of License. The licensees shall also be permitted to cover any other town in a District in lieu of the District Headquarters. Coverage of a DHQ/town would mean that at least 90% of the area bounded by the Municipal limits should get the required street as well as in-building coverage. In Metros, 90% of the service area shall be covered within one year of the effective date. The District Headquarters shall be taken as on the effective date of license.

[Translation]

Caustic Soda Factory

799. SHRI MAHESHWAR SINGH : Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No.138 dated 20.11.2000 and state :

(a) Whether the Government propose to set up a factory of caustic soda based on salt solution in Drang

region of Mandi district in Himachal Pradesh keeping in view of the large number of salt rocks in the region; and

(b) If so, the action taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI JAYSINGRAO GAIKWAD PATIL) : (a) and (b) The Government of India have not received any proposal for setting up a caustic soda factory based on salt solution in Drang region of Mandi District in Himachal Pradesh, in the recent past.

[English]

Public Mobile Radio Trunking Services

800. SHRI G. MALLIKARJUNAPPA :

SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY :

SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has recommended unlimited competition and no separate entry fee for issuing fresh licences for Public Mobile Radio Trunking Services;

(b) if so, whether TRAI has submitted its recommendations to the Government for serving areas in metropolitan cities;

(c) if so, whether the Government have considered this recommendation; and

(d) if so, 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) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) The recommendations of TRAI regarding the terms and conditions for fresh licences of Public Mobile Radio Trunking Service (PMRTS) have been considered by the Government. A back reference with regard to certain aspects of the recommendations has been made to TRAI on 12th February, 2001 in terms of TRAI (Amendment) Act, 2000. After receipt of TRAI's further response, a final decision shall be taken by the Government in due course.

Legislative Proposal to Control Land and Traffic on National Highway

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

(a) whether a legislative proposal relating to the control of land and traffic on National Highways is under consideration of the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the said proposal is likely to be finalised?

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

(b) The bill proposes to provide for control of land within National Highways Right of Way and traffic on the National Highways and also for removal of unauthorised occupation.

(c) It is not possible to indicate any time frame at this stage for the finalisation of the bill.

[Translation]

Irrigation Projects in Jharkhand

802. SHRI BRAJ MOHAN RAM : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) the present status of Kanhar, Orange and Kutaku projects in Garhwa and Palamu district in Jharkhand;

(b) the estimated revised cost of each of these projects and the hurdles coming in the way of funding the projects; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY) : (a) to (c) Auranga – The Project was accepted in the 55th meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee on 27.8.93 subject to environment clearance, clearance of Rehabilitation and Resettlement Plan and Hydrological study. The compliance of Technical Advisory Committee observation is awaited from the State Government. The revised estimated cost of the project is Rs. 529.49 Crore.

Kanhar - Modified Project Report was received in the Central Water Commission in 11/98 and comments were

sent in September, 1999 to the State Government. Their compliance is awaited. The revised estimated cost of the project is Rs. 1015.76 Crore.

Kutaku (North Koel) – The revised Project Report for Rs. 836.11 Crore was received in the Central Water Commission in May, 1999 and comments have been sent in September, 1999 to the State Government. Their compliance is awaited.

Being a state subject, irrigation projects are planned, investigated, implemented and funded by the State Governments out of their own resources and as per their own priorities. Clearance of these irrigation projects is linked to the promptness with which the State Government complies with the observations of the Central Appraising Agencies.

[English]

Use of Cement for Construction of Roads

803. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL :

SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK.:

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

(a) whether the Government have decided to use more quantity of cement for the construction of roads under the Rs.54,000 crore National Highway Development Project;

(b) if so, whether according to experts, this decision is likely to raise the cost of the project sharply;

(c) if so, whether experts have also pointed out other drawbacks of use of cement for construction of roads and highways;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government are thinking to reconsider its decision on the basis of opinion of experts; and

(f) if not, the justification thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) SHRI B.C. KHANDURI) : (a) and (b) Government have decided to adopt both cement concrete and bituminous pavements in the National Highway

Development Project. Even though the initial cost of the cement concrete pavement is higher, the life cycle cost of concrete pavement has been found to be cost-effective.

(c) and (d) Some drawbacks of cement concrete pavements are non-amenability to stage construction, lack of construction equipment, absence of adequate experience and agencies for construction of concrete roads.

(e) No. Sir.

(f) In view of the long term cost advantage and need to develop experienced and agencies for concrete pavements, there is no necessity to reconsider the decision at present.

Plane Mishap at Patna

804. SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned 'Major Plane Mishap Averted' appearing in the 'Times of India' New Delhi dated January 24, 2001;

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

(c) whether any enquiry was held in the matter;

(d) if so, the findings thereof; and

(e) the precautionary steps taken by the Government to avoid chances of such incidents in future?

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

(b) On 23.1.2001, an Alliance Air Boeing-737 aircraft operating flight from Calcutta to Patna was required to go around as the Air Traffic Control (ATC) observed a Jeep on the runway. The aircraft carried out go around and later landed safely at Patna airport.

(c) and (d) The incident has been investigated and it was found that the jeep was sent with Meteorological staff for observation of the visibility and entered the runway without coordination.

(e) Airports Authority of India has taken action to ensure that staff of ATC shall be on board the vehicle deployed for such purpose and the existing coordination has been reiterated and circulated to all concerned agencies for strict compliance.

[Translation]

Medical Facilities to Factory Workers

805. DR. SANJAY PASWAN : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether surprise or routine inspections of medical services being rendered to factory workers by health centres and hospitals under Employees State Insurance Corporation are done by the Government;

(b) if so, the details of the inspection reports in respect of the said centres and hospitals of NCT of Delhi;

(c) if not, whether the Government propose to contemplate to conduct surprise inspections of medical services of ESI known for sub-standard medical facilities so that the poor workers could get better facilities;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the medical facilities available with the said corporation in the NCT of Delhi;

(e) whether the facilities available are adequate in view of the number of beneficiaries of ESIC; and

(f) if not, the steps taken to remedy the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL) : (a) to (d) In order to provide medical care and treatment to the insured workers of the NCT of Delhi, the ESIC has set up a network of 37 dispensaries 4 diagnostic centres, 2 emergency centres and 4 ESI Hospitals. Functioning of these ESI medical institutions is generally satisfactory. However, with a view to ensure efficient administration of medical services, surprise and routine visits/inspections of hospitals/dispensaries are carried out periodically by Additional Director (Inspections), Additional Director (Dispensaries/Hospitals), Director (Medical, Delhi), Medical Superintendent and other Senior Officers of ESI Corporation. During the inspections sometimes minor deficiencies like non-functioning of some equipments, absence of staff, lack of cleanliness, water etc. are noticed. These shortcomings/deficiencies are removed as and when noticed and necessary action is taken to ensure that satisfactory medical facilities are extended to the Insured Persons and their families covered under the ESI Scheme. Full medical care including hospitalisation, Specialist consultation, indoor services, Ayurvedic treatment etc. are made available to the insured persons under the ESI Scheme.

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

Mobile Cellular Service

806. KUMARI BHAVANA PUNDLIKRAO GAWALI:

SHRI M.K. SUBBA :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the names of places of Jharkhand and North Eastern Region (NER) where cellular telephone facility is provided at present;

(b) whether the Government propose to provide the said facility in Palamu and Garhwa districts of Jharkhand;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the Government have recently announced a scheme to provide cellular telephone facilities in all the towns in NER; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) Sir, for the purpose of Cellular Mobile Telephone Service (CMTS), Jharkhand State is covered under the CMTS license of Bihar Telecom Circle. The CMTS is operational at present in Bihar Telecom Circles in 23 cities namely; Patna, Ranchi, Jamshedpur, Dhanbad, Jharia, Hajipur, Danapur, Chas, Muzaffarpur, Gaya, Hazaribagh, Bhagalpur, Bihar Shariff, Darbhanga, Madhubani, Begusarai, Siwan, Motihari, Raxaul, Chhapra, Bokaro, Samastipur and Bethia. The service is operational in North East Telecom Circle in Shillong and Guwahati.

(b) to (d) Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) have floated tenders for making available CMTS in certain parts of the country which include the district of Palamu and Garwah also.

(e) to (f) BSNL has plans to provide cellular service in major towns/cities of North Eastern Region (NER) totaling to 49 towns subject to necessary clearance. The service is likely to be available in phased manner from 2001-02 onwards.

Declaration of Highways as National Highways

807. KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH : Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of highways connecting India with Nepal;

(b) whether the Government propose to declare these highways as National Highways;

(c) if so, the names of the highways proposed to be declared as National Highways;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the time by which the highway connecting Basti district with Lumbini (Nepal) via Sidharth Nagar is likely to declare as National Highway?

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 is primarily concerned with the development and maintenance of National Highways only. National Highway No. 28A, 31C, 77, 104, 105 and 106 connect India with Nepal.

(c) to (e) 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 therefore, not possible to give any time frame.

[English]

Pending Cases in Central Government Industrial Tribunal

808. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY :

SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN :

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the number of pending cases in the Central Government Industrial Tribunal-cum-labour is increasing year by year;

(b) if so, the details thereof and reasons of increasing these numbers; and

(c) the steps taken for speedy disposal of these cases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) A statement is attached.

Statement

The number of cases pending with the various CGIT-cum Labour Courts as on 31-12-2000

(b)

Sl. No.	Name of the Central Govt. Industrial Tribunal-cum-Labour Court	No. of cases pending
1.	Asansol	409
2.	Bangalore	515
3.	Calcutta	200 As on 31.10.2000
4.	Chandigarh	1787
5.	Dhanbad-I	1539
6.	Dhanbad-II	1339 As on 30.11.2000
7.	Jabalpur	1367
8.	Jaipur	125
9.	Kanpur	620
10.	Lucknow	213
11.	Nagpur	294
12.	New Delhi	1087
13.	Mumbai-I	204
14.	Mumbai-II	278
15.	Hyderabad – Started functioning w.e.f. 20.10.2000	—
16.	Chennai – Started functioning w.e.f 15.03.2000	63
17.	Bhubaneswar – Started functioning w.e.f. 05.06.2000	34
Total		10074

Reasons for increasing the number of cases :-

1. Delay in appointing Presiding Officers as panels of names of Judicial Officers are not received in time from the various High Courts;
2. Adjourment sought by parties to the dispute
3. Procedural formalities to be observed under the Civil Procedure Code in the interest of equality, fair play and natural justice. As a result disposal of cases tend to become somewhat slow, despite efforts made by the Presiding Officers to speed up disposal of cases.

(c)

- (i) Expeditious steps are being taken to fill up the vacant posts of Presiding officers in CGIT-cum-Labour Courts after observing all necessary formalities
- (ii) The need to reduce pendency of Industrial Dispute cases in the CGIT-cum-Labour Courts is also impressed upon the Presiding Officers by taking up the matter with them from time to time.

Exploitation of Workers by their Union Leaders

809. SHRI RAMJEE MANJHI : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether most of the trade union leaders exploit thousands of workers etc. in direct collusion with the owners/management and complaints against such trade union leaders are pending for long with the Government for action;

(b) if so, the action taken by the Government in such type of cases as per law; and

(c) the circumstances under which Baranagar Jute Mill Calcutta workers have lynched their CEO and a Sr. Manager by setting them on fire?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL) : (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Disappearance of Sheesham Trees

810. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE :

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA :

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

(a) whether sheesham trees have lately been disappearing fast in the country due to affliction by fungus;

(b) if so, the details of the areas afflicted so far, State-wise; and

(c) the extent of destruction of these trees during the last three years ?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T. R. BAALU) : (a) and (b) As per the information compiled by the Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education (ICFRE), Dehradun, damage to sheesham trees (*Dalbergia sissoo*) has been observed in Bihar, Delhi, Haryana, Himanchal Pradesh, Punjab and Uttar Pradesh specially in the plantations raised along roadsides, canal banks, agricultural fields, areas having clayey soils and water logged conditions. *Fusarium*, *Ganoderma* and *Phellinus* have been identified as possible causative agents of such destruction. No perceptible damage has been noticed in sheesham trees found in the natural forests in the country.

(c) No authentic assessment report regarding the exact extent of destruction of sheesham trees in the country during the last three years is available.

Appointment of Personnel in A.A.I. against Rules

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

(a) whether a number of persons have been appointed in the Airports Authority of India in gross violation of the rules; and

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

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

(b) Does not arise.

Guidance to Pilots during Hijacking

812. SHRI V.M. SUDHEERAN : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are formulating any concrete policy to guide the pilots during hijacking;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) to (c) Specific guidelines for the Pilots for

handling hijacking are already given in the existing Contingency Plan.

Vehicles on Roads in the Country

813. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the estimated number of vehicles on roads in the country during each of the last three years ; and

(b) the steps taken to regulate the increase in the number of vehicles and to check the choking of city roads?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) SHRI B.C. KHANDURI) : (a) As per information available, the number of registered vehicles in the country are as under :

(In thousands)

Year (as on 31st March)	Number of registered vehicles
1996	33783
1997	37231
1998	40939

(b) Growth of vehicles in city can be checked primarily by improvement in public transport services. City specific strategies including that of improvement in public transport services are to be adopted by the concerned State Governments/civic agencies based on localised problems.

Special Schemes for Welfare of Unorganised Labour Sector

814. DR. V. SAROJA :

SHRI P.D. ELANGO VAN :

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the labour force in the unorganised labour sector and the details of the special schemes for the welfare of unorganised labour sector in India, State-wise;

(b) whether unorganised labour force in India are deprived of the basic privileges that should be accorded to the other labours;

(c) if so, whether the Government have initiated any programmes including provident fund facility for the betterment of the under-privileged, unorganised labourers in various States; and

(d) if so, the details thereof, and the fund pattern for the above said programmes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL) : (a) to (d) As per the survey carried out by the National Sample Survey Organisation in the year 1993-94, total employment in both organised and unorganised sector in the country was of the order of 335 million. Out of this, around 27 million was in the organised sector and the balance 308 million in the unorganised sector. The details of State-wise unorganised labour force are given in the statement attached.

The Government have enacted a number of labour laws for the protection of workers' basic privileges and rights in both organised and unorganised sector. These include the Minimum Wages Act, 1948, the Equal Remuneration Act, 1976, the Payment of Gratuity Act, 1972, the Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition) Act, 1970, the Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, 1976, the Beedi and Cigar Workers (Conditions of Employment) Act, 1966, the Inter-State Migrant Workmen (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 1979 the Beedi Workers' Welfare Fund Act, 1976, Building and Other Construction Workers (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 1996, The Mica Mines Labour Welfare Fund Act, 1946, the Limestone and Dolomite Mines Labour Welfare Fund Act, 1972, the Iron Ore, Manganese Ore and Chrome Ore Mines Labour Welfare Fund Act, 1976, the Cine Workers' Welfare Fund Act, 1981, etc. The workers employed in certain unorganised sectors like beedi, building and construction, poultry farming, agricultural farms, fruit gardens, cattle breeding, plantations of tea, coffee, rubber, cardamom, pepper, agarbatti/dhoop making, coir, tobacco, chutni making, katha making, brick industry etc. are covered for provident fund and pension schemes as admissible and provided under the Employees Provident Fund and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952.

The Government are also implementing a number of Plan Schemes like Jawahar Gram Samridhi Yojna (JGSY), Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS), Swarnjayanti Gram Swarajgar Yojna (SGSY) etc. for the welfare and improvement of the conditions of rural unorganised labourers in the country.

Statement

Number of people estimated to be working in unorganised sector, State-wise as on 31.3.1994

State/UT	Number
Andhra Pradesh	32513
Assam	6047
Bihar	26857
Gujarat	15051
Haryana	4249
Himachal Pradesh	1999
Jammu & Kashmir	2269
Karnataka	18550
Kerala	8935
Madhya Pradesh	26883
Maharashtra	31366
Manipur	574
Meghalaya	918
Nagaland	288
Orissa	11689
Punjab	5832
Rajasthan	17392
Sikkim*	163
Tamil Nadu	24365
Tripura	834
Uttar Pradesh	45364
West Bengal	20982
A & N Island	74
Arunachal Pradesh*	410
Chandigarh	211
Dadra & N. Haveli*	58
Delhi	2686
Goa	353
Daman & Diu	33
Lakshadweep*	16
Mizoram	255
Pondicherry	247
Total	307428

This is the total figure of workers in organised and unorganised sectors. Break-up of workers in organised and unorganised sector is not available.

The allocation of fund under these schemes for the IXth Plan period and for 2000-2001 are as given below :

Name of the Scheme	Allocation of funds for the IXth Plan (Rs. in crores)	Allocation for 2000-2001 (Rs. in lakh)
Swarnjayanti Gram Swarajgar Yojna (SGSY)	4690.00	865.00
Jawahar Gram Samridhi Yojana (JGSY)	7095.90	2193.00
Employment Assurance Scheme	8690.00	1530.00

Kaziranga National Park and Manas National Tiger Project

815. SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the condition of the Kaziranga National Park and Manas National Tiger Project in Assam are deteriorating;

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

(c) whether the Government have any scheme for the proper maintenance and beautification of these parks; and

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

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) and (b) Manas Tiger Reserve in Assam has been greatly affected by Bodo insurgency. The wildlife staff are not able to move and carry out their duties freely.

Kaziranga National Park is one of the best-managed parks in the country and the wildlife population in the area is on the rise.

(c) and (d) Manas being a Tiger Reserve gets 100% assistance for non-recurring items of work and 50% of recurring expenditure including salary of the staff. Kaziranga National Park so far was getting 100% funding for non-recurring items of work and 50% funding for recurring items of work. From this year funding has been upgraded to cover 100% recurring cost including salary of incremental staff.

Year	Release (Rs in Lakhs)	
	Kaziranga National Park	Manas Tiger Reserve
1997-98	50.89	75.105
1998-99	50.85	35.00
1999-2000	0.44	87.29
2000-2001	45.60	73.00

Sports Stadiums

816. SHRI P.D. ELANGO VAN :

SHRI RAJO SINGH :

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIS PAPPU YADAV :

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

(a) whether the Government has any plan to construct more sports stadiums in the country particularly in Tamil Nadu and Bihar to encourage sports;

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

(c) the details of the existing sports stadiums in Tamil Nadu;

(d) the funds allocated and disbursed for the development of sports activities in the country during the last three years, year-wise and State-wise; and

(e) the measures taken by the Government to develop sports and games in rural areas of the country and to promote traditional sports and games?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI PON. RADHAKRISHNAN) : (a) and (b) Since "Sports" is a State subject, it is primarily the responsibility of the State governments/UTs to create sports infrastructure for development of sports in their respective areas. However, in order to supplement their effort in this direction, Central assistance is provided on matching share basis for creation of sports facilities under the Scheme of Grants for creation of sports infrastructure, subject to the receipt of viable proposals. A state-wise list of sports stadium projects approved from 1998-99 onwards is placed at Statement attached.

(c) Details of sports stadiums approved in Tamil Nadu for construction with admissible financial assistance from Government of India are (1) State Level Sports Complex at Madras; (2) Sports Project Development Area (SPDA) Centre, Salem; (3) Sports Complex at Tuticorin, Chidambaram; (4) Indoor Stadium by YMCA at Tuticorin; (5) Indoor Stadium at Dharampur, Periyar; (6) Distt. Level Sports Complex at Dindigul; and (7) Distt. Level Sports Complex at Nagapattinam. This does not include the stadia constructed by other agencies without central assistance.

(d) No State-wise funds are earmarked under the Scheme of Grants for Creation of Sports Infrastructure. A list indicating State-wise grants released during the last three years for the approved sports projects, is given in the attached statement – II.

(e) For developing sports and games in rural areas and to promote traditional sports and games, Government of India is implementing the schemes of (i) Grants to Rural Schools; (ii) Grants to National Sports Federations; (iii) Rural Sports Programme; (iv) Rural Sports Tournament; and (v) Sports Festival for North-Eastern Region.

Statement-I

(Rs in lakhs)

Sl. No.	State/UT	No. of stadia approved for Central assistance from 1998-99 onwards					
		1998-1999		1999-2000		2000-2001	
		No. of Stadia	Central Assistance approved	No. of Stadia	Central Assistance approved	No. of Stadia	Central Assistance approved
1	Andhra Pradesh	-	-	-	-	3	447.49
2	Assam	1	31.41	1	30.00	3	162.00
3	Bihar	1	186.25	-	-	-	-
4	Delhi	1	17.80	-	-	-	-
5	Gujarat	-	-	1	60.00	-	-
6	Himachal Pradesh	1	2.24	-	-	3	255.00
7	Karnataka	-	-	2	98.00	1	60.00
8	Kerala	1	53.00	3	82.25	1	18.00
9	Manipur	-	-	2	179.87	4	106.50
10	Mizoram	-	-	6	162.00	2	57.00
11	Nagaland	1	90.00	3	330.00	3	330.00
12	Madhya Pradesh	1	18.215	1	30.00	3	118.49
13	Punjab	-	-	3	180	11	700.41
14	Rajasthan	-	-	-	-	1	18.72
15	Tamil Nadu	-	-	1	79.50	3	168.00
16	Uttar Pradesh	-	-	4	72.44	-	-

Statement - II

Sl. No.	State/UT	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000
1.	Andhra Pradesh	45,00,000	-	-
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	Nil	15,00,000	-
3.	Assam	33,00,000	2,00,000	2,50,875
4.	Bihar	Nil	23,79,000	-
5.	Goa	Nil	Nil	Nil
6.	Gujarat	7,12,000	10,80,000	67,04,800
7.	Haryana	51,94,500	93,600	-
8.	Himachal Pradesh	95,05,275	29,74,820	10,00,000
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	38,90,000	Nil	88,775
10.	Karnataka	73,24,850	21,39,350	83,15,850
11.	Kerala	40,99,170	2,04,300	6,39,518
12.	Madhya Pradesh	21,60,000	5,00,000	41,47,000
13.	Maharashtra	15,80,000	26,00,000	44,04,800
14.	Manipur	10,00,000	Nil	17,00,000
15.	Meghalaya	Nil	Nil	-
16.	Mizoram	Nil	21,54,900	-
17.	Nagaland	30,00,000	70,00,000	1,10,00,000
18.	Orissa	Nil	Nil	-
19.	Punjab	Nil	Nil	2,24,72,000
20.	Rajasthan	8,21,200	5,21,800	5,59,150
21.	Sikkim	8,10,000	-	27,606
22.	Tamil Nadu	25,52,400	60,650	20,93,915
23.	Tripura	123,67,500	Nil	7695500
24.	Uttar Pradesh	21,50,000	15,00,000	-
25.	West Bengal	Nil	1,46,000	-
26.	Delhi	Nil	8,11,000	16,00,000
UTs				
1	A&N Islands	Nil	Nil	Nil
2	Chandigarh	17,50,000	Nil	Nil
3	Dadra & Nagar Haweli	Nil	Nil	Nil
4	Daman and Diu	2,82,000	Nil	Nil
5	Pondicherry	Nil	Nil	Nil
6	Lakshadweep	Nil	Nil	Nil

World Bank Assistance for Irrigation Projects in Tamil Nadu

817. SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have approached World Bank for assisting the water resources projects in Tamil Nadu to the tune of Rs. 380 crore;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have received any response from the World Bank in this regard; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) to (d) The Tamil Nadu Water Resources consolidation Project has been undertaken with the World Bank assistance of US\$ 282.90 million. An additional package of Rs. 379.55 crores for re-habilitation / modernisation of 620 rainfed tanks in Palar, Thambraparni and Vaigai basins has been recommended to be included under the ongoing project against the savings. The World Bank has agreed to the proposal with certain key actions, like making the River Basin Boards to be complied with by the State Government.

Welfare of Agricultural Workers

818. SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) the names of the States, which have sent any new proposal to the Union Government for the welfare of agricultural workers; and

(b) the details thereof and the decision taken by the Union Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL) : (a) The Government of India has not received any new proposal for the welfare of agricultural workers from the State Governments.

(b) The question does not arise.

New PF Offices in Kerala

819. SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have any proposal to open new Provident Fund offices in various States particularly in Kerala; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL) : (a) and (b) New P.F. offices in the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation are opened keeping in view the para-meters like number of establishments, employees, claims received/settled, distance from the Regional Office etc. While considering opening of New P.F. Offices, the recommendation of the Regional EPF Committee is also kept in view. New offices are opened as and when required and on an ongoing basis. At present, there is no proposal to open a new P.F. Office in Kerala.

Functioning of Incinerators in Hospitals of Delhi

820. SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) Whether the Delhi High Court has asked the various hospitals of Delhi to file an affidavit detailing the measures undertaken to upgrade the functioning of incinerators;

(b) if so, whether the Court has also directed the Central Pollution Control Board to visit various hospitals and submit a report on the functioning of the incinerators of the hospitals;

(c) if so, the number of hospitals visited by the Board so far; and

(d) the outcome thereof, hospital-wise?

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

(b) to (d) The Delhi High Court has directed the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) to inspect the incinerators installed at ten hospitals in Delhi namely G.B.Pant Hospital, Lok Nayak Jai Prakash Hospital, Guru Tegh Bahadur Hospital, Kalawati Saran Hospital, ESI Hospital, Basaiderapur; Agrasen Hospital, Sucheta Kriplani Hospital, St. Stephen's Hospital, Bara Hindurao Hospital and Sir Ganga Ram Hospital. As per the Court order of 1st February, 2001, CPCB is required to submit an inspection report within six weeks.

Improvement of Ghat Roads

821. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN : Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the Schemes of the Government for improvement of Ghat Roads in the country, State-wise;

(b) the funds allocated for this scheme, State-wise;

(c) whether there is any proposal with the Government to allocate more funds for development of these Ghat Roads in the coming financial year;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) 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 (e) The Central Government is primarily concerned with the development and maintenance of National Highways only. The development works on National Highways including Ghat sections are taken up in a phased manner according to the condition of roads, inter-se priority and availability of funds. The funds for the development of National Highways are allocated State-wise, not National Highway-wise, to be spent on works sanctioned by this Ministry.

[Translation]

Tehri and Sardar Sarovar Dam

822. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE :

SHRI NITISH SENGUPTA :

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a re-thinking in the Government on proceeding with the construction of the Tehri Dam and the Sardar Sarovar Dam in the wake of recent unprecedented Gujarat earthquake;

(b) if so, the objection raised by the environmentalists to these dams; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY) : (a) There is no rethinking on proceeding with the construction of Tehri Dam and Sardar Sarovar Dam in the wake of recent unprecedented earthquakes in Gujarat as they are designed for the Maximum Credible Earthquake (MCE) for the region/ in their vicinity.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Telecom Facilities in Jammu and Kashmir

823. SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN :

VAIDYA VISHNU DATT SHARMA :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of persons on the waiting list for telephone connections in Jammu and Kashmir at present, district-wise;

(b) the number of telephone connections allotted in the State during the last three years, district-wise;

(c) the number of telephone connections proposed to be provided during 2001-2002 and 2002-2003, location-wise;

(d) the time by which the waiting list is likely to be cleared;

(e) whether telephone services in Baramulla region of the State are not functioning satisfactorily;

(f) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(g) the steps taken by the Government to improve the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) The number of persons on the waiting list for telephone connection in Jammu & Kashmir at present District-wise is as under :

District	Waiting List
Leh	1353
Kargil	435
Rajouri	1346
Poonch	391
Udhampur	1330
Doda	1135
Kathua	1630
Jammu	7310
Shrinagar	10616
Anantnag	2368
Pulwama	2728
Badgam	244
Baramulla	4239
Kupwara	357

(b) No. of telephone connections allotted during last three years. District-wise/Year-wise information is as under :

District	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000
Leh	426	345	439
Kargil	114	108	159
Rajouri	810	117	637
Poonch	663	103	203
Udhampur	1713	1126	1469
Doda	114	546	249
Kathua	335	186	969
Jammu	3799	5133	8255
Shrinagar	9943	8521	6713
Anantnag	622	500	500
Pulwama	765	539	1006
Badgam	261	300	511
Baramulla	1101	430	516
Kupwara	153	41	440

(c) The no. of telephone connections proposed to be provided in whole of J&K Circle during 2001-02 is as mentioned below. The plan for provision of telephone connections during 2002-03 has not been finalised so far.

2001-2002 — 80000

The District wise location for the above is yet to be finalised.

(d) The present waiting list is likely to be cleared by the year 2001-02.

(e) and (f) The telephone services in general are working satisfactorily in Baramulla region. However, there

is complaint about congestion in media. Baramulla as well as Kupwara is proposed to be linked through OFC by 2001-2002.

(g) The steps taken by the Government to improve the situation are as under :-

- (i) Existing exchanges are being upgraded by installing higher capacity exchanges.
- (ii) OFC is proposed to be laid in the area to improve the STD connectivity.
- (iii) New cables are also being laid in the area to improve the outdoor plant.

People Repatriated from Foreign Countries

824. SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN :

SHRI VIJAY KUMAR KHANDELWAL :

SHRI JAIBHAN SINGH PAWAIYA :

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) the number of people repatriated by the gulf countries and other countries during the last three years, country-wise;

(b) whether the Union Government have prepared a plan or set up a Central Fund for their rehabilitation;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether they have been permitted to travel again on the same passport to the gulf countries; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL) : (a) A statement indicating the number of persons repatriated to India from different countries including the Gulf countries, is attached.

(b) No Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) and (e) The repatriated Indians are allowed to re-enter the Gulf countries on the same passport if there are no adverse entries on them. In case of adverse entries,

fresh passports are required to be taken for re-entering the Gulf countries.

Statement

Sl. No	Country	No. of persons repatriated during		
		1998	1999	2000
1.	Myanmar	01	—	03
2.	Canada	05	11	19
3.	Belarus	107	29	04
4.	Malaysia	1626	649	1403
5.	Kuwait	519	446	312
6.	Jordan	10	8	09
7.	Saudi Arabia	4920	6504	13969
8.	Lebanon	02	30	32
9.	Oman	6380	51	132
10.	Turkey	-	-	08
11.	Singapore	3069	2985	3324
12.	Japan	423	439	647
Total		17062	11152	19862

[English]

Decline in Water Level in Delhi

825. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Bhukamp ke jhatkon se jalsthar me girawat" appearing in the Hindustan dated January 31, 2001;

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

(c) the present status of water level in Delhi and in comparison to each of the preceding five years; and

(d) the steps taken to recharge the ground water level in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY):
(a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government have seen the news-item captioned "Bhukamp ke jhatkon se jalsthar me girawat" appearing in a section of the press on January 31, 2001. As per observations made by the Central Ground Water Board, no fall in the level of ground water due to the earthquake has been observed in Bhuj area of Gujarat.

(c) The present level of ground water in NCT of Delhi ranges from 0.95 to 37.25 metres below ground level. Block-wise details of the ground water level measured by the Central Ground Water Board in NCT of Delhi during the preceding five years is given below :-

(Average ground water level in metres)

Name of Block	2000 (Nov)	1999 (Nov)	1998 (Nov)	1997 (Nov)	1996 (Nov)
Alipur	5.33	5.15	5.02	5.32	4.40
Kanjhawala	8.75	5.77	4.27	4.83	4.78
Mehrauli	22.79	24.97	19.71	21.04	19.53
Shahdara	5.79	5.20	4.23	6.59	5.88
City	11.55	10.29	8.80	8.96	8.52

(d) Water being a State subject, steps to augment ground water resources are to be taken by the concerned State Governments. The steps taken by the Union Government to increase ground water level in the NCT of Delhi include :-

- Implementation of a Central Sector Scheme on "Studies on Artificial Recharge of Ground Water". Ground water recharge structures were constructed at Jawaharlal Nehru University and IIT campus of NCT of Delhi under the scheme. A rain water harvesting structure was constructed in the premises of Shram Shakti bhavan, New Delhi.
- The Central Ground Water Board have assisted the DDA, NDMC, PWD and CPWD a number of co-operative group housing societies in NCT of Delhi in preparation of proposals for recharging ground water through rain water harvesting.
- Constitution of Central Ground Water Authority under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 for regulation and control of

ground water management and development.

- (iv) Circulation of a Model Bill to all the States/Union Territories including NCT of Delhi to enable them to enact suitable legislation for regulation and control of ground water development.
- (v) Circulation of Manual on artificial recharge of ground water to the States/Union Territories, including NCT of Delhi to enable them to formulate area specific artificial recharge schemes to check the declining trend in ground water levels.

Proposal for National Highways in Bihar

826. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA : Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to approve more National Highways through Bihar to help it grow and flourish; and

(b) 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.

[Translation]

Bharat Telnnet Company

827. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR KHANDELWAL : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has also engaged the Bharat Telnnet Company for installation of telephone in approximately 130 villages in Harda district of Madhya Pradesh in addition to the Department of Telecommunications;

(b) if so, whether this work has been completed by the company;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Government propose to get this work done by the Department or any other company for the installation of telephone; and

(e) if so, the time by which the work is likely to be completed ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) The Harda district stands allocated to M/s Bharti Telenet Ltd, the private licensee in Madhya Pradesh, for coverage of Village Public Telephones (VPTs).

(b) No, Sir.

(c) M/s Bharti Telenet Ltd has intimated that it did not plan earlier to cover Harda district but now its technical team has started R F Survey and mapping of the area.

(d) No, Sir. There is no such proposal at present

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

PCOs in Lohardaga

828. PROF DUKHA BHAGAT : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of PCOs functioning at present in Lohardaga region of Jharkhand ;

(b) the number of applications lying pending for installation of PCOs in the region;

(c) the reasons therefor; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) Sir, 49 PCOs are functioning at present in Lohardaga region of Jharkhand.

(b) Only three applications are pending for installation of PCOs.

(c) and (d) The applications are current ones and are to be cleared progressively by February, 2001 end.

Harvesting of Rain Water

829. DR. M.P. JAISWAL : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have conducted any survey in regard to the experiment to raise the ground water table through harvesting of the rain water ;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether such an experiment has been done in any State;

(d) if so, whether the said experiment has been successful or unsuccessful; and

(e) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to raise the ground water table in Bihar by adopting the said system?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY):

(a) and (b) The Central Ground Water Board under the Ministry of Water Resources have conducted experiments on pilot basis under the Central Sector Scheme on "Studies on Artificial Recharge of Ground Water" at a cost of Rs. 25.00 crore. Rain water harvesting is an integral part of this scheme. The scheme covers the States of Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and NCT of Delhi.

(c) and (d) Under the Central Sector Scheme on artificial recharge of ground water, rain water harvesting and ground water recharge experiments have been carried out in the States of Maharashtra, Karnataka, NCT of Delhi and the Union Territory of Chandigarh. The results of these experiments have been found favorable and encouraging in raising the ground water level. Rise in the level of ground water ranging from 1-10 metre has been noticed in Amravati and Jalgaon districts in Maharashtra, Gauribidanur and Mulbagal Talukas in Karnataka and in NCT of Delhi.

(e) The Central Ground Water Board have approved two proposals of rain water harvesting in Bhagalpur and Nawada districts of Bihar under the Central Sector Scheme on artificial recharge of ground water.

[English]

Extension of Sub Marine Cable Circuit

830. SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to permit extension of sub Marine Cable Circuit to inland cities on reasonable fees under Internet Service Providers (ISP) policeis;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) to (c) In order to ensure adequate availability of bandwidth for internet in the country, the Government has permitted Internet service providers (ISPs) to set up submarine

Cable landing Stations for international gateways for internet after getting security clearance. The application processing fees for setting up Sub-marine Cable Landing Stations for international gateways for internet is Rs. 50,000. The ISPs are permitted to set up Submarine Cable Landing Stations within a distance of 100 kms. From sea shore. ISPs setting up Submarine Cable Landing Stations for international gateways for internet have been permitted to sell bandwidth to other ISPs. The ISP can get connected to submarine Cable Landing Station by taking bandwidth from any telecom service provider who is authorised to sell bandwidth.

Trivandrum International Airport

831. SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Trivandrum International Airport has been declared round clock airport;

(b) if so, the number of flights that are coming and going from Trivandrum international airport every night;

(c) whether any airlines has requested Union Government for getting night landing permission;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) There are 14 incoming and 11 outgoing international flight per week from Trivandrum International Airport between 2000 hours to 0600 hours.

(c) There is no request of any airline pending for night landing operation.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

New Flights

832. SHRI T. GOVINDAN : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the new flights introduced by Indian Airlines and Air India in various sectors during the last one year;

(b) whether public sector undertakings of Civil Aviation are incurring loss on account of such flights operated; and

(c) if so, the steps taken to make them profitable?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) to (c) While Air India has not introduced any new flight during last one year, Indian Airlines have added the following new sectors on its domestic network :-

- (i) Chennai-Bhopal
- (ii) Chennai-Nagpur
- (iii) Bhopal-Nagpur
- (iv) Goa-Agra(one way)
- (v) Udaipur-Jaisalmer

Of the above, services on following sectors were discontinued as these sectors were not viable :-

- (i) Chennai-Bhopal
- (ii) Chennai-Nagpur
- (iii) Bhopal-Nagpur

[Translation]

Telecom Facilities in Bihar

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

(a) the number of telephone subscribers in Bihar, district-wise;

(b) the progress made with regard to laying telephone lines and setting up telecom centres in backward areas of Bihar;

(c) whether the Government propose to provide value added services such as cellular telephone and pager service in these areas;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government have formulated any special programme for improving telephone and STD services in the backward areas of Bihar;

(f) if so, the details thereof;

(g) whether telephone services in Shekhpura, Lakhisarai, Jamui are unsatisfactory;

(h) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(i) the steps taken by the Government to provide satisfactory telephone service?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) The number of telephone subscribers in Bihar, district-wise are placed at Statement-I.

(b) The details of cable laid and new telephone exchanges opened in backward areas of Bihar are placed at Statement-II.

(c) and (d) There is no plan of BSNL to provide pager services in Bihar. In first phase, it is proposed to provide 35000 cellular telephones in Bihar, by BSNL.

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) For improving STD services, 1100 kms OFC and 792 kms UHF/MW systems have already been commissioned.

(g) No, Sir.

(h) and (i) Not applicable in view of (g) above.

Statement-I

S. No.	Name of District	No. of DELs As on 31.1.2001
(1)	(2)	(3)
1	Bhojpur	12845
2	Buxar	6397
3	Bhagalpur	24505
4	Banka	4728
5	Saran	14339
6	Gopal Ganj	6190
7	Siwan	9814
8	Darbhanga	22052
9	Madhubani	12783
10	Samastipur	13693
11	Gaya	20576
12	Aurangabad	4819
13	Jahanabad	3498

Statement-II

(1)	(2)	(3)
14	Nawada	5167
15	Vaishali	12950
16	Katihar	10823
17	Kishanganj	5081
18	Araria	5076
19	Purnea	12855
20	Khagaria	6663
21	Begusarai	12973
22	W. Champaran	11671
23	E. Champaran	19514
24	Munger	12541
25	Lakhisarai	4718
26	Shekhpura	2025
27	Jamui	4016
28	Muzaffarpur	29944
29	Sitamarhi	9027
30	Sheohar	1031
31	Patna	131569
32	Nalanda	11502
33	Saharsa	10204
34	Madhepura	5850
35	Supaul	5347
36	Rohtas	12371
37	Bhabhua	4980
Total		504137

Progress of Cable Laying and Opening of New Rural Exchanges from 1.4.2000 to 31.1.2001

Sl. No.	SSA	Cable to laid (CKM)	New Exch. Opened
1	Arrah	60613	4
2	Bhagalpur	51697	11
3	Chapra	36752	12
4	Darbhanga	86899	22
5	Gaya	13701	14
6	Hajipur	117188	8
7	Khagaria	60942	6
8	Katihar	51676	10
9	Motihari	71810	12
10	Munger	52177	10
11	Muzaffarpur	144983	15
12	Patna	109857	9
13	Saharsa	76051	7
14	Sasaram	84728	5
Total		1019074	145

[English]

Data Base Household Business

834. SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Department of Posts has decided to compile data based household business conducted through pre-design questionnaire that is likely to be launched in Bangalore and Hyderabad;

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

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

(d) the extent to which it would be beneficial for cities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) and (b) Data Post is a data-base of addresses of all citizen in a locality or in a big city/town incorporating in full the individual profile about a person, his profession, social and economic status, etc. Data Post consists of full information about the households and the businesses.

(c) It has been decided to carry out two pilot projects - one in the city of Bangalore and the other in the city of Hyderabad before it is extended to other cities of the country.

(d) Data Post will generate complete information about the citizens in a city which will enable mails to be delivered correctly to every citizen. It will also in due course act as a useful tool for tracing movement of the citizens from one address to another for facilitating mail delivery. Data Post can also be accessed by the industries and corporate offices for direct mail purposes for promotion of their business. It can also be used by the social and economic researchers in furtherance of their socio-economic studies on various aspects of life.

Defaulting Companies

835. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether certain multi-national companies registered for manufacture of switching equipments in the country are actually importing sub-assembled and finished goods;

(b) if so, the number of such companies which have violated the permission, company-wise; and

(c) the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government against such defaulting companies causing irreparable loss to the indigenous switching equipments manufacturing companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) Import of sub-assemblies is permitted freely under the Export-Import Policy. The companies manufacturing telecom equipment including switching equipments are eligible to import the sub-assemblies. Policy permits level playing field to both Indian and Multi-national companies for the import of sub-assemblies required for the manufacture of switching equipment.

Multi-national companies are also permitted to import finished equipment provided they are allowed to import and market such equipment by Foreign Investment Promotion Board (FIPB) as per the Foreign Direct Investment Policy.

Violation of any of the above provisions by any of the multi-national company has not been reported.

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

Carving out of Bio Diversity Zone in Assam

836. SHRI M.K. SUBBA : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Assam has sent a proposal to carve out diversity zone comprising Majuli and Kaziranga;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon; and

(c) the details of bio-diversity zones so far carved out in Assam and different other North Eastern States including Sikkim and the criteria adopted in this regard?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) There is no scheme to declare certain zones as Biodiversity zones in the country.

Mica Mines

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

(a) the details of Mica mines in the country; and

(b) the total production of mica in these mines during the last three years, year-wise and State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI JAYSINGRAO GAIKWAD PATIL) : (a) and (b) As per information available with Indian Bureau of Mines, a subordinate office of the Ministry of Mines, the total number of reporting mines in the Country during 1999-2000 was 45. These mines are located in Nellore district of Andhra Pradesh; Giridih, Kodarma and Nawada districts of undivided Bihar, and Ajmer and Bhilwara districts of Rajasthan. The total production of mica in these mines during the last three years, State-wise is as follows :-

Accident in Mines

State	(Quantity in tonnes)		
	1997-1998	1998-1999	1999-2000 (Provisional)
Andhra Pradesh	787	890	902
Bihar(Undivided)	887	569	320
Rajasthan	23	25	51
Total	1697	1484	1273

838. SHRI S.P. LEPCHA : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of accidents in mines took place in public and private sector mines during the last three years and till date and the number of casualties thereof; and

(b) the details of compensation given to deceased families and injured mine workers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL) : (a) The total number of accidents took place in public and private sector mines during the last three years and the number of casualties are as under :

Year	Sector	No. of fatal accidents	No. of serious accidents	No. of persons killed	No. of persons seriously injured
1998	Public	152	705	172	754
	Private	32	72	39	79
	Total	184	777	211	833
1999	Public	139	717	152	781
	Private	49	70	58	83
	Total	188	787	210	864
2000	Public	124	537	152	578
	Private	47	57	54	65
	Total	171	594	206	643

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

Additional Communication Network

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

(a) whether the Government have received any proposal from Haryana to provide additional communications network in the entire State by using the

VSAT wireless in local loop based telephone and optical fibre cables;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard during 2000-2001?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) No, Sir. Government has not received any proposal to provide

additional communication network in the State by using VSAT wireless based telephone and Optical fibre Cable.

(b) and (c) Not applicable in view of (a) above.

Fixed Telecom Service

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

(a) whether the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) is considering any proposal to allow cellular telephone operators to provide fixed telecom services;

(b) if so, the details including the terms and conditions thereof;

(c) whether an open House Meeting was organized recently in this regard;

(d) if so, the matter discussed therein; and

(e) the reaction of the Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) recommended that Cellular Mobile Service Operators can provide fixed phones based on their GSM (Global System for Mobile Communications) network infrastructure.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The issues, related to usage of hand held sets in Wireless Local Loop (WLL) by the subscribers of Basic Service Operators and steps for ensuring level playing field for Cellular Mobile Service Operators, were discussed.

(e) Government has accepted the recommendations of TRAI.

Group Dialing Scheme

841. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a group dialing scheme has been introduced in some States and Union Territories due to geographical conditions

(b) if so, the details thereof, State and U.T. wise

(c) the advantages of the scheme;

(d) whether the Government propose to introduce similar scheme in some districts having similar geographical conditions; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) and (b) Sir, the Group Dialing scheme was implemented uniformly, within a short distance charging area (SDCA) in all the States and Territories throughout the country.

(c) The advantage of the scheme was that a telephone subscriber of one exchange could access subscriber of another exchange in the same SDCA without '0' on 180 seconds pulse rate.

(d) and (e) Does not arise in view of (b) above.

Ban on cricket

842. SHRI CHINTAMAN WANAGA : Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have decided to impose a ban on cricket for five years on the basis of Central Bureau of investigation report,

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to review the decision to impose ban only on cricketers involved either in some controversy or found guilty in match-fixing cases;

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

(e) whether the Government propose to divert funds earmarked for cricket in case part (c) is not agreed to; and

(f) 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) No Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Government does not impose ban on cricketers. It is the BCCI which does so under the Code of Conduct.

(e) and (f) As Government does not provide any financial assistance for any cricketing activity, the question of diversion of funds does not arise.

Direct flights on New Delhi Patna Sector

843. DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is no direct flight from New Delhi to Patna in summer;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the action taken by the Government to introduce a direct New Delhi-Patna flight during summer season; and

(d) the action taken or proposed to be taken for the extension of Patna Airport runway to provide the modern aircraft landing facilities?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) to (c) Patna is airlinked by the following scheduled air service on daily basis :-

Indian Airlines : Mumbai-Delhi-Patna-Ranchi and return

Alliance Air : Delhi-Lucknow-Patna-Kolkata and return

Sahara Airlines : Delhi-Patna-Varanasi-Delhi

In the proposed summer schedule effective 25.3.2001, no change is contemplated. However, during the period April to June to avoid load penalty at Patna airfield due to high temperature, the Mumbai-Delhi-Patna-Ranchi service of Indian Airlines is generally temporarily re-routed to operate on Mumbai-Delhi-Ranchi-Patna and return.

(d) Patna airport developed as "model Airport" suitable for operation by Airbus A-320 class of aircraft with load penalty is equipped with Non Direction Beacon (NDB), Visual Omni Range (VOR), Distance Measuring Equipment (DME) and Instrument Landing System (ILS). It has passenger facilities to cater to 400 domestic and 100 international passengers at a time. However, on the issue of additional land required for construction of new runway, the State Government of Bihar has expressed their inability due to cutting of large number of trees in Sanjay Gandhi Zoological Garden that would disturb the environment. The State Govt. has, however, agreed to hand over the land (being used as Dhobi Ghat) on the eastern side of the airport for full utilization of existing runway. The proposal is under examination. The State Govt. has also suggested for shifting of airport to Bihta by

bearing the cost of widening and improvement of approach road from Khagol to Bihta.

Upper Krishna Project

844. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI :

SHRI G. MALLIKARJUNAPPA :

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have released the Central share of expenditure incurred by Krishna Bhagya Jal Nigam Limited (KBJN) for implementation of Command Area Development Programme under Upper Krishna Project in Karnataka;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons for delay in this regard; and

(d) the time by which the Union Government propose to release its share of this project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY) :

(a) to (d) The State Government of Karnataka had submitted a proposal to Ministry of Water Resources, Government of India for reimbursement of an amount of Rs. 874.83 lakh reportedly the expenditure incurred by Krishna Bhagya Jal Nigam (KBJNL) for implementation of the Command Area Development Programme under Upper Krishna Project (Karnataka). This amount is reported to be the expenditure due to the State as central share for the period with effect from 1996-97 to 1999-2000 on different activities of the Programme.

The proposal was examined in the Ministry and it was observed that central assistance due for all these years had already been provided to the State Government. In view of this, clarification was asked for from the State Government to send the project-wise physical and financial achievements of various Command Area Development works for these years to ascertain the net amount payable as central share to the State Government of Karnataka in this regard. This details has not been sent by the State Government. However, a net amount of Rs. 685.01 lakh has already been sanctioned to release as central assistance to the State Government during the year 2000-2001 as per the performance and after certain adjustments.

Shifting of Patna Airport

845 MOHAMMAD ANWARUL HAQUE : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have finalised the proposal of shifting the Patna Airport after the air accident near this airport last year;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether land for new airport has been acquired;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Mining Work to Private Sector

846. SHRI Y.G. MAHAJAN : Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the work relating to mining in big mines is proposed to be given to the private sector;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the details of those big mines where the said work is proposed to be given to the private sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI JAYSINGRAO GAIKWAD PATIL) : (a) to (c) In the context of basic economic reforms, the National Mineral Policy was announced in 1993 and in pursuance thereof, the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 was amended in 1994 in order to attract private investment in the mineral sector and to make the mining sector investor friendly and hassle free. As per the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957, mining lease can be granted to an Indian national or a company registered in India under the Companies Act, 1956. Since 1994, the mining sector (non-fuel/atomic minerals) has been thrown open to private sector irrespective of the size of the mine.

Mining activity in the country is being undertaken both, by public sector as well as private sector companies. The applications for grant of mining leases both from the private sector and public sector are continuously received and processed by the State Governments and mining leases are granted by the State Governments as per the provisions of Mines and Minerals (Development and

Regulation) Act, 1957 and Rules made thereunder. There is no distinction between big or small mines from investment angle which may either be from private sector or public sector.

[English]

National Sports School

847. SHRI CHINTAMAN WANAGA : Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to set up either National Sports School or National Sports University to explore and nurture available talent in sports;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the names of recognised sports schools functioning in the country alongwith names of sports being nurtured in each State, State-wise and Territory-wise;

(d) whether these schools have produced renowned sportsmen in the country;

(e) if so, the details thereof, School-wise and Sports-wise;

(f) whether the Government propose to take some steps to encourage and promote traditional sports in the country; 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) No, Sir. There is no proposal under consideration for opening of any National Sports School/National Sports University. However, Government is already running Lakshmi National Institution of Physical Education, Gwalior, which is a deemed University.

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

(f) and (g) Government of India is implementing following schemes for promoting the traditional sports in the country :

- (i) Assistance to the National Sports Federations : Under the scheme financial assistance to provided for promotion of traditional sports such as Kho-Kho, Kabaddi and Ataya Patya.

- (ii) **Rural Sports Programme :** This scheme contains following two sub-components under which traditional sports disciplines are organised besides the selected disciplines;

(a) **Rural Sports Tournament :** Under this component, besides organization of tournaments of selected disciplines, such as Athletics, Tug-of-war, Archery, Hockey, Kho-Kho, Dabaddi, Weightlifting, Volleyball, Wrestling and Football, State Governments organise many other indigenous sports, popular in the area at block, district and State levels.

(b) **Sports Festival for North Eastern Region :** North East Sports Festival is organised involving sports persons from the North-East States every year. Besides the selected disciplines, viz. Athletics, Badminton, boxing, Football, Hockey, Judo, Table Tennis and Weightlifting, sports disciplines that are popular in these States, are also included in the Festival.

Landing of Aircrafts

848. **SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI :** Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether big cities of the country do not have facilities for taking off and landing of big aircrafts at present;

(b) if so, the names of such cities, State and Union Territory-wise; and

(c) the details of steps taken in the matter and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) to (c) No, Sir. Most of the airports located at State Capitals have the facilities to handle B-737, A-320 type of Jet aircraft and are equipped with all modern landing aids.

National Sports Academy in States

849. **MOHAMMAD ANWARUL HAQUE :** Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have taken a policy decision to establish National Sports Academy in each State;

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

(c) the number of such academies set up in each State so far particularly in Bihar; and

(d) if not, the reasons for delay and the time by which the programme of setting up National Sports Academy likely to be taken up in Bihar ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI PON. RADHAKRISHNAN) : (a) to (d) As yet there is no National Academy which has been set up in States. However, the government is examining the issue of setting up Academies in various disciplines in different States, for this the State Ministers are also going to be consulted shortly.

Helicopter with Pawan Hans

850. **DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV :** Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Pawan Hans Helicopters which are on their fleet;

(b) whether the Government propose to acquire helicopters from abroad to boost tourism in the country; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) The fleet of Pawan Hans Helicopters Limited (PHHL) at present consists of the following types of helicopters :-

i) Dauphin	-	20
ii) Mi-172	-	03
iii) Bell-407	-	02
iv) Bell 206L4	-	03
v) Robinson-44	-	02

(b) and (c) The acquisition plans of PHHL are mainly aimed at fleet augmentation/replacement and can be utilised for any purpose allowed in the charter of the Company. Helicopters from the existing fleet of PHHL are already being deployed for carrying tourists in Lakshadweep Islands and North-Eastern States.

Appointment of SCs/STs

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

(a) Whether the Government propose to post/appoint adequate number of persons from SCs/STs community as Heads/Chief Executives/CMDs and

Directors, Official/Non-official Members of the Boards of Management of various Public Sector Organizations and Statutory Bodies under his Ministry;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the total number of persons appointed/posted to the said posts in all the Public Sector Undertakings/Autonomous/Statutory Bodies falling under his Ministry during the last three years, year-wise; and

(d) the number of SCs/STs persons among them and their percentage as compared to the total number of persons appointed during the said period?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BALLU) : (a) to (d) The requisite information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Staff strength of Indian Airlines

852. SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have decided to reduce the over-staffing in Indian Airlines;

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

(c) the manner and the number of phases in which the strength of the employees is proposed to be reduced?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) to (c) Indian Airlines has already taken several measures to contain its manpower like ban on direct recruitment, except in the critical operational areas, rolling back the age of retirement from 60 to 58 years, re-deployment of the existing manpower to more productive usages etc. As a result, the existing staff strength of Indian Airlines is 20701 employees against a sanctioned strength of 25390 employees, as on 31.12.2000. With a view to further reducing the manpower, Indian Airlines has formulated a Voluntary Retirement Scheme which is under consideration of the Government.

MR. SPEAKER : The House stands adjourned to meet at 12 noon.

11.09 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Twelve of the clock.

12.00 hrs.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled at Twelve of the Clock

(MR. SPEAKER in the Chair)

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

[English]

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Notification No. S.O. 1024 (E) (Hindi and English Versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 16th November, 2000 making certain amendments in the Notification No. S.O.38(E) dated the 14th January, 1997, issued under sub-section (3) of section 3 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 3263/2001]

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI SUNDER LAL PATWA) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of each of the following Notification (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of Section 28 of the Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Act, 1957:-

- (1) S.O. 1116(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 13th December, 2000 containing order specifying the further time till 31st December, 2001 within which all mining leases granted before the commencement of the Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Amendment Act, 1972, shall be brought in conformity with the provisions of this Act.
- (2) The Mineral Concession (Amendment) Rules, 2001 published in Notification No. G.S.R 31(E) in Gazette of India dated the 22nd January, 2001

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 3264/2001]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Profit and Loss Account and Balance Sheet (Hindi and English versions) of the Department of Telecommunications for the year 1998-99, together with Audit Report thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 3265/2001]

12.01 hrs.

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE

Action Taken Statement

[English]

SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI (NAINITAL) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table Hindi and English versions of the Statement showing action taken by Government on the recommendation contained in Chapter I of 29th Report of the Public Accounts Committee (Eighth Lok Sabha) on "Manufacture of defective components for vehicles and procurement of defective equipment from abroad".

12.02 hrs.

THE BUDGET (RAILWAYS) – 2001-2002*

Part I

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE) : Mr. Speaker, Sir.

I rise to present the Budget Estimates for the year 2001-2002 for the Indian Railways. At the outset, I would like to sincerely thank our Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayeeji for his valued guidance in discharge of my ministerial responsibilities. I could count on his advice and encouraging direction whenever I approached him with any issue relating to Indian Railways. It is my proud privilege to present the second Railway Budget of the millenium and I would like to sincerely thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir, and through you, opposition leader, Shrimati Sonia Gandhi, all the Hon'ble Members of this august House for enabling me to do this.

Sir, last sixteen months has been a period of intense experiences for me. During this period, I have seen Indian Railways from close quarters. I have seen millions of Railway family members, working round the clock, to run more than 13500 trains across 7000 stations everyday, cutting across almost all the States. I have seen Railways spontaneously rushing into the interiors of Orissa, Bengal and Gujarat with a helping hand when unfortunate natural calamities struck them. I have also seen Railways ferrying water and fodder to the drought hit states to save precious lives. Posterity will not forget the sight of hundreds of trains trailing into Allahabad, day after day, carrying millions of countrymen on the occasion of Mahakumbh. Sir, when our jawans and tanks are moving to the border

areas and when foodgrains from Punjab and Haryana are going on our trains into the interiors of far flung states, I feel proud to be associated with Indian Railways as one of its family members. A railway compartment in our country represents, perhaps, the best example of a secular, united India, bringing about emotional, regional, cultural, linguistic and economic integration of our diverse society. With these experiences, Sir, I have developed a firm belief that just as water and air are crucial for existence of a human life, Railways are equally essential, for the life of the nation. This organisation, being the largest Railway system in the world under a single management, has enormous strength and potential.

Sir, amongst the transport systems world-wide, Rail mode is re-establishing itself. This resurgence is because Railways are six times greater energy efficient, and four times higher land use efficient mode of transport. Railways are, perhaps, the most environment friendly transport system, the world has ever known. With its huge network spanning over 63,000 route kilometers, Indian Railways are, in fact, engine of growth for the national economy. It is difficult to perceive growth of Indian economy without a corresponding growth in Railway infrastructure.

But, Sir, sadly, Indian Railways with all its inherent strengths and potentials has not received the attention it deserves from the nation. With the increase in population, expectations of the countrymen from this system, and the social responsibilities reposed on it, are continuously on the rise. On the contrary, the investments in this system have been almost continuously declining over the years. The capital support from the General Exchequer which reached a peak of 75 per cent in the Fifth Five Year Plan, fell to 42 per cent in the Seventh Five Year Plan and skidded to a low level of 18 per cent in the last two years of the Eighth Plan. To fill-in the gaps, Railways have been forced to resort to larger market borrowings with attendant huge burden of interest liability. This has inflicted long term damage to the otherwise healthy Railway finances. As a consequence, railways share in freight movement has also dropped from 89 per cent in 1950-51 to about 40 per cent as of now.

Sir, Indian Railways are at cross roads today. We are facing the dilemma of realising our true identity, our objectives and goals. On the one hand, we have the social responsibility of being an affordable carrier of people and goods. On the other hand, we are often expected to play the role of a profitable commercial enterprise and, thus, fend for ourselves. I learn from many economists and experts that the answer lies in treating ourselves as 'cost centres' and 'profit centres'. Sir, the countrymen know that Railways have grown as a 'people-centric', 'society-

* [Placed in Library. See No. LT-3266/2001].

centric' public utility. Sir, let us pause here for a moment and do some soul-searching. Are we a commercial enterprise only? Or are we a public utility? Or should we continue to play a combined role in the larger interest of the public good? Indian Railways are not merely a transportation utility. They are a dependable friend of the Indian people. And just as a friend in need is a friend indeed, the Railways have stood by our people in good as well as bad times.

Sir, Railway experts and economists have been criticising Railways for starting large number of projects with low or negative rate of return. Sir, I am neither an expert nor an economist. But as one of the common man in this country, I feel that Railways existence is necessary to pave the way for development. Emphasising only high economic rate of return, will discourage any developmental initiative in far flung areas. Can we afford to do it, Sir? I expect that my Hon'ble colleagues will guide me in searching for an answer to this question.

Sir, there are large number of challenges which Railways face today. The dual roles of Railways as public utility and a commercial undertaking are at times conflicting while the sources for funding these two diverse activities are the same. Railways also do not receive compensation for social service obligations. Technological modernisation of Railways is critically required, but low investment over the last two decades has almost stopped this process. Unfortunately, the support from General Exchequer also has been taking a downward trend right from fifth Plan till Eighth Plan, dropping from 75 per cent to 18 per cent. This is pushing railways on to borrowings at high rate of interest causing permanent damage to its finances. Internal resources of railways have also suffered a severe and permanent jolt immediately after implementation of Fifth Pay Commission recommendations. Railways have 16 lakh employees which is 40 per cent of the entire central government strength. In the coming year, pension alone is likely to cost Rs. 5,800 cr which Railways have to bear themselves. Otherwise, Pension liabilities of other Government employees are borne by General Exchequer.

Sir, during my tenure, I have initiated several measures to meet these challenges within our limited means. For the first time, Railways seriously started pursuing the non-traditional sources of revenue generation. However, developing new sources, which are non-traditional, and tapping them takes time. I had also launched a serious economy and austerity drive. Sir, the House is aware that this drive had yielded a saving of Rs. 850 cr during previous year. For the current year also, the target in this regard is Rs. 865 cr. However, Sir, these

measures are not adequate to meet the severest challenges. Some more steps are needed which I would like to outline below :

(i) For financing socially relevant projects and for running train operations to meet socially desirable ends, outright grants without dividend liability should be provided by the State. On the other hand, a special fund with a mix of seed contribution, borrowings and private sector participation should be created for funding remunerative and operationally required projects.

(ii) Railways need to develop market oriented and customer friendly outlook due to emerging competition within the transport sector.

(iii) Sir, the House is aware much discussed recommendations of Railway Safety Review Committee chaired by Justice Khanna have evoked large support from Hon'ble Members. But Railways are still awaiting the recommended one time grant for safety purposes

(iv) There is urgent need to prioritize railway projects for speedy implementation. Cost-sharing of such prioritized projects with the State Governments, which has recently begun, should be further intensified. I would like to thank the State Governments of Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra and Karnataka who have already come forward in this direction. I wish other State Governments will also join these efforts.

(v) Railways have an enormous hidden wealth in the form of land, airspace etc. which needs to be unlocked to augment its resource base. Several non-traditional means of mobilising resources have been introduced recently. But this process needs to be taken forward in all seriousness.

Sir, these steps, I feel, will bring about major improvements in the Railway finances. I am happy to inform the House that this aspect is now being professionally looked into by an Advisory Committee under the Chairmanship of Shri Sam Pitroda.

Brief review of financial performance during 1999-2000

Sir, Hon'ble Members are aware that the year 1999-2000 was an extremely difficult year, as the Railways had to face the impact of recession on earnings coupled with soaring increase in the working expenses as a result of implementation of the Fifth Central Pay Commission. But, Sir, we have together fought this adverse situation with all the courage at our disposal.

I am happy to inform the House that due to concerted hard work of railway family members, we achieved an all-time record of incremental freight loading of 35 million tonnes, surpassing the target of 450 million tonnes by 6.42 million tonnes in the year 1999-2000. This was, indeed, a remarkable achievement despite the background of severe setback in the year before that. Even the passenger earnings registered an impressive growth of 12 per cent, and surpassed the budgeted target by Rs. 132 cr.

As a post budgetary development, Railways finances came under stress due to upward revision of price of diesel oil as well as levy of an additional cess and revision of tariff by some of the State Electricity Boards. This coupled with damage caused to Railway property by Orissa cyclones put an additional burden of around Rs. 900 cr on the system. Sir, we consciously chose not to shift this burden on to rail users. I am happy that we were able to absorb the entire burden ourselves.

Despite all these difficulties, gross earnings increased from Rs. 33,021 cr in Revised Estimates to Rs. 33,125 cr in the actuals. Total Working Expenses which stood at Rs. 30,909 cr in the Revised Estimates were also contained at Rs. 30,844 cr. Pensionary liabilities, budgeted at Rs. 4,094 cr in the Revised Estimates finally came down to Rs. 4,022 cr. The plan expenditure stood at Rs. 9,057 cr as against Rs. 8,965 cr in the Revised Estimates. The market borrowings however, were reduced from Rs. 3,000 cr in the Revised Estimates to Rs. 2,919 cr.

Review of financial performance during the current year

Sir, the House will recall that a target of 475 million tonnes was fixed for loading of revenue earning freight traffic for the year 2000-01. Indian Railways have already loaded about 390 million tonnes of revenue earning freight traffic during the period from April, 2000 to January, 2001 which is 18.48 million tonnes more than the loading achieved in the corresponding period of last year. Keeping the trend in view, the freight-loading target of 475 million tonnes would definitely be achieved. In the current year, positive growth has been witnessed in loading of coal, iron ore for export, POL, iron and steel, cement and 'other goods'.

I am happy to inform the House that there has been a historically high growth in passenger earnings, which reached about Rs. 8,552 cr by end of January 2001. This marks an increase of Rs. 740 cr over previous year's earnings during the corresponding period. Other Coaching

and Sundry earnings also have been quite encouraging compared to previous year's performance.

Non-traditional sources of earnings

Sir, the House would recall that the Railways had, for the first time, set for themselves the task of mobilising the resources from non-traditional sources such as leasing of 'right of way' for laying Optic Fibre Cables, commercial utilisation of land and air space and commercial publicity on rolling stock and station buildings. A target of Rs. 750 cr was kept for 2000-01.

I am happy to inform the House that Rail Tel Corporation of India has already started functioning to build a nation-wide broad band and multimedia network by laying Optical Fibre Cable along 62,800 route kms of railway track by utilising Railways 'right of way'. The business plan of this Corporation as developed by professional consultants is now awaiting final approval of the Government. The Corporation will soon start its core activities after the business plan is finally approved by the Government. In the circumstances, although we had projected an income of Rs. 500 cr from this Corporation in the current year, it is now expected that significant revenue flows will commence only during 2001-02. In view of the positive response and encouraging offers already received by Rail Tel Corporation both from within the country and outside, Railways propose to initiate other such ventures. For example, a separate IT company is contemplated to avail of the opportunities offered by e-commerce.

Commercial utilisation of Railway land/airspace has been identified as one of the valuable non-tariff options for raising additional resources. In my last budget speech, I had set a target of Rs. 150 cr to be realised through railway land. I am happy to inform the House that 53 sites identified for this purpose are being developed through RITES and IRCON, which have been appointed as nodal agencies for executing these schemes. A sum of Rs. 81 cr has already been realised by end of December 2000 on this account. We hope to achieve our target by the end of the financial year.

A sum exceeding Rs. 30 cr has been generated by way of commercial publicity and advertisements on stations and rolling stocks. This innovative measure was introduced for the first time by way of a non-traditional means of raising resources. Although the target of Rs. 100 cr for the year may not be achieved, the breakthrough made in the very first year has inspired us to exploit this resource more and more with the help of professionals. In the next year, empowered groups both at national and

zonal levels will enhance these activities taking professional help. A comprehensive and transparent policy package would be drawn up within a period of three months.

Safety

Sir, I fully share the concern of the House and the public about critical need for improvements on safety front.

The House is already aware that Justice Khanna Committee had concluded that for rehabilitation of railway assets for safety, there was a need for a grant of Rs. 15,000 cr to be made available to Railways over a period of 5 to 7 years. As resources of this magnitude cannot be expected to be internally generated by the Railways, I was very much hopeful that a way would be found to meet this recommendation of the Committee. This has, however, not materialised. Sir, on this issue, I am sorry, my speech would be silver but my silence would be golden.

Sir, I would like to assure the House that within our limited means, Railways are committed to accord highest priority to safety. Despite the financial constraints being faced by the Indian Railways, we are trying to ensure that the level of outlay on safety related works is maintained. Track renewal works must receive priority. I, therefore, propose to enhance the outlay for this crucial activity taking it to Rs. 2,050 cr, marking an increase of almost 26 per cent over the revised outlay for the current year. Induction of modern technology into our signalling and telecommunication system is equally important. This has the added benefit of progressively reducing dependence on human intervention, thus leading, to an improved safety environment. That is why, Sir, I have decided to enhance the outlay on signalling and telecom in the next financial year by as much as 25 per cent over the revised outlay in the current financial year. With these enhanced outlays, I am happy to inform the House that we are, indeed, making provision of amount exceeding Rs. 3,000 cr on safety heads. However, this allocation will only help us meet the current arisings and not the arrears for which additional funds would be required.

Sir, in order to ensure that safety requirements are strictly followed at all levels, I have already made the Chairman, Railway Board in charge of safety on Indian railways. This would facilitate better co-ordination on all safety related activities at the highest official level.

Security

Sir, the general perception is that the Railways are responsible for providing security to passengers and their

belongings. But the fact remains that policing on the Railways is the responsibility of the State Governments. Unfortunately, the law and order situation in certain States has not been conducive to smooth working of rail operations.

Railways have now commenced a process of streamlining the functioning of RPF to make it more effective. The measures taken include modernisation of communications, security gadgets and weaponry, provision of adequate transportation, computerisation, upgrading of training facilities etc.

Sir, the House is aware that I had set up a High Level Task Force on security on Indian Railways. The Task Force has recently submitted their report, which is under examination. Sir, the solution lies in either the State Governments becoming proactive in improving policing on railway systems. Alternatively, Sir, I seek the guidance of this House on how to grant more powers within the framework of the Constitution to RPF to provide adequate security cover to rail users.

Freight : New Initiatives

Sir, freight revenue constitutes two-thirds of our total revenues. In order to regain the freight market share which Railways have lost in recent decades and to take it to the level of 50 per cent in the current decade, I propose to initiate various measures in the next year. Some of the major steps proposed to be taken are :-

- (i) A comprehensive delegation of powers to the Zonal and Divisional Railways has been undertaken in order to sharpen our interface with the customers. General Managers have been authorised to devise appropriate marketing strategies at local level to capture additional freight traffic.
- (ii) A 'Congested Route Development Charge' for those routes on Indian Railways which have become heavily saturated is being introduced to enable Indian Railways to plan traffic facility works to remove the bottlenecks.
- (iii) Volume Discount Scheme is being continued for the third consecutive year.
- (iv) Special lumpsum rates for movement in Merry-Go-Round (MGR) circuits over short stretches have been developed for attracting bulk movement of coal and minerals at pit-head Power Houses/Mines. This package will target short-lead bulk traffic for rail movement.

- (v) Roll-on-Roll-off (RORO) packages which had been experimented on the Konkan Railway are now being extended to Ahmedabad-Nabha and Chennai-Sankrail (Kolkata) circuits.
- (vi) Surplus railway land at stations and more than 1,500 unutilised Goods Sheds at roadside stations are being offered for development of warehousing capacity and, thereby generate additional traffic on the railways on the one hand and supplement revenues on the other.
- (viii) We want to modernise our freight operations by using the state of the art technology for real time monitoring. In this direction, project for computerised monitoring of Freight Operations (FOIS) is expected to cover the entire network of Indian Railways by June 2001.

Passenger Amenities

I plan to give a major thrust to improvement in the passenger amenities at the Stations. I am happy to announce that the outlay for Passenger Amenities will be further increased by 39 per cent over the revised estimate to cover many new areas of improvement. Following steps are being initiated for this purpose :-

- (i) Ticket refunds are being fully computerised on all zonal Railways.
- (ii) Automatic Teller Machines (ATMs) are being installed at various important stations and will be later used for issue of tickets also.
- (iii) For providing quicker information to public, on-line train running position will be available through Cable TV/Internet and on Cellular Phones by connecting National Train Enquiry System to these systems.
- (iv) To reduce congestion on ticket counters, proposal to use internet kiosks for ticket retailing is under consideration.
- (v) Computerised information on reservation availability status and train movement status will be available on all A class stations.
- (vi) In our Customer Care Institute, various training programmes have been initiated to train the front-line staff for better customer service.

- (vii) Top priority would be accorded to provision of drinking water, platform shelters, increasing the length of the platform to accommodate longest train, raising the platform heights and ensure adequate seating arrangements.
- (viii) To improve sanitation at stations, a large number of 'Pay and Use' toilets will be provided and mechanised cleaning will be undertaken.

We have undertaken a large-scale exercise in modernisation of customer service by bringing up more and more stations as model stations. 210 stations have already been selected. I now propose to develop another 74 stations as model stations in the next year.

Sir, as a major step to provide access to computerised reservation facility, I have decided to include another 71 locations throughout the country within the ambit of computerised Passenger Reservation System (PRS). Hon'ble Members are aware that PRS facility is already available at 670 locations in the country.

In order to improve the quality of service in long distance trains and to provide better amenities to the travelling public, certain amenities on the lines of Rajdhani Express trains have been introduced on 30 trains.

Catering Services

Railways have formulated a New Catering Policy with a view to introducing a transparent system of award of licences through competitive bidding in case of major catering units. The policy also provides for 25 per cent reservation at the discretion of the General Managers, to the various disadvantaged categories in the allotment of catering licences of small catering units.

Indian Railways have initiated a number of steps to expand the scope of catering services both at stations and in trains.

Health

Sir, I am happy to announce that to facilitate prompt medical attention to the needy passengers, a computerised database containing the locations and details of non-railway medical facilities along the railway tracks throughout the country have already been compiled. This information is available on Railnet.

In pursuance of my budget speech of 2000-01, first aid boxes with wider range of medicines were provided in

model stations and long distance trains. The training of front line staff is continuing.

It is proposed to expand the facilities and modernise the Railway Hospitals to provide cost effective high quality care to the Railway employees in Jagjivan Ram Hospital, Mumbai, Divisional Hospital, Jhansi, Railway Hospital, Perambur and Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Hospital, Mumbai.

In order to provide better indoor medical facilities to the Metro Railway employees at Kolkata, one 30-bedded hospital is proposed to be set up at their Tollygunge outdoor clinic.

Tourism

Sir, I have given special attention to promote rail tourism. In my Budget speech last year, I had announced that a new "Palace on Wheels" type of train would be introduced between Maharashtra and Goa touching several places of tourist interest, as a joint effort between the Railways and the Government of Maharashtra. I am happy to inform the House that a Memorandum of Understanding has been signed between the Railways and the Government of Maharashtra recently. All other arrangements to ensure the introduction of the train will be firmed up shortly.

I am also happy to announce that another proposal to run a tourist train for the pilgrimage tourism on Secunderabad - Dharmavaram (Puttaparthi) - Tirupati Guntur - Nadikude - Secunderabad circuit in Andhra Pradesh is being considered. Andhra Pradesh Government has also proposed a Palace-on-Wheels type of train for which modalities are being discussed.

Sir, I am also happy to announce that the Government of Karnataka has proposed to jointly run a 'Palace-on-Wheel' type of train on Bangalore-Hospet-Hubli-Goa-Mangalore-Hassan-Mysore-Bangalore circuit. Modalities in this regard are being worked out.

Orissa Government has sent a proposal for running a steam safari train on a route attractive for local tourism. Modalities in this regard are being worked out. Railways will welcome such proposals of tourism interest from any other State Government.

The newly incorporated Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation has taken up a few important tasks, which are expected to facilitate tourism in a big way. The "Mata Vaishno Devi" package launched in November 2000 has been very popular with pilgrim tourists.

The Darjeeling Himalayan Railway has been recognised as a World Heritage Site by UNESCO. This greatly adds to the commitment of the Railways to maintain and preserve this unique piece of engineering skill for posterity. It is proposed to revamp and upgrade the infrastructure. We plan to run specially designed tourist packages in this area under the aegis of Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation.

Preserving Railways' history through the institutions of regional rail museums has been an important activity of Railways. Rail Museum for southern region is going to be completed shortly. Similarly, I am happy to announce that new Regional Rail Museums will be set up at Varanasi and at Malda on the eastern region.

Relief Measures

Sir, this year the country has witnessed a large number of natural calamities. Apart from the most recent and most devastating of them all i.e. earthquake in Gujarat, there have been floods in State of West Bengal, cyclonic rains in Andhra Pradesh and drought in Gujarat. As always, Railways have provided all possible assistance including free movement of fodder and water to various states in order to mitigate the sufferings. Railways have moved more than 300 rakes of fodder and around 20,000 wagons of water to the drought affected areas of Gujarat, Rajasthan and Orissa, free of charge.

As part of relief and rescue operations in Gujarat after the recent earthquake, 49 special trains were run to reach relief material and relatives to Gujarat and for evacuating the injured. Railways were the first to reach the interiors with a helping hand.

I am happy to inform the House that on behalf of the Railway family, a sum of Rs. 15 cr has been contributed to the Prime Minister's National Relief Fund for the victims of recent earthquake. Apart from this, various public sector undertakings of Railways have additionally contributed more than Rs. 3.58 cr.

Konkan Railway Corporation

Sir, I am glad to inform the House that the Konkan Railway Corporation has improved its operations and this year its earnings have increased by 30 per cent over the previous year. However, the earnings of the Corporation are just sufficient to meet its operating expenses. I would like to reassure the House that the Ministry will continue to help the Corporation not only in meeting with its debt

servicing obligations but also to increase its revenue generation and realise its full potential.

Metropolitan Transport Projects

I am happy to inform the House that doubling of Belapur-Panvel line has been commissioned for commuter traffic from April 2000. Fifth line between Santacruz and Andheri as part of 5th line project between Santacruz and Borivali has also been commissioned. Work on balance portion between Andheri and Borivali is also progressing well and is expected to be completed within the next financial year. Work on automatic signaling system between Virar-Dahanu Road is also likely to be completed within this financial year thereby increasing the line capacity on this section. New line of Thane-Turbhe-Nerul/Vashi which will provide another commuter corridor in New Mumbai is also expected to be completed by March 2002 if the land acquisition in Thane area is expedited by the state government. Projects of quadrupling of Borivali-Virar section and construction of 5th and 6th lines between Kurla and Thane are also progressing well.

Works on the projects for extension of Kolkata Metro Railway from Tollygunge to Garia, extension of Circular Railway from Princepghat to Majerhat and provision of connection with Circular Railway from Dum Dum to the airport as well as electrification of the existing Circular Railway from Tala to Princepghat are continuing. Dum Dum-Tala section on Circular Railway has already been electrified. Electrification of Ranaghat-Gede has also been completed and Ranaghat-Bongaon will be completed within this financial year. This will facilitate running of EMU services in these sections also. Electrification of Barasat-Hasanabad is also progressing satisfactorily.

I am further happy to announce that as an extension of Calcutta Circular Railway Project, a link is proposed to be established between Ultadanga and Rajarhat (Phase-I up to Lake Town) to connect Dum Dum Airport to Titagarh in the North and Dum Dum Airport to Garia in the south.

Hon'ble Members will be happy to know that the work of Phase II of Mass Rapid Transit System in Chennai from Tirumalai to Velacheri is progressing at a good pace. To ensure its timely completion requisite funds are being provided in the year 2001-02. Work on gauge conversion of Chennai Beach-Tambaram-Chengalpattu suburban section has also picked up speed and is progressing well.

Hon'ble Members will be happy to know that based on the proposal submitted by Government of Andhra

Pradesh, a Memorandum of Understanding has been signed between the Government of Andhra Pradesh and Indian Railways for strengthening the existing suburban infrastructure and services in the city of Hyderabad and its suburbs for making certain sections in the city fit for commuter train operation.

Production Units

During 1999-2000, all the Production Units – Chittaranjan Locomotive Works, Diesel Locomotive Works, Varanasi, Integral Coach Factory, Chennai, Rail Coach Factory, Kapurthala, Diesel Component Works, Patiala and Wheel & Axle Plant, Bangalore – have achieved their targets. I am happy to inform the Hon'ble Members that Rail Coach Factory, Kapurthala and Wheel & Axle Plant, Bangalore have received ISO-14001 Certification for 'Environmental Management Standards Systems'.

I am happy to inform the House that Rail Coach Factory (RCF), Kapurthala also bagged the prestigious "Golden Peacock Environment Management" Award in June 2000. 27 Coaches of the state-of-the-art LHB design, are slated for indigenous production during 2001-02. RCF has bagged orders for export of 72 MG bogies to Vietnam National Railways. Diesel Locomotive Works (DLW), Varanasi have bagged order for 12 BG Diesel Locomotives from Bangladesh Railways and Sri Lanka Railways during the current year.

Sir, I am glad to inform the House that Chittaranjan Locomotive Works (CLW) has manufactured a new WAP-7 locomotive named 'Navbharati', which can be used to haul 26 coach trains at a speed of 140 KM per hour. CLW is now attracting a large number of International enquiries. Delegations from Switzerland, Turkey and South Africa have visited CLW to explore the possibility of buying locomotives based on latest technology.

RDSO

The functioning of the Research Designs & Standards Organisation (RDSO) is the pioneering R&D wing of the Indian Railways has been thoroughly reviewed in the current year in pursuance of my budget commitment. Several steps are being initiated to improve the performance of this organisation.

Public Sector Undertakings

Hon'ble Members will be happy to know that the performance of the Public Sector Undertakings has been satisfactory during the year 1999-2000. In 1999-2000, IRCON International Ltd. had a turnover of Rs. 538 cr and

earned a net profit of Rs 47 cr. It paid a dividend of Rs. 11.38 cr. Rail India Technical and Economic Services (RITES) achieved the highest ever turnover of Rs. 172 cr during the year 1999-2000, recording a net profit of Rs. 16 cr and paid a dividend of Rs. 3.20 cr. Container Corporation of India Ltd. (CONCOR) had a turnover of Rs. 832 cr earning a profit of Rs. 178 cr and paid Rs. 36 cr as dividend. Indian Railway Finance Corporation earned a net profit of Rs. 301 cr. It mobilised a total of Rs. 2,836 cr. from market in 1999-2000 to supplement the plan resources of Indian Railways. It paid a dividend of Rs. 65 cr.

Annual Plan 2001-02

Sir, when I sat down to compile budget estimates for 2001-02, I was certain that there will be some growth in the Budgetary Support from the General Exchequer. I was also hopeful that to tide over the safety related requirements, a separate grant would be available. However, none of these materialised. But, Sir, I am happy to announce that even with all these constraints, we have been able to keep the Plan outlay for 2001-02 at Rs. 11,090 cr, which is 11 per cent higher than the revised estimates of the current year. Capital support from the General Exchequer continues to be Rs. 3,540 cr, as in the current year. It is proposed to go in for market borrowings to the extent of Rs. 4,000 cr. The balance of Rs. 3,550 cr is being met through a combination of conventional sources and non-traditional sources of revenue. We are also relying on clearance of a portion of the Railways' dues from powerhouses. Traffic outstandings, a large part of which is powerhouse dues have touched a new height of Rs. 3,027 cr as on 31st December, 2000. The powerhouse dues of Rs. 3,027 cr are there. If we get this money for safety purposes, I would be very grateful. The Railways is a good paymaster but problem is that our money is lying there. The target set for clearance in the coming year is Rs. 750 cr. As part of this, we expect that outstanding dues of at least Rs. 500 cr from Badarpur Thermal Power Station would be realised by us in the next year, as promised by the then Power Minister last year.

Sir, in the current year, we had received a budgetary support of Rs. 3,540 cr which was about Rs. 1,000 cr higher than the year 1999-2000. Simultaneously, Government had also agreed for a dividend deferment of Rs. 1,500 cr last time so that our net payout of dividend was reduced to only Rs. 615 cr that we are paying this time. Next year, Sir, there has been no growth of Budgetary Support while the Railways will also have to pay Rs. 1,352 cr to the General Exchequer by way of dividend, as the dividend deferral permitted is reduced to Rs. 1,000 cr only.

Sir, while safety continues to be our core focus in Annual Plan 2001-02, I have also decided to give major thrust to completion of new line projects which are pending for long time. Safety is being further strengthened with the allocation for Track Renewals being enhanced from Rs. 1,633 cr in the Revised Estimates to Rs. 2,050 cr, marking an increase of 26 per cent.

[Translation]

Is Bengal out of its purview? Benefits will reach all. Please just listen.

[English]

In our continuing drive to improve user services, allocation for Passenger Amenities is going up to Rs. 200 cr marking an increase of 39 per cent over the Revised Estimates for the current year.

[Translation]

Frequency is there, Extension is also there. We are doing something for the common passengers.

[English]

Austerity. I have already mentioned is a major area engaging my concern. It would be recollected that in the previous year, austerity and economy drive had resulted in net saving of Rs. 850 cr. This year again, the target for savings through economy and austerity measures has been set at Rs. 865 cr. I would like to assure the House that in the next year also, austerity and economy will receive high priority.

New Trains

Sir, I will appeal to the hon. Members not to shout. Throughout the year, I have been receiving volumes of requests from the people at large and also from Hon'ble Members of Parliament who represent them, on starting new trains and increasing frequencies, extensions etc. Sir, you will surely agree that it is very difficult to satisfy everybody. But I do appreciate that in view of our increasing population, these are genuine requirements and hence the expectations. After taking into account the demand, availability of infrastructure, availability of adequate maintenance to ensure safety, impact on freight traffic etc., I am happy to introduce the following new services :-

1. New Delhi-Raipur-Bilaspur weekly Rajdhani Express

2. New Delhi-Ranchi-Hatia weekly Rajdhani Express
3. Bi-weekly express between Gorakhpur and New Delhi.
4. Bangalore-Vasco Bi-weekly express.
5. Pune-Ernakulam weekly express via Londa and Madgaon.
6. Asansol-New Jalpaiguri weekly Express.
7. Secunderabad-Dharmavaram Express.
8. Sealdah-New Jalpaiguri Bi-weekly Express.
9. Jaipur-Ernakulam Weekly Superfast Express.
10. Dhanbad-Hatia Intercity Express.
11. Howrah-Yashwantpur (Bangalore) Bi-weekly Express.
12. Indore-Gandhinagar (Ahmedabad) Express.
13. Howrah-Trivandrum-Nagercoil Weekly express.
14. Kurla-Bhubaneshwar (Via Sambhalpur) Weekly Express.
15. Valsad-Patna Weekly Express serving Surat area.
16. Haldia-Asansol Express
17. Jodhpur-Chennai Weekly Express
18. Solapur-Pune Intercity Express.
19. Jodhpur-Hardwar Link Express
20. Palghat-Trivandrum Express.
21. Bhubaneshwar-Palasa Intercity Service
22. Asansol-Jhajha-Amritsar weekly Express
23. Weekly Rajdhani Express to Secunderabad upon completion of New Terminal Works at Hazrat Nizamuddin. Somnath Da would be happy.
24. Rampurhat-Howrah Intercity Express.

be run during peak rush season with only second class and second class sleeper coaches, on the following routes :-

1. Delhi-Jammu
2. Howrah-Delhi
3. Howrah-Dehradun
4. Delhi-Barauni via Lucknow
5. Hyderabad-Bangalore
6. Mumbai-Gorakhpur
7. Mumbai-Varanasi

This will be my humble effort to help reduce the difficulties faced by common passengers on long distance routes. Depending on the utilisation of these services, their continuity will also be considered. Symbolically, we are giving it a start. I want to introduce it in all parts of the country so that the common people could avail of it.

Increase in Frequency

- i. Sealdah-New Delhi Rajdhani Express from 2 days to 4 days a week.
- ii. Gorakhpur-Dehradun Express from 2 days to 3 days a week.
- iii. Rajkot-Ernakulam Express from one to 2 days and extension upto Okha.
- iv. Jabalpur-Rajkot Express from 2 days to 4 days by extending Rajkot-Bhopal Express to Jabalpur on 2 days.
- v. Sealdah-Darbhanga Ganga Sagar Express from 4 days to daily.
- vi. Vishakhapatnam-Bilaspur Express from 4 days to daily and extension upto Korba.
- vii. Secunderabad-Rajkot Express from weekly to 2 days.
- viii. Nizamuddin-Bilaspur Gondwana Express from 3 days to 5 days by extending Nizamuddin Nagpur Express to Bilaspur.
- ix. Indore-Jaipur Express from weekly to 2 days.

I have been receiving a large number of appeals from the people from different parts of the country requesting for augmenting services available to second class travelling passengers on long distance routes. Keeping these in view, I am happy to announce that from the next year, I propose to introduce "Matribhumi" Express trains to

Extensions

- i. Surat-Patna Bi-weekly Express from Patna upto Bhagalpur.
- ii. Pune-Varanasi Express to Darbhanga on 1 day.
- iii. New Delhi Guwahati Rajdhani Bi-weekly express to Dibrugarh Town from one day to two days.
- iv. Chennai-Guwahati Bi-Weekly Express to Dibrugarh Town on one day. The facility will be connected from North-East to South India.
- v. Jodhpur-Jaipur Intercity Express to Sawai Madhopur
- vi. Guwahati-Lumding Express to Dimapur. We want to facilitate Nagaland.
- vii. Kacheguda-Palasa Express to Bhubaneshwar.
- viii. Jodhpur-Jammu Tawi Express to Ahmedabad.
- ix. Howrah-Gorakhpur weekly Express via Barauni, Ballia and Indara to provide a direct service between Ballia and Howrah.
- iii. On the recently restored metre-gauge line between New Mal Junction and Changrabandha, one pair passenger service will be introduced between Siliguri and Changrabandha via New Mal junction.
- iv. One pair of passenger service will be introduced between Eklakhi and Gazol and extended upto Balurghat upon completion of the new line.
- v. An express train from Howrah to Digha will be introduced on completion of the new line. In the interim period a DMU service will be run on the 16 kilometre completed portion between Tamluk and Bajkul.

The House will be happy to know that the train has reached Bajkul. It is an ongoing project that we have completed. The friends from West Bengal would also be happy... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO (JAGATSINGHPUR) : What about Rajdhani train? ...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : Please listen. It is there atleast listen first. ... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE (AURANGABAD, MAHARASHTRA) : What have you done for Marathwada ... (*Interruptions*)

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : It has got its share you can go through it... (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

- vi. Two pairs of broad gauge service will be introduced upon completion of gauge conversion of Pandharpur-Kurduwadi section.

Service introduced/to be introduced on completion of Gauge Conversion/New Lines/Restoration

- i. We have decided to give a package. Upon completion of Peddapally-Karimnagar New Line, two pairs of passenger services have just been introduced from 14th February, 2001.
- ii. Following services will be introduced on the recently completed Gandhidham-Bhuj Gauge Conversion.
 - a) Extension of Mumbai-Gandhidham Kutch Express to Bhuj.
 - b) Extension of Bareilly - Gandhidham Bi-weekly Express to Bhuj.
 - c) Extension of Pune-Gandhidham Weekly Express to Bhuj.
 - d) Two pairs of passenger services.

We have to help Gujarat.

MEMU/EMU Service

- i. Kazipet-Domakal-Vijayawada
- ii. Purulia-Adra
- iii. Bilaspur-Nagpur
- iv. Kanpur-Shikohabad
- v. Bilaspur-Raigarh
- vi. Bally-Bandel (2 pairs)

DMU Service

- i. Kharagpur-Jaleshwar-Bhubaneshwar
- ii. Jalandhar-Hoshiarpur
- iii. Kotkapura-Fazilka
- iv. Samastipur-Darbhanga

New Lines

Sir, the House is aware that Railways have a large shelf of new line projects costing about Rs. 20,000 cr, of Gauge Conversion projects costing about Rs.9,100 cr, and of Doubling projects amounting to Rs 3,300 cr which have been duly sanctioned by the Parliament over last five decades and are awaiting completion. After having seen the implementation for last one year, I have reached the conclusion that adding new projects to already sanctioned large shelf of on-going projects will only aggravate the problem. Therefore, I have taken this bold decision of not including any new line project in the next year's budget. I am afraid this may disappoint many of my Hon'ble colleagues here. But, Sir, in the long-term interests of Indian Railways I feel that this has become inescapable.

I further propose that ways and means must be found to expeditiously complete the on-going projects. Sir, that is why, I have decided to increase the investment in on going projects in the next year by as much as 45 per cent in comparison to the revised estimates of the current year. This increase, amounting to Rs. 312 cr, will not only facilitate general speeding up of new line implementation, but will also result in completion of the long-pending projects.

I can assure the hon. Members from Marathwada Division that I have given money. They should see the pink-book.

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE : You have not given any trains for Marathwada(Interruptions)

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : I have given for that(Interruptions)

SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA (JHABUA) : Please see the Jhabua-Dhar-Maksi rail link.

[English]

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : On-going new lines, which have either been completed recently or would be completed before March 2001 are :

- i. Puttaparthi-Penukonda section of Dharmavaram-Penukonda project
- ii. Kashinagar-Kakdweep section of Lakshmikantapur-Namkhana project
- iii. Kapadvanj-Modasa project.
- iv. Eklakhi-Gazol section of Eklakhi-Balurghat project.
- v. Jaruri-Banspani section of Daitari-Banspani project.
- vi. Bargachia-Munshirhat section of Howrah-Amta project
- vii. Tamluk-Bajkul section of Tamluk-Digha line

The new lines targeted to be completed in 2001-02 are :

- i. Gazol-Buniadpur of Eklakhi-Balurghat project
- ii. Dharmavaram-Penukonda, completing the Dharmavaram-Penukonda project.
- iii. Dewas-Maksi new line section.
- iv. Bajkul to Digha of Tamluk-Digha project.

Gauge Conversion

The sections of which gauge conversion has either been completed or would be completed before March, 2001 are :

- i. Nonera-Seoni section of Guna-Etawah project
- ii. Raxaul-Birganj section
- iii. Gandhidham-Bhuj section

During the year 2001-02, Railways plan to complete the gauge conversion of the following sections :

- i. Seoni-Bhind
- ii. Amguri-Tuli
- iii. Makum-Dangri
- iv. Laxmanthirtha bridge
- v. Gooty-Pendakallu
- vi. Dhrangadara- Kuda
- vii. Wankaner-Morbi

Doubling

During the current year about 200 km of doubling would be completed, while in the next financial year a target of 300 km has been proposed. Sir, keeping in view the critical need to augment line capacity in certain saturated sections, you will be happy to know that the following new doubling works are being included in the budget.

- i. Ernakulam-Mulanturutti section on Ernakulam-Kottayam-Kayankulam line
- ii. Bandel-Jirat section on Bandel-Katwa line.
- iii. Baruipur to Magrahat
- iv. Harishchandrapur-Kumarganj section on Malda-Kumedpur line
- v. Gooty-Renigunta section-Doubling of remaining single line sections

Sir, it gives me pleasure to inform the House that we have decided to extend the following works as part of some of the on-going projects :

- i. Extension of Sultanganj-Deogarh new line project with a new link from Banka to Barahat
- ii. Extension of BDR gauge conversion project by a new link from Bowai-Chandi to Khana to connect Midnapur, Bankura and Purulia
- iii. Extension of Mansi-Saharsa Gauge Conversion project upto Dauram-Madhepur
- iv. Gauge conversion from Krishnanagar-Shantipur as an extension to the sanctioned doubling from Kalarayanpur to Krishnanagar
- v. Extension of Fatua-Islampur-Dhaniawan-Biharsharif new railway line project to Barbhigha
- vi. Extension of sanctioned doubling project from Kalarayanpur to Krishnanagar by providing a new link from Krishnanagar to Charatala on the Krishnanagar-Karimpur
- vii. Extension to Rajkot -Veraval GC project by taking up gauge conversion from Wansjalai to Jetalisar

- viii. Extension of Eklakhi-Balurghat project by a new link from Gazol to Itahar as Phase-I of Gazol-Raiganj
- ix. Extension of Rewari-Sadulpur gauge conversion project to Hissar
- x. Extension of Kanpur-Mathura-Kasganj-Bareilly gauge conversion project to Lalkuan
- xi. Extension of Lumding-Badarpur-Silchar gauge conversion project from Badarpur to Baraigram
- xii. Extension of sanctioned GC from Ajmer-Chhitaurgarh-Udaipur project to Umra
- xiii. New line from Banka-Bhitia Road as extension to Sultanganj-Deogarh new line project

Considering the long standing demand of the people of Murshidabad and the need for development in this area, I am happy to announce that restoration work of Nasipur (Azimganj) -Jiaganj Railway line will be taken up during the year 2001-2002. Separately a survey work for construction of a bridge over Bhagirathi to connect these two will also be undertaken.

Restoration of Teesta Valley narrow gauge line from Sevak to Gillikhola has been a long standing demand of the people of Sikkim and North Bengal. I have also decided to take up the restoration of this important railway line during the year 2001-2002.

Another significant rail link needing urgent restoration is Mogra-Tarakeshwar line. This also has been a long standing demand of the people and accordingly, I have decided to start the work on this restoration in 2001-2002.

Sir, it would be recollected that in the last budget I had announced a new line project for facilitating better connectivity of North Eastern states. This New Moinaguri-Jogighopa line will be routed through Changrabandha to facilitate better communication links with neighbouring states.

Surveys

On the basis of requests received from the Hon'ble Members and State Governments, I have decided to take up several surveys during the next financial year. These are :

New Line Surveys

- i. Bhagirathi Bridge to connect Nasipur and Jiaganj Railway line
- ii. Donakonda to Vedareva
- iii. Mysore to Mangalore via Madikere
- iv. Latur Road to Mudkhed
- v. Ferozpur Cantt. to Taran Taran
- vi. Halem to Itanagar
- vii. Kharghoda to Santalpur
- viii. Bulb line at Shoranur
- ix. Rotegaon to Punthamba
- x. Sahnewal to Ladowal
- xi. Madurai to Tuticorin
- xii. Vaikam to Vaikam Road
- xiii. Kumbhakonam to Namakal via Jayakondam, Ariyadur, Perambdur and Thuraiyur
- xiv. Shahganj to Amethi via Sultanpur
- xv. Kazipet to Nalgonda
- xvi. Jiribam-Imphal
- xvii. Jhajha to Giridih via Sonuchakai
- xviii. Updating survey for Ernakulam-Punalur-Trivandrum
- xix. Jaypore-Malkangiri
- xx. Howrah-Sealdah, 3rd line between Belangar-Bally and additional loop at Dumdum, Baranagar and Bally
- xxi. Budge Budge to Uluberia including a rail cum road bridge.
- xxii. 2nd coaching terminal at Trivandrum
- xxiii. Bypass at Bandel and Naihati
- xxiv. Ranjitpura to Yeshwantnagar
- xxv. Development of infrastructure in Kakinada area

xxvi. Thanjavur to Chennai Egmore via Adiyalur

Gauge Conversion Surveys

- i. Virudnagar to Manamadurai

Doubling Surveys

- i. Ujjain to Indore
- ii. Patratu Chandil via Barkhakana
- iii. Gooty-Renugunta section of remaining single line section

Railway Electrification

In the current year, electrification of 425 route kilometres is envisaged and the following sections are planned to be completed before March 2001 :-

- i. Sirhind- Nangaldam-Una
- ii. Ranaghat-Gede
- iii. Ranaghat-Bongaon

Some of the important routes to be completed in the next year are :-

- i. East Coast line from Visakhapatnam to Kharagpur. With this, the entire Calcutta-Chennai route will stand electrified.
- ii. Main line of Eastern Railway, (Sitarampur-Mughalsarai) providing alternative electrified route on Asansol-Mughalsarai section.
- iii. Udhna-Jalgaon section linking two important electrified main trunk routes of Delhi-Mumbai via. Western and Central Railways will be electrified.

Industrial Relations and Staff Amenities

Railways have a large human resource base. There is need to further enhance their skills by using modern tools and techniques of the 21st century along with modern management concepts. There is a need to maintain a cordial relationship between the workers and the management in a large enterprise like Indian Railways. Industrial Relations over Indian Railways remained peaceful and cordial during the year. The grievance redressal machinery under PNM and JCM schemes functioned satisfactorily at all levels.

Sir, I am happy to announce that I propose to enhance the outlay on staff amenities by as much as 45

per cent over the revised estimates for the current year. Railway staff members are highly committed and hardworking and I am proud of them. I would also take this opportunity to announce that keeping in view acute housing difficulties being faced by our employees, a novel housing scheme called "Own Your Own House" scheme is being devised. Detailed modalities in this regard will be worked out soon.

Sports

Sir, I am happy to inform the House that during the year 2000-01, Indian Railway sportspersons performed creditably both at the National and the International level. Many Railway Athletes participated in the Asian Track and Field Athletic Meet held at Jakarta in August, 2000 and won 9 Medals including 3 Gold and 6 Silver in individual events. Apart from this, four Indian Railway athletes were members of the Gold and one Silver Medal winning relay teams.

Sir, the Members will be happy to know that the policy for recruitment of sportspersons has been revised and substantially liberalised to attract more talents. I am also happy to inform the House that we have decided to form a separate sports cadre at gazetted level with an objective of providing further promotion to outstanding sports persons.

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (VAISHALI) : Mr. Speaker Sir, we were listening to her with perseverance, but there is no mention about Patna Rail Bridge ... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : This will not go on record.

... (Interruptions)*

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : Sir, I am also happy to inform the House that the allocation for Railways Sports Promotion Board is proposed to be increased to Rs. 3 cr which is 36 per cent higher over the revised estimate for the current year. This will go a long way in promoting sports activities in the Railways.

Reforms and Restructuring

Sir, If I may be permitted to use a Railway metaphor, I would say that the Indian railways are today standing at a junction station. One track takes them to reforms, revival and rejuvenation. The other track will lead them to a nowhere land of crisis and chaos. Sir, we must make the right choice, sooner, rather than later. We have already set in motion various reform measures. Efforts are

underway to generate resources through non-traditional sources. We recognise this task is not going to be easy at all and it cannot be done overnight as well. A system which remained largely unchanged during five decades will need some amount of time, continuity and perseverance with the full support of not only the Central Government but the State Governments as well. We also feel that in any reform exercise, our employees will be our strength. We feel that no reforms can be successful without full involvement of the people. I would like to assure this House that Railways shall not be privatised.

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing should go on record except hon. Minister's speech.

... (Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members, please take your seats. You will have time to discuss this.

... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seats.

... (Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE : You have not announced for Marathwada ... (Interruptions)

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : I have set aside funds for that ... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members, please take your seats.

... (Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members, please take your seats.

... (Interruptions)

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : Sir, I can not announce things like this ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Khaire, please take your seat.

... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Khaire, please take your seat.

... (Interruptions)

* Not recorded

* Not recorded.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Rawale, please take your seat.

... (Interruptions)

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : Sir, What is this? I cannot read like this ... (Interruptions)

The House is aware that a Railways Expert Group was set up in 1998. The Group has submitted an Interim Executive Summary of its report very recently, which is under examination. The detailed report is awaited.

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members, please take your seats.

... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members, please take your seats.

... (Interruptions)

SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO : Sir, she has not given anything to Orissa ... (Interruptions)

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : They should see the Pink-book ... (Interruptions)

SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO : Sir, as a protest, we are walking out of the House.

13.11 hrs.

At this stage, Shri Trilochan Kanungo and some other hon. Members left the House.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : Sir, we all know that Railways urgently need modernisation. However, we need to select appropriate technology. We also have to find innovative means of funding this process of modernisation. I am happy to inform the House that I have set up an Advisory Committee under the Chairmanship of Shri Sam Pitroda for suggesting ways and means of initiating comprehensive modernisation of Indian Railways with the application of appropriate technologies. The Committee will also suggest areas for resource mobilisation in various facets of railway functioning.

International Co-operation

In our continuing efforts to promote international co-operation amongst the neighbouring countries, I am happy to inform the House that the rail link between Petrapole in India and Benapole in Bangladesh has recently been restored and opened for goods traffic. This will pave the way for running of passenger services also.

Part - II

Budget Estimates, 2001-02

Sir, I shall now deal with the Budget Estimates for 2001-02.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Ganga Reddy, please go to your seat.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : I have given maximum money for ongoing projects ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : This is not a proper way

... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Yerrannaidu, please ask your Members to take their seats.

... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : I have given. That has been included ... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Ganga Reddy, please go to your seat. What is this?

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : A general recession has been observed in the economy since 1998-99, as we all know. Consequently, the infrastructure sector has also shown a downward trend in recent years. Despite this, Indian Railways have shown remarkable resilience and performed quite well for last two years in terms of freight loading etc. In 2001-02 Indian Railways showed a moderate and somewhat subdued growth in freight traffic mainly due to slowing down of economy. It would be recollected that Railways had performed very well and had achieved a growth of 8.43 per cent in freight traffic in 1999-2000. In the current year, mainly due to improved supply of coal to powerhouses, the goods traffic to end January 2001, at 389.40 million is 4.98 per cent higher than the level achieved in the corresponding period of last year.

The Freight traffic target for the budget year 2001-02 has been fixed at 500 million tonnes, an increment of 25 million tonnes over the current year's target of 475 million tonnes. This ambitious target has been kept in view of the special marketing efforts being made by the Railways and on an anticipation of an expected faster growth of the

economy. In this context, I am happy to announce that to facilitate adequate availability of rolling stock for freight movement, for the second year in succession, wagon procurement target has been projected at the level of 23,000 for the next year. I have given maximum money ... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Mohan Rawale, Please ask your Members to go to their seats.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Anant Gangaram Geete, What is this?

... *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : I have set aside funds. You please see. There are ongoing projects. ... *(Interruptions)*

[English]

I am telling the Members of the Opposition that I have given maximum money ... *(Interruptions)*

In Malda Division, there are some ongoing projects. I have given the money ... *(Interruptions)* I have increased the money ... *(Interruptions)*

For Emergency Corporation, we are pursuing the matter with the Ministry of Finance. We want that it should start as early as possible. This will give further fillip to the wagon industry in general. For passenger traffic, 9 per cent increase has been provided in keeping with the long-term growth in passenger traffic. With these projections, the goods earnings are assessed at Rs. 24,735 cr and passenger earnings at Rs. 11,387 cr.

In view of the initiatives taken in the parcel segment, a growth of 8.8% has been projected and consistent with this 'Other Coaching' earnings are placed at Rs. 850 cr. Recognizing the imperatives of identifying and tapping the potential of non-traditional revenue, the initiative taken while presenting the Railway Budget last year is proposed to be continued. It is the expectation that with the groundwork done during the current year, there will be a distinctly improved achievement during 2001-02. Accordingly, Sundry Other Earnings, for 2001-02 have been placed at Rs. 1,717 cr, which include Rs. 700 cr by way of leasing of 'right of way' for optic fibre cables, Rs. 200 cr from commercial exploitation of land and air space;

and another Rs. 100 cr through commercial publicity on Railway premises and rolling stock, apart from a normal growth of 5.4 per cent.

Sir, the bulk of the outstanding dues in Traffic Suspense relate to Power Houses especially Badarpur Thermal Power Station. The House would agree that no organisation can sustain dues of the order of Rs. 1,662 cr which has outstanding as on 31st March, 2000.

[Translation]

SHRI SHAMSHER SINGH DULLO (ROPAR) : Everything is being given to Bengal. Injustice has been done to Punjab. Ludhiana-Chandigarh line has not been commenced. ... *(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members, please take your seats.

13.15 hrs.

At this stage, Dr. Girija Vyas and some other hon. Members came and sat on the floor near the Table.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : We had kept a clearance target of Rs. 500 cr from Badarpur Thermal Power Station during 2000-01 relying on an assurance given by the Ministry of Power. However, the outstanding continues to mount and, as on 31st December, 2000, these stand at Rs. 3,027 cr. Sir, Railways are always a good paymaster. But Sir, we do not receive our dues especially from Power sector. Even then, we continue to carry coal for powerhouses.

In anticipation of a positive development in this regard, a target of Rs. 750 cr of clearance from Traffic Suspense has been kept, expecting a sizeable clearance of these dues. Gross Traffic Receipts are accordingly estimated at Rs. 39,439 cr.

Ordinary Working Expenses at Rs. 30,190 cr provide for a minimal increase over the current year, resulting in a total variation of 8.53 per cent over the Revised Estimates, for 2000-01. Appropriation to Pension Fund is placed at Rs. 5,790 cr and Depreciation Reserve Fund has been provided at Rs. 2,704 cr based upon the actual requirement for plan resources.

The total Working Expenses will, thus, amount to Rs. 38,684 cr leading to Net Traffic Receipts of Rs. 755 cr

Net Miscellaneous Receipts are estimated at Rs. 928 cr. This also takes into account Rs. 300 cr proposed to be received from General Revenues for Railway Safety Works. Thus, the Net Revenue works out to Rs. 1,683 cr.

Dividend to General Revenues has been worked out at 7 per cent of the Capital-at-charge as recommended by the Railway Convention Committee. The Memorandum for the year 2001-02 has been submitted to the Committee and their Report has been laid in the House on 23rd February, 2001. The dividend projected in the Budget Estimate 2001-02 is Rs. 2,352 cr. However, in view of a shortfall in internal resources for plan needs and based on details worked out in consultation with the Finance Ministry, it is proposed to pay to General Revenues only Rs. 1,352 cr and transfer the balance Rs. 1,000 cr to the Deferred Dividend Liability Account.

Based on the above projections, the "Excess" of receipts over expenditure in 2001-02 comes to Rs. 331 cr, which falls short of the requirements of plan expenditure by Rs. 500 cr. In view of the limited internal resources, appropriation to be made to the Capital Fund would be limited to the quantum of interest payable on the loan taken from the General Exchequer in 2000-01. All projects hitherto charged to Capital Fund would now be funded from Capital. This leaves an uncovered gap of Rs. 500 cr which is required to be mobilised additionally.

Sir, last year I had not increased the freight rates for essential commodities. This year also, I do not propose to increase the freight rates of essential commodities like Edible Salt, Grains & Pulses, Sugar, Fruits & Vegetables, Urea, Edible Oils, Kerosene and LPG. These commodities are used by every one and constitute a significant part of the housewives' budget. I have no intention to upset the domestic budget and therefore I am exempting these commodities from any hike.

Sir, I am aware that an increase in freight rates has some direct or indirect effect on the economy. It must, however, be recognized that Railways are also being subjected to similar inflationary pressure. As was done in the previous year, the Railways will continue to absorb some part of the increase in the cost of inputs, but the circumstances demand that freight rates have to be adjusted by a small margin. As such I propose a nominal three percent (3 per cent) increase in rates of all commodities except those essential commodities mentioned before or those proposed to be charged differently as under. Keeping in view the request made by major industries, I have decided that freight rates for Coal

(not meant for household consumption) and Iron & Steel (Division A, B, and C) is also proposed to be increased by only two percent (2 per cent). Further, in order to attract more Black Oil traffic to rail, the increase for Furnace Oil is proposed to be restricted to one per cent (1%) (Interruptions)

13.16 hrs.

At this stage, Shri Ramdas Athawale and some other hon. Members came and stood on the floor near the Table.

13.16 hrs.

At this stage, Shri Sansuma Khunggur Bwiswmuthiary came and stood on the floor near the Table.

Certain sections of the Railway network have become saturated, yet the demand on these sections is still growing. As is normal in the pricing policy in various transport sectors, I propose to charge a premium for carriage of traffic over these sections. The distance of charge would be suitably inflated for freight traffic on a few congested sections experimentally during this year.

In view of the increase of seven percent (7 per cent) in Parcel rate made in last budget, I propose to exempt Parcel & Luggage rates from any increase next year. This exemption will also be applicable to Newspaper, Magazines and Medicines etc.

Sir, I am happy to announce that concessional MST (Monthly Season Ticket) scheme meant for the people below the poverty line which was approved last year will continue.

Sir, in the concessions granted to various categories of handicapped persons, there has been certain grievance from those who are visually handicapped or mentally handicapped. Sir, in order to ensure uniformity in availing the concessional facilities by all categories of handicapped persons, I am happy to announce that the visually handicapped and mentally handicapped persons shall also be entitled to the same benefits which are otherwise available to orthopaedically handicapped and paraplegic persons.

Sir, our vision is to make the Indian Railways an example of commitment. Our vision is to make the railway journey a matter of joy for every passenger. Our vision is to give travel opportunity to every Indian at affordable cost. Our vision is to unlock the hidden wealth of the railways and make it a strong self-sustained organisation, devoted to the cause of national development.

Sir, I am committed to make each of my dreams come true. And I will do this with all 16 lakh family members of Indian Railways.

Sir, you will recall that I did not increase the passenger fares in the last budget. There have been many criticisms on this account. But I draw strength from the famous quote of Tagore :-

"Give me the strength, never to disown the poor or bend my knees before insolent might."

I would like to bring to your notice Sir, that despite there being no increase in passenger fares, the earnings from passenger traffic are poised to exceed the budgeted level. Till December, 2000 there has been an increase of ten per cent (10 per cent) compared to the same period last year. I attribute this to various efforts being made by the Railways to augment passenger traffic and the general improvement in the services and amenities offered to the travelling public. I am hopeful that this buoyancy would continue in the coming year as well. I do not, therefore, propose to increase the passenger fares of any class or category of trains.

Conclusion

In the end, I wish to express my gratitude to the respected Prime Minister for his encouragement and support. My sincere thanks are also due to all the railwaymen for their hard work and dedication to duty, which has helped the Railways in achieving their task successfully. I am also thankful to the rail users whose cooperation we have been getting always.

Sir, with these words I commend the Railway Budget 2001-02 to the House.

MR. SPEAKER : The House stands adjourned to meet again at 4.00 p.m.

13.17 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Sixteen of the Clock.

16.00 hrs.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled at Sixteen of the Clock.

(MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER in the Chair)

Banking Companies (Legal Practitioners' Clients' Accounts) Repeal Bill, 2001*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Now, we shall take up item No. 8. Shri Balasaheb Vikhe Patil.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : On behalf of Shri Yashwant Sinha, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to repeal the Banking Companies (Legal Practitioners' Clients' Accounts) Act, 1949.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to repeal the Banking Companies (Legal Practitioners' Clients' Accounts) Act, 1949."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL : I introduce the Bill.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Matters under Rule 377 listed for the day are treated as laid on the Table of the House.

16.01 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377**

(i) Need to provide more railway facilities in Jharkhand State

[Translation]

SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY(RANCHI) : It was declared a few years back that a D.P.M. office will be opened at Ranchi which is now the Capital of Jharkhand. Foundation for its Building was also laid by the hon. Minister of Railways. The construction work of the building is still incomplete. The construction work should be expedited and the D.R.M. office should be completely shifted from Adra to Ranchi. Moreover, the capital city of Ranchi should be linked with every major city in terms of rail - services. The demand in this regard is being made for the last several years. I would like to make a demand to the Ministry of railways and to the Government of India to introduce a Rajdhani Express between Ranchi and Delhi, a Shatabadi Express between Ranchi and Kolkata via Jamshedpur, a superfast train between Bokaro and Mumbai via Ranchi and to take up gauge conversion of Ranchi to Tori metre gauge line crossing through Lohahardaga. The development of Jharkhand Region will be faster if these railway facilities are provided

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II Section 1, Dated 26 2 2001

** Treated as laid on the Table of the House

(ii) Need to provide rail service between Varanasi and Shakti Nagar in Uttar Pradesh

SHRI RAMSHAKAL (ROBERTSGANJ) : In my constituency of Robertsganj in Uttar Pradesh work is going on several projects of the Union Government and the Government of Uttar Pradesh. Lakhs of employees reside there and 80 percent of the Scheduled Castes and the backward classes whose numbers are in Lakhs reside in villages. However, there is no facility of rail service between Varanasi and Shakti Nagar owing to which lakhs of village populace and the employees working in the aforesaid projects have to face difficulties.

Through you I would like to make a demand to the Union Government that in view of the public interest, it should provide the rail facility between Varanasi and Shakti Nagar.

(iii) Need to run Special DMU train between Siwan and Hajipur in Bihar

[English]

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY (CHHAPRA) : There are daily commuters from the district of Siwan and Chapra to Hajipur which is a converging point for all the passengers reaching the State Capital of Patna. Presently, there is a meter gauge train which partly covers the requirement. There is an urgent need to start special set of Diesel Motor Unit Train between Siwan and Hajipur to cater to the daily needs of commuters between these two destinations.

(iv) Need to improve telephone services in Banaskantha Parliamentary Constituency, Gujarat

[Translation]

SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY (BANASKANTHA) : I would like to draw the attention of the House to my Parliamentary Constituency of Banaskantha of Gujarat where the applicants, who had applied for telephone connection in 1992 and deposited the requisite amount have yet not been given telephone connection even after lapse of eight years. There are 1300 villages in this Parliamentary Constituency, but the facility of telephone exchange is available in only 120 villages out of them and nearly 60 percent of telephones already installed remain out of order.

Through this House I would like to request the Central Government that waiting list for telephone connections in

my Parliamentary Constituency should be cleared and telephone facility should be provided in all rural areas and moreover arrangement should be made to minimise the cases of telephones going out of order.

(v) Need to ensure early functioning of Fertilizer Plant by KRIBHCO in Gorakhpur, U.P.

YOGI ADITYA NATH (GORAKHPUR) : The Gorakhpur unit of Indian Fertilizer Corporation Ltd. was established in 1969. This fertilizer factory was a boon for the farmers of Eastern Uttar Pradesh and Northern Bihar. But this factory was closed down following a minor accident in the factory.

Due to closure of this factory of Eastern Uttar Pradesh which is already industrially backward, discontentment is prevailing among employees and farmers of the area.

In the larger public interest, the Government had, in principle, approved the idea to ensure early functioning of the said closed fertilizer plant by 'Kribhco' and directed the P.I.B. to decide its disinvestment value. The P.I.B. has after deciding the disinvestment value of this project, sent a proposal to the Government for their final approval.

Therefore, through you I would like to request the Hon. Prime Minister that final approval to the proposal relating to hand over the said fertilizer plant of Gorakhpur to 'Kribhco' be given.

(vi) Need to make textile mills under British India Corporation in Kanpur, U.P. viable

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL (KANPUR) : Three textile mills of the British India Corporation are almost closed. The workers of the Elgin Mill No.1 and 2, Kanpur Textiles have not been paid their salaries since August due to which their families are on the verge of starvation.

The workers of these mills have been staging a dharna at B.I.C. Headquarters for the last 15 days. Even then their grievances are not being heard. The workers had submitted a revival plan in regard to one of these three mills, to the hon. Prime Minister one year back. The hon. Prime Minister had assured to implement this revival plan but no development is reported to have been made in this regard. The workers have not been paid their salaries for the last six months.

I would like to request you to kindly direct the Textile Ministry at your own level to make immediate payment of salaries to the workers and to implement the said revival plan soon which is under consideration of the Union Government and to make the mill functional.

(vii) Need to provide financial assistance to State Government of Uttar Pradesh for construction of a bridge on river Ganga at Kalakankar in Pratapgarh Constituency

RAJKUMARI RATNA SINGH (PRATAPGARH) : I would like to have the attention of the Government drawn to the need of construction of a bridge on river Ganga at Kalakankar in my parliamentary constituency of Pratapgarh. This area is out off from several districts due to lack of a bridge on this river and for going to other districts one has to go to either Allahabad which is 70 k.m. or to Dalmu which is 60 k.m. from there. The construction of a bridge on this river will facilitate a short cut link road between Faizabad and Chitrakoot and Sultanpur and nearby districts. Moreover this will minimise time and distance in reaching those places. The G.T. Road is at a distance of only eight kilometer from there. The problem of traffic jam on G.T. Road can also be overcome by construction of this bridge. Moreover, with the construction of a bridge on river Ganga at this place the nearby district will get full opportunity of development.

Therefore, I would like to request the Union Government to immediately initiate the construction of a bridge on river Ganga at Kalakankar and to provide the requisite funds for this purpose.

(viii) Need to take steps for proper maintenance of historical monuments at Jaisalmer in Rajasthan

[English]

COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY : This is with regard to 850 years, an old historical and National monument at Jaisalmer (Rajasthan), which is popularly known as "SONAR QUILA" and is on the world tourist map. Apart from this, there are stone carved Havelis and Ornamental buildings at Jaisalmer, which are of great importance for National and International tourists. These assets are not properly maintained with the result condition of these assets is deteriorating day by day.

Jaisalmer Fort and other Havelis of national heritage have been damaged and shaken due to severe earthquake in Gujarat on 26 January, 2001.

I demand the following :-

- (a) A detailed survey be carried out by an expert team to assess and measure the damages caused by the killer earthquake in Jaisalmer on 26 January, 2001;

- (b) A Ministerial team associated with Government of Rajasthan should be constituted to oversee and assess the damages and restoration work; and

- (c) Provision for special budget be made by Government of India for speedy repair and restoration work for all historical buildings/ national monuments situated at Jaisalmer (Rajasthan).

(ix) Need to review saving-cum-relief scheme being implemented in Kerala for the benefit of fishermen

PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM (BADAGARA) : Saving cum Relief Scheme for fishermen is a 50% centrally sponsored scheme implemented in the State of Kerala since 1991. As per the existing scheme a contribution of Rs.45/- is collected from fishermen for a period of 8 months. An equal share of Rs.45/- each is contributed by the State and Central Government. Out of the total amount collected, 1/3 is the share of the fishermen and the remaining 2/3 is equally shared by the State and Central Government. Recently the Scheme has been revised by the Government of India. As per the revised pattern, Rs.75/- is collected from the fishermen for a period of 8 months in a year. But the share of the State and Central Government is @ of Rs.37.50 per month. As per the new scheme the fishermen are bound to give 1/2 the amount raised under this scheme. The State and Central Government together contributing the other half, with the result, the poor fishermen are worst-sufferers.

I request the Government of India to further the scheme incorporating equal share of contribution of Rs.75/- ; each by fishermen, Central Government and State Government.

(x) Need for construction of an over-bridge near Venkateswarapuram railway gate in Nellore district, Andhra Pradesh

DR. RAJESWARAMMA VUKKALA (NELLORE) : Venkateswarapuram of Nellore District in Andhra Pradesh is junction point for Mumbai High Road and National High Way. Venkateswarapuram Railway gate is to be crossed by the vehicular traffic. The Railway Gate is quite often closed by the Railway Authorities resulting in traffic jam and suffering to the long distance passengers commuting in APSRTC Buses and employees coming from the suburban areas to attend offices in Nellore town.

In view of the heavy increase in the vehicular traffic construction of an over bridge near Venkateswarapuram Railway Gate is quite essential.

I request through you, Sir, that the government should take steps to expedite construction of an over bridge near Railway Gate in Venkateswarapuram in Nellore District at the earliest and the budget provision be made accordingly.

(xi) Need to set up an LPG outlet in Khalilabad Parliamentary constituency, U.P.

[Translation]

SHRI BHAL CHANDRA YADAV (KHALILABAD) : The people of my constituency of Khalilabad have to face a lot of difficulties due to non-supply of cooking gas adequately. Therefore, there is need to setup a LPG outlet in this area. Similarly, I would also like to emphasize the need of opening gas agencies in rural areas to reduce the growing pressure on forests for fuel. Since gas agencies are not rendering services in far flung villages and carrying the gas cylinders in buses is a difficult task, so it is necessary to open extension counters of the recommendations of Public representatives. Moreover, weighing facility in godowns and at the time of delivery will save the consumers from being defrauded.

(xii) Need to set up a power grid station at Baniyapur, Bihar

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (MAHARJGANJ, BIHAR) : After the creation of Jharkhand State, the fate of the farmers of rest of the Bihar rests on better arrangement in regard to power supply so that at least agriculture work is not affected in the industrially starved state. In this regard I was informed through a letter of the Power Minister that a proposal to construct a sub-power station of 33 KV in 1999 to ensure proper utilisation of electricity in Eastern region and to improve the load factor in Bihar was included in the scheme. But the BSEB has yet not given its approval for making payment of transmission charges to power grid in regard to these schemes. Therefore, construction of power grid Sub-station at Baniyapur cannot be ensured.

The hon. Minister of Power had conveyed a meeting in Bihar regarding Power supply wherein the issue was discussed at length and the Minister of Power had himself realised that the position in regard to power supply in Bihar is very grim. Even then, technical hindrances are coming in the way of improving the situation.

I would like to request the Government to remove these technical hindrances and ensure the construction of power grid station at Baniyapur without delay.

(xiii) Need to declare Odissi vocal as a classical music

[English]

SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB (CUTTACK) : Odissi vocal song has found a place of appreciation as a classical form of art since 12th century. It was during that period the famous Oriya poet cum singer Bhaktakabi Jai Dev composed "Geeta Govinda" which is sung in Sri Jagannath Temple of Puri on various *ragas* and *talas*. This practice is still in force and "Geeta Govinda" is sung daily in the Temple based on its own style. The images depicted in the medieval temples of Orissa are proof of the dance form of song and dances in various *mudras* in which the rhythm instrument Mardal {Pakhauj} plays a vital role.

Odissi dance is categorized as classical but vocal form is not. When Sangeet comprised of three aspects i.e. Geet, Baddya and Nrutya it is quite logical to accept Odissi dance. Odissi vocal and Odissi rhythm into to as a classical form. Today students of Odissi vocal go through a vigorous course of 7 years of complete the course and obtain Master Degree.

I, therefore, request the Ministry of Culture to declare Odissi vocal as a classical music so that electronic media and broadcast it.

(xiv) Need to develop Vaishali in Bihar as a tourist resort

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (VAISHALI) : After the constitution of a National Committee under the Chairmanship of hon. Prime Minister the 2600th anniversary of Lord Mahavira is being celebrated. The Vaishali, Birthplace of Lord Mahavira and the centre of activities of Lord Buddha and the Licchvi, birth place of democracy is historic place. The then President Dr. Rajendra Prasad had laid a foundation stone at the birth place of Lord Mahavira in 1956. At that very place the urn of Lord Buddha was also found while digging the land, which is still available.

Therefore, I would like to request that on the occasion of 2600th anniversary of 24th Tirthankar all the 2600 villages of Vaishali district including the villages of

Vaishali, Lalganj, Bhagwanpur, Goraul, Belser, Saraiya, Paru, Sohalganj, Motipur, Kanti and Marwan blocks should be developed as ideal villages and facilities like roads, schools, hospitals, drinking water, houses for the poor should be provided and all villages should be linked with said line. Moreover, by installing the urn of Lord Buddha at that place, all efforts should be made to develop it as an international tourist place.

[English]

(xv) Need to develop a comprehensive Technology Mission for J&K in Order to promote Horticulture

SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN (BARAMULLA) : The mainstay of the economy of Kashmir Valley is horticulture produce and handicrafts. The past one decade of violence has emaciated the economy of the State. Terrorist depredations have shifted the focus of development in Jammu and Kashmir State and its repercussions have started showing in Kashmir Valley distinctly. Horticulture industry and handicraft production is declining.

We feel the North East States also are suffering from the similar situation due to terrorist violence and it is matter of appreciation that Central Government feels concerned and intends to take positive steps to boost the economy of North East States.

Government has envisaged a 'Technology Mission' for horticulture development in the North East States. We reiterate the need to develop a comprehensive 'Technology Mission' for J&K in order to promote horticulture i.e. apple in the valley and olive in Ramban district of Jammu on the similar lines. We also demand that a comprehensive project of marketing, design development and training, for the world famous handicrafts of Kashmir should be launched under the supervision of Ministry of Textiles as a centrally sponsored scheme.

16.02 hrs.

STATEMENT BY MINISTER*

Situation caused by severe Earthquake in Gujarat

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Now, we shall take up item no. 6 – Statement by the hon. Minister.

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI NITISH KUMAR) : Sir, I seek the leave of the House to make a

statement on the situation caused by the severe earthquake on 26th January, 2001 which severely affected many parts of Gujarat.

A severe earthquake of the magnitude of 6.9 on the Richter scale occurred at 0846 hours on 26th January, 2001 with epicentre at 20 Kms. North-East of Bhuj. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (RAIGANJ) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister has sought the leave of the House to make a statement. The leave of the House has to be granted and then he has to make the statement. Sir, he is saying : "I seek the leave of the House" ... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : It has already been circulated. It is already there in the List of Business.

... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : I am speaking since I have the permission.

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH (MAHARAJGANJ, U.P.) : You are from a Hindi State, yet you are speaking in English ... (Interruptions)

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : When you were sitting this side, did you do other things?

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (VAISHALI) : I did not do what you are saying. ... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please do not interrupt directly.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Sir, the impact of earthquake had been felt in various parts of the country. Gujarat has been affected very severely, causing colossal loss of human lives and property. The after-shocks are still continuing. The Government of Gujarat and the Central Government have responded immediately to this unprecedented disaster and, with the help of Armed and Para-Military Forces and other concerned Departments and Authorities, States, NGOs, Voluntary Organisations, have launched massive emergency operations for rescue and relief. Over 23,500 Army troops and 3,000 Para-Military Force personnel were deployed with the medical and engineering teams and equipment. The Air Force deployed 48 aircraft including helicopters and carried over 950 sorties for evacuating injured people and for carrying relief, teams, equipment and material. Navy also made

* Also placed in Library. See No. LT 3267/2001

available three ships, and two ships were converted into hospitals

An *ad hoc* assistance of Rs. 500 crore, as announced by the Prime Minister has been released to the Government of Gujarat on 30th January, 2001.

The Central Government also provided financial concessions and relaxation for relief. RBI relaxed over draft norms, advised banks for conversion and rescheduling of loan and to provide additional need based crop loans, working capital and consumption loan. All relief material was exempted from customs/excise duty and 100 per cent income tax exemption on donations to charitable institutions and PM/CM Relief Fund was announced. Inland Air travel tax was exempted and the relief material was transported free of cost by the Air Force, the Indian Airlines and the Air India. The world community have offered their assistance as solidarity for the people affected by the earthquake and the same has been appreciated by the Government of India and accepted gratefully as per the policy. This assistance has been in cash, relief material, medicine, medical teams and search and rescue teams. The response of the people of the country, the State Governments and the Indians abroad has been overwhelming. The National Crisis Management Committee under the chairmanship of Cabinet Secretary has been supervising and co-ordinating the relief activities with the Department of Agriculture and Co-operation as the nodal Department for the follow-up.

The Prime Minister, keeping in view the magnitude and impact of the calamity, and to further provide ministerial support and direction to the efforts at official level, has set up an Empowered Group of Ministers comprising of the Home Minister, the Railway Minister, the Defence Minister, the Agriculture Minister, the Communication Minister, the Power Minister, the Textiles Minister, the Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution Minister, the Finance Minister, the Health and Family Welfare Minister, the Rural Development Minister, the Information and Broadcasting Minister and the Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY (MIRYALGUDA) : Shri Nitish Kumar, nobody is left out. Therefore, there is no co-ordination.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (BOLPUR) : At least, is it better than GoM?

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : This is Empowered GoM.

The Empowered Group of Ministers has held a number of meetings to review the situation.

The Prime Minister held a meeting with the leaders of the Parties and Groups on 3rd February, 2001. In the aforesaid meeting a presentation was made on the intensity and impact of the earthquake, damages caused to life and property and the emergency relief and rescue operations launched by the Central Government in association with the State Government. As a follow-up of the meeting held on 3.2.2001, an all-party National Committee on Disaster Management under the Chairmanship of the hon. Prime Minister has been set up with a view to suggest short-term, medium-term and long-term steps for relief, rehabilitation and reconstruction in the earthquake affected areas of Gujarat, deliberate on the necessary institutional and legislative measures needed for an effective and long-term strategy to deal with natural calamities and to look into the parameters for defining a "National Calamity".

The Prime Minister, the Home Minister, the Defence Minister, the Health Minister, the I&B Minister, the Minister for Law and Shipping, the Urban Development Minister, the Power Minister, the Youth Affairs and Sports Minister, as also other Ministers, and myself have visited the earthquake affected areas. This has helped in energizing and activating the official machinery not only to function at its optimum level but also to maintain it. The Government of Gujarat has also divided the earthquake-affected areas into different zones and these are being supervised by senior officers.

As per reports received from the State Government, more than 19,000 people have been declared dead and about 1.67 lakh have been injured. About 1.59 crore population in 7904 villages in 182 Talukas spread over 21 districts have been affected by the earthquake. 1.65 lakh Pucca houses, 1.63 lakh Kuchcha houses and about 16,000 huts have been fully destroyed and 4.60 lakh Pucca houses and 3.15 lakh Kuchcha houses and about 32,000 huts have been damaged. The survey of the damage is going on. The Government of Gujarat has reported that the damage to property and infrastructure is likely to be of the order of Rs.21,262 crore. Power, telecommunication, road and railway infrastructure facilities have been restored. Water supply in the affected towns/villages has also been restored.

The Department of Agriculture and Co-operation is issuing regular bulletins high-lighting the efforts being made to provide succour to the affected people in Gujarat. This status report has also been put on the website of the Department viz. www.ndmindia.nic.in. The Krishi Control Room is functioning round the clock and coordinating as a nerve centre of all Central Government efforts and in close coordination with the Government of Gujarat. The senior

officers of the Department of Agriculture and Co-operation as also of other Central Government Departments have visited the earthquake-affected areas of Gujarat.

Most States are assisting the Government of Gujarat both in cash and kind. A number of States have arranged relief supplies in the form of food, medicines, water, blankets, etc. Teams of doctors from various States have been deployed in various affected areas for providing medical assistance. In addition, the State Governments are also assisting Gujarat in the relief operations.

The World Bank has announced assistance of US \$300 million and the Asian development Bank has announced an assistance of US \$350 million, for the reconstruction activities.

The State Government have taken up relief work on a war-footing. Senior officers of the State Government have been deployed in the severely affected Kachchh district to oversee the relief operations. Large numbers of cranes/JCBs, bulldozers/excavators, loaders/dumpers/trucks, jeeps/ambulances, gas cutters/DG sets/sub-pumps and other equipment have been deployed for rescue operations and for the removal of the debris in Kutch and other districts. ... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA (KAPADVANJI) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, there is no truth* in whatever the hon. Minister is reading ... (*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : It is expunged.

... (*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : This is a very serious matter. The hon. Minister is making a statement. When you get a chance, you can rebut it. I will not allow you. Shri Shanksinh Vaghela, I have already expunged the words. Please do not repeat it. I have already expunged it. This is such a serious matter.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Essential commodities are being supplied free of cost in the affected areas. All 45 sub-stations have been energised and all 255 damaged feeders have been restored. Thirty-four hospitals and 31 primary health centres in Kutch district and 361 hospitals and 949 primary health centres in other districts are functioning. In addition, nine mobile hospital ambulances each in Anjar and Bhachau, 25 in Bhuj, three in Gandhidham and four in Rapar are providing medical services. Eight hundred and seventy-two medical officers/specialists in Kutch district and 1947 in other districts are serving. More than 18,000 patients have been admitted and 1.67 lakh injured cases have been treated.

Satellite phones, hotlines, HAM Radios and mobile telephones have been pressed into service to ensure proper communication. Shelter material of about 3.89 lakh blankets/sheets, 64,000 tents, 5,000 tonnes GI sheets and 1.05 lakh plastic sheets have been received by the State Government. The State Government still requires more tents and blankets.

Relief operations in the wake of the Gujarat earthquake have been undertaken on a national scale. Steps have already been initiated for taking rehabilitation and reconstruction measures in the affected areas and these will be undertaken on a large scale. The Government of India is in constant touch with the State Government and it shall be our endeavour to extend all possible assistance and take necessary steps to assist the State Government to tackle the situation effectively and provide succour to the grief stricken families.

16.15 hrs.

DISCUSSION UNDER RULE 193

[*English*]

Situation caused by severe earthquake in Gujarat

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Hon. Members, I have to inform the House that Shri Kirit Somaiya, in whose name the item is listed, has requested the hon. Speaker to allow Shri Harin Pathak to initiate the discussion on his behalf. The hon. Speaker has allowed Shri Harin Pathak to initiate the discussion.

So, before I call him, may I request all sections of the House to be very serious? Such a devastation is unheard of in the history of our country. So, it should be deliberated with all seriousness. While one hon. Member is speaking another hon. Member may not agree with him, as according to him, the facts may not be true. But, at the same time, please restrain yourselves. When you get the chance, you can refute it. But, in all fairness, such seriousness should be seen and everybody should feel about it.

... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (RAIGANJ) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I think, the hon. Prime Minister should have been present in the House to justify the seriousness of the debate. The matter had been discussed three days ago. The hon. Prime Minister could have avoided all engagements and remained present in

* Expunged as ordered by the Chair

[Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi]

the House to hear the deliberations from all sections of the House. ... (*Interruptions*)

Sir, do you not think that the presence of the Leader of the House would have been more significant and is required? ... (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRIMATI BHAVNABEN DEVRAJBHAI CHIKHALIA (JUNAGARH) : We have given a letter to the Prime Minister, he will do ... (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY (MIRYALGUDA) : Sir, since the hon. Minister has made a long and official statement on behalf of the Treasury Benches, it is but natural that the debate should be allowed to be initiated from the Opposition. ... (*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : As per our rules, when the notice is given, lots have been taken and accordingly Shri Kirit Somaiya got his chance. He wanted his other colleague to start the debate and the hon. Speaker has accepted it.

... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Sir, please hear me for a minute. The rule for the House is that in a motion either under rule 193 or rule 184, the mover should move the motion. We agree. He authorised his colleague to initiate the discussion. ... (*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The rule is already clear.

... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Sir, under rule 193, after the debate, the hon. Minister normally comes out with the reply. Here, in this case, before the debate begins under rule 193. Hon. Minister had already made a *suo motu* statement. So, presumably, Shri Jaipal Reddy is right. ... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL (CHANDIGARH) : As per the paper, Shri Lal Krishna Advani was to make a statement. ... (*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I am on my legs. You hear me also.

... (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH (MAHARAJGANJ, U.P.) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am on a point of order that the letter that we have received ... (*Interruptions*) This statement was to be made by Advaniji. ... (*Interruptions*). Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, as per the letter circulated to us, this statement was to be made by Advaniji. But Advaniji is not present here. ... (*Interruptions*). He has been elected from Gujarat and see his insensitiveness that he is not present here today to make the statement (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Let me hear from the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs. I am on my legs.

... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (CHIRAYINKIL) : Sir, I am on a point of order. After the hon. Minister has made a statement, is it proper to invite a Member of the ruling party to initiate the discussion? It would have been proper if the privilege is granted to the Opposition. ... (*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The hon. Minister was busy in the other House. He came only now.

... (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV (SAMBHAL) : You will speak like this ... (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Sir, we are making an observation and let him reply to that. When this statement was circulated, it was mentioned that the hon. Home Minister, Shri L.K. Advani will make a statement. Now, on behalf of him, it is Shri Nitish Kumar. This amply shows the kind of seriousness... (*Interruptions*) Sir, you said, it is a debate to be taken seriously. With that spirit, I am saying that it was not taken seriously by Shri Advani who referred it to Shri Nitish Kumar.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN) :

[*Translation*]

You read English.

[English]

It is Shri Nitish Kumar's statement. You do not read also.... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE (RATNAGIRI) : It is Nitish Kumar's statement which Advaniji was to make. ... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please, Shri Geete.

... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I do not want to take much time of the House. I would like to say to the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs that whatever members have spoken, you have given a good direction that we must take this Debate seriously. It is a fact that no other matter is going to be discussed so seriously in this session except of Gujarat where thousands of people have died and a number of people have been rendered helpless. If Vaghela ji was speaking, it shows his sensitiveness. The Minister and other members of the party should not take it otherwise. But when you want a serious debate on the matter, is it not inhuman and insensitive that the Prime Minister and the Home Minister are not present in the House. This House would run although the Prime Minister or the Home Minister is busy in the other House. There is a collective responsibility and the House would run even if a single minister is present in the House or any other minister can make a statement on behalf of the concerned minister if he intimates so in writing. But you are insisting on a serious debate and when the debate is to be made seriously, then the Prime Minister and the Home Minister should be present here. There is no doubt that your presence is enough as per rules. The whole world has shown its sensitivity towards the people of Gujarat, be it any, the whole India is standing by Gujarat in their hour of distress in the name of humanity. And when there is a debate on their pain and distress and the Prime Minister and the Home Minister remain absent then there can be no more insensitive Government than this Government ... (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Sir, two issues have been raised. When we discussed it last time in the Business Advisory Committee, the Agriculture Minister was to make the statement in both the Houses of

Parliament. The Government was worried that if both the Houses were to take up the statement at the same time, then one person could not make the statement in both the Houses. In normal practice, it would have been the Minister of State for Agriculture who would have made the statement in the House on behalf of the Agriculture Minister, but looking at the seriousness, we thought that if the Agriculture Minister was occupied in the other House, the Statement should not be made by a junior Minister of State. Instead of that, we thought that the Home Minister himself would make a statement.... (Interruptions) So, we took it seriously that the Home Minister himself would come and make a statement, instead of Shri Nitish Kumar. But now, the Rajya Sabha has been kind enough to permit Shri Nitish Kumar to spend a couple of hours here and make a statement. So, there was no point in the Home Minister making a statement which was of the Agriculture Minister. Therefore, the Agriculture Minister himself has come from that House to make the statement. I do not know what is the objection to that... (Interruptions)

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : You have circulated this statement to us.... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : This subject relates to the Agriculture Minister and the Statement is of the Home Minister. ... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please allow the Minister to complete.

... (Interruptions)

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : It was a statement to be made by Shri Lal Krishna Advani, Home Minister, on behalf of Shri Nitish Kumar. Now, instead of the Home Minister making the statement on his behalf, he himself has come. You should be happy about it. But you are objecting as to why he has come himself.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : No, we are not objecting to that; we are objecting to the way you have circulated it... (Interruptions)

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Sir, as far as notice under rule 193 is concerned, everybody has given a notice on the statement of the Minister. If you look at the agenda papers, the discussion is on the statement of the Minister. Now, if somebody's name has come from the ruling side, it is because of the lottery system.... (Interruptions)

What is there to object to it? ... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Yes. Shri Harin Pathak to speak now.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Sir, I want to correct it. We did not object to hon. Member Shri Kirit Somaiya authorising hon. Member Shri Harin Pathak to speak on his behalf. We are happy. We did not object to the Motion under Rule 193. We never asked as to who will make the statement. We knew that the hon. Minister Shri Nitish Kumar will make the statement. You also circulated it. What we objected to is that during the discussion on such a serious matter, about which the hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs reiterated that the hon. Minister of Home Affairs would have made the statement, the hon. Minister of Home Affairs is absent; the hon. Minister of Finance is absent. During the discussion on such a serious matter, the hon. Prime Minister is absent from the House. We took a strong exception to this.
(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Dasmunsi, to be fair, the hon. Minister Shri Pramod Mahajan has already explained it. Shri Harin Pathak to speak now.

... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI C.N. SINGH (MACHHLISHAHAR) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am on a point of order. Recently our leader honourable Mulayam Singh has said that the Prime Minister and the Home Minister should have remained present here. The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs has made no comments on it. It is a very burning issue before the whole country and at this stage the Prime Minister and the Home Minister should remain present here.
(Interruptions)

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (AJMER) : He is playing politics even on this serious subject.
(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I have already called Shri Harin Pathak to speak.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Sir, we welcome the speech of Shri Harin Pathak, a good friend.
(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Let us take this seriously. Shri Harin Pathak to speak now.

... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (PANDHARPUR) : Mr. Deputy Sepaker, Sir, please call the Prime Minister and the Home Minister here.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Ramdas Athawale, you please resume your seat. I have already called Shri Harin Pathak to speak.

... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : Please call the Prime Minister and the Home Minister here, Promod Mahanji.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Ramdas Athawale, I am on my legs. Please resume your seat.

... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI HARIN PATHAK (AHMEDABAD) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, on 26th January, 2001, having risen from the East, the first ray of the dawn of the new millennium was heading towards the West slowly and steadily. At 8.47 in the morning the wheel of the KALCHAKRA struck in such a way that destroyed the life of the people in the whole country especially in Gujarat. On that morning the whole country was enjoying the Celebration of the 51st anniversary of our Republic. The children of the age group of twelve-fifteen years of the school of Anzaar Municipality were passing through the street of that old village holding Tri-colour in their hand and chanting the song "Vijayi Vishwa Trinanga Pyara, Jhanda Uncha Arahe Hamara, Shan Na Iski Jane Paye, Chahe Jāan Bhale Chali Jaye " Even before completing their song the World's biggest tragedy engulfed there. The Human history will never forget that devastating tragedy.

16.29 hrs.

(MR. SPEAKER in the Chair)

We are all sad today. We have a discussion on the Natural Calamities a number of times, whether it is hurricane of cyclone or floods but as far as this calamity, this tragedy is concerned, I will not call it a mere calamity. It was something bigger. Today when we think of that, our hair stand on end.

Right from Kutch to Belimora covering a distance of above 600 Kilometres, this tragedy has changed the equation of life of thousands and lakhs of families. It has changed the priorities of life of lakhs of families. It is not that four lakh houses that have been ruined but it is the four lakh families that have been ruined. On the one hand a ten days old child was trapped under the debris, on the other a ninety years old father succumbed under the debris in the very presence of his own son. More than 20,000 persons have lost their lives and property. More than 20,000 cattle have died. 50,000 poor people living in Jhuggi-Jhopri clusters were trapped under the debris and about whom it is not possible to describe anything.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, it was a complete change. It was such a disaster which completely destroyed as many as 182 tehsils and 280 villages of Gujarat. It destroyed two thousand families and 172 buildings in just 40 seconds in my city from where I am being elected to this House since 1989. I regret to say that I never wanted to raise this issue but since my name was mentioned during the discussion. I request all the Members as I requested earlier that we all have to share their agony and understand their problem in the wake of the tragedy and this calamity. It is not a time to find faults. It is the time to balm up their feelings and create an atmosphere of friendship. There was a mention of my name in the other House which is why I was pained. I was in Delhi. What for I was there. I had undergone. Heart angioplasty operation four years back. I suffered a heart attack on the night of 23rd Doctor advised me to immediately go to the Escort hospital for the Thallivion Test. I came to Delhi on 25th. On 27th, the said Thallium Test were to be conducted at nine o'clock in the Escort hospital. I also reside in a Flat which has also developed cracks. About 200 persons have died in the vicinity of my house. Two houses of my society have also collapsed. In my house, I have 86 years old father and a four years old grandson. My daughter took them with her and run outside. Incidentally she was holding mobile in her hand. She telephoned me at ten minutes past nine. The next day my test was scheduled to be conducted. I told honourable Home Minister about this tragedy. He was about to leave for the parade. At half past three we managed to reach Ahmedabad. Somnath Dada, I am pained that it is being said that I did not go near my house and Kutch and Bhuj from that day till date. Right from that time I stayed in the Tents near my house and served my people and here it is being said that I did not go to my constituency. I had not wanted to mention all this here. It is such a tragedy about which no body can imagine. I am grateful that respected leader of opposition Shrimati Sonia ji visited Gujarat to assess the damage caused by this tragedy. Forgetting all the right or wrong arguments and all the ill-will, she stayed

there in the tents. Hon'ble Prime Minister, Home Minister and Defence Minister also paid a visit to Gujarat.

Forecast can be made about floods, Cyclones and Hurricanes etc. but no forecast can be made about the Earthquake.

Dr. Harish K. Gupta of the Department of Ocean Research when asked in an interview to the "Dainik Jagaran" on 19th February whether any forecast can be made about earthquakes to which he replied in the negative. It is not possible for any country of the world to forecast earthquake. He said that geologists of the country are being criticised for not forecasting the devastating earthquake of Gujarat. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (FIROZABAD): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Centre for Earth Sciences and studies Institute, Thiruvananthapuram had announced in the month of November, 2000 that there could be an Earthquake and this thing they had constantly ... (Interruptions) Now to say so that forecast can not be made (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: It is a serious matter. What are you thinking?

... (Interruptions)

SHRI HARIN PATHAK: He had stated this during his interview. It is not that I am saying. In 1980, a massive earthquake was predicted in the Kotai region of Japan and for that purpose a five member committee was constituted but there has been no earthquake there till date. Instead of that, an earthquake hit the Kobe region on 17th January 1995 in which 6,000 lives were lost. A damage to the tune of \$15 to 20 billion was suffered. A similar earthquake hit Pang Shang of China on 26th July which was not predicted by anyone. I want to tell the Hon'ble members that I am not at all trying to protect anybody, any Government or a party. I am just telling about this tragedy that it is very difficult for anybody to predict or forecast about the earthquake or about its magnitude and the measures to be taken therefor?

Mr. Speaker, Sir, 26th January was a Gazetted holiday, for the Government employees and again Saturday and Sunday were also holidays. Which means continuous three holidays for all the Government employees. When this tremor struck, thousands of lives were lost from Kutch to Balsad which included our youths as well. Four cities namely Bhachau, Rapar, Anjar and Bhuj which have been visited by Soniaji and also by others including me were completely destroyed. Nothing could be saved, no hospital, primary health centre, not

[Shri Harin Pathak]

even the fire brigade driver or his relatives survived this tragedy. Not even the Tehsildar in the Collector Office, neither any employee nor their relatives survived. All were perished, buried, in such a situation i.e. in such unfavourable circumstances it was difficult for the entire Government machinery to work in tandem and deal with the situation at short notice and that too when the people were enjoying holidays. This was such a devastating earthquake in which thousand of people were trapped under debris, entire communication system was paralysed so was electricity, routes were disrupted, even the Surajbadi bridge which was the only bridge for going to Bhuj was also destroyed. Hospitals were damaged, doctors, nurse, attendants, fire brigade driver, crane driver, everybody died. Even then the Government controlled the situation. What is a Government? It is not a Minister or a member. It is a body of persons and all these persons are a part of the whole system. When the relatives or family members are trapped then a person has to rescue his near and dear ones who are buried under the debris. There are four phases or disaster management. The first phase is rescue

[English]

then comes relief, then comes temporary rehabilitation and then comes permanent rehabilitation.

[Translation]

Even for rescue one needs proper route, electricity, water and communication system. The Government has worked well with its limited resources at its command. Hon. Minister Shri Nitish Kumar Ji has given all the figures in this regard, I would not like to repeat them that what all the Government has done. But I would definitely say that in the wake of such a massive tragedy and such a havoc caused by nature, it becomes our duty not to make it a political issue. I am happy that in the wake of this earthquake, we all have come together forgetting our reservations and differences cutting across party lines and head towards Kutch-Bhuj for relief work. Help and assistance came from every corner, from voluntary organisations, NGOs, foreign counters and from all the regions of our country. The voluntary organisations of RSS reached the BSP hospital at 3.30 p.m. I saw a human chain working there. RSS workers in Khakhi and Muslim workers wearing caps - both of them were there. Times of India has published the photograph of this human chain on 29th. Differences between the various communities was no more. I witnessed it, the RSS workers and Muslim brethren were standing together, Surajbadi bridge was broken people came via Raghavpur

to Patan and reached the hospitals. Haji Purbia Chacha of Bhuwan village reached hospital with his muslim workers. RSS opened a food supply centre in the hospital at Patan. Chapaties and vegetables were supplied to all the muslim families from that centre. They gave their jeep GI-5 9418. RSS volunteers reached Hajipur away from Kutch. I would not like to delve more on this subject. Such a cordial atmosphere was created that there were no differences politically or otherwise between various groups, communities and human beings. All came together and worked unitedly for the cause of the victims of this earthquake.... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : This would not go on record.

... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI HARIN PATHAK : I have already said, that it is their habit to criticise. Criticising and fault finding is their habit as well as yours.

[English]

Sir, the magnitude of the earthquake was very high.

[Translation]

This earthquake has an impact over six hundred kilometres. A similar earthquake had hit Kangra (Himachal Pradesh) on 4th April, 1905 in which 19 thousand people lost their lives.

A massive earthquake had struck Latur on 30th September 1993 with which, all of us are familiar. How difficult it is to meet everybody's expectations while working. An interview of the head of an American Rescue team International, Douglas Copp was published in the Times of India dated 9th February 2001. I would request with folded hands and I neither mean to state that much has been done and nothing needs to be done. We have done much better. But truths must reach abroad as well as to our countrymen. It should not happen that people lose faith in democracy. Governments will come fall, politicians will come and go, Ministers will come and go but if faith in democracy will be lost then who will come and stand with us in the times to come—this is the question. This is not a question of changing a Chief Minister, the question is that we are all alike and fulfill our responsibilities and discharge our duties. Our forefather had accepted democracy after much thought and extensive study of worldwide history. We could have opted communism or political system like that in Pakistan, but our forefathers

* Not recorded.

sitting in this very House thought it better to govern this country by the elected representatives. It will be governed by the members of the Panchayats, Zila Parishads. A state will be governed by State's elected representatives. The Panchayat of the country's biggest democracy will be run by the members of all the groups. Disputes will be there but we will run our Government. This is my request that if our belief, faith and credibility is lowered in the society it will not be a loss to any particular party or Government but it will be a severe blow to the very foundation of the democracy. It will experience a different time. I have read the statement of Douglas Copp. He has been to Kutch. He has visited hundreds of places in the world. He is an American and has been handling this work for the last 16 years. He wears burmudas. As soon as he gets the information of an earthquake he reaches the spot accompanied by his dog and three men. He moves worldwide. He gave an interview in the Times of India on 9th February 2001. I will definitely quote it so that the people who are working may not feel disheartened. It is an enormous tasks, a huge and time taking work.

[English]

Douglas Copp heads the American Rescue Team International.

[Translation]

He appreciates our countrymen.

[English]

Copp himself was all praise for the Indian people. He said :

[Translation]

Had there been such a situation in other countries you could imagine what would have happened there. Douglas Copp who heads the American team said in his interview to the Times of India if an earthquake of such a magnitude had struck any developed western country then what would have happened there?

[English]

"I have seen so many disasters, most of them far less in magnitude, but the people here are so tranquil, gentle, appreciative and calm. It makes all the difference for rescue and relief teams In a situation like this in USA, there would have been riots, killings and violence of all kinds. Reaction of people in several other countries that I have been to was always very different from what I have seen here."

Copp said that he was amazed on reading reports of some foreign rescue teams that landed in Bhuj having had to wait hours before being told to go and what to do. He said, "I did not wait for five minutes. After arriving here, I did not ask what I was supposed to do."

SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA (KAPADVANJI) : There was nobody to say what to do(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Harin Pathak, Please address the Chair only.

....(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI HARIN PATHAK : Massive destruction has been there. We have suffered a loss to the tune of Rs.21 thousands crore Four lakh houses, three hundred villages, four cities have been ruined. The damage has been so extensive. We have to reconstruct such a huge area where destruction has taken place. The country has to face a big challenge.

SHRI RASHID ALVI : How many people have died there ?

SHRI HARIN PATHAK : More than 20 thousand people. If you know more please tell us(Interruptions)

SHRI RASHID ALVI : Defence Minister is quoting one lakh and you are saying 20 thousand.

[English]

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY (BERHAMPORE, WEST BENGAL) : Your own Defence Minister had said that the death toll could go upto more than one lakh ... (Interruptions)Come to reality(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Kantilal Bhuria, are you not serious about the matter? Please take your seat. This is not proper.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members, please take your seats.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Kantilal Bhuria, this is too much.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI HARIN PATHAK : As I have already said that it is such a massive earthquake, please don't go by figures. Houses of our families have collapsed. Now be it 20 thousand or 25 thousand, it will not matter much, a mother who has lost her son, has lost a son. If you are giving inflated figures it does not matter to them. What effect will it have if thirty thousand is quoted? ... (Interruptions)

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY : You are not giving correct figures. More than one lakh people have died there ... (Interruptions)

SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA (JHABUA) : More than one lakh people have died there and people are still lying under debris and your Government has not been able to unearth them. You are hiding the reality ... (Interruptions).

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Harin Pathak, please address the Chair and not the hon. Members. That is creating a lot of problems.

SHRI HARIN PATHAK : Right, Sir, ... (Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (BOLPUR) : It is a very serious matter. We understand your sentiments. But come to the facts.

[Translation]

SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA (DHANDHUKA) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, these people are giving inflated figures and are laughing as well while quoting figures. ... (Interruptions)

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : How such inflated figures are going to help. Mr. Speaker, Sir, these people are giving inflated figures. ... (Interruptions) They are laughing while quoting figures on such a big tragedy. ... (Interruptions) Learn some lesson at least from this... (Interruptions)

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY : There is no need to take any lesson from you, Please take your seat.

SHRI HARIN PATHAK : Instead of delving in figures, I would like to say something on what needs to be done at the time of such a calamity. Mr. Speaker, Sir, I'd like to give certain suggestions. The Government has tried to provide every possible help for the destruction in my area and State. I express my gratitude to the people who visited Gujarat or have sent assistance. Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you I would like to put certain suggestions in front of the Government. The council for building construction

material and Advancement of Technology of the Ministry of Urban Development had conducted a comprehensive survey of the threats of natural calamities in the country in pursuance of the manual for Building construction in 1970. Certain reports of that survey have also come. A copy of the report should be distributed in every district. A disaster management committee should be set up at District, Tehsil, and State level. I want to talk about the difficulties I faced in Ahmedabad. 72 buildings collapsed there within 40 seconds. I do not have very good knowledge of this subject. Since, I am not an engineer. I stood there the entire night.

[English]

We require a set of machineries. We require a set of machinery for rescue operations.

[Translation]

A gas cutter and crane is required. A girl was trapped and buried in front of my eyes. One crane belonging to Ahmedabad Corporation had a capacity of five tonnes. A 25 tonned slab was lying there. Cranes were required to be sent to 72 different places but so many cranes were not available. The crane had a capacity to lift five tone debris while debris weighed 20 tonnes which had to be cut with a gas cutter but it was not available. JCB Machine, gas cutters and cranes were required. If these equipments could be made available at a time then living and trapped people could have been saved by cutting the debris. All such kind of sets should be available at district level. Such sets should be available for protection against floods and cyclones when they hit an area. JCB machine, cranes and gas cutters should be available in earthquake prone areas. All these sets should be sent there in maximum number. We faced lots of difficulties in Ahmedabad. There were three machines and 72 buildings collapsed. It had to be sent everywhere but it was sent only at one place. The debris weighed 5 tonnes. It was sent to lift debris at one place. But the debris fell on a girl and she died under it. That girl was alive till five o'clock. Kindly set up a disaster management committee at state level and district level.

[English]

These committees should be equipped with all the necessary machinery.

[Translation]

I feel that whenever such problems will be faced in this work then rescue and relief operations will be facilitated to quite an extent through this. The Union Government has given an assurance to provide assistance to the Government of Gujarat. You should also

support this demand. There has been a damage to the tune of Rs. 21 thousand crore in that areas.

SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL (PATAN) : Rs. 500 crore are sufficient.

SHRI HARIN PATHAK : Why do you play politics?..... (*Interruptions*) At least Rs. 10 thousand crore should be given by the Union Government to Gujarat. They should extend full help at such a time. Please accept my proposal. Please tell the Union Government that the damage has been to the tune of Rs. 21 thousand crore. At least Rs. 10,000 crore should be given in this financial year and in the next financial year. Packages have also been made for that area. The speakers following my speech will talk about this but certain concessions should be given in excise and income tax to the people of the affected areas so that the industries could revive. Full assistance should be provided to the people whose houses have collapsed in the affected areas.

Now, I want to talk about the cities. Whenever the natural calamities have struck the people of Ahmedabad, Bhuj, Rapar, Anjar have given money from their own pocket. The people there are employed as teachers and bank employees. They gave as much money as was sought from them. This has happened with them for the first time. Something should be done for them. If the people living in the affected areas have taken loans from IDBI for house or small industries

17.00 hrs.

then their outstanding loan should be waived. Since many flats have fallen, people have got nothing to pay off therefore the outstanding of IDBI and LIC should be waived. The outstanding instalments of HDFC should be waived.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to request the Government to provide special package for Ahmedabad city, so that the houses could be reconstructed. Alongwith this, cement and steel from Steel Authority of India should be made available to people at Cheaper rates. I request with folded hands that whatever I have said out of sentiments, we have to do a lot, we have to build a lot. Four lakh houses and not buildings are to be constructed there which are not made from limestone and marble, but from relationships we have to build that. Eight lakh small houses are to be repaired and 300 villages are to be rehabilitated there. Come, let us give a new shape to Gujarat in the wake of this disastrous tragedy. You would be remembering that when floods hit Morabi and plague affected Surat then everybody supported the people there and a new Gujarat was formed. I hope that the Gujarat of

Swami Dayanand Saraswati and Mahatma Gandhi would get your cooperation and it will be able to progress in a new form. Today, there is a need to wipe their tears. To conclude, I will only say this to the earthquake affected families :

"Agar Mujhse Mohabbat Hai,
Mujhe Sab Apne Gam De Do,

In Aankhon Ke Har Aaansu,
Mujhe Meri Kasam De Do"

[English]

SHRIMATI SONIA GANDHI (AMETHI) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Shri Harin Pathak has just now given us a graphic and a physical description of the great tragedy that has befallen Gujarat. Even today we want to assure him and the heroic people of Gujarat that they have our deep felt feelings of empathy and support

The earthquake in Gujarat has been one of the greatest natural calamities to strike our country after Independence. There is absolutely no doubt that the devastation that the people have suffered in Gujarat is stupendous. The people of Gujarat have displayed an indomitable spirit, of which we are greatly proud. The manner in which they themselves, together with the NGOs and groups from throughout the country, have taken charge of the relief activities is truly remarkable and entirely in keeping with the spirit of *seva*, that is, of service that is so common amongst the people of Gujarat

I was also able to spend a few days in Gujarat, in some of the villages which had been affected by the tragedy--in Bhuj, Anjar and Bhachau, in Kutch as well as in Rajkot, Surendranagar, Jamnagar and in other areas of Saurashtra. In Kutch, of course, there is an added problem of drought. At the same time, in Saurashtra, most of the complaints were that somehow most of the attention had gone to Kutch and the people of Saurashtra were feeling that they had been neglected in terms of relief operations.

Therefore, what we need urgently is food for work programmes in both the drought and earthquake affected areas, and also we need a special effort, *vis-à-vis* the distribution of fodder. However, travelling from village to village, as many of us have done, the overwhelming need everywhere seem to be that of shelter and of tents.

Every one felt, and we all agree with their feelings, that shelter whether in terms of tents or other forms of temporary shelter has to reach the people before summer and monsoon.

[Shrimati Sonia Gandhi]

I would like to state here that many of our Congress-ruled States have come forward with financial help as well as physical help. Shri Harin Pathak himself acknowledged it, though he did not mention our name. However, he acknowledged it. Not only that, at the AICC-level we set up control room here in Delhi as well as in Ahmedabad. All our Congressmen and women in Gujarat went all out to help and to distribute whatever relief we had with us. We are still doing so.

But I must point out that the State administration has been found wanting in substantial measure. This is not so much a criticism but more in terms of constructive criticism. In many places which I visited, there were serious complaints of discrimination. I know Shri Harin Pathak has read out from newspaper reports to the contrary. But I have been to villages where I myself heard from affected people that certainly there was discrimination in the distribution of relief. This was linked to political affiliation and worse to affiliations of caste and affiliations of religion... *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRIMATI BHAVNABEN DEVRAJBHAI CHIKHALIA : Mr. Speaker Sir, whatever is being stated by the leader of opposition is completely wrong. She must not say like that ... *(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRIMATI SONIA GANDHI : I am merely stating what I have heard myself... *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRIMATI BHAVNABEN DEVRAJBHAI CHIKHALIA : Mr. Speaker Sir, I am on point of order. Those people were deliberately brought before the press. *(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY (CHHAPRA) : Madam, whoever has drafted your speech, he is trying to destroy the image of your party... *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRIMATI BHAVNABEN DEVRAJBHAI CHIKHALIA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, it means that this is happening there but I can tell you nothing of such nature happened anywhere ... *(Interruptions)* Sir neither it is not possible and nor it happened anywhere.

[English]

SHRIMATI SONIA GANDHI : I am, by nature, magnanimous. I am simply stating what I heard.

[Translation]

SHRI SAHIB SINGH (OUTER DELHI) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, whatever Madam is saying is incorrect. I know some people have been deliberately taken before press and were made to utter this. All this is completely untrue.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : She is not yielding.

... *(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI SONIA GANDHI : What are you saying? You were on this side two months ago.

[Translation]

SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA : Mr. Speaker, our party is in power in Gujarat, he has not made any discrimination. ... *(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shrimati Bhavnaben Chikhalia, please take your seat.

... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : She is not yielding.

... *(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI SONIA GANDHI : I have referred to the heroism of the people of Gujarat. I said that at the very beginning. Perhaps you were not listening.

I also encountered some typical examples of red-tapism. ... *(Interruptions)* This is constructive criticism so that we can correct ourselves, so that if this happens in our States, we can also correct ourselves. ... *(Interruptions)* There were instances where people affected were asked to identify themselves through their ration cards. Unfortunately for them their ration cards were under the debris. How could they possibly present the ration cards? In some areas, even though the equipment was ready there to clear the debris, that was not possible, the machines could not clear the debris of private individual homes because a notification from the Administration was needed. I would suggest that if the people's representatives at the local level are associated with the identification of the people, this problem could perhaps be surmounted.

There has been of course unprecedented national and international help in terms of relief. But, here again I must say that the magnitude of this help which has come from throughout the country and abroad was not visible. It was not tangibly being felt. I think there must be a new system and a strict system of accountability so that we can ensure that the relief which has reached is distributed equitably amongst all the affected people.

While we welcome the setting up of the Disaster Management Committee by the Government, we feel that there is need and this has been the demand of our Party because we feel that it would be of great help. ...
(Interruptions)

SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO (JAGATSINGHPUR) : Have you recorded all this in Orissa?

SHRIMATI SONIA GANDHI : Yes, I went to Orissa.

There is need for a permanent professional agency equipped with the best managerial personnel and with the best technology to deal with and to manage the natural disasters with relief and with rehabilitation. This is simply a suggestion which we feel could be of great help given the increasing number of calamities which our country seems to be encountering.

We would also like the State to declare an adoption policy because many people, many NGOs and many of our Governments are quite ready and are most willing to adopt villages and talukas. But, for this again I believe that there is an administrative technicality whereby the State of Gujarat has to declare its own adoption policy.

One of the things which I came across, which I noticed during my stay there was the unfortunate situation of children who had lost their parents, not only their parents but even their extended families during this tragedy. Again, seeing our own experience of what had happened in Orissa and now in Gujarat, the Government could think of a National Foundation which could then look after these children, look after their welfare and especially look after their education.

Another group which suffered and which was particularly vulnerable were the elderly people, some of whom had lost members of their families. They had no one except for their neighbours to take care of them.

I am sure that the Government will look into this aspect also.

I also met a number of delegations coming from different segments of society, from businessmen to craftsmen and of course, all of them were asking for a

special package. All of them are in need of something special to help them stand once again on their own feet. I hope the Government is looking into this and preparing such special relief packages targeted at specific requirements of the different interest groups.

Now, I would like to briefly highlight that in Kutch, there is a rich tradition of craftsmanship. The people of Kutch make and manufacture most beautiful items which are appreciated not only by all of us in India but also by people outside. Normally, they are poor people and are in need of special attention. Special arrangements must be made for them in terms of supply of tools and raw materials for their crafts so that they can, as soon as possible, start off again. Forty per cent of the migratory labour, I am told, working in those areas of Gujarat have left and the authorities must see that proper conditions are created so that they can return because, I believe, manpower is badly needed.

Mr. Speaker Sir, all relief measures, in the first few days, were handled at the local level before outside help starts coming. Maximum loss and harm also naturally takes place right at the beginning, maybe in the first one week or so. Therefore, what is of imperative importance is the quality and speed of the local effort in the first few days. And here again is where I feel that the Government of Gujarat has not been able to measure up. What really needs to be strengthened first and foremost is the machinery at the State and district levels.

In this context, I would like to suggest the revival of the earlier practice of maintaining updated natural calamity emergency plans at the district level. This, I believe, used to be done quite regularly. It seems that this practice has now fallen into disuse. These plans got into vast and very specific operational details and now, with the help of modern technology, I am sure that such plans can be vastly improved.

What is even more important is that the States must ensure administrative and legislative action to make preparations and updating of all these plans compulsory. Unless we do so, we shall not be able to tackle this specific problem.

At the end, I would like to state that the Congress Party stands prepared to do all that is within its power to mitigate the sufferings of the people of Gujarat and to support them in their hour of need. I, therefore, call upon the Central Government and the State Government to rise to the need of the hour and address the problems and shortcomings that are prolonging the suffering of the people of Gujarat.

[Shrimati Sonia Gandhi]

I would like to end with a word of special gratitude for our Armed Forces and paramilitary forces. They have, as they have always, done a wonderful job and on behalf of the Congress Party and all of us – I am sure – I express my gratitude to all of them for once again rising to the occasion.

PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU : Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is really unfortunate that when the entire country was in the midst of celebrating the 52nd Republic Day in such a jubilant way, Gujarat had plunged into grief. There was such a big devastation which was most unprecedented, which happened in a matter of a fraction of a minute that most of the areas in Gujarat spread over a length of 600 kms. had been pulled down. Many people died and misery was prevailing just after a minute at 8.46 in the morning. The magnitude of the earthquake, as recorded by the Indian Meteorological Department, was 6.9 on the Richter scale. Even this 6.9 was reported on several occasions. It could be even more than 8. However, several districts of Gujarat, particularly Bhuj, Jamnagar, Surat, Rajkot and Ahmedabad, were the worst-affected districts among others. But the major brunt was borne by the Kutch district, Bhuj, Anjar and Bachau were the worst-affected districts.

The hon. Minister, while making the statement, has very clearly narrated the extent of devastation in over 7904 villages in 182 talukas spread over 21 districts and about 18 towns were very badly damaged. So, 1.59 crore people were affected out of the total population of the State of 3.78 crore. The total deaths, as it was reported officially on 14.2.2001, was 18,253. There were several reports – many people had been to that place – saying that the death toll could be around 30,000. The hon. Defence Minister also visited. Even, he also mentioned that there is no surprise even if it is a lakh of people who died. The total dwelling units, whether they are totally destroyed or partially destroyed including the huts, were reported to the extent of 10,47,896. So many dwelling units were damaged. The damage was officially estimated at Rs.19,228 crore. Among the Rs.19,228 crore, the major loss was due to the collapse of the houses, which was to the tune of Rs.4616 crore. This is the magnitude of the earthquake. This was how most of the people were rendered houseless. Here, we have seen the magnitude of this particular earthquake at 6.9 on the Richter scale.

When we just look at the similar earthquakes that took place in India over the past 200 years, in the 19th and 20th centuries, there were as many as 21 earthquakes. This works to on an average of one earthquake in each 10 years. There is a big history as to

how many earthquakes are there. Right from June 16, 1819, 8.0 on Richter scale, we have seen earthquakes in 1869, 1885, 1897, 1905, 1918, 1930, 1934, 1941, 1943, 1950, 1956, 1967, 1975, twice in 1988, 1991, 1993 in Latur, 1997, 1999, and 2001.

All these earthquakes are recorded more than 6 on the Richter scale, leave aside, all other tremors which were below 6. When this much is the size, we should have taken ample lesson. We should have gone in a different direction. For the past 200 years, we had more than 20 or 21 earthquakes. Have we shifted our priorities to the pre-disaster area? Most of all efforts which we have taken are mostly post-devastated areas, on the post-disaster area – be it rescue operation, relief operation, resettlement, rehabilitation, reconstruction, repairs, renewals, and retro-fittings. All these 'r' series comes under post-disaster management.

Now, there is a need for shifting over to pre-disaster operation. You may call it 'preparedness', protection, prevention, wide publicity and preparing people to face such calamities. As our friend has pointed out, as far as earthquakes are concerned, there is hardly any machinery to deduct it. It is a fact. The Meteorological Observatory can even forecast the floods, cyclones, etc. but in the case of earthquakes, there is hardly any device to forecast.

Various other countries have adopted building technologies. If we just read in the correct dimension, we can know that the death is not due to the earthquakes, the death is due to the false technology which has been adopted for the construction of buildings. People who were on the road, or outside their houses during the earthquake, had not died. People who were inside the houses, died. People who were inside the houses and whose buildings have not collapsed, did not die. What exactly does it mean is that the buildings which are not eco-friendly, which are not constructed as per the guidelines that have been enunciated, there only was a huge toll or death.

It is time we will have to switch over to adoption of a better technology as far as construction of houses is concerned. In our country, we have evolved technologies in this direction.

Sir, there is no dearth of reports of Expert Committees, but they are seldom followed in an integrated way. In San Francisco, in the California State of USA, which is notorious for earthquakes, containers of layers of steel and rubber are placed below the foundation of the buildings to act as shock absorbers. So, even when an earthquake of the magnitude of 8.0 on the Richter Scale

occurs in this area, these buildings do not get shattered. In Japan, in cities like Kobe where seismicity levels are very high, the Japanese scientists have created a concept of 'smart buildings' equipped with sensors to detect the counter-earthquake tremors. So, these kind of technologies are available. We need to evolve a national policy to study whether these technologies which are suitable to such areas have to be adopted here or not. Therefore, it is high time that we think on these lines. We have to take care of multi-storeyed buildings particularly. Unless we get these technologies approved by the local bodies and adopt them, the buildings will not be safe.

As far as help is concerned, all our friends, including Soniaji, have narrated that help has flown from different parts of the country and also from abroad. As many as 51 countries have sent help. Then, several States in India, lot of individuals, NGOs, voluntary organisations, institutions have all come forward to help the people of Gujarat. The Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh, Shri Chandrababu Naidu was the first person to send help to Gujarat, as he had in the case of Orissa cyclone earlier, where he had sent the relief team in the very beginning itself. Even here also, he has taken the lead and announced a relief of Rs.5 crore from the Government of Andhra Pradesh. Then, the employees of the Government of Andhra Pradesh have contributed one day's salary and it has come to about Rs.10 crore. The Members of Parliament from Andhra Pradesh have contributed money from MPLADS at the rate of Rs.10 lakhs each and they have also contributed one month's salary for the same. From the State of Andhra Pradesh, several trucks of relief materials have been sent which included food items, medicines etc. The relief that has been sent by the State of Andhra Pradesh alone amounted to about more than Rs.30 crore.

Sir, the hon. Prime Minister has also announced a relief of Rs.500 crore from his Relief Fund and released it on 30th January itself for the relief of the victims. Then comes the question of human touch and giving timely relief and help to the needy people. Most of the people and most of the agencies are coming forward to help the affected people in that way. Now, we have to see as to how best we can utilise the relief that has been sent from various corners. Here, let me be frank that there is no place for any type of politicisation as far as relief and rehabilitation is concerned. As party people when we go to the affected areas, several people may also report to us that they are discriminated. I do not think any sensible Government and individual will go to the extent of showing discrimination while distributing relief. So, relief and rehabilitation works are being carried out with a human face and it is being done in a magnanimous way. History reveals that the Government in power tries to do

something and the parties in the Opposition try to take political mileage out of these things. So, let us be above all these things. ... (*Interruptions*)

Sir, as far as the help from the Government on the natural calamities and relief is concerned, it had been debated in this august House on several occasions. The Natural Relief Fund, which is available with the Government of India to be distributed among all the States, is very meagre. The 11th Finance Commission has also suggested that it should be increased but it has not been enhanced. And whether it is the Calamity Relief Fund or the National Fund for Calamity Relief, it is really meagre and it has to be enhanced. As per the guidelines that are given by the 11th Finance Commission, this needs to be increased and voluminous assistance is to be provided by the Central Government.

Sir, the hon. Prime Minister has come forward in constituting a 35-Member national level Committee and that Committee will certainly take care of it. I have got a suggestion in this particular regard. The natural calamities, whether it is earthquake or flood or cyclone, have been frequently affecting the entire country. Since we have got a very vast coastal line, this is happening. But the Department, which is now handling with this is a part of the Ministry of Agriculture and Co-operation. Sir, since we will have to prepare the people, we have to educate the people, we have to forecast these natural calamities, and we have to provide relief and rescue operations, it is now time for having a separate Ministry with a full-fledged Secretary to look after these things. Let it be even headed by a Minister of State and let it be as a part of the Ministry of Agriculture. ... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : The moment you join, they will certainly plan it! ... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : Today, both Shri Dasmunsi and Madam Renuka Chowdhury are making a lot of noise. I do not like it.

... (*Interruptions*)

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY (KHAMMAM) : We are asking for a freedom of speech. ... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : Madam, this is a serious subject.

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY : Sir, of course, it is a serious subject. We are horrified by it. (*Interruptions*)

PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU : Sir, there is a need for having a full-fledged Ministry so that all these natural calamities can be taken care of.

[Prof. Ummareddy Venkateswarlu]

Sir, this House can think of suggesting that it can be an autonomous body like the Election Commission. If an autonomous body like the Election Commission is there on a permanent basis and continuous basis, there will be no scope for any type of criticism or politicisation or any such thing. This is one area where, I think, every one of us has to think about. This particular Commission can continuously forecast the occurrence of such calamities. All the meteorological observatories may also work under this particular Commission. This Commission can fix up the size and decide the quantum of relief to be given on such occasions. And what exactly the nature of a magnitude of the natural calamity can also be decided by it. This Commission can also monitor the rescue, relief and reconstruction operations. It can also receive financial assistance from various individuals/institutions, voluntary organisations, NGOs, several other State Governments, and also from the other countries. This Commission can make the information more accessible and transparent, and decide the agencies involved in such operations so as to be more accountable with a human face.

The increase in the size of the CRF is to be immediately considered. We have to evolve a comprehensive Natural Calamity Manual which is not there. Even, perfect guidelines are still to be evolved. Perfect guidelines are not there. We have to bring about a better co-ordination between the Central and the State Governments in such operations irrespective of political affiliations.

We have to train the youth organisations on a permanent basis to tackle the post-calamity situation. At least, we are having the NCC, the NSS, the Scouts, the Guides etc. They are to be trained to face such situations. We have to develop eco friendly housing maps, and revise the building plans accordingly.

A comprehensive pre-budget discussion on calamity relief should be there on a permanent basis. We have to narrow down the gap between the assessment and the calamity.

Regarding release of aid and rehabilitation, the Government may also think of creating an independent Ministry for dealing with such things. Here our experience says the date on which the calamity happens and the date on which the relief is provided, is ranging between six months and ten months. I have got the data. It is actually ranging between six and eight months. I will just quote one or two examples. Also, there is no consistency in the assessment between the Central teams and also the Committees. Timely relief is not being provided. There is a

gap between the incident and the relief. In Andhra Pradesh, on 27-10-1995, there was a big flood, and the relief was provided after 10 months namely on 23-8-1996. The State Government had assessed the situation and requested for Rs.582 crore. The Central Team had recommended for Rs.10.9 crore. The actual disbursement by the NCRT was to the tune of Rs.21 crore.

MR. SPEAKER : Prof. Ummareddy Venkateswarlu, the Leader of the Opposition has taken 18 minutes. You have taken more than 20 minutes. Please conclude.

PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU : Sir, I will just take another two minutes. I am only citing this to show whether the relief provided by the Union Government is timely or not. I am citing the previous instances.

In Arunachal Pradesh, a flood occurred on 3-11-1995, and the relief was given after 10 months, on 23-8-1996. In Meghalaya, there were floods and landslides on 24-8-1995, and the relief was given on 23-8-1996. This is again after one year. Sir, in West Bengal, there was a flood on 17-10-1995, and the relief was given on 23-8-1996. It is after 11 months. So, this is the situation. Now, particularly, under the Calamity Relief Fund, once the Central Team is sent, the Central Team will give its assessment. The Ministries and the Group of Ministers have to examine. Then, it has to go to the Experts Committee. Finally, the releases are to be given by the Central Government. It is taking as much as one year in most of the cases. So, there is a need for bringing down this particular time. A time-bound relief is to be provided. There is no question of making these people wait for more than one year in some of these cases. So, here in such cases, we have to work in a united way.

Gujarat is really in distress. The people of Gujarat really deserve all helps from all quarters with a human face. Let us all unitedly come to the rescue of the people of Gujarat, rescue them and also extend all types of help. With these few words, I am thankful to you for having given me this opportunity.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members, as per the Business Advisory Committee's decision, I think the House will work up to 9 p.m. and the reply will be given tomorrow.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (FIROZABAD) : Mr. Speaker Sir, the earthquake that hit Gujarat had caused loss of life and property to a large extent. I also associate myself with Hon. Members who had expressed their concern over this problem (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Madam, you can sit there and talk to him.

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY : Thank you, Sir, for giving me permission to talk to the Prime Minister.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN : Sir, after the earthquake that rocked Gujarat various Indian as well as foreign organisations, voluntary organisations and several countries in the world provided relief to Gujarat. It clearly reflects that humanity still persists. Shri Harin Pathakji made a good speech here in the House. Shri Harin Pathakji the way you think, if your friends also start to think likewise I am sure there will be no crisis. The Samajwadi Party extends its sincere thanks to the personnel of the Military and para military forces for the hard work they put in there.

Sir, I am not a scientist but I would like to draw the attention of the House towards a news item which appeared in the Times of India.

[English]

The times of India said that, the "Quake warning came in November," according to the Center for Earthsciences studies, Thiruvananthapuram.

[Translation]

After conducting a study for three years in this regard an announcement to this effect was made. I would like to say that the Gujarat Government as not been as cautious as they should have been after such an announcement by the said center. I do not know the other reasons but it appears to me that there must has been a psychological pressure on the bureaucrats of the states that is why 177 prisoners fled from the Bhuj Central Jail after the earthquake on 26th January. It is not so that the prisoners fled because the boundary wall of the prison collapsed or the prison itself collapsed but a rope was found lying there which the prisoners used to scale the walls. They do not fled because of the collapsed boundary walls of the prison... (Interruptions) ...

SHRI HARIN PATHAK : The boundary wall collapsed there ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Harin Pathakji, please do not disturb, you please address the chair.

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN : I am saying all this on the basis of the news which appeared in the newspapers. Whether it is not true that there was nobody to guide the foreign experts of rescue teams which landed there for undertaking rescue work ... (Interruptions). I am saying all this on the basis of the information I have gathered from the news papers. The team of foreign experts itself has said that they have not get cooperation. The Hon. Prime Minister is sitting here and I do like to say one thing to him. I don't want to go into the details of figures as to how many people have been killed but when different statements are given, it creates confusions. Shri Nitish Kumarji had said that more than 19 thousand people have been killed. In a statement the Government of Gujarat have said that 16 thousand people have been killed whereas a Minister of the Gujarat Government had said that the number of persons killed is more than this.

The Red Cross Society had said that 50,000 people have been killed. The Minister of Defence had said that more than 1 lakh people have been killed. Such sort of statements are creating confusion in the minds of the people. Therefore, I think it would be better to have some restraint on such occasions and one should desist from making such statements. An impression is created in the minds of the people that the number of persons killed is much more and the fact is being concealed. I think it is not fair.

Sir, so far as loss is concerned it has been said that loss worth about Rs. 21,000 crore has been suffered. I would also like to urge upon the Government that it should make open the total amount of funds received from the World Bank, Asian Bank, other countries of the world and from the State Governments as assistance to undertake the relief work in Gujarat. The people of the country should know about it. The Prime Minister is frequently saying that the country should be ready to bear the financial burden. As such it should be made clear that how much funds have been received from the State Governments and other countries including the World Bank and voluntary organisations for relief work in Gujarat. It should be made public because he is frequently saying that the country should be ready to bear the burden. I have apprehension that you are going to levy heavy taxes on the pretext of Gujarat. Therefore, the people should know as to what extent of funds have been received from all over the world for providing relief. A message should also go out from here to the country that we have checked our administrative and other personal expenditures. The Government of Uttar Pradesh, have given rupees 5 crore for earthquake victims of Gujarat. When you visited Lucknow it was published in the newspapers that rupees two crore were spent on advertisement of your visit. I think it is not fair. Such sort of expenditures should be checked. I am happy that Shri Pathakji has said that the people of

[Shri Ramji Lal Suman]

all religions have concerted and according to me it is correct. Though we are not having cordial relations with Pakistan, that country has also helped us. The Vishwa Hindu Parishad had said that assistance from Vatican should not be accepted. The Government should refute it. When people of all the castes and religions are giving assistance there you are talking like this which I think is not justified from any point of view. Any sort of criticism in this matter is also not justified. The truth is always bitter.

17.53 hrs.

(MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*)

It has been reported in the newspaper that discrimination is being made with people belonging to minorities and dalit communities in disbursement of relief material there. Photos have appeared in newspapers in which people have been shown agitating against such discrimination. I don't know as to what extent this is true, it should be checked. ... (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record except what Shri Ramji Lal Suman is saying.

... (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN : This sort of news have been published from Jamanagar. ... (*Interruptions*) ... the dalits have also complained that they are being subjected to discrimination. ... (*Interruptions*)...

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Ramji Lal Suman is not yielding. Please do not disturb him. Nothing will go on record except what Ramji Lal Suman is saying.

... (*Interruptions*)*

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN : I know as to how well-wisher are you of the muslims. ... (*Interruptions*)

Despite all these incidents you are not ready to change your mentality.

SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA (DHANDHUKA) : Mr. Speaker Sir, when people will come to know about

such things they will discontinue providing assistance. It is not good.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Varmaji, you are a senior member, you speak only when he yields.

SHRI HARIN PATHAK : Sir, many points he has made in his speech are fabricated.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please do not argue. Please sit down.

SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR (VADODARA) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is not proper to mislead the entire country by making such statements. He should not talk like this. ... (*Interruptions*)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You should make your points on your turn.

... (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : He is not yielding. Nothing will go on record.

... (*Interruptions*)*

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN : Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, how it can be that whatever they say is correct and whatever we say is wrong. Should the newspaper be published as per your wishes. ... (*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Sumanji, if you will look towards them you will be inviting problems for yourself. Please address the Chair.

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, if any such discrimination has been done there then certainly this should be looked into. At the end I would like to submit that we have a remedy after occurrence of any incident but we don't have any remedy before the occurrence of any incident. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Prime Minister is sitting here and I would like to submit that research should be carried out in this regard if possible. The study of the students has been interrupted there for one and half months. Proper arrangement should be made to conduct the board examination there. Attention should also be given towards the cattle in the state. I would like to say that today entire country is with Gujarat and my party has also extended every possible assistance and I assure that we will do so in future also.

* Not recorded.

* Not recorded.

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA (MUMBAI NORTH EAST) :
Hon. Speaker, Sir, I would like to start my speech with a line of a devotional song in Gujarati

"Na Janyue Jankinath Kalen Bhu Dhawanuchhe"

It means that even the 'God' doesn't know as to what is going to happen tomorrow. The people of Bhuj, Bhachau, Rapar, Ratmall, Surendra Nagar and Mauravi never knew as to what is going to happen at 8.50 A.M. tomorrow. In Mumbai where I am residing is known as mini Kutch and about one lakh Kutchi people reside there. There is one private hospital 'Aditi' & in which we had some patients and are used to look after those patients separately. When we entered a room of the hospital we saw that three women were lying on three beds in the hospital. They were the elder daughter-in-law, younger daughter-in-law and the mother-in-law and all three were widowed in the earthquake.

18.00 hrs.

All the three women were crying and cursing the 'God' as to what sin they had committed. The daughters-in-law had lost their husbands and two sons each and their mother-in-law too had lost her husband in the earthquake. The third son who resides in Pune also lost his younger daughter in the earthquake as she was in the city to see her maternal grandmother. Both the women were cursing themselves as to why the 'God' has spared their lives.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, more than one thousand patients were shifted to Mumbai and more than fifty thousand people have come to Mumbai to stay with their relatives in the city. When they meet they forget each other. There is one other saying in Gujarati.

"Jene Rama Rakhe Tene Kaun Chakhe"

It means who can kill a man who is protected by the 'God' ? or 'Every bullet has its billet'. An aircraft belonging to the Indian Air Force brought patients in the Leelawati Hospital. I received a message that an eight month old girl child from Kutch has been rescued from under the debris after four days and she was admitted in the I.C.U. and after treatment she has been handed over to her grandfather. This girl child survived because her parents who died in the earthquake kept her beneath themselves. They saved the life of their daughter at the cost of their own lives. Today the Kutch people are seeking a little assistance so that they may live. Will we assist them? If we assist them I am sure they will definitely build a new Kutch within two years. Kutch people are crying for help. Whether we will be able to help them?

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to ask from the members of this House as to how many deaths have occurred in the name of religion and discrimination. Sometimes I feel ashamed of myself for being a politician. People from every nook and corner of the country went to Gujarat. People right from Kamrup to Gujarat and Kashmir to Kanyakumari were there. The members from the opposition party also went there by using various means of transport. People came there with different types of relief material. Were they aware as to who among the victims belongs to the upper caste and who belongs to the lower caste. Were they aware of their castes and religions. That is why I am saying I feel ashamed of myself for being a politician. The people who visited that place they visited that area as a human being and not otherwise.

[English]

SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL (PATAN) : Sir, no allegation was made against those people who came to help them with the relief material. ... (Interruptions) The allegation was made against the people who were in-charge of the distribution, the administration. ... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : He is not alleging against you. Please do not interrupt them.

[Translation]

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA : One should not do politics over the dead.... (Interruptions) one should do politics but not over the dead ones instead we should talk about the magnanimity of the people.

Hon'ble Deputy Speaker, Sir, from Mumbai more than one thousand doctors went there and the people of Mumbai sent more than three thousand truck load of relief material. Last week the hon. Chief Minister of Gujarat came to Mumbai. During his one and half day's visit representatives of five hundred organisations met him and Mumbaitees adopted ill villages. Dr. Purohit's hospital is located at Borivilli. Dr. Purohit went there in a Airforce plane with a team of fifteen doctors after closing his hospital. Dr. Suchak runs his hospital at Malad he also went there accompanied by 27 doctors. Day before yesterday when the hon'ble Chief Minister arrived there the team of Dr. Suchak adopted an entire village. This reflects humanity.

Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, I can cite numerous examples in this regard. About 42 lakh Gujaratis live in and around Mumbai. The total population of Kutch is around 13½ lakh about four and a half lakh Kutch people live in and around Mumbai. We despatched the people from there around 2 o'clock. Everyone took with him

[Shri Kirit Somaiya]

whatever relief material was available at that time. I just want to cite an example that everybody tried to do whatever possible for him to do. Sir, there is one captain Ganesh in the Indian Airforce. You will appreciate as to how this officer helped the victims. On the night of 27th I reached there. I received a phone call from the office of the Chief Minister at quarter to seven and I was told that the doctors who have gone over there have no water can I arrange some water for them. I reached there with water. There was no communications between Bhuj and Mumbai. On contacting the Mumbai Air Control we came to know that there was a return flight from Bhuj which reached at Mumbai at quarter to ten in the evening. Captain Ganesh entered the room of the Wing Commander Christofer and said may I take rest now but Wing Commander Christofer told him that

[English]

Shri Kirit Somaiya has come. Doctors and patients need water over there. Can you go back?"

[Translation]

Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, Captain Ganesh was flying for the last 36 hours non-stop, but still he said that certainly I can go back and he went back with the relief material. I would like to say one thing more that we should extend help at this hour of crisis. This House is not going to come to an end we will be here again after six months at that time you can talk politics.

Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, the people of Mumbai, Maharashtra and the country had set an example for all of us. My friend Dr. Mali from Mulund went over there and performed three thousand operations. He is an orthopaedist. I asked him that such a large number of doctors went over there and returned after doing a great deal of service what did you achieve? He replied Kiritji it is a matter of utmost satisfaction for us. If anyone of us could save a life of a person we will feel utmost satisfied that being a doctor we have served the mankind. He narrated a story to me. The story is written by British writer which goes like this. A boy aged ten years was walking along the sea beach and pushing back into the sea the fishes which were coming onshore with the sea waves but were unable to return to the sea and were rolling on the sand and then he was saving the fishes. This act made him utmost satisfied. A Britisher who was having a morning walk there was watching him and asked the boy as to what he is doing? Had he gone mad? It would not help. The boy slowly raised his head and looked at the writer. The writer told the boy that sea waves come and go

round the clock and the seashore is thousands of kilometres long and a large number of fishes die in this process. On hearing this from the writer the boy gave the same reply as Dr. Mali gave to me. Dr. Mali said Kiritji I still remember the reply given by the boy to the writer. The boy had said that of course it does not matter for you or this world or me. But it does matter for the fishes which I am putting back into the sea because their lives are saved. Similarly we should also think that if anyone can get life by our little efforts we should do such efforts. Leave aside appreciating the Government. Power supply was restored there within three days. There is no magic wand in the hands of the Government. The communications system was revived within four days and roads were reopened within 36 hours. The airstrips of the airports were damaged despite that the jawans of the Airforce landed their planes. Two persons died due to collapse of an Airforce building. There was no light there no communications, no control and despite all this the jawans gave signals to the aircraft by holding torches in their hands. This was the national spirit. Had the leaders of the opposition expressed a few words of appreciation it would have boosted their morale. Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, whose spirit was this? ... (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Sir, he has not heard the speech of the Leader of the Opposition. She appreciated the heroic people of Gujarat. She profusely thanked the Army, the paramilitary forces and others. He did not listen to her speech... (Interruptions) ..

[Translation]

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA : Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, train services have been restored, roads have been reopened and damaged bridges have been repaired and made operational. While such incidents are occurred there is every possibility of outbreak of an epidemic. What about that?..... (Interruptions) We are talking about providing assistance. If the persons who have provided assistance they have talked like this then..... (Interruptions) I will read out it for you(Interruptions)

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL (CHANDIGARH) : You should see as to what Shri Keshubhai Patel had said. He was asking the people to raise slogans. What are you talking?(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please hear him; when you get your chance, you may please speak. I will not allow you now.

.....(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA : We have also said, heard and read something what has been written about Anjar in today's newspaper of Marathi language, 'Loksatta'. I don't like to read out it entirely in Marathi but in that newspaper it has been written that :

"Tenchyan Te manus ki wah samajik bandil ke cheehi prakhar donu pahun, Avadhi sadaiv sangawat teeka karanarihi aatta swamsewakana duwa deta na dista."

[Translation]

This 'Loksatta' is not a newspaper of the BJP or RSS. Those who always comment upon RSS also write as follows :-

"Dadhai ya Bhukamp Vi Jawadil Hazi Ali Mohammed Ya Muslim Nagrikane Sangetale."

After such a big tragedy caused by the Earthquake, if any people were seen rendering help, they were the Swayamsewak of the Rashtriya Swayamsewak Sangh. Did he not see that 25000 Swayamsewaks of the Sangh were serving there in their own style wearing half-pants....(Interruptions)

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : Keshubhai ji had admitted, I am quoting it from the newspaper.(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : When you get your chance, you can refute them.

.....(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record, except the speech of Shri Kirit Somaiya.

..... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : He is not Yielding. Nothing will go on record, except the speech of Shri Kirit Somaiya. Since he is not yielding, I will not allow anybody.

.....(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record, except his speech.

.....(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please conclude now.

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA : Sir these interruptions have taken five minutes.

Now, it is called the Disaster Management Team. What is Disaster Management? Who came for Disaster Management in 1947?

[Translation]

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Pakistan attacked Kashmir. People of RSS went there to extend help to the Air Force. In 1962 when China had attacked India at that time the help extended and services rendered to the country by RSS were appreciated by Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru ... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Nothing, except what is being said by Shri Kirit Somaiya, would go on record.

....(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, when there was flood in Morri, then who went there to help, I would like to tell that it were RSS people who reached there. Whenever there was calamity in Gujarat or any other part of the country, the people of R.S.S. were always ahead for the cause of service.(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : He is not yielding. Nothing except what is being said by Shri Kirit Somaiya, would go on record.

.....(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am a member of the RSS and I am proud of at the same. The people of RSS rendered help in the hours of crisis in Gujarat the people of Gujarat are proud of the same.(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Hon. Members would be please listen to me? It is a serious matter. We are discussing a national tragedy here. Please take it seriously. You can speak when you get your chance.

.....(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am grateful to the honourable Prime Minister. He appealed to the people of the country to consider tragedy of Gujarat as a National tragedy understanding the National will on that day and keeping in view the gravity of the national calamity.(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Nothing, except what is being said by Shri Kirit Somaiya would go on record.

.....(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, honourable Atal Ji constituted a study group to study this tragedy setting aside all kinds of political discriminations and the post of Deputy Chairman of that group has been given to hon. Sharad Pawar ji and not to any other Members of Parliament belonging to Bhartiya Janta Party or NDA. Thus, he has not made any political discrimination. Having risen above all political discrimination, the Government for the first time offered the post of Deputy Chairman to Sharad Pawar ji.(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Vijender Pal Singh, this is not the way you have to express yourself here. When he is not yielding, how can you say whatever you want?

....(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir the money deposited in the "Prime Minister Relief Fund" and "Chief Minister Relief Fund" is given cent per cent exemption from Income Tax. But for the first time our Government have taken a decision to give cent percent exemption from the income tax to the donation made to social institutions which are engaged in noble social work(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : There are five more speakers from Gujarat.

..... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Government have also given this exemption on the foreign donation. Gujarat Government has announced for adoption of the villages. I myself have adopted two villages. The scheme was announced long back. Not only this, Gujarat Government also said that whatever amount will be collected by the social institutions, the Government will make equal contribution and they will build a new Kutch with the help of the society. The reality is this that

[English]

What is needed is the national will. What is needed is the national spirit.

[Translation]

We have not yet thought over. I have got another instance. The daughter and six years old son of Bharat shah survived. Deputy Chairman of Anzar Municipality and his five years old son also survived but his eight years old daughter and his wife died. But since the day the Deputy Chairman of the Municipality has come out he is engaged in rescue and relief operations. But do you know what his position will be after phase of relief operations come to an end. We can build a house of bricks for him but we can not bring back his family. Have we ever thought of his state of mind? Even today we have not been able to erase the psychological impact, the people have undergone in Latur. As such I would like to request the House that still they need a lot of help. Rescue work is over now and the relief measures are going on. We would be able to provide house to the victims but the way the psychological problem is going to arise, we can overcome the situation only if we all get united and fight against it.

Towards the end I would like to request the Prime Minister that Central Government have done enough and supported the scheme adopted by NGOs. But I would talk of the worst affected parts of Kutch and nearby areas. If we can give excise Holiday for the development of the North East, then we should also give holiday to Kutch and nearby areas. It does not matter if we can extend this Facility to the new industries, but there are some old industries which have been collapsed. We should give excise holiday in order to revive them. Let it be for one, three, five or eight year period or whatever is due to them for the last year. We will construct houses for them but if they do not get a job, then what will they do. The people of Mumbai and Kutch have invested money there. We will have to give them some job. As such I would request the Government that Industrial package should be declared.

* Not recorded.

One thing which we should bear in mind is that it is not the children of Kutch who have become orphan. When the matter is discussed, a few people among us say with good intention that they are ready to adopt these children. The child become orphan when no whereabouts of his parents or family are available. The child who has been traced in the collapsed house and survived, he has got his family, maternal uncle, paternal uncle, grand father or anyone also. They should not be sent out of Kutch. Please keep them there and build affection temples (Vatsallaya Mandir).

This much I would like to say that whatever society has taught us, we have done that. The society said that Patriotism and National Spirit was seen from 26th to 31st January. So much relief reached there that people said that you have done enough. There was so much relief that no body died of hunger, nobody pined for water. The people of the country stood by Gujarat. The people of the Country said that

[English]

You are the National leaders.

[Translation]

We have shown National Spirit and with that National Spirit you should evolve a Nation will and build a new Kutch and a new Gujarat.

18.24 hrs.

BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Eighteenth Report

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Before I call the next speaker on this subject, we shall take up Item No. 5 (a) of the List of Business — presentation of the Report of Business Advisory Committee.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Sir, I beg to present the Eighteenth Report of the Business Advisory Committee to the House.

18.25 hrs.

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

Regarding outbreak of fever in Siliguri

[English]

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C.P. THAKUR): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I would like to brief the House on the recent outbreak of an undiagnosed fever in the district of Siliguri, West Bengal which has caused high mortality and concern amongst the local population.

According to the information received from the State Health Authorities, patients with symptoms of high fever, vomiting, delirium and coma within a period of three to four days, were first reported on 5th February 2001. Altogether, nine persons were affected with these symptoms and six of them died. On receipt of this information, the State Government Health officials accompanied by experts from medical colleges of Kolkata and Institute of Tropical Medicines, Kolkata visited Siliguri to investigate the incident. Between February 16th and 21st, 62 persons suffered from low-grade fever, sore throat, respiratory distress and pulmonary oedema.

On receipt of information from the Chief Secretary, Government of West Bengal, the Department of Health sent on 23.2.2001, eleven experts — three from National Institute of Communicable Diseases, New Delhi, six from NIV, Pune, and two from AIIMS, New Delhi — to assist the State Health Authorities in their efforts in diagnosis and treatment of the diseases.

The clinical features of the infection are mainly abrupt rise of fever, headache and body ache. Within one or two days, the patients are seen to develop confusion and go into coma. Some of the patients developed myoclonic jerks, or even convulsions. Some also experienced breathing difficulty. There was no indication of jaundice or infection of urinary tract or haemorrhagic fever. Physical examination did not show neck rigidity. Liver function tests were normal. Chest X-ray showed bilateral diffused opacities. Cerebrospinal fluid examination was normal except raised pressure. The infection was observed to have a short incubation period, with neurological abnormalities suggesting of encephalitis syndrome but the pathological reports did not support this diagnosis. Further, it was observed that the spread of this infection was marked amongst medical personnel and relatives who came in close proximity of the patients.

As reported upto this morning, 62 persons have been identified to be having this disease and 35 have expired. It

has been observed that most of the identified patients belong to Siliguri town, though sporadic cases are coming in from the rural hinterland. The outbreak originated from two private medical establishments in Siliguri. At present, all infected cases are being treated in the North Bengal Medical College Hospital. Currently, 27 patients are under treatment. No fresh cases have been reported during the last 24 hours.

Based on clinical features, specialists have advised that body fluids be examined for isolation and identification of the causative organism. Observance of standard precautions by hospital staff -- such as use of gloves, masks, gowns and washing of hands -- has been strongly recommended. Also, 'isolation precautions' have been recommended when patients are transported outside the ward for X-ray and other investigations. The patients are being made to wear masks. It has been recommended that the patients be given symptomatic treatment: antibiotics such as Ceftriaxone; Erythromycin, judicious use of I.V. Fluid; anti-brain oedema measures such as use of manitol; and administration of oxygen.

In response to the request of the Government of West Bengal, one lakh Tetracycline capsules, 5,000 vials of injection Streptomycin and 5,000 vials of injection Gentamycin have been dispatched to Siliguri from the Central Government Medical Stores.

Experts from NICD, New Delhi and NIV, Pune have collected samples which are being brought to New Delhi and Pune today for laboratory investigations. The laboratory findings will assist in identifying the causative organism and facilitate in prescribing proper treatment and advice for its containment and prevention. A request for parallel identification of causative organism is being made to Centre for Disease Control, Atlanta, USA.

The Department of Health, Government of India is maintaining constant contact with the State Health Authorities and monitoring the developments. Any assistance required by the State Government will be extended by the Department of Health to tide over the present exigency.

In the end, Sir, I also thank Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi, hon. Member and Kumari Mamata Banerjee, hon. Railway Minister who enquired about it.

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : (RAIGANJ) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I had sought permission from the

hon. Speaker and permission has been granted to me. ... (Interruptions)

Ten people have died in my constituency alone. ... (Interruptions) I have to update the hon. Minister. The doctor of cardiology of the North Bengal Medical College Shri Maithi was affected. He was shifted to Kolkata but he died day before yesterday.

I rushed to my constituency day before yesterday after I talked to the hon. Minister. Seven people have died in Uttar Dinajpur district. There has been no medical support. Nine children were affected in my presence and their parents are panicky. It has spread from Siliguri to Uttar Dinajpur and is now moving towards Malda. The situation is beyond control. Some of the doctors are very much shaken because of various rumours.

My submission here is that the Government should send a team from ICMR, a group of doctors. If it is felt necessary, even doctors from the Army Medical Corps, who are courageous enough to stand by the patients could be deployed because there is panic among the doctors there. They are psychologically sick.

This is a very serious situation. It is not only confined to Siliguri. It has spread to Uttar Dinajpur, my constituency Raiganj where people have died and also to South Dinajpur. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI JOACHIM BAXLA (ALIPURDUARS) : Sir, I endorse what he has said now. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : The casualty is not just 35. The report received this morning is of more than 45 casualties already in Siliguri. ... (Interruptions)

18.31 hrs.

DISCUSSION UNDER RULE 193

**Situation caused by severe earthquake in Gujarat –
contd.**

[Translation]

SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA (KAPADVANJ) : Hon Deputy Speaker Sir, today is 26th of February. One month ago i.e. on the morning of 26th January more than 50,000 people died in Gujarat particularly in Kutch. I pay them tribute after one month. I am grateful to those who extended help to those people in time. NGOs, International NGOs and people from Abroad reached there within 48 hrs. but the Gujarat Government could not.

I will tell nothing but the truth ... *(Interruptions)*, whatever I have seen during physical verification, the places where the impact of earthquake was ... *(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Harin Pathak, please take your seat.

... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA : He was there not because of the earthquake; he was there by chance. ... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI HARIN PATHAK (AHMEDABAD) : But you said that nobody was there.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Shankersinh Vaghela, please sit down. I am on my legs.

... *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record now.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Harin Pathak, I am on my legs. Will you please resume your seat?

... *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : We are discussing a very serious issue here.

SHRI HARIN PATHAK : The hon. Minister is still in Bhuj ... *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You are not allowing me to speak.

If there is anything unparliamentary when an hon. Member speaks, I will expunge it. You are senior Member and you know it. Unless and until the hon. Member who is on his legs does not yield, whatever you utter will not go on record. It is against the procedure. Therefore, please do not waste the time of the House.

Let us now continue with the discussion seriously as the subject matter deserves such seriousness.

... *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV (JHANJIHARPUR) : The smaller groups will not get a chance to speak like this.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You will get your chance.

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV : This is not good.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : This is what I am saying that this is not proper.

[English]

This is not bilateral negotiation. Everything has to be transacted only through the Presiding officers.

[Translation]

SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to describe the factual position in my words. Please have patience and listen to me.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I want to help you. Please address the Chair.

SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA : I have changed my direction and taken off my glasses. I will request you that this should be the last discussion. I will come to Nitish Kumar ji's speech later on but there is English system.

[English]

How does the issue of earthquake come under Agriculture Ministry? It is all technical matter.

[Translation]

I mean to say that hon. Prime Minister and hon. Home Minister came but hon. Home Minister did not tell the facts. He is senior most in the Government. He should have behaved with responsibility. He should have apprised the House of the reality. I also want to protest that he spoke in English. ... *(Interruptions)* I was in Kutch for the last two days and after making physical verification I came here. I visited 25 villages in Ahmedabad to see what the Government has done there. I will quote what he read in page 11 ... *(Interruptions)*

[Shri Shankersinh Vaghela]

[English]

The State Government have taken up relief work on a war-footing.

[Translation]

I am grateful to defence services who gave much help in time. The plane carrying the team of doctors could not

land at Bhuj as Shri Kirit Somaiya was saying. Even the plane which Madam was boarding did not land on the 27th of January. Whereas our plane could land. That plane carried the team of doctors, Shri Kirit Somaiya did not reach Bhuj. He had to land at Jamnagar and was stranded there for 24 hours. I would like to ask through you and Airports Authority that when there was nothing in Bhuj and Jamnagar ... (Interruptions)

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA : I would like to correct him. The doctors who left from Mumbai for Bhuj on the 27th landed on that very day in Bhuj. ... (Interruptions) If you wish to tell a lie only God can save you ... (Interruptions)

SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA : I am talking about the doctors. The plane carrying the doctors, that ... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Shankersinh Vaghela is on his legs. Whatever Shri Kirit Somaiya is saying will not go on record.

... (Interruptions)

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

... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA : I was in Bhuj yesterday at 5 p.m. ... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I have just now said here that unless Shri Vaghela yields, you cannot speak.

... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA : Mr. Deputy Speaker, the team of doctors had to land at Jamnagar. The plane did not land there on the 27th. I was there in Bhuj on the evening of 27th ... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : He is saying something and you are objecting. How can we conduct the proceedings of the House? Even if your name is mentioned, you can get up after his speech and say that since my name was referred to, I want to make a point. You cannot do like this. If you stand up like this, others from the other side also get up. We have a procedure and please do not interrupt like this.

... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA : I express my gratitude to the doctors who visited there.... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Planes land on earth.

... (Interruptions)

SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA : His logic is old ... (Interruptions)

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : First it should be decided whether the plane landed or not. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA : Agriculture Ministry had been Nodel agency since the British rule. It is time to consider what was done by Nodel Agency. This task has to be accomplished by the entire country. It should not be left to only one department ... (Interruptions) Listen, if the bus driver is drunk he will kill the passengers. People could have been saved. ... (Interruptions) I will speak on reconstruction, later on. People have been found alive there even after 24 hours, 48 hours or ten days. State Government or the Union Government have not taken out the people buried under the debris. I have seen that yesterday. You may challenge that it is a lie. I have seen that yesterday. ... (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL (PATAN) : Can you say that hundred per cent debris have been removed? You cannot say that ... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA : They said the work was done on war footing while the debris was not removed. Even today the people are buried under debris. People are lying under debris in the rural and urban areas.

Sir, Gujarat is a border state. We have got defence forces. We have got Air Force, BSF, CRP, SRP. Strength of para-military force in Ahmedabad is fifty thousand. Here also one thousand people have died in Saurashtra area. The reality is that if the management had desired, it could have controlled the situation within 12 hours by organising rescue work expeditiously to save the people. At least ten-fifteen thousand people could have been saved. Doctors came there to save every single life and people from other countries brought their sniffer dogs for this purpose. They should be ashamed of that, even dogs have to be brought from abroad. Here even the dogs have not been trained so that they could find out whether the people are alive or dead. ... (Interruptions). The people who brought medicine and other relief material, were not given clearance at the airport. If arrangements for landing of the relief material were not made at Ahmedabad, then there are many airports in Saurashtra. Single window-system should have been there to give directions. As I have said there was none to guide as where to go and what to do. The whole material has been dumped on the road. A plane load of material from Turkey came to Bhuj which had to go back. There were no arrangements for landing. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Sir, I have a point of order.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Under which rule?

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : You please listen to me I will tell you the rule. Vaghela ji has said that the aeroplanes did not land in Bhuj. As per our information, four planes landed there. We challenge it. If Vaghelaji is wrong, then what would you do. ... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : There is no point of order. Prabhunath Singh ji, what are you saying.

... (Interruptions)

SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA : One aeroplane of Turkey had to go back from Bhuj because there were not arrangements for its landing. There were no arrangements to take the material out. ... (Interruptions) I met one person namely Shri Prahlad Singh there. There an officer told us to take the material out. Then complete arrangements for the same were made. They loaded relief

material in 85 trucks at Bhuj airport out of them 22 truck loads reached there and nobody knows where rest of the truck loads have gone.

Sir, not only this even the godown has been looted or they were looted in connivance with some one, who was responsible for this. ... (Interruptions) People from abroad brought a lot of relief material but there were no arrangements for all that. There was no officer from the Government of Gujarat. ... (Interruptions) There an officer was required to be put on continuous duty and he should have been made fully responsible..... (Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI NITISH KUMAR) : Sir, this House has its own dignity. Vaghela Sahib has been repeatedly saying that no aircraft landed in Bhuj on 26th January. ... (Interruptions) An aircraft from Delhi had also gone and landed there. That aircraft had contained the relief material. A Joint Secretary from our Department had gone there and he is incharge of the National Disaster Management here. He had gone there and the aircraft had landed there. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA : Excuse me, there was lack of communication there. ... (Interruptions) if it had landed, then it is good. ... (Interruptions)

Sir, I had gone for verification. ... (Interruptions) I would like to tell you that Gujarat Government has till date not paid even a single penny to even a single family whose members have been killed there. ... (Interruptions) I myself had gone to a lot of villages even a single family has not got even a single penny. ... (Interruptions) there the district Panchayat does not belong to the ruling party and it is the responsibility of the district Panchayat. Gujarat Government told them that money would not be given to them. If they would have assigned the responsibility to the District Panchayat the money would have been distributed so far. Even Patwari is not there. ... (Interruptions) Sir, the survey of the houses is going on there till date. The Patwari is not available there as of now. ... (Interruptions) The houses have collapsed, damaged, and the Government has not conducted any survey in this regard. Now the situation there is, that the houses have collapsed there, there were different type of houses in Ahmedabad. ... (Interruptions) On 22 January, the Government has issued an ordinance that irregular construction of the high rise buildings be regularised after charging impact fee which means they have issued an ordinance to set the wrong things right by charging impact fee so that the concerned builders could be saved. The builders would be responsible for those people who have died but the officers issuing O.K. certificates, that the new

[Shri Shankersinh Vaghela]

building is fit for such a permission should also be held responsible. ... (Interruptions) The Gujarat Government has issued the ordinance just to save those builders who used substandard material for construction would you say it is a right thing?

SHRI V.P. SINGH BADNORE (BHILWARA) : Those buildings have also collapsed for which you had given permission in your time. What happened to them?

SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA : We have not made a single house out of that ... (Interruptions) You don't know what happened in our time.

Sir, now I come to the other part. After the destruction, let us talk of the reconstruction. What is this Disaster Management Committee? Everybody had heard of it after 26th January or had anybody heard of it before this date? Whether any committee was constituted ever before? Every time people die. Be it the cyclone in Orissa or the earthquake in Latur, people die in every calamity and each time a committee is constituted. But whether the crisis management committee had suggested anything to the Government. If at all a committee is to be constituted. Shri Sharad Pawar ji should be appointed as its convenor. If anybody has any experience in this regard, it is Shri Pawar who has got some experience. Now a Committee of 35 persons is being constituted. It will consist of the Ministers, IAS officers etc., but earthquake is not going to ask anyone as to when it has to occur or the manner in which it should occur or it should from which Committee the earthquake will ask all these things.

We go abroad frequently. Our Home Minister Sahib had visited Israel. Our Prime Minister had gone to America and our President also. We all visit a number of countries throughout the world. Did anyone ever ask as to how what we should deal with the problem of terrorists if we visit Israel? They have got an hospital in their aeroplane. Did anybody had ever seriously think about the Disaster Management? If a foreign country is to be visited, has anyone of us tried to know the purpose and the use of such a visit? ... (Interruptions)

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (AJMER) : Sir, he has mentioned the name of His Excellency President, that should be expunged from the record.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Prof. Rasa Singh Rawat, what is this? Please do not interrupt like this. Nothing will go on record.

... (Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You are such a senior member. Your submission will go on record only when he yields. Please sit down.

SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA : What is in it we all have done it. Sir, they made 10 thousand litre water tank ready in just 30 minutes and if there is Disaster Management Subject then we must also think about it. If everything is to be done by IAS, IFS or IRS officers, then I would like to say that all these are out of date. They have nothing to do with the public. People may live or die, they have nothing to bother about.

[English]

DR. NITISH SENGUPTA (CONTAI) : Do not generalise it ... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA : Whether these people are not taught about all those things at the place where training is given to them ... (Interruptions) you did IAS after doing ICS ... (Interruptions) I talk of everyone. You post one officers from here to there. It will serve no purpose. They are also taught about the Disaster Management, Cyclone Management but it is of no use. You have tested a nuclear bomb. What is going to happen from all that? If everybody throws nuclear bomb on us, then what would happen. Have you ever thought about it. You have given a wise publicity that you have developed a nuclear bomb. If you want to take the credit of developing a nuclear bomb, Did anyone ever think of the consequences thereof? If it is to be exploded, think about the consequences and all that. Convert IAS service into Indian Citizen Service. Please rethink about it. What will the responsibility of IAS officers, it should also be looked into.

I want to say a few words about Prime Ministers Fund and Chief Ministers Fund. Today the Gujarat Government has got no credibility. I want information from you about the accounts of Chief Ministers Fund since 26th January. Many people would have donated money in that fund. Several NGOs would also have donated and some personal contribution would also have been deposited in the fund. The employees of Gujarat refused to donate money in Chief Ministers Fund. You should be concerned

* Not recorded.

about that. Houses of the people have fallen in the affected areas ... (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record except the speech of the hon. Member Shri Shankersinh Vaghela. If he does not yield, nothing will go on record. All the comments will be off the record.

... (*Interruptions*)*

[*Translation*]

SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA : A number of natural calamities struck Gujarat. There was a cyclone in June, 1998. Again there were heavy rains. The cyclone hit the state again in November 1998. In May 1999 again heavy rains were there and it is the third year of the drought and above all, now the earthquake has occurred. In Kutch as many as 1261 persons have died and whereabouts of 1774 persons are not known. As per official record, their number is 1200 but more than 2500 persons have died. Gujarat Government had asked to provide houses to them within two years. Two years have elapsed and only 200 houses have been built. Out of them 150 houses have been damaged in the earthquake. The Government had promised to construct two thousand houses whereas only two hundred houses could not be constructed. How would you help them technically? For that whatever amount of money is needed that you should arrange and set up five zones in the country under control of the Army, Navy and Airforce. One section should contain five thousand people. They should do regular rehearsals. It has been seen that it is difficult to extinguish the fire once it is broken out. There should be para military force under control of the Army which should conduct regular rehearsals to face the natural calamities. The para military force should have such persons under its control which may conduct regular practice. Some Lt. General should be appointed as its Chief. No matter if the Committee is consisted of 70 members but all of them should work sincerely. If the elections are declared there, then the whole responsibility should be on the shoulders of the Election Commission and all should function under the control of the Election Commission. The Disaster Management Committee should be trained by the Army. It should have more than five thousand trained soldiers who may move from one place to another in no time. They should be fully equipped. They should conduct regular rehearsals with the equipments and they should base their headquarters in Gujarat.

Some children have lost their mother and some mothers have lost their children. I don't want to go into at that but they should be mentally fit. There is a case of mother who was feeding her child and the child died. It was because of trauma. Where she will be treated? The people of Ahmedabad and Kutch do not sleep under RCC even today. They sleep outside in the tents. They do not take sound sleep and in the morning they look alike a lunatic.

19.00 hrs.

There was a girl who got married but she said that she would not go to her in-laws because her parents have died. Like this so many people have died. We are talking of Disaster Management, what would happen thereafter. We should not only talk about reconstruction of the houses, but we should talk about reconstruction of the people who live in the houses. They have to be made psychologically strong. There would be a number of psychiatric cases. More than ten thousand people were devoid of their limbs and have become orthopaedically handicapped. What would be their fate. If they suffer aftershocks, they can not sleep during the whole night. Their condition is so miserable. I would like to suggest that wherever new construction work is carried out, that construction should be the earthquake resistant. The Prime Minister should call a meeting of the Cabinet of the Gujarat Government.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, yesterday I went to Aghoi village where officers from Maharashtra Government including five IAS officers had also come. They told that Gujarat Government has not given the clearance because several NGOs want to adopt the people with lesser amount of money. People were sitting there. Sometimes the Gujarat Government offers one area of land and sometimes another. Although it is not an easy task. It is these people who have told that NGOs of Kutch are going to adopt 100 villages. We mean all this by the Government and it hardly matters as to which party it belongs. An NGOs and the Government are two different bodies. Government, we are representatives of the public. People of Taluka Panchayats and District Panchayats were not taken into confidence. In the presence of the Prime Minister talks are being held between Shri Dhirubhai Ambani of Reliance and the Government offering fifty percent and it should not go beyond that. If Reliance wants to adopt, if Nirma or Ajit Premji wants to adopt, let them adopt in full. The Government would monitor their design. Nearly 1800 villages have become a heap of debris. Here the people say that cracks have been developed in the buildings but I would say that cracks

* Not recorded.

[Shri Shankersinh Vaghela]

have developed in the minds. These are not RCC houses which can be constructed by cement. These are mud and stone houses. As such, the rehabilitation should be done technically. It might possible that the houses can be given within a period of one year through decentralisation but if it takes one year also to build a house one lakh houses are required to be constructed. For that labour would be required wages would BE required to be paid to these labourers. The economy of Kutch can be developed only by re-constructing such houses. Whatever assistance Central Government would provide, that is welcome. We want that there should be one board of Kutch or Government should supervise all this because neither the people of Kutch nor its Members of Parliament have got faith in ... *(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR (VODADARA) : Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, he made the beginning ... *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Mrs. Thakkar, you please sit down because you have to ask the question.

... *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : He is not yielding.

SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA : Mr. Deputy speaker, Sir I am not at all quoting figures that 20 thousand people have died or 30 thousand people have died. Shri George Sahib has given the figures as one lakh, I was telling only 50 per cent thereof. I do not want to go in figures because those who have died, are not going to come back.

At the end, I only want that the Prime Minister should intervene in the matter and people should got realistic dealing in Kutch. With these words I conclude my speech.

[Translation]

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE (RATNAGIRI) : Hon'ble Deputy Speaker, Sir, the earthquake that rocked Gujarat is the biggest tragedy of the country. In that devastating earthquake more than 19,000 people have been killed and property worth more than Rs.21,000 crore has been lost.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, perhaps this is the first tragedy in the country for which relief was provided from the country and abroad within 24 hours after occurrence of the tragedy. From every nook and corner of the country

trains and aeroplanes were heading towards Gujarat. Life was crippled in Bhuj and Ahmedabad due to this major and devastating tragedy. Even labourers were not available at the airports.

19.07 hrs.

(DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH *in the Chair*)

About 15 to 20 employees from the Mumbai airport always accompanied the aeroplanes carrying the relief material to Bhuj to work at the Bhuj airport throughout the day. The officers at Bhuj airport extracted all sort of work from these employees' and in the evening they used to come back to Mumbai carrying the injured persons or the persons under trauma who wished to come to Mumbai.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, this was such a devastating tragedy which destroyed everything. This tragedy occurred in a vast area of about six hundred kilometers but still the relief was provided promptly to the earthquake victims and perhaps it is the first time when relief and assistance were provided so promptly and in time. The relief was never provided so promptly whether this was by the people of the country, voluntary organisations, political parties, different State Governments or foreign countries at the time of natural calamities that occurred in the country earlier be it the super cyclone of Orissa, floods in Bihar or cyclone in Andhra Pradesh.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, there is even not a single instance when relief has been provided to such an extent and in time. After occurrence of such a big natural calamity, there may be some shortcomings but it is very painful that the victims of the earthquake are still under trauma because their future is in dark. The tremors of earthquake are still being felt there. Even the people whose houses were not affected by the earthquake do not want to enter in their houses even today. Instead of returning to their own houses people prefer to stay in the tents and even in the open areas. They are compelled to sleep in open fighting the chilly nights. Now after 15-20 days the fear from the minds of the people is reducing day by day and they have started going to the houses which have not been damaged in the earthquake so that they may atleast cook meals in their own houses. Tremors of earthquake were felt in Surendranagar last week also. There is a fear of earthquake in the minds of the people.

Hon'ble Chairman Sir, adequate quantity of relief material reached Gujarat and was distributed amongst the earthquake victims in time and the victims are quite satisfied with the relief provided to them. There is a controversy in the House as to the figure relating the

persons killed in the earthquake. A large number of persons have been killed due to this calamity. Neither any State Government nor the Union Government are responsible for this and as such the question of hiding the actual number of persons died does not arise. In no way the Government are going to be benefited by not divulging the correct figures of death toll. There is a need to realise the gravity of the calamity and to bring the truth before the people. When this thing would be made known to the rest of the world we may get more relief and assistance from all over the world.

Hon'ble Chairman, Sir, the children who have been orphaned and the women who have been widowed, the life for them has become hard. As Shri Somaiyaji was saying just now that the people who have survived in the earthquake are cursing themselves and the 'God' as to why their lives have been spared. They are doing so because they have no future at all. Houses once demolished can be rebuilt but with the broken heart it becomes impossible for anyone to live. Therefore, there is a need to change the mental attitude and to tell the orphaned children and widows that it is a national calamity and not only the people of Gujarat but the entire country are sad about it. We all share the agony and are much worried.

Hon'ble Chairman, Sir, more than ten thousand people were killed in Latur, Maharashtra in the earthquake that struck the State some years back.

At that time also the people of the entire country came forward to help the victims. Several voluntary organisations and political parties each adopted a village and took responsibility for rebuilding the houses. After the Latur earthquake my party Shiv Sena also adopted a village Limba. If you go there today you will find that the entire village has been rebuilt as a model village. I am not saying this because my party has done this but I want to give suggestions that even today there are voluntary organisations and charitable trust and industrial houses in our country which are capable of adopting the entire village. In this way we can solve the pressing need of providing shelter to these people. There are several political parties which can contribute towards this task. Today the most urgent need is to construct earthquake resistant houses to minimise the loss in case of recurrence of an earthquake in that area. The Kutch region is the earthquake prone and this has been the reason for loss of lives and property on large scale. Earthquakes occur frequently in Surendra Nagar, Jamnagar and Bhuj. The people there have become used to it to some extent. But no body would have ever thought that an earthquake of such a magnitude can occur there in

which several villages would be destroyed completely. Therefore, there is a need to remove the fear from the minds of the people. They need earthquake resistant houses.

A committee has been constituted headed by the Prime Minister. The people of the country has always been ready to contribute whether it is the Prime Minister's relief fund or Chief Minister's relief fund. All the employees of the Central and State Governments have donated their one day's salary in the relief fund. In Mumbai, I have come across many such organisations which have resolved to adopt the entire village of such people who have survived in the earthquake. This is a natural calamity and we may have to face several such calamities in future. If we really want to face the challenge of such calamities then we will have to face it unitidely. When this tragedy occurred in the morning of the 26th January we were celebrating our Republic day on the Rajpath in the capital.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please conclude now.

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE : I am concluding. When I reached home after the function I just switched on the TV the tragic incident of Gujarat was being shown, the collapsing of the houses and removing of the debris was being shown.

In the very first scene shown on the Doordarshan was that the Sewaks in 'Khaki' shorts were engaged in the relief work. Can anybody deny this fact? It does not matter whether these Swayamsevakas belonged to RSS or any other political party or any religious organisations but it is a fact that they were engaged in the relief work and nobody can deny this and we have unnecessarily created a controversy on that here in the House. We have been fortunate enough that whenever any crisis occurred be it the war on borders or any natural calamity the people of the country united themselves and stood for help ignoring their differences. It will not be fair to blame here in the House that discrimination in the matter of providing relief has been done in the name of religion and castes.

[English]

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL (LATUR) : Will you yield for a minute? I will give you the names of the villages where these kinds of complaints have been made. The names of the villages are Ghanchiwad area, Madapar Camp, Orawad area, Malaya Town, and Judia village. At the camps of these villages, these complaints have been made. Nobody is saying that the Government of India is doing it, the Government of Gujarat is doing it, or good people who are helping are doing it but complaints have

[Shri Shivraj V. Patil]

been made. When we have a lot many good people, there may be some misguided souls also. Let it be checked. How can you take objection to it? Now, if we are discussing this issue here, we should certainly know where we are going wrong. If we are not going wrong, very good. But if we are going wrong, should we not take corrective steps? If a Member gets up, and of all the persons, the Leader of the Opposition gets up here and says that these kinds of complaints have been made, do we think that this is done only to gain some political points? ... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI HARIN PATHAK : I have got a copy of the letter written by the Leader of the Opposition, Shrimati Sonia Gandhi to the Prime Minister and also a copy of the official letter written by the Gujarat Government to the Prime Minister in this context. In that letter, the Government of Gujarat has officially clarified the position. It says :

"People of various communities have complained that there is discrimination in distribution of relief materials and they are not getting materials because of their community."

[Translation]

The Government have conducted enquiry on the basis of the complaint received to it and replied accordingly.

[English]

"The distribution of cash doles compensation against loss of household effects and the distribution of free ration kit is done for all the affected families in the villages and there is no discrimination whatsoever in the matter of providing relief to the affected persons. The State Government would reiterate its commitment to provide relief to all affected people without any discrimination."

... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL : Who is complaining against the State Government? ... *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI HARIN PATHAK : You have said that Madam Sonia Gandhi has lodged the complaint. ... *(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL : We are complaining against those persons who have gone there to distribute these things. ... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI HARIN PATHAK : It is a false complaint. You verify it. That is what I want to put it on record. ... *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : You please conclude now.

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am sitting here since 4 O'clock when this discussion was started and you are now asking me to conclude ... *(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : You are not concluding.

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE : I have been listening to the Members here in the House since 4 O'clock... *(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : We are sitting here much before that, you please conclude.

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I have said in the very beginning that such a major tragedy has taken place and there could be some shortcomings... *(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Those should be overcome.

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE : Hon'ble Shri Shivraj Patilji has said that neither the State Government nor the Union Government is responsible for the tragedy and nobody held them responsible for the tragedy but such sort of complaints are being received. I just want to say that you have received complaints over there which have been mentioned here by leader of the opposition here and you have mentioned about the those shortcomings. You should also tell the House as to what the Union Government and the State Government have done for those villages... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL : I thanked and congratulated all for that. But you should not talk about that here... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE : That should also be mentioned here. The work done by the Government or organisations there... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL (CHANDIGARH) : People have been asked there that they should show their ration cards to get the relief material. I was there. I have heard this myself...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please conclude now.

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE : This has been clarified. I neither want to curse them nor to hold them responsible for this. I just want to say that natural calamity is a tragedy and it has nothing to do with religion and castes. Everything is destroyed in it. Nature spares nothing. Similarly the people who go to undertake relief work do not discriminate on the basis of religion and castes...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (PANDHARPUR) : You should remove the caste system.

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE : It is very good to remove the caste system. Do not seek tickets in the name of caste and do not contest elections in the name of caste. This system will be removed by itself.

Therefore, I would like to say that in this House it is necessary for us to think and suggest as to how we can fight this national calamity and as to how we can boost the morale of the people affected by the earthquake. How we can overcome the problem of unemployment which may arise in the state in future. We should think that how we can meet the housing problem there which has arisen due to collapsing of large number of houses there. We can tackle this huge task only if we ponder over it and give our suggestions after having a great deal of discussion in this regard. We cannot tackle this problem by fighting a political battle. Therefore, I request we should adopt a human approach towards the affected people and we should provide every possible assistance to them.

[English]

SHRI PRAVIN RASHTPAPAL (PATAN) : I thank you very much Mr. Chairman for giving this opportunity.

I am a people's representative from Gujarat elected from a district known as Patan which is bordering Kutch and Bhuj. My own constituency is also affected.

Before I come to the various issues of failure on the part of both the Central and State Governments, and the various other issues discussed over here, one thing I fail to understand, that is, why we are not becoming realistic. I also believe that the Government does not believe in caste and creed. But why are you all putting the

responsibility on the Indian society which is a caste-ridden society? Let us believe that the people in this country, at least, the people in rural areas, and in certain cases, the people in cities, do believe in caste, creed, religion, race, richness and poorness, and hence there is discrimination.

Let us not ignore it. But I will do the last thing first, because the hon. Minister of Agriculture is here and somehow his is the main nodal Ministry for this work. Why should we appoint one more Committee and Commission?

I want him to go through the reply given in this august House on the 30th November, 2000 only and the reply is as under : The question was

"Whether several Commissions and bodies have been appointed to look into this problem, that is the problems of natural calamities and if so, whether the Government would take some serious steps to solve the problem."

The answer was that :

"it is primarily the responsibility of the State Government concerned to take necessary measures in the wake of the natural calamities. It is not possible to prevent the occurrence of the natural calamities. However, efforts to mitigate the adverse effects of natural calamities are made by better management. A High-powered Committee has been appointed -- constituted -- for drawing up a model disaster management plan at the national, State and district level. "

This was the reply given to Parliament on the 30th November, 2000. I would like to know from the hon. Minister in his reply what happened to this National State and District Level Committee and what disaster management was arranged.

There are many more answers. I have collected copies from the Library. Whenever a question is put, an answer is given. Today also we are discussing. A Committee of 34 is already appointed. You know, how to 'celebrate' a decade. That was the answer given in this Parliament. The United General Assembly has proclaimed the current decade, that is, the decade in between 1992-2000 as the International Decade -- and the year 1999 was declared as the international year for -- international disaster reduction with the objective of reducing them through concerted international action especially in the developing countries. The answer further says :

[Shri Pravin Rashtupal]

"The Government of India have constituted a National Advisory Council on the IBNBR for advising and overseeing the programmes and activities being undertaken during the decade."

This answer was given on the 6th December, 1996. Whatever may be the Government, the answer was given here. The Advisory Council has not made any recommendations. A Council was appointed but they have not made any recommendations. However, the major programmes being undertaken in India for achieving the goal and objective of the decade include setting up of a national centre for disaster management and disaster management faculties in identified States, training institutes for developing the human resources and research and documentation in the field of disaster management. It was also decided that every second Wednesday of October would be celebrated as the observation of disaster reduction day. Public education and community awareness will complete it.

I have a number of answers given by responsible Ministers in this very august House during all these five to six years. Let this House know and let there be an end. Let there be a permanent disaster management body in this country as suggested by my senior colleague Shri Shankersinh Vaghela.

Please keep this in mind that this disaster management cannot be left to only one person, like Shri Pravin Rashtupal or Shri Vaghela or Shri Patil. They cannot be the sole members of the committee. The committee should be by posts. I am a member and on that particular day I may not be alive, or I may be in the hospital. Who will attend the committee meeting then?

The system should be for a district, for a District Collector by post, it will be the head and below him you can put an engineer, you can put a chamber President, you can put a civil surgeon or anybody else.

Other intelligent agencies are already there. They should be named by their posts.

Similarly, a small compact committee at the national level naming four or five Ministers – important and senior Ministers—should be constituted and the Chairmanship of the Committee should be with the hon. Prime Minister. There should not be any question of taking any further sanction. Unless we take up this issue seriously, there will not be any end to the discussion, which is going on for the last ten years.

A number of promises and assurances are given. At the time of every disaster, one more Disaster Management Committee is appointed. But what happened in Gujarat is that all Disaster Management Committees have failed. I want to know from the responsible hon. Minister of the Central Government as to exactly at what time the intimation regarding the earthquake in Bhuj was received by the Government of India and exactly at what time did the Chief Secretary of the State Government go to Bhuj. Please verify it even now as to whether he had visited Bhuj or not. On which date and at what time did the Chief Minister of the State go to Bhuj? We can verify these facts. I am not saying this for the sake of making allegations. Let us verify these facts as to who reached there first, who was supposed to reach first and what is done by the Central Government?

Sir, Bhuj is not only a part of Gujarat but it is one of the biggest districts in Asia. Bhuj is a border district. It is bordering Pakistan and has a very big arid zone. A lot of people have already migrated from there to 'Bombay'. ...
(*Interruptions*)

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAM NAIK) : It is Mumbai, not 'Bombay'. ...
(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL : Why do you magnify small errors? You are very keen for changing names. ...
(*Interruptions*) OK, I will call Mumbai.

[*English*]

My friend from Mumbai was taking pride. May I know the reason why people from Kutch-Bhuj have not gone to Mumbai to see the Gateway of India? It is because there are no industries. There is no drinking water facility.

As informed by my senior colleagues sitting over there, Kutch-Bhuj is a district, which has witnessed 33 droughts during the last 50 years. What have you to say about that? This is not for this party or that party. We altogether have failed to solve the problem of drinking water in Kutch, Bhuj, Saurashtra, North-Gujarat and in all the 19 districts of Gujarat.

Today, we are talking of constructing three lakh houses in one year. When I have no water to drink wherefrom the water to construct the building will come? This is my question to the hon. Minister of Agriculture here. Wherefrom the water to construct the houses in Bhuj will come?

So, let us not make passing remarks. Let us be realistic; let us consult the experts all over the world. The houses need not be built only of cement and concrete; houses can be built by plastic fibre; houses can be built by wooden structure.

Now, let us come only to relief. What is the requirement of tents in Kutch-Bhuj? My senior friend, Shri P.S. Gadhavi, will agree with me that a minimum of three lakh tents are required in Kutch-Bhuj. How many tents are provided so far in a modern State of Gujarat by such a mighty Government of India? As on today, only 50,000 tents are provided; and out of these 50,000 tents, the Government of Gujarat has provided only 5,000 tents. All other tents have come from various other agencies.

If the country is not able to provide three lakh tents to the population of Kutch and Bhuj even after one month of the devastation, my faith is shaken. So, let us not take these matters lightly.

Here is an editorial from the Times of India. It says :

"The earthquake in Gujarat has clearly identified the victors and the vanquished. While civil society has triumphed, the State has once again bitten the dust." – We thank the civil society that it has triumphed, we thank everybody who has gone there, we thank every individual, every organisation, every State, every international organisation, every one who has helped – "The self-appointed pillars of the State, the politicians, will have to work extra hard to convince the people of Gujarat that they are anything more than a bunch of incompetent and self-seeking individuals."

If you want to know about the discrimination, here is a Press clipping from the *Indian Express*. It is said that when people die, they become equal. But the title of this Press clipping says : "Death, the great leveller? Ask Dalits, look at the empty tents." Tents were given for a particular village where there are Dalits and non-Dalits, higher-caste people and lower-caste people - I am very sorry to use these words. The Dalits were not allowed to occupy the tents. For this, I do not want to hold the Government responsible. The Government may not believe in caste.... (Interruptions) Yes, it is there with the photographs because the high-caste people objected that they will not stay in their neighbourhood. The same thing had happened partly in Latur also. If you construct a township, how are you going to distribute the houses? We know that rural India is caste-ridden. A low-caste person will not be allowed to stay next to a high-caste person. Let us accept

that. Difference of opinion is a healthy sign, not hypocrisy. Hypocrisy will ruin the nation.

Now I come to the concrete suggestion from my side. Why should there not be a discussion? A Trust of Mumbai has done the job which the Government could not do. The Viniyog Trust, in association with *Gujarat Samachar* of Ahmedabad, conducted a complete survey of the entire Kutch-Bhuj district, contacted responsible persons and gave complete data of those who are dead. This was done on 5th February. The figure of 26,000 is already given. The hon. Speaker has gone on record to say that more than 30,000 people are dead. But the Government figure is also right. I know because I was in the Government. The Government will always give the figure of one whose dead body is available. In this country, even when a person who is alive and goes to the window for taking his pension, he is required to give a certificate that he is alive.

He is required to give a certificate that he is alive. So, let us be realistic. The Government may be right. The figure of the dead may be 19,000 according to the *post mortem* certificates and the number of the identified bodies. But the figure may not be less than 30,000. Hon. Member Shri Harin Pathak will agree with me on this.

What about the clearance of the debris? I do not stay in my flat. Shri Harin Pathak does not stay in his flat. My wife and daughter were in Ahmedabad when the earthquake took place. I was in Patan waiting for the flag-hoisting at a function. I went there at 8.30 a.m., before the earthquake. The earth was jumping like anything. The duration of the earthquake was one minute and twenty seconds in North Gujarat and in Kutch region and Bhuj. It was only for 30 seconds in Ahmedabad.

SHRI HARIN PATHAK : It was also for more than one minute in Ahmedabad. The whole buildings were moving from one foot on the left to one foot on the right. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL : Sir, even today people do not stay in the multi-storeyed flats which are safe. What is the remedy that the Government has for them? Are they not the citizens or the taxpayers? What action have we taken for them? Is it not a failure? It may be a failure of the system? After all, ours is a democracy, a welfare State and ours is a country where we are talking of *Sanskriti* and of a glorious past and a country where we cannot see that even an ant is also without food.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please give your suggestion.

[English]

SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL : Sir, my suggestion is that the Central Government should first verify these three points. Firstly, I want to know whether the entire debris is removed there as on date or not. It is one month today that the earthquake happened there. Let the Central Government certify that the debris is cleared after the earthquake in Gujarat. Let us be very clear about one thing. The earthquake took place in Gujarat. It has affected Bharuch, Surat, Ahmedabad, Surendranagar, Jamnagar, Rajkot, Porbandar, Banaskanta, Morbi and Haldip areas.

Recently I saw one report in Parliament about the definition of the affected people. Three crore and sixty-five lakh people are affected there and not 1.65 crore as mentioned. The correct number is 3.65 crore.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please give your next suggestion.

[English]

SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL : Secondly, I want to know whether all the dead bodies have been removed from the debris or not and whether temporary shelters to those who have lost their *pucca* or *kutchha* houses are provided or not. After all, a house is a house.

Thirdly, I have already written a letter to the hon. Minister of Finance in this regard. Sometimes we take *ad hoc* solutions like the levy of two per cent additional surcharge in income-tax all over the country. We have estimated that some Rs.1,300 crore will come from this. Hon. Minister Shri Pramod Mahajan has issued an appeal.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please conclude.

SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL : We estimated Rs. 1300 crore from there. Mr. Speaker has made an appeal that MPs too give some money.

[English]

I am from Gujarat. It was appealed that the M.Ps. may give Rs. two crore each. We have already estimated that some Rs.1,500 crore will come out of that. Let us not make wrong estimates.

There was a proposal of taxing the people. As I said already, 3.65 crore people of Gujarat are affected. There are taxpayers in Ahmedabad, Bhuj or in Surat or Banaskanta or any other town. How can you ask those people to make the payment of two per cent additional surcharge? You must exempt the people of at least these 21 districts of Gujarat who are affected by the earthquake, from the additional surcharge of two per cent which is being levied by the Government. I have already written a letter to the hon. Minister of Finance in this regard. Our State Government has requested for a tax holiday for five years in Kutch region and Bhuj. We talk about the middle class people. Shri Harin Pathak knows that the entire flats of Rs. 50 lakh each owned by the bank officers or managers or some rich men were destroyed.

A Government officer or employee who had taken a loan of Rs. 5 lakh and constructed a flat or purchased a flat, that flat is totally destroyed. What about the repayment of his instalments? The question is whether it should be written off or not. We know how much we are writing off in the case of banks as far as merchant community is concerned. But here, merchants also deserve sympathy. According to the official report of the Gujarat Government, the loss to trade and commerce is of Rs. 3,000 crore and loss to property is of Rs. 10,000 crore. These figures are given by hon. Chief Minister of Gujarat. I would like to know whether the Central Government is making any serious effort or not.

What is given to the State Government? I want to know whether out of this *ad hoc* assistance of Rs. 500 crore, Rs. 100 crore were deducted or not. I want to know, and Members of Parliament from Gujarat should also verify from the Government, whether the Government of Gujarat was given Rs. 500 crore total or only Rs. 400 crore. Why is only *ad hoc* assistance given? What is the requirement? How is the Central Government really going to help the people of Gujarat in this very serious situation which not only Gujarat but the entire country has not faced before?

I do not want to go into any further details. I thank you very much for permitting me to speak.

19.51 hrs.

SHRI P.S. GADHAVI : Mr. Chairman Sir, I am a person who hail from a district which is completely destroyed. In my constituency, out of about 900 villages, almost 884 villages are affected; by earthquake; 518 villages have been affected to a large extent while 181 villages have totally destroyed. There are five municipalities in my constituency – Bhuj, Anjar, Bachau,

Rapar and Gandhidham. They have been totally destroyed and 152 villages have been affected to the extent of 70 per cent.

Now, here I do not want to make any comment on the allegations made by opposition parties. I am concerned about the relief work. Relief work was there, preliminary treatment was given, and preliminary relief was there. Now, the question is how to revive the economy of Kutch, how to rebuild the entire district. Everybody there has got affected; he may be a poor man or a middle-class man or a rich man. Everybody from *raja* to *runk* has been affected. We have lost our palaces and we have lost our huts also. The person who was earning substantial amount is affected and the person who was earning small amount is also affected. He may be a *sunar* or *luhar*.

[Translation]

Today everybody has been rendered homeless and jobless. The people who were multimillionaires are staying in tents. I mean to say that entire Kutch which is inseparable part of the country is devastated.

[English]

This is a border district

[Translation]

because of which it holds much importance. If it is not reconstructed then entire country will be at a loss. Many people have levelled this allegation.

[English]

I can simply say that those allegations, to me, are baseless. This is not the time when you have to make allegations. Many persons have said that they have received complaints. No doubt, there may be some complaints by some sections. Devastation was on very high side and the magnitude of devastation was huge. The effect of devastation in my constituency from one end to other was so huge that from north to south 150 kilometres; and west to east, 350 kilometres of area have been affected.

[Translation]

When this tragedy took place at that time we were about to leave for hoisting flag on 26th January. As soon as we reached the circuit house, a sound was heard and front part of the porch started crumbling. Two-four people went out to see. Stones fell on them. Our Minister,

Collector and DSP, remained in the building. That building continued to shake for one minute and twenty seconds.

Entire first floor crumbled. As it gradually slowed down we came out. We saw entire Bhuj was engulfed with dust storm. Hon. Minister told me that he was going towards flag hoisting platform and asked me to go to the hospital instead. I proceeded towards the hospital. My colleagues accompanied me. The only district hospital of Bhuj G.K. General Hospital was devastated. Many people got buried under that building. Our nurses and doctors were left inside. Operation rooms were also damaged. Meanwhile people swarmed out and their number grew to four-five thousand. The Police was informed. I did not have time to inform them first. It was the duty of my fellows to treat the wounded persons but there was no hospital left for the treatment. Private doctors came in. They made complete arrangement but there was no medicine. The Chemists shops were broken in to take out medicines and the wounded were treated and administered medicines.

[English]

On that day, minimum ten thousand persons were given primary medical treatments.

[Translation]

We tried to get help from Military hospital but even there enough damage had been caused. Air Force Hospital was shattered. So was primary school. These were on the outskirts of Bhuj. People started pouring in. There is a village inside the old fort of Bhuj. More than 60 thousand people live there. But, there is no trace left of the entire Bhuj city now.

[English]

That was the time to give primary medical treatment.

[Translation]

Our telephone services were paralysed. We had satellite telephone.

[English]

I was not in a position to contact even Gandhi Nagar.

[Translation]

We were cut-off from rest of Gujarat. Our Minister was there, Collector and I.G. were there. They opened the

[Shri P.S. Gadhavi]

control room. Whatever resources we could lay our hands on were mobilized. There was no electricity, it was arranged through generator. The temperature was four degree. We did not sleep at night.

[English]

The casualties were in thousands.

[Translation]

I was there on 26th January whereas it was stated here that there was nobody on 26th January. It was on 26th January at 12 noon that contact could be established with Delhi. The army personels from Pune reached there the next day. Minister of Defence and the Chief Minister also reached Bhuj on 27th.

[English]

I was there.

[Translation]

Entire night we were in the control room. Our Minister from Gujarat Shri Suresh Mehta was there.

[English]

Whatever was required to be done immediately was done.

[Translation]

Army personnel came. Army brigadier Mr. Budhwar whom I know and who was in Kargil operation also came. Nobody could either go to home at night or sleep. Nobody bothered eating or drinking. We came to know during evening that Bachau, Anjar and villages were devastated.

[English]

This is not the time to make allegations.

[Translation]

The impact of earthquake was so great that something must have been lacking somewhere in the arrangement. That very day my old house crumbled, my office crumbled down. Shahnaj ben lived near my house. She gave shelter to Hindus and on the other side Bhai Shankar arranged for langar (free meal) through Deen

Dayal Trust. People from all communities joined the 'Langar', Dalit and Muslims etc. came there, I was also there. We gave them food and blankets and otherthings which they required. My area is inhabited by Muslims. More than 27 per cent people belonging to minority community live there. We have our own culture. We have never had clashes between minority and majority. This is my request to the House with folded hands not to teach us this at least.

[English]

I oppose fundamentalism.

[Translation]

I have been elected thrice from my constituency. I went to every village. We were all in RSS. RSS brethern worked there. Haji Hasan Charitable Trust Hospital also worked there. 'Langar' run by Bhai Shankar through Deen Dayal Trust is running even today. Ten thousands people of Bhuj are eating in 'Langar' even today. Despite this tragedy I am proud to say that entire country has extended help to us.

[English]

This is a very great nation; I salute all my brothers and sisters in the country, right from Kanya Kumari to Kashmir.

20.00 hrs.

[Translation]

People of Saurashtra came to us from Kolkata and extended help to us in our sorrow for that

[English]

I am really thankful to all those who have helped us.

[Translation]

That very day people from our Government visited us. Next day our Prime Minister Shri Vajpayee ji visited us.

[English]

Though he was not feeling well. He was not in a position to work. But in spite of that he moved around Bhuj, Anjar and other places. He moved around the military hospitals. He went everywhere. No doubt, the hon.

Leader of the Opposition also came here and she also did a very good job.

[Translation]

Several people helped us in our sorrow, we got help from foreign countries. Several parties helped us and after this help the local people have asked what the Government will do now with this aid.

[English]

Now, depression has started.

[Translation]

The people have lost their business there. They have no houses to live in. The debris has not been removed because the streets of the old cities are as narrow as 5 feet in width and five storeyed houses have been built there. Removing debris

[English]

The question is, whether it is advisable or not. Experts say that it is not advisable.

[Translation]

Higher cost will be involved for removing debris and very big area of land will be required for shifting and keeping the debris to another place.

[English]

In spite of that it is advisable to re-locate city and village.

[Translation]

Our Government have made a reconstruction project that people who have suffered 100 per cent damage will be given land, subsidy and they will also get concession in the loan drawn from bank. Like this package for entire village has been formulated after arriving at consensus. The plan package for the cities is yet to be formulated.

[English]

Some people have objected saying that they did not want to go out; they did not want to leave their ancestral houses. There are so many problems.

[Translation]

The relief fund aid the help that have been rendered are unprecedented. Just now, our colleague Shri Harin Pathak told us :

[English]

Some foreign expert have said and I quote :

"You have experts from Western countries coming and telling you how to do the job. But having seen things everywhere, I am sure, if this earthquake had happened anywhere in the West they would not have been able to do even one-fifth of the things that your Government has done."

I am a witness to it.

[Translation]

I can claim that the total amount of assistance has been received will be utilised for reconstruction. Kutch is a very big region and Gujarat is like a very big country.

[English]

Kutch is not simply a district. Kutch is a region. Gujarat consists of three regions, namely, Kutch, Saurashtra and Gujarat. It has an area spanning over 45,000 square kilometres.

[Translation]

This district is bigger than Haryana state. This is my request to all the members of the House that it is our joint responsibility to reconstitute Gujarat.

[English]

Kutch has got potentiality.

[Translation]

You said that two per cent tax will be levied. This is my request to the Central Government.

[English]

The Government instead of going for taxing the nation as a whole, they should form such a policy for the Kutch region so that Kutch could develop on its own. Kutch has witnessed three earthquakes, three disastrous earthquakes. One was on the 16th of June, 1819. The intensity of the earthquake was 8 on the Richter scale. Then, it had another earthquake in July, 1956. The intensity of that earthquake was 7 on the Richter scale and then the third one was on the 28th of January, 2001 and the intensity of this earthquake was 6.9 on the Richter scale.

[Shri P.S. Gadhavi]

[Translation]

This area falls in Zone-5 where industries cannot come. I have said this earlier that there is acute shortage of drinking water. I have repeatedly requested the Central and State Government that long term plan should be formulated for Kutch, drinking water facility be provided there. There are only two alternatives for it.

[English]

One is to go in for de-salination.

[Translation]

Like de-salination plant has been installed in Persian Gulf.

[English]

Desalination plants are expensive. The second alternative is to bring water from the South Gujarat through Narmada or Mahi rivers. It is a distance of about 700 kilometres. Government of Gujarat has submitted a project to the Government of India.

[Translation]

This project involves Rs. 700 crore. M.Ps of Gujarat and I have made a request to the hon. Prime Minister to make a coordination plan for the implementation of this project. Kutch has so much potentiality, it has Kandla Port.

[English]

Kandla port has got a reserve of about Rs. 600 crore.

[Translation]

Our army and railways need water there. Therefore, everybody must contribute there. If work on our water project is done on war footing then Kutch will be resettled on its own. Kirit ji has said that people are migrating from Kutch. Approximately 4 lakh people of Kutch are settled in Mumbai. People of Kutch who are living outside Kutch have given much help there. Take the issue of water crisis now. We have only agro based industries which can be developed there, but they need water. The issue of Narmada is going on there. I will once again request all the parties in the House.

[English]

They should pass a resolution saying that the height of Narmada dam should be raised immediately to 110 metres.

[Translation]

If the height of Narmada dam is raised to 110 metres then the entire Gujarat would be resettled immediately. To remove the problem of drinking water, a water pipe line be laid there. Some water be given to small scale industries. We produce maximum salt. Kutch produces 60 per cent of the total salt produced in the country. Salt based industries are there. We have reserves of minerals. Therefore, it is my suggestion and request to the Government that a special package be given to Kutch since 90 per cent of the area there has been affected. Of the ports, we have three minor ports besides, if free port facilities are given to the Mundra, Mandvi and Jakhau ports on the pattern of Dubai, then Kutch will be developed.

Mr. Chairman, there was policy of free port in Kutch before 1947. The then Government of the state had adopted this policy. We have experienced 32 famines in the last fifty years there. We have witnessed two major cyclones. Our entire vegetation was devastated in one of the cyclones. Three lakh trees in Mundra and Mandvi tehsil in the South Coast were destroyed. We lost our livestock in the second cyclone.

[English]

In the second cyclone that struck Abadasa and Lakhpat Talukas we have lost up to one lakh head of cattle.

[Translation]

People have started migrating from there owing to such natural calamities. If due to such natural calamities the population continues to reduce then what will be its consequences Kutch will meet the same fate that has befallen Kashmir.

20.09 hrs.

(DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*)

My request is that you and the Government formulate a package which should provide for tax holiday so as to revive Kutch. Under tax holiday

[English]

Government of India should grant exemption from excise duty, payment of Central Sales Tax, and from payment of customs duty. Government should also declare our ports as free ports.

[Translation]

If this happens then Kutch will be automatically revived. Gujarat has a capacity for revival.

It was just now reported that nothing has been done. I admit that many things were required simultaneously. Tents are still required there. The Government has admitted that the number of tents required there are -not even manufactured in the country. These had to be imported. The Air Force Planes have made 500-700 sorties, there so far. Indian Airlines has given free service there and the people who were injured were sent to Mumbai and Puna and were given free service. Free service was operated between Ahmedabad and Bhuj for 14 days and all this has been done by the Government. People were given relief. But now the main question before the people there- is where to go and what to do, what will be business and profession? This has caused the depression among the people and the Government of India should immediately bring a package for them so that they could come out of this depression. This is my request.

The hon. Minister of Finance should give an assurance on the budget to be presented by him. Hon. Prime Minister has assured that whatever is required for reconstruction and rebuilding of Kutch will definitely be done and internal and external assistance will also be provided for this purpose, for which I thank everybody. Here what we all speak, my request to them is that

[English]

This is not the right time to make allegations or counter-allegations either from this side or that side. Otherwise, we will not reach anywhere and we will fall into the same trap of dirty politics.

[Translation]

Today, if we are all united we can do reconstruction. Hon. Prime Minister has arrived just now, I will repeat

[English]

I request that special package should be given to Kutch region. For this, a fully empowered mechanism should be formed for Kutch. Which should be fully empowered authority.

[Translation]

The Minister of Urban Development Shri Jagmohan ji accompanied by experts visited Kutch and several long

term schemes have been formulated under which earthquake proof houses are to be constructed. Arrangement is being made for that but it will take some time. People will have to stay in tents for short term.

[English]

That was all right for a few days.

[Translation]

People will have to stay there for six months to 12 months but problem of privacy will crop up. A woman may be pregnant and there may be events of sorrow or delight in some families, arrangement should be made for that as well, for which special package should be given to Kutch. Proper arrangement should be made for the purpose. Free ports should be there and the industrial policy declared by the Government of Gujarat provides for assistance to the people who want to start their business. Under the said policy Rs. 3000 will be given to those who are doing petty business in cabins and Rs. 6000 to shop keepers which will be interest free for two years and maximum amount of Rs. 60 lakh in the form of loan will be given under the package. I am thankful to everybody because people of every party have rendered help there. Muslims and Hindus came forward to extend a helping hand. I am thankful to all of them for this gesture.

[English]

Sir, this is a very important district or region of the nation. This nation cannot afford to ignore it. So, we have to take care of it, and I am confident that everything possible will be done by the Government so that it could be revived again.

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (VAISHALI) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, earthquake is a great calamity. Normally, in case of a calamity people hide in their houses but in case of an earthquake when the houses collapse following tremors and people are crushed to death, it is really a great natural calamity. Similarly in case of a fire houses are turned into ashes and properties are ruined. Similar is the situation when there is a cyclone or a storm. Cyclonic storm, earthquake, flood and fire are such four natural calamities facing which is really very difficult and it is also difficult to forecast them. Scientists fail to forecast them. But, to be able to minimise their impact or to tackle the situation arising out of them or to provide relief to the victims is what is termed in English as 'disaster management'. However, all our disaster management

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system and government machinery collapsed this time in face of the single natural calamity. No system seemed to be working properly. Our government machinery and disaster management system is absolutely worthless which has been proved so in case of the present calamity. People are living with the mercy of God. They are struggling with the situation themselves. What is the government going to do?

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister of Agriculture has not even mentioned the name of the State which has donated a sum of Rs. 5 crore. This is not fair. You can find out from the paper where only a reference has been given that State Governments have provided assistance. There is no mention at all as to how much assistance has been provided by which states. We want that the House should be informed about the assistance provided by States in terms of rupees. The Government of Bihar provided a sum of Rs. 5 crore as assistance, but there is no mention about it whatsoever. The Union Government has not shown even this much of sincerity. At least, the name of the state should have been mentioned. But even this much sincerity has been done away with.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Government is a slave of the World Bank. The Hon. Minister has mentioned the name of the world Bank and the Asian Development Bank but reference to the names of State Governments is missing altogether. Who knows that the assistance to the tune of 300, 350 million dollars provided by these Banks is actually assistance or a loan. Whereas, our State Governments have provided assistance to the tune of Rs. 2 crore. Rs. 3 crore in real terms, but the hon. Minister of Agriculture has not taken the trouble of mentioning their names. There is a complete one paragraph on the world Bank and the Asian Development Bank. We are going through the papers prepared by the Government, but we are not satisfied.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the hon. Prime Minister has constituted a committee on disaster management. We hope that this committee will suggest about the sort of training to be imparted, measures to be taken and technics to be adopted to tackle such type of situation. Our country has been facing calamities of and on. We have heard of a severe earthquake which rocked Bihar in 1934. I did not witness that event. After that there were subsequent earthquakes which hit Darbhanga, Jabalpur, Latur and Uttarkashi. We all remember these earthquakes. There were cyclonic storms in Orissa and Andhra Pradesh which took the toll of several lives and properties were damaged. Such natural calamities cost

human lives heavily. We are facing flood in Bihar every year. The devastation caused by flood is also not less in magnitude. Our country faces some or other kind of calamity every year. The calamities cannot be prevented.

Therefore, disaster management system should be there so that the impact of any sudden calamity may be minimised, victims may get immediate maximum relief, rehabilitation and rescue operation could be taken up. However, our Government has failed in providing immediate relief.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, now there is a revolution in the field of telecommunications. Now cellular phones are available. The earth quake occurs at 8 O'clock in the morning whereas meeting in this regard is held in the evening at 3 O'clock. The meeting is held after 7 hours. I ask why was it not held after one hour of the incident. Is it disaster management or mismanagement. Moreover, different statements came forth in regard to the event.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, one of the hon. Members of that region said here just now that there was a good arrangement in regard to relief to the victims. This is a matter of happiness that good arrangements were made. But, we want to know how natural calamity relief would be provided to those who have lost their houses. Will houses be constructed for them or will they be allotted land or money? We want to know all these things because every State has a different relief code of its own. The Government should inform us as to how relief would be provided to the victims of natural calamity. Will houses be constructed for them under Indira Awas Yojna or they will construct houses for themselves? Moreover, how the Government propose to amend the relief code in face of the present devastation? Whether those who are not poor will not be provided assistance? How will it be decided as to who should be helped and who should not be helped. The definition of poverty differs from one state to another. For example, the Government talked of providing free foodgrains. The population of Gujarat is 6 crore, out of them one crore people would be provided foodgrains. If such be the situation how will you separate 5 crore people out of 6 crore. Moreover, the Union Government will hold the State Government responsible and the foodgrains will rot without being distributed. So we want to know how the Government would provide relief and assistance to the victims.

Just now Waghalaji was telling us that so far nothing has been given to the families of the deceased. What I want to say is that if the Government cannot prevent such natural calamities it should at least provide relief. God may or may not help them but the Government must. This

is the definition of relief. Not only the poor, but the rich who possess land and property also become temporarily destitutes in the event of earthquake and fire. I want to know what sort of help would be provided to them and how? Whether they will be provided a loan? We want to know all about what is happening there. The survivors who have lost their houses are living in tents. Where are they taking their meals? The way Harin Pathak ji and Somaiyaji were presenting the facts, it seemed as if they were reciting something. Is it a matter of recitation? There are those who lost their sons, in other cases old men and old women died whereas there are also such cases when whole of the families lost their lives. Certainly in such cases even their neighbours will lament. This is a matter of lamentation. Thousands of people have died there. More than 19 to 20 thousand people have died. The magnitude of sorrow and distress over there is a common knowledge. In the face of such a large scale devastation as witnessed there what is required to be maintained is courage, conviction, prudence and honesty.

Waghalaji was just telling us that only half the number of trucks which were sent from here have reached there. It is upto the hon. Members of that region to see what is the real position. Different and differing statements are coming forth. The hon. Prime Minister makes one statement in Chennai that co-ordination work is satisfactory, but on the same day the hon. Chief Minister of that State makes a statement that co-ordination is lacking miserably. When two persons occupying such high posts make opposite statements what inference will we make after reading the reports in this regard in newspapers? The hon. Member should state as to what impact will it have on the public. After that the hon. Chief Minister states that the situation arising out of earthquake would be tackled and that there is no need of levying fresh tax whereas the hon. Prime Minister states that there is no other way out but to levy the tax which statement should we take as authentic?..... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (PANDHARPUR) : The order of the Government should be taken as authentic.... (*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Ramdasji, please keep quiet. Your turn will also come.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : The Government lends helping hand in such moments of crisis. If such a confusing version comes from the Government side, what impression will be made by 100 crore population of our country or for that matter by 600 crore population of the world. Things should go right in moments of crisis. Nothing should be done or stated

which creates confusion. The Government should now provide help in such a manner which pleases all the Members of House and who in turn are assured that Government will definitely provide adequate help and assistance to every victim in case of any calamity. The loss of Rs.20 thousand cannot be compensated but those who have survived can be consoled and encouraged. They should be provided a helping hand.

So far as relief funds are concerned we want to know the sources of the amount of relief funds and how they have been spent. Position in this regard should be made clear. Perusal of this paper creates confusion regarding the relief amount received from different countries. Details have not been given in this paper, it only states the name of Banks that the Asian Development Bank and the World Bank have given relief amounts. Can you not mention the name of rest of the agencies and states which have provided assistance? The role of the Government is only next to the role of God. In Orissa the loss was to the tune of Rs.10 thousand crore whereas here in Gujarat the loss is to the tune of Rs.20 thousand crore. The Government provided only Rs.50 crore as assistance in the earlier case whereas in the present case the Government has announced a help of Rs.500 crore which is less. The relief amount should have been more, but this will surely pose a question as to why double standard has been maintained by the Government in regard to providing relief amount in the two cases.

A question in this regard will definitely be raised as to what is the real motive of the Government. People were telling. Andhra Pradesh, Bihar and Bengal were hit by floods. Relief was given to Andhra Pradesh. Shri Nitish Kumar is a Minister. He visited those places on my advice. Not even a single paisa was given to Bihar. 274 persons lost their lives there. Properties worth lakhs of rupees spreading over in several acres of land were lost.. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : You are in the habit of making such statements. Bihar has also been provided Rs.29 crore through N.C.C.F. Bihar has got additional amount of Rs.29 crore from the National Calamity Contingency Fund. The State Government of your party does not apprise you of the facts.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : I had asked a question and in reply to which you have provided this paper. The amount must not have reached there. The three fourth share which is provided by the centre in which one fourth share is further added by the State Government on the recommendation of the Finance Commission, has been withheld by you. What are you trying to convince me

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about?..... (*Interruptions*) See, he is trying to manipulate. This is why Shri Paswanji said that he is not behaving like a Minister but like a 'Kirana' shopkeeper. This is the statement of his own Cabinet Colleague. How can we take it as a clarification what they said to each other. He is opening an account in the moment of calamity. When there is a calamity, rules are relaxed to provide help. Now the matter is clear..... (*Interruptions*) The Government did not give what was recommended by the Finance Commission. Now the things have exposed and he says that a sum of Rs. 29 crore is being distributed. Why the provision regarding contingency relief was not made.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : That has been made.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : When has it been made? Has it been laid in the House? Last time when discussion was held on this issue, I had made a severe attack on the Government and said that the Government had failed. He will make inquiries during the moment of crisis. Not even an ordinance was promulgated. Let there be a legislation and let it be passed. Adhoc management will not work. The Government should immediately implement the recommendations of the Eleventh Finance Commission. The Government is being run in a haphazard manner.

Even scientists can not predict earthquakes. In ancient time people believed that this earth was situated on the hood of a snake and when the snake shook its hood it resulted into an earthquake. Scientists do not know the cause of the earthquake and they cannot predict it. The Indian scientist claimed that the intensity of this earthquake was 6.9 on richter scale but the American scientists opined that its intensity was 7.0 on the richter scale. The difference is of one point. Who knows which information is correct and which one is wrong. Their versions differ. What is the right position? It means we are in a dark as to whose machine whether one of Indians or of Americans is giving correct figure. It all appeared in the newspapers which everybody went through. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT (SHAJAPUR) : Whose machine do you think is correct?

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Machines of both the countries are alright, but the machinery of this Government is faulty. This is what I feel.... (*Interruptions*). If you take a lesson from Bihar, you will work properly. You make fun of Bihar, but the Minister looking after the disaster management hails from Bihar. The country

cannot go ahead without taking Bihar with it. The entire House sympathise with the calamity of Gujarat. If some one criticises, he starts taking side of the Government. If this is the situation, the Government will definitely lag behind in assessing the magnitude of the calamity and in assessing as to what help should be provided.

If somebody raises that issue then they rise to speak from there as if those people have become prosperous and are enjoying their life. People undermine such a serious issue by stating such things. Therefore, I did not criticise you. During emergency, the machinery of any Government can crumble and mistakes can be committed. Therefore, when such an issue is raised then do some introspection. ... (*Interruptions*)

SHRIMATI BHAVNABEN DEVRAJBHAI CHIKHALIA (JUNAGARH) : YoU have every right to criticise but you have no right to distort the facts... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI MANOJ SINHA (GAZIPUR) : We people are listening to you with all the seriousness. You can see, you have been levelling most wild allegations yet we are hearing you quietly and calmly.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : If I am stating the truth then you have to listen to. As many as 900 villages have been hit badly and among those Bhuj, Bachau and Anjar are the worst hit. We feel that urban areas have received people's attention more. People were stating that people are still being taken out from the debris. The people have not been able to come out from the houses which collapsed and people also say that it is not proper to take out these dead people from debris. Experts have also given the same suggestion in this regard. The ground reality would be stated by the hon. Members. Therefore, we must take measures to rehabilitate such people rendered disabled and incapacitated Those who have lost their near and dear ones have to be rehabilitated by providing compensation.

The legalities are becoming impediments in the way of providing relief work. Mrs. Sonia Gandhi ji was also stating that ration cards were being sought to be produced for distribution of foodgrains. But all the certificates and documents have been lost under debris. ... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA (DHANDHUKA) : Mr. Chairman Sir, the Chief Minister of the state has announced that whosoever comes should be provided relief irrespective of status or any other consideration and all were given relief material. ... (*Interruptions*)

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, as stated earlier, the legalities are coming in the way of providing relief. In case a victim approaches any officer for relief, he is asked whether or not his name is there in the voter's list. There are some practical problems. All the officers are not alike. Such things might have happened at certain places but why you people deny such things altogether. When someone approaches the officers for relief for his burnt house, the officer denies. Likewise, if a person wants to get his name included in BPL he is refused. We have experienced all such things. ... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI P.S. GADHAVI : Initially some people had asked for ration cards to be produced but later on this was discontinued if an elected member recommends, the relief is given. The solution has been worked out. Therefore, all have been provided relief. ... (*Interruptions*)

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : This is good. All should be given relief. There is some thing wrong in the system. Otherwise why was the Collector transferred? It was felt that he did not discharge his duties and responsibilities properly that is why he was transferred. There can be some loopholes in the administrative set up but you people own all the responsibility for doing everything and the Chief Minister and Ministers ask to spoil everything. It is not like that I would earnestly request that all the elected representative including the Panchayat Sarpanch and NGOs should be taken into confidence and relief should be provided to the victims.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Now you should conclude.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : People should be given full sympathy. I would request the hon. Prime Minister that these people should be given more help. He has given only Rs. 500 crore. This has also been stated that coffers have been opened but this is a very small amount in comparison to the loss which is to the tune of Rs. 20,000 crores. So these people should get more help. Even the people affected by such catastrophes in other states should also get relief at the same rate.

With these words, I conclude.

[*English*]

SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO (JAGATSINGHPUR) : Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, destruction by earthquake in Gujarat is unprecedented so far as destruction due to earthquake is concerned. I come from the eastern part of India. I would not have stood to speak here had I not gone to Gujarat. Sir, I had gone to Gujarat. I had been to

Ahmedabad, Bhuj, Bachau, Rapar, Anjar, Gandhidham, Morbi and Malaya. I had worked in drought affected areas. I had worked in cyclone affected areas for months together. I had also worked in flood affected areas. But I had never seen devastation caused by an earthquake. In order to settle the dispute between eyes and ears, I had gone there. By saying 'eyes', I mean that I went there to have a direct knowledge of it. I had gone there with an analytical mind but I returned with an emotional heart, with tears dried up over my cheeks. I had seen the disaster, people crying inside debris and efforts were there to save them but was undone. I have witnessed it. For that reason, I am standing here to speak.

I had been first to Ahmedabad on 29th and on 30th, I saw different areas of Ahmedabad. I had seen Mansi Apartments which fell over another apartment. There was no doubt that it was destroyed not because of earthquake – of course, earthquake was also there – but because of bad construction by the builder. About 60-70 per cent buildings in Ahmedabad which were high-rise or three-storeyed buildings, were destroyed because of bad or wrong construction by the builders. I may tell you that there was a ten-storeyed building. An old building was there and in front of that, another new building was constructed. These new buildings were connected by staircases. The new building fell down but the old building is standing erect. It means one building was destroyed and the other building was not destroyed. I saw the entire thing there.

I went to Pavitra Nagar. I saw a devastating scene at Swami Narayan High School. About 45 students had gone there at 8 a.m. for the extra classes in their laboratory. In fact, it was not Swami Narayan School. It was Sacred Flower English medium school. People there told me that the school building fell down like a pack of cards. It settled down within a twinkle of an eye because it was constructed within two-and-a-half months.

The first and foremost to be done in Ahmedabad is to take those builders to task. Stern action must be taken against them.

SHRI HARIN PATHAK : Sir, I would like to give him an information. Till today morning, 23 builders have been sent behind bars. The State Government as well as the building owners have filed complaints against them. We have registered complaints against them under Section 304 and other Sections and we are not going to spare anybody.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : On whose behalf are you saying so?

SHRI HARIN PATHAK : I know of it. I belong to Ahmedabad. As a Member of Parliament from Ahmedabad, I am saying that 23 builders have been sent behind the bars.... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO : I am coming to my point now. Kutch is a region. Kutch is a district. The Kutch district has ten talukas and five talukas have been affected. Bhuj is the district headquarters of Kutch. In Bhuj, Anjar, Bachau, Rapar and Gandhidham, in these five districts, devastation took place. About Bhuj, I can give the percentage. I should not say so many people died or something like that. Some buildings are standing erect. But cracks are there in the buildings which cannot be inhabited. Nobody can remain there after that. Nobody was also remaining there. It was about Bhuj. But in Bachau and Anjar, almost all the buildings have been completely razed to the ground. In Gandhidham, some of the buildings have been razed to the ground. So, let us be very fair. So, the first thing is that Government should go in for reconstruction. I start from there only. A realistic assessment should be there. Those buildings should be reconstructed in a manner so that they would be earthquake-proof.

So far as drought, flood, and cyclones are concerned, a bit of previous warning is there. But science has not developed to that extent to forecast an earthquake although seismic map has been drawn up. Kutch area falls into the worst seismic area. Therefore, when reconstruction starts, at that time, proper care should be taken. Let me tell you one thing. Many things have already been told by the hon. Members. I am telling you about relief operation. About relief operation, I would say that it was unprecedented the way relief materials were going. I was there in Orissa. I have seen that it is more than that. It is not only that. We have a lot of differences with the philosophy of the RSS and the VHP. I repeat that we have a lot of differences with them. But wherever I had gone, I had seen the RSS and the VHP people, the Gurudwara people working well. Wherever I had gone, I had seen them working. They were on the rescue operation. Let us be fair to those who have done some work also. We may have some differences with them. But it is a fact that they have done a good work.

So far as reconstruction is concerned, I would request you not to say it is only four lakh houses which need to be reconstructed. I am not going to count them. I do not want to enter into that kind of polemics. But those houses should be identified. We have to construct those houses well so that they will be earthquake-proof. That is my only suggestion for that area. For that, no doubt, a large amount will be needed. The Government has constructed

it in Latur. Those are earthquake-proof houses. Similarly, the Government has to do this here also. The Government of India, all of us and all the States should do it in a good way – not the Orissa way. Let me tell you one thing. Some States came forward and told that they adopted this district and that district. They did precious little there. That way, please do not do so. It is sheer hypocrisy. My point is that whatever the Government wants to do, it should do it in a very planned way and it should be done completely under one organisation. I am one with Shri Venkateswarlu who told that just like the Election Commission or the Finance Commission, there should be an independent statutory Commission for disaster management also.

It should be independent of the Government so that Government will be free from political mudslinging. The entire money and effort should be made through that Commission and that Commission should take over at the time of disaster. Money should not be the matter. We should all stand behind the hon. Prime Minister and this Government for the reconstruction work in Kutch area and also in two *tehsils* of Rajkot, namely Korba and Malaya.

Please do not tell the name of Surat. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, please listen to me. Anybody can correct me if I am wrong. I had gone to Surat. Lakhs of Oriya people were living there. I have gone to see as to what has happened to them. Only one high-rise building has collapsed and 47 people have died. That was due to that builder only. My point is that do not magnify it, take a realistic stand. While doing so, let me come back to Supercyclone of Orissa. Please do not neglect it. Nineteen lakh houses have been razed to the ground and only two lakh Indira Awas Yojana were given to them. Please do not forget them along with Gujarat.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA (PONNANI) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Gujarat has been hit by one of the most devastating earthquakes. A huge area has been affected. Bhuj, Bachau, Anjar, Rapadh, and Kutch, in particular, have suffered the most. Huge loss of human lives, cattles and property simply defies all imagination.

The Gujarat earthquake highlights certain facts of great importance from which we all have to learn lessons. I must emphasise that India is often confronted with natural calamities and disasters. But we all know that Governments everywhere have always been found wanting and lacking in effective management of disasters. I am not simply raising my finger against Gujarat. This is a common scenario, the most lamentable scenario that Governments have always and everywhere lacked in effective management of disaster. Whenever and wherever a calamity has struck we have been found

wanting and every time we have been levelling every such catastrophe as a manmade catastrophe. This is a fact and this is particularly true of Gujarat.

Sir, everywhere powers that be, have always lacked in full utilisation of science and technology in order to mitigate the large-scale sufferings of the victims of the calamity. This is a very grave shortcoming and we will have to meet it. We can only ignore this shortcoming at great peril. Such is the lesson of the Gujarat earthquake.

Sir, look at the price that we pay for this shortcoming or our ignoring of full utilisation of science and technology in meeting the sufferings that arise because of natural disasters. In California, U.S.A., an earthquake measuring 6.6 on the Richter Scale killed only five persons, but in Latur in Maharashtra, an earthquake of the same magnitude killed 9,000 people in 1994. Therefore, as I have said, the first lesson that we draw is to sit up in order to see how we can utilise science and technology in meeting these disasters.

The case of Gujarat is most agonising. It is most unfortunate that the Government could not put together an effective disaster management system despite repeated disasters in Gujarat. We had Morvi dam disaster in 1979, cyclone in Kandla and Kutch in 1995, plague in Surat and floods in South Gujarat and Saurashtra. As far as Kutch is concerned, it has, long since, been identified as the most seismic prone region in our country. Then, there was also a warning in November, 2000. There was a study conducted over a period of three years about the Kutch region by the Centre for Earth Science Studies, Thiruvananthapuram. What happened to that study and its recommendations? We still do not know what happened to all those recommendations. When shall we sit up in order to see that we benefit from such studies?

Sir, when the disaster struck Gujarat, the State Government simply appeared bewildered and paralysed. This is specially true of the initial period. But it is the initial period, which is very crucial in so far as saving of human lives is concerned. There was an unpardonable loss of time in asking for the services of the security forces. There are so many cantonments in the Kutch area and our securitymen came out in order to help the people. But the administration at Gandhi Nagar was simply paralysed. *(Interruptions)* Let us accept that fact... *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA : Sir, he is stating wrong facts.

[English]

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : Let me go forward in order to point out that the earthquake struck in the morning of 26th January, 2001 and upto late afternoon of the day, there was only one doctor available at the Central Maidan in Bhuj which was full of affected people. ... *(Interruptions)* That doctor belonged to the Border Security Force. ... *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Ratilal Kalidas Varma, whatever figure the hon. Member refers to, the Ministers are there to take note of it and they will definitely reply to the points made by him. Why are you interrupting him now? Please take your seat.

... *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : We cannot verify it. The Minister himself will verify it.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : Sir, then again, it is most distressing that it took the State Government two days to set up an operational Control Room in Gandhi Nagar, which is the capital of the State.

It is the Capital of the State and was mercifully spared by the earthquake. It is a fact that the implementation of relief activities has been most tardy. The relief was not slow in coming. There was an unprecedented flow of relief material from throughout the country as also from everywhere in the world.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please conclude, Shri Banatwalla.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : But the Government, especially in the crucial initial period did not seem to know how to go about with this work of distribution. There was no coordination. Even 12 days after the tragedy, a trustee of the Bidad-e-Sarvodaya Trust Hospital said

"The tragedy was lack of coordination. There was no shortfall in medicines, doctors or money, but it was there in distribution. We finally decided that the best thing would be to send the doctors back to where they came from along with some patients "

There are reports about foreign medical teams being under utilised. There are reports about plane loads of relief

material being misappropriated and so on. The *Frontline* reports in its current issue of 17th February to March 2, page 12.

"There are complaints of relief articles (tents in particular) being cornered by Corporators and Municipal Councillors of influential persons from the BJP diverting relief to their support base and a bias against minorities and dalits in relief distribution."

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : There goes a saying "the truth shows best being naked" ... (Interruptions)

SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA : Sir, he is stating wrong facts.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Varma, the Minister is there. He will refute it.

... (Interruptions)

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : There are shining examples of communal harmony and unity. This, of course, is a heartening fact. But let us not have an ostrichlike policy and attempt to brush aside complaints of bias and prejudice by certain religio-political fascist groups. The time is to admit them and condemn them and to take a pledge. ... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Harin Pathak, the Minister will verify the veracity of the information given.

... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please conclude, Shri Banatwalla.

... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : At nine o'clock, we have to adjourn the House.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : I will conclude in a couple of minutes. That is all.

When we visited Gujarat, the people expressed to us another important point of concern as to whether they

would be rehabilitated in the same village and at the same spot from which they have been uprooted. We must respect the sentiments of attachment of the people to their land. I hope an assurance would come from the Government in this particular respect.

The nexus between the politician, the builder and the bureaucrat is also responsible for the tragedy in so far as we know that construction rules have been ignored and violated with impunity. The Archaeological Survey of India also has a great responsibility.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Now, please conclude.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : In Ahmedabad, for example, several historical monuments have been damaged. The Archaeological Survey of India has to come forward with a crash plan for repairs and restoration.

Before, I conclude, we are thankful to the Armed Forces, the NGOs and the large number of voluntary agencies that have done commendable work. We salute them.

Sir, we assure Gujarat that the entire nation shares its distress and sorrow and we all stand solidly with them in their hour of crisis and distress. Thank you Sir.

21.00 hrs.

INTIMATION RE : ARREST OF MEMBERS

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Hon. Members, I have to inform the House that I have received a joint communication from Superintendent of Police and District Magistrate, Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh intimating that Shri Ram Naresh Tripathi and Shrimati Jayashree Banerjee, Members of Parliament have been arrested today at 9.30 a.m.

The House stands adjourned to meet again tomorrow at 11.00 a.m.

21.01 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Tuesday, February 27, 2001/Phalguna 8, 1922 (Saka).

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